

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, AUSTRALIA  
HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 48

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Dear members of the Hakea Study Group

We are going through another hot summer. After a dry spring some 150mm fell in November and December and then the clouds disappeared even though the southern oscillation index was a positive situation. As I write 33mm of rain fell on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. We have had one day where the temperature was about 42 degrees C and the remainder mostly around the 34 degrees C mark. Most of the Hakeas have sat out the heat well, however the species such as *cucullata* and *elliptica* from the Albany area are struggling to survive. *Hakea olivacea* also from that Albany area has been dropping branches which is a sign of heat stress. A *hakea varia* has died along with a couple of *Hakea adnatas* due to probably a combination of age and heat stress. On the other side the inland species have enjoyed the hot weather and look very comfortable. The locals at the Christmas/ new year period took the opportunity to have four evenings shooting rabbits, foxes, hares and feral cats which has significantly reduced the creatures we don't want to have on our property.

Seed collecting.

This year a few of the harder to obtain seeds of Hakeas have been available to collect. *Hakea collina* after many years of flowering set seed and I put stocking covers around every bunch of seed capsules to ensure none got away. They opened over a four week period in January and I am glad to report that I got every seed, totalling 107 in all. A photo at the rear of the news letter shows just what harsh country it grows in amongst sparse *Acacia* bushes in rocky breakaway country stretching from south of Quilpie to Boulia.

Of the nine *Hakea standleyensis* plants only one set seed despite eight of them flowering. Collecting seed is even more difficult as the moment they open the small seed tends to drop out. I went back every day for a fortnight to collect seed and picked it as soon as I saw the capsule starting to open. Picking seed from *Hakea lorea* is much more easy. The seed capsules open slowly and the seed tends to stay attached to the valve for a couple of days until the valve is dried out. This gives me time to get the step ladder out and cut off the capsules before the wind has a chance to send them drifting. At this stage I have seed of both forms of *lorea*, the South East Queensland form and the grey leaf form from Central Australia.

I have a number of large shrubs of *Hakea ilicifolia*. Over the years they have flowered but very shy to set seed. To my delight one this summer has set a lot of seed and by mid winter it should have matured to be able to be picked. *Hakea ivoryi*, another one from around the Bourke – Quilpie area has again set plenty of seed.

Letters from members.

Royce Raleigh from Wartook in the northern Grampians has more than eighty Hakeas in his garden and has been growing them for some forty years. Recently a plant of *Hakea auriculata* died which had been in a clay loam soil for thirty years. Royce has no hope of collecting seed as the beautiful yellow tailed black cockatoos come in and eat it all. They even go after the *dryandra* seed capsules as

well.

Lorna Murray has sent me photos of *Hakea collina* from north of Windorah showing what harsh conditions they grow in.

Max Ewer has shifted into Narracoorte and took with him a few *Hakeas* in pots to keep his interest in *Hakeas* going in his new abode. One of these was *Hakea longiflora*. The plants in Max's old garden never set seed but to his surprise the potted plant had seed on it. I am sure Max will germinate these just to have a few plants to give to members or sell. I have Max's new address and if members want to contact him please get in touch with me.

Graham Krake from Brogo, NSW has sent me a list of some 18 *Hakeas* he needs to obtain to have the collection. This means he has 150 species and sub species growing in the ground. He grows them on a steep hillside in loamy soil where drainage is ideal.

Hans Griessner has written to say he has a *Hakea ivoryi* ready to plant out and was inquiring as to its frost hardiness. In the Adelaide hills they can get frosts down to minus 6 degrees C and icicles can form on the branches of plants. *Hakea leucoptera* plants grown from seed from the Northern Flinders Ranges have flowered profusely in early summer of 2011.

Propagating news.

James Martin has been sowing seed and they are now coming up. James has set up a web site so you will be able to interact with him on what he has available. [www.tamworthnativenursery.com.au](http://www.tamworthnativenursery.com.au) The stage 2 of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne has requested our assistance in providing *Hakeas*, either in tubes or supplying seed so that they can propagate it. In some cases the plants they want are so rare that grafting has to be undertaken and I thank Phil Trickett for assisting the Study Group in this way.

Another *Hakea* proving elusive to germinate is *Hakea lissosperma* from the alpine Areas of Victoria and southern NSW. I have made contact with a nurseryman who has interest in Alpine flora with the hope he can germinate plants for members.

The Melton- Bacchus Marsh Group will hold their plant sale at Bacchus Marsh on 12<sup>th</sup>. May at the corner of Lerderberg St. and Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. There will be quite a variety of *Hakeas* for sale.

Availability of seed.

I have some seed here available to members. Max Ewer informs me that he still has access to his old garden and so he can from time to time obtain seed for members if it is on the bushes. However the *Hakea* Study Group as a service to members will have to pay the new owner for the seed. Those who have contacted me recently for seed will have received what fresh seed I have available. If I cannot supply any species I have asked Max to source from his old garden when convenient.

*Hakea* species.

In the last few issues we had looked at the *obliqua* group of *Hakeas*. I now propose to look at those in the *undulata* group. There are some twelve species and one sub species of *Hakeas* listed under this heading. In this issue *Hakea undulata*, *Hakea anadenia* and a very similar species called *Hakea Yalgorup* will be considered. The main characters to look for in the *undulata* group are that the leaves are simple, flat or undulate, non petiolate, entire or toothed with 3-7 longitudinal veins, prominent above and below. All have creamy white flowers. The seed capsule is retained on the plant and is beaked, not horned.

*Hakea undulata* grows in open forest from the Moore River north of Perth to Albany in sandy to

gravelly clay soil. Leaves are undulate, with 3-7 veins, up to 120mm long and 20-65 mm wide. The leaf colour is greyish green, but there is a more purplish leaf form which is very attractive. There is venation between the veins. *Hakea anadenia* is a smaller shrub and very similar to *undulata* except that the leaves are not quite as long, to 85mm and much narrower, 6-19mm wide. It has three veins. It occurs in sandy loams in heath or mallee vegetation from Eneabba to the Moore River and from Pingelly to Narrogin. The seed capsule is only about half the size of *undulata* being up to 15mm long. The other form of *anadenia* known as species *Yalgorup* grows in sandy soils over limestone in the Yalgopup National Park south of Perth on the coast. It has the same characteristics as *anadenia* except that the seed capsule has very prominent tubercles on it. Jennifer Young's book on *Hakeas* of Western Australia has excellent illustrations of all of them.

From observations in members gardens all these three *Hakeas* grow well in a well drained soil in a sunny to dappled shade position. Once established they only need watering in a very dry period. As they are not large plants, they make good garden specimens.

I have included drawings by the late Geoff Cooke of *Hakea undulata* and *anadenia*.

#### Financial

Balance forward 30 <sup>th</sup> . October 2011	\$2460-69
Income	
Subscriptions	120-00
Expenditure Printing and postage Newsletter No.47	72-60
Balance as of 29 <sup>th</sup> . February, 2012	\$2508-09

Some *Hakea* featured in newsletters.

Last year NSW held their annual get together at Burrendong arboretum near Wellington, where walks were led through various parts of the arboretum including the *Hakea* section. The Western Australian newsletter featured *Hakea neurophylla* growing at Hi Valley farm near Badgingarra. I have noticed this year some of the seed capsules opened in the heat here at Strathmerton and that is also the case on Hi Valley.

Summer flowering *Hakeas*.

This year only *Hakea ruscifolia* and *lasianthoides* have flowered for us. However in looking at flowering times there is also the possibility of *ceratophylla*, *elliptica*, *kippistiana*, *linearis*, and *preissii*. I think our hot summer tends to make our *Hakeas* conserve energy by not flowering at this time.

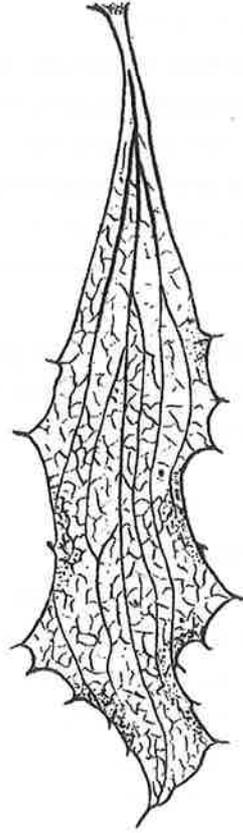
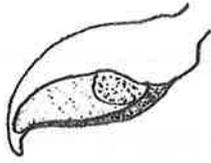
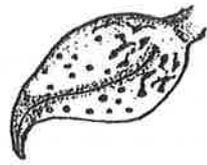
Photos at rear of newsletter.

The first is showing *Hakea marginata* in a collapsed state due to it becoming top heavy and the branches just breaking off near the base. I have cut it right back and so far the few remaining branches are putting out new growth. The second and third photos are from Max Ewer's old garden showing *Hakea aculeata* in flower and *Hakea lasiocarpa* as a grand weeping specimen. Phil Trickett has been able to graft *Hakea aculeata*, so that is great news. I am sure we can graft *lasiocarpa* too. They do not grow like this in the wild. The final photo is from Lorna Murray, ex President of SGAP Queensland showing the harsh conditions *Hakea collina* grows in. In our better soils and more reliable rainfall this species should grow very well.

I hope to catch up with many of you in our travels this year, regards, Paul.

*Paul*

HAKEA UNDULATA



HAKEA ANADENIA

