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Media release

Bentleigh East botanist authors book on plant names

Bentleigh East botanist, Rob Cross, is passionate about plants and their names!

A horticultural botanist at the National Herbarium of Victoria based at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Rob works on the conservation and horticultural development of Australian plants.

The National Herbarium of Victoria is the Victorian State government's major centre for botanical studies in plant identification and classification.

He and his fellow botanists Roger Spencer and Peter Lumley have just produced a plain English guide to the use of plant names.

Plant Names covers the naming of wild plants, plants modified by humans, why plant names change, their pronunciation and hints to help remember them.

It also includes a detailed guide to web sites and published resources useful to people using plant names.

According to Rob Cross, there is no equivalent publication in the English-speaking world, and it has been well received by botanists at the Royal Horticultural Society and at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, both in the UK.

"The book is written for anyone with an interest in plants, without being too technical," said Rob Cross.

Plant Names is available from all good bookshops in Australia, including The Gardens Shop at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. It has been published by CSIRO Publishing and retails for \$39.95.

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