

APCC15

15th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference

Culture, Collaboration and Change

24-28 Aug 2026
Port Douglas, QLD

Jointly organised by



Plant Conservation
Australia



Conference Program

Fri 21 - Sun 23 August 2026

Location: Daintree Rainforest Observatory

3701 Cape Tribulation Road, Cape Tribulation, QLD 4873

Pre-Conference Workshop

Friday 5pm

Arrive and settle in

8:30 AM -
4:00PM

Rainforest Plant ID Workshop

(Saturday and Sunday)

Supported by: James Cook University



JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA

James Cook University

Mon 24 August 2026

Location: Port Douglas Community Hall

Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, QLD 4873

Pre-Conference Workshops

1:00PM

Early Registration

2:00PM -
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 – Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment



UNSW
SYDNEY



Tom Le Breton
and Rachael Gallagher

2:00PM -
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



Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Tom North, Karen
Sommerville, Marine Deliens,
Kate Koel, Aisya Faruk

Location: Hemmingway's Brewery

44 Wharf Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4877

5:00PM -
7:00PM



Welcome Reception

Stand up drinks and canapés

Sponsored by: North Queensland Wildlife Trust and Queensland Government - Silver Sponsors



Queensland
Government

Location: Port Douglas Community Hall
Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, QLD 4873

APCC15 audio visual services sponsored by:
the *Atlas of Living Australia*



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	Official launch of Plant Conservation Australia	Caroline Gross and others
9:15AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS – <i>Protecting the Daintree lowlands: reflections on conservation work over five decades</i>	Ro (Rosemary) Hill
9:45AM	Morning tea	

Subtheme: Collaborations and Culture		
Chair: Darren Crayn		

10:15AM	PLENARY - Restoring Country Through Plants and People: Ethnobotany, Conservation and Collaboration in Australia	Gerry Turpin
10:45AM	On the front line: inspiring examples of community-based flora conservation	Paul Donatiau
11:00AM	Integrating Indigenous leadership and ecological knowledge in Torres Strait plant conservation	David Fell, Masig - Edna Nai and Boigu - Arthur Gibuma
11:15AM	Biocultural restoration of the smooth gudjin (<i>Davidsonia johnsonii</i>) - improving genetics, habitat and cultural connection	Di Brown and Shane Ivey
11:30AM	Plant species response and cultural burning on Yuin Country	Mark Ooi
11:45AM	A unique partnership	John Clarkson
12:00PM	Following the way of Gumbugan	Matt Gillis
12:15PM	The global tree seed bank: unlocked programme in Oceania	Ellen Mascard
12:30PM	Managing Country as a green economy: could we, should we, how would we?	Rowan Shee
12:45PM	Questions	
1:00PM	 Lunch Sponsored by: <u>North Queensland Wildlife Trust</u> - Silver Sponsor	

Subtheme: Biosecurity, Invasive Threats and Post-invasion Challenges		
Chair: John Clarkson		
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	From genetic variation to resistance breeding: lessons from myrtle rust in Australia and New Zealand	Jules Freeman
3:30PM	Not yet fit for purpose – environmental biosecurity, and what happens when the eradication response fails?	Bob Makinson
3:45PM	Questions	
4:00PM	Afternoon Tea	
Poster Presentations		
4:15PM - 5:30PM	Bredbo gentian - a tiny survivor	Laura Schweickle
	Choosing which PCA best-practice guidelines to use	Jo Lynch
	Growing seed science for ecological restoration	Sarah Goldberg
	Droplet vitrification for germplasm conservation of the Critically Endangered <i>Lenwebbia</i> sp. Main Range	Alice Hayward
	Ex-situ Conservation Technology for Macadamia	Alice Hayward
	Learning not to separate Country and People in conservation seed banking	Tom North
	Looming bottlenecks in ex situ conservation	Bob Makinson
	National Seed Bank Strategic Priorities 2026 and beyond	Alyssa Weinstein
	National Threatened Flora Inventory	Alyssa Weinstein
	Nested threats: diversity of Newnes Plateau shrub swamps and their resident endangered <i>Boronia</i>	Shelomi Doyle
	Nirringa Creek restoration and partnerships with landholders	Asleem Satini and Isiaha Satini
	Plant Germplasm Conservation in Australia	Jo Lynch
	Seed Speak A-Z	Kathy Eyles
	Savannah geophytes cluster at metre scales, and keep clustering on disturbed ground	Juliet Saltmarsh
	The Seed Banking Conservation Ladder	Tom North

Location: Port Douglas Community Hall
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7:30AM	WORKSHOP 1: Plant photography Pre-day photo walk departing from and returning to conference venue	Paul Donatiau and Richie Southerton
8:00AM	Registration	
8:30AM	Welcome and housekeeping	Caroline Gross

Subtheme: Sustaining Diversity (ex-situ conservation)

Chair: TBC

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 Australian National Botanic Gardens	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	Morning Tea <i>Sponsored by: Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT)</i>	

Concurrent Workshops

	WORKSHOP 2: Working on Country <i>Sponsored by: Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC</i> 	Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
11:30AM – 1:00PM	WORKSHOP 3: Barriers, successes and prioritisation in ex-situ plant conservation <i>Sponsored by: National Seed Bank and Millennium Seed Bank</i>  	National Seed Bank and Millennium Seed Bank
1:00PM	Lunch <i>Sponsored by: Queensland Government - Silver Sponsor</i>	

Subtheme: Sustaining Diversity (conservation genetics)			Chair: TBC
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 Hopley	
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: TBC
4:00PM	Germination of rainforest Myrtaceae species under climate change	Sarah McInnes	
4:15PM	Responses to fire related dormancy breaking cues in <i>Zieria</i> species from fire-prone and non fire-prone ecosystems	Ganesha Liyanage	
4:30PM	A multi-pronged approach to understanding deep dormancy in <i>Leionema</i> and <i>Phebalium</i> (Rutaceae)	James Perkins	
4:45PM	Investigating a rare gypsophytic grass	John Hunter	
5:00PM	How reliable are trait databases for estimating local functional diversity?	Joshua Lee	
5:15PM	Working on the wild side: comparing germination and drought response in wild vs cultivated collections of an endangered plant species	Megan Hirst	
5:30PM	Questions		

Location: Chillys Pizza
2 Mowbray Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4877

7:30PM	Conference Dinner Pre-dinner drinks from 7pm Sponsored by: Bush Heritage Australia - Silver Sponsor	
8:00PM	DINNER PRESENTATION – Restoration at scale: politics, planning and money	Mike Berwick

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8:20AM	Welcome and housekeeping	Caroline Gross
Subtheme: Sustaining Diversity (conservation planning) Chair: TBC		
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	Questions	
10:15AM	Morning Tea	
Concurrent Workshops		
10:45AM – 12:15PM	WORKSHOP 4: Conservation marketing’s greatest hits: an intro to environmental social marketing for behaviour change	Liz Foote Social Marketing at Griffith University
	WORKSHOP 5: National gaps and priorities for germplasm collection in Queensland Sponsored by: <u>Australian Seed Bank Partnership</u>  Australian Seed Bank Partnership	Australian Seed Bank Partnership
12:15PM	Lunch	
Subtheme: Restoring Balance Chair: TBC		
1:00PM	PLENARY – Landscape, species and climate: understanding the dynamics of tropical forest recovery and restoration	Susan Laurance
1:30PM	Outstanding result in rainforest revegetation at Cape Tribulation	Peter Radke
1:45PM	The challenge of biodiversity-blessed town blocks	Laura Schweickle
2:00PM	Improving the use of grassland species in ecological restoration through seed banking	Tom North
2:15PM	Questions	
2:30PM	Afternoon Tea	

Subtheme: Restoring Balance

Chair: TBC

3:00PM	Ecological outcomes of revegetation of agricultural land in NSW	Emma Summer
3:15PM	Madjandji knowledge supporting cane growers and improves GBR water quality	Anthony Satini
3:30PM	Scaling up rainforest restoration in the Wet Tropics: a collaborative approach	Kylie Freebody
3:45PM	Safeguarding Australia's irreplaceable biodiversity	Samantha Andres
4:00PM	Questions	
4:15PM	Student Prize Announcement: Supported by: CSIRO Publishing 	TBC
4:20PM	CLOSING ADDRESS – Conference summary and next steps for plant conservation in Australasia	Caroline Gross
4:45PM	Conference Close	

Fri 28 August 2026

Location: Departing from Port Douglas Community Hall

Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, QLD 4873

Trips travelling on
[Tropic Wings'](#) 100% electric buses

Concurrent Fieldtrips (full day)

7:45AM (for 8:15AM departure)	FIELDTRIP 1: Restoration of tropical rainforests in the Daintree Sponsored by: Wet Tropics Management Authority , Climate Force , Rainforest Rescue , CaPTA    	Coordinator: Ellen Weber
Return by 5:30PM	FIELDTRIP 2: Threatened Plants of the Daintree Sponsored by: Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment , Australian Tropical Herbarium , CaPTA   	Coordinator: Darren Crayn

Concurrent Fieldtrips (half day)

8:45AM (for 9:00AM departure) Return by 1:30PM	FIELDTRIP 3: Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk at Mossman Gorge Sponsored by: CaPTA 	Coordinator: TBC
8:00AM (for 8:30AM departure) Return by 2:00PM	FIELDTRIP 4: Cairns Botanic Gardens Sponsored by: Cairns Botanic Gardens , CaPTA  	Coordinator: Cadel Boyce

Sat 29 - Sun 30 August 2026

Location: Port Douglas Community Hall

Cnr Mowbray & Mudlo Street, Port Douglas, QLD 4873

Post Conference Workshop

8:30AM - 4:00PM both days	Rainforest Plant ID Workshop Sponsored by: James Cook University 	James Cook University
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Partner Messages



The **Queensland Government's Threatened Species Program 2020-2040** is working towards a future where Queenslanders support threatened species to prosper in self-sustaining populations. The program aims to ensure Queenslanders value threatened species and contribute to their recovery through partnerships, communities of practice and collaborative stewardship. By building capacity, enhancing awareness and supporting shared action, we are helping secure positive conservation outcomes for Queensland's unique biodiversity.



The **North Queensland Wildlife Trust (NQWT)** was established in 2004 by the Freeman family, who own and operate Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Kuranda Koala Gardens and Birdworld Kuranda. The Trust provides an easy mechanism for visitors to make an active contribution to the conservation of native species and local habitats. Since its establishment, the NQWT has collected, researched and distributed funds to a wide range of wildlife causes including habitat restoration, wildlife care, and rare and endangered species research.



The **Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)** is a collaborative, digital, open infrastructure that brings together Australian biodiversity data from multiple sources, making it accessible and reusable. The ALA helps scientists, policymakers, environmental planners, land managers, industry and the public better understand Australia's biodiversity and work more efficiently. The ALA is Australia's node and a full voting member of GBIF, providing open access to global biodiversity data.



The **Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE)** at Western Sydney University is a world-class research institute advancing plant science through innovative studies of ecosystem function, climate change, biodiversity, and conservation, delivering impactful discoveries from genes to ecosystems.



Bush Heritage Australia is a leading conservation NFP protecting ecosystems and wildlife in landscapes across the continent. Our 11 nature reserves and conservation partnerships in Queensland protect over 1.4 million hectares. For example plant-wise, Goonderoo Reserve protects Brigalow Belt shrublands; Carnarvon Reserve protects five threatened plants Austral Cornflower (*Rhaponticum australe*), a sedge (*Cyperus clarus*), Spiky Anchorplant (*Discaria pubescens*), Tall Velvet Sea-berry (*Haloragis exalata* subsp. *velutina*), King Bluegrass (*Dichanthium queenslandicum*); Fan Palm Reserve in the Wet Tropics WHA protects mesophyll vine forest.

A special thanks to our wonderful

Organising Committee

Darren Crayn (chair)

Australian Tropical Herbarium / James Cook University

Cadel Boyle (secretary)

Cairns Botanic Gardens / Cairns Regional Council

Caroline Chong

Northern Territory Herbarium

Tegan Collingwood

**Queensland Herbarium & Biodiversity Science /
Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation**

Nick Cuff

Northern Territory Herbarium

Marine Deliens

Rainforest Rescue

Paul Donatiu

**Queensland Threatened Plant Network /
Plant Conservation Australia**

John Hodgson

**Carpenteria Land Council Aboriginal
Corporation**

Jo Lynch

Plant Conservation Australia

Bob Makinson

Plant Conservation Australia

Rowan Shee

**Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal
Corporation**

Richie Southerton

Plant Conservation Australia

Ellen Weber

Wet Tropics Management Authority

Administration support

Robert Hawes

Plant Conservation Australia



With many thanks to our

Conference Partners

Gold Partners



Australian National
Botanic Gardens



Australian Tropical Herbarium

Silver Partners



Queensland
Government



Bush Heritage
Australia



Bronze Partner



Field Trip Partners



Hawkesbury Institute
for the Environment



Workshop Partners



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Catering



Accommodation and Tour Discounts



Venue



Prizes

