



ISSN 1035-4638

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 77

MARCH 1997

Dear Members

My apologies for not getting out a newsletter before this, but it has been a bad year in some respects. I have arthritis in a hip and am to have a joint replacement later this month. A bout of bronchitis and having to dig a trench for a cable (too wet to do it mechanically and now so much dry weather) took a lot of time out of the year and I was very weary after most days - not feeling at all like doing a newsletter. This one is very brief but while I have not got the full details yet, I have eight weeks on crutches to look forward to so hope I can put some of the time to catching up on Acacia Group matters - a final newsletter, hopefully finalising the sets of Acacia slides and some reorganisation of the seed bank.

Thank you to Max McDowall and Bruce Maslin who have provided items to go in a newsletter. Unless there is a new leader appointed I will produce the newsletter, even if it is after the end of June. **DO NOT SEND ANY MEMBERSHIP FEES** as the group will be going into recess.

HYBRIDISING TECHNIQUES:

I managed to borrow a copy of an ACIAR Technical Report, "Hybridisation Techniques for Acacias". It is out of print and the local library took many months to track down a copy. The techniques were developed using the species A. mangium and A. auriculiformis which had been noticed to give some vigorous crossbreds, suitable for timber production, in Malaysia. It involves protecting selected spikes from random pollination by use of "crossing bags", reducing the number of florets on these, pollinating by hand when the flowers are ready and bagging for a further three days. The spikes need to be tagged for identification (and the seeds grown for selection). I wonder what the potential of crossing small acacias to produce garden varieties might be.?

PLEASE NOTE:

***GROUP INTO RECESS:** As there has been no response to the search for a new *
* Leader the Acacia Study Group will be in recess from 30th June 1997. *
* There will be one more newsletter and the seed bank requests will *
* be closed at the end of May and no seeds will be sent to requests *
* received after this date. *

Seed requests will be sent when I can manage it. B.C.

A.S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET 1995-6

Income

Balance 1/7/95	967.74
Membership fees and donations	383.70
Interest on Account	11.36
Cash on hand 1/7/94	2.80
Sales of "Wattles Are Golden"	147.65
	<u>1513.25</u>

Expenses

Purchase of seeds	12.90
Duplication	134.30
Postage, envelopes etc.	78.75
Phone calls	5.00
Enlargements from slides *	199.50
Mounting and laminating photos	56.00
Duplication and materials for "Wattles Are Golden" #	188.60
Bank tax	0.20
Cash on hand 30/6/95	34.35
Bank balance 30/6/95	803.65
	<u>1513.25</u>

26 copies of "Wattles Are Golden" remain on hand.

* 12 large mounted photographs of Acacias are an asset of the group.