

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO. 49
NOVEMBER 1986

ISSN 0706-148K

Dear Members

Now is the time to stand back and look with critical eyes at your gardens deciding which plants, Acacia or otherwise, have reached a point where they no longer exhibit their best characteristics. Some may well benefit from hard pruning, others may respond best to a lighter hand, but all will benefit from some attention. Some of course may need to be removed altogether.

There are a few Acacias flowering in our garden at the moment, these include *A. saligna*, *A. pilosa* (a good prostrate ground cover for a dry area in full sun), *A. retinodes*, *A. rupicola*, *A. dictyoneura* and a few late flowers on several others. The best time here for really beautiful flowering is of course during July, August and September.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following and thank you for subscriptions forwarded:

Ken Jones, 9 Wyarama St, Beacon Hill 2100

Julia Sutherland, 5 The Esplanade, Midway Point 7171

David M Gordon, "Myall Park", Glenmorgan 4423

Lex Thomson, Division Forest Research CSIRO, PO Box 4008, Canberra 2600

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Russell Cumming, 72 Lonerganne St, Garbutt., Townsville 4812

Peter Harradence, PO Box 137, Upper Beaconsfield 3808

Gladys Holmes, 13 Anne St, Berriedale 7011

Gary Leske, 58 Rawlings Road, Modbury North 5092

Also thank you to study groups and regions for newsletters forwarded during the last few months.

SEED LIST

Deletions

A. echinula

A. galioides

A. gunnii

A. ligustrina

A. restiacea

Additions

A. aestivalis

A. baxteri

A. filicifolia

A. latisepala

ACACIA SLIDE LIBRARY

Unfortunately this has come to a stand still for the time being due to the limited time I can devote to it. It is hoped that it can be developed further during the Christmas break. Slides of unusual Acacias are always welcome to extend the number available.

NATIONAL CAR STICKER COMPETITION

A reminder that entries close for the ASGAP car sticker design on 31 January 1987. Entries are to be forwarded addressed "National Car Sticker Competition" c/- Glenn Thomas, PO Box 221, Everton Park 4053. I do hope that some of our members are working on a design appropriate for use by our Australia wide group.

All designs must be submitted in full colour, full size and in triplicate to enable judging to be undertaken.

WILDFLOWER EXHIBITION OF TASMANIA was held in Hobart in October. It was a great success with many interesting and varied exhibits. All flowers displayed were those grown in Tasmanian gardens only and a remarkable variety was there for visitors to admire.

Two of our new members, Zoe Fyfe and Julie Sutherland were responsible for a very effective Acacia display. They used beautifully pressed flowering specimens which they had prepared especially, large colour photographs, live flowering material and different types of seed pods. It was a very well presented display.

MEMBERS' NOTES

A letter from Rosemary Pedler of Koolunga, SA, tells of a wonderful flowering season of her Acacias. She has about 40 different species growing and tries to grow as many as possible of the SA species found within their rainfall and limey soil limitations. She mentioned especially a favourite of mine, *A. imbricata* which she had grown from a cutting. It was outstanding in flower. Also *A. alata* var. *biglandulosa* attracted much attention, especially its "raspberry-pink buds and snowy flower balls". *A. glaucoptera* too flowered very well.

An interesting letter was received from Russell Cumming. He has been studying *A. aulacocarpa* and its varieties in far north Queensland and has found three distinct "types" which he is studying further to see if there are sufficient differences to warrant recognition. Russell told me that he has put together a collection of over 4500 acacia specimens of 576 species and varieties. Certainly an impressive effort.

PLANT NAMES

There are several schools of thought on the use of common names. One is that they are too confusing because in some instances more than one species is given the same common name. eg *A. pulchella*, *A. verticillata* and *A. ulicifolia* are all commonly known as "Prickly Moses" or the same common name is given to different plants in different states.

Another view is that common names should be used as many of them have been in use unchanged for a very long time and are familiar to all plant lovers. They point to the standard common names adopted for birds. Also the point has been made that there are plants which have had several scientific name changes in recent years and that this is confusing. An example of this would be *A. terminalis* which has been known as both *A. discolor* and *A. botrycephala*. Its common name is “Sunshine Wattle”.

The use of scientific names is considered by some people to be unnecessarily difficult to cope with, although I am sure that these people are not aware that many such names are in common use without causing any difficulty eg chrysanthemum, anemone, boronia and banksia.

Plants have been of worldwide interest for a long time and early botanists realized the need for a commonly understood classification and naming system. The basis of our present system of naming plants was first developed from earlier work by Linnaeus over 200 years ago. By a process of elimination he refined the long Latin descriptions used in his time until he arrived at a system which used one suitable word which was given to like plants as their generic name eg Acacia. A second name was chosen to cover individual species, often emphasizing one particular characteristic eg 'longifolia' referring to its long phyllodes. At other times a specific name like 'baileyana' for instance would be chosen to honour the name of a colleague usually associated with the plant world.

Much the same procedure for naming plants is used today based on a decision made in 1905 at an important Botanical Congress which accepted Linnaeus work of 1753 as the earliest valid publication date from which plant names could be taken. Of course there have been amendments since but basically the Code is much the same today. Persons naming new plants must conform to the International Botanical Congress to ensure that each plant should be known by a validly published name.

ACACIAS FOR BASKET WEAVING

Acacia verticillata is plentiful on Tasmania’s west coast and it is here that a basket weaver lives and works. Prickly Moses is common in many damp areas of the state but it is best for basket making when it grows in the dense wet sclerophylla forests.

The bark is taken in spring and summer when it can be peeled from the plant reasonably easily without damage.

Before use it is dried outdoors, then cured for a time, then soaked to make it pliable enough to use. It is then cut into strips and woven into interesting baskets.

Does anyone know of other Acacia species being used for this purpose or any other in the craft field?

BOOKS

Creating an Australian Garden, John Hunt, published by Kangaroo Press in association with SGAP. Practical easily implemented new scheme for gardening with native plants. Ways to

conserve the benefits of water in dry spells, making maximum use of rain in wet periods, mulching, mounding, landscaping, rocks and rockeries etc. Scheme is suited to all areas: 150 colour plates \$24.95

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NOTES

- A. schinoides* Small to medium tree to 16m; bipinnate silvery leaves; pale yellow ball flowers in summer; wet sclerophylla shady forests north of Sydney. (NSW)
- A. scirpifolia* Shrub 2-3m & spreading; pine-like phyllodes to 12cm long; flowers bright yellow balls, spring; warm well drained position (sw WA)
- A. sclerophylla* Spreading shrub 1-2m; stiff phyllodes 1-4cm long; several veins; bright yellow ball flowers. Hardy drought resistant, adaptable (WA, SA, VIC, NSW)
- A. sclerosperma* Shrub/small tree to 6m; pine-like phyllodes 5-15cm long; deep yellow ball flowers Apr – Dec. Tropical coastal plant, sand or clay (nw WA)
- A. semi-lunata* Shrub/small tree to 5m; grey-green phyllodes to 3.5cm long; bright yellow ball flowers July – Aug. Hardy & adaptable (NSW, QLD)
- A. semi-rigida* Shrub/small tree to 4m; bright green phyllodes 4-9cm long; pale yellow ball flowers Feb – July. Sunny well drained warm spot (se QLD)
- A. sessilispica* Slender shrub with fine round phyllodes, 6-13 cm long; bright yellow spikes Aug – Sept; Requires warm well drained position (sw WA)
- A. shirleyi* Tree to 15m; phyllodes lance shaped to 18cm x 2-9mm; bright yellow spikes, May – Aug; Inland species, hot dry climate (QLD, NT)
- A. sicutiformis* Prickly shrub prostrate to 2m; sharp pointed phyllodes; yellow ball flowers usually stalkless; frost hardy for cool climates (NSW, VIC, TAS)
- A. signata* Shrub/small tree to 5m; phyllodes stiff flat to 14cm x 5mm; bright yellow spikes, July - Sept; sandy well drained sites (sw WA)
- A. silvestris* Tree 7 – 25m; silvery hairy bipinnate leaves; bright yellow ball flowers spring; Cool hills & mountain, farm or park (NSW, VIC)
- A. simsii* Tall shrub/small slender tree to 4m; narrow phyllodes, several veins; yellow flowers. Jan – Mar, for tropical area in dry position.
- A. sophorae* Large spreading shrub to 4m; leathery elliptical phyllodes, several veins; yellow spikes, July – Oct. Great sand binder, useful for coastal gardens (NSW, VIC, TAS)
- A. spectabilis* Shrub/small tree to 5m; grey-green bipinnate leaves; bright yellow ball flowers. Adaptable, hardy for many places, well drained.
- A. sphacelata* Slender shrub to 1.5m with spiny branchlets; narrow sharp pointed phyllodes; bright yellow solitary ball flowers Aug- Nov. Well drained sunny position (WA)

- A. spinescens* Small stiff shrub to 1m; branchlets ending in spines; phyllodes usually absent; small bright yellow ball flowers, July – Oct. Hardy for rockeries, sunny well drained (SA, w VIC, sw NSW)
- A. squamata* Wiry small shrub to 0.5m; phyllodes few to 10mm long; bright yellow ball flowers, July – Sept. (sw WA)
- A. steedmanii* Medium shrub/small tree to 4m; phyllodes grey-green, one nerved 5-10cm x 1-2.7mm; bright or pale ball flowers, Aug – Oct. Sunny well drained spot (inland WA)
- A. stenophylla* Slender tree to 10m or so; linear phyllodes, pendulous up to 40cm long; large pale yellow balls, mainly Apr – July. Shade tree for damp areas inland; suckers; (VIC, NSW, QLD, SA, WA)
- A. stenoptera* Small shrub to 1.5m; phyllodes stiff curved continuous with stem; bright yellow ball flowers, June – July; ribbed pods. Grows best in sandy open well drained position (sw WA)
- A. stereophylla* Shrub to 3m, similar to *A. acuminata*; phyllodes linear; bright yellow spikes, Sep – Dec. Useful for hot dry areas, full sun or partial (sw WA)
- A. stipuligera* Medium shrub 2-6m; phyllodes hairy, to 6cm x 10-17mm; bright yellow spikes, Apr – Aug. Suitable for hot inland gardens in sand or loam. (QLD, NT, n WA) common
- A. striatifolia* Tree to 8m; elliptical phyllodes 5-13cm x 18-50mm, lemon-yellow spikes Aug – Sept. Shelter or park planting in warm dry gardens. (QLD – Darling Downs)
- A. stricta* Erect shrub to 1.5m in Tas, to 5m on mainland; often suckers; phyllodes dull 5-15cm x 4-10mm; yellow ball flowers in pairs, May – Oct. Frost hardy, fast growth (QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS, widespread)
- A. suaveolens* Open slender shrub 1-3m tall; grey-green phyllodes; lemon-yellow ball flowers; conspicuous bracts in bud, Apr – Oct. Useful for sandy soils near coasts (eastern states)
- A. subcaerulea* Slender shrub to 4m; thick phyllodes 2.5-6cm x 3.5-6mm; bright yellow ball flowers. Hardy for full sun or shade in well drained soils (sw WA)
- A. sublanata* Rigid shrub, woolly when young to 1.5m; small triangular phyllodes; bright yellow balls, May – Aug. Suited to tropical gardens (NT)
- A. subtilinervis* Tall shrub to 4m; lance-shaped phyllodes 5-14cm x 6-15mm, yellow spikes, Aug – Sep. Rare shrub for cool area gardens, favours rocky sites; frost hardy (VIC, NSW)
- A. subulata* Tall slender shrub 3-4m; narrow-linear phyllodes 6.5-15cm long; small pale yellow ball flowers, Apr – Sep mainly. Frost hardy in Tas; fast growing in well drained light soils; adaptable (NSW)
- A. sulcata* Small shrub to 0.6m; phyllodes round incurved to 3cm long; pale or bright yellow ball flowers, July – Oct. Adaptable moderately frost hardy, grow full or partial sun (sw WA)
- A. sutherlandii* Small tree to 7m; corky bark; bipinnate leaves; pale yellow spikes, mainly June – Sept. Grows in clay in tropical areas; useful shade tree in inland (QLD, NT)
- A. tanumbirinensis* Slender tree to 6m with linear phyllodes to 18cm; yellow spikes Apr – Aug. Restricted to sandy soils along creeks tropical coast (NT, QLD)

- A. tenuissima* Slender shrub to 4m, thick linear phyllodes to 15cm; bright yellow spikes, Mar – June; pods coiled; sandy soils in hot dry inland areas (QLD, NT, WA)
- A. teretifolia* Small shrub to 1m; stiff round prickly phyllodes; yellow ball flowers, June – Oct. Grow in well drained soil in full sun or partial (sw WA)
- A. terminalis* Shrub to 5m with bipinnate leaves; pale to mid-yellow ball flowers in racemes, Mar – July. Hardy, light to medium soils. (VIC, NSW, TAS)
- A. tetragonocarpa* Small shrub with rush-like stems; nearly leafless; bright yellow ball flowers, May – Dec; woody pods. Sunny well drained position (sw WA)
- A. tetragonophylla* Prickly shrub to 6m; crowded prickly phyllodes; bright yellow ball flowers, June – Sept. Hardy, drought resistant, useful shelter, or erosion control plant for inland arid areas (across Aust)
- A. torulosa* Tree to 8m with furrowed bark; phyllodes 6.5-20cm x 4-13mm; bright yellow spikes. Fast growing tree for northern tropical parks, gardens (tropical Aust)
- A. trachycarpa* Spreading shrub to 4m; curling bark; fine phyllodes; bright yellow spikes Apr – Aug. Shrub for hot tropical areas (nw WA)
- A. translucens* Shrub to 2m; oblique phyllodes 1-3cm; large bright yellow ball flowers, Mar – July. Decorative shrub for well drained spot in north (n WA, NT)
- A. trigonophylla* Shrub to 1.5m; phyllodes curved continuous with stems; bright yellow ball flowers Sep- Nov. Often cultivated in well drained soils in partial or full sun (sw WA)
- A. trinervata* Tall shrub to 5m; prickly linear phyllodes; pale or bright ball flowers Aug – Nov; often cultivated, in variety of soils; hardy shrub (NSW)
- A. trineura* Bushy shrub 3-5m; three-veined phyllodes; bright yellow ball flowers, Aug – Oct. Drought and frost tolerant, adaptable shrub (VIC, NSW, SA)
- A. triptera* Dense spreading shrub; obliquely triangular curved phyllodes, sharp pointed; bright yellow spikes Aug – Nov. Suited to well drained rocky places; great hedge plant (VIC, NSW, QLD)
- A. triptycha* Spreading shrub with sharp phyllodes; bright yellow ball flowers Sep – Oct; requires a sunny well-drained position (sw WA)
- A. truncata* Shrub to 3m usually less; wedge shaped phyllodes; pale yellow ball flowers June – Sept. Suited to planting in coastal sandy areas; grows well in Melbourne (sw WA)
- A. tumida* Shrub or tree to 7m; curved pointed phyllodes; bright yellow spikes July – Oct. Tree for tropical gardens in variety of soils.
- A. ulicifolia* Variable shrub, prostrate to 2m; prickly phyllodes light or bright yellow ball flowers June – Sept. Hardy shrub for areas from Tas to Qld (TAS, VIC, NSW, QLD)
- A. ulicina* Stiff shrub to 2m, spiny branchlets; small phyllodes; yellow ball flowers Aug - Sept. Needs sunny well drained position in warm garden (w WA)
- A. umbellata* Dense shrub to 1.5m; thick elliptical phyllodes; bright yellow spikes Apr – July. Interesting small shrub for dry area gardens inland. (NT, QLD)

- A. uncifera* Tall shrub to 5m; hairy phyllodes to 5cm long; bright yellow balls in racemes July – Aug. Well drained sunny position in drier northern areas (QLD)
- A. uncinata* Shrub to 3m, small rounded phyllodes; bright yellow ball flowers, winter – spring. Hardy shrub for well drained position Vic to se Qld (QLD, NSW)
- A. urophylla* Slender shrub to 4m; wavy edged, elongated phyllodes; pale yellow ball flowers June – Sept. Adaptable frost tolerant shrub for temperate area gardens
- A. varia var. parviflora* Small shrub to 1m with bipinnate leaves; bright yellow spikes, spring. Growing successfully in eastern states (sw WA)
- A. venulosa* Slender shrub to 3m tall; dull phyllodes, several veins; yellow ball flowers, spring; adaptable
- A. verniciflua* Variable, small shrub to slender tree to 6m; bright green phyllodes; pale to bright yellow ball flowers July – Nov. Frost hardy shrub cool areas (TAS, VIC, NSW)
- A. verticillata* Shrub or small tree to 6m, spreading; prickly phyllodes in whorls; yellow spikes, spring; frost hardy adaptable shrub; tolerates moist conditions (TAS, VIC, SA)
- A. vestita* Weeping decorative shrub to 4m, small hairy phyllodes; bright yellow ball flowers in racemes; hardy shrub for most temperate regions (NSW)
- A. victoriae* Variable usually spiny shrub or small tree to 5m; pale green phyllodes; pale yellow ball flowers in racemes. Dry area shelter plant (across Australia)
- A. viscidula* Shrub to 3m, linear phyllodes, pale or bright yellow ball flowers Sept – Oct. Grows along creek banks and would tolerate some dampness in soil (QLD)
- A. wanyu* Shrub to small tree to 4m; fine phyllodes; bright yellow spikes; suitable for tropical areas (nw WA, NT)
- A. wardellii* Shrub or slender tree to 6m; large net-veined phyllodes, prominent glands; pale yellow ball flowers Feb – June; suited to well drained sunny sites (QLD)
- A. wattiana* Bushy shrub to 2m; oblong phyllodes; yellow ball flowers in racemes Oct – Dec. Grows well in Melbourne, tolerates alkaline soils (SA)
- A. wilhelmiana* Small sticky shrub to 3m; small curved phyllodes, bright yellow ball flowers; well drained dry sites (SA, VIC, NSW)
- A. willdenowiana* Small shrub, leafless, winged stems, cream ball flowers, May – Oct. Suited to well drained sandy coastal and inland areas; prune dieback (sw WA)
- A. williamsonii* Bushy shrub to 2m; narrow phyllodes ; bright yellow ball flowers in racemes, spring; Adaptable (VIC)
- A. xiphophylla* Shrub or tree to 4m; lance-shaped green phyllodes; pale or bright yellow spikes July – Dec and irregularly; Tropical area species.

This completes the species in our seed bank. I hope that the lists prove useful to you.

With my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Marion Simmons
PO Box 1148
Legana 7251