



*Acacia brunioides*

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.

## ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Secondly, I was reminded of seed collection time by our Seed Bank Curator, **Victoria Tanner**. Victoria advised that she has been collecting some seed, and asked that I remind Study Group members that seed donations to the Seed Bank are gratefully accepted. Victoria asks that seed be cleaned, sorted and labelled. If you wish to check before donating seed that we have a need for that species, please let me know and I will check with Victoria. Information regarding the operation of the Seed Bank is included on page 11.

Those members who are on our email distribution list will be aware that I sent out an email asking for expressions of interest in helping our Study Group in being represented at the ANPSA Biennial Conference, to be held at Kiama, NSW this coming September. My thanks to **Maria Hitchcock** and to **Anne Keaney** for volunteering to help – thanks to Maria and Anne I believe that we will have a Study Group display at the Conference. If there is anyone else who would be happy to help, please let me know.

**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>

Thank you to those members who have already renewed their memberships for the 2021/22 year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, it would be appreciated if you could attend to this. Details regarding membership renewal are shown on page 11. If you are unsure of your membership status, let me know and I will check our membership records.

Please note that our Study Group's financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2021 is included on page 11 of this newsletter.

Bill Aitchison

### From The Leader

Dear Members

I have recently been reminded twice that this is the time of year when a lot of Acacias have come into seed.

Firstly, a couple of weeks ago I was having breakfast (and looking out into our garden) and noticed a group of six king parrots, also having breakfast and enjoying some of the native plants in our garden. The parrots hung around for the best part of an hour, and one of the plants they were feasting on was an *Acacia brachybotrya* – which at that time still had immature seed pods.

# Welcome

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

Thomas Kendall, Zillmere, Qld  
Mick Webster, Chiltern, Vic

Mick advises that he has just joined the APS Wangaratta branch. He is a long-term lover of Acacias, currently growing about 10-12 rare ones in Chiltern, and making expeditions to find *A. sporadica*, a really rare one.

## From Members and Readers

**Christian Kull (Rolle, Switzerland)** writes (24 August 2021) as follows:

Many thanks for ASG Newsletter No. 150. I always enjoy receiving them. Just saw my first Acacia “live” in a few years, planted in a garden halfway between Lyons and Marseilles in France. Probably the limit of its range, as it looks like it had suffered severe winter die-back.”

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**Bruce Schroder (Montrose, Vic)** sent me a photo of his *Acacia daviesii* (27 August 2021), flowering for the first time in his garden. Those of you who know Bruce will be aware that he doesn’t always believe plant labels. The plant label that came with this Acacia read as follows:

“A rare wattle from Mt Timbertop. Shrub 2m x 1m, prefers full sun and tolerant of frost”.



*Acacia daviesii*

Photo Bruce Schroder

Bruce notes that his plant is in full, but not heavy shade, under a Eucalypt canopy. He questions the reference to full sun!

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**Helen van Riet (Wangaratta, Vic)** wrote (1 Sept 2021) as follows

“Thank you for sending out the ASG newsletter. It arrived today - Wattle Day!

I haven’t had time to read it yet, but have glanced at the index, and am looking forward to catching up with the info and news.

We are busy outside in our garden, as, fingers crossed, we will be holding our open garden in mid-October, or, if not then, hopefully later when COVID restrictions are eased.”

Helen also attached a copy of the local Wangaratta Chronicle which included a feature on Wattle Day. The feature included a front page photo of Helen, with *Acacia cardiophylla*. Helen notes that this species does really well in her light sandy soil. She has 4 mature plants, all in different areas of the block.

Helen also writes a regular fortnightly article for The Chronicle, and her article coinciding with Wattle Day was, naturally, about Acacias. She wrote an article about *Acacia aphylla*. Helen notes that she gets comments from time to time about this unusual plant. Her plant hangs over the front fence, and with the lockdown restrictions (at that time) limiting folks to going for walks only up to 5km from home there were more people walking the rural roads near town.

If anyone would like to see the relevant sections from that issue of the Wangaratta Chronicle, let me know and I can send you a scanned copy.

Incidentally, Helen subsequently told me that the Open Garden went ahead and was a terrific success, raising much needed dollars for Oxfam.

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**Merele Webb (Croydon North, Vic)** wrote as follows (3 September 2021):

“I really enjoy reading the newsletters – so many species in such varied habitats. This year the *Acacia acinacea* on my back fence have excelled themselves. It must be the sheltered positions and slightly raised soil.”

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**Glenda Datson (Baranduda, Vic)** (3 September 2021) provided a photo of a pink or red flowering *Acacia gunnii* at Chiltern National Park, in north eastern Victoria. Glenda is going to try propagating it from seed (collected with permission) and will be interested to see what results she gets from this. She may also try some cuttings.





*Acacia gunnii*

Photo Mick Webster

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**Des Nelson (Alice Springs, NT)** wrote (5 September 2021) as follows:

“Let me recommend to members who are still able to travel to Alice Springs in these uncertain times that they should visit the Olive Pink Botanic Garden. Olive Pink does not refer to colours, it is the name of a remarkable lady, Olive Muriel Pink, who founded the park from small beginnings in 1956.

The garden features plants of Central Australia with a good number of *Acacia* species. There is a dedicated Wattle Walk along which are plantings of 15 *Acacias*, but there are others in some areas of the garden. Along the Wattle Walk is *Acacia desmondii*, Des Nelson Wattle, named by Bruce Maslin. Originally it was designated as *Acacia nelsonii* but subsequently it was found that name had already been used, hence the change to *A. desmondii*. Also in the garden is *Acacia latzii*, Latz’s Wattle, named also by Bruce Maslin for Peter Latz, a prominent NT botanist, author and a man much involved with the garden. *Acacia maconochieana*, Salt Wattle, named for the late NT botanist, John Maconochie, is also featured.

Contacts are [www.opbg.com.au](http://www.opbg.com.au) or Email: [curator@opbg.com.au](mailto:curator@opbg.com.au).

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**Bill Molyneux (Dixons Creek, Vic)** has asked if any Study Group member can assist with the identification of an *Acacia*. He writes (19 September 2021) as follows:

Hi Bill

Would you be able to see whether any member can ID this acacia for us. While it grows in a large private property north of Macedon and east of Kyneton in Victoria, it may not be a local in the area. It could have come from Goldfields Nursery near Bendigo as it is a very mature large shrub around 3x3 metres. Young stems and floral rachis are very narrow and leaf pinnules are small. All of these character are very lightly clothed in short soft hairs. Thin floral rachis is at plus or minus 90 degrees from the main stem and around 4cm long and golden medium sized ball flower are spaced loosely along the rachis in from 16 - 20 individuals.

The only ‘guess’ we can have to ID is *A. deanei*, but we are not familiar with this species either in the wild or in horticulture.

Regards to you and the widespread group members.

**Bill Molyneux.**

I tried keying the plant out and also came up with, possibly, *A. deanei* (probably ssp. *paucijuga*) – but perhaps someone may wish to suggest something different?



What is this Acacia?

Photo Bill Molyneux

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**Jenny Simons (Burradoo, NSW)** wrote (30 September 2021) as follows:

“What a great newsletter! The Minni-Ritchi bark story reminded me of a visit to Central Australia when I saw glorious examples of the special bark.

I would like to contribute to the newsletter but have nothing to say. However, a few remarks about my wattles.

I have allowed *A. baileyana* to grow and grow in my garden. It is now a magnificent tree and admired by all. I have about 28 different wattles, some in multiple plantings, such as a hedge of the dwarf form of *A. acinacea*. Cuttings that I took have grown tall, to my surprise. I have a version of *A. glaucoptera* that has very narrow leaves, differing from the usual plant. I grow *A. vestita*, *A. cultriformis* and *A. pravissima* and cherish them for their quaint leaves. *A. ulicifolia* flowers for 10 months of the year, *A. iteaphylla* for 8 or 9 months. *A. pubescens* just keeps on growing and is a mass of flowers, but it has begun to sucker in all directions and this I find a very annoying habit. *A. spectabilis* is the most wonderful flowerer. Its seed pods are extremely attractive to the Mountain Lories and they managed to eat all the seeds on the very day that I was planning to collect them!



**Chris Hallahan (Shoalhaven Heads, NSW)** wrote (3 October 2021) as follows:

“Not much going on here. My beautiful Flinders Range wattle died. Luckily have a few seedlings going well. But I'm a bit worried as a *Grevillea sericea* beside it then died, and now a clump of *Isopogons* beside that are dying. All were growing well, then started turning brown. I hope it is not a soil disease. They're certainly not waterlogged as my 'soil' is just about beach sand. Disappointing.”

If anyone has any suggestions as to what is causing Chris's problems, I will pass any comments on to her.

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**Chris Nayda (Pt Augusta, SA)** wrote (19 October 2021) regarding *Acacia papyrocarpa*.

“I have attached a photo of the Western Myall *Acacia papyrocarpa* growing at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Port Augusta SA. It is resplendent in color this year and is the emblem of our Garden. This plant is only 25 years old which is amazing as they usually take about 100 years to grow to this size in the outback. As you can see in photo it grows next to the visitor centre and gets lot of water. They grow north of Port Augusta to about Roxby Downs and west across the Nullarbor just into WA.

Western Myalls live to a ripe old age (500 years ish) and wondered will this one live that long or because of its fast grow die earlier. None of us will be here to find out. We have a couple in the AALBG we think are about 500 years old. Their phyllodes turn silver grey in summer and look stunning.”



*Acacia papyrocarpa*

Photo Chris Nayda

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**Jennie Epstein (Little River, Vic)** wrote as follows (16 December 2021):

“I love the way our native plants take such advantage of good conditions to survive as a species in adversity. The *Acacia verniciflua* in my garden in Little River (Vic) is absolutely dripping with seed pods this year. It's about 18 years old and I have never seen it look like this. Two years of good rain and mild summer conditions have really fired it up!”



*Acacia verniciflua*

Photo Jennie Epstein

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**Dr Wolf-Achim Roland (Solingen, Germany)** sent a photo of an *Acacia glaucoptera* which had been growing in the Botanical Garden at the University of Dusseldorf for many years, a wonderful specimen in its greenhouse. The plant had to be removed as a result of which they were looking for seeds so that they could plant a replacement. Unfortunately our Study Group cannot export seeds overseas so we were not able to help, but we hope that they will be able to source some seeds from which to propagate a new plant.



*Acacia glaucoptera* at Dusseldorf

Photo Dt Wolf-Achim Roland

## Acacias on The Gunbarrel Highway

In between lockdowns in 2021, **Geoff and Jannie Lay (Box Hill North, Vic)** were fortunate to be able to fly to Perth and from there to do a 4wheel drive track on the Gunbarrel Highway to Alice Springs.

As might be expected they took many photographs along the way, including Acacias. Some of the Acacias that they photographed appear below, together with the location and date that the photo was taken. I have also included a few comments on each species.



***Acacia doreta* (Mingol Camp 23/4/21)** - One of the Minni Ritchi Wattles whose distribution extends from the eastern desert regions of WA and into SA and the NT. It is reported as commonly forming monotypic stands. The Mingol Camp is one of the camps along the Gunbarrel Highway.



*Acacia doreta*

***Acacia caesaneura* x *incurvaneura* (Gunbarrel Hwy 23/4/21)** - This is referred to as being a putative hybrid. If you are like me, and didn't know what a "putative hybrid" is, see page 11 of this newsletter (under the heading of Books).



*Acacia caesaneura* x *incurvaneura*

***Acacia maitlandii* (Gunbarrel Hwy 24/4/21)** - an open shrub 1—3m high, widespread in arid areas of NSW, NT, Qld, SA and WA, often on red sand.



*Acacia maitlandii*

***Acacia minyura* (Gunbarrel Hwy 24/4/21)** - One of the mulgas that is distinguished from other members of the Mulha group by its small, flat phyllodes and thick resinous branchlet ribs. Found in WA, NT and SA.



*Acacia minyura*

***Acacia paraneura* (Mangkili Clay Pan 25/4/21)** - The Mangkili Claypan is a large, ephemeral, freshwater claypan (a claypan is a depression in soft sediments with low permeability allowing them to hold water). *A. paraneura* is found in WA, NT, SA, Qld and NSW, and is recorded from sandy and gravelly soils along streams and outwashes from hills.



*Acacia paraneura*

***Acacia symonii* and *Triodia angusta* Gunbarrel Hwy 26/4/21** - *A. symonii* is a bushy-crowned shrub or small tree usually 2-4m high. An uncommon species with a scattered distribution in the central Arid Zone.



*Acacia symonii* and *Triodia angusta*



*Acacia rhodophloia* (Charlies Knob 27/4/21) - Another of the Minni Ritchi wattles.



*Acacia rhodophloia*

*Acacia pruinocarpa* (Charlies Knob 27/4/21) - A tree commonly 5-6m high, may have a single trunk or be sparingly branched near ground level to a few main trunks. From arid areas of NT, SA and WA.



*Acacia pruinocarpa*

*Acacia sibirica* (Mt Gordon 28/4/21) - Widespread in arid Australia in all mainland states except Vic. It is closely related to *Acacia kempeana* (Witchetty Bush), and has the common name False Witchetty Bush.



*Acacia sibirica*

*Acacia monticola* (Sandy Blight Rd. 2/5/21) - Another Minni Ritchi Wattle, found in WA, NT and Qld. In the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Vol 2 (Elliot and Jones), it is described as being a hardy shrub for gardens in hot, arid climates but can be grown in warm temperate areas such as around Adelaide.



*Acacia monticola*

*Acacia pteraneura* (Sandy Blight Rd. 2/5/21) - This was previously called *Acacia aneura* var. *conifera* – which recognised its appearance similar to a conifer.



*Acacia pteraneura*

*Acacia melleodora* (Sandy Blight Rd. 2/5/21) - If a photo were able to convey a sense of smell and of touch, this photo would do both. The species name *melleodora* means smelling like honey, in reference to the plant's attractive smell. In relation to touch, "sticky" would be the relevant word. In discussing this species in Acacias of



Australia Vol. 1, Marion Simmons refers to a “bright green sticky shrub”, “warted sticky stems”, “very sticky, young phyllodes”, “flowers, on sticky stalks” and pods that are “sticky”.



*Acacia melleodora*

***Acacia inaequilatera* (Sandy Blight Rd. 3/5/21)** - Geoff’s photo illustrates two characteristics of this species, being its irregularly sided phyllodes that end in a sharp point, and its golden flower heads that often have a dark orange brown centre.



*Acacia inaequilatera*

***Acacia hilliana* (Sandy Blight Rd. 4/5/21)** - A low growing spreading shrub, widespread in WA and the NT, very showy when in flower (flowers have been recorded from each month).



*Acacia hilliana*

***Acacia sericophylla* (Sandy Blight Rd 4/5/21)** - This is a small gnarled tree, a long lived species, widespread in WA, NT, SA, Qld and NSW.



*Acacia sericophylla*

## Acacias, Art and Family History

As noted in previous newsletters, **Ian Campbell (Sydney, NSW)** is the grandson of A J Campbell, who is recognized for his formation of a Wattle Club in Victoria in 1899 and for the first suggestion of a Wattle Day during a speech in 1908. In our previous newsletter No. 150, reference was made to visits that AJC made to Queensland. In a subsequent communication, Ian notes (20 August 2021) that it is now clear that AJC had a far greater focus on Queensland than he had previously imagined. He first visited North Qld in 1885, made the trip from Tenterfield to Southport in 1891, and from 1914-16 spent some time in North Qld; certainly in 1914, possibly also in 1915 -?Dunk Island – and certainly in 1916 when his new 2<sup>nd</sup> wife (Blanche Ida Rae Campbell, nee Duncan, Ian’s paternal grandmother) accompanied him.

Blanche was an artist and compiled a sketch/painting book of her 1916 (honeymoon) trip to Queensland. One of the paintings in that book was titled Wattle Blossom, Brisbane, and featured 2 Acacia species. That painting is reproduced below, with permission from Ian.



The two species illustrated were not identified by the artist (nor was the painting dated), but I asked **Jan Sked** if she could assist in identifying the species. Jan commented as follows:

"I have had a look at the painting and there are two different species illustrated. I think the first one with the rod flowers could be either *Acacia leiocalyx* or *Acacia concurrens*. They are very similar. The second species is most likely *Acacia falcata* with its creamy ball flowers.

I imagine the two species were painted at the same time; so it is likely the one with the rod flower spikes is *A. leiocalyx*, as it flowers at the start of winter and *A. falcata* flowers from autumn to early winter. Whereas *A. concurrens* flowers from mid-winter to early spring.

These species are all found around Brisbane."

Jan's comments would suggest that the painting was done in early winter and this is not inconsistent with Ian's other research in relation to the Queensland honeymoon trip. Ian writes:

"I agree the two acacias seem to have been painted around the same time, and also on same page.

Based on the entries in her sketch book, her autograph book, and the press coverage, especially 'The Daily Mail', Brisbane 10 November 1916, it seems evident that AJ Campbell and Blanche Ida Rae Campbell, nee Duncan - who married in Melbourne on 27 March 1916 - did journey through Brisbane, presumably by boat from Melbourne sometime after their marriage, but some time before 18 July when they appear to have now arrived in Townsville."

Ian advises that he has recently donated the 1916 sketch book of Blanche Ida Rae Campbell (containing the above Wattle Blossom drawing) to the Library at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. He also donated another pre 1916 sketch that Blanche did of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

## *Acacia cretacea*

Study Group members will be aware that **Sandra McKenzie (Moonta Bay, SA)** has taken an interest in the rare and endangered *Acacia cretacea* (Chalky Wattle). This wattle is only found in a very limited area near Cowell on Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.

Over about the last 6 years, she and her husband Don have visited the Cowell site at regular intervals and have monitored the health of the population on each visit.

She and Don visited Cowell again in August and has provided an update, but her report is not good. She comments as follows:

"Not good news, unfortunately. I reckon about 80% of the population have died with very little, if any, new plants.

The area has had some good rain so I was expecting to find some new ones. Where they are growing is being overtaken by what appears to be *Eucalyptus incrassata*."

Sandra then raised her concerns with representatives of the State Herbarium. She was advised that they have been planting *A. cretacea* at a place called Secret Rocks, about half way between Kimba and Whyalla on Eyre Peninsula. Sandra requested that staff from the Herbarium visit the Cowell site to make an assessment, but she is not aware that there has so far been any response to her request.

Sandra comments that she felt quite down after her visit to the Cowell site in August. The photos below show a comparison of the site in August 2016 and in August 2021.



August 2016



August 2021

Just recently, **Helen van Riet (Wangaratta, Vic)** forwarded to me a link to an ABC News report on 20 December 2021, relating to the translocation of *Acacia cretacea* to the site at Secret Rocks (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-12-20/native-plant-seed-bank-saves-flowering-species-from-extinction/100710226>).

The following is a link to the South Australian Seed Centre website: [http://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Leguminosae/Acacia/Acacia\\_cretacea.html](http://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Leguminosae/Acacia/Acacia_cretacea.html)



# Wattles at Maranoa Botanic Gardens - *Acacia handonis*

by Bill Aitchison

This is one of a series of articles on Acacias growing at Maranoa Botanic Gardens in the eastern Melbourne suburb of Balwyn.

Study Group members who participated in our 2014 field trip to the Barakula State Forest, north east of Chinchilla in southern Queensland will recall having admired *Acacia handonis*. This Acacia is endemic to this area, and is listed as Vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and Vulnerable under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear to be grown much in gardens, nor does it appear to be available in nurseries. But it is a plant that I think deserves to be grown more. The plant at Maranoa looks quite striking, especially in August when its large golden yellow flowers are in full display, but it is also attractive at other times of the year because of its green crowded phyllodes. It is about 3m high, and similar width.



*Acacia handonis*

Photo: Bill Aitchison

In our Study Group Newsletter No. 89 (December 2003) **Thais Eisen** described it as a "little gem", she commented on how the flower heads protrude well beyond the foliage, and stated that it is well worth growing particularly considering its attractiveness and rarity.

Thais did report that it is said to be short lived. The specimen at Maranoa Botanic Gardens was planted in 2007, so it is now 14 years old. It did lose a branch in one of the recent Melbourne storms, and is currently looking a bit sad as a result of this, but still pretty healthy.

**Andrea Dennis**, Horticultural Specialist at the Gardens, has provided the following report on the conditions in which the plant is growing.

"The soil is sandy with a large gravel mulch. It tends to be a bit hydrophobic at times. The water applied to this area is fairly low, and tends to run off and soak into the path or

lawn. I've tried soaking the area a bit more this year, and applied seasol and wetting agent to see if I can improve things."

Andrea also reports that she has recently tried taking some cuttings – it is a bit early yet to know if these have been successful.

## New Wattle Wonders Stamps

A new series of Australian wattle stamps was issued on 14 September 2021, under the title of Wattle Wonders.

There are three stamps in this issue, featuring *Acacia leprosa* 'Scarlet Blaze', *Acacia purpureopetala* and *Acacia alata* var. *biglandulosa*. These wattles have red, purple and white flowers respectively.



One plant that I haven't been particularly familiar with is *A. alata* var. *biglandulosa*. I am not aware of it being cultivated to any extent, but I was aware that there was a plant at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, and asked Ben and Ros Walcott about it. Ben responded as follows:

"I have attached some photos of *Acacia alata* var. *biglandulosa* flowers taken at the ANBG. I don't have images of the whole plant unfortunately and they have recently taken it out as part of a construction project. It certainly has magnificent flowers but can be a bit of a scraggly bush unless kept pruned (which they didn't do very often)."



*Acacia alata* var. *biglandulosa*

Photo: Ben Walcott

Further information regarding the stamp issue is available at <https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/stamp-issues/wattle-wonders.html>, or stamps can be purchased at the Australia Post online shop:

<https://auspost.com.au/shop/collectables/stamp-issues/australian-stamps/wattle-wonders>



## Acacias in the news

**Ray Turner, Sheryl Backhouse and Victoria Tanner** all noted an ABC report on 21 October 2021 regarding *Acacia baueri* (known as the tiny wattle) found blooming on Fraser Island in an area affected by fire a year ago.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-23/worlds-smallest-wattle-survives-kgari-fraser-island-bushfire/100556326>

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Study Group members may recall some years ago (in 2011) a proposal by the Commonwealth Government to ban the commercial sale of plants containing the chemical dimethyltryptamine (DMT). If the proposal had proceeded, the sale of a number of Acacia species containing DMT would have been prohibited, but fortunately the absurdity of the proposal was recognised and it did not proceed.

Recently a \$40 million psychedelic medicine institute has been launched in Melbourne, with one of its aims being to conduct clinical trials of DMT in the treatment of mental health conditions. This was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 30 July 2021 (<https://www.smh.com.au/national/40m-psychedelic-medicine-institute-launches-in-melbourne-20210728-p58dlo.html>).

Because many Acacia species do contain DMT, these become very significant in the research that is being undertaken.

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**Vernon Winley (Oberon, NSW)** drew our attention to an article in the October 2021 edition of the Tablelands Telegraph, the monthly newsletter of the (NSW) Central Tablelands Local Land Services. The article discusses the importance of wattles in revegetation projects and can be accessed at:

<https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-tablelands/latest-news/ct-news/2021/wattles-in-revegetation>

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Each year the Wattle Day Association confers a Golden Wattle Award on National Wattle Day (1<sup>st</sup> September). The award recognises the actions or achievements of an Australian or Australians whose contributions in the past 12 months deserve special acknowledgement by Australians.

This year, the winner of the Golden Wattle Award was swimmer Emma McKeon, who at the Tokyo Olympic Games won a historic seven medals, including four golds and three bronze.

Further information is available at [wattleday.asn.au](http://wattleday.asn.au).

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The **Ballarat Courier** includes a weekly column, Nature Notes, by **Roger Thomas**. The recent columns include a number of references to Acacias in the Ballarat district (Ballarat is about 115km west of Melbourne).

On Friday 10 September, he referred to globular wattle tick scale, in this case being found on black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*). He explained that the globular white growths are female sap sucking insects known as tick scale. He explained that the tick name is given because of the resemblance to engorged ticks.

On Friday 24 September, he referred to *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood), and noted that this year its flowering had been the best for many years, more prolific and more noticeable, with seemingly every tree covered in flowers. He noted that in the last few years Blackwoods had seeded poorly, but with the good flowering he expected a good seed crop in summer.

On Friday 1 October, he referred to the impact of fireblight beetles on wattles in the Ballarat area. He wrote as follows:

“Severe defoliation of wattle trees through much of the district is again occurring this spring just as it did last year.

The cause is the fireblight beetle, whose grubs and beetles eat the leaves. Only the “ferny-leaved” wattles are affected, and not every species of “ferny-leaved” wattle. In our district it is confined to silver wattles and black wattles.

The rather similar NSW early black wattle – which is often a weed in this district – has not been affected, nor has the Cootamundra wattle.

While it is mostly younger wattles that have been affected, some 30-year old trees have been stripped too. Most of them will recover but some of the smaller ones may not.

The defoliating grubs are small. Most of them have probably matured into round-bodied beetles by now. The beetles are small too, only a few millimetres long. One local species is olive-brown while another is striped green and white, providing excellent camouflage on a wattle leaf.”

Study Group members may recall previous references to this beetle in our newsletters. In Newsletter No. 118 (September 2012), reference was made to the beetle attacking *Acacia mearnsii* in areas to the north of Melbourne. In Newsletter No. 131 (December 2015) it was reported that the beetle was attacking *Acacia mearnsii* trees in the Ballarat area.



# Books

## Illustrated Plant Glossary

By Enid Mayfield

Published by CSIRO Publishing 2021

This is not a book about Acacias, but it is a glossary of over 4000 botanical terms, with many of these terms featuring excellent colour illustrations. Apart from being a very useful reference book, I think it is also a book that you can pick up, browse through a few pages, and get both pleasure from this as well as no doubt learning something as well.

As a test of the book, I looked up the term putative hybrid (see the reference above to *Acacia caesaneura* x *incurvaneura*) on page 5. Sure enough, I learned that the term putative means supposed, commonly accepted as true without being proven, as applied to some hybrids.

## Seed Bank

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](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.

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 2021/22 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](mailto:acaciastudygroup@gmail.com)).

ANPSA ACACIA STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET 2020-2021			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Balance at 1.7.20</b>		\$655.88
	Members' subs	\$557.00	
	Donations	\$31.00	
	Seed bank purchases	\$36.00	
	Total Income	\$624.00	\$624.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Stationery	\$4.00	
	Printing	\$300.00	
	Photocopying	\$88.00	
	Postage	\$107.10	
	Total Expenses	\$499.10	-\$499.10
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>Balance at 30.6.21</b>		\$780.78