**Plant Cuttings – June 2023**

# Botanic gardens are art galleries of plants. Here’s what you can learn – SMH, 26 May 2023

It’s a question that has been put to Professor Tim Entwisle several times before and so he was at the ready when one of the people taking a tour of Melbourne’s Royal Botanic Gardens recently asked him why – given all the environmental crises we face – these 38 hectares of inner city space weren’t being “taken back to nature”. <https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/life-and-relationships/botanic-gardens-are-art-galleries-of-plants-here-s-what-you-can-learn-20230526-p5dbl8.html>

**Native raspberries, limes and geraniums: how did these curious plants end up in Australia?** **The Conversation, 2 June 2023**

While plants can’t walk, they can certainly travel. Some species have travelled vast distances over millennia, moving by different and varied modes. Some found new habitats when the continent they were riding on slowly crashed into another. Others went on perilous ocean going journeys – think of coconuts washing up on new island shores. Others still have been carried as seeds by birds or other animals – including us. Many have now become local, endemic to their region of Australia. Some may surprise you. <https://theconversation.com/native-raspberries-limes-and-geraniums-how-did-these-curious-plants-end-up-in-australia-205291>

**Becoming a Botanist: The vibrant career of Carrick Chambers – ABC RN, 3 June 2023**

Have you ever wondered who is responsible for our blooming botanic gardens? The Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney is Australia's oldest scientific institution. Peter Bernhardt tells the story of one of its directors, Carrick Chambers, whose biography has just been published. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/becoming-a-botanist/102421210>

**VIDEO: Regenerative burning proves a success for native grassy woodlands – ABC News, 6 June 2023**

Regenerative burning in SA Water Reservoir Reserves have helped the development and ecology of grassy woodlands. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-06/regenerative-burning-proves-a-success-for-native/102442956>

**We have to act now’: States, feds unite to cut feral horse numbers in Alps – SMH, 9 June 2023**

The divide over feral horse management between NSW and its neighbours in the Australian Alps has been overcome, with the federal, state and territory governments declaring a new era of co-operation on tackling herd numbers in one of the nation’s most iconic and fragile landscapes. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/we-have-to-act-now-states-feds-unite-to-cut-feral-horse-numbers-in-alps-20230609-p5dfcd.html>

**Come inside the vault preserving Pacific plants for future generations – ABC RN, 10 June 2023**

The stock of seeds and sprouts being conserved in case of emergency
\* Work being done to better understand native, invasive, and agricultural species in Fiji
\* Supporting small-holder farmers to achieve their unique goals <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/the-science-show/102400318>

**Western Australia's controversial forest burning regime comes under the microscope – ABC News, 14 June 2023**

Conservationists have compiled images of charred wilderness in a report aimed at convincing the West Australian government of the need for an independent review of the state's prescribed burning practices. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-14/western-australia-prescribed-burning-environment-report-730/102446748>

**97% of Australians want more action to stop extinctions and 72% want extra spending on the environment – The Conversation, 20 June 2023**

Most Australians (97%) want more action to protect nature, even if they don’t know the full extent of the biodiversity crisis. That’s the startling finding emerging from our first national survey of 4,000 voters. Biodiversity matters. We rely on nature for healthy food, clean air and water. Roughly half of the global economy depends on natural systems. But Australia is losing biodiversity at a cracking pace. Over the past 200 years, a species has become extinct every second year on average. This includes one in ten of Australia’s mammal species. Thousands of species that were once common and widespread are now rare. <https://theconversation.com/97-of-australians-want-more-action-to-stop-extinctions-and-72-want-extra-spending-on-the-environment-207811>

**Before the colonists came, we burned small and burned often to avoid big fires. It’s time to relearn cultural burning – The Conversation, 22 June 2023**

For 60,000 years, many First Nations peoples managed the land that sustained us. Fire, for us, was not destructive. It created new life. We believe bringing back [cultural burning](https://culturalburning.org.au/) is an important step towards creating a more just and sustainable future. We are from the Githabul and Ngarakbul peoples of the Yoocum Yoocum Moeity. Our traditional lands span what is now northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. But the knowledge of how to burn and when to burn spans the entire continent. We want to pass this knowledge on, from First Nations to the ones who came later. Farmers, landholders, people with bush blocks – these are the people who need this knowledge. <https://theconversation.com/before-the-colonists-came-we-burned-small-and-burned-often-to-avoid-big-fires-its-time-to-relearn-cultural-burning-201475>

 **Imperial Lakes Nature Park secures water supply for Broken Hill rejuvenation project – ABC News, 22 June 2023**

Native plants being grown near Broken Hill will soon have a consistent water source to help provide favourable year-round conditions. Imperial Lakes Nature Park is being restored by Landcare Broken Hill after previously being owned by Essential Water. Landcare president Simon Molesworth KC says the rejuvenation project is still in its early stages. "[While] a lot's been done, the really big things are going to have to wait until we land the really big dollars," he said. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-22/broken-hills-imperial-lakes-water-supply-secured-landcare/102509512>

# Events and Opportunities

**ESA Conference – Darwin NT, 3 - 7 July 2023**

The Ecological Society of Australia is holding their annual conference in Darwin from 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/>

**NSW Weeds Conference** **- Dubbo NSW, 7 - 10 August 2023**

The NSW Weeds Conference will showcase the latest research and ideas for managing the establishment, impact and spread of weeds. Register here <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>

**AABRFest – Topi Topi NSW, 18 - 20 August 2023**

AABRFest is a gathering for bush regenerators and all those interested in ecological restoration to learn and connect with one another. An opportunity to connect with the wider bush regeneration community, forge new connections and rekindle old friendships. Bring your family for a rejuvenating experience amidst the awe-inspiring landscapes of Topi Topi, the traditional lands of the Worimi People. All the information as it evolves and gets finalised is here. <https://www.aabr.org.au/event/aabrfest/>

**International Association for Vegetation Science 65th Annual Symposium - Coffs Harbour NSW, 4 - 8 September**

The International Association for Vegetation Science (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. <https://iavsaustralia2023.com/program/>

**CCWA 2023 Conference – Perth WA, 13 & 14 September 2023**

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>

**10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration – Darwin NT, September 26 - 30, 2023**

The 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration will focus on the important, and often neglected connection between culture and nature, including the role of restoration in enhancing and rebuilding that connection. <https://ser2023.org/>

**International Conservation Translocation Conference – Fremantle WA, 13 - 15 November 2023**

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 is now open. <https://conservationtranslocations.com/>