

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 32

DEAR MEMBERS,

IT HAS BEEN RAINING HERE THE LAST FEW DAYS BUT OVERALL THE COUNTRY IS STILL IN DROUGHT MODE. EARLY IN THE YEAR WE HAD SOME EXCELLENT RAIN, BUT IT CUT OFF SUDDENLY (AS USUAL) AND WITH THE EXTREME HEAT AFTER IT QUICKLY BECAME DRY AGAIN. WE ALSO EXPERIENCED SOME SHOCKING HAIL, THE WORST I HAVE SEEN SINCE I HAVE BEEN HERE. GOLFBALL SIZED STONES DEVASTATED SOME SHRUBS, BADLY BRUISED OTHERS AND SHREDDED LEAVES AND BRANCHLETS OFF EUCALYPTUS TREES. SHRUBS THAT SURVIVED THE HAIL WERE BLOWN OUT OF THE GROUND. THE TREES ARE COVERED IN LEAVES AGAIN NOW.

WITH THE DRY AND EXTREME CONDITIONS MY PLANTATION HAS THINNED OUT A BIT, BUT WHAT HAS SURVIVED OVER TIME LOOKS QUITE GOOD. IT PROVES THE SAYING OF "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST".

I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I HAVE LOST SOME ENTHUSIASM AS I AM FINDING THAT IT SEEMS TO BE HARDER TO ESTABLISH SHRUBS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST TEN YEARS OR SO. IT MAY NOT JUST BE THE WEATHER BUT THE TREES AND SHRUBS THAT HAVE GROWN AND MATURED, CHANGING THE ENVIROMENT FROM WHEN I FIRST STARTED PLANTING, AS IT WAS VERY OPEN ORIGINALLY. SOME SHRUBS, HAKEA LAURINA COMES TO MIND, GREW LARGE AND FLOWERED EACH YEAR BEFORE FINALLY SUCCUMBING AFTER ABOUT TWELVE YEARS. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GROW A DECENT ONE SINCE. ONE INDICATOR OF WINTER NOT BEING TOO FAR AWAY HERE IS THE ARRIVAL OF THE EASTERN SPINEBILL. THEY ARRIVED THE EARLIEST I HAVE KNOWN THIS YEAR SINCE I HAVE TAKEN NOTICE, BUT SO FAR IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY WARM AND MILD, SO IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THE REST OF THE WINTER HOLDS. ON THE SUBJECT OF HONEYEATERS, LEWIN HONEYEATERS WERE RARE IN MY GARDEN TWENTY YEARS AGO, BUT NOW THEY WOULD NEARLY BE THE MOST COMMON. DESPITE THE DRY AND DIFFICULT SEASONS THE VARIETY AND QUANTITY OF WILDLIFE HAS INCREASED OVER THE YEARS, WHICH HAS BEEN REWARDING.

Hakea Purpurea

THIS BEAUTIFUL SHRUB OCCURS IN ISOLATED PATCHES IN THE CENTRAL BORDER AREAS OF NSW AND Q'LD, BUT IS MORE COMMON IN Q'LD.

ALTHOUGH IT OCCURS IN WELL DRAINED SOILS AND A VERY DRY CLIMATE IT IS SUBJECT TO MOSTLY SUMMER RAIN. IT CAN BE A LOW SHRUB, TO 3 FEET (1 METRE), OR TALL, TO 10 FEET (3 METRES) HIGH. THE DARK GREEN LEAVES, TERETE CAN BE ENTIRE OR DIVIDED. FLOWERS ARE PRODUCED IN WINTER AND CAN BE PINKISH TO A DEEP RED OR CRIMSON. THEY ATTRACT A LARGE VARIETY OF HONEYEATERS.

SEED IS PRODUCED IN WOODY CAPSULES OBLIQUELY-OVATE IN SHAPE, BROWN IN COLOUR WHEN YOUNG TURNING LIGHTER WHEN MATURE. SEED IS RETAINED ON THE SHRUB, BUT IN EXTREME CONDITIONS SOME PODS WILL OPEN UP.

ALTHOUGH THEY PRODUCE LIGNOTUBE SOME PLANTS CAN PRODUCE LOTS OF SEED. I HAVE FOUND HERE THAT THE LOW FORMS PRODUCE MORE SEED THAN UPRIGHT FORMS.

LOW FORMS ARE SPECTACULAR IN FLOWER AND, EXCEPT FOR THE SEED CAPSULES, COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR GREVILLEA.

FRESH SEED IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED.

JUNE 2005

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Hakea Rombales

THIS SHRUB IS FAIRLY RARE IN CULTIVATION, ALTHOUGH QUITE A FEW OF OUR STUDY GROUP MEMBERS ARE GROWING IT NOW. I BOUGHT MY ORIGINAL PLANTS IN 1989, FROM SEED COLLECTED BY MR LEN MILLER WHO IN PREVIOUS YEARS COLLECTED FOR DAVE GORDON AT MYALL PARK GLENMORGAN. THEY WERE TAGGED HAKEA "KUMARINA" NEAR THE COLLIER RANGE NATIONAL PARK W.A.

IT WAS QUITE A FEW YEARS LATER BEFORE I KNEW WHAT THE CORRECT NAME WAS. ALTHOUGH BEING OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OLD MY TWO PLANTS ARE STILL JUST ABOUT 3 FEET (1 METRE) HIGH, WITH SPARSE UPRIGHT BRANCHES WITH BLuish TERETE AND UPRIGHT LEAVES. DESPITE THE COMPETITION OF SURROUNDING PLANTS THEY CAN FLOWER REGULAR OR SPORADIC DEPENDING ON RAIN.

FLOWERS OCCUR ON OLDER WOOD AND ARE IN CLUSTERS OF TEN OR MORE, BRIGHT PINK IN COLOUR AND VERY SHOWY. CAPSULES ARE EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE WHILE FORMING OBLIQUELY-OBOVATE IN SHAPE, THEY SHOW BLuish GREY TO GREENISH SHADES, WITH SMALL SPIKES AND CRESTS DOWN EACH SIDE, THEY LOOK PREHISTORIC. IN THE 'FLORA OF AUSTRALIA' IT IS RECORDED THAT FLOWERS ARE UNPLEASANTLY SCENTED, BUT I HAVE NOT NOTED THIS, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A BIRD ATTRACTOR. THIS PUBLICATION ALSO GROUPS THE SPECIES VERRUCOSA, BAKERIANA, PENDENS, PURPUREA AND RHOMBALES AS THE VERRUCOSA GROUP.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS,

**J MAHONEY Mt DUNHEED VIC.
RA & EM STEWART MARYBOUGH VIC.
RG & JA OLSON PYRAMUL NSW**

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR 05-06 *

THANK YOU TO PAUL KENNEDY AND MURRAY CHAPMAN FOR SENDING ME SEED.

LEN COE.

JUNE 2005

SEED LIST

arida
actites
adnata
amplexicaulis
ambigua
arborescens
bucculenta x
bucculenta
bakeriana
brookseana
brachoptera
baxteri
cucculata
coriacea
clauata
cyclocarpa
cristata
candolleana
costata
cinerea
circumalata
ceratophylla
constablei
dactyloides
decurrens
denticulata
eriantha
elliptica
epiglottis
erecta
erinacea
eyreana
francissiana
florulenta
ferruginea
falcata
flabellifolia
grammatophylla

gilbertii
gibbosa
hookeriana
inflata
incrassata
Meryli
lissocarpa
laurina
loranthifolia
lasiocarpa
lehmanniana
leucoptera
laurina x
lorea
macrocarpa
megadenia
multilineata
minyma
macraeana
myrtoides
melsneriana
nodosa
neurophylla
nitida
obliqua
orthoryncha
obtusa
oldfeldii
propinqua
plurinerua
purpurea
pachyphylla
prostrata
pendens
platysperma
petiolaris
pyncnoneura
pressii

recurva
rhombalus
rostrata
rugosa
repullulans
rubriflora
stenocarpa
strumosa
sericea pink
smilicifolia
scoearia
suburea
subsulcata
sericea white
trifurata
tephrosperma
teretifolia
undulata
ulcina
victoria
varia
vittata
verrucosa