**Plant Cuttings - October 2022**

# The lillipilly forms the world’s largest genus of trees – and should be an Australian icon – The Mandarin, 30 September 2022

You’re probably familiar with the sight of a lillipilly bush. This hardy Australian staple – a glossy evergreen bearing powder-puff flowers and clusters of bright berries – features in many a garden hedge. Our [research](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-32637-x) helped reconstruct the evolutionary history of lillipillies in unprecedented detail. We show how lillipillies evolved in Australia and now form the largest genus of trees in the world. <https://www.themandarin.com.au/201354-the-lillipilly-forms-the-worlds-largest-genus-of-trees-and-should-be-an-australian-icon/>

# Slave traders’ names are still stamped on native plants. It’s time to ‘decolonise’ Australia’s public gardens – opinion piece for The Guardian by Brett Summerell, 1 October 2022

For too long we’ve dismissed Indigenous knowledge of the natural world. At Sydney’s botanic garden, signage is starting to reflect Aboriginal names. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/oct/01/slave-traders-names-are-still-stamped-on-native-plants-its-time-to-decolonise-australias-public-gardens?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other>

# The plant destroyer – ABC Radio, 5 October 2022

Learn more about the microbes that love eating through some of our most important food sources.  
Prof Brett Summerell, Chief Scientist at the Australian Institute of Botanical Science, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust chats to Richard Glover for Self Improvement Wednesday. <https://www.abc.net.au/sydney/programs/drive/siw-plant-destroyer/101505638?utm_campaign=abc_radio_sydney&utm_content=twitter&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_radio_sydney>

# Researchers put radio backpacks on bumblebees in Tasmania in insect-tracking trial – ABC, 10 October 2022

# Researchers are attaching radio transmitters to bumblebee queens in Tasmania's far south to learn how they could be interacting with native species, and to test the limits of insect-tracking technology. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-10/bumblebees-radio-transmitters-research-insect-tracking/101515280>

# Rare native plant discovered on Hay travelling stock reserve – NSW Government 11 October 2022

A population of rare native yam daisies has been discovered on a travelling stock reserve (TSR) near Hay, with work underway from Riverina Local Land Services to protect the native plant. The discovery was made on a TSR north of Hay by Booligal Primary School Principal, Lindy Stewart who is an avid naturalist and photographer. <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/riverina/latest-news-and-newsletters/r-news/2022/rare-native-plant-discovered-on-hay-travelling-stock-reserve>

# Orchid hunting has come a long way. In 5 steps you can join a national research effort – Heidi Zimmer (CSIRO)

Orchid hunting conjures images from the 1800s – explorers in mud-spattered khaki, traipsing through impenetrable jungle, [overloaded with equipment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchid_hunting): jars, bottles, bags and boxes, a gun (to shoot down tree-top orchids) and a magnifying glass. Things have changed a bit since then. You don’t need to sail halfway around the world – and all you need is a camera or smartphone. <https://blog.csiro.au/orchid-hunting-citizen-science/>

# Invitation to comment on six fire-affected plant species listing assessments – DCCEEW, 4 October 2022

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee is seeking comments on the draft Conservation Advice for the following fire-affected plant species currently under assessment for listing:

* [Leptospermum jingera (stringybark tea-tree)](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/leptospermum-jingera)
* [Eucalyptus phoenix (brumby mallee-gum)](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/eucalyptus-phoenix)
* [Eucalyptus aquatica (mountain swamp gum)](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/eucalyptus-aquatica)
* [Astrotricha sp. Wingan Inlet (Wingan star-hair)](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/astrotricha-wingan-inlet)
* [Eucalyptus sp. Howes Swamp Creek](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/eucalyptus-howes-swamp-creek)
* [Viola improcera (dwarf violet)](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/viola-improcera)

Consultation closes on **22 November 2022**.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/invitation-comment-six-fire-affected-plant-species-listing-assessments>

## **Winner of inaugural Peter Fairweather Award announced – ESA Website**

The Ecological Society of Australia is pleased to announce that Ms Renske Jongen has been awarded the inaugural [Peter Fairweather Student Conference Support Award](https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/awards/conference-grants/peter-fairweather-award/). Renske is a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney, investigating the relationship between seagrass and sediment to aid restoration efforts in the face of climate change. <https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/news/winner-of-inaugural-peter-fairweather-award-announced/>

# From small acorns, Botanic Gardens looks to climate-proof its future – The Age, September 27 2022

# The gardens launched a Climate Assessment Tool that will allow botanic gardens around the world to punch in their location and work out which of the globe’s more than 60,000 tree species will tolerate its end-of-century climate. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/from-small-acorns-botanic-gardens-looks-to-climate-proof-its-future-20220922-p5bk47.html>

# Events and Opportunities

**Free Science Communication Workshop – Weds 2 Nov 2022**

The Ecological Society of Australia are holding a free online science communication workshop. From 12:30 – 4pm on Weds 2 November you can brush up on your science communication skills. The workshop will include information on presenting complex issues succinctly, creating content and being engaging not just informative, writing for non-scientific audiences and how to use social media including TikTok and new platforms. This workshop will be presented by Associate Professor Jen Martin, Professor Euan Ritchie and Dr Kylie Soanes. Register now: <https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/news/learn-how-to-communicate-your-science-effectively/>

**Natural capital accounting webinar**

TERN are holding a webinar from 3-4pm AEST on Weds 2 Nov, titled 'Economics of the environment - natural capital accounting' with presenters Natasha Cadenhead, Mike Grundy and Hugh Possingham. <https://ternaustralia.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/t/A9632FFF76B9A4602540EF23F30FEDED/4BFA60145B79CECB1A21C02EB51F5606?alternativeLink=False>

**BGCI Conference Summary**

BGCI have put together a summary of the main action points from the recent 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress held in Melbourne. They had an incredible 500 delegates attend from 36 countries. You can read the summary here: <https://www.bgci.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/7GBGC-Final-Conclusions-2.pdf>

**Free online training – Nursery pests and diseases**

Two new online courses (hitchhiker pests and nursery pests and diseases) have been developed by Biosecurity Queensland, Plant Health Australia, and the NSW Government. These free 30 minute eLearning courses aim to help people identify and take action on exotic pests relevant to their industry. <https://www.greenlifeindustry.com.au/online-training-supports-good-jobs-in-face-of-hitchhiker-pests>

**Save the date – 2023 13th Biennial Bushfire Conference**

The Nature Conservation Council of Australia has announced the 13th Biennial Bushfire Conference will be held from Weds 24 to Fri 26 May 2023. This will be a live event (with some hybrid capacity) held in Sydney at the Teachers Federation Conference Centre. More information coming soon. <https://www.nature.org.au/bushfire_conference_2023>

**Save the date – 2023 Science Communicators’ Conference**

The Australian Science Communicators will be holding their next conference in Canberra on 15-17 February 2023. This will be an in person event with some online accessibility options. Please contact them if you are interested in joining the organising committee, more info to come soon. <https://www.asc.asn.au/blog/2022/09/05/the-2023-science-communicators-conference/>

**Student Scholarship Open**

The Ecological Society of Australia have opened applications for the Trust For Nature Scholes Student Scholarship. Five scholarships are available for Honours and Masters projects with top up funding considered for PhDs. The scholarships aim to support post-graduate research which is relevant to private-land conservation in Victoria. Applications close 2 December 2022, more info here: <https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/index.php?gf-download=2022%2F10%2FScholes-scholarship-guidelines_2022.pdf&form-id=5&field-id=10&hash=1a719da806baca9971f86be56c45653c3990dc24ad205f325e41afbd3c6ec5d5>

**ESA Photo Competition – Ecology in Action**

All of the images entered in this year’s Ecological Society of Australia ‘Ecology in Action’ photo competition can now be viewed in their online gallery. <https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/competition/2022-ecology-in-action-photography-competition/shortlisted/>

**Virtual Issue – publishing science 101**

CSIRO Publishing have put together a virtual issue with advice on submitting and promoting your research paper. Editor-in-chief of Pacific Conservation Biology, mike Calver has put together overviews for new authors that demystify the journey from writing to proofs. <https://www.publish.csiro.au/pc/virtualissue/3182>

**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!

**ESA-SCBO 2022 Conference “Reconnecting”**

The conference of the Ecological Society of Australia and the Society for Conservation Biology Oceania will be held in Wollongong, NSW from 28 November to 2 December 2022. ESA-SCBO 2022 will be an in-person conference but a limited number of online options. The theme for this event is “reconnecting”, registrations are now open. <https://www.esascbo2022.org.au/>