

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO. 21
JANUARY 1976

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A bit late, perhaps, but HAPPY NEW YEAR. And let's hope that Fraser & Co. will have more success in running Australia than their predecessors did.

MEMBERSHIP

Three new members have joined. They are:

Mr A Burnell, 86 Bamfield Street, Sandringham, Vic 3191
Mr P Shooter, 21 Sixth Street, Leigh Creek, SA 5731
Mrs Lyn Perry, Floralands, Kariong, via Gosford, NSW 2250

Mr Marriott has left Seaford and gone bush. His address is now 17 Tuson Street, Ararat, Vic 3377.

Graeme Lees has also gone semi-bush. His address now is 26 Dawn Crescent, Mount Riverview, NSW 2774.

New members' list will be distributed May Newsletter.

FINANCE

Balance as at Newsletter No. 20			\$43.45
Add:	subscriptions	\$5.00	
	donations	<u>\$10.00</u>	<u>\$15.00</u>
			\$58.45
Less:	Seed purchased	\$1.20	
	Envelopes	\$1.00	
	Postages	<u>\$19.02</u>	<u>\$21.22</u>
New Balance			\$37.23

If you are mathematically minded you will see that postage is more than the cost of posting newsletters. The reason for this is that I used to pay all other postages in connection with the Group myself but I now charge up some of the postage incurred in the general business of running the Group, such as acquiring seed etc. The generous donation is from Mr Kurchian, our one member in the USA. This is not the first time he has donated funds to the Group. Mr Kurchian, by the way, does a lot better than some of us here, despite the fact that his plants all have to spend their winters in his greenhouse. He has sent me some very interesting photos.

Reverting to finances, by the time the expenses of this Newsletter and seedlist have been paid there won't be much left in kitty so it's time for another dollar please. Why not send stamps or a dollar note – it hardly seems worthwhile writing a cheque or getting a postal note. A number of members have paid in advance so need to send money unless a red tick appears here. Please don't renew your subscription unless you are prepared to keep the elementary records asked for and to reply to requests for information. Members whose subs have not been received by April 30 will be assumed to have resigned from the Group.

SEED LIST

New Seed List enclosed. Please destroy the old one.

IMPORTANT: Please note the following corrections. If you have had seed of *A. lycopodiifolia* this should be *A. spondylophylla*; seed issued as *A. drewiana* should be *A. lateriticola*; seed listed as *A. cunninghamii* has been identified now as *A. crassa*. (See Newsletter No. 20).

NAME CHANGE

Acacia botrycephala has been changed to *A. terminalis*. This is more than usually confusing because *A. terminalis* is the old name for what is now *A. elata*.

SMALL ACACIAS

Well I can't complain about lack of response this time. Lots of letters and lots of information. Thank you very much. Most of the old favourites are still top of the charts but a few new names are cropping up. Those more frequently named as easy to grow, reasonably long-lived and spectacular in flower are: *A. acinacea* and *A. acinacea* prostrate, *A. drummondii* dwarf (Mr Marriott, 12" - 15" already flowered extremely well 2 years; Ross Macdonald "can't see the leaves for the flowers"), *A. glandulicarpa*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. pulchella*.

Mr Marriott reports that *A. shuttleworthii* (15" - 2'6") has flowered profusely twice already. Ross Macdonald is impressed with it and I also have this and consider it an excellent garden subject. Phyllodes are light green, hairy and undulating, small with sharp spines and a very attractive appearance. Flowers are large and deep yellow. It has two flowering seasons per annum.

A. montana gets a special mention from Vic Jacobs and Joy Cook. Vic Jacobs also mentions *A. cochlearis* which he has growing on a dry bank and which has remained prostrate. This is another prickly customer with very sharp pointed phyllodes. I saw a lot of this in WA where it is usually a low shrub from 2 ft to 5 ft.

A. lanigera is another excellent subject, although it frequently attains more than 5 ft.

Many members have tried *A. continua* without any real or permanent success.

Joy Cook was the only person to mention *A. lineata*. I put in half a dozen of these a few months ago and they look really good. From what I've seen of this I feel that it has good potential. Can anyone else comment?

Other extremely desirable species successfully grown by Ross Macdonald are *A. plicata*, *A. multispicata*, *A. rheticarpa*, *A. cuneata*, *A. sedifolia*. This last was covered in bud and measured 10cm x 10cm.

Another beautiful species belonging to the Group Pulchellae and grown with considerable success by Alan Lacey, Brian Lacey and myself is *A. lateriticola*.

At last we have seed, in limited quantities, of quite a number of the small species. These are the ones I would like to see tried by everyone who thinks they can grow an Acacia! As you know

seed is extremely difficult to obtain and we may not have it again, so please don't apply unless you intend to care for it properly and keep proper records.

From the Group Pulchellae we have available *A. drummondii* ssp. *elegans*. This is the one I've been supplying for years as plain *A. drummondii*. Also *A. lateriticola*, *A. leioderma*, *A. luteola*, *A. nigricans*, *A. pulchella*.

Other small species include *A. hilliana*, *A. imbricata*, *A. lineata*, *A. teretifolia*, *A. montana*, *A. lanigera*, *A. aspera* and *A. brunioides* ssp. *gordonii*. This last is hardly known in cultivation. It has a limited distribution in parts of the Blue Mountains, belongs to the Group Brunioidea which contains the species with whorled foliage such as *A. conferta*. Foliage in *A. brunioides* ssp. *gordonii* is darkish green, about 12 cm long, closely packed on the branchlets. Flowers are very large single heads, deep gold, usual height about 1 to 1.5m. Rather slow to start with, excellent garden subject.

ACACIAS FROM CUTTINGS

Ross Macdonald and Bill Cane of Maffra, Vic both report a high success rate with Acacias from cuttings. Amongst those struck are *A. acinacea*, *A. alata*, *A. baileyana*, *A. boormanii*, *A. drummondii* and the dwarf form, *A. lasiocarpa*, *A. leioderma*, *A. megacephala*, *A. plicata*, *A. sulcata*, *A. urophylla*. No doubt it is preferable, where possible and practicable, to strike cuttings from a particularly good form of a particular species rather than risk seed which may be from a good form or a poor one. I've had many a disappointment, waiting for something to flower for a couple of years only to find that when it does so the florescence is half the size I expected or the wrong colour!

HOMEWORK

A very small assignment this time. Please let me know what results you have had with the following seed supplied by me: *A. acinacea* prostrate, *A. amblygona* prostrate, *A. aspera*, *A. brownii*, *A. complanata*.

ACACIA PURPUREAPETALA

I have awarded to Ann Banks the A.S.G. "Order of Outstanding Success". She has successfully grown and flowered *A. purpureapetala* in her garden in Brisbane. Congratulations Ann!

I sent specimens and seed to Kew Gardens in England when I collected these in June 1973. They asked me to keep them advised of results here, which I have done. I heard from them a few weeks ago that none of their seed germinated. Average germination here has been about 60%.

NEW BOOK ON ACACIAS

A second booklet on Acacias has been compiled by our member, Betty Chandler, entitled "Two Hundred Wattles for Gardens". It is published by the David G Stead Memorial Foundation, Box 4840, GPO Sydney, 2001 and it is available at \$2.20 plus 40 cents postage.

DESCRIPTIONS

Following on from the last Newsletter, here are some more descriptions:

- A. axillaris* (N/L 20) Correction from Mrs Simmons. This species has lemon yellow flowers.
- A. caesiella* Shrub/small tree. Phyllodes linear-lanceolate, somewhat glaucous, NSW 2-6cm long. Medium yellow, smallish flowers in racemes.
- A. curvinervia* Beautiful shrub/small tree. Broad falcate phyllodes 4-5cm long. Q Very showy spike florescence, deep yellow.
- A. doratoxylon* Inland species. Small-medium tree, long falcate phyllodes, spike NSW, VIC, SA, WA flowers, deep yellow, magnificent in bloom.
- A. doratoxylon* v. *angustifolia* As above but with narrower phyllodes. NSW, Q
- A. drummondii* This species has been completely revised. As mentioned earlier, WA the seed I have been supplying as *A. drummondii* is ssp. *elegans*. What we used to know as *A. drummondii* major has become ssp. *candolleana*. The variety we know as 'minor' is not a recognized variety and is therefore not designated in the Revision. The description for the first two is: Shrub to 5ft, small bipinnate foliage, magnificent spike flowers, deep lemon yellow/deep golden yellow. For the dwarf or minor variety: Same description but smaller in form as well as habit.
- A. duriuscula* Low scrambling, dense shrub 0.75 – 1.00m x anything up to 4m WA wide. Attractive glaucous phyllodes about 20mm long, very obtuse. Deep yellow flowers in short racemes.
- A. echinula* Shrub, usually 1-1.5m, short spiky phyllodes, deep golden yellow NSW, Q flowers singly, very large.
- A. elata* Beautiful ornamental tree with very large bipinnate foliage. VIC, NSW Flowers large, deep creamy yellow in racemes.
- A. elongata* Known as one of the 'Swamp Wattles' but very adaptable as it NSW grows in many other situations. Slender shrub, vivid green, long slender phyllodes. Wonderful florescence. Large golden flowers from leaf axils from top to bottom on long branches.
- A. enterocarpa* Known as 'Jumping Jack' because the seed pods crinkle up like this VIC, SA firecracker. Very prickly spiky phyllodes about 20mm long. Good florescence. Deep yellow single ball flowers.
- A. estrophiolata* One of the most beautiful IF NOT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL of NT Central Australian trees with wonderful form and fine soft pendulous foliage. Deep yellow flowers on single or twin peduncles.
- A. euthycarpa* Large shrub, terete foliage about 8cm long, sometimes pendulous. SA Medium yellow flowers singly from leaf axils, somewhat similar to *A. calamifolia*.
- A. extensa* Slender open shrub with very fine bright green almost terete WA foliage. Medium large bright yellow flowers singly or in pairs. Good garden subject.
- A. falcata* Slender shrub/small tree, falcate foliage, pale creamy yellow NSW, Q flowers in racemes. Not spectacular.

<i>A. falciformis</i> NSW, VIC	Small/medium tree, beautiful form and broad falcate foliage. Medium yellow flowers in racemes.
<i>A. farinosa</i> SA, NSW	Low shrub with hoary branches and short, almost spatulate curved phyllodes. Deep yellow flowers in very showy florescences from leaf axils.
<i>A. farnesiana</i> SA, NSW, WA, Q, NT	Inland species. Spreading entangled shrub with bipinnate foliage, 2 long spiny stipules from each leaf axil and large single or twin dark yellow flower heads.
<i>A. fauntleroyi</i> WA	Shrub to 3m. Long narrow phyllodes, greyish green. Short spike flowers medium yellow.
<i>A. fimbriata</i> NSW, Q	Bushy shrub or small tree. Small narrow lanceolate phyllodes. Flowers small, brilliant yellow in racemes. Tremendous florescence.
<i>A. fimbriata</i> v. <i>perangusta</i> Q	As above but phyllodes narrower and longer. Habit weeping. Flowers pale to deep yellow.
<i>A. flavescens</i> Q	Shrub/small tree with very large rather floppy very broad falcate foliage. Medium size pale flowers in racemes.
<i>A. flexifolia</i> VIC, NSW, Q	Small shrub. Short thin grey phyllodes with a kink at the bottom. Very small deep yellow flowers not spectacular.
<i>A. flocktoniae</i> NSW	Slender shrub. Somewhat weak pendulous habit. Phyllodes linear 6-10cm long. Flowers bright yellow in racemes.
<i>A. floribunda</i> NSW, VIC, Q	Small/medium spreading tree. Lanceolate phyllodes somewhat pendulous, especially when weighed down with its enormous florescence. Flower in spikes, pale or deep yellow.
<i>A. genistifolia</i> NSW, VIC, TAS	(Formerly <i>A. diffusa</i>). One of the small shrubs with sharp spiky foliage. Single ball flowers pale to deep yellow.
<i>A. gillii</i> SA	Medium shrub. Lanceolate foliage. Florescence deep yellow in racemes. Can be excellent. Similar to <i>A. retinodes</i> .
<i>A. gladiiformis</i> NSW, SA	Inland species. Bushy shrub with strong thick shiny phyllodes, broad lanceolate-falcate. Very large flowers deep yellow on strong thick peduncles in racemes.
<i>A. glandulicarpa</i> VIC	Small compact bushy shrub 1-1.5m with very short thick wavy phyllodes. Very small but numerous deep gold flowers. Spectacular in bloom.
<i>A. glaucescens</i> NSW	One of our most beautiful medium trees with broadly falcate foliage, velvety grey-green. Massive florescence in pale lemon-yellow spikes.
<i>A. glaucoptera</i> WA	One of the Acacia “oddities” with flat winged foliage; young phyllodes red as in some eucalypts. Quite large single ball flowers appear to spring directly from the flat phyllodes. Spectacular and difficult.
<i>A. gnidium</i> NSW, Q	Small tree. Phyllodes linear 3-5cm long. Flowers medium yellow, singly or in pairs. Not one of the most interesting species.
<i>A. gonoclada</i> NT, Q	Inland shrub. One of the many northern species characterised by reasonably long falcate foliage and spike flowers. Difficult in southern states.
<i>A. gonophylla</i> WA	Small straggling shrub with short narrow phyllodes and cream to light yellow flowers, rather sparse.

- A. gracilifolia***
SA
Medium bushy shrub with very fine long foliage and deep yellow spike florescence. Excellent garden subject; hardy and adaptable, very attractive even when not in flower.
- A. graffiana***
WA
Medium shrub/small tree, with lanceolate foliage 5-10cm long. Deep gold flowers in short racemes clustered all way up the branches.
- A. gunnii***
NSW, SA, Q, TAS, VIC
(Formerly *A. vomeriformis*) This little treasure is very unadaptable. Usually found in light forest at higher altitudes. It has small sharply pointed triangular phyllodes and deep yellow single flowers. Very difficult in cultivation.
- A. hakeoides***
SA, WA, Q, NSW
Inland species. Tall shrub/small tree. Phyllodes roughly lanceolate but obtuse, 5-12cm long. Flowers deep yellow in racemes. Very showy in flower. Fairly adaptable.
- A. hammondii***
NT, Q
Tropical species. Large shrub with lanceolate phyllodes 6-8cm. Deep yellow spike flowers.
- A. harpophylla***
NSW, Q
'Brigalow'. Medium tree covering hundreds of square miles in north NSW and south Queensland. Silver grey lanceolate-falcate foliage. Flowers medium yellow, in racemes. A glorious sight when tossed by the wind on a sunny day, the phyllodes appearing silver-grey on one side and darker green on the other.
- A. havilandii***
SA, VIC, NSW
An attractive inland shrub with long terete blue-grey foliage and large flowers singly or in clusters which show up particularly well against the slender foliage. Similar to *A. rigens*.
- A. hemignosta***
WA, NT, Q
Beautiful small tree from the tropical north. Phyllodes broad lanceolate, glaucous. Flowers in medium yellow racemes. A magnificent sight against the red earth in which it usually grows.

That's all for now. More next time.

Inez Armitage