

Australasian Seed Science Conference 2025
MONDAY 22 September 2025 - THURSDAY 25 September 2025
Church of Christ Conference Centre, Horsham

As at 18 September 2025

Monday, 22 September 2025

Barangaroo Boutique Wines

Welcome Reception

Barangaroo Boutique Wines

928 Plush Hannans Road, Lower Norton via Horsham VIC

**18:30 -
20:30**

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Tuesday, 23 September 2025

	Auditorium 1	Maydale Pavilion Horsham Showground
08:30	Opening Session	
08:30	Welcome From The Australian Grains Genebank/australian Seed Bank Partnership Sally NORTON, Kathryn EYLES	
08:35	Welcome to Country Aunty Annie NIKKELSON	
08:50	Welcome to Horsham By Tony Gregson	
08:55	Celebrating 25 years of the Millenium Seed Bank Partnership in the Australasian Region and Beyond Aisyah FARUK & Cathy OFFORD	
09:30	Keynote: Indigenous Food Sovereignty – Nation Building Pathways <i>Chairperson: Elizabeth Mace</i>	
09:30	Chair Person's Introduction Elizabeth MACE	
09:40	Indigenous Food Sovereignty – Nation Building Pathways Jacob BIRCH	
10:10	Morning Tea	
10:40	Seeds in Culture and Society <i>Chairperson: Elizabeth Mace</i>	
10:40	82: Victorian Traditional Owner Native Food and Botanicals Protocol Reece O'BRIEN	
11:00	16: Negotiating The Regime Complex of Access and Benefit Sharing Laws and Sustaining Valuable in Situ and Ex Situ Germplasm Collections Charles LAWSON	
11:10	17: The Australian Plant Breeder's Rights Act 1994 (cth) and How It is Used for Australian Native Plants Charles LAWSON, Catherine PICKERING	
11:20	14: An Ethical Framework to Manage Demand for Seed Cathy OLIVE	
11:30	Yarning Circle - First Nations Leading in Native Grains	
11:40	Questions	
12:00	Regional perspectives and collaborations on seed-banking <i>Chairperson: Sally Norton</i>	
12:00	Session Introduction	
12:05	73: Reinvigorating a National Genebank in Vanuatu for Ex-situ Seed Conservation Steglar TABI AGA	
12:25	71: Seed Conservation of Amorphophallus Titanum (becc.) Becc. Ex Arcang Dian LATIFAH, Hary WAWANGNINGRUM, Esti MUNAWAROH, Harto HARTO	
12:35	55: Natural forest Seed Collection for Banking (papua) New Guinea's Least Explored Tree Species Gibson SOSANIKA, Kate HARDWICK	
12:45	5: Conserving Pollen in a Conventional Seed Bank: a Case Study On a Critically Endangered Hawaiian Species Jena OSMANI, Laulea MIIKE, Cecily ELTRINGHAM, Dustin WOLKIS	
12:55	Lunch	
13:45	Keynote: Restoring Nature – What of Sector Capacity, Seed Supply and Motivating People	
13:45	Restoring Nature – What of Sector Capacity, Seed Supply and Motivating People Paul GIBSON-ROY	
14:15	Panel: The Need for Seed: Tackling Native Seed Supply for Our Restoration Sector	
14:20	3: Empowering Communities and Incentivising Seed Collectors: Addressing Seed Shortages Through Innovative Programs Eleanor FOX	
14:30	15: Native Seed Supply in South Australia: Challenges, Innovations, and Pathways for Seed-based Restoration Andrew Randell FAIRNEY	
14:40	45: Establishing Genomic Knowledge Infrastructure to Support Seed Sourcing, Seedbank Management and Seed End Use Strategies. Maurizio ROSSETTO, Marlien VAN DER MERWE	

14:50	89: Challenges for Djarra Native Seed and Protecting Native Malak, Cultural Protocols for Sourcing, First Nations Leading Restoration On Djandak Country Nathan WONG	
15:00	Discussion and Questions	
15:15	Afternoon Tea	
15:35	Seed Sourcing and End Use <i>Chairperson: Megan Hirst</i>	
15:35	54: Building Resilience into Native Seed Supply in a Rapidly Changing World: From Wild Collections to Seed Production areas Melinda PICKUP, Edward TSEN, Bayden SMITH, Samantha CRAIGIE, Bryony LEWIS, Peter YOUNG	
15:55	1: Increasing Native Grassland Diversity Through a Threatened Species Seed Production area Ben ZEEMAN	
16:05	41: How Big is Your Seed Orchard? - Practical issues of Design, Planning and Management for Successful Seed Production. Richert AHLERS, Nigel ENGLAND, Sarah WHITFELD, David BUSH	
16:15	36: Assessing The Genetic Diversity and Representativeness of Seed Production Areas. Marlien VAN DER MERWE, Maurizio ROSSETTO, Jason BRAGG, Natasha LAPPIN, Tricia HOGBIN	
16:25	56: Can Rain Shelters Improve Harvest Yields in Seed Production Areas Sophia BLOSFELDS, Delpratt JOHN, Jake DUYYESTYN, Mandy ZHANG, Nicholas WILLIAMS	
16:30	52: Restoring Ecosystem Climate Resilience (re-clim) Paul RYMER	
16:50	49: The Search for Seed: Supporting forest Seed Collection With a High-resolution Predictive Model Sean WALSH, Raphael TROUVE, Craig NITSCHKE	
17:00	69: Strategies for Collection of Genetically Diverse Germplasm When Seed availability is Limiting. a Case of Critically Endangered Herb, <i>Ballantinia antipoda</i> . Stanislaw WAWRZYCZEK	
17:10	74: The Development of a Strategy for The Collection and Storage of Seed for Species Native forest Restoration Following Major Repeat Disturbance Bill PAUL	
17:20	Close of Day	
17:30	Close of Day: Wrap Up and Housekeeping	
19:00		Conference Dinner
19:30		Introducing The 150 Km Feast Andrea CROSS
19:40		The Conservation Generation: Raising Rarity and Sowing The Seeds of Wonder Megan HIRST
19:50		Indigigrow Seeds to Success - Connecting Young People to Country Through Plants Peter COOLEY
22:00		Conference Dinner Concludes

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Wednesday, 24 September 2025

	Auditorium 1	Auditorium 2	Victoria Hotel Horsham, The Mill Room
08:25	Welcome and Housekeeping		
08:25	Welcome and Housekeeping Sally NORTON, Elizabeth MACE		
08:35	Seed Biology and Ecology <i>Chairperson: David Merritt</i>		
08:35	72: Genetic Variation for Protein Content and Seed Size in Diverse Pulse Germplasm Collections Cassandra WALKER		
08:45	23: Seed Morphological Traits and Its Relationship With Protein and Starch Content of Diverse Pea Germplasm Amrit B K		
08:55	57: Using Rna integrity to inform The Curation of Wild Plant Seeds in Conservation Seed Banks Lauren MURFIT, Emma DALZIELL, David MERRITT, Jacqueline BATLEY		
09:05	9: Applied Seed Biology for The Conservation and Restoration of Western Australia's Biodiverse Flora Emma DALZIELL, Wolfgang LEWANDROWSKI, Todd ERICKSON, Emily TUDOR, David MERRITT		
09:15	Keynote: What Happens When A Genome Wakes Up: Gene Regulation During Seed Germination		
09:15	What Happens When a Genome Wakes Up: Gene Regulation During Seed Germination. Mathew G LEWSEY		
09:45	Questions		
09:55	Morning Tea		
10:25	Seed Biology and Ecology <i>Chairperson: David Merritt</i>		
10:25	18: Seed Biology of 12 Fire-affected Subalpine Herb and Shrub Species Raise Concerns Regarding Their Ex Situ Conservation Gemma HOYLE, Lydia GUJA		
10:35	50: The Role of Snowmelt Timing in Alpine Seed Germination Strategies Sally NEESER, Susanna VENN		
10:40	32: Germination of Subalpine Rutaceae James WOOD, Gemma HOYLE		
10:50	42: Seedling Emergence in Grassy Woodlands: influences of Microhabitat Conditions Chaminda Bandara Alahakoon ALAHAKOON ARACHCHILAGE, R.h. NOLAN, C.a. OFFORD, M.k.j. OOI, P.d. RYMER		
11:00	59: Differential Responses of Seeds of Wild Australian Plant Species Under Open Versus Hermetic Rapid Ageing Conditions. Rebecca JONAS, Emma DALZIELL, Fiona HAY, Erik VENEKLAAS, David MERRITT		
11:10	37: Effect of Cold and Smoke Water Pre-treatment On Germination of 30 Species of Eucalypt (genera Angophora Cav., Corymbia K. D. Hill & L. A. S. Johnson, and Eucalyptus L' Hér) Antoinette PORTELLI, Peter VESK, Suzie REICHMAN		
11:20	40: Variation in Dormancy Characteristics Among 18 Taxa in The Family Rhamnaceae With Contrasting Distributions Across Victoria Rebecca MILLER		
11:30	33: Comparing Ex-situ Seed Longevity for 24 Victorian Temperate Grassland Species. Candice FARRUGIA-ROBERTS, Gemma HOYLE, Joanne BIRCH, Isis AREND DA SILVA, Rebecca MILLER		
11:40	22: Ecophysiology of Seed Dormancy and Germination of Hibbertia to Inform Seed Propagation for Ecological Restoration Savuti HENNINGSEN, Todd ERICKSON, David MERRITT		
11:50	2: Impacts of Shifting Fire Season On Different Seed Dormancy Types Alexandria THOMSEN, Rick DAVIES, Mark OOI		
11:55	Questions		
12:00	Lunch Break		
12:15		Mentor/Mentee Session	
13:00	Keynote: Understanding Seed Longevity to Improve Conservation Outcomes		

	<i>Chairperson: Kioumars Ghamkhar</i>		
13:00	Understanding Seed Longevity to Improve Conservation Outcomes Fiona HAY		
13:30	Questions		
13:40	Seed and Gene Bank Management		
	<i>Chairperson: Kioumars Ghamkhar</i>		
13:40	66: Towards Smarter Genebank Management: insights From Genotyping Core Crops in The Australian Grains Genebank Luisa TEASDALE, Gabriel KEEBLE-GAGNERE, Sally NORTON, Nicole SAWYER, Eve BARNES, Kerrie FORREST, Debbie WONG, Matthew HAYDEN		
14:00	64: Unlocking 60 Years of Historic Observation Data in The Australian Pastures Genebank Negar NIKMANESH, Kevin FOSTER, Lindsay BELL, Alan HUMPHRIES		
14:10	38: Long-term Longevity of Orthodox Tree Seed Stored for Decades at Room Temperature David BUSH, Sarah WHITFIELD, Nigel ENGLAND, Bronwyn CLARKE, Tasha JAMES, Richert AHLERS, Emily HARPER		
14:20	20: Remote and Temporary Seed Banking: Case Studies From The National Seed Bank Tom NORTH		
14:30	6: Safeguarding Seed Longevity: Enhancing Efficiency in The Australian Grains Genebank Katherine BAUM, Erica STEADMAN, Brynie WEBB, Sally NORTON, Matthew HAYDEN		
14:40	63: How Important is Your Seed? Experiences With Prioritising Value in a Large Seed Collection Alan HUMPHRIES, Jiang Chee TAY, Negar NIKMANESH		
14:50	27: Developing a Method for Digitally Counting Seeds and assessing Their Germination Status in Vitro for Seedbank Viability Testing Adam DIMECH, Melanie SCATCHARD, Edmond BREEN, Sally NORTON		
15:00	Afternoon Tea		
15:30	Seed and Gene Bank Management		
	<i>Chairperson: Kioumars Ghamkhar</i>		
15:30	31: Leveraging Sensor Technologies for Seed Phenotyping By Genebanks Kioumars GHAMKHAR		
15:40	46: The Thermal Behaviour of Lipids in Short-lived Seeds of Australian Rainforest Species Karen SOMMERVILLE, Lisa HILL, Cathy OFFORD, Christina WALTERS		
15:50	43: Advancing in Vitro Conservation of Subtropical Australian Myrtaceae Jingyin BAO, Chris O'BRIEN, Van Anh NGUYEN, Maddy GLEESON, Ben RUSSO-JONSSON, Lily WHELEHAN, Zara PILLAI, Eveline KONG, Karen SOMMERVILLE, Alice HAYWARD		
16:10	48: The Role of Nutrition in Cryopreservation of Australian Myrtaceae Lily WHELEHAN, Jingyin BAO, Van Anh NGUYEN, Ben RUSSO-JONSSON, Madeleine GLEESON, Chris O'BRIEN, Zara PILLAI, Karen SOMMERVILLE, Alice HAYWARD		
16:20	Panel Discussion-Challenges and Opportunities for Our Sectors inc. Next Gen Perspectives <i>Chairperson: Cassandra Walker</i>		
16:20	Panel Discussion: On The Challenges and Opportunities for Our Sectors Inc. Next Gen Perspectives		
16:25	62: The Australian Grains Genebank – Next-gen Genebank Management for a Food Secure Future. Sally NORTON, Gabriel KEEBLE-GAGNERE, Kerrie FORREST, Debbie WONG, Luisa TEASDALE, Katherine BAUM, Nicole SAWYER, Eve BARNES, Matthew HAYDEN		
16:35	19: Seed Germination Re-testing to assess 'real Time' Longevity in Storage: a Six-year Progress Report From The National Seed Bank Philippa ALVAREZ, Freya BROWN, Gemma HOYLE		
16:45	4: Data Consistency and Curation is Key to Maximise The Value of Conservation Seed Banks: Learnings From The Review of Australia's Seed Bank Programs 2000-2020. Cathy OFFORD, Nathan EMERY		
16:55	Discussion and Questions		
17:15	Closing Session		
17:25 - 18:25		Poster Session	
		Poster Session and Mocktails	
19:00 - 21:00			Early Middle Career Researcher and Practitioner Social Event

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08:15 - 10:00		<p>Field Tour 1: Tour of Dalki Garringa Native Nursery</p> <p>Arrive 7.45-8.00am. Bus will depart from the Grains Innovation Park (110 Natimuk Rd, Horsham) at 8:15am. Alternatively, meet at Dalki Garringa Native Nursery (127 Wail Nursery Rd, Wail) by 8:30am.</p>	
11:00 - 13:00	<p>Workshop 2: Seed collecting and data management to optimise future utilisation</p> <p>Yellow Gum Room, Agriculture Victoria, 110 Natimuk Road, Horsham.</p> <p>A workshop for seed collectors and organisations interested in using field data collection apps to standardise data collection, enhance field efficiency, and improve conservation outcomes. Learnings from the field app pilot by Australian PlantBank over the 2024-25 collecting season will be shared, along with demonstrations of the Epicollect and ReCER apps, including data entry and outputs and interface with web-based information/databases.</p>	<p>Workshop 1: First Nations seed collecting and storage techniques.</p> <p>(FOR FIRST NATIONS DELEGATES ONLY)</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria, 110 Natimuk Road, Horsham</p> <p>A workshop bringing together Indigenous land managers to share traditional and western seed knowledge, supporting cultural revitalisation, ecological restoration, and economic development through seed collection, storage, propagation, and enterprise on country.</p>	<p>Field Tour 2: Field Tour of Regional Grassland Restoration Sites and Seed Production Areas</p> <p>Arrive 7.45-8.00am. Bus will depart from the Grains Innovation Park (110 Natimuk Rd, Horsham) at 8:15am.</p> <p>This field trip is for seed supply groups and restoration practitioners and will focus on the central role of seed in restoration and management of grasslands in the heart of western Victoria's agricultural region. The endangered Volcanic Plains grasslands once stretched from Melbourne to South Australia and many of the best remnants are found along roadsides. The field trip will head south of Horsham skirting the spectacular Grampians – Gariwerd, to visit roadside remnants and grassland restoration sites near Wickliffe, Chatsworth and Woorndoo, including a visit to a seed production area and nursery on a sheep farm, where grassland plants are being grown for seed production and restoration in partnership with the CMA. Participants will gain social and ecological insights about the restoration of grassland ecosystems in agricultural landscapes and the important role of partnerships between farmers, community landcare groups, science and conservation agencies.</p>
14:00 - 14:30	<p>Field Tour 3: Australian Grains Genebank and Grains Innovation Park</p> <p>110 Natimuk Road Horsham 3400</p> <p>Visit the Australian Grains Genebank, Crop Quality and Breeding facilities to hear how non destructive assays and high throughput genomic and digital technologies are transforming the delivery of new varieties to growers.</p>		
14:30 - 17:30		<p>Workshop 3: Seed phenomics: technology, applications, and future directions</p> <p>Yellow Gum Room, Agriculture Victoria, 110 Natimuk Road, Horsham.</p> <p>This workshop is for genebank managers, researchers and tech enthusiasts interested in the power of seed phenomics to advance genebank practices, seed conservation, and agricultural innovation. The workshop will feature expert presentations from global leaders in phenomics and use interactive group discussions to unpack real-world challenges, explore applications of emerging phenomic technologies and priorities for genebanks. Participants will contribute to a roadmap identifying actions, research collaborations and partnerships needed to realise the benefits of these technologies in genebanks.</p>	8:15 - 16:00