AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY, AUSTRALIA

HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 53

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Dear members.

It is blowing a gale here at present and I am glad to be inside. We have had some lovely fine days indespersed with cold rainy days. Rainfall for August was 170mm and 105mm for September. The ground is quite wet but has begun to dry out. In my wanderings around Colac I have come across some wonderful examples of Proteaeace. There are some fine examples of Banksia marginata, praemorsa and integrifolia. However the most vivid flowering specimens have been the Telopeas. In our rented property the red flowers of shady lady and the white flowers of "wirrimbarra white" have been a delight to watch. All of this hopefully points to the Hakeas growing well on our new property where there is deep sandy loam. Colac gardens certainly lack specimens of Hakeas, so I will have to try and remedy that.

Barbara and I attended the ANPSA conference and Seminar at Alexandra Headlands in Queensland. The presentations were excellent and covered the different climatic and topography zones in Queensland and some of the plants to be found there. Study Group leaders present were invited to give a ten minute presentation on their Study Group. I spoke on the Hakeas of Queensland and tried to get the locals to do something about growing all of the Queensland species as many are threatened and poorly known. I also had the pleasure of meeting Hakea Study Group members from various States.

Hakea crawl in 2014

Tom Constant called in to suggest we have a Hakea crawl in Western Australia in September 2014 covering the area north of Perth through Bullsbrook, Badgingarra, Mount Lesueur NP and up as far as Western Flora Caravan park. It would probably take three days as there is a lot to see and some distance to travel. If you may be interested please let me know.

Letters from members.

Sue and Graeme Jones from near Sale in Victoria. The low parts of their property have been inundated with water in the June floods. Hakea verrucosa, planted 2012 and Hakeas nodosa, oldfieldii and varia planted more recently were covered by water for a week, but appear to have survived it. They had also planted another 20 Hakeas bought at the Melton/Bacchus Marsh plant sale this year and all were doing well until a frost in September burnt them. However they are showing signs of putting out new growth, so it says something about their hardiness.

Margaret Pieroni has sent photos of Hakea prostrata growing on the edge of the beach neat Albany in Western Australia. Its prostrate habit would have been how the first botanists saw it and gave it its name of prostrata. If they had gone a bit inland they would have come across tall forms of it.

On the way home from the seminar I called in on Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate at Milton. Phil is a master of grafting Hakeas and Banksias and he is achieving a lot of success. Their house has a view that is breathtaking and with a sandstone escarpment at the rear. They do have one serious problem and that is the very strong easterly winds that whip across the property and tend to blow plants out of the ground or snap them off at the base. I have been trying to come up with a wind barrier solution that does not hinder their view. Hakeas grow well here in a clay loam soil and ample rainfall.

Hana and Tom Chlovija live at Manjimup in southern Western Australia. They have bee growing Hakeas in mountain soils with a fair degree of success. Kangaroos have been a bit of a problem probably due to males fighting amongst each other.

Pat Laher writes to say he has shifted into a smaller property in Armidale in New South Wales. I know he will again start growing many Hakeas suitable to that cold climate. I hope he includes Hakea fraseri as one of them.

Una Gaff from Gilandra in the central New South Wales wheatbelt says they have had a very dry period from July 2012 to March 2013. Many of her Hakeas are not flowering or only sparsely. One that seems to flower regardless of climatic conditions is Hakea eyreana. Others to flower are francissiana, one multilineata that was watered in summer and bucculenta.

Hans Greisser says he has been growing different leaf forms of Hakea carinata. The Adelaide hills form tends to have quite narrow leaves whereas the rarer Barossa form has wider leaves. The yellow black tailed Cockatoos love the seed capsules.

Thelma Vandepeer from Adelaide is enjoying watching her lorea ssp lorea in flower. Others flowering are a 30 month old multilineata and an orthorrhyncha ssp orthorrhyncha (the wide leaf form from Kalbarrie).

Graeme Krake writes to say the rainfall has been much less than 2012 but sufficient to keep the Hakeas going well. Wombats have been a problem as they have come out of the forest and started scratching around his Hakeas looking for jucy roots. He has had to reinforce his wire cages around the smaller ones and place heavy rocks around the larger ones.

Jenny West from Perth writes to say thanks for the update on name changes.

Victoria Tanner. Says she hopes to attend the NSW get together in Armidale in October. I know John Nevins will show her some of the Hakeas he is growing in his garden that will be suitable for her garden in Canberra.

One of our long serving members of the Hakea Study Group, Alan Griinke of Toowoomba has serious back troubles and is finding it difficult to get around because of acute pain. Please remember him in your prayers.

Propagation.

I have started putting seed between moist paper toweling on a saucer inside a plastic bag. I keep them in the kitchen where overnight temperatures stay around the 20degree C mark. So far all going well. The first to be planted out into tubes were Hakea actites.

Of all the Hakeas I dug up and repotted from Strathmerton, I have had only one failure, a Hakea myrtoides. However as I had dug up two, the other is looking quite healthy, so I am still in front. Those putting out new grwth are fraseri, pulvinifera, myrtoides, rhombales, decurrens ssp. decurrens and lorea ssp. borealis. Of the five cuttings taken off Hakea aculeata, one is putting out new leaves, two are still slightly green and two are dead. I am not aware of anyone trying cuttings of aculeata apart

from Phil Trickett. However it will be a big leap forward if we can produce it from cuttings as seed is hard to come by.

Financial statement.

Balance forward. 30st. June 2013	$2745-81
Income from subscriptions.	490-00
Expenditure.	
Printing and postage of Newsletter No.52	115-00
Balance as of 1st. October, 2013	$3120-81

A big thankyou to all those members who have renewed.

New members.

We welcome Dzintra Schofer from Murray Bridge in SA. Dzintra the arboretum at Wellington has many good specimens of Hakeas if you are looking somewhere close to visit.

Also Ian Evans and Beth Curtis from Bendigo. The Bendigo region is diverse in climate and soils and poses a real challange to growing of Hakeas. However I hope I have enthused members of the APS Bendigo Native Plant Group to take up the challange to try many of the inland species.

What pollinates Hakeas?

I believe it is time for us to perhaps look at what pollinates Hakeas, both in the wild and in the garden. Over the past years I have been asked why some Hakeas set seed and others do not, or why some set a lot and others very little seed. Very little is known about pollination of individual species of Hakea. From the size of and arrangement of flowers and their parts we can suggest for each species its likely class of pollinator in terms of insects, birds and mammals.

So as a project for the next two years I am asking you to observe what you think is pollinating your Hakeas and to keep me informed of the results. If you know the name of the bird, mammal or insect doing the pollinating, that will be better still.

Bird pollinated species.

Hakeas lorea, chordophylla, macrocarpa, eyreans, divaticata, edniana, trineura, pedunculata, verrucosa, myrtoides, petiolaris species, cucullata, orthorrhyncha and the multilineata group of. bucculenta, francisiana, minyma, grammatophylla and multilineata.

The flowers on most of these are quite showy and I have witnessed birds feeding on their flowers. Also the structure of the plant allows the birds to get at the flower. However I am not confident about pedunculata, as it has small white flowers which I would suspect to be more likely to be polliated by insects.

Mammal pollinated species.

A few of the Hakeas have large flowers with exposed nectar and pollen presenters assembled in a brush which suggests they are pollinated by honey possums, brush tailed Phascogale and in eastern states the eastern pygmy possum. As they are more likely to be out at night it will be not so easy to observe. It is suggested Hakeas corymbosa and platysperma are mammal pollinated.

The structure of Hakea corymbosa is such that it has stiff prickly leaves surrounding the lime green flowers.The thinking is that birds would find it difficult to perch on the leaves whilst forriging for nectar. However I have had crested pigeons nesting in

them. They fly in from below and exit from wherever there is a gap. Hakea platysperma has small flowers eminating from old wood so entry would be from underneath. Others in this group could be acuminata and eneabba.

Tiny fly pollinated species.
Incrassata, brachyptera, nodosa, candolleana, brownii, baxteri, hookeriana and polyanthema. The flowers on these are very small and are probably more suited to tiny flys.The tiny flowers tend to be yellow to red and yellow to white.

Insect pollinated species.
Hakeas stenophylla, ceratophylla, pandanicarpa, obliqua, megalosperma, sericea, strumosa, newbeyana, rostrata, teretifolia, commutata, bicornata, lissocarpha, varia, oleifolia, linearis, salicifolia, repullulans, undulata, trifurcata, standleyensis, collina, recurva, eriantha, hookeriana, clavata, ruscifolia, cristata, and cyclocarpa.

Some Hakeas have scented smells such as circumulata and denticulata and would attract flies.

Seed setting.

The amount of seed set will depend on a number of factors. Climate (see Una Gaff's report), the presence of the right pollinator and frost will burn off new seed being set. Hakeas that resproute after a fire tend to produce less seed than non sprouters as they have another mechanism to survive. Having said that I was always amazed by the amount of seed set on the Hakeas in Max Ewers former garden, regardless of whether they were respouters or not. There were certainly a great number of small birds and plenty of insects. With bush land nearby there would have been mammals too.

At Strathmerton I had a mixed success, for instance Hakea Collina produced seed only once in eight years, despite flowering every year. Certainly climatic conditions varied a lot.

Photos.

I have included photos taken by Hana Chlovija from Western Australia. Her phototography of Hakeas is stunning and gives new light to there beauty. Thanks Hana and also to Hans Griesser for formatting them into this newsletter. Did you observe the insects and ants on a couple of them? The magnification may not be enough in reproducing them.

I must apologize for the last newsletter being printed on one side only. The printer in Colac who did it for me was very economical but his machine has limitations. I hope I can get one of the schools to do this one.
Please keep your reports coming in, they are always appreciated and help to build up the knowledge on growing of Hakeas in different climates and soils.
For those living inland I hope the summer is not too hot and that you receive some rain. By the end of March I hope our new home will be complete and we can start planting out the Hakea genera again. Considering the winds we have had lately some wind protection maybe necessary on the north west courner.
In the meantime enjoy your endeavours with growing of Hakea and other native plants.
Regards, Paul.

Paul

Hakea prostrata

Hakea preissii

Hakea denticulata

Hakea ferruginea