NEWSLETTER No. 5. 12th June, 1981.

Hello Everyone,

Early in May, on a trip to Portland Group to speak about hakeas, my husband Tom suffered a cerebral haemorrhage from which he has made a very slow but steady recovery. The subsequent upheaval to our routine is the reason this issue is so late and many projects I had intended following have not been completed.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Eighteen members returned forms and one conclusion to be drawn is that it is rare for hakeas to be killed by frost, no matter how severe provided the plants are over one year old.

Species gown from cuttings were: auriculata, baxteri, bucculenta, cucullata, gibbosa, lehmanniana, macraeana, nodosa, orthorrhyncha, prostrata, purpurea, sericea, and suaveolens. This suggests that we should take cuttings of good specimens rather t than relying on seed alone.

Lignotubers were reported on specimens of baxteri, conchifolia, cristata, erinacea, florulenta, lissocarpha, dactyloides, orthorrhyncha, petiolaris, purpurea, rostrata and salicifolia, invaginata.

NEW MEMBERS

Rod Kent, P.O. Box 353, Coober Pedy 5723, S.A. Rod is interested in obtaining seed of H, lorea and H. chordophylla in particular but is trying H. francisiana, minyma and coriacea. Rod has a real battle on his hands in trying to grow anything as the average rainfall is 142mm!! If any of our members are travelling in desert areas and can collect seed, Rod would be very grateful.

Norm McCarthy, c/o D.P.I., Box 102, Toowoomba 4350, Queensland. Norm did not know he had so manly hakeas (33 species, 47 plants) until he filled in the questionnaire! He has grown H. bucculenta, multilineata, salicifolia and cucullata and lost them all. H. salicifolia. succumbed to repeated borer infestation, the other three died in wet spells. H. bucculenta and H. multilineata seemed to be very prone to the wet: both were tried repeatedly and lost. Norm is very fond of the white flowered form of H. propinqua which produces foliage of a dark purple colour during winter. He understands the yellow flowered form does not do this.

C.E. Kendall, RMB 43, Mitchell Road Wagga Wagga. 2650, N.S.W. Mr. Kendall has five acres on which he is growing many callistemons, the beginning of a grevillea group, a fair number of eucalypts, acacias etc. and melaleucas (mainly for windbreaks). He has recently started a hakea plantation of about 20 plants covering about half a dozen species. We hope we will be able to help him.

Drought conditions have been reported by several members and although a few losses have been reported, the majority of plants have stood up to the drought very well. I have found that some of my young plants (about 6") fared badly during a very cold spell we had in May and a few died, while others look very poor. The ones that died, with one exception, had previously been attacked by looper caterpillars and I am sure that the young new growth was thus very vulnerable to frost.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Richard Davidson is leader of the Stylidium Study Group and a keen grower of hakeas. He lives at Keilor, near Melbourne, and offers the following information about his method of raising seed. "As regards raising from seed, I have found that cold frames are a disaster - except perhaps for northern species - and the best time to sow is February. I sow in pyalong gravel (Pyalong is an area west of Seymour, Vic.) in 4" or 5" pots and cover with ¼" of gravel. No peatmoss or anything else is added. Pots are put on a bench adjacent to an east facing fence, 3-6" above ground level and shaded by a large H. salicifolia. The plants can usually be bagged up within 3 months (straight into 5" bags, trim roots if necessary) and are ready to plant out the following winter i.e. about 15 months from seed. Most species give better than 90% germination.

Regarding germination of seed, I received a letter from Peter Murphy of Balnarring, Victoria, regarding the raising of H. gibbosa seed. Last November his mature plant of this species died, but he collected seed and on 31st November, he planted 8 in an ice cream box containing sand and peatmoss. He placed the box in a container of sand and kept it watered from an upturned flagon. The seeds took 3 months to start germinating, finishing in about four months. Peter was wondering if this was an abnormally long period to pass before germination.

I made two plantings of seed last season, one in October and the other at the beginning of March. Comparing the germination time of the same species, I was surprised to find that some sown in March came up 10 days earlier than their counter-parts last October, but many took much longer. Most species seem to take about 30 days but now I just leave the others be instead of tipping out the sand and now and then a late arrival appears.

Mary McEvoy (Mrs.) reports that her address is now RMB 428 Murdunna, Sorell, 7172, Tasmania, it was formerly P.O. Dunalley.

Tom Story, Box 42, Port Lincoln 5606, S.A. writes that be usually plants his seed in autumn, in a small glasshouse and finds that by doing this the plants are ready to plant out in early spring and so do not suffer so much from the heat of summer. He plants the seed in sand in medium plastic bags and does not pot on as he finds they do better if left to become a plantable size and then put straight into the ground.

Mrs. Alvina Smith, Weatherhead Road, Tynong North, 3813, reports that she saw the weeping form of H. laurina growing near Esperance in W.A. I have been told it has been seen near Hopetoun in W.A.

SEED BANK

Please send a stamped addressed envelope with requests for seed. If you have excess seed of W.A. species or species not listed, I will be very glad to receive it.
My thanks to Tom Story for -. generous supply of seeds, also Bill Owen. I have sent away for seed from commercial sources but unfortunately it has not yet come to hand.

Arida, brookeana., bucculenta, crassifolia, cycloptera, epiglottis, eriantha, ferruginea, florulenta, gibbosa, laurina, leucoptera, lissocarpha, macraeana, microneura, muellerana., multilineata, nitida, orthorrhyncha, petiolaris, platysperma, propinqua, prostrata, plurinervia, salicifolia (saligna), scoparia, sericea (pink), trifurcata, ulicina, verrucosa.

FINANCIAL REPORT to 31st March, 1981.

Balance carried forward	32.00	
Subs. and donations	56.00	
Interest	5.66	93.66
Expenses		
Duplicating, stencils etc.	28.47	
Stationery	7.49	
Postage	51.04	87.00

Balance in Hakea Study Group Account $6.66

Postage was very high this year due to the large number of original members of the group who failed to indicate whether they wanted to continue as members, however this problem has now been overcome.

I intend to write up the descriptions of different species of hakeas in coming newsletters. If you have a particular species you would like to know more about, please let me know and I will be glad to include it. I have been trying to get information about the desert areas hakeas for both Alf Salkin and Rod Kent but it is like searching for clues in a treasure hunt, I am lucky to find a fleeting reference occasionally!

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1981 are now due. $2.00.
Please print names , clearly, cheques should be made out to: Hakea, Study Group.

All correspondence should be directed to: Mrs. Hazel Blackney,
23 Devon Street,
EAGLEMONT, 3084. 'Phone: (03) 45 1917

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... Post Code .....