



Acacia brunioides

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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flower. Three wattles that are currently showing off are *Acacia andrewsii* (a nice prickly one that has been in flower through most of autumn, only a small shrub about 1m high, quite small but bright yellow globular flowers), *Acacia splendens* (has just started flowering, quite brilliant with yellow flowers and blue grey foliage) and *Acacia conferta* (one that we don't really notice much until it suddenly comes into flower).

I suppose I am allowed here to give a plug for Sue and my garden opening under the Open Gardens Victoria program, on the first weekend of September (3rd and 4th September). This is the third time that we have tried to open under the OGV program, having previously had planned openings cancelled in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid restrictions. Hopefully a case of third time lucky! The opening in early September was deliberately chosen as this is probably the prime time to show off the wattles in our garden (Mullum Waters). Further information re the opening is provided on the OGV website (opengardensvictoria.org.au).

A reminder that this newsletter relies upon contributions from members. Thank you to those members who have made a contribution to this newsletter. But I am sure that there are many other members who could share their Acacia experiences and write a few lines for the newsletter. I would love to receive more member contributions for our next newsletter.

A final reminder that Study Group memberships are due for renewal on 1st July. Details regarding membership renewal are shown on page 9.

Bill Aitchison

Note: If you wish to view or download previous Study Group Newsletters, they are available on the Study Group website.

The address is:

<http://anpsa.org.au/acaciaSG>

From The Leader

Dear Members

Since our previous newsletter, we have sadly lost two members of our Study Group, **Judy Barker** and **Alan Gibb**. Each of these members had a long time interest in Australian plants and especially Acacias, and are a sad loss to the Australian plant community. Tributes to each of these individuals are included in this newsletter.

As I write this note, in early June, I am conscious that a lot of wattles in our garden are in full bud, just waiting to burst into flower. But there are some currently very conspicuously in

Vale

Judy Barker

16/1/1931 – 4/2/2022

Sadly Judy Barker passed away in February. She had been a member of the Acacia Study Group since 2008, but had been an Australian Plants Society member for many years, since 1974.

Judy did a University degree in science and then a course at Burnley Horticultural College. She developed a special interest and expertise in Australian Daisies and was very actively involved with the Australian Daisy Study Group for many years, and with some of the books published by that Group. She loved to propagate, and in more recent years became very interested in propagating Acacias, using some of the same techniques that she had applied over many years in propagating daisies.

She was a co-author of the book *Collect and Grow That Seed – Small Australian Plants*, published in 2009. This book set out the authors' experience in growing 161 plants from seed, including eight Acacias (*Acacia assimilis* ssp. *atroviridis*, *A. drummondii* ssp. *drummondii*, *A. drummondii* ssp. *elegans*, *A. flagelliformis*, *A. lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa*, *A. merinthophora*, *A. nervosa* and *A. aff. verniciflua* 'Avenel'). Judy and her co-authors were always willing to freely share their knowledge and experience, and as evidence of this a digital copy of *Collect and Grow That Seed* was lodged with the State Library of Victoria, with this being on open access for anyone to freely download.

Alan Gibb

9/5/1943 – 26/2/2022

I first met Alan in about 2006, although he had been a member of the Acacia Study Group since the 1970s. In the time that I knew Alan, I (and I am sure many other people) had come to have great respect not only for his knowledge but for his ever willingness to share that with others. He had become a good friend, it was always a pleasure to have conversations with him, whether by phone or in person. I fondly remember Study Group field trips with him, and his ability to identify plants that we saw in the bush. He was always very generous, for example in donating Acacia seeds to our Study Group seed bank, and then sharing knowledge of how to propagate them.

In 2018 Alan was recognised when an Acacia, *Acacia boormanii* ssp. *gibba*, was named in his honour.

Alan is recognised below with contributions by Bruce Maslin, Neville Walsh and Neil and Wendy Marriott.

Bruce Maslin AM (WA Herbarium), wrote as follows:

"As best I can recall, my first meeting with Alan was on a trip we did to Mt Typo in northeast Victoria, to inspect the very showy Wattle that now bears his name, *Acacia boormanii* subsp. *gibba*. It was our shared passion for Wattles that first drew us together, and which led to a friendship that lasted for over 30 years. From that first meeting I came to appreciate, and to benefit from, Alan's knowledge of especially the Victorian species of *Acacia*. And of course, like many others I marvelled at his unsurpassed skill at photographing those Wattles. It is wonderful to think that those skills will be put to very good use in connection with a book on Victorian Wattles that was conceived by Arthur Court (now deceased) and which is being ably assembled by Neville Walsh.

Alan was an unpretentious, easy-going man who was a joy to be with. He will be greatly missed by many, including myself. Farewell Cobbler Yeti (for those of you who don't know, that name was once used by Alan as part of his email address)." **Bruce Maslin**



Alan Gibb at summit of Mt Buffalo Jan 2009 Photo Bruce Maslin

Neville Walsh, Senior Conservation Botanist, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, was a close friend of Alan, and refers specifically to the book on Victorian wattles that Bruce has mentioned:

"It was a project that Alan and Arthur Court hatched I think sometime in the 1990s - Arthur dealing with the descriptive text and Alan with the photos (Al was a skilled nature photographer - even working sometimes as a wedding photographer - in fact he filmed my daughter's wedding, having met Kate through her work with Typo Station) - the insistence being that all species be photographed in the wild which meant an enormous amount of travelling (a) to find good examples; (b) to photograph them at peak flowering and (c) to return at fruiting time. Naturally, each of these steps was subject to be undermined by cruel weather, lack of fruiting for one reason or another etc. Approximately 100 species were chased down in this manner, and all named species, up to about 2018 had been 'nailed'. There was even the rediscovery of a species assumed to be extinct in Victoria - *A. havilandiorum* - picked up by Al at 100 kmh on a roadside near Hopetoun. Inevitably, there's been a few named since that will require description and photography.

Following Arthur's death in 2012, Alan approached Dan

Murphy and I wondering if we might take on the job of using Arthur's very detailed descriptions, which Alan had shared with us, as models for anything new, and to pull them into an order suitable for publication. We thought this was a fine idea, but the project had only stuttered along since. On one of my last visits to Al, I reassured him that we'd get the project finished and subsequent conversations with Arthur's son have given a further stimulus to get this very worthy project underway again. Initial approaches have been made to a publisher and we hope that we can agree to a format that suits them for a product that is a worthy testament to Al's and Arthur's vision of a comprehensive field guide to the wattles of Victoria." **Neville Walsh**



Acacia boormanii ssp. *gibba*, Mt Typo, Vic Photo Alan Gibb

Neil and Wendy Marriott have written as follows:

"I first met Alan in the late 1980's when Trust for Nature had a staff training week up in the King Valley/Rose River region of NE Victoria. On one of our field trips Alan took us to Mt Typo to see the unique native vegetation there, including a beautiful Acacia that had only been discovered on the mount a few years earlier. This was to be ultimately known as *Acacia boormanii* ssp. *gibba*, in honour of Alan, as well as the latin *gibbus* meaning a hump, in reference to the prominent Mt Typo where it occurs.

Alan gave me a couple of plants and we have been growing it here ever since. It is a beautiful compact grey foliated shrub to around 2m x 2m with massed showy yellow flowers during early spring. It is now listed as critically endangered due to its very limited distribution and the damaging impacts of climate change. However here in the Black Range, it self-seeds freely and so, as with so many of our wattles, care must be taken to ensure it does not become weedy.

Alan also gave us a lovely plant of *Acacia daviesii*, another rare species from NE Victoria that does not set seed, but reproduces entirely by root suckers. This lovely Acacia has also thrived for us. It is most distinct with its attractive oval undulate leaves that have a beautiful earthy smell when crushed or even when brushed past when walking in the garden. It is now an attractive plant around 1.2m and this and *Acacia boormanii* ssp. *gibba* will long remain as wonderful memorials to Alan in our garden."

Neil and Wendy Marriott

Welcome

A special welcome to the following new members to the Study Group.

Robin Campbell (Corrigin, WA)
Michael Gilmour (Paddington, Qld)
Dick Harding (Ashgrove, Qld)
Robyn Ou Take (Vic)

Robin Campbell advises that she has been meaning to join the Acacia Study Group for decades – Robin, we are pleased that you have finally joined!

Robin tells us that she is in the WA wheatbelt, and is happy to show or tell people good sites and where species are, from Brookton to Wave Rock, north to the Great Eastern Highway and south to Kulin Lake Varley. She is based at Corrigin. If you would like to make contact with Robin, let me know and I can pass on her phone number to you.

Michael Gilmour is a Queenslander who describes himself as a "Proud Australian, Proud Aussie Poet, Proud Republican".

Dick Harding has provided the following information:

"I have been a member of Native Plants Queensland for some years and have been active in the Qld subgroup of the Eremophila Study Group since about 2017.

I volunteer at Myall Park Botanic Garden in the Southern Brigalow Belt about 400km and 5 hours from my home in Brisbane. Myall Park Botanic Garden features arid land plants and Protected species. It is the place where Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon' first appeared. Dave Gordon started planting Australian species in 1941 and was a founding member of Society for Growing Australian Plants being awarded Life Membership quite quickly thereafter. He excised 133 hectares from his pastoral property and gifted it to an honorary Board some years before his death in 2002. There is an extensive collection of Acacias on display including several mature plants with minniritchi bark including *A. cyperophylla* and *A. rhodophloia*. *Acacia wardellii*, a local species, was first collected by Dave Gordon in the mid 50s and is declared Near Threatened under Queensland legislation. A few of our local species, particularly *A. crassa* subsp. *crassa* but also *A. aneura* and *A. aprepta*, have become somewhat invasive. Our Living Collection was badly affected when the dam dried up during the drought and I continue to propagate plants including Acacias to revive the displays."

Robyn Ou Take has provided some background information, as follows:

"I have grown native plants since the "70s", including quite a wide range of acacias.

Have 40 years career as medical researcher and as agricultural scientist, principally as microbiologist, including teaching undergraduate microbiology (Ia Trobe).

I have strong interest in rhizosphere microbiology of the fabaceae, esp acacia, soil inoculate such as Wattlegrow & the newer products are interesting but have a good collection of prostrate acacias & previous connection with Kuranga. I am keen to start some small scale research (I have my own microscope etc), am attracted to the flat phyllode subgroup, *A. complanata*, *A. applanata*, *A. willdenowiana* etc..

Unfortunately, due to poor health and forced retirement, I now live in a retirement house with a small yard full of eclectic natives, very different from my previous acreage. I very much look forward to sharing with you all."

From Members and Readers

In our previous newsletter No. 151, there were some photos of an unidentified wattle taken by **Bill and Sue Molyneux**. **Glenda Datson** responded to the request for any suggestions re the ID of this wattle, and suggested that it looks very similar to *Acacia cardiophylla*. Bill and Sue comment that initially they thought of *A. cardiophylla*, but note that the phyllodes are SO tiny, quite minute, like no other *A. cardiophylla* they have seen – it just doesn't seem to fit! Maybe a mystery not quite solved yet?

Sean Walsh writes (24 January 2022) as follows: "I have an *Acacia podalyriifolia* in my backyard, which flowers regularly but pretty much never produces seed. This year it produced several pods, and I managed to collect 53 seeds. I have also seen bumper seed crops in the *Acacia dealbata* trees along the Plenty River this year."

Sandra McKenzie (Moonta Bay, SA) wrote (26 January 2022) in relation to record breaking rains that her area received on the previous weekend. She notes that she hadn't seen rain like that for many years, and it bucketed down at times. She comments that:

"Our neighbours used to live in Darwin and they reckon it was like being back there. We had over 90 mls over 3 days and Kadina, which is 20 kms from us, received more. Our APS clubrooms are situated at the lowest point in Kadina and when it rains like this the grounds become flooded. However, the ground was so dry we had no problems with water flooding the buildings but the water flooded our Acacia area and so it will be interesting to see if any of the plants die as a consequence. The attached photo shows some of the water with *A. cultriformis* about to be flooded.



Photo: Sandra McKenzie

I have also had some good results with some seeds. Results are as follows:

<i>A. aneura</i>	6 sown	6 germinated	4 days after sowing
<i>dealbata</i>	6	4	7
<i>grasbyi</i>	5	4	6
<i>acuminata</i>	6	5	5

A. drummondii ssp. *drummondii*. None germinated yet. I also had some good results from *A. papyrocarpa*. The seed was collected from the tree which was in the latest Newsletter (Page 4, Newsletter No. 151).

I potted most of them up today. I chose only a few species to sow because I am bit short of space at present but will sow more next Spring."

Judy Clark (East Sussex, UK) wrote (22 April 2022) as follows

"As always, I really enjoy the newsletter. Thank you.

I am very pleased with my wattles. At the moment I have 13 species in the garden (see list below). Most are pretty hardy souls but they include two west Australian species from seed you gave me. *A. redolens* has had two winters outside. The first year I protected it with a cloche. *A. trigonophylla* went in last summer and I protected it with a cloche when frost was predicted. Not that we had much frost last winter. Now for flowers.

Waiting to be planted out this year, again from seed you gave me are *A. lasiocarpa*, *A. fimbriata* and *A. penninervis*. Plus I have concluded that *A. acinacea* needs a more sheltered spot to do better (it keeps losing its leaves) so I raised some more and will plant one out this summer. It is one of my favourites."

Judy's list of Acacias is as follows:

Acacia acinacea
Acacia baileyana
Acacia baileyana 'Purpurea'
Acacia boormanii
Acacia dealbata

Acacia melanoxylon (kept manageable by pollarding)
Acacia mucronata (probably subsp. *mucronata*)
Acacia myrtifolia
Acacia pataczekii
Acacia redolens
Acacia retinodes
Acacia siculiformis
Acacia trigonophylla

Anne Keaney (Stanwell Park, NSW) writes (1 May 2022) as follows:

“Like many places in NSW my property near Braidwood in the Southern Tablelands has experienced record rainfall over this summer with barely a day of sun and continuously saturated soils. In late spring I planted out 12 tubestock acacia to fill out the front on my acacia garden. These were 6 *Acacia brownii* and 6 *Acacia ulicifolia*. The soil in this garden has only average drainage and I did little to improve the clay loam soil. I noticed that by February while all the *Acacia brownii* had put on reasonable growth, all six of the *Acacia ulicifolia* had died. This led me to have a good look at the performance of all my acacias. A few had died including *Acacia iteaphylla*, *Acacia binervia* 'Sterling Silver' and *Acacia pravissima* 'Little Nugget'. Most seemed indifferent just putting on average growth and three (the blue ones) put on explosive growth – namely *Acacia baileyana*, *Acacia podalyriifolia* and in particular *Acacia covenyi*, which is local to my area.”



Anne's Acacia Garden

Acacias on The Gunbarrel Highway

In our previous newsletter No. 151, we included some photographs taken by Geoff and Jannie Lay (Mont Albert, Vic) of Acacias on the Gunbarrel Highway, taken during a trip they did during April/May last year. There were a few additional Acacias that we did not include in that article (specifically, those with species names starting with A or B apparently decided

that they did not wish to appear in that newsletter!). But we have corrected those omissions now.

***Acacia bivenosa* (Everard Junction 26/4/21)** - Widespread in arid areas of WA, NT and western Queensland. It was flowering nicely when Geoff and Jannie photographed it in late April.



Acacia bivenosa

***Acacia aptaneura* (Charlies Knob 27/4/21)** - Widespread in WA, and also occurs in the NT, SA, Qld and NSW.



Acacia aptaneura

***Acacia ayersiana* (Warakurna 30/4/21)** - A tree to 5m tall with blue grey foliage with a wide range extending from WA to southern parts of NT and to SA. The botanical name is derived from the type specimen which was collected at Ayers Rock (now Uluru).



Acacia ayersiana

***Acacia aneura* (Sandy Blight Rd 3/5/21)** - Has a widespread distribution, WA, NT, SA, Qld and NSW. The species name *aneura* refers to the allusion of the absence of conspicuous nerves on the phyllodes.



Acacia aneura

***Acacia ancistrocarpa* (Sandy Blight Rd, 4/5/21)** - Widespread and common from northwest WA through the NT to far western Queensland. One common name applied to it is the fish-hook wattle, in reference to the seed pod which resembles a fish-hook.



Acacia ancistrocarpa

Acacia aureocrinita

by Anne Keaney (Stanwell Park, NSW)

For some time I have been looking around for a small acacia to grow at the front of my acacia garden at my property in the Southern Tablelands NSW. Although blessed with reasonable clay loam soils my property is quite wind exposed, suffers frequent severe frosts and has quite irregular rainfall mostly occurring in late summer and autumn.

I had recently planted out some *Acacia brownii* and *Acacia ulicifolia* but was keen to find a less prickly plant local and preferably endemic to the Southern Tablelands that was small, bushy and hardy to my climate.

Last week I stumbled upon a plant that I believe ticks all these boxes. During winter trips to Thredbo I frequently drive the backroad from Braidwood to Cooma. Towards

its southern end this road passes through the hamlet of Numeralla. This was the first time I've made this trip in January.

As I approached Numeralla I started to notice some small bushes with yellow flowers. Just past the town the forest floor became covered with them. On stopping it was obvious that these lovely little plants with soft pale green foliage were Acacias. I googled Numeralla and Acacia and immediately came up with *Acacia aureocrinita*.



Acacia aureocrinita is described as occurring from Numeralla in the south to Lake Bathurst (half way between Goulburn and Braidwood) in the north. It is a bushy shrub usually growing one to one and a half meters tall. It flowers in the summer months and grows on clayey stony soils in *Eucalyptus pauciflora* woodlands. It was previously included in the *Acacia uncinata* group but was separated on several grounds including its much more low growing and bushy habit.

This little acacia looks like it's going to be perfect for my requirements and I imagine would suit many gardeners looking for a smaller hardy acacia. I wonder if anyone is growing it and how they have found it. Unlike *Acacia uncinata* AKA the Gold Dust Wattle *Acacia aureocrinita* doesn't appear to have a common name and so I suspect is not widely cultivated.

Acacia cochlocarpa ssp. *cochlocarpa*

by Bill Aitchison

Patti Crowley recently gave me a copy of the Winter 2020 issue of Science for Saving Species, which is the magazine of the Threatened Species Recovery Hub. This issue included an article on *Acacia cochlocarpa* ssp. *cochlocarpa*, which is endemic to WA. The following information is extracted from this article.

This wattle (known as the spiral-fruited wattle) forms large dense mats up to 4.5m in diameter. It has sickle shaped leaves and golden yellow cylinder-shaped flowerheads. In 1997 it was listed as Critically Endangered in WA, with just two populations persisting in heavily cleared agricultural land on road verge remnants, with a combined total of just 51 plants.

Both populations were declining and faced with threats from competition from weeds, spray drift from adjacent farms and accidental destruction during road verge maintenance. It was also believed that significantly changed fire regimes had a role in the decline of the species.

In 1997 the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions commenced a recovery program. This included searching for new populations, collecting and storing seed and a translocation program. Seedlings were propagated for the translocation program and these were planted in carefully selected threat-free sites. By 2014 three new populations had been established in two nature reserves with a combined total of 830 seedlings. In addition surveys had located another three wild populations with 40 plants, although these were also located on disturbed road and rail verges.



Acacia cochlocarpa ssp. *cochlocarpa* Photo Leonie Monks

But for the new translocated sites to be successful, it was important that natural recruitment be established. Whilst the plants in the translocated populations were successfully producing viable seed, seedling recruitment was not occurring. It was considered that the missing ingredient was fire.

For this reason, in June 2015 a regeneration burn was conducted at one of the translocated populations. The site was fenced after the fire to protect it from grazing by herbivores such as kangaroos, rabbits etc.

The regeneration burn was very successful, as five months after the fire 952 seedlings were recorded as well as 15 adults that survived the fire. Two years post fire, the 15 adults and 737 of the seedlings were persisting, with around 25% of these producing flower buds.

The article clearly demonstrated the importance of fire in promoting recruitment, but also noted that fire is now unlikely in isolated remnants of a heavily cleared landscape.

In a recent communication with **Leonie Monks**, she has advised that a recent visit to monitor the translocated population showed that the plants that germinated after the fire continue to thrive and all had flower buds. She comments on how nice it was to see how well the plants are doing. She also advised that translocation work is taking place for several other threatened *Acacia* species.

The Acacia Project - Illustrating Rare, Endangered and Unusual Acacia

by Nicky Zanen (Boronia, Vic)

I recently attended a talk by **Pam McDiarmid** on the Acacia Project and was fascinated by this story. The following information has been taken off the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne website and was written by Pam McDiarmid, and then I have added some of the names of the plants illustrated at the end.

“The Whirlies, Botanical illustrators of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (FRBGM) recently completed a group project illustrating some of the rare, endangered and unusual *Acacia* species growing in the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne Gardens (RBGV).

Meeting to paint weekly, over the years the artists have undertaken joint projects such as depicting the Oaks and the Eucalypts growing in the RBGV gardens. The Acacia Project was proposed for a number of reasons. The wattles are one of Australia’s most popular and most recognisable flowers but are not often illustrated by botanical artists. It became a common interest within the group. Local botanists have a particular interest in acacias and it seemed a good opportunity to highlight these threatened plants, examples of which could be seen growing in the gardens.

The parameters of the project were laid out, species were allocated to artists and the work began to identify the particular characteristics and learn more about the natural habitat and endemic location of each wattle.

The Whirlies invited Botanist Dan Murphy to introduce them to the acacias. Immediately they could see what a diverse and interesting genus they were dealing with. As a group they toured the gardens in the buggies to see where each particular Acacia species was growing. During the project artists made frequent trips back to witness the seasonal changes in their plant. Sally Stewart, the Herbarium Librarian prepared a display of historic botanical references depicting Acacias. Only a few of the artists had attempted scientific botanical illustrations before, so we were interested to see how professional artists had rendered this subject.

The project was interesting because of its different facets. The Whirlies painted the image and incorporated the particular identifying features, the habit, flowers and seeds. They each pressed a specimen of the plant for the Herbarium and a video was compiled explaining the project by a number of the participating Whirlies. Finally, a small exhibition is planned to display the works in the RBGV Visitors Centre, to coincide with National Wattle Day on 1 September.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards Acacia research at the National Herbarium of Victoria. We do hope you will support our fundraising by purchasing this publication.”

The book on ‘*The Acacia Project*’ featuring the botanical illustrations of these threatened species will be available for purchase from and after the exhibition, or can be obtained from <https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/shop/products>.

For the interest of the members I thought I’d mention some of the plants covered.

Acacia alpina; *A. amoena* (Boomerang Wattle); *A. aphylla* (Leafless Rock Wattle); *A. aspera subsp parviceps*; *A. boormannii* (Snowy River Wattle); *A. caerulea* (Buchan Blue); *A. dallachiana* (Catkin Wattle); *A. daviesioides*; *A. denticulosa* (Sandpaper Wattle); *A. enterocarpa* (Jumping Jack Wattle); *A. exudans* (Casterton Wattle); *A. farinosa* (Mealy Wattle); *A. glandulicarpa* (Hairypod Wattle); *A. glaucoptera*; *A. lineata* (Streaked Wattle); *A. phlebophylla* (Buffalo Sallow Wattle); *A. rostellifera*; *A. stictophylla* (Dandenong Range Cinnamon Wattle); *A. toondulya* and *A. trineura* (Three Nerved Wattle).

The nickname “The Whirlies” originated when the group originally met in the Great Melbourne Telescope, Weights and Measures Room, ‘The Whirling Room’, where implements were calibrated.

So members are reminded to keep note of the two events mentioned. The exhibition of works in the RBGV Visitors Centre in September 2022 and the public lecture on Rare and Endangered Acacias at that time.

Nicky Zanen
Ph: 0401975191

The Smells of Wattles

by Bill Aitchison

I recently came across a book called *Stumbling on Melons*. Published in 1984, it is a selection of articles written by T R Garnett that appeared in *The Age* newspaper. In one of these articles, *Classic and Native Gardens*, he talks about the perfume of plants, and in particular refers to a paragraph in the book *Native Plants: How to create an Australian landscape*, by Bill Molyneux and Ross Macdonald. This paragraph began: “As a general rule, the foliage of Australian plants gives off more perfume than the flowers”. Garnett suggested that this is a fact that not many people do not appreciate.

This prompted me to start thinking about whether this general comment applies to wattles.

Some wattles that came to mind that have fragrant foliage include:

Acacia howittii – the phyllodes are described as having a spicy scent.

Acacia leprosa – its common name Cinnamon Wattle refers to the spicy perfume of the phyllodes. Related species eg *A. verniciflua*, *A. stictophylla* also have similar spicy perfume.

Acacia redolens – the phyllodes are vanilla scented. This species is related to *A. trineura* which is also described as having perfumed phyllodes – I assume that this is also vanilla scented but I can’t say that I have ever smelled the phyllodes.

Acacia daviesii – earlier in this newsletter, Neil Marriott referred to the “earthy” smell of the phyllodes of this species. I get the smell of passionfruit.

Acacia melleodora – a sweet honey scent is emitted by the resin covered phyllodes

Acacia georginae, *A. cambagei*, *A. pachycarpa* – a foetid odour when phyllodes are crushed

Acacia spondylophylla – phyllodes have a curry-like odour

Acacia cognata – In her book *Acacias of New South Wales*, Inez Armitage describes the foliage as having “a strong, pleasant scent, especially when dry” (I went and had a smell of the phyllodes of some of our *A. cognata*, but I couldn’t get any fragrance).

I am sure that more wattles can be added to the above list of species with aromatic foliage – let me know of any that you can add to the list, and I will include an updated list in our next newsletter.

But it does appear to me that a comparison of the above list with a similar list of species with perfumed flowers, that the list of flowers would be longer – many Acacia species have scented flowers.

If this statement is correct, it might suggest that in the case of Acacias, the general rule referred to above ie that the foliage of Australian plants gives off more perfume than the flowers, does not apply. Please let me have your comments.

Acacias in the news

Sheryl Backhouse (Qld) has provided the following link to an ABC report on prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica*) in Queensland – the report referring to this noxious weed being turned in to “green coal” by a renewable energy company on outback Queensland.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-04-02/green-coal-noxious-weed-to-become-carbon-neutral-energy-source/100958326?utm_source=abc_news_web&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_web

Jenny Simons (Burradoo, NSW) reports on an interesting story that she read in the Australian Garden History Journal. The story related to wattles and their classification in Germany in the early 19th century.

The abstract of the article is reproduced below:

Neuholländische’ wattles and other legumes at the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen, Germany 1797–1852 John Dowe and Boris Schlumpberger

When one thinks of the horticulture and taxonomy of Australian legumes such as Acacia, Glycine and Pultenaea, little would our minds go to Germany in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Yet, historically important work on ‘Neuholländische’ plants was underway at the Berggarten, one of the component gardens of the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen at Hannover, Germany. Between them, royal gardeners Johann Christoph Wendland and his son and successor, Heinrich Ludolph Wendland, described about 50 new species of Australian legumes, many from plants grown in the Berggarten. Here we explore the connection between the description of new Australian species and how they came to be cultivated and studied in Germany soon after the colonisation of Australia.

Thanks also to **Jenny Simons** for drawing our attention to a fascinating story relating to France’s 130km Mimosa Route.

The link to the story is as follows:

bbc.com/travel/article/20220418-frances-130km-mimosa-route?ocid=www.social.link.email

Seed Bank

Thanks to **Anne Keaney** and **Neil Duncan** for some recent donations of seed.

Although we do purchase some seed from commercial sources, we also rely upon donations of seed. If you are able to help with any seed donations they would be very

welcome (we would ask you to post any donations to Bill Aitchison, who will forward them on to our Seed Bank Curator, Victoria Tanner). It also helps enormously if you are able to clean, sort and label the seed correctly. Also, we would like to have provenance information for all seed in the seed bank – so if you donate any seed, could you also provide any information you have in relation to provenance.

The procedure for requesting seed from the Seed Bank is as follows. Study Group members are entitled to lodge up to 3 orders per member per year, with 10 packets maximum in each order (negotiable). There is a charge of \$4 in relation to each order, to cover the cost of a padded post bag and postage. The \$4 may be paid in stamps or by direct credit to our Group’s bank account. Requests for seed may be lodged in either of the following ways:

1. By email to our Study Group email address, acaciastudygroup@gmail.com (emails to this address go directly to both Victoria and Bill Aitchison). If you make a request by email, you will also need to make the necessary payment by one of the above methods. If you are paying by stamps, these should be mailed to Bill Aitchison, 13 Conos Court, Donvale, Vic 3111
2. By mail (enclosing stamps if required). These requests should be posted to Bill Aitchison (address as in the previous paragraph). Bill will then advise Victoria of the request.

We would like to maintain some data on your results in propagating seed from the Seed Bank. We would therefore ask if you could provide a report on your results, recording information on species, number of seeds sown, number germinated and days after sowing.

Study Group Membership

Acacia Study Group membership for 2022/23 is as follows:

\$7 (newsletter sent by email)

\$10 (hardcopy of newsletter posted in Australia – existing members only)

Subscriptions may be sent to:

Bill Aitchison, 13 Conos Court, Donvale, Victoria 3111

Subscriptions may also be paid directly to our Account at the Bendigo Bank. Account details are:

Account Name: ASGAP Acacia Study Group

BSB: 633-000

Account Number: 130786973

If you pay directly to the Bank Account, please advise us by email (acaciastudygroup@gmail.com).