

# Wildflowers of Wallaby Creek

The current exhibition at our Museum is Wildflowers of Wallaby Creek, A year of discovery in the Australian bush. This exhibition features 63 watercolour paintings done by Cleveland artist Jan Acton, who has a true affinity and appreciation of the bush. In 1998 Jan began painting watercolour images of the plants and flowers she discovered on her Sheldon property, especially along Wallaby Creek, part of which ran through this property.

In 2000 she decided to celebrate the historic year by writing a diary of her discoveries along the creek. Excerpts from Jan's diary, together with several of her nature poems, are on display in the Dunn Wing of the Museum, where they complement her 63 paintings beautifully.



Here is an extract from the first entry in her diary:

" January 1, 2 a.m. I listen to the sounds of the night. There is much activity in the bush: rustles in the grass, then scratching and scrambling – a koala grunts; the raucous cries of a pair of channel-billed cuckoos... It has been a wet, cool summer so far and frogs are breeding in the waterhole that is brimful after the soaking rain."



At left we see an example of Jan's art in a watercolour painting featuring early black wattle and sarsaparilla vine, with one of her poems, "My vision is within:" on the right. On our old German table are her book of poems and excerpts from her diary.

