ISSN 1035-4638

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER
No. 96 August 2005

Dear Members

First up, I must apologise to the members whose emails and letters over the last couple of months were answered very late or not at all. I have been out of action with a couple of medical problems. One landed me in hospital and the other is making the use of the computer for any length of time very difficult. To make matters worse, Jim Brooks, who is my computer support person has also had medical problems which put him in hospital for a time. I hope we can now both get on top of things.

I felt I had to include the photo below as it shows my two favourite Australian icons, the wattle and the working dog. The wattle is *Acacia lineata* which is growing and flowering beautifully in extremely tough conditions at Booie near Kingaroy. The dog is Zac, my Australian Cattle Dog.

A wattle and a working dog

Level 2 water restrictions are about to come into force across south east Queensland as the worst drought in 100 years continues. This is a restriction that bans the use of sprinklers connected to a reticulated supply of water. It's a restriction that probably should be kept in place even in times when dams are full. Some areas already have a complete ban on out door watering even by bucket. This really brings home the importance of growing drought hardy plants as rainfall becomes more erratic and population increases.

Letters and emails from Members

Bob O'Neil of Katandra Gardens in Vic

The 2005 ABC Gardener of the Year award is nearing the end of its deliberations. I have won the Ornamental Gardener of the Year award, and with the winners of the Food and Waterwise sections am one of the 3 finalists, the winner to be announced later in the year. I am scheduled to be on Gardening Australia on Sat. 20th August and understand that I will be featured in the Gardening Australia magazine in the Sept. issue due out later in August. The photo shoot for the magazine took 6 hours, the filming for the TV took a day and a half. From a personal position this has been very satisfying, but more importantly in the longer term it must be much more beneficial for the growing of our Australian plants.

Congratulations, Bob and Dot. Katandra Gardens web page is
http://www.katandragardens.com.au

Werner Kutsche, SA

Species currently in flower are *A. pycnantha, acinacea, continua, glandulicarpa, rigens, dodonaefolia, wilhelmiana, denticulosa, gregorii, strongylophylla, merinthophora* (one of my favourites), *spathulifolia, covenyi, iteaphylla, bailyana and notablis* (look absolutely fantastic).
Others bursting to open are *A. rhetinocarpa, menzielii, sclerophylla* and *spinescens*. In the district *A. hakeioides* is in full bloom. Others to bloom in the next month are *A. ashbyae* and *blakeyi.*

Thanks to Werner for photos of two of his plants which flowered in mid July. They appear in the coloured plates, Nos 1-4 and have been included in the ASG photolibrary.

The proposal to change the name Acacia

As mentioned in Newsletter No 93, Nov 2004, the Committee for Spermatophyta voted to conserve the name *Acacia* (as opposed to the change to *Rachosperma*) with a new Type species chosen from the 'Australian Group' of the genus. The decision did not become binding until it had been endorsed by the General Committee of IAPT and then ratified at the International Botanical Congress in Vienna.
This decision was appealed but with a great deal of support from Australia, it was upheld.
The debate is over but I have included a letter of support for the name *Acacia* as it makes some important points about nomenclature.

Max McDowell, Vic

I write to support the decision of the Nomenclatural Committee for Spermatophyta to accept the proposal of Orchard and Maslin to retypify the name *ACACIA to an Australian species of* subgenus Phyllodinea in order to minimise the number of species names affected by the proposed elevation of the various recognised or putative subgenera of *Acacia Miller s.l. to the rank of separate genera, whereby most Australian species would be referred to the next available generic name* Racosperma of neuter gender.

I make this appeal as a long-standing member of the Australian Plants Society Vic. Inc. (Society for Growing Australian Plants) and of the Acacia Study Group of the Associated Societies for Growing Australian Plants. These societies have a very dedicated and active membership and have performed a major role in familiarising the Australian public with our large and outstanding flora, and in the propagation and sale of Australian plants to the public, directly or through commercial nurseries. The progressive publication of volumes of the Flora of Australia embodying complete revisions of all Australian plant genera has given rise to great instability in the classification and nomenclature of Australian plants, which has not been lessened by the burgeoning studies in molecular taxonomy over the past decade. The plant societies and their members and the nursery trade have a great investment in knowledge of the Australian Flora and in published literature, seed banks, seed lists, printed and illustrated plant labels, propagated and cultivated plants etc. The shower of name changes which plant society members, nurserymen, horticultural colleges, the nursery trade and the general public have had to contend with in recent years is becoming increasingly burdensome for them to tolerate and master, even though some the historical and taxonomic reasons for the name changes are often quite justified.

Because the Australian species of *Acacia s.l. are so numerous, we have a great interest in the stability of their botanical names and continuing to know them as species of* Acacia, and accordingly we would strongly oppose any move at the forthcoming Botanical Congress in Vienna not to ratify the decision of the Committee.

New Members

Welcome to new members

Neil Palframan, Griffith, NSW

APS – Keilor Plains ,Vic

Nita Lester, Brisbane, Qld

Black and White Plates
(coloured in email)

The first three plates show the all too familiar results of borer activity in an acacia branch. Many acacia borers are larvae of beetles but in this case it is a moth larva. Only moth larvae produce the silk necessary to bind together the particles of frass (droppings) and fine bark pieces which cover their activities, **Plate 1**.
Once the mass of frass is removed the chewed bark and entry hole of the larva into the branch are exposed, **Plate 2.** Often the bark is so extensively chewed that the branch is ringbarked and its death is assured without the tunnelling activities of the larva.
A variety of methods have been suggested for destroying the larvae. These include injecting kerosene, methylated spirits or an insecticide into the hole or probing for the larva with a piece of wire.
Unfortunately, I often miss the early signs of borer activity and only become aware that something is amiss when the foliage on a branch begins to yellow. By then it is too late and the larva has produced a tunnel as in **Plate 3** which is fatal to the branch involved.

Plates 4-7 These insects and their close relatives are variously called spittle bugs, or leaf, tree or plant hoppers. They belong to a number of different families in the Suborder Auchenorrhyncha of the Order Hemiptera. I've lumped a large number of insects into this description as they are of similar size and have similar habits. Many are common on acacias. They often resemble minature cicadas in shape (cicadas are also in this suborder) with their wings held tented over their bodies. Some are ornamented with 'horns' and 'spines' which can be quite effective as camouflage. Adults are jumpers though some will rely on their camouflage and move around a branch to get out of harms way until forced to jump.
All are bugs who suck sap from plants both as adults and nymphs. The nymphs, in general, look like wingless adults though they may sport various appendages such as long tails and lack the adult ornamentation. Adults and nymphs are often found in colonies together.
Many are attended by ants who protect them for the sake of the honeydew they secrete. The host plant may be blackened with sooty mould which grows on the honeydew.
Colonies of these insects rarely seem to do the damage associated with scale and mealybug colonies and though infestations may be heavy they are more easily removed by hand or in some cases a strong jet of water.

Plate 4 shows a couple of 'spittle bugs'(*Philagra parva*.). The nymphs of these bugs are protected by a mass of foam which they produce by blowing bubbles into anal secretions

Plate 5 A leaf hopper whose shape and green colour produce an effective camouflage. This species is very popular with ants and one can be seen tending the insect on the upper left.

Plate 6 A frog hopper which is black with sparse white markings dorsally and red below.

Plate 7 Another leafhopper. This one is well camouflaged in brown.

Plates 7 and **8** show the damage caused by a small black beetle (probably a weevil) which I have not yet identified The adults I collected escaped and the others have now disappeared from the scene of the crime. Can anyone give me an ID.
The cause of this type of damage to phyllodes has had me guessing for some time as the beetles seem to damage plants and then move on before being caught. Though I have seen this

characteristic pattern of chewing on large plants it rarely seems to cause severe problems. However it does appear to be particularly devastating on small plants which may lose all their damaged phyllodes.
In this case the plant eventually died in spite of my efforts to remove a large number of these beetles. If you value your plant greatly, be warned, the environmentally friendly method of picking the pests off just doesn't seem to work. They drop off on disturbance and return later to finish the job.

Plate 7 Phyllodes damaged by beetles and an innocent leafhopper who just happens be in the picture. The phyllode on the left shows the type of old damage that is usually seen. The tracts where the phyllodes have been chewed have turned brown.

Plate 8 Freshly chewed phyllodes and one of the culprits.

ASGAP Acacia Study Group Financial Balance Sheet 2004-5

The finances of the group remain steady. The cost of photocopying rose sharply following the breakdown of the printer that was previously used here at my place. The new printer is not as capable as the old and some black and white photocopying will continue to be done outside.

Income from subscriptions and donations appears to be down but in reality remains fairly steady. This is because the May Newsletter was posted late in May and early in June so that many members did not resubscribe until after the end of June.

Income

Balance at 30 – 6 – 04	$999.50
Income from subscriptions and donations	$468.30
Interest	$ 1.16
Total	$1468.96

Expenses

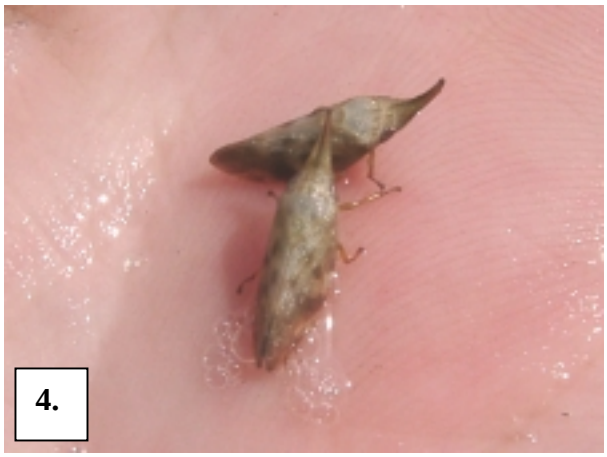
Postage	$113.50
Stationery	$ 14.75
Photocopying	$343.15
Total	$471 .40

Balance at 30 – 6 – 05 **$997.56**


1.


2.


3.


4.


5.


6.


7.


8.

Coloured Plates

Thanks again to Werner Kutsche for plates 1 to 4

Plate1 *Acacia strongylophylla*, common name – Round-leaf wattle.
This is a central Australian species. According to the 'Wattle' disc it grows in shallow red soil on rocky slopes, in valleys and near water courses.
It is described as a straggly shrub 1-4 m high.
The rounded foliage make this an interesting plant.
There are no records of it cultivation in the ASG archives.

Plate 2 A close up of the flowers of *A.strongylophylla*

Plate 3 *Acacia beckleri*, common name – Barrier Range wattle

This species is usually a spreading shrub to 3m high. It grows naturally in the south east of SA and south western NSW.
According to the 'Wattle' disc it grows in shrubland on rocky ridges and hillsides and sometimes in mulga.
A variety with very large flower heads grows in the Flinders Range along with the typical plants. Seeds of this variety are available from the Seed Bank. I have no information as to whether these breed true to the variety.
This species has been very popular with ASG members and it has been successfully grown very widely in Victoria and also Tasmania. Soils range from gravelly or sandy loam to black volcanic loam and heavy clay. It has withstood temperatures down to –5 degrees and annual rainfall of 400mm. A couple of growers mention a slow start.

Plate 4 Close up of *A.beckleri* flower head.

Plate 5 Photos of *Acacia denticulosa* appeared a year ago in Newsletter No 92. These were contributed by Margaret Moir. They showed the habit and in particular the leaf shape of the species but did not include the flowers which are shown here.
This particular plant is growing far from its native habitat in the arid wheat belts of WA. It is doing very well for Len Coe (Hakea Study Group Leader) at Booie in inland SE Qld
As mentioned earlier this is a very adaptable and spectacular species.

Plates 6 and 7 *Acacia holotricha* is a rare species known from only two localities in the northern part of SE Qld.
According to the 'Wattle' disc it grows from 5-10m high and resembles a hybrid between *A.macradenia* and *bancroftiorum* but is distinguished by the sparser covering of hairs.
It is easily distinguished from *A macradenia* by the unequal base of the phyllodes (see Plates)
A number of plants are being trialled in SE Qld and **Plate 6** shows a plant growing in fertile red soil in the Brisbane garden of Irene Cullen. This plant has been in the ground for 12 to 18 months and is now over 2 m tall and flowering for the first time.
Plants grown in poor, shallow soil at Booie have progressed much more slowly but have a more dense weeping habit which closely resembles that of A.macradenia - **Plate 7.** These plants have looked unhappy in very dry conditions but they bounced back well with a bit of moisture.

Plates 8 and 9 *Acacia adunca*, common name – Wallangarra Wattle
This is a bushy shrub to 6m with very narrow phyllodes and flowers arranged in balls.
According to the 'Wattle' disc this species is restricted to an area of elevated country along the Great Divide from north eastern NSW to south eastern Qld. It grows in sand or sandy loam over granite.
This is another wattle that has proved popular with ASG members. It has been grown successfully as far south as Ballarat in Victoria and in soils as diverse as sandy loam and clay.
Considering where it grows it must have a high degree of frost hardiness and also be able to cope with dry conditions. One member mentions that it responds well to pruning.
My specimens at Booie are remarkably pest free which may be an indication of their happiness in the poor, shallow soil.

Plate 8 Habit of A.adunca

Plate 9 Close up of flowers and phyllodes of A.adunca

Seed Bank

The current seed list appears at the end of the newsletter. The seed of some species is now out of stock as I have not been able to find a supplier as stocks ran out. Other species are now in short supply. Please think about the seed bank if you are harvesting seed particularly from plants growing in their native habitat. Much of the seed I harvest is from cultivated plants and even though I grow plants in clumps, each of a single species the possibility of hybrids is always present. I'm sure that is the case for much of the seed from cultivated plants. This is not necessarily a disaster if the plants are intended for a garden setting as some hybrids appear to have high potential in this area. However it is a disaster for regeneration work or where a particular species is required for study.
Seed from either wild or cultivated plants is most welcome as long as the provenance is known.

Thanks to Alan Gibb who sent in his germination results from 13 species of Seed Bank seed.
These results are greatly appreciated as it is most important to know the viability of the seeds.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

ACACIA STUDY GROUP SEED LIST AUGUST 2005

18 packets maximum in each order (negotiable). Limit of 3 orders per member per year.
Please include a 230 x 100mm stamped addressed envelope for orders of 12 or fewer packets where only a small number of seeds are required (6 or less per packet).
For orders of over 12 packets or where a larger number of seeds are required please include $1.65 in stamps to cover the cost of a padded post bag and postage.
The numbers after the names indicate the year in which the seed was collected if it is known.

acanthoclada pre 01
acinacea
acradenia pre 83
aculeatissima 81
acuminata 78
adenophora
adsurgens 81
adunca 83
aestivalis 90
aff beauverdiana
aff boormanii 84
aff coolgardiensis
aff desertorum pre 79
aff ericifolia Pre 85
aff longifolia pre 79
aff microcarpa pre 73
aff multispicata pre 89
aff myrtifolia pre 85
alata pre 77
alcockii pre 01
alleniana pre 01
amblygona 81
amoena
ampliceps pre 83
anaticeps 85
anceps 82
ancistrocarpa 81
andrewsii 01
aneura 71
aneura v macrocarpa pre 98
angusta 84
anthochaera pre 94
aphylla 89
applanata pre 01
aprepta 81
araneosa 90
argyraea 85
argyrophylla 79
arida 82
arrecta pre 90
ashbyae pre 82
aspera 78
assimilis 94
atkinsiana
attenuata 85
aulacophylla pre 01
auriculiformis 01
ausfeldii 82
axillaris 92

baeuerlenii 79
baileyana 98
baileyana aurea
baileyana prostrate 88
baileyana purpurea 99
bakeri
bakleyi
bancroftiorum 01
barattensis
barrintonensis 79
baxteri pre 01
beauverdiana pre 01
beckleri 82
betchei
bidwillii 83
biflora
binata 80
binervata 83
binervia 78
bivenosa pre 86
blakei 86
blakelyi
boormanii 91
brachybotrya pre 84
brachystachya
brevifolia 01
brassii 81
browniana 81
browniana v intermedia 80
brunioides 87
burkittii
burrowii 84
buxifolia 82
bynoeana 84

caerulescens (Buchan Blue) 90
caesiella 84
calamifolia pre 82
calantha 87
calyculata 87
cambagei pre 01
camptoclada pre 01
cana pre 89
cardiophylla 82
caroleae 84
celastrifolia
cheelii 78
chinchillensis 91
chisholmii 90
chrysella pre 84
chrysocephala 80
cincinnata pre 81
citrinoviridis pre 81
clunes-rossei pre 86
cochlearis 83
cognata pre 84
colei pre 94
colletioides
cometes
complanata 84
concurrens 01
conferta 01
continua 82
coolgardiensis pre 94
coriacea 90
coriacea var sericophylla pre 01
covenyi pre 96
cowleana 82
craspedocarpa 01
crassa
crassicarpa 78
crassiuscula 79
crassuloides pre 85
cretata 85
cultriformis 01
cupularis
curranii
curvata 73
curvinervia 81
cuthbertsonii 71
cyclops 78
cyperophylla pre 00

dawsonii
dealbata 80
deanei pre 83
debilis 78
declinata prostrate pre 90
decora pre 01
decurrans pre 81
deficiens pre 01
deflexa pre 90
delphina 79
demissa pre 01
dempsteri
denticulosa 86
dentifera
dictyoneura pre 89
dictyophleba
dielsii pre 85
dietrichiana 90
difficilis
difformis pre 96
dimidiata pre 01
diphylla 01
disparrima 03
divergens 78
dodonaeifolia 71
donaldsonii pre 84
doratoxylon 01
drepanocarpa pre 80
drewiana 82
drummondii dwarf pre 79
drummondii ssp affinis pre 83
drummondii ssp candolleana pre 84
drummondii ssp drummondii pre 89
drummondii ssp elegans
drummondii ssp grossus pre 83
dunnii 85

elata

orthocarpa pre 82
oswaldii 90
oxycedrus 80
oxyclada pre 94

pachyacra pre 84
pachycarpa pre 90
palustris pre 97
papyrocarpa 80
paradoxa 01
paraneura 01
parramattensis
parvipinula
pataczekii 91
patagiata pre 97
pellita 01
pendula 86
penninervis pre 84
pentadenia pre 79
perangusta
peuce pre 84
phlebocarpa 81
phlebopetala 81
pilligaensis 75
pinguifolia 83
platycarpa 80
plectocarpa
plectocarpa ssp tanumbirinensis
plicata
podalyriifolia 80
polybotrya 01
polyfolia 84
polystachya
prainii pre 90
pravissima 73
preissiana 01
prominens 90
pruinocarpa
pruinosa
ptychoclada pre 01
pubescens 79
pubicosta pre 90
pubifolia pre 85
pulchella
pulchella hairy form 83
pulchella v glaberrima pre 83
pulchella v goadbya pre 81
pustula 82
pycnantha pre 85
pycnostachya 01
pyrifolia 82

quadrilateralis pre 01
quadrimarginea pre 01
quadrisulcata pre 01

racospermoides
ramulosa
redolens 80
redolens prostrate pre 96
restiacea 91
retinodes 84
retivenia 85
rhetinocarpa pre 90
rhigiophylla pre 80
rhodophloia pre 87
riceana
rigens pre 88
rivalis 82
rossei 81
rostellifera pre 82
rothii pre 90
rubida 85
rupicola 91
ruppii pre 01

sabulosa pre 01
saliciformis
salicina pre 83
saligna 89
schinoides pre 82
scirpifolia 78
sclerophylla pre 89
sclerophylla v lissophylla pre 81
sclerophylla v teretiuscula pre 88
sclerosperma pre 88
semilunata 01
semirigida 78
sessilis pre 90
sessilispica pre 85
shirleyi
sibina pre 01
siculiformis 79
signata pre 81
silvestris 71
simsii pre 83
sophorae 78
sparsiflora pre 98
spathulifolia pre 90
spectabilis 01
sphacelata pre 01
spinescens 89
spondylophylla pre 88
squamatea pre 80
steedmanii pre 82
stenophylla 82
stenoptera
stereophylla
stipuligera pre 89
stowardii pre 98
striatifolia 01
stricta pre 83
suaveolens 82
subcaerulea 81
subflexuosa pre 93
sublanata 72
subulata 82
sulcata 80
synchronicia pre 01

tenuissima 01
teretifolia
terminalis 72
terminalis Katoomba type 79
tetragonocarpa
tetragonophylla
tetraptera pre 01
tindaleae pre 01
torulosa 81
trachycarpa
trachyphloia
translucens 82
trigonophylla 83
trinervata 79
trineura
triptera
triptycha 79
triquetra pre 01
tropica pre 01
truncata 79
tumida pre 76
tysonii

ulicifolia 78
ulicifolia v brownii 81
ulicina 85
umbellata 01
uncifera
uncinata 84
uncinella
urophylla

validinervia
varia v parviflora
venulosa
verniciflua 82
verricula pre 01
verticillata 83
vestita 83
victoriae 01
viscidula 72

wanyu pre 01
wardellii 85
wattsiana 71
wickhamii pre 01
wildenowiana pre 01
wilhelmiana 79
williamsoni pre 01

xanthina 88
xanthocarpa
xiphophylla 81