**Plant Cuttings – July 2022**

# Carnivorous Albany pitcher plant threatened by poachers, but still baffles scientists – ABC Great Southern, 1 July 2022

It has curled teeth and an appetite for devouring creatures. The Albany pitcher plant eats its prey of insects and flies by snaring them with trickery and then dissolves them with enzymes. Its incredible survival adaptation and appearance has made it one of the most sought-after carnivorous plants by collectors across the world.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-01/carnivorous-pitcher-plant-poachers-scientists/101197086>

# AUDIO: Chelsea McDonald and her daughter Jasmine get ready to plant – ABC, 6 July 2022

# When you think of the term 'bush doof', you probably think of psychadelics, techno music and prolonged hangovers.  But not all bush doofs were created equal.  Hundreds of volunteers gathered at a rural property in Wyalkatchem over the weekend with a different goal in mind, to give back to nature by planting 100,000 trees.

# <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-06/tree-planting-festival-wa-wheatbelt/101211684>

# Activate Tree Planting festival in WA Wheatbelt helps farmland rehabilitation – ABC Midwest & Wheatbelt, 6 July 2022

Being a treehugger can be difficult in Western Australia's Wheatbelt — after decades of intensive deforestation, there just aren't many left to hold. But this may not be the case for future generations, thanks to the hundreds of hands that gathered at the weekend to revegetate an area of the salt-stricken land.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-06/tree-planting-festival-wa-wheatbelt/101211684>

# Prickly pear was conquered 90 years ago. Here's how it was done – ABC Southern Qld, 10 July 2022

Farming has been in the Geldard family for four generations, but one plant almost brought them to their knees early on.Prickly pear is considered one of the greatest biological invasions of modern times, infesting millions of hectares of rural land in Australia a century ago and rendering it virtually useless and worthless.

# <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-10/90-years-since-prickly-pear-conquered/101222202>

# Mistletoe die-off bad news for woodland birds – Australian National University, 13 July 2022

Mistletoe plants suffered widespread die-off during the recent 2019-20 drought, and it spells bad news for Australia's woodland birds, new research from The Australian National University (ANU) shows.

<https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/mistletoe-die-off-bad-news-for-woodland-birds>

# ****Botanists are disappearing – just when the world needs them most – The Conversation, 14 July 2022****

Can you recall any of the plants you saw today? Probably not. As a species, we are not programmed to recognise and register everything we see within our field of vision. This would be an overwhelming amount of information for our brains to process. You can however, with a little time and practise, be trained to read the plants around you.

<https://theconversation.com/botanists-are-disappearing-just-when-the-world-needs-them-most-186849>

# Media release: New mapping method unearths bigger mangrove area in north west – The University of Western Australia, 15 July 2022

A new mapping method has increased the size of the known mangrove area in north-western Australia by more than 30 per cent, a finding that will help protect the vulnerable ecosystem. Dr Sharyn Hickey, from The University of Western Australia’s School of Agriculture and Environment and the Oceans Institute, and Dr Ben Radford, from the Australian Institute of Marine Science, co- authored the paper, [*Turning the Tide on Mapping Marginal Mangroves with Multi-Dimensional Space–Time Remote Sensing*](https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/14/14/3365) published in MDPI.

# <https://www.uwa.edu.au/news/Article/2022/July/New-mapping-method-unearths-bigger-mangrove-area-in-north-west>

# Millions of pine trees to be planted in Tumut and Tumbarumba as forestry recovers from bushfires – ABC Rural, 20 July 2022

# The Tumut and Tumbarumba region in southern New South Wales is home to Australia's largest timber plantation. Right now, its planting season and the program is bigger than ever before. More than 100 crew members are out in cold, wet and sometimes snowy conditions, to plant more than 6.5 million trees by hand between May and late August.

# <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-07-20/softwood-forestry-industry-timber-demand-bushfire-recovery/101247384>

**Eucalypt found only in Sydney suburbs confirmed as new species – ABC Radio Sydney, 21 July 2022**

An incredibly rare eucalypt found in some of the most densely developed areas of Sydney has been confirmed as a new species. The yet-to-be formally named species is a shrubby type of eucalypt with cup-shaped fruit and is found in the Hills District in Sydney's north-west.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-21/new-eucalypt-species-sydney-botanic-gardens/101255680>

# The trees that make you sneeze - Australian National University, 21 July 2022

**Did you know Canberra is the allergy capital of Australia? No, we aren't 'pollen' your leg. Gouri Banerji finds out what trees and plants can cause hay fever havoc.**Sniffles, sneezes and scratchy eyes ... hay fever season is coming!  So it's a good time to clear the air and learn more about the trees that make you sneeze.

<https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/the-trees-that-make-you-sneeze>

# ****I spent a year squeezing leaves to measure their water content. Here’s what I learned – The Conversation, 26 July 2022****

How do you tell if your plants need water? Recently, I asked this question of a group of about 40 biologists at the Australian National University. Most of them said they would stick their fingers into the soil. If you want to be more scientific about it, most horticulturalists would argue it is best to weigh the pot to determine how much water it contains.

https://theconversation.com/i-spent-a-year-squeezing-leaves-to-measure-their-water-content-heres-what-i-learned-187460

# Media Release: Native New Zealand tree puts the sting on pain – The University of Queensland, 27 July 2022

Researchers at The University of Queensland have found that a native New Zealand stinging tree produces toxins that could hold clues for future pain medication.

In a quest to find new molecules that affect pain pathways, [Dr Thomas Durek](https://imb.uq.edu.au/profile/1001/thomas-durek), [Dr Sam Robinson](https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/17592) and a team from UQ’s [Institute for Molecular Bioscience](https://imb.uq.edu.au/) (IMB) studied toxins from the tree nettle known as ongaonga, one of New Zealand’s most poisonous plants that can cause painful stings that last for days, and in severe cases can even be fatal.

<https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2022/07/native-new-zealand-tree-puts-sting-pain>

# Media release: Gulf mangrove dieback discovery – James Cook University, 28 July 2022

The latest research reveals that the devastating mass death of tidal mangrove forests was a result of an unusually low sea-level due to large-scale swings in El Nino – Southern Oscillation events. Lead author Dr Norm Duke from JCU’s TropWATER Research Centre said the mangroves had not recovered seven years on, making the mangrove dieback event an ongoing coastal catastrophe.

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/news/releases/2022/july/gulf-mangrove-dieback-discovery>

# Events & Opportunities

# What's your favourite native tree? Vote in our poll to determine Australia's most loved – ABC, 29 July 2022

Australia has some of the world's most unique and beautiful trees. To celebrate National Science Week (August 13-21), we want to find Australia's most loved native tree species. Our panel of experts has come up with a longlist of 33   — beautiful, iconic, unusual, and useful — trees. And now we need to hear from you.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-07-29/vote-for-your-favourite-australian-native-tree/101210764>

# New podcast – ESA launches Ecology Matters

The Ecological Society of Australia have begun a new podcase called Ecology Matters with one episode being released each week. The first series contains 12 episodes where you will hear from ecologists around Australia. Find it wherever you get your podcasts or on their website.

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/publications/audio/ecology-matters/>

**Save the date –2023**

The International Conservation Translocation Conference is being held in Fremantle, Western Australia next year from 13-15 November 2023. No further information available but save the date in your calendar!

**DIG Conference – 31 Aug & 1 Sept WA**

The Dieback Working Group INC are holding a 2 day event to share ideas and knowledge for the management of Phytophthora Dieback. This event will be held over Weds 31 August and Thurs 1 September at the Bendat Parent and Community Centre, Wembley WA. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dig-conference-2022-tickets-344581541667>

**MOOC – Ecosystem Restoration 2022**

[The United Nations Development Programme](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/) (UNDP) and [the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)](https://www.cbd.int/) are offering a FREE two-part Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Ecosystem Restoration. Split over 8 weeks from 19 Sept – 20 Nov this course covers all aspects of restoration from what it is , how to strategically plan to building capacity and monitoring. <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/courses/ecosystem-restoration-2022/?fbclid=IwAR0OWFaJTwDCtkAEIDeRa7uS9zDwvhCSxo1tn_vsfKO86ffYpRHasZY2jAU>

**Australian Biosecurity Awards**

Nominations for the 2022 Australian Biosecurity Awards are now open and close on Mon 22 August. For more information head to the DAFF website. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/australia/public-awareness/aba>

**2022 National NRM Knowledge Conference**

NRM Regions Australia, and South West Catchments Council, are holding the 8th National NRM Knowledge Conference 2022. The event will be held from 31 Oct – 2 Nov. More information on their website: <https://web.cvent.com/event/b3448bf8-5c8e-4cd9-b895-765f42eda7fc/summary>