

Hurstbridge Wattle Festival Walks, talks & other events

Sunday, September 5, 2004.

Hurstbridge, a charming, small semi rural township on the northern fringe of Melbourne is putting on an wonderful revival of The Wattle Festival, held in the town early last century.

There will be a whole range of fun and exciting events and activities, including a historic, steam train departing from the city, and offering short shuttle rides throughout the day between Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge. Other activities and events include:

- a brass band, a Wurundjeri welcoming ceremony and a host of other music and entertainment,
- exhibition of vintage cars, bikes, fire engines and stationary steam engines;
- community market and stalls, period dress, mini golf, and gold panning;
- an art and craft show; wine tastings and vineyard tours;
- childrens entertainment including heritage games, face painting and pony rides;
- special appearance by Ashley from The Saddle Club TV series
- delicious foods in our many cafes, including wattlechinos, wattle scones and other foods using wattle seeds.

With Hurstbridge and the surrounding bush ablaze with the golden colours of wattles, nature is contributing a stunning backdrop to the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival. Of great interest to native enthusiasts and others wanting to learn, there will be interesting and informative talks and workshops on Wattles and guided wattle walks conducted by expert botanists and horticulturalists, as well as colourful displays illustrating the extraordinary diversity of wattles, their vital role in the eco system, and their many uses as a nutritional, medicinal and utilitarian resource. (More details on these on following pages) Our aim is to promote, educate and encourage people's interest in the use and conservation of wattles in domestic gardens and in the bush. Everyone is warmly welcomed.

For further information about the festival in general, or times, venues or bookings for Wattle talks, guided walks and displays please contact Arja Toivanen (Member of Festival Committee) by email torkkola@netspace.net.au or phone (03) 9718 2249 or 0427 3255 76. Also information about the festival on www.hurstbridge.org.au

HURSTBRIDGE WATTLE FESTIVAL – 5 SEPTEMBER, 2004

More details of events and activities related to wattles

TALKS ON WATTLES

10.45 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.: Botanist and ecologist Lindley Tozer will introduce wattles, their botanical aspects and how to differentiate between different species.

12.00 noon – 12.30 p.m. : Botanist Randall Robinson, President of the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association will talk about the value of wattles to the environment, and their other uses.

1.00 p.m. – 1.30p.m.: Long time Friend of Warrandyte State Park, Julie Bishop will explain landscaping and bird attracting uses of wattles for domestic gardens.

2.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Julie Franke, co-owner of Wyeena Nursery, which specializes in plants indigenous to Nillumbik Shire, will talk about the growth habits of local wattles.

WORKSHOP ON PROPAGATION - 1.45 p.m – 2.15 p.m.

Kahn Franke, owner of Wyeena Nursery and an expert on indigenous species will conduct this workshop. Participants will be shown how to grow their own wattles, when to collect and how to store seeds, and will be given free tubed up seeds of a local wattle to grow for themselves.

GUIDED WATTLE TALKS

Botanists Lindley Tozer and Randall Robinson and horticulturalist/nursery owner Kahn Franke, will lead walks through Hurstbridge bush trails, pointing out various aspects of local wattles

Times:

11.30 a.m. -12.15 p.m.: With Lindley Tozer, botanist and ecologist.

1.00 p.m – 1.45 p.m. With Randall Robinson, botanist

3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.: With Kahn Franke, horticulturalist and owner Wyeena Nursery.

DISPLAYS RELATED TO WATTLES

- * Environmental, Aboriginal and White Settler uses of wattles
- * Historical display of original Wattle Day, (September 1, 1912)
- * Australian Plants Society, Yarra Yarra Group are exhibiting rare and unusual wattles
- * Photographic history of Ferguson's Paddock
- * Woodworkers demonstrate use of wattle, with also a range of heritage tools on show
- * Demonstration and show of pressed Wattles
- * Accompanying the workshop, information and pictorial boards on propagation
- * Interaction of Fauna and wattles
- * Weedy species to our area and their profiles
- * Exhibition and information on all the local species of wattles

THE WATTLE RECIPE BOOK

A Festival-edition booklet, of recipes using wattle seed, compiled by Wattle Glen Primary School will be on sale for \$5. Many recipes in the book have been road-tested by local cafes and eateries, and some will make their debut into the public arena during the Festival – not least the wattlecinos and wattle scones

WATTLE DAY SONG

Children from Wattle Glen Primary will welcome passengers on the steam train with the Wattle Day song at Wattle Glen Station, the stop before train arrives at Hurstbridge.

WATTLE PLANTINGS

Throughout the day, a group of local people and interested visitors will be planting indigenous wattles along street frontages and other public places, . The aim is to encourage a continuous display of wattles in the township for residents, visitors, and future festivals. All welcome to participate

PLANTS FOR SALE

Tubestock of wattles will be available for sale at various locations, as well as other plants- both native and exotics- from Hursbridge Nursery and the Specialist 'Herbs & Cottage Plants Nursery. The latter also sells a good selection of other bushfood plants.