

FEBRUARY 2008

ISSN 0727-7008

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 36

Leader: Paul Kennedy  
PO Box 220 Strathmerton  
Victoria 3641  
Tel. 03-58745239  
E mail [hakeaholic@aapt.net.au](mailto:hakeaholic@aapt.net.au)

Dear members.

What a change a few good falls of rain can do to our garden as well as up lifting our spirits. Just when I thought we were in for a horrible summer, along came drought breaking rains. . We had 75mm in December, 50mm in January and 60mm in early February. Another good fall in late February would keep the garden looking good well into the autumn. The rains too seem to have lowered the temperature and so far we have had only a couple of really hot days. The native grasses sprung up in December and have ensured a green cover of grass right through the summer. So how did the Hakeas react to the summer moisture?

All the Hakeas look a lot greener than before, the dust was washed off and the stress of drought conditions relieved. The southern coastal and adjacent ranges Hakeas have not put on much growth as it is not there normal growth time, however the inland species have put on considerable growth. Species like *eyreana*, *ivoryi* and *divaricata* have jumped away and now look extremely healthy. I wondered if it would trigger some into flowering, and I discovered *grammatophylla*, *ruscifolia* and *erinacea* all put out flowers, despite having flowered in the spring.

New Hakea species.

My friends in Western Australia inform me that the pink flowering form of a Hakea similar in foliage to *Hakea ilicifolia* has been given the species name of *Hakea chromatropa*. Chroma is Greek for color and tropa means turning, referring to the fact that the flower changes from white to pink with age. I understand they have found only a couple of plants in the Wongan Hills area and hence seed will be very scarce. If it is grouped in the *varia* group, then it will probably be easily propagated from cuttings. I will try and find some more information on this new species for you.

Baron Christian von Hake.

Recently I received a very unusual e mail. A distant relative of Baron Christian von Hake had been researching the history of his family and came across the Baron's name and the fact that he had a genus named after him. He was quite fascinated about what a Hakea looked like and asked if I could send some seed of *Hakea laurina* so that he could grow it and keep it as a small potted plant which could be kept indoors in winter. I also gave him the address of a person in Holland who has been successful in growing Hakeas in large pots and who is coming out to Australia soon and intends to visit our arboretum. In the long term I hope to receive some more information on the Baron and perhaps a digital photo as well for this newsletter.

News from members.

Those who have been across to the Adelaide plant sale will have met Max Ewer who astonishes us all by producing some 700 hakea plants twice per year. In all Max puts seed down of some 120 species and usually has around the 100 species for sale at each plant sale. Many of our new avid growers of Hakeas buy plants from Max knowing that they are of good quality and that they can have nearly three quarters of the collection in next to no time. At the present time Max has a large variety of Hakeas for sale and would like members to contact him. If you are unable to travel to Max's place at Lucindale in South Australia or to an Adelaide plant sale, Max is able to send them to you by Australia post. Chris Willis has had a number of orders sent in this manner to Merimbula in NSW with reasonable results.

Graham and Denise Krake have moved from Ringwood, Victoria to Brogo in NSW. They are building a new home there and then hope to plant a large collection of native plants including many Hakeas. The good news is that they are not far from Chris Wallis at Merimbula and hence we have the chance to have two significant Hakea collections in the one area. I hope to visit this area before winter and have another look at some of the local indigenous species to be found in Ben Boyd National Park and other forest areas.

Chris Willis has sent me a list of how his initial planting of around one hundred Hakea species have survived. He prepared the ground some four to six months in advance and put down black fabric weed mat plus 100mm of bush mulch around each plant site. The soil is fairly loamy on a gentle sloping site and is quite coastal. The plants went in May in 2007 and after an initial watering were left to defend for themselves. His report at the end of December 2007 indicates that most have done very well with only a few losses. I thought it might be good for members to perhaps make some comments on his losses. My experience is that for every 100 planted you generally loose at least two for some unknown reason. I have asked Chris for some figures on monthly rainfall in the second half of last year as this will give us further information on why some look dry. Just after the plants went in, the area experienced a very cold spell with some light frosts. Chris's collection does not include species from the tropics, sub tropical and far inland areas nor many of the rare species. However he hopes to add these as time goes on. The species that have died are as follows.

*Hakea actites* and *microcarpa*. These species are usually found in boggy ground and appreciate plenty of moisture when they are young. Older plants can withstand periods of dryness quite well. So lack of moisture could be the cause here.

*Hakea aculeata*. Of the two planted, one died and the other is doing well. I can give no reason for the death of the plant as it is one that comes from dryer inland areas of WA. The cold spell may have been too much for the young plant.

*Hakea cygna* and *cygna* ssp. *needlei*. Again the cold spell may have been the cause, as they come from a similar climate to *aculeata*.

*Hakea drupacea*. This is a coastal WA plant and is frost sensitive when young. It probably needs covering for the first one or two winters.

*Hakea flabellifolia* and *hookeriana*. Both of these come from winter wet climates and it could have been the lack of moisture combined with the cold weather that caused them to die.

*Hakea lasianthoides*. This species comes from a very high rainfall area and usually grows as an understory plant. Probably lack of moisture and the cold weather caused this species not to survive. It also likes to grow in clay loam soils.

*Hakea platysperma* and *scoparia* ssp *scoparia*. The loamy soil should have been ideal for these, so perhaps lack of moisture may have caused them not to survive.

In all I think Chris is to be admired for the confidence he has shown in planting Hakeas and giving them one good drink and then leaving them to defend for themselves. We probably do over water our young plants. As I type this newsletter I have been receiving reports of 150mm plus of rain along the southern coast line of NSW, so I hope it does not go to the other extreme of the ground becoming saturated.

Hakeas seen around Newcastle.

On the Sunday afternoon before the seminar Max Ewer, myself and other visitors went out to Catherine Hill bay to roam around the heathlands there. The heathlands were not quite fully in flower but the scenery and mass of wildflower species made it a very pleasant place to be. Up on the ridge we found *Hakea bakeriana*, easily distinguished by its bright green terete leaves, pinkish spidery flowers and the large dark grey seed capsules with postules. It was growing in a mixture of loamy clay and broken shale. As it comes from an area of 1m plus rainfall it usually likes a bit of added moisture in dry periods in our inland gardens. Generally a small bushy plant of about 1m x 1m.

Also growing along the coastline was *Hakea laevipes* ssp *laevipes*. It was growing in sandy soil and often in quite exposed situations. A multi stemmed plant that can grow to 3m, but we only came across plants no more than 1.2m high. It is distinguishable from *Hakea dactyloides* by having a lignotuber.

Another place we visited was the Newcastle Botanic Gardens. Here they are trying to establish a *Hakea* bed. The bed is in a semi shaded site on well drained loamy soil. Considering the climate in summer can be quite hot and humid I was surprised to see how well some of the *Hakea* species from much less humid environments had gone. One of the outstanding specimens was *Hakea archaeoides*. It grows into quite an erect large bush and has masses of pinkish red flowers. As it grows near Port Macquarie it is at home in this environment.

Others growing there were *scoparia*, *baxteri*, *incrassata*, and *pandanocarpa* that I can remember. Unfortunately I have mislaid my list from the visit.

Members requests.

I have had requests for seed of *Hakea clavata* and *lasiantha*. Can anyone help? Also the big rains out at Quilpe in far western Queensland will cause *Hakea collina* to flower well and set seed. If anyone is heading out that way, please contact me and I will give you some locations to find this species.

Max Ewer is desperate to grow *Hakea trineura*. Does anyone know of where he could obtain a plant or seed of this species which comes naturally from up near Rockhampton in Qld.

Hakea crawl.

As the Fred Rogers seminar on *Eremophilas* is on the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October in Horsham, I thought it would be a good time to have a Hakea crawl as well. The tentative program is to start with the Kennedy garden on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and then on the way to Horsham to visit the garden of Bob and Beth Edwards at Maryborough to see how the large collection of Hakeas are growing in quartzite type soils. After the seminar we could then travel to Lucindale to view Max Ewer's magnificent garden on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>. The APS Adelaide plant sale is on the

following weekend so those who want to have a look at wineries and other lovely places around Adelaide could do so.  
If you are interested could you please let me know that that some further planning can be done.

Vale.

I have been advised that one of our Hakea growers, Wendy Fopp of Willunga died in early February, 2008. Wendy with her husband Brian had planted Hakeas on steep hillsides and I admired their tenacity in looking after them as they had to keep the kangaroos at bay. Our condolence goes out to Brian and the family.

Seed list.

I have included the seed list so that members know what I have available. I have excluded anything pre 2000 as I expect the older seed may not be very viable. However I have put some down of the pre 2000 on the saucer method to see if it is still viable. Two weeks later none has shown signs of germinating, so I think I can be fairly sure that it is not viable. It is interesting to note there were packets of seed collected by C S Constable of Hakea dactyloides and constablei from the Blue Mountains back in 1966!! Hakea constablei is named after this gentleman, who was a collector and Botanist for the NSW Herbarium.

Membership list.

The membership list is included for the benefit of members. If you are passing through an area and wish to exchange greetings and share knowledge, please contact them in advance so that they are not inconvenienced.

Financial statement.

Funds forwarded from previous leader	\$1683 .04
Subscriptions received	50
Total	1733 .04

Expenditure.

Printing and post out of newsletter No. 35	64 .90
Balance as of 20 <sup>th</sup> . February 2008	\$1668 .14

Our garden.

It is not the time for Hakeas to be in flower, however I keep a look out for flowers to appear on cycloptera and terburculata as they are the first to flower each year. The plants at present look very healthy and some are forming buds which just stay there until the flowering time arrives.

The Grevillea looper caterpillar can be a pest as it eats the new growth on our Hakeas. I cannot work out why it will attack one plant and leave the adjacent one alone. In volume one of the Grevillea book it mentions using Dipel and spraying it on when the plant is under attack. The other method is to squash them using your hand, but when you have so many plants it is a time consuming task and to find all of them from big caterpillars to very small is tedious. If you have the right bird species around at the time it does make maintenance a lot easier.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting, in the next issue we will look at some species that require special attention to grow successfully.

Regards, Paul.



Groups Kingaroy, Caboolture Daytime, Tamworth, Blue Mountains, Maroondah.

Regions. SGAP Qld., ANPS Canberra, APS NSW, APS Vic., APS SA, APS Tas., Wildflower Society of WA

ASGAP Study group Co-ordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster.

Seed list as of March 2008.

actites		
adnata		
ambigua		
amplexicaulis		
arborescens	laurina	sericea
arida	laurina x petiolaris	scoparia
baxteri	minyma	salicifolia
brachyptera	macreana	tephrosperma
bucculenta	multilineata	trifurcata
ceratophylla	macrocarpa	teretifolia
cinerea	lorea (Qld. form)	ulicina
circumulata	lorianthifolia	undulata
constablei	lissocarpha	varia
cucullata	leucoptera	verrucosa
côriacea (francissiana)	oldfieldii	vitata
cycloptera	obliqua	victoria
cyclocarpa	obtusa	
dactyloides	nodosa	
decurrens pink denticulata	nitida	
epiglottis	neurophylla	
erecta		
	propinqua	
	plurinerva	
	preissii	
	rostrata	
	rugosa	
eriantha	platysperma	
elliptica	petiolaris	
erinacea	pendens	
falcata	pandanicarpa	
ferruginea	repulullens	
florulenta	recurva	
francissiana	purpurea	
gibbosa	sulcata	
gilbertii	subsulcata	
grammatophylla	strumosa	
incrassata	stenocarpa	
hookeriana	smilicifolia	