

Recently we had a Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show staged in the Exhibition Building and stands set up throughout the Carlton Gardens under the huge old trees. S.G.A.P. Victoria had a small but very stylish display setting out a design for a courtyard, small backyard or patio. Pom pom topiary trees outlined the area with massed ground cover banksias in full flower down one side. Several species of crowea in flower made a low hedge to divide the site and other blue, white and mauve flowering plants were in containers at key points.

The inside of the Exhibition Building was saturated with colour. There were no hakeas in flower but hakea seedcases were used in many of the individual arrangements. One wall was devoted to displays representing other countries: Holland, U.S.A. etc. In the centre of the Israel section was displayed our red flowered eucalyptus! Israel grows many of our flowers for the European cut-flower market but it looked quite bizarre in this setting. According to the press reviews, only three stands showed Australian plants exclusively, but they were used in mixed flower displays. It seems often that we have barely begun to educate the public.

Winter is nearly upon us and Victoria together with other parts of Australia is still trying to break the grip of a seven month dry spell. The light rains and drizzle has not penetrated the layer of mulch to the dusty dry soil underneath. Knowing this, I was still very surprised to lose both plants of *H. cucullata* in my garden but tongue in cheek, I can blame my neighbours. One put in a watering system along a side fence which meant damp soil most of the time, but when his tree nearby grew huge the poor hakea couldn't get any sun either. The other was in a very dry spot which received run-off water from my other neighbour but he decided to not to water this summer! Most gardens in Melbourne this year have suffered losses.

Unfortunately I returned from visiting my son in London last year, too ill to attend the HAKEA Weekend but Paul Kennedy has sent this report.

#### THE HAKEA WEEKEND

What a great event this weekend proved to be. Nearly 100 people attended, with interstate members coming from S.A. and Q'land. Approximately 100 species, growing in the gardens of June Rogers, Alby Lindner and Jeanne and Royce Raleigh were able to be viewed and discussed. It was a great way of being able to get to know the various types of Hakea from prickly to soft foliage, unusually shaped leaves, all sizes and shapes of seed capsules and varying flower colors. Whilst the Rogers' and Raleigh's gardens had relatively young Hakea plants of less than 20 years of age, Alby Lindner's bush block had plants going back nearly 50 years. Seed had been given to Alby Lindner by Edward Ashby, a botanist who went exploring Western Australian flora by camel!!

The major achievement for the convenors was the production of a Hakea booklet which lists all 153 described hakeas giving not only text, but seed and leaf drawings to assist SGAP members in identifying each species of Hakea, some of which are very similar. I feel the booklet will become very popular as I believe it is the very first time anything like this has been produced for the genus Hakea.

The first printing has already sold out and I am taking orders for the next printing run, due out early in 1997. The book will cost \$5-\$7, including postage. My address is : Johnsons Lane, Strathmerton Victoria, 3641, or telephone 0358745239. You will be invoiced the cost of the booklet when it is posted to you. By the way, the booklet includes the splitting of *Hakea sericea* into five different species.

There were over 1000 hakea plants for sale. Many were eagerly sought as they are not readily available from nurseries. In all, it was a great weekend with fabulous company and good garden specimens. Thanks must be given to the owners of the gardens open to us, Maree Goods for acting as registrar and the Wimmera Group

for hosting the weekend. Also to the Raleigh family who assisted Royce in preparing the Hakea booklet in eight weeks, an amazing effort.

Geoffrey Cooke, Wiseleigh Victoria writes: Recently I had the opportunity to visit Holley Plains National Park to study a small outcrop of *Hakea repullulans*.

After finding some initial plants on the east side of Wildflower Track at an old picnic spot, I then crossed the road to the west and it was not long before I came across many more plants over a much greater distance. Most of the plants had been severely attacked by some form of insect, grub or beetle. After viewing approximately 30 plants I only found two fruits. The plants I viewed were growing in very light forest where there were patches of native grassland. None were found in heavy forest.

My personal view is that this is a remnant of a larger area of this plant. Because of its low seed set in this area I find it hard to believe that it could have come from an accidental seeding. I feel that burning in the area has had an adverse effect on this plant because when it is burnt many *Banksia serrata* and other undergrowth plants are germinated, which tend to smother this plant out as it seems to need its fair share of sunlight to survive. The plant itself has the ability to survive fire because of its suckering habit and lignotuber.

Paul Kennedy told me that since the Hakea Weekend, Geoffrey has bought a tractor and slasher and is expanding his already large garden to include many more hakeas. He added that Geoffrey had supplied a Hakea song on tape for the weekend.

Norm McCarthy, Toowoomba Queensland writes:

#### Hakea trineura

This tall shrub or small tree grows to a height of 7 metres and 2 metres in diameter. It is a plant of geographical oddity.

The species only occurs in two widely spaced situations, 1200kms apart. Whilst apparently identical, except for their flower colour (one red, the other yellow green), their rare and isolated incidence is a botanical mystery. Both colour variants occur in similar terrain i.e. open forest country on gravel ridges adjacent to coastal areas.

The yellow green flowering form is found near Rockhampton Qld at latitude 23°23". In contrast to this the red flowering form grows near Port Macquarie, NSW at latitude 31°27". The mean average rainfall at Rockhampton is 1500" while that at Port Macquarie is 843".

#### The Toowoomba Experience

In 1989 seed was obtained from both forms and successfully grown. Both forms flowered in September 1996, seven years later.

The green flowered form, growing in part shade, is tall and has yielded 20 flowers. However the red flowered form has grown more robustly in full sunlight. This plant has reached 2.5m by 2 m and flowered copiously in almost unbelievable quantities. Flowers are borne in pendulous axillary racemes on old wood within the foliage. Fruit set was poor, several immature seed capsules just disappeared (this is noted as not unusual at first flowering of some plants). The heavy flowering produced abundant nectar and an overpowering but not unpleasant aroma. The plant is a photographer's dream - I have the evidence!

The green flowered form performs equally well in full sun. Mature specimens in Brisbane and at Maleny (100 kms further north) have been seen in good flower with massive seed set.

*Hakea trineura* assumes a column-like pleasant ornamental stature. The leaves are thick, lanceolate, about 10-16cm long and prominently 3 veined. The fruit is ellipsoid, curved and smooth (about 3cm by 2cm) and may be produced in large clusters. The plant is adaptable to well drained soils, is moderately frost tolerant and prefers a sunny position. It is an excellent large shrub for hakea enthusiasts and larger gardens. Much quicker results could be obtained by the grafting of mature species onto possibly *H. salicifolia* rootstock.



Footnote.

An interesting comment below the description of this plant in "Flora of N.S.W." by Gwen Harden states:

"There is some doubt as to whether the widely disjunct population in Qld and NSW are the species".

Norm McCarthy  
Toowoomba

Artist: Linda Galligan.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Harold Aumann, RMB 6715 Williamsons Rd., Warragul 3820.

Dr. J.N. Burrell, 680 Bruce Crescent, Warnervale 2259.

Gertrand Norton, c/o Mark Norton, Agricultural Research Institute, PMB Wagga Wagga 2650.

Thelma Overstone, c/o P.O. Deepwater NSW 2371.

L. & R. Tomkin, Changers Green Nursery, P.O. Box 2, Gin Gin 4671.

Resignations

Jennie Lawrence of Burnie, Tasmania after being an enthusiastic member for many years has decided to take things easier but hopes to see members at the Adelaide Seminar. Ian Barlow of Birregurra who was one of our earliest members and whose garden was astonishing considering the harsh weather and heavy wet soil he contended with. Paul Kennedy called on him coming home from the Weekend and mentions seeing fine specimens of *H. purpurea*, *marginata* and *carinata*. Paul said Ian had recently lost a 4 m. high multi-stemmed *H. gibbosa*. I remember that plant, in flower it was magnificent with pink tipped new growth, but it is very prickly in a small area.

Paul says "in our own garden at Strathmerton, rain has been absent during most of October and the sandhill is drying out rapidly. However, the sixty hakea species planted to date are growing steadily. *Hakea cygna* flowered recently with lovely pink flowers over all its branches. *Hakea stenocarpa* also grows very upright with lovely shiny green leaves and intense white flowers. It sets seed readily. Likewise *H. sericea* (pink NSW form) has flowered profusely but I believe it likes a bit of moisture over summer as it sometimes dies suddenly. *Hakea dactyloides* also flowered for the first time."

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When the revision of *Hakea* was mooted, it was to have been done by Don McGillivray after he completed his revision of *Grevillea*. Unhappily, Don became very ill and eventually Dr. Bill Barker, Robyn Barker and Dr. L. Haegi in Adelaide took on the task but the work had to be fitted in with their other scheduled work. Over the years I have been frustrated almost to screaming point by the rumours of new names, species etc. Recently I was given the telephone number of the publishers and am assured that it is listed to be printed at or around the 1st of October, it will be bliss!!!

HAZEL BLACKNEY