Acacia floribunda – White Sally Wattle

Family:
Fabaceae - Mimosoideae

Distribution:
Widespread from Qld through NSW into Vic chiefly coastal areas in forest and particularly along creeklines. In HSC; Community TI (295 ha), BG1 (37.2 ha), BG2 (14.0 ha), RF1 (5.9 ha) and L (837.3 ha).

Common Name:
White Sally Wattle

Derivation of Name:
Acacia; Greek, derivative from the name *akakia* referring to a wattle on the Nile River in Egypt with thorns. *floribunda*; Latin, floribundus, profusely flowering.

Conservation Status:
Common in HSC within fertile sites or near weed free undisturbed creeklines, uncommon in sandstone country away from creeklines. Adequately conserved.

Description:
Small tree occasionally to around the 6-8m height, often grows as a bushy shrub. Bark is dark and smooth low down, often with sap evident as an exudate, grading to smooth greenish on upper branches. Flowering occurs heavily in late winter through early spring with pale yellow rod shaped flowers in abundance. The foliage (phyllodes) are thin, crowded and upwards of 5-15cm in length. Narrow fruit pods are produced in early summer.

Longevity:
Up to and over 25 years; longevity dependant on speed of growth. Generally killed by fire in the wild. Long lived soil seed bank.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Very attractive small tree with a light willowy-weeping appearance. Impressive flower display in late winter heralds warmer days ahead. Tolerates a range of soils including heavy clay soils and is quite tolerant of periodically wet soils. Grows well in shade through to full sun, however plants in full sun will have a thicker canopy and less height. Frost tolerant. Borers may be an issue in older trees. Other useful applications include erosion control, windbreaks and ornamental plantings near ponds. This species is a nitrogen fixer.

Fauna Value:
Heavy flowering provides resources for a wide range of invertebrates, particularly bees. Seed pods and seeds are eaten by parrots. Sap flow is relished by Sugar Gliders.