

Dear members

It is extremely dry here at the moment (again) with next to no rain falling in the last four months. It has been as cold this year temp wise but we have had a lot more frosts with more in a row and quite a few down to minus 5 degrees.

Generally most of my gardens are standing up to it okay but some of the winter flowering Hakea have flowered as normal but not as spectacular as usual. The exception is Hakea lorea which just perform brilliantly here no matter what the conditions.

I had hoped to receive some letters from members about the species they are growing and of their gardens over all as I am interested in what you grow (and cant) in your area .I am sure other members would be interested also so get your pens out and start writing.

Recently I had a letter from Bonnie Addison Smith from near Warwick Qld who sent me a couple of pages out of the publication Friends of Burrendong Arboreatum in NSW which says that they have about eighty species growing out of the one hundred and fifty odd species known.

It also stated quote "Evidently of these 150 species only 130 are named and botanical revision is providing names and descriptions for about 20 new species " unquote.

In fact this revision has been completed for some time now and are all named and described and published in "The Flora of Australia Volume 17 B. It is not a easy book to follow unless you are a trained botanist but at last covers the lot including subspecies. This publication also covers Banksia and Dryandra. This book can be purchased through your local SGAP branch.

Hakea recurva

Native of WA this can be a tall shrub or tree to 25 feet (8 metres) tall with smoothish grey bark shedding its old leaves as it grows.

Leaves are about 4 inches (10 centimetres) long, blue-green in colour, stiff and rigid, recurved but more evident in older leaves. Terete in form they are extremely sharp.

Flowers are creamy-yellow but sometimes with a pinkish tinge they occur in the leaf axils June-July August and are sweetly scented.

Fruit are woody capsules ovoid in shape with blunt beak opening on maturity usually when the weather is hot. Fruit set is plentiful.

I have 4 plants in a group here and are about 15 years old. I bought and germinated the plants not knowing anything about them until I got to know other people interested in hakea and were growing them long before me .Mine are around 15 feet (5 metres) tall and took 8 years to flower but it has been worth it .They have proved tough and reliable in all conditions.

An impressive shrub in form and outstanding in flower with up to 2 feet(60 centimetre) stems of flowers covering the upper branches. They attract a variety of honeyeaters in the daytime and insects at night. It also provides sheltered nesting sites for small birds like finches and wrens. One of my favourites.

HAKEA GRAMMATOPHYLLA

A native of central Australia growing in a semi-arid environment but I would imagine subject a predominately summer rainfall (I may be wrong on this). This species grows to about 10 feet (3 metres) with branches sprouting from a lignotuber .

Leaves are blue-grey in colour broad-linear in shape with 5 to 9 longitudinal veins. The racemes of flowers are bright pink and showy up to 2 inches(40 millimetres) long borne on hairy stems in the leaf axils.

Fruits are woody capsules ellipsoide in shape greyish in colour.

Plenty of seed is produced and is retained on the shrub.

My group of plants is nearly 15 years old and have all flowered but young buds while forming can be burnt with severe frosts.

Honeyeaters are attracted to the flowers mainly during May, June July.

These have been some of my most reliable hakea withstanding extreme seasons well. Fresh seed is available on request.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

Kingaroy+district branch SGAP Kingaroy Qld

Colin+Joanne Wallace Wooroolin Qld

Margaret Ingall Gosford NSW

Dr John Nevin Armidale NSW

Thais Eisen Annerley Qld

Ian Picken Lachlan Tasmania

Membership has dropped in the last year with various reasons including age and at least one person passing away and others just not renewing.

One thing that always intrigued me when I first joined the study group was the very small number of members in WA despite that state having the majority of species. This is still the case now. In Queensland here there are no members west of where I live.

SEED_BANK

I hope to have a list of whats in the bank for the next newsletter but members are reminded that seed is available on request if available also if any one has any spare FRESH seed of any species I would welcome it gratefully.

A REQUEST

Would any one have fresh seed of a good red or orange form of hakea bucculenta also the RED form of Hakea preissii and Hakea spathulata'

These are for myself and would appreciate any help.

Hope the seasons are kind to you for the rest of the year Len