

Dear Members,

The correspondence side of the Study Group has been very quiet this quarter, but I hope that increased activity will occur during the coming months. We have a large and varied seed list and it seems pointless to hold these seeds if more of the species are not being grown. Too often only the newly acquired ones are requested and some beautiful potentially useful species which have been listed for some time, are ignored. A few suggestions are given below:

Southern areas -sthn.Vic. Tas and similar.	Warmer areas of Nthn. Vic.,NSW and similar	Hotter climates,Nthn. NSW, Qld and similar
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amoena	brunioides	chisholmii
ausfeldii	caesella	curvinervia
browniana	caroleae	cuthbertsonii
clunies-rossei	enterocarpa	dictyophleba
dictyoneura	havilandii	fauntleroyi
gillii	hemiteles	gittinsii
granitica	inophloia	hilliana
havilandii	jucunda	lysiphloia
imbricata	lanuginosa	microcarpa
kettlewelliae	leichhardtii	platycarpa
kybeanensis	multispicata	pyrifolia
lasiocarpa	semi-lunata	retivenia

Welcome to two new members:

Helen Bizzai, 19 Donnington Rd. Elizabeth North, S.A. 5113 and our recently appointed Study Group Co-ordinator, Jo Walker, 16 Blundell St., Queanbeyan N.S.W. 2620.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

All subscriptions are now due, except for those members who have paid in the last few months. The rate remains at \$2 per annum.

FINANCIAL REPORT to 30 JUNE 1982

Balance from 31 October 1980	88.64	
Subscriptions & donations	162.00	
Interest	5.60	
		<u>256.24</u>

EXPENSES

Stationery	39.45	
Seeds	35.10	
Postage	116.19	
Stamp duty on cheques	3.40	
		<u>194.14</u>
	Balance	<u>\$62.10</u>

Our acknowledgement and thanks to Victorian and Queensland regions, the Hakea, Beaufortia and Melaleuca Study Groups for their interesting newsletters.

MEMBERS' NOTES:

From David Shiells - "We are very pleased with an Acacia guornensis we transplanted from the block to our house block. It was in October and the weather was warming up.. The Acacia guornensis was 2.6 m by about as wide. We dug a circle around it approx. 1 m in diameter and about 30 to 35 cm deep, in doing so about six roots of approx. 2.5-5 cm in diam. were severed as well as the usual feeder roots. The plant did not seem to have a main tap-root growing down. The plant was then transplanted the same day, no pruning of the foliage was done.

We watered it - but not too often, misting the leaves daily for the first two weeks, then when it appeared distressed and lost leaves we increased the watering (feel we were fortunate it was in a well drained position). From then it hasn't looked back, has made fresh growth, has flowered and still is budding up". (Letter written at the end of March)

Paul Brown reports that he has had a high (90%) success rate in germinating A. leptoloba seeds collected green and planted immediately.

Myer O'Donnell reports having succeeded in growing A. cultriformis from cuttings. He feels that the time of year (for taking cuttings) is important; he found that after flowering seemed to be a suitable time.

Inez Armitage asks if anyone has germinated A. bidwillii from seed, and if so, what seed treatment was used ?

Jo Walker forwarded some extracts from a South African publication 'Plant Invaders' (edited by C.H. Stirton, 1978) which shows what Acacias are capable of doing when grown away from their normal habitat, natural checks and enemies. Jo says that she worked for three years collecting and breeding insects attacking Hakeas (which pose a similar problem in South Africa) and its not until you do something like this that you realise to what extent our plants are controlled. The Acacias mentioned were :

Acacia cyclops
longifolia
mearnsii

Acacia melanoxylon
pycnantha
saligna

and they have spread over large areas where they soon smother the indigenous vegetation and become a real threat in forested areas.

NEW BOOKS: "Plants of Western N.S.W." G.M. Cunningham, et al. Soil Conservation Service NSW 1981; about 75 Acacias are described and illustrated with 73 clear colour plates.

"Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants" suitable for cultivation, Vol.2 Elliott & Jones, Lothian 1982. A- Ca - 585 Acacias are described with cultivation notes, some are illustrated - 52 with often small colour plates and 172 with line drawings. \$45.00

SEED LIST:

ADDITIONS:

A. brassii
ephedroides

DELETIONS:

A. beauverdiana
calyculata

others on order are A. baxteri
peuce
quadrilateralis
sphacelata

Our thanks to W.A. Wildflower Soc. (Eastern Hills Branch), Beverley O'Keefe and Paul Brown for seeds sent to the seed bank.

ACACIAS IN PUBLIC PLANTINGS

I have commenced a limited survey of public authorities (like the Department of Main Roads and Housing and Airports) to ascertain which Acacias are being grown in their areas. To date I have written to Tasmanian authorities only, waiting to see if they respond positively before I proceed further.

In the meantime, would members check locally to see which Acacias are being grown and let me have the results, so that hopefully a comprehensive list of Acacias being grown in public places in Australia may be commenced. No doubt this will be a long term project, but it should prove of some interest and value to others when completed. Your participation would be appreciated.

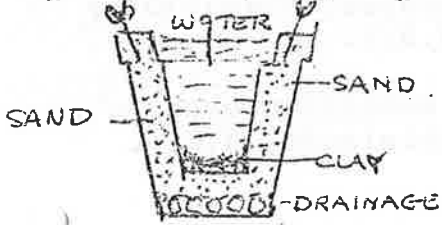
ACACIAS FROM CUTTINGS:

I would like to encourage more members to grow Acacias from cuttings, especially of good forms which are often available. Dr. Ross Macdonald has again offered cutting material to those interested in contacting him. His address is 1 Balcombe Court, Croydon, Vic. 3136. Any postage costs, of course, would be met by the recipient.

TECHNIQUES

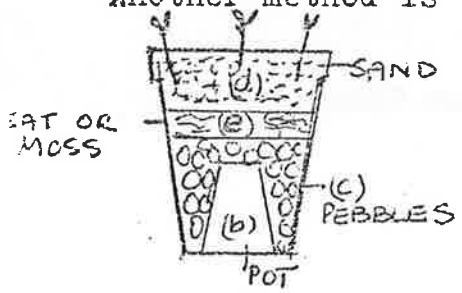
Australian plants have been propagated in England since the early 1800's and earlier. An extract from "The Ladies' Companion to the Flower Garden" by Mrs. Loudon, published about 1844 in London offered this advice on propagating from cuttings:

It was suggested that two wide-mouthed pots should be selected; the larger to have some drainage material put at the bottom; the smaller pot to have a piece of clay placed in the bottom to stop the hole. The smaller pot was then placed inside the other, so that the tops of both pots were level. The space between the pots was then filled in with sand or other soil and the cuttings inserted as illustrated.



"The inner pot should be filled with water and the outer may then be plunged in the ground or into a hotbed and covered with a glass or not, according to the nature of the cuttings."

"Another method is to have a small pot (b) turned upside down in a larger pot and to have the space (c) filled with small pebbles; (e) is a layer of peat or moss and (d) a covering of sand. This kind of pot is very useful for all cuttings that are liable to damp off, as the water trickles down through the pebbles and if the pot be placed in bottom heat, the hot vapour rises through the pebbles in the same way without burning the roots."



SELECTING HARDWOOD CUTTINGS (Acacias included) - "The points of the shoots, after the spring growth has been completed and before the young wood is thoroughly ripened, should be used and the soil should contain a large proportion of sand and be thoroughly drained. If cuttings of this kind are put in during the autumn, they require to be kept through winter under glass and they will not produce roots till spring; but if the plants have made their growth as most Australian shrubs do in "spring and the cuttings are taken off and planted then "they will root the same season and be fit to transplant into small pots in the course of the summer."

SEED BANK

One lot of seed issued some time ago from the seed bank as Acacia nigricans could well be A. leioderma. There was some confusion in early times and the wrong name was applied to A. leioderma. To enable those concerned to decide which plant they are growing I have set out the following notes:

A. leioderma is usually quite glabrous (without hairs) except for a few hairs occasionally found on the main stalk of the leaves. Flowers are pale yellow balls, about 10 mm diameter, on simple stalks, 10-20(30) mm long.

A. nigricans is variable but usually has more prominently ribbed branchlets bearing tubercle-based hairs. The main difference is in its flower arrangement. This one is a reduced raceme consisting of two flower stalks, each 8-10 (2) mm long. One or two of these two-branched racemes may occur in each leaf axil, thus forming a cluster. Flowers are pale yellow.

Both are small bipinnate leafed shrubs 1-2 m tall without spines.

TELOPEA

From a recently received copy of "Telopea" Vol. 2(3) 1981 which features a "Key to the Plants of the Subalpine and Alpine Zones of the Kosciusko Region" by Joy Thompson, it is interesting to note that only three Acacias are found there. They are -

Acacia sicutiformis which is found between 1560-1575 m; also in Tas. and Vic, and extends to the Northern Tablelands in N.S.W.

Acacia alpina subalpine - restricted to sheltered slopes, 1524-1830 m; also in Vic. and elsewhere on Southern Tablelands, N.S.W.

Acacia obliquinervis is found only in sheltered low subalpine areas 1524-1570 m; also in Vic. and extends to Central Tablelands, N.S.W.

Marion Simmons