S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
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Here we are again, with a new Members List. Please destroy the old one.

FINANCE

Balance as at N/L No. 18			$52.76	
Add:	subscriptions	$19.00		
	donations	$7.00	$26.00	
				$78.76
Less:	Cost of duplicating seed list	$10.00		
	Postages	$8.81		
	Purchase of seeds	$6.50		
	Foolscap envelopes	$0.90		$26.21
New Balance				$52.55

SEED LIST

	Additions:	**Deletions:**
A. acellerata	*A. moirii*	*A. bidwillii*
A. bancroftii	*A. mucronata* v. *longifolia*	*A. binervata*
A. beauverdiana	*A. pubescens*	*A. craspedocarpa*
A. cochlearis	*A. ramosissima*	*A. cretata*
A. graffiana	*A. retinodes* v. *oraria*	*A. dunnii*
A. harpophylla	*A. rostellifera*	*A. echinula*
A. hemignosta	*A. sedifolia*	*A. ephedroides*
A. heteroclita	*A. steedmanii*	*A. georginae*
A. lineata	*A. mooreana*	*A. idiomorpha*
		A. latipes
		A. longispinea
		A. ramulosa
		A. rossei

At long last our stocks of *A. floribunda* have been renewed by Mrs Simmons and Mrs Lyndon. Extraordinary how few of these set seed in cultivation.

As a result of reduced membership I naturally have less correspondence, and as a result of less correspondence the news from members has dwindled to nil, and for once I haven't any myself except that during March and April I had *A. shuttleworthii* and *A. jibberdingensis* flowering. They don't do well here – nothing does. The excess rain and general humidity tends to make everything grow too fast, too tall and too lanky. So if these two can make a good showing here they should be marvellous elsewhere. Try them!

In a thoughtless moment I let myself be talked into joining this year's Show Committee, which is involving a tremendous amount of time as well as physical labour in raising plants for our main feature – quite a large simulated garden indoors. Many of the plants are already in containers too heavy for me to handle, so there are always new problems to be overcome.

My other project at the moment is the making of an audio-visual on Acacias. SGAP NSW is building up a library of these films so that they can be loaned out to Groups when they are unable to obtain a speaker. We already have several films on propagating, composting etc but this will be the first devoted entirely to one genus.

So as there's no news, I thought perhaps those members who do not have an overall picture of the genus Acacia as it occurs throughout Australia, might be interested to know something about this. So here we go.

The genus is, numerically, the largest in Australia, there being some 700 species already described and named. Acacias are found from Cape York to southern Tasmania and from the sand dunes of the east to the seacoast of the West. They grow on the banks of the Snowy River on the Alpine slopes of the Great Divide and on the fringes of the inland deserts. Some of the most beautiful thrive in the 10" and under rainfall areas.

The genus is divided into two main Groups, the Phyllodinaea which are confined entirely to Australia, and in a very few cases, to some of the adjacent islands; and the Bipinnatae, some of which are found in Australia and others in other continents. Only one species, however, is known to exist naturally in Australia and on other continents. This is *A. farnesiana* (details further on).

The Bipinnatae are sub-divided into 5 Series. Only three of these occur in Australia and so we will look briefly at these three.

BOTRYCEPHALAE. Included in this Series are *A. dealbata*, *A. baileyana*, *A. elata*, *A. decurrens*, *A. jonesii*, *A. mearnsii*, *A. parramattensis*, *A. pruinosa*, *A. spectabilis*, *A. glaucocarpa*, *A. polybotrya* as well as *A. botrycephala* and a number of others, totalling in all 31 species. All are large shrubs or trees, mostly with reasonably large pinnae and many pairs of pinnules; all have globular flowers in axillary racemes or terminal clusters and all are confined absolutely to the eastern half of the continent.

PULCHELLAE. This Series, on the other hand, with the exception of *A. mitchellii* which is found in NSW, Vic and SA, is entirely confined to the southwest of Western Australia.

Included in this Series are *A. pulchella*, *A. browniana*, *A. drewiana*, *A. megacephala*, *A. gilbertii*, *A. tayloriana*, *A. drummondii* and a number of others, totaling 24, but with their many "varieties" we have altogether 48 taxa in this Series. They are, for the most part, low growing shrubs, from .5 to 2 metres in height, there are one or two prostrate species and two only which come into the category of medium shrubs. These are *A. pentadenia* and *A. subracemosa*.

Most of the **PULCHELLAE** have small leaves with only one or two pairs of pinnae and few pinnules. The florescence can be a spike or globular. Flowers occur singly in the axils of the leaves or in very short reduced racemes. It can therefore be seen that the difference between the bipinnates of the east and the west is quite dramatic.

The third group of the BIPINNATAE which occurs in Australia is **GUMMIFERAE**, of which there are only four species in Australia. These are *A. bidwillii* (Q, WA), *A. suberosa* (WA), *A. pallida* (WA, NT, Q) and *A. farnesiana* (WA, NT, Q, NSW).

The distinguishing feature of these species is that, combined with their bipinnate leaves they have persistent spinescent stipules. Only *A. farnesiana* is widely known. Its spines are viciously pungent. This species also occurs in Asia, Africa, Europe and America, and according to J M Black it was first cultivated in the Farnese Garden at Rome in 1611 and is now widely used in the manufacture of perfumes.

And that brings us to the end of Lesson 1. If there's nothing else to talk about in next N/L I'll tell you something about the different species in the PHYLLODINEA.

A. purpureapetala

The father of our youngest member, John Cane, has successfully flowered *A. purpureapetala* in his glasshouse at Maffra, Victoria. I believe he now has one or two cuttings struck, so perhaps one day we will be able to have it in cultivation and growing in the ground!!

Inez Armitage