



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
BOTANIC GARDENS

# LIBRARY CONNECT

Supporting the ANBG's vision to inspire, inform and connect people to the Australian flora.



A hiker in a hummock grassland, MacDonnell Ranges, NT.

Photo: M. Fagg [API](#)

## NEW PLANT HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

An exciting initiative has been announced by Dumbarton Oaks, a research institute of Harvard University, and JSTOR, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the creation of the [Plant Humanities Initiative](#).

Plant Humanities is an emerging interdisciplinary field which examines the significance of plants to human culture. For example, plants have been fundamental to the formation of human societies through the provision of food, shelter,

medicine, clothing and recreation.

In recent years, collecting institutions and libraries have undertaken digitisation projects to make plant specimens and biodiversity literature available online to a wider audience. Some of these initiatives include [Global Plants](#) and the [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#).

The Plant Humanities Initiative aims to build upon this work to create a digital tool and related research and scholarly programs to extend the field of study. It is hoped that by combining scientific and humanities perspectives on the study of plants, new insights will be gained into how plants have shaped human societies.

## BANKSIA GARDEN IN THE NEWS

*ABC Radio Canberra* has featured a story about the planned new *Banksia* garden at the ANBG.

Living Collections Curator, David Taylor, spoke about the plans for the garden and its plantings.

The garden is due to open in April 2020 as part of the Gardens 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

The full story can be viewed [here](#).

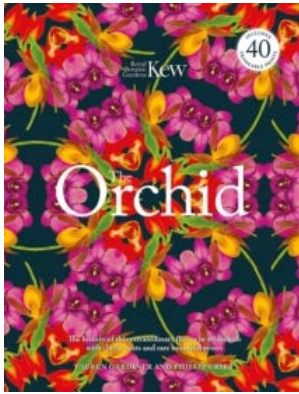
## LIBRARY CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who has visited the Library throughout the year. It has been lovely to meet & get to know so many of you.

The Library will close for the Christmas Shutdown period on Friday 21 December and reopen on Wednesday 2 January 2019. Full library services will commence on Monday 7 January when I return from leave.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas & New Year holiday. Best wishes, Jane

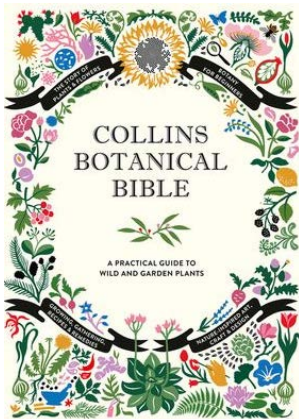
## A SELECTION OF NEW BOOKS



**The Orchid**/ Lauren Gardiner & Phillip Cribb  
London: Andre Deutsch. 2018. ISBN:9780233005690  
584.4 GAR

Produced in association with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this collection of 40 orchids tells the many intriguing stories of this beguiling plant family.

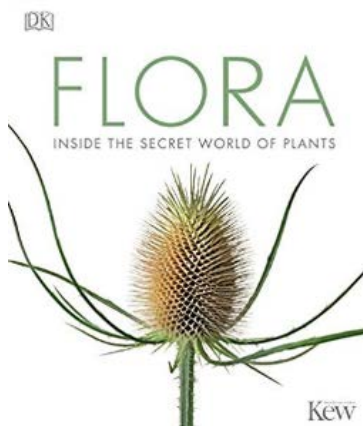
Victorian plant hunters scoured the globe for new species to bring back for botanical gardens and private collectors; "orchidmania" among gardeners was born and persists to this day. Enhanced with notes and letters held in Kew's archives and illustrations by artists such as John Day and Sarah Drake, this is an exceptionally beautiful book on an extraordinary plant. [Source](#)



**Collins Botanical Bible** / Sonya Patel Ellis  
London: William Collins. 2018. ISBN: 9780008262273  
580 PAT

The *Botanical Bible* tells the story of plants and flowers, beginning with an overview of the plant kingdom and the basics of botany, then offering strategies for gardening with purpose. Later chapters introduce seasonal eating, the healing properties of plants and the world of botanical art.

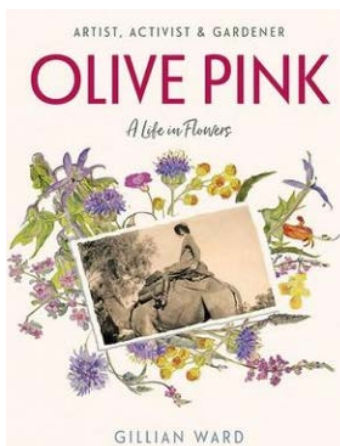
It will appeal to anyone wanting to use plants and flowers in modern life, whether they are an accomplished gardener or are simply yearning for a more natural life. This comprehensive guide to plants, flowers and botanicals covers a host of practical uses, features vintage illustrations alongside the work of current artists, and is sure to be an inspiration to anyone interested in the natural world. [Source](#)



**Flora: inside the secret world of plants**/Helen Fewster (senior editor)  
London: Dorling Kindersley. 2018.  
ISBN: 9780241254806  
571.32 FLO

Discover the extraordinary diversity of the plant world - and how plants work - with this photographic celebration of the trees, flowers, and foliage plants that share our planet. DK's elegant introduction to botany is packed with sumptuous photos and crystal-clear artworks that explain the mechanics of photosynthesis, why leaves change colour, how cacti store water, and how seeds know when to grow.

Filled with fascinating stories of how plant roots and leaves communicate with their neighbours and how flowers use colour and scent to interact with - and manipulate - the creatures around them, *Flora* is a fresh and engaging introduction to the mysterious inner workings of the plant world. [Source](#)

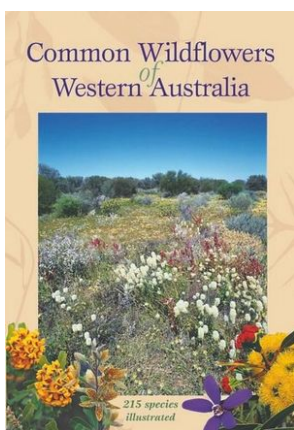


**Olive Pink: A life in flowers**/ Gillian Ward  
Richmond, Vic.: Hardie Grant Books. 2018. ISBN: 9781743793602  
580.92 PIN

A sumptuous new book by Gillian Ward brings to light the people, the art, the ideas, and the natural world that shaped the life work of Olive Pink. The University of Tasmania holds an Olive Pink collection of over 200 paintings of arid land plants donated by the artist just before her death.

The book is in two distinct halves. The first half is a profusely illustrated biography, told where possible in Miss Pink's own words. The second half is a selection of 55 of her central Australian botanical paintings; 44 of these plants are grown in the Olive Pink Botanic Garden where the book was launched. [Source](#)

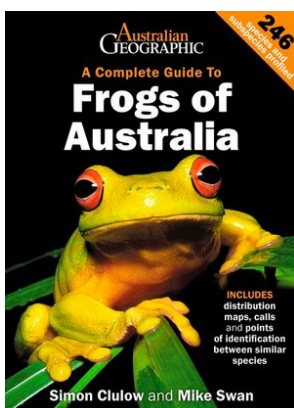
## NEW BOOKS CONTINUED



**Common Wildflowers of Western Australia/** Simon Nevill  
Warriewood, NSW: Woodslane Press. 2018. ISBN: 9781921874413  
582.1309941 NEV

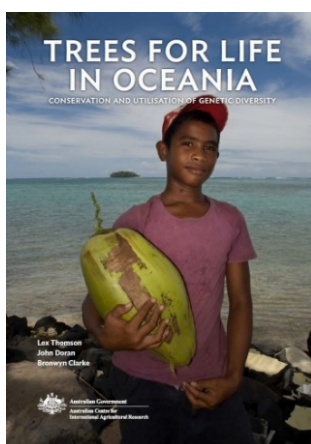
In Western Australia, one of the richest flora regions of the world, botanists to date have identified over 10,000 vascular plants. It is understandable that a visitor to this huge state would find the quantity and variation of wildflowers simply overwhelming.

This small publication attempts to illustrate some of the more easily identifiable common and not so common wildflowers (215 species are illustrated). [Source](#)



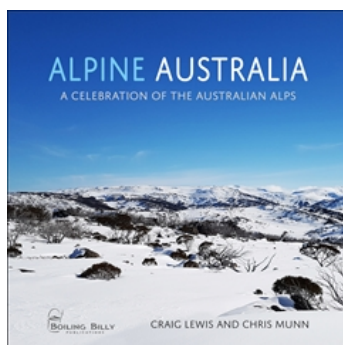
**A Complete Guide to Frogs of Australia/** Simon Clulow and Mike Swan  
Sydney: National Geographic Holdings. 2018. ISBN: 9781925694918  
597.890994 CLU

Throughout much of the world, frog populations are declining and some species are disappearing totally. In Australia, several species have become extinct in the past 25 years. The text for each species includes details of size, status, distribution, habitat, behaviour and advertisement call. Each species is accompanied by a map of Australia showing its known distribution, and full-colour photography. Closely related frogs are shown in identical poses so that comparisons can be made readily. The introductory section of the book covers frog biology and habitats and includes notes on families and genera. [Source](#)



**Trees for life in Oceania: Conservation and utilisation of genetic diversity/** Lex Thomson, John Doran & Bronwyn Clarke  
Canberra: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. 2018.  
ISBN: 9781925746174  
581.995 TRE

Forests and trees play a vital role in the economic, social, environmental and cultural lives of the peoples of Oceania. However, both biodiversity and the genetic diversity of individual species are under threat or already suffering from impacts of habitat loss, overharvesting and competition from invasive weeds. This book aims to provide information on a selection of important Oceanian species. It highlights their valuable genetic diversity and provides recommendations for conserving and making best use of it. [Source](#)



**Alpine Australia: A celebration of the Australian Alps/** Craig Lewis & Chris Munn  
Warriewood, NSW: Boiling Billy Publications. 2018. ISBN: 9781921874864  
919.447 LEW

*Alpine Australia - A celebration of the Australian Alps* portrays the stunning high country region unique to the Alpine areas of New South Wales and Victoria - the areas which are often snow covered for a number of months each winter. In New South Wales readers will be transported to the country's highest peaks running along the spine of the Great Dividing Range and the stark beauty of the Kosciuszko Main Range, while in Victoria the state's loftiest peaks are captured in magnificent detail, from the remote Mt Bogong to the winter playgrounds of Mt Buller and Mt Hotham. [Source](#)

## FEATURED E-JOURNAL : *Biodiversity Informatics*

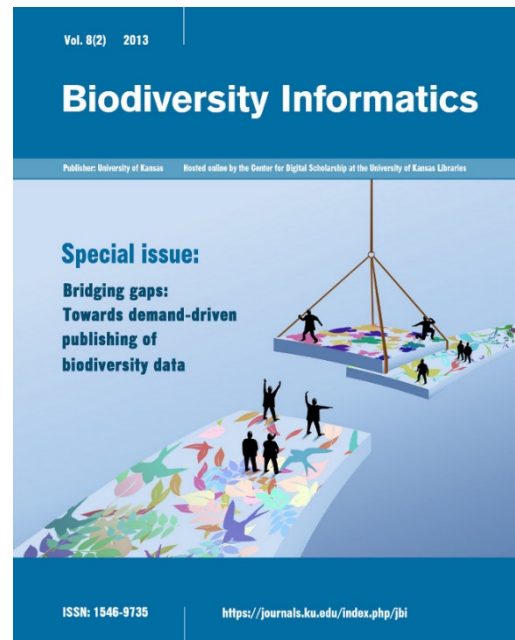
*Biodiversity Informatics* is an open access, peer reviewed, electronic journal hosted by the University of Kansas.

The focus of the journal is on the field of biodiversity informatics, which according to the journal's [website](#) is “the creation, integration, analysis and understanding of information regarding biological diversity”.

Articles for *Biodiversity Informatics* are published continuously throughout the year whenever they are ready for release.

*Biodiversity Informatics* is a truly open access journal, with no charges to authors or readers, ensuring the principle of immediate access to research for all is upheld.

The journal can be accessed [here](#).



## FROM THE ANBG ARCHIVE : ANBG Christmas Card, 1995

*Blandfordia grandiflora* commonly known as Christmas Bell, is a spectacular flowering plant found on the coastal areas of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland.

The large flower spikes can grow up to ten bell-like flowers which vary in colour from yellow to the more commonly deep red with yellow tips.

The species is easily propagated from seed requiring a reasonably damp position in full sun.

The ANBG has developed a Blandfordia swamp within the Sydney Basin flora garden.

Illustration adapted from the cover of the 1929 booklet, *Flowers of Our Bush*, by Estelle Thomson



This month's treasure from the ANBG Archive is a Christmas card from 1995 celebrating the festive season.

The illustration on the card is of *Blandfordia grandiflora*, commonly known as the Christmas Bell. The striking illustration on the card was adapted from the cover of the 1929 booklet, *Flowers of Our Bush* by Estelle Thomson. The booklet can be [viewed](#) in full online from the State Library of Victoria.

The inside of the card is inscribed with the greeting “Best wishes from the Director and staff of the Australian National Botanic Gardens”.

The back of the card contains information about the Christmas Bell, and mentions the development of a *Blandfordia* swamp within the Sydney Basin flora garden at the ANBG.

ANBG Christmas Card from 1995, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gardens.