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AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NUMBER43

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Dear members,

The good rains here at Strathmerton in February (100mm) were followed by another 70mm in March and 28mm in early April. Unfortunately after that the clouds disappeared and apart from a few showers, the rain has fallen further north and it is now quite dry. However our garden soaked up the moisture that came earlier on and the plants look quite happy with a replenishment of green growth and the promise of a good flowering season.

It has been quite interesting looking at how the Hakeas responded to the good rains. Hakea collina flowered profusely and is producing seed, but I am concerned the cold weather will make them fall off. This species and Hakea macronochieana both from the Quilpie region in Queensland and endemic to that state would have responded to the flooding rains experienced earlier in the year and would have been a delight to see in flower. They grow on breakaway country in rocky soils.

Hakea lorea ssp.lorea have also responded to the late summer rains. The 4m high specimen beside the garage has over 100 flower racemes on it and further out the south east Queensland form of it has a similar number of flowers but at a lower level in the tree. Elsewhere many of the Hakeas from the eastern part of Australia and from the southern part of Western Australia have been putting out new growth on stems that were badly denuded by the February heatwave and drought of 2009. I have been concerned by the apparent die back in the grass leaf group in particular and Hakea newbeyana but the appearance of new growth has indicated that some species reduce the amount of foliage when times are tough.

One of the Tasmanians endemic species, Hakea megadenia has surprised me by its toughness. It has survived the heatwaves and drought very well and has retained its bright green colour throughout. However it has not flowered very well.

Another species that has responded to the rains is Hakea candolleana which grows up near Kalbarrie and further north on sandy soils. It has rather a large cluster of pinky white flowers in May and would be a good garden shrub in warmer climates on sandy soils as it does not grow very large.

New members.

We welcome Peter Griffiths from Gawler, Beverley Rice from Truro, Peter Heinrich from Keith, all from SA ,and Bill Chesnut from Margate, Tasmania.

Adelaide plant sale and Gawler gardens.

Again Max Ewer brought in some 600 Hakea plants for sale comprising of over 100 species. About 75% were sold and the rest I have no doubt will disappear with orders from people wanting to grow Hakeas. The finish of the plant sale on

Sunday marked the end of Max's efforts to grow large numbers of Hakeas and I expect at future plant sales the number of species on sale will be dramatically reduced. We owe Max a big thankyou for his efforts considering his age. I hope the Melton and Bacchus Marsh group will take up the challenge to fill the gap left by Max. Whilst I was in South Australia I took the opportunity to accept the invitation of Hakea Study Group member, Hans Greisser to talk to the Gawler group. They are a lovely, enthusiastic group and made sure I saw a couple of gardens with Hakeas in them. Hans Greisser garden is very young but shows promise of growing many of the Hakea species. The Grevillea looper caterpillar is eating a lot of the new growth and may need to be dealt with in the future. The other garden was that of Ruth and Colin Charlesworth at Williamstown. Situated on top of a ridge they had a number of well established Hakeas in sandy loam soil over clay, such as petiolaris, corymbosa, laurina, verrucosa and lissocarpa. They could grow them all here if they wished.

New Hakea species described.

Geoff Cooke from Bairnsdale has forwarded me details of a new Hakea species growing on the Upper Buchan River above Wild Dog Falls in Eastern Victoria at an elevation of 1200m. The species was described recently and given the name "asperma". Whilst this Hakea has many affinities with Hakea lissosperma that grows in this area on the Cobberas (name given to a series of mountain peaks) it differs in that it appears to be a single clone of about 2000 plants joined together by root suckering. The plant flowers in November to early December but has not been observed to set seed. The leaves of the plant are very similar to lissosperma. Hakea microcarpa also grows within 200m of this population of Hakea asperma but is not known to regenerate from the base and stems after fire or flood. Hakea asperma was burnt in a bushfire in 2002 but has regenerated from underground roots to be plants about 1m high now. The climate is harsh, the plants would be under snow in winter and the summers would be cool with an annual rainfall of about 1500mm.

Geoff is not one to miss a challenge and has been up to have a look at the new Hakea species and has forwarded me photos of its appearance and habitat. This plant could only be introduced into our gardens through cutting material and would probably require a climate with mild to cool summers to do well.

Letters from members.

Graeme and Denise Krake from Brogo near Merimbula has written to say that after a long dry spell 550mm of rain fell in February which was more than they had in all of 2009!! Their garden is on a sloping site and the soil is granitic loam. They have around 100 species of Hakea growing in their garden which is only a couple of years old. They have problems with wallabys wanting to destroy their plants, hence the need for fences and cages around plants.

"Some of the native plants are still succumbing to the excess moisture, wet roots and fungal attach. The humidity over February was also a contributing factor. In the mulched area of the garden in front of the house the prostrate acacias all had die back on the underside of the plants but have subsequently survived after the dead foliage was cut away. I lost two Hakea auriculatas and one erinacea in the mulched area. The Hakeas that are caged outside the fenced area faired quite well, only lost one Hakea ambigua which was not a healthy plant anyway and a weak plant of Hakea multilineata. Most plants have responded well to the deep moisture and are putting on new growth. Another 70mm of rain fell in March"

Leaders reply. I am surprised you did not loose more Hakeas considering how wet the ground would have been. Good drainage provided by the granitic soils probably helped.
Carole Barron from Ungarie in outback central NSW writes. "The climate here over the past ten or more years has been extremely hot in summer with temperatures outside over 55 degrees C on a few days and in the mid 40 degrees C for five to six weeks in the hottest part, usually January and February. With this heat we don't usually get any rain in useful amounts, but this year we got big falls of 150mm or more which caused massive floods. The soil is light red Kurrajong soil over heavy clay, crumbling granite and large sheets of extremely hard red and grey granites. The topsoil is varying from50mm deep to about 150 to200mm with pot luck when digging as to how deep, and weather you hit clay or rock. The Hakeas I am growing successfully are Burrendong Beauty, coriacea(the cream flowered form of francisiana), corymbosa, francisiana, laurina, lissocarpa, multilineata, orthorrhyncha, petiolaris, verrucosa and a few I have grown from seed that have not flowered yet.
I do not water any of them after the first year and they vary in position from being in full sun and exposed to winds that roar up the paddock to tucked under other shrubs and protected from the worst of the climatic elements. I also grow lots of Eremophilias, Callistemons, Melaleucas, Eucalypts, Acacias plus many others but they all get the same watering regime of watering for the first, year, then they have to survive by themselves. I try to keep all mulched with a rough stems, leaves and branches that are waste after Eucalyptus oil extraction. This is open enough to let small falls of rain through, but still retains moisture and shades the soil and more importantly here reduces the wind effect".
Leaders comment. I thought the summer climate we have to put up with at Strathmerton is bad enough, but Carole's situation is even worse. The soil type fascinates me as plants sometimes relish these decomposed granites which have high mineral content. I must detour sometime and have a look at this interesting garden.
Una Gaffa from Gilgandra writes. "From the 19th. Of December to the end of January we had 300 plus mm of rain and some hot humid weather. Hakea bucculenta plants in pots 30 to 45cm high died as did others in smaller pots. I also lost Acacias and other dry country plants because of blocked drains and water not being able to get away. The front of our paddocks were under water for more than four days and I feared for the survival of Burrendong Beauty and the cream flowered form of Hakea francisiana, but fortunately both survived.
Leaders comments. The rains last summer were exceptional. Moist humid conditions make it difficult to keep those Hakeas from dry inland places alive. I have also had some loses when plants suddenly go from hot dry conditions to that of soaking rains in summer.

Hakea crawl.

After the Fred Rogers seminar in Bairnsdale on August 21st. and 22nd I plan to spend a few days looking at Hakeas around the east coast to Batemans Bay. The draft program is as follows. Please contact me if you are interested.
Monday. Travel from Bairnsdale to Mallacoota stopping to look at places of interest.
Tuesday. Ben Boyd National Park. There are a number of Hakeas here in the heath lands on the way down to the light house.
Wednesday. Look at the gardens of Graeme and Denise Krake at Brogo and Cliff and Sayaka Wallis at Merimbula. We could then head home from here.

Hakeas from Queensland.

For sometime I have felt that I have not been fair to our Queensland members in that I tend to talk about Hakeas from elsewhere, so in this newsletter I will attempt to put things right. I start with four that are endemic to Queensland.
Hakea trineura. Restricted to the Maryborough and Rockhampton areas of Queensland on hill country with open Eucalypt forest. Classed as threatened in its environment so we need to get this species growing in our gardens. Has broad elliptical leaves to 200mm long with three prominent veins. A shrub to 3m with masses of lime colored flowers in winter and grows in gravelly clay loam soils. The red flowering form of this is known as Hakea archaeoides from northern NSW. Has not done well here at Strathmerton on sandy soils as it prefers heavier soils and a warmer winter climate.

Hakea pedunculata. Occurs from Cooktown north on Cape York peninsula. I have seen this one growing on the edge of swamps under large Melaleucas trees. It grows in sandy loam over clay in dappled shade in a very narrow band around the swamps. Has leathery leaves and small white flowers and the plant tends to be spindly in stature. A tropical species needing a warm location such as up against a north facing brick wall in our gardens and plenty of summer moisture. Has survived at Strathmerton with plastic wrapped around it in winter and a hessian cover over it in summer.

Hakea plurinervia. Extends along the great dividing range from Brisbane to the Atherton tablelands growing often on rocky sites in sand in Eucalypt forest. A shrub to 4m it has long broad leaves to 350mm in length by up to 35mm wide. As its name suggests it has 5 to 9 prominent veins and many smaller veins as well. Flowers are white in winter. Has grown reasonably well here at Strathmerton in deep sand with some summer watering. Does not like the very hot days above 40 degrees C. When leaves tend to burn.

Hakea purpurea. From the Chinchilla area where it grows in clayey soils and a climate that can be very hot in summer but subject to heavy rains as was experienced this year. A prickly compound terete leafed shrub to 2 m that has masses of bright red flowers in spring. Has adapted well to growing in many climates in a clay loam to loam soils.

Subscriptions.

I have prepared a subscription form for you to fill in and return with your subscription. If you are already paid up for 2010/2011 and beyond it will be noted on it and you do not have to return it..

Financial statement.

Balance forward as of 1st. March, 2010	$1857-14
Income from subscriptions	40-.00

Expenses

Printing and posting of newsletter No.42.	78-00
Balance as of 1st June 2010	$1819-14

Well as I finish typing this newsletter, the heavens opened and 80mm fell over seven days. So now I can get on with the task of preparing the garden for open days and putting new labels on plants. I hope you also can enjoy the winter months when many of our Hakeas are in flower.

Regards, Paul.

Paul

Figure 7 Hakea ferruginea

Figure 8 Hakea ilicifolia

Figure 11 Hakea francisiana

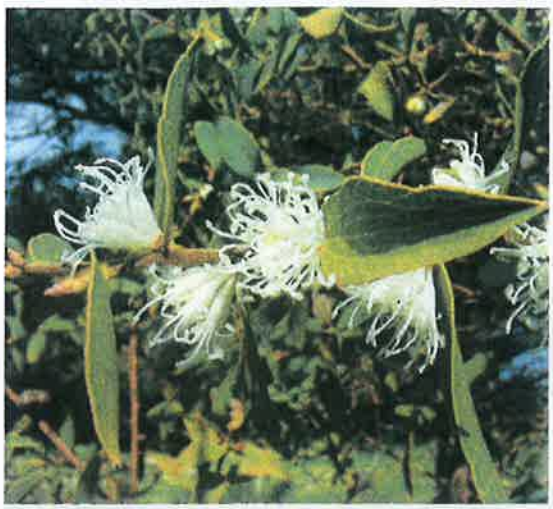

Figure 9 Hakea ferruginea

Figure 10 Hakea incrassata

Figure 12 Hakea invaginata

Figure 1 Hakea cinera

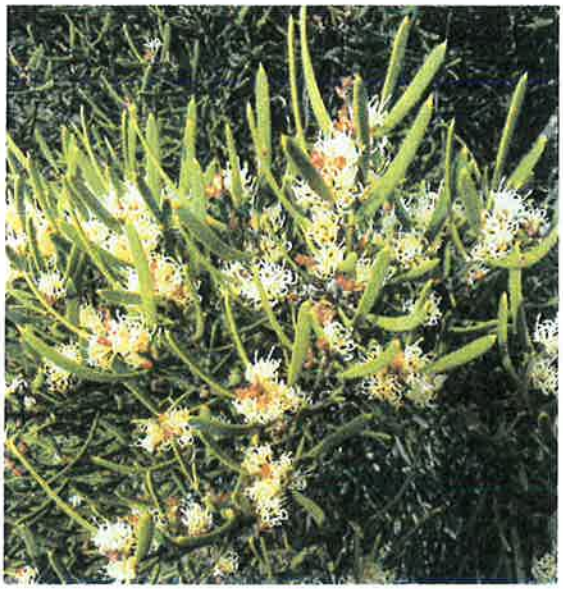

Figure 2 Hakea cygna

Figure 3 Hakea cygna ssp. needlei

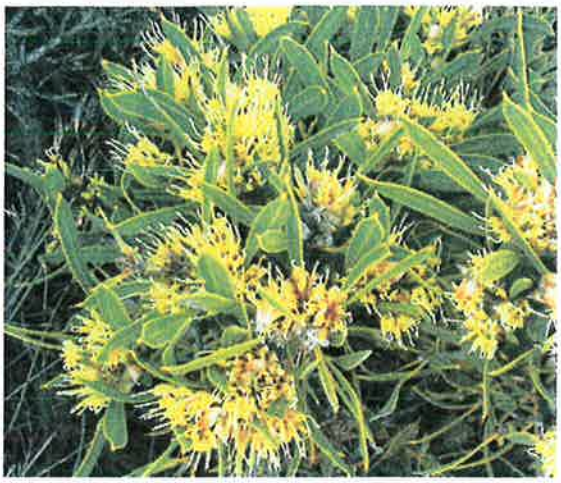

Figure 4 Hakea eneabba

Figure 5 Hakea corymbosa

Figure 6 Hakea denticulata

ANPSA HAKEA STUDY GROUP

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Please make cheques payable to Hakea Study Group and return with this renewal form to:

Paul Kennedy
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Thankyou for continuing your membership. A receipt will be posted out with the newsletter or acknowledge by e mail.
I will endeavour to continue including coloured photos of Hakea in the newsletter as they give a better interpretation of what the Hakea looks like in leaf and flower form.