

**S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP**  
**NEWSLETTER NO. 14**  
**AUGUST 1973**

**Mrs I B Armitage**  
**10 Anembo Road**  
**Terrey Hills, NSW 2084**

This is being written at Daly Waters NT. From here the draft will go to Sydney, where the envelopes are already stamped and addressed and the letter will be mailed to you by the very good friend who is responsible for all our duplicating.

## MEMBERSHIP

About a dozen members have not rejoined this year, but I reckon that we still have plenty! Only two new recruits. They are:

C R Dron                                St Peters Lutheran College, Harts Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068  
T L Blake                                12 Little John Court, Vermont, Victoria 3133

Mr Dron is in the happy position of having about 4 acres to plant up for his own enjoyment, as well as a substantial acreage being planted as a school project. The school, he says, is a very biology oriented one and several staff members are active in SGAP and naturalist clubs. This is good to hear. Most of all we need to encourage the young to know, appreciate and value our magnificent natural heritage. And thank goodness there are signs of an awakening in this regard. The number of school teachers who are active members of SGAP is growing fast.

Mrs Cumston has changed her address to:- PO Box 17, Aranda ACT 2614

## FINANCE

Balance as at date of N/L No. 13		\$53.76
Add:	subscriptions	\$14.00
	donations	<u>\$1.00</u>
		\$68.76
Less:	Postage on N/Ls 13 and 14	\$11.56
	Foolscap envelopes (2 lots)	<u>\$0.90</u>
		\$12.46
		\$56.30

## SEED LIST

### Additions

*A. comans*  
*A. gonoclada*  
*A. hammondii*  
*A. monticola*  
*A. pravissima* (low growing weeping variety)

*A. andrewsii*  
*A. divergens*  
*A. jucunda*  
*A. lasiocarpa*

### Deletions:

*A. leichardtii*  
*A. menzellii*  
*A. mooreana*  
*A. pratervis*  
*A. retivenia*

I hope to pick up some interesting seeds during my travels.

**Seed of *A. floribunda*:** At last we have found someone whose trees produce seed of this species in abundance. He is Myer O'Donnell of Greensborough, Victoria. Please remember to collect the Seed Bank Mr O'D.

## MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Referring to N/L No. 13, Pastor Sommerfield has also had good results from the use of BORAX. He reports saving the lives of two *A. adunca*.

Bruce Copley also reports that he is growing *A. meisneri* very successfully

Vic Jacobs reports on his *A. uncinata* is just as impressive as that of Miss Shadgatt. His plant is now 4 years old, 1m high x 1.5m wide. It flowered for 2 months in 1971, and 6 months in 1972. In 1973 it flowered for a short period in early January, started up again in March and was still flowering when the report was received in mid April.

## REPORT ON *A. ACINACEA PROSTRATE*

Just before leaving Sydney I received a most interesting letter from a non-member, Mr R G Sharpe, formerly of Gawler, SA. He found a seedling *A. acinacea* prostrate growing on sand dunes at Corny Point, Yorke Peninsula. He transferred the plant to his garden at Gawler, sandy loam over limestone at about 12", and despite utter neglect due to his absence overseas for the first 18 months, the plant thrived and prospered, and at 2½ years old was 6ft in diameter and still only 3" high. It was identified by Adelaide Herbarium. Mr Sharpe has sent a small quantity of seed for the Seed Bank. Sorry, not available until my return.

The fact that the plant continued its prostrate habit after removal from sand dunes gives hope that some of the seed may produce plants with the prostrate habit – unlike the so-called prostrate *A. longifolia* var. *sophorae*. Which shot straight up to heaven when I tried them in my garden.

Mrs Cook, what's the latest news of your *A. acinacea* prostrate. Any seed?

## HOMEWORK

The response to my request for reports on small acacias was pretty disappointing, especially when I think of the thousands of seeds I've doled out over the past couple of years. What about a few more for next N/L???

Two members, Mrs Perkins and Graeme Lees both plumped for *A. glaucoptera*. This is certainly a beauty. From SW of WA where it is known as the "Cactus Wattle" and also as the "Clay Bush Wattle". Very difficult to describe. Phyllodes are grey-green, about ½" wide with a very pungent point. The base of the phyllode is continuous with the stem over a length of ½" to 1" and the phyllodes overlap in such a way that the effect is of a flat strap with jagged edges! (I hope no botanist reads this!!) Young foliage has the lovely red of young gum tips. Flowers single or paired golden balls, the bush well covered.

Mrs Perkins also gave *A. lanigera* a good write-up. This is one I mentioned having seen near Orange on my trip to Burrendong. It's a magnificent little shrub – low, squat and sturdy, an "ordinary sort of phyllode about ¾" long, slightly tapered at each end". Those I saw were in such splendid bloom that scarcely a flicker of green was visible through the gold.

Several members favoured *A. pulchella*. Another beauty from WA, small bipinnate foliage and many spines – at flowering time a mass of smallish bright golden ball flowers.

Vic Jacobs' favourite is *A. ericifolia*. This one is also from WA, an inland species approximately 15" rainfall. Phyllodes are about ½" long, thick, flexible and bluish-green. The plant sometimes has arching branches. With luck it doesn't exceed 3 ft, ball flowers, brilliant yellow, forming sprays on the last 6" or so of the branches where they are numerous. Vic Jacobs' plant is only 0.3 metres high and is almost a matt grower. All reports indicate that it flowers for several months through winter and early spring. NOT EASY out of its own environment.

Bruce Copley backs his home state with *A. rhetinocarpa*. This delightful little shrub has small rigid phyllodes "obliquely obovate" 2-4mm long, about 2mm broad, the central nerve ending in a small gland which resembles a mucro. The flowers are single and small but the whole plant exudes charm, as well as a pleasant waxy aroma. Mr Green also remarks on this plant, but he says in his experience men like the small and women don't!

Finally David Hanger, as a Queenslander, picks one from his home state, *A. complanata*. This has distinctive flat stems, broadly lanceolate phyllodes, a good deep green and ball type flowers. David said it flowers in pots 12" to 15" high and that the species is widely used by the M.R.D. for planting in median strips etc.

And that's about the sum total. One well known member, who shall be nameless, shuffled out of his obligations by saying that whichever one was in bloom was his favourite!

## PERSONAL

A trouble free trip so far. I've managed to call on quite a number of members and have been greeted with warmth and hospitality.

Mrs Hardy at Budgewoi gave me lunch and the Greives put me up for my first night out of Sydney.

At the summit near Stanthorpe, Mr Scott, a hardworking orchardist, took time off to take me to Jolly's Falls where I collected a few *Acacia* spp. and cuttings of *Boronia granitica* for one of our members.

I called on Dr Osborne and his wife at Warwick and was given an introduction to a friend of theirs at Herberton who proved to be of tremendous help later on.

At Brisbane, Ann Banks and her husband chauffeured me around for a whole day and gave me a splendid dinner at night. I also spent about three hours at the Queensland Herbarium with Mr Pedley – expert on acacias. At Toowoomba the McCarthys looked after me. I gave a talk at their monthly meeting and collected a delicious crop of walnuts from their two lovely old trees,

After spending two days with the Gordons at Myall Park I called on Mr Daniels at Biloela and from there spent two glorious days and nights on the Blackdown Plateau near Duaranga. This area was suggested to me by Mr Gittins. It was here that he found three new *Acacia* spp. some years ago and now described and named *A. gittinsii*, *A. storeyi* and *A. whitei*.

Twenty miles north of Townsville I spent a very pleasant day with Joan Abraham including a drive up the southern edge of the Paluma Range where we collected seed and specimens and enjoyed some stupendous views.

Finally to Herberton where, with the aid of the Osborne's friend I eventually located the "Lass O'Gowrie" mine, and there, sure enough, was *Acacia purpureapetala* in exactly the same position as reported by Mr Gittins in 1962. I even managed to collect some seed. The pods open and discharge the seed while still on the plant but I collected from the ground. Sorry to say not enough for general distribution. Most of it has already gone to various herbaria, Botanic Gardens, Wirimbirra, Burrendong etc. This is the first time seed has ever been collected. I'm not giving a full description here because I'm writing under a certain amount of difficulty and it would take too long. Will do so next N/L. And that leads me to tell you that I'm afraid the next N/L will be some considerable time away and so will supply of seeds. We were unable to let our house for 4½ months and had to make it six. Unfortunately this doesn't mean that I can extend my trip because I have to return to Sydney at the end of October to meet my husband, returning from overseas. It does mean however that we cannot get back into the house until early December, so it looks as though the next N/L will be January and the last one for this year will be missed out. I should be able to handle seed request from about mid-December onwards.

Happy days

Inez Armitage