

**S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP**  
**NEWSLETTER NO. 3**  
**SEPTEMBER 1968**

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Welcome to four newcomers to the Group.

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| 1. <b>Mr G W Althofer</b><br>Box 5<br>Dripstone<br>NSW 2742    | 3. <b>Mr John Meredith</b><br>7 Agar Steps<br>Millers Point<br>NSW 2000           |
| 2. <b>Mr K D Fairey</b><br>Box 1176, GPO<br>Sydney<br>NSW 2001 | 4. <b>Mr Des Nelson</b><br>PO Box 371<br>Alice Springs<br>Northern Territory 5750 |

Counting the above new members there are now 24 people in the Acacia Group. As the interest of the public is aroused further, I am certain the Group membership will continue to grow.

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*Acacia ausfeldii* Regel, was first brought to my notice in a recent article by Mr W Perry of Eaglehawk, Victoria, in the "Victorian Naturalist". Below are some notes supplied by Mr Perry on this rare species:-

"To the present, I understand the Melbourne Herbarium has listed it from the Whipstick and Spring Gully (near Bendigo) areas only. Both these localities are on the Bendigo gold-field auriferous country consisting of Lower Ordovician rocks. In the Whipstick, *A. ausfeldii* is found mostly along alluvial gullies and flats, occasionally on low hills. It is usually a shrub up to 10 feet high, but I have, on a number of occasions, noticed small trees 12-15 feet high, with trunks 3-4 inches in diameter".

The specimen of this species which was sent to me by the above author, is now housed in the Sydney Herbarium. Phyllodes are 2-4 inches long having a viscid appearance. It flowers in Spring, with golden globular flower heads.

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Further notes by Des Nelson of Alice Springs:-

"You mentioned Charlotte Waters as another locality for *A. peuce* in the NT, and this is of course correct. This is just below Andando Station, both places being on the edge of the Simpson Desert.

There is a thin scattered belt of these trees, from the Northern parts of Andando, down to Charlotte Waters, almost on the South Australian border. The timber is very hard and durable, and I fear some of these rare trees may have been lost to the axes of old time yard builders. They were listed as one of the World's plant species, rare, or in danger, of extinction, by one of the branches of United Nations.

*Acacia calcicola* resembles Gidyea, *A. georginae* and it is interesting that *A. calcicola* is found mainly South and West of Alice Springs, while *A. georginae* is most common East and North of Alice Springs.

*Acacia cowleana*, usually a shrub about 8 feet high, with large curved flat phyllodes, and bright yellow flowers. It grows close to Alice Springs in such places as Standley Chasm, but is more common in the frost-free areas, about 300 miles NE of Alice Springs, and in parts of the Barkly Tableland.

*A. georginae*, "Gidyea". I wrote about previously, but this time I would like to add a few more notes. It is possibly the most drought resistant species locally. In the middle and at the end of our terrible 8 year drought, Gidyea stayed as green as if enjoying good seasons. It has a massive root system."

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Mrs McHaffie in a recent letter, reports the following pests have attacked her natives. Three paragraphs are reproduced for the benefit of members.

“In your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> of May, you mentioned natives being attacked by white scale. We have had a lot of trouble from this pest, but only some plants are affected, whereas it never seems to attack other species. The Tea-trees are particularly vulnerable, especially the hybrid varieties, and both *Eriostemon myoporoides* and *Melaleuca hypericifolia* are not looking their best, following attacks last year, although we have sprayed with white oil. You mention a *Boronia denticulata* had been killed by it.

So far, we find the only pest attacking the Acacias is the borer. We have a lot of trouble with it, as I think, do most people growing Acacias. When we find the trouble early enough, we seem to be able to check it by using the following method, suggested to us by the Biology Section of the Burnley Horticultural College, Victoria, on 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1965. “Scrape away sawdust until hole is exposed. Obtain plastic syringe from a doctor, or use a spray so closely that fluid will penetrate hole – inject Lindane at twice normal strength for garden use, inject into tree until liquid runs out of hole. Lindane is better than DDT sprays because it acts as a fumigator. Afterwards plug hole with grafting wax (or plasticine will do). I expect you know about this treatment but there may be members who do not. We find it quite effective, but unfortunately outbreaks will occur again, and if unnoticed, a tree can be debilitated in a very short space of time.

The only other pest which attacks our Acacias is the gall-wasp, but except for being unsightly and spoiling the blossoms, it does not do much damage. So far we have only noticed it attacking *A. baileyana*.”

I hope to comment further on insect attacks and how to combat them in the next issue. It will be seen that various materials are used to combat the various stages of the insect's life cycle, the time of the year is also important.

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Would all members please forward a list of Acacias which they are growing in their gardens, and comment on whether easy to grow or not. Please give soil type if known.

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The following two books are recommended to members:-

**1. Australian Wattles** by Barbara Mullins (text), Douglas Baglin (colour transparencies)

Published by Horwitz Publications Inc Pty Ltd, 2-4 Denison St, North Sydney (1968)

A delightful book, giving wide coverage of wattles found throughout Australia. The transparencies are on the whole, magnificent, giving one a general idea what can be expected of the plant. It should be available from most bookshops.

**2. The Wattles of the Australian Capital Territory**, by Nancy T Burbidge

Revised edition 1967, published by Verity Hewitt Pty Ltd, PO Box 157, Canberra City, ACT

Another excellent book, giving a key to the Wattles found in that region, with excellent line drawings and localities where various species can be found. Thirteen black and white photographs are also included. This publication is not generally available from bookshops.

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**References to New Combinations & Species in Acacia, named after 1950**

*Acacia flavopila* A S George

Syn. *A. aurea* C. A. Gardner in Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia, Vol. 74, p.174 (1942) non *Noronha ex Hoen. et De Vr. Tijdschr. II, 1844:216. W.A.*

“Three New Western Australian Plants & some Name Changes”, by A.S.George, pp 28-32, Vol. 10, No. 2, Feb. 22, 1966.

The West Australian Naturalist.

*Acacia parramattensis* M.D.Tindale

“A new species of the *A. decurrens* Group from New South Wales”, by Mary D. Tindale, pp127-128, Vol. 3, No. 3, (1962) NSW

Contributions from the NSW National Herbarium, also given in the last issue from another book.

*Acacia calcicola* Forde et Ising

“A new species of Importance to the Ecology of the Australian Arid Zone”, by N. Forde & E. Ising, pp 153-160, Vol. 81 (1958) NSW, SA, N. Territory.

Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia.

*Acacia mountfordiae* Specht

“Records of the American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land, Botany & Plant Ecology”, by R. L. Specht & C. P. Mountford, NT pp233-235, Aug. 1958

*Acacia yirrkallensis* Specht

“Records of the American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land, Botany & Plant Ecology”, by R. L. Specht & C. P. Mountford, NT p232 (1958)

*Acacia nano-dealbata* J. H. Willis

“Vascular Flora of Victoria & South Australia”, by J. H. Willis  
pp 154-155, Vol. 73, No. 10 (Feb. 1957) Vic. in Victorian Naturalist

*Acacia grayana* J. H. Willis

“Vascular Flora of Victoria & South Australia”, by J. H. Willis  
pp 155-156, Vol. 73, No. 10 (Feb. 1957) Vic. in Victorian Naturalist

*Acacia montana* Benth. var. *psilocarpa* J. H. Willis

“Vascular Flora of Victoria & South Australia”, from the Victorian Naturalist, by J. H. Willis p. 156, Vol. 73, No. 10 (Feb. 1957) Vic.

*Acacia hakeoides* A. Cunn. ex Benth. var. *angustifolia* (A. J. Ewart) J. H. Willis

Syn. *A. ligulata* A. Cunn. ex Benth. var. *angustifolia* Ewart, in Flora Victoria 544 (1930)

“Vascular Flora of Victoria & South Australia”, from the Victorian Naturalist, by J. H. Willis, pp 156-157, Vol. 73, No. 10 (Feb. 1957) Vic.

*Acacia frigescens* J. H. Willis

“Vascular Flora of Victoria & South Australia”, from the Victorian Naturalist by J. H. Willis, pp 158-159, Vol. 73, No. 10 (Feb. 1957) Vic.

*Acacia silvestris* M. D. Tindale

“Notes on two species of Acacia in Eastern Australia”, from the Victorian Naturalist by M. D. Tindale, pp162-163, Vol. 73, No. 10, (Feb. 1957) NSW, Victoria

*Acacia enterocarpa* R. V. Smith

“A remarkable new Acacia for Victoria” from the Victorian Naturalist, by R. V. Smith, pp171-172, Vol. 73, No. 10, (Feb. 1957) Vic. SA.

*Acacia ulicifolia* (Salisb.) Court

“Changes in the Nomenclature of some Victorian Dicotyledons”, from the Victorian Naturalist by A. B. Court, p173, Vol. 73, No. 10, (Feb. 1957) Victoria, NSW

Syn. *Mimosa ulicifolia*, Salisb, Prodr. Stirp. 324 (1796), *Mimosa juniperina* Vent. Jard. Malm. 2: t . 64 (1804), *Acacia juniperina* (Vent.) Willd. Spec. Pl. 4:1049 (1806)

*Acacia paucijuga* F. Muell. ex N. A. Wakefield

“Flora of Victoria, 2 New Species & other Additions (5)”,  
from the Victorian Naturalist by N. A. Wakefield, pp 93-94, Vol. 72, No. 6, (Oct. 1955) NSW, Victoria  
now *A. deanei* (Baker) Welch, Coombe et McGlynn, ssp. *paucijuga* (F. Muell. ex N. A. Wakefield) Tindale.

*Acacia hunterana* N. A. Wakefield

“Flora of Victoria, Two New Species & other Additions (5)”, from the Victorian Naturalist by N. A. Wakefield, pp 92-93, Vol. 72, No. 6, (Oct. 1955) NSW, Victoria now *Acacia boormanii* Maiden.

Further references will be given in future issues.

Articles received from Alice Springs, detailing with Acacia spp.

1. **Records of Northern Territory Plants** by G. M. Chippendale, reprinted from Transactions Royal Society S.A., Vol. 88 (1964) pp 175-180.
2. **Notes on the Vegetation of a Desert Area in Central Australia**, by G. M. Chippendale, reprinted from Transactions of the Royal Society S.A., Vol 81, (1958) pp 31-41
3. **Ecological Notes on the "Western Desert" Area of the N. Territory**, by G. M. Chippendale, reprinted from proceedings of the Linnean Society NSW, Vol. 88, (1963) pp 59-66
4. **Desert Plants & their Use**, by G. M. Chippendale, reprinted from Australian Natural History, Vol. 15, No. 4, Dec. 1965 pp 115-118.
5. **Topfeed – the Fodder Trees & Shrubs of Central Australia**, by N.T. Administration Animal Industry Branch. Extension article No. 5 (1963)
6. **Poisonous Plants of the Northern Territory**, by N.T. Administration Animal Industry Branch. Extension article No. 2 (1963)

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### Acknowledgements

The following seeds were received from Mrs Betty Maloney of Stoney Range: *A. flocktoniae*, *A. maidenii*, *A. ptychoclada*, *A. glaucescens*, *A. implexa*

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Miss M. Pearce reports that *A. boormanii* and *A. enterocarpa* are out of stock in the Seed Bank. Would members please note this on their Seed List.

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I am leaving Sydney on Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> for a three weeks camping trip through Central Australia. I will be collecting specimens, and I hope to have some interesting information to pass on in the next issue. Preparations for this trip have curtailed available time to spend on the Newsletter.

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Reports from members are mainly conspicuous by their absence. Remember we would like the Newsletter to be a Group effort. Your special problems may be someone else's too.

Have you any suggestions to improve the format of the Newsletter. If so, don't keep it to yourself.