



Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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at the moment the buds are packed tight with no blooming in sight. On a happier note, during a recent garden 'discovery tour', in the middle of winter, I was able to find a few 'newly laid eggs' of different kinds. See photos on page 7. I am looking forward to 'catching' them hatch (hopefully).

We are **nearing completion of the Acacia Issue of Australian Plants** and have an excellent range of articles. The topics covered include the Acacia Name Change Issue, Acacias and Allergies, Acacia Cultivars, Acacias of Tasmania, as well as Acacias of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Myall Park Botanic Garden and Mt Annan Botanic Garden. We have articles from all states of Australia, and extend our special thanks to Bruce Maslin, John Nevin, Marion and John Simmons, Chris Nayda and Nita Lester for their contributions. The completed issue is expected to be published in August/September this year.

A little sad news now. Due to some unforeseen issues the **release** of the spectacular '**Pink Sunshine**' was **cancelled**. We will keep you updated on new release dates.

Membership fees for the 2010/2011 year are now due (except for those members who have paid some years in advance). Please help save time and money by **NOT** sending membership payments to me, rather to Bill Aitchison who is our Membership Officer. Details regarding membership fees and payment options are shown on page 9. During the last 12 months we have had **34 new members** join the Acacia Study Group.

The financial statement and an updated Seed List will be published in the next September newsletter.

Cheers,
Esther Brueggemeier

From The Leader

Dear Members,

Winter has finally hit with a vengeance in Melbourne. Besides the welcome rain, the days are cold, gray and gloomy while my garden paths are slowly turning green with moss, a phenomenon not seen for many years. This time last year my *Acacia cardiophylla* was in full bloom but

Welcome

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

Rosta Buc, Eaglemont, Vic
Betty Denton, Eltham North, Vic
Henri Descimon, France
Meredith Farley, Kerang, Vic
Michael Lee, Townsville, Qld
Geoffrey Miller, Leeton, NSW
Ken Smith, Winmalee, NSW

Centenary of Wattle Day Celebrations

This year is a particularly special one for Wattle Day – it is the 100th anniversary of the first Wattle Day celebrations in 1910. Various newspaper reports in 1910 informed readers as to the Wattle Day celebrations that took place in that year, and we thought it was appropriate to include a selection of these reports in this Newsletter.

“The first of September was celebrated as a national Wattle Day for the first time in Sydney, where the function greatly exceeded all expectations for success. In Adelaide also Wattle Day was partially observed, while the movement in Melbourne had been simmering for some time, but, owing to Show Day coming on the first of September this year, no definite arrangements could be made.” (**Melbourne Argus Thursday 8 September 1910**)

“SYDNEY, Thursday. – The first Wattle Day in New South Wales was celebrated today. Many people in the city wore a sprig of wattle. Numerous shop windows were decorated with golden blooms, and special displays were made by florists. Wattle trees were planted in many gardens, and the day was generally observed in the country.” (**The Argus Melbourne, Friday 2 September 1910**)

“ADELAIDE, Thursday.- Every Minister in the House of Assembly today wore a spray of wattle blossom, and the Chief Secretary (Mr. Wallis), who was in the Speaker's gallery, also had a sprig of the national flower in his buttonhole. The Wattle League sent a neat little box containing flowers to each member, together with a circular concerning the meaning of "Wattle Day." The secretary of the league attended the Home for Incurables, and presented 120 sprays of wattle blossom to the inmates. There was such a demand for the blossom in the city that the florists were twice sold out.” (**The Argus Melbourne, Friday 2 September 1910**)

“UPPER STURT. September 1 - Passengers on the hills railway line travelling in trains which passed Upper Sturt

today have cause to remember the first celebration of the Wattle Day League. As the various trains stopped at the station the school children handed the passengers bouquets of wattle blossom. The boys and girls were stationed right along the length of the platform, and so all the carriages were supplied. The recipients of these sprigs of wattle have to thank Lady Symon, president of the South Australia branch of the Wattle Day League for her thoughtfulness. It was she who first moved in the matter, and at her instigation Mrs. J. Amos was appointed to arrange with some school children to collect the wattle, and take it to the station. The boys and girls entered heartily into the spirit of the undertaking, and wattle was gathered with which Mr. Styles, stationmaster, decorated the station. The Melbourne express engines were aglow with sprigs of the golden flower.” (**Adelaide Advertiser, Saturday 3 September 1910**)

“Wattle Day in Gawler was not generally observed. Owing to the outbreak of diphtheria, the public school is closed and arrangements for entertaining the children had to be cancelled. Most of the residents wore a spray of wattle, but the shops were not decorated.” (**Adelaide Advertiser Saturday 3 September 1910**)

“DUBBO, Friday. Wattle Day was observed at the Dubbo District School on Thursday, the children bringing great branches of the flowers with which they decorated the rooms profusely, attention being drawn by the headmaster Mr G Dash to its significance.” (**Sydney Morning Herald Saturday 3 September 1910**)

“GUNDAGAI Friday. Wattle Day was celebrated at the Public schools in the district. At some schools each scholar planted a wattle seed, also trees. Almost every person in town wore a buttonhole of wattle.” (**Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday 3 September 1910**)

“In connection with the proposal of the Mayor of Ballarat East (Councillor A. McKenzie) to inaugurate a “Wattle Day” in his municipality, an interesting letter had come to him from Mrs Lauder of Melbourne. Writing as an old friend of Adam Lindsay Gordon she reminds him of the fact that Gordon’s only child, Annie Lindsay Gordon, aged 10 months, was buried in the old cemetery at Ballarat. Mrs Lauder has forwarded some seeds from a wattle tree growing on the poet’s grave, with a request that they be planted on the grave of the daughter. Councillor McKenzie has ascertained that the grave in the old cemetery is well cared for, and has arranged for the seeds to be germinated. Mrs Lauder also forwarded a black wattle, which Councillor McKenzie personally planted on the grave.” (**The Argus Melbourne Saturday 24 September 1910**)

We know that some Acacia Study Group members are involved with various Wattle Day events and hope that this year’s centenary celebrations will be particularly special.

Wattle or Waratah

In 1910 a debate was taking place, especially in NSW, as to whether the wattle or the waratah should be Australia's national floral emblem. One of the proponents of the waratah was Mr R T Baker, who was curator at the Sydney Technological Museum. In an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 24 September 1910, Mr Baker extolled the virtues of the waratah. In a response to Mr Baker's article, on 1 October 1910 Mr J Maiden argued against the waratah in favour of the wattle (Mr Maiden was Government Botanist and Director of the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, and a recognized authority on Acacias).

The articles by Baker and Maiden are too long to reproduce in this Newsletter. However, there were some references to Acacias and allergies, which we thought may be of interest given the references to this issue in our recent Newsletters. We have therefore included below the relevant excerpts from the two articles.

Baker: the wattle "is a breeder of insect and pest life, its life is short in many species, and now medical evidence is advanced that it is a purveyor of mouth and throat diseases. Correspondents in our daily press endorse this statement, and for this reason people are cutting it down in private grounds."

Maiden: "Mr. Baker fires other shots at the unfortunate wattle; it is a breeder of insect and pest life (sic); it is a purveyor of mouth and throat diseases. I have been making the most careful inquiries as to wattle being injurious to man, and I am in a peculiarly favourable position for making such investigations. But I never heard of a case of "wattle fever" other than those referred to by the three correspondents of the "Herald." I have been amongst wattles for nearly 30 years, have slept under them, have botanised amongst them till I have been as yellow as a Buddhist priest, but I have never experienced ill effects, nor have I heard of such in others. Surely this pastoral country will not abolish grass because people get hay fever, and grass is far more injurious than wattles. Medical men know that quite a large number of plants may induce hay fever in those who possess the idiosyncrasy; but before Mr. Baker lends the weight of his influence to add to the scare, if there be a scare, let me remind him that nothing short of making New South Wales a Saharan desert would abolish hay fever. And even then the oases would have to be destroyed."

Note: Maiden and Baker had obviously known each other for a long time, as in 1895, Maiden named a newly described Acacia species, *Acacia bakeri*, after Baker.

More on Joseph Maiden

A paper titled **Joseph Maiden and the National and Transnational Circulation of Wattle *Acacia* spp.**, by Jodi

Frawley, has recently been published (Historical Records of Australian Science, 2010, 21, 35-54).

This paper explores the contributions of Joseph Maiden to the national and transnational circulation of wattle, wattle material and wattle information. It discusses in detail the role of wattle bark in the production of leather, both in Australia and overseas, and Maiden's contribution in relation to this. It also discusses Maiden's role in promoting wattle as a symbolic vehicle for patriotism.

The paper notes that South Africa became a major producer of wattle bark for a global market, and in fact exported wattle bark to Australia:-

"South Africans created a new industry with the wattle based on plantation agriculture. By 1905 South Africans were able to export wattle bark back to Australia for use in its domestic industry. Jared Smith of the Hawaii Agricultural Research Station hailed South Africa as the country that 'produced the bulk of the world's supply'."

The paper includes one quotation taken from Maiden's writings that I particularly liked:

"It is one of the joys of life to drive through wattle country, particularly on a dull spring morning, and feast the senses on the never-to-be-forgotten glories of the golden cascades, and to receive vigour and inspiration from the sweet, dainty perfume."

Nature Notes

by Dr Tony Young, Blackbutt, Qld
4 June 2010

Right now, I have two nasty, itchy rashes on both my arms starting from my wrist and extending about 2/3 to the elbow. The reason? I have been cleaning out a mass of debris within an overgrowth of lantana, but the debris was composed of old (over 15 years), dead wattle stems and branches and as a result, I have been accidentally exposed to the residues of "hairy processionary caterpillars" (*Ochrogaster lunifer*) which are common in our area and had obviously nested on some of those old wattle stems. Naturally, my leather gloves protected my hands as far as the wrists.....but my arms were exposed.

Earlier this year, I was also cleaning out lantana on part of our property (Blackbutt, SE Queensland) and that included some of the local scrubby wattle. I found a nest of the caterpillars at the base of one of the saplings and promptly treated it with a great deal of caution. As many as fifty of the caterpillars can be present in the silk bag they make as a "bivouac" at the base of a sapling and the silk is impregnated with their hairs. Touch it and you suffer a burning, stinging itch that is lingering and very, very unpleasant. Processionary caterpillars can be seen

migrating in long columns across the dirt roads as they seek out new wattle saplings or trees and a colony can defoliate a small wattle tree very quickly. Several years ago, my wife had a very unpleasant "brush" with them and nearly went insane with the stinging and burning itch all over her back....hot water and cortisone cream seemed to work, but even so it took a week for all the symptoms to slowly disappear. In my case, Savlon cream applied liberally works well, but even so the rash is very slow to disappear. These days, I simply pour kerosene on the mass of silk and caterpillars and light it...There are aboriginal records that indicate blindness has occurred if large quantities of the hairs reach the eyes. There is an excellent web page on this caterpillar here:

http://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane_noct/ProcessoriaryCaterpillar.htm

As part of my university contract work, I have continued to work on rare and endangered taxa data sheets for the Centre for Biological Information Technology (CBIT) at the University of Queensland. Three recent data sheets concerned: *Acacia storyi*, *A. tenuinervis* and *A. wardellii*. But I must confess the real delight was not an acacia but a species called *Cladopus queenslandicus* (= *Torrenticola queenslandica*). This is a small, moss-like, flowering plant of an extremely special nature: it lives only in high speed fresh water, such as found in rapids and waterfalls and it can live down to depths of 50 cm. It has red-green to green-brown stems that are 25-90 mm long. Its flowering structure (about 2 mm long) appears at the end of a stem and is at first enclosed in a globular sheath. The flower is highly reduced and extremely modified because it consists of a single anther and ovary with two minute "tepals" at the ovary base. *Cladopus queenslandicus* is only found in a small area at the edges of the Atherton Tableland, roughly in a triangular region bounded by the apices set by Ravenshoe, Tully and Gordonvale.....Now that is an unusual niche I think anyone would agree, but then couple that with the facts that it adheres to granite or gneiss boulders in the water torrents, plus the fact that it can be badly desiccated by stream fall but bounce back as water levels rise, and you have one odd little flowering plant. It produces seeds, but HOW do those seeds get back into the required environment? Downstream seems easy, but upstream? I hope to learn a little more from the relevant curator. And as a final aside, one of the things that has become apparent to me because of this CBIT work is that the area contained in and adjacent to the Bellenden Ker and Bartle Frere mountain complex is one of the most amazing in Australia due to its variety of rare and often spectacular plant species.

Acacia simmonsiana

Acacia simmonsiana was a new species described in 2002 by Martin O'Leary and Bruce Maslin. It was named in honour of Marion and John Simmons, as noted in our Study

Group Newsletter No. 98 (September 2007). This reference to this species in that Newsletter is in fact the only time that the species has been referred to in our Newsletters.

The species has a discontinuous distribution in south eastern Australia where it extends from South Australia (recorded from Kangaroo Island – rare, Southern Lofty and lower Murray Regions and in the south east) eastwards to far western Victoria (Little and Big Deserts) and south central NSW (near West Wyalong).



Marion Simmons collecting *A. simmonsiana* on Kangaroo Island
Photo: John Simmons

It is a bushy spreading shrub to 2m x 4m with oblanceolate phyllodes 1.4 - 4.5 cm x 0.3 – 0.9 cm and light to mid golden globular flower heads from August to October.

In Flora of Australia it was treated as a variant of *A. hilliana*, and in the past has sometimes been confounded with *A. microcarpa*.

Marion Simmons has kindly provided some comments re John and her experience in growing this species in their garden in Tasmania. Marion writes as follows:

"I have found it a bit difficult to establish here as has another grower on the West Tamar.

After a few tries and losses when very small, we now have, after a couple of years, two plants of this wattle in the garden, one flourishing, the other holding its own and growing slowly. The flourishing one flowered beautifully last year and is now 1m tall, almost 2m wide, the other is small and doesn't look as though it's going to flower this year. Both plants have several pieces of limestone at their base. We discovered that placing pieces of limestone at the base of *Templetonia retusa* made all the difference between having a good plant that flowered well and yellow leafed non productive plant, so applied the same technique to the Acacias. It worked at least on one of them!

The seeds we grew the Acacias from came from the Brinkley Road, south of Murray Bridge. These acacias are found beside salt lakes in the area where no doubt the soil is

limestone based. Our soil here is acid with pH about 6.4 or 6.5 we think.

A variety of *A. simmonsiana* is also found in the West Wyalong area of NSW. We don't know for sure but don't think that the soils are limey there and if they are not, the above information would not apply to plants grown from seed from there.

Regarding seed treatment, it depends on how many seeds I am sowing. If only a few I use a large sharp darning type needle and flick off the tip of the seed-coat (that is the part opposite where the seed stalk joins in) without damaging the seed itself. Other than that it's the usual overnight soaking in hot water before sowing in a well drained gravelly mix."

Greetings from Chile

Cristina Gregorczyk lived in Australia for many years but now lives in Chile, near the port of San Antonio, and she has a cut flower farm of Australian and South African plants. Cristina has kindly sent us the following photograph of an *Acacia glaucoptera* growing in her garden. She tells us that she also has an *A. glaucoptera* at the entrance to the nursery and this is admired by all visitors (the most heard comment is: "Ohh, I have never seen this before!!!").

Note: Cristina also sent us some photos of another wattle, *Acacia caven*, which is a species that comes from Latin America in the Mediterranean climates. She has a lot of these growing on her farm, and notes that it has beautiful yellow and very sweetly scented flowers in spring. It has very hard wood and the central core of the branches (the hardwood) is black. The wood when chopped up gives a strong peculiar aroma, going into the pungent spectrum. Usually it has a very strong and long tap root and not many lateral roots. It lives in very arid areas which rains very little or for just a few months of the year. If any Study Group member would like to see these photos, please contact Bill.



Acacia glaucoptera

Photo: Cristina Gregorczyk

Acacia glaucoptera – some further notes

(1) "A Bit About Clay Wattle"

Colin Jackson lives near Morwell (about 150km south east of Melbourne) and is a member of the local APS Latrobe Valley Group. The Group's December 2009 Newsletter included an article by Colin, under the heading "A Bit About Clay Wattle":

"The Clay Wattle (*Acacia glaucoptera*) is one native of Western Australia that seems to do very well in our corner of the country provided it has good drainage. Although planted in a fairly ordinary grey, clay soil, my specimen has been resident of the steep garden near the clothesline for about eight years now and is doing fine, thank you very much! I assume the steepness of the garden is its redeeming quality by providing the good drainage that the plant texts all seem to specify for this particular import. Although some forms of this plant can grow to a tangled metre and a half in height by two to three metres wide, my specimen is a much more civilized individual (I believe it was sold as a prostrate form) that has achieved about half a metre high and about a metre and a half across. I did try pruning it hard once in the belief that it would help its growth habit but it just seemed to slow it down for a year or so. After that little experiment I only prune out the occasional dead part and we have co-existed quite happily ever since. Spring is the most showy part of the year with yellow balls developing from a few spots here and there to a climax of golden colour over several weeks. Add to this the gradual development of purple-red new growth and red, curly seedpods and you have a display of colour and texture that just goes on and on for months. When this new growth is back-lit by the sunlight, the whole plant just seems to glow and light up that section of the garden.

Therefore, I have to say that this is one of my favorite plants, not only for the colour it provides, but also because it is so hardy. I never have to feed or water it and by keeping a layer of mulch underneath, I only have to pull the occasional weed. The one thing I have struggled with is propagation of this beastie. I have never found viable seed on it and successful cuttings have been equally elusive. I came close last year when cuttings actually took root but failed at the planting on stage.

I am trying again with the new growth this spring, a good dose of rooting hormones and some bottom heat. With a little bit of luck it might just appear in the raffle plants some time in the not too distant future!"

(2) Seed Germination

In September 2007, Alcoa published Research Note No. 27, Seed Germination and Research Records from Alcoa's Marrinup Nursery, by E L Cromer.

This Note provides a summary of germination tests carried out over the previous 21 years on 1065 taxa. The seed tested was usually one to two years old. Of the 1065 taxa tested, about 90 were Acacias. For these Acacias, pre-treatments were applied by placing the seed in boiling water and leaving immersed for 30 seconds. Germination rates were recorded varying from zero up to 100%. One of the species tested was *A. glaucoptera*, and for this species a germination rate of 62.41% was achieved.

The pre-treatment method used (placing in boiling water for 30 seconds) is interesting, as normally it is suggested that seeds be soaked in water overnight. The species that recorded the highest germination rates (more than 80%) in the study were *A. ashbyae*, *A. baileyana*, *A. deflexa*, *A. drummondii*, *A. elata*, *A. floribunda*, *A. pycnantha*, *A. spathulifolia* and *A. varia* var. *parviflora*.

This Research Note can be accessed at:
www.alcoa.com/australia/en/pdf/Research_Note_27.pdf

Acacia splendens

In our Newsletter No. 107 (December 2009), we referred to a recently described new species, *Acacia splendens* (refer Maslin, B. R. and Elliot, C. P. in Nuytsia Vol. 16 No. 1 (2006)). In their paper, Maslin and Elliot noted that this species is Declared Rare Flora (ranked as Endangered) under the WA Wildlife Conservation Act, and is listed as endangered under Commonwealth legislation. They also noted that the species is known from just one (large) population in the vicinity of Dandaragan, WA.

Sadly, a report on the ABC on 13 May 2010 advises that a 39 year old farmer from Badgingarra was fined \$40,000 after pleading guilty in the Moora Magistrates Court to illegally clearing more than 100 hectares of native vegetation, which included *Acacia splendens*. It is good to see the WA Department of Environment and Conservation taking action against individuals who undertake illegal activity of this nature. However, this example serves to highlight that many native plant species are subject to ongoing threats in their naturally occurring populations, and the importance of taking all steps possible to conserve remaining populations.

The WA Wildflower Society does excellent work in the area of conservation, and is currently fighting in relation to the matter of roadside reserves. I know that every year, many wildflower tourists from the Eastern states to WA appreciate the value of these reserves, and will attest that

some of the less common species are best represented in remnant populations in these reserves. Clearly, it is not only tourist dollars that are threatened by destruction of these reserves, but also invaluable wildlife corridors and general loss of biodiversity.

Collecting Acacias – Some Recollections from Marion and John Simmons

Marion and John Simmons have travelled extensively in Australia collecting Acacias. They have now kindly shared with us some photos showing some of their experiences on their collecting trips. Notes provided by John follow each image.

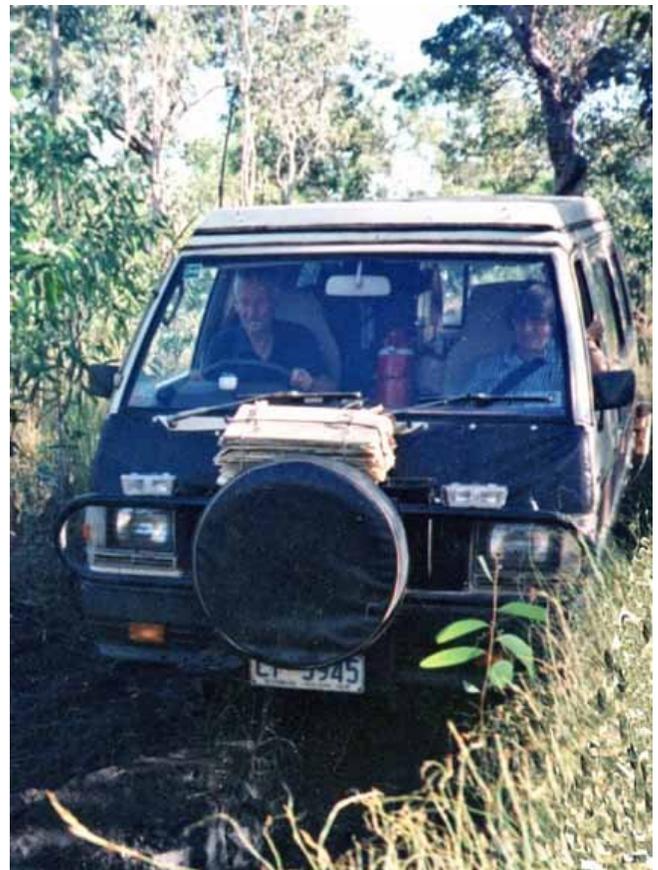


Photo 1

“Us collecting on Cape York. Mainly to show how we quickly dried specimens by letting the sun shine on them and the wind blow through them. Each specimen is placed between two layers of newspapers and if moist, blotting paper on both sides. They are then put in the press between two layers of corrugated cardboard which lets the breeze go through. The press was held in place with a bungee cord.”



Photo 2:

“Marion collecting pods. We always did our best to find pods. When they weren’t on the bush they were often underneath on the ground but the wind often blew other pods under the bushes so one had to be careful that you were getting the right ones. More time was spent at this chore than anything else.”



Photo 3:

“Marion collecting pods having the flowering specimens already in the press. Me photographing near Lake King WA.”

Note that if you are collecting, you must ensure that you have any necessary permits. Marion and John advise that they always started applying for permits at least 3 months before they left home. They believe that it is now hard to get permits from some states.

Eggs in the Garden

As mentioned by Esther in her Leader’s Message, in exploring her garden she has found some “newly laid eggs” of different kinds. Her photos are shown below.



Photo 1 Esther Brueggemeier © Wild about Wattle

Photo 1 (taken 27 May): Esther is unsure what will come out of the case.



Photo 2 Esther Brueggemeier © Wild about Wattle

Photo 2 (taken 7 June): The eggs are on *Acacia cognata* 'Copper Tips'. Esther did not know what the eggs were, but she caught them hatching out in beautiful sunshine at 11.15am on 27 July – little tiny caterpillars that hang from a

silk thread if they fall. Esther does not know their name though.



Photo 3 Esther Brueggemeier © Wild about Wattle

Photo 3 (taken 27 May): The eggs are on an *Acacia cardiophylla*. Esther guesses they may be something similar to Photo 2. They hatched about a week earlier than the ones in Photo 2, but Esther did not see them hatch – all she found was the empty shells.



Photo 4 Esther Brueggemeier © Wild about Wattle

Photo 4 (taken 20 June): These are ladybird eggs from the common spotted ladybird.

Esther comments that it is common to find eggs of all sorts, especially the ladybirds if you don't spray your garden with anything – and she doesn't. She lets her "garden guardians" do all the work!

If any Study Group members can identify the eggs more accurately, or have any comments etc, they would be appreciated.

Long Term Viability of Acacia Seed

Trevor Blake (Ringwood East, Vic) has passed on two examples relating to the long term viability of Acacia seed.

His first example relates to his own property where a section of the property had for a long time been overridden with *Pittosporum undulatum* (which, although a native plant, is an environmental weed around Melbourne). Trevor recently removed these Pittosporums, and following their removal he noticed that seedlings of *Acacia ulicifolia* started to appear. This Acacia is a local plant in Ringwood East, but Trevor advises that it had not been sighted on his property for at least 35 – 40 years. The seed had therefore been in the soil and remained viable for at least 35 – 40 years, and it was only the removal of the Pittosporums that enabled germination to take place.

In a second example, Trevor refers to some friends who have a property near Benalla (Benalla is 196km north east of Melbourne). A fire recently went through a section of the property, this being the first fire in this area for over 90 years. Subsequent to the fire, some Acacia seedlings have appeared, and it is believed that the seeds would have been in the soil (and remained viable) since about the time of the previous fire. It is not known what the species is.

We also note that in a recent paper published in the journal Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, Leino and Edqvist report that some seeds of *Acacia farnesiana* and *A. melanoxylon* collected in Egypt in 1856 germinated after a period of 151 years. The seeds had been stored at room temperature in Swedish museums.

Reference: Matti W. Leino and Johan Edqvist, Germination of 151-year old Acacia spp. Seeds, Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, Volume 57, Number 5, June 2010

Acacias and Giraffes

I suspect that not many people are aware that the collective name for giraffe is a "journey of giraffe". And probably even fewer people are aware that this collective name of "journey" has a link with Acacias.

The Rhino Club Newsletter (June 2010) explains that the reason for the name is that giraffes will not stay in the same area for too long, feeding off the same trees. It explains this as follows:

"If a giraffe feeds on the same Acacia tree for too long a period, the tree then starts to defend itself by increasing the levels of tannin in its leaves. The increase of tannin makes

the leaves taste very bitter and dry, forcing the giraffe to move on. The acacia at the same time releases chemicals into the air, which is carried by the wind to other Acacias as a signal to raise their tannin levels. With the whole area being tannin infested the giraffe then move off to a totally different area, often feeding upwind to browse off trees that have lower tannin levels.”

Reference: <http://www.kznwildlife.com/index.php?/Rhino-Club-Newsletter-June-2010.html>

Study Group Photo Library

Our Study Group Photo Library has recently benefited as a result of two donations of photos.

In 2006, Dr Wolf-Achim Roland, from Germany, attended the Seminar held in Melbourne, Knowing and Growing Australian Wattles. He also participated in the 5 day post conference tour to central and western Victoria. He has now provided the Study Group a collection of 216 Acacia photos that he took during his Australian visit. These photos include photos taken in various gardens around Melbourne, as well as photos taken on the post conference tour.

Geoff Lay has also donated a collection of 366 Acacia photos to the Study Group Photo Library. These images have been taken on Geoff’s many trips to various parts of Australia.

We extend our thanks to Wolf and Geoff for these kind donations.

Study Group Membership

Acacia Study Group membership for 2010/11 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
Membership Officer
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)

NOTE: Annual membership fees for 2010/11 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).

Seed Bank

An updated list of species held in our Study Group’s Seed Bank was included in our September 2009 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.