

## **Plant Cuttings – September 2023**

### **War on invasive Sydney golden wattle rages in WA as its native counterparts fight for space– ABC, 19 August 2023**

Western Australia's south is currently shimmering with a golden flowering plant — but biologists say it's a very attractive pest. The Sydney golden wattle — or *Acacia longifolia* — has reached plague proportions in Western Australia's south. It is considered a pest by conservationists and thrives in the conditions of the south coast, where it is abundant in bushland this time of year, but can squeeze out other varieties of wattle that are native to the state.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-19/wa-wages-war-on-invasive-sydney-golden-wattle/102749548>

### **'Minds were blown': These scientists were stunned at what's happening on the NSW North Coast – SMH, 02 September 2023**

Professor Helge Bruelheide, professor of botany at the University of Helle in Germany, was stunned by what he has seen exploring the forests in and around the promised Great Koala National Park on the state's North Coast this week.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/minds-were-blown-these-scientists-were-stunned-at-what-s-happening-on-the-nsw-north-coast-20230831-p5e11w.html>

### **Officially endangered: Critical environmental research saving Western Australia's precious peatlands – Phys.org, 15 September 2023**

On National Threatened Species Day 2023, the Australian Government declared the *Empodisma* peatlands of southwestern Australia endangered.

Edith Cowan University (ECU) environmental scientists sought the listing, which came following three years of research and many more years of campaigning by dedicated organizations, to determine how to save the precious wetlands from extinction.

<https://phys.org/news/2023-09-endangered-critical-environmental-western-australia.html>

### **How we brought mistletoes back to the trees of Melbourne – while warding off hungry possums – The Conversation, 12 September 2023**

Until recently, mistletoes were regarded as problematic pests across Australia. They were seen as having been introduced from elsewhere, exploiting helpless trees and driving their premature demise. But just as we now know that hollows are essential for wildlife, including many threatened species, awareness of the positive side of parasitic plants is growing.

However, unlike other plants that can be grown as seedlings and planted out, mistletoes rely on animals to plant their seeds on the branches of host trees. This means they aren't included in revegetation efforts, and it was unclear whether it would even be possible.

<https://theconversation.com/how-we-brought-mistletoes-back-to-the-trees-of-melbourne-while-warding-off-hungry-possums-211742>

**Australia's least wanted – 8 alien species and diseases we must keep out of our island home – The Conversation, 06 September 2023**

This week's landmark report on the impact of invasive alien species revealed costs to the global economy exceeded US\$423 billion (A\$654 billion) a year in 2019. Costs have at least quadrupled every decade since 1970 and that trend is set to continue.

Prevention is better than a cure. Stopping pests and diseases arriving and establishing in Australia is not only better for the environment, it's much cheaper too.

<https://theconversation.com/australias-least-wanted-8-alien-species-and-diseases-we-must-keep-out-of-our-island-home-212850>

**VIDEO: Study finds rivers missing out on key environmental flows, ABC, 08 September 2023**

Over \$7bn has been spent trying to increase the amount of water going to parts of the Murray-Darling basin, but scientists say not enough is getting there.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-08/study-finds-rivers-missing-out-on-key-environmental-flows/102834492>

**Hundreds of trees cut and poisoned at Sydney's Castle Cove with reward offered for information - ABC, 30 August 2023**

A mayor on Sydney's North Shore says she wants the person responsible for illegally destroying hundreds of trees jailed.

Authorities are investigating after 265 trees in a waterfront reserve on Willowie Road in Castle Cove were either cut or poisoned between January and June this year.

A reward of up to \$10,000 is on offer for anyone with information that leads to a successful prosecution.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-30/tree-vandalism-in-castle-cove/102792692>

**Australia's most popular carbon credit scheme, Human Induced Regeneration, questioned by experts – ABC, 18 August 2023**

Deep in the Australian outback, there are billions of dollars being made from carbon farming.

Remote stations that used to farm sheep or cattle are now doing nothing on their land — and that's the intention.

It's called Human Induced Regeneration (HIR) and while it's Australia's most popular method of carbon farming, it's also controversial.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-18/experts-criticise-carbon-offset-scheme-730/102736696>

**Claude the koala eats thousands of nursery seedlings intended for NSW wildlife corridor, ABC – 05 September 2023**

When Humphrey Herington realised something was stealing his seedlings, he did not expect to come face-to-face with Claude the leaf thief.

Mr Herington said the true crime drama started several months ago at his South Gundurimba nursery, near Lismore in New South Wales.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-05/koala-eats-nursery-seedlings-intended-for-wildlife-corridor/102814920>

### **‘Blissonance’ effect as Melbourne’s early spring signals hot, dry summer – SMH, 29 August 2023**

Flower buds bursting forth, a flush of green on the trees, and birds busily building their nests. It should feel uplifting, right? These mild, almost-spring days we’ve been having.

But in the wake of record-breaking summer temperatures across the northern hemisphere and building ocean heat off south-eastern Australia, the simple enjoyment of an early spring feels fraught.

Perhaps we are experiencing “blissonance” – when an otherwise blissful experience in nature is disrupted by thoughts of how the place will be negatively affected in the future. (It’s an unofficial term coined by a public artwork called the Bureau of Linguistical Reality, which finds new words to describe living through climate change).

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/blissonance-effect-as-melbourne-s-early-spring-signals-hot-dry-summer-20230829-p5e07z.html>

### **Invasive species lead driver of biodiversity loss in Australia – and feral cats have biggest impact, report finds – The Guardian, 05 September 2023**

Advocates are calling for an urgent and coordinated national response to the threat of invasive species after the co-authors of a major international report identified it as the leading driver of biodiversity loss in Australia.

The report, from the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), was produced by 86 experts from 49 countries and details the impacts of invasive flora and fauna on ecosystems globally.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/04/invasive-species-no-1-driver-of-biodiversity-loss-in-australia-and-feral-cats-have-biggest-impact-report-finds>

### **Environmentalists condemn Australia’s ‘woeful record’ after 48 plants and animals added to threatened species list – The Guardian, 07 September 2023**

More than 40 plants and animals have been added to Australia’s list of threatened wildlife, including crayfish, frogs, insects and several plants, in what environment groups say is another reminder of the urgent need for reform.

The environment minister, Tanya Plibersek, announced the bullock jewel butterfly, Kate's leaf-tail gecko, and 16 types of native spiny crayfish were among 48 species that had "been given greater protection under Australia's national environmental law" by joining the threatened list.

Twenty-two of the species enter the list at critically endangered – the highest threat status – and most of the 48 were affected by the 2019-20 black summer bushfires.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/sep/07/environmentalists-condemn-australias-woeful-record-after-48-plants-and-animals-added-to-threatened-species-list>

### **Tip to Treasure – Gardening Australia, 01 September 2023**

Millie checks out the quarry turned bushland restoration project at Newport Lakes Reserve.

Newport Lakes Reserve sit just 13kms west of the Melbourne CBD. It's a 33-hectare park which has had many lives, including a quarry and a landfill tip. Due to the dedicated work to restore this area, it has now become a bushland oasis, and Millie meets the team who have transformed it.

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/tip-to-treasure/102800524>

### **Euroa seed bank warns shortage of supply won't be able to keep up with growing demands for native seed – ABC, 16 September 2023**

As the weather warms up, wattles bloom and eucalypts drip with grey box, which is particularly delightful for native seed collectors, like Carolena Helderman.

Ms Helderman works for the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank at the Euroa Arboretum collecting native seeds — a job that requires a permit.

She spends hours walking in the bush mapping the areas ready to harvest the highly sought-after seeds.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-16/seed-bank-collection-in-demand-but-native-seed-supply-short/102848880>

## **Events and Opportunities**

### **Nature Festival – South Australia, 1-15 October 2023**

In a time of climate change, bushfires, and global pandemics, now more than ever we need to cultivate a deeper relationship with nature as a society.

<https://www.naturefestival.org.au/events>

### **New Futures for Victorian Landcare**

New Futures for Victorian Landcare is an exciting new project that aims to support the participation of the landcare community in emerging green investment markets. These markets are already large and growing and seeking high quality landscape scale projects.

Expression of Interest - NOW OPEN (closing 23 Oct 2023)

<https://www.landcarevictoria.org.au/newfutures>

**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/>