

OCTOBER 2014

ISSN0727-7008

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Dear members.

We have now shifted into our new home and at last I can get the Hakea collection planted again. It has been a long fifteen months since we left Strathmerton and it is a good feeling to be able to put plants in the ground and watch the new growth appear. So far 90 species of Hakea have been planted. I have tried to place them where I think the soil condition will suit them best in respect to drainage and sub soil moisture. Our property of one acre has a 1 in 70 slope across it with 900mm depth of silty sandy loam to sandy loam over lying a heavy clay. My main concern is the silty loam/ clay layer as this is where the moisture builds up after heavy rain. I have tried to remove some of the moisture by digging two v shaped ditches creating a raised bed on the east and south sides of the property where the land is highest. When it rains I have watched these drains collect the surface water and shed it out to the Council drains.

This year again appears to be heading for a dry spring over much of Australia. The crops in the southern areas look good but over the divide the grass is already turning brown. Here at Elliminyt we have not had a decent fall of rain for quite some time, instead showery days where 5 to 9mm of rain falls. The temperature too has been higher than average. I hope we have a wet November to put some moisture into the ground before summer. The September and October rainfall of about 25mm per month have been the lowest ever recorded for the Colac district.

The WA Hakea excursion

Despite the wet Saturday this was a great success with ten members from Western Australia participating. They are a joy to be with as their enthusiasm to find all the Hakea species in an area can be seen by the way they examine plants for identification purposes. In all we went looking for 35 species in the Bullsbrook-Eneabba-Three Springs area and found all but two of them. It was a great flowering season and everywhere we went there was a great array of native plants in flower.

We assembled at Tom and Rosie Constant's place at Bullsbrook on Saturday morning and before we climbed the hill to the house site Tom showed us specimens of Hakeas orthorrhyncha ssp. filiformis, francisiana and leucoptera ssp. sericipes growing in his lower garden. Up at the house site which has stunning views down the Chittering valley Tom and Rosie had planted many Hakeas including stenocarpa, undulata, victoria, scoparia, neurophylla, petiolaris, burrendong beauty and Tom's favourite denticulata. We look forward to future visits to see how the garden evolves.

After a lovely morning tea at the Constants we headed off back towards Bullsbrook and then took a road heading north where we came across Hakea cyclocarpa growing in bushland. Its vivid large white

flowers tinged with pink and the large S moidal seed capsules make it easy to identify.

Further north of Bindoon we took a side road off the main northern highway and then walked up a bush track to find *Hakea* sp. *Wylunga* growing in a lovely bush setting. It is still seen as the northern form of *Hakea lasianthoides* and is much hardier as it grows in open forest in gravelly soils and a rainfall of about 500mm. Growing lower down the hill side were *Hakea incrassata*, *trifurcata* and *lissocarpa*, all of which we were to see in other locations too.

Heading north we stopped at Gillingarra for lunch and there we found *Hakea myrtoides* growing in a reserve which was badly infected with cereal grasses. I did not expect to see it growing so far north of Perth, but obviously in earlier times it had a much bigger distribution. It is easily identified by its low bushy habit, small circular leaves and tiny seed capsules. It has the habit of dying back in dry periods. We also came across a dead plant of *Hakea erinacea* which had died probably from human disturbance. This *Hakea* is quite prevalent at the western end of John Forest NP east of Perth.

After passing through Moora we took the road to Dandargan and stopped by the salty shore of Lake Dalaroo to inspect *Hakea preissii* which was in flower. *Hakea preissii* is often found near salt lakes as it is alkaline soil tolerant. It has yellow flowers and the seed capsule is ovate with two blunt horns.

The last stop for the day was on the North West road between Moora and Badgingarra where in a gravel quarry we had the pleasure of discovering *Hakea auriculata* bushes of pink, white and yellow flowers. I have also seen bushes with intermediate flower colors too. Some time was spent looking at identification features in the sharp cross-shaped ends to the upper leaves and the more spiky postules on the seed capsules. *Hakea spatulata* is very similar but tends to grow in more sandy soils. Also growing there were *Hakea platysperma*, the cricket ball *Hakea*, *incrassata*, *trifurcata* and *psilorrhyncha*, the latter easily recognized by its tall thin erect habit, white flowers, short rigid terete leaves with a rigid mucro and seed capsules with corky texture and a pointed beak.

The overnight stop was at Western Flora Caravan Park north of Eneabba which we were happy to reach as it had been a long day. The Tinkers, Lorraine and Alan had sold out after being there for 24 years and were in the process of handing over to the new owners. We will miss Alan's extensive knowledge of local flora.

The Sunday morning dawned with a change sweeping in from the west and rain clouds threatening. Today we planned to explore Mount Lesueur NP and look at all the flora there. We set out back tracking to Eneabba and then across to Leeman on the coast and then going inland to Cockeshell Gully Road. After proceeding down this road for about eight klms. we stopped on a hillside overlooking Cockeshell Creek and there we were to find out why Lesueur is one of the words biodiversity hot spots. In amongst the bewildering variety of plants we found *Hakeas* *eneabba*, *flabellifolia*, *spatulata*, *incrassata*, *ruscifolia* and *lissocarpa*. By now the rain clouds had come and the rain intensified as we headed into Mount Lesueur circuit and the walking tracks we planned to go along. We sat in our cars for some time but the rain was not easing off. Tom Constant pointed out *Hakea neurophylla* but that was all we were able to see. Disappointed we drove out of Lesueur and headed around to Banovitch Road hoping the rain would ease off. We had lunch under drizzling rain and some decided to head back to Western Flora, however Tom and Rosie

Constant, Margaret Pieroni and myself pushed on looking for *Hakea megalosperma* along the Brand highway, where unfortunately it appears to have died out.

Our route back was to be along Toobardi Road and Garbaldi Willis Road which took us past a lot of bushland including Alexander Morrison and Tathra NP's. The rain eased off as we proceeded and we came across *Hakea anadenia*, *trifurcata* and *conchifolia*.

Those who had returned early to Western Flora walked some of the tracks later in the day finding *gilbertii*, *candolleana*, *prostrata* and *polyanthema*. Alan Tinker also has a *Hakea* bed out by the dam and *marginata*, *scoparia* and *orthorrhyncha* were growing there.

On the Monday morning we said good bye to Bev, Ron and Margo who had to return to Perth and the rest of us headed over to a private property near Three Springs to look at more *Hakeas*. Near the homestead on a rocky hillside we found *Hakea recurva* ssp. *recurva* growing. Its long rigid terete leaves with a long pointed mucro make it extremely vicious to walk into but it is a very tough plant that does have a lovely flower. Away from the stony hills the soil gradually extends into sand heath country and we were lucky to be taken to some undisturbed areas of bushland where we came across *Hakea brownii* and *cygna* ssp. *cygna*. The leaves of *cygna* were quite small as the rainfall here is much less than nearer the coast. *Hakea brownii* was in poor condition as rainfall had been much less than normal. Fortunately this *Hakea* has a lignotuber and has the capacity to store water.

Despite the rain at Lesueur the excursion had been a great success, we had seen all but two of the 35 *Hakeas* we set out to find and I know the enthusiasm of the Western Australian members will see them trying some more of the *Hakea* species in their gardens.

Letters from members.

Graeme and Sue Jones from the Sale area in Victoria have sent me more reports on the pollination of *Hakeas*. Their close up photography of insects in *Hakea platysperma* is excellent. Their observations are;

Hakea multilineata and *francisiana* - frequented by honey eaters and wattle birds, but honey bees and European wasps probably stealing nectar. *Hakea cinerea* - attractive to honey bees and European wasps fossicking at base of flowers. *Hakea corymbosa* - attractive to honey bees and European wasps and little flies, no birds seen. *Hakea platysperma* - does not attract honey bees or European wasps but flies of all sizes visit but do not collect pollen. Large flower wasp (*Disoola seror*) and yellow and black flower wasp of the genus *Catocheilus* pollinate it.

Hans Griesser reports after good autumn rains the period August to October has been very dry. *Hakea horrida* and *psilorrhyncha* have masses of flowers. *Hakea bucculenta* also flowered well. Heavy frosts in late September burnt tips of some *Hakeas* and killed a young plant of *Hakea platysperma*.

Annette and John Houseman from Wauhope, NSW sent in photos of *Hakea burrendong* beauty in flower. Their climate is humid in summer.

Bev Rice at Truo SA, had some 200mls of rain in February/March and *Hakea leucoptera* is flowering profusely on their alkaline soils. They expect a lot of seedlings of this *Hakea* to come up as was the case after heavy rains in 1982 and 1983.

Cathy Powers sent me photos of a *Hakea* she discovered growing naturally near Narrandra. Her identification as *Hakea tephrosperma* was correct.

John Boevink from northern Tasmania has planted *Hakea amplexicaulis*, *dactyloides*, *corymbosa*, and *megadenia* to add to his *Hakea* collection.

New members.

We welcome Hugh Stacy from NSW. Hugh was a member of the Study Group when Hazel Blackney was the leader. He has been looking at the flower arrangement of *Hakea bakeriana* and I hope to include some of his observations in the February newsletter.

Financial statement.	
Brought forward. 16th. June 2014	3126-81
Income.	
Expenditure	295-00
Printing and postage	165-00
Seed purchases	43-30
Balance 31st. October	3213-51

Thankyou to all those who has renewed their membership with the Study group. We continue to have around 100 members.

Seed bank.

I have at members request purchased seed from *Nindethana* of *Hakeas longiflora*, *kippistana* and *stenophylla* ssp. *stenophylla*. Please let me know if you require some or of any others.

Photos.

I thank the following for sending in photos of *Hakeas*. Sue and Graeme Jones for the photos of insects and wasps on *Hakea platysperma*. Whilst other insects also visit the flowers, it was this *Catocheilus* sp. wasp which did the pollination.

The photos of the various colors of *Hakea auriculata* and of our WA *Hakea* excursion were provided by Jennifer Young. Jennifer also sent in a photo of a jewel beetle on *Hakea lasiantha*.

Cathy Powers sent me a photo of a magnificent specimen of *Hakea olifolia* in Lucille's garden near Gisborne in Victoria. It is 4.5m high. The cockatoos eat most of the seed, but Cathy was able to find some. It loves to have moisture at depth.

Tom and Hana Chvojka has sent me photos of *Hakeas* also from the WA excursion and from their garden. I plan to insert some of these into our February newsletter.

In the *Hakea walyunga* photo are Bev Lockley, myself and Bev's sister Margo. Looking at *Hakea recurva* are Hana Chvojka, Tom Constant and myself. The joy of finding *Hakea cygna*, Hana Chvojka, myself and Tom Constant.

Wind.

Phil and Catriona Trickett from Milton in NSW have had winds of up to 160klm/hr. intensity across their garden. Some *Hakeas* have been blown out of the ground and they have now driven steel stakes in to hold the plants in position. Here at Elliminyt it is also very windy, the strongest gust recorded being 109klm/hr. I expect we may need to plant some wind protection on the south western end to reduce the wind effect.

Watering.

Tony Cavanagh in the Geelong Group newsletter has suggested we should in summer consider watering our native plants prior to a hot spell rather than during or immediately after. His view is that if plants have adequate moisture available during the hot spell they will be less stressed by the heat. What do you think?

As I finish off this newsletter another cool change sweeps through our garden. It is time to start propagating as the days and nights are starting to get warmer. I wish you all a very pleasant Christmas and that your endeavours with growing Hakeas continue to prosper.

Regards, Paul.

Paul



Hakea recurva ssp *recurva*



Hakea cygna ssp *cygna*



Catocheilus sp flower wasp on *Hakea platysperma*



Hakea oleifolia



Walvunga

Hakea auriculata, three colour forms

