

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
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Dear Members

It is a lovely time of the year in Tasmania. I hope that you have been inspired to grow more and different Acacias, although I must say that the number of seed orders received here suggests otherwise. The seed bank is for your use and there are a lot of seeds of interesting species freely available to you. Please make use of it.

SEED BANK

To those who forwarded seed for the seed bank, thank you. It is most welcome.

ADDITIONS

chrysell
drummondii ssp *candolleana*
drummondii 'grossus'
horridula
humifusa
lazaridis
leptospermoides ssp *psammifolia*
ligustrina
longispinea
microcalyx
peuce
plicata
pritzeliana
wanyu
willdenowiana

DELETIONS

acanthoclada
bacteria
congesta

OTHER SEED REQUIRED

gunnii
lanigera
leiocalyx
quornensis
restiacea
stenoptera

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to those who have joined us since July.

EXTINCT AND ENDANGERED PLANTS OF AUSTRALIA

Bruce Maslin, botanist, WA Herbarium has brought us up to date with the position of two species of *Acacia* which were mentioned under the above heading in the last newsletter.

Acacia vassallii has been rediscovered recently after more than 40 years. Last year a population was located near Wongan Hills and earlier this year one of our members, Russell Cumming, found more of these plants further north.

Bruce feels that *Acacia prismifolia* may not be extinct either. He said that perhaps it has not turned up recently because no-one has looked carefully for it. This species was described by Pritzel in 1905 from material said to have been collected from near the Stirling Range. The only other specimen Bruce has seen is one he located at Munich Herbarium and that was collected by A. Meebold in August 1933, locality given as Albany. Bruce feels that although much of the area is now cleared, some diligent searching of the area between Albany and the Stirling Range could well turn it up.

ACACIA DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

Bruce Maslin also referred to Paul Brown's comments published in our last newsletter regarding lodging specimens with the herbaria. He felt that this instance served very well to illustrate the importance and need to document distribution records with a herbarium voucher, without which the record is virtually useless.

DIRECT SOWING OF ACACIA SEED

Has anyone had experience with growing Acacia by sowing seed directly into the ground? Any advice would be appreciated, especially regarding pre-treatment of seed, control of insect attack of young seedlings, fertilizing and general care.

STREET AND ROADSIDE PLANTING

Alan Gibb made enquiries regarding the species the road construction authority was planting in Victoria and found that they include the following hardy types.

<i>A. dealbata</i>	<i>A. prominens</i>
<i>elata</i>	<i>pycnantha</i>
<i>floribunda</i>	<i>retinodes</i>
<i>iteaphylla</i>	<i>salicina</i>
<i>longifolia</i>	<i>saligna</i>
<i>melanoxydon</i>	<i>sophorae</i>
<i>notabilis</i>	<i>spectabilis</i>
<i>podalyriifolia</i>	<i>verniciiflua</i>
<i>pravissima</i>	

Apparently a change of policy has seen the use of species indigenous to the area through which the road is passing. A change in the right direction I think you will agree. On the other hand, the local Victorian shire of Oxley seems to grow only *A. baileyana* and "var. *purpurea*" and *A. floribunda*.

Tony Bean of Eucalyptus Study Group noted these Acacias growing in the Brisbane council plantings:

<i>A. fimbriata</i>	<i>A. spectabilis</i>
<i>irrorata</i>	<i>podalyriifolia</i>
<i>o'shanesii</i>	

He mentioned that these had been planted for several years now and that naturally enough some were starting to die. He goes on that "unfortunately the areas around the plantings are kept mown in the interests of "neatness", hence any regeneration of the wattles is effectively prevented. Sadly, this is not understood by the decision makers and Acacias have fallen from favour and in fact no Acacias are now used in replacement plantings." Tony considered that all species had performed quite well. The best performer is the local *A. leiocalyx* which manages to avoid the slashers and self seeds sporadically in the area.

BOOKS

A Biology of Acacias by T R New, publ. Oxford University Press 1984. Deals with the biology and evolution of Acacias, their various associations with other organisms and their considerable use by humans. An extensive bibliography of 700 entries provides a quick reference to other related work.

A Field Guide to the Grampians Flora, by Rodger Elliot, publ. Algonia. Reprint, revision and additions 1984. Sixteen Acacias are described briefly, most are illustrated by small line drawings of phyllode and flower.

MEMBERS' NOTES

Acacias in West Germany – **Thomas Ross**, a member from Frankfurt, says he is not always as successful as he would like to be as he has to cultivate most of his Acacias in pots because of their frosty cold winters. Some species like *A. verticillata*, *A. dealbata* and *A. baileyana* grow well but others become chlorotic and look awful even though

he has tried different fertilizers and treatment with iron chelates. He considers *A. buxifolia* as the worst he has tried to grow. Thomas would appreciate any tips especially about fertilizing Acacias in pots. Please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Alan Gibb of Milawa, Vic has forwarded an extensive list of over 100 different species which he has growing now. Flowering time in his garden must have been wonderful. Alan comments that in his garden *A. cardiophylla*, *A. spectabilis* and *A. leuocladia* ssp *argentifolia* are free from attack by insect borers.

Irene Champion, Slade Point, Qld wrote of their active plant propagating group which at a recent meeting handed out seven young plants of *A. dimidiata* to be tried in members' gardens. Irene also has tried some *A. brassii* but said that the majority of these seedlings developed a kind of "rust" when they were about 12cm high. She feels that they don't like the climate. *A. decora* grows naturally about 50km north of Mackay and as it is thought to have a lot of potential, they are growing some for trial. Successful Acacias in Mackay include *A. hemsleyi*, *A. leptoloba*, *A. macradenia* and *A. podalyriifolia*.

A new member, **David Jones** of Hobart wrote of his success with Tasmanian endemic *Acacia axillaris* from cuttings. He put in tip cuttings, all of which died, but the cuttings with heels were 100% successful.

Russ Cullen, Rochedale, Qld, reported that they have been plagued by a root stem rot similar to "damping off" but it isn't. It has the plant pathologists puzzled so far. Apparently they have never had a damping off problem before. Secondly they have lost numerous Acacia from a weevil grub ringbarking the plant just below ground level. They seem to die overnight. A real problem and most annoying as plants are often 1-2 metres tall.

Bill Owen from Ballarat, Vic, wrote about the disappointing results he has had germinating and growing on Acacia from seeds, especially of the lesser known varieties. He has had success germinating only 20 varieties of 60 obtained from the seed bank over a period of years. He used three methods:

1. Boiling water poured on seeds, left 24 hours, planted in pots in 50/50 mix river sand and vermiculite, placed in propagating box.
2. As above, but seeds filed.
3. Soaked as above, then each variety placed between sheets of paper towel and stacked on a saucer with another saucer on top and placed on a continuously operating heater. Boiled water placed on each group daily.
4. Same as 3 but placed on oil heater operating only 12 hours a day.
5. Cuttings stood in "Maxicrop" for 24 hours, then dipped in "Strike" and placed in mix 3 parts sand, 1 sieved leaf mould and placed in cutting box covered by sheet of glass.
6. Seeds into same mix as 1, after 4 minutes in microwave oven.

The results of six years' efforts:

Date	Method	Varieties	Number Seeds	Potted	Survived	Varieties Failed
4/77	1	4		192	155	0
5/77	1	17	130	194	137	3
1978	3	50	243	365		10
8/79	1	16	84	40		4
9/79	4	23		72		7
5/80	2	12		0		12
10/80	1	1		20		0
3/81	1	10		71		5
4/81	1	4		3		2
7/81	4	42		233		9
7/81	5	1	31	6		
3/82	5	11		64		3
4/84	1	27	550	80	28	14
6/84	2	10	180	9		9
10/84	6	16	300		No results yet	

Bill goes on to say that from this summary it can be seen that 3 and 5 methods are the most successful but 3 is not used now and he is doubtful about 6, as there was no sign of activity after 11 days. Bill has re-read all the hints on propagation in the newsletters but apart from those written by Tony Cavanagh, Ross McDonald, Ivan Tilley and his

own note, the others, he feels, do not tackle the main problem of how to germinate the difficult varieties and he thinks that this matter needs a great amount of research and should be tackled seriously.

Your comments would be appreciated, but if members want more information Bill is happy to give further details.

SA member **Lyn Stewart** of Avon wrote that she is in the process of setting up a nursery at the local Mallala primary school for the "Greening of Australia" campaign. The children are organized to fill bags and they are shown how to plant the seeds etc. They are on their third thousand bags and Lyn said that she is a long way from being finished yet. Only seed from local flora is being used. Only two species of Acacia have been collected so far, but it is hoped that more will be included when seed collecting time comes again. It is a wonderful project which I hope will be fully supported by members and repeated in other areas.

I would like to acknowledge newsletters received from the various regions and study groups. Some of these are passed on to our local SGAP group, where they are read with much interest.

A REQUEST FOR SEED

One member has been seeking some seed of *A. tayloriana* for a long time and has not been able to locate it. Can anyone assist please?

ANOTHER BOOK

Australian Natives for Your Garden by Penny and John Ross, publ. Kangaroo Press 1984. 45 Acacias listed and briefly described, 14 illustrated in colour. A soft cover book with easy to follow instructions on how, where and what to plant and grow.

Honey and Pollen Yield from some SA Acacias – extracted from **Native Trees of SA**, by C D Boomsma.

Acacia flowers do not secrete nectar but some occasionally yield a small amount of honey from secretions originating in small glands at the base of the phyllodes. These include *A. aneura*, *A. estrophiolata*, *A. pycnantha*, *A. salicina*, *A. tetragonophylla* and *A. victoriae*.

A small yield of pollen is produced annually, but the quality is often poor to average, but *A. estrophiolata* and *A. victoriae* in the Alice Springs area at least produce a high yield of good quality pollen at each flowering.

My best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Marion Simmons
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ACACIA STUDY GROUP NOTES

<i>johnsonii</i> Qld, NSW	Shrub 2-3m branching from base; phyllodes linear fine 1-2.5(7)cm x 1-2mm, oblique point; flowers bright yellow globular, August-October. Found on sandy soil around Darling Downs area, and Enngonia NSW and suited to similar areas.
<i>jucunda</i> Qld	Shrub or slender tree 2.5-8m tall; phyllodes blue-green obliquely-oval, 4-6.5cm x 9-20mm; flowers bright yellow globular on racemes; July-September flowering. Open well drained position in warmer areas.
<i>julifera</i> Qld	Shrub or tree to 10m, dark fissured bark; phyllodes sickle shaped 7-25cm x 5-25mm, longitudinal nerves; flowers dense, bright yellow spikes; mainly May-June flowering. Needs open well-drained conditions.
<i>juncifolia</i> Qld, NSW	Shrub 2-5m tall; long fine phyllodes 7.5-25cm x c 1mm; flowers bright yellow globular; flowering July-September. Suited to warmer inland or coastal areas.

<i>kempeana</i> WA, NT, SA, Qld	Spreading shrub or small tree to 5m; phyllodes oblong-lanceolate 3-7.5cm x 4-15mm, grey-green, parallel nerves. Flowers dense mid-yellow spikes; flowering irregularly. Pods flat oblong, seeds transverse. Widespread in arid areas and suited to similar conditions, lime tolerant.
<i>kettlewelliae</i> s NSW, ne Vic	Shrub or small tree 7-9m; phyllodes blue-green lance-shaped 3-10cm x 3-12mm central nerve; flowers massed globular in racemes; flowering September – November. Suitable for cool temperate regions, frost tolerant.
<i>kybeanensis</i> Vic, s NSW	Bushy shrub 1-3m; young foliage and stalks hoary pubescent; phyllodes dull green, oblong-elliptic 2-5cm x 3-9mm 1-nerve, distinct gland; flowers bright yellow globular on hairy stalks in racemes, Sept-Oct. Pods flat, seeds oblique or transverse. Found on ridges and on roadsides and would require well-drained conditions, frost tolerant.
<i>laccata</i> WA, NT, Qld	Varnished appearance; shrub to 3m tall; phyllodes straight leathery 10-20cm x 2.5-5cm many parallel nerves; flowers bright yellow spikes, April-June. Pods sticky. Common on sandy soil in northern areas.
<i>lanigera</i> Vic, NSW	Spreading shrub 1-2m; young growth densely woolly-hairy; phyllodes stiff lanceolate sharp pointed, 3-7cm x 3-7mm usually hairy longitudinal nerves; flowers bright yellow large, globular often in clusters, mainly spring flowering. Hardy shrub widely grown, needs good drainage.
<i>lanuginosa</i> sw WA	Shrub to 1-2m tall, branches and phyllodes densely hairy 1.5-2.3cm long with 3 main veins; new growth golden at first; flowers bright yellow globular, Aug-Oct flowering. Found in open sites in gravelly or gravelly-clay soil.
<i>laricina</i> sw WA	Low spreading shrub to 1m tall; phyllodes rigid, fine, sharp-pointed to 3cm long; flowers pale yellow globular in one's or two's; spring flowering. Needs warm, well-drained sunny position.
<i>lasiocalyx</i> sw WA	Pendulous foliaged tree or small shrub mostly to c. 4m; phyllodes long narrow falcate to 25cm long, central nerve; flowers bright yellow spikes, flowering August-November; Found at base of granite outcrops, creek lines in sandy gravel or in heavier soils; useful as a sand binder or shade, shelter tree.
<i>lasiocarpa</i> WA	Small spiny shrub to 1.5m tall; branchlets sometimes spinescent; bi-pinnate leaves, 1 spine per node; flowers bright yellow globular on reduced racemes June-Oct. Five varieties acknowledged. Needs warm well-drained soils.
<i>lateriticola</i> sw WA	Small bi-pinnate leafed shrub to 1.5m; ribbed branchlets and leaves clothed with hairs; flowers large, pale yellow globular 1-2 per axil; late May-Oct. Closely related to <i>A. browniana</i> and <i>A. empelioclada</i> . Sun or semi-shade.
<i>latescens</i> NT	Shrub or graceful small tree to 7m; branchlets angular; phyllodes curved narrow 9-21cm x 5-20mm, several major nerves, several glands; flowers pale yellow, globular on racemes, May-Oct. Suitable for tropical areas, found around swamps and along creeks.
<i>lauta</i> Qld	Bushy spreading shrub to 2m; branchlets somewhat sticky phyllodes linear 2-4cm x 1.5-2.5mm; flowers bright yellow globular, spring. Occurs in deep well-drained sand and is suited to a sunny position in inland or warm areas.
<i>lazaridis</i> NT, Qld	Shrub 1-2m tall; angular branchlets; phyllodes oblong, obtuse 4.5-7.5cm x 13-26mm, net like nerves; flowers dense bright yellow spikes; flowers irregularly through year. Shrub for tropical northern areas, near coastal.
<i>leichhardtii</i> Qld	Erect spreading shrub 2-3m tall with hairy branchlets; phyllodes densely hairy, reflexed, 15-30mm long; flowers bright yellow, globular in racemes, April-July. Grows on ridge slopes, sometimes creek banks in sandstone areas.
<i>leiocalyx</i> Qld, NSW	Shrub or tree to 6m; branchlets angular, often red; phyllodes falcate 8-16cm x 7-35mm; flowers pale yellow long spikes, April-October. Pods long narrow twisted. Widespread on well-drained shallow soils, especially coastal.

<i>leioderma</i> WA	Shrub 1-2m tall; branchlets ribbed; dull green bi-pinnate leaves (no spines); flowers large pale to medium yellow globular, 1-3 per axil; August-November flowering. Grows well in well-drained, open or semi-shaded position. Successful in Tasmania.
<i>leiophylla</i> SA	Shrub 1-2m tall; phyllodes lanceolate 7-17cm x 9-25mm; flowers large bright yellow, globular on long racemes, Aug-Nov. Grows well on sandy calcareous soils near coast and is considered adaptable.
<i>leprosa</i> Vic, NSW	Tall shrub or small often pendulous tree 5-6(8)m tall; phyllodes green, narrow-falcate to 14cm long; flowers primrose yellow globular in pairs or clusters, July-Sept. Distinctive cinnamon fragrance. Useful for windbreaks, semi-shade. Closely allied to <i>A. verniciflua</i> .
<i>leptoclada</i> NSW	Slender shrub to 2m with bi-pinnate foliage; buds brown bristly; flowers large bright yellow; globular in long racemes. Found in dry country and would need sunny well-drained position.
<i>leptoloba</i> n Qld	Spreading shrub to 5m tall; phyllodes green, lower margin ±straight, 3 longitudinal nerves; flowers bright yellow globular on long racemes, Dec-April. Found on sandy soils on hills and along streams in north.
<i>leptoneura</i> sw WA	Much branched spreading shrub to 1-3m; young stems woolly hairy; phyllodes green to 10cm long, slightly flattened narrow with pungent point; flowers numerous, bright yellow, globular, 1 per axil; mainly May-Oct. Inland species, needs well-drained sunny position.