

Dear Members,

The Federal Biennial Conference and Seminar will be held in Melbourne at the end of this month. A meeting of Study Group leaders will be held during this time to discuss matters of common interest. I hope that I will have the opportunity of meeting members during that time.

Acacias have flowered well this year, although some did not flower for as long as usual. I wonder if the amount of rain which we experienced during winter affected that.

I would like to welcome some new members :-

Douglas G. Patience, P.O. Box 3295, Alice Springs, N.T. 5750

Harry Infield, Temesne Farm, Coomba Rd., Coomba Park, N.S.W. 2428

Paul Brown, 23 Belinda St., Aitkenvale Qld. 4814

Pine Rivers S.G.A.P., C/- Mr. L. Smith, 17 Vores Rd. Whiteside Q. 4503

Two New Addresses:

Dr. Mick Statham, 11 Stephensdale Drive, Riverside, Launceston 7250

Gary Phillips, p.o. Box 279, Clermont W.A. 6010

Our thanks go to the Victoria Region and Study Group leaders for their newsletters.

Brian Walters from the Beaufortia and allied Study Group wrote regarding the problem of damping off which we mentioned in our last newsletter. He suggests the use of "Terrazole" fungicide. It is available only in large commercial quantities but N.S.W. Region repacks it into smaller amounts. It can be obtained from the Propagation Officer, 36 Samuel St., Parkhurst, N.S.W. 2210. I know nothing of this product as I do not use fungicide at all, but would point out that great care is usually needed in the use of any fungicide.

NEW SEEDS

We have received donations of seed from several members and our thanks go to -

Inez Armitage

Jill Dark

Tony Scalzo

Ern Currie

Pat Shanahan

DELETIONS

adunca

baxteri

peuce

ramosissima

spathulifolia

prostrate spectabilis

wardellii

ADDITIONS

chrysotricha

echinula

handonis

hispidula

latipes

leptoloba

rothii

As well as seeds of any of the deletions we would appreciate receiving new stock of -

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| A. assimilis  | A. elata       |
| bidentata     | implexa        |
| congesta      | mabellae       |
| cyperophylla  | megacephala    |
| dermatophylla | sedifolia      |
| dimidiata     | spondylophylla |

MEMBERS' NOTES:

Ern Currie reports further on A. denticulosa. It is interesting to note that he lives in an area which receives a 1200 mm (50") rainfall. This is pretty high by any standard, I think! Ern found that there was slight die-back at the spot of cutting. The new growth came away vigorously from lower down the trunk or below the cut limb. From what he says pruning has not caused any real problem and the flowering this year should have been spectacular. Ern has some other not-often-grown Acacias flowering - A. coolgardiensis, inophloia, megacephala, polybotrya.

Further to the trial of autumn seed sowing -

Betty Chandler of Sydney finds growing from September to autumn extremely disappointing. Many seeds did not germinate, others germinated but all died after a short time. She did succeed with a few others. On the other hand, Garry Bentley from Lilydale, Vic., reports success with some sample sowings of seed in late autumn and winter. He tried A. elata and several other genera.

Garry has commenced to bonsai A. howittii - it will be interesting to see how that project develops. (I would like to hear from any member who has grown Acacia species successfully as bonsai plants).

Some comments from Barry Arthur of Brisbane referring mainly to Acacias growing at Toohey Mountain (S.G.A.P. Project) -

A. iteaphylla is very slow and spindly (although at his home at suburb Woodridge, it is a real beauty).

A. macradenia is one of the best Qld. species to flourish on Toohey. He comments that this species appears very hardy and adaptable.

A. bancroftii is a stately small tree with white trunk and large blue-grey leaves. It does well at Toohey, but not as well in soils that are shallow over clay.

A. macradenia, bancroftii, spectabilis, conferta and a few others have self-seeded at Toohey Mountain.

A. leptostachya is very successful there, although it seems a little slow at first with seedlings damping off easily, but Barry feels it worth the trouble as it is a mass of yellow in late winter-early spring.

A. uncifera has done well at Toohey and makes a lovely display.

Barry is working on a list of Acacias that do not like conditions at Toohey Mountain. This should prove of great interest.

New member, Paul Brown of Aitkenvale (Townsville) lives near the bank of a weir and has about a hundred metres of council parkland between his block and the weir. Council is quite happy to have native trees planted there and will even provide them if wished. Paul has found, as others have, that Acacias from the south are not always successful in the north; apparently they die early, suffer a lack of flowers or do not set seeds.

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Tony Scalzo of St. Albans, Vic. has forwarded a very interesting report. He is continuing with his trials of Acacias in containers. Currently he has two species growing really well in Vitclay pipes. A. amblygona 'prostrate' looks particularly attractive with its cascading branches hanging over the edge of the pipe. It needs watering every couple of days in summer as it is in full sun.

A. gordonii is only 15 cm high, but is very healthy and shows promise of being an excellent plant.

The basic soil mix in the pipes is 2 parts Australfloora 'Space' and 1 part Cranbourne loam, topped with 4-5 cm of coarse washed gravel. Plants were fertilised with blood and bone when first planted and with Osmocote slow release fertiliser in August.

Tony has worked to modify the existing clay in his garden into a reasonably well drained soil. Firstly he dug the clay to a depth of 25 cm, added gypsum and briquette ashes to produce large clumps. This was followed by a mix of 2 parts mountain soil and 3 parts medium grade soil. He has mounded up the beds leaving the depressions to form paths.

Some seldom grown Acacias that Tony is growing include A. curvata, leioderma, lasiocarpa, merrallii and nigricans. He is another member who is successfully growing A. denticulosa.

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ACACIA NOTES - extracted from 'Austrobaileya' 1(4) 1981 by Les. Pedley of Queensland Herbarium.

Two species are described as new -

A. tephрина - A tree to 20 m tall with silvery foliage and dark grey fissured, flaky bark; linear phyllodes with many fine longitudinal nerves, 7-11(15) cm x 2.5-4.5(6) mm. Ball flowers each of 20-35 flowers in racemes of 4-10 flowerheads. Occurs in Burke, North and South Kennedy, Gregory South and Warrego districts of Queensland.

In Qld. A. tephрина was previously wrongly referred to as A. cana. The true A. cana occurs in the extreme north-west of N.S.W. It is a tree to c. 6 m tall and has more sharply pointed, often narrower phyllodes, its inflorescence has fewer branches or the flowers occur in pairs.

A. handonis - from Barakula State Forest near Chinchilla in Darling Downs District, Qld. or more  
Resinous shrub to 2 m tall with bright green crowded phyllodes spirally

arranged or  $\pm$  verticillate, 6-10(12) mm x 0.3-0.4 mm. Flowers are very large bright yellow balls each of about 30 flowers. Its dark brown pods are made distinctive by the raised warty covering. Flowers July-August.

A. handonis was named for our friend Mrs. Val Hando of Chinchilla who has on several occasions supplied the seed bank with seed.

A. lazaridis is a new name to take the place of A. brevifolia

A. stowardii - now takes the name of A. clivicola under its wing.

A. difficilis and E. estrophiolata are both recorded as found in Queensland for the first time.

It is noted that A. solandri extends farther north in Queensland than previously supposed. It occurs in rainforest and in drier areas such as Mt. Stuart near Townsville.

A. cincinnata has been collected near Mackay Qld.

A. ramiflora - range extended slightly (8 km E of Hughenden). It should be looked for in the Pentland-Hughenden area. More material is needed to assess its relationship with A. simsii.

A. angustissima an introduced species from subtropical and tropical America has been collected three times in Queensland. It differs from all other species found in Qld. in having rather oblong heads of almost white flowers (with short pedicels) in paniculate inflorescences and bipinnate leaves without glands.

NEW BOOKS -

"Native Trees & Shrubs of South-East Australia" (covering areas of N.S.W. Vic, S.A. & Tas) by Leon Costermans, published Rigby \$29.95

Extracted from Caulfield & District (Vic Region) Newsletter August 1981/

The flower of any Acacia is edible but some are more fragrant than others - A. cardiophylla is one which is successful for the following recipes :

WATTLE FLOWER PIKELETS

- Blend together -
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup S.R. wholemeal flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 tabsp. sugar

Fold in 1 cup of wattle flowers. Drop in spoonfuls onto an electric frypan or griddle.

WATTLE FLOWER BRANDY

Fill a glass bottle full of wattle flowers  
Add 1 tbsp. sugar and fill with brandy. Leave to mature.

Try mixing the brandied wattle flowers with whipped cream for a sweet pancake filling.

I would like to hear of your experiences with pruning of acacias, the tragedies as well as the successes. It is reported that these will stand pruning well -

A. melanoxylon, A. pycnantha, A. baileyana, howittii, acinacea, floribunda, mucronata, retinodes, spectabilis, denticulosa, pravissima, elata, implexa, prominens, decurrans, pubescens. More care and not so hard cutting is suggested for the intermediate sized shrubs.

Seasons greetings to you all.

Marion Simmons