

Plant Cuttings – April 2026

Four new listed threatened ecological communities

Senator the Hon Murray Watt, agreed to the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's recommendation to include the 'Alpine Ash forests of mainland Australia', 'White Ash forests of south-east Australia', and 'Pinkwood cool temperate rainforests of south east New South Wales and far east Victoria', as endangered ecological communities under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). These listings came into effect on 20 March 2026. 'Illawarra-Shoalhaven shrublands on volcanic outcrops' has also been listed, as critically endangered, with the listing effective from 12 March.

The approved Conservation Advices include information on listing eligibility and provides guidance of the priority actions needed to protect, manage and recover these ecological communities. The approved Conservation Advices and indicative distribution maps are on the Department's website at: [Alpine Ash forests of mainland Australia](#), [White Ash forests of south-east Australia](#), [Pinkwood cool temperate rainforests of south east New South Wales and far east Victoria](#) and [Illawarra-Shoalhaven shrublands on volcanic outcrops](#).

Biosecurity Advice 2026-P02: Final risk analysis report for the release of leaf rust pathogen *Puccinia lantanae* for the biological control of lantana – DAFF, 22 April 2026

The final report recommends that the biological control agent, *Puccinia lantanae*, should be permitted for release to control the weed lantana (*Lantana camara*). The risk is estimated to be Negligible, which achieves Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/risk-analysis/biological-control-agents/bca-risk-analyses/puccinia-lantanae>

Conservation group plans to replant Daintree Rainforest trees on former sugarcane land – ABC News, 1 April 2026

The demise of the northernmost outpost of Queensland's sugar industry could pave the way for farmland to be turned back into tropical rainforest, right near the ancient Daintree.

Conservation group Rainforest Rescue this week secured partial approval to plant rainforest species on old sugar cane properties surrounding a nationally significant wetland.

It proposed using locally propagated seed to replant rainforest on about 405 hectares of land over 15 years, which Rainforest Rescue CEO Branden Barber described as the largest ecological restoration project in the history of the Douglas Shire.

While the council only approved the rainforest plantation on fragmented parts of the land, Mr Barber said the idea was still viable.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-04-01/rainforest-rescue-plant-trees-former-sugarcane-farms-daintree/106521320>

Sydney developer who illegally cut down native trees lodges plan for \$10m mansion – ABC News, 1 April 2026

A property developer who illegally cut down hundreds of native trees has lodged a new plan to build a lavish \$10 million mansion in Sydney's south and clear even more vegetation, despite being ordered to remediate the environmentally sensitive land.

Amir Abu Abara, the owner of the 7.4-hectare site in Barden Ridge, was fined \$70,000 after Sutherland Shire Council agreed to drop its two-year-long court case against the businessman in July.

The ABC revealed in August that Mr Abara had illegally cleared hundreds of native trees to make way for a luxurious \$3 million, six-bedroom, eight-bathroom mansion for him and his wife, Caroline Abara, along the Woronora River, without development approval.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-04-01/developer-amir-abu-abara-trees-cut-down-sydney-mansion/106515314>

We have the proof that logging makes Tasmania's forests more flammable – The Conversation, 2 April 2026

In 1967, catastrophic bushfires in Tasmania killed dozens of people – and very nearly destroyed Hobart.

A year later, W.D. Jackson, Professor of Botany at the University of Tasmania, published a short but very influential article on why the fires were so bad. He suggested that after Tasmania's wet eucalypt forests were burned by severe bushfires, there would be a high-risk period during their regrowth when they are at risk of severely burning again. This, Jackson theorised, was because regrowing saplings form a very dense canopy, with little distance between living leaves and the leaf litter and understorey plants able to ignite canopy fires. If a second fire sweeps through, he predicted the forests could be replaced with more fire-tolerant scrub.

Was Jackson correct? Is regrowth truly more flammable? It's very difficult to prove regrowth burns more intensely and accelerates bushfire spread, as it's not practical to undertake neat, perfectly controlled experiments involving severe bushfires. But sometimes, scientists get lucky. We took advantage of a natural experiment in 2019, when a severe bushfire burned through a research site spanning old growth wet Tasmanian forests and logged areas of regrowth, giving us access to data before and after the fires.

<https://theconversation.com/we-have-the-proof-that-logging-makes-tasmanias-forests-more-flammable-279103>

Tomaree students protect rare native plant – Newcastle Weekly, 5 April 2026

Students at Tomaree Public School are taking conservation into their own hands, working to protect one of New South Wales' rarest native plants. The initiative, delivered by the NSW Government's Saving our Species program, focuses on the endangered Villous Mintbush.

Fewer than 250 plants remain in the wild across coastal NSW, including in Tomaree National Park on Worimi Country.

Saving our Species program officer Katie Elsley said the plant was selected to allow students to physically understand their outside environment.

“Villous Mintbush was chosen because it helped pupils connect with conservation in a tangible way,” she explained.

“It’s a really interesting and attractive plant to look at, touch and smell, which makes it a great species for hands-on learning.”

Over four sessions, students took part in habitat walks, nature journaling and observation exercises designed to build awareness of local biodiversity.

<https://newcastleweekly.com.au/tomaree-students-protect-rare-native-plant/>

Australia’s alpine ash forests are now officially endangered. Can we save them? – The Conversation, 7 April 2026

The tall alpine ash forests in Australia’s high country have lived in a delicate relationship with fire for tens of thousands of years.

Intensifying fire seasons are threatening this balance to the extent the Federal Government has just officially listed this forest type as an endangered ecosystem. This means these forests face a high risk of collapse or extinction.

It is alarming that alpine ash forests are facing an existential threat. What does this mean, and what can we do to save them?

<https://theconversation.com/australias-alpine-ash-forests-are-now-officially-endangered-can-we-save-them-279099>

Using AI to speed up Australia’s environmental approvals risks ‘robodebt-style’ failures, scientists say – The Guardian, 7 April 2026

Conservationists and scientists have warned a mining lobby proposal to use artificial intelligence to speed up national environmental approvals could generate “robodebt-style” failures, putting threatened species at further risk.

The Minerals Council of Australia has asked the government to spend \$13m to trial the use of AI to help companies prepare applications and help the federal government make decisions.

But the Biodiversity Council, a group of independent experts across 11 universities, told Guardian Australia while AI could play a role in simple tasks, automating environment assessments “could lead to robodebt-style failure, where computers make flawed decisions without transparency” that could ultimately push species closer to extinction.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/apr/06/ai-environmental-assessments-robodebt-style-failures>

Snow gum dieback, fire management and pests – Vic Jurskis and Matthew Brookhouse exchange views – Australian Rural & Regional News, 10 April 2026

The recent Snow Gum Summit in Jindabyne has drawn attention to the health of this notable tree of the Australian alps.

The causes or primary cause of widespread snow gum decline, with a particular focus on fire regimes, climate change and insects, and the appropriate response to this problem, are the subject of a considered exchange of differing views here between two experts from different generations but not entirely different schools or schools of thought.

The various debates on forestry issues on Australian Rural & Regional News have tended to show that it is anathema to those of the older school of thought to blame all manner of environmental issues on climate change without a full investigation and fearless debate about all possible contributing factors, and without fully taking into account their experience and research over multiple previous decades. Defaulting to an all-encompassing climate change explanation also has the effect of excusing poor past, present and future land and fire management practices since it puts the problem beyond our (immediate) control.

This exchange of views between Vic Jurskis and Dr Matthew Brookhouse delves more deeply than this into the current snow gum dieback and paves the way for further investigation of causes and treatment of this environmental problem.

<https://arr.news/2026/04/10/snow-gum-dieback-fire-management-and-pests-vic-jurskis-and-matthew-brookhouse-exchange-views/>

From river stain to your cup of tea: the secret world of tannins – The Conversation, 13 April 2026

While stopped in heavy Melbourne traffic recently, I noticed that what looked like a shadow under a row of spotted gums (*Corymbia maculata*) along a major road was actually a stain on the concrete kerb. As a botanist, it caught my attention; biological stains always have an interesting story attached.

Stains like these – under many tree species, on your car after certain leaves have fallen on them, and on your timber deck after rain has washed leaves onto it – are from tannins leaching out of foliage.

Tannins are astringent and bitter-tasting chemicals found in many leaves; they're what add flavour to red wines, chocolate and tea. Oak timber is high in tannins, and it's the tannins in oak barrels that enrich the flavour of some wines.

So tannin stains on concrete, cars and decks may be unsightly, but that doesn't mean tannins are unimportant.

<https://theconversation.com/from-river-stain-to-your-cup-of-tea-the-secret-world-of-tannins-271730>

Recap of the Snow Gum Summit 2026: The Next Ascent – Friends of the Earth Melbourne, 15 April 2026

Following our impactful Snow Gum Summit 2025, the second Summit was set in the foothills of Kosciusko National Park and built on last year's conversations about the Victorian Alps to connect scientists, First Peoples, land managers and communities across the the Alpine bioregion.

The event created the opportunity for those who know Snow Gums well (such as experts in the field) and those who would like to know these magnificent mallees better to embark together on a weekend of knowledge sharing, bushwalks and deep reflection on what makes Snow Gums so important to the High Country.

https://www.melbournefoe.org.au/recap_snowgumsummit2026?utm_campaign=snow_gum_summit_2026_blog_wrap

The secret sensory life of plants: researchers are discovering how they see, hear, feel – and even remember – The Conversation, 16 April 2026

Plants are often seen as passive organisms, rooted in one place and largely unable to react to the world around them. But a new field of research is challenging these assumptions and showing that plants are as sophisticated as animals in detecting and adjusting to environmental signals.

Plants can perceive light through specialised proteins, detect sound vibrations and respond to touch via mechano-sensitive channels, recognise chemical signals released by neighbouring plants, and even retain memories of past experiences through changes in their DNA.

My own research focuses on how plants detect the passage of time as part of their seasonal cycle, but that is merely one aspect of a major reconsideration of their sensory capacity – and the parallels with animal senses.

<https://theconversation.com/the-secret-sensory-life-of-plants-researchers-are-discovering-how-they-see-hear-feel-and-even-remember-277076>

Why invasive plants can harm your garden and what you can grow instead – ABC News, 17 April 2026

The colourful blooms of agapanthus, morning glory, gazania and foxglove might fill your garden plot with vibrancy and charm, but they also have the potential to quickly turn into your worst enemy. In certain states, these plants are considered weeds.

Beyond spreading across your patch, they are a much bigger environmental problem than many home gardeners realise, says Carol Booth, policy director at the Invasive Species Council.

"Australia has a massive weed problem, and it's been estimated that three-quarters come from escaped garden plants," she says.

As Dr Booth explains, escaped garden plants not only invade bushlands and riparian areas along creeks and rivers, but also outcompete local plants and destroy native wildlife habitat.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-04-17/invasive-plants-in-australian-homes-damaging-gardens-environment/106492040>

‘The environmental movement needs many hands’: saving Australia’s biodiversity is getting personal – The Guardian, 18 April 2026

Gifting land for conservation and leaving environmental bequests in personal wills are part of a quiet but rapidly growing revolution in environmentalism in Australia – motivated by individual efforts to address the climate and biodiversity crisis head on.

As a result, Australia now boasts one of the largest networks of privately protected and managed areas in the world, with gifted land now covering over 10m hectares. Between 2019 and 2024, leading Australian environmental charities saw a 150% increase in bequest revenue, according to data from the 2025 Benchmarking Project report.

In 1990, then Tasmanian Greens MP Bob Brown became aware that two bush blocks adjoining his own property in Liffey, about 55km south west of Launceston, had come on the market. Despite not having the finances, Brown sent a bidder to the auction and successfully bought them for \$250k, outbidding the Northern Woodchipping company, which had intended to buy the land for logging.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2026/apr/18/privately-protected-managed-land-australia-biodiversity-protection>

Should this plant be declared one of the worst weeds in Australia? – The Conversation, 20 April 2026

You might not have heard of buffel grass, a robust and invasive grass that has spread across tens of thousands of square kilometres of inland Australia. But you might know its effects.

Most people remember the deadly 2023 fires in Maui, Hawaii, which killed more than 100 people. Many will know of the worsening bushfires in Australia’s centre. In both cases, buffel grass, (including *Cenchrus ciliaris*), played a role by adding fuel in dry environments.

Right now, the federal government is weighing up whether to declare buffel grass one of the worst weeds in the country – a “Weed of National Significance”.

Our new study shows buffel grass does real damage to native animals, and we can now predict the types of animals most at risk. Building on previous work, we show buffel grass affects at least three major groups – birds, reptiles and ants – in multiple habitats and regions.

<https://theconversation.com/should-this-plant-be-declared-one-of-the-worst-weeds-in-australia-279109>

Snow gums to be removed for view – Midland Express, 21 April 2026

Battle lines have been re-established in a fight over restoring historic view lines to Mount Macedon Memorial Cross and saving vulnerable snow gums from destruction.

Parks Victoria has gained ministerial approval to remove snow gums and other vegetation (about 0.8 hectares) to reinstate view lines to the war memorial ahead of Anzac Day. The works, beginning last week, have angered environmental groups who feel ignored after fighting the same proposal, and seeing it rejected, in 2023.

“We are devastated to see this precious remnant of snow gum forest being destroyed for a view,” said Cam Walker, Friends of the Earth campaigner.

“There are already several viewpoints from the top of Mount Macedon, so we do not need to clear any more forest.”

The Mount Macedon snow gum populations represent the highest altitude stands within the shire and are documented to be among the largest occurring outside eastern Victoria and the Alpine regions.

<https://midlandexpress.com.au/latest-news/2026/04/21/fight-erupts-over-restoring-historic-view-lines-to-mount-macedon-memorial-cross-or-saving-vulnerable-snow-gums/>

In an Illawarra autumn, this tree's fruit turns orange – The Illawarra Flame, 22 April 2026

We're well into April now and an amazing number of the local plants are fruiting at the moment. The widely planted Illawarra Flame Trees (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) are decorated with their woody fruit, which are turning from green to brown and weighing down the branches on more prolific trees.

If you know where to look, you'll see some of the less widely used street trees also doing their thing. And some of these have much more colourful fruit than the Flame Tree.

First and foremost is the Bonewood (*Emmenosperma alphitonioides*), a neat-looking and stately tree with numerous orange fruit decorating the canopy in autumn.

This tree is easy to see in Wollongong, as there are a couple of prominently planted specimens on verges. One is on Gipps Road in Keiraville, at the entrance to Nyrang Park. It is at its absolute best right now, so make your way over and admire it.

<https://www.theillawarraflame.com.au/in-an-illawarra-autumn-this-trees-fruit-turns-orange/>

Seeds can 'hear' the sound of rain, new study suggests – ABC Science, 23 April 2026

Plant seeds may be able to "hear" the sound of rain, and use it to time when to sprout. That's according to a study published today in Scientific Reports that found rice seeds exposed to the sound of rain drops sprout faster on average compared to those that weren't exposed to it.

This is not the first time plants have been discovered "hearing" or at least sensing vibrations in their environment. A paper published in 2014 found that when plants were exposed to the sound of caterpillars chewing, they produced more bitter compounds in their leaves.

And plants like tomatoes and blueberries also respond to what's known as "buzz pollination", when bees move their wings rapidly and produce a sound and associated vibration that shakes pollen loose. However, according to the researchers, this is the first time that "hearing" has been seen in seeds and seedlings.

"What this study is saying is that seeds can sense sound in ways that can help them survive," study author Nicholas Makris, a mechanical engineer at MIT, said in a statement.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2026-04-23/plants-rain-sound-study-seeds/106585020>

Dog Job - Josh meets a team of working dogs that are playing an important role in plant biosecurity by detecting a serious plant disease – Gardening Australia, 24 April 2026

At Kings Park Botanical Garden in Perth, what looks like a playful pack of dogs out for a morning walk is actually a group of canines specially trained to detect the plant disease phytophthora dieback.

Phytophthora dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) is a soil-borne water mould that enters the roots and blocks the vascular systems of plants, preventing water and nutrients from travelling through the plant. Affected plants suffer from dieback and often suffer a slow death.

Plant pathologist Dr Kylie Ireland explains that the detector dogs will complement the work of dieback interpreters, who look for and record signs of dieback in areas of the bush. While these human roles will continue, the detector dogs have some advantages when it comes to finding the pathogen.

Animal trainer Ryan Tate explains that the dogs' heightened sense of smell means that they can detect tiny amounts of scent in the air and track it back to its source, often an affected plant or soil. This means that they can quickly and reliably detect phytophthora in the landscape. Once a dog identifies an affected plant, dieback interpreters take soil samples back to the lab to confirm the presence of phytophthora. Perhaps not surprisingly, the dogs are correct most of the time.

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/dog-job/106599866>

Ancient, critically endangered 'sterile' plant King's lomatia found for second time in Tasmanian wilderness – ABC News, 26 April 2026

A second population of the critically endangered plant, King's lomatia, has been discovered in south-west Tasmania.

King's lomatia — also known as *Lomatia tasmanica* — is a small, ancient clonal tree which previously had only ever been located in one area.

The location of the second population, and its discoverers, are being kept secret — an intentional move, according to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), to protect the species, which is listed as critically endangered.

In a statement, NRE said the discovery was reported earlier in the year and was verified by scientists.

The finding was first reported in the Tasmanian Inquirer.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-04-26/kings-lomatia-population-found-in-tasmanian-wilderness/106601668>

Only one known single spyridium plant is left in the wild on the Coorong, but scientists are hunting for more – ABC News, 26 April 2026

Woods Well on the Coorong, along the South Australian coastline, is very much a "blink and miss it" type of place.

There is a smattering of houses and paddocks on one side of the road between Meningie and Salt Creeks, and remnant scrub edging the waters of the ecologically struggling South Lagoon on the other.

Surprisingly, nestled in the scrub is the extremely rare plant Woods Well spyridium (*Spyridium fontis-woodii*).

The critically endangered small mallee shrub grows to about 1.8 metres in size and produces tiny, delicate white flowers.

Robbie Andrew, from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, said that it was likely the plant's population had reduced over the years due to land use and clearing.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-04-26/woods-well-spyridium-coorong-rare-species-plant/106561960>

Rare native lilies spotted flowering on stock reserve north of Deniliquin – Back Country Bulletin, 26 April 2026

A striking patch of native Garland lilies has been found flowering on a Travelling Stock Reserve north of Deniliquin, discovered by a NSW Government Murray Local Land Services staff member during routine work in the area.

The lilies, known scientifically as *Calostemma purpureum* and also referred to as Wilcannia lilies, are a native species known to respond to summer and autumn rainfall, emerging and blooming when seasonal conditions are right.

Murray Local Land Services said the discovery was a reminder of how resilient and responsive native plant species could be to changing conditions.

The find also drew attention to the broader ecological value of Travelling Stock Reserves, which support native biodiversity alongside their role as grazing corridors for livestock.

<https://backcountrybulletin.app/NewsStory/rare-native-lilies-spotted-flowering-on-stock-reserve-north-of-deniliquin/69eaa3c64d0c14002dc7328b>

Community feedback sought for new tree policy – The News Mornington Peninsula, 28 April 2026

COMMUNITY input has been requested regarding a new policy that will see trees on the peninsula better looked after and protected.

Mornington Peninsula Shire have developed a draft Tree Management Policy which explains how they care for trees. The policy covers how council manages trees on shire-owned or managed land, how tree risks are assessed and prioritised, how council responds to concerns and requests, and how trees are protected.

A 2022 Tree Management Audit noted the shire didn't have a formal policy for managing council trees and a policy creation was recommended.

"A dedicated policy means our community can trust that we make decisions about trees consistently, transparently, and with safety as a priority," acting mayor Cr Paul Pingiaro said.

"Trees are what help give the peninsula its distinctive character. From the tall tree trails of the Red Hill hinterland to the mysterious mangroves along Western Port.

<https://www.mpnews.com.au/2026/04/28/community-feedback-sought-for-new-tree-policy/>

Events and Opportunities

Free talk - Secrets of Cypripedium Sex (Sometimes It's Successful) - Sydney NSW, 8 May 2026

On Friday May 8, Dr. Peter Bernhardt will give a special seminar at RBG on his work on pollination and floral variation in lady's slipper orchids (*Cypripedium*). Peter has a long and decorated career in pollination research around the world with 108 peer-reviewed papers and 40 book chapters of which 54 are on the flora of Australia. In retirement he remains a foreign correspondent for "The Science Show". He will be visiting Australia to talk about his most recent book for CSIRO: "Unsung Heroes of Pollination; More Than the Birds and the Bees."

When: Friday 8 May, 10:30am – 12pm

Where: Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

ESA Awards 2026 – Closing 31 May 2026

The ESA awards more than 100 prizes each year to students and professionals for research excellence, study, travel, conference presentations and science communication.

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/grants-awards/>

IUCN Australia 30x30 and Beyond Interactive Symposium – Sydney NSW 20-22 July 2026

Every year, we produce a major interactive event dedicated to addressing a priority conservation challenge. We provide an inclusive platform for collaboration between Government, Non-Government, Indigenous Peoples, Academia and Industry. Together, we catalyse informed action for nature.

Our 2026 national symposium will centre around Australia's achievement of Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas.

The 3-day schedule includes a 2-day Symposium, a casual group dinner, and an optional day 3 workshop for anyone interested in learning about the 2027 IUCN World Protected Areas Congress.

<https://www.aciucn.org.au/30x30-and-beyond>

International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) Congress 2026 – Cairns QLD, 26-29 July 2026

The 19th International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) Congress invites academics, activists, practitioners, and visionaries from all over the world to explore the theme of "*Indigenous and Local Knowledge Connections: Honouring Heritage and Innovation*"

The International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE), founded in 1988, is a global network focused on preserving the links between human societies and the natural world. It provides a unique platform for participants to share research and initiatives from diverse disciplines related to human-nature relationships.

Registration and a Call for Abstracts is open.

<https://isecongress2026.org/>

National Biodiversity Offsets Conference 4.0 – Canberra ACT, 4-6 August 2026

Australia's premier forum on biodiversity offsets returns for its fourth iteration, with the theme Nature Positive by 2030: Integrity, Restoration and Net Gain in Action.

The National Biodiversity Offsets Conference draws environmental practitioners, policymakers, regulatory staff, offset brokers, environmental accountants, academics, legal professionals and landholders involved in offset delivery.

Over three days, you'll gain practical insight from those delivering offsets on the ground, hear the latest policy and regulatory developments, explore emerging biodiversity markets, and connect with around 400 peers across government, consultancy, academia and industry.

<https://www.eianz.org/events/event/national-biodiversity-offsets-conference-40-nature-positive-by-2030-integrity-restoration-and-net-gain-in-action>

World Ecoacoustics Congress 2026 Cairns, Australia – Cairns QLD, 17-20 August 2026

The WEC happens every 2 years and attracts hundreds of delegates to discuss advances and innovations in Ecoacoustics.

Call for Symposia and Call for Workshops are now open.

<https://ecoacoustics2026.org/>

13th International Conference on Cycad Biology (CYCAD2026) – Sydney NSW, 17-22 August 2026

The theme is “*Cultivating Conservation through Science and Horticulture*”.

CYCAD2026 will gather international delegates including academic researchers, conservation and horticultural experts, representatives from leading botanical institutions, and industry leaders and innovators.

Attendees will explore advancements in plant biology, genetics, ecological restoration, horticulture, and more—through keynote addresses, networking opportunities, and collaborative sessions.

Donate to support the running of the conference here: <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/cycad-2026>

24th Australasian Weeds Conference (24AWC) – Christchurch NZ, 23-27 August 2026

On behalf of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS), the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute (NZBI) and the New Zealand Plant Protection Society (NZPPS) are excited to host the 24th Australasian Weeds Conference.

Please plan to join us in Christchurch, 23 -27 August 2026, at Te Pae, the city's new convention centre.

<https://caws.org.nz/upcoming-awc-2/>

15th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference (APCC15) – Port Douglas QLD, 24-28 August 2026

The 15th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference (APCC15) will be held at the Port Douglas Community Hall in the Queensland Wet Tropics from 24-28 August 2026.

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.

Early bird registrations and abstract submissions now open!

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences-apcc15/>

Amazing Arid Australia (ANPSA Conference) – Mparntwe Alice Springs NT, 24-28 August 2026

The conference theme is dedicated to the 70 per cent of Australia that is arid or semi-arid. Over five days the conference will be your chance to hear about and see native plants and their habitats in central Australia. There will be three days of keynote talks, themed breakouts, two afternoon outings and two days of excursions into the MacDonnell Ranges and special places around Alice Springs. We are confident that you will have a wonderful experience learning about Amazing Arid Australia and meeting fellow native plant enthusiasts.

<https://www.anpsaconference.com/>

12th Australian Stream Management Conference (12ASM) – Kingscliff NSW, 6-9 September 2026

The theme of 12ASM will be "Living and evolving with change", recognising the development and maturing of the stream management industry and science that supports it, particularly since the first ASM conference, and how we consider living rivers. We look forward to 12ASM bringing together our peers for a collaborative forum of discussion and debate on new and emerging issues, practical challenges encountered, experimental research findings, emerging trends and recent innovations.

<https://12asm.org/>

Nature-Climate Action: Our Opportunity to Lead (2026 ALCA Conference) – Nipaluna/Hobart, 6-9 October 2026

Australia's biggest land conservation event.

As one of Australia's most significant events for the land conservation sector, this annual gathering is where the critical conversations, partnerships and ideas driving nature action come together.

The 2026 ALCA Conference will bring over 400 delegates together – conservation changemakers and practitioners, First Nations leaders and land managers, policymakers, researchers, business, finance and industry experts, landholders and community representatives – all working to drive collective impacts for nature, people and planet.

<https://www.alca.org.au/events/conference/2026>

NZPCN 2026 Conference – Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington NZ, 12-15 October 2026

The theme is Māhia ngā here - Collaboration for better conservation. This theme celebrates the power of working together, reflecting on past and present collaborations in plant conservation, and exploring how we can strengthen these connections for the future.

The 2026 conference coincides with the 100-year anniversary of the Ōtari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve. On Monday 12 October, a formal event will commemorate the centenary, marking 100 years to the day since Ōtari was officially opened.

The conference will run from Monday to Thursday, with workshops and a welcome event on Monday, symposia on Tuesday and Wednesday, and field trips on Thursday. Our field trips and workshops will make the most of the beautiful Wellington flora.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/nzpcn/events/2026-nzpcn-conference/>

ESA 2026: Conference of the Ecological Society of Australia – Brisbane, 29 November-4 December 2026

Key dates for your calendar:

- Call for Abstracts opens – 4 May 2026
- Early Bird registration opens: 11 May 2026
- Call for Abstracts closes – 29 June 2026
- Conference Travel Grants open 1 July 2026
- Abstract notifications sent by – 13 July 2026
- Early Bird registration closes: 25 August 2026
- Conference Travel Grants close 31 August 2026

<https://esa2026.org.au/>

Island Arks Symposium IX: Ridge to Reef: Sustaining Biodiversity, Culture and Connection – Norfolk Island, 30 November-2 December 2026

Norfolk Island National Park, together with the Norfolk Island Flora & Fauna Society and the Australian Island Alliance, is honoured to host the Island Arks Symposium IX on Norfolk Island.

The Island Arks Symposia are held biennially to foster collaboration among practitioners and custodians dedicated to protecting island ecosystems across Australia and beyond. They bring together land managers, scientists, First Nations Peoples, and policymakers to discuss, deliberate, and shape responses to critical issues affecting conservation and sustainable development. Through open knowledge exchange and partnership building, the symposia strengthen networks, build shared strategies, and drive tangible conservation outcomes across island landscapes.

<https://kaigi-islandarkssymposiumix.eventsair.site/>