AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

HAKEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No.72

FEBRUARY 2020 ISSN 0727-7008

Leader: Paul Kennedy
Address. 210 Aireys St.
Elliminyt Vic. 3250
Tel. 03-52315569
Mobile 0422813211
E mail hakeaholic@gmail.com

Dear members,

Welcome to another year. I write this as bushfires rage across many parts of our country. So far the properties of our members have escaped major damage but many have stories to tell of near misses. In the Adelaide Hills fire Hans Griesser watched it come within 300 mts of his property. Joe Stephens has watched the fire burn near his Cann River property and Graeme and Denise Krake at Brogo have been lucky that the fire went further away from them and unfortunately severely damaged the town of Cobargo. John Knight stayed and defended his property in Batemans Bay but saw houses up the street destroyed. By far the most threatening was the fire at Milton where Phil Trickett and Catriona Bates spent ten days defending their property. The fire initially came up the hill from the east and north but then many days later came back from the south where embers rained down on them for six hours. They lost some garden beds but otherwise escaped. The daytime temperature was 47 degrees C,.which on its own would have scorched many plants. Glenda and Bernie Datsun (Baranduda) and Cliff and Sayaka Wallis (Merimbula) have also seen fire too close for comfort.

Then of course there is the damage to our flora. Hakea aenigma populations on Kangaroo Island have probably been completely burnt and as it is already endangered we hope that it will come back from lignotubers and underground roots. Otherwise the couple of plants in members gardens become extremely important in preserving this species. Other Hakea species on Kangaroo Island are rostrata, rugosa and vittata, which would also be probably burnt, but fortunately also occur on the mainland, in southern South Australia and as far east as the Grampians.

Then there are our east coast Hakeas. Hakea salicifolia ssp. angusta at Lake Tyers is probably burnt and will have to regenerate from seed. Likewise Hakea decurrens ssp. platytaenia in Ben Boyd National Park will have been burnt. The heat intensity of the fire could also damage the follicles and limit the regeneration process.

One of the matters that I have had correspondence with the University of Sydney is on what Hakeas have the ability to regenerate from lignotubers. It appears about half can regenerate from the base, which is good news. However there are quite a number of eastern species such as dactyloides, dohertyi, gibbosa, macraeana, macrorrhyncha, microcarpa, ochroptera, pachyphylla, propinqua, serica, constablei and ulicina that have had populations burnt in the past five months and do not have lignotubers. Time will tell how well they regenerate and we will not want to see any more fires in burnt out areas for at least five years to allow plants to grow, flower and set seed.

Whilst talking about species that have lignotubers I have been taking note of those Hakeas in my garden setting moderate to large amounts of seed and whether they have lignotubers or resprouting capabilities or not. Those that have set reasonable amounts of seed are adnata, archaeiodes, carinata, cinerea, cucullata, eriantha, all three ssp. of decurrens,

marginata, invaginata, obliqua ssp. parviflora, two ssp. of petiolaris, pachyphylla, propinqua, salicifolia, sericea, scoparia, stenocarpa, teretifolia and trifurcata. It is interesting to note that apart from archaeoides all the others are considered not to have lignotubers or resprouting capabilities, so is there a relation between seed setting and plants with lignotubers?
Hakea archaeoides is usually a single trunk species for me and does not appear to have a lignotuber, however have members come across multi stemmed plants in the wild that could have resprouting capabilities?
In our garden here at Elliminyt we have been spared the problems of drought and fire. The rainfall for 2019 was about average of 750mm and fell mostly over the winter and spring months. We had virtually no rain in December, and January so far has been dry. So we went very quickly from having moist soil to it being dry. The garden consisting mainly of Hakeas, Banksias and Melaleucas has grown considerably such that in many places the plants have closed in the open spaces and has now taken on the appearance of a jungle.
This is my fault as the priorities are drainage, weeding, mulching and finally pruning if I have time. Hakeas flowering now are linearis, the two ssp. of leucoptera, brownii, hookeriana and collina. The latter has me puzzled as it is supposed to flower in June -July. I am wondering if it is one of these opportunistic plants that flower when conditions are right.
Hakea grammatophylla flowered after good falls of rain at Strathmerton. Cathy Truss from Quilpie has sent me a photo of it growing on her property which has been in drought for many years. How it survives is a testimony to its toughness.

Propagation.

Due to it being so cold at night I did not put Hakea seed down for germination until the beginning of December. I only germinated a small number to make up species in the garden from one to two or to increase the number of endangered species to share with other members.
I used vermiculite in punnets and placed in trays that had a shallow amount of water in them. When germination occurred I then transferred to watering from above. Potting on occurred as soon as the leaves were visibly above the vermiculite surface. There are a number of rare and endangered Hakeas that we will continue trials by cuttings and grafting to conserve seed.

Financial and membership.

Balance as of 1st October, 2019	$3578-70
Subscriptions	$160-00
Expenditure.	
Newsletter No71, print and post	$51-50
Balance forward	$3667-20

We note with sympathy the deaths of Hugh Stacey (Sydney, NSW) and Bernard Crowe (Innisvale, Qld.) We thank them for their contribution over many years.

Hakea book.

Royce Raleigh took a lot of photos in Western Australia recently and I have written the draft text for about a quarter of the species. Work on the book will continue throughout 2020.

Letters from members.

Joe Boevink wrote to say that his Hakea garden in northern Tasmania is progressing well. They had a dry spring. Hakeas doing especially well were drupacea and elliptica, which grow in the southern part of Western Australia.
Baides Mcintyre from south of Tamworth is watching her garden die. The bore has gone dry and they have had only 120 mm of rain to near the end of September. One Hakea that has enjoyed the dry conditions is H horrida which is in flower.
John Nevins from Armidale in NSW is concerned about the future of the town water supply. Rainfall for the past four months has been 12 mm.
Hans Griesser in the Adelaide Hills has had below average rains but his garden is surviving. Hakea horrida and denticulata have flowered well. The smell of the flowers on denticulata is not very pleasant but probably attracts the insects.
I thank Mike and Cathy for their contribution below. They are always on the lookout for native flora in their travels and to let me know what Hakeas they come across. I have mentioned other species found in South Australia above, however there is also one in the Adelaide Hills and south called H carinata which has proved to be easy to grow in our southern gardens.

Travelling in South Australia
Mike & Cathy Beamish

For 6 weeks in late September, October and early November 2019, Cathy and I travelled around the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. As for all our trips, we kept a lookout for any displays of Aussie natives and Hakeas were high on our list. Parts of the areas visited were suffering from drier than normal conditions, such as the Gawler Ranges, so we weren't expecting too much in these areas, but other parts were having a good year, for example Port Lincoln, where we hoped to find some action.
The species common throughout the Mallee areas of Victoria and South Australia, Hakea mitchellii, was sighted in a number of places, such as the Little Desert, the dry country east of Burra and north of the Eyre Highway, west of Port Augusta, but no flowers were observed. The first Hakea flowers we found were north of Wudinna, on Barns Road, on the way into the Gawler Ranges NP. A strip of Hakea francisiana growing in white sand on the top of small east-west aligned dunes displayed the occasional flower spike.

Interestingly, a second population found further north along Sturts Track growing on the slopes of Mt Sturt and adjacent hills showed no sign of flowers at all.
No more Hakeas of any kind were sighted until we reached Coffin Bay NP, on the south-western tip of the Eyre Peninsula in mid-October. We were surprised to stumble across a small population of Hakeas in full flower on the top of the Little Yangie Bay Lookout Hill, right behind the seats installed at the lookout.
Very little topsoil was present, the substrate was basically limestone rock with sand filling the crevices. Given the shape of the capsules, we suspect that these plants are Hakea cycloptera , though the capsules are only about 1cm around and our references indicate that they should be up to 3 times larger (photo right).
The flowers were giving off a rich, fermented honey scent, obviously very attractive to the hordes of insects in the neighbourhood.
No more wild Hakeas were found in flower for the remainder of the trip, but we dropped into a couple of Arboretums on the way home and enjoyed some nice cultivated plants. Firstly

was the Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta, where Hakea divaricata had just finished flowering and was displaying great bunches of capsules starting to fill out.

We hope the management keeps an eye on these and collects the seeds when they are ripe, rather than let them disperse when the capsules open.
Next was Pangarinda Arboretum at Wellington, where the Murray River enters Lake Alexandrina. This is a terrific place to visit, well cared for and lots of variety to look at. We found Hakeas auriculata, mitchellii, obliqua and pandanicarpa (photos left to right below), all cream-flowered species but looking pretty good covered in blooms

.

Our third stop was at the Peter Francis Points Arboretum at Coleraine, in Victoria's Western District. It was wet and cold here and the grass was lush and green, indicating a much better season than in the northern parts of the Eyre Peninsula. The advertising stated that there were 80 plus species of Hakeas in the Arboretum, but this must be referring to original plantings because there are certainly not that many there now. There was lots of evidence of an aging plant population, with many gaps in the plantings and the remains of dead specimens scattered around the landscape. The place seemed a bit run down and lacking in the resources to

keep such a large area in the best condition. That said, we did find some Hakeas in flower, this time the pink rather than cream ones. The photos below show H. bucculenta, H.purpurea and H. grammatophylla, left to right.



Hakea excursion 2020.
The Western Australian members are suggesting a Hakea crawl in September from Bremer Bay through the Lake Magenta region and across towards Bordon and further north. As the eastern portion of the Stirling Ranges has been burnt we will probably not venture into that area. Tom Constant is coming over to Victoria shortly and further discussions will be held then.

Photos.
I thank all members who have sent me reports and photos. It makes my task as editor very much easier. Photos included below are Hakea collina (Cathy Truss), Hakeas flabellifolia and spathulata (Thelma Vandepeer), Hakea hastata (Jean Sloane), and Hakea ilicifolia (Jennifer Young).

Members please remember there is free seed available from our SG seed bank.
In recent times some large limbs have broken off my Hakeas due to weight. I noticed on some very old Hakea plants in gardens that branches will not totally break off but lie on the ground alive for many years. It appears that perhaps plants are at their best at around age ten and then become more bedraggled with age.
Royce Raleigh says that perhaps we should be prepared to replace older plants in our gardens to give the best appearance. I hope we all have good rains shortly and see the end of the drought.
Cheers,
Paul.


H collina

H flabellifolia

H spathulata

H hastata

H ilicifolia