

Join the *celebration* of
National Wattle Day
1 September



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We celebrate National Wattle Day because:

- ☀ Golden Wattle is our national floral emblem. It is a symbol that grows directly from our land;
- ☀ National Wattle Day includes all Australians;
- ☀ Like our people, wattle has great diversity (with more than 1,070 species) and resilience;
- ☀ Wattle welcomes in the spring and is among the first plants to regenerate after fire, reminding us of the importance of renewal as it paints our national colours across our land;
- ☀ Golden Wattle is a unifying symbol for all Australians. There is no other symbol that says so much about us and our land, Australia.

What you can do:

WEAR a sprig of wattle or Australia's national colours of green and gold

GREET each other with 'Happy Wattle Day'

PLANT a wattle in your garden - they are fast growing, low allergy and good for the soil.

GO FOR A WATTLE WALK to enjoy wattles in flower around your garden, suburb, nearby bush or arboretum.

SUPPORT the celebration of National Wattle Day in primary schools.

FIND OUT about indigenous uses of Australia's many wattles.

ORGANISE a picnic, BBQ, or dinner with your family & friends.

CHECK OUT www.wattleday.asn.au for more ideas and resources.

JOIN the Wattle Day Association Inc.

Contact the Wattle Day Association:

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Queensland Silver Wattle
(*Acacia podalyriifolia*)

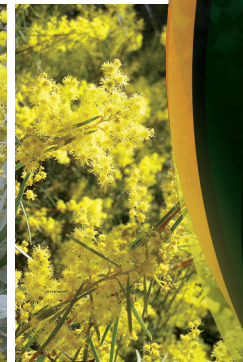
Weeping Boree
(*Acacia vestita*)

Blackwood
(*Acacia melanoxylon*)

Silver Wattle
(*Acacia dealbata*)

Blue Bush
(*Acacia covenyi*)

Snowy River Wattle
(*Acacia boormanii*)



*Celebrating Australia
and its people*

The Wattle Day Association is a not-for-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organisation incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory. We welcome all to join us in promoting the celebration of National Wattle Day for all Australians.

Our aims are to promote:

- ☀ National Wattle Day (1 September) as a celebration of Australia and its people; and a day when Australian Honours are announced.
- ☀ The Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) Australia's national floral emblem, as a unifying symbol for all Australians.
- ☀ Wattles, in *all* their variety, as symbols of Australia.



Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)



Their Excellencies, General the Honorable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Mrs Hurley, receive a basket of wattle on behalf of all of Australia's school children to celebrate National Wattle Day.

National Wattle Day

The first attempt to celebrate a 'national' Wattle Day was made on 1 September 1910 in NSW, Victoria and South Australia. From that time on, Wattle Day was observed all around the country, but the timing varied between August and September as people celebrated when the wattles were in full bloom in their area. For example, the date of Wattle Day in New South Wales was changed in 1916 to the first of August.

It was not until 1992 that 1 September was officially proclaimed National Wattle Day in every State and Territory by the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

Golden Wattle

Wattles have blossomed across the Australian continent for more than 30 million years.

- ☀ Australia is the land of the wattle. There are more than 1,070 wattle (*Acacia*) species native to Australia.
- ☀ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have used wattles in myriad ways for many millennia.
- ☀ Wattles have welcomed us all – indigenous, colonial and modern day arrivals.
- ☀ Wattles have long had special meaning for Australians.
- ☀ Wattles are distinctive symbols of the land that has formed and sustains us.
- ☀ Australia's national colours of green and gold, officially gazetted in 1984, are like the Golden Wattle in flower.
- ☀ In 1988 the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was officially gazetted as Australia's national floral emblem.

