Welcome to our August enewsletter

Native Plants for NSW – August 2019
The monthly enewsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW

Celebrate acacias on Wattle Day on 1 September (above Acacia vestita)

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Welcome to the enewsletter

This month, we're featuring acacias in the lead up to Wattle Day on 1 September. We're also sharing links to interesting information from other organisations. Issues of this enewsletter sharing information about Australian native plants and our activities are also available as pdf files here.

Please send any articles, story ideas or photos to the editor, Rhonda Daniels, at newsletter@austplants.com.au

From the President John Aitken

Our weekend gathering in Newcastle on 17–18 August is just a few weeks away, so please book promptly by Friday 2 August. Newcastle Group have put together a great program of all the area's highlights and I look
forward to seeing you there. See activities below.
I also encourage you to consider our call in last month’s enewsletter for an Easter Show stand coordinator. The Easter Show is not until next April, but we’d like to let the Easter Show know our contact person.

Activities: Book now

Sat & Sun 17–18 August – APS NSW get together, Newcastle

Please book by 2 August to join Newcastle Group for a weekend of activities to see the gems of the area, including Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, Hunter Wetlands Centre and spectacular coastal flora at its peak. All the details are here.

Saturday, 17 August
- Morning – Talk on the endemic flora of the Hunter region by Dr Stephen Bell and walks at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
- Afternoon – Walks in Port Stephens area to see coastal flora and spectacular coastal scenery
- Evening – Dinner at Wests in Mayfield

Sunday, 18 August
- Morning – Walks at Glenrock Scout Camp to see the garden of the 2018 ABC Gardener of the year, and at Awabakal Nature Reserve
- Afternoon – Lunch at Hunter Wetlands Centre, guided walks and plant sales at the Newcastle Group nursery.

Registration is $40 and covers morning tea and lunch on both Saturday and Sunday. Please register on the form here by 2 August and email or post with payment.

Book now for ANPSA biennial conference, Albany

Right now is the time to book for the ‘Blooming Diversity’ ANPSA biennial conference on 29 September–4 October in Albany, Western Australia. There’s still space on the pre and post conference tours, and there’s still room at the conference. Join the 250 native plant enthusiasts who have already booked. More information and register here.

Spring activities

- Sunday 25 August – Wildflower Art and Garden Festival at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, St Ives.
- 7–8 and 14–15 September – The Illawarra Grevillea Park at Bulli is open for spectacular spring flowers, showcasing the benefits of heavy pruning.
- Sunday 8 September – Spring Festival at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why.
- Sunday 15 September – Open day at Blunyong Botanic Garden and Arboretum near Wellington.
- 7–9 November – Symposium on the Blue Mountains by the Linnean Society of NSW.
- Details of field day, scientific sessions and public lectures here.
- Saturday 16 November – APS NSW quarterly gathering. Northern Beaches Group will be hosting our final gathering of the year at Warriewood, near Warriewood Wetlands.

Email our web manager Heather Miles to add your spring activity to our website and promote it here. Please also email me reports and photos of your activities after the event to share in the enewsletter.
Celebrate Wattle Day on 1 September

How and when did National Wattle Day come about? You might be surprised it was only officially gazetted in 1992, after much work. Maria Hitchcock’s book, *A Celebration of Wattle: Australia’s National Emblem*, has a treasure trove of songs, stories and poetry about wattle, including many used to celebrate wattle in days past. Read more here, including ideas to celebrate National Wattle Day from the Wattle Day Association.

Learn more about acacias

With around 1,000 Acacia species in Australia, how do people find about acacias? Here are some ideas if you want to know more.

- Our plant profile database has 36 Acacia species. Search the 15 trees or 30 shrubs here.
- The Acacia Study Group has back issues of all its newsletters, including the most recent April 2019 issue, here.
- [www.worldwidewattle.com](http://www.worldwidewattle.com), maintained by the Western Australia Herbarium, has everything you ever wanted to know about wattles.

A long-lived acacia

Not all acacias are short-lived. Dr Gregory Moore from the University of Melbourne writes about *Acacia aneura*, mulga wattle, the mighty mulga that grows deep and lives long. Read the article first published on The Conversation here.

For more plant-related articles, subscribe to The Conversation’s Beating Around the Bush enewsletter here. Described as a series that profiles the wonderful, winsome and weird plants of Australia, recent articles include:

- *The river red gum is an icon of the driest continent* by Gregory Moore
- *A detailed eucalypt family tree helps us see how they came to dominate Australia* by Andrew Thornhill
- *The waterwheel plant is a carnivorous, underwater snap-trap* by Adam Cross
- *The Albany pitcher plant will straight up eat you (if you’re an ant)* by Adam Cross.

Latest newsletter – Australian Flora Foundation

The latest newsletter from the Australian Flora Foundation is now available. *Research Matters*, July 2019, features reports on two AFF-funded projects – germination of persoonias and grassland restoration, and other articles on Australian native rices and germination of *Grevillea* seeds. Download a pdf of the newsletter here and read more about the Australian Flora Foundation here.

Study Group news

Find out more about our 18 Study Groups, the newsletter archives and how to join a group here to read the most recent newsletters which are summarised by our Study Group coordinator Nicole Maher.

*Correa Study Group*, No. 59, June 2019

This issue features the recent ‘Correa Crawl’ in southwest Victoria, with the numerous correas spotted in the wild outshine only by the incredible collection covering a member’s hat! The group is considering Kangaroo Island for the 2020 Correa Crawl, with suggestions welcome. Group co-Leader Bob O’Neill describes how he came to love correas, while member Maria Hitchcock shares her experience with some additions to the National Collection. There is a useful article on propagating correas by cuttings, a relatively simple technique although using a hot box improves
On the APS NSW website

Our [website](http://example.com) has our membership benefits, how to join, District Group details, office-bearers, annual reports and many resources including our Plant Profile database with many acacias.

From the Australian Plants – Online archive, March 2002: [Edible acacias](http://example.com) by Elwyn Hegarty.

Photo finish

What is this floral marvel, seen on a Correa Study Group outing? This hat was crocheted by Linda Handscombe to wear when she sells plants at a market. There’s no pattern and she made them all up. There’s wattie, daisy, epacris, eucalypt and correa flowers – but, as Linda says, it’s open to interpretation.

From the Correa Study Group newsletter June 2019.

Photos: Thanks to Coastal Plants of RNP CD-Rom, Warwick Daniels, Linda Handscombe, Plant profile database (Heather Miles), Kevin Stokes.