



Think Globally. Act Locally!

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 16 August 2022

Re: National Wattle Day, 1 September 2022



Since 1992, the first day of spring - 1 September – has been proclaimed as the nation's National Wattle Day. This was done to unify individual State and Territories Wattle Days that had been celebrated between July and October depending upon when the local wattle flowering was at its best.

There are 1070 *Acacia* species native to Australia; the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was officially gazetted as Australia's national floral emblem in 1988.

As part of the celebrations, the Golden Wattle Award is presented to an Australian or Australians who have brought 'gold' to Australia during the year by their contributions to the land and / or the people. Some previous winners include: Olympic swimmer Emma McKeon; the Australian health and medical professionals; and Craig Challen and Richard Harris (the doctors involved in the rescue of the Wild Boars Football Team from the cave in Thailand).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations have used acacias for a wide variety of purposes, including: food; medicines; digging sticks; weapons; musical instruments; firewood; dyes.... www.wattleday.asn.au/about-wattles/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-knowledge-and-culture/practical-uses

A number of wattle species are suitable for garden planting. Obviously, if you wish to plant one, check that the size is suitable for your garden, and that the species can grow in your locality, as some are not frost hardy. www.wattleday.asn.au/about-wattles/wattles-for-the-garden-and-back-yard

Acacia are a good source of pollen; for help with bees populations, and the seeds are a food source for different bird species.

So, if this has germinated an interest in our national floral emblem, what are you 'Wattling' for! Check out the website <http://www.wattleday.asn.au> and Facebook for more details - www.facebook.com/WattleDay

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph. 07 4639 2135
Written by Jason Dingley, Media Officer (Vic)