



Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Group Leader
Esther Brueggemeier
28 Staton Cr, Westlake, Vic 3337
Phone 0411 148874
Email: wildaboutwattle@iprimus.com.au

Newsletter Editor
Bill Aitchison
13 Conos Court, Donvale, Vic 3111
Phone (03) 98723583
Email: aitchguy@netspace.net.au

No. 102 September 2008

ISSN 1035-4638



Contents	Page
From the Leader	1
Welcome	2
Call for Acacia Seeds and Vouchers	2
Letters from Members and Readers	2
Possible articles for Aust Plants	3
Acacia handonis	4
Our Study Group Photo Library	4
Acacia uncifolia	5
Acacia nervosa	5
National Focus on Wattle Day	6
Seed Set in Acacia	7
Seedling or Sucker?	8
Acacias and Frost	8
Wattlegrow	9
Books	9
Old Study Group Newsletters	10
Study Group Membership	10
Seed Bank	10-12
Financial Statement	13

more are just beginning to flower and look stunning in the crisp, mountain air.

A number of people have commented on the extraordinarily good season we've had for wattles. One person I know of who has a lengthy drive to work each day in the northern outskirts of Melbourne, noted how the roadsides have been absolutely brilliant with a variety of different wattles. With such a spectacular golden display his daily drive to work must have been so much more pleasant.

This anecdotal evidence of a better than normal flowering season made me reflect on the reasons for this. Even though we are in a heavy period of drought, looking back at Melbourne's rainfall records, we did have some above average falls in November, December and March, possibly encouraging more flower buds to set. But it may not be as simple as that!

The **Financial Balance Sheet** ending 30 June 2008 plus a fully updated list of species held in our **Seed Bank** is included in this newsletter. If some of you are still waiting for your seed requests, be assured that they will be sent shortly as our supplies have now been bumped up nicely. Please make use of the seed bank and even better share any interesting results you may have from your propagation activities.

As we approach the main seed collecting time of year, please keep our seed bank in mind and send us whatever is surplus to your own requirements including details of species, date and place of collection. I would also like to draw your attention to the request for seed from **Dr Joe Miller** and **Dr Dan Murphy** (refer page 2) and help them if at all possible.

We have recently had four requests from Melbourne based APS District Groups to give talks on wattles at their

From The Leader

Dear Members,

As I write this message (late September), the main wattle flowering season in Melbourne is finishing although in higher mountain areas, (eg Macedon Ranges) species such as *Acacia dealbata*, *A. nanodealbata*, *A. melanoxylon* and

monthly meetings. **Bill Aitchison** recently gave a talk to the APS Foothills Group, and the other three talks are planned for next year. The first part of the presentation is a trip around Australia showing wattles in their natural habitat and the second part features wattles growing in gardens in and around Melbourne. A number of the photos used in the presentation were from the Study Group's **photo library** and this emphasised to us the value of this library. A note on the photo library is included on page 4.

Thanks to all those members who have already **renewed membership of the Study Group**. If you have not already paid for 2008/09 year, it would help us immensely if you could attend to this asap or drop us a note to let us know that you do not wish to renew.

One final reminder to think about is the **ASGAP 2009 Conference** which will be held in **Geelong Victoria** on **Sunday 27th September to Friday 2nd October 2009**. Study groups are invited to participate with displays and plant sales. Therefore you may want to consider the possibilities of rare Acacia species being propagated and sold there. This advance notice enables us to plan and get organised well ahead of time. Let us know if any of you would like to be involved with this project. Details are still being confirmed and more information will be available soon.

Cheers
Esther Brueggemeier

Welcome

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

Matthew Alexandra, Bacchus Marsh, Vic
Jason and Corey Crusius, Drewvale, Qld
Margarita Kumnick, Grovedale, Vic
Neil and Wendy Marriott, Stawell, Vic
Danny and Venus Schey, Corinda, Qld
Joe Wilson, Donvale, Vic

Call for Acacia seeds and vouchers

We, Dan Murphy (RBG Melbourne) and Joe Miller (CPBR Canberra), are reinvigorating our Acacia systematic work and would like your help!

Our research has indicated that seedling morphology and DNA ploidy level are factors that require additional research. In order to study these questions we need seed of as many Acacia species as possible. Our plan is to germinate seeds and keep live plants for continued research.

We would like to ask Acacia Study Group members to send seed to us to help this work. This is a long-term project so please keep an eye out for seeds as this year's or next year's crop matures. We prefer to have bush collected plants but will use good cultivated material (make sure you have any necessary permits if collecting from the bush).

Specifically we ask for the following:

- Seed collected from a single tree
- Preferably > 100 seeds, but any will do
- A voucher specimen cut from the tree
- Locality information for the collection

Voucher specimens are critical to our work and are simple to prepare. Collect a specimen from the plant that shows as many of the identification features as possible, especially leaves, flowers or fruits, press it between pages of the phone book when fresh, leave until it starts to dry and then send it to us. For more information on how to press a specimen see http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/research_and_conservation/plant_identifications/voucher_specimens

Please send to:

Dan Murphy
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Private Bag 2000
Birdwood Avenue
South Yarra
Victoria 3141
daniel.murphy@rbg.vic.gov.au

Joe Miller
Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research
GPO Box 1600
CSIRO Plant Industry
Canberra
ACT 2601
joe.miller@csiro.au

Thank you
Joe Miller and Dan Murphy

Letters from Members and Readers

Thanks to everyone for the many letters and notes that we have received over the last few months. Some extracts from these are included below:

Jeff Irons (UK) writes:

"I enjoyed reading your contribution about *Acacia dealbata*, which is probably the most commonly grown species here. It prompts me to make a couple of comments. You did not mention the glands, but on more than one occasion I was able to tell people that their plant was not *A. dealbata* by the absence of a gland on the petiole. One has to be careful to look at several leaves, because the lowest set of pinnules may have fallen off, giving the impression of a gland on the rachis.

Last year someone was sent to me in the expectation that I would be able to identify their unknown plant. Having told them that it would be almost impossible, I took one look at the specimen of leaves and said that it was *Acacia decurrens*! The reason was the large flanges running down the petioles onto the stems. This is not mentioned in your comparison table.

We had a cold spring and for the first time ever neither of my *A. dealbata* has set seed. This year saw the first flowering of my *A. vernicosa* and they too did not set seed. The acacias were not alone. I have poor crops of plums and pears as well."

Marion Simmons (Legana, Tasmania) writes:

"The wattles are coming out at an accelerating pace here. The *A. baileyana* (roadside plantings) have been flowering for weeks and a tree species that we have in the garden that keyed out to close to *A. linearifolia* (we thought it was *A. neriifolia*) has been a magnificent sight of gold for weeks as well. *A. boormanii*, several *A. acinacea* are nearly fully out and many others are on the way. I think we have about 80 odd species in the garden, some multiples of course. It's a lovely time of the year in spite of the last several days starting at -2 degrees!! The days have been lovely and sunny though.

The article on hay fever is very timely. I had one Field Nat. member only last weekend saying that the acacias gave her hay fever. I will show her excerpts from the newsletter!"

Marion also included with her letter some badges and some sheets of wattle day poems that she had found when cleaning out some drawers. One of the poems that caught my attention was on a handwritten note by George Althofer. This is reproduced below:

Wattle Gold

**Now, come the waves of golden fire
As wave on wave the buds unfold
The too brief surge of wattle gold
From hill to hill and distant spire.**

June Rogers (Horsham, Vic) writes:

"Horsham has had quite good rains for both gardens & farmers, but I think they would like some follow up rain. *A. guinetii* is making quite a show in my front garden at present. We're all very busy finishing the preparations for the Eremophila weekend. The numbers attending are staggering and we're another month before registrations close."

Bonnie Addison-Smith (Junabee, Qld) writes:

"Dear Esther, I have enclosed my sub and a list of Acacias I would like to grow this year. Success in growing these acacias enables me to add variety to the wattles we give away on Wattle Day in Warwick each year. I was interested to read Lorna Murray's report because, of course, our local Darling Downs acacias are the basis of our give away plants. Thank you for the most interesting newsletters."

Ian Campbell (NSW) writes:

"Thank you very much for the copy of the Study Group Newsletter. I always read it with great interest, and appreciate the sending of it.

Apart from the setting up of the wattle walks by my late grand father in 1899, it will be a hundred years since he apparently gave the first of his lantern slide lectures in Melbourne on the idea of wattle as national flower etc, 8 Sept 1908.

I was in Melbourne last week for two conferences and will be back this coming week for another - not botany, but whenever I can, I follow up the life and times of my late grandfather.

Had to attend a funeral a month or so ago; there was something strangely reassuring in being able to see, close by, a few wattles in bloom in the grounds of the particular church where the funeral was being held."

Possible Articles for Australian Plants magazine

Marion Simmons is a former leader and current member of our Study Group. In a recent letter, she suggests that it would be timely to have some acacia articles in Australian Plants, especially on how to grow them.

We agree entirely with Marion that it would be very appropriate to submit some acacia articles to Australian Plants (and we have confirmed with the Editor that he would be happy to receive such articles). We note that since an Acacia special issue of Australian Plants in 2004, there has only been limited coverage of acacias.

Esther and I have discussed possible subjects for any such articles, and some ideas that we have include the following:

- (a) the cultivation of some of the acacias that are rare or threatened in the wild
- (b) some of the recent acacia cultivar releases (there was an article in *Australian Plants* in 2004 on this subject, so the cultivars covered in this article would need to be more recent introductions)
- (c) experience with some of the acacias sold at the 2006 Acacia Seminar held in Melbourne (the species that were propagated for this Seminar were intended to be some more interesting and less commonly grown species – and two years later we can probably compile some data on how well these species have fared in garden settings)
- (d) an article on a very special “acacia garden” with which Esther is closely involved (not Esther’s idea, but I think she is a willing participant!)

If any Study Group member is willing to help in producing one or more articles, we would be very grateful. For example, we would welcome any thoughts on possible topics for articles, specific thoughts on the above ideas (including, for example, which acacias might be included in the articles suggested in (a) and (b)), and also whether you would be happy to assist in the writing of any articles.

Please contact Esther or Bill with any thoughts or feedback.

Acacia handonis

A note regarding *Acacia handonis* appeared in our Newsletter No. 99 (December 2007), under the heading “One of Australia’s rarest wattles”.

We have recently received a letter dated 18 August 2008 from Val Hando (Chinchilla, Qld) with some exciting news regarding this wattle. Val writes as follows:

“You may be interested to hear that Gary Alsemgeest, Manager of the Barakula State Forest and President of Chinchilla Fields Nats, recently found a new patch of *Acacia handonis* in the forestry about 20km as the crow flies from the present well known patch. He estimates that it would cover about three hundred acres and this is great news. One of our Nats took a party of us out to see the area and it was wonderful to see so much of the wattle all in full bloom and looking so well.

The well known patch of *Acacia handonis* off the Auburn Road has gradually been taken over by other plants and the area where it grows is quite small compared to the newly found patch but it has the advantage of being easily found as it is only 5km off the Auburn Road which is all bitumen.”

Our Study Group Photo Library

Not all Study Group members may be aware that our Study Group has a Photo Library. The Library holds about 600 digital images of acacias, these mainly being scanned images of slides (many of the original slide photographs were taken many years ago). Although the quality of the digital images currently held is somewhat variable, it should nevertheless be a valuable resource for our Study Group.

However, it does seem to us that unless a Library of this nature is used, it is of no value at all and, to our knowledge, our Library has been little used in recent years. We would like to see the Library functioning in a much more vibrant, active and useful way than it has in recent times.

In this regard, we suggest two things:

- (a) If any Study Group member would like a copy of the current Library, we will post to you a CD of the Library as it is at the present time. This may be useful to you if, for example, you happen to be giving a talk on acacias, but it may be that you just enjoy looking at pictures of acacias. If you would like a CD, please advise Bill Aitchison. The cost of burning CDs is minimal, and we think that the Study Group bank account can bear this cost.
- (b) We also believe that the Photo Library can only meet its full potential if it is augmented from time to time with new images – this is especially so given the variable quality of some of the images currently held. We would therefore welcome any contributions to the Library. If you can help in this way, Bill Aitchison would be happy to receive your contribution.

Tony and Brenda Moore (Park Orchards, Vic) have recently made a contribution to the Library of 35 images of Acacias that they took on a visit to Kakadu. However, Tony and Brenda are unsure as to the species in the photographs that they took (we think that there are only a few species involved with multiple images of each species). If there is a Study Group member who is familiar with acacias in the Northern Territory and would be willing to attempt to identify the species in these images, please let Bill Aitchison know and he will post to you a CD of these images.

One of the images is shown below, which we think may be *Acacia sublanata* but we are happy to be corrected on this!



Can you identify this?

Acacia uncifolia

In our previous Newsletter No. 101, we referred to the recent review of *A. retinodes* and closely related species of *A. uncifolia* and *A. provincialis*, and asked for any feedback from members regarding their experiences with these species.

Russell Best (Riddells Creek, Vic) has advised that while visiting Kangaroo Island he took some photos of what was then *A. retinodes*. However, he now knows that what he photographed is now *A. uncifolia*.

He notes that the shorter leaves, pale yellow flowers and uncinat leaves are quite obvious, compared to the longer leaves and golden yellow flowers of *A. provincialis*.



Acacia uncifolia, Seal Bay, Kangaroo Island, Photo Russell Best

Acacia nervosa

by Bill Aitchison

One of the very long time Australian Plants Society members in Victoria is Peg McAllister. Peg has a wonderful native garden in Croydon, an outer eastern suburb of Melbourne. About 40 years ago, a friend who lived in Boyup Brook in WA told Peg that she had a favourite wattle, this being *Acacia nervosa*. Peg's friend sent over some seed, and since then Peg has always had up to about 1/2 dozen plants in her garden, and it has been her favourite wattle for a long time. She now has only two plants.

In Peg's garden, *A. nervosa* is a small compact shrub, about 0.3m high and 1m wide. Although Peg is meticulous in her pruning of many plants in her garden, she advises that she does not prune *A. nervosa* as it simply does not need pruning. Interestingly, the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Vol 2 describes it as a dwarf spreading shrub, but Peg advises that her plants are definitely not spreading. Peg says that growing from seed obtained from her plants used to be easy. However, as time has passed, she has found that the seed now seems less viable and also there is less of it.

Over the years, Peg has shared seed and cutting material with a number of other people, one of them being Neil Marriott who is a member of the Acacia Study Group. Neil advises that he has had quite reasonable results growing the species from both seed and cuttings. His strike rate with cuttings is about 60%, and he has found that it is better to keep the cuttings on the drier side, and not to use too much mist - in fact even to grow them in a cold frame without any misting. Another very experienced propagator that we spoke to described it as definitely not an easy plant to grow from cuttings, although it is successful on occasions - it may well be that the problem here has been too much moisture.

A. nervosa occurs naturally in south western WA, including the area around Busselton. Richard Clark from the Geographe Community Landcare Nursery (a community nursery at Busselton) advises that the Nursery does not currently list the species, but he describes it as a wonderful acacia, that is mostly a small erect shrub over there. He has been intrigued with it since reading Judyth McLeod's note in *Fragrant Native Gardens* (1994) that it had the fragrance of vanilla. He notes that the Nindethana seed catalogue calls it "Perfumed Wattle" and FloraBase calls it Rib Wattle.



Acacia nervosa, Peg McAllister's garden

Richard notes that one of the attractions of *A. nervosa* in the bush is its very bright yellow flowers, and the fact that it is one of the first bright yellows of the season. It is one that makes you stop in your tracks whenever it is starting to flower and you see it on the side of the road. By the time *A. pulchella* and some others come into flower a bit later, you could be excused for getting a bit bored with yellow. *A. nervosa* flowers at the same time as *Hovea chorizemifolia*, and the purple of the hovea and the yellow of the acacia look superb together.

Richard advises that it is quite common, but there are usually not hundreds of plants in the same spot, making life a bit hard for the seed collector. He has collected seed, but cautions that you have to watch carefully or you lose the seed with the pod exploding on a hot day (so that bagging is a good idea). It does not seem to produce much seed, although he knew one patch that had a lot one year (Richard notes that one problem is that the seed will form, but sometimes most is nibbled off by kangaroos before the pods are very big). Mostly, the plant is growing in isolation from others, but the patch with the seed was like a groundcover about 2m sq in area. Unfortunately, this patch was decimated through road widening a few years ago.

Richard notes that his Nursery grew the species from seed a few years ago, and he doesn't believe they had any particular trouble. The seedling is not unlike *A. cochlearis* which is very common there, and has similar leaves.

To date, they have not tried propagating it from cuttings, but Richard comments that they have had rooting success with two other small wattles, *A. lateriticola* and *A. obovata* (*A. obovata* is shy to seed, but is an interesting small acacia).

In summary, it seems that *A. nervosa* is a species that should be grown more than it is, but it is not commonly available in nurseries (at least in Victoria and WA).

Note: The Geographe Community Landcare Nursery has an excellent and highly informative website at the following address:

<http://geographelandcarenursery.mysouthwest.com.au/>

The website lists 25 species of acacia that are found in the Busselton area, these being as follows:

alata, applanata, browniana, cochlearis, cyclops, divergens, extensa, flagelliformis, gilbertii, huegelii, incurva, inops, lateriticola, littorea, mooreana, myrtifolia, nervosa, obovata, pulchella, rostelifera, saligna, semitrullata, stenoptera, tetragonocarpa, urophylla

National Focus on Wattle Day

by Terry Fewtrell, President, Wattle Day Association

Wattle Day 2008 had a decidedly national focus. With the Federal Parliament sitting on 1 September this year, the Wattle Day Association took the opportunity to put Australia's national floral emblem front and centre for Australia's elected representatives.

Early morning sortees to cut wattle and then trim it to produce 250 smaller sprigs that were then packaged and delivered to Parliament House Canberra paid off, with Senators and Members seen proudly wearing their wattle in both chambers. The television news reports that evening showed lots of wattle on the front and back benches and sent a message around the nation that 1 September is Wattle Day.



Children from Aranda Primary School present a basket of wattle to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on Wattle Day

The Association also arranged for a group of school children to present a basket of wattle to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in his office on morning of Wattle Day. The Prime Minister was very generous with his time and greeted the party with the words of a poem about wattle that he remembered from his school days. He then spoke

individually with each child at some length about their understanding of wattle and their plans for the future.

The visit to the Prime Minister followed the customary presentation of wattle to the Governor General in conjunction with Wattle Day. Their Excellencies had been very supportive of Wattle Day during their tenure in office and Mrs Jeffery was instrumental in having sprigs of wattle placed on the coffins of re-interred diggers in Belgium last year – re-instating a long tradition.

Other events held in conjunction with Wattle Day this year included a Citizenship Ceremony, where new Australians were welcomed with sprigs of wattle and a school choir sang wattle and other songs about Australia. Dr Joe Miller, of the CSIRO gave a fascinating talk at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on research to identify different varieties of mallee wattle through DNA technology.

A real highlight was the Wattle Day dinner attended by 100 enthusiastic wattle supporters. Guest speaker was environmental historian Libby Robin of the Australian National University, who spoke on Wattle in the Australian Imagination.

Events such as the dinner really drew on the spirit of Wattle Days past. 2010 will be the centenary of Wattle Day celebrations and the Association is keen to encourage the active public participation in Wattle Day as a national day and wattle as a unifying symbol of the nation.

The focus on wattle was not just in Canberra. Around the country groups of Australians wore sprigs of wattle in recognition of our national floral emblem and the unity it denotes. They welcomed the spring and celebrated the wonderful land that we share and of which wattle is a such a striking emblem.

One member of the Association recently drove from the Sunshine Coast to Canberra and reported that wattles in golden bloom lined the motorways and roads virtually the whole way. Certainly a recent trip through central NSW painted a picture of motorways, rural roads and byways lined with wattle, with stands of its golden colour surrounding homesteads, as if to emphasise the connection between wattle and home.

In a special way, therefore, wattle marks our path as a people and a nation. It tracks our course and points our way. It is always worth celebrating wattle and Wattle Day.

The Association has recently upgraded its website and invites all interested in wattle and Wattle Day to visit the site at www.wattleday.asn.au

Seed Set in Acacia

by Bill Aitchison

Our Study Group has received a number of comments regarding seed set in acacias. The question as to why some plants set seed, and others do not, is not a simple one and we have not attempted to answer it in this newsletter. Rather, we have summarised the various comments received, and would very much appreciate your comments and observations. We have also raised one specific question on which we would appreciate your input.

Sue Bradford (Caboolture, Qld) notes that she has many *Acacia* spp growing on her few acres but some never set seed. She also comments that she has a hybrid (with parents thought to be *A. uncifera* and *A. conferta*) but this never sets seed - Sue wonders whether maybe that's because it's a hybrid. (Sue notes that this hybrid has been beautiful for months this year - it started flowering in mid-January and for 3 months from mid-March it was absolutely covered in flowers all the time).

Liesbeth Uijtewaal advises that in her garden in the Netherlands, she has noticed that she never gets seed in her *A. dealbata* ssp. *alpina* and has wondered why that is. She suspected that lack of pollinators in winter/early spring would be a likely reason. However, when she tried to hand pollinate the flowers that had opened before the frosts came she noticed there wasn't any pollen on them. She suggests that maybe they need a higher temperature to fully mature? She knows a couple of other plants in the area, but they never set seed either.

Judy Barker (Hawthorn East, Vic) is aware of a situation in the Otways (in southern Vic) where there was not as much seed set in *A. verniciflua* last year, and seeds did not germinate. She suggests that maybe the drought interfered with seed development. Judy thinks that lack of seed set may probably be due to a number of causes, and lack of pollinators at certain times is probably one of the causes. Much of Judy's past experience is with daisies, and here she notes that hybrids occasionally produced seed, but it may not have been very viable. On the whole, no seed was produced unless the species involved were closely related.

Dr Dan Murphy, from the National Herbarium of Victoria, notes that in his own garden he collects seed from his acacias. He finds it interesting that his single trees produce quite a lot of seed that is apparently viable when most acacias are supposed to be mainly outbreeders (could it be that the seed produced by his single trees is hybrid seed?).

Clearly, there are many unanswered questions, and our understanding is that although some research has been carried out on particular species, this is rather limited. There are two areas where we would appreciate your input:

- (a) Do you have any general comments or observations on the questions raised?
- (b) Dan Murphy suggests that if any members are growing single plants of particular species, and where the same species is not being grown elsewhere in their local area, they may like to note whether those particular plants set seed and send this information for inclusion in a later newsletter?

Either Esther or Bill would be happy to receive your comments.

A definition of Outbreeding (with apologies to some of our readers) : Pollination takes place when a pollen grain is transferred from the anther to a stigma of a flower. If this pollen grain comes from the same flower, it is called self pollination. If the pollen comes from a different flower, it is called cross pollination. If a plant species requires that pollen comes from a different plant before successful pollination takes place, it is referred to as outbreeding. A species that can only pollinate by outcrossing is called an obligate outcrosser.

Some further comments from Liesbeth Uijtewaal

In a more recent communication, Liesbeth has give some further thoughts on the question of seed set.

She comments that in most of her acacias she gets loads of seed even though she only has one plant of the species (and her garden in the Netherlands is an excellent place to investigate things like this as there is no way any other garden close to hers would have another acacia for cross-pollination). However, she does have some acacias where she rarely gets seed.

One interesting thing she noticed is that she hardly ever got any seed on *A. podalyriifolia* until she planted it out in her new greenhouse. Loads of pods then developed, some of which held seed although the germination rate was rather low and she only got a few vigorous seedlings out of the germinated seeds. Regarding this plant, she notes that it mainly flowers in winter when temperatures are low, but she also notes that the temperature in her new greenhouse tends to be higher than in the old (5°C compared to 2°C, or something like that). A possible theory is that the slightly higher temperature in the new greenhouse means better pollen thus better pollination.

Liesbeth also comments that her seedlings of *A. uncinata* were disappointing, even though the plant produced lots of seed (lovely pods by the way).

Liesbeth's experience would tend to support an argument that seed obtained from a single plant gives less vigorous offspring than with seed from cross-pollination.

And one final comment, Liesbeth suggests that it is not surprising that a hybrid plant doesn't set seed, and she would be surprised if it did.

Seedling or Sucker?

Liesbeth Uijtewaal is trying to work out the answer to a puzzle.

In her greenhouse she is growing an *Acacia leprosa* 'Scarlet Blaze'. About 4m away from the plant, she found what she initially thought was a seedling. She did, however, think this was a bit strange as she would have expected a seedling to be closer to the parent.

She is now having second thoughts and is wondering whether the 'seedling' may be a sucker instead. It has feathered leaves at the base which made her think of a seedling but then, she assumes that suckers from plants with phyllodes may start off with feathered leaves too? It also looks like a sucker as there are two stems arising from the base which is quite unusual for a seedling. Also she couldn't find any seed leaves either.

Liesbeth comments that she might be able to tell the difference between a sucker and a seedling by checking the root system, but she is not keen on digging the plant up - the plant is looking quite happy.

Can anyone offer any thoughts - Seedling or Sucker?

Acacias and Frost

In our last Newsletter (No. 101) we included a photo of flowers on a frost affected *Acacia dealbata* ssp. *subalpina*, taken last December by Liesbeth Uijtewaal in her garden in the Netherlands.

Liesbeth has provided some further information on the frost and its impact on her *A. dealbata* ssp. *subalpina* and also on an *A. pravissima* that was growing in the same garden bed.

Frosts were experienced last December over two days. When Liesbeth left her house around 9.00am on the second cold day, the temperature was -11°C, but it could have been even lower just before sunrise. During the day the temperatures were below zero as well.



A. dealbata ssp. subalpina and A. pravissima, 21 December 2007

The *A. pravissima* did not survive. Liesbeth had seen this species growing in gardens in England, and had thought it was worth a try. However, apparently frosts in the Netherlands can be a lot colder than those in the UK.



Acacia dealbata ssp subalpina, 3 September 2008

At the time of the frost, the *A. dealbata ssp. subalpina* was starting to flower, but it lost all its flowers and leaves as a result of the frost. Liesbeth's response was to leave the tree alone until May this year. She then started pruning it. She explains that she didn't prune it earlier in the year since she wanted to make sure that the plant was actively growing and thus capable of healing the wounds made by pruning. Apart from this, she wanted to make sure the plant hadn't succumbed to the cold and that it would be worthwhile spending hours to get the plant back into shape. The plant now has a lot of new growth and you can't tell anymore that it has been leafless and pruned very hard! She comments on how vigorous these trees are. She has also advised that she has just (early September) had a lovely surprise and has found some suckers of the *A. dealbata ssp. subalpina* about 3m-4m away from the plant.

Liesbeth has asked whether anyone may have seed of *A. dealbata ssp. subalpina*, of very cold origin? She obtained a few seeds years ago through the UK Australasian Plants Society but they ran out. She has a lot of people admiring her tree and asking if she might have plants for sale. If you can help with seed, please let us know.

Wattlegrow

In March this year, a number of (mainly) members of our Study Group shared in the purchase of a 15kg bag of Wattlegrow (refer Newsletter 99).

We are hopeful of getting some reports from these people regarding their use of this granular inoculant, and will include any reports in a future newsletter. Some informal feedback that we have so far received suggests that any results were somewhat inconclusive, and that maybe the timing of the purchase was not optimum in terms of putting down seed.

We believe that we have sufficient interest to purchase another 15kg bag, and are currently arranging this with the manufacturer, Becker Underwood.

We also believe that our Study Group finances are such that, if any Study Group member is interested in trialling an amount of Wattlegrow, we can provide at least a small amount free of charge – on the basis that the member agrees to record and report the results of any trials that are conducted.

If you are interested in participating in this, please advise Esther.

Books

by Bill Aitchison

Colour Guide to Spring Wildflowers of Western Australia

Part 4 Exmouth and the Pilbara

by Eddy Wajon

Published by Wajon Publishing Company 2008

This is the fourth in a series of guides to Western Australian wildflowers and relates to flora of the Exmouth and Pilbara region. This is the first field guide published for a number of years that specifically covers the flora of this region and is therefore particularly welcome.

It contains colour photographs of more than 220 of the most common (and not so common) winter and spring wildflowers of the region, including 8 species of *Acacia*. The book also includes 2 maps, showing places named in the book and also good wildflower roads.

Interestingly, one of our *Acacia* Study Group members, Brendon Stahl (Deans Marsh, Vic) recently referred to us a question that had been put to him by an acquaintance following a visit to the Pilbara. This person advised that she had seen a red flowering wattle with blue/grey foliage in the Karijini National Park in the Pilbara at the Gorge camping ground, and she was keen to know what it was. We referred the question to Dr Wajon, who advised that in the Pilbara both *Acacia inaequilatera* and *A. marramamba* have red-purple buds with the stamens then yellow. He believes that the acacia seen at the Dales Gorge campground would most likely have been *A. inaequilatera*.

This species is included in Dr Wajon's book, and it seems very likely that if Brendon's acquaintance had had a copy of the book during her Pilbara visit, she would have been able to identify the acacia in question. The book does seem an essential item for anyone planning a visit to this region.

The previous three volumes in this series covered Kalbarri and the Goldfields, Perth and the Southwest and Esperance and the Wheatbelt.

Old Study Group Newsletters

As advised in our previous newsletters, we have been trying to obtain copies of old newsletters missing from the Study Group archives. We had previously obtained some of the missing issues thanks to SGAP Queensland.

We can report that we now have a near complete collection. Our thanks firstly to Jill Thurlow from the RBG Melbourne Library who did some investigations and established that the National Library of Australia had some issues that we were missing – we followed this up and obtained copies of these from the Library. Thanks also to Marion Simmons who advised that copies of newsletters were included in material that she and John had donated to the National Herbarium of Victoria, as part of the “Simmons collection” – and the Herbarium has very kindly copied relevant issues for us.

The end result is that we now have all past issues of the newsletter, with the exception of those published in the first two years of the Study Group, in 1961 and 1962. (although excerpts from these are included in the booklet *Wattles Are Golden*).

The past issues of the newsletters contain a vast wealth of information, and we believe the best way to preserve this

information is by ensuring that copies are held in a number of repositories.

Apart from our own Study Group Archives, we now know that a nearly complete collection is held in the “Simmons collection” at the National Herbarium of Victoria. We are also in the process of providing copies of relevant issues to SGAP Queensland and to the ANBG Canberra Library, so that they will have near complete collections. We also plan to follow up with the National Library of Australia with the aim of providing them with copies that they do not currently hold.

Issues since No. 79 can also be accessed on the [worldwidewattle](http://worldwidewattle.com) website, as pdf files.

Study Group Membership

Acacia Study Group membership for 2008/09 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:
ASGAP *Acacia* Study Group Leader
Esther Brueggemeier
28 Staton Crescent
Westlake, Victoria 3337

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 Esther by email (wildaboutwattle@iprimus.com.au)

Seed Bank

An updated list of species held in our Study Group's Seed Bank is shown on pages 11 and 12. 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.

Our thanks to Phil Hempel and Hazel Kelly who have donated seed to the Seed Bank.

ACACIA STUDY GROUP SEED LIST SEPTEMBER 2008

acanthoclada	bidwillii	coriacea	empelioclada	guinetii	kybeanensis
acinacea	biflora	var sericophylla	enervia	gunnii	laccata
acradenia	binata	covenyi	ssp explicata	gittinsii	lanigera
aculeatissima	binervata	cowleana	enterocarpa	hadrophylla	lanuginosa
acuminata	binervia	craspedocarpa	ephedroides	hakeoides	lasiocalyx
acuminata (narrow)	bivenosa	crassa	eremaea	halliana	lasiocarpa
adenophora	blakei	crassicarpa	eremophila	hamersleyensis	leteritcola
adsurgens	blakelyi	crassiuscula	ericifolia	hamiltoniana	latescens
adunca	boormanii	crassuloides	aff ericifolia	hammondii	latipes
aestivalis	brachybotrya	cretata	erinacea	handonis	latisepala
alata	brachyclada	cultriformis	eriopoda	harpophylla	lauta
alcockii	brachystachya	cupularis	estrophiolata	harveyi	lazaridis
alleniana	brassii	curranii	euthycarpa	hastulata	legnota
amblygona	browniana	curvata	everistii	havilandiorum	leichardtii
amoena	var browniana	curvinervia	excelsa	helicophylla	leiocalyx
ampliceps	var intermedia	cuthbertsonii	exilis	hemignosta	leioderma
anaticeps	brownii	cyclops	exocarpoides	hemiteles (wheatbelt)	leiophylla
anceps	brumalis	cyperophylla	extensa	hemiteles (goldfields)	leprosa
ancistrocarpa	brunioides	dawsonii	falcata	hemsleyi	leptalea
andrewsii	burkittii	dealbata	falciformis	heterochroa	leptocarpa
aneura	burrowii	deanei	farinosa	ssp heterochroa	leptoclada
var macrocarpa	buxifolia	ssp deanei	farnesiana	heteroclita	leptoloba
angusta	bynoeana	ssp paucijuga	fasciculifera	heteroneura	leptoneura
anthochaeta	caerulescens	debilis	fauntleroyi	hexaneura	leptopetala
aphylla	caesiella	declinata prostrate	filicifolia	hilliana	leptospermoides
aprepta	calamifolia	decora	filifolia	holosericea	leptostachya
argyraea	calantha	decurrans	fimbriata	holotricha	leucoclada
argyrophylla	calyculata	deficiens	flagelliformis	horridula	ssp argentifolia
arida	cabbagei	delphina	flavescens	howittii	ligulata
arrecta	camptoclada	demissa	flexifolia	hubbardiana	ligulata (narrow leaf)
ashbyae	cana	dempsteri	flocktoniae	huegelii	ligulata prostrate
aspera	cardiophylla	denticulosa	floribunda	hyaloneura	ligustrina
assimilis	caroleae	dentifera	faragilis	hystrix	limbata
atkinsiana	celastrifolia	dictyoneura	frigescens	idiomorpha	linearifolia
attenuata	chamaeleon	dictyophleba	gemina	imbricata	lineata
aulacocarpa	cheelii	dielsii	genistifolia	implexa	lineolata ssp lineolata
aulacophylla	chinchillensis	dietrichiana	georginae	inaequilatera	linifolia
auriculiformis	chisholmii	difficilis	gilbertyii	inaequiloba	littorea
ausfeldii	chrysellia	difformis	gillii	incurva	loderi
axilaris	chrysocephala	dimidiata	gittinsii	inophloia	longifolia
bauerlenii	cinninata	diphylla	gladiiformis	intricata	longiphylloidea
baileyana	citrinoviridis	disparrima	glandulicarpa	irrorata	longispicata
baileyana aurea	clunes-rossei	divergens	glaucescens	iteaphylla	longissima
baileyana prostrate	cochlearis	dodonaeifolia	glaucissima	ixiophylla	longispinea
baileyana purpurea	cognata	donaldsonii	glaucocarpa	ixodes	loroloba
bakeri	colei	doratoxylon	glaucoptera	jamesiana	loxophylla v nervosa
baueriana	colletioides	drepanocarpa	gnidium	jennerae	luteola
bancroftiorum	cometes	drewiana	gonocarpa	jensenii	lysiphloia
barattensis	complanata	drummondii	gonoclada	jibberdingensis	mabellae
barringtonensis	concurrents	ssp candolleana	gonophylla	johnsonii	macdonelliensis
baxteri	conferta	ssp drummondii	gracilifolia	jonesii	macradenia
beauverdiana	consobrina	ssp elegans	gracillima	jucunda	maidenii
aff beauverdiana	continua	ssp grossus	grandifolia	julifera	mailandii
beckleri	coolgardiensis	dunnii	granitica	juncifolia	mangium
betchei	ssp coolgardiensis	elata	grasbyi	kempeana	maranoensis
bidentata	ssp effusa	elongata	gregorii	kettlewelliae	marramamba

ACACIA STUDY GROUP SEED LIST SEPTEMBER 2008 (cont)

maslinii	nitidula	pinguifolia	rhigiophylla	spinosissima v robusta	triptycha
mearnsii	notabilis	platycarpa	rhodophloia	spinescens	triquetra
megacephala	nuperima	plectocarpa	receana	spondylophylla	tropica
megalantha	var cassitera	plicata	rigens	spongolitica	trulliformis
meiosperma	nysophylla	podalyriifolia	rivalis	squamata	truncata
meisneri	o'shanesii	polybotrya	rossei	steadmanii	tumida
melanoxylon	obliquinervia	polyfolia	rostelifera	stenophylla	tysonii
melliodora	obovata	polystachya	rotundifolia	stenoptera	ulicifolia
melvillei	obtecta	prainii	rothii	stereophylla	ulicina
menzelii	obtusata	pravissima	rubida	stipuligera	umbellata
merinthophora	obtusifolia	preissiana	rupicola	stowardii	uncifera
merrallii	oldfieldii	prominens	ruppii	striatifolia	uncinata
microbotrya	olsenii	pruinocarpa	sabulosa	stricta	uncinella
microcarpa	omalophylla	pruinosa	saliciformis	suaveolens	urophylla
mimula	oncinocarpa	ptychoclada	salicina	subcaerulea	validinervia
mitchellii	oncinophylla	ptychophylla	saligna	subflexuosa	varia v parviflora
moirii	oraria	pubescens	schinoides	subglauca	venulosa
var dasycarpa	orthocarpa	pubicosta	scirpifolia	sublanata	vernificluta
mollifolia	oswaldii	pubifolia	sclerophylla	subulata	verricula
montana	oxycedrus	pulchella	var lissophylla	sulcata	verticillata
monticola	oxyclada	var glaberrima	var teretiuscula	var planoconvexa	vestita
mooreana	pachyacra	var goadbyi	sclerosperma	var platyphylla	victoriae
mountfordiae	pachycarpa	var pulchella	semilunata	sutherlandii	viscidula
mucronata	palustris	'Kamballup Dwarf'	semirigida	synchronicia	wanyu
var longifolia	papyrocarpa	pustula	semitrullata	tanumbirinensis	wardellii
muelleriana	paradoxa	pycnantha	sessilis	tenuissima	wattiana
multisiliqua	paraneura	pycnostachya	sessilispica	teretifolia	wichhamii
multispicata	parramattensis	pyrifolia	shirleyi	terminalis	wildenowiana
aff multispicata	parvipinula	quadrilateralis	sibina	tetragonocarpa	wilhelmiana
murrayana	pataczekii	quadriramarginea	siculiformis	tetragonophylla	williamsoni
myrtifolia (NSW)	patagiata	quadrisulcata	signata	tetraptera	xanthina
myrtifolia (SA)	pellita	racospermoides	silvestris	tindaleae	xanthocarpa
myrtifolia (VIC)	pendula	ramulosa	simsii	torulosa	aff xanthocarpa
myrtifolia (WA)	penninervis	var linophylla	sophorae	trachycarpa	xiphophylla
myrtifolia v angustifolia	pentadenia	redolens	sp 'Hollands Rock'	trachyphloia	yorkkrakenensis
nematophylla	perangusta	redolens prostrate	sparsiflora	translucens	ssp acrita
neriifolia	peuce	resinimarginea	spathulifolia	tratmaniana	
nervosa	phlebocarpa	restiacea	spectabilis	trigonophylla	
neurophylla	phlebotetala	retinodes	sphacelata	trinervata	
ssp erugata	pilligaensis	retivenia	var recurva	trineura	
nigricans	pinguiculosa	rhetinocarpa	var sphacelata	triptera	

ASGAP ACACIA STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET 2006-07			
INCOME	Balance at 23.5.07 (when taking over ASG Leadership)	\$913.40	
	Members' subs and donations	<u>\$224.00</u>	
	Total	\$1,137.40	\$1,137.40
EXPENSES	Stationery	\$44.35	
	Printing	\$140.00	
	Photocopying	\$25.20	
	Postage	<u>\$36.85</u>	
	Total	\$246.40	-\$246.40
BALANCE	Balance at 30.6.07		\$891.00
ASGAP ACACIA STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET 2007-08			
INCOME	Balance at 1.7.07	\$891.00	
	Members' subs and donations	<u>\$681.75</u>	
	Total	\$1,572.75	\$1,572.75
EXPENSES	Stationery	\$87.05	
	Printing	\$224.00	
	Photocopying	\$115.20	
	Postage	\$89.70	
	Sundries	<u>\$24.95</u>	
	Total	\$540.90	-\$540.90
BALANCE	Balance at 30.6.08		\$1,031.85