

A very dry spring and summer has been experienced in Tasmania and no doubt in other parts of south-east Australia with, for us, a loss of some plants, including one or two acacias. It is always interesting to see which plants stand up to prolonged dry spells. One of our casualties was, surprisingly, A. polybotrya. We tried to avoid watering altogether, but found that it was necessary to save mostly the plants which were less than a year old.

We are pleased to welcome new members who have joined our group since December.

Garry Bentley, c/- P.O. Box 155, Lilydale, Vic.3140
Andrew Burnell, 86 Bamfield St. Sandringham, Vic 3191 (rejoined)
Mr and Mrs. Russell Cullen, 122 Larch Rd. Tamborine Village
Qld. 4270
Russell Cumming, 7 Park Road, Mt. Pleasant, W.A.6153
Mr. C. E. Kendall, R.M.B. 43, Mitchell Rd., Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.
2650
Anthony Scalzo, 2/28 Winifred St., St. Albans, Vic. 3021
Mrs. Thistle Stead, 14 Pacific St., Watsons Bay, N.S.W.2030

Could I suggest that present members contact any new member who is living in their district ?

I have prepared a new members' list which is enclosed. About 17 members have not renewed their subscriptions, so with regret I have had to assume they are no longer interested in the group.

The only response to my request for information on "at risk" species of Acacia in N.S.W. came from Mr. G. Althofer, and I thank him for his help. I have forwarded this information to the Conservation Committee of S.G.A.P. in N.S.W.

Thank you to members who have forwarded seed for the seed bank. There is only one deletion this time :- A. hispidula

The same seeds as listed in the last newsletter are in very short supply, with the addition of A. doratoxylon. I would be grateful for stocks of any of these seeds. In the meantime I have written to eight commercial seed suppliers for their latest lists, in an effort to replace out of stock seed and to introduce some new ones. Any new ones will be included with the August newsletter.

ADDITIONS to our BOOK LIST:

"GARDENING WITH AUSTRALIAN PLANTS - SMALL PLANTS AND CLIMBERS" by Thistle Y. Harris, publ. Nelsons 1979. There are 16 acacias included among the many plants described, with cultivation notes.

BOOK LIST contd.....

"AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS" by J.W. Wrigley & M. Fagg, publ. Collins 1979. A long list of Acacias included with a vast number of plants described briefly with propagation and cultivation notes. This book is out of print already, but may be available locally.

"AUSTRALIAN PLANTS FOR SMALL GARDENS AND CONTAINERS" by Gwen Elliott publ. Hyland House, Melb. 1979. 29 Acacias described briefly with growing requirements; also a number of lists giving suitability for different sized containers and other situations in the garden.

"THE AUSTRALIAN GARDENERS' DIARY", ed. Margaret Barrett, publ. Nelsons 1979. A month by month guide to planning and planting a general type of garden, which includes notes on 25 acacias.

"GROW WHAT WHERE" - Is out of print

MEMBERS' NOTES: Some acacias will take very severe pruning. We have read Mrs. Chandler's report of the recovery of A. pubescens after being cut to the ground. Now Mrs. Rhonda Schipp reports that she cut A. decurrens to the ground and found that it sprouted in no time at all and looked like a lovely bush at the time of reporting.

Mr. G. Price has transplanted rhizomatous shoots of A. pubescens into his garden. One plant was placed in light sandy soil and this failed, he thought because of very hot weather; another plant in a more sheltered position in heavier soil survived, even after being stripped by grubs. He suggests that it is possible that this method could be used to propagate some species which set little seed.

Container Specimens:

A new member, Anthony Scalzo, is experimenting with different species as container specimens for indoor and outdoor use. He reports that A. brownii shows promise as long as drainage is good, it is not over-watered and it is occasionally fed with blood and bone and is placed in a position where its roots remain comparatively cool during very hot periods. (This no doubt would apply to all container grown plants). He comments that after A. brownii under stress, dropped all its phyllodes, he pruned it severely and was rewarded with good regrowth. He is trying several other small acacias, among them A. mitchellii and A. lineata, as tub specimens.

AREAS TO VISIT:

Brisbane Ranges, south of Bacchus Marsh and Mt. Cole Range Reserve near Ararat in Vic. A good range of Acacias, as well as many other

plants, some endemic, are to be found in these areas. It is suggested that a visit in late winter to spring would be of interest to any native plant enthusiast.

Continuing the list begun last newsletter for one of our members.

- A. pubicosta - small tree 3-5 m with blue-green phyllodes and pale lemon spike flowers; found in Qld. Burnett District - Biggenden Bluff.
- A. randelliana - is now included with A. burkittii.
- A. saliciformis - shrub or tree 2.5-7 m with pendulous branches, pale yellow ball flowers in racemes; flowering Mar-Sept. Found in central coast division, N.S.W.
- A. semi-lunata - Spring flowering, grows near Chinchilla in Qld. 2-3 m tall with blue-green foliage and masses of very bright yellow ball flowers.
- A. semi-rigida - Tall shrub with green narrow lance-shaped phyllodes pale yellow balls flowers; found in south-east Qld.
- A. sparsiflora - a tall erect tree with furrowed bark, narrow lance-shaped phyllodes, and sparse yellow spike flowers in May - Aug. Most common in Darling Downs District, Qld.
- A. spathulifolia - W.A. common on limestone Jurien Bay north. Bushy shrub up to 3 m with fleshy spathulate phyllodes and bright yellow ball flowers. Spring flowering.
- A. spilleriana - is now considered a variety of A. brachybotrya.

NAME CHANGES and NEW SPECIES : Extracted from "Nuytsia" Vol 2 (6) 1979 by B.R. Maslin of W.A. Herbarium. Revision of the Pulchellae group

A. anarthros - Maslin - a new species based on A. drewiana subsp. pungens. An unusual characteristic of both this new species and of A. drewiana is that they have leaf axes decurrent with the stem.

Further investigation of the species A. browniana and its varieties has shown that the Mogumber-Bindoon form of var. endlicheri is, in fact, a new variety, var. glaucescens. It grows on laterite or in loam over laterite in jarrah and wandoo open forests.

A. varia var affinis is now to become A. drummondii subsp. affinis.

A. epacantha Maslin - a new species based on A. lasiocarpa var epacantha which is found in the Badgingarra -Dandaragan area. It is with several other species, including the new A. fagonioides, the only members of the Pulchellae group bearing axillary spines.

A. fagonioides Benth. based on A. pulchella var fagonioides. It is found in the Eneabba district.

A. guinetii Maslin - This was previously described as A. lasiocarpa var. villosa. Found on rocky loam or lateritic gravel on Moresby Range (Nanson-Howatharra region) about 30 km north of Geraldton.

Many new species have been described and status changes have been made by Mr. L. Pedley in *Austrobaileya* Vol 1 (3) 1979. Some are listed below and the remainder will be included in August newsletter.

A. ulicifolia (Salis) Court

Synonym A. brownei (Poir) Pedley - ('brownii') has been placed as a synonym, although it is a distinct variant.

A. ruppii Maid. & Betche

Synonym A. torringtonensis Tindale

A. victoriae Benth. subsp. arida Pedley. A new subspecies with broader and more distinctly veined phyllodes found in more arid central Australian areas of N.T. S.A. Qd (south-west) and N.S.W.

A. buxifolia A. Cunn. subsp. pubiflora Pedley - A new subspecies which is the most common one found in Qld. It has more elongated phyllodes.

NEW SPECIES

A. hockingsii Pedley - Shrub to 3 m with narrow phyllodes 6-9cm x 2-3mm globular flowers in September from Isla Gorge in Qld.

A. ixodes Pedley - based on A. gnidium Benth. var latifolia Maid. & Betche Occurs west of Charleville to north of Bungunya in Qld.

A. lauta Pedley - Sprawling shrub to 2 m with curved phyllodes 2-4 cm x 1.5-2.5 mm; flowers globular in August-September; found only east of Tara, Qld. Previously referred to A. lineata.

A. calantha Pedley - Shrub to 3 m fine phyllodes 7-15 cm long; globular flowers in July-September; flat wide pods; found near Cracow, Qld.

A. holotricha Pedley - Shrub to 5 m with elliptic phyllodes 12-15 cm x 3.5-5 cm; flowers in racemes; found north-west of Taroom, Qld. (resembles a cross between A. bancroftii and A. macradenia.)

A. everistii Pedley - Shrub to 3 m with elliptic phyllodes to 5 cm x 1-2 cm, flowers in racemes August-September; from Burnett and southern parts of Leichhardt districts. (rather like A. jucunda)

A. deuteroneura Pedley - Shrub to 3 m; phyllodes 3-5.5 cm x 6-12 mm; flowers in racemes; pods flat c. 5 cm x 13 mm wide. Found only on range NNE of Tambo; (could be confused with A. decora or A. polifolia)

A. polifolia Pedley - Shrub to 3 m with hairy phyllodes 5-7 cm x 5-40 mm flowers in racemes; May - June; restricted to Jericho-Springsure areas

A. johnsonii Pedley - Shrub to 3 m with fine green phyllodes 1-2.5cm x 1-2 mm; bright yellow globular flowers in September-October. Common in open forest north and north-west of Chinchilla, Qld.

A. gordonii (Tindale) Pedley - This shrub was known as A. brunioides A. Cunn. ex G. Don subsp. gordonii Tindale. It has now been given species status.

A. tindaleae Pedley - A newly described species which we knew as A. conferta A. Cunn. ex Benth from Pilliga Scrub area of N.S.W. It is also found in upper parts of the Nogoa and Maranoa basins in Qld. A. conferta is confined to Qld. It has smaller flowers, less pubescent parts, narrower pods and later flowering than A. tindaleae.

A. islana Pedley - Spindly shrub with fine phyllodes 16-22 mm long; globular flowers in spring from Isla Gorge, Qld.

A. burbridgeae Pedley - Shrub to 2 m with fine phyllodes, sometimes in whorls, globular flowers June-September; found between St. George and Cunnamulla in Qld.