Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Seed Bank Curator
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From The Leader

Dear Members

I have recently been asked on three occasions questions relating to small wattles suitable for growing in gardens. The first was from a participant in a U3A Class to whom I had been asked to give a talk on wattles – she was a keen gardener although not specifically with natives. The second question was from a long time APS member and experienced gardener who was looking for ideas as to small wattles for the garden, but also seeking information as to where to obtain them. The third query was from a person who had seen a wonderful looking small wattle on a wildflower trip to WA, and would have loved to try growing that species in their garden – if they were able to identify the species and then find a way of sourcing it.

These various questions prompted me to write the note on small wattles (on page 7 of this newsletter). But I would like to invite Study Group members to share both your recommendations as to small wattles suitable for gardens, and also your advice as to where people may be able to purchase these plants (assuming that they do not wish to do their own propagation). It is my impression that nurseries commonly have only a very limited range of small growing wattles.

I did suggest to one of the people who was asking me about small growing wattles, that they may wish to visit the Bendigo Native Plant Group's Wildflower Show that was held in early September. The Bendigo Group have made a special feature of wattles in their Show for a number of years now, and this year they had 85 species for sale, many of which are rarely found in nurseries. Apart from the plants for sale, they also had a large number of wattle specimens on display, and they also had two bonsai specimens (*Acacia pinguifolia* and *A. spectabilis*).

Thank you to all members who have paid their **membership renewals** for the 2015/16 year. If you have not already paid your subscription, it would be appreciated if you could attend to this (or let me know if you do not wish to renew). Note that our financial report for the 2014/15 year appears on page 10.

Bill Aitchison

Welcome

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

Merele Webb (Croydon North, Vic)

From Members and Readers

In a note with her membership renewal, **Jenny Simons (Burradoo, NSW)** wrote (23 July 2015) as follows: "In a recent snowstorm, many wattle branches in my garden were snapped or distorted and a lot of cutting and trimming was needed. Most plants/shrubs/trees were just starting to bloom. What a waste, but the snow was lovely."

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Pat Barry (Bracken Ridge, Qld) has drawn our attention to a recently published book, Maverick Mountaineer, which is a biography of Georg Ingle Finch. Finch is described as a maverick Australian mountaineer, scientist, concert pianist and father of actor Peter Finch. George Finch lived most of his life overseas, but his Australian homeland was never far from his mind. Pat is intrigued by a reference in the book to his diary. In particular, on the approach to Mt Everest, a bush on the Tibetan Plateau reminded him poignantly of home; he noted in his diary: "A wattle, a great sight in an otherwise treeless plain."

Pat is curious as to how come a wattle is growing on the Tibetan Plateau? Or was Finch mistaken?

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Des Nelson (Alice Springs, NT) writes (13 August 2015) as follows:

"I had been bothered for some time by a dead *Acacia estrophiolata* which had a disconcerting lean on it. It was about 30 metres high. I felled it with a saw and found it to be very sturdy but was surprised to find the trunk to be hollow. The stump is 85cm in height, 27.5cm in diameter, the hole in the centre is 11.5cm in diameter. There is another very old Ironwood stump on our block. It is 1m 40cm high, 28cm in diameter, with a hole 15cm in diameter in it. I presume the hollows may have been caused by termites which are abundant in our area. On another property on which we lived a large hollow Ironwood existed near the house. In that instance I lit a fire inside the trunk which burned for three days before I finally towed the tree over using a rope tied to the tow ball of my Land Cruiser. There are large dead *A. estrophiolata* trees scattered around our area. It is interesting to think that many of these would be hollow so providing refuges for local fauna.

It seems that our Ironwoods don't like wet feet. In 1974 we had our wettest year on record, three times our annual average. Much of the countryside was a bog. I noted that the very large Ironwoods became stressed with the foliage becoming yellowish and quite sparse. Some probably died."

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Matthew Alexandra (Bacchus Marsh, Vic) has a particular interest in the use of Acacias as a food source and recently sent to me copies of two articles on this subject. The first was an article written by Dr Beth Gott, titled Choosing Acacia Species for Bushtucker, and published in 1997 in Australian Bushfoods magazine. The second was a paper by AV Goodchild and NP McMeniman on the subject Nutritive value of *Acacia* spp. foliage and pods for animal feeding. The latter paper was presented as part of a Workshop held in 1986 in Gympie, Qld, on the subject Australian Acacias in Developing Countries. If anyone is interested in reading either of these papers, let me know. Note that the latter paper is available on the Internet as part of the Proceedings of this workshop (http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/134369/2/PR016.pdf#page=99).

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Victoria Tanner (Canberra) advises that she is growing *Acacia pravissima* 'Little Nugget' as an informal hedge at the front of her place (plus other wattles). She finds that the Little Nuggets are extremely hardy and can be trimmed to hedge height, so they are great hedging plants for informal or formal hedges. They are only supposed to grow to 1.5m but one that Victoria has (not trimmed) has grown to more than 2m. As a hedge they look "prickly" to stop traffic, but aren't. In Victoria's garden, the normal *A. pravissima* grows to about 3m plus, seeking the sunshine.

***Acacia pravissima* 'Little Nugget'** **Photo V Tanner**

Another wattle that Victoria is impressed with is *Acacia williamsonii* – she only planted it last year and describes it as quite a spectacular little wattle.

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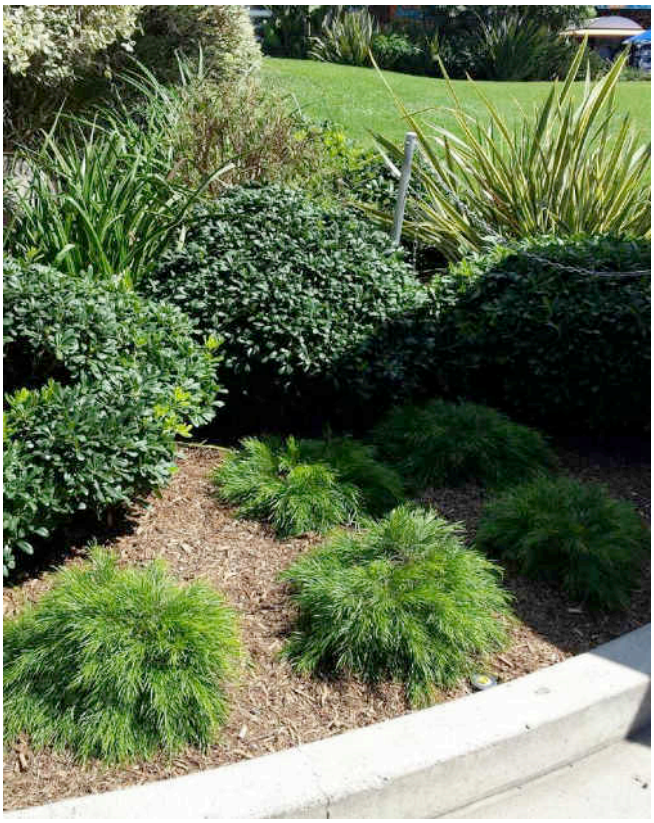
Peter Goldup (Mt Evelyn, Vic) sent the photo below of *Acacia cognata* 'Mini Cog' – which is called 'Cousin Itt' in America. The picture was taken at Sea World in California.

Peter notes that the plant has been tissue cultured in America – he doesn't know if this is the first time Acacia has been tissued. But they are now able to produce it in commercial quantities from cuttings, which is what they struggled to do to begin with. It has been selling in California for several years now and tens of thousands have been sold. In other areas of America, it has limited potential, because of the climate – too cold among other problems.



Cousin Itt

Endemic Wattles of Isla National Park, Queensland

By Len Hubbard, Chinchilla, Qld

On a recent trip, Joan and I called into Isla Gorge National Park located in sandstone escarpment country between Theodore and Taroom in Queensland. The area was a blaze of yellow with *A. neriifolia* and *A. juncifolia* at its best. The two endemic were in our sights. *A. hockingsii*, well entrenched within the park, was in full flower. A shrub to 3 metres with masses of ball flowers, it would make a great garden specimen. From our references, in past years M.E.BALLINGALL has recorded a narrow phyllode variant (1 mm wide) with an indistinct midrib and a minute, ± circular basal gland, at the lookout. We camped here for two days but could not find any specimens. The other endemic *A. islana*, is a more secretive species. Nowhere near as prolific as *A. hockingsii,* the few specimens we saw were well budded, revealed a dense shrub to 2 metres. A member of the '*A. johnsonii* group', closely related to *A. burbidgeae*. With its masses of buds, when in flower would also make a spectacular garden specimen.

Acacia hockingsii **Photo Len Hubbard**

Acacia islana **Photo Len Hubbard**

Acacia gordonii (Gordon's Wattle)

By Bill Aitchison

During an early September visit to the ANBG in Canberra, Victoria Tanner noted a flowering *Acacia gordonii*, which she described as "looking spectacular".

In checking through our past Study Group newsletters, it seems that this species has rarely rated a mention. It also appears to be in very limited cultivation, but perhaps it deserves to be grown more in our gardens, both because of its ornamental qualities and because it is endangered.

It was referred to in a 2004 article by Maria Hitchcock in Australian Plants (Small Acacias for the Australian Garden). Maria described it there as follows:

"Dwarf, spreading shrub to 1.3m high. Spirally arranged, crowded, terete phyllodes, recurved at apex, up to 15mm long and 1mm wide, with fine hairs. Bright deep golden perfumed globular flower heads on long hairy peduncles occurring singly in the axils. Restricted in NSW to the eastern slopes of the Blue Mountains from near Bilpin south to Linden, also near Hornsby (a northern suburb of Sydney). Grows in sand on sandstone in dry sclerophyll forest. This outstanding shrub is very ornamental when in flower. It requires a well-drained position in a sunny or lightly shaded position and may be lightly pruned to retain a compact shape. Frost hardy."

Acacia gordonii at ANBG **Photo V Tanner**

Other references are also complimentary. For example:

- In the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Volume 2, Elliot and Jones describe it as "an outstanding ornamental shrub being very showy when in flower and with a delightful perfume."

- An article in the Sydney Morning Herald (30 August 2007) by Meredith Kirton reported comments by Richard Johnstone of Mt Annan Botanic Garden relating to his favourite wattles: "Johnstone's favourite wattle is one indigenous to the Blue Mountains, called *Acacia gordonii*. Other species he recommends are the knife-leaf wattle (*Acacia cultriformis*) from northern NSW, and *Acacia semilunata* from Darling Downs, which has a distinctive half-moon-shaped leaf, and the fan wattle (*Acacia amblygona*), a small shrub with prickly oval leaves."

- Acacia Study Group member Wendy Grimm has provided some photos of *A. gordonii* that she took in 2011. Wendy comments: "It is a beautiful shrub and well worth bringing into cultivation. I know of no-one growing this species. Its seed set seems to be low."

Acacia gordonii **Photo W Grimm**

Acacia gordonii **Photo W Grimm**

This wattle was planted at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (near Melbourne). Thanks to Josie Vaganiance for the following report:

"We did have *Acacia gordonii* in the Forest garden planted in a little drift which were growing well - quite an attractive (little at the time) plant. They have since died.

We have a population of swamp rats who favour the nitrogen fixing nodules on acacias and they have made their way into the forest garden and chewed their way through a

number of acacia roots damaging the plants. The damage has been noted but we have difficulties in controlling these animals given they are native to the site."

Acacia gordonii is listed as Endangered under both the Commonwealth EPBC Act, and in NSW under the Threatened Species Conservation Act. It is known from only a few locations, and there is estimated to be less than 2000 plants in total. The species is threatened by clearing, urban development, road maintenance, recreational use of its habitat and bush rock removal.

Because of its endangered status, this species has been the subject of at least two research studies:

(a) Some research published in 2004 (Offord et al) reviewed the germinability and viability of seeds of threatened species collections held in the NSW Seedbank. One of the species considered in that research was *Acacia gordonii*. It was found that 5 year old seed had close to 100% germination, and 17 year old seed had about 82% germination.

(b) Research published in 2012 (Powell et al) considered the likelihood that psyllids affiliated with three threatened *Acacia* species (including *A. gordonii*) are at risk of co-extinction if any of these species become extinct. The conclusion from this research was that there is one psyllid species (*Acizzia* sp.) which is an *A. gordonii* specialist, and is also at risk of extinction if its host plant were to become extinct.

This species was originally not recognized as a full species, and Mary Tindale gave it the name *Acacia brunioides* ssp. *gordonii* in 1968. In 1970, Les Pedley gave it its current name of *Acacia gordonii*. The name *gordonii* is in honour of Eric Gifford Gordon who found the plant near Bilpin in 1961 and first drew botanists' attention to it.

Are any Study Group members growing this species or can otherwise comment on their experience with it?

References:

Offord CA, McKensy ML and Cuneo PV (2004) Critical review of threatened species collections in the New South Wales Seedbank: implications for ex situ conservation of biodiversity. Pacific Conservation Biology 10(4) 221-236

Powell FA, Hochull DF, Symonds CL and Cassis G (2012) Are psyllids affiliated with the threatened plants *Acacia ausfeldii*, *A. dangarensis* and *A. gordonii* at risk of co-extinction? Austral Ecology 37, 140-148

Potential *Acacia* Street Trees

by Warren Sheather, Yarrowyck, NSW

In the last Newsletter Chris Clarke asked about suitable Acacias for street planting. These are a few suggestions. *Acacia blakei* subsp. *diphylla* grows in and around the gorge country, east of Armidale NSW and develops into a medium-sized tree with upright growth habit. The species carries two types of phyllodes (hence the subsp. name). Adult phyllodes are large and leathery whilst the juveniles are just as large but soft and shiny. Bright flowers held in rod-like clusters and appear towards the end of October when many of the spring flowering wattles have finished. During the flowering period plants are covered in blooms.

Growth habit, foliage and flowers are all attractive features. The foliage is dense and plants do not require pruning. We have some specimens lining our driveway that are at least 15 years old and have never felt secateur blades.

A. blakei subsp. *diphylla* may be too tall to grow under power lines but would be suitable for the side of the street with no wires or in streets with underground power. This wattle would also make an eye-catching avenue tree lining the entrance leading into rural properties.

Acacia blakei* ssp. *diphylla **Photo Warren Sheather**

Acacia howittii is another possibility. This graceful, tall shrub or small tree has a slightly pendulous growth habit. The sticky phyllodes are perfumed and are light green and oval shaped. The pale yellow flowers are also scented. We have a form of *Acacia buxifolia,* the Box-leaved Wattle**,** which reaches a height of about three metres with an upright growth habit, phyllodes with a purplish tinge and golden yellow flowers.

Acacia viscidula, a Sticky Wattle, may be a possible street tree. This wattle grows naturally on our place and is a bushy, upright shrub. The phyllodes are long, narrow and light green. The flowers are held in globular clusters and are light yellow. They appear in October. The flowers are not spectacular but plants have an attractive appearance.

Acacia neriifolia

by Warren Sheather, Yarrowyck, NSW

Acacia neriifolia is known as the Oleander Wattle. This refers to the presumed similarity of the phyllodes to the foliage of the exotic Oleander. Fortunately *Acacia neriifolia* does not have similar poisonous foliage. The species will develop into a tall shrub or small tree.

Phyllodes are long, narrow with a bluish tinge. Phyllodes may have one, two or three glands spaced along the phyllode margin. Bright yellow flowers are held in globular clusters and in turn they are carried in axillary racemes. Blooms cover plants in spring.

Acacia neriifolia **Photo Warren Sheather**

Acacia neriifolia is a handsome species. Both foliage and flowers are attractive features. This wattle could be grown as a "stand alone" specimen or incorporated in shelterbelts and windbreaks.

Acacia neriifolia occurs in Queensland and on the Northern Tablelands and Slopes of NSW and is one of seven species that are native to our property, Yallaroo. Their numbers have increased dramatically since sheep were removed from the property about 20 years ago. Our population, those on adjoining properties and roadsides appear to be the most eastern occurrence of the species.

The road that passes our place, from Armidale, had extensive alterations a couple of years ago. The roadworks benefited *Acacia neriifolia* and now there are many plants regenerating and flowering.

Also from our house we are able to see large patches of flowering wattles on the surrounding hills. These are more *A. neriifolia* plants. Probably these areas indicate some form of disturbance in the past.

Acacia brownii

(sometimes known as *A. brownei*)

by Warren Sheather, Yarrowyck, NSW

We mentioned the effect roadworks have had on *Acacia neriifolia* regeneration near our place. In the same area a new wattle has appeared that we have not observed, in the area, before. Three plants have appeared thanks to seed disturbance by machinery.

Acacia brownii is known as Prickly Moses, a name applied to a number of species. The species is similar to *A. ulicifolia*, another Prickly Moses that occurs on our property. The *Acacia brownii*, along the roadside, is a short shrub, about one metre tall with sparse, narrow, sharp-pointed phyllodes. In September the plants were covered in bright yellow flowers held in globular clusters. The flower colour sets it apart from *A. ulicifolia* which has pale yellow blooms.

Acacia brownii **Photo Warren Sheather**

Acacia brownii is a welcome addition to the wattles that have colonised our road. In the garden the species could be incorporated in a native shrubbery. Because of the prickly foliage, avoid planting near paths or passageways. *Acacia brownii* is a widespread species and is found in Queensland, the tablelands and coast of NSW and extending into the Grampians in western Victoria.

A jig to assist in propagation of hard-coated seeds.

by Ross McDonald, Ferntree Gully, Vic

Over many years I have experimented with many different ideas to break through the hard outer shell of Acacia and pea-flowered seeds. I have tried holding a seed between

two fingers whilst using a triangular file to cut a groove, and a wire-stripper to nick a piece from the cotyledon end of the seed, both of which required a fairly large seed, and resulted in many seeds going into orbit.

I then made a jig from a piece of scrap timber by drilling a 51mm diameter hole using a hole saw, and using the same saw to make a round plug. A handle was added, and 80 or 100 grit abrasive paper was bonded to the bottom of the hole, and to the face of the plug. The problem with this setup was that there was a significant radial gap as the hole was 51mm diameter but the plug was only 48mm.

The latest jig addressed this concern and is shown below.

It was made using a 48mm forstner bit for the hole, and a 51mm hole saw for the plug to make the two parts fit more closely. A hole-saw uses a 6mm pilot drill, so a dowel and a larger 'handle' were fitted.

The bases of the plugs were sanded smooth, then an abrasive disc was glued on each one. I decided on twin jigs, one using 80 grit paper for larger seeds, the other using 120 grit which seems better for small seeds.

As can be seen in the photos, the abrasive paper at the bottom of the holes is held in place by screwing on another piece of scrap timber. As these papers wear, they are easily replaced – the discs on the plugs can be peeled off, or another disc glued straight on the worn one.

In use, it is a case of trial and error – give the plug a few turns, with appropriate pressure, then open up to see the result. Remove any seeds that have a patch of white showing, then try again. I then put the seeds in a small bottle (herb and spice bottles I find a good size) then add smoke water (cold) and wait. After 12 – 24 hours, any seeds that have not swollen can be dried with a paper towel, and returned to the jig. I have found that low pressure is safest – too much pressure gives you a nice pinch of powdered acacia seed!

Small Wattles

As I referred to in my Leader's message, a question that frequently seems to be asked relates to small wattles suitable for gardens. I have referred below to articles that have been written in the past by Maria Hitchcock and Neil Marriott, and have listed the small wattles that they have suggested in their articles.

Maria's article was published in 2004 in Australian Plants magazine. She separated her recommendations into different climate zones, as follows:

Tropical zone: *A. gonocarpa*, *A. whitei*, *A. wickhamii* ssp. *wickhamii*
Sub-tropical zone: *A. saxicola*, *A. uncifera*
Coastal and Near Coastal Zone: *A. baueri* ssp. *baueri*, *A. hubbardiana*, *A. spathulifolia*
Temperate Zone: *A. flexifolia*, *A. gordonii*, *A. lateriticola*, *A. leptoclada*, *A. macnuttiana*, *A. ptychoclada*, *A. pulchella* var. *pulchella*, *A. ruppii, A. sulcata* var, *sulcata*, *A. varia* var. *varia*
Montane Zone: *A. alpina*, *A. kydrensis*
Eastern Inland Zone: *A. aspera*, *A. chinchillensis*, *A. glandulicarpa*, *A. conferta*, *A. williamsonii*

Semi-arid zone: *A. merrallii*, *A. multispicata*, *A. sclerophylla*, *A. redolens*
Arid Zone: *A. perryi*, *A. spondylophylla*

Neil's paper, titled Small and Interesting Acacias, was published as part of the 2006 FJC Rogers Seminar, Knowing and Growing Australian Wattles. Neil's focus in his paper was on wattles suitable for growing in Victoria. He listed the following species:

A. acinacea, *A. brownii*, *A. celastrifolia*, *A. congesta*, *A. dealbata* 'Kambah Carpet', *A. denticulosa*, *A. drummondii* ssp. *affinis,* A. *enterocarpa*, *A. glandulicarpa*, *A. glaucoptera*, *A. guinetii*, *A. gunnii*, *A. lanigera*, *A. lasiocarpa* var. *sedifolia*, *A. leptospermoides*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. nervosa, A. phasmoides*, *A. pubescens*, *A. pulchella*, *A. pulviniformis*, *A. redolens*, *A. restiacea*, *A. rossei*, *A. spinescens*, *A*. sp. aff. *farinosa*, *A. willdenowiana*, *A. williamsonii*.

A few more that I might add to those listed by Maria and Neil would include *A. amblygona* 'Austraflora Winter Gold', *A. chrysocephala*, A. *declinata* and *A. sulcata* var. *planoconvexa*.

Listed above are a total of 59 different wattles. For information, I checked the online catalogues of two of our larger native plant nurseries in Victoria – Kuranga Nursery in Melbourne lists about 10 of the 59 wattles, and Goldfields Revegetation Nursery (near Bendigo) about 17.

What small wattles can you add to the above lists?

Celebrating Wattle Day 2015

The Colac Botanic Gardens celebrated their 150th anniversary this year. Southern Australian Acacias are designated as one of the 9 collections held within the Gardens, and it was therefore appropriate that the Gardens would hold some special events to mark Wattle Day. On 31 August, Brendon Stahl (a member of our Study Group) gave a talk at the Gardens on the subject Amazing Acacias, and on the following day, the Head Gardener conducted a guided tour of the Gardens Wattle Collection. At both the talk and the guided tour, free wattle plants (propagated by the local Australian Plants Society branch) were given to participants.

The Gardens have produced a colour brochure relating to their Wattle Collection. There are 34 different wattles growing in the Gardens, and a flowering time chart (included in the brochure) shows that there is a wattle in flower in the Gardens in every month of the year.

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The Wattle Day Association makes an award each year, known as the Golden Wattle Award, to an Australian who has brought Gold to Australia through their actions or achievements. The joint winners of the Award for 2015 were surfers Mick Fanning and Julian Wilson. In their case, the award recognises and honours their courage, mateship and fortitude in their response to the shark attack at Jeffreys Bay on 20 July 2015.

Congratulations to these worthy winners. More information is available on the Wattle Day Association website (http://www.wattleday.asn.au/).

Don't Blame The Wattle

An ABC report (23 September 2015) by Claudine Ryan discussed the causes of hayfever. The report was headed "Don't blame the wattle: Allergy expert explains real causes of hayfever and why spring isn't always the worst time for sufferers."

In relation to the question "Is it the wattle?", the report noted as follows:

"Not necessarily, says Associate Professor Janet Davies, from Queensland University of Technology's School of Biomedical Sciences.

Many of us associate hayfever with pollen from trees that come into flower in late winter and early spring (we're looking at you wattle). But wattle may be unfairly maligned in the allergy blame game, Professor Davies says.

She says allergy tests rarely confirm wattle is what sets off hayfever for most people. What happens to wattle pollen when it leaves the wattle flowers doesn't support the notion either - it's too heavy to travel very far.

"We see those beautiful trees in flower and then when you look under those trees you will see a carpet of yellow, because the wattle pollen is very heavy and it just falls down essentially," she says."

The report goes on to note that temperate grasses, especially ryegrass, are the most common causes of hayfever in NSW, ACT, Victoria, parts of WA and Tasmania. In northern parts of Australia, sub-tropical grasses, including Bermuda grass, Bahia grass or Johnson grass are the most common.

The full report may be read online at http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-23/dont-blame-the-wattle/6791396.

Recent Reports Relating to Acacias

The Victorian Naturalist is the Journal of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

In the October 2014 issue, there was a report of a vegetation survey of Cocoparra National Park and Cocoparra Nature Reserve. This is an area located within the Riverina region of NSW, fairly close to Griffith.

The report included a species listing for this area, including 5 *Acacia* species, these being *Acacia deanei* (the only bipinnate species noted), *A. decora*, *A. doratoxylon*, *A. homalophylla* and *A. paradoxa*.

Most of the sites surveyed were of sandy loam or clayey sand, with the pH of the soils mostly being in the range 4.5 to 5.5 with only two sites as high as 6.0.

Reference:
Whiting, E. (2014) A limited vegetation survey of Cocoparra National Park and Cocoparra Nature Reserve (The Victorian Naturalist 131(5) 162-176)

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In the December 2014 issue of The Victorian Naturalist, there was an interesting paper relating to Ronald Campbell Gunn (1808-1881). He was a prominent figure in early Tasmania and sent many botanical specimens to Sir William Hooker and to his son Dr Joseph Dalton Hooker, at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Gunn was honoured with *Acacia gunnii* being named in his honour.

Communications from Gunn to the Hookers ceased abruptly in about 1849, and there has been speculation in the past as to the reason for this. It is only recently that an 1870 letter obtained from the Kew Gardens archives has provided an explanation as to why the communications ceased – his letter refers to "domestic affliction in the loss of child after child ", "heavy pecuniary losses" and "subsequently broken health".

Reference:
Earp, C. (2014) A correspondence long interrupted: Ronald Gunn re-establishes contact with Joseph Hooker in 1870 (The Victorian Naturalist 131(6) 204-208)

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An article written by Chris King in the July issue of APS NSW's quarterly newsletter (Native Plants for New South Wales) was titled *Acacia baileyana* – a hybrid problem. In 2008 the author of the article purchased a plant of the endangered *Acacia pubescens* from a local native plant nursery. The plant was intended for an area adjacent to a bush regeneration site. Because the plant looked more like *A. baileyana* than *A. pubescens*, in 2010 a sample was taken to the Royal Botanic Gardens, and genetic analysis showed that it was a hybrid of *A. pubescens* and *A. baileyana*. The plant was then removed to avoid it hybridising with local provenance Acacias.

In AcaciaSearch, *Acacia baileyana* is reported as hybridising with a number of species, including *A. decurrens*, *A. dealbata*, *A. oshanesii*, *A. pubescens*, *A. spectabilis*, *A. leucoclada*, *A. parramattensis* and *A. mearnsii*. There are no doubt other species that it may hybridise with eg Cheel (1935) The occurrence of hybrid *Acacias* (Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales 60:443-446) reported it hybridising with *A. podalyriifolia*.

Clearly the hybrids are a worry, especially for endangered taxa.

Seed Bank

A list of species held in our Seed Bank was included in Newsletter 126 (September 2014). An updated list will be included in our next Newsletter (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). 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 2015/16 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.

ANPSA ACACIA STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET 2014=15			
INCOME	**Balance at 1.7.14**		$989.58
	Members' subs	$719.00	
	Donations	$52.00	
	Other Income	$44.40	
	Total Income	$815.40	$815.40
EXPENSES	Stationery	$11.20	
	Printing	$408.00	
	Photocopying	$236.80	
	Postage	$214.90	
	Seeds	$41.80	
	Total Expenses	$912.70	-$912.70
BALANCE	**Balance at 30.6.15**		$892.28