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**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING  
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**

**HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER**

**NUMBER 33**

**Dear Members,**

**It's extremely dry here at the moment in our district, with the driest Autumn on record recorded for our area this year. It is much the same for most of the other states with a large area of both N.S.W and Q'ld drought stricken.**

**In my own garden stress is evident, with losses of plants occurring, including Hakea. It is mostly young plants that have not been able to establish themselves due to the adverse conditions, which stretch back 3 to 5 years now.**

**On the other hand, the older plants (over 10 years) seem to be coping okay.**

**Hakea species seem to be budding up to flower, but I doubt that flowering will be anything great. I haven't propagated any plants the last couple of years as it has just been too dry to plant out when plants are ready. Despite these extreme conditions, I have noticed some surprising things happen.**

**Over the years, when it has been hot and dry for extended periods, we quite often get large amounts of rain at once, and there has been good germination of seed even years after the parent plants have gone. Eriophylax especially have come up, also Hakea Grevillea and Dodonea. Odd plants have actually grown more in the dry than in normal years. One example is Macrozamia Reidlei, which has grown more in the last 2 years than in the previous 13 years. One other interesting observation with seed germination is where the plants have come up, is devoid of mulch and quite bare. I suppose that when you think about it, the 3 basics of propagation together have occurred, Medium, Heat & Moisture. In other words, Nature's way.**

**Hakea Dohertyi**

**This species is a fairly recent discovery in the Blue Mountains N.S.W, and is rare and restricted in its native habitat.**

**It is a slender, erect shrub, up to about 10 feet (3 metres) tall, with thin green leaves triangular in form.**

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**Flowers are produced axillary in groups of 4-6, creamy white in colour, and despite their small size, are attractive. It does not seem to be a great bird attractor.**

**Seed pods are oblique to elliptic in shape, light brown in colour, with darker pustules and even darker to black beak.**

**A number of years ago, I was given a plant of this rare species by a thoughtful S.G.A.P member from Toowoomba Q'ld who, whilst on holidays, saw some for sale in a nursery. Knowing that I was keen on Hakea, she bought a few and gave one to me. I was lucky to grow and flower it and then set seed. I have grown even more, so now a number of Hakea Group members have it growing also.**

**At the moment I have a few good plants with a nice lot of seed, so fresh seed is available on request.**

**The locality of this species is not shown in the 'Flora of Australia', due to its rarity.**

### **Hakea Pachyphylla**

**This Hakea is also native to the Blue Mountains N.S.W. Leaves are stiff terete, green in colour, with reddish new growth.**

**Flowers are small, but a nice yellow in colour. Cultivated plants in my own garden are rounded, shapely shrubs, that are attractive.**

**Fruits are quite large, dark brown tuberculate on the surface, elliptic in shape. About 5 years ago I was sent some seed from native plant enthusiasts Warren and Gloria Sheather from near Armidale N.S.W, so another species was added to my collection. Flowering is mostly late winter - spring, but can depend on seasonal conditions. It is not a great bird attractor.**

### **Book Review**

**Hakeas: A Field and Garden Guide. Ivan Holliday.**

**This is another book by well known author Ivan Holliday. This is the kind of book that is easy to follow, with species in alphabetical order, nice colour plates and illustrated with drawings. Descriptions are simple, clear and easy to follow, and doesn't get bogged down in scientific jargon. I am sure that anyone that looks through this book will be encouraged, and spurred on to grow some of these beautiful plants in their gardens. Every native plant enthusiast will love it.**

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**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.**

**B. Crow Innisfail QLD  
G. Krake Mitcham Victoria  
R. McLaren Temora NSW  
R. Selby Tumbi Umbi NSW  
V. Smith Blackall Park NSW  
J. Wilkinson Dargo Victoria**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2006-2007 \***

***LEN COE.***