



*Acacia brunioides*

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.

## ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Grimshaw at Girraween. I believe that there was enthusiasm among the participants on each excursion for further such trips to be arranged in future. In Queensland, a possible trip to the Warwick area in two years time was discussed. On the Grampians weekend there was also enthusiasm for future excursions, although not specific as to a particular region (other than some discussion regarding a possible trip to South Australia). I would be very pleased to receive any feedback from members as to interest in taking part in future excursions, possible destinations etc).

In our last Newsletter (No. 133, June 2016), there was an article by John Gibson titled "Smelly Acacias". In that article, John asked for feedback on the article, especially in relation to members' experiences with "smelly acacias". John has advised me that the article has generated a lot of interest, and he would like to express his thanks to everyone who has responded with their own observations. John also asks that people keep their responses rolling in to him (Email: [john@potn.com.au](mailto:john@potn.com.au)). It is pleasing that the article has been reprinted in a couple of other publications. John is planning to write a report for our December newsletter.

Thank you to all members who have paid their **membership renewals** for the 2016/17 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 2015/16 year appears on page 10.

Bill Aitchison

### From The Leader

Dear Members

I am pleased to be able to report that during August our Study Group held two very successful field trips, one in the Grampians in Victoria on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August, and one to Girraween National Park in Queensland, from 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August. There were 19 participants on the Grampians excursion, and 11 for Girraween. A report on the Girraween excursion is included later in this Newsletter, and a report on the Grampians excursion will appear in our next newsletter in December.

I would like to thank the leaders of each of these excursions for their wonderful efforts, in particular Neil and Wendy Marriott in the Grampians and Jan Glazebrook and Paul

# Welcome

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

Max Kerr, Wallinduc, Vic  
Steven Midwinter, Fish Creek, Vic

## From Members and Readers

**Jan Hall (Yarrowonga, Vic)** commented (6 July 2016) on a few items referred to in our previous newsletter:

“*A. chrysocephala* has done well here, but lost the last one due to *A. fimbriata* 'dwarf' growing larger than expected and overwhelming a lovely small shrub.

Anyone growing acacias in quantity would be familiar with that [COS] smell. I did not keep a record but think *A. pycnantha* and *A. iteaphylla* were obvious. Very interesting article.

During my nursery years I did have some hybrids occurring, especially from garden and windbreak collected seed. Some were *A. howittii* x *verniciiflua* probably. Currently I have some *A. cardiophylla* crosses. Some with *A. baileyana* and others more like *A. dealbata* from that seed. *A. ashbyae* has never set seed (about 17 years old) and I wonder if it could be a hybrid. There were 5 or 6 in that batch planted elsewhere and none have seeded. Or is it out of its comfort zone or maybe needs a particular pollinator?

It has been a colder wetter winter here which is a good thing and some plants are tardy with usual Winter flowers. The Acacias that are flowering [6th July] are *A. genistifolia*, *A. beckleri*, *A. flexifolia*, *A. deanii*, *A. jibberdingensis* which goes on and on, plus *A. acinacea*, *A. conferta* and a few others with a smattering.

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**Warren and Gloria Sheather (Yarrowck.NSW)** referred (24 July 2016) to Helen van Riet's article in the last Newsletter. They described it as an interesting contribution, and commented that “an atrocious pointed instrument” is an apt description of *Acacia atrox* particularly when you try to prepare cuttings.

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**Des Nelson (Alice Springs, NT)** writes (18 August 2016) as follows:

“The article about Carbonyl sulphide gas produced by Acacias by John Gibson was very interesting. Wherever Georgina Gidgee (*Acacia georginae*) grows the odour it produces is well known. It is a unique smell but some say it resembles domestic cooking gas and is pretty powerful.

The periods in which the smell is evident is during very humid, or raining weather but particularly when the trees are in flower. Bush flies proliferate at flowering time. I wonder if the smell attracts the insects for the purpose of pollination. Once I collected green but mature pods from *Vachellia farnesiana* shrubs, placing them in a sealed plastic bag. When the bag was opened later, the green pods had produced the same odour as that emitted by Gidgee trees. Sometimes there appears on the trunks of our local *Acacia estrophiolata* trees, a dark exudation, probably caused by insects. This also has an odour, mildly sickening and different from the Gidgee perfume. I spent a lot of time working in Gidgee country to the north-east of Alice Springs so became used to the Gidgee smell and do not mind it at all.

Another note about Gidgee. I have wondered that one of the reasons for the longevity of the trees may be that the phyllodes could be hygroscopic. In the very early days (1950s) of the NT Herbarium in Alice Springs, there was no air conditioning. When the climate was dry, and it can get very dry, if you bent the phyllodes of dried *A. georginae* specimens, they would snap and break. When there came a period of high humidity such as the build up before a big rain, you could bend the Gidgee phyllodes into a circle without damage. In Gidgee country you will see what appears to be very ancient gnarled and twisted trees which must be more than a century old. They are very drought tolerant. The wood is very hard and the heat produced when burning dry Gidgee wood in a camp fire, is legendary.

There is a smell in thick Mulga country during rainy times, but it is a somewhat resinous type of aroma. Quite pleasant.

Currently, up around Tennant Creek, *Acacia spondylophylla* is flowering profusely. This little shrub has its own typical aroma which gives it one of its common names, Curry wattle”.

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**Sandra McKenzie (Moonta, SA)** has written about *Acacia toondulya*, a plant that is considered rare in its natural distribution, being confined to the Gawler Ranges in SA. A friend of Sandra has a plant in her garden at Kadina (see photo below) which she has understood to be *A. toondulya*. However, it has been suggested that this plant could be a hybrid between *A. toondulya* and *A. notabilis* (because it is multi trunked). It is noted that there are specimens of *A. toondulya* in the Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta, and these are single trunked.

*Acacia toondulya* was first described by Martin O'Leary (Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens 2002). In that paper, he reported that it appears that *A. toondulya* and *A. notabilis* hybridise in an area about 10km north of a population of *A. toondulya* at Toondulya Bluff. These apparent naturally occurring hybrids have an open shrubby habit, non-pruinose new growth and flower number of 45-

50 flowers per head. Sandra plans to have a closer look at the plant in her friend's garden, and hopefully get a clearer picture as to what it is.



*Acacia toondulya* (perhaps) in a Kadina garden

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**Judy Clark (Hastings, UK)** has a question regarding germination of Acacia seeds. Judy is a member of the Acacia Study Group, and also a member of the Australasian Plant Society ([www.anzplantsoc.org.uk](http://www.anzplantsoc.org.uk)) in the UK. Judy writes (20 September 2016) as follows:

“One of our members, Maurits de Vries, sent me the following information about how he germinates acacias, following a method recommended by Dr Carl Whitcomb (US, inventor of rootmaker containers). This is what Dr Whitcomb wrote to Maurits:

“The goal with legume seeds and others with very hard and impervious seed coat is to get the seeds cold and they do not have to be in the freezer for more than 30 minutes to an hour, then transfer to boiling water. It is the abrupt temperature change that causes the seed coat to crack. But, I typically leave the seeds in the boiling water for only a minute or two. Any longer and you may allow the embryo to reach the lethal temperature. The temperature change applies only to the outside of the seed and not throughout the seed.”

Maurits tells me that this method has worked with *A. rubida*, *obliquinervia*, *dealbata*, and *pataczekii*. I've no idea if it works better than other methods but Maurits likes trying new things. Have you ever come across this method and if so have you tried it?”

**I would welcome any responses to Judy's question – please respond to [acaciastudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:acaciastudygroup@gmail.com).**

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**Victoria Tanner** asks if anyone is growing *Acacia wardellii*, *A. storyi* or *A. pedleyi*? Any advice on their

cultivation and propagation requirements would be appreciated.

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We have two reports that this year has been an absolutely outstanding year for wattles in Western Australia. **Tony Scalzo (Shenton Park, WA)** writes (29 September 2016) as follows:

“I have just done a wildflower trip out from Perth this past week out towards Corrigin, Hyden and then the Rabbit proof fence at Forrestania, then down via Lake King and Ravensthorpe to Hopetoun and finally Qualup in the Fitzgerald National Park. The wildflowers were fantastic, but what was striking were the huge numbers of acacias still in flower. It was probably due to the very cold conditions we're having here stopping them from burning off at their usual rate. Whatever the cause, it was a great sight to see. ... I think it is the best I've ever seen. A feast for the visual senses.”

**Neil and Wendy Marriott (Stawell, Vic)** were also in WA recently, leading a wildflower tour, and they have also reported that the wattles were amazing this year, they have never seen so many flowering in September and looking so brilliant.

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**Margaret Guenzel (Ocean Grove, Vic)** recently asked a question regarding *Acacia caerulescens* (Buchan Blue). Margaret has had plants of this in her garden for a long time, but they have never set seed. She is interested in why this may be? Could it be that (outside of their natural range) they don't have the right pollinator? Any other suggestions?

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About 6 years ago, **Natalie Peate (Blackburn, Vic)** planted a low growing form of *Acacia redolens* on the nature strip in front of her house. This single plant now occupies an area of 6m x 4m, and it provides a very dense ground cover. Natalie recommends it as an excellent plant if you are looking for a ground cover that will exclude all other vegetation (it may not be the right ground cover for every situation).

Natalie was originally given some cuttings of this plant many years ago when she was living at her previous house (those cuttings were from another Study Group member, June Rogers).

Natalie comments that it propagates OK from cuttings, although it is not totally easy. Her plant does not set viable seed.

The photo below shows Natalie's plant, taken when it was

just coming into full flower on 11 September 2016.



*Acacia redolens*

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**Paul Birch and Andrea Dennis (Horticulturalists at Maranoa Gardens at Balwyn, Vic)** recently (in August) pointed out to me a large infestation (many hundreds) of caterpillars on a group of *Acacia baileyana* (prostrate) plants at the Gardens. The caterpillar was not something they had previously been aware of in the Gardens, and the caterpillar was evidently only on these plants, and nothing else. We believe that the caterpillar is that of the Painted Acacia Moth, *Teia anartoides* (this is a tussock moth caterpillar, and is distinguished by having 4 tufts of hair on the back like a toothbrush).



**Painted Acacia Moth at Maranoa Gardens**

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On a recent weekend in western Victoria, I came across an *Acacia aculeatissima* with flowers that were partly red (at the Gatum Gatum Flora Reserve near Hamilton). I understand that this is not all that uncommon – perhaps someone can explain the cause of this?



*Acacia aculeatissima*

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Further to the recent items in our Newsletters regarding Acacia hybrids, **Chris Clarke (Thornbury, Vic)** has provided a photo which he believes to be *Acacia longifolia* ssp. *sophorae* x *A. oxycedrus*. The photo was taken at the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve (south east of Melbourne). Chris notes that this Reserve has large areas covered with *A. longifolia* ssp. *sophorae*, and that this cross has been reported as occurring at nearby Frankston – but Chris does have a question as to whether the cross is with *A. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia*, rather than ssp. *sophorae*? Any suggestions?



**Hybrid Acacia**

**Photo Chris Clarke**

# Study Group Field Trip Report – Girraween National Park

Photos and article by Len Hubbard, Chinchilla, Qld

Arriving at Girraween National Park on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August Joan and I were surprised to see the area so dry, obviously missing out on recent rains unlike the west of our state. We were greeted by Jan, Dennis, Paul, LeeAnn and Janet. During happy hour the next day's walk round the park was discussed. Saturday morning saw us putting up tarps as it had started showering. As we assembled at the Information Centre Jim & Fran, Ray & Norene arrived to join the group.

With wet weather gear we headed off to explore the park. Jan as organizer for our acacia outing had contacted Paul Grimshaw as leader for the weekend. Paul as a former Girraween National Park Ranger for some 8 years left no ephemeral, shrub or tree unnamed. His knowledge of the area was unsurpassed. We were introduced to many new acacias (to us) most flowering in the area of The Junction, Granite Arch and The Pyramid, west and north of Info Centre. The rain eased during the morning making progress, identification and photography more pleasant. Lunch was enjoyed at the camp ground along with the clearing weather.

Next on the list was a car trip down to Dr Roberts Waterhole car park. Over and above the many acacias in full flower we enjoyed a large area of *Banksia spinulosa* var *neoanglica* in flower with its unusual black styles. After a short walk to the large permanent waterhole we were greeted by a large stand of flowering *Acacia floribunda*. This species favours moist areas along with having no visible gland on the phyllode. Paul lead the more resourceful further down the creek, over many boulders and round filling pools from the recent rain, along an overgrown track. Back at the carpark we then travelled to the Mt Norman turn off. After stopping here, cameras started clicking to capture the solid wall of yellow and green bi-pinnate foliage of *Acacia filicifolia*. Gold! Gold! Gold! came to my mind. We returned to the camp ground and enjoyed happy hour along with a bit of blue and some sunshine.

Sunday morning saw us pulling down camp and returning to the Information Centre car park. In convoy we proceeded to the Mt Norman turn off with a sign indicating this track required a high clearance vehicle to proceed. Some of us looked at Janet's VW Crafter and crossed our fingers. A very pretty drive along open grazing areas, very rocky and mountainous, heavily wooded, interesting flowing creeks and areas of plants and trees requiring further investigation. Paul stopped many times, explaining the many species and their distribution. Morning tea was enjoyed in a deep ravine beside a babbling brook. Birds would have been cross-eyed keeping up with the many calls round us. Many acacias were seen through this area including *Acacia*

*rubida*, *Acacia stricta*, *A. venulosa*, *A. brownei*, *A. ulicifolia* and *A. betchei*. Just before lunch at the Mt Norman car park we were fortunate to spot a few shrubs of *A. brunioides* subsp *granitica*. Further down the road Paul pointed out a few wide phyllode specimens of *A. fimbriata*. This track terminates at the border town of Wallangarra. The VW Crafter made it through without a scratch.



*Acacia brunioides* ssp. *granitica*

Fond farewells were exchanged after a great weekend. Many thanks to Jan for organising, and Paul for leading a very successful and rewarding wattle outing.

## ACACIA SPECIES SEEN AT GIRRAWEEN:

*A. adunca*, *A. betchei*, *A. brownei*, *A. brunioides* subsp. *granitica*, *A. filicifolia*, *A. fimbriata*, *A. floribunda*, *A. granitica*, *A. implexa*, *A. irrorata* subsp. *irrorata*, *A. latisejala*, *A. neriifolia*, *A. penninervis* var. *penninervis*, *A. pruinosa*, *A. pubifolia*, *A. rubida*, *A. ruppii*, *A. stricta*, *A. ulicifolia*, *A. venulosa*.



Girraween excursion group photo

Standing: Janet Schultz (Warwick), Fran Standing (Woodenbong), Len Hubbard (Chinchilla), Jim Standing (Woodenbong), Dennis Cox, Jan Glazebrook (Logan Village)  
Sitting: Leeann & Paul Grimshaw (Mt Crosby), Ray & Noreen Baxter (Brisbane)

## *Acacia dietrichiana*

By Len Hubbard, Chinchilla, Qld

*I received two emails from Len Hubbard, the first on 16 July 2016 and the second one day later, on 17 July 2016. The two emails, reproduced below, are self explanatory.*

16 July 2016

Dear Bill

For sometime I have been looking for *Acacia dietrichiana* when travelling through its distribution areas, without success. This species was first collected by Amalie Dietrich, a German botanist and naturalist, at Lake Elphinstone (Qld) in 1868. She collected for some twelve months in this area where she lived with the Hess family. Ferdinand von Mueller acquired her botanical collection in 1881 and in 1882 he described *Acacia dietrichiana* as we know it today.

Recently (July 2016) while travelling between Hughenden and Prairie, "Bingo", a small community was located from small plants to adult specimens. They were budded and not flowering. It is widespread but uncommon in central Queensland where it grows in shallow soils derived from sandstone.

Cheers, Len



*Acacia dietrichiana* (adult specimen) Photo: Len Hubbard

17 July 2016

Dear Bill

You will not believe the following lines. This afternoon I said to Joan I am going over to the Condamine Highway to photograph *A. wardellii* and *A. hakeoides*, both should be flowering.

We pulled up at the *A. wardellii* area (those on the Study Group Field Trip in 2014 will remember the roadside stop where we saw it). It was in flower and I got some good shots. Having a bit of spare time I started walking around the local area checking gravel pits looking for any spread of

*A. wardellii*. To my TOTAL DISBELIEF I found not only a budded *A. dietrichiana*, but flowering as well. It is only a three metre single specimen.

We went all the way to Prairie to find them when one was growing in my backyard. How it has got there, I do not know. Maybe earth moving machinery?

By the way *A. hakeoides* was in full flower.

Cheers, Len



*A. dietrichiana* (flowers, buds, phyllodes, Condamine Highway) Photo: Len Hubbard

## *Acacia pycnostachya*

by Warren and Gloria Sheather, Yarrowyck, NSW

*Acacia pycnostachya*, the Bolivia Hill Wattle, is an erect or spreading tree that may reach a height of ten metres. The bark has fine fissures and is light brownish-grey. Phyllodes are elliptic, slightly curved, up to ten centimetres long, three centimetres wide with a leathery texture. Usually there are no glands but sometimes there is an inconspicuous gland at the base.

The flowers of the Bolivia Wattle are its crowning glory. They are held in long, dense, rod-like clusters, golden yellow. A pair of clusters is carried at the base of each phyllode. Flowering is both conspicuous and profuse in spring. Pods are straight and 12 centimetres long. The seeds are surrounded by a large aril.

*A. pycnostachya* is classified as rare with a limited distribution. The main population is protected in the Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve on the Northern Tablelands of NSW between Glen Innes and Tenterfield. In the past few years another healthy population has been discovered on a private conservation area near Bolivia Hill.

*A. pycnostachya* is a beautiful tall wattle. In spring plants are covered in blaze of golden flowers. The Bolivia Wattle

may have potential as a street tree. A spectacular tall hedge or avenue could be created by alternating this species with *Acacia diphylla*, another northern NSW wattle. This latter wattle has similar growth habit, foliage and flowers to *A. pycnostachya*.



Flowers of *Acacia pycnostachya* Photo: W & G Sheather



Pods of *Acacia pycnostachya* Photo: W & G Sheather

The Bolivia Wattle was described in Bentham's *Flora Australiensis* published in 1864.

The Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve is a botanically interesting area. The reserve and surrounding areas are home to a number of rare species including *Eucalyptus boliviana*, *Boronia boliviana*, *Homoranthus croftianus* and *Pimelea venosa* as well as *A. pycnostachya*.

This area has provided staff and students, of the Botany Department, University of New England, with many hours of taxonomic interest.

## Low growing WA wattles for the home garden

by Tony Scalzo, Shenton Park, WA

*This article was written by Tony for the Friends of Kings Park magazine.*

Western Australia is the largest state in the Commonwealth of Australia by area and boasts having the highest number of plant species from the iconic *Acacia* genus with over 700 taxa. The South-West Botanical Province also has the highest level of *Acacia* endemism in Australia.

This multitude of different *Acacia* species in WA is reflected by an enormous diversity of forms and habits ranging from large trees to small shrubs, and includes many prostrate or spreading ground covers.

As gardens in modern cities have shrunk in recent decades, the need for compact plants suited these small spaces has increased.

Wattles are quick growing plants that can flower within the second year after planting and they will quickly add a splash of colour to the home garden. Most wattles usually have intense yellow flowers and they will brighten the landscape, particularly those that flower during the dull winter months.

With a good amount of sunshine and care through regular light pruning after flowering and fertilising with slow release fertilisers for native plants, these prostrate, compact and low growing wattles can provide attractive specimen plants for gardeners with limited space for many years.

The Growing Friends of Kings Park generally grow a wide range of prostrate and low growing wattles for their 4 sales each year. This spring they will have a number of the species described in this article. Why not try some in your garden?

*Ac. applanata* This species growing 0.1-0.5 m high has erect or spreading stems that can spread to 1.0 m wide by suckering. While it lacks true leaves in its adult form the green, flattened, winged stems provide photosynthetic functions for the plant. It has bright yellow pom-pom flowers in clusters from June to October.

*Ac. bidentata* This species is usually a spreading prostrate plant to 1.5 m wide. It has dark green, thickened, wedge-shaped phyllodes. It white or pale cream-yellow pom-pom flowers occur from July to October.

*Ac. crispula* This plant can form low domes to 0.4 m high but most forms are prostrate. It has wavy-edged, hairy phyllodes with bronze-red new growth. It has cream-yellow flowers that appear from September to December. This species grows in sandy soils.

*Ac. declinata* This species forms low growing mounds to 0.4 m high. It has a dense habit with prickly foliage. It is covered with bright golden pom-pom flowers from August to September. This is a good species for an embankment.



*Acacia declinata* (on a property north of Porongurup Ranges)  
Photo: Peter Luscombe

*Ac. drummondii* ssp *drummondii* (prostrate form) Usually an upright plant there are forms growing west of York in wandoo woodlands that are prostrate. This species has fine, bluish-green, pinnate foliage. This very attractive species has beautiful, bright yellow, rod-shaped flowers from July to October.

*Ac. hilliana* This species grows in from the northern arid regions of WA and into the Northern Territory. It is a low-growing, spreading shrub to 0.7 m high. It has mid-green, linear phyllodes. It has very attractive, rod-shaped, golden flowers from March to October. It should be grown in a very warm sunny location.

*Ac. lachnophylla* This plant can either grow as a low dome to 1.0 m high but many selections are prostrate specimens to 1.0 m w. This species has short, hairy, fine phyllodes and has an abundance of small, golden pom-pom flowers from August to October.

*Ac. leptospermoides* ssp *leptospermoides* (prostrate form) This species usually grows as small shrub up to 2 m high, but there are some populations that are prostrate. This species has short, rod-shaped phyllodes and can be covered by an abundance of golden pom-pom flowers from June to September.



*Acacia leptospermoides* ssp *leptospermoides* Photo: T Scalzo

*Ac. maxwellii* Normally a prostrate species to approximately 1.0-1.5 m wide. It has interesting mid-green, fleshy phyllodes and has creamy-white pom-pom flowers from September to October.

*Ac. preissiana* A low-growing or prostrate, multi-stem species that has soft, pinnate, grey-green foliage. It has small golden-yellow pom-pom flowers from December to January. It can be grown as a container plant.

*Ac. pulviniformis* A cushion-like or prostrate species with spinescent branches and very small, fine, light green phyllodes. It is covered with an abundance of small, golden pom-pom flowers from August to October.

*Ac. saligna* (prostrate form) This species usually grows as a medium-sized tree. However, there are prostrate selections that can grow up to several metres across. This species has large, dark green phyllodes and golden yellow pom-pom flowers from August to November.

## Celebrating Wattle Day 2016

Wattle Day 2016 will perhaps be remembered in future as the day on which our new \$5 note, featuring wattle, was released. My understanding is that the new note has been received very favourably (from those people who have actually seen it).

As always, the Wattle Day Association did a great job in promoting Wattle Day. In Canberra, Suzette Searle led wattle walks through a planting of Southern Tableland wattles at the National Arboretum, Terry Fewtrell spoke at Citizenship Ceremonies at the Albert Hall, a Wattle Day Dinner was held with after dinner speaker Morgan Spearritt from the Reserve Bank (who spoke about the design of the new \$5 banknote).

The Wattle Day Association also announced on Wattle Day that the joint winners of this year's Golden Wattle Award are the Melbourne Cup winning jockey Michelle Payne and



her champion strapper brother Steve. This award is conferred each year by the Wattle Day Association to recognize a person(s) who has brought Gold to Australia through their actions or achievements.

Many other Wattle Day events were held around Australia. One of the Victorian members of our Study Group, Brendon Stahl, reports that on 1<sup>st</sup> September, an enthusiastic group of people spent a very pleasant afternoon with Lawrence Towers (Head Gardener) and himself, observing and speaking about the 34 different varieties of Acacias at the Colac Botanic Gardens.

Note: The website for the Wattle Day Association is [www.wattleday.asn.au](http://www.wattleday.asn.au).

## Helena and Aurora Range

The Helena and Aurora Range is located in the Yilgarn region of WA, about 100km north east of Southern Cross. In our Newsletter No. 124 (March 2014) I noted that this area, with significant biological values, was under threat from mining. The area supports a number of rare flora and fauna species, and this includes two endemic Acacia species, *A. adinophylla* and *A. shapelleae*.

This fight to keep this area safe from mining is still ongoing, and the WA Environmental Protection Authority is currently carrying out a Public Environmental Review – J5 and Bungalbin East Iron Ore Proposal. The Authority is currently seeking public submissions in relation to this review (for anyone who may wish to lodge a submission, the closing date for submissions is 31 October 2016).

Further information is available from the Authority's website ([consultation.epa.wa.gov.au](http://consultation.epa.wa.gov.au)) or from the Wilderness Society website ([www.wilderness.org.au/campaigns/helena-aurora-range-needs-your-help](http://www.wilderness.org.au/campaigns/helena-aurora-range-needs-your-help)).

## Seed Bank

A list of species held in our Seed Bank was included in Newsletter 131 (December 2015). An updated list will be included in our next Newsletter (December 2016).

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

<b>ANPSA ACACIA STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET 2015-16</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Balance at 1.7.15</b>		\$982.28
	Members' subs	\$1052.00	
	Donations	\$272.00	
	Other Income	<u>\$77.20</u>	
	Total Income	\$1401.20	\$1401.20
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Stationery	\$11.20	
	Printing	\$404.00	
	Photocopying	\$228.80	
	Postage	\$307.00	
	Seeds	<u>\$531.05</u>	
	Total Expenses	\$1482.05	-\$1482.05
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>Balance at 30.6.16</b>		\$811.43