

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO. 18
JANUARY 1975

Mrs I B Armitage
10 Anembo Road
Terrey Hills, NSW 2084

I am pleased to be able to tell you that since last N/L there has been a considerable drop in membership. This will make the Leader's job easier and will not detract in any way from the potential of the Group. I make yet another appeal for someone to take on this job. A new members' list will be forwarded with next N/L. Meantime here are the names of one old member rejoined and three new ones:-

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|-----------------|--|
| Miss Janet Ball | Lot 35, Bingara Cres, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153 |
| Brian Crick | 32 Maxwell Avenue, Milperra, NSW 2214 |
| Mrs A Nitschke | P Bag No. 23, Morgan, SA 5320 |
| A J Sinclair | 79 Junction Road, Rosewater, SA 5013 |

Brian Crick is curator of a large Council Reserve, and has just undertaken a massive planting of 75 species of Acacia.

Gary Phillips has changed his address to c/o Box 595, Geraldton, WA 6530.

FINANCE

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Balance as at date of N/L No. 17 | | \$40.46 |
| Add: | Subs received | <u>\$22.00</u> |
| | | \$62.46 |
| Less: | Postage | \$9.10 |
| | Foolscap Envelopes | <u>\$0.60</u> |
| | | \$9.70 |
| | | <u>\$52.76</u> |

SEED LIST

A new seed list is enclosed. Please destroy the old one. 15 new species have been added. Mr Daniels, the new Leader of the Eucalyptus Study Group, contributed some; as did George Althofer and Gordon Cousins. A rare species, *A. lycopodiifolia*, came from Thistle Harris. *A. lycopodiifolia*, if it could be acclimatized, would be a magnificent horticultural subject. It is a low growing shrub with fine whorled phyllodes giving it the appearance of a fine fern. In fact the name means "resembling club moss". It comes from a restricted habitat in northern Australia.

You may know that King's Park will no longer sell seed to the public, so that source is now completely closed to us. It is all the more important, therefore, that members really make an effort to get seed, particularly from friends or any other source they have in WA. This is where most of the desirable acacias live, and it is up to us to keep trying to get seed, especially of untried species.

At long last I have flowered and been able to get identification of the seed which was supplied from this Seed Bank as *A. incurva*. It is *A. crassiuscula*. So if you have had it, please note this corrected identification.

Seed listed as *A. drewiana* in "Additions to Seed List" in N/L 17 has been identified by WA Herbarium as a new species – not *A. drewiana*. Mesdames Chandler and Simmons, Messrs Lees and Lynch, please note.

Just over 1000 packets of seed were distributed during 1974.

SOME NAME CHANGES

Use of the name *A. cunninghamii* has been discontinued. Four individual species replace it. They are:- *A. longispicata*, *A. concurrens*, *A. crassa* and *A. leiocalyx*. I have retained the name *A. cunninghamii* in the Seed List as there is no way of knowing which of these species it represents.

A. colletioides var. *nyssophylla* has become *A. nyssophylla*.

A. periculosa has also become *A. nyssophylla*.

A. myrtifolia var. *celastrifolia* has become *A. celastrifolia*.

A. obscura has become *A. browniana*.

A. strigosa var. *strigosa* has also become *A. browniana*.

A. pelloiae has become *A. drummondii*.

A. hynesiana has become *A. merinthophora*.

A magnificent acacia, this last, with zig-zag branches held horizontally and fine terete foliage slightly rigid in texture, but nevertheless pendulous. Flowers in pendulous racemes. A captivating sight. Seen at Perenjori, WA.

SEED OF COMMON SPECIES URGENTLY REQUIRED

A. dealbata, *A. floribunda*, *A. pubescens*, *A. pycnantha*

NEWS FROM MEMBERS The only item under this heading comes from Mr Currie. He has had great success germinating all kinds of seed, both hard testa and others, in damp sawdust. He was going to try acacia seed this summer so no doubt we will soon be hearing from him. By the way, he tells me he is a vegetable grower, not a nurseryman.

DATA FROM REPORT SHEETS

 Continuing results of last Reports:-

A. multispicata. That ever successful grower, Ross Macdonald reported in May:- "Beautiful, loaded with buds now." This is one of the really outstanding small/medium acacias. If Ross can do it, surely others can – you lucky people who live in Vic and SA. I've tried it here and it grows into a weak spindly shadow of its real self.

A. pulchella. We have reports of 15 plants in varying soils and conditions. Most of these are doing well and flower under 2 years. One of the more adaptable small shrubs.

A. restiacea. I forgot to include this on Report Sheet. Not easy, comes from Mullewa/Geraldton area. Belongs to Group known as *Aphyllae*, ie has no phyllodes (or leaves). Flowers occur in small panicles at intervals down the stem. An extremely attractive plant which I managed to flower very well in 1974. 1m x 1m, 3 years old.

A. rheticarpa. This beautiful plant from SA is being grown only by Mrs Harvey and Ross Macdonald. Neither has flowered yet.

A. rupicola. 5 successful, 2 failures. All successes on clay soil.

A. shuttleworthii. All 4 growers report success and early flowering. Trevor Blake had the comment:- "Well drained, too shady." That applies to mine also. Very unusual foliage, this, the phyllode an irregular triangle, very hairy with sharp spine.

A. spathulata. Difficult. Mr Currie reports 2 plants killed by frost. Ross Macdonald had only one seed germinate. I had no germination with 2 lots of seed.

A. spinescens. 7 conflicting reports. This shrub also belongs to Group *Aphyllae*. Grows mainly in SA and dry parts of Victoria and NSW.

A. tayloriana. A bipinnate shrub from WA successfully grown by Ross Macdonald and Mr Currie. Ross is very enthusiastic about this one and says more members should try it.

A. trigonophylla. An attractive WA species with flat angled stems and foliage something like a narrow form of *A. alata*. Grown well by Ross and myself, flowering at one year and 2 years respectively. I found this easy and recommend it. Also doing well at Warrimbirra.

A. triptera. One of the many which prefer clay based soils. Doing well in Victoria. Slow to start and slow to flower but well worth waiting for.

A. ulicifolia. Very prickly small shrub. Easy almost anywhere. Native to NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. Grows well in part shade. Has large ball flowers, pale yellow. Flowers at 18 months / 2 years. Almost identical in every way, except for flower colour which is deep gold, to *A. echinula*.

A. uncinata. Reliable and adaptable to many soils and conditions. Somewhat variable; usually arching or pendulous habit. Flowers can be light or deep yellow. Long flowering and very attractive.

ACACIA PURPUREAPETALA. As might be expected, results so far with *A. purpureapetala*, the pink flowered Acacia, indicate that it is by no means easy to grow. Of about 150 seeds distributed to the most successful growers of the Acacia Study Group, I have reports of 11 plants (including 2 of my own) still surviving. But recent good news is that one of the plants grown by Bill Cane of Maffra, Victoria, which lives permanently in his glasshouse, has already flowered, producing 45 flowers in all. This is a notable achievement and all the more remarkable because the plant flowered at 15-18 months from time of seed sowing. No seed set.