



The Royal Society of New South Wales

Southern Highlands Branch 15th October 2015 Lecture



Dr. Lydia Guja : Centre for Australian national Biodiversity Research

Lydia Guja is the Seed Conservation Biologist at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. With a focus on Australian native seeds Lydia investigates seed conservation biology, threatened species conservation, endangered species and communities, seed ecology, seed dispersal, seed physiology, ecophysiological germination thresholds, stress tolerance, and landscape restoration.

- ³⁵₁₇ Researching the ecological factors that drive germination and dormancy, and the effects of environmental stress on seed dispersal, germination, and establishment.
- ³⁵₁₇ Interpreting and applying seed ecology, biology and stress physiology results to more effectively use seed bank collections for restoration and reintroduction of rare and threatened plants or communities, with regard to resilience under future climate conditions.
- ³⁵₁₇ Conserving Australia's plant diversity, including rare and endangered species of the Australian Alps, ACT region and Commonwealth Terrestrial Parks, through *ex situ* conservation methods, namely seed banks and living plant collections.
- ³⁵₁₇ Improving the collection methodology, genetic diversity and utility of seed bank collections.
- ³⁵₁₇ Investigating the storage biology of seeds to inform collection management.
- ³⁵₁₇ Applying methods and technologies that are new to seed science research.

Topic: Plants are a significant component of biological diversity and provide food, shelter, and other fundamental resources to almost all life on earth. Unfortunately, 1,253 plant species are threatened with extinction in Australia alone. To protect plants from extinction the National Seed Bank extends seed longevity by storing seeds under special conditions which exploit their inherent ability to survive drying and delay germination. In this presentation I will discuss the seed banking process, and the science behind it, while taking you on a journey through the diverse ecosystems that are currently under the spotlight at the National Seed Bank.

DATE: Thursday 15th October 2015 TIME: 6:30

VENUE: Performing Arts Centre, Chevalier College Bowral, enter off Charlotte Street.

PRICES: Lecture only: Non Members \$10 (RS Members \$5)

Following the lecture there will be a dinner with the lecturer which is open to members and non-members [Bookings for dinner can be made by ringing Hub Regtop on 0411192917 prior to the 13th October 2015](tel:0411192917)