



## SEPT 1st - A WATTLE DAY LIKE NO OTHER - THE UNITY WE NEED

This year's National Wattle Day (Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>) is at a time when Australia's unity is being tested and vital to our future.

Wattle is a unifying symbol that we can all relate to, irrespective of our politics, ethnicity, or religion or what state or territory we live in. Its diversity reflects us as a nation of Indigenous peoples and colonists, settlers, immigrants and refugees from across the world.

To lift the shadows caused by Covid-19 virus, people, councils and institutions across Australia are lighting up their gardens, towns and cities in yellow and gold to welcome in the spring by wishing everyone, 'Happy Wattle Day'! [See: What's on in your part of the world](#)

Australia is the land of the wattle. In all its variety, wattles are everywhere. There are more than a thousand different species growing in the outback and the bush, and along the roads and highways to your back door. They flower right there at your eye-level, with bright, abundant wattle blossoms in every shade of yellow. A wattle in full bloom, is a stunning and uniquely Australian display. And for many of us, wattle in flower means more. As Manning Clark wrote in springtime nearly forty years ago, 'I love the spring. It means the wattle comes out again. It is a symbol of everything one loves about Australia and the ideal of the uniqueness of Australia'.

Wattles are also a symbol of the resilience it takes to survive and thrive across this vast continent. Over the last year our lifestyles, livelihoods and lives have been buffeted, damaged and for some destroyed by disasters. Any of them would have been enough to cope with but they kept coming from ongoing drought, huge dust storms, fires everywhere, smoke haze across cities to intense hailstorms and now a deadly human virus.

So in this new world of uncertainty, what does National Wattle Day offer?

"Wattle Day is all about appreciating wattle and celebrating what it is, and means, to be Australian. It is a day to appreciate how fortunate we are. A day to remember that we are strongest and at our best when we look out for our neighbours and when we respect and care for each other." These are the words of His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

## OUR HEALTH WORKERS WIN 'GOLDEN WATTLE AWARD'

With these words in mind, the Wattle Day Association announces that the 2020 Golden Wattle Award winners are Australia's health and medical professionals and allied workers, who have been at the front line of the fight against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and who, day after day, have put their own lives at risk to keep the Australian community healthy and safe.

This award is in recognition of their expertise and skill, their dedication and commitment and their unselfish demonstration of the very best of Australian care and compassion for their fellow citizens.

[Previous Golden Wattle Award winners](#) since 2011 include tennis great Ashleigh Barty and Dylan Alcott (2019), Craig Challen and Richard Harris, underwater rescuers of the young Thai soccer (2018) and Samuel Johnson and his sister (2017).

### About the Wattle Day Association

The Wattle Day Association Inc. began in the suburbs of Canberra in 1998 with its founder Jack Fahy wondering why people weren't celebrating National Wattle Day, proclaimed six years earlier (1992) as an Australian day of celebration. The association is a grass-roots volunteer movement that has members from around Australia. It exists to raise awareness of National Wattle Day (1 September); Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) as Australia's floral emblem, and all wattles as a symbol of Australia. If you'd like to support join us, all members are welcome (<http://www.wattleday.asn.au/support-us>)

Many government and community organisations link to the Wattle Day Association (WDA) website (<http://www.wattleday.asn.au/>). It is a valued and accurate source of information about National Wattle Day (WDA), wattles and how National Wattle Day is celebrated around Australia today. WDA's online resources (wattle songs, wattle poems, wattle games and wattle activities) are also popular with schools.

National Wattle Day activities and events around Australia are listed on the WDA website as a source of information and inspiration for those who love wattle and celebrating all that we love about Australia. See <http://www.wattleday.asn.au/about-wattle-day/2020-week-of-the-wattle-around-australia-1>.

**Contact for interview (Suzette's personal contact info not for publication – but you're welcome to share details about the website, Facebook and Instagram links. Thanks so much)**

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