

## **Plant Cuttings – August 2023**

### **Home gardeners become accidental citizen scientists for Wollemi Pine – CSIRO, 27 July 2023**

For the first decade after it was recognised as new to science, Wollemi Pine was grown only in botanic gardens, sometimes in protective cages to prevent theft. The plants were mostly propagated from cuttings, not grown from seed.

In 2005, due to huge public interest in this rare tree and to protect wild populations from illegal collecting, Wollemi Pine was made available to home gardeners in Australia and many countries around the world. Little were they to know they would accidentally be taking part in a global experiment.

<https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2023/july/wollemi-pine>

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

The bearded flatsedge has not been seen since 1953 and was assumed extinct in Victoria. It was rediscovered near the Murray River following the 2022 floods. The collection amassed by a Mallee botanist in the 1950s was used to verify the sample.

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

### **Five species face immediate concern of extinction, scientific committee warns Labor – The Guardian, 17 August 2023**

The plants include *Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii*, or dwarf mountain pine, a species found close to waterfalls in the Blue Mountains that can only be accessed using specialist gear. Another is *Acacia prismifolia* (Diels' wattle). Once thought to be extinct, it was found again in 2018 and is facing an imminent threat from road widening.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/17/five-species-face-immediate-concern-of-extinction-scientific-committee-warns-labor>

### **Ancient clonal tree, King's lomatia, excites scientists in Tasmania's remote south west – ABC, 29 July 2023**

Before the last ice age, deep in the mountains and valleys of south-western Tasmania an unusual little sprout grew from a seed. The plant grew and grew, eventually unfurling deep red flowers, but as the curled petals dropped to the ground no viable seeds formed. Today, its wild population is limited to just a 1.2 kilometre square and it may be among the world's oldest clonal plants — having grown from a single seed, genetically cloned many times over through the millennia.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-29/kings-lomatia-tasmanica-ancient-clonal-plant-worlds-oldest/102240860>

### **A Plant Punk says goodbye! - ABC Radio National, 29 July 2023**

Tim Entwisle is well known to RN listeners, and to botanists globally. This week he says farewell as director of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. He has also led the Gardens in Sydney and has been at Kew Gardens in London. What's next?

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/scienceshow/a-plant-punk-says-goodbye/102640192>

### **Online platforms such as eBay, Facebook Marketplace enabling illegal, invasive plants' sale, ABC, 31 July 2023**

Authorities warn social media has led to a spike in sales of illegal, invasive plants and say many people remain oblivious to the threat online purchases can pose to agriculture and the environment.

Digital platforms such as Facebook Marketplace, Instagram, Gumtree, Amazon and eBay have made it easier for backyard and commercial transactions of biological invaders that look pretty in a pot but can take over the landscape.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-07-31/ebay-facebook-marketplace-selling-invasive-illegal-plants-cacti/102623882>

### **Alpine coupes earmarked for forestry could be bulldozed before Victoria's end of year native logging ban - ABC, 22 August 2023**

Environmental groups are calling on VicForests to abandon logging plans in the state's alpine region after endangered native plants were found near the earmarked sites.

Five threatened plant species were seen at several coupes near Mount Stirling by surveyors from the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) and the Victorian Forest Alliance.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-22/logging-concerns-for-mount-stirling-endangered-plant-species/102742018>

### **Lake Cargelligo teenagers harvest saltbush seeds to restore endangered ecosystem - ABC, 27 August 2023**

Generations of land clearing since colonisation has put an ancient ecosystem in southern New South Wales in danger, but young people are helping to keep it alive.

Lake Cargelligo youth group Down the Track is harvesting native seeds to revegetate the Sandhill Pines Woodland. The area was once densely covered by cypress pines and other vegetation, but clearing, grazing and erosion have dramatically reduced its size and density.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-27/native-seed-harvesting-in-lake-cargelligo/102774546>

## **Scholarships**

### **Research Project: Orchids, fire and rust**

This project will use field work, herbarium records, spatial analyses and plant trait data to investigate the current and potential impact of myrtle rust on epiphytic orchids, by understanding effects on their myrtaceous host species. Myrtle rust is a novel pathogen in Australia, infecting a broad range

of tree species which are the primary habitat of epiphytic orchids. You will explore whether and how rust effects on host species lead to declines in epiphytic orchid abundance and diversity across the forests of southeast Australia. The potentially interactive effects of rust, fire and fragmentation on orchid population dynamics will also be considered. The project has the potential to be expanded into finding solutions for conservation of at-risk species, including ex situ approaches such as conservation horticulture.

How to apply: The project could be undertaken as a Masters of Research or PhD program jointly supervised by Dr Heidi Zimmer (Orchid specialist, Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research) and Associate Professor Rachael Gallagher (Plant conservation scientist, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University (WSU)). Please reach out to us via email if you are interested: [rachael.gallagher@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:rachael.gallagher@westernsydney.edu.au) or [Heidi.Zimmer@csiro.au](mailto:Heidi.Zimmer@csiro.au)

You will need to have some previous research experience, preferably some published work, and meet the entry requirements for PhD study at WSU. Applications for scholarships close the 17th September 2023 for a start in January 2024. Generous project costs are available to support field work and there may be scope for a Scholarship top-up.

## **Events and Opportunities**

### **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)

### **Gippsland Forest Dialogue – Kalimna West VIC, September 15, 2023**

The third Gippsland Forest Dialogue will look to provide a venue for discussion on the future of Gippsland's forests and forest dependent communities. In particular, the Dialogue will seek to explore ways to support the aspirations of Traditional Owners, and other Aboriginal people of the region, to manage and care for Country.

<https://gippslandforestdialogue.org.au/our-dialogues/whats-next-dialogue/>

### **22nd Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) Biennial Conference and 5th Research Symposium– Wollongong NSW, September 25 - 27, 2023**

This conference will bring celebration, revitalisation, hope and empowerment to our environmental education sector. It will tackle questions on how we can be stronger together, look after each other and continue to accelerate environmental and cultural regeneration.

<https://aaeeconference.org.au/>

### **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/>