

**S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO. 20
SEPTEMBER 1975**

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I made some effort to get this out in August in order to save the extra postage, but was so tied up with the Annual Exhibition that I didn't have a hope.

MEMBERSHIP

The following new members have joined:-

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| Mrs P Dadswell, | 10 Duffield Street, Gawler, SA 5118 |
| Mr W R Archer | PO Box 30, Mt Martha, Vic 3934 |
| Mrs N Perry | PO Box 15, Narromine NSW 2821 |

Mr & Mrs Archer intend opening, or perhaps by now have opened a Native Plant Nursery at Mt Martha. Should be a good spot, on the Mornington Peninsula.

FINANCE

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| Balance as at Newsletter No. 19 | | \$52.55 | |
| Add: | subscriptions | \$6.00 | |
| | donations | <u>\$15.00</u> | <u>\$21.00</u> |
| | | | \$73.55 |
| Less: | Members' List | \$5.80 | |
| | Foolscap envelopes | \$1.00 | |
| | Postages | \$7.60 | |
| | Seeds purchased | \$5.70 | |
| | 1000 Seed envelopes | <u>\$10.00</u> | <u>\$30.10</u> |
| | | | \$43.45 |

Comment: The first lot of 1,000 seed envelopes I bought in 1971 cost \$2.20. This last lot \$10 – the same price I have just paid for ordinary letter envelopes. The donation of \$15 also needs some explanation. Last year, at the request of Brian Lacey, I was able to supply quite a lot of seed to Victorian SGAP for sale at Annual Exhibition. This year Brian made a similar request and at the same time offered us a donation, and as you see a very generous one has been received. Another good reason for sending in seed to the Seed Bank.

SEED LIST

| | <u>Additions:</u> | <u>Deletions:</u> |
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| <i>A. alata</i> | <i>A. leucoclada</i> ssp. <i>argentifolia</i> | <i>A. aulacocarpa</i> |
| <i>A. armittii</i> | <i>A. maitlandii</i> | <i>A. aculeatissima</i> (pros) |
| <i>A. cana</i> | <i>A. nigricans</i> | <i>A. gilbertii</i> |
| <i>A. crassicarpa</i> | <i>A. pyriformis</i> | <i>A. jonesii</i> |
| <i>A. cuneata</i> | <i>A. rossei</i> | <i>A. loxophylla</i> var. <i>nervosa</i> |
| <i>A. drummondii</i> (dwarf) | <i>A. shirleyi</i> | <i>A. pilligaensis</i> |
| <i>A. horridula</i> | <i>A. sibirica</i> | <i>A. pubescens</i> |
| <i>A. leioderma</i> | <i>A. tenuissima</i> | <i>A. randelliana</i> |
| | | <i>A. spathulata</i> |
| | | <i>A. tayloriana</i> |
| | | <i>A. urophylla</i> |
| | | <i>A. volubilis</i> |

Anyone who has had seed of *A. gilbertii* from me since January, 1972 please note that this is not *A. gilbertii* but *A. leioderma*.

SOWING OF SEED IN SAWDUST

I've mentioned a couple of times that Mr Currie has had considerable success sowing seed in sawdust. I haven't tried it with acacias yet but some time ago after four unsuccessful previous attempts with nil results, I got almost 100% germination with *Chorizema dicksonii*. In my case I think the reason was that I'm inclined to keep my seeds too wet – can't resist "looking after" them. With sawdust it's almost impossible to do this because there are too many air spaces between the sawdust particles. So if you're having poor germination results, try it.

GENERAL

It is more than 4 years since I took on leadership of ASG and apart from the fact that the seed bank has been increased from 90 species to about 260 I feel very little has been achieved.

As I have said more than once I feel that our main objective, as a Group, should be to try to discover some small compact acacias, adaptable and floriferous, which would be suitable for suburban gardens. To this end I have made every effort to procure seeds of this type of acacia, most of which are from the SW corner of WA. I have experimented with 300 species (all sizes – many small) myself. It is unfortunate that I live in a climate and with soil and drainage conditions unsuited to about 95% of the genus, so have been able to make very little contribution myself.

Seed of small species has always been difficult to obtain and now that K.P. will no longer supply the public, it is even more difficult. So I urge anyone who has any small species growing and flowering, to make a proper effort to collect seed; and anyone who has contacts with WA to pursue this matter. I also ask that all members try at least half a dozen small species every year.

HOMEWORK

It is some time since we had any reports, so will you please let me have a brief report on what you consider the three best (or more if you have them) acacias you have growing, say not more than 1.5 metre high which have flowered or are about to do so, including how and where you acquired the plant and whether you found it easy to establish; e.g. I have at the moment only one plant of *A. pulchella* doing very well, but I planted 6 and this is the only one surviving out of this batch. That kind of information should be included.

Several members have expressed approval of the first instalment of an overall description of the genus *Acacia*, but in response to many requests over the years for a brief description of species in the Seed List, I'm making a start on this now. Please understand that these descriptions are to be taken as VERY general, and are intended only to help you decide whether you would like to try the seed. Growth habit varies enormously with the habitat and it is quite impossible to give a brief description which is at the same time accurate and definitive. Plants in cultivation frequently grow entirely differently from those in the wild. At their best, almost ALL acacias are spectacular. What we have to do is to find those which will give spectacular results in cultivation. I apologise for reverting to non-metric measurements, just don't have time to cope with the conversions

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| <i>A. acinacea</i> SA, NSW, VIC | Shrub to 6ft. Short pointed phyllodes 5-20mm x 2-4mm. Very floriferous, deep yellow ball flowers. |
| <i>A. aculeatissima</i> NSW, VIC | Straggling shrub to 3ft. Short sharp spine-like phyllodes. Globular flowers medium yellow. |
| <i>A. acuminata</i> WA | Shrub/tree to 20ft. Lanceolate phyllodes 4-6", magnificent flowers deep yellow close spike. |
| <i>A. adunca</i> NSW | Beautiful small slender tree to 15ft. Linear phyllodes 2-4". Magnificent flowers, deep gold in racemes. |
| <i>A. amblygona</i> NSW, Q | Somewhat straggling shrub to 4ft. Short prickly pointed phyllodes. Medium yellow ball flowers. |
| <i>A. amoena</i> NSW, VIC, Q | Shrub to 7ft. Phyllodes about 1.5" long, rounded at end. Medium yellow ball flowers, in racemes. Coolish climes. |

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| <i>A. anceps</i> SA | Heavy coarse phyllodes, ovate to 5cm long. Large ball flowers on single peduncles. Eyre and York Peninsulas. |
| <i>A. aneura</i> | “Mulga”. Inland species. All states except Vic and Tas. Shrub/tree. Very variable foliage but usually long fine phyllodes silvery-grey, spike flowers, dense but only about 1". |
| <i>A. argyrophylla</i> SA, VIC | Leafy shrub to 6ft, phyllodes 2-4cm long, obovata, silky with silvery hairs. Ball flowers in racemes. |
| <i>A. armata</i> All states | Small lanceolate phyllodes to 1". Very sharp spines. Beautiful golden ball flowers on long peduncles singly. Usually shrub but can grow to tree. |
| <i>A. aspera</i> NSW, VIC | Spreading shrub 2-5ft. Resinous and rough. Phyllodes to 1". Often flowers at 18mths. Golden ball flowers singly. |
| <i>A. assimilis</i> SW WA | Shrub to 8ft. Needle-like phyllodes 3-4" long. Ball flowers singly in leaf axils. |
| <i>A. axillaris</i> TAS | Bushy shrub. Short sharp pointed phyllodes. Deep yellow spike flowers. |
| <i>A. acellerata</i> SW WA | Rigid shrub, sharp pointed phyllodes 1-1.75" long. Globular flowers on short peduncles. |
| <i>A. alata</i> WA | Shrub to 6ft with flat winged foliage, rather bright green. Ball flowers on single peduncles, usually deep rich yellow. |
| <i>A. armittii</i> Q, WA | Shrub/tree to 25ft, inland species, falcata foliage to 5" x 0.5", spike floescence. |
| <i>A. baileyana</i> NSW, VIC | Well known “Cootamundra” Wattle. |
| <i>A. baileyana var. purpurea</i> | As above but with distinctly purplish foliage. |
| <i>A. bauerlenii</i> NSW, Q | Somewhat spindly shrub. Broadly lanceolate phyllodes to 3" x .5". Large pale globular flowers in leaf axils, often pink at centre due to colour of petals or sepals. |
| <i>A. beauverdiana</i> WA | Similar to <i>A. acuminata</i> but with somewhat shorter phyllodes also with pronounced hook at end. Spike flowers. |
| <i>A. beckleri</i> NSW, SA | Sturdy inland shrub to 8ft. Thick broadly lanceolate phyllodes to 3.5" long, large deep gold ball flowers, racemes. |
| <i>A. bancroftii</i> Q | Shrub to 10ft. Tropical Qld. Lower phyllodes very large up to 8" long x 4" wide, with 2 distinct peaks on upper margin. Deep gold ball flowers in racemes. White/pale grey branches and trunk. |
| <i>A. bivenosa</i> WA | Leafy shrub to 9ft. Phyllodes oblanceolate to about 1.75" dull green. Flowers globular deep gold on flower stalks single or branched. |
| <i>A. blakelyi</i> WA | Many stemmed rounded shrub to 12ft. Lanceolate foliage to about 4" long. Flower buds in bracts. Deep gold ball flowers. |
| <i>A. boormanii</i> VIC, NSW | Shrub/small tree to 12 ft. Linear foliage to about 2" long. Magnificent floescence medium yellow fairly small flowers in racemes. Banks of Snowy River and similar habitats. |
| <i>A. botrycephala</i> | All Eastern States. Bipinnate foliage. Shrub/small tree. Open habit. Dark green pinnules about 0.5" long x 2.5mm wide. Large flowers in racemes usually pale yellow. Katoomba Form much shorter, shrubbier. Flowers deep or gold. |
| <i>A. brachybotrya</i> NSW, VIC, SA, Q | Shrub to 8ft; Low rainfall areas, short lanceolate phyllodes to 1" long. Deep gold flowers ball type on peduncles from leaf axils singly or up to 5 on short branched stalk. Spectacular in flower. |
| <i>A. brachystachya</i> | Inland species. All states except Vic and Tas. Somewhat similar to <i>A. aneura</i> . |
| <i>A. brevifolia</i> Q | Shrub/small tree to 12ft, phyllodes slightly falcate to about 2" long x 3/8" wide. Spike floescence. |
| <i>A. brownii</i> NSW, VIC | Shrub to 5ft. Short sharp spiny foliage. Large golden ball flowers borne singly. |
| <i>A. burkittii</i> NSW, SA | Inland species down to 7" rainfall. Terete foliage to 6" long. Spike floescence. |
| <i>A. burrowii</i> Q, NSW | Tree to 40ft, phyllodes to 3" long, narrow elliptical. Rather small spike flowers. |
| <i>A. buxifolia</i> NSW, SA, VIC | Bushy shrub to 8ft, short lanceolate to ovate foliage. Mass of golden ball flowers. |

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| <i>A. calamifolia</i> NSW, SA, VIC | Bushy shrub to 12ft. Rather bright green foliage, almost terete to 4" long. Globular flowers massed all down branches from leaf axils singly or several together. |
| <i>A. calyculata</i> Q | Shrub/small tree, falcate foliage to 2.5" long x .5" wide. Spike flowers almost white. |
| <i>A. cardiophylla</i> NSW | "Wyalong" wattle from SW of NSW. Shrub/tree, bipinnate tiny pinnules bright green. Excellent florescence, golden ball flowers in racemes, small in size but abundant. |
| <i>A. cana</i> NSW, Q | Shrub to 12ft. Long flat narrow phyllodes to 2" long. Globular flowers 1 to 3 from leaf axils. |
| <i>A. celastrifolia</i> WA | Shrub to 10ft, closely related to <i>A. myrtifolia</i> . Phyllodes somewhat similar in shape, stems red, flowers large and butter yellow in racemes. |
| <i>A. cheelii</i> NSW | Shrub/tree to 40ft, large falcate phyllodes prominently veined, branchlets flat. Flowers in large spikes in 2s and 3s. |
| <i>A. chisholmii</i> NT, Q | Inland species. Shrub to about 5ft. Short narrow linear phyllodes, viscous. Spike flowers, close, brilliant yellow. |
| <i>A. cochlearis</i> WA | Stiff erect shrub, spiny curved phyllodes. Ball flowers singly in leaf axils. |
| <i>A. cognata</i> NSW, VIC | Small tree with very fine foliage almost terete to about 3.5" long. Globular flowers borne singly or several in leaf axils. Dainty overall effect. Another completely different species with the same name occurs in WA. One will eventually be renamed. |
| <i>A. colletioides</i> WA | Very spiny prickly shrub to about 8ft. Massive florescence ball flowers borne singly or in pairs in leaf axils. |
| <i>A. complanata</i> Q | Solid shrub to about 8ft with flattened stems, somewhat zig-zag. Dark green phyllodes, broadly lanceolate. Ball flowers large and deep yellow. Highly recommended by Qld nurseryman, David Hanger. |
| <i>A. conferta</i> NSW, Q | Shrubby to small tree. Phyllodes short, narrow and closely crowded around stems. Brilliant florescence large deep gold flowers on single peduncles. |
| <i>A. confluens</i> NT | Shrub/tree. Flowers in racemes. Requires checking. Will advise next Newsletter. |
| <i>A. continua</i> NSW, SA, VIC | Inland shrub 2-3 ft. Spiky foliage curving in continuity with stem. Rich golden flowers in balls singly in axils. Wonderful florescence. |
| <i>A. coolgardiensis</i> SW WA | Shrub/tree to 25ft. Fine terete foliage to 6". Deep gold spike flowers. |
| <i>A. coriacea</i> NSW, NT, Q, WA | Inland species. Thick phyllodes 6-7" long x .25" wide. Grey-green. Single ball flowers sometimes red at centre due to colour of petals or sepals. |
| <i>A. cowleana</i> NT, Q | Inland shrub to 12ft, with falcate phyllodes to 4" x .75". Spike florescence. |
| <i>A. crassicarpa</i> Q | Tree to 25ft, well rounded and canopied. Falcate foliage. Spike flowers. |
| <i>A. crassiuscula</i> WA | Shrub/small tree. Almost terete foliage to 3" long. Ball flowers in loose racemes. Usually pale yellow. Very attractive and adaptable. Sometimes slightly weeping. |
| <i>A. cultriformis</i> NSW, Q | Spreading shrub to 12ft. Small roughly triangular phyllodes, grey-green. Excellent florescence in deep gold racemes. |
| <i>A. cuneata</i> WA | Shrub 3-4ft. Sand dunes as well as other coastal habitats in SW WA. Phyllodes cuneate. Ball flowers single stalks. |
| <i>A. cunninghamii</i> NSW, NT, Q | Shrub/small tree, falcate foliage, spike florescence. Inland species now divided into <i>A. concurrens</i> , <i>A. crassa</i> , <i>A. leiocalyx</i> and <i>A. longispicata</i> . These species are so similar that only a botanist can identify them. |
| <i>A. cuthbertsonii</i> NT, WA | Upright shrub to 12ft. Narrow lanceolate greyish phyllodes. Spike flowers. Inland species. |
| <i>A. cyclophylla</i> SA | Shrub to 8ft. Roundish phyllodes, small and softly hairy. Round flowers on single or twin peduncles. Good florescence very graceful. Similar to <i>A. rotundifolia</i> with similar spiral seedpods. |
| <i>A. cyclops</i> SA, WA | Heavy shrub to 10ft. Large broadly lanceolate phyllodes, thick and heavy, to about 2" long. Ball flowers singly. Not madly attractive but will stand strong winds and salt spray in its own habitat. Results elsewhere unknown. Has anyone any further information? |

- A. cyperophylla***
NSW, NT, Q, SA, WA
- Inland species. "Red Mulga". Has red curling bark known as "Minnie Ritchie". Tall shrub, phyllodes almost terete, pungent pointed to 8" long. Spike florescence.
- A. dawsonii***
NSW, Q, VIC
- Shrub/small tree, lanceolate phyllodes to 4". Very small flowers on very short peduncles, a dozen or so on a 2" rachis.
- A. dealbata***
NSW, TAS, VIC
- "Silver Wattle". Tree to 40ft. Bipinnate bluish-grey foliage. Widespread. Good florescence deep yellow ball flowers in racemes. Pinnules short, close, not unlike *A. baileyana*.
- A. deanei***
NSW, Q, VIC
- Tree to 15ft. Bipinnate foliage light green, young tips yellowish. Pinnae and pinnules longer than those preceding.
- A. deanei ssp. paucijuga***
NSW, Q, VIC
- Very similar to above but pinnules almost twice as long. Has a more southerly distribution.
- A. decora***
NSW, Q, VIC
- Shrub to 6ft. Inland species. Pale green phyllodes lanceolate to 1.5" long. Branchlets usually yellow. Masses of golden ball flowers in short racemes.
- A. decurrens***
NSW, Q, TAS, VIC
- Tree to 40ft. Bipinnate, deep green. Pinnae and pinnules larger than in *A. deanei* and pinnules much more widely spaced. Tremendous florescence in golden racemes.
- A. dentifera***
WA
- Shrub to 5ft. Long very narrow phyllodes to 8". Flowers short racemes.
- A. dictyophleba***
NT, Q, WA
- Inland species. Spreading shrub, very viscous. Foliage getting towards olive-green. Globular flowers, medium size in leaf axils.
- A. dietrichiana***
Q
- Shrub to 10ft. Long slender phyllodes to 8". Smallish flowers in pairs or singly in leaf axils.
- A. difformis***
NSW, VIC
- Shrub/small tree. Lanceolate phyllodes to 4". Florescence and general appearance not unlike *A. retinodes*.
- A. dodonaeifolia***
SA
- Shrub to 10ft. Lanceolate foliage to 2". Large ball flowers single from leaf axils somewhat sparsely distributed.

Compilation of this Newsletter has taken several days. "Homework" should take you half an hour. Please do something about it. If you haven't any small acacias yourself, let's hear about some you have seen elsewhere which would be good garden subjects.

Inez Armitage