**Plant Cuttings – May 2023**

# Tasmanian Herbarium keeps Eucalyptus regnans from Styx Valley, state's tallest grove of flowering plants - ABC, 11 May 2023

Yoav Daniel Bar-Ness knows he is only a "mega-fire" away from losing clues to Tasmania's past. That is why the forest ecologist is creating an archive of specimens of the state's tallest grove of flowering plants,*Eucalyptus regnans*. He says the Tasmanian Herbarium collection will help future scientists to research the trees with tools that have not been invented yet. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-11/tasmanian-herbarium-houses-eucalyptus-regnans-specimans-tallest-/102310336>

# The Plant Thieves: Secrets of the herbarium – ABC Katie Hamann, 11 May 2023

# The National Herbarium of New South Wales, houses a growing collection of over 1 point 4 million plant specimens… It's here that author and research academic Dr Prue Gibson learnt about the plant naming wars, and the fascinating keepers of this knowledge for her book The Plant Thieves: Secrets of the herbarium. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/drawingroom/the-politics-of-plants-stories-from-the-herbarium-/102347800>

# Blueberry family has new member after workers investigate strange plant species by roadside – ABC, 13 May 2023

On a sleepy roadside in rural Western Australia, Katherine Walkerden and Julie Waters stumbled upon a plant unknown to science. In the spring of 2021, the two members of the Esperance Shire's environmental team were looking for threatened species and sensitive environments in a road reserve, ahead of a plan to widen the thoroughfare, when a strange shrub caught their eye. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-13/blueberry-new-plant-species-acrotriche-platycarpa-wa/102332278>

# Program to plant 20 million trees prioritised cost-saving over gains for nature, research finds – The Conversation, 15 May 2023

Australia is a world leader in land clearing and species extinctions. Tree-planting programs are among the restoration measures needed to bring threatened species back from the brink. But do these programs always work. Our [new research](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/accdf2) set out to answer that question, by examining the much-touted 20 Million Trees program. It began under the Abbott Coalition government in 2014. <https://theconversation.com/program-to-plant-20-million-trees-prioritised-cost-saving-over-gains-for-nature-research-finds-205302>

# Some trees in Kings Park have been in decline for years. Now scientists know why and how to fix it – ABC, 20 May 2023

Around 2003, the trees in Perth's Kings Park started to decline — their leaves yellowed and began to drop. Some of the trees, which are hundreds of years old, were left bare and had been slated to be cut down. It took scientists decades to figure out what the problem was and then discover the relatively simple way to solve it. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-20/chlorotic-decline-syndrome-kings-park-trees/102359094>

# Giant bolete mushrooms pop up in a nature reserve near Naracoorte to the delight of locals – ABC, 20 May 2023

A cluster of giant mushrooms has popped up at Cockatoo Lake Recreation Reserve near Naracoorte in regional South Australia to the delight of residents. The mushrooms are believed to be large boletes, *Phlebopus marginatus*, which are not commonly reported in regional South Australia. Boletes are considered to be Australia's largest terrestrial mushroom and usually appear after soaking rains during autumn. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-20/giant-mushrooms-limestone-coast-boletes-fungi/102355772>

# Wiradjuri and Walgalu women protect endangered Tumut grevillea plant as part of Buugang Wambal project – ABC, 21 May 2023

When Megan Considine digs her hands into the soil of a small allotment by the Tumut River, she's not only taking a leading role in species conservation, she is connecting with her Indigenous culture. "I honestly feel whole, this project just makes me feel whole," she said. Ms Considine is a Wiradjuri-Walgalu woman and a coordinator of the Buugang Wambal conservation and connecting to country project. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-21/buugang-wambal-project-tumut-grevillea-aboriginal-women/102357132>

# A botanical detective story: shedding light on the journey out of Africa for one of Australia’s worst weeds – The Conversation, 22 May 2023

The scrubby harbour-side hills of a South African city recently revealed details of an historical event that transformed Australian coastlines. That event led to the arrival in Australia of a native South African shrub, bitou bush. The invader went on to become one of [Australia’s worst weeds](https://lists.ala.org.au/speciesListItem/list/dr823), smothering coastal dune vegetation. While bitou bush has been widespread along Australia’s east coast for decades, the weed arrived in Western Australia relatively recently. The species (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subspecies *rotundata*) was [discovered in 2012 at Kwinana](https://doi.org/10.1614/IPSM-D-13-00052.1), a port and industrial area south of Perth. This new invasion [required urgent attention](https://doi.org/10.3897/neobiota.50.35070). <https://theconversation.com/a-botanical-detective-story-shedding-light-on-the-journey-out-of-africa-for-one-of-australias-worst-weeds-205183>

# Rare, Jurassic-era plants carefully relocated from private collection to Wollongong Botanic Gardens – ABC, 24 May 2023

To the casual observer, they probably look like run-of-the-mill tree ferns, but cycads have an ancient and fascinating history. They are a group of plants that flourished around the world in the Jurassic period, about 141 million years ago, but you can still see them today. <https://www.abc.net.au/illawarra/programs/drive/cycads-botanic-gardens/102390420>

**‘WA’s Christmas tree’: what mungee, the world’s largest mistletoe, can teach us about treading lightly – The Conversation, 26 May 2023**

Noongar Country of southwestern Australia is home to the world’s largest parasitic plant, a mighty mistletoe that blooms every December. That’s why it’s commonly known as WA’s [Christmas Tree](https://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/about-us/information/our-plants/plants-in-focus/1015). But it also goes by other names, mungee and moodjar. And it holds great significance for [Noongar people](https://www.noongarculture.org.au/) including the Merningar people of the south coast. <https://theconversation.com/was-christmas-tree-what-mungee-the-worlds-largest-mistletoe-can-teach-us-about-treading-lightly-205568>

# Biodiversity: Can we get it right? – ABC, 27 May 2023

Freshwater ecosystems are very important for biodiversity but they are highly threatened. And the same can be said for excessive land clearing, which can drive even more species to extinction. Can we strike a good balance to identify opportunities to gain positive benefit?  David Lindenmayer, Professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University explains. <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/weekendevenings/biodiversity/102392108>

# The National Herbarium of NSW has 1.4 million plant specimens — and maybe as many stories – RN Drive, 30 May 2023

On the fringes of Sydney, just as the suburbs taper out into farmland and bush, there's a shiny new building that holds countless secrets about this country. The building contains an archive. But this isn't a place of stacked written records or ageing audiovisual materials. This is a place of plants. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-30/national-herbarium-of-nsw-book/102376576>

# What should happen to native forests when logging ends? Ask Victoria’s First Peoples – The Conversation, 30 May 2023

The end of native forest logging in Victoria [announced last week](https://theconversation.com/after-the-chainsaws-the-quiet-victorias-rapid-exit-from-native-forest-logging-is-welcome-and-long-overdue-206181) was met with joy from conservationists and shock from timber industry workers. To date, this has been how the story has been told: a win for the environment, a loss for jobs in the industry. But there is an aspect of the story which hasn’t been told. The end of native timber harvesting is an opportunity for Victoria’s First Peoples to tend these forests again. Our voices have not been heard in this debate, but we have much to do on Forest Country. <https://theconversation.com/what-should-happen-to-native-forests-when-logging-ends-ask-victorias-first-peoples-206412?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=bylinetwitterbutton>

# Events and Opportunities

**BGANZ webinar recording**

As a part of Botanic Gardens Month, the BGANZ Collections and Records Management group (BCARM) hosted a webinar focused on living collections management in botanic gardens (of all shapes and sizes). You can watch the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lblbNdf1Ook>

**CCWA 2023 Conference**

The Conservation Council of WA’s conference will be held on 13 and 14 September 2023 in Crawley WA. For updates head to <https://www.ccwa.org.au/ccwa_2023_conference>

**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/>

**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. IAVS will hold its 65th annual symposium at Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW, from Sunday 3rd to Friday 8th September 2023. Side events include the pre- and post-conference tours, and several mid-week day-long excursions to choose from. The theme of the conference is 'The Future of Vegetation in the 22nd Century'. Visit the website to register and submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. <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/>

**ESA Conference**

The Ecological Society of Australia is holding their annual conference in Darwin form 3-7 July 2023. Registrations are now open for this in person event, with some plenaries to be live streamed online. For more information see the conference website: <http://esa2023.org.au/>

**Nature Conservation Council Regional Conference**

On Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June the Nature Conservation Council will hold a regional conference at the Charles Sturt University Campus in Albury. The conference theme is ‘Connections, Communities and change’ with tickets costing $35 for the full conference. Please register before 14 June. <https://www.nature.org.au/regional_conference_2023?utm_campaign=230524_org_member_news&utm_medium=email&utm_source=natureorg>