

Early autumn rain and several heavy falls overnight seem to have given my garden a better start for the early winter flowering hakeas this year. My *H. clavata*, about 3m. x 2.5m. is a mass of flowers, pale pink when first out but a little darker as they age. *H. obtusa* is similar but the bush tucks its flowers away on the old wood. So far *H. scoparia*, *marginata*, *bakeriana*, *crinata*, *bucculenta*, *multilineata*, "Burrendong Beauty" and *erinacea* are all flowering with many others promising to be out soon.

FLORA OF AUSTRALIA, Volume 17B, Proteaceae, HAKEA to DRYANDRA is at last available. It is 416 pages and also includes BANKSIA. I have had my copy for only a few days and at this stage am finding it a little ^{HAKA} to follow. The number of hakeas has been reduced to 149, and they are arranged in many informal groups (39) but it will take some time to identify from this new system. There is much information apart from the listing of species and I feel all your queries and mine will be satisfied eventually.

We are having some frosts this winter but it has to be extremely bad for my garden to suffer much and the hakeas never burn. June Rogers sent a note saying she had horrific frosts one after another last year but the hakeas didn't seem to mind.

Claire Lithgow, Parrakie 5301, would like some *H. clavata* seed if anyone has some to spare, for a friend. I do not know why my bush never sets seed when it produces such an enormous number of flowers.

Pauline Tully who had her own nursery for years at Nicholson in Gippsland and is now at Woodside Gardens, Woodside Victoria passes on the information that she has been using "ESI-ROOT" for cuttings with 100 per cent success.

Murray Chapman, Prospect S.A. has a block with over a hundred different hakea species and has about 500 native plants altogether there and decided he would not plant more before he realised that he didn't have enough to finish off the job! It is no wonder gardeners feel they are on a treadmill and cannot get off! Murray planted two "Burrendong Beauty" specimens about six feet apart in 1992 and unpruned, they would be twelve feet long and about seven feet wide and were a mass of red flowers for 6 to 8 weeks last year.

Glenn Humphries who lives at Wando Vale, Victoria, is an apprentice at the Peter Francis Points Arboretum in Coleraine, Victoria. Anyone who has visited this lovely place will remember it with pleasure. Glenn reports they have some forty-nine species which seem to thrive on neglect! However, their pride and joy is the hybrid Burrendong Beauty (formerly *crassinervia*).

Paul Kennedy, Johnsons Lane, Strathmerton 3641, writes about his experiences with propagating and growing hakeas.

We seemed to have reasonable success with germinating seed of species from the east coast and southern W.A. However, damping off was a major problem. The inland and tropical species hardly germinated at all, even though they were in a hot-house situation.

The problem was finally overcome when we started putting seed between paper toweling and kept moist on a saucer inside a closed plastic bread bag. Most inland and northern seeds germinated within fourteen days and were in tubes within four weeks. The lower W.A. species took a bit longer. It was pleasing to be able to open the plastic bag and watch the progress of the germination, something you could not do with a tube. Some seeds take up to 60 days to germinate using conventional seed germination process.

The plastic bags were placed where direct sunlight did not occur.

As soon as the root was 20mm long and the cotyledons had partly or fully emerged from the seed case, the seedling was transferred to a tube containing

"propine" BJH/9321 revised fines (I hope I have read this right) incl. iron mix and some Banksia fertiliser from Kuranga nursery was added. I try to wrap around some of the existing paper toweling attached to the root so that in the settling down process, the seedling has access to moisture. The tubes are then placed in a covered shade box with mist spray for a couple of weeks until the next lot of leaves appear.

Twenty-four seeds of *H. rhombalis* germinated using the paper towel method and twenty-three have survived the potting on. The germination rate was 100 per cent. There are flowering plants of *Hakea rhombales* growing in Toowoomba, Queensland, a far cry from the Warburton area of W.A. where it grows naturally.

David Lightfoot (formerly Croydon Park NSW) now 4/39 Wattle Road, Hawthorn 3122

wrote to say some of his hakeas in his former garden seemed to get a leaf fungus and slowly got covered in black spot despite fungicide spray. In the introductory volume of Elliot and Jones' Encyclopaedia of Aust. Plants, they say that most leaf spots can be controlled by copper sprays such as bordeaux or copper oxychloride or thiram.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Glenn Humphries, RMB 1291, WANDO VALE 3312.

Ken Harris, 59 Strickland Drive, WHEELERS HILL 3150.

Dr. Colin J. Sanderson, 10 Chiswick Street, WEMBLEY DOWNS 6019.

Virginia Moffet, 18 Macquarie Drive, MUDGEE 2850.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS OF SEEDS:

Glennis Lind, Glenelg Highway, Hamilton 3300.

Brian Lacy, Dunkeld, former member.

David Lightfoot wrote to me last year asking for information about a hakea called *H. archeoides*. I had never heard of it but when I opened the new *Hakea* book it fell open at a description of *H. trineura* and this is what it said:

A group of two species in eastern Queensland and N.S.W.

Tepals green; style red; fruit 1.5-2.2 cm. long; shrub or multi-stemmed tree to 7 m high

1. *archaeoides*

Tepals yellow; style green@ fruit 2.5_3.5 cm long; shrub 1-3 m high 2. *H. trineura*.

Geoffrey Cooke sent this picture of the new section of his garden last year in the middle of the East Gippsland floods, hope there are none this winter.

HAZEL BLACKNEY.

I am going to the Brisbane ASGAP Conference and Seminar shortly, hope to meet you there.

