

Wattles in Flower Everywhere

by Jutta Hamilton

Have you noticed how many different Wattles are flowering at the moment?

The large Sydney Green Wattles (*Acacia decurrens*) have masses of bright yellow flowers, the Sweet Scented Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*) is a much smaller Wattle with scented creamy flowers. The Myrtle Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*) is another small attractive shrub with pale yellow flowers and attractive reddish



stems. Some of the prickly leaved wattles like Prickly Moses (*Acacia ulicifolia*) and the Spike Wattle (*Acacia oxycedrus*) are not holding back on their floral displays at this time of the year and they also provide protective habitat to small birds all year round. The White Sally Wattle (*Acacia floribunda*) with its pale yellow flowers that is commonly found near creeks and rivers has also been planted in parks and gardens. The Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) with bright yellow showy flowers and the Coast Myall (*Acacia binervia*) with attractive silvery blue foliage and bright yellow flowers are hard to miss.

Our district is home to many more wattle species, some of them are small shrubs and others grow to small tree size. All Wattles share a reputation for being tough plants that are fast growers with showy masses of flowers.

Throughout history Wattles have been of great use to man. Some local species of Wattle are used as food by roasting the seed and chewing its gum, bark of some species being used as a tea. The Aboriginals used the macerated leaves and bark of wattles to stun fish and the long flexible branches of some species were used to build shelters. To our colonial settlers the Wattle became a major industry being a good source of local tannin for the leather industry.

Contact us: StillCreekLandcare@iinet.net.au, ph: 9653 2056. Look us up on Facebook or StillCreekLandcare.com.au.

The Australian Plants Society-North Shore Group

The Australian Plants Society-North Shore Group will meet on Friday August 9th at 8 pm in the Willow Park Community Hall, 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby. Louisa Murray will present "The Science Behind PlanNET".

Louisa is a Flora Botanist and oversees the updating of PlantNET. For further information visit www.blandfordia.org.au. Visitors very welcome.

NSW Begonia Society Monthly Meeting.

Sunday 18th August 2013 at 1:30pm.

Bloomin' Greenery Nursery 226 Annangrove Road ANNANGROVE. NSW 2156

This month we are holding a propagation workshop. Visitors Welcome.

**Ross 02 9679 1386. Email: info@begoniansw.com.au
Website: www.begoniansw.com.au**

New Bioretention Basin for Cherrybrook *continued*

the best site for the basin as well as design work and studies to review environmental and heritage factors.

Construction is expected to take six weeks.

For more information contact media officer Nick Cook on 9847 6662.



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