

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO. 8
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1972 – another year already on its way. So I send you a wish that it may bring you health and happiness, peace, contentment and many flowering acacias.

MEMBERSHIP: The following new members have joined the Group since October:-

Green, A.T.C.	PO Box 277, Port Pirie, SA 5540
Irving, J.G.	PO Box 131, Port Pirie, SA 5540
Mack, J.	9 Bayswater Road, Lindfield, NSW 2070
Maher, Mrs V.	21 Evelyn Street, Frankston, Vic 3199
Mingay, E.S.	40 Balfour Street, Nailsworth, SA 5083
Noone, Leon	PO Box 234, Nhulunbuy, NT 5797
Osborne, Dr. M.T.	34 Locke Street, Warwick, Qld 4370
Park, Mrs G.W.	755 Samford Road, Grovely, Qld, 4054
Pratten, C.H.	Koolewong, Borenore, NSW 2800
Shadgett, Miss K.	122 Sussex Street, North Adelaide, 5066
Smith, R.N.	128 Nelson Road, Mt Nelson, Tasmania 7007
Standen, Mrs E.A.	68 High Street, Lismore, NSW 2480

Mr Pratten has converted 200 acres of his property at Borenore, 15 miles west of Orange, into an Arboretum and Wild Life Refuge.

However, it looks as though what we have gained on the swings we may be about to lose on the roundabouts. A number of people have not paid their \$1.00 sub to cover expenses to end of 1972. If a red tick appears here ... you are one of them. Sorry to say that if sub not received by end of March, membership will be discontinued.

FINANCE: In case anyone might think the funds are being squandered, and for the benefit of new members, I should explain that the only expenses paid from Group Funds are the cost of duplicating N/Ls and various lists, cost of foolscap envelopes for and postage on N/Ls; and cost of seed envelopes. The number of N/Ls posted is always in excess of the membership because a copy is sent to the SGAP Secretary in each state and to prospective new members. SGAP NSW has generously offered to pay for duplicating N/Ls in future and foolscap envelopes will also cost less as I have been able to buy wholesale. Money used for the purchase of seed is my own and when you pay 7 cents for a dozen or so seeds you are paying me personally. This is much easier than having to keep track of these small amounts if they were Group Funds. Can assure you I don't make a profit, especially as many seeds remain unsold and will ultimately go on the free list. And just for the record, apart from seeds listed for sale, another \$10.00 worth was purchased by me and went into the ordinary seed list. I am quite happy to make this contribution.

The account stands as follows:-

Balance at date of October N/L		11.00
Subs received 1972 and 1973 in advance		35.00
Donations		<u>5.00</u>
		51.00
Duplicating October N/L and Lists	18.12	
Postage on N/Ls	5.39	
Foolscap Envelopes	.70	
1000 Seed Envelopes	<u>2.25</u>	<u>26.46</u>
Balance in hand		<u>24.54</u>

RECORDED DATA: The sum total of this is nil. My fault – not yours. Have delayed doing anything with your lists because (a) couldn't quite make up my mind as to the best method of recording, bearing in mind that I hope these records will be continued for many years and will certainly be handed on to my successor and (b) am hoping that those people who have not sent in their records will DO SO WITHOUT FAIL within the next month. I realize now that certain items of additional information should have been asked for and am having proper Report Sheets printed – should have done this in the first place.

ACACIAS IN TUBS: Two of my 5 *A. drummondii* are carrying buds – one grown from seed sown 5.11.70 and the other 3.4.71. Three more of the latter vintage I think will not flower this year. *A. sclerophylla*, *A. continua*, *A. amblygona* and *A. pulchella* are quite three times the size of plants in the garden. Has anyone else had this experience?

There's been a deathly hush from the entire membership on this subject. Anyone doing anything about it?

SEED LIST:

Additions

aculeatissima pros.
amblygona (few)
boormanii (few)
drummondii major (few)
continua
glaucescens
* *gunnii*
jibberdingensis
linifolia
loxophylla var. *nervosa*
obliquistigma
longifolia var. *sophorae* (few)
plagiophylla

To the paying list

latipes
teretifolia

Deletions

linophylla
loderi
quornensis
pubescens
vestita

From the paying list

blakelyi
cedroides
cupularis
decipiens
* *gunnii*
holosericea
ligustrina
nervosa
restiacea
tetragonophylla

A. gunnii is now on the free list thanks to Mrs Perkins and Mr Pratten. And many thanks to Mrs Perkins who also supplied *A. aculeatissima*. Will anyone else who can supply seed of any species not on our list or any known to be scarce please so do. Someone should have *A. pubescens* and *A. vestita*, and *A. farinosa* is also wanted.

Does anyone think the number of seeds supplied is insufficient? If so, state the number you want and if we have plenty, I will send them. No point in sending more than required: (a) they're wasted, and (b) it means renewing seed bank supplies more frequently.

A. gonophylla and *A. sulcata*: Seeds supplied as *A. gonophylla* came from King's Park, so when I subsequently received a small parcel of seed from Mr Knox of Esperance labelled *A. gonophylla* but bearing no resemblance to those received from King's Park I wrote to them. (Here I should pause to explain that I often hold seeds from several sources covering one species. When I first became Leader I tried to get Herbariums to identify these as in several instances they appear to be completely different. However, understandably enough, Herbariums refuse to commit themselves on seed only. In this case they did so because one of their own was involved). Imagine my astonishment when the reply came back to the effect that what they had supplied as *A. gonophylla* was *A. sulcata*. Their concluding paragraph really made my day. It read: "We are most grateful for your attention to detail which has brought this to our notice. Many thanks." So I am enclosing herewith *A. gonophylla*, the genuine article, for those who were wrongly supplied before.

GERMINATION RESULTS: Members who tried the "special" seeds may be interested in the following germination results – mine. *A. blakelyi* 0/9, *A. browniana* 6/11, *A. cedroides* 3/7, *A. cuneata* 3/8, *A. cupularis* 4/5, *A. dentifera* 1/12, *A. filifolia* 2/8, *A. glaucoptera* 10/10, *A. mitchellii* 4/9, *A. nervosa* 7/10, *A. restiacea* 1/10, *A. shuttleworthii* 2/5, *A. stenoptera* 5/5, *A. tetragonophylla* 1/5. I'd be very interested to have your results – not that I think they mean anything scientifically, but as a matter of general interest.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE GROUP: Many of you have the good fortune to live in the bush where you have ample opportunity to get intimately acquainted with the habits of your local Acacias. Others have the opportunity to observe, while travelling, large stands of Acacias from which they could form a good idea of growth habit. The reports by Mrs Young, Des Nelson and Fred Rogers, included in Members' Comments are excellent examples of what can be done for the Group by enthusiastic members in providing us with this kind of information. If everyone would describe the acacias in their own localities I'm sure we would get a lot of interesting facts, and the information supplied would serve as the necessary yardstick by which to measure performance of these same acacias in cultivation. PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

Acacias for wet areas: Mrs Young has sent seeds of *A. plagiophylla* and gives the following description. "Grows in swampy wallum areas, reaches 4' to 6' with a rather open habit (less so in an exposed situation); phyllodes small and triangular on branches which tend to weep. Flowers are fairly large, pale yellow and heavily scented in early spring." Sounds very attractive.

Mrs Young has also sent few seeds of *A. longifolia* var. *sophorae* prostrate which she describes as follows:- "This species grows on the beach front and I have seen very good specimens (10 sq yds and flowering heavily) not far above high tide mark. The main branches are prostrate with secondary upright branches growing to about one foot and covered in 1" yellow rods in early spring. The prostrate branches root along their length."

No one came up with any suggestions for acacias which would stand the high rainfall. PLEASE THINK AGAIN.

***A. fimbriata* and *A. trineura*.** I've had two reports about each of these growing in wet areas (have one *A. fimbriata* myself in semi-swamp doing very well at 18 months) and several others reporting both in extremely dry conditions. As I did not, at the time, record these comments precisely and have now lost track of them, would anyone with knowledge of either of these, either in nature or cultivation please write to me. This is the kind of information we must endeavour to place on permanent record. Mr Rogers gives interesting comment on *A. triptera* in the Warby Ranges near Wangaratta, the only place it grows in Victoria. Majority of bushes seen on a recent trip were old and very large, to 12ft high and quite wide. In many places where mature branches had fallen over they had formed roots and developed new growth which in some instances had again fallen over and taken root, so that what appeared to be 3 or more bushes over an area of 30 odd feet, was in fact only one bush. Disappointing to find no small seedlings, possibly because of grazing by sheep or rabbits.

Mr Des Nelson, who always comes up with something interesting, tells us more about two well known central Acacias. *A. kempeana* "Witchetty Bush" – thus named because of the edible grubs which aborigines collect from its roots at the base, produces long straight strong roots which are made into spears. The dead wood and roots are good firewood and to the pastoralist it is a useful species as cattle graze it. *A. aneura*, the famous "Mulga" is used even more diversely. We are all familiar with the beautiful grain revealed in its polished wood. It is also a stock fodder tree and most of the station fence posts are mulga trunks – countless thousands of mulgas have fallen to the post cutters' axes. (One wonders there are any left). The timber is used by the aborigines for making boomerangs, woomeras (spear throwers), digging sticks, nulla nullas (clubs), bull roarers and churingas. A parasite causes globular galls to 1" diameter, known as "Mulga apples" which are eaten. Seeds of this species and *A. kempeana* are ground into flour to be cooked and eaten. *A. coriacea*, known as "Dogwood", or sometimes as "Black heart" is also used for boomerang manufacture. The pods are known as "Dogwood beans" and the green seeds are edible and quite tasty.

All year round flowering: Mr Jacobs has sent his list which shows *A. retinodes* and his early flowering *A. pycnantha* covering, between them, the period December to July, a good showing for August and September, and October/November covered mainly by *A. retinodes*, *A. verticillata* and *A. mearnsii*. *A. verticillata* is worthy of note as it is shown as flowering from July to December. I have year round flowering myself with completely different species and/or different flowering times for the same species. So it would seem this is quite easy to achieve and will vary from one locality to another.

Your lucky Leader was given 5 seeds of *A. denticulosa*. These were sown on 30th August and to date all are strong and healthy, despite over 9" of rain in the last 5 days. Wonder if they'll survive the heat and intense humidity which must surely follow.

AND FINALLY I MUST TELL YOU We won the Battle against the Airport! The announcement was made on Dec 23rd. What a Christmas present! You should have seen the Acacias when I told them. They nearly burst their pods with excitement. But our labours are far from ended. We now have to fight on to get the 99 acres of Crown Land incorporated into the Kuring-gai Chase so that some later Government cannot start the whole thing up again.

AND THAT'S THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. NEXT ONE APRIL