

## **Plant Cuttings – July 2023**

### **Keyboard weeders and a pocketable-map maker win Froggatts – Invasive Species Council, 2 June 2023**

Around the country, inspiring people are doing outstanding work to protect Australia's native plants and animals, ecosystems and people from invasive species. We began the annual Froggatt Awards to celebrate their initiative and impact and bring their story to you.

Click here to see all of this year's winners and commendations

<https://invasives.org.au/blog/keyboard-weeders-and-a-pocketable-map-maker-win-froggatts/>

### **Plibersek's green Wall Street plan stalls following criticism – SMH, 30 June 2023**

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek's controversial biodiversity scheme, the Nature Repair Market Bill, has been delayed, just one month after its introduction, following widespread criticism from conservation groups, the Greens and the opposition. Introducing her Nature Repair Market reforms into parliament at the end of May, Plibersek said the bill could turn Australia into a green Wall Street, with a market-based scheme to drive billions of dollars of private investment into habitat protection, in an attempt to reverse Australia's world-record wildlife losses.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/plibersek-s-green-watt-street-plan-stalls-following-criticism-20230630-p5dkum.html>

### **'Forest disappearing on its watch': WA botanist blows whistle on mining rehab 'slip' – SMH, 3 July 2023**

When botanist Keith Smith began supplying one of the state's biggest miners with the seed to rehabilitate swathes of jarrah forest across the Darling Scarp three decades ago, he was steadfast in his belief he was making a difference. But he says the rehabilitation effort is a shadow of the forest's former self, as waning research efforts and production demands trump environmental responsibility, and now the future of the biodiversity hotspot is at stake.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/western-australia/forest-disappearing-on-its-watch-wa-botanist-blows-whistle-on-mining-rehab-slip-20230629-p5dkk6.html>

### **Last year 5 million hectares of land was burnt in WA. So, does prescribed burning work? – SMH, 5 July 2023**

Calls for an independent inquiry into Western Australia's "gut-wrenching" prescribed burning program have been rejected by a parliamentary committee despite scientists and conservation groups labelling the practice damaging and outdated. But Murdoch University fire ecologist Joe Fontaine said the committee's justification of its decision not to conduct an external review was full of errors and poor reasoning.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/western-australia/last-year-5-million-hectares-of-land-was-burnt-in-wa-so-does-prescribed-burning-work-20230704-p5dlm2.html>

**Environment Victoria says Murray-Darling Basin Plan buybacks key to saving 140 species - ABC Radio Melbourne, 12 July 2023**

Environment Victoria has commissioned the Australian National University to take "stocktake" of how many species are at risk of extinction in Victoria under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The tally comes to 140 plants and animals, according to the 'Doomed without a Drink' report. Virginia Trioli interviews Environment Victoria CEO Jono La Nauze, as he calls on the Victorian Government to help increase environmental flows, and stop opposing Commonwealth buybacks.

<https://www.abc.net.au/melbourne/programs/mornings/environment-victoria-murray-darling-basin-plan-extinction-report/102591924>

**Biodiversity Council opposes Lee Point development – media release, 14 July 2023**

The Biodiversity Council condemns the development of a Defence Housing Project at Binybara (Lee Point) north of Darwin, at a site of very high ecological and cultural value. The proposed development would clear 132.5 hectares of high-quality tropical savanna habitat containing centuries old trees and threatened species and would also impact endangered migratory shorebirds on the adjoining beaches and mudflats. We urge the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to undertake more rigorous consultation with the community, Traditional Owners and threatened species experts to find a more sustainable housing solution.

<https://biodiversitycouncil.org.au/#stories>

**Native plants bringing colour to winter gardens- ABC Radio Adelaide, 15 July 2023**

Native plants provide a bounty of benefits for winter gardens. They're low maintenance, attract wildlife, and provide a pop of colour during the colder months.

<https://www.abc.net.au/adelaide/programs/talkbackgardening/tbg-steve-lindfield-and-jamie-mcillwain/102609486>

**Restoring the scattered remnants of an ancient rainforest - ABC Science Show, 15 July 2023**

Once the largest expanse of lowland subtropical rainforest in Australia, only 1% of the Big Scrub in northern NSW now remains. The Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy is hoping to restore this critically endangered rainforest. They've already facilitated the planting of more than 1.5 million trees, with more to come.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/restoring-the-scattered-remnants-of-an-ancient-rainforest/102582130>

**VIDEO: Landholder signs over private property for perpetual conservation in NSW - ABC Mid North Coast, 17 July 2023**

Australia has a wide variety of plants and animals but protecting that biodiversity requires another eight per cent of the continent to be set aside for conservation, including private land.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-17/landholder-signs-over-private-property-to-perpetual-conservation/102609512>

**Bearded flatsedge thought extinct in Victoria rediscovered with help from Mallee botanist - ABC Wimmera, 18 July 2023**

The plant collection made by an amateur Mallee botanist has helped scientists rediscover a plant thought to be extinct in Victoria. The last verified sighting of the bearded flatsedge or *Cyperus squarrosus* in Victoria was in 1953, until botanists spotted it last year after the Murray River flooded. Professor Tim Entwisle, director and chief executive of Victoria's Royal Botanical Gardens, said the exact location of the discovery was kept "secret" to protect the few plants found and allow scientists to study its ecology.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-18/bearded-flatsedge-rediscovered-in-forest-monitoring-program/102611534>

**Plants for Wildlife – ABC Gardening Australia, 21 July 2023**

Gardeners are always keen to provide for native wildlife. But if you haven't got an in-ground garden, there are still ways to attract and provide for wildlife. Here's how to make a native plant pot that will attract the wildlife and look great!

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/plants-for-wildlife/102625942>

**Barngarla bush medicine book healing hearts and helping stolen children reconnect with country - ABC Eyre Peninsula, 24 July 2023**

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this article contains images and names of people who have died.*

When she was five years old, Barngarla woman Evelyn Walker was bundled into a car and taken from her mother. It wasn't until she was 19, after a relative recognised her mum by chance on public transport and passed on a phone number, that she saw her again. At 40, Ms Walker is still healing from the trauma of a childhood marred by disconnection from family, country and language. But her journey to recover her family connections and culture has resulted in a 24-page book titled Wardlada Mardinidhi, Barngarla Bush Medicines, which she hopes will help others reconnect and heal.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-24/bush-medicine-book-helping-heal-stolen-generation-families/102637216>

**Are eucalyptus trees really 'widow makers'? Australian Geographic, July 26 2023**

They're iconically Australian and beloved by many. But eucalypts also have a deadly reputation. There's an old idiom I still hear every now and then that pops up in relation to eucalyptus trees – 'widow makers'. An old colloquialism not exclusively applied to eucalypts, it is used to describe anything that could quickly kill a man, leaving a widow behind. It is widely accepted that large eucalypts have earned this reputation due to their well-documented propensity to drop large branches – onto cars, houses and people. But it's not that simple.

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2023/07/are-eucalyptus-trees-really-widow-makers/>

**Native marri flowering in WA's South West can influence how beekeepers and vineyards operate - ABC Rural, 27 July 2023**

One of the most common tall native trees in southern Western Australia, the marri, not only plays an important part in biodiversity but is also linked to the success of certain agricultural industries. The marri species (*Corymbia calophylla*) does not have a strong flowering every year, and during some of its in-between years the lack of blossom can reduce honey productivity and force birds to look to vineyards for food.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-07-27/marri-tree-flowering-cycle-and-its-impact-on-wa-agriculture/102632644> 27 July 2023

## **Events and Opportunities**

**NSW NCC's 13th Biennial Bushfire Conference 2023, 'Managing Bushfire Together: Applying Science, Skills and Stories'**

Early access to conference recordings now available. The recordings include over 11 hours of content from leading academics, practitioners, Traditional Owners, agencies and communities, exploring how we can improve in managing bush fire together. Early release access is now available for purchase for those who were unable to experience the conference live in May. [Access can be purchased for \\$60 via this link](#). All ticket-holding conference delegates have complimentary access to these recordings.

<https://events.humanitix.com/recordings-ncc-bushfire-conference-2023>

**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/>

**Notification of public consultation on the 'Honey Myrtle shrubland on limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion' threatened ecological community.**

The closing date for comment is Friday 11 August 2023. The Threatened Species Scientific Committee invites you to comment on the proposal to list a nationally threatened ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act). The Honey Myrtle shrubland ecological community is a warm temperate shrubland or heath, dominated by *Melaleuca huegelii* (chenille honey myrtle), *M. systema* (coastal honey myrtle), and/or *Banksia sessilis* (parrot bush). The draft assessment, included in a draft Conservation Advice, proposes that the ecological community may be eligible for listing as Critically Endangered. The draft Conservation Advice for the ecological community is available for public comment, on the Department's website at:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/honey-myrtle-shrubland-limestone-ridges-swan-coastal-plain-bioregion>

**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/>

### **Dieback Information Group Conference 2023 – Perth WA or online, 30-31 August 2023**

This year's conference theme is Biosecurity: It's Up to You! Through the use of this theme, we will explore the shared nature of our environmental biosecurity system, particularly in WA where vast areas and relatively low population density means that we all need to be aware of potential new threats to our environment and how to report them. The conference will equip you with the tools to engage with the public in meaningful ways and to understand alternative, diverse perspectives. This will help enact change, and mitigate threats to our ecological, social, economic and cultural values. All are welcome to attend this fabulous two days of knowledge sharing, discussion, and collaboration on some of Western Australia's largest environmental biosecurity threats, including Phytophthora Dieback, Myrtle Rust, and Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1061939>

### **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](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/>

### **ALCA's Private Land Conservation Conference, PLC23: Unite For Nature – Canberra ACT, 16-18 October 2023**

Register now for early bird prices

<https://www.alcaconference.org.au/>

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

The conference theme is "Learning from the past, adapting to the future". Registration is now open.

<https://conservationtranslocations.com/>

### **Territory Natural Resource Management Conference 2023 – Darwin NT, 21-23 November 2023**

The NT's leading conference on natural resource management expertise, on-ground activities and community engagement. It is an important event that celebrates, recognises and strengthens capacity-building, collaboration and innovation for natural resource management across the Northern Territory.

<https://www.tnrmconference.org.au/>