**Plant Cuttings – March 2023**

# Report recommends urgent expansion of gamba grass eradication zone as Litchfield National Park faces growing threat – ABC, 27 February 2023

Thirty years ago, this highly flammable weed had not made it into Litchfield National Park at all. Today, gamba grass has taken over about 20 per cent of the park, which is one of the Northern Territory's most treasured tourist attractions.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-27/gamba-grass-nt-litchfield-national-park-funding-recommendations/102024716?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web>

# White weeping broom takes over Preston Beach threatening Western Australian native groundcover – ABC, 4 March 2023

It looks pretty, but the white weeping broom is a fast-spreading, invasive plant that is threatening biodiversity in Western Australia's coastal towns. The plant has "taken over" Preston Beach in WA's South West, leading to calls for more to be done to remove it and stop people from selling or planting it.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-04/white-weeping-broom-weed-preston-beach/102047122>

# VIDEO: Leaky Weirs: Returning catchments to pre-European function – ABC Landline, 12 March 2023

# Calls for a national planning code to help return catchments to their natural pre-European function and boost on-farm productivity.[https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/programs/landline/2023-03-12/leaky-weirs:-returning-catchments-to-pre-european/102086304](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/programs/landline/2023-03-12/leaky-weirs%3A-returning-catchments-to-pre-european/102086304)

# ****Thousands of our native plants have no public photographs available. Here’s why that matters – The Conversation, 14 March 2023****

For hundreds of years, botanists have collected plants to describe species and keep in herbaria across the world. But while physical plant specimens are [irreplaceable](https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3732/apps.1300076), photographs of plants are also an invaluable resource for botanical research, conservation and education.
<https://theconversation.com/thousands-of-our-native-plants-have-no-public-photographs-available-heres-why-that-matters-199100>

# Most of Lord Howe Island off limits to visitors due to 'highly infectious' plant disease myrtle rust – ABC, 16 March 2023

The majority of world-heritage-listed Lord Howe Island has been closed to non-essential visitors due to the escalating risk of an invasive, disease-causing fungus — myrtle rust. The small island, east of Port Macquarie, NSW, is a popular tourism destination and home to rare and threatened plants and animals.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-16/lord-howe-island-partly-closed-due-to-myrtle-rust-nsw/102098242>

# Most of Lord Howe closed after fungal outbreak – The Sydney Morning Herald, 16 March 2023

An airborne fungus has shut down 70 per cent of Lord Howe Island as authorities race to save its unique ecosystem. Tourists have been banned from walking through the World Heritage-listed park preserve area.
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/most-of-lord-howe-closed-after-fungal-outbreak-20230316-p5csp1.html>

**What is myrtle rust and why has this disease closed Lord Howe Island to visitors? – The Conversation, 20 March 2023**

Some 70% of the World Heritage-listed Lord Howe Island has been [closed to non-essential visitors](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/mar/17/most-of-lord-howe-island-closed-to-visitors-after-outbreak-of-plant-fungus) in response to a recurrence of the plant disease myrtle rust. Myrtle rust, native to South America, was [first detected](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/invasive-species/diseases-fungi-and-parasites/myrtle-rust) in Australia on the Central Coast of NSW in April 2010. It is caused by a fungus that belongs to a group of plant pathogens known as the rusts.
<https://theconversation.com/what-is-myrtle-rust-and-why-has-this-disease-closed-lord-howe-island-to-visitors-202045>

# New research reveals how forests reduce their own bushfire risk, if they’re left alone – The Conversation, 22 March 2023

Fire management in Australia is approaching crisis point. Seasons such as the Black Summer three years ago showed how our best efforts in fire-fighting and prescribed burning are insignificant in the face of a changing climate. But what if forests have their own tools to manage bushfire risk, and we could tap into them?
<https://theconversation.com/new-research-reveals-how-forests-reduce-their-own-bushfire-risk-if-theyre-left-alone-201868>

# Events and Opportunities

**Workshop recording now available**

**﻿**

The recording for the Botanic Gardens Conservation International Accreditation Workshop is now available on the BGANZ YouTube channel. Hosted by BGANZ NSW and presented by Patricia Malcolm, BGCI's Membership and Conservation Services Manager, the workshop included:

* The BGCI Accreditation Scheme
* Fee structure
* Mentoring and guidance opportunities for members
* A presentation by Andrea Dennis from Maranoa BG in Victoria who have achieved BGCI accreditation
* Q&A.

View the recording [here](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001jW-Wn-PLkdZUP6u1HCCqaGKMnLUnI1u4OZDuJA4eD3fcwOhZvROLYvN-WPj7u_rxHD6QGA-OVNxi7LfNuFK1PQ23wrq1Y8Jl3vKVTNBGi5cuesodx4EIi5oVVxoY3JfuyUGyYTr5DSI5AshIBf0V8A==&c=ayAX44E7Lr1Eo7B0sZ2HXxnvRRmWxDc3Ak2RC8S-jfMKBkLcY5cb6Q==&ch=805IjxmWh3d5K8naFCzoYQ16MRcLCf7TGJp5fPVDRORpRGLz4_PoIg==) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYcjtBDMGDs>

**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/>

**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/>

**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/>