



# The Rare Bloom Project Final Report

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## 1 Executive summary

The Rare Bloom Project, a three-year partnership between WWF-Australia, and Botanica by Air Wick, in collaboration with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP), aimed to undertake a comprehensive national program of seed collecting, germination trials, propagation, reintroductions, and long-term seed banking to support the conservation of 120 Australian native plants. The project engaged eight ASBP partners across seven states and territories, leveraging a collaborative network of expertise and resources for effective nationwide implementation.

The ASBP conducted various activities over the project's three-year timeline including reconnaissance to assess seed availability post-fire, rapid flora assessments, germplasm collection, germination trials, and propagation for living collections and translocations. Supplementary funding allowed for three Woolworths threatened species activations, as well as the creation of a Student Research Scholarship. These initiatives enriched the project's impact, addressing specific conservation needs and contributing to scientific research.

The project faced difficulties, including weather conditions, issues with germplasm availability and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, the ASBP exceeded project targets, collecting germplasm for 153 species, conducting trials for 66 species, surveying 14 species, and propagating 11 species. In total, the project provided conservation support for 183 species.

This work has made a substantial contribution to *ex situ* plant conservation in Australia. The ASBP's achievements, spanning multiple states and territories, demonstrates our effectiveness in responding to environmental crises. The improved representation of native species in seed banks, enhanced conservation capacity, and contributions to restoration efforts helped to achieve the project's overarching goal of safeguarding Australia's unique plant biodiversity.

The Rare Bloom Project not only fulfilled its conservation objectives but also served as a platform for public awareness and education. By sharing project stories through various communication channels, the initiative has contributed to a better understanding of the critical role of *ex situ* conservation in responding to environmental threats.

The project's outcomes position it as a model for future conservation initiatives, showcasing the importance of collaboration, adaptability, and public engagement in securing Australia's diverse native flora.

## 2 Project overview

### 2.1 Introduction

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership is Australia's leading *ex situ* seed conservation collaboration for the long-term storage and research of Australia's native plant species. With seed banking partners in every state and territory, the partnership is a key driver of plant conservation effort across the country.

During the summer of 2019–20, Australia experienced an unprecedented series of bushfires, causing extensive damage to the natural environment. The fires burned almost 10 million hectares of land, an area roughly the size of Portugal. This included peatlands, rainforests, and alpine habitats, with many of the most adversely impacted areas having never experienced fires before or, if so, not with such intensity.

In response to this event, WWF-Australia and Botanica by Air Wick partnered to create The Rare Bloom Project™. This three-year initiative, in collaboration with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership, aimed to complete a comprehensive national program of proactive seed collecting, germination trials, propagation, reintroductions, and long-term seed banking to support the conservation of 120 Australian native plants.

### 2.2 Objectives

The project was guided by the following project objectives:

- To proactively conserve seed from Australia's native wildflowers for long term conservation, research, and restoration.
- To improve the representation and genetic diversity of native species held in seed banks.
- To strengthen *ex situ* conservation of threatened plant species in Australia by banking seed, establishing germination protocols, and aiding restoration efforts.
- To build capacity and knowledge of seed banks and conservationists.
- To support education of Australian public through communication activities.

### 2.3 Activities

#### 2.3.1 Original activities

Over the three years of the project, the Australian Seed Bank Partnership was contracted to undertake the following activities:

- Reconnaissance to establish flowering, fruiting, and seed availability, and gather data on the impact of fires and species recovery post fire.
- Rapid condition assessments of native flora to ascertain vegetation condition, species abundance, population size, pests and disease presence and impact etc.
- Germplasm collection (seed and/or cuttings).
- Germination trials to provide scientists with knowledge of how to germinate plants from seeds and enable propagation.
- Species propagated for reintroduction to the wild, and for living collections in botanic gardens under required permits and conditions.

The key performance indicators for these activities are summarised in Table 1, and related project outcomes are explored in section 4.1 of this report.

Table 1: Key Performance Indicators for the Rare Bloom Project.

	2021	2022	2023	Total (minimum)
Species collected	20-40	30-40	30-40	100
Species trialled/surveyed	10-20	10-20	10-20	30
Species planted	1	1	1	3
Species supported by the project				120

### 2.3.2 Additional activities

During the project, supplementary funding allowed the ASBP to undertake additional activities described below. Outcomes of this work is explored in section 4.2.

#### 2.3.2.1 Woolworths activations

Thanks to generous support provided by Woolworths, an additional \$120,000 allowed focussed conservation actions for one threatened species per year of the project. This included:

- the endangered Corunna Daisy (*Brachyscome muelleri*) in 2021,
- the endangered Bussell's Spider Orchid (*Caladenia busselliana*) in 2022, and
- the endangered Omeo Storksbill (*Pelargonium* sp. *Striatellum* (G.W.Carr 10345)) in 2023.

#### 2.3.2.2 Student Research Scholarship

In April 2022, WWF-Australia established a pop-up fundraising boutique in Sydney titled 'The Rare Bloom Florist'. The pop-up raised \$2,500 through the sale of species-themed art, with funds donated to the Partnership. This funding was allocated to a Student Research Scholarship to provide financial support for an Honours, Masters or PhD student to undertake germplasm-related research to support the conservation of Australia's native flora.

## 2.4 ASBP Partners

This project involved eight ASBP partners who worked across seven states and territories:

- Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ACT),
- The Australian PlantBank, The Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan, The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (NSW),
- National Seed Bank, Australian National Botanic Gardens (ACT and NT),
- South Australian Seed Conservation Centre, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium (SA),
- Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (TAS),
- The Victorian Conservation Seedbank, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (VIC),
- The Western Australian Seed Centre, Kings Park, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (WA)
- The Western Australian Seed Centre, Kensington, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (WA).

## 3 Challenges

### 3.1 Weather conditions

The major La Niña event in eastern Australia caused delays fieldwork during peak collecting seasons in 2021 and 2022. Access to many target areas was limited due to dangerous conditions and flooding. Delays meant that not all collection sites could be reached before seed had dispersed, which had some flow on effects to subsequent project activities. However, the flexibility to adjust target species to other regional priorities meant that alternative collections could be planned to avoid affected areas.

### 3.2 Germplasm availability

Given this project focussed on species that were heavily impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires, some partners discovered that populations of target species could not be located in the landscape, or that populations were not mature enough to allow for seed collection. Species recovery after the bushfires also modified the timing of historically regular flowering/seeding events of some target flora, with significant rainfall from the La Niña period also influencing the usual timing of these events. To counteract these issues, several opportunistic seed collections of other priority species were made where initial targets could not be collected.

For collections at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, the original project target list was revised to meet the expectations of the Anangu Traditional Owners. This also allowed the establishment of a productive and mutually beneficial relationship with First Nations people in the park for future plant conservation work.

### 3.3 COVID-19

In 2021 and 2022, ensuring compliance with organisational COVID-19 protocols significantly impacted some partners ability to initiate their activities, and to quickly respond to favourable environmental conditions and seeding events. Approvals to undertake field trips took additional time, and placed limits on the number of staff per vehicle, meaning more planning and resources were required than usual. Delays in starting the project, and limited access to resources (such as vehicles through fleets or hire car companies) meant that peak seeding was missed for some target taxa. Fortunately the project's three-year timeline allowed for activities to be completed in the later years.

## 4 Outcomes

Outcomes against the original and additional activities are described below, with total project outcomes summarised Table 2, Attachment A and Attachment B.

### 4.1 Original activities

#### 4.1.1 *Reconnaissance*

To determine target species, the Partnership undertook extensive analysis of the information held by seed banks, botanic gardens, and herbaria, including new data gathered following the fires. This information was considered in concert with bush fire impact and prioritisation data released by government and academia. Consultations also occurred with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the Threatened Species Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel to determine high priority species at the national level. The prioritisation of species at both the national and regional levels assisted seed banks to target their efforts. Once target lists were developed, partners monitored plant growth and flowering to ensure the timing of collecting trips coincided with optimum seed availability.

#### 4.1.2 *Rapid flora assessments*

Surveys of target areas and species help to ascertain vegetation condition, abundance, population size, as well as the impacts of pests and disease. These flora surveys also provided seed banks and conservation agencies with data on the impact of fires and species recovery. This data enables prioritisation of seed collecting across the surveyed areas, and informs bushfire response and management into the future. Under this project, the ASBP completed 14 rapid flora assessments for 14 species.

#### 4.1.3 *Germplasm collections*

Germplasm collections provide insurance for Australia's native taxa against future loss from environmental crisis. Collections ensure the genetic material is represented and secured in long-term *ex situ* conservation seed banks, providing opportunities for future proactive conservation and research. If a species is threatened in future years, actions can be taken to reverse species declines in the wild by utilising collections to bolster populations. Part of this work involved the collection data on seed abundance, quality and viability, and lodgement of botanical specimens with relevant jurisdictional herbaria. This improves knowledge of species distribution and will inform future threat assessments and management. Under this project, the ASBP completed 262 collections for 153 native plants species. This includes 73 species listed under state/territory environmental legislation, and 40 listed under Commonwealth environmental legislation.

#### 4.1.4 *Germination trials*

Germination trials provide knowledge about the viability of a collection and unveil the process to germinate plants from seeds. Each species has specific cues that stimulate them to germinate. Some may only require moisture, while others may require physiological treatments such as heat, scarification, or even chemical treatments such as smoke or acid baths. Seeds may also require prolonged day/night temperature cycles to stimulate germination. It is therefore critical that following collection, germination protocols are developed and documented for each species.

Partners undertook germination trials for both new and existing collections to test collection viability and document species germination protocols. In the future this will allow seed banks to germinate as many of the seeds as possible if required for restoration and management of bushland areas. Under this project, the ASBP completed 218 trials for 66 species, establishing germination protocols for 56 of these.

#### 4.1.5 Propagation and use

*Ex situ* plant conservation expands beyond purely seed banking, with live plants being propagated from seeds or cuttings to establish living collections and seed production areas. These collections allow controlled research into aspects of the species biology, as well as providing the opportunity to collect further seed for banking and research. This is particularly important for species with small wild populations, or that have a naturally low reproductive output. Plants that are propagated can also translocated back to the wild to create insurance populations in new areas. These safe havens are an effective conservation tool in case the original population is impacted by disturbances from fire, flood or disease.

Under this project, the ASBP propagated 11 species for *ex situ* conservation purposes including establishing:

- living collections in the ACT, NSW and WA for four species (*Actinotus forsythii*, *Caladenia busselliana*, *Olearia quercifolia*, *Pelargonium* sp. Striatellum (G.W.Carr 10345))
- a seed production area in SA for four species (*Brachyscome muelleri*, *Cheiranthra volubilis*, *Mentha atrolilacina*, *Podolepis jaceoides*), and
- translocations in SA and WA for five species (*Brachyscome muelleri*, *Caladenia busselliana*, *Coronidium gunnianum*, *Phebalium calcicola*, *Swainsona pyrophila*).

#### 4.1.6 Communications

Key to our cause is the sharing of knowledge and data to support environmental decision-makers and on-ground practitioners to implement conservation strategies, policies and programs. The Partnership also works across various communication platforms to increase awareness seed banking, improve our stakeholder engagement and generate support to allow our work to continue. The ASBP contributed communications pieces related to the project including:

- the development of educational videos by our partners at the Australian Network for Plant Conservation which show how [seed collections are used for translocation](#), and how [Botanic Gardens play a crucial role in conservation for Australian native plants](#).
- sharing more than 30 project related stories through the ASBP social media channels,
- publishing five articles in the [Australasian Plant Conservation Bulletin](#) that referenced the project.
- hosting three planting days for WWF and Reckitt staff, providing educational experiences about the importance of plant conservation.
- Participating in a project-related interview on ABC New England Northwest Breakfast Radio in December 2023.



## 4.2 Additional activities

### 4.2.1 Woolworths activations

**2021 Corunna Daisy activation:** The endangered Corunna Daisy (*Brachyscome muelleri*) is known from only one known location on the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia. It is threatened in the wild by invasive weeds and grazing by livestock, rabbits and goats. To help conserve this species, seed that had been previously banked at the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre was propagated and 500 plants were established in a Seed Production Area at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. The plants flowered producing over 55,000 seeds that were collected, banked and propagated again. An additional 250 plants were also successfully translocated into a South Australian nature reserve, securing a crucial insurance population for the species.



Corunna Daisy  
(*Brachyscome muelleri*).  
Credit: Jenny Geurin.

**2022 Bussell's Spider Orchid activation:** The endangered Bussell's Spider Orchid (*Caladenia busselliana*) was previously known from just 13 individuals in the Busselton region of southwest Western Australia. Support from this project allowed staff at Kings Park and Botanic Garden to successfully germinate this species from seed that was collected in 1999. The germinants were carefully nurtured in the garden nursery while habitat surveys were conducted to detect orchid pollinators and identify appropriate translocation sites. When a site was located and the orchids were old enough, 216 plants were successfully translocated, safeguarding the survival of this species. A number of the orchids were also planted in the conservation garden at Kings Park as an education tool for visitors.



Bussell's Spider Orchid  
(*Caladenia busselliana*).  
Credit: Belinda Davis.

**2023 Omeo Storksbill activation:** The endangered Omeo Storksbill (*Pelargonium* sp. *Striatellum* (G.W.Carr 10345)) is restricted to only four locations in NSW. It lives within a narrow habitat just above the high-water level of lakes and is threatened by grazing pressure in its habitat, infestation of invasive weeds, and land use changes. In 2023, staff at the Australian National Botanic Gardens undertook a suite of conservation activities for this species. This included undertaking seed collections from wild populations for research and conservation banking; testing seed germination and propagation methods to develop the first documented seed germination and plant propagation protocols for this species; and propagating plants and establishing a living collection at the Botanic Gardens. A germination and propagation fact sheet for this species was also developed and is available at Attachment C.



Omeo Storksbill  
(*Pelargonium* sp.  
*Striatellum* (G.W.Carr  
10345)). Credit: Bradley  
Desmond.

### 4.2.2 Student Research Scholarship

The ASBP allocated funds donated from the Rare Bloom Florist pop-up to a Student Research Scholarship. In late 2022 the Partnership ran an open expression of interest process, and after evaluation of the applications, Ms Rebecca Jonas was selected as the scholarship recipient. The scholarship supported Ms Jonas during her 2023 Honours project, which aimed to improve our understanding of how seeds age under different storage conditions, and to develop better methods of modelling seed ageing to support the conservation of Australia's native flora. Ms Jonas completed her project in collaboration with the University of Western Australia and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, discovering important knowledge for 13 native plants species. A summarised version of the research can be found in Attachment D.

Table 2: Outcomes by activity for the Rare Bloom Project.

Activity	Target	Project outcome
Species collected	100 sp.	153 sp. (262 collections)
Species trialled	30 sp.	66 sp. (218 trials)
Species surveyed		14 sp. (14 surveys)
Species propagated for use	3 sp.	11 sp. (11 planted)
Research Scholarship species	1 sp.	13 sp. (13 supported)
<b>Total species supported by the project</b>	<b>120 sp.</b>	<b>183 sp.</b>

## 5 Partner highlights

This section describes the project highlights for the eight ASBP partners contracted under this project.

### 5.1 Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC)

A noteworthy highlight for the Australian Network for Plant Conservation was the production of two educational plant videos to coincide with the release of the [Australian Germplasm Conservation Guidelines](#). The Germplasm Guidelines are a joint publication of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation and the Australian Seed Bank Partnership, that showcase the latest techniques, literature and procedures for optimising germplasm storage and use. They are intended for conservation agencies, scientists, seed banks, nurseries and those interested in applied plant biology.

The videos served as a dynamic educational tool, offering insights into the intricate world of seed conservation, propagation, and the crucial role played by Botanic Gardens. Not only did they contribute to the Rare Bloom Project's overarching objectives, but they exemplified the ANPC's commitment to disseminating valuable information, empowering stakeholders, and promoting a broader appreciation for the importance of preserving Australia's unique plant diversity.

The two videos can be viewed on the ASBP's [Rare Bloom Project webpage](#).

## 5.2 The Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan, The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (RBGDT)

In 2023, 100 seeds of the Oak Leaved Olearia (*Olearia quercifolia*) were propagated at the Australian Botanic Gardens (ABG). Of these, 60 plants were successfully germinated to be used at a restoration planting on the 18th of October 2023.

The planting day was a successful event led by the ABG Seed Bank and Horticulture teams. Staff from Reckitt spent the day at ABG helping to plant tubestock in the Connections Garden, as well learning about the conservation work undertaken at the gardens, including the Living Collection and Seed Bank collection, and were given a tour of the facilities.

Feedback from Reckitt was overwhelmingly positive: "the day was incredibly informative and we had a really engaging and educational time – a really fantastic opportunity to hear more about the impact projects like this one can have in practice, and get a broader understanding of the work the team are doing at Mt Annan." – Laura Somers (Reckitt).



*Olearia quercifolia* planting day at the Australian Plant Bank, October 2023. Credit: Nathan Emery.

## 5.3 National Seed Bank, Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG)



*Charmaine Paddy, seed sorting at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, September 2023. Credit: Liv Schmidt.*

In an effort to include Northern Territory flora in the project, the National Seed Bank (NSB) travelled to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Collecting seed alongside Anangu Traditional Owners was a major highlight of this project and important for the NSB's ongoing conservation work at the park. Through this project, staff began building relationships with Anangu people to undertake seed collecting in a respectful way, and to provide opportunity for two-way-learning. This resulted in a successful collecting trip that has laid the groundwork to develop further plant conservation projects and exchange additional further skills in the future.

Another highlight of this project was making the first *ex situ* conservation collections of mistletoe species in Australia. Mistletoe seed science is largely unstudied despite the taxa being fundamental in ecosystem function across most Australian landscapes. In Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, with the help of Anangu Mala Rangers, seeds were collected for four mistletoe species: *Lysiana exocarpi*, *Amyema preissii*, *Amyema maidenii* and *Amyema sanguinea* as part of the project. Banking seeds of these species provides the opportunity to investigate their seed biology and ecology and improve their *ex situ* conservation.



## 5.4 South Australian Seed Conservation Centre, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium (BGSB)

The South Australian Seed Conservation Centre held a workshop in early 2023 for Yorke Peninsula farmers to discuss threatened flora in and around their properties. This included a field excursion to a remnant woodland on a farm property that contained many rare orchids and other threatened species. The workshop received great engagement and resulted in attendees discovering a new population of the endangered Large Club Spider-orchid (*Caladenia macroclavia*) in the days following. This is the fourth known and now largest known population for this endangered and endemic. A seed collection was made from this population, and its protection is now being coordinated by the farmers that made this discovery.



(Flower of the endangered Large Club Spider-orchid (*Caladenia macroclavia*). Credit: Daniel Duval

## 5.5 Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG)



*Paraprasophyllum limnetes* seedling  
Credit: Priscilla Richards.

This project provided the opportunity to establish the first successful germination protocols for two Tasmanian Leek Orchids - *Paraprasophyllum limnetes* and *Paraprasophyllum pulchellum*. While germination percentages are low, as commonly found when using symbiotic propagation leek orchid species, the use of these protocols will allow the establishment of seed orchards and growth of plants for translocation purposes for these species over time. This is especially important for *Paraprasophyllum limnetes* which is known from a single site with less than 20 plants.

## 5.6 The Victorian Conservation Seedbank, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RTBG)

A specific highlight for the Victorian Conservation Seedbank was the relocation of mature, unburnt plants of the lemon scented Zieria (*Zieria citriodora*), and the banking of a small but important seed collection from these. At least 50 per cent of the geographic range this species was impacted by the 2019–20 fires and the last herbarium collection of this vulnerable species was made in 1988. Post-fire recruitment from seed was observed which indicates that the population is likely to persist, and an *ex situ* living collection has been established at RBGV's nursery from cuttings taken for vegetative propagation, supporting further seed collections into the future.



*Zieria citriodora* flowering. Credit: © nomennudum.

## 5.7 The Western Australian Seed Centre, Kings Park, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA)



DBCA staff translocating dormant tubers.  
Credit: Natasha Moore

A highlight from Kings Park was the work on the Bussell Spider Orchid (*Caladenia busselliana*). A germination protocol was developed to grow previously banked seed. Germinants were then grown in the Kings Park Science Seed Orchard, and additional seeds were collected from them during this time. In November 2022, a living collection was established at the gardens to educate the public and act as an insurance population.

To inform a wild translocation for this species, Kings Park staff completed surveys for seven potential sites to detect appropriate pollinators and habitat. This informed the selection of a translocation site where a total of 216 plants were planted and herbivore proof fencing was installed in march 2023. Plants will continue to be monitored for re-emergence and survival into the future.

## 5.8 The Western Australian Seed Centre, Kensington, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

This project facilitated the collection of two fire ephemeral species, *Gyrostemon reticulatus* and *Androcalva adenothalia*. This was the first time a conservation seed collection of *A. adenothalia* had been made, and was the first seed collection of *G. reticulatus* from this population. Being fire ephemeral species, their persistence in the landscape as living plants is short-lived after a fire event. The timing of this project coincided with a time when the number of mature, seeding plants of both species was high, enabling good collections of both species to be made. When this same population was visited this year, it was found that there are now no plants of either species remaining from which seed could have been collected.



*Androcalva adenothalia* in flower.  
Credit: Andrew Crawford

## 6 Financial expenditure

Funding was allocated to eight partners under this project for the activities outlined in Table 3. All funding was expended by the end of the project. A more detailed breakdown of budget can be found in Attachment B.

In total, the ASBP contributed \$288,606.30 in-kind support for the project.

*Table 3: ASBP financial expenditure and in-kind contributions for the Rare Bloom Project*

Activity	Budget	Expenditure	In-kind Expenditure
Rapid flora assessment	\$27,000.00	\$7,200.00	\$12,150.00
Germplasm collection	\$297,573.25	\$320,261.72	\$134,814.93
Germination trials	\$48,426.75	\$50,426.75	\$60,247.55
Administration, reporting & communications	\$56,000.00	\$51,463.95	\$25,236.82
Propagation and use	\$19,500.00	\$20,040.00	\$40,160.00
Equipment and supplies	\$1,500.00	\$607.58	\$200.00
Woolworths Activations	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$2,500.00
Student Scholarship	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	-
Non contracted activities	-	-	\$13,297.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$572,500.00</b>	<b>\$572,500.00</b>	<b>\$288,606.30</b>



## 7 Conclusions

The Rare Bloom Project supported the ASBP to complete critical *ex situ* plant conservation work across seven states and territories. The representation and genetic diversity of native species held in seed banks has been improved through 262 collections for 153 species, providing a long-term *ex situ* insurance policy for priority flora in the event of future threats.

This initiative has also improved the conservation capacity of seed banks and conservationists through knowledge gained from flora surveys of 14 species, germination trials of 66 species, and research on seed longevity for 13 species. This information will enable better prioritisation of flora conservation effort and inform management decisions leading to better preparedness and response to future threats.

The project also aided restoration efforts, through the propagation and use of 11 species for living collections, seed production areas and translocations. While a smaller part of the overall project, this has made a significant contribution to the long term conservation, research, and restoration of the propagated species.

Stories from the Rare Bloom Project were also used to improve public awareness of the importance of *ex situ* conservation collections in the response to threats, and provided education opportunities to achieve our vision where Australia's native plant diversity is valued, understood and conserved for the benefit of all.

In conclusion, the Rare Bloom Project emerges not only as a successful response to the ecological upheaval caused by the 2019–20 bushfires but as a beacon of hope for the future of Australian plant conservation. The collaborative efforts of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership, WWF-Australia, and Botanica by Air Wick have not only surpassed set targets but have also left an indelible mark on the landscape of *ex situ* conservation.

Beyond the KPI's and outcomes, this project underscores the resilience and adaptability required in the face of environmental challenges. As we reflect at the project's end, this work stands as a testament to the power of partnership, the importance of proactive conservation, and the collective responsibility we bear in safeguarding the rich tapestry of Australia's native plant heritage for generations to come.

## 8 Attachments

Attachment A Rare Bloom Project – Final Schedule 2+3 Report

Attachment B Rare Bloom Project – Final Data Report

Attachment C Rare Bloom Project – Omeo Storksbill germination fact sheet

Attachment D Rare Bloom Project – Student Research Scholarship Report