Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc. (ANPC)

President's Report
To the Annual General meeting, 26 November 2025

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first full year as ANPC President.

The last year has been a very productive year for the ANPC and our role as Australia's key plant conservation organisation. We have continued to receive significant project and grant funding to keep us extremely active in the plant conservation sphere, as well as financially viable. We have extensively collaborated with partners across the country to achieve shared goals such as to:

- Coordinate recovery of Queensland's threatened plants through surveys, recovery action coordination and workshops.
- Coordinate recovery action for high priority Myrtle Rust affected species *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*, *Gossia gonoclada*, *Rhodamnia rubescens* and *Rhodamnia maideniana.*
- Continue field surveys and assessments to prevent the extinction of rare plants adversely impacted by the 2019/2020 fires.
- Plan the APCC15 conference to be held in Port Douglas next year.
- Co-host the Australasian Myrtle Rust Conference 2025 and publish a report summarising the proceedings.
- Hold three online Myrtle Rust practitioner webinars focusing on practical aspects of managing and maintaining a conservation collection of Myrtle Rust susceptible species.

I was particularly thrilled to attend our two-day strategic planning workshop in February to plan for the future of the organisation and draft a five-year Strategic Plan to lay out our priorities and vision. We had a great couple of days welcoming our management committee and interstate staff to Canberra at the in-person workshop held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. As a collective, we made a lot of progress on our strategic focus and organisational aims for the next 5 and 10 years.

We had some lively and creative discussions primarily centred around:

- **Engagement** - how we can be influential and catalyse support for plant conservation in Australia.
- **Knowledge** - how to further our facilitation of knowledge exchange and further develop best practice guidelines.
- **Longevity** - how we can increase awareness and income to drive project delivery and organisational sustainability.

Our vision: “Securing Australia’s rich native plant diversity”

Who we are: “We are the national network of people, research and action for plant conservation”.

Our Values

- We develop, synthesise and collaborate
    - We facilitate collaborations to create plant conservation action. We work inclusively with members, scientists and conservation organisations. We are innovators and adaptable to change.
- We act with integrity
    - We are a trusted source of plant conservation knowledge exchange. We are non-partisan. We’re accountable and transparent about our actions.
- We are custodians for the future
    - We deliver positive action for plant conservation that will endure for future generations.

The workshop also resulted in the formation of various Working Groups most of which have been very active this year:

- *Working Group 1 – Values Statement.* A final ANPC Values Statement was endorsed on 28 May 2025 (see Appendix 1)
- *Working Group 2 – Branding and Marketing.* Worked on the name change proposal and refreshing the logo. Produced a Communications Strategy for the name change.
- *Working Group 3 – Fundraising.* A draft Fundraising Plan is nearing completion.
- *Working Group 4 – Environmental Analysis.* An analysis of opportunities in Western Australia and Queensland has been produced.
- *Working Group 5 – Membership.* To be revived in 2026.
- *Working Group 6 – Finance.* Produced a budget for 2025/26 and worked with auditor on 2024/25 financial audit and statements.
- *Working Group 7 - Reconciliation Action Plan.* Preliminary working group notes have been circulated. We are committed to working in a culturally safe, respectful and collaborative way with Indigenous peoples and organisations. This includes recognising and valuing Traditional Owner knowledge, ensuring our engagement practices are led by transparency and trust, and creating environments where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners feel safe, heard, and respected. As part of this commitment, our team will soon be undertaking cultural awareness and cultural safety training to strengthen our understanding, improve our practice and ensure our work aligns with Indigenous priorities, perspectives and protocols.
- *Working Group 8 – Constitution review.* Review has commenced and will be completed in 2026.
- Working Group 9 – *Ethical Assessment of External Funding.* Internal paper released for comment.

We also developed improved WHS procedures and documents for staff working from home and travelling for meetings/events/field work (especially where working alone).

Feel free to get in touch with us anytime if you have ideas for projects and future directions for the organisation**.**

PROJECTS

The Queensland Threatened Plant Network - supporting coordinated recovery of Queensland threatened plants

The Queensland Threatened Plant Network (QTPN) was initially a two-year pilot collaborative project between the ANPC and Threatened Species Operations (TSO) within the QLD Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) under the Queensland Government's Threatened Species Program, funded until August 2025. Launched in March 2024, the QTPN aims to support threatened plant recovery through member engagement, training, communications and reporting. A further 12 months funding from DETSI was secured this year until 30 June 2026, and we continue to seek complementary funding for QTPN coordination and on-ground activities.

The QTPN is providing support to stakeholders contributing to threatened plant recovery across the state and facilitating collaboration and the formation of partnerships among groups conserving native flora. It is bringing people and organisations together to participate and achieve shared goals and outcomes to advance threatened plant recovery in Queensland. The project is governed by a Steering Committee that meets every two months to provide direction and support to the Project Manager. To date, there are 21 organisational members of the QTPN as shown on Page 9.

Threatened flora surveys

Queensland is the most biodiverse state in Australia with over 14,000 species of native plants and plant-like species such as algae and lichens. Almost 800 of these plants are listed as threatened, making up 74% of all of Queensland's threatened species. Many of these plants are poorly known and under-surveyed. Without baseline data on their population sizes and health, it is very difficult to implement strategic recovery actions and prevent their extinction. The QTPN is undertaking targeted native flora surveys, according to Queensland Herbarium guidelines, to help fill some of these key gaps in our knowledge of Queensland's threatened plants and assist in their long-term management and monitoring. Over the last 12 months, the QTPN has facilitated the following surveys:

- 331 individuals of *Zieria exsul* (Critically Endangered) were located by participants during the Mooloolah Landcare Survey Training Workshop in November 2024, at Sugarbag Recreational Reserve (194 individuals were found in original survey by Sunshine Coast Council).
- 15 *Cryptocarya foetida* (Vulnerable) plants were found by local Friends group during Survey Training Workshop at Currumbin in November 2024. They have set up regular population monitoring at Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park.
- QTPN worked with Noosa Regional Council and federal DCCEEW to conduct survey of *Prostanthera spathulata* (Vulnerable) in January 2025, on Mt Tinbeerwah (Sunshine Coast); alas only 5 individuals were found. However after this, Council located >100 individuals on a private property to the south of the mountain, and a Flora Survey Workshop attendee surveyed her property (also on the mountain) and found an additional 20 plants!
- QTPN visited a Nature Refuge on the Granite Belt in February 2025, to survey *Homoranthus montanus* (Vulnerable) after 20 years since last visit. The main population was looking impressive.
- QTPN visited several *Cyanothamnus inflexus* subsp. *inflexus* sites on the Granite Belt in May 2025 to support nomination for this species by NSW Government and located 100 plants. During the same trip, QTPN visited several *Melaleuca williamsii* subsp. *fletcheri* (Vulnerable) populations to assess their extent and confirm their persistence post the 2019 fire season.

Melaleuca williamsii subsp. fletcheri. Credit: Paul Donatiu

- After this, Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium (SRWC) members surveyed some additional *C. inflexus* subsp. *inflexus* sites and located 489 individuals in the northern section of Passchendaele State Forest. The SRWC is really leading the way on the discovery of new populations of this and other listed species in this part of Southern Queensland.
- In July 2025, QTPN surveyed *Zieria inexpectata* (Endangered) on a road reserve east of Kingaroy and found over 400 plants, and 700+ individual plants of *Acacia argyrotricha* (Vulnerable) were located in Yelarbon State Forest.
- In September, QTPN surveyed *Westringia parviflora* (Vulnerable) in Yelarbon State Forest and found 70 plants.
- SRWC spring surveys produced incredibly valuable baseline data on local listed species, and discovered some new populations along the way:
    - *Zieria graniticola* (Endangered) at Amiens State Forest with >520 individual plants found.

- *Boronia repanda* (Endangered) on local private properties and Broadwater State Forest with 444 plants located. Was thought to have a population of only 1000 individuals but the current known population now exceeds 11,000 plants!
- *Acacia ruppii* (Endangered) 1 plant; *C. inflexus* subsp. *inflexus* 190 plants; *Dodonaea hirsuta* (Vulnerable) 100 plants.
- new populations of *Acacia torringtonensis* (Vulnerable) and identified two newcomers to the Granite Belt: *Acacia aprepta* and *Acacia ixiophylla* (both now with sizeable eastern range extensions).

Recovery Action Planning

Recovery Action Plans (RAPs) offer an effective means of consolidating community effort on threatened plant species with overlapping ranges, habitats, threatening processes and management actions on a range of tenures (private land, council reserves, State Forests and National Parks). The process of developing these RAPs leverages off the unique role that community-based environmental groups play in delivering conservation outcomes in their local communities, continuing to build community ownership of recovery activities, and thereby delivering a lasting conservation legacy for the region. The QTPN is working collaboratively with various community groups to deliver RAPs and actions for some of Queensland's threatened plants. To date, the QTPN has initiated recovery action planning activities for:

Swamp Daisy (*Olearia hygrophila*)

Historically an extremely rare species, Swamp Daisy populations on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) have been steadily declining since a thorough investigation in 1993 estimated that the then total number of plants was 150 individuals. The species faces myriad threats, including altered fire regimes, weed invasion, changes in underlying hydrology, potential inbreeding due to small population size, inadvertent trampling and saltwater inundation from extreme weather events. Swamp Daisy is a critically endangered daisy found in swampy areas and wet heath only on Minjerribah. It is a cryptic species, with specific habitat requirements, and an incredible ability to blend into the landscape. At present, it appears that less than 10 individual plants survive. A RAP for this critically endangered species has been completed, accepted by the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) Board, and endorsed by DETSI. As far as the QTPN is aware, this is the first Traditional Owner endorsed Recovery Action Plan for a plant species in Queensland. Key milestones during this process include:

- Threats-based workshop attended by Quandamooka and local environmentalists in June 2024.
- Resurveys of both known populations by QYAC Land and Sea Rangers and Recovery Team members in April and November 2024 - only six Swamp Daisy individuals found.
- Drafting of recovery-based management actions for Swamp Daisy.
- Finalisation of Swamp Daisy Recovery Action Plan (RAP) and presentation to the QYAC Board in March and April 2025.

QYAC Rangers and members of the Swamp Daisy Recovery Team undertaking a survey of both known populations in 2024. Credit: Paul Donatiu

Black Plum (*Planchonella eerwah*)

The Black Plum project was initiated by Eucalyptus Collective and Koalas on the Green in partnership with the QTPN and participating Local Government Authorities (Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Logan, Gold Coast and Scenic Rim). The endangered Black Plum is a canopy tree with distinctive blackish fruit restricted to drier rainforest communities across the hinterland of both the Sunshine and Gold Coasts. Historically this species is threatened by land clearing, weed invasion, unmanaged fire and invertebrate and vertebrate pest species. It is thought that <500 individuals exist. Key recovery activities completed to date include:

- Bi-monthly email bulletins detailing recovery progress (Eucalyptus Collective).
- Threats-based workshop at Logan City Council in October 2024 (with representatives from Scenic Rim, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Gold Coast City Councils).
- Field Day to visit and assess Black Plum populations at Mt Elliot (private property) in December 2024 (15p).
- Resurvey of known Black Plum sites by participating councils to build an accurate figure of current population sizes including Triunia Environment Reserve and Triunia National Park (52 individual plants) and Mt Elliot (>100 individuals).
- Management action-based workshop at Logan City Council in May 2025 (16p).
- Field Day to visit and assess Black Plum populations at Ormeau (Darlington Range) in June 2025 (15p).

- Field Day to Bahrs Scrub (near Beenleigh) to assess local Black Plum populations in September 2025 confirmed known populations and facilitated collection of genetic material (15p).
- Development of a video on the ecology and recovery of the Black Plum (Natura Pacific).

Participants on the Black Plum Field Day at Ormeau (Darlington Range) in June 2025. Credit: Rusty Linnane.

Tassel Ferns (*Phlegmariurus*, Lycopodiaceae)

Tassel Ferns are the earth's oldest epiphytes, dating back to the Jurassic. They are icons of old and ever wet rainforests, but due to habitat loss and overexploitation, all thirteen species are now considered threatened. Tassel Ferns differ from many other threatened species in having wide ranges but extremely low population numbers, meaning they are not well protected by single-site recovery. Twenty years of monitoring has shown that *Phlegmariurus* are declining across their range including the Critically Endangered Blue Tassel Fern *Phlegmariurus dalhousieanus.* During the course of developing this RAP, Australian Tropical Herbarium and QTPN have convened five discussions focussed on raising awareness of all 13 Tassel Fern species with land managers located in Northern Qld such as WETMA, Terrain, Climate Force, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, Daintree landholders and Rainforest Rescue https://www.rainforestrescue.org.au/exploring-tassel-ferns/

The critically endangered Blue Tassel Fern (Phlegmariurus dalhousieanus). Credit: Paul Donatiu.

Myrtle Mayday project

QTPN received funding this year from the Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP) under this project, funded by the Australian Government's Saving Native Species Program, to support conservation activities for two Queensland Myrtaceae plant species listed under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999). Read more about the Myrtle Mayday project here. In collaboration with SRWC, the QTPN will undertake reconnaissance surveys and seed collection in 2025/26 to safeguard the following two species against further population declines in the wild:

1/ *Eucalyptus dalveenica*, or Dalveen Blue Box (Critically Endangered), a new species only known from four sites near Dalveen, Queensland, with many trees on private property.

2/ *Kardomia granitica* (Vulnerable) which is endemic to Queensland where it is known from only three populations south of Stanthorpe, occurring in the crevices of granite outcrops dominated by heath in Girraween National Park.

The seeds will be dispatched to the National Seed Bank in Canberra for processing and *ex situ* storage to create insurance collections for future use.

Results to date:

A field trip to Girraween National Park in April 2025 failed to locate one record of *Kardomia granitica*. However, a new population of the Endangered *Kardomia silvestris* was located in the Park, and a specimen was vouchered with the Queensland Herbarium. Approximately 100 individuals were found including an equal mixture of adult shrubs and juveniles.

Kardomia sylvestris. Credit: Paul Donatiu

QTPN Communications

Communications form an essential component of the QTPN to promote the work being undertaken to protect threatened plants in Queensland, and profiling some of the plant species under threat. Five QTPN Updates have been emailed to >220 recipients since the start of the year and the QTPN Facebook page continues to grow with regular posts and 162 followers (as of 20 Nov). Find the page here.

A big thank you to our QTPN organisational members:

Recovery Action Coordination for high priority Myrtle Rust affected species

This new project, funded by the Australian Government under the Saving Native Species program, commenced in November 2024 and is coordinating recovery actions for four Critically Endangered rainforest plants at risk of near-term extinction or serious decline due to the exotic fungal disease Myrtle Rust:

- Native Guava (*Rhodomyrtus psidioides*).
- Angle-stemmed Myrtle (*Gossia gonoclada*).
- Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*).
- Smooth Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia maideniana*).

All have similar complex recovery needs. A cross-jurisdictional, cross-departmental and cross-disciplinary approach is vital for an effective conservation response. The conservation path entails emergency germplasm capture, propagation, *ex situ* conservation, research, genetic analysis, the selection of rust-tolerance traits, and eventual reinforcement or reintroduction of populations in the wild.

This project, following up on our previous projects which pioneered a successful *ex situ* dispersed-custody model for Native Guava and Scrub Turpentine, involves the development of a Recovery Action Team for the four target species as a lasting foundation for unified recovery actions. It is facilitating the transition of currently separate activities (4 species, 2 States, multiple agencies) into an agreed common action framework, along with reporting and communications, and helping assist with securing operational resourcing for ongoing Recovery Actions.

One of our priorities in this project is to make sure we have duplicated collections held safely in *ex situ* for each species. These collections need to represent their full range of genetic variability and will be the basis of future projects to check for and assess resistance to Myrtle Rust and then undertake breeding programs to build resistance while maintaining diversity. For Native Guava and Scrub Turpentine from NSW this process is well underway although not yet completed. We are currently finalising a list of how many lineages could be distributed in a next round.

In Queensland we are working collaboratively with DETSI and DPI to initiate a similar process to duplicate the existing centrally held collection. We are talking to regional botanic gardens about their interest and capacity to help host these collections.

Results to date:

- 4 Steering Committee meetings held.
- Draft common recovery action framework and risk mitigation analysis completed January 2025.
- Additional stakeholders and partners identified and contacted.
- Contact continued with current meta collection holders and ongoing support requirements identified.
- The good news is, despite facing a range of challenges (including outbreaks of Myrtle Rust, animal browsing and damaging storms) all distributed plants remain alive. This resilience is a testament to the commitment and care provided by staff across all participating gardens. Special thanks to all involved.
- Discussions held with DPI QLD on status of existing collection and options for dispersing to meta collections in QLD.
- Data management processes and options investigated.
- Discussions held with BGANZ about emerging options for centralised data management for threatened plant meta collections.
- Best practice standards and literature reviewed. Current management practices do not adequately safeguard endangered plant species in conservation collections, Biological Conservation, Volume 280, 2023.
- Working with Logan City Council and Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens on collection of Angle-stemmed Myrtle samples and needs identified.

Myrtle Rust recovery coordination project manager Philippa Walsh inspects a Myrtle Rust infected Native Guava (Rhodomyrtus psidioides) at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha. Credit: Philippa Walsh.

Ian Allen with one of the larger Native Guavas planted at the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens - Mt Tomah as part of the meta collection. Ian has shared valuable insights on site selection and plant management, including positioning plants with better access to sunlight to encourage stronger growth, and experimenting with hedge-format plantings for more efficient use of space and improved management. Credit: Pip Walsh

Thank you to all our partner organisations for their generous support and commitment to this project:

- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
- QLD Dept of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.
- QLD Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Australian National Botanic Gardens
- Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan (Botanic Gardens of Sydney)
- Blue Mountains Botanic Garden (Botanic Gardens of Sydney)
- Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience (Botanic Gardens of Sydney)
- Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden
- Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens
- Booderee Botanic Gardens.
- Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens/Australian Seed Bank Partnership

Post-fire funding from San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

We are now in the final year of this four-year project which aims to prevent rare plant extinction from the 2019/20 mega fires. At the start of the project, species that were potentially adversely impacted were identified, with a focus on those not already listed as threatened and with restricted geographic ranges. Three groups of plants were chosen:

1/ Thirteen NSW endemics with a narrow geographic range. In collaboration with the Centre for Ecosystem Science at the University of NSW South Wales (UNSW), Western Sydney University (WSU) and NSW DCCEEW, we have been undertaking surveys and working on IUCN Red List assessments and conservation assessments for these species. Key summaries of the work are presented in Le Breton *et al.* (2023) with specific impacts on one fire sensitive species in prep and the context of the work presented in Le Breton *et al.* (2025) (See Appendix 2 for these and other references related to this project). Table 1 provides an update on the progress of these assessments, with three species now listed under the EPBC Act: *Banksia*

paludosa subsp. *astrolux*, *Banksia penicillata* and *Hakea macrorrhyncha*. A number of others are recommended for listing.

This year, the remaining five species were assessed (*Dillwynia stipulifera*, *Hakea constablei*, *Leptospermum macrocarpum*, *Leptospermum rotundifolium* and *Melaleuca capitata*) after surveys were undertaken in previous years. To date, at least 3 of these are recommended as eligible for listing as threatened species. In collaboration with UNSW we are also preparing an updated list of national priorities for species still awaiting assessment of status after the 2019/20 fires. We are examining how useful this and other post-fire conservation assessments have been for fast tracking identifying species most at risk from such major environmental impacts, and developing draft protocols for assessing Australian endemic plants under IUCN Red List criteria in response. This work is summarised in Le Breton *et al.* (2025).

Hakea constablei will be suggested for listing as Critically Endangered. Credit: Murray Fagg ANBG

Draft assessment is nearing completion for *Leptospermum rotundifolium*. Credit: Murray Fagg ANBG

Table 1. NSW endemics with a narrow-range surveyed and assessed

Scientific Name	Seed bank type	Response to fire	Risk Drivers (from Gallagher, 2020 and Auld et al. 2020)	Who is doing survey/ assessment	Status
Banksia paludosa subsp. *astrolux*	Canopy	OS	Drought / High fire frequency / Herbivory / Fire severity / Fire sensitivity / Cumulative fire risk	ANPC & UNSW	Finalised. Listed as Critically Endangered under EPBC Act in 2024.
Banksia penicillata	Canopy	OS	Drought / High fire frequency / Fire severity / Fire sensitivity / Cumulative fire risk	Experts/ UNSW & ANPC	Finalised. Listed as Endangered under EPBC Act in 2024.
Bursaria calcicola	Soil	R	Drought / Herbivory / Other threats	DPE/UNSW & ANPC	Finalised. Under consideration for listing under EPBC Act
Darwinia fascicularis subsp. *oligantha*	Soil	OS or possibly R	Drought / High fire frequency / Disease / Fire severity / Cumulative fire risk	ANPC & UNSW	Finalised. Not considered to be threatened.
Dillwynia crispii	Soil	OS?	Drought / High fire frequency / Herbivory / Fire severity / Cumulative fire risk	DPE/UNSW & ANPC	Finalised. Not considered to be threatened.
Dillwynia stipulifera	Soil	R	Drought / High fire frequency / Herbivory / Fire severity	UNSW/ANPC	Near finalisation. Suggested listing status as Endangered
Grevillea buxifolia subsp. *ecorniculata*	Soil	OS	Drought / High fire frequency / Herbivory / Fire severity / Cumulative fire risk	WSU/ DPE/UNSW & ANPC	Finalised. Under consideration for listing under EPBC Act.
Hakea constablei	Canopy	OS	Drought / High fire frequency / Fire severity / Fire sensitivity / Cumulative fire risk	UNSW/ANPC	Near finalisation. Suggested listing status as Critically Endangered
Hakea macrorrhyncha	Canopy	OS	High fire frequency / Herbivory / Fire severity / Fire sensitivity / Cumulative fire risk	DPE/UNSW & ANPC	Finalised. Listed as Endangered under EPBC Act in 2023.
Leptospermum macrocarpum	Canopy	R	Drought / High fire frequency / Disease / Fire severity	UNSW/ANPC	Draft assessment: likely listing status Endangered
Leptospermum rotundifolium	Canopy	R, but occasionally OS	Drought / High fire frequency / Disease / Fire severity	UNSW/ANPC	Draft assessment nearing completion by UNSW
Leptospermum spectabile	Canopy ?	?	Drought / High fire frequency / Disease / Fire severity	DPE/UNSW & ANPC	Finalised. Requires further survey work to resolve threat status.
Melaleuca capitata	Canopy	R	Drought / High fire frequency / Disease / Fire severity	UNSW/ANPC	Draft assessment nearing completion. Suggested listing status as Endangered.

Legend:
R - resprouter; OS - obligate seeder, ? - uncertain response
EPBC Act (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)
ANPC (Australian Network for Plant Conservation)
UNSW (University of New South Wales)
DCCEEW (NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)
WSU (Western Sydney University)

2/ Epiphytic and epilithic orchids in north-eastern NSW. The 2019/2020 megafires were thought to have hit many of these orchids particularly hard because they are killed by intense fire (they do not have an underground dormant phase like many terrestrial orchids) and they lack a persistent seedbank from which to recover. While 14% of Australia's endemic orchids are epiphytes (about 235 taxa), this component of our orchid flora is relatively poorly known with little data available on their ecology. Conservation assessment of these taxa is considered difficult, predominately because they are challenging to survey (many occurring high in trees) and due to taxonomic uncertainty (eg. morphological similarities leading to confusion).

Group 1: In collaboration with the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research (CANBR), surveys of four species were completed in 2023, for *Plectorrhiza purpurata*, *Sarcochilus aequalis*, *Tropilis angusta* (syn. *Dendrobium aemulum* sens.lat.) and *Adelopetalum argyropum.* Many populations were found to be heavily impacted by the fires, with most host plants dead and all epiphytes killed. All four species were found to likely meet the thresholds for listing as Endangered according to the IUCN Red List criteria which has since informed conservation assessments being undertaken by CANBR.

Australorchis schneiderae. Credit: Lachlan Copeland

Group 2: In 2025, surveys of three additional orchid species have been undertaken (two epiphytic and one terrestrial) to establish their geographic distributions, population sizes and inform conservation assessments. The three species were *Adelopetalum bracteatum, Australorchis schneiderae* and *Diplodium micranthum* MS (*Pterostylis* sp. aff. *elegans* Ebor Falls). Unfortunately, no plants of the target species in Group 2 were found at any of the sites where they had previously been recorded, indicating each of the species has undergone decline. However, one new occurrence of *Adelopetalum bracteatum* was found nearby. Declines in these species are attributed to fire, drought and (for *Diplodium micranthum* MS*)* infrastructure development. In addition, the geographic distributions of *Adelopetalum bracteatum* and *Australorchis schneiderae* meet the threshold for listing as endangered, and *Diplodium micranthum* MS for critically endangered, with conservation assessments still to be completed by CANBR. Whilst completing these surveys, there was an incidental observation of *Sarcochilus eriochilus,* extending the known distribution of this species.

Adelopetalum bracteatum. Credit: John Varigos

New orchid species described!
CSIRO research published this year in Phytotaxa investigating the *Adelopetalum argyropus* species complex described two new species of orchid: *A. howense* and *A. continentale*. The 2023 surveys and collected leaf samples in northern NSW assisted in the genetic analysis and description of *Adelopetalum continentale* in this region.

Read this CSIRO blog post describing the research, which was also conducted on Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, with *A. howense* and *A. argyropus* described on those two islands respectively
https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/Articles/2025/January/new-norfolk-island-orchid.

The full article describes the history of the taxonomy, as well as each of the species and their extent here
https://phytotaxa.mapress.com/pt/article/view/phytotaxa.678.1.9.

Adelopetalum continentale in northern NSW. Credit: Jeremy Bruhl

3) *Melaleuca nodosa* (Prickly-leaved Paperbark). In collaboration with the Botanic Gardens of Sydney's Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience (ReCER), Sydney University, QLD Department of Primary Industries and NSW DCCEEW, planning is underway for undertaking conservation measures next year regarding the impacts of Myrtle Rust on *M. nodosa*. A widespread shrub to small tree of fire-prone shrublands and woodlands in eastern NSW and southern Queensland, it is rated as highly to extremely susceptible, and routinely exposed, to Myrtle Rust. A large proportion of its range was in the footprint of the 2019-20 megafires. Post-fire surveys have quantified high to very high levels of damage and mortality in post-fire resprouts and seedlings at study sites, resulting in severe population decline (Pegg *et al* 2025).

Melaleuca nodosa seedlings severely affected by Myrtle Rust. Credit: Felix James.

Thank you to the Plant Conservation Team at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for generously funding this project.

Preventing extinction of Victoria's threatened flora

The ANPC is collaborating with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, La Trobe University and various other partners over three years on this Victoria-wide project which commenced in June 2023, funded by the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Nature Fund. It aims to prevent the extinction of 24 endangered or critically endangered Victorian plants.

Grevillea microstegia, one of the 24 threatened plant species. Credit: Noushka Reiter

The focus is on two botanical hotspots, the Gippsland and Grampians regions, as well as threatened flora from the Barwon South West and Port Phillip Regions. The project is following an integrated conservation framework which includes the following

activities: threat assessments, field surveys and community surveys; conservation genetics; germination trials; pollination studies; developing permanent *ex situ* living collections; and establishing new populations through propagation. The *ex situ* plant collections will act as long-term insurance populations, a source of material for future reintroductions, and help with further research.

We are excited to announce that as part of this project, the ANPC will hold two one-day workshops on threatened flora conservation next year: one in Horsham in August and one in Orbost in September; along with a two-day Victorian threatened flora conservation conference to be held in Melbourne in November. The ANPC is also undertaking project promotion and publicity activities, with 8 social media and website news posts this year, along with maintaining a webpage on the project. An article reporting on the results of Year 2 will be featured in APC in 2026.

Project partners are: Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria; La Trobe University; DEECA; Trust for Nature; ENVITE; Bairnsdale and far East Gippsland Field Naturalists; Friend of the Grampians Gariwerd; Halls Gap Botanic Gardens; Australasian Native Orchid Society Victorian Branch; and Nillumbik Shire.

Securing the Future

The ANPC is collaborating with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership on this project funded by the Australian Government's Saving Native Species Program. We have been producing communications materials for the project including fact sheets for six of the species and case studies for APC. The project is preventing extinction and improving the trajectory of 10 threatened plant species from SA, Victoria and WA by delivering a comprehensive program of seed collecting, germination trials, propagation, reintroductions, research and long-term seed banking of native flora. This work will improve the representation and genetic diversity of their collections in Australian seed banks, with seeds and data available for research and restoration. The project is also supporting public awareness of action to conserve priority plant species.

EVENTS AND OUTREACH

15th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference (APCC14)

Our next biennial conference will be held 24-28 August in Port Douglas QLD. With the overall theme *'**Plant Conservation: Culture, Collaboration and Change**'* APCC15 will explore these three spheres of native plant recovery through rainforest restoration partnerships, collaborations with Traditional Owner groups, impacts of climate change induced natural disasters, management of threatened species and communities, and biosecurity threats such as Myrtle Rust.

An exciting lineup is planned including a couple of field trips to the Daintree rainforest and a Rainforest Plant ID workshop before the conference. Registrations and the Call for Abstracts will open in February next year.

I would like to thank our conference organising committee for all their time so far this year planning the conference: Darren Crayn, Australian Tropical Herbarium / JCU (chair); Jo Lynch, Richie Southerton, Paul Donatiu and Bob Makinson – ANPC; Cadel Boyce – Cairns Botanic Gardens; Marine Deliens – Rainforest Rescue; Teghan Collingwood – Queensland Herbarium & Biodiversity Science DETSI; Rowan Shee - Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation; Ellen Weber - Wet Tropics Management Authority; John Hodgon – Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation; and Caroline Chong and Nick Cuff – Northern Territory Herbarium.

I would also like to thank our current APCC15 sponsors Australian Tropical Herbarium, Queensland Government, Australian National Botanical Gardens, Douglas Shire Council and the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University.

Many sponsorship opportunities are still available! The conference provides an excellent opportunity to promote the profile of your organisation, including your involvement in plant conservation, to representatives from government, academia, community groups and private organisations across Australia. Click here to download our Partnership Prospectus to discover the wide range of options available!

During the year we released the recorded presentations from last year's conference held in Toowoomba and you can watch APCC14 delegate reactions and closing thoughts here. Stay tuned for the latest updates on Facebook and in our e-newsletter.

QTPN workshops and presentations

The QTPN has continued to hold many community-based training workshops and presentations over the last year, including the highly popular Threatened Flora Survey Training workshops, attracting around 166 participants in total. These workshops build the community's capacity to undertake strategic and highly valuable surveys of rare flora, fill key gaps in our knowledge of their distribution, and assist in the long term planning, implementation and monitoring of recovery actions.

The workshops involve an initial 2-hour session providing an overview of threatened plant species in Queensland and covering such topics as establishing a species profile, survey tools, permits to collect specimens, key information to collect in the field, threatened plant survey proforma, collecting herbarium voucher specimens and standard threatened flora survey techniques (as per Queensland Herbarium guidelines). The remainder of the day is spent in the field demonstrating and conducting real-life threatened flora surveys so participants gain practical experience implementing the survey techniques.

- Flora Survey Training Workshops held:
    - Currumbin Friends of Parks November 2024 23p
    - Mooloolah River Landcare in November 2024 21p
    - Sunshine Coast environmental groups February 2025 10p
    - Mackay-based environmental groups at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens in March 2025 24p
    - Friends of Nerang National Park May 2025 15p
    - DETSI Wildlife Assessment Team May 2025 12p
    - Rockhampton co-hosted with Native Plants Capricornia and the Capricorn Conservation Council August 2025 22p.
    - Noosa Landcare (part of Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival) August 2025 (24p)
    - Rockhampton with Darumbal Land and Sea Rangers, supported by Bank Australia, September 2025 (4p)
    - Kingaroy Native Plants and Field Naturalists, supported by Bank Australia, September 2025 (11p)
- Current and emerging issues in native plant conservation presented to:
    - Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens volunteers November 2024 28p
    - Lockyer Uplands Catchments AGM December 2024 36p
    - Protect the Bush Alliance AGM December 2024 12p
    - Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association February 2025 60p
    - Coochiemudlo Island Coast Care June 2025 41p
- Rare Plants of the Capricornia Region to CQU students and council staff November 2024 15p
- Rare Plants of the Toowoomba Region to Peacehaven Botanic Gardens and local residents May 2025 60p
- Presentation at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in June 2025 in Brisbane *(First Responders: the frontline role of community-based environmental organisations in threatened flora recovery)*. 70p
- Introduction to Plant ID and Flora Survey Techniques at the Northern Australia Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Forum, Burketown - September 2025, 14 presentations 7 groups/topic (200p).
- QTPN iNaturalist presentation with the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium examining the role of citizen science in articulating new threatened flora populations 10p
- Two interpretive botanical walks as part of the *Parks Connect event* organised by the Queensland National Parks Association (Glasshouse Mountains) 32p

QTPN Flora Survey Training with the DETSI Wildlife Assessment Team - Credit: Rhianna Steindl

Flora Discovery Project: empowering conservation groups to conduct threatened flora surveys in Queensland

The ANPC was excited this year to be selected as one of 2025's Bank Australia community customer grant recipients. These grants aim to grow the impact of Bank Australia customers who are making a difference in areas such as nature and biodiversity, climate action, affordable and accessible housing and First Nations Recognition and Respect. The grant is supporting five Flora Survey Training Workshops during 2025/26 focusing on community-based volunteer groups and citizen scientists in regional areas of Queensland including the Wet Tropics. Three have already been held, two in Rockhampton and one in Kingaroy, and two are planned for next year in Mackay and Townsville. Workshop attendees are being equipped to:

1. Survey plant species with poor population data (especially critically endangered and endangered flora).
2. Record new threatened species populations (especially on recently acquired protected areas, many of which are under-surveyed).
3. Provide information on plant populations that can be used to improve/refine actions in Recovery Action Plans.

Bank Australia

Feedback from QTPN Threatened Flora Survey Training workshops

"I would like to extend my belated but sincere thanks for your time and efforts during your recent visit to the Gold Coast. Several team members have shared unprompted, highly positive feedback regarding the flora survey workshop. In particular, they commended the professional and informative manner in which you and Jen delivered the content, as well as your hands-on approach in the field, which greatly enhanced their skills and understanding of various flora survey and species identification techniques."

Adam Northam, DETSI

"Gudamulli Paul

On behalf of the Land and Sea Rangers, I would like to sincerely thank you for hosting the Floral Survey Training Workshop at the Gracemere Rangers Compound on the 18th

of September 2025. Your dedication and passion for understanding the threats faced by our threatened flora species, both now and into the future, is truly admirable.
We especially appreciate the respect you show for Indigenous culture and native plants, values that are deeply important to us. The Land and Sea Rangers thoroughly enjoyed the workshop, and I personally appreciated the way you engaged everyone and inspired interest in the work being done to protect our unique flora.
I really enjoyed working with you and hope that this collaboration can continue in the near future. Thank you again for your time, expertise, and commitment to both cultural and ecological preservation."
Much Yadaba
Roeina Edmund
Darumbal Land and Sea Senior Ranger

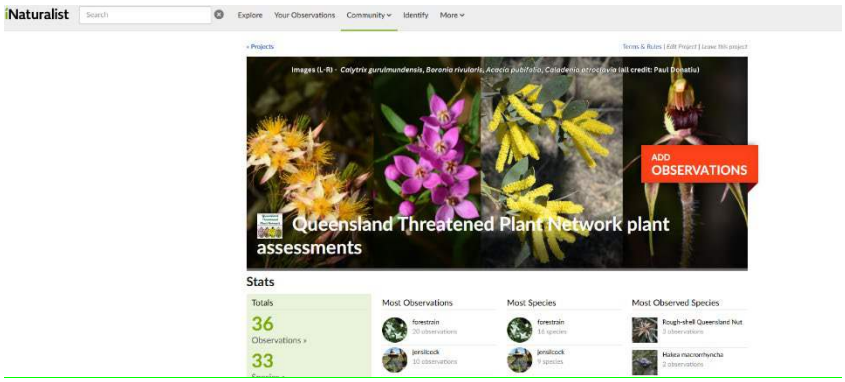
"Your presentation and notes recently on endangered botanical species were just the fodder for me. I have been scouting Mt. Tinbeerwah for nearly 30 years and I printed out info thanks to the useful web connections you supplied at the workshop. Yesterday, three of us found Prostanthera spathulata in flower. Today I went back and counted over 20 plants in flower. I was and am so excited and thank you for your inspiration. I shall be on the lookout on my continued exploration of this wonderful mountain. I just want to say the work you do is extremely important and is an amazing contribution to the preservation of the botanical world, so thank you."
Louise Ryan, Mooloolaba Flora Survey Training workshop participant

QTPN in the news

Paul was interviewed for a story in Stanthorpe Today in March about the Woodland Babingtonia (*Kardomia silvestris*) which is newly listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act, where he outlined the justification for the new status for the species, and the threatening processes for its survival. A PDF of the full article can be viewed here.

QTPN project on iNaturalist

Citizen science is providing a wave of new and valuable data on plants around the world. There are currently over 13,000 observations of listed plant species in Queensland on iNaturalist, but very few have data on key fields like abundance, threats and population structure. Because of this, we decided to launch our own iNaturalist Project, to help empower citizen scientists to submit observations with higher data quality, for conservation assessment. By taking a few extra minutes at a threatened plant population, they can increase the value of their observation to plant conservation. You can join the project here.



We also put together a handy Plant Photography Guide with numerous simple tips on how to take better plant photos, either for citizen science observations or for pleasure, and further assist with identification when necessary.
Click here to view the full brochure.

Myrtle Rust Management for Practitioners - open series

The ANPC has continued to collaborate with the BGANZ Collections and Records Management group (BCARM) and Botanic Gardens of Sydney this year to co-ordinate a series of informal virtual get togethers. These sessions are held due to a perceived need for horticulturists and practitioners managing Myrtle Rust susceptible collections to collaborate, share ideas and workshop problems. The series is exclusively focused on practical aspects of managing and maintaining a conservation collection of Myrtle Rust susceptible species and has an open forum structure. The series is open to any practitioners across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand managing collections impacted by Myrtle Rust including local council nurseries. This year, three sessions have been held:

- In December 2024, Emma Simpkins (Senior Regional Advisor Flora) and Rebekah Fuller (Senior Plant Pathogens Advisor) from Auckland Council gave a talk titled: '*Local government enabling community-led recovery of Myrtle Rust impacted species'.* Emma and Rebekah discussed the actions implemented by local government to support threatened Myrtaceae in Auckland, and engaging community to support recovery. These included funding mana whenua (indigenous people) and community groups to lead monitoring of *Lophomyrtus obcordata* (rōhutu) and *Syzygium maire* (maire tawake) populations and carry out fungicide treatments in order to collect seed for propagation, establishing *ex situ* collections of threatened species including rōhutu and rātā moehau (*Metrosideros bartlettii*), creating Myrtle Rust awareness through workshops and training, as well as advocating for biosecurity accreditation.A recording of their presentation is available here.

- In April, Brandan Espe talked about how TropEco at James Cook University established its Myrtle Rust conservation program. The focus was on the tools and steps required to get such a program off the ground, and the challenges of ensuring ongoing success. You can view his presentation here.

- Then in early November, John McDonald, Director RDE & Biosecurity at Greenlife Industry Australia presented on National Plant Biosecurity and Sustainable Plant Production:
  - The national plant biosecurity system and response management
    - Responding to an emergency plant pest incursion, including the Myrtle Rust response back in 2010/2011
  - Pesticide Minor Use Permits (MUPs)
    - What are MUPs
    - How to apply for a MUP

- Nursery Production Sustainability
    - Best Management Practice
    - Environmental & Natural Resource Management
    - Plant Protection and Biosecurity

His presentation will be available shortly on ANPC's YouTube channel.

Australasian Myrtle Rust Conference 2025

The ANPC was honoured to again collaborate on this conference, this time with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland. The second Australasian Myrtle Rust Conference was held 16-17 June 2025 in Auckland, New Zealand. Many of Australasia's best-known and most highly valued native trees – from Australia's eucalypts to New Zealand's pōhutukawa – are in the family Myrtaceae. Many species in this family urgently need protection from Myrtle Rust, a disease caused by the globally dispersed pathogen *Austropuccinia psidii.* Collaborative research efforts have improved our understanding of our myrtles, the pathogen, and plant/pathogen interactions. Management tools have been developed and deployed, and communities are rapidly mobilising to protect and conserve native plants.

The conference featured guest speakers from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Due to the size of the venue, in-person attendance was limited to 52, 28 of which were presenters. However, between 18 and 37 virtual attendees were present for each session. Attendees represented government, research institutes, universities, and First Nations and community groups. The conference program including speaker abstracts is available here.

The sessions were as follows:
• **Community-led action**
• **New technologies, solutions, and research insights**—
Part 1: Tools and fungal genetics
Part 2: Environmental and microbial insights
• **Species conservation**
• **Early career initiatives and research**

The Australian Government commissioned a report summarising the Australasian Myrtle Rust Conference 2025 proceedings to provide an overview of the current state of Myrtle Rust for the Australasian region as discussed during the conference. Download the Conference Report here. To learn about the latest research and management approaches, the Conference presentation recordings are available on the ANPC Youtube channel here.

A big thank you to our co-hosts and conference sponsors!

Australasian Plant Conservation (APC)

Our APC Editor Alyssa Weinstein has done an incredible job this year collating, reviewing and chasing up articles for APC. Under her editorship our quarterly bulletin has continued to publish high-quality articles relevant to a broad range of plant conservation practitioners and managers. I would like to sincerely thank Alyssa for all her work this year as Editor, ensuring that APC continues to be a quality and well-respected publication communicating Australasian plant conservation issues. Thank you also to the many authors who have contributed to these editions this year and our committee members for proofreading before publication.

The Spring 2025 edition will be out soon. Submissions for articles for the Autumn 2026 edition of APC are due 1 February 2026 and will be focused on the recent Australasian Seed Science Conference held in Horsham. So if you presented at this conference, please consider writing a paper based on your talk! We are also seeking submissions on relevant book reviews, ANPC member profiles and the new "Photos from…" section. You can contact Alyssa at editor@anpc.asn.au. More information on how to submit articles can be found here.

New threatened plant translocation resource page

To make it easier for all those involved in threatened plant translocation, we have now published a page on our website where you can access all the ANPC's translocation resources in one place, including the Guidelines, case studies, the Translocation Database and videos. Head here to increase your knowledge and skills to help plants go places!

Florabank Guidelines 2nd edition - Best practice guidelines for native seed collection and use

Unfortunately the Florabank website, which hosts the Florabank Guidelines, training modules and online forum, went offline this year due to lack of funding and ongoing security issues. As a temporary measure, the PDFs are available for download and a static version of the website from early 2025 can be viewed here. However, this has left an enormous gap as the Guidelines constitute current best practice in the restoration industry for native seed collection, storage and use. The website needs to be significantly upgraded and find new hosting and management arrangements, especially as NSW DCCEEW has funded the development of more engaging interactive online Florabank training modules this year.

We recently submitted an application to the NSW Environmental Trust's 2025-26 Environmental Education Grant Program, in collaboration with Greening Australia, CSIRO, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Australian Seed Bank Partnership, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR), and NSW DCCEEW, to upgrade, re-launch, and continually maintain and update the website. It also includes activities to further promulgate the Guidelines in NSW including in-person workshops, online forums, videos and a Florabank conference. An online Florabank Community of Practice platform is proposed where the restoration community can communicate, share stories and build partnerships. We will continue to seek other avenues of funding for the website over the next year.

Introducing the ERIK (Environmental Restoration Integrated Knowledge) Learning System

Our friends at AABR, with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust, are developing an online platform to support ecosystem restoration practitioners in NSW to plan, implement and monitor on ground work effectively, in response to specific local conditions. The ANPC is proud to be on the steering committee for this project. The aim of the project is to provide comprehensive, integrated guidance to ecological restoration practitioners including professional bush regenerators, Landcarers, Bushcarers, ecologists, local and state government officers, private businesses, TAFE teachers and students, academics and others. It will create a community of practice to share experiences, ideas and techniques, and identify knowledge gaps and opportunities.

The project will incorporate existing resources which reflect best practice environmental restoration, including the ANPC's plant conservation guidelines, refine existing good guidance to reach best practice standards and to create new resources where gaps are identified. The first stage will concentrate on NSW, but future stages will take the project Australia wide. Visit the project website here for more information

Social media
ANPC channel analytics

	Subscribers as of 20 November 2025	Changes since 15 October 2024
E-newsletter	1366	Up by 63
Twitter	Discontinued	
Facebook	4,537	Up by 78
YouTube	442	Up by 86
LinkedIn	421 (337 in private group)	Up by 112 (private group up by 13)
Instagram	515	Up by 85

Our outreach efforts continue to expand through social media with the regular sharing of news and events via Facebook and LinkedIn. Posting several times a week has seen an increase in subscribers across all channels. We experienced another increase in our numbers of YouTube subscribers, thanks in large part to the posting of the recordings from APCC14, as well as those from the Australasian Myrtle Rust Conference AMRC held in June in Aotearoa/New Zealand. We have also ramped up posting on the ANPC Instagram page to coincide with the announcement of the conference and will continue to post more casual and photographically appealing content there, for example updates from the Preventing the Extinction of Victoria's Threatened Flora Project.

Highlights of our posting for the past few months have been centred around the announcement of APCC15, Myrtle Rust conference updates, sharing of job and volunteer opportunities, and webinar updates. Additionally, there have been numerous QTPN stories, along with regular QTPN updates via Mailchimp and the website. Lastly there was also advertising of the Myrtle Rust practitioner series, as each session has been announced, and a reminder in the lead up.

Website update
We have continued updating and modernising our website this year, predominantly the new webpage for APCC15 and for sub-projects within the QTPN, in addition to planning a refresh of the Myrtle Rust information hub. The future plan is to refresh the website to reflect the new name and branding of Plant Conservation Australia, as well as progress reorganising current and archiving outdated information.

SUBMISSIONS

ANPC and ISC joint submission on biosecurity import requirements for guava fruit from Taiwan
In September, the ANPC and the Invasive Species Council filed a joint submission in response to the Biosecurity Import Requirements Draft Report issued with Biosecurity Advice 2025-P03, which recommends the allowing of importation of fresh guava fruit (*Psidium guajava*) from Taiwan. The Draft Report excludes Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) from risk assessment on the grounds that it is not present in Taiwan.
We argued that this finding was not well justified – a concern validated by the confirmed occurrence of Myrtle Rust in Taiwan, reported after the Draft Report's publication. Although the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry now proposes to conduct a risk assessment of Myrtle Rust, in the submission we provided a critique of the original decision to exclude Myrtle Rust from assessment, as well as recommendations for revision and to seek advice from experts in the National Myrtle Rust Working Group prior to publishing.
To read the full submission, click here.

STAFFING

Many thanks to all our staff who work above and beyond the call of duty for the ANPC. Their dedication, advice and support make my role and the work of the Committee much more effective and ensures that the ANPC continues to function as a highly respected conservation organisation.

Philippa (Pip) Walsh joined the ANPC in November 2024 as our Myrtle Rust Recovery Action Coordinator. Pip is heading our new project funded by the Australian Government under the Saving Native Species program (detailed above) which is coordinating recovery actions for four Critically Endangered plants at risk of near-term extinction or serious decline due to the exotic fungal disease Myrtle Rust. Pip has achieved some amazing results this year collaborating with all our various Myrtle Rust partners, such as working with BGANZ on options for centralised data management for threatened plant meta-collections (including the one we have established for Native Guava) and seeking out locations for new collections.

Our QTPN Project Manager Paul Donatiu has continued to do an excellent job this year supporting coordinated recovery of Queensland threatened plants through collaborating with many organisations and community-based volunteer groups. His facilitation skills and passionate commitment to threatened plants have greatly expanded QTPN's influence this year in advancing threatened plant recovery in Queensland with some outstanding results.

I'm excited to share that we are currently recruiting a part-time Project Manager based in Victoria to undertake three workshops and a conference on Victorian threatened flora conservation next year. So if you know someone who is passionate about the conservation of Victoria's threatened native plants and might be interested, please let them know! More information is available here.

Our Communications Manager Richie Southerton has been focusing primarily on leading the branding and marketing working group, conference planning, improving the website, social media, ANPC e-news, and project and other event promotions. He is also doing some long-term thinking towards developing and implementing communication strategies in light of the new branding and the opportunities this presents.

Our Business Manager, Jo Lynch, has continued her excellent work in the office with grant applications and reports, along with overall project and budget management. Sincere thanks to our office volunteer Robert Hawes, who has helped enormously with various administrative and financial tasks this year.

I am grateful to all the committee members for their tremendous support over the year. They all have significant commitments outside the ANPC, and it is often challenging to devote the time required to be active committee members. The involvement in the committee by all members is a clear demonstration of their dedication to the ANPC and its goals in improving plant conservation. I would especially like to thank Ignacio Czajkowski, John Hodgon and Bradley Desmond who are stepping down from the committee this year, and in particular Robert Hawes who is stepping down as Secretary, a position he has occupied for five years now which is a huge effort.

Our Outreach Delegates also play a vital role in strengthening the ANPC's connections with practitioners, communities and partner organisations across Australia. Their on-the-ground engagement ensures that our programs, resources and conservation messages reach a wider audience, helping to build national capacity for plant conservation and fostering meaningful collaboration across regions. I am thrilled that Martin Driver has joined our team of experienced outreach delegates this year.

FUNDING

Our financial situation will be reported on in detail separately at the AGM but our key sources of income this year have included:

- Australian Government.
- QLD Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
- Victorian Government.
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
- Bank Australia
- Memberships and donations.

The hosting of the ANPC by the Australian National Botanic Gardens remains a crucial support for us, and a major contribution by the ANBG to the national effort for plant conservation. This includes provision of office space, computers, phones, electricity, furniture and a printer. I would like to sincerely thank the Gardens, including new Director Matthew Parker, for this support and look forward to continuing this close relationship into the future.

THE COMING YEAR

2026 will be a very exciting year for the ANPC as we plan to undertake the following:

- Hold the 15th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference 24-28 August 2026 at Port Douglas which will include the formal launch of our new brand, Plant Conservation Australia.
- Hold two threatened plant workshops in August and September in Horsham and Orbost, and a two-day Victorian threatened flora conference in Melbourne (Naarm) in November, in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and other partners.
- Continue to hold our series of informal virtual get togethers to discuss Myrtle Rust management for practitioners.
- Organise further plant conservation webinars and training workshops.
- Continue supporting the QTPN and seek further funding for the network to continue.
- Seek further fundraising to build on our work on the Myrtle Rust threat.
- Follow up surveys in March of orchids affected by the 2019/20 fires.
- Complete conservation assessments of all surveyed rare species affected by the 2019/20 fires.
- Undertake conservation measures for *Melaleuca nodosa* affected by the 2019/20 fires.
- Seek further funding for re-establishment of the Florabank website and promulgation of the Florabank Guidelines.
- Continue to look out for new project opportunities utilising our new identity and a refreshed and updated prospectus.
- Establish a dedicated pool of funds for University student projects.
- Continue with our important strategic planning objectives.

A big thanks to everyone involved in all the ANPC's activities this year, your efforts are greatly appreciated. I look forward to building and expanding upon our successes over the next year.

Em. Prof. Caroline Gross
President
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.

APPENDIX 1: ANPC Values Statement – adopted 28 May 2025

At the **Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC)**, we are committed to fostering a collaborative, ethical, and inclusive approach to plant conservation. Our internal principles and values guide our work as an organisation, ensuring that we operate with integrity, respect, and dedication to our mission.

Our Core Values:

1. **Collaboration & Partnerships**
   - We promote collective action and engage with scientists, land managers, Traditional Owners, community groups, other conservation organisations and policymakers to achieve conservation outcomes.
   - We foster open and respectful dialogue, valuing diverse perspectives and shared expertise.

2. **Scientific Integrity, Knowledge Sharing & Social Inclusion**
   - We are committed to evidence-based decision-making and the application of best practices in plant conservation.
   - We promote and enable research, the exchange of knowledge and we support continuous learning,
   - We ensure that our work is informed by the latest research, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and evolving social values and understandings.

3. **Passion & Commitment to Conservation**
   - We are driven by a deep passion for plant conservation and a commitment to protecting, restoring and sustainably managing Australia's unique native plants and ecosystems.
   - We inspire and empower others to take action, advocating for strong and effective conservation policies and practices.

4. **Respect for Country & Traditional Knowledge**
   - We recognise and respect the deep connection of Australia's First Nations Peoples to land, water, and biodiversity.
   - We seek to understand and embed Traditional Ecological Knowledge in our conservation efforts and work in partnership with Indigenous communities.

5. **Sustainability & Environmental Responsibility**
   - We lead by example, minimising our environmental footprint and promoting

sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations.
- We advocate for long-term conservation solutions that support the resilience of Australia's native flora and ecosystems.

6. **Ethical Leadership & Accountability**
   - We operate with integrity, transparency, and accountability in all that we do.
   - We uphold the highest ethical standards and ensure that our governance, financial management, and decision-making processes reflect our values.

7. **Inclusivity & Diversity**
   - We are committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where all individuals, regardless of background, feel valued and respected.
   - We celebrate diversity and encourage active participation from all members of the community.

By upholding these values, the ANPC strives to be a leader in plant conservation and an organisation that operates with integrity, respect, and a shared dedication to protecting Australia's plant biodiversity.

APPENDIX 2: References related to the post-fire project funded by San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

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