



Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.

# ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Last year, our Study Group held a successful field trip to the Northern Tablelands of NSW. I am very pleased to advise that Len Hubbard has offered to lead a field trip in August next year to the Barakula Ballon Forestry area and surrounds via Chinchilla, Queensland. Details regarding the proposed weekend are provided on page 2 of this Newsletter. At this stage we are only seeking expressions of interest from Study Group members who may be interested in joining this weekend – if you are interested please advise either myself or Len. We will then keep you informed regarding ongoing plans for the weekend.

As advised previously, it had been suggested that there may be a few members who would like to get together on the weekend of the Bendigo Native Plant Group’s Australian Plant Show and Wattle Spectacular (on 31 Aug and 1 Sept). So far, we haven’t many expressions of interest in this weekend (in fact, about 2). But please let me know if you are interested in visiting Bendigo on this weekend.

**As for all Study Groups, membership fees fall due on 1 July each year – so it is now that time of year. It would be greatly appreciated if you could attend to this payment (or advise if you do not wish to renew your subscription). Details regarding membership fees and payment options are shown on page 8. Some members have paid some years in advance, and some have still not paid for the last twelve months – if you wish to check on what date you are currently paid up to, please let me know. And if you do not wish to renew your membership, could you please let me know so that I can amend our membership records.**

One request – I am currently looking for a few nice photos of Acacias being grown as street trees – if you have such a photo perhaps you could get in touch with me.

Bill Aitchison

## From The Leader

Dear Members

It is now only a few weeks until the ANPSA Biennial Conference being held on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast. I am looking forward to catching up with some of our Study Group members at the Conference. For those of you attending the Conference, there will be an opportunity for Study Group members to meet. There will also be Study Group displays, and as previously advised, Michael McCuaig has busily been preparing our Group display.

## Welcome

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

Tony Scalzo, Shenton Park, WA  
Graeme Serle, Nathalia, Vic

## Vale – Jeff Irons

We recently learned of the death in April of our UK member, Jeff Irons. Jeff had been a member of our Study Group since 1988. He was highly knowledgeable on Australian plants, and was a regular contributor to our Newsletter. He was co-author with Thomas Ross of the book *Australian Plants: A Guide to their Cultivation in Europe*. He lived in the north west of England, at Wirral, and was closely involved with the Ness Gardens (Liverpool University Botanic Gardens). He was co-founder of the Australasian Plant Society in the United Kingdom.

## Proposed Study Group Field Trip – Barakula Ballon Forestry

By Len Hubbard

I would like to invite members of the Acacia Study Group to a 3 day study tour of the Barakula Ballon Forestry and surrounds via Chinchilla, Queensland. Suggested date 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014. As a 30 year member of Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club I have organised many Acacia trips through the area. Barakula Ballon Forestry office and camp area is approx. 25 kilometres north of Chinchilla, serviced with a good all weather bitumen and gravel road. I have contacted the DERM people and they are happy for our group to visit the area. They have offered their barracks for accommodation, containing some 8 single rooms – beds, with hot showers and toilets. Basic cooking facilities are also available. Because of the small amount of this type of accommodation we would like to promote the weekend as a camp out situation with caravans, camper trailers, motor homes and tents very welcome. Some may wish to motel in Chinchilla and travel back and forth. Normal forestry camping fees would apply.

### Programme:

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, 8.00am start do a approx. 100km run around the Barakula end of the forestry, including the Waaje wild flower area home to *Acacia barakulensis* and *E. pachycalyx* subsp. *waajensis*, both endemic to the area. Return to camp area. The weekend will be self catering. Gas BBQs, hot water, washup facilities, flush toilets, hot showers, and campfire (weather permitting) will be supplied. Saturday social night; members are encouraged to address group with anything botanical.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, 8.00 start. Do an approx. 100km run around Ballon area. Car pooling will be encouraged for easier movement round forestry. 4wd not necessary as a 2wd with good ground clearance will suffice. Another three endemics will be visited including *Acacia chinchillensis*, *Acacia striatifolia* and *Acacia handonis*, with a possible visit to Stockyard lagoons. Return to camp later in the afternoon for tea and a yarn round campfire.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>. Pack up and be ready to leave 9.00am, via the south west exit of the forestry towards the town of Miles. Fuel and other supplies available. View *Acacia aprepta*. Travel to Condamine. Lunch at hotel on the banks of the River. Continue east, call into Condamine forestry and checkout old stand of acacia. Further along highway we can inspect *Acacia hakeoides*, *Acacia wardellii*, *Acacia debilis*, *Acacia burrowii*, etc, etc. If members are still interested I can show them a spot just east of Kogan, recently found, containing a small stand of prostrate *Acacia caroleae*. Say goodbye. Members can now continue along Condamine Highway to Dalby, Toowoomba, Brisbane and home.

The Barakula Ballon Forestry and surrounding area contains some 60 acacia species.

In a subsequent communication, Len wrote as follows:

Have contacted DERM and booked in weekend. All OK. DERM have decided they may require one of the barracks, but on the other hand have given us the other barracks, free of charge. They call it the motel. Facilities include 3 rooms, 5 beds, full kitchen, hot shower, power and outside fire place. Adjacent to the motel is a large shady flat area to set up caravans, camper trailers and tents. Costs: DERM require camping fees of \$5.40 per person per night (a small fee increase is due shortly). Starters will have to pay on line because in Queensland self-registration is not possible. Will give more details as event draws closer.

If you wish to register an expression of interest in joining this Field Trip, please advise either Len Hubbard or Bill Aitchison.

## From Members and Readers

**Barry Reville** (Moorabbin, Vic) has a particular interest in *Acacia dietrichiana*, and is hoping to grow some plants from seed. Barry writes as follows:

“In 1960 I worked as a field assistant with the Bureau of Mineral Resources. Our base camp was at Lake Elphinstone which is situated way out west from Mackay in Queensland. It was the most idyllic place, Brolgas, Pelicans, we saw two people in six months. It has now been “discovered” by the local mining companies and they use it for water skiing. Some months ago, just by chance, I happened to read in the Weekly Times that a new book on botany had been written for children. Reference was made

of a German lady, Amalie Dietrich, who, in the 1860's, had lived at Lake Elphinstone for nearly a year. In the process of obtaining further details about her stay there I discovered *A. dietrichiana* had been named after her. Hence my interest in the seeds which I really would like to grow. Lake Elphinstone is still very close to my heart."

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**Victoria Tanner** has recently been madly planting a number of Acacias in her garden, as there have been a few plant sales and she can't resist! She has bought a few acacias from Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens including *A. cognata* and about five from the Friends of the ANBG. These included two *A. williamsonii*. She advises that Yarralumla Nursery sell *A. dangarenis*, a rare plant with lovely foliage that seems to be taking off in her garden.

Victoria also tells me that she spent a day driving from Canberra down to Bendigo to visit Goldfields Revegetation Nursery – a long day as it involved a round trip of 13 hours driving and 2½ hours at the Nursery. However, it was well worth the effort as she bought about 100 plants, the majority being acacias, of course. For anyone intending to come to Bendigo for the Wildflower Show and Wattle Spectacular, a visit to Goldfields is well worthwhile – I am pretty sure that their range of acacias is the largest of any nursery in Victoria. ([www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au](http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au)).

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**Des Nelson** (Alice Springs) has written in relation to a number of items in our previous (March) Newsletter:

Our own property of 12 acres is situated 14km SE of Alice Springs in what is termed the Rural Area. It is registered as a Land for Wildlife place and is dominated by Acacias. The most prolific is Witchetty Bush, *Acacia kempeana* which forms a thick scrub. I note it referred to as Wanderie Wattle on page 11 of your newsletter. Scattered around the block are trees of what is known locally as Ironwood, *Acacia estrophiolata*. We have patches of Colony Wattle, *Acacia murrayana*, a small tree which produces the most glorious profusion of vivid yellow flowers each year. We have three Mulgas, *Acacia aneura*, one of which I planted more than 20 years ago. Quite a surprise was the appearance and growth of what is now a three metre high, profusely flowering *Acacia salicina* which we did not plant. I presume it would have been brought in via seed by one of the many birds which patronize our place.

On page 11 of the Newsletter is a reference to work about the uses of *Acacia* spp. by Swinburne University of Technology. One item refers to the "threat of dryland salinity to food production" et seq. Local botanist Peter Latz maintains that the large shrub, *Acacia maconochieana* would be the most salt tolerant *Acacia* species he has encountered in a lifetime of work in Australia's arid lands. *Acacia latzii* has been named for Peter by Bruce Maslin. Other associates of mine after whom wattles are named are *Acacia chippendalei* for George Chippendale who

established the herbarium of the Northern Territory, and *Acacia perryi* for Ray Perry of CSIRO who did a great job of botanical and ecological exploration in the NT.

On page 4 of the Newsletter is a reference to my description of *Acacia stronglyphylla* of 1968. Back then we called it Skeleton Wattle due to its spindly form. It is spectacular when in bloom with its large brilliant golden flowers.

I was interested in the Newsletter section "Acacia – A Wonder Plant". Research into Aboriginal headache remedies was conducted by Griffith University in 2001. Among samples which I submitted for the work were *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. estrophiolata* and *A. cuthbertsonii*. I never did learn of any results of the job. Pete Latz told me that seeds of *A. pruinocarpa* were also a headache remedy. Pete wrote a great book, "Bushfires and Bushtucker", which has details of the uses of Central Australian plants, including lots of Acacias. Printed by Griffin Press, Adelaide, published by IAD Alice Springs, ISBN 0949659835. Well worth a look. I have a book, published in 1888 by the Government Printer, Melbourne, brief title "Select Extra-Tropical Plants" by that most remarkable man, Ferdinand von Mueller. He writes descriptions of lots of *Acacia* spp. and for some he has a lot of details of their economic value and other properties.

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**David Coote** (Camberwell, Vic) writes as follows:

"My wife and I have recently bought some land in the Strzeleckis. The property is at around 200m altitude with 1000mm+ annual rainfall. The 1750 Ecological Vegetation Class is Wet Forest but there is a range of micro-climates with north, south and south-easterly aspects. We're interested in planting some acacias for a number of purposes including edible seed production. We would be very grateful for advice on what acacia species producing edible seed might do well on this site."

If you have any suggestions for David, let me know and I can either pass them on or give you David's contact details.

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I recently received a query as to whether I could recommend a particular seed raising mix for Acacias. I have provided some suggestions to the enquirer – but perhaps Study Group members who grow Acacias from seed could let me know of their preferred mix. I will include the various responses received in our next Newsletter.

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One of our members has drawn our attention to the following website which may be of interest to members selecting acacias for their garden. It breaks up recommended species not only by size but also by climate and also flowering times.  
<http://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/PlantNet/wattle/recom.html>

# Update of WATTLE key

By Bruce Maslin, WA Herbarium

Letting you know that an update of the WATTLE key has now been deployed on the web at LucidCentral:

<http://www.lucidcentral.org/>.

The update is called WATTLE2 and it includes 1223 taxa of *Acacia sens. lat.* that occur in Australia; this is 58 more taxa than in the 2001 version of WATTLE that was published on CD. WATTLE2 includes all formally described taxa of *Acacia sens. str.*, *Acaciella*, *Vachellia* and *Senegalia*, together with Phrase Name taxa and common hybrid entities where these exist in the public domain accompanied by a description.

This interim edition of WATTLE ver. 2 does not include species profiles for the taxa. Moves are afoot to rectify this situation but in the meantime you can at least use the key.

When you click on “WATTLE Acacias of Australia ver. 2. By B.R. Maslin” at LucidCentral you will see that there are two options for playing the key:

- (1) Lucid Key Server Edition
- (2) Lucid Java Applet Player

Personally I prefer the latter. By clicking on “Use this version” for (2) an applet version of the Lucid Player will be downloaded to your computer (c. 760 kb; this can take a few seconds to load); the Player will then run and remain active within your browser. If you close your browser then revisit the url <http://www.lucidcentral.org/> to reload the Player.

If you detect error in WATTLE2 I would love to hear about them because I plan to maintain the currency of the data and provide regular updates.

## Coming Events

### Centenary Wattle Chats

For those who may be in Canberra in early September, **Dr Joe Miller** is presenting a talk called “Wattle Gold”. In “Wattle Gold”, Joe will talk about recent research into the evolution of *Acacia*, the great diversity of its traits in Australia and its relationship to other families of flowering plants of Australia. His talk will also provide insights into the value of future research.

This talk is being held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, from 12.30pm -1.30pm on 5 September. It is part of the celebration of Canberra’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013.

For more information, see <http://www.canberra100.com.au/calendar/view/895/centenary-chats-wattle-gold/>.

### Display of Acacia Wood Craft

**Bob Lorensene** (Mulgrave, Vic) is a member of the Acacia Study Group, and is also a talented wood turner. As a special celebration of Wattle Day, an exhibition of his work is being held in September. The display will feature wood craft of various items using about 30 different species of *Acacia*, and showing the various differences in colours and the grains of the wood.

Details are as follows:

Date: 1 September – 30 September 2013  
Place: Wheelers Hill Library,  
Ferntree Gully Rd,  
Wheelers Hill, Vic

The Wheelers Hill Library is located in the same building as the Monash Gallery of Art.

### Australian Plant Show and Wattle Spectacular

A reminder that this is being held by the Bendigo Native Plant Group on the weekend of 31 August and 1 September, from 10.00 – 4.30 each day, at the Rotary Gateway Park, High Street, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo.

## Acacia decora root nodules

By Michael McCuaig

Further to my ramblings of last newsletter on legumes and nodule formation, I enclose this photo of *Acacia decora* seedlings. The plants are well and truly beyond the sensible transplanting stage (most, however survived the process), and because of this, they show a rather interesting formation of root nodules.

It would appear that they are forming and growing in an area probably dictated by two things; (i) the initial presence of bacteria and (ii) because of the drainage holes in the punnet, the ready availability of nitrogen gas, via air exchange through these holes. It seems easy enough to imagine that the nitrogen fixing bacteria formed one, or a few, nodules, multiplied rapidly and were then able to infect other areas of the plant’s roots in close proximity. This, as always, raises some questions as to how nodules continue to obtain the gas when formed on roots presumably buried very deep under soil, on trees and shrubs.



Acacia decora seedlings

Photo Michael McCuaig

I went searching the net for some ideas about diffusion and solubility rates of nitrogen and some of its compounds, ruled out solubility and found not too much on diffusion. I did find a great reference on nitrogen fixation and Acacias. It contains much on things Acacia but is mainly aimed at summarising the literature on ways of utilising Acacias to augment nitrogen supply to plantations of other plants and especially highlights well known approaches to this process in West and East Africa. You and your readers, if interested and not already known to you (as it was to me), can find the 75 page article by putting the author's surnames (Brockwell, Searle, Jeavons and Waayers) into Google. Don't just put Brockwell in as you will get lots of interesting characters - but very little on Acacias!! It will be really interesting to, hopefully, hear of other members' experiences with nodules and seedling growth.

## Our ANPSA Study Group Display

As previously advised, **Michael McCuaig** has been preparing our Study Group display at the forthcoming ANPSA Conference on the Sunshine Coast. Michael is involved with some local primary school students, and has been working with them in propagating a number of species of Acacia. Our Conference display will feature some of the plants grown by the students, and most likely some colouring-in sheets by students from the same school. Our June 2011 Newsletter (No. 113) referred to a paper written by Joe and Cathy Miller (*Acacia seedling morphology: phyllotaxy and its relationship to seed mass*). This paper discussed the different manner in which the first juvenile leaves develop in Acacia seedlings. Together with the students, Michael has been studying his seedlings in the light of this paper, and he plans to share some of these observations as part of the Conference display. Over the last month or so, I have received a number of communications from Michael in relation to his various activities, and I have extracted some of his various jottings below.

“Here are some examples of acacias we have been germinating as part of the proposed ANPSA display to illustrate the different forms of phyllotaxy in the species. The species, most of which are local are, *myrtifolia* (21 and the two without a label), *salicina* (47), *longifolia* ssp *sophorae* (25) and *chinchillensis* (69, top right). All, except *A. chinchillensis* which shows the pinnate: bipinnate form and *longifolia* ssp *sophorae* which will eventually go straight to a phyllode form, show pinnate: pinnate, as does *A. amblygona*, which I neglected to put in with the group. There is one of the pinnate: bipinnate form in the lower left *myrtifolia* punnet and an interesting two leaflet form in the punnet on the lower right.”



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“In spite of the inevitable setbacks associated with growing those wretchedly hard little seeds, every now and then things happen to make the process all worthwhile. There is an amazing beauty about the germinated seeds that is obvious only when you look closely.”

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“*A. chinchillensis*, according to the Millers' list, is one of the species that shows both forms, so I was keen to see them. I only had 12 seeds, only 6 germinated, so I did not see the difference. I thought I would sort this out and I bought 25g of *A. chinchillensis* seed. If 1242 seeds, I counted them (I know - get a life), could not show the difference then what could? I have 5 punnets under germination, but the very cold (for us) weather has slowed things down considerably. Oh for a controlled temperature glasshouse.” (Millers' list refers to the list in the paper referred to above).

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“I bought a scrawny, awful looking tubestock of *A. flavescens* and began to show lots of tender loving care to grow it on in a pot. The result is almost amazing. The (still juvenile) new phyllodes are HUGE and so different to the originals that, like everything, it just makes you wonder.”

“I will be arrested soon for talking to plants and imploring them to hold back on their flowering. Just have to rely on all their other wonderful attributes.” (a reference to Michael’s hope that some plants will be in flower at the time of the Conference).

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“My wife and I went for a walk through a very soggy, but also wonderfully verdant, Kathleen McArthur Park yesterday. Both *A. ulicifolia* (one plant) and *A. suaveolens* are in flower in untouched parts of the park. In an area, close to the water, where a fire rolled through last year there are enormous numbers of what appear to be *A. suaveolens* plants growing. I hope I haven’t got this mixed up as I just can’t imagine where all the seeds could have come from. Whichever plant it is, it is a remarkable sight.”

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At one of their local SGAP meetings, the idea was floated that “our group could be involved in the propagation of endangered species. One such mentioned was *Acacia attenuata*... The boys and I have germinated some of these and we have a few plants potted on.”

Our thanks to Michael for all of the work that he is putting in to preparing the display at the Conference, and also for the work that he is doing with the local children – maybe an example that others could follow.

## Acacias and Leadbeater’s Possum

By Bill Aitchison

One of the current members of the Acacia Study Group is **Eric Wilkinson**. Eric has the distinction of being the person who, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1961, rediscovered Leadbeater’s Possum in the Central Highlands of Victoria. This species, which is the faunal emblem of Victoria, had been thought to have been extinct at that time.



Photo: Prof David Lindenmayer

Sadly, the future survival of this species is again at risk. The 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria wiped out around 42% of its habitat, and population numbers in the wild halved to an estimated 1000 individuals. But an even more serious threat now exists as a result of logging in the

forests within which the possums live, logging which unfortunately is supported by a Victorian State Government which appears to care little for this species or in fact for the environment in general. In a letter published in the journal Science in May, David Lindenmayer and Hugh Possingham described the actions of the Victorian Government as being “calculated actions to drive an endangered species to extinction.”

It is noted that Acacias are important to the possum in the forests in which it lives. They are only found in Mountain Ash forest with a good understorey of *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *A. obliquinervia* (Mountain Hickory Wattle) or *A. frutescens* (Montane Wattle). They move through the Acacia understorey at night, and they use their sharp front teeth to bite through the bark and lick up the dribbling sap.

More information in relation to the possum can be found on the website of the Friends of Leadbeater’s Possum (<http://leadbeaters.org.au/>).

## Acacia johnsonii

By Bill Aitchison

One of the Acacias that we expect to see on our Study Group Field Trip next year is *Acacia johnsonii*, it is one of the most widespread Acacias in the area that we will be visiting, and Len Hubbard tells us that “mass flowerings are on the cards”.



A. johnsonii at Barakula

Photo Geoff Lay

The species is named after Robert William (Bob) Johnson, who died in Brisbane on 13 August 2012. Bob Johnson was Director of the Queensland Herbarium for 14 years, and was co-author of the three volume Flora of South-eastern Queensland.

It has appeared in our Study Group Seed Bank lists, but these are the only references that I can find to it in past Study Group newsletters (it was originally described by Les Pedley in 1980). It does, however, appear to have considerable merit from a horticultural point of view. It is a smallish shrub 2-3m high. In Acacias of Australia Vol 2,

Marion Simmons describes it as a “beautiful decorative shrub for well-drained soils in full sun or some shade, in dry, warm temperate to sub-tropical areas.” Its flowering period is August-October with “numerous, bright yellow balls 5-9 mm diameter.”

I made some enquiries hoping to find some examples of it in cultivation, but the only success I had was a single plant reported as growing in the ANBG in Canberra. Victoria Tanner kindly offered to mount a search for this plant in the Gardens, and in this she succeeded, but only after considerable effort on her part and others! In her search for the plant, she was assisted by Warwick Wright, Paul Carmen and Daniel Carmody – our thanks to all of them. For anyone interested, Paul Carmen’s directions as to where to find the plant in the garden were as follows:

“I found the plant you are looking for in section 77. It is not hard to find (if you know where to look) – try this – go to the 4 way intersection opposite the top depot where the toilets are. Walk up the hill until you get to a path off the left (it is the only one into the garden) – walk along this path around 3-4 metres on right is the plant (straggly around a metre high). There is a tag at the base of the plant.”

Victoria followed these instructions, and found the plant! However, it was a disappointment after so much effort – only 1.2 metres high and quite straggly, and with a few dead end branches. We understand that this particular plant was planted in 2001, so it is still surviving after 12 years. Perhaps in flower it would look much more attractive? But perhaps Canberra’s climate just doesn’t meet the dry and warm conditions that it prefers.

Can anyone else let us know of any experience they have in growing this species?

**Note:** Although *A. johnsonii* was a disappointment, Victoria tells us that some other Acacias have been putting on a fantastic display at the ANBG – these being *A. alata*, *A. terminalis*, *A. glaucoptera* (a massive display every year), *A. olseni* (spectacular on a winter’s day – see photo on page 8), *A. adunca* and *A. jibberdingensis*.

## Photos of Wattle Places

In our previous two Newsletters, we have included photos of locations called “wattle” or that have “wattle” in the name. The only photo received this month is from Victoria Tanner – so Victoria is this month’s winner! Maybe someone else might send in a photo for our next Newsletter?

Victoria’s photo is taken in Wattle Street, Lyneham, in Canberra, and is of a childcare centre called “Wattle”. It also has a wattle growing out the front – it is good to see the children are being introduced to wattles at a young age. Victoria notes that there is also a wattle park in the street,

and the surrounding streets are named after plant species eg dryandra, banksia, bursaria etc as it is not far from the ANBG.



## Books

### **Wattle Seed The Kitchen Handbook By Linda Hoffman**

**Published by Footside Farm 2012, 84 pages,  
\$28 plus postage**

This book shares some of the author’s knowledge that has been gathered by growing, harvesting, processing, storing and using wattle seed in her home. The result is a book of about 35 recipes, all of which use wattle seed. The recipes come under the various headings of savoury, sweet, baking and drinks. The book also includes general information on things like the nutrient value of wattle seed, and how to roast wattle seed.

The book can be purchased online at [www.footsidefarm.com](http://www.footsidefarm.com).

### **Flora of the Otway Plain & Ranges 2 By Enid Mayfield**

**Published by CSIRO Publishing 2013, 436  
pages, RRP \$59.95**

Enid Mayfield, who is a botanical illustrator and researcher, has written this new field guide to the “daisies, heaths, peas, saltbushes, wattles and other shrubby and herbaceous dicotyledons” of the Otway region of southern Victoria. More than 480 species are included in the book, with 22 species of Acacia, as follows: *A. acinacea*, *A. aculeatissima*, *A. dealbata*, *A. genistifolia*, *A. gunnii*, *A. leprosa* var. *magna*, *A. longifolia* ssp. *sophorae*, *A. mearnsii*, *A. melanoxydon*, *A. mitchellii*, *A. mucronata* ssp. *longifolia*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. nano-dealbata*, *A. oxycedrus*, *A. paradoxa*, *A. pycnantha*, *A. stricta*, *A. suaveolens*, *A. uncifolia*, *A. verniciflua*, *A. verticillata* ssp. *ovoidea* and *A. verticillata* ssp. *verticillata*.

For each species the author has provided descriptions and quite exquisite true colour illustrations, making the book a visual feast as well as being a serious botanical work and an informative field guide.

## Plants of the Great South West

By Kevin Sparrow

Published by SGAP Warrnambool 2013, 360 pages, RRP \$29.95

This is a revised and expanded edition of a book originally published in 2004, and includes about 490 species of native plants found within 20 km of the coast in south west Victoria. For each species, information is provided in relation to localities and habitat where found, size, flowering times, a description and propagation information, as well as colour photographs.

15 species of Acacia are included, as follows: *A. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia*, *A. longifolia* ssp. *sophorae*, *A. mearnsii*, *A. melanoxylon*, *A. mitchellii*, *A. mucronata* ssp. *longifolia*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. nano-dealbata*, *A. oxycedrus*, *A. paradoxa*, *A. provincialis*, *A. pycnantha*, *A. stricta*, *A. verticillata* ssp. *ovoidea* and *A. verticillata* ssp. *verticillata*.

The book also includes a chapter on the dramatic spread of Coast Wattle in south west Victoria.

## Seed Bank

Our thanks to Ian Tranter and Julie Lindner who have donated seed to our Seed Bank:

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 18 packets maximum in each order (negotiable). There is a charge of \$2.40 in relation to each order, to cover the cost of a padded post bag and postage. The \$2.40 may be paid in stamps or by direct credit to our Group's bank account. Some members include an additional payment with their annual subscriptions to cover the Seed Bank charge.

Requests for seed may be lodged in either of the following ways:

1. By email to our Study Group email address, [acaciastudygroup@gmail.com](mailto: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.

An up to date Seed Bank List will be included in our September Newsletter.

## Study Group Membership

Acacia Study Group membership for 2013/14 is now due:

\$7 (newsletter sent by email)

\$10 (hardcopy of newsletter posted in Australia)

\$20 (hardcopy of newsletter posted overseas)

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](mailto:acaciastudygroup@gmail.com)).



Acacia olsenii at ANBG

Photo V Tanner