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ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS  
ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO 83  
JULY 1991

Dear Members

This is my last newsletter and in many ways I am sad about the decision I have taken. My interest in the species will be the same, just change direction a little and I will continue to be a member of the Study Group. I do hope that I can give more time to my drawings, paintings, plant growing and hunting for Acacias in the wild..

Unfortunately neither our Study Group Co-ordinator nor I has heard from anyone interested in taking over as leader of the Group as yet. I do hope that one of you will seriously consider taking the position, you will be well rewarded.

I had hoped that a change over could have taken place before now, but because this has not happened I have to ask you not to send any more subscriptions to me. After consultation with Jan it was decided that it would be best to wait until another leader is appointed, then each member on the current list would be contacted by the new leader. Of course, those who have paid their subscriptions already will not be asked to pay again until their subscription has run out.

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Thank you to the Regions and other Study Groups who have sent their newsletter to me. Please wait and send copies of these newsletter to the new leader when appointed.

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FINANCIAL REPORT for year ended 30th June 1991

Balance 30/6/1990	477.32
Subscriptions & Donations	290.55
Interest	18.43

786.30

Expenses	
Seeds	27.20
Stationery etc.	22.75
Post	117.70
Copying	120.48
Bank Tax	1.10
	<u>289.23</u>
	<u>497.07</u>

This total will be less postage and copying costs for this newsletter. Also there will be transport costs for transferring the seed bank boxes and other records to the mainland and that will mean Queensland unless a new leader is appointed.

#### MEMBER'S NOTES:

Rosemary Pedler from SA wrote in May that a fairly recently described Acacia, A cretacea flowered for the first time in December last year. This was quite a thrill as it is a very rare species which occurs in a very restricted area near Cowell on the Eyre peninsula.

Gill McDonald of near Orange NSW has informed me that seed I sent her from the seed bank labelled A pravissima Batch (1) (plantation grown) has developed into what she believes is A triptera. Please check if you have been issued with this particular batch of seed.

Thomas Ross of Germany mentioned in his letter that a lot of Acacias had been flowering in the garden in Spain which he has mentioned before. For the first time A sclerosperma, A murrayana, A strongylophylla, A trineura, A iteaphylla, A pulchella, A lasiocarpa, A dodonaeifolia, A wilhelmiana, A glandulicarpa, A lineata, A acinacea, as well as the usual ones.

In Germany during the winter they had a few nights of harsh frost down to 14 degrees C when all the wattles were cut to the ground or killed, except A alpina which lost about 50% of its branches. Its no wonder Thommas finds it much more rewarding growing Acacias in Spain!

Terry Tame NSW has forwarded a comprehensive list of Acacias which are growing in the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens in which he is involved. There are over 120 species listed, some doing very well, some growing slowly and others that have failed. At this time of the year a visit to the Gardens should be a pleasure.

Dave Gordon from Glenmorgan Qld wrote mentioning, for those who were having trouble growing A chinchillensis and A handonis, that the former grows in sand over sandstone and in part shade and the latter grows on lateritic gravel. These facts should be taken into account when trying to grow them, also that they occur in the Chinchilla area of Queensland.

#### GERMINATION RESULTS

A few more results have been received. Thank you for those.

Most of the seeds issued seem to germinate well enough with one or two exceptions, but several members have reported losing a proportion of the seedlings soon after germination. The causes are hard to ascertain from a distance but could be due to any of several causes, for example, it could be due to 'damping off' or the soil mixture being too heavy and not draining quickly enough.

#### ACACIA FLOWERING

The winter in Tasmania has been mild so far with few frosts but we have been amazed by the early prolific flowering of the Acacias in our garden. Many are in full flower now and others, like the bright flowered form of A. neriiifolia have been blooming beautifully for many weeks and A. adunca is a splendid sight at the moment. Others, like A semilunata, A celastrifolia, A acinacea, A elongata and A boormanii etc. are about to burst into flower. A strange season!

CORRECTION

A. acrimonastes - please note that in Newsletter No 62 I made a mistake in the spelling of this recently described species.

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Thank you sincerely to those who have supported me as leader of the Study Group over the years. On checking I found that my first newsletter was issued in September 1978! so it is truly time that someone else injected new ideas and energy into the study of this very important diverse group of plants.

I hope to see some of you at the Biennial Conference and Seminar in Perth at the end of September. It sounds as though a really exciting and stimulating programme has been arranged for us.

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