



Greetings Lord Mayor and Councillors

**National Wattle Day** was gazetted in 1992 to be **1 September** each year. Australia has much to celebrate about the wattle in all its 1070 varieties, including the Green and Gold on display at the recent Olympic Games. It is also the day to celebrate the **Brisbane Golden Wattle (*Acacia fimbriata*)** which was selected as the **Brisbane City Council Floral Emblem** in 2023.

Wattle became significant for Brisbane, with the forming of the **Queensland Wattle Day League in 1912**, now known as **Open Minds**, a provider of support services to people with a severe mental illness and acquired brain injury. When first formed the League provided scholarships to gifted locals. The first winner was **Daphne Mayo**, who has a close association with the BCC as the **sculptor of the tympanum over the entry to City Hall**. Her works also include the **Women's Memorial in Anzac Square**, the **statue of Sir William Glasgow in Post Office Square** and the **Jolly Swagman in Winton**.

Today the importance of wattle needs to be reinvigorated. So, as **Councillors** of this great city I am asking you to assist with some **promotion and celebratory activities** in Brisbane:

- **Make a note in your diary** that 1 September is National Wattle Day
- **Wear the wattle day badge** (attached to this letter) **on 1 September**
- **Use your social media and other communication channels** with residents to raise awareness of the Brisbane Golden Wattle on 1 September 2024
- **Encourage residents to plant a Brisbane Golden Wattle** – seedlings are available from local native plant nurseries
- **Encourage residents to view the Story Bridge, Town Hall and the Kurilpa Bridge** being lit up in Green and Gold on 1 September
- Greet your residents with a **'Happy Wattle Day'** and **wear green and gold** on 1 September
- **Encourage schools to plant a wattle seedling** on or near National Wattle Day

I also ask the **Councils Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee** to plant many more **Brisbane Golden Wattles** in our parks and streets, as their golden blooms **will light up the city in 2032 for the Olympic Games**. Secondly, to plant more wattle varieties in the Botanic Gardens.

Mike Gilmour  
Vice President and Queensland Coordinator  
0416 185 153  
20 August 2024

**National Wattle Day 1 September**  
**A celebration of Australia and its people**

PO Box 530 Mawson ACT 2606 Australia [www.wattleday.asn.au](http://www.wattleday.asn.au)  
wattleday.qld@gmail.com [Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/WattleDay](https://www.facebook.com/WattleDay)

Join the *celebration of*  
*National Wattle Day*  
*1 September*



National

# Wattle Day

1 September

## 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 1,075 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](http://www.wattleday.asn.au) for more ideas and resources.

**JOIN** the Wattle Day Association Inc.

## Contact the Wattle Day Association:

W: [www.wattleday.asn.au](http://www.wattleday.asn.au)

E: [wattleday.president@gmail.com](mailto:wattleday.president@gmail.com)

Postal address

PO Box 530 Mawson

Canberra ACT 2607 Australia

 /WattleDay  /wattledayassociation  @WattleDayAssoc

Photos: SD Searle

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* )



Getting ready to plant Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha* - Australia's national floral emblem) at the Australian National Botanic Garden. Canberra.

### 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.

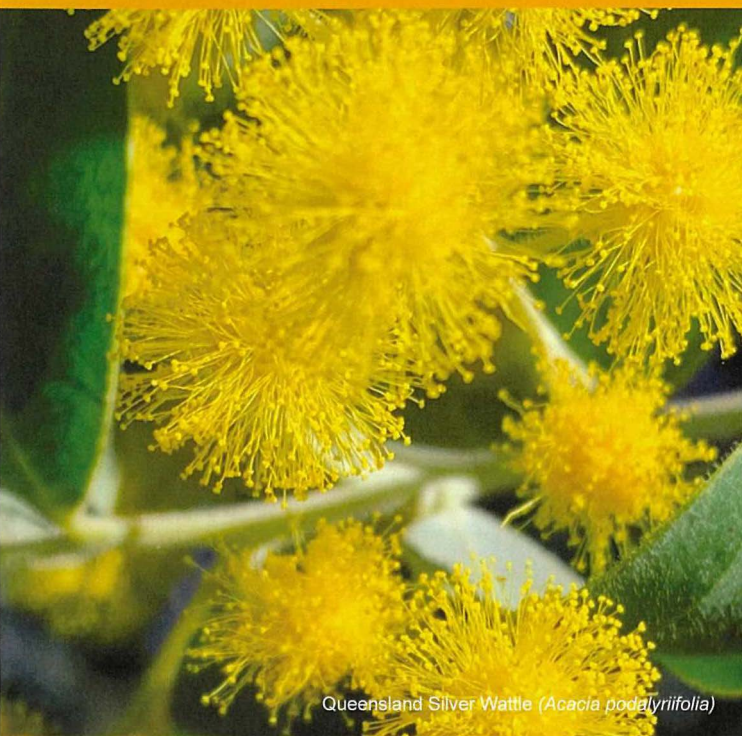
- Australia is the land of the wattle. There are more than 1,075 wattle (*Acacia*) species native to Australia.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have used wattles in myriad ways for many millennia.
- Wattles have welcomed us all – indigenous, colonial and modern day arrivals.
- Wattles 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.



# Celebrate

National Wattle Day in Queensland

1 September



Queensland Silver Wattle (*Acacia podalyriifolia*)

Join our Wattle Bloom walks in the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and other Queensland Wattle Day activities and find out about wattle's unique Queensland history.



Contact Mike Gilmour  
[wattleday.qld@gmail.com](mailto:wattleday.qld@gmail.com)  
0416 185 153

[mywattleday.org.au](http://mywattleday.org.au)

The Queensland Wattle Day League (QWDL) was formed in 1912 and today is known as Open Minds, a specialist provider of mental health and disability services.

**Some highlights from the fundraising activities of QWDL include:**

- A scholarship to study overseas to artist, Daphne Mayo, who went on to sculpt the tympanum over the entry to Brisbane City Hall and the Banjo Paterson statue at Winton
- Funding of the Hospital Orthopaedic ward for returned service men missing limbs (now part of the RB&WH).

After branching out to help people with disabilities, the League became the not-for-profit organisation we know well today – Open Minds.

Today, Open Minds is a registered NDIS provider and charity servicing Queensland and northern New South Wales. Its purpose is enabling a positive and independent future for people living with mental illness and disabilities.

