

Dear Members,

Now is the time for most of us to consider a planting programme for the year. I look forward to receiving your continued requests for the less common species which you consider may do well in your area. A further edition of brief descriptions of Acacias on the seed list is included.

Welcome to new members and to those who have rejoined :-

Mr. F. Prichard, P.O. Box 96, Lockhart, N.S.W. 2656  
 Mrs. J. Dullard, Irrewarra, RMB 1310, COLAC, VIC. 3249  
 Mrs. C. Wadey, 8 Sherbrooke St., NTH. ELTHAM, VIC. 3095  
 W.A. Wildflower Society, P.O. Box 64, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009  
 Mr. J. Nieck, 33 Macquarie St., ST. LUCIA. QLD. 4067  
 Parrakie Area Group, C/- Mrs. C. Lithgow, Parrakie, S.A. 5301  
 Mrs. Jan Stiller, PNB 5, Gladstone, Qld. 4680  
 Dr. Max McDowall, 10 Russell Street, BULLEEN, VIC. 3105  
 Mr. F.R. Rogers, RMB 5361, HORSHAM, VIC. 3400  
 Mrs. P. Moore, 20 Moores Road, GLENORIE, N.S.W. 2157  
 Mr. R. McDonald, P.O. Box 9, Upper Ferntree Gully, VIC 3156  
 Mrs. L. Stewart, AVON, S.A. 5501  
 Werribee Acacia Study Group, P.O. Box 363, WERRIBEE, VIC 3030  
 Mrs. G.A. Wright, Upper Van Morey Rd., MARGATE..TAS. 7153

Newsletters have been received from Victorian and Queensland Regions, Hakea, Callistemon, Dryandra and Eucalypt Study Groups. My thanks to them.

#### SEED BANK

##### ADDITIONS

A. binervata  
 gilbertii  
 rivalis

##### DELETIONS

A. calyculata  
 drewiana  
 galioides ssp. glabriflora  
 hilliana  
 ixicphylla  
 lazariidis  
 peuce,  
 pubicosta  
 spondyllophylla

##### SEEDS ON ORDER:

A. acradenia  
 ampliceps  
 browniana var. endlicherii  
 cyperophylla  
 gregori  
 humifusa  
 latescens  
 linophylla  
 loxophylla var. nervosa  
 mountfordiae

A. nuperrima  
 oraria  
 phlebopetala  
 producta  
 pulchella var. glaberrima  
 rhodophloia  
 sessilispica  
 sutherlandii  
 wanyu

A. ulicifolia var. brownei is now known once again as A. brownii.

A. glaucescens is now known as A. binervia, an older name.

SEED PACKETS - Will all members please take note of any encircled number appearing on seed packets issued from our seed bank. This number denotes the batch number in the bank. Should any query occur regarding the correctness of a name, I have a method of checking back, if this number has been noted from the beginning.

My thanks to all members who have forwarded their reports, and to those who forwarded seed for the seed bank.

FINANCIAL REPORT to 30 JUNE 1983

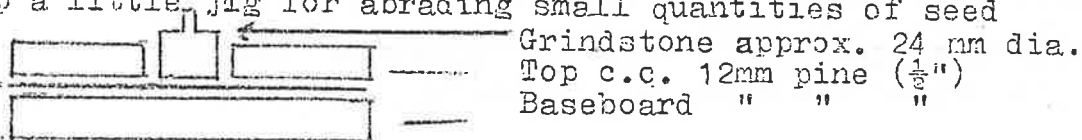
Balance 30 June '82	62;10	
Subscriptions and donations	200.00	
Interest	<u>1.43</u>	263.53
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Stationery	31.37	
Seeds	15.78	
Postage	60.53	
Stamp Duty on cheques	<u>4.25</u>	<u>111.93</u> \$151.60

NOTES ON PROPAGATION

Malcolm Holmes from S.A. has "seeded Acacias into single pots without treatment at the end of autumn into winter. In a sunny position some have germinated with only rainfall and no extra watering. However I would not say it was a most reliable method", he concludes.

Ross McDonald has developed some ideas for this side of growing plants:

"Firstly I use a sharpened pair of wire strippers to nip one end off the larger seeds, then soak in cold water until swollen. Secondly, I have made up a little jig for abrading small quantities of seed



A pinch of seed in the hole, grind by hand until done. Soak in cold water - can be repeated." Ross has two stones (one medium, one fine) and several grades of emery cloth to suit different size and hardness of seed. It has proved very useful, also for other species.

MEMBERS' NOTES:

Alan Gibb from Bobinawarra East, Vic. reports for 1982 that he thinks that the Acacias in his garden have experienced some of the harshest extremes of climate that they could experience. Most have come through, but after three tries with A. tanumbirinis, he doubts that it is worth while trying it again. The same applies to A. auriculiformis and A. dunnii. It must be remembered that these are tropical species. However, the Queensland Acacia bancroftii came through last winter unscathed. Alan comments on the different growth habit and greener phyllodes of the S.A. form of A. glandulicarpa when comparing it with the Victorian form.

David Shiells has reported of the extent of termite damage <sup>to plants</sup> on his block. Does anyone else have this problem? Also borers are proving a problem having killed all his plants of A. subulata and severely affecting A. spectabilis and A. retinodes. He tell us that A. argyrophylla is easily grown from cuttings, and grows very well near Shepparton, Vic. A. celastriifolia although cut by last year's frosts, all but one have grown away again.

Ivan Tiley from near Beaufort, Vic. tells us that A. beckleri and A. extensa flowered beautifully for him. They both seem to be very tolerant of a wide range of conditions. They are both successful here in Tas.

Beverley O'Keefe wrote about an interesting occurrence in her garden. She found her plants of A. chisholmii although not flowering, were covered with native bees. They were the only plants with the bees around them as far as she could see. It is interesting to note that A. chisholmii has sticky foliage.

A note taken from the Eremophila Study Group newsletter offers an explanation. A chemical analyst with an interest in bees suggested the bees may be collecting raw material for production of propolis or "bee-glue" a red, resinous, aromatic substance collected by bees from the viscid buds of trees, used to stop up crevices and fix the comb to the hives." (Oxford Dictionary) Extracted from Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 18, written by Ken Warnes).

FASCIATION - David Fitzgerald has raised this question, especially in relation to Acacias. He has found that a specimen each of A. rotundifolia and A. brachybotrya have become affected. I have also noticed in our garden that one of several A. rotundifolia and one of two A. meisneri suffer from fasciation.

Fasciation is a term used to describe a deformity which usually occurs at or near the growing tip of plants. The stems become flattened and widened and often curl, with phyllodes becoming crowded, a number often appearing to grow together.

Following his interest in the subject, David has written in the S.A. Regional Newsletter, May 1983 outlining the possible causes :-

1. An infestation of a species of mite, very tiny and often very difficult to find even with magnification.
2. A bacterium (*Corynebacterium fascians*) which may be carried in the soil.
3. A virus (spread by a vector - e.g. insects).
4. An inherited characteristic - genetic causes.

If your plants show symptoms of fasciation, it is suggested that you try cutting off the affected stems and burning them. The new growth is often normal..

Will members please report any Acacia so affected to D. Fitzgerald, 63 Kintore Avenue, Prospect, S.A. 5082 ?

A NEW ACACIA - described by J.R. Maconochie in Journal of Adelaide Botanical Gardens 6(2): 201-202 (1983)

ACACIA JASPERENSIS - Erect, slender shrub or tree to 6 m; erect, round the phyllodes 3.5-15cm x 5-7mm with a raised circular gland near base; flowerheads, small yellow balls in groups of 3 or 4 (no flowering time given); pods papery, flat domed over seeds 6-10cm x 8-12mm. Known only from Jasper Gorge, Northern Territory.

HARD PRUNING OR LOPPING - If you are considering either of the foregoing, the following list may help you make a decision:

Reshooting or sending up suckers after lopping etc.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| anceps       | muellerana   |
| baileyana    | pravissima   |
| dealbata     | pubifolia    |
| gladiiformis | rotundifolia |
| leioderma    | salicina     |
| melanoxylon  | urophylla    |

Dr. Max McDowall reports that the following do not coppice readily for him.

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| A. nigricans              | rostellifera |
| prominens (shot a little) | spectabilis  |

AN INTERESTING AREA TO VISIT:

AN INTERESTING AREA TO VISIT:

From Frank Prichard of Lockhart, N.S.W. a report on Galore Hill Nature Reserve, 107 km north of Albury which promises to be of great interest to those interested in growing native plants.

The reserve is 510 hectares in area, much of it kept in its natural state. Since 1977 a major plantation of Australian natives has been established and there are now over 500 different genera including 76 species of Acacia. The majority of the Acacias have survived drought conditions with only 25mm (1") of rain in five months and temperatures between 35°-43° for several months. This area provides a good record of trees which will grow under rather difficult conditions.

EXTRACTED FROM RARE OR THREATENED AUSTRALIAN PLANTS LIST:

I have selected some Acacias from the above list which I suggest we could make some effort to grow in our gardens, so long as our climatic conditions suit them. Some of these plants are threatened by clearing and others grow only in very small natural areas which puts them at risk from almost anything. We have seed in the seed bank of all of these :-

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. aphylla</li> <li>clunies rossiae</li> <li>confluens</li> <li>enterocarpa</li> <li>flocktoniae</li> <li>gillii</li> <li>gittinsii</li> <li>glandulicarpa</li> <li>gnidium</li> <li>gracilifolia</li> <li>imbricata</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. lanuginosa</li> <li>megacephala</li> <li>nigricans</li> <li>oxyclada</li> <li>pinguifolia</li> <li>pubescens</li> <li>quornensis</li> <li>rhetinocarpa</li> <li>rhigiophylla</li> <li>rivalis</li> <li>williamsonii</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

PRESSING PLANTS

Should you wish to keep a record of the plants you are growing, then pressed specimens are the answer.

Select good material in full flower. Place the specimens in an old telephone book and weigh it down with a heavy object or place them between sheets of newspaper in a plant press.

A PLANT PRESS may be made from two pieces of plywood (12 mm thick), the same size as your local newspaper to avoid trimming. Four or five sheets of newspaper (or more if the subject is a prickly one) should be used between specimens. If available, corrugated card may be placed at intervals between specimens, so helping the drying process. The completed stack (not too many specimens in each) should be tied tightly with a light-weight rope, twine, sashcord or elastic straps. Leave the press in a sunny, dry place where warm air can circulate freely.

The papers should be changed regularly every few days at first, as the specimens could take up to a month to dry.

I will deal with the process of mounting and storing pressed specimens next time.

Marion Simmons  
P.O. Box 1148  
LEGANA....TAS. 7251