

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 80

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Dear members,

Springtime is a wonderful time to see Hakeas in flower. Although some started flowering in late April the number of species flowering now in mid-September is quite substantial. The weather too has improved slightly, although we have had very wet months from June through till now, the temperature has finally started to rise from 13 degrees C to 16 degrees C on some days. Most of the Hakeas have survived the wet months which is good news, but the two plants of *Hakea lasiantha* died due to root rot at the base of the plants. This is a bit surprising as they grow naturally in winter wet sandy soils in the Albany area.

Members gardens in the eastern States that experienced torrential rain have at last been able to dry out but the plant losses due to sodden soils has been extensive. Unfortunately the weather forecast is for above average rainfall for the next six months which will dampen their enthusiasm to replant in case they have to go through the same high rainfall events again.

Hakea excursion.

This was a most enjoyable event and we were blessed over four days with lovely sunny weather with a breeze that was slightly cool. Nine people attended and it was great to renew friendships with the Western Australian members.

The first morning we assembled at Tom and Rosie Constant's property near Bullsbrook and spent the morning inspecting all of Tom's Hakeas that he has growing. Being on a steep hillside the drainage is excellent and I recorded some 41 species, but there are probably more that I missed. Most have grown magnificently. Some that stood out were *Hakea orthorrhyncha* ssp *filiformis* which are huge plants loaded with seed. A very tall plant of *Hakea leucoptera* ssp *sericipes* from outback Western Australia, where it is recorded in only a few places, was very special to Tom as it is more prevalent in Queensland. It flowers and sets seed each year.

After enjoying a lovely lunch prepared by Rosie and Hanna we went north towards Mogumber, stopping on the way to look at a population of *Hakea myrtoides*. This small plant is becoming quite rare and needs to be established in our gardens. It can be grown from cuttings. Our next stop was along the Mogumber West Road where we came across *Hakea*

smilacifolia. This is another small Hakea with unique foliage. The leaf is ovate in shape tapering to a sharp point which is more pronounced in the flowering part of the plant. The leaf is thick and slightly leathery with an entire wavy margin which is often folded over and curving. There is longitudinal and cross-venation and the new growth is rusty brown. The inflorescence consists of about six white flowers in the leaf axis.

Our base for the next three nights was at Jurien Bay where good accommodation at reasonable rates is readily available outside school holidays.

The second day saw us explore Mount Lesueur National Park which is one of the places in Western Australia where there is an exceptional amount of flora and includes many rare species that occur nowhere else. We stopped at many places to inspect the flora and discovered Hakeas *eneabba*, *brownii*, *flabellifolia*, *neurophylla*, *auriculata*, *lissocarpa*, *trifurcata*, *psilorrhyncha* and *sulcata*. Many areas are devoid of trees and consist of just low shrubby plants of many genera. The yellow flowered *hibbertias* were very showy as were the *Isopogons*. The *Melaleucas* were mainly not in flower but in November would be a blaze of color everywhere. *Hakea megalosperma* also grows in this National Park but is mostly inaccessible unless you are prepared to do some strenuous walking.

The third day saw us go looking for *Hakea megalosperma* and we were lucky enough to find it growing on a roadside where there are about thirty plants. It can grow to about 1.5m, is lignotuberous and has small elliptical leaves with a prominent point. It has light green leaves and small reddish flowers which are profuse in the leaf axis. Despite its large amounts of flowers it sets little seed and they are encased in a large rounded woody capsule which takes years to mature.

We also went looking for *Hakea polyanthema* but were not able to find it on the Leemann - Coorow road. If time had permitted we would have gone further north where I had seen it previously. For the remainder of the third day we visited a number of National Parks to the east of Eneabba. Tathra National Park is known for its collection of *Banksia* species but it also has quite a few *Hakea* species as well. In one small area we came across *cygna* ssp. *cygna*, *anadenia*, *auriculata*, *conchifolia*, *stenocarpa*, *undulata* and *incrassata*. *Cygna* had very narrow leaves which usually occur where rainfall is low, but the seed capsules are quite distinctive. The last National Park we visited was Watheroo National Park where we only made one stop because evening was fast approaching. *Hakea conchifolia* was quite prevalent.

The last day saw us cross from the coastal sand plains to the wheat growing areas around Calingiri and back to Bullsbrook. We stopped on the southern edge of Badgingarra National Park where amongst the low flora was *Hakea conchifolia* and *flabellifolia*. Again *Hakea flabellifolia* which is lignotuberous was quite numerous but little sign of seed being set which could be due to a number of reasons.

We also stopped at Yandin Hill near Cataby to look for the rare *Hakea longiflora* but there had been a fire through there some years ago and there was no sign of any new plants. However the regrowth of other natives had been excellent and the escarpment was carpeted with plants in flower.

After having lunch at Moora we headed out Milling way to look for *Hakea recurva* ssp. *arida* but all we found was plants of *Hakea recurva* ssp. *recurva* and *preissii* which were very numerous with greenish leaves and with yellowish flowers. Time did not permit us to go north off Wongan Hills where I had been given locations for *Hakea recurva* ssp. *arida*. We then

went south to the roadside population of the rare *Hakea chromatropa*. I was delighted to see there had been no further damage to the population which now consists of 18 plants on the roadside and 1 inside the farmer's fence.

The *Hakea* excursion had been a great success with some forty species of *Hakea* being observed. I was a bit disappointed we did not see *Hakeas longiflora*, *polyanthema* and *recurva* ssp *arida* but next time we will go further inland and north and up through Wongan Hills. Whilst in Perth I had a morning to walk through Kings Park and admire the wealth of flora in the gardens. However I did notice the *Hakea* area was in need of some maintenance and pruning and I could not find the *Hakea acuminatas* that were in the rare plants section last time I visited back around 2017. I hope they were not removed to make way for something else.

Seed bank.

I thank Peter Thomas for seed of tropical and subtropical species and now the challenge is for members to grow them in their gardens. So far *Hakeas trineura* and *plurinervia* have proved to be fairly cold tolerant and withstand light frosts. Peter also sent cuttings of *Hakeas divaricata*, *macrocarpa* and *chordophylla* which we hope will strike from cuttings.

I thank Hans Griesser for sending seed of *Hakea ednieana*. This is difficult to get at any time and will be handed out initially to those who are seeking to complete substantial *Hakea* collections.

I have been told that the rare *Hakea megalosperma* seed can be purchased from Nindethana. I hope it is from someone's garden and not picked from the wild.

Seed or cuttings of *Hakea lasiantha* would be appreciated. The seed bank is there for the use of members so please take advantage of it.

News from members

I was delighted to have visits to our garden from Neil Marriot (Stawell), Barry and Elva Teague (Swan Hill), Tom Constant (Bullsbrook) and Peter and Mary Thomas (Townsville, Qld.). It is great to share information as we walked around the garden as they all come from different climates and soil types.

Jeanette Graham from northern Victoria has posted a photo of *Hakea tephrosperma* flowering in her garden at Strathmerton. It is quite common on sandy soils in the Narandra -Griffith- Hillston area of New South Wales. Its leaves are terete and greyish green with bent tips and it has masses of cream to white flowers in early October. The seed follicles are elliptical in shape with a very blunt beak. There are a couple of other *Hakeas* which are very similar. *Kippistiana* grows in the Kulin – Madura area of Western Australia near salt lakes and has similar colored leaves but smaller flowers and follicles with a more pointed beak. *Hakea leucoptera* ssp *sericipes* grows in outback Queensland and a few places in the Gascoyne-Murchison area of Western Australia and has larger follicles with a blunt end. *Hakea leucoptera* is more confined to the far western parts of New South Wales and northern areas of South Australia and into The Northern Territory and has much more glaucous terete leaves. I have written about these in previous newsletters. Despite the cold and wet winters and cooler summers here at Elliminyt all have grown into nice shrubs, flowered and set seed.

New members.

We welcome Peter and Mary Thomas from Townsville. Peter likes to grow the tropical Hakeas in his small backyard and will be a great asset to our Study Group. Peter and Mary recently traveled to Ayers Rock and we all enjoyed the photos he put up on Facebook of inland Hakeas in flower.

We also welcome Mark Burns from Atherton. Whilst the climate is tropical, its elevation on the tablelands does temper the effects of high humidity. It will be interesting to see what Mark can grow.

Financial.

Balance forward	\$ 3994-33
Income. Membership	40-00
Expenditure.	
Newsletter printing and postage	36-50
Seed postage	9-90
Balance forward.	\$3988-93

Subscriptions. Some members' subscriptions are now due and I will notify them shortly.

Hakea book.

This is progressing slowly due to other priorities such as the Hakea excursion and newsletter deadlines. Neil Marriott has given me a large collection of Hakea photos which I thank him for. A couple of other members have also offered to help with photos which I am very appreciative of.

Slow growing Hakeas.

Unfortunately not all Hakeas grow reasonably quickly into plants that flower and set seed. The Central Australian Hakeas in particular tend to be slow growing due to a number of reasons. (a) They need to get their roots deep down before putting on much growth. (b) Most of us are growing them in cooler and wetter climates, which does not stimulate growth. (c) They need hot summers. I have Hakea lorea here in Colac where it grows at about 2cms per year and Hakea eyreana and divaricata which grow at about 5 cms per year. I will be lucky to see them get to flowering stage. When we were at Strathmerton in northern Victoria I was able to grow these species successfully because the climate was one of about 400mm rainfall and long hot summers.

Photos. I thank Jeanette Graham for her photo of Hakea tephrosperma and Royce and Jeanne Raleigh for their photo of Hakea lehmanniana in flower at their Wartook garden. The other two photos are from the Kennedy garden.

As I finish this newsletter the rain has not stopped and the ground is very wet. The weeds are becoming very numerous but the cold wet weather gives me no incentive to go outside and remove them. Oh for a couple of warm days where I could make some headway. It is time too for thinking about starting to do some propagating of Hakeas from seed using the saucer method. I wish you all good health and success with your Hakea growing over the coming summer period.

Cheers, Paul.



Hakea tephrosperma



Hakea lehmanniana



Hakea longiflora



Hakea lasiocarpa