



**AN ONLINE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL PROJECT  
CONSERVATION THROUGH CULTIVATION**

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**Project launched on 14th November 2013**

**Maria Hitchcock OAM**  
 Founder, Bulletin Editor

**Membership**  
 Individuals: 240  
 Groups: 22  
 International 3  
 Membership is free.  
 Please encourage others to join.  
 eBulletins are sent by email only.  
 Feel free to share them with friends and colleagues..  
 New members will receive the latest e-Bulletin. Earlier Bulletins can be accessed on our website. (See address above)  
 This is an informal interactive sharing group. We welcome your emails, articles and offers of seed and cuttings at any time.  
 Your privacy is respected and assured with this group. You may **unsubscribe** at any time.



*Hibiscus richardsonii*

Image: Michael Schwab Flickr

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**Unsure if you have any rare or endangered plants?  
Check them out on the EPBC list**

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=flora>

*Maria writes:*

Waiting, waiting, waiting! What a year this has been as we self-isolate, become anti-social, don masks in supermarkets and places where lots of people congregate and generally change our lives. It's not all doom and gloom however as many of us have discovered exercise, the bush, the value of good connectivity, Zoom meetings, our neighbours and what is really important for our happiness. We wait for an authentic and well-tested vaccine and for the borders to re-open.

Up here in northern NSW I am waiting for the much promised La Ninja to happen. So far there's not a peep. We are having a wonderful spring - best in years but September and October so far have been pretty dry. I am re-filling the big gaps in my large bush garden where the drought killed off many precious plants. Luckily I always take cuttings where possible before planting so have replacements.

We have had a few frosts this month which wiped out a few species that had survived all winter. Late frosts can be real killers targeting spring growth which is soft and vulnerable. With luck only the tips are damaged but I have seen whole plants die off. The classic of course is tomatoes. The chains are flooded with soft lush forced tomato plants from early September onwards. It is so tempting to put them in and some years people do get away with it. Often they need to be replaced if we have a September or October frost.

The same applies for endangered plants out of their normal climatic range. On the Tablelands we have problems keeping coastal plants alive for more than one season. Coastal gardeners have problems growing plants from dryer climates as they keel over and rot in the high humidity. We all try to compensate and look for ways to artificially change the immediate climate around each plant. Botanic Gardens spend much effort working out the ideal conditions for different species.

As our climate changes such information will become invaluable for commercial applications as well as scientific and recreational plant care. Work is now being done to document changes in flowering seasons, pollination and water requirements. No doubt we will lose some species along the way but not because of a lack of effort.

**Let's Celebrate!**  
**5th June**  
**World Environment Day**  
**2nd August**  
**National Tree Day**  
**1st September**  
**National Wattle Day**  
**7th September**  
**Threatened Species Day**  
**8-15th November**  
**Pollinator Week**

**Save our Flora**  
**PowerPoint Presentation**  
**Ready to go!**  
**30 slides approx 30 mins. talk**  
**If you are interested in obtaining**  
**this presentation**  
**please email me**  
**I can send it in an email (4.3MB)**

It then angers me greatly to hear of moves to water down legislation making it easier for economic vandals to destroy large tracts of valuable koala habitat for short term gain. Such habitat is also home to many recovering endangered plant species which remain hidden from publicity. We must do everything we can to support environmental activist groups fighting for the conservation of such areas. It seems crazy to me that one group is doing their utmost to preserve habitat while powerful groups work to destroy it. We must speak up and badger our politicians with whatever means is at our disposal. In the meantime we need to thank our wonderful koalas for leading the fight.

# Happy Wattle Day!

Mabel Lum September 1 2020

Happy Wattle Day! Find out more about Bioplatforms Australia's Golden Wattle project! <http://bioplatforms.com/news/golden-wattle-media-release/>

The Golden Wattle was chosen as one of the pilot reference genomes for the Genomics for Australian Plants project.

Webpage:

<https://www.genomicsforaustralianplants.com/>,

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PlantsAus>

**Genomics for Australian Plants** was initiated by Bioplatforms in partnership with researchers from the Australian State and National Herbaria and Botanic Gardens. The aim is to develop genomics resources to enhance our understanding of the evolution and conservation of the unique Australian flora.

Broadly, the key aims of the Initiative are:

- Sequence and assemble representative Australian plant genomes across across the plant tree of life to enable better conservation, utilisation and understanding of Australia's unique plant diversity;
- Build genomic capacity across Australian Botanic Gardens and Herbaria to create networks collaborating in the collection, management, dissemination and application of genomic data for Australian plants;
- Provide tools to enable genomic data to be used to identify and classify biodiversity at a range of scales and to use these tools to inform conservation management and enable better decision making.

For more information, please follow the links below:

- [Genomics for Australian Plants Bioplatforms webpage](#)
- [Genomics for Australian Plants Data Portal](#)
- [Genomics for Australian Plants Twitter](#)
- [Genomics for Australian Plants Open Science Framework \(consortium access only\)](#)

Is your garden  
a threatened species

**sanctuary?**

All you have to do is  
grow one or more

**endangered species**

Many are already  
widespread in gardens

**around Australia**

**Look for a nursery**

**licensed to sell**

**rare flora**



## Invasive Species Council

### Feral Animals threaten alpine sphagnum Bog recovery

*Feral Herald* 13 July 2020

**Victoria's alpine sphagnum bogs, burnt during the horrendous 2019-20 bushfires, won't recover without protection from feral animals, namely horses, deer and pigs, new research warns.**

Scientists from Victoria's Arthur Rylah Institute have warned that without "urgent management action to address these pervasive threats, many burnt bogs are likely to contract in size or disappear entirely".

Willows as well as feral animals need controlling.

The research found that around 20 per cent of the bogs in north-eastern Victoria were damaged by the fires. Many NSW alpine bogs were also burnt. Climate change has been blamed for the extreme nature of the fires, but recovery will depend on control of these invasive animals.

Sphagnum bogs are a threatened ecological community and a haven for native alpine plants. They provide significant habitat for a number of threatened species, including the southern and northern corroboree frog.

Alpine bogs in both Victoria and NSW are already under pressure from climate change and now the ongoing impacts from of the summer bushfires. Tackling climate change requires a global response. Reducing feral animal numbers in Australia's precious alpine ecosystems can be done by state and federal governments.

Victoria is moving ahead with feral horse control measures that will reduce horse impacts on sensitive alpine vegetation, but in NSW feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park are being protected through legislation and management options to reduce numbers are being thwarted.

All state governments that manage Australia's alpine ecosystems must heed the institute's warning:

"In the longer term, the threats posed by wide-ranging hoofed animals and environmental weeds across the alpine region will be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, hence alpine bogs must be buffered against known threats to maximise the chances that some of this important vegetation community can persist in an uncertain future."

## Australian National Herbarium

### *Sphagnum cristatum* Hampe

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2002/sphagnum-cristatum.html>



Sphagnum Moss Image: Cornwall Wildlife Trust

The genus *Sphagnum*, consisting of around 250 species, is one of the most commonly-used mosses in commercial industry. It belongs to the class Sphagnopsida and order Sphagnales and is the only member of the family Sphagnaceae. Six species of the genus are known from Australia, with *S. cristatum* being the most common.

*Sphagnum* peatlands make up only a small percentage of the Australian landscape and are a unique and distinct environment. The main distribution of the genus is along the east coast from southern Queensland through to Tasmania. However, it is also found in tropical to subtropical areas in northern Australia, as well as in southwestern Western Australia and southern South Australia. Alpine *Sphagnum* bogs and associated fens, found in permanently wet sites in high rainfall alpine, sub-alpine and montane areas of New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania, are listed as a threatened ecological community under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).



## Excellent Video on the Rainforest Seed Conservation Project

Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney  
Contributed by Victoria Tanner

Dr [Karen Sommerville](#) from the PlantBank at The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan presents her work in the video below.

The Rainforest Seed Conservation Project at the Australian PlantBank aims to increase our capacity to conserve rainforest plants by determining which species *can* be banked.

Australian rainforest plants have long been under threat from habitat fragmentation and invasive weeds and have recently been experiencing additional pressure from myrtle rust, drought and fire. These pressures have driven some species to the brink of extinction. Seed banking is one cost effective way to ensure vulnerable plants do not go extinct, but the assumption that many rainforest species are unlikely to survive the required drying and freezing has limited work in this direction.

The core of the Rainforest Seed Conservation Project at the Australian PlantBank work involves comparing the germination percentage of fresh seeds to seeds dried at 15% relative humidity and stored at -20°C. Species tolerant of drying but not freezing are further assessed using differential scanning calorimetry to determine optimum storage temperatures. In this seminar, I will present the results from testing over 300 species and discuss the difficulties encountered, the proportion of seeds that were suitable for standard or modified seed banking, and simple indicators that can be used to distinguish bankable from non-bankable seeds.

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Science/Virtual-science-seminars/The-Rainforest-Seed-Conservation-Project>

(35 mins)

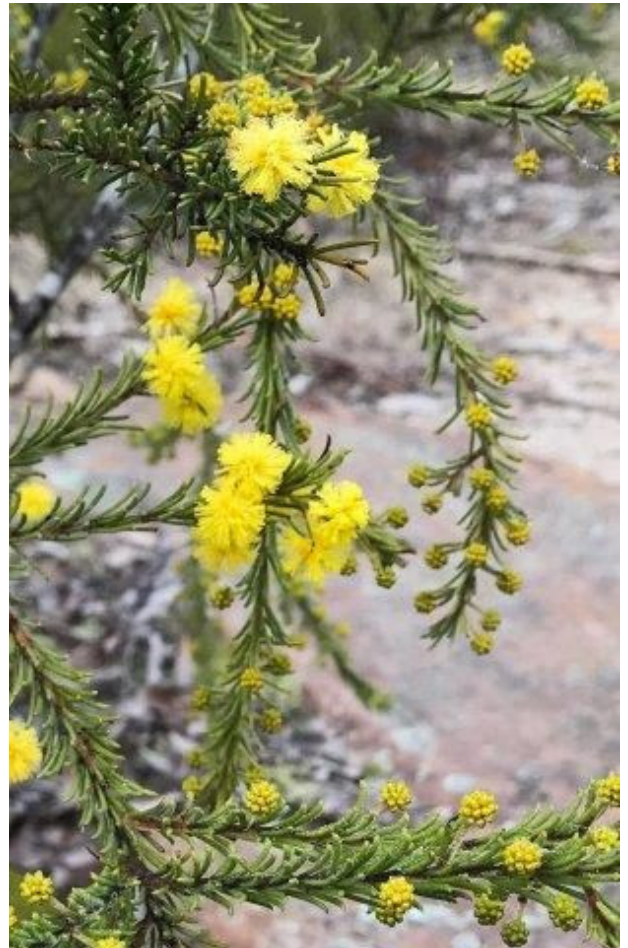
### In search of *Acacia gordonii*

Endangered

By Pip Gibian

APS News August 17, 2020

A group of eleven set out on a group bushwalk along the fire trail from the end of Neich Road, Glenorie in late July. To be on the safe side, we all wore face masks. Because of the doubtful weather forecast, the time was changed from afternoon to 9.30am – just as well – and we enjoyed a very pleasant morning in the bush.



*Acacia gordonii* detail Image: Pip Gibian

The main aim was to inspect the endangered species, *Acacia gordonii*, which is known to grow there. This little acacia, usually about 1 metre high, has single, very bright gold flower heads on long stalks. We were hoping that other species would be starting to flower this early in our native plant spring. We were certainly not disappointed. The fire trail runs along a rocky and sandy sandstone ridge top. The sparse tree cover was mostly *Corymbia eximia*. Large areas of rock shelf, with cracks and cervices, spread out on both sides of the track. This is the usual habitat of *Acacia gordonii*, and there was lots of it in small patches, now very obvious amongst other heath species. Out of flower it is hard to pick because most of the local heath plants there have small, thin leaves. One difference is that, on feeling the leaves, *A. gordonii* has hairy, very soft foliage, especially when young.

*This species is known from only a few locations and current information suggests the total number of individuals may be less than 2000, with only one population supporting greater than 400 individuals.*

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10015>

## Changes to EPBC Act

Lisa Cox

*Guardian Australia* environment reporter

Aug 28, 2020

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act is the centrepiece of Australia's environmental legislation. The laws aim to conserve and protect the environment, including wildlife, wetlands, world heritage sites and the Great Barrier Reef marine park.

They're used to determine what should be listed for protection, guide the recovery of species threatened with extinction, identify major threats to our environment, manage wildlife trade and decide whether development such as mining, urban expansion or agriculture clearing should proceed.

Every 10 years, the act is subject to an independent statutory review. The latest review, chaired by the former competition watchdog head Graeme Samuel, is happening now. In July, Samuel handed down an interim report with findings and recommendations. His final report is not due until October but the Morrison government is pursuing changes to the laws before that report is delivered.

Samuel's interim findings were damning. Australia's environment is in an unsustainable state of decline, he said, and our iconic places and species are under increasing threat from habitat destruction, climate change and invasive species. He found the act was ineffective and successive governments had failed to implement the law.

The threat to the laws now are in the federal government's haste to pass legislation that would weaken the national act before the final report is handed down in October.

Australia has the world's highest rate of mammal extinction and governments have failed to protect habitat, implement recovery plans for species facing extinction or address the biggest threats to our environment. This was the case even before the bushfire disaster of 2019-20,

which put more species and ecosystems in jeopardy.

Conservation groups are worried about what the possible changes to the EPBC Act will mean for the environment.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/WhctKJVzdNJqcmdRnKtXfhfJTJzgzHgnLTsRLJkWKMtHbhfKndDWIXxGKCRkKljRNWFxFzQ>

## What did Graeme Samuel recommend?

Lisa Cox

*Guardian Australia* environment reporter

Aug 27, 2020

The headline finding of the **interim report** was that Australia's environment is in an unsustainable state of decline and our iconic places and species are under increasing threat from habitat destruction, climate change and invasive species. He found the act was ineffective and successive governments had failed to implement the law.

His recommendations were for an overhaul of the laws that would occur in three phases. The foundation for the reform would be a new set of national environmental standards that are legally enforceable, with an independent regulator responsible for enforcement.

Samuel recommended the commonwealth devolve its approval powers under national law to the states and territories. This means state and territory governments would take responsibility for deciding whether to approve developments that affect nationally significant species, habitat and world heritage areas.

The purpose of this would be to reduce duplication of decision-making processes at federal and state level, which can slow assessments and make the system complex for developers to navigate. Samuel said clear national standards must form the basis for any transfer of powers.

[Read more](#)





### Commercial Flannel Flower business opportunity

I am trying to get out of running the flower farm (getting too old) but intend to still live here. I am trying to interest someone to take over the business. Bernice has suggested a form of 'employee share ownership scheme'.

The idea being that a young someone can work here and each year use their percentage of the profits towards taking over the farm business completely. This would aid someone interested in growing wildflowers but doesn't have sufficient capital to purchase land and establish the infrastructure ie. dams, irrigation, coldrooms, tractors, etc. Also purchase plants and wait a couple of years before they get any return.

I have had a couple of people interested but so far no commitment. If you know of anyone who might be interested, I would be grateful if you could let them know about our place, 'Adei wildflowers'. I would be working here to help with advice on plant selection, growing and marketing.

### Become a Native flower grower on the mid north coast of NSW

Established Wildflower farm producing cut flowers for the domestic and Japanese markets is seeking enthusiastic, native flower fanatic to take over the farm, growing, processing and distribution. An employee share ownership or leasing arrangement is proposed with no initial outlay of money.

The wildflower crops include:

- Banksia plagiocarpa
- Banksia robur
- Protea 'pink ice, Limelight, Venus'
- Waratahs 'Mirrigan, Corroboree, Bridal gown, Red centre, Brimstone early'
- Flannel flowers
- Foliage 'Acacia bailyana, Leptospermum morrisonii (Burgundy), Grevillea Ivanhoe'



Telopea 'Mirrigan' Image: Don Hitchcock

Harry Kibbler

23 Plover La Verges Creek NSW 2440  
(02) 6567 4266

Email: [harry.kibbler@skymesh.com.au](mailto:harry.kibbler@skymesh.com.au)

Facebook: 'Australian native flower growers'



## Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) News

August 2020

### Saving the threatened Audas Spider-orchid (*Caladenia audasii*) from extinction

*Caladenia audasii* has fewer than eight plants remaining in the wild, three of these fall within the Grampians National Park and associated reserves (two of which were discovered in community surveys in 2016). These plants urgently need supplementation to remain as viable populations into the future. With such low numbers left in the wild, the populations are not sustainable and every plant has critical importance for the long term recovery and genetic resources for this species.

Pollinator identification is also critical to manage the ecology of this species and reduce incidental harm to the pollinator through ignorance of its habitat requirements. *C. audasii* is endangered under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) and listed under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988).

The ANPC is working with the [Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria](#) (RBGV), [Friends of the Grampians Gariwerd](#) (FOGG) and the [Australasian Native Orchid Society \(Victoria Group\) Inc.](#) (ANOS) on this project between November 2017 and June 2021 to undertake fencing (to protect the plants from grazing by native and introduced herbivores), identify the pollinator for this orchid, undertake surveys for more plants, collect seed, propagate seedlings and re-introduce approximately 200 plants into the wild.

Under a previous grant, the ANPC worked with FOGG and RBGV to fence the one remaining *C. audasii* plant in a reserve near Stawell, an action which resulted in no grazing impacts and the first ever seed being collected for propagation. The RBGV then worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to propagate and re-introduce 50 plants back into another population near Bendigo.



*C. audasii* seedlings growing at the RBGV Orchid Conservation Program shadehouse.  
(Photo: Noushka Reiter)

### Available Propagators

The following people have indicated a willingness to work with projects that require good propagation skills. If you would like to be added to this list please let Maria know.

#### **Maria Hitchcock** Armidale NSW

Life member NSW - APS

Over 40 years propagating experience.

Cool Natives Online Nursery

<https://coolnativesnursery.com>

#### **Col Jackson**

Over 20 years propagating experience

Member of the Latrobe Valley APS Victoria

[coljackson57@hotmail.com](mailto:coljackson57@hotmail.com)

#### **Spencer Shaw**

We operate two nurseries,

Brush Turkey Enterprises Wholesale

[www.brushturkey.com.au](http://www.brushturkey.com.au) and

Forest Heart Eco-Nursery

[www.forestheart.com.au](http://www.forestheart.com.au)

and specialise in SE QLD native plants, particularly rainforest.

[spencer.shaw@brushturkey.com.au](mailto:spencer.shaw@brushturkey.com.au)

0428 130 769

#### **Helen Howard**

[grevillea.hh@gmail.com](mailto:grevillea.hh@gmail.com)

I have grafted Eucalypts, Grevilleas,

Eremophilas and Brachychitons. My

teacher was Merv Hodge. If any BG has a project I could help out with let me know.

## National Parks and Wildlife carry out pest removal to help native plants and animals recover from bushfires

Lithgow Mercury 3 August 2020

Efforts continue to remove pests from the Abercrombie River, Kanangara Boyd and surrounding national parks to help native plants and animals recover from last summer's bushfires. The large-scale aerial pest management operation was conducted across eight parks and reserves in the Lithgow, Oberon and Trunkey Creek areas. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Area Manager Angela Lonergan said close to 380 pest animals were removed.

"Mainly deer, foxes, goats and wild pigs. Our focus is to remove pest animals from these fire impacted landscapes to help protect and restore native wildlife populations," she said.

Ms Lonergan said pest animals had a significant impact on biodiversity values and predate on native animals that have survived the fires.

"They also degrade areas of bush trying to regenerate after the fires as their individuals browse and grazing impacts on vegetation and water quality," she said.

The operation removed 55 goats, pig and deer from the Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve which is home to the only known population of *Bossiaea fragrans*.

"*Bossiaea fragrans*, a pretty yellow-flowering shrub is a critically endangered species with only a handful of plants remaining in the wild," Ms Lonergan said.

"Now, more than ever its critical to protect these plants from grazing, particularly by goats."

The NSW Governments Saving our Species program supports NPWS pest management programs across this reserve and other post-fire conservation landscapes.

NPWS aerial pest management operations are carried out by highly trained staff and experienced pilots using fit-for-purpose helicopters. A second aerial pest management operation is planned for later this month.



*Bossiaea fragrans*

Image: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/>

## **Historical work Volunteers needed**

Ranger Jodie McGill is asking for volunteers to help with research and data entry for a historic heritage project.

Anyone interested can respond directly to Jodie via email to:

[Jodie.mcgill@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jodie.mcgill@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Science stimulates rare tree surge

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/science-stimulates-rare-tree-surge>

3 August 2020

The population of a critically endangered plant species only found on the NSW north coast has leapt from 10 to more than 1500 trees in just a decade. SoS Senior Threatened Species Project Officer Dianne Brown said thanks to clear-thinking scientists, NSW Government funding and the community, Coastal Fontainea (*Fontainea oraria*) now has a far better chance of surviving.

“In 2010 we had just 10 adult trees left – only one of which was female – and genetic testing on the seedlings showed inbreeding. Safeguarding Coastal Fontainea’s future was critical,” she said.

The NSW Government’s Saving our Species (SoS) program sought scientific advice from the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney on establishing viable populations – as a result, cuttings were taken from the 10 remaining trees and planted in small clumps across private and public land.

“Today, we have 1,564 Coastal Fontainea plants, some of which have grown to 5m tall. Many are now flowering, fruiting and producing seedlings with a broader genetic pool. We are thrilled with the results,” Ms Brown said.

The Garden’s Senior Principal Research Scientist, Dr Maurizio Rossetto said it was yet another positive case study demonstrating successful ecological restoration work backed by science.

“It’s an exciting outcome as we’ve taken a threatened species with a decreasing gene pool, and used simple genetic information to effectively turn the situation around and secure this species’ future,” Dr Rossetto said.

NSW Government funding has amounted to more than \$100,000 over 13 years, with the project led by SoS since 2015. Founding organisations were North Coast LLS and the Environmental Trust, and key project partners the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Bushland Restoration Services, Landmark

Ecological Services, Firewheel Rainforest Nursery, and local landholders.



*Fontainea oraria*

Image: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/>

**Coastal Fontainea** is a small evergreen tree which grows to around 8-10m in height and is only found on volcanic soils in the littoral rainforest near Lennox Head. It has shiny dark-green leaves and small white flowers.

## Fairy Wrens - Citizen Science Project

Contributing to the Fairy wren Project is easy!

You can become a citizen scientist by submitting sightings of fairy wrens through eBird, a widely-used and easily accessible online birding platform.

When you submit your sightings, include a little bit of extra information in the species comments about what you saw and together we can better understand these intriguing birds.

You can [read more here.](#)



## **A rare native, *Hibiscus richardsonii*, has been discovered on a burnt headland at Malua Bay**

Narooma News 11 August 2020

A native plant rarely seen before has risen from the ashes following the summer bushfires. A rare native, *Hibiscus richardsonii*, was discovered on a burnt headland at Malua Bay by Eurobodalla Shire Council weed officers.

Eurobodalla Council's environment team has been monitoring 14 sites across the shire to record the recovery of vegetation and monitor weeds. Consultant botanist Jackie Miles said the returning vegetation was a mixture of post-disturbance colonisers, which disappear once normal vegetation returns, and plants that formerly occupied the sites.

"Many Australian plants have evolved to cope with fire, recovering by re-sprouting or growing from seed," she said. "A rare native, *Hibiscus richardsonii*, was discovered on a burnt headland at Malua Bay, which was totally unexpected. I didn't even know this species existed until I started to identify the specimen I brought back - it was definitely exciting.

"There have been only four records from the far south coast so it's not common that's for sure."

Ms Miles also expects to see more of fellow post-disturbance coloniser fan-flower (*Scaevola aemula*), come spring.

"It's found on the headlands at Rosedale and Malua Bay and in the spring we expect to see bright purple, blue and mauve fan-flowers across the headlands," she said.

The 14 monitoring sites were set up in February to help Council understand how the local vegetation recovers after bushfire and ultimately assist in its management. In addition to identifying plant species, a photo is taken from a fixed point at each showing the visual change over time.

Ms Miles said the good news was that vegetation was bouncing back, depending on whether the main species in an area were re-sprouters or seed germinators.



*Hibiscus richardsonii*

Image: Michael Schwab Flickr

"The site behind Broulee Primary School is a good example of re-sprouters, where the main understorey was burrawangs and bracken, which bounce back really fast," she said.

"The species on the headlands at Rosedale and Malua Bay however are coming back from seed, so it's a little slower to respond." Weeds are also taking the opportunity to colonise the burnt ground.

"Sites that were weedy pre-fire remain weedy. The most common weedy species on the sites are exotic *Solanum* (Nightshade) species and Inkweed," Ms Miles said. "If people want to do some weeding they need to check before they start pulling things out. Make absolutely sure they are weeds."

## Threatened Species Day

### 7 September

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/saving-our-species-news/threatened-species-day>

National Threatened Species Day is commemorated across the country on 7 September to raise awareness of plants and animals at risk of extinction.

Australia is home to more than 500,000 animal and plant species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Over the last 200 years, more than 100 animal and plant species have become extinct.

In NSW alone there are close to 1000 animal and plant species at risk of extinction.

Threatened Species Day is when we turn the spotlight on native plants, animals, and ecosystems that are under threat and reflect on how we can protect them into the future.

The day also celebrates the amazing work that is being done to save them by passionate conservationists, researchers, volunteers, and community experts.

### Threatened Species Day events and activities

Find out what is happening near you or what you can do to get involved for National Threatened Species Day, 7 September 2020.

Volunteer online

Did you know you can help our threatened species from the comfort of your home? Through the [Seed Citizen Science Hub](#) you can safely explore environmental projects, connect with like-minded people and stay up to date with the latest citizen science projects and events.

### How is Saving our Species helping?

Watch about some of the recent *Saving our Species* projects and how they are helping NSW threatened plants and animals.

## About Threatened Species Day

Threatened Species Day was declared in 1996 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of the last remaining Tasmanian tiger (also known as the thylacine) at Hobart Zoo in 1936. Threatened Species Day is a time to reflect on what happened in the past and how similar fates to the thylacine could await other native plants and animals unless appropriate action is taken.

Watch [film clips of thylacines in captivity](#) that include the last film footage of the species.

### Why are threatened species important?

Saving threatened species is important for a healthy and diverse environment. Once plants and animals become extinct they are gone forever.

Today most species become threatened because of habitat destruction and the invasion of non-native species. With effective management almost all threatened species can be protected.

### Why promote threatened species?

Helping people understand the problems that cause plants and animals to become extinct can help us to effectively manage threatened species in NSW. Being aware of how our actions can increase the risk of species loss and curbing these activities will support conservation efforts to prevent species becoming extinct in the wild.

We encourage everyone, whether you are a scientist, an artist, a business person, a sportsperson, an educator, work for local government or just love plants and animals, to do something to celebrate National Threatened Species Day and our unique threatened wildlife.

**Celebrate**  
**Threatened Species Day**  
**7th September 2021**

**Note it on your calendar now and start planning an event for 2021.**

## Research reveals shocking detail on how Australia's environmental scientists are being silenced

Don Driscoll, Bob Pressey, Eceuan Ritchie, Noel D. Preece

*The Conversation* September 9, 2020

Ecologists and conservation experts in government, industry and universities are routinely constrained in communicating scientific evidence on threatened species, mining, logging and other threats to the environment, our new research has found.

Our study, [just published](#), shows how important scientific information about environmental threats often does not reach the public or decision-makers, including government ministers.

In some cases, scientists self-censor information for fear of damaging their careers, losing funding or being misrepresented in the media. In others, senior managers or ministers' officers prevented researchers from speaking truthfully on scientific matters.

This information blackout, termed "science suppression", can hide environmentally damaging practices and policies from public scrutiny. The practice is detrimental to both nature and democracy.

### Code of silence

Our online survey ran from October 25, 2018, to February 11, 2019. Through advertising and other means, we targeted Australian ecologists, conservation scientists, conservation policy makers and environmental consultants. This included academics, government employees and scientists working for industry such as consultants and non-government organisations.

Some 220 people responded to the survey, comprising:

- 88 working in universities
- 79 working in local, state or federal government
- 47 working in industry, such as environmental consulting and environmental NGOs
- 6 who could not be classified.

In a series of multiple-choice and open-ended questions, we asked respondents about the prevalence and consequences of suppressing science communication.

About half (52%) of government respondents, 38% from industry and 9% from universities had been prohibited from communicating scientific information.

Communications via traditional (40%) and social (25%) media were most commonly prohibited across all workplaces. There were also instances of internal communications (15%), conference presentations (11%) and journal papers (5%) being prohibited.

### 'Ministers are not receiving full information'

Some 75% of respondents reported having refrained from making a contribution to public discussion when given the opportunity – most commonly in traditional media or social media. A small number of respondents self-censored conference presentations (9%) and peer-reviewed papers (7%).

Factors constraining commentary from government respondents included senior management (82%), workplace policy (72%), a minister's office (63%) and middle management (62%). Fear of barriers to advancement (49%) and concern about media misrepresentation (49%) also discouraged public communication by government respondents. Almost 60% of government respondents and 36% of industry respondents reported unduly modified internal communications. One government respondent said:

*Due to 'risk management' in the public sector ministers are not receiving full information and advice and/or this is being 'massaged' by advisors (sic).*

University respondents, more than other workplaces, avoided public commentary out of fear of how they would be represented by the media (76%), fear of being drawn beyond their expertise (73%), stress (55%), fear that funding might be affected (53%) and uncertainty about their area of expertise (52%). One university respondent said:

*I proposed an article in The Conversation about the impacts of mining. The uni I worked at didn't like the idea as they received funding from (the mining company).*

[Read more](#)



## Seed and Cuttings Exchange

Please send all requests directly to the person making the offer or the group email

[saveourflora@gmail.com](mailto:saveourflora@gmail.com)

Please follow the correct protocols for requests of seed or cuttings. These are detailed on the next page. Please note that some species are in very short supply and cutting material may be limited.

### Maria Hitchcock

16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale NSW 2350

*Acacia pycnostachya*

*Boronia clavata*

*Boronia keysii*

*Correa eburnea*

*Correa calycina*

*Correa baeuerlenii*

*Callistemon pungens*

*Callitris oblonga*

*Grevillea iaspicula*

*Grevillea juniperina*

*Melaleuca irbyana*

*Phebalium daviesii*

*Phebalium speciosum*

*Prostanthera askania*

*Prostanthera cryptandroides*

*Prostanthera staurophylla*

*Zieria adenodonta,*

*Zieria prostrata,*

*Zieria floydii,*

I am also licensed to sell some endangered species through my online nursery. All are grown from seed and cuttings taken from established garden plants.

<https://coolnativesnursery.com>

### Arthur Baker

55 Moran ST Gatton Qld 4343

*Gardenia psidiodes*

*Grevillea quadricauda*

*Phaius tancarvilleae*

*Phaius australis*

*Kunzea flavescens*

*Kunzea graniticola*

*Lilaeopsis brisbanica*

*Choricarpia subargentea*

*Spathoglottis pauliniae*

*Spath plicata*

*Murdannia graminea*

*Thysanthus tuberosus*

### Charles Farrugia (email [saveourflora@gmail.com](mailto:saveourflora@gmail.com))

*Eremophila denticulata ssp trisulcata*

*Eremophila denticulata ssp denticulata*

*Eremophila nivea* (blue form)

*Eremophila nivea* (white form) - limited.

*Eremophila vernicosa* – extremely limited

Russell (email [saveourflora@gmail.com](mailto:saveourflora@gmail.com))

*Boronia clavata*

### Denise & Graeme Krake

752 Warrigal Range Rd. Brogo NSW 2550

Seed of

*Hakea dohertyi*, *Hakea ochroptera*

*Hakea longiflora*, *Grevillea maccutcheonii*

### Geoff & Gwynne Clarke

*Grevillea humifusa* - cuttings

*Angophora robur* - seed

*Dodonaea crucifolia* - cuttings or seed

This was named a couple of years ago by Ian Telford who came down from Armidale to look over our block. Many people were calling it *Dodonaea hirsuta*, but it is not very hairy and has no hairs at all on the fruits. It also grows in a nearby flora reserve. If people would like to try this I can make it available when the material is ready. I have grown it successfully from cuttings, but it does not live long after planting out. It also produces seed and I can collect that after the next flowering (spring fruits). It grows happily around the block, popping up from seed here and there, produces plenty of seed, but it is not long lived even when self sown. Fruits are showy reds.

### Bob O'Neill

7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South, Vic. 3805

I want to increase our range of *Lechenaultias* and *Correa pulchellas*. Can anyone help us out? Both of these groups of plants are doing well for us at Narre Warren South, Vic. I would be delighted to offer cuttings from our range to interested people. Some plants may be available to people who are able to come to our home address.

Paul Kennedy (Leader ANPSA Hakea SG) (email

[saveourflora@gmail.com](mailto:saveourflora@gmail.com))

I have seed of *Hakea dohertyi* and a large plant of *Hakea ochroptera* from which cutting material could be taken. I also have a plant of *Callistemon megalongensis* which has not flowered yet, but cutting material would be available in autumn. The seed originally came from the Melaleuca Study Group seed bank many years ago.

### Verna Aslin

20-22 Bega St Cobargo NSW 2550

*Asterolasia beckersii*

*Grevillea iaspicula*

*Do you have any EPBC plants growing in your garden with sufficient foliage to share cuttings with our members? Let me know and I'll print it here. It would be easier if we can add your address so that members can contact you directly. Please make sure you follow the protocols on the back page. (Ed)*

## Requesting and sending seed by post

Please follow these simple steps.

### Make a request

1. Send your request by email first. It will be forwarded to the grower so you can request seed and ask for the address.
2. Send your request enclosing a self-addressed envelope with two 60c stamps attached. Post the envelope.

### Send seed

1. When you receive an envelope with a seed request, package up the required seed which includes the name, provenance (if known) and date of collection. Add any tips on germinating the seed and post.

### Receiving seed

1. Seed should be stored in paper (small manilla seed packets are best but any cheap envelopes will do) and kept in a cool dark place. Some people use those small paper lolly bags and staple them at the top. Add mothballs if you like. This will prevent insect attack. I save moisture absorbers from medicine bottles and add them to my seed drawer to ensure the seeds do not rot.

Seed life varies according to species. Acacias will last for many years while Flannel Flower needs to be really fresh. Old seed may not germinate and needs to be thrown out. Test some of your seed periodically. It's worth asking seed suppliers for the age of certain species of seed before purchasing.

## Requesting and sending cuttings by post

Please follow these simple steps.

### Make a request

1. Send your request by email first. It will be forwarded to the grower so you can request cuttings and ask for the address.
2. Purchase an Express Post small satchel for \$10.55. it will hold up to 500 gms.
3. Self address your satchel and place it in an envelope with your cuttings request. Add a label/s with the name of the species and sender. Pencil is best for writing on labels.
4. Post the envelope.

### Send cuttings

1. When you receive an envelope with a satchel inside, cut about 6 stems of the requested species. The best time to do this is early morning. Store cuttings in the crisper part of the fridge until they are ready to be posted.
2. Wrap the cuttings in damp newspaper and place them in a clielok plastic bag. Make sure you label each parcel with the names of the species and sender. Squeeze air out of the bag and fasten top.
3. Put the bag in the satchel and post.

### Receiving cuttings

1. As soon as you receive your cuttings put the unopened plastic bag in the crisper part of the fridge until you are ready to prepare them.

## Group Members

### ANPSA Groups

APS Echuca Moama Vic  
 APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Vic  
 APS Sutherland NSW  
 NPQ Ipswich Qld  
 NPQ Sunshine Coast and  
 Hinterland Qld

### Botanic Gardens and Reserves

Burrendong Arboretum Wellington  
 Crommelin Native Arboretum  
 NSW  
 Hunter Regional BG NSW  
 Lindum Park Flora and Fauna  
 Res Tamworth Regional BG NSW  
 Swan Reserve Garden Vic

### Nurseries

Bilby Blooms Binnaway NSW  
 Cool Natives Armidale NSW  
 Mole Station Tenterfield NSW  
 Forest Heart Eco-Nursery SEQld

### Seed Suppliers

Victorian Native Seeds

### Study Groups

Acacia SG  
 Correa SG  
 Epacris SG  
 Garden Design SG  
 Grevillea SG  
 Hakea SG

### Landscapers

Brush & Bush Tamworth NSW