**Plant Cuttings – August 2022**

# Wetland Revival Trust hopes to raise funds to buy Wirra-Lo conservation property in Victoria – ABC, 28 July 2022

A unique property in northern Victoria that is home to 30 threatened species, including the Australasian bittern and growling grass frog, is up for sale and a not-for-profit ecological trust is hoping it can raise the funds to continue the vision of its current owners. Ken and Jill Hooper purchased Wirra-Lo in the 1980s and the summer pastures that were grown there complemented their dairy business in nearby Cohuna.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-28/wetland-revival-trust-fundraising-to-buy-conservation-property/101272802>

# Eucalypts are icons of the Australian landscape, but their family tree is shrouded in mystery – ABC Science, 31 July 2022

Dean Nicolle struggles to name his favourite species of eucalyptus. "If I had to put a name down, my favourite species would change every day," he says. "It depends upon whether I am in the field, or if I'm out in the wild, or what's in flower or the colours of the bark at the time." But there is one species, he admits, that has a particular place in his heart at any time of the year because it is so rare.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-07-31/eucalyptus-native-trees-evolution-dominate-australia-landscape/101229092?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web>

# The mystery surrounding Australia's ancient wild and endangered macadamia trees – ABC Rural, 31 July 2022

# Ian McConachie is eager to find the answer to an ancient mystery — just how many hundreds of years do Australia's wild macadamias live? After decades of visiting a precious remnant of the threatened species' habitat in Queensland's Amamoor State Forest, the founder of the Macadamia Conservation Trust has already discovered that looks can be deceiving.

# <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-07-31/wild-macadamias-threatened-species-genetics-amamoor/101276254>

# 15 years of experiments have overturned a major assumption about how thirsty plants actually are – The Conversation, 9 August 2022

# Have you ever wondered just how much water plants need to grow, or indeed why they need it? Plants lose a lot of water when they take in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so they need up to 300 grams of water to make each gram of dry plant matter.

# <https://theconversation.com/15-years-of-experiments-have-overturned-a-major-assumption-about-how-thirsty-plants-actually-are-188072>

# Southern conifers: meet this vast group of ancient trees with mysteries still unsolved – The Conversation, 10 August 2022

# When you think of “conifers”, tall, conical shaped trees often found in public parks or front yards may spring to mind. But these impressive trees are far more fascinating than you may have realised, as they represent just one piece of an unsolved botanical puzzle.

# <https://theconversation.com/southern-conifers-meet-this-vast-group-of-ancient-trees-with-mysteries-still-unsolved-182600>

# Botanist fights to save cycads, the 'dinosaur' plants threatened by land clearing and zealous collectors – ABC Radio Sydney, 19 August 2022

James Clugston was on the hunt for a type of tarantula called a "baboon spider" in South Africa when something else grabbed his attention. "This one plant stood out to me … it's blue, but it's super, super spiky. I'm like, 'What is that? That is amazing'," he said. The odd-looking prickly plant — Encephalartos horridus — is a member of the cycad family and sparked an interest in the species that would turn into Dr Clugston's life's work.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-19/cycad-dinosaur-plants-conservation-botanic-garden-sydney/101347332>

# After planting thousands of wattles, farm goes from 'bare paddocks' to teeming with wildlife – ABC Rural, 23 August 2022

When Mikla Lewis took over a cropping farm near Grenfell in the New South Wales central West in 2002, almost all of the land's native plants had been cleared. Two decades later she has planted thousands of wattles, turning her property into an oasis for almost 200 different native animals.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-08-23/wattles-planting-nsw-farm-revitalise-bare-paddocks-wildlife/101356662>

# Crocodile, jellyfish threat as volunteers race to restore tropical harbour's forgotten seagrass meadows – ABC Far North, 27 August 2022

A team of scientists and volunteers is racing to give nature a helping hand in Queensland's tropics — if nature's deadliest creatures don't get to them first. When [Cyclone Yasi tore through the picturesque Mourilyan Harbour](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-05-25/cyclone-yasi/2730558) south of Cairns a decade ago, the category five monster system destroyed seagrass meadows that provided vital food and shelter for marine life.

# <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-27/seagrass-meadows-reforest-mourilyan-harbour/101360538>

# How the Ice Ages spurred the evolution of New Zealand’s weird and wiry native plants – The Conversation, 29 August 2022

# Recent [genetic research](https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/nph.17766) has shed new light on the long-running debate about the evolutionary origins of some of New Zealand’s quirkiest plants.

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-ice-ages-spurred-the-evolution-of-new-zealands-weird-and-wiry-native-plants-188140>

**Effectiveness of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme - Audit Office of NSW, 30 August 2022**

The Audit Office of New South Wales released their report yesterday which examined whether the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) have effectively designed and implemented the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme to compensate for the loss of biodiversity due to development. Their findings are available here. <https://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/our-work/reports/effectiveness-of-the-biodiversity-offsets-scheme>

# Another wet Sydney summer isn’t just bleak — it could wipe out an entire species – The Sydney Morning herald, 31 August 2022

The Royal Botanic Garden is racing to save entire plant species at risk of extinction from diseases that thrive in the rain, as Sydney faces the bleak prospect of another long, wet summer.

Chief botanist with the botanic gardens Dr Brett Summerall said there are 16 species – including the native guava and scrub turpentine on the North Coast – that are at serious risk of being wiped out forever by myrtle rust, a disease that thrives in warm weather and wet conditions.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/plant-species-under-threat-as-sydney-braces-for-wettest-year-on-record-20220829-p5bdol.html>

# Events & Opportunities

**Landcare Conference recordings available**

The video recordings, presentations and posters from the 2022 National Landcare Conference held last week are now available to access from the Landcarer website.

<https://www.landcarer.com.au/blogs/melanie-hartley/2022/08/18/landcareconf22-education-resources>

**New ESA Award - Developers of Open Source Software in Ecology**

Have you developed software that might help ecological practice? Or know a colleague who has? This new award might be of interest! The ARDC Award for New Developers of Open Source Software in Ecology supports efforts to develop and share methodology, models and data in ecology. It will also focus on supporting researchers new to software development, who take on the role of the lead applicant for this award. First prize is a $4000 research grant and award presentation at the annual ESA conference. The award also includes an additional $1000 towards travel costs and free registration to attend the annual ESA conference. Nominate yourself or share with colleagues! **Applications close 4 September.**

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/awards/ardc-award-for-new-developers-of-open-source-software-in-ecology/>

**CCWA’s annual conference**

Next Friday 2 Sept the Conservation Council of WA will hold their annual conference ‘Stronger Together: Collaboration for Conservation and Climate’. To view the program and register visit <https://www.ccwa.org.au/ccwa_annual_conference_2022>

**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!

**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>

**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>