

12 November 2008

Media release



## How Australian plants are evolutionary champions.

In the year that celebrates the 200 anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publishing of "Origin of Species" the RBG is offering a number of programs focusing on the evolution of the Australian Flora.

There are any number of interesting stories about the form, function and adaptation of Australian plants, for example:

Which Australian native tree has a leaf that's actually not a leaf?

Which plant can survive drought, grow well in filtered sun and does a great job binding soil?

The answers to these questions and many others will be offered during a tour exploring the evolution of Australian plants and ecosystems.

The **Australian Adaptations** tour will journey through the Australian Garden and bushland, opening visitors' eyes to the incredible complexity of Australian flora and ecosystems.

Rebecca Levy, Coordinator Visitor Programs, said: "The tour will give visitors a better understanding of why Australian flora is the way it is, and look at some amazing plants that can be used at home in the process. This tour is also about how Australians, as gardeners, have adapted to gardening on this dry continent"

According to Rebecca, one of the amazing species visited is the wattle which has leaves that are not actually leaves: they are in fact ptyloses.

### **Australian Adaptations**

When: Thursday 22 January; Thursday 5 February

Time: 11am – 12.30pm

Cost: \$7.50 Adults; \$6.50 Child/Concession

**Bookings required.** Tel: (03) 5990 2245

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