

Hello Everyone,

Autumn has just arrived bringing perfect weather for cleaning up the garden, pruning overgrown plants and preparing areas for new ones. Unfortunately, due to the heavy rains in spring and early summer, several of my natives "drowned" including several hakeas so I have a chance to remake some beds and redesign one whole corner. I am going to put a row of four *H. sericea* against my back fence to make a thicket for birds, trouble is I grew too many of them and cannot bear to throw them out, I hope the birds enjoy the facility although if it only harbours mulch scattering label stealing blackbirds no doubt I shall rue the day!

I spent a fortnight in January attending the ASGAP Conference/Seminar and enjoying the pre- and post-Seminar tours which covered one trip from Devonport to Hobart via Cradle Mountain, Deloraine, Great Lake and Bothwell and the return trip from Hobart to Bicheno, St. Helens, Launceston and back to Devonport. Dick Burns, one of our members who lives at Penguin, was our leader for the first tour and accompanied us on the return tour when Marion Simmons (Acacia S.G. leader) and John were the leaders. Most Tasmanian hakeas have terete foliage and Dick was tireless in tracking them down while at the same time finding the genera that others wanted to see. We found *H. microcarpa* and *H. teretifolia* in full flower, the latter being particularly floriferous at Bicheno. One morning in Hobart we were taken up Mt. Wellington at 5 a.m. to see the dawn and found several sturdy specimens of *H. lissosperma* on the way back. The only endemic hakea is *H. epiglottis* which is very widespread and whose flower colour varies from very pale to a deeper yellow. A very good flowering specimen puts on a good show. Two hakeas formerly listed as Tasmanian species: *H. rostrata* and *H. rugosa* (A.P. Vol. 5 p. 375) are now considered to be *H. epiglottis*. The variation in size of *H. epiglottis* seedboxes may have caused the confusion.

THE HAKEA TAMMINENSIS PROBLEM RESOLVED

W.R. (Bill) Barker - State Herbarium of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000.

From various anecdotes I have heard, *Hakea tamminensis* has been a prize sought by hakeaphiles visiting the Tammin area in the south-west of our continent ever since 1964, when the species was described by the late Government Botanist in Western Australia Charles Gardner.

One of the immediate benefits of accumulating some 16,000 specimens from herbaria all over the world for our revisional study of *Hakea* has been the discovery of the true identity of this species. The original single specimen upon which Gardner based his new species (its holotype) turns out to be an eastern State species. Of this there is no doubt. The species concerned is none other than *H. gibbosa*, which abounds in the sandstone vegetation in and around Sydney. The holotype specimen fortunately was collected with flowers and fruits. Everything about it matches a typical *H. gibbosa*. The fruits in particular are very distinctive, with the seed borne transversely within, something unique amongst Hakeas with terete leaves and fruits of this general size and shape. In addition the type bears the unusual dense long hairs characteristic of the Sydney species.

The only thing that does not tally with *H. gibbosa* is the locality. I can only assume that Gardner made an honest mistake. A delay in writing a collectors label, a loss of such a label, or a placement of a label with the wrong specimen could each have led to the unfortunate error. Where did he get the specimen from? Alternatively, was the species cultivated in Western Australian gardens prior to the 1960s? It could then have been collected in order to determine its identity. We shall probably never be sure of the story behind it.

Most importantly, however, we now can forget about *H. tamminensis* and concentrate on documenting and preserving, preferably as natural populations, the species and their variants which actually do exist in our wonderful Australian bush.

Reference: Barker W.R. (1989). *Hakea tamminensis* (Proteaceae): a case of mistaken identity. *Nuytsia* 7(1): 1-3.

REGENERATION AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Last spring I was invited to join SGAP Hamilton Group on a visit to Ken Stuckey's garden over the border in S.A. to see how his land had responded after the total devastation caused by Ash Wednesday. Ken had always grown a great number of hakeas and other proteaceae and his new garden consists of a large area of planted specimens of many genera with a much bigger

part showing the many small plants and shrubs which have regenerated spontaneously. Missing were some of the large hakeas I remembered, especially a very tall magnificent specimen of *H. varia*, but in their place were strongly growing specimens of *H. arida*, *prostrata*, *falcata* and many more. The garden as a whole was a mass of colour and robust growth, no doubt the clearing of the old plants by the fire meant that everything had a new start unhampered by overhanging branches and the fight for survival ensured that only vigorous healthy shrubs succeeded. I particularly liked a white flowered *H. prostrata*, the upright form, whose flowers had a faint greenish tinge.

Ken showed me a hakea I did not know and it proved to be *H. auriculata* var. *spathulata*, a very aggressive plant. *Hakea auriculata* is low growing, often not more than .6 m high and can be up to nearly 2 m. wide but var. *spathulata* looks as though it could be taller and less dense. Both have toothed leaves but var. *spathulata* has much larger and sharper points.

WELCOME to Dr. W.R. Barker and Robyn Barker who together with Dr. Laurie Haegi form the team of botanists working on the revision of *Hakea*. All three have now become members of this study group and already have been of considerable help to me.

Hakea trineura. During the seminar at Hobart a slide of this hakea was shown taken in the Port Macquarie Forests area. *H. trineura* is a tall shrub or small tree, branches and foliage minutely tomentose. Leaves are rather thick, triplinerved, 3-5" long, oblong, cuneate or lanceolate, obtuse. The racemes of flowers are about 2" long. I have never seen this species but I am told that the flowers are a soft yellow or greenish yellow. The slide shown in Hobart illustrated a red flower with a touch of yellow, an extremely attractive specimen. I did have some seed some years ago but could not germinate it, those of you who received some from me may have been more successful. I would be very glad to hear from anyone growing this hakea.

In 1977, I photographed a yellow flowered hakea in Kalbarri National Park W.A. and could not identify it. I had already heard of a yellow hakea there and over the years have received more reports. On sending slides of the flower, foliage and seedbox to Robyn Barker, she has been able to solve the mystery. It is *H. circumalata* whose flowers are always pink or white, but what must have happened is that I saw them when they were dying off. Some plants look still attractive at this stage, others look very tatty. In the past I have been caught with *H. scoparia* this way, people being adamant that the flowers were, red, ginger, rust-coloured and definitely not *scoparia*, so please inspect unknown species very carefully and assure yourself that the flowers are fresh. Incidentally none of my books reported *H. circumalata* occurring at Kalbarri.

I have been doing extensive work in my garden, altering the shape of some beds and getting one new area for new plantings. I have had mounds of red clay to dispose of so used them as a sort of thick top-dressing in several areas before spreading copious quantities of gypsum on top. I have been delighted with the result especially when good compost has been mixed in. In the last newsletter I was hoping to save my red *H. laurina* but unhappily this proved impossible. We could not keep it upright in the mud and I also lost *H. dactyloides*. *Hakea amplexicaulis* had yellow leaves and barely kept alive but now looks stronger, however I was very surprised a couple of weeks ago to find that it has sent up suckers in three places, all about 18" from the main stem. *Hakea clavata* is putting out masses of buds at present and the pink flowers are beginning to show. This is a curious species, it seems to flower when the mood takes it, odd flowers occurring throughout the year. The only other species that suckers as far as I know is *H. leucoptera*, which grows into a small tree near Kimba, S.A. If you know of any others or have observed the same phenomenon in your own garden I would be glad to hear.

Maybe I was inspired by the revision taking place in Adelaide, in any case I decided to sort out the hundreds of specimens collected over the years and only keep one good example of each species. It took me weeks and now I have a winter task to go through the remaining bags and reduce them even more. I also came across a very large bag of seedboxes collected interstate by a travelling friend. At present I am testing them for fertility and if alright they will be a welcome addition to the seed bank.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are not due until the 30th June, but I wish to advise that the subscription has had to be increased to \$4.00. All stationery costs have increased slowly and postage never gets cheaper, so reluctantly I have had to take this step.

Barbara Daly has done an excellent job as Study Group Co-ordinator for ASGAP and has now stepped down. We welcome Jan Sked, particularly well known in Queensland, as our new Co-ordinator and wish her well.

Now is the time to plant out after the autumn rains and before the really cold weather slows growth. Good luck.