



Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.

# ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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No. 115 December 2011

ISSN 1035-4638



Contents	Page
<b>From the Leader</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Study Group Field Trip</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>From Members and Readers</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Acacia Name Issue</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Power Wires and Acacias</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Acacia redolens and Uromastix</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Long and Short of it</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Another Late Bloomer</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>When will we have wattle for dinner?</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Wattle For Dinner Another Perspective</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Acacias and Allergies</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Books</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Acacia Survey</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Seed Bank</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Study Group Membership</b>	<b>9</b>

get, we will then decide whether the Field Trip will proceed (and John will then start some preliminary field work).

Another matter raised at the meeting related to disappointment at the lack of publicity given to **Wattle Day** this year. It was suggested that surely television presenters could wear a sprig of wattle to mark this special day – but nothing was evident this year. Can anyone suggest how this special day could be better celebrated?

At the Conference, we set up a Study Group display, and as part of the display invited Conference participants to complete a short questionnaire. The results of this questionnaire are set out on page 8 of this Newsletter.

Thank you to all members who have paid their membership renewals for the 2011/12 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).

I would like to acknowledge and thank one of our Study Group members for a very generous donation to the Study Group. The member concerned has asked to remain anonymous, but we have agreed with her that the donation will be used for the purchase of additional seeds for the seed bank.

In relation to the seed bank, in many parts of Australia this is an excellent time of year for collecting Acacia seed – if you are in a position to collect seed, or have some spare seed, please give a thought to our Study Group's seed bank. Esther would love to hear from you.

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to extend best wishes to all for the festive season and for a safe and healthy 2012.

Bill Aitchison

## From The Leader

Dear Members

To my knowledge, the Acacia Study Group has never previously held a Field Trip. However, at the Study Group meeting held at the recent ANPSA Biennial Conference in Adelaide, **John Nevin** suggested that Field Trips would be a valuable activity for our Group, and he offered to organize and lead a Field Trip next year, in the northern Tablelands of NSW. I think this is a great initiative by John, and hope that it will be successful. Some information regarding the proposed Field Trip is included on page 2. Note that at this stage we are just asking for expressions of interest as to your possible participation – depending on the responses we

## Welcome

A special welcome to the following new members and subscribers to the Newsletter:

David Coote, Camberwell, Vic  
Peter Goldup, Mt Evelyn, Vic  
Bill Landeryou, Brunswick, Vic

## Study Group Field Trip

At the Study Group meeting held at the recent ANPSA Conference in Adelaide, John Nevin suggested that the Acacia Study Group hold a Field Trip, and offered to organize and lead one in the Northern Tablelands in NSW. John suggested that it would be useful for study group members to look at species growing in the wild, and noted that there are just short of 90 species of Acacia on the Northern Tablelands.

It is suggested that the field trip would revolve around a weekend and take two days, although this could be flexible. On the Tablelands the wattles tend to flower in August/September, so this is probably the optimum time. We are therefore looking at holding the field trip in August or September next year, and would be based around Armidale, NSW.

At this stage we would like to receive registrations of interest from Study Group members who believe they may like to join in the weekend. Note that if the trip is to proceed, John will need to undertake a fair bit of preliminary field work, so that participants will be able to locate the maximum number of wattles in a limited amount of time. If we don't receive a sufficient number of registrations of interest, we won't go ahead with the weekend (and John won't do this preliminary work to no avail).

If you would like to register your interest in taking part in the weekend or have any questions, please contact either John Nevin ([jrnevin@nsw.chariot.net.au](mailto:jrnevin@nsw.chariot.net.au), or phone (02) 67752128) or Bill Aitchison ([acaciastudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:acaciastudygroup@gmail.com), or phone (03) 98723583) (note this is just a registration of interest, with no obligation to attend).

Note that anyone who takes part in the weekend must be a financial member of the Australian Plants Society (or equivalent body in your state).

John is highly knowledgeable and an authority on Australian plants, and I am sure the weekend will be superbly well organized and a great success – hopefully we can get sufficient interest for it to proceed.

## From Members and Readers

**Victoria Tanner (Calwell ACT)** noted (25 September 2011) the references to the Pilliga in our previous Newsletter and writes as follows:

“Having not long come back from the NSW ANPS Get-together at Burrendong and consequent 2 day "Tag-A-long Tour" of the Pilliga, I have some comments on the two articles regarding this area. I can only agree with Tony Cavanagh's comments on Mendooran Rd, just north of Dubbo. We drove north on this road in late August this year when starting the Pilliga Tour. It is a short-cut north but was also splendid in acacia flowers on both sides of the road, most of the way. The group also turned off this road to travel through the Goonoo NP (along Gates and the Western Boundary Roads), to view further Pilliga wildflowers. After this, we travelled north and through the Pilliga the next day. The tour was guided by Anthony O'Halloran of 'Bilby Blooms' nursery (a local flora expert).



*Acacia pilligaensis*

Photo V Tanner

In regards to acacias in the Pilliga on this trip, many were in flower with others starting to bloom. *Acacia triptera* was everywhere! I have one of these in my garden and note when it was bought about 6-7 years ago, was listed as endangered in Victoria. *A. spectabilis* was spectacular in most places, even in the towns. We also saw *A. gladiiformis*, *A. mariae*, *A. pilligaensis*, *A. rigens* and *A. sertiformis* (last not in flower). The arboretum also had many acacias in flower and had plants for sale, as did the NSW forestry nursery, Dubbo.”

In a subsequent note, Victoria comments that she forgot to mention that Wellington (Mt Arthur especially) had lots of Hairy Wattle (*A. vestita*) in flower with a show of their lovely weeping habit.

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**Ian Evans (Eaglehawk, Vic)** writes (23 October 2011) as follows (the Whipstick Forest is near Bendigo in central Victoria):

“While in the Whipstick Forest (Kamerooka section) today looking for different flower colours in *Prostanthera aspalathoides* and *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* I came across an Acacia which I think may be an *A. williamsonii* x *A. difformis*, although they usually flower at different times, see attached photos. The plant/plants were about 1 meter high and suckered vigorously covering an area of approximately 40 meters x 10 meters. I have seen some other suckering Acacias growing nearby which were taller growing and weeping. I think these are *A. difformis* x *pycnantha*.”



*A. williamsonii* x *difformis*? Photo: Ian Evans

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**Chris Clarke (Thornbury, Vic)** also refers (25 September 2011) to the Bendigo area following a recent visit there:

“I can vouch for the wonderful display of *Acacia acinacea* this year in the Greater Bendigo National Park.

Further north at the Kamerooka end of the park *Acacia brachybotra* was in full flower.

We also found what seems to be a form of *Acacia acinacea* with round leaves up there?”



*Acacia acinacea* Photo: Chris Clarke

Our thanks to local Bendigo expert Ern Perkins for confirming that Chris’s photo is a round leaf form of *A. acinacea*, previously *A. rotundifolia*. Ern notes that this round leaf form of *A. acinacea* is moderately common north of Bendigo. He had not noticed before how hairy the round leaf forms are – his pressed specimens are equally hairy as in Chris’s photo, and the Flora says that leaves and stems may be glabrous or hairy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ray Turner and Eva Kowal** live at Cranbourne South (south east of Melbourne) and recently sent to me the following photo of a koala in an *Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*, taken in a neighbour’s garden. Ray and Eva were surprised that the koala was in a tree other than a Eucalypt. However, on checking various references, this is apparently not an unusual occurrence – the Acacia being a suitable tree for shade and shelter, especially on hot days. On very rare occasions, an Acacia may apparently also be used as a food source.



Photo: Eva Kowal

Ray and Eva’s koala is apparently not fussy where it sleeps – on the following day it had moved to a *Grevillea robusta*.

**Reference:** <http://users.monash.edu.au/~murray/koalas-methods.html>

## Acacia Name Issue

As advised in our previous Newsletter No. 114, a decision taken at the recent International Botanical Congress held in Melbourne in July this year confirmed that the type species of Acacia remains with an Australian species, so that Australian acacias retain the name *Acacia*.

The decision taken in Melbourne hopefully brought to an end an issue that had had more than its fair share of discussion and debate over many years. The decision had in fact been endorsed by the appropriate Nomenclatural Committees and two International Botanical Congresses.

Regrettably, it appears that the issue may drag out for a further number of years. In an article published in the October 2011 issue of *Taxon*, two African botanists, Gideon F. Smith and Estrela Figueiredo, have announced another move to retypify *Acacia* with its original African type species, and to have this voted on before and at the next IBC in China in 2017. If successful, this would have the effect of reversing the decisions taken at both Vienna and Melbourne.

Many people had expected (or hoped) that the decision taken in Melbourne would have put an end to the nomenclatural destabilization surrounding the application of the name *Acacia*. Given the very extensive debate and deliberations by the global taxonomic and nomenclatural community that have already occurred regarding this issue, it is difficult to see the justification for protracting this matter further, or how any such proposal will be in the interest of global nomenclatural stability. Surely it is now time to move on!

Further information regarding this unfortunate situation is available on the worldwidewattle web site, at [www.worldwidewattle.com/infogallery/nameissue](http://www.worldwidewattle.com/infogallery/nameissue).

#### Reference:

Smith, G.F. & Figueiredo, E. 2011. Conserving *Acacia* Mill. With a conserved type: What happened in Melbourne? *Taxon* 60: 1504-1506

## Power Wires and Acacias

by Phil Hempel, Diamond Creek, Vic

On a recent field trip I noticed a row of *Acacia paradoxa* growing beneath high voltage power lines and all the plants were of a form I had not seen before. They are upright, very open, have sturdy trunks and limbs and a weeping habit. It was early November and most had seed while others were still flowering. I am interested to know if this is just one of the forms of *A paradoxa* or has the growth been affected by the power wires. A trial was done on Privet and Cypress growing in a nursery and it was found that both had trunks 25% bigger than the same plants growing 50m away from the power lines (see reference below). Having read this report I wonder if the same is for Acacias.

It is believed that lightning in thunderstorms “provides the intense energy needed to combine atmospheric nitrogen and oxygen into nitrates. The rain then carries these nitrates down to the earth’s surface enriching the soil. Acting as a fertilizer, nitrates in an indirect way helps make the grass green.” Is it possible that these HV power lines can do something similar possibly in a much lower rate but constantly over years?



*Acacia paradoxa* under power lines

Photo: Phil Hempel

I have HV power lines over the rear of my property and after seeing the *A paradoxa* forms I looked closer at the plants I have growing under the wires and there does seem to be something different with some types of plants, under the wires compared to those not under them including *A. longifolia*.

#### Reference:

Demir, Z (2010). Proximity effects of high voltage electric power transmission lines on ornamental plant growth. *African Journal of Biotechnology* Vol 9 (39), pp 6486-6491.

Note this paper is available online at <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJB/PDF/pdf2010/27Sep/Demir.pdf>

## *A. redolens* and *Uromastix*

by Bill Aitchison

Until recently I had never heard of a *Uromastix* but I have now learned that it is a type of lizard that is used as a pet by some people in the US. It is herbivorous and one of the plant species that is apparently used in feeding these lizards is *Acacia redolens*, a species from the south west of WA that was introduced to the US and is commonly grown there, particularly in California and Arizona.

I was recently contacted by a researcher in Arizona who is investigating the toxicity of plants for herbivorous reptiles, and in particular toxicity of plants for a *Uromastix*. This researcher asked whether our Study Group was aware of any reports of *A. redolens* being toxic to humans or livestock. She noted that she was aware that some species of *Acacia* have high levels of alkaloids or cyanogenic glycosides that make them toxic to grazing animals.

I have not been able to find any reports relating to the toxicity or otherwise of *A. redolens*, but if any Study Group member is aware of any such reports, please let me know and I will pass the information on to the researcher in Arizona.

The researcher noted that *Acacia nilotica* ssp. *tomentosa* (a species from Africa and Asia) has been recommended as an alternative to *A. redolens* as it grows easily in Arizona. However, she has also asked whether we can suggest other species that would be safe – leaves, pods, etc.

I did refer the question to **Dr Claude Culvenor** (an APS member who was formerly Chief Research Scientist at the CSIRO Division of Organic Chemistry), but he was not aware of any reports specific to *A. redolens*. I mentioned to Claude the well known characteristic of *A. redolens* in producing a soapy lather when the leaves are rubbed with water, and asked whether this might be an indicator of any particular type of chemical. Claude has advised that this is characteristic of cyanogenic glycosides but generally these are regarded as non-toxic – although on the other hand, animals are sometimes thought to suffer cyanide poisoning from breakdown of the glycoside in the gut and possibly eating more than a usual amount of the plant.

Can any Study Group member comment further on this question?

## The Long and Short of it

by Warren and Gloria Sheather, Yarrowyck, NSW

Our *Acacia* collection now numbers over 50 species. Although their blooms are their most eye-catching feature this is not their only attractive feature. We also appreciate the foliage and growth habits of our *Acacias*.

You could have a garden composed entirely of wattles. Their heights vary from trees to ground covers with an infinite variety of foliage colours and shapes. You could even have *Acacias* in flower all year by selecting a few species that flower out of the spring season. *Acacia deanei* and *Acacia subulata* are two wattles that flower out of season and that we use to extend that spring feeling in our garden. But we have digressed and will proceed with the purpose of this article.

Two wattles have done particularly well in our garden situated on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales at

an altitude of 900 metres. One is tall and the other short.

*Acacia mabellae* is a tall plant that may reach a height from ten to fifteen metres. After about a decade our specimens range in height from six to ten metres. Long narrow phyllodes are 20 centimetres long and have a prominent mid-vein. A small gland is situated about two centimetres from the base. The flowers are held in globular clusters and are said to be pale yellow or creamy-white in colour. Our specimens have yellow flowers (see image). All the other features, of our plants, agree with the descriptions in various publications.



*Acacia mabellae*

Photo: W & G Sheather

This is one of our favourite wattles with its large flower heads, about one centimetre across, flowering period and growth habit. *Acacia mabellae* bursts into bloom in late spring somewhat after the main *Acacia* spring flowering period. *Acacia mabellae* is a native of the south coast and southern tablelands of New South Wales.



*Acacia ashbyae*

Photo: W & G Sheather

*Acacia ashbyae* is a small to medium spreading shrub that is a native of Western Australia and occurs in the Geraldton area. Our specimens have reached a height of 1.5 metres with a similar spread. The narrow, flat, light green

phyllodes vary in length from three to nine centimetres. Flower heads are oval (somewhere between globular and rod-like), one centimetre long, yellow and appear in late spring. The blooms cover the horizontal branches at this time.

We now propagate this species from cuttings. On a scale from one to ten with one as the hardest to propagate from cuttings and ten as the easiest, then *Acacia ashbyae* comes in at about nine. This is one of the easiest wattles to grow from cuttings.

We use this species as a colourful foreground plant in our garden beds.

## Another Late Bloomer

by Warren and Gloria Sheather, Yarrawyck, NSW

We recently wrote an article extolling the virtues of *Acacia retinodes*. We have two specimens in our garden. Their origin is lost in the mists of time.

After emailing the article we received a reply from Bill pointing us in the direction of an item in ASG 101 that we had forgotten about. The item referred to a paper by Martin O’Leary who carried out a review of *Acacia retinodes*, *A. uncifolia* and *A. provincialis*. A table was reproduced setting out the features that distinguished the three species. Consulting the table in conjunction with our plants revealed that no longer do we have two specimens of *Acacia retinodes* but have a pair of *Acacia provincialis*.

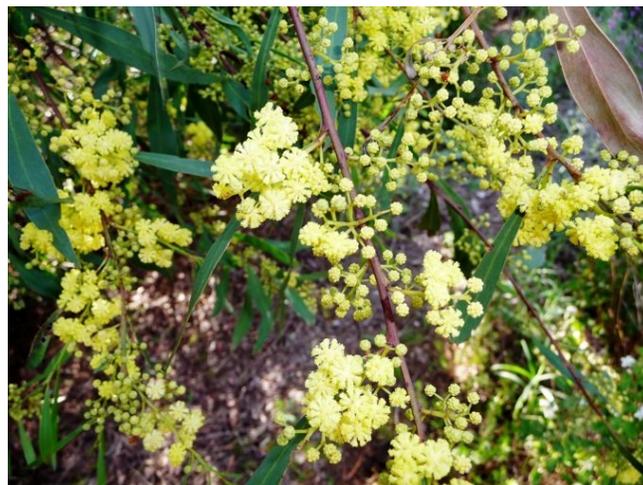
Some of the factors that confirmed a change in our plants were: no suckering, smooth bark, widely spaced phyllodes, flowering period and flower colour.

After that long-winded explanation the original article follows with *Acacia provincialis* substituted for *Acacia retinodes*.

*Acacia provincialis* is an attractive tall shrub or small tree that is said to flower most of the year. Our specimens tend to flower in late spring and early summer when other spring flowering Acacias are resting after their blooming bonanza. *Acacia provincialis* is known as the Wirilda. Our seven year old plants are six metres tall with a dense crown. The phyllodes are narrow, long, straight to slightly curved, bluish-green with a small gland near the base.

Flowers are carried in globular, golden, flower heads. The blooms are both conspicuous, profuse and arrive just in time to extend the spring feeling in our garden.

*Acacia provincialis* has a fragmented distribution. In South Australia the species is found in the Mount Lofty Ranges, the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. The species is then found in the Grampian Mountains, western Victoria and east to near Melbourne.



*Acacia provincialis*

Photo: W & G Sheather

*Acacia provincialis* occurs along watercourses, wetlands as well as valley slopes in high rainfall areas. Our plants are surviving, thriving and blooming bounteously in a well drained situation at 900 metres on the Northern Tablelands of NSW.

Martin O’Leary’s paper is well worth reading because of both its botanical and historical content.

## When will we have wattle for dinner?

by Doug White, Longwood, Vic

I was pleased to read Esther Brueggemeier’s report on the “Wattle we Eat for Dinner” workshop in the current newsletter (No. 114). I particularly noted the report of “overwhelming evidence that from more than two decades of research and development” that Australian Acacias are ready to become a significant new food crop.

Our local IGA supermarket has over the past year or so placed new foods on its shelves, such as quinoa and amaranthus seed products. I understand that many customers want to vary their seed eating away from reliance on the common cereal grains, particularly wheat. But I’ve not yet seen any Acacia products, nor has Acacia oil appeared among the increasing variety of edible oils. Perhaps we could have a bit more detailed information before too long. How many people use wattle seed in Niger, or other African countries and what is an estimated size of production? What is happening with commercial production in Australia?

On another point, what are suitable seed producers for growing in southern Australia? I was told a few years ago that *Acacia penninervis* produced a healthy and useful product. It grows naturally in this area, and very well in my garden, but doesn’t always carry a lot of seed. This year is a good crop. *Acacia implexa*, another local, is perhaps a possibility, but again an unreliable cropper. Maybe *Acacia*

*longifolia*, which is very productive – along with *Acacia subulata*, probably the most prolific seed producer in my garden – is a possibility.

Are there any investigations into *Acacia* green seeds as a food? At Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) settlement, west of Alice Springs (my family lived there for several months many years ago) people often referred to the green pods as “bush beans”, and sometimes picked out the immature seeds and ate them after roasting the pods on the coals of the cooking fire. I’ve since learnt from references and summaries supplied by our group leader Bill Aitchison that “bush beans” is a well established word in Aboriginal English and known or remembered as a food source.

I did try out green fruit of *Acacia penninervis* recently, and doubt that it has a great future as a vegetable, although I may have picked them prematurely and cooked them wrongly. My *Acacia longifolia* has a big crop of green beans almost ready for picking, and they do look good enough to eat.

**Doug White, with thanks to Bill Aitchison for helpful and widely based information.**

## Wattle For Dinner – Another Perspective

by Bill Aitchison

I recently had a discussion with **Matthew Alexandra (Bacchus Marsh, Vic)** who for a number of years has promoted the value of wattle seed as a food source.

Matthew referred to a recent report in the Weekly Times newspaper on what is referred to as “super high-density olive plantings”, the report suggesting that these are the answer to a tough olive oil market. The report referred to plantings to a density of 1300 olive trees per hectare.

Matthew would like to see some research carried out into the feasibility of equivalent high-density wattle plantings, and he suggests that such plantings would potentially provide worthwhile returns. He understands that each tree of, say, *Acacia pycnantha* can provide an annual yield of 10kg of seed (I understand end users would currently expect to pay about \$30 per kg for seed of this species). Of course, there is not only a question of seed production, but also the development of sustainable markets for the annual crop production.

I am sure that the matters raised by Matthew are far from simple, but it would be of interest to learn of the views of other Study Group members on the issues he has raised – please let us have your thoughts and reactions.

**Note:** Matthew has noted with interest an Australian Government scheme called the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) that is designed to help farmers, forest growers and landholders earn income from reducing emissions like nitrous oxide and methane through changes to agricultural and land management practices. He suggests that the establishment of wattle plantations may qualify for some of the funding available under this Scheme. Further information is available on the DAFF website ([www.daff.gov.au/cfi](http://www.daff.gov.au/cfi)).

## Acacias and Allergies

The Australian Government, through its agency the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, has recently (November 2011) released a report on the subject **Allergic rhinitis (‘hay fever’) in Australia**.

The 48 page report covers matters such as the causes of allergic rhinitis, its prevalence within the Australian community and management of the problem. Various causes are discussed, including sensitivity to pollen. In this regard, the report notes that “the tiny, hardly visible pollens of wind-pollinated plants are the predominant triggers.” The report also states that “pollens of insect-pollinated plants (such as Australian wattles) are too heavy to remain airborne and pose little risk”.

Some particular pollens to which sufferers are commonly allergic are listed, and these include grasses, some flowering plants such as pellitory weed, Patterson’s curse, ragweed and parthenium weed, and some trees such as silver birch, olive tree, English oak, and Murray pine.

**Reference:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011. Allergic rhinitis (‘hay fever’) in Australia. Cat. No. ACM23. Canberra: AIHW

The report is available online at [www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au).

## Books

**Plants of Western New South Wales**  
**By GM Cunningham, WE Mulham, PL Milthorpe and JH Leigh**  
**Published by CSIRO Publishing 2011**  
**766 pages, hardcover, RRP \$180**

This book was originally published in 1981, was reissued in 1992, and has just recently been republished, this time by CSIRO Publishing. Whilst no revisions have been made from the previous edition, it is good that it is available

again, as copies of the old edition had become rather scarce. The book includes 76 *Acacia* taxa, with descriptions, information on habitat and distribution as well as general notes in each case. Colour photos are also included.

## **Wattles of the Pilbara (CD)** **By Bruce Maslin, Stephen van Leeuwen and Jordan Reid** **Published by WA Dept of Environment and Conservation, 2010, RRP \$24.95**

This CD is an interactive key and information system for 119 taxa of *Acacia* occurring in the Pilbara region of north-west WA.

The CD enables you to identify any of these *Acacias*, and provides information for each taxon including a botanical description, and notes on distribution, ecology, taxonomy, biology and utilization.

It also includes diagnostic line drawing, distribution map and a range of photographs for each taxon.

## **Acacia Survey**

At the recent ANPSA Biennial Conference held in Adelaide, as part of the *Acacia* Study Group display we invited Conference attendees to complete a short survey. The survey comprised 6 questions, which are listed below together with a summary of the responses received. In total, 17 completed survey forms were received. The forms were completed anonymously, so that we don't know which part of Australia the respondents came from.

### **Question 1 – What is your favourite wattle(s) that you grow in your garden?**

The following species were listed by the respondents (some species were mentioned by more than one person, and in these cases the number of times mentioned is shown in brackets).

*acinacea* (2), *ashbyae*, *beckleri*, *buxifolia*, *chinchillensis* (2), *chrysocephala*, *cognata* (dwarf), *denticulosa* (3), *dictyoneura*, *flexifolia* (2), *gittinsii*, *glandulicarpa*, *glaucoptera* (2), *guinetii*, *lasiocarpa* (2), *longiphylloidea*, *maxwellii*, *pinguifolia*, *pubescens*, *pyncnantha*, *spectabilis*, *subulata*, *vestita*

I would like to feature at least a few of these species in our future newsletters, and suggest that for a start perhaps we could feature *A. longiphylloidea* and *A. gittinsii*. Maybe these species are grown in other parts of Australia, but I don't think they are common around Melbourne.

Could I make a request? If you have experience in growing either of these species, could you let me have any comments in relation to your experience with them? I will then use these responses in preparing something for our next Newsletter.

### **Question 2 – Is there a particular wattle that you are very fond of but never find in a local nursery?**

From talking to a few people at the Conference, I sense that there is a certain frustration at the often very limited range of *Acacia* species available at many nurseries – with many desirable species being simply unavailable.

A few of the responses in relation to *Acacias* not available in nurseries perhaps epitomize this frustration:

“just about any wattle”

“any dwarf wattles other than *A. cognata*”

“doubt that local nurseries have any *Acacia* species”

“LOTS”

Desirable species mentioned as being unavailable at local nurseries included the following:

*acinacea* (prostrate), *araneosa*, *chinchillensis*, *covenyi*, *denticulosa* (2), *enterocarpa*, *glaucoptera* (2), *gunnii*, *handonis*, *hilliana*, *melanoxylon*, *spectabilis* and *spondylophylla*.

Another respondent noted the unavailability of “small shrubs less than 1m – rockery sized and small prostrate species”.

I am aware that a couple of the APS District Groups in Victoria are planning to propagate some of the less commonly available but desirable species, which I think is a positive development, although obviously on a very limited scale. Perhaps in our Newsletter we should be promoting nurseries that are selling an attractive range of *Acacias* – if you are aware of any such nurseries, let me have some relevant information and I will include it in the Newsletter. Of course, nurseries can only be expected to grow those species that they expect to sell – and maybe the solution is to change the public perception of *Acacias* as garden plants.

### **Question 3 – What do you believe is the best wattle to grow as a street tree?**

The following species were listed in responses to this question:

*aneura*, *binervia*, *decora*, *decurrens*, *doratoxylon*, *glaucescens*, *iteaphylla*, *leucoclada* (has a clean trunk and continuous flowers), *macradenia*, *melanoxylon* (2), *pendula* (2), *podalyriifolia* (2), *pyncnantha*, *terminalis*

A couple of people mentioned that it depends on where you are as to what is most appropriate. One of the people who

listed *A. pendula* commented that they are still trying to come across others that will be OK for 15-20 years.

**Question 4 – Where did you have your most memorable experience of seeing wattles in their natural environment?**

Not everyone responded to this question, but there was certainly an interesting range of replies, as follows:

Rudall River National Park, WA  
Western Australia  
Massed flowering on the hills around Chinchilla, Qld (on the Qld Conference Trip)  
Barakula, Qld  
Salvator Rosa in Carnarvon National Park, Qld  
Blackdown Tableland, Qld and roadsides  
Flinders Ranges, SA (*Acacia spinescens* en masse)  
Central Australia  
Our bush (Oakdale, NSW)  
Western NSW – Burrendong area  
Seeing young wattles come up after 2003 fires in Mount Jagungal area in NSW, and silver leaves and blooms at 2 years old.  
Croajingolong National Park, Vic  
Bendigo surrounds, Vic  
Bendigo, Vic – *Acacia williamsonii* massed under Ironbarks  
Killawarra Forest, Vic – many metres wide dense golden mounds of *Acacia acinacea* – low suckering form under Ironbarks and surrounded by massed vanilla lilies and other plants in flower  
As a child in bushland and immersing my face into its softness and fragrance. I think it was called green wattle.

**Question 5 - Do you ever use Wattle seed as a food?**

The responses are tabulated as follows:

Yes, frequently	1
Yes, but infrequently	8
No, never	7

**Question 6 – If you answered yes to question 5, in what way do you use the wattle seed?**

The one individual who advised that they use wattle seed frequently indicated that they use it in bread making.

Of the people who advised that they use wattle seed infrequently, it was noted as being used in bread, biscuits, cakes, coffee, deserts, icecream, in Ozzie seed douka with bread and olive oil, in baking eg shortbread and damper and in scones.

## Seed Bank

An updated list of species held in our Study Group's Seed Bank is included in this Newsletter. Requests for seed should be directed to Esther.

18 packets maximum in each order (negotiable). Limit of 3 orders per member per year. Please include \$2 in stamps to cover the cost of a padded post bag and postage.

## Study Group Membership

Acacia Study Group membership for 2011/12 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)

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**NOTE: Annual membership fees for 2011/12 are now due, we would very much appreciate it if you could attend to this (or advise us if you do not wish to renew your membership).**

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