

**AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA**

**HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 83**

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Dear members.

When you are growing plants the weather is never far from your mind. We have had a wet June-July period and then suddenly the rain has abated and now in late September we are seeing a lot of dry sunny days, which is not the usual for Elliminyt. However the Hakeas in the garden are probably enjoying a dryer period and have flowered very well. Recently I travelled north into the lower part of NSW and saw great crops of wheat and canola and masses of Acacias in flower, however they will be looking for follow-up rains now. I did not come across Hakea tephrosperma but I do know where it grows further north. The weather forecast is for a drier spring which means we may be in for a long hot summer. Here in Elliminyt being in the southern part of Victoria that will not be too hard to experience as we get a lot of southerly breezes.

We have had only two light frosts this winter which did no damage to our Hakeas. However, Joe Stephens from Cann River in East Gippsland regularly gets frosts that can be quite heavy and likewise our members in the Tamworth- Armidale area of NSW. Joe has some sixty species of Hakea growing in silty loam overlying clay where in places it can also be quite moist.

The hakeas flowering at present include those of the *olivacea* and *obliqua* groups, *olivacea*, *ilicifolia*, *horrida*, *obliqua* ssp *obliqua* and *obliqua* ssp *parviflora*. Others are *patchyphylla*, *newbeyana*, *microcarpa*, *archaeoides*, *rostrata*, *rugosa*, *cucullata*, *minyma*, *trifurcata*, *cyclocarpa*, *nitida*, *invaginata*, *bakeriana*, *pandanicarpa*, *rigida*, *cygna* ssp *cygna* and *plurinervia*...

**Vale.**

In mid September one of our members, Malcolm Vandeppeer, died. He and Thelma accompanied us on many trips in various parts of Australia enjoying the discovery of Hakeas and other native flora. Thelma has a number of Hakeas in their garden in Adelaide including *eyreana* and *orthorrhyncha* ssp *orthorrhyncha*.

**Propagating**

I have continued to propagate Hakeas over the winter period using the saucer method. I put down seed of *persiehana*, *strumosa*, *dohertyi*, *meisneriana*, *trifurcata* and *psilorrhyncha*. All germinated well and have now been transferred to tubes. The tropical Hakeas germinated earlier in the year of *penduncula*, *persiehana*, *arborescens* and *stenophylla* ssp *stenophylla* were potted into large pots and left in the hothouse over winter and into the spring. All survived apart from *arborescens* which appears to be more cold sensitive. Hakea *pedunculata*, the most northern species on Cape York, appears to be the hardiest. We grew this species in the open up against a north-eastern brick wall at Strathmerton in northern Victoria where it grew and flowered. I still believe grafting is the way to go for establishing these species in cool climate gardens.

### Seed bank.

Thankyou to all those who have sent in seed. I have at present seed of many Hakea species so do not be afraid to try germinating some yourself. We still need seed of those inland species such as eyreana, divaricata, macrocarpa, collina, standleyensis, rhombales and maconochieana. If you can help please let me know.

### Financial

Balance forward	4150-13
Income subscriptions	123-00
Printing and postage Newsletter No. 82	74-60
Balance at 30 <sup>th</sup> . September 2023	\$4198-53

As the flowering finishes I will start pruning but being careful not to cut off seed-bearing follicles unless it leaves the plant very lopsided. It is a lovely time of the year to be in the garden, so take time to pause and look at your Hakeas and enjoy their features. I have left the article from David and Linda Hanscombe to the end of the newsletter so that the pictures appear at the end.  
Cheers, Paul.

The following is an article from David and Linda Handscombe on their experiences of setting up a new garden on about ten acres at Illowa near Warrnambool in Victoria. Thankyou for your article.

We purchased our retirement block at Illowa, on the eastern edge of the Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve, in 2015 and moved from our Pomonal property in early 2019. One of the last things we did before moving was to collect seeds and cutting material to propagate plants for our new garden. Amongst the material collected were seeds pods from many of the Banksias and Hakeas that we had in the Pomonal garden. We also had a wide selection of plants already propagated and ended up bringing three truck loads with us (photo1). We had been planting on the new block each year prior to moving but this was predominately to establish cut flowers. Banksia, Chamelauciums and South African Proteaceae but few Hakeas. We called the property the Ark Garden because we endeavoured to bring two of every plant we had at Pomonal (photo 2). Since moving we have been establishing garden beds, planting the plants we brought with us and propagating a wide variety of species and cultivars (Photo 3).

Our growing conditions here are very different to Pomonal. There our soils were Grampians sands where as at Illowa we are in deep volcanic loam over layers of ash, (photo 4). The climate here is also very different with milder summers and winters and more reliable rainfall. Being keen plant propagators, setting up a production area was high on the agenda (photo 5), the plants we brought with us were put into a temporary shade house (photo 6) until we could get them in the ground. Some might consider the milder climate means growing plants would be easier. My experience says otherwise. Certainly once they are in the ground most of the plants we have tried have done well, sometimes too well, putting on rapid growth at the expense of stability in the ground, so we have lost a few things due to the coastal winds. Our plantings at Illowa were based on our experience of growing things in the Grampians conditions. With a few exceptions we have found that at Illowa there is a big difference in growth rates and the ultimate size of species compared to Pomonal resulting in some garden beds becoming quickly overcrowded. The other big difference in adjusting to the climate is from a propagation perspective. After seed germination Banksias, Grevilleas, Hakeas and Eucalypts were relatively easy to establish to a plantable size at Pomonal. At Illowa we

usually have no trouble germinating seed but because of the more humid and cooler coastal conditions we lose a lot of seedlings to damping off. This problem is not confined to seed propagation, some of the cuttings we have taken also have a tendency to damp off. So despite producing lots of plants we end up losing many of the drier country species before they are of plantable size. We have been modifying watering frequency in the nursery to try and overcome this with some success but it's still a matter of trial and error. The last two summers have been cooler with more overcast days, which hasn't helped. For the Banksias and Hakeas we mostly use the bowl method (photo 7) that Paul showed us during a presentation he gave to the Grampians group many years ago. Being a relatively young garden many of the Hakeas that have been established haven't flowered yet so seed collection from the garden is not possible. The propagation undertaken so far has relied heavily on seed from our old garden, gifts of seed from friends, purchased seed and seed from the study group seed bank. We have also been on the look out for plants from native plant nurseries and have received gifts of plants from Paul, our study group leader, so thank you Paul for your generosity.

So far we have established the Hakeas in the list below with more species to be added from last season propagations. The \* indicates which species have flowered

Hakea amplexicaulis	Hakea archaeiodes
Hakea bakeriana	Hakea bucculenta
Hakea 'Burredong Beauty' *	Hakea ceratophylla
Hakea clavata *	Hakea conchifolia
Hakea corymbosa *	Hakea costata
Hakea cristata	Hakea cyclocarpa
Hakea dactyloides	hakea epiglottis ssp milliganii
Hakea ereana	Hakea flabelifolia
Hakea florrida *	Hakea francisiana *
Hakea francisiana ssp coriacea	Hakea grammatophylla *
Hakea hookeriana	Hakea invaginata *
Hakea laurina *	Hakea lehmanniana *
Hakea lissocarpha *	Hakea lissosperma
Hakea macraeana	Hakea megadenia
Hakea megalosperma	Hakea multilineata *
Hakea myrtoides *	Hakea neurophylla *
Hakea nitida *	Hakea nitida prostrate
Hakea obtusa	Hakea ochoptera
Hakea oleifolia	Hakea orthorrhyncha var filiformis
Hakea pandanicarpa ssp pandanicarpa	Hakea platysperma
Hakea pritzelli	Hakea prostrata
Hakea psilorrhyncha	Hakea pycnoneura
Hakea ruscifolia	Hakea 'Stockdale Sensation' *
Hakea verrucosa *	Hakea victoria *



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 4



Photo 3



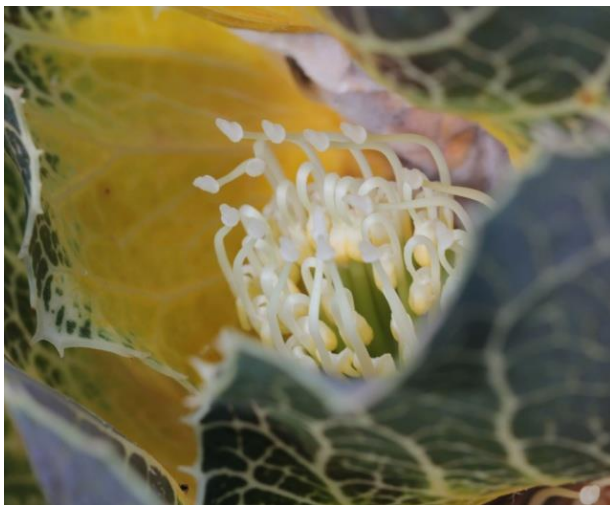
Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Hakea victoria



Hakea 'Stockdale Sensation'



Hakea neurophylla



Hakea multilineata



Hakea grammatophylla



Hakea francisiana



Hakea clavata



Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'



Hakea lehmanniana