

Acacia ~~karoo~~ karroo

01.11.1959. At Bashee Bridge, between Idutywa and Umtata, Transkei, trees just beginning to flower. One fairly advanced. At Kei Bridge on the Transkei-Komga border only a few yellow dots of flower appearing; also as King William's Town. The winter and spring had been good this year.

Last-week in May and into June. Autumnal tints fine. Trees change to a rich gold, made lovelier by the fern-like nature of the foliage. Colour varies from yellow to gold.

July. Branches now bare

August. Branches mostly bare still but where a tree is growing in a damp area, new shoots are starting

28.12.1958. Travelling between Grahamstown and King William's Town. Acacias in the Great Fish River valley were well out in flower, far in advance of those near Grahamstown, in the Keiskamma River valley, and at King William's Town.

Always some trees flower in advance of the rest and, always, certain trees surpass all others

Sept. 1960. Trees burst into leaf in about second week despite severe drought. Rather irregular as between tree and tree with some trees still in their old dark foliage and some still leafless after the winter,

16.10.1960. A few puffs of flower coming out. Otherwise only rough, unopened flower buds

1 June 1961. In the King William's Town bushveld many of the Acacia trees, now almost leafless or only sparsely leaved, have a spume-like scum spread over them, a dirty off-white mass. But this is an illusion; it is caused by the fuzzy, wispy seed-covers of Clematis now in full seed.