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AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Dear members.

The last week of February is drawing to a close here at Strathmerton and for once the summer season has been wetter and not so hot. We have had one very hot spell where the temperature reached the low forties in January but otherwise the maximum daily temperature has been around 35 degrees C. The good news is that we had 25mm of rain on new years day and a further 60mm early in February which has transformed the dry native grasses into a sea of green. The native plants have responded to the moisture by shedding that appearance of drooping lack lustre leaves to one of bright shiny leaves and even new growth in some cases.

Many inland parts of Queensland and NSW have received flooding rains and hopefully this is the signal that the long drought is finally coming to an end. To see the Darling River in flood and the billabongs full of water will enable regeneration of plants, and enable birds and fish to multiply. Unfortunately the upper reaches of the Murray and Murrumbidgee river systems have missed out on these flooding rains.

Cliff Wallis from Merimbula has sent me an updated report on the progress of his Hakea collection and was complaining about the dry conditions. Recently they had about 250mm over a couple of days, so I hope the species from dryer areas are not sitting in waterlogged soil. Carmel Wicksteed from Gunning reported that it was very dry in that area, but again good rains have since arrived. Birds McIntyre from Tamworth rang to say that 200mm had fallen there and her Hakea collection would now respond with new growth.

Twelve months have passed since that terrible day in February 2009 when the temperature reached 48 degrees in the shade here at Strathmerton. I have been looking at the Hakeas that survived and noting how they have progressed since then. Generally there has not been a great deal of growth as I believe the lack of substantial rains has meant they have stayed in a mode of drought survival. Flowering and seed setting has also been greatly reduced. Those from the dryer inland areas have probably done best but even then I have been disappointed by their lack of flowering. The Hakea olivacea from southern coastal WA have many dead leaves along their branches and even some branches broke off all together as they were under a great deal of stress. Two out of the three main branches of Hakea linearis, also from that region died altogether. I also put in replacement plants of Hakea cucullata, lasianthoides and falcata in early winter. None of these survived the initial hot spell in early January despite being covered up. These plants come from cool wet climates and our dry hot conditions just don't agree with them. I have been successful in growing the northern form of Hakea lasianthoides, known as species "Walyunga NP" and for those wishing to grow lasianthoides in inland gardens the latter should be used for its tolerance to heat and less moisture.

Hakea archaeoides which had severe leaf burn looked nearly dead over winter but after the January rains put out new growth on what appeared to be dead wood and now looks quite alive.

Welcome to new members.

We welcome Kristine Gow from Hilltop in NSW. Kristine writes to say that she has Hakea tephrosperma, multilineata, leucoptera, francisiana, elliptica, trineura, verrucosa, archaeoides, laurina, burrendong beauty, purpurea, platysperma, pandanicarpa, aculeata, victoria, teretifolia, plus others which are missing tags. They range in height from 50mm to 3.6m. Kristine loves growing prickly plants. She says she is rather lucky to have a location just north of Mittagong where I have shelter, generally mild frosts, excellent drainage and "serious" sandstone rocks. (no lawn at all). I have been quite successful with most Hakeas and any that have died are generally due to operator error. I think they are a most under rated plant in cultivation. There is always room at the back of the garden for a Hakea.*

Thanks Kristine for your comments, I had always thought that there was an area in there between the humid Sydney climate and the freezing cold winter climate of Goulburn where you could grow a whole range of Hakeas from across Australia. Maybe Hilltop is the location. Lets keep introducing more species to see how they go.

New hakea hybrid.

Max Ewer has sent me details of a hybrid form of Hakea laurina that grows on his property. It has dark green long leaves and the flowers are a deep red/burgundy colour when fully out. It is a dense bush that grows up to 2m and appears to be hardy to drought and tolerant of most soil types. Philip Dowling, a native plant nurseryman near Mount Gambier in South Australia saw this hybrid in Max's garden and decided to put it into commercial production following further trials with cutting material. The Hakea laurina hybrid will be called "Stockdale sensation" and should be available in native nurseries from March onwards. Stockdale is the name of Max's property.

It is fitting that Max should have a plant named in his honour as he has been a leading propagator of Hakeas for many years. Over the past fifteen years he has produced thousands of Hakeas each year for the APS South Australia plant sales in Adelaide as well as special orders from Hakea growers such as myself. The fact that we have so many more gardens with substantial collection of Hakeas is due in many ways to Max's efforts. The bad news is that Max is closing down his propagation area as he is nearly ninety and needs more time to maintain his garden and be able to see a bit more of Australia and visit friends.

Finances.

Balance forward at 9 th .November 2009	1934-64
Income, subscriptions	20-00
Expenses,	
Printing and post out newsletter No.41	97-50
Balance as at 1 st .March,2010	\$1857-14

Hakea ivoryi.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Hakea ivoryi had flowered here at Strathmerton and inserted some information on where it came from and the soil types it grew in. Since flowering I have watched the plant set about six seed capsules and recovered the seed as the capsules opened. In a matter of two days the seed capsule went from green to brown and opened. I am hoping we will have some plants to go in

members gardens later this year. In its natural location north of Bourke they have had some 500mm of rain in a week earlier this year, so it should flower profusely later this year. There are very old plants along the Lednapper track.

Royce and Jeanne Raleigh's trip to WA.

Royce has kindly written an article on their trip to WA which I have included in this newsletter. He has also sent me some six pages of colour photos of Hakeas he saw in WA. I have decided to put a page in each future newsletter with some additional notes. Thankyou Royce for your contribution.

Hakea amplexicaulis. This species grows in jarrah forest from Perth to Albany. Normally a spindly multi trunked plant to 2m, but there was a specimen in the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra which grew to 3.6m and had a seat underneath it. Prefers rainfall of 1m plus in loam to clay loam soils. Has a lignotuber.

Hakea costata. A coastal to 100klms.inland plant from Kalbarri to Yanchep which grows in sandy soils. A small shrub to 1m high with masses of white flowers in spring. Leaves are narrow to about 20mm long and the seed capsule very small. Has proved to be drought tolerant here at Strathmerton.

Hakea ceratophylla. Has proved to be difficult to grow unless you live in a cool climate, Grows around the coast from Augusta to east of Albany in winter wet depressions. I have seen it beside table drains full of water. There is a long leaf form of this species which was known as *ssp.elongata*. Prefers to be in semi shade.

Hakea pandanicaarpa ssp.crassifolia. Has proved to be very drought tolerant and will grow in a variety of soils. This *ssp.* has broader leaves and the follicle surface is rugose and somewhat corky but not where as corky as *ssp.pandanicaarpa*.

Hakea conchifolia. An ornamental species from the coastal plain between Geraldton and Perth. Its shell like leaves are quite unusual and the white flowers emerge from within the leaves. A small shrub preferring sandy to loam soils and likes an occasional watering in dry periods.

Hakea bucculenta x francisiana. *Hakea bucculenta* has one longitudinal vein in its leaf, but in cultivation variants do occur between it and *Hakea francisiana* which have three longitudinal veins in each leaf. I have not seen the hybridization in the wild. A plant that prefers to grow on deep sand but will survive in well drained heavier soils provided it is in maximum sun light and protected from frosts. *Hakea bucculenta* come from the Geraldton- Mullewa area and *Hakea francisiana* also occurs in that area but extends out into the great sandy desert and into South Australia. Both are very drought hardy. The long pink racemes make it a very attractive plant and it can be long flowering from June through to October.

Hakea garden for sale.

Geoff Cooke at Wiseleigh near Bairnsdale has decided it is time to downsize and his property of about six acres, nursery and house are up for sale. Geoff has about 80 species of Hakea growing here on a sandy loam soil. It has a lovely outlook over the Tambo River valley. If you know anyone who is interested, please contact me and I will put you on to Geoff.

It is time I went out into the garden. It is a change to have to do some weeding, after all these years of drought. At least if the weeds are growing there must be moisture for the native plants too. The sea of green plants and native grasses is a joy to behold. Lets hope it continues to rain. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, please keep reports coming into me on your endeavours in growing Hakeas. Another 25mm of rain on 27th. of February. Regards,

Paul

WA Tour. Royce & Jeanne Raleigh 29/7/09 to 1/9/09

Most people, who visit WA like to do so in the spring, in order to see the greatest range of plants in flower. Jeanne & I decided to visit earlier, leaving home on July 29th and returning home on September the 1st. As a result we managed to see and photograph over 40 species of *Hakea* in flower as well as many hundreds of other plants that we had not seen in flower before. This report will concentrate on the *Hakeas* that were in flower and where we saw them. Altogether we took over 900 photographs which give an indication of the number of species in flower that we saw.

As a general comment on WA we were very disappointed at the tremendous loss of roadside vegetation since our last visit 10 years ago. A large number of the Reserves we visited were rabbit and weed infested. Little appears to be being done to control either. One now has to travel much longer distances to see the same range of plant species.

After reaching Norseman we headed for Southern Cross and although much of the Boorabbin National Park had been burnt, *Hakea multilineata* was in flower in sand along the roadside.

Travelling north from Southern Cross through Bullfinch to Chiddarcopping Nature Reserve along Morrison Road and then north along Elachbutting Road we saw *Hakea francisiana*, *scoparia* and *recurva* (both cream and pink)

From here to Merredin, Wyalkatchem and along the old road to Wongan Hills. Near Wongan Hills we saw *Hakea invaginata*, and the Wongan Hills form of *Hakea multilineata* in gravelly sand. This form really should be a separate species. At Gathercole Reserve, *Hakea marginata* and *petiolaris* as well as *Eucalyptus caesia* ssp *magna*.

Through Wubin to Paynes Find, where *Hakea francisiana*, *invaginata* and *multilineata* were in flower on sand. From Paynes Find to Yalgoo, no *Hakeas*, but beautiful daisies, *Eremophilas* and *Grevilleas*. To Geraldton where Indarra Nature Reserve and Chilmony Nature Reserve were great with *Hakea circumalata* (cream and pink) in sandy gravel.

From Geraldton, coming south to Mingenew via Burma Road where the Burma Road Nature Reserve was a wonderful blaze of colour and then onto Western Flora Caravan Park, where in this area we saw *Hakea candolleana*, *incrassata*, *lissocarpha* and *platysperma* in flower on sand and in sandy gravel. Wilson Nature Reserve gave us *Hakea candolleana*, *incrassata*, *spathulata* and *platysperma*. *Mirbelia floribunda* and *capitata* were also magnificent.

After leaving Western Flora we made for Jurien Bay and Mt Leseur where in this area we found ***Hakea eneabba*** (Beekeepers Nature Reserve), *anadenia*, *costata*, *incrassata*, *lissocarpha*, *longiflora*, *neurophylla*, *platysperma*, *spathulata*. *Hakeas* not in flower were *Hakea auriculata*, *erinacea*, *gilbertii*, *megalosperma*, *psilorrhyncha*, *ruscifolia*, *smilacifolia* & *stenocarpa*

As we travelled south through Badgingara National Park, we added flowering *Hakea conchifolia* to the list. At Toodyay we saw lots of *Hakea loranthifolia*, but no flowers.

From Toodyay we made our way to Narrogin via Charles Gardner Nature Reserve, Boolanelling Nature Reserve and Tutanning Nature Reserve. *Hakea scoparia* was the only *Hakea* in flower.

From Narrogin to Hyden via Harrismith Nature Reserve where *Hakea cygna* ssp *cygna* and *lissocarpha* were in flower, while tangled looking *Hakea hastata* was not in flower. The Dongolocking Nature Reserve and Tarin Rock Reserve were also visited.

After leaving Hyden we discovered a wonderful new road (for us), The Holland Track through Dragon Rocks Reserve gave us *Hakea multilineata*, *scoparia* & *subsulcata* in flower with a great range of other flowering plants.

The Stirling Ranges National Park gave us *Hakea baxteri* (not in flower), *ceratophylla*, *corymbosa*, *cucculata*, *ferruginea*, *lehmanniana*, *lissocarpha*, *denticulata*, *obliqua ssp parviflora* & *varia*. Unfortunately many of the wonderful plants one used to see around the Bluff Knoll car park area are no longer there due to dieback.

Near the Porongurups we found *Hakea lasiocarpha*. Unfortunately the mature plants were being attacked by cockatoos who were taking immature seed. During the trip we noticed many other *Hakea* species being attacked by cockatoos so that the seed quantity reaching maturity is diminishing.

Heading to Albany we found pink forms of *Hakea amplexicaulis* & *ferruginea* and as we approached Fitzgerald River National Park we added *Hakea crassifolia ssp crassifolia*, *ferruginea*, *lasiantha*, *obliqua ssp obliqua* & *victoria*.

Fitzgerald River National Park was disappointing in that so much of it had recently been burnt and even more so was the almost total lack of information available for this wonderful World Heritage Area. There was more information on whale watching at Point Ann than on the Flora of the Park!

From Ravensthorpe we travelled north to Pallarup Nature Reserve where *Hakea cygna ssp cygna* and *Hakea cygna ssp needlei* were in flower along with many other plant species. From Lake King we travelled out towards the Frank Hann National Park (recently burnt) and down Cascade Road towards Esperance. Here we saw *Hakea ilicifolia*. This was the best road of the trip for the wonderful range of plants in full flower. The *Calytrix*, *Chorizemas* and *Conospermums* were spectacular.

East of Esperance we added *Hakea cinerea*, *prostrata* and *sulcata* to the list of flowering Hakeas. North of Esperance at the Mt Burdett Nature reserve *Hakea crassifolia ssp pandanicarpa* and *Hakea clavata* were seen but not in flower. Unfortunately Cape Arid National Park had also been recently burnt and Cape Le Grand National Park is badly infected by phytophora (dieback).

After 5 weeks and 11,600 kms we arrived home after a wonderful trip but greatly concerned about the future of many of the plants that we had seen. We have been visiting WA for over 40 years and Roadside vegetation is disappearing at an alarming rate and many of the Reserves we have visited are now no longer worth the effort. If you have not yet visited the West do so soon.



Hakea amplexicaulis



Hakea costata



Hakea ceratophylla



Hakea crassifolia subsp. *crassifolia*



Hakea conchifolia



Hakea bucculentia x *H. francisiana*