**Plant Cuttings – February 2023**

# A journey to Earth's most remote flower – Ben McKechnie (BBC), 24 Jan 2023

# Tagimoucia is so rare that it only grows on one of Fiji's 330 islands, it's found high atop a steep mountain ridge and it blooms for less than three months a year. <https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20230123-tagimoucia-a-journey-to-earths-most-remote-flower?ocid=ww.social.link.email>

# Four new species of sticky, carnivorous sundew discovered in WA thanks to social media – ABC, 28 Jan 2023

# A nature photographer has rediscovered a plant species whose last known sighting was when it was collected by Western Australia's first government botanist 170 years ago. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-28/new-species-of-carnivorous-sundew-discovered-on-social-media/101900468?fbclid=IwAR3IIAmjEqkGdWw76ee5dItms_vPpEFay2c_bdykRdwoXDVxPd0jKrN4smg>

# Dr Bertie Hennecke appointed as Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 22 Feb 2023

Dr Bertie Hennecke has been appointed as the new Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Deputy Secretary of Biosecurity and Compliance, Chris Locke, welcomed Dr Hennecke’s appointment and said he brings many years of knowledge and experience to the role. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/news/dr-bertie.hennecke-appointed-cibo>

# Why the eucalypt tree is so important for Australia – ABC, 9 Feb 2023

From the bush to our own backyards, the Eucalypt is the stalwart of the Australian landscape. With over 800 species spread across the country facing extreme heat, drought and bushfire, the future of the iconic eucalypt is tied to our own survival. From preserving genetic diversity and experimental adaptations, to applications of traditional knowledge – what solutions do we need to conserve our beloved gum tree? <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/why-the-eucalypt-tree-is-so-important-for-australia/14141872>

# Bush revegetation boosts farmer Steve Matthews' mental health after years of drought – ABC, 15 Feb 2023

Steve Matthews didn't know it at the time, but he was sleepwalking into a crisis. The 1990s had seen several good years for the fifth-generation sheep and grain farmer. He'd "topped the local lamb market" in Wagga Wagga in southern NSW, grown record crops, and even expanded to run a medium-sized transport company. Then came the Millennium Drought. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-15/farmer-uses-revegetation-project-to-boost-mental-health/101958904>

# Fears for Fitzgerald River National Park native species as bushfire burns UNESCO biosphere – ABC, 11 Feb 2023

# As a bushfire continues to burn in one of Australia's most important biospheres, a local botanist worries native plants are not rejuvenating from historic blazes and says more research is required into the impacts of all fires, including prescribed burns. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-11/fears-for-native-species-bushfire-fitzgerald-river-national-park/101959492>

# Invasive neem trees threaten Mataranka's environment so these Northern Territory locals are trying to stamp it out – ABC, 18 Feb 2023

Margo Sullivan feels lucky to call Mataranka home. The small outback community in the Northern Territory, about 400 kilometres south-east of Darwin, attracts thousands of visitors each year and is famous for its thermal springs. Now she feels the "pristine" natural beauty of the region could be lost if a rapidly spreading weed isn't controlled. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-02-18/nt-mataranka-landcare-neem-weed-threatens-pristine-environment/101954772>

# Making high tech medical gels with Australian spinifex grass – Science in public, 21 Feb 2023

# Uniseed and Bulugudu have agreed to invest $2.6 million into Trioda Wilingi, a University of Queensland/UniQuest spin out company, to develop innovative medical gels from cellulose nanofibres extracted from spinifex harvested in north-west Queensland. <https://www.scienceinpublic.com.au/media-releases/trioda>

# Events and Opportunities

**2023 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes**

The AM Eureka prizes have opened for submissions with a new prize for excellence in botanical science. Entries close on Friday 14 April, winners announced in August. <https://australian.museum/get-involved/eureka-prizes/>

**PDF of USA Native Seed report**

A PDF download of the report ‘An assessment of native seed needs and the capacity for their supply: final report (2023) is now available at: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26618/an-assessment-of-native-seed-needs-and-the-capacity-for-their-supply>

**IPPS Annual Conference 2023**

IPPS are holding their annual conference in Geelong from Weds 24 – Sat 27 May 2023. This year the conference theme is ‘Propagation – essential to life on Earth’. <https://aus.ipps.org/event-detail/event-154/IPPS-ANNUAL-CONFERENCE-2023-GEEL/>

**Petition – 10 Point plan for Nature**

Bernie Coates is running a petition to Tanya Pilbersek regarding a proposed 10 point plan for nature. <https://www.change.org/p/10-point-plan-for-nature?recruiter=350268760&recruited_by_id=b11db910-337a-11e5-ba4d-bb1584673f3d&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=share_petition&utm_term=37bd64a5f76a4b86990c07b4576ea1c7&utm_medium=email>

**Grant program – healing and growing together**

Highways and Byways 2023 Small Grants program theme is “Healing and Growing Together”. Community groups can apply for grants up to $4,000 for:

1. Environmental/ecological projects that rehabilitate and restore the environment, particularly after fire, flood or drought.
2. Projects that build strong and resilient communities, reduce isolation and loneliness, and encourage people to reconnect post-pandemic.
3. Projects that foster indigenous identity and cultural connections. <https://hb.org.au/grants/>

# Interested in Hosting an Event for National Eucalypt Day 2023?

Held annually on 23 March, National Eucalypt Day aims to raise awareness of eucalypts and celebrate the important place that they hold in the hearts and lives of Australians. The National Eucalypt Day program aims to meet the promotion, education and conservation objectives of Eucalypt Australia. Eucalypt Australia are seeking expressions of interest for event ideas. <https://www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/ned-host-event-eoi/>

**International Conservation Translocation Conference**

The 3rd International Conservation Translocation Conference will be taking place on 13-15th November 2023 in Fremantle, Western Australia. The conference theme is “Learning from the past, adapting to the future”. Registration and the call for abstracts is now open. <https://conservationtranslocations.com/>

**Bushfire Conference 2023**

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW has announced dates for its 13th biennial bushfire conference on from Weds 24-Fri 26 May 2023. The theme for the conference is “Managing bushfire together: applying science, skills and stories”. Abstract submissions are open until Monday 27 February. <https://www.nature.org.au/bushfire_conference_2023>

**4th International Congress on Biological Invasions**

Will be hosted in Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand on 1-4 May 2023. Keynote speakers include: Prof Ruth Wallace, Prof Helen Roy, Prof Phil Hulme, Dr Kevin Lafferty. For more details visit <https://mailchi.mp/94f596a3acbc/abstract-submissions-open-for-rgc11-6173911?e=eece585c63>

**International Association for Vegetation Science 65th Annual Symposium**

The annual symposium for the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) is being held in Coffs Harbour, NSW from 4-8 September. To express your interest in the event head to the website. The call for abstracts will open soon. <https://iavsaustralia2023.com/program/>

**NSW Weeds Conference**

The NSW Weeds Conference will be held in Dubbo, NSW from 7-10 August 2023. It will showcase the latest research and ideas for managing the establishment, impact and spread of weeds. Submissions are now open to present at the conference. <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>