



Conference Program (*Provisional 31 July 2026, subject to change*)

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 August 2026

Daintree Rainforest Observatory

3701 Cape Tribulation Road, Cape Tribulation, QLD 4873

Sponsored by James Cook University

	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP	
Friday 5pm	Arrival and settle in	James Cook University
8.30am – 4pm	Rainforest Plant ID Workshop (Saturday and Sunday)	

Monday 24 August 2026

Port Douglas Community Hall

Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4873

1:00pm	Early registration	
2:00-5:00pm	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 1: Assessing the extinction risk of Australian trees Sponsored by IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Australia Plant Specialist Group , University of New South Wales and Western Sydney University – Hawesbury Institute for the Environment	Tom Le Breton and Rachael Gallagher
2:00-5:00pm	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 2: Native Seed Collection and Storage in Tropical Australia Sponsored by National Seed Bank , Australian PlantBank , Rainforest Rescue , and Millennium Seed Bank	Tom North, Karen Sommerville, Marine Deliens, Kate Koel, Aisyah Faruk
5.00pm – 7.00pm	WELCOME RECEPTION @ Hemingway's Brewery 44 Wharf Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4877 Stand up drinks and canapés Sponsored by North Queensland Wildlife Trust and Queensland Government - Silver Sponsors	

Tuesday 25 August 2026

Port Douglas Community Hall

Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4873

Sponsored by [Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC](#)

8:00am	Registration	
8:30am	Welcome to conference, housekeeping	Caroline Gross
8:40am	Welcome to Country	Eastern Kuku Yalanji and Yirrganydji Traditional Custodians
8:50am	Welcome to Port Douglas and the Wet Tropics	TBC
9:00am	Official launch of Plant Conservation Australia	Caroline Gross and others
9:30am	KEYNOTE – Protecting the Daintree lowlands: reflections on conservation work over five decades	Ro (Rosemary) Hill
10:00am	MORNING TEA <i>Sponsored by North Queensland Wildlife Trust - Silver Sponsor</i>	
SUBTHEME: Collaborations and culture Chair: Darren Crayn		
10:15am	PLENARY – TBC	TBC
10:45am	On the front line: inspiring examples of community-based flora conservation	Paul Donatui
11:00am	Integrating Indigenous leadership and ecological knowledge in Torres Strait plant conservation	David Fell
11:15am	Biocultural restoration of the smooth gudjin (<i>Davidsonia johnsonii</i>) - improving genetics, habitat and cultural connection	Di Brown
11:30am	Plant species response and cultural burning on Yuin Country	Mark Ooi
11:45am	A unique partnership	John Clarkson
12:00pm	The missing link: indigenous-led germplasm systems for conservation and the restoration economy	William Martin
12:15pm	Managing Country as a green economy: could we, should we, how would we?	Rowan Shee and Tim Wong
12:30pm	TBC	TBC
12:45pm	<i>Questions</i>	
1:00pm	LUNCH <i>Sponsored by North Queensland Wildlife Trust - Silver Sponsor</i>	
SUBTHEME: Biosecurity and Invasives Chair: TBC		
1:45pm	PLENARY – Stemming the tide: biosecurity and conservation challenges in northern Australia	Barbara Waterhouse
2:15pm	Myrtle mayday: proactive germplasm capture - a lifeline to fight disease	Kathryn Eyles
2:30pm	Genetics and ecology of kanuka box (<i>Tristaniopsis exiliflora</i>) and myrtle rust (<i>Austropuccinia psidii</i>)	Jacinta Torrisi
2:45pm	Progressing in vitro conservation of Australian endangered plant diversity	Alice Hayward
3:00pm	Myrtle rust action in Queensland - it's better when we work together	Angela Verner
3:15pm	Post-invasion challenges and perspectives from the Northern Territory	Caroline Chong
3:30pm	Not yet fit for purpose – environmental biosecurity, and what happens when the eradication response fails?	Bob Makinson
3:45pm	<i>Questions</i>	
4:00pm	AFTERNOON TEA	

CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
4:15pm-5:30pm	POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
	Nursery proofing: from lab germination protocols to real world propagation	Bek Hyland
	Supporting plant conservation outcomes through volunteer and student internship programs at the National Seed Bank	Jesse Murphy
	Scale-dependent spatial patterning and Indigenous-informed site selection of <i>Tephrosia varians</i> in a northern Australian savanna	Juliet Saltmarsh
	Bredbo gentian - a tiny survivor	Laura Schweickle
	Nested threats: diversity of Newnes Plateau shrub swamps and their resident endangered <i>Boronia</i>	Shelomi Doyle
	Learning not to separate Country and People in conservation seed banking	Tom North
	Growing seed science for ecological restoration	Sarah Goldberg
	TBC	TBC
4:15pm-5:15pm	WORKSHOP 1: Publishing	CSIRO

Wednesday 26 August 2026

Port Douglas Community Hall
 Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4873
Sponsored by

7:30am	WORKSHOP 2: Plant photography	Plant Conservation Australia
8:00am	Registration	
8:30am	Welcome and housekeeping	
SUBTHEME: Sustaining diversity – ex-situ conservation		
Chair:		
8:45am	PLENARY – Into the wild: addressing plant extinction through establishment of new plant populations	Rachael Gallagher
9:15am	Ex-situ conservation of tropical Queensland flora	Brandan Espe
9:30am	Safeguarding plant diversity at the National Seed Bank	Alyssa Weinstein
9:45am	Experimental population reinforcement of the critically endangered <i>Bossiaea fragrans</i>	Natalie Allen
10:00am	Seed inoculation of <i>Rafflesia arnoldii</i> in ex-situ	Dian Latifah
10:15am	Twenty years of Testing: germination trials at the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre	James Wood
10:30am	From mountaintops to metacollections: using genomics to evaluate strengths and gaps in the establishment of ex-situ conservation collections, an example from north Queensland's cloud forests	Darren Crayn
10:45am	Questions	
11:00am	2026 Australian Plant Photography Competition – category winners Sponsored by Australian Art Framers , Wild Macadamia Conservation and Camera House Cairns	
11:05am	MORNING TEA Sponsored by Trees for the Evelyn & Atherton Tablelands Inc. (TREAT)	
CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – Session 1		
11:30am – 1:00pm	WORKSHOP 3: Working on Country Sponsored by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
	WORKSHOP 4: Barriers, successes, & prioritisation in ex-situ plant conservation Sponsored by National Seed Bank and Millennium Seed Bank	National Seed Bank and Millennium Seed Bank
1:00pm	LUNCH	

SUBTHEME: Sustaining diversity – conservation genetics		
Chair:		
1:45pm	Towards standard practice: embedding conservation genomics in the management of NSW's threatened plants	Samantha Yap
2:00pm	Genetics in a bottle: a collaborative project to better understand one of Queensland's rarest trees	Patrick Fahey
2:15pm	From remnants to revegetation: genetic insights shaping the future of <i>Senecio behrianus</i>	Tara Hopely
2:30pm	Flying ducks, queens, and underground ghosts: fine-scale genomics for conserving Australia's orchid diversity	Lalita Simpson
2:45pm	Species on the spectrum: a conservation genomic assessment of morphological variation in a threatened Australian spider orchid (<i>Caladenia arenaria</i>)	Katharina Nargar
3:00pm	Life without leaves: elucidating evolutionary relationships in threatened Hyacinth orchids (<i>Dipodium</i>)	Stephanie Goedderz
3:15pm	Questions	
3:30pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
SUBTHEME: Sustaining diversity – conservation biology		
Chair:		
3:45pm	Germination of rainforest Myrtaceae species under climate change	Sarah McInnes
4:00pm	Responses to fire related dormancy breaking cues in <i>Zieria</i> species from fire-prone and non fire-prone ecosystems	Ganesha Liyanage
4:15pm	A multi-pronged approach to understanding deep dormancy in <i>Leionema</i> and <i>Phebalium</i> (Rutaceae)	James Perkins
4:30pm	Investigating a rare gypsophytic grass	John Hunter
4:45pm	How reliable are trait databases for estimating local functional diversity?	Joshua Lee
5:00pm	Working on the wild side: comparing germination and drought response in wild vs cultivated collections of an endangered plant species	Megan Hirst
5:15pm	Questions	
5:30pm-7:30pm	FREE TIME	
7:30pm	Conference Dinner @ Chillys Pizza 2 Mowbray Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4877 Sponsored by Bush Heritage Australia - Silver Sponsor	
8:00pm	DINNER PRESENTATION – Title TBC	Mike Berwick

Thursday 27 August 2026

Port Douglas Community Hall
Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4873

8:00am	Welcome and Housekeeping	
SUBTHEME: Sustaining diversity – conservation planning		
Chair:		
8:30am	Protocols for identifying and planning conservation of reproductively limited and putatively sterile plants	Chantelle Doyle
8:45am	How can we include fungi in formal conservation efforts?	Matt Barrett
9:00am	Conserving <i>Grevillea hodgei</i> – a challenge for conservation biologists	Luke Geelen
9:15am	Tassel ferns out on a limb	Ashley Field
9:30am	Discovery to collaboration: the black plum project and a people-powered model for plant conservation	David Cuschieri

9:45am	Integrating genomics into biodiversity management: from data to decision-making	Maurizio Rossetto
10:00am	TBC	TBC
10:15am	Questions	
10:30am	MORNING TEA	
CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – Session 2		
11:00am – 12:30pm	WORKSHOP 5: Conservation marketing’s greatest hits: an intro to environmental social marketing for behaviour change	Liz Foote
	WORKSHOP 6: National gaps and priorities for germplasm collection in Queensland Sponsored by Australian Seed Bank Partnership	Australian Seed Bank Partnership
12:30pm	LUNCH	
SUBTHEME: Restoring balance Chair:		
1:15am	PLENARY – Landscape, species and climate: understanding the dynamics of tropical forest recovery and restoration	Professor Susan Lawrence
1:45pm	Outstanding result in rainforest revegetation at Cape Tribulation	Peter Radke
2:00pm	Following the way of Gumbugan	Matt Gillis
2:15pm	The challenge of biodiversity-blessed town blocks	Laura Schweickle
2:30pm	Combining sustaining diversity with restoring balance	Ron Baldwin
2:45pm	Improving the use of grassland species in ecological restoration through seed banking	Tom North
3:00pm	The global tree seed bank: unlocked programme in Oceania	Ellen Mascard
3:15pm	Questions	
3:30pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
SUBTHEME: Restoring balance Chair:		
3:45pm	Ecological outcomes of revegetation of agricultural land in NSW	Emma Summer
4:00pm	Madjandji knowledge supporting cane growers and improves GBR water quality	Anthony Satini
4:15pm	Scaling up rainforest restoration in the Wet Tropics: a collaborative approach	Kylie Freebody
4:30pm	Safeguarding Australia’s irreplaceable biodiversity	Samantha Andres
4:45pm	Questions	
5:30pm	2026 Australian Plant Photography Competition – People’s Choice Award Sponsored by	
5:35pm	CLOSING ADDRESS – Conference summary and next steps for plant conservation in Australasia	Caroline Gross
5:45pm	Conference close	

Friday 28 August 2026

Departing from Port Douglas Community Hall
Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4873

8:00am	Arrival and roll-call	
CONCURRENT FIELDTRIPS – FULL DAY		
8:30am – 4:30pm	FIELDTRIP 1: Restoration of tropical rainforests in the Daintree <i>Sponsored by Wet Tropics Management Authority, Climate Force, Rainforest Rescue, CaPTA</i>	Coordinator: Ellen Weber
	FIELDTRIP 2: Threatened Plants of the Daintree <i>Sponsored by Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Australian Tropical Herbarium, CaPTA</i>	Coordinator: Darren Crayn
CONCURRENT FIELDTRIPS – HALF DAY		
9:00am – 1:30pm	FIELDTRIP 3: Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk at Mossman Gorge <i>Sponsored by CaPTA</i>	Coordinator: TBC
8am – 2:00pm	FIELDTRIP 4: Cairns Botanic Gardens <i>Sponsored by Cairns Botanic Gardens, CaPTA</i>	Coordinator: Cadel Boyce

Saturday 29 - Sunday 30 August 2026

Port Douglas Community Hall
Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4873
Sponsored by James Cook University

	POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP	
8.30am – 4pm	Rainforest Plant ID Workshop (Saturday and Sunday)	James Cook University