

Save Our Flora

by Mog Bremner

In the last newsletter, Bob Ross told us about the new initiative 'Save Our Flora' to create a register of who is growing threatened and endangered species, that Maria Hitchcock in Armidale has started. One of the ideas of this is that APS members will be able to exchange plant material with people growing these plants, leading to more people growing them and increasing their chance of survival.

Some people have questioned what the legal situation for this exchange might be, so I asked Ryan Harris, the seed bank officer at the ERBG to tell me about the law in this area. He has gone into this in detail because the ERBG collects, grows and sells plants, some of which are threatened and endangered.

The legal situation is set out in the 'Sustainable management plan 2013-2017 for the commercial harvest, salvage and propagation of protected whole plants'. This is a link to the document

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/wildlifelicences/20130001plantsmp.pdf>

The upshot is that if APS members are growing threatened and protected plants in their gardens, they can share material from those among themselves – AS LONG AS the original plant was obtained legally.

So for instance, if I buy a *Correa baeuerlenii* from the ERBG, it will have a label stating their grower's licence number. I keep that as a receipt to prove my legal acquisition of the plant. Then I grow it in my garden and propagate from it: these daughter plants can be legally shared with other APS members. However I could not sell these daughter plants at a local market because I don't have a grower's licence. Nor can I share the plants with non-APS members.

ERBG are legally allowed to sell me the original because they have a licence to collect material from National Parks and State Forests and Reserves. They can propagate from the collected plant and sell it to me because they have a grower's licence.

It is important to be aware of these rules because the penalties for not following them are severe, including very large fines and even possible imprisonment.