Victorian Threatened Plant Symposium

Share. Learn. Connect. What's next.

Naarm/Melbourne
24-25 November 2026
Mueller Hall,
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Program






Images courtesy of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Day 1 - Tuesday 24 November

Connecting Country, Community and Conservation: Understanding and Acting for Threatened Plants

Time	What	Who
9:00-9:10	**Opening**	
9:10-9:25	**Welcome to Country**	**Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation**
9:25-9:30	**Welcome from RBGV**	**Prof. David Cantrill** Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
	MC Welcome	**Caitlin Griffith** Plant Conservation Australia
9:30-10:00	**Opening Address -** Wurundjeri Whole of Country Plan	**Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation**
10:00-10:40	**Keynote Presentation -** *Hope takes root: Preventing the Extinction of Rare Flora*	**Dr. Noushka Reiter** Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
10:40-11:10	**Morning tea**	
Morning Session - Ecology, disturbance and changing landscapes MC: Caitlin Griffith		
11:10-11:30	*Once thought extinct, now spreading along disturbed tracksides: The ecology of Wrinkled Buttons (Leiocarpa gatesii)*	**Rob Dabal** Arthur Rylah Institute
11:30-11:45	*Climate change, fire regimes and treed ecosystems*	**Prof. Michael McCarthy** University of Melbourne
11:45-12:00	*Beyond the imperilled; learning about applied ecology of eucalypts of southeastern Australia*	**Prof. Peter Vesk** University of Melbourne
12:00-12:15	*Revegetating for Morabine Grasshopper conservation via translocations*	**Prof. Ary Hoffman** University of Melbourne

Time	What	Who
12:15-12:30	**Questions and discussion**	**Session presenters and audience**
12:30-1:25	**Lunch**	
	Community and Advocacy MC: Dr. Susan Hoebee	
1:25-1:45	*Grassy Woodlands, Traditional Knowledge and Community Care for threatened plants*	**Cathy Olive and Bronte Haines** Euroa Arboretum
1:45-2:00	*Collaboration, research, strategy and action for the survival of 3 key Plains Grassy Woodland species'*	**Graham Arkinstall and Bill Weatherly** Friends of Forgotten Woodlands
2:00-2:15	*Restoring threatened grassland plants on private land: what are we learning from monitoring and seed reintroductions across western Victoria?*	**Dr. Brad Farmilo** Arthur Rylah Institute
2:15-2:30	**Questions and discussion** Followed by MC reminders	**Session presenters and audience**
	Conservation and recovery across land tenures **MC:** Dr. Susan Hoebee	
2:30-2:40	*Advocacy for threatened plants*	**Jordan Crook** Victorian National Parks Association
2:40-3:00	*Private land: A Vital Refuge for Victoria's Threatened Plants*	**Ben Cullen** Trust for Nature
3:00-3:10	**Questions and discussion**	**Session presenters and audience**
3:10-3:40	**Afternoon tea**	
	Connecting people with plant conservation MC - Dr. Susan Hoebee	
3:40-3:55	*Raising Rarity and Growing Connections: Engaging Young People in Conservation Action*	**Dr. Meg Hirst** Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
3:55-4:10	*On the Front Line: Inspiring examples of community-based flora conservation from Queensland*	**Paul Donatiu** Plant Conservation Australia
4:10-4:20	**Questions and discussion**	**Session presenters and audience**
4:20-4:40	**Symposium reflection Day 1 -** What have we learned? What do we still want to know? What needs to happen next?	**MC (Caitlin Griffith), invited experts and all participants**
4:40-4:45	**MC reminders and housekeeping**	
4:45-5:00	**Overflow time**	
5:30 onwards	**Informal Symposium drinks** (drinks at own expense) The Botanical Hotel 169 Domain Rd, South Yarra	**All participants welcome**

Day 2 - Wednesday 25 November

From Plant Science to Conservation Practice

Time	What	Who
9:00-9:10	**Opening connection activity** Welcome back and reconnect	**All Participants**
9:10-9:15	**MC welcome and keynote introduction**	**Paul Donatiu** Plant Conservation Australia
9:15-9:55	**Keynote Presentation** *Saving all the parts: rare plants, a rare ecosystem, and forty years of temperate grassland conservation* Including questions and discussion	**Assoc. Prof. John Morgan** La Trobe University
9:55-10:20	**Dedicated Parks Victoria session:** *Conservation across a diverse estate* Including questions and discussion	**Dr. Catherine Clowes and Dr. Floret Meredith** Parks Victoria
10:20-10:50	**Morning tea**	
	Reproduction, pollination and threatened plant biology MC: Paul Donatiu	
10:50-11:10	*Clear local and regional genomic structuring of populations of the endangered Tiny Spyridium (Spyridium cinereum)*	**Dr. Susan Hoebee** La Trobe University
11:10-11:20	*Clonality and Reproductive Capacity in a Critically Endangered Victorian Wattle (Acacia sporadica N.G.Walsh)*	**Yennifer Longo** La Trobe University
11:20-11:40	*Incorporating Knowledge of Pollination Biology to Improve Conservation Translocations*	**Dr. Ryan Phillips** La Trobe University
11:40-12:00	**Questions and discussion** Followed by MC reminders	**Session presenters and audience**
	Alpine plants and a changing climate MC: Paul Donatiu	
12:00-12:15	*Alpine Ecosystems in a Snow Free Australia*	**Prof. Susanna Venn** Deakin University
12:15-12:23	*Seed and seedling responses to warming and drying among threatened alpine wetland plants*	**Danny White** Deakin University
12:23-12:31	*Understanding the resilience of Australian alpine plants to climate change: Insights from genomics and germination trials*	**Lukiel Dos Santos Oliveira** Deakin University
12:31-12:40	**Questions and discussion**	**Session presenters and audience**
12:40-1:35	**Lunch**	
1:35-1:40	**MC Welcome back**	**Todd McLay** Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
	Genomics, taxonomy and conservation decisions MC: Todd McLay	
1:40-1:55	*Genetic Warning Signs: Using Conservation Genomics to Inform Threatened Plant Recovery*	**Dr. Tara Hopley** Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Time	What	Who
1:55-2:10	*Modern approaches to improve intersections between taxonomy and conservation*	**Dr. Russell Barrett** Royal Botanic Garden Sydney
2:10-2:25	*Genomic workflows in support of conservation and restoration in NSW and its relevance to Victoria*	**Dr. Samantha Yap** Royal Botanic Garden Sydney
2:25-2:45	**Questions and discussion** Followed by MC reminders	**Session presenters and audience**
2:45-3:15	**Afternoon tea**	
Action for threatened species conservation MC: Todd McLay		
3:15-3:30	*Why we need more species-focused action to save our rarest plants – case of Ballantinia antipoda*	**Dr. Stanislav Wawrzyczek** Threatened Species Conservancy
3:30-3:45	*Scent Detection dogs in threatened flora recovery: what they offer and what they take*	**Dr. Magali Wright and Morgan Macpherson** Enviro-Dynamics **Lynn Baker** Canines for Wildlife
3:45-4:00	*Seeds Against Extinction: The Contribution of Seed Banking to Threatened Species Conservation*	**Dr. Rebecca Miller** Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
4:00-4:15	**Questions and discussion**	**Session presenters and audience**
4:15-4:45	**Symposium reflection and wrap up: What? So what? What now?** What have we learned? What do we still want to know? What needs to happen next?	**MC (Caitlin Griffith), invited experts and all participants**
4:45-5:00	**Overflow time**	**Session presenters and audience**

Symposium close

Thank you for attending the Victorian Threatened Plant Symposium

Presented by

Plant Conservation Australia

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

La Trobe University

Victoria State Government









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