

Hello Everyone,

This is my favourite month of the year for doing the maintenance work in the garden, the weeds have slowed down and the cutting winds of July have not yet eventuated. In the last twelve months we have had a lot more rain than in recent years and of course many plants have been rejuvenated and some have found the excess water too much. Near my letterbox I have a lovely *H. cristata*, about 3m. high which has flowered profusely in late winter for years. I noticed one morning several weeks ago that it had developed a frill of new shoots coming from the lignotuber at ground level. Looking further one of the tall branches had died and the other heavy branch was bending towards the north to elude an *Acacia iteaphylla*, a huge *Doryanthus palmeri* and a Queensland Bottle Tree. The things you plant when ignorance is bliss! The trunk of the bottle after 30 + years is barely 12", some bottle that will be! In spite of all this competition the *H. cristata* now has 26 shoots up to .5m long and has sent long shoots up the trunk and will flower soon. It will be interesting to see if the 26 at present horizontal at ground level decide to grow up into some sort of thicket.

Flora of Australia, Vol. 16, Proteaceae is now available but does not cover *Hakea*. It is a comprehensive look at the Proteaceae in Australia and covers all subjects essential for both professional and informed amateur botanists. Volume 17 which I am assured will be published before the end of the year will cover *Hakea* and the remainder of the Proteaceae.

Col Cornford, Melaleuca and Allied Genera Study Group Leader, sent me the following recently. "About 12 months ago at a nursery in Toowoomba we purchased a plant of *Hakea Burrendong* (Known as *H. crassinervia*) in a 4" pot and about 200mm diam. We planted it on the buffer of the fill at our son's house in what is, basically, a mixture of stone and clay. It is now about 2.5m diameter and is completely prostrate. It is flowering very well at present along the whole length of every branch. It seemed to relish the hot, wet, humid weather we had earlier in the year. It will be interesting to see how it performs in the future."

Norm McCarthy of Toowoomba recently rejoined this group after a few years break. I visited his garden years ago and one *Hakea* I could never forget was a *H. amplexicaulis* with fifteen tall stems from the ground. This is another lignotuberous species and I wonder if my *H. cristata* will finish up such a shrub. Norm mentioned that he is now growing *H. fraseri*, sp. Nova, Quilpie Qld. grafted on *Grevillea robusta* (Silky Oak) and *H. rhombalis* W.A, also grafted on *Grevillea robusta*. He also requested information on *H. dohertyi* which is unknown to me, but we may be able to track down when the above *Hakea* volume is available.

More comments on *H. crassinervia* come from Murray Chapman, Prospect S.A. He has quite a few growing and finds they adapt to his dry conditions pretty well. His plants have definitely produced fertile seeds and he is waiting to see how his propagated plants turn out. His *H. neurophylla* has flowered with pink flowers and he thinks it will be a good one.

One of my friends reported to me that he had a completely prostrate *H. laurina* but it died recently after too much rain. This is the second time I have heard of this form. I would be very glad to hear of anyone growing it. When an old *H. laurina* fell over in my garden, I cut it down and used the hundreds of seed capsules as mulch. I think every one germinated but no weeds got through!

Max McDowall has been a member of this Group for many years and is one of the best gardeners I have met so I asked him to allow me to write up his garden for the benefit of us all. Max and his wife Regina live at 10 Russell Street, Bulleen, Victoria, in the Yarra Valley, across the river from the suburb where I live.

Max uses his land very well and because he plants very intensively, has done a lot of experimentation with soil improvement with outstanding results.

The species growing at present are:

bucculenta, costata, cristata, elliptica, francisiana, grammatophylla, invaginata, lasiocarpa, lissocarpa, minyma, multilineata, myrtoides, neurophylla, nitida orthorryncha, preissii on elliptica (cotyledon graft with lignotuber, purpurea sericea (pink), sulcata and sp. Araluen.

Species which died after 1-3 years :

brooksiana, clavata, conchifolia, cycloptera, gilbertii, lasiantha, lorea, meisneriana, platysperma, ruscifolia, smilacifolia, suberea, tephrosperma.

Many species thrived but were removed because 1. they were too large for the situation, 2. did not respond well to cutting back, or 3. did not grow well in shady situations. These were:

amplexicaulis, bakeriana, baxteri, Burrendong Beauty, cinerea, coriacea, corymbosa crassifolia, cucullata, eriantha, falcata, ferruginea, flabellifolia, laurina, macreana, nodosa, obliqua, obtusa, pandanicarpa, petiolaris, propinqua, prostrata pycnoneura, rostrata, rugosa, salicifolia, scoparia, strumosa, suaveolens, trifurcata, ulicina, varia, verrucosa, victoria.

Soil situation:

Original soil was brown clay-loam over grey clay, with some overburden of heavy stony clay because of road and drainage activities

Heavy clay was stripped off some areas and exposed topsoil, plus more recovered from under the house was finely graded, and mixed as follows

coarse sand	50%
sandy loam	25%
local topsoil	25%

Additives to this bulk mix

gravel	2-5%
compost	2%
gypsum	
trace elements	

Land was drained with agricultural pipes and soil built into rockeries from 20-50 cm deep over the clay substratum.

Front garden bed composed of

crushed scoria	55%
mountain soil	15%
sandy loam	15%
local topsoil	15%

additives as above

This mixture was incorporated into steep rockeries 25-70 cm deep over the clay substratum.

The block is 15m x 47m long.

Slope front to back (bottom of gully) 3.5 metres.

Aspect 35' East of North down the block.

Fencing 160 cm high.

Soil surface about 25 cm above surrounding blocks due to dumping of clay and build up of garden beds.

Garden beds are lightly mulched with shredded prunings.

Shading, especially at back, from adjacent blocks extensive (especially in the 1970's) due to overplanting of *Eucalyptus globulus*, *E. sideroxylon*, *E. saligna*, *E. ovata*, *E. newbeyi*, *Acacia mearnsii*, *A. dealbata*, *Photinia robusta*, conifers and other exotics, *Melaleuca armillaris*. Large trees once growing on my block have been progressively removed: *Euc. viminalis*, *E. mannifera*, *Acacia dealbata*, *Acacia schinoides*, *Grevillea "Red Hooks"* and others are pruned back regularly.

Watering is done from fixed microsprays or soaker hoses once or twice per fortnight in summer.

From the above, you would wonder if Max had any time to do anything else but attend to his garden, to his plants, in fact he has also found a place for a very productive vegetable garden and devotes time to participating from time to time in other study groups! He is particularly interested in acacias and boronias.

The new leader of the Container Plant Study Group is seeking our help in supplying information about any hakeas you may have grown in containers. She would like to know any hints you may have on potting mixes, fertiliser, climatic conditions etc. Her name is Julie McGregor, 14 Bellevue Crescent, Terrigal 2260.

A SPRING FLING. The Wildflower Society of W.A. is holding a Spring Fling on Sunday 8 September, 1996, 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. at Perry House, 71 Oceanic Drive, Floreat Park, W.A. Tel.no. 383 7979. There will be displays, guided walks, demonstrations etc. Sounds very interesting if you are travelling at that time.

SEED BANK. I have new supplies of many species although not all I ordered were in stock. If you wish to send for seed, could you order as soon as possible as my family will not be able to attend to requests while I am away for some weeks.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due, still \$4.00.

Wishing you all a fine display from your hakeas

HAZEL BLACKNEY