

S.G.A.P. DODONAEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 1

July, 1983.

Leader: Jeanette Closs
7 Vyella Court,
Austins Ferry. 7011.

Dear Members,

For some years now I have been planning to start this study group, but first I had to find out a bit about this interesting genus and also find a period when my other commitments allowed time to correspond with members and to grow lots of 'Dods'.

My interest came soon after I took on the position of S.G.A.P. Federal Study Group Co-ordinator in 1975. I held this position until 1981 and enjoyed corresponding with the many keen Study Group leaders throughout Australia. At the Conference in Melbourne in 1981 Jo Benyon agreed to take over the co-ordinating. However in March, 1982 I was persuaded to take on a second term as President of the Tasmanian Region. I am still enjoying this role, but I also felt that I couldn't keep on putting off the formation of the Dodonaea Study Group.

Some of you have already written telling me of your selves and your gardens, so I will try to pen a picture of yours truly. My husband and I live in a suburb 16 kms north of Hobart overlooking the lovely Derwent River and with panoramic views of Mt. Wellington, Mt. Direction and Mt. Faulkner. My husband is Sporting Supervisor for the ABC in Tasmania. We have five children, four of whom are married and two grandchildren.

I have three part time jobs. I work in a small branch library two afternoons a week, I lecture to students at the School of Environmental Design on Plant Identification one afternoon a week and I am a Landscape Consultant in my spare time.

Our home is built on a very steep slope with an easterly aspect, the soil is heavy loam over clay with a lot of rock floaters. We both love gardening and I do quite a bit of propagation. I just ^{We} can't resist anything to do with plants. Don, my husband calls my interest an obsession and he could be right.

Don and I have just bought 34 acres of mostly flat land consisting of deep rich loam; and on the south-eastern side, sandy loam above small sandstone cliffs. There is a good cover of Eucalypts and Acacia dealbata. This property is on a very sunny ridge at the northern end of the Mt. Wellington Range. The area is known as Molesworth. When Don retires in about 2 years time, we plan to build up there. In the meantime we will have two dams put in and start developing a new garden. Don plans to grow grapes for wine and have bee-hives for honey. I'll have lots of room for Dodonaeas and other goodies.

Judy West

When I first talked to John Scarvelis, South Australia, of my interest in Dodonaeas, he told me of a botanist who was doing the revision of the Dodonaeas. I wrote to Judy and more recently have had the pleasure of meeting her a number of times. Judy is an attractive young lady who really knows the 'Dods'. She has completed the revision of the genus Dodonaea and expects it to be published later this year. Judy's help and co-operation have been a great inspiration. I really feel that I know quite a lot about 'Dods' now and believe me it is a most interesting study.

Judy has given me a draft copy of her revision, also the key to the species, a vegetative key, her own 'mini' herbarium and a wealth of other material. With all this material, I believe that I can identify species sent to me and call on Judy's assistance if I'm unsure. The names that are to be changed in the revision and any new names cannot be used until after publication.

Seed Bank

I have a small supply of seed, which I've received from Regional seed banks and bought from W.A. Wildflower Society and Nindethana Seed Co. I would like more seed so that we can share it around. If you are sending seed please label carefully noting :

- (i) name of species
- (ii) date collected
- (iii) area collected
- (iv) whether garden or bush
- (v) the name of the collector

If in doubt of the plants identity, send a specimen preferably with a seed capsule. If requesting seed, please send a stamp addressed envelope with your request.

Many of the seeds that I have obtained have been incorrectly named. I will send seed to you on request but cannot guarantee the identity. I hope that you will keep records and help me to notify the supplier if they are incorrectly labelled. This could be an initial study. Judy has suggested that we could do tests on viability of seed. We will need a larger quantity than I have at present.

Finance

	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>
Donation from Tas. Region	\$20.00	Seed	4.20
Subscriptions	12.00	Postage	12.40
		Stationary	5.08
	<u>32.00</u>		<u>21.68</u>
Balance	\$10.32		

Members

Mrs. Phyllis Dadswell	10 Duffield Street, Gawler, 5118.
Mrs. Ida Jackson	7 Centenary Ave, Kingscote 5223
Mr. Peter Olde,	138 Fowler Road, Illawong. 2234.
Mrs. Marion Simmons	P.O. Box 1148, Legana. 7257
Mrs. Lyn Stewart	C/- P.O. Avon, 5501.
Judy West	Division of Plant Industry, C.S.I.R.O. P.O. Box 1600, Canberra City. 2601
Werribee Group SGAP	C/- P.O. Box 363, Werribee, 3030.
Tasmanian Region SGAP	GPO 1353P, Hobart, 7001.

Slide collection

Over the past few years I have been taking photos of Dodonaeas and I hope to build up this collection and maybe in the future I will be able to produce an audio-visual, which could be shown at meetings. Don and I have done two trips around Australia and I've photographed quite a few 'Dods'. However there is many more that I have never seen, perhaps on future trips I'll meet more of our 'friends'. I will be in Adelaide in September for the S.G.A.P. Conference, seminar and bus trip to the Flinders Ranges, so this should present some opportunities. If any of our members are also attending I hope that they will make themselves known to me.

General

The Dodonaeas which I have seen in the field and grown at home are mostly attractive and interesting plants and many appear quite hardy. I would like to present them to the public as attractive horticultural plants. Phyllis Dadswell is growing a number in her nursery at Gawler. Phyllis would like to grow D. humifusa, can anyone help her with seed or cuttings?

Ida Jackson lives on Kangaroo Island and has a number of species growing in her locality including D. hexandra, D. humilis and D. baueri. In Tasmania we only have D. viscosa and our endemic, D. filiformis. Lyn Stewart is growing 15 species. I also have 15 species or subspecies in the garden and more coming on in pots. Marion Simmons as well as being an expert on Acacias is quite a keen grower of Dods. and has helped keep up my enthusiasm over the past few years.

One of the problems is that most species are dioecious (having female flowers on one plant and male on another). Some species are occasionally polygamo-dioecious (meaning some members bearing bisexual flowers additional to unisexual ones.) Where members have the room, it would be a good idea if you grow a number of plants of each species so that they would be more likely to set seed. This could also lead to hybridization!! There is so much to be learnt. Would it be better to try and grow from cuttings and to aim at having one male and one or more female as they do with 'Kiwi fruit'? Have you any suggestions?

I shall enclose a copy of a sheet that I intend to use when I'm in the field (the idea taken from the Acacia Study group leader). Also a questionnaire which I would be pleased if you could fill in and return to me. When I know what you are growing and what some of the problems that you are facing, are, then we can plan what type of study we will pursue.

Best wishes,

Jeanette Closs