

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 1965

A C Keane
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North Fitzroy

Mr Holliday writes re *Acacia drummondii*:

“Having spent over 3 weeks in Western Australia (October last) on a botanical trip, I feel that I could add a little information which may be of use. *Acacia drummondii* is widespread in the south west where it is often encountered in the Darling Range and Jarrah forests, as a spindle rather insignificant plant on either laterite gravel or grey sand (pH about 6). It is found both at elevations and near sea level in a rainfall range of 30-50”. It also occurs in the Stirling Range (25”) on poor rocky soils (Jarrah only reaches 5 ft here) and at the top of the high peaks among the rocks (over 3,000 ft) associated with such plants as *Dryandra formosa*, *Banksia brownii* and *B. solandri* and *Isopogon latifolius*.

I do not agree that it needs plenty of moisture as I grew it successfully in Adelaide (approx 20” rainfall) on a rather poor soil type. I do agree that it needs good drainage and a slightly acid soil. I also agree that there are various forms of this species as I have two plants at the moment, one being infinitely better in flower than the other, a deeper colour and more profuse. The other, however, has made a more attractive bush.”

You may remember my recent indignation about the current superstition of Wattle pollen causing hay fever and my personal experience that this species rarely caused hay fever.

Thistle Harris (well known to all as one of Australia’s authorities on native plants) says in an article in “Your Garden” a Melbourne publication, “There is no truth in the old legend that wattle pollen is a cause of hay fever. Wattle pollen is very heavy and so not air borne for long distances, nor does it stay suspended for long after a high wind has dispersed some of it.”

I am including a full list of Acacias grown by the Group. The enclosed includes quite a few (all dry area ones) in my possession which are not yet planted in the open, being still growing in large pots or plastic containers of the same size until 18” – 2 feet high for planting out when well established.

I want it noted too that many of my specimens are purely experimental and I do not claim that all or even any of them will survive in the open garden. In the lower Dandenongs.

We have much pleasure in welcoming our new member, Mr M O’Donnell of Albion Cres, Greensborough, Victoria.