

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO. 29
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Welcome to new members who have joined our study group since the August newsletter, thank you and all previous members for your subscriptions.

Mr G A Price, 296 Park Rd, Berala, NSW 2141
Mr Fred Rogers, RMB 5361, Horsham, Vic 3400
Mr Hugh Stacy, 16 Booyong Av, Lugarno, NSW 2210
Mr Frank Berner, 139 Koornalla Cresc., Mt Eliza, Vic 3930
Mr C B Christie, Dept. Horticulture, Massey Uni., Palmerston, New Zealand
Mrs Jan Stiller, "Hilddale", Nagoorin, Qld 4680
SGAP SA Region, PO Box 10, Blackwood, SA 5051
Mr D J Daniels, Research Station, Box 201, Biloela, Qld 4715
Mrs G Holmes, Briggs Rd, Brighton, Tas 7403

New addresses for:-

Mr & Mrs N D Graham, 51 Galston Rd, Hornsby NSW 2077
Mr R Cooper, RSD 263, Wynyard, Tas 7325
Mr N A F (Alan) Gibb, RMB 1170, Milawa, Vic 3678
Mrs I Armitage, 2 River Meadows, Kempsey NSW 2440

A final reminder for those members who have not renewed their subscriptions. I am afraid this will be your last newsletter.

Our absence has affected the number of requests for seed this year. To make up for that I hope that some members will be interested in late summer or autumn growing. I would be interested to have some information on late season propagation.

We still seem to be growing much the same Acacias, with a few exceptions, that we always have. What has happened to members' efforts with the smaller Acacias? Surely they are not all so difficult.

The meeting of Study Group leaders in Sydney in August did not come to any great conclusions, but it was a successful and beneficial meeting for the exchange of views and for general discussion. An event which should be repeated in future.

One of the outcomes of the Biennial Conference was that the Study Group Coordinator should extract information from all newsletters, state and group, and forward this periodically to the leaders concerned. A lot of work for the Coordinator but valuable to the groups.

MEMBERS' NOTES

Mr Keith Ingram is watching one rare Acacia at Bilpin, NSW, *A. pubescens*. He writes that although it was severely burnt several years ago, it is making a good comeback and flowering

vigorously at 0.6-1m (2-3ft) high, and is spreading vegetatively. In the same fire the stand of *A. brunioides* ssp. *gordonii* was also burnt, but young ones (seedlings) are re-appearing.

Trevor Blake reports that he is growing *A. argyrophylla* from SA, in two different locations in Melbourne and that both are doing well. The first is slender and has reached 2m, and is a striking plant with its very glaucous foliage and conspicuous golden new growth. It is growing in a very well drained raised bed of coarse sand over yellow brick clay facing West and North. The second plant 1.7m high in 3½ years is growing in a raised sand bed (0.5m of pure sand over grey clay loam then yellow clay) and partially shaded. The second area is wetter in winter than the first.

A. gonophylla from WA has grown to 0.7m in 2 years, flowered for the first time and is in one of the best drained and driest areas of the garden. *A. acanthoclada*, two plants, 25-30cm diameter in 4 years. These, too, have excellent drainage and plenty of sun.

Jill Dark writes about two *A. georginae* seedlings which when 5cm (2 inches) high were nipped off at ground level by her pet cockatoo. She immediately placed them in the glasshouse as cuttings and to her surprise they struck very quickly and are now 12cm (5 inches) (at time of reporting) and looking very healthy. Worth a try?

Another method of propagation from David Shiells – Cardboard egg containers are soaked in water for several hours. Seed is given the hot water treatment (just off the boil) and soaked for approximately half an hour. The seed is then placed in the drained egg container (a different species to each division). The top of the egg container folded back and then slipped into a plastic bag, semi-inflated, the end sealed and then left for approximately one week. Usually after one week many have germinated and can be potted on, the others are checked regularly until all have germinated. Obstinate seed may be given a second treatment if required.

We have received a letter from the Conservation Committee of SGAP NSW Region enquiring if we could help with information in their quest to preserve plants considered “at risk” in NSW.

Proposed action would take two directions. Firstly, efforts would be made to preserve natural stands; secondly, these plants would be studied and cultivated as a safeguard against reduction of their numbers or their extinction in the wild.

They have listed these species and have asked for our advice on whether any should be deleted or others added to the list. Those with an asterisk also grow in Victoria (could Victorian members help with comments). I felt that our NSW members would be better placed than I am to supply this information. I would appreciate receiving your advice so I can collate it and pass it on to the Committee.

<i>A. ausfeldii</i> *	<i>A. curranii</i> (Qld too)	<i>A. leprosa</i> *
<i>bynoeana</i>	<i>flocktoniae</i>	<i>phasmoides</i> *
<i>chrysotricha</i>	<i>forsythii</i>	<i>pubescens</i>
<i>clunies-rossiae</i>	<i>howittii</i> *	<i>subtilinervis</i> *

An interesting area to visit:- Brookvale Park, near Oakey in Qld in late winter or early spring. I am informed that there is a spectacular display of native plants, with many unusual and interesting Acacias to be seen.

I would ask members to consider growing some of the smaller Acacias as pot or tub plants. There is a need for information on this type of growing. A few which could be tried:-

<i>A. acinacea</i>	<i>A. browniana</i>	<i>A. glaucoptera</i>
<i>aculeatissima</i>	<i>ericifolia</i>	<i>hubbardiana</i>
<i>alata</i>	<i>flexifolia</i>	<i>varia</i> var. <i>affinis</i>
<i>amblygona prostrate</i>		

I am sure members could suggest others which would be suitable.

To take this a step further, a summary of an address by **Mr John Wrigley** which was published in Canberra Region newsletter, July 1978, is given here.

Five reasons for growing tub plants –

1. As indoor plants.
2. As decoration for courtyard or patio.
3. To enable plants to be grown out of normal climate zone.
4. To control growth conditions for a difficult subject.
5. Bonsai, grafting, experimental.

(I also saw container grown plants as a means of having material available for display or demonstration purposes for native plant shows, group discussions or lectures).

Mr Wrigley stressed that containers should blend with their surroundings and not distract from the plant by being too bright. He emphasized the importance of good drainage, and that care should be taken not to overwater when using plastic pots. The size of the container should be about 1/3 height of the plant.

A well draining soil mix was suggested with adequate nutrient content and moisture holding capacity:-

2 parts loam
 1 part well rotted cow manure
 1 part peat moss) or compost
 1 part leaf mold)

Watering – The tendency is to overwater indoor plants and underwater outdoor. A balance must be found – soil should be “nicely moist”, not dusty dry or muddy.

Nutrition – Regular feeding is required, Aquasol or similar is suggested, every two weeks. Pots should be flushed regularly to avoid a build up of inorganic salts.

For outdoor plants do not fertilise at the end of autumn as any new growth could be damaged by frosts. Care should be taken not to over-fertilise if slow release fertiliser is used.

Pruning – Prune those plants which you consider need it to prevent them becoming leggy. Continual tip pruning is good or prune after flowering (unless you are hoping to collect seeds).

Potting on – Should be about every two years, depending on appearance of the plant. Some pruning may be necessary when potting on, do not twist roots in a new container. Shake some of the old soil off and put into new soil. If the plant is potted into the same size container, remove 1/3 of the roots, 1/3 of the top growth and 2/3 of the soil.

SEED LIST

Deletions	<i>A. cochlearis</i> <i>continua</i> <i>latipes</i>	Additions	<i>A. gittinsii</i> <i>longispicata</i> ssp. <i>longispicata</i>
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The following seed is in short or very short supply and any amount would be welcome:

<i>acellerata</i>	<i>fragilis</i>	<i>luteola</i>
<i>aculeatissima</i>	<i>frigescens</i>	<i>megacephala</i>
<i>beauverdiana</i>	<i>gonophylla</i>	<i>quornensis</i>
<i>bidentata</i>	<i>graffiana</i> (now <i>A. hemiteles</i>)	<i>rhigiophylla</i>
<i>blakelyi</i>	<i>gunnii</i>	<i>rhetinocarpa</i>
<i>brunioides</i> ssp. <i>gordonii</i>	<i>hispidula</i>	<i>sedifolia</i>
<i>denticulosa</i>	<i>irrorata</i>	<i>spathulifolia</i>
<i>echinula</i>	<i>leptostachya</i>	<i>spinescens</i>

And of course, any seed which is not listed is more than welcome. Once again this year **Mrs Val Hando** of Chinchilla has sent more seeds for the seed bank, for which we thank her.

Mrs Hando and **Miss Grace Lithgow** have compiled a 40 page illustrated booklet called "Wildflowers of Chinchilla, Miles and Kogan", which includes notes on ten local Acacias. It features and describes four different plants on each page and would be of great assistance to anyone visiting the area. Copies are available from Mrs V Hando, "Riverside", P.S. 1448, Chinchilla, Qld 4413, for \$2.50 including postage. Please add exchange to cheques.

One of our members asked for details of a long list of Acacias. I thought they might be of interest, so here are the first:-

A. calyculata – coast and sub-coastal areas of Northern Queensland, Cape York to Townsville. Shrub 1-2.5m with almost white spike flowers.

A. caroleae – sandy soils of Darling Downs, Maranoa and Leichhardt Districts, Queensland and Pilliga Scrub, NSW. Shrub to small tree 6m with bright yellow spike flowers.

A. confluens – Mt Lyndhurst area, SA, apparently similar in appearance to *A. retinodes*, but a smaller plant with very thick pods.

A. crassa – central Queensland. Tree to 10m with falcate leaves and yellow spike flowers.

A. curvata – Ravensthorpe to Esperance area, WA. Very stiff, prickly, curved phyllodes with bright yellow flowers. Shrub 1.3m tall.

A. cyperophylla – western NSW, northern SA, NT, Qld usually along creeks or on stony ridges. Tree to 10m, minnie ritchie bark, yellow spike flowers, long thin phyllodes.

A. delphina – well drained sand or loam on south coast east of Esperance, WA. Shrub 0.5-1.5m with bright yellow ball flowers and triangular phyllodes.

A. dietrichiana – found in Springsure to Torrens Creek area, Qld. 3-4m tall slender tree, with small globular flowers.

A. euthycarpa – Flinders Ranges to Port Lincoln, widespread - about 2m tall and very similar to *A. calamifolia*.

A. flocktoniae – slender shrub 2-3m from Blue Mountains, NSW to central western slopes, with narrow phyllodes and bright yellow ball flowers in racemes.

A. gillii – slender shrub to 7m with bright yellow ball flowers, with often zig-zagging stems from Eyre Peninsula, SA.

A. glaucescens – usually along creeks, in coastal Qld and NSW. Tree to 15m with grey-green lanceolate phyllodes and bright yellow spike flowers.

A. glaucocarpa – tall shrub or tree to 7.5m found in mixed eucalypt forests in central Qld, with pale cream flowers in racemes and with pinnate leaves.

A. gonoclada – shrub 4m with thick lance-shaped phyllodes and dense yellow spikes, found in loam or sand in north-west Qld and NT.

A. jucunda – on dry stony ridges of central Qld. Shrub to 6m, rather like *A. podalyriifolia*.

A. lateriticola – pinnate-leafed shrub, 0.5-1.5m with light yellow or cream ball flowers, found in lateritic soils in Jarrah and marri forests south-west WA.

A. littorea – bushy shrub 1-2m tall with triangular phyllodes and pale yellow ball flowers, found on coastal dunes between Bunbury and Busselton, WA.

A. nyssophylla – shrub to 3m with very spiky phyllodes and bright yellow ball flowers very like *A. colletioides* and found on sandy soils in south-west WA.

A. omalophylla – on dry western plains southern Qld and NSW, occasionally in Victoria. Shrub to small tree 4-6m with bright yellow ball flowers.

A. orthocarpa – shrub to 2m tall, with dull green phyllodes, 5-10cm x 6-8mm and spike flowers. Found on shallow gravelly soils in Burke, Cook, South Kennedy District of Qld.

A. perangusta – Tree with drooping branches, similar to *A. fimbriata*, but completely glabrous; common on creek banks near Brisbane, Qld.

M. Simmons