

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO. 23
SEPTEMBER 1976

Mrs I B Armitage
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Many members will know that three years ago I wanted to resign from the leadership of the Acacia Study Group but said that I would carry on until someone else could be found. No one else has been found but the time has come when I can no longer spend time attending to Acacia Study Group business so this will be my last Newsletter. There will also be no access to the seed bank until a new leader is appointed. I am very sorry about this and particularly apologise to recently joined members.

Do please consider whether you could take on this job which is very interesting and very rewarding. Experience is not necessary, neither is a knowledge of Acacias. I had neither five years ago. All you need is enthusiasm and a great love for the genus. Knowledge and experience are quickly gained.

MEMBERSHIP

Seven new members have joined. They are:

John Arnold, PO Box 89, Armidale, NSW 2350
Mrs P A Buick, 27 Cecil Street, Gordon, NSW 2072
Mr & Mrs K B Douglass, 4 Patricia Avenue, Charlestown, NSW 2290
Mr & Mrs John Lee, 76 The Bulwark, Castlecrag, NSW 2068
Mrs S Olson, 19 Sagars Road, Kenthurst NSW 2154
Mrs G Parker, 7 Blackbutts Road, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086
Errol Thurston, 105 Harcourt Parade, Rosebery, South Sydney, NSW 2018

Two old members have rejoined:

Mrs V Hull, 21 Evelyn Street, Frankston, Victoria 3199
Trevor Blake, 12 Little John Court, Vermont, Victoria 3133

FINANCE

Balance as at Newsletter No. 22			\$50.91
Add:	subscriptions	\$14.00	
	donations	<u>\$4.00</u>	<u>\$18.00</u>
			\$68.91
Less:	Members' List	\$5.00	
	Envelopes	\$1.20	
	Postages	<u>\$14.18</u>	<u>\$20.38</u>
			\$48.53

NSW Region has asked me to tell members that it thinks we should pay for the cost of our Newsletters in future. This means that your subscription will probably be \$2 per annum, possibly more. No subscription is due now and please don't send any. When the cost of this

Newsletter has been paid for, plus postage and envelopes, there will be a balance of \$10 - \$12 to hand over to the new Leader.

SEED LIST

Additions:

A. aneura
A. restiacea
A. tumida

Deletions:

A. brunioides ssp gordonii
A. longispicata
A. luteola
A. pendula
A. quadrilateralis

Many thanks to Mesdames Perkins and Dadswell and to Gary Phillips and Trevor Blake for their contributions.

Anyone who has had seed of *A. quadrilateralis* from me since January 1974 please note this should be *A. juncifolia*.

I was able to offer a good selection of surplus seed to all States a couple of months ago. SA and Queensland accepted the offer with kind words, the others did not even acknowledge it.

Seed of many species is getting low so please remember to collect during the coming season. The following common ones are in short supply:

<i>A. aculeatissima</i> prost.	<i>A. deanei</i> var <i>paucijuga</i>	<i>A. pendula</i>
<i>A. amblygona</i>	<i>A. deanei</i> var <i>deanei</i>	<i>A. prominens</i>
<i>A. armata</i>	<i>A. doratoxylon</i>	<i>A. rotundifolia</i>
<i>A. boormanii</i>	<i>A. longifolia</i>	<i>A. verticillata</i>
<i>A. brownii</i>	<i>A. glandulicarpa</i>	<i>A. vestita</i>

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

A very long and very informative letter came from Trevor Blake who has recently spent several months in WA and inland Australia where he was particularly struck with *A. merinthophora* which I described earlier, *A. nigripilosa*, *A. dictyophleba*, *A. cambagei* (one of two species known as Gidgee), *A. inophloia* which has the red curling bark known as "Minnie Ritchie" and *A. stenophylla*. So far most of these have not adapted to other environments.

Trevor also reported that the following are thriving in Victoria, either at the Coburg State College or at his home:

<u>In clay soil:</u>	<i>A. beckleri</i>	<i>A. iteaphylla</i>	<u>In sandy soil:</u>	<i>A. ericifolia</i>
	<i>A. boormanii</i>	<i>A. spectabilis</i>		<i>A. ramosissima</i>
	<i>A. buxifolia</i>	<i>A. trigonophylla</i>		
	<i>A. ericifolia</i>			

Betty Chandler tells me that the *A. denticulosa* at Wirrimbirra is doing marvellously well. I have seen the one at Stony Range and that, too, is a breathtaking sight. Phyllodes are difficult to describe. They are thick and leathery, very broadly ovate or almost round, with denticulate margins and covered with tubercular protruberances like barnacles on a rock. The flower is a thick dense spike of deepest golden yellow, a good 2.5 inches long and held stiffly erect.

Betty also gives a great write-up of *A. loxophylla* var. *nervosa* and *A. biflora*, both low shrubs from WA. She has recommended them so many times they must be really outstanding. I've only seen rather indifferent specimens myself but must take Betty's word for it that they can be magnificent.

During September I had the chance to visit Burrendong Arboretum where the Acacias were out in all their glory. Some of the most outstanding: *A. burrowii*, *A. prominens*, the weeping form of *A. pycnantha*, *A. semirigida*, *A. barringtonensis*, *A. inophloia*, *A. cuneata* and the prostrate form of *A. spectabilis*. Old timers may remember that I raised 4 out of 5 seeds given to me in 1972. Two of these plants I gave to Burrendong and there they were, flowering for the first time. As far as I know the only other plants of this are one at Canberra Botanic Gardens in a large pot, and another, also in a large pot, grown and owned by Graeme Lees. I, myself, have two from a second sowing.

Much progress has been made at Burrendong since I last wrote about the Arboretum in the spring of 1972 and, of course, many other genera are thriving. In particular, the Hakeas were outstanding and two plants of *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* sagging under the weight of their many enormous flower buds. The same small band of dedicated workers still performs a prodigious amount of work each year and deserves the support of every one of us. You can help by joining the Burrendong Arboretum Association. I usually pay several years' subs at a time and when I last paid it was \$2.50 per annum. It may be more now but write to the Treasurer, Mr J Fraser, "Mahruda", Baker's Swamp, NSW, 2742.

CORRECTION

I've come to the conclusion that not too many members read my descriptions because I am sure that many know what *A. longispicata* looks like and that it is not a WA species as described by me in the last Newsletter, but no-one wrote to correct the error. Actually I had in mind *A. multispicata* which does come from WA and does have short needle-like phyllodes and a tremendous florescence in spike flowers.

A. longispicata is a Queensland species, typical of many which occur in the north. It has rather long falcate phyllodes up to about 2.5cm wide, with several parallel veins and a spike florescence which is rather long, not very thick and inclined to be droopy.

And that's all for now.

Inez Armitage

PS I will even guarantee to carry on with descriptions until those in Seed List are completed if the new leader would like to have this done.