Acacia brunioides

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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From The Leader

Dear Members

It is now only a few weeks until the two separate Acacia Study Group excursions that are being held, the first on the weekend of 6th and 7th August in the Grampians in Victoria, and the second from 19th to 21st August to Girraween National Park on the Queensland NSW border. If you wish to participate in either of these excursions, and have not already registered your interest, further information and contact details are provided on page 2.

As I write this, Melbourne is enjoying its coldest June day since 1998. But to brighten up the bleakest of days, we have near our front door a brightly flowering *Acacia chrysocephala*. I first saw this small wattle some years ago, on a very wet and grey June day, at Tony Cavanagh's garden at Ocean Grove (south of Melbourne). Tony had a number of these wattles dotted around the edge of his lawn, brightening up an otherwise dull winter's morning. Its bright golden flowers and compact growth habit make it a great garden plant.

I hope that you find a number of the articles in this newsletter interesting, but one that I think is of particular interest is the one by John Gibson on the nature of the smell of Acacia roots, and a possible link to our climate. I believe that a number of our Study Group members have been conscious of the smell emitted by Acacia roots – if you are one of these members, could you provide any information or data that you have to John, as he has requested in the article (see page 2).

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. Details regarding membership fees and payment options are shown on page 9. 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. Our membership fees remain the same as last year.

Bill Aitchison

Welcome

Welcome to two new members to the Study Group.

Rowan Dawson, Warrandyte, Vic
Sandra McKenzie, Moonta, SA

Study Group Excursions

Two Study Group excursions are being held in August, as follows:

Grampians excursion – This is being held on the weekend of 6th and 7th August, under the leadership of Neil and Wendy Marriott. For further information, please email acaciastudygroup@gmail.com.

Girraween National Park – This excursion is being held from 19th to 21st August 2016. Participants will arrive on Friday and set up camp at Girraween NP. You will need to book with the NP. Alternative accommodation is available in the local area and at Stanthorpe, about a half hour drive away. An 8.30 am start with several walks in the park on Saturday. Sunday will be a 4 wheel drive trip to the Mt Norman area. We will finish at 3 pm. For further information, please contact Jan Glazebrook (email janglazebrook@gmail.com).

Note: To rake part in a Study Group excursion, you must be a member of APS/ANPS/SGAP in your state or territory.

Smelly Acacias and Climate

by John Gibson, Plants of Tasmania Nursery, Hobart
Email: john@potn.com.au

About 10 years ago there was a bit of discussion in the Acacia Study Group newsletters (nos. 97 and 98) about the sulfurous smell that was released when many Acacias were damaged by disturbing the roots or cutting a branch. A few years later, after a long career as chemist and before I joined the ASG, I bought a native plant nursery in Hobart. I thought that I had left the world of test tubes, complex instruments and noxious chemicals for a simpler world of growing plants and selling them to an appreciative public. One of the first things I noticed in the nursery, however, was the intriguing smell produced by Acacias as young tubestock. I eventually took some samples in to the University of Tasmania to identify the smelly gas. There, a young Acacia seedling was removed from its pot and placed in a plastic bag. After a few minutes a sample of the air in the bag was removed and placed in a Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer set-up. The instrument clearly showed that the compound present was carbonyl sulphide (COS), a gas with the same general structure as carbon dioxide, but with one of the oxygens replaced by a sulfur atom. I tested quite a few Tasmanian Acacias, and all showed the presence of COS. In contrast, a few other non-Acacia members of the Fabaceae and Eucalypts showed no COS production.

It turned out that this observation was not entirely new in the scientific world. The COS is thought to be released due to the breakdown of an unusual amino acid, djenkolic acid, in roots, stems and seeds of Acacias, Paraserianthes, and a few other legumes. In the earlier ASG newsletter articles there was a suggestion that the bacteria in the root nodules were responsible for the smell, but it is actually the Acacia plant itself. This in itself is interesting, as COS is a bactericide. Therefore, Acacias are in effect killing off the bacteria that help them through nitrogen fixation. Weird!

Why is this observation of any interest, and why the second part of the title of this note? Well, COS is an important gas in the atmosphere, where it is a precursor of sulfate aerosols (very fine particles) that reflect light back out into space. Through this they have a cooling effect on the atmosphere, similar to that seen after volcanic eruptions. COS also plays a role in stratospheric ozone chemistry. The global cycle of COS is poorly known, though in general it is thought that the oceans are the main source, and that land areas are the main sink (COS is taken up by plants that mistake it for CO_2). However, the numbers never seem to add up completely. Perhaps this is because of a major, overlooked source, namely Acacias. Perhaps Australia is a major COS source area, but no-one has ever noticed it because they haven't looked closely enough.

One of the questions that needs to be answered is how widespread COS production is within the Acacia genus. It seems to be the case for all the Tasmanian wattles, at least if they are grown in standard potting mix. However we only have a few percent of all Acacia species in the state, and for most other species COS production (or non-production) has not been recorded. So, if you have noted a sulphurous smell around young Acacias, especially on disturbing the roots, I'd like to hear about it. Please send me an email detailing the species at the address above, and I'll collate the data and report back.

Acacia hybrids

We recently asked Study Group members to advise which Acacia hybrids they are growing. Since the last newsletter I have received responses from four Study Group members.

Jan Glazebrook (Logan Village, Qld) wrote as follows:

"With about 150 wattle species on our property at Logan Village, it is not surprising that some hybrids have appeared.

The first that I noticed was ***A. gordonii*** x ***brunioides***. Seed was taken from ***A. gordonii*** and propagated in our nursery. Some were planted in the garden and some sold or given away. The ones in the garden and at least one that was

given away turned out to be hybrids. They were small twiggy shrubs to about 80 cm high with bright yellow ball flowers. Plants proved to be short lived – about 3 or 4 years – similar to ***A. gordonii*** here. ***A. brunioides*** is much longer lived, with one plant over 20 years old and still going strong.

Next a couple of self-sown hybrids appeared where ***A. uncifera*** had died. The other presumed parent is ***A. conferta***. These plants are now over 10 years old and flower for several months in autumn into winter. Neither plant has ever set seed.

A common hybrid that has appeared several times is ***A. macradenia*** x ***A. fimbriata***. They are fairly short lived but attractive while they last. One plant, which I thought was the same cross although it does not exhibit the zig-zag stems of ***A. macradenia,*** is over 10 years old, never sets viable seed and is a very attractive bushy plant. It gets a light prune in spring as it is close to the driveway.

A large hybrid plant which is a cross of ***A. cardiophylla*** and ***A. oshanesii*** has been growing for 10 years and sets some seed

A ferny hybrid of ***A. chinchillensis*** and ***A. deanei*** was produced from seed I collected from ***A. chinchillensis***. Imagine my surprise when the plant produced pale cream flowers instead of the bright gold of ***A. chinchillensis***. The plant is about 5 years and maintained at 1 m tall with some light pruning. This plant produces fertile seed.

These are the hybrids that have appeared at Logan Village so far and I always keep my eye out for any more that might appear."

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John Boevink (Port Sorell, Tas) wrote as follows:

"You reminded me that I had not responded to your enquiry on hybrids. We have 2 shrubs I believe are hybrids of *Acacia saligna*. I grew and planted them in 2008 from seed from a shrub (~2.5 by 2.5m from memory) that the neighbours had.

A lot of *A. longifolia* ssp. *sophorae* grow all over our area, also close to where that *A. saligna* was growing. It is the only acacia growing within meters of the neighbour's *A. saligna*. The neighbour's shrub died a few years later.

My seedlings grew very well and I have had to prune some large branches with a chainsaw to minimise anticipated wind-damage. That was not entirely successful, but the plants seemed not too concerned with the wind damage they suffered. They were magnificent in flower and looked very much like *A. saligna*, happy with the spots I had given them. Bigger than the mother plant, say 4m high and up to 8m across.

However seed-set was very poor (compared with *A. longifolia* ssp. *sophorae* and many others we have). From memory, the mother plant carried a lot of seed in summer. I have not yet tried to grow seedlings from some of the seed I could find from these suspected hybrid plants.

One of my plants appears to be dying now, perhaps due to the very dry conditions we have been experiencing this year. However, I have read comments in the Study Group newsletter that suggest some Acacias may be old by 7-8 years.

Neither of my *A. saligna* plants was very florific this year, not a patch on earlier shows. Also due to the dry spring perhaps. I am, however, not sure these are hybrids. The low seedset is the only real indication they may be.

But if others say that *A. saligna* generally has poor seed set that would invalidate my suspicion. A problem is that *A. saligna* flowers several weeks later than *A. sophorae* here, so cross-pollination does not seem all that likely. But not impossible. *A. sophorae* flowers relatively long.

We also have a lot of *A. melanoxylon*, but that flowers a bit earlier than even *A. sophorae*, and none is close to where the mother plant was.

So this is why I did not respond at once to your hybrid enquiry. Not sure! Perhaps I need to get some *A. saligna* seed from the group and see how that grows here."

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Peter Goldup (Mt Evelyn, Vic) has referred to *Acacia* 'Twilight Glow', this being a *howittii* x *leprosa* seedling.that he developed. This plant is now being produced by Wildtech Nursery (www.wildtechnursery.com.au) for anyone who wants to get hold of it. Peter notes that it is hardy and vigorous, and can be propagated from cuttings reasonably easily. It has rich green foliage similar to *A. leprosa*, and ball flowers in mid winter to spring which are a mustard pink colour with yellow tipped stamens.

Peter comments that he is testing another hybrid that is *Acacia floribunda* x *cognata* – he thinks? It is a very fast grower, a little open and has not flowered yet – so he is waiting to see if it is worthwhile to proceed with.

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Merele Webb (Croydon North, Vic) previously lived for 18 years on a horse stud at Yellingbo (about 48km east of Melbourne). Whilst there she grew *A. prominens* and *A. pravissima*, the aim being to provide some shelter on a windswept hillside. The Acacias were useful because they were fast growing. Merele notes that one single plant came up that was a hybrid between the two species. It had characteristics of both species – the triangular leaves of *A. pravissima* but not as well defined, and the flowers were slightly pale coloured of *A. prominens* and more bunchy flowers like *A. prominens*. The Acacias were also useful because the horses don't eat them.

Acacia irrorata

by Warren and Gloria Sheather, Yarrowyck, NSW

This is the second in a series of articles on wattles of the Northern Tablelands of NSW.

Acacia irrorata is an erect tall shrub or small tree and is known as Green Wattle or Blueskin. Bark is smooth or sometimes fissured and green to dark grey or black. The former common name perhaps refers to the foliage or trunk colour. This common name refers to a number of species. Not certain where the latter common name comes from, perhaps an imaginative view of branch colour.

The foliage is bipinnate and dark green in colour. There are 6-12 pairs of pinnae or primary leaflets and 18-35 pinnules or leaflets on each pinna (the singular of pinnae). There is a gland at the base of some pairs of pinnae.

Globular flower heads are pale yellow. The flower clusters are carried in axillary and terminal clusters. The flowering period occurs between November and March. *A. irrorata* is an unusual and useful species because it flowers out of the usual spring flowering period. We use this species as a "spring extender" in our garden. Pods are narrow and up to 12 centimetres long.

Acacia irrorata **Photo W & G Sheather**

There are two subspecies with the main difference being in the size and shape of the glands. *A. irrorata* ssp. *irrorata* has a widespread distribution and is found on the coast, tablelands and slopes of NSW as well as Queensland. *A. irrorata* subsp. *velutinella* is confined to the North Coast of NSW.

In our region, the Northern Tablelands of NSW, *A. irrorata* subsp. *irrorata* is one of the common plants in the gorge country, in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, east of Armidale.

This Green Wattle would be a colourful addition to shelterbelts and windbreaks. The species name means 'to bedew', as if covered with dew.

Propagate from seed that is best treated with boiling water before sowing.

Note: Warren Sheather is one of the speakers at the APS NSW 2016 Get-together, being held in Tamworth from 19th – 21st August 2016. Warren will be outlining the advantages of growing plants close together using a wide range of species – even three plants in the one hole.

New Species – *Acacia citriodora*

This recently described new Acacia species has appeared in various publications over the past 13 years but has never been formally published.

It occurs in arid northern Australia, being found over an extensive area of the Kimberley region in WA, and also in far north west Queensland. Both of these populations extend to the Northern Territory near the respective borders, but the two disjunct populations are separated by over 700km.

It is a spreading multi-stemmed and flat-topped shrub 0.5-2m high. The phyllodes are 15-55mm x 1.5-5mm, and lemon scented (hence the species name). Flower heads are rod like, golden, on peduncles 10-35mm long.

Reference:

Kodela, P.G. and Maslin, B. R. (2016) *Acacia citriodora* (Fabaceae: Mimosoideae), a new species from northern Australia *Nuytsia 27: 99-102*

Transplanting Acacia and other seedlings

by Des Nelson, Alice Springs, NT

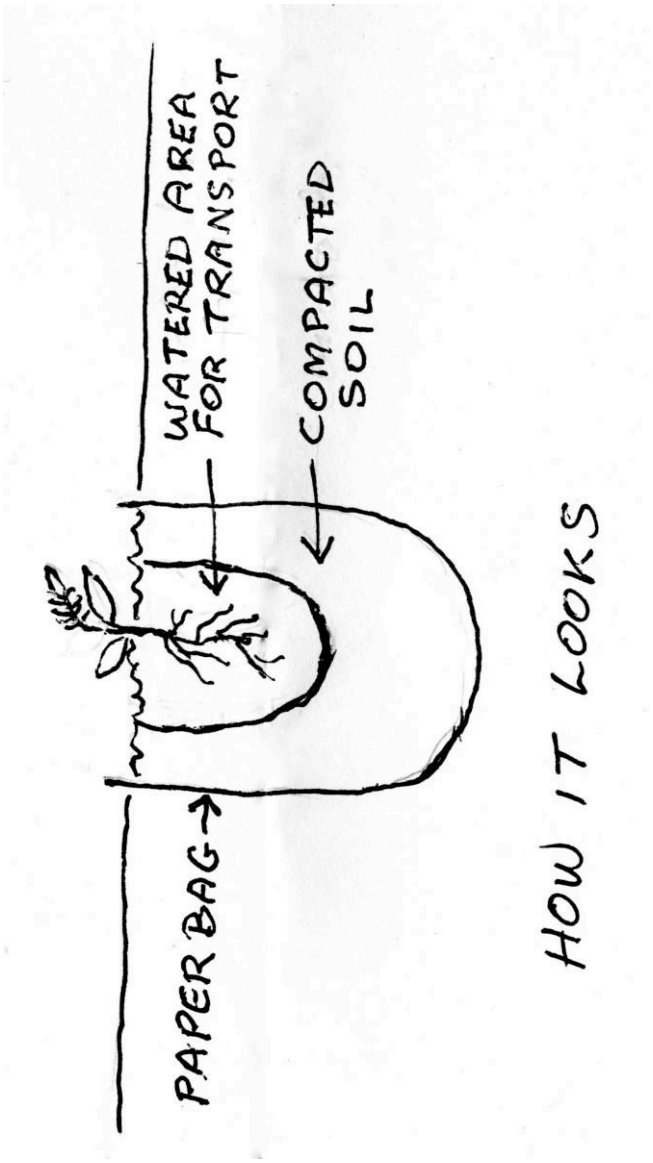
In the March Newsletter I noticed the discussions on methods used to assist in germinating Acacia seeds. Here I would like to describe a method I used very successfully over the years to transplant seedlings of various plant species, including Acacia, from the bush to the home garden.

First I must emphasise that you should not remove seedlings of a species from an area unless you are confident that in doing so you don't deplete a population to any degree. If only few seedlings are present – don't do it.

I used strong, fairly large paper bags. The area around a chosen seedling was watered well. When the water had soaked into the soil, the seedling was levered from the ground with a trowel. The little plant was then held over the inside of the top part of the bag, Then the bag was filled

with the local soil while you hold the plant steady with one hand. Gently shake the bag to compact the soil. Water around the seedling, pressing the soil firmly against it. Be careful not to get the bag wet.

Now the bag with the soil and seedling can be transported, upright, to your chosen site. A hole is dug into which the paper bag can be inserted snugly. Prod around the edges to make sure there's a good fit. Now the bag and plant can be watered well. Water daily or until you can detect that the seedling is growing, then water as you think necessary. By using this method you will bring micro-organisms and nutrients needed by the little plant. The paper bag will soon disintegrate leaving a root system to develop properly.



One of my favourite plants is a beautiful healthy six metre high Mulga (*A. aneura*) which I transplanted from the bush more than 25 years ago using the paper bag method.

***Note**: As referred to by Des, there are only limited circumstances where it is permissible and appropriate to transplant seedlings in the manner described.*

Prickly! You Bet!

A response to Warren and Gloria Sheather's article on *Acacia atrox*

by Helen van Riet, Wangaratta, Vic

What's in a Name?

Recently I prepared a presentation on *Acacia craspedocarpa* for a group of children and adults.

During my preparation, I researched the source of the word "Acacia". Here's a potted version of that part of the presentation.

The word Acacia was in use a long time before Europeans discovered Australia and named the plants they found here. The word Acacia comes from ancient Greek – It was the name used about 2000 years ago by a famous botanist named Dioscorides for some prickly species growing in Egypt, from *acis* – which means a pointed instrument.

Some background info on the botanist Dioscorides …..

Pedanius Dioscorides (c. 40 – 90 AD), was a physician, pharmacologist and botanist.

He was the author of *De Materia Medica*—a 5-volume encyclopedia about herbal medicine and related medicinal substances (a *pharmacopeia*), that was widely read for more than 1,500 years. He was employed as a medic in the Roman army. This book became the precursor to all modern pharmacopeias.

A native of Asia Minor, Dioscorides practised medicine in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Nero. He was a surgeon with the Roman army, which gave him the opportunity to travel extensively, at the same time seeking medicinal substances (plants and minerals) from all over the Roman Empire.

In contrast to many classical authors, Dioscorides' works were not "rediscovered" in the Renaissance, because his book had never left circulation. In the medieval period, *De Materia Medica* was circulated in Latin, Greek, and Arabic. While being reproduced in manuscript form through the centuries, it was often supplemented with commentary and minor additions from Arabic and Indian sources. A number of illustrated manuscripts of *De Materia Medica* survive. The most famous of these is the lavishly illustrated *Vienna Dioscurides*, produced in Constantinople in 512/513 AD. Densely illustrated Arabic copies survive from the 12th and

13th centuries, and ancient Greek manuscripts survive today in the monasteries of Mount Athos.

De Materia Medica is the prime historical source of information about the medicines used by the Greeks, Romans, and other cultures of long ago. The work presents about 600 plants in all.

De Materia Medica formed the core of the European pharmacopeia through the 19th century. The timelessness of Dioscorides' work resulted from a scientific tradition based on trial and error. It worked for generation after generation for about 1,500 years, despite social and cultural changes and changes in medical theory.

Dioscorides' name lives on in Botany today. The *Dioscorea* genus of plants, which includes the yam, was named after him, some of which are native to Australia.

So *Acacia atrox* – translated literally means "an atrocious pointed instrument".

Books

Pilbara Seed Atlas and Field Guide
By Todd E Erickson, Russell L Barrett, David J Merritt and Kingsley W Dixon
Published by CSIRO Publishing 2016
RRP $79.95

The Pilbara region of WA has been subject to considerable mining activities, and in places where mining has finished the land is under management for ecological restoration. This book is intended to assist with cost-effective seed-based rehabilitation. It describes 103 regional plant taxa and provides guidelines for effective collection, cleaning, storage and germination of their seeds. Of the 103 taxa, 19 are Acacia species.

The book notes that in total there are 122 Acacia species in the Pilbara, but the species included appear to be the more significant ones. The Acacia species covered in the book are *A. acradenia*, *A. adoxa* var. *adoxa*, *A. adsurgens*, *A. ancistrocarpa*, *A. bivenosa*, *A. citrinoviridis*, *A. cowleana*, *A. dictyophleba*, *A. eriopoda*, *A. hamersleyensis*, *A. hilliana*, *A. inaequilatera*, *A. monticola*, *A. ptychophylla*, *A. pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia*, *A. sclerosperma* ssp. *sclerosperma*, *A. stellaticeps*, *A. tenuissima* and *A. tumida* var. *pilbarensis*.

I believe the book would be very useful for anyone propagating the species in the book, but also would be a handy field guide for those people visiting the Pilbara and looking for an aid in identifying the region's flora.

Plants of Central Queensland
By Eric Anderson
Published by CSIRO Publishing 2016
RRP $160

The author of this book, **Eric Anderson**, is a member of the Acacia Study Group, and we should extend our congratulations to Eric on producing this mammoth work of 576 pages. Eric worked for 30 years as a research scientist with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, and this book was originally published in 1993 whilst he was working there. That original edition included descriptions of 240 species, but the new edition is greatly expanded and includes 525 species.

The total of 525 species includes 37 Species of *Acacia* and 3 species of *Vachellia.* A full page is allocated to each species, with a description of the plant, information on habitat, distribution, and informative notes included. Colour photographs illustrate each species. Some weed species are included, for example *Vachellia nilotica* (Prickly Acacia), which is a major problem and recognized as a weed of national significance.

Global Re-introduction Perspectives: 2016
Case-Studies from around the globe
Edited by Pritpal S. Soorae
Published by IUCN/SSC Re-introduction Specialist Group & Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
(this book may be downloaded free from the IUCN website www.iucnsscrsg.org)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is based in Switzerland and is involved in developing and practicing progressive conservation techniques. The IUCN comprises six commissions, one of which is the Species Survival Commission (SSC). One of the sub groups of the SSC is the Re-Introduction Specialist Group (RSG), this being a crucial and influential group that primarily promotes the re-introduction of viable populations of animals and plants back to their natural ecosystems, thereby significantly contributing to conservation efforts worldwide.

The RSG has recently published a book, Global Re-introduction Perspectives: 2016. This provides 54 case-studies covering invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants. Eight of these studies relate to Australia, including one frog (northern corroboree frog), three birds (bush stone curlew, regent honeyeater, Cocos buff-banded rail), three mammals (Tasmanian devil, eastern bettong, western quoll) and one plant, *Acacia cretacea*.

Acacia cretacea

by Bill Aitchison

Acacia cretacea (Chalky Wattle) is a spindly, usually single-stemmed small tree with an open, straggly crown and chalky-white branchlets, growing 4-5m high and with lemon yellow to golden very fragrant globular flower heads. It has a very limited distribution in the north eastern Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, and is restricted to 12 remnant patches of vegetation occurring over a range of about 3 x 2 km. The population is threatened by the extremely small area of occupancy and by grazing of young shoots of seedlings and root suckers by rabbits, kangaroos and domestic stock. The species does not occur in any conservation reserve and is listed as endangered.

On checking old Acacia Study Group newsletters, I was only able to find one previous reference to this species, in 2005 when one of the South Australian members of the Study Group, Werner Kutsche, included it in a list of Acacias that he was growing on his property just south of Mannum.

In the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants (Supplement 2, published in 1995) Elliot and Jones commented that this wattle is "evidently not cultivated" but "has potential for use with its lovely young growth and plentiful flowers".

It would appear that Chalky Wattle is currently only in very limited cultivation. I cannot find any record of it being grown at any of the major Botanical Gardens. I do, however, remember seeing it in 2011 at Nangawooka Flora Reserve, near Victor Harbor in South Australia (on one of the day trips held as part of the ANPSA Adelaide Biennial Conference).

One of the APS South Australia members, Brian Freeman, has an outstanding native garden at Inman Valley, near Victor Harbor. Some years ago, Brian collected seed from the *A. cretacea* at Nangawooka and germinated them. He now has 6 plants from those seeds. Interestingly, Brian comments that there appears to be some outcrossing in the plants that he has (probably what may be expected from collecting seeds from a plantation of plants). The photos below are of the plant that Brian believes appears closest to true type. The photos were taken in early June and the plant was flowering at that time (the plants at Nangawooka were flowering in October in 2011 – flowering of this wattle is reported as being spasmodic and seasonal, appearing to be more prolific after a wet spring season).

It would appear desirable that a species such as *A. cretacea*, that is both endangered in the wild and a very attractive plant, should be in wider cultivation than it appears to be. If any Study Group members are aware of other plants in cultivation, could you perhaps let me know.

Acacia cretacea **Photo Brian Freeman**

Acacia cretacea **Photo Brian Freeman**

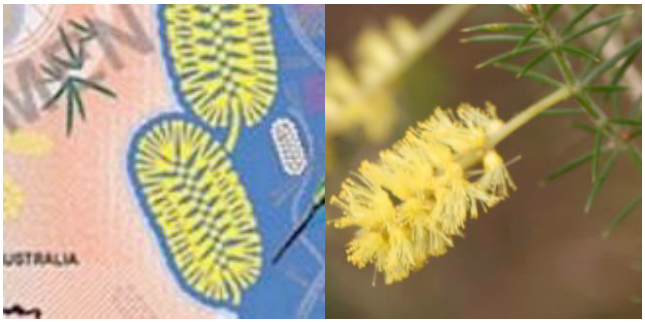
Note: Gill Muller, who is Secretary of the Friends of Nangawooka Flora Reserve, has advised me that a recent search in the Reserve failed to find the *Acacia cretacea*, so it may not now be there. Gill notes that a very dry spring/summer last year and some problems with drip lines in part of the Reserve, have sadly meant that some older plants have been lost.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Gill Muller and Brian Freeman for their help in putting this note together. Some of the information included above has been extracted from the Global Re-introduction Perspectives book referred to above, and also from the Approved Conservation Advice for the species, under the Commonwealth EPBC Act 1999.

Acacias in the news

In our previous Newsletter No. 132, reference was made to the Reserve Bank's announcement that a new generation of banknotes will feature different species of Australian wattle. Since then the Bank released the design of the $5 note, and this one features *Acacia verticillata* ssp. *ovoidea*. The following images are of the flower spike taken from the note and from a photo taken by Geoff Lay in October 2007 (in north east Tasmania near the Great Musselroe River).

This subspecies is distributed in SA, Victoria and Tasmania. I assume that Acacias from other states will be represented on the new notes for other denominations.



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A recent article written by Jasmine O'Donoghue related to the construction of green roofs in Australia. One aspect of the article related to suitable vegetation, and it was noted that many native plants from coastal and arid inland regions are suitable.

Some species were listed as being suitable for green roofs, including two Acacia species. *Acacia amblygona* was noted as being suitable for intensive green roofs with substrate deeper than 250mm, and *Acacia stenophylla* was suggested where the substrate is deeper than 1m.

Reference:
http://www.architectureanddesign.com.au/features/features-articles/a-guide-for-specifying-green-roofs-in-australia

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In late April, Qantas unveiled its new pilot uniforms, the first time they have been updated in 13 years. The new look is a modern single-breasted navy suit with a distinctive white hat. The embroidery on the captain's hat has been transformed into golden wattle, Australia's national flower.

Wattle Day 2016

Brendon Stahl was recently in WA and emailed me to say that he had come across a brochure promoting Dalwallinu's "22nd Wattle Week Festival on 3-9 September 2016". The brochure can be downloaded from the Shire website at www.dalwallinu.wa.gov.au. Dalwallinu is described as being the "Gateway to the World of Wattles", an apt description given there are about 185 Acacia species to be found within 100km of Dalwallinu.

Brendon's email prompted me to do a quick search for other events being held to celebrate Wattle Day. Just a few that I found included the following:

Cootamundra (NSW) Wattle Time Fair and Street Parade – Saturday 27 August 2016

Hurstbridge (Vic) Wattle Festival – Sunday 28 August 2016

Friends of Braeside Park (Vic) Wattle Day and Community Nursery Open Day – Sunday 28 August 2016

Knox City Council, Vic – Sunday 28 August 2016 (Wear something yellow and come along and join in tree planting and a range of free, family-friendly activities including face-painting, a nature tour, a sausage sizzle and more. Wally Tew Recreation Reserve in Ferntree Gully).

National Dinosaur Museum (ACT) – 1 September 2016 (A special midday tour – it is noted that the first Wattle to be scientifically described was collected by Thomas Mitchell – learn more about this man and the enormous fossils he found at The Wellington Caves).

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, Bargo NSW – Saturday 3 September 2016 (Wattle Day Celebrations and Plant Sale Day)

Seed Bank

A list of species held in our Seed Bank was included in Newsletter 131 (December 2015).

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 Victoria Tenner). 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 18 packets maximum in each order (negotiable). There is a charge of $3 in relation to each order, to cover the cost of a padded post bag and postage. The $3 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 (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 2016/17 is as follows:

$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).