

Hello Everyone,

I had thought all my troubles were behind me when I came home from the ASGAP Biennial Conference and Seminar in Ballarat last September but it has not proved to be easy to turn out an acceptable newsletter on my computer, so here I am back to my typewriter.

During the seminar and the associated coach trips there were many opportunities to renew old friendships and create new ones but of course I especially enjoy meeting members of this group and now can add faces to the names on the bottom of a few more of your letters.

Now that the drought is officially over in most of Australia, it is a good time to review which species of hakea weathered the long dry conditions. At Jimboomba, Q'land, Ian Waldron reported that after five years they had actually received some reasonable rain, five inches in one storm with a few days of light drizzle. The drought period had only produced four inches of rainfall per year for each of four years. If the conditions continue improving he will send us a list of hakeas that have survived. To most of us down south this will be a real testament to hakea hardiness!

Fay Boyle has written from Bendigo (Vic) that it has been a very hard eighteen months for gardens in her area. "We had over 70 severe frosts last winter - some at minus 7° - and little or no rain up until April. During May we had over four inches (on the old scale) in one week and this certainly filled up the large cracks in the soil. The hakeas in my garden have survived remarkably well considering the conditions. As we have a large garden - over 2 acres - we have made a decision not to artificially water after the first year of planting." The hakeas that have survived in Fay's garden are: Adnata, bucculenta (only small), corymbosa, laurina, nodosa, obtusa, orthorrhyncha, petiolaris, prostrata, purpurea, salicifolia (saligna), sericea, suaveolens and a small coriacea. Four unidentified species also survived.

Geoffrey Cooke from Wiseleigh (Vic) says his garden is still growing larger and he has now built a swamp in the middle of it. Many of his hakeas bloomed for the first time last spring but he lost a lot to the dry and frosts of last year.

Hakea crassinervia. This hakea is reported to be a hybrid and has been marketed under the name "Burrendong Beauty" probably because after being believed to be extinct in 1961 it came to light in a batch of seed planted by the late Peter Althofer at Burrendong Arboretum. Until the hakea section is published in Flora Australia we will not know the official standing of this plant. In the meantime Don Weybury at Blackwood (Vic) has been growing several specimens from seed. He and I both have plants that provide seed, I am supposing mine will be fertile as his has proved to be so. Don reports that all the seedlings have had juvenile leaves, 3-veined with appressed hairs. He gave me one which is now 78 cms high and upright in form. Don's seedlings have shown a variety of forms and it will be most interesting to see them when they eventually flower. My adult plant is about 1.5 m high and over 5 m. wide with glabrous leaves the same length as the seedling but only one third as wide. I would recommend this hakea to anyone with enough space to accommodate it, mine flowers twice yearly, end of autumn and again in spring but some plants only bloom once. The one disadvantage I find is that leaves in the centre of the bush gradually die off and are not replaced. I have pruned mine quite often so that smaller natives nearby will survive, this seems to stimulate new growth at the time but does not prevent the dropping of leaves.

IDENTIFYING SPIKE-FLOWERED SPECIES.

I referred in the last newsletter to the question of identification of the species which comprise what is usually called the multilineata group of hakeas. There are four species commonly in cultivation, *H. bucculenta*, *multilineata*, *francisiana* and *coriacea*. Each has a distinguishing characteristic which makes it stand out and if these are remembered you should have no trouble in future.

H. bucculenta, flowers red, often on older wood, the leaves have only one vein.

H. multilineata, flowers bright pink, spike is short and "cuddles" the stem or sometimes spirals around stem. Fruit is ridged called a dorsal groove or an open keel.

H. francisiana, flowers deep pink to red, leaves to 25cm. with 3 to 9 veins. The shrub or small tree has a silvery green look usually and when about to flower the long spike of green buds stands very erect beside the stem and as they change colour they stand away from the stem.

H. coriacea, flowers cream and pink, or apricot, red, long leathery leaves to 25cms. with 8-13 nerves. This species is closely allied to *H. francisiana* and seems to have a greater variety of colours in the flowers but they lack the stiffness of the *H. francisiana* spikes, instead have a very shaggy effect and can look very faded. Fruit is rather rounded with a noticeable broad beak. Many people make their identifications based on the number of veins in the leaves but I have found this a very uncertain characteristic on its own.

HAKEA TRINEURA

Undoubtedly the highlight of the past spring was the first flowering of *H. trineura* in my garden. It is about three years since I acquired it and planted it facing north but with some shade from an elm street tree. It occurs in coastal areas of northern N.S.W. and the central coastal area of Queensland. I knew of the yellow flowered form but mine is the red. I had not realised it was out at first, but later I watched all these pendant clusters pop out of the main stem, thirteen in all, one coming out at ground level. The leaves are up to 18cm. long and 2 cm. wide with three veins, glabrous and bright green on top, duller green underneath. When several flowers were out at the same time they created a cascade effect down the main stem.



SGAP Vic. Hakea Weekend

Following from my last paragraph of the September 1995 newsletter, I am pleased to be able to forward you details of the proposed weekend to be held on the 12th and 13th of October, 1996.

Paul Kennedy, Secretary SGAP Vic and a Hakea Study Group member has requested that the attached information sheet on the weekend be forwarded to all members. I hope you will be able to assist Paul in making this weekend one in which we are able to come together and learn more about our hakeas. It will also be a great chance to meet each other personally.

PLEASE keep records of the hakeas you lose whatever the cause as well as your successes.

May all your gardens prosper this season!

HAZEL BLACKNEY

SGAP Vic. Hakea Weekend

October 12th to 13th, 1996 in Horsham Region.

The executive of SGAP Vic. has proposed that during 1996 a weekend should be devoted to the promotion of growing a particular group of native plants in order that they will become better known more easily identified in respect to similar species and also more of the species will be grown in our gardens.

To achieve this aim the weekend of October 12th to 13th has been scheduled as a Hakea weekend and will be centered on the Horsham area in North West Victoria.

The format for the weekend will begin after lunch on Saturday, the 12th of October in the Wartook area at the western end of the Grampians Ranges where the garden of the Royce and Jeanne Raleigh and Gordon Paterson will be visited.

Participants will then return to the Natimuk Hall where after an evening meal speakers will address the various groups of Hakeas such as *multilineata* and *sulcata* groups and how each species can be identified.

The Sunday morning activities will be held at the garden of Fred and June Rogers at Vectis where a large collection of Hakeas have been grown for many years. Lunch will also be served here before attendees return home. It is proposed that a large number of Hakeas in 150mm deep tubes will be on sale.

To make the weekend special in the identification of Hakea species and sale of plants we require the following assistance.

- ◆ **Hakea seeds.** Members and others who have access to seeds are requested to advise urgently what varieties they can supply. Interstate varieties in particular are needed. It is hoped that a member of local Victorian growers will be supplied with sterilized soil and tubes and be given the task of producing significant numbers of each species subject to seed being available.
- ◆ **Photos.** In order to mount a display we need members and others to supply colour photos and pressed specimens of any pieces you have.

For registration of interest in attending the weekend and assisting in the supply of seed, photos and pressed specimens would you please forward details/information to Paul Kennedy, 17 Craig Crt Heathmont Victoria 3135 or telephone 03-9729 4292. Anticipated costs and accommodation details will be forwarded prior to July, 1996. I thank you for your assistance.

Paul Kennedy


Secretary SGAP Vic.