



Conference Program *(Draft dated 7 August 2026)*

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

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	
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 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 and Tim Wong
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	TBC	TBC
3:30pm	Post-invasion challenges and perspectives from the Northern Territory	Caroline Chong
3:45pm	Not yet fit for purpose – environmental biosecurity, and what happens when the eradication response fails?	Bob Makinson
4:00pm	<i>Questions</i>	
4:15pm	AFTERNOON TEA	

CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
4:30pm-5:30pm	POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
	Spatial Patterning in Two Rare Savannah Geophytes	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
	Seed Speak A-Z	Kathy Eyles
	Growing seed science for ecological restoration	Sarah Goldberg
	Looming bottlenecks in ex situ conservation	Bob Makinson
	National Threatened Flora Inventory	Alyssa Weinstein
	National Seed Bank Strategic Priorities 2026 and beyond	Alyssa Weinstein
	Learning not to separate Country and People in conservation seed banking	Tom North
	The Seed Banking Conservation Ladder	Tom North
	Plant Germplasm Conservation in Australia	Jo Lynch
	Choosing which PCA best-practice guidelines to use	Jo Lynch
	Nirringa Creek restoration and partnerships with landholders	Asleem Satini and Isiaha Satini
4:30pm-5:30pm	WORKSHOP 1: Publishing your work	CSIRO

Wednesday 26 August 2026

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7:30am	WORKSHOP 2: Plant photography	Paul Donatui and Ritchie Southerton
8:00am	Registration	
8:20am	Welcome and housekeeping	
SUBTHEME: Sustaining diversity – <i>ex-situ</i> conservation		
Chair:		
8:30am	PLENARY – Into the wild: addressing plant extinction through establishment of new plant populations	Rachael Gallagher
9:00am	<i>Ex-situ</i> conservation of tropical Queensland flora	Brandan Espe
9:15am	Safeguarding plant diversity at the Australian National Botanic Gardens	Alyssa Weinstein
9:30am	Experimental population reinforcement of the critically endangered <i>Bossiaea fragrans</i>	Natalie Allen
9:45am	Seed inoculation of <i>Rafflesia arnoldii</i> in <i>ex-situ</i>	Dian Latifah
10:00am	Twenty years of Testing: germination trials at the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre	James Wood
10:15am	From mountaintops to metacollections: using genomics to evaluate strengths and gaps in the establishment of <i>ex-situ</i> conservation collections, an example from north Queensland's cloud forests	Darren Crayn
10:30am	Questions	
10:45am	2026 Australian Plant Photography Competition – category winners Sponsored by WTMA , Australian Art Framers , Wild Macadamia Conservation and Camera House Cairns	
10:50am	MORNING TEA Sponsored by Trees for the Evelyn & Atherton Tablelands Inc. (TREAT)	

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – Session 1		
11:15am – 12:45pm	WORKSHOP 3: Working on Country <i>Sponsored by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC</i>	Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
	WORKSHOP 4: Barriers, successes and prioritisation in <i>ex-situ</i> plant conservation <i>Sponsored by National Seed Bank and Millennium Seed Bank</i>	National Seed Bank and Millennium Seed Bank
12:45pm	LUNCH <i>Sponsored by Queensland Government - Silver Sponsor</i>	
SUBTHEME: Sustaining diversity – conservation genetics Chair:		
1:30pm	Towards standard practice: embedding conservation genomics in the management of NSW's threatened plants	Samantha Yap
1:45pm	Genetics in a bottle: a collaborative project to better understand one of Queensland's rarest trees	Patrick Fahey
2:00pm	From remnants to revegetation: genetic insights shaping the future of <i>Senecio behrianus</i>	Tara Hopely
2:15pm	Flying ducks, queens, and underground ghosts: fine-scale genomics for conserving Australia's orchid diversity	Lalita Simpson
2:30pm	Species on the spectrum: a conservation genomic assessment of morphological variation in a threatened Australian spider orchid (<i>Caladenia arenaria</i>)	Katharina Nargar
2:45pm	Life without leaves: elucidating evolutionary relationships in threatened Hyacinth orchids (<i>Dipodium</i>)	Stephanie Goedderz
3:00pm	<i>Questions</i>	
3:15pm	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	<i>Questions</i>	
5:30pm-7:30pm	FREE TIME	
7:30pm	Conference Dinner @ Chillys Pizza <i>2 Mowbray Street, Port Douglas, Qld 4877</i> <i>Sponsored by Bush Heritage Australia - Silver Sponsor</i>	
8:00pm	DINNER PRESENTATION – Restoration at scale: politics, planning and money	Mike Berwick

Thursday 27 August 2026

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8:20am	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	Questions	
10:15am	MORNING TEA	
CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – Session 2		
10:45am – 12:15pm	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 <i>Sponsored by Australian Seed Bank Partnership</i>	Australian Seed Bank Partnership
12:15pm	LUNCH	
SUBTHEME: Restoring balance		
Chair:		
1:00am	PLENARY – Landscape, species and climate: understanding the dynamics of tropical forest recovery and restoration	Professor Susan Lawrence
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	Combining sustaining diversity with restoring balance	Ron Baldwin
2:15pm	Improving the use of grassland species in ecological restoration through seed banking	Tom North
2:30pm	Questions	
2:45pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
SUBTHEME: Restoring balance		
Chair:		
3:15pm	Ecological outcomes of revegetation of agricultural land in NSW	Emma Summer
3:30pm	Madjandji knowledge supporting cane growers and improves GBR water quality	Anthony Satini
3:45pm	Scaling up rainforest restoration in the Wet Tropics: a collaborative approach	Kylie Freebody
4:00pm	Safeguarding Australia’s irreplaceable biodiversity	Samantha Andres
4:15pm	Questions	
4:30pm	2026 Australian Plant Photography Competition – People’s Choice Award	

4:35pm	CLOSING ADDRESS – Conference summary and next steps for plant conservation in Australasia	Caroline Gross
4:50pm	Conference close	

Friday 28 August 2026

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

CONCURRENT FIELDTRIPS – FULL DAY		
7:45am for 8:15am departure Return by 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		
8:45am for 9:00am departure Return by 1:30pm	FIELDTRIP 3: Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk at Mossman Gorge <i>Sponsored by CaPTA</i>	Coordinator: TBC
8:00am for 8:30am departure Return by 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
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	POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP	
8.30am – 4pm	Rainforest Plant ID Workshop (Saturday and Sunday)	James Cook University