



ASGAP
HIBBERTIA
STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER
27

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HIBBERTIA DENTATA

Dear Members,

We had a great day at our February meeting thanks to Ron Pearson. Ron has put many hours into the development of Braeside Park. We had a look around, did some cuttings at the nursery and then back to Ron's home for a pleasant afternoon tea and chat.

I have received plant lists (attached to February Newsletter) back from Ron Pearson, Anne Kerr, Margie Barnett, Bob O'Neill, Barbara Buchanan, Elizabeth Brett and Faye Candy. I would like to get back the lists from the rest of our members. This will give me a much larger sample size for analysis and publication for your information. Also, knowing what species each member has will give us the vehicle to arrange swapping of cutting material. So please make the time and send them in, it will be greatly appreciated.

Helen Morrow has supplied descriptions and growing conditions for *H. obtusifolia* and *H. procumbens*. If you have other information about these two please let us know about it.

Membership subscriptions are due by 30 June. If you have had a telephone number change please let me know.

I look forward to meeting you at the May meeting or hearing from you soon.

Regards Kerry Davis

The Hibbertia Web

My first real introduction to hibbertias was when I attended a meeting at Karwarra at the same time that the Hibbertia Study Group met there, something like a year ago. Kerry's enthusiasm cast the first strands of the web that snared my curiosity and from there it was a matter of time to pay the dues as a prelude to a fuller involvement.

The kind of plant suits me as I have a need for large numbers of smaller plants. Additionally there is a challenging range of species and forms that require the development of patience, learning and skill to be able to succeed. Some appear easy, others more difficult, while the path of involvement is absorbing, open ended and long term.

Initially I had the intention of having a full collection in pots so I could see just what I had. Then as I extended a few garden beds, the need for plants absorbed the collection plants so that now they are all around the garden and generally flourishing with losses running at about 5%.

As with all things, a measure of success inspires confidence, satisfaction and further effort. The regular meetings / propagation / exchange fixtures at different venues has been a real winner so far as I am concerned. From having one plant, a *Hibbertia scandens* that sprawls out from a steel mesh fence, I have now a creditable collection in a remarkably short time. At the February meeting I had great satisfaction in being able to distribute back to other members plants that they had lost or simply to add to their collections.

To me, plants and people are kind of intertwined. The process of working and sharing together from a common interest base has a strong social value to it. I always look forward to the meetings, garden visits, the propagation exercises, the exchanges and the scones topped with home made jam afterwards.

Within the next few months I anticipate quite a number of cuttings to be mature enough for additional planting out. It will be with a fair measure of justice that I can host the May meeting and be able to demonstrate the immense practical value of the Hibbertia Study Group to its members, for all that I have with hibbertias stems from that source.

Hibbertias at Jindabyne

Kate Guy from Jindabyne sent in the following information and a photo of two *H. obtusifolia* plants. The plant on the left is about 0.7 m wide and the other is about 1.3 m wide; both planted November 1983.

Hibbertia obtusifolia - three plants purchased from a commercial outlet. One plant has performed remarkably well in what I think has been fairly difficult circumstances.

We live at East Jindabyne where the climate ranges from very hot summers (temperature 37°C on occasion) to very cold winters with a few light falls of snow (temperature -12°C on occasion). Severe gale force winds lash our block and the chill factor may be even greater than the temperature we record, equally in summer the hot winds may be very hot.

The rain fall varies greatly from year to year - our records show:

1988 - 631mm	1989 - 835mm	1990 - 658mm	1991 - 730mm	1992 - 793mm
1993 - 502mm	1994 - 495mm.			

Although the plants are on an irrigation system we are frequently absent from the block in winter. When we switch off the automatic system because our pressure reducing valve freezes and bursts if left on.

In summer an hour twice a week would be the average watering time.

The two hibbertias in the photo were planted against a brick wall facing NNE Our soil is clay and degrading granite. Apart from a handful of blood and bone at planting and two applications of a slow release fertiliser in eleven years no other soil treatment has been given.

This is a dreadful photograph - I enclosed it only to show the size they have grown (or not grown as is the case of the one on the left). You may judge the size from the size of the bricks. Believe it or not the thriving plant was covered in flowers when photographed. The plant on the left had about a dozen flowers. They both flower from Spring to Autumn. One could hardly describe them as thriving specimens but one must hand it to them for having survived the conditions for eleven years.

The third plant was also planted in November 1983 just around the corner on the NNW wall. It was overwhelmed by a self seeded *Helichrysum Dargon-Hill Monach* and was transplanted in late 1984. It was put in a border (mulched by pebbles) where it was irrigated but the soil was equally poor. It hung on at about ten cm diameter in this position - rarely flowering well - for about eight years. The soil was severely impacted when I removed it - so it had had little chance.

One *H. procumbens* planted in similar conditions, also planted in November 1983, died during the first year.

Kate Guy

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Hibbertia obtusifolia

- Height:** Dwarf shrub to 1 m high, stems erect, sometimes sprawling, young growth tomentose usually glabrous with age.
- Leaves:** 10 - 30 mm long, 4 - 12 mm wide, greyish green, obovate to oblanceolate, apex obtuse often mucronate or emarginate, margins usually entire.
- Flowers:** 15 - 40 mm across, sessile, terminal on short branches.
- Petals:** 7 - 15 mm long.
- Sepals:** 6 - 9 mm long, glabrous or hairy.
- Stamens:** More than 30, surrounding carpels.
- Carpels:** 3, glabrous.

Habitat: Distributed Qld, NSW, Vic & Tas. Widespread on sandy or gravelly soils, often in open forest. Prefers a well drained situation in filtered sun or partial shade. Regular pruning is recommended. Flowers August - December.

This is an extremely variable species and is in need of revision.

Hibbertia procumbens

- Height:** Prostrate to 0.2 m, stems usually glabrous.
- Leaves:** 15 - 20 mm long, to 2 mm wide, linear, flat, glabrous or almost so, apex acute, tapering to the base, margins entire.
- Flowers:** 20 - 25 mm across, sessile, terminal, solitary.
- Petals:** 8 - 13 mm long.
- Sepals:** 10 mm long, glabrous.
- Stamens:** 20 - 25, grouped around the carpels.
- Carpels:** 4 to 5, glabrous.

Habitat: It occurs in Vic & Tas and rare in NSW. A plant of the heathland on the coast and at higher altitudes, found on moist, well drained sandy soils. Will tolerate full sun but prefers some shade. Will not tolerate extended dry periods, is frost tolerant. Flowers October - February.

- References:** Beadle, N. C. W. (1982) Student Flora of North Eastern NSW (U of New England)
Elliot, W. R. & Jones, D. L. (1990) Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants. (Lothian)
Harden, G Ed. (1990) Flora of NSW. (NSWU Press)

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Letter from Margie Barnett - Mt Barker, 15-2-95

Hibbertias are a 'new' plant to me.

We have a small propagation nursery here in Mt. Barker (small in space and number, but we try to carry a large range of plants - all Australian Natives - up to 600 species over a year, not all available at the same time).

My loves are all the plants unavailable in general nurseries, grasses etc. For some reason I have not until recently, appreciated the number of hibbertia in the genus, nor their variety. Hence I hope to expand my awareness through the study group. I hope to collect plants of our local species (from cutting) which include *H. exaltata*, *H. riparia*, *H. sericea* and *H. virgata*. By local, I mean the Adelaide Hills in which we live. At present, my hibbertia collection is small, and mainly in pots, as we are in the process of developing a stretch along our fenceline for planting soon.

I'm sorry I'm so far away to attend meetings and activities (by far the best way to share ideas and learn) so I hope I can glean as much as possible from reports in newsletters and share my experimentation in the same way.

Margie has the MT. BARKER WOODLOTS NURSERY, 2 Fletcher Rd, Mt. Barker 5251:
phone 08 391 1971,

Letter from Barbara Buchanan - Myrrhee, 13-2-95

It has been a sad year for hibbertias and for the whole garden. The worst frosts I have known here (nearly -8°C) took a lot of the West Australians, but even before they hit drought was a problem. No rain from Feb till June, and none worth speaking of until Jan this year. Then of course 6.5 inches. A lot of shrubs which might have survived - some put out new growth, were finished by the drought. A lot of them had funny fluffy bark, it has obviously split away from the stem and stopped all growth above it. So most of the frost doubtful ones tucked in under trees and shrubs for frost protection had most competition for water and lost out. I have put a few gravestones † beside a few of these on the list of the 1994 Nov Newsletter.

I still have 2 or 3 unidentified. One is a grey leaved one which Ron Pearson gave me at a Karwarra meeting (may be *H. racemosa* Barbara - KD). I thought he said from Queensland, which is surviving frost, drought etc with only a bit of watering in the first summer. When it flowered I did try to key it out. It is a neat shrub about 0.3 m high and just thinking about it makes me aware that I should be taking cuttings - with that grey foliage it could be useful all year around.

The other is the one I sent before, and am including a further sample, just picked so may not arrive in a good state. There is only the one flower so I am leaving it to you, my eyesight really has trouble when looking for hairs.

My *H. pedunculata* parent plant had been swamped for several years by a shrub which outgrew its welcome and was removed. The hibbertia has responded with enthusiasm. When weeding around it I managed to pull out a spindly sucker with the weeds, and this has just been planted out itself elsewhere.

The third unidentified plant has a very tiny flower and is shrinking this year although it was never very big; from Narooma. Not garden worthy here.

Next Meeting

Date: 13th May
Time: 1.30 to 4.30 PM
Venue: Bob O'Neill's home: 49 Hunter Road, Wandin North (Melway 121 C3) -
Telephone 059 64 4523.
Activities: Bring along your slides so that we can select some good photos for Ballarat. A look at the hibbertias in Bob's garden and if time permits some cuttings.

Subscriptions

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If a cross appears in the box, your subscription of \$5.00 is due.
Please send to Kerry Davis, 4 Rickards Avenue, Knoxfield 3180.
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