

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

# 

FLORAL EMBLEM AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL

golden wattle (Acacia pycnantha). Australia's national floral emblem is the

group of wattles, also known as acacias, which grow naturally across much of Australia. The golden wattle is one species of a larger

Wattles are able to cope with all types of Australian people and is a symbol of unity. of the wattle represents the spirit of the droughts, winds and bushfires. The resilience weather conditions in Australia, including

Australians are invited to wear a sprig of wattle. On national days of mourning, for example be used as a symbol of remembrance and reflection. The golden wattle, as our national floral emblem, can

stamps, bank notes and official awards. been used in the design of Australian Wattles, including the golden wattle, have

of the Order of Australia. A single wattle blossom is the emblem



Figure 1 Colden wattle (Acacia pycnantha)

# **HISTORY**

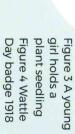
- The golden wattle was unofficially accepted as the national floral emblem to mark Federation in 1901.
- representing Australian flora. the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, In 1912 wattle was included on
- national floral emblem on 1 September 1988 The golden wattle was proclaimed as Australia's

### **WATTLE DAY** NATIONAL

on 23 June 1992 by planting wattles celebrate Wattle Day Australians can September is National



however was celebrated as early as 1910. Wattle Day. The day was formally recognised The first day of



## **GOLDEN WATTLE** ABOUT THE

South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the and in open scrubland in wattle were interwoven to form twigs or small branches of the building technique. The flexible wattle, is derived from an old The common name for acacias, Australian Capital Territory. It grows in forests, woodland evergreen shrub or small tree The golden wattle is an the framework of buildings.

### KNOW? DID YOU

- of wattle across Australia. There are more than 1000 species
- survive and grow after enough rain have tough coats and are able to destroyed in bushfires, the seeds Even if the parent wattle plant is
- species that live for over 200 years. live 10-20 years, there are some While most Australian wattles only
- and wounds, as well as being uses including treating Historically, wattles have many a valuable food source.

