

Eucryphia



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Above: extremes of *Wollemia nobilis* (Wollemi Pine) management. See article page 16.



Above: *Hakea cucullata*. Photos: I R Dixon, S J Patrick
 From <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au>
 See Northern Group News, page 29.

Front Cover:
Grevillea victoriae, Royal Grevillea

<p style="text-align: center;">EUCRYPHIA ISSN 1324-3888 Published quarterly in March, June, September and December by Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc ABN 64 482 394 473 Patron: Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania Society postal address: P.O. Box 1205 GRAVELLY BEACH TASMANIA 7276 Editor: Mary Slattery eucryphiaeditor@gmail.com</p> <p>Contributions and letters to the editor are welcome. If possible they should be forwarded by email to the editor at eucryphiaeditor@gmail.com or typed using one side of the paper only. If handwritten, please print botanical names and the names of people. Original text may be reprinted, unless otherwise indicated, provided an acknowledgment of the source is given. Permission to reprint non-original material and all drawings and photos must be obtained from the copyright holder by the contributor.. Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views and/or opinions of the Society.</p>	Contents
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****It is a decision of Council that the subscription to *Australian Plants* entitles a member to receive only those issues that are published during the members' subscription period. Purchase of back copies may be arranged by contacting your Group Secretary.

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Membership Badges are provided to all financial members and Membership Cards are re-issued to financial members at the time of membership renewal.

Inverawe Native Gardens at Margate offers half price entry; Plants of Tasmania Nursery at Ridgeway offer 10% discount on non-discounted items to financial members on presentation of a valid Membership Card.

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Your subscription expiry date is shown on the mailing envelope and automatic reminders will be enclosed near expiry date. Please return the reminder with your payment to facilitate the work and record-keeping of the Treasurer and the Membership Officer. If payment has already been received this is reflected in the expiry date on your mailing envelope and you do not need to send any remittance until you next receive a reminder. An application form is included on page 20 for use in introducing new members to the Society.

Please note the requirement to unambiguously identify yourself and the subscription type if payment is made directly into our bank account.

Failure to do so can cause substantial difficulty for the Treasurer and Membership Officer.

Membership

Margaret Killen, Membership Officer



We warmly welcome the following new members to the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc:

Elizabeth Brettingham-Moore of Geeveston; **Anthony Salt** of Kettering; **Katherine Marsden** of West Hobart; **Kaye Jenkins** of Tinderbox; **Tracey and Stephen Wells** of Lanena; **Wendy and Andre Brooks** of Swan Point; **Chris and Kevin de Witte** of Nunamara; **Alexia Thomson** of Trevallyn; **Jozina MacQueen** of Trevallyn; **Gloria Harley** of Westbury; **Anita Parker and Michael Williams** of Deviot; **Maureen Hope** of Latrobe; **Kate Alsop and Adam Wales** of Penguin; **Sally McMillan** of Bakers Beach; **Ron and Karen Jones** of Nook; **June Hilder** of Devonport; **Mary McConnell** of Turners Beach; **Les Kleinig** of Deloraine; **Kaye Ling** of Leith; **Erik Donnachie** of Penguin; and returning member **Pam Crerar** of Gravelly Beach.

We apologise to **Anna McGrane**, whose name was misspelt in the last issue.

Membership Benefits

Some of the benefits that members enjoy are discounts from some businesses (see opposite page) and discounts on book purchases through the Publications Officer.

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Metal membership badges are supplied to all new members with their members' kit.

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Your subscription renewal date is shown on the Eucryphia mailing envelop and a reminder will be enclosed near the date. Please return your completed scanned / photographed form to membership@apstas.org.au or the hard copy to The APST Treasurer, PO Box 1205, Gravelly Beach Tasmania 7276.

Membership queries

If you have any queries, updates or corrections regarding your membership details please contact me: membership@apstas.org.au ☺

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From The President

Jenny Boyer, President.



The first pleasure in my role is to pay tribute to Margaret Killen for her two years as President and assure her and members that I will be supporting the progressive work of her Presidency. Never one to shirk a challenge Margaret has taken on the role of Membership Officer with the intention of reform to make the processes easier and more efficient. She is also continuing to drive the strategic planning. Thank you Margaret.

I would also like to thank Jill Clark, Lynne Mockridge, Fran Taylor and Bruce Champion for their contributions to Council. (Bruce has stepped down as Hobart Group Councillor but continues his work as Website Officer).

The other people to thank are those who are continuing to serve on Council or in appointed positions and the newbies who have agreed to take on roles. You are all essential to the running of the Society.

I congratulate the Groups for their record breaking autumn plant sales and appreciate all the work during the year that allows them to be so successful.

Discussions are continuing around the draft new Constitution in an effort to reach a consensus view of what a new Constitution should look like. There will definitely not be a Special General Meeting to propose a change in June. We will keep you informed.

I am privileged to be elected to the role of President and will do my best to justify the faith that has been placed in me.

Enjoy your native plants, whatever direction your interests take you. ☺

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APST Inc Annual Report 2018

Margaret Killen, 2018 President



The 2018 year started with APST hosting the Australian Native Plants Society Australia (ANPSA) Conference in Hobart in January. It was a highly successful event with registrants from around Australia and overseas. The speakers were excellent, the range of tours were varied and interesting and the social aspects of the Government House reception and Conference Dinner were enjoyed by all. There were many new conference attendees and Tasmanians volunteered to give wonderful support to the Conference. The Conference made a small profit thus keeping in line with the spirit of these events.

The Society has ventured into the world of social media with a Facebook page being created by the Northern Group which now has many followers.

The Strategic Plan was officially approved in June. In 2018 the new member process was improved resulting in a shorter time from application to notification. Groups using the *ladder of engagement*¹ approach are finding it a positive method of engaging and involving new members. Seven of the eleven Governance actions² (1-6 & 9) are nearing completion. Ground work for updating the Constitution commenced in June and the final document will be presented to members in 2019.

The opportunity for APST to be involved with the important waterfront development at Macquarie Point has been a topic of discussion resulting in a planned site visit in February 2019.

The APST annual financial report to 31 December 2018 is a combination of the three Groups' and Council finances. I am pleased to report that consolidated funds in 2018 had a surplus of \$16,263.41. This is an improvement from the previous two years where losses were encountered. The Society remains in a strong financial position with a liability of \$1,300.00 and total assets of \$194,052.74.

For the full report please refer to the audited financial report by Ruddicks, which show that APST through the Treasurer, Rosemary Verbeeten, has carried out its responsibilities, and prepared financial records that reflect an accurate financial position of APST Inc. in 2018.

Membership numbers have remained steady over the past three years. Through the planning process we aim to streamline subscription renewals and new member applications by incorporating on-line payments through the APST website. Our thanks go to Fran Taylor who has competently carried out this role for many years. Fran will be retiring from the position in 2019.

It is sad to note that three life members, Noel Kerrison, Pat Kerrison and Jill Roberts passed away during the year and that our only honorary member Margaret Stones died in December. All these people in their own way contributed much to the Society.

The APST journal Eucryphia is produced and mailed out four times a year under the competent editorship of Mary Slattery.

The business and governance of APST is managed by the Council which is made up of an executive and representatives from all groups. I thank the members of Council for their dedication to their various roles and their support and willingness to advance the strategic planning process, which covers the next four and a half years.

The three groups, Hobart, Northern and North-West continue to offer members activities and benefits at a local level. It is very pleasing to see groups respond to new-member needs and requests and to increase visits to members' gardens.

(Continued on page 10)



Report From Council

Dick Burns, Vice President

Our hosts for this meeting were the Northern Group and the meeting was held at the Windsor Park Complex, Riverside in Launceston. The Council meeting followed the Annual General Meeting, the outcomes of which are reported elsewhere in this august journal. As members arrived, they were greeted with a hot drink and one of those tempting spreads that always seem to materialise from the Northern Group.

Between the AGM and Council Meeting, we had the opportunity to wander through some of the grounds. Described by Janet Hallam in the March edition of *Eucryphia*; they were as good, if not more impressive, than Janet showed. I was particularly taken with the rock-work that was everywhere – dolerite boulders were used and so well placed. The Northern Group's nursery is spacious, clean and well-stocked with healthy plants ready for the plants sale to take place the following weekend.

Members of the Northern Group had also prepared lunch, a time to catch up with our friends from other groups, and get acquainted with newer members.

In the absence of our newly-elected President Jenny Boyer, past-President Margaret Killen chaired the general meeting. It was a meeting full of discussion and the following items would be of interest to members and groups.

At the AGM, it was decided to defer Council discussion of changes to our Constitution to give the groups time to discuss proposed changes. Groups will need to give all their members the opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

The transfer of previous issues of our journal *Eucryphia* to digital form is progressing with the work being done by Secretary Mary and Webmaster Bruce. Bruce also recently spent time with the Kingborough members explaining how to access the APST website, particularly the members-only pages.

Speaking of 'new tricks', Treasurer Rosemary suggested that all members try to make their payments via electronic transfer and when they do, remember to identify themselves. I can assure members, being a late starter myself to electronic banking, that it is faster and cheaper. It is planned to set up a system on the APST website to indicate when individual subs are due.

As most of the postage nowadays involves payments and new members, it was decided to relinquish Council's share of the N. W. PO box and pay for a PO box near the Treasurer.

The day visit to the Macquarie Point redevelopment was worthwhile, with a good attendance by APST members.

Rosemary Verbeeten will be the Coordinator for the APST display at the 2019 Blooming Tasmania weekend at Albert Hall Launceston. The Society has this year also been given the stage to showcase our Society and native plants.

The Strategic Planning process is progressing well. In the future the Society needs to bring the APST history booklet prepared by Melva Truchanas in 2000 up-to-date. There was a renewed plea for the recollections/reminiscences of the longer-standing members to be recorded.

Over the years, many brochures have been prepared by the overall Society or Groups, and it was suggested that these need to be gathered together and some guidelines prepared for future brochures.

It was a full day, but the meeting finished in good time for attendees to head off home, many with some planting of specimens acquired from the nursery to do in the near future. ☺



Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink, Study Group Liaison

Note that previous SG newsletters are available on the ANPSA website <http://anpsa.org.au/study.html>

Current year newsletters are mostly available to members only. The Garden Design SG makes all newsletters freely available. Jane Fountain, ANPSA SG coordinator, informs us that unfortunately the Rainforest SG and the Boronia SG have been discontinued.

GOODENIACEAE April 2019 Leader: Royce Raleigh. First newsletter of the restarted SG! The new leader describes his introduction to the Goodeniaceae family. It contains some historical notes, contributions from members and propagating advice. There are excellent photos of the variety of Goodeniaceae in gardens. Looks to be a very promising newsletter on plants suitable to Tasmanian conditions as well. An interesting side note: In the Acacia SG newsletter Bill Aitchison mentions that he attended the F. J. Rogers seminar on Goodeniaceae and learned that some can be propagated from a single leaf. He tried successfully with *Scaevola*.

ISOPOGON and PETROPHILE No 24 April 2019. Leaders: Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate. This is a special issue on Petrophiles and an excellent source of information. They lament the lack of availability of Petrophiles in nurseries compared to Isopogons. Quote: 'Isopogons are easier to grow and there are more of the highly attractive pink glowing species with large flower heads. However our access to both genera seems to have reduced over time, with long-time growers of WA Proteaceae telling us that they used to be able to access and grow many more of the both species in the past. The level of knowledge about Petrophiles seems to be very low even among native plant people'. WA has 60 species. They do not occur in Tasmania.

GREVILLEA No. 112 Leader: Peter Olde. The 112th issue is prepared by the Victorian chapter coordinated by Neil Marriott. It includes examples of local government staff in WA operating roadside graders destroying rare and endangered plant communities even when warning markers are in place.

There is also a description of the amazing garden of the Weir family near Melbourne. It is full of Grevilleas that Brian Weir has grafted onto standards. George Portland Botanic garden has a Grevillea project. List of Grevilleas suitable for different localities. Observation on root suckering.

HAKEA No. 69 Leader: Paul Kennedy. The dry hot summer has stressed out plants in many gardens. Good description of species encountered during a 'Hakea crawl' in WA. It includes: *H. cucullata*, *H. elliptica*, *H. falcata* and *H. oleifolia*. The seed bank has a good selection available. The leader reminds us that the night time temperature needs to be above 15 degrees C to trigger germination of most hakea species. Interesting story about *Hakea victoria* explaining the cause of the brilliant yellow and red foliage that develops in right conditions.

GARDEN DESIGN No 107 May 2019 Leader: Lawrie Smith. The theme of this issue is on the importance of light and shadow in the garden. Interesting discussion with contributions from several members and illustrations from around the world. Some of the photographs were taken by Lawrie Smith on his recent overseas trip to several countries. The newsletter can be found at <http://anpsa.org.au/design/> or Google *Australian Garden Design*. The GD SG makes all the issues available on the website. For mailed copies there is a \$20 charge for members. ©



Publications

David Boyer

There has been limited activity on the publications front. One book that has received attention in other Regions is *Dictionary of Botanical Names* by Don Perrin. It does appear to be a useful and interesting publication for those on the other side of the ditch, but Tasmanian members have been spoilt by the Wapstras' *Tasmanian Plant Names Unravelled*.

John and Monica Chapman have produced two Short Walks books, one for Northern Tasmania and one for Southern Tasmania, each covering thirty one walks. I produced these at a Hobart Group meeting recently, and expected to get a limited response, but finished up with orders for five of each. Members pay \$16.25 for each of these, with the RRP being \$24.95; the same discount applying to all the books in the Blackgum Distribution catalogue on their website. If you are interested in obtaining any of these publications, please send me an email. ☺

(email – davidcmboyer@gmail.com)

APST Inc Annual report 2018

(continued from page 7)

The ANPSA Conference committee was wound up after the Conference and when all the financial matters were complete.

The Strategic Planning committee meets during the year to make recommendations to Council. This think tank uses the APST Objectives and the Strategic Plan to look after members' interests and to progress towards and prepare for a technologically new future for the Society. The group is guided by Peter Edwards who advances it at the pace, tone and direction needed to achieve the goals.

APST has been part of the Blooming Tasmania festival for some years. It is held in Launceston in September. It gives APST the opportunity to interface with the general 'garden loving' public. In 2018 the Society had a double stall and a very successful two days.

Being the latest member Society to host the ANPSA Conference, Tasmania inherited the role of being the ANPSA executive. To this end our members have carried out this role and assisted in preparing for the next ANPSA Conference being held in Albany, WA in September in 2019. Duties have included regular teleconference meetings to conduct the business of ANPSA, including preparing for the Australian Plants Award. Our thanks go to this organised and dedicated band of members – President Riitta Boevink, Secretary Mary Slattery and Treasurer Rosemary Verbeeten.

Advancing the Strategic Plan is key to securing an optimistic and viable future for APST Inc. There will come a time when we need to consider a new name for the Society that people can remember and that stands out in the community.

During my term as President I have worked with many wonderful members of the Society and organisations and people who support us. It has been an exciting and hopeful period.

References:

1. Ladder of engagement – Eucryphia volume 23 No.8 September 2018, p7 middle paragraph.
2. Governance action – Strategic Plan 2018-2023, p18, APSTI website. ☺

A comment about last issue's article: 'A Not-so-Recent Event'

Dick Burns

In the March issue of *Eucryphia*, David used my outline of changes in the genus *Euryomyrtus* to justify the concept of 'intelligent design'. I don't think that David was using my outline to further his argument, but I have a concern that my work was in any way linked to 'intelligent design'. This concept is either an off-shoot of, or a re-branding of, creation science and was developed to argue against the process of evolution and the scientifically accepted theory that explains it, that of natural selection, put forward by Charles Darwin (and Alfred Wallace).

Evidence for evolution by natural selection is all around us, from the fossil record and comparative anatomy to the development of pesticide-resistant insects and antibiotic-resistant bacteria through human overuse. Many books have demonstrated that complex organs do evolve through myriads of minor genetic changes or variations, books such as *The Blind Watchmaker* by Richard Dawkins and his other books on genetics. Many find Dawkins rather strident whomever-does-not-believe-me-is-an-idiot approach grating, but there are many other authors on evolution by natural selection. As I sought answers in years past, the books by Stephen Jay Gould provided reasoned explanations through excellent examples. Andrew Parker's *In the Blink of an Eye* shows how that most complex organ, the human eye, evolved through a long series of chance mutations. In fact evolution has frequently led to **imperfect design**. Anyone suffering from lower back pain knows this; the mammalian backbone evolved for animals walking on four legs, with weight distributed along the spine. When pre-man started walking on two legs, pressure was suddenly placed on the lower vertebrae not evolved for load-bearing.

The plant kingdom has many examples of adapting through evolution to cope with changing environments. For example, some *Acacia* species, wattles, have retained true adult leaves, as seen with *Acacia dealbata*. However some ancestral species, in adapting to drying, sun-filled environments, reduced leaf size to such an extent that the genes that carried instructions to make adult leaves lost their function, with the food-making chlorophyll carried in the stems. When later ancestors encountered environments with less sun, the plants needed larger surfaces to synthesise food, so they evolved flattened stems that we call phylloides (e.g., *Acacia melanoxylon*, blackwood). I would expect that if there was 'intelligent design' in play, the more efficient leaf would have reappeared.

Scientists know that they don't know everything. Their method of discovery is basically developing an hypothesis or idea, testing that idea and retesting it, then developing a theory to explain the results. So science and our understanding of ourselves, the Earth and the Universe all advance as knowledge accumulates. Sir Isaac Newton, who developed the laws of gravity and of motion, in 1676 wrote 'If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants'. In Newton's time, the physical world was poorly understood. It was only in the previous century that it was proven that the Earth was not the centre of the Universe, with the Sun and all other bodies revolving around it. Newton was among the early Western thinkers to take a step away from believing everything was explained in the Christian Bible. Later scientists built on the work of Newton and his predecessors to find that the Earth was much older than the Old Testament indicated, as one example.

Creation scientists pick and choose which parts of science to use to their advantage. The book that David has used directly compares Isaac Newton's thinking to Charles Darwin's theory, published nearly two centuries later, after there had been profound advances in Western knowledge. Darwin himself gathered evidence for natural selection over two decades but he could not find the mechanism for changes within populations. That came from later scientists with the discovery of the laws on hereditary by Gregor Mendel and the discovery of the function of genes on chromosomes.

(Continued on page 28)

Novels Inspired By Botanical People

Dick Burns

William Dampier was a pirate (the British prefer to call their own either 'privateer' or 'buccaneer'). He was also Australia's first English collector of plants and probably the world's first travel writer with his *A New Voyage Round the World* (1697).

That book inspired two of England's first novels – Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) and *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift (1726). For the strange inhabitants of other lands, from the tiny Lilliputians to the giants of Brobdingnag, Swift was also inspired from the misinterpretation of other travellers' tales of people in foreign places (e.g., men in hot sunny lands had very big feet that they used as sun-shades).

In 1703, Dampier was captain on an expedition that sailed around the world. He wasn't a particularly good captain so when the ship reached the Juan Fernandez Islands in the Pacific Ocean, one crew member, Alexander Selkirk, decided he was safer on an uninhabited island than on a ship commanded by William Dampier. Dampier was much better at being an observer and navigator than a leader of men, so four years later, he helped navigate another ship to the same island, where they found Selkirk, still alive. That island is now called *Robinson Crusoe Island*, for the fictional character that Defoe created.

I have never encountered a novel inspired by Dampier's rich and varied life. Hollywood romanticised piracy in the 1930s and 1940s but Dampier's pirating is a bleak tale – the biographies are better.

Not many of the naturalists had novel-inspiring lives: for instance Christiaan Persoon (*Persoonia*) sequestered himself away in Paris and lived in poverty; Robert Brown had great adventures on Matthew Flinders' expedition to Terra Australis but most of his later life was in London, committed to studying plants and describing new species. James Edward Smith did some interesting things, but his eager widow destroyed many of his letters to avoid scandals. Sir Joseph Banks appears in a few minor novels but there is no novelisation of his diverse life – a good biography tells his crowded history more effectively.

One approach by the novelist is to intertwine the stories of two people who lived in the same period. One novel on my wish list that does this is *Measuring the World* by the Austrian, Daniel Kehlmann. The two scientists are Carl Friedrich Gauss and Alexander von Humboldt. The polymath Humboldt wandered the world measuring, observing and collecting whereas Gauss, mathematician and physicist, stayed close to home with books, pen and paper. Their science writing has had impact to the present day.

I have read three novels that centre on Charles Darwin. The first, *Origin* by Irving Stone, could only be called a biography with some dialogue interpolated. When I finished the turgid read, the book was either ditched in the garbage or I may have inflicted it on someone else by giving it to Sallies or Vinnies. The other two books were by Australians with much better penmanship. *Mr Darwin's Shooter*, written by Roger McDonald, centres on the crewmember assigned to assist Charles Darwin on the five-year voyage of the *Beagle*. Syms Covington moved to Sydney after the voyage and the novel follows the two men's continued friendship. Darwin started thinking of evolution on that voyage and spent many years accumulating evidence and suggested mechanisms. He was stimulated into publishing his Theory of Natural Selection by a letter from Alfred Russell Wallace, suggesting the same mechanism for evolution. Nicholas Drayson's novel *Confessing a Murder* speculates on how two men on opposite sides of the world could put forward the same theory.

(continued on page 23)

Blooming Tasmania Festival 2019

Louise Skabo

Blooming Tasmania Flower and Garden event 'Tasmania is my Garden' is a state-wide celebration of the beauty of our gardens and wilderness areas held annually over two weeks. In 2019 this will start with the Blooming Tasmania Festival on the weekend of September 21 and 22 at the Albert Hall, Launceston.

When Blooming Tasmania started three Septembers ago, Bruce Champion recognised the festival as a means to further promote our Society and showcase our delightful native plants. As APST Inc. convener, Bruce coordinated members' contributions for an impressive display booth in the Albert Hall. With over 4000 visitors attending in 2018, it is a successful marketing event making the public aware of the diverse range of our activities and where to locate public gardens growing native plants. As well as APST books for sale, pamphlets, bookmarks, leaflets on upcoming plant sales and information about all APST Inc. Groups are given to the public. Visitors see interesting photographic displays and are always amazed at the colour, diversity and beauty of the native plant cuttings and popular posies. Volunteers provide helpful advice about growing native plants.

In 2019, APST Inc. has been asked to do the stage display at the Albert Hall – a major task as this is quite an extensive area. A theme similar to our ANPSA National Conference in 2018 was thought appropriate – from 'Coast to Cradle' with a plan to match a mural with appropriate Tasmanian native plants. Northern Group decided to coordinate this due to the large, heavy and sometimes cumbersome nature of the potted plants and other material required. However, we know there are more experienced members in our Society who will have good ideas and techniques on how to best present the Tasmanian heathlands, woodlands and rainforest scenes and we are hoping we will hear from them (please contact Rosemary Verbeeten rc.verbeeten@bigpond.com or Louise Skabo riskabo@gmail.com). As well, if anyone has large potted Tasmanian plants or access to a small self-contained waterfall and pump and is willing to loan them, let us know and we will arrange transport as necessary. We also plan a continuous power-point presentation, screening wonderful flora not in bloom by September, the fauna they attract as well as other appropriate information.

'Tasmania is my Garden', the theme for this year's Blooming Tasmania, arose from the 55th Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) in Singapore in July 2018 where Biophilia was one of three key topics. Biophilia design is a strategy which tries to minimise the environmental impact of the built world and reconnects people with the natural environment. On a small domestic scale the APST booth this year will try and fit into this theme through a photographic display of the development of members' environmentally friendly native gardens linking suburban homes to Australian bushlands. We also plan to show the development of the Tasmanian Bushland Garden at Buckland, Tasmanian Native Garden at Mowbray and the Arboretum at Eugenana to further publicise these public gardens. Once again we will have buckets of blooming native plants and posies. We look for assistance from all Tasmanian members to help supply items for these displays so as to make APST booth attractive and eye catching to the hundreds of visitors. Contact us to tell us you are able to help and we will assist with delivery of items come September. www.bloomingtasmania.com.au and Facebook.

Websites

APST Inc.
www.apstas.org.au

Northern Group
www.apstasnorth.org

ANPSA Inc.
www.anpsa.org.au

Saltmarshes -

You'll be wet, salty, wind sprayed and..... wanting more!

Phil Watson

Get down, lower, that's it. Now look across the horizon, yes I know the plants in these salt marshes don't get very high, but are they tough and can they throw out some colour! Yes there are little pesky buzzing noises and the odd bite from a sand-fly or mosquito but stay focussed, you have entered a different kind of habitat. Richer than you probably expected but, on reflection, every bit as fascinating and complex as other plant communities you have walked through rather than on.

There is an abundance of water, seawater, and that abundance continuously changes with the ebb and flow of the tides roughly every twelve and a half hours. Episodes of freshwater flows add to this during storm events directly or due to runoff from adjacent catchments. So these plants are either getting submerged in water full of salt, wind-blown by sand full of salt, or drying out and having salt crystals form on their leaves. When the water ebbs away the sun can beat down and cook the ground, there is no shady forest here it is every plant for themselves! This is no simple case of seawater equals saltmarsh either. Incredibly subtle variation in the waterlogging and salinity of the area lead to changes in the array of salt marsh plants ('the halophytes'). Take a step in any direction and you might see glassworts give way to rushes, another step and rushes give way to sedges and perhaps then even some of the tougher grasses. It is like looking down on a forest from an air plane, except it is happening before your eyes, on top of your safely grounded body, and within an arms-length.

Tasmania has a diversity of saltmarshes that adds to the reasons why we know how special a place it is. Given the diversity of coastline settings that are found around Tasmania and its outer islands, it is no surprise that some fifteen distinct saltmarsh communities are recognised. This is based on the dominance of either succulent shrubs, grasses, sedges and rushes or finally herbs.

This environment has bred toughness and unique adaptations to changes in water, salt and sun. Plants that absorb salt, letting leaves fill with salt and then drop off or they let the salt go out through their pores, literally sweating it out. The bladder like stems of the glassworts *Sarcocornia* sps change from pink to red, the deepening redness tells us that the salt content is rising and finally the plant sheds them putting the salt back where it came from whilst the glasswort retains the life giving water.

Saltmarsh plants also provide a stabilising influence to the benefit of many animals, they are particularly important as roosting sites for our international travellers, the migratory shorebirds that tramp the globe every year. Far more tangible is their role as nursery grounds for many fish species that we rely on as a valuable food source. The future of saltmarshes the world over have a big question mark over them, where their specific conditions continue to exist they will endure. But climate change brings an escalation of the challenges in the future for these battlers on the foreshore. The saltmarshes in the north-west and on King Island are important food sources for the endangered orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster* or OBP) so their future is intimately linked to the future of the beautiful OBP.

The saltmarshes at Lauderdale in Clarence City (across the Derwent from Hobart) are a real treasure. Saltmarshes mainly occupy the zone from Mean High Water Mark to storm tide providing a crucial link between the estuarine and terrestrial ecosystems. Their name says it all, salt dominates the environment here with the regular flush of the tide keeping the majority of plants well away. But not these highly salt tolerant species. The ground hugging succulent herbs dominated by the goosefoot Chenopodiaceae and pigface Aizoaceae families and an array of graceful grasses, sedges and rushes. Mats of various

shades of greens and reds which deepen with increasing levels of salt accumulation in the fleshy foliage really grab the attention. They are dominated by the sprawling beaded and thick headed glassworts *Sarcocornia quinqueflora* and *S. blackiana*, fleshy roundleaf pig face *Disphyma crassifolium* subsp. *clavellatum* (which transform into a blaze of pink daisy-like flowers during later spring) with the more upright austral seablite *Suaeda australis*.

Like splashes of paint on this glasswort and pigface dominated canvas, are strips of a rare mosaic comprising trailing saltstars *Hemichroa pentandra*; and the prostrate white tubular flowered, narrowleafed wilsonia *Wilsonia backhousei*, add to the intricate floral and foliage patterns. Recorded as a parasite, golden dodder *Cuscuta tasmanica* is the rarest species in the saltmarshes at Lauderdale, surviving as a leafless and rootless parasite twining its pale golden stems around its hosts *Wilsonia rotundifolia* and *W. backhousei*.

If there was ever a frontline in meeting our challenge of sea level rise then it would be saltmarshes. Hemmed in by relentless cycles of tides and equally relentless consumption of coastal land for residential and industrial development, saltmarshes face a complex future. Perhaps lacking, for some, the charisma that helps shift attitudes and change behaviours, it is essential we take a breath, really look at saltmarshes, see how important they have been for us and understand how essential they are and always will be.

We are currently in the early stages of developing a Lauderdale Saltmarsh Management Plan 2019-2029 and would welcome comments on any issues of interest and concern in relation to the Saltmarshes. Folks who attended APSTas excursions and last year's ANPSA conference excursions are particularly welcome to comment directly to

pwatson@ccc.tas.gov.au.

See photos, page 32

See also **Note** on page 24

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Bulky Backlog

Peter French

The past three issues of Eucryphia have contained articles I wanted to comment on or respond to but did not do so at the time, so this is a bulk catch up.

1 Protected plants

In September 2018 Riitta Boevink told us about special buildings and arrangements made in the Netherlands to grow special plants there. In the Zagreb botanical gardens there is one Wollemi pine which is carefully housed within a padlocked frame. Obviously considered to be a very special plant, with some of the history of the discovery of the species on signs around it. This lone specimen is in a very different situation from the dozen or so free ranging at the Tasmanian Arboretum which many members encountered at the last APST Get together.

2 Australian novels with botanical names

In January Dick Burns listed some novels with titles arising from plants and the environment. I agree with Dick that "Eucalyptus" is a good book. On page 2 it says - "Each and every eucalypt is interesting for its own reasons", and this book has lots of interesting stories from all over the country on very varied subjects. These include a Frenchman who came to the Australian outback, a Sydney canary breeder, the first white woman born in New Guinea, a man who became a photographer in Australia after growing up in an Irish border town and a Greek café owner's daughter.

3 In March Kay Geeves advised of the death of Margaret Stones, and I reminisced my meetings with her.

I first became aware of the publication of "The Endemic Flora of Tasmania" from a TV interview by Lord Talbot in 1967. This was probably my introduction to the concept of endemism and my interest in it increased after visiting wildflower displays of the Launceston Field Naturalists in 1969 and 70.

As my interest in Australian plants grew in the early 1970's I decided to purchase the series of books. After some serious saving I was able to purchase all volumes issued up to date and waited expectantly for the publication of the final volume in 1978.

I decided it would be good to get each volume signed so contacted Dr Curtis and arranged to visit to her in August 1995. I took a day off work and went to Hobart. She was happy to sign all the books I took (I have a signed copy of the Students Flora). She told me she was limited by space restraints in the Endemic Flora and could have written much fuller plant and historical descriptions. We discussed many things including Rodway's flora, Mrs Lindon, *Trochocarpa gunnii*, and she told me that Margaret Stones was due back in Australia in 1996.

I wrote to Miss Stones and in return received a post card showing an illustration she had made with a hand written note advising she would be in Australia the following October. (This so impressed a bibliophile friend of mine he asked for a copy). She advised she would be happy to sign the first volume only.

After another letter and some phone calls I took a day off work and went to Launceston to meet her in November 1996. She was very particular as to what she would and would not sign. Yes to Volume 1 and a catalogue I had from one of her 1980's exhibitions, but no to my print of *Trochocarpa gunnii*.

Even though this was almost 20 years after the publication of Volume 6 she obviously kept a keen interest in Tasmanian flora. After the signing we had coffee and she asked me if I had seen the recently rediscovered *Phebalium daviesii*. I told her how I had seen a reference to it in a magazine, researched the plant, location and Richard Davies and written a bit about it in the NW group newsletter, only to be asked by a couple of members if I

(Continued on page 27)

Calendar for 2019

This Calendar of events is compiled from best available information supplied by Groups and Council but is subject to change. To avoid clashes that may limit opportunities for all members to participate, event organisers are requested to consult this Calendar when finalising arrangements.

June	5	Wednesday	Hobart	Kingborough day meeting
June	12	Wednesday	Hobart	Winter excursion—L'ton
June	18	Tuesday	Northern, NW	General meeting
June	20	Thursday	North West	Propagation : Arboretum
June	25	Tuesday	Northern	Working bee HFG
June	29	Saturday	Council members	APST Council meeting
July	10	Wednesday	Hobart	Winter day meeting KPS
July	16	Tuesday	Northern, NW	General meeting
July	18	Thursday	North West	Propagation : Arboretum
August	14	Wednesday	Hobart	Meander on the Domain
August	20	Tuesday	Northern, NW	General meeting
August	22	Thursday	North West	Propagation : Arboretum
September	11	Wednesday	Hobart	General meeting
September	17	Tuesday	Northern, NW	General meeting
September	19	Thursday	North West	Propagation : Arboretum
October	2	Wednesday	Hobart K'borough	Excursion Bruny Island
October	15	Tuesday	Northern, NW	General meeting
October	17	Thursday	North West	Propagation : Arboretum
November	6	Wednesday	Hobart K'borough	Excursion Bruny Island
November	19	Tuesday	Northern, NW	General meeting
November	21	Thursday	North West	Propagation : Arboretum
November	22/23/24	APST	Members' Get - together	St Helens
December	4	Wednesday	Hobart	Kingborough Xmas Lunch
December	17	Tuesday	North West	Christmas gathering

Members' Get-together

November 22/23/24 2019

Northern Group

This year's get-together will be based at St Helens. The proposed programme is as follows:

Friday 22nd November

3pm: For those who can arrive by Friday afternoon we will take a stroll, beginning about 3pm, around the heathland behind Stieglitz, south of Georges Bay. We will be guided by Alex Buchanan, who worked for the Tasmanian Herbarium for many years before retiring to St Helens.

No difficult walking will be involved and there should be a colourful display of heathland flora for us to explore.

6.30pm Dinner (soup, quiche, dessert) at the St Helens Bowls Club, 10 Circassian St, St Helens. Cost \$20 with reasonably priced drinks available at the bar. No BYO alcohol.

Saturday 23rd November

The programme will include a visit to Mariposa Beach, south of Falmouth, to see two beautiful threatened species *Calystegia soldanella* and *Lotus australis* which grow in profusion in the beach sand just above the high-tide mark. Lots of other photogenic species here too.

We will visit a private property opposite the Winifred Curtis Reserve and have lunch there (byo lunch but tea and coffee provided by our host and fellow member Paul Frater.)

A visit to the Winifred Curtis Reserve completes the day's outing.

6.30pm **Annual Dinner** (in private room. Soup, choice of 3 main courses, then dessert) at Bayside Inn, 2 Cecilia St, St Helens. Cost \$25. Drinks available at the bar. (**No** BYO alcohol.)

Sunday 24th November

The only item on today's programme is a visit to a private property one km or so east of Conara. This is beautiful remnant bushland with a very diverse and interesting flora with several threatened species.

We will have a key to the gate and drive through the property, stopping at points of interest and at some stage we will select a spot for a picnic lunch (so bring a picnic lunch and chairs if you like). The property is quite flat so any walking is easy.

After this visit people will disperse to their homes, roughly 55km to Launceston, 150km to Hobart and 143 km to Devonport.

Accommodation

The NRMA St Helens Waterfront Holiday Park at 18 St Helens Pt Road (phone 63762332) will give members a 10% discount on accommodation and there are lots of alternatives available in the St Helens district. However, it is a busy time of year and early booking is advised.

You will need to book into the evening gatherings on Friday and Saturday so the caterers can provide for everyone. A cut-off date for booking into these meals will be advised later. Bookings made after the cut-off date may not be accepted. Please advise Roy Skabo (0458696639 or email rlskabo@gmail.com) if you have any dietary restrictions and he will try to arrange for these to be catered for.

NUMBERS: It would be helpful in making arrangements if we could get an idea of how many people are coming to the Get-together, so when you have made a decision to come could you let Roy know.

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a) How did you hear about us?

b) What enticed you to join?

c) What would you like to gain from your membership?



Group Annual Reports

Northern Group Annual Report^(Condensed)

Louise Skabo, 2018 President

I would like to thank all those members who regularly contributed to our Group in 2018 by attending meetings, presenting Plant of the Month and Club Night talks, volunteering at the Group Nursery, Tasmanian Native Garden, Blooming Tasmania, preparing supper, and participating in excursions and the Members' Get-together. As President, I have appreciated your support as there was always someone who would put up their hand for an extra job whenever required.

Special thanks go to those members who gave their time, talent and energy to be office bearers of Northern Group (NG). Peter Dowde composed thoughtful letters to thank guest speakers, was dependable and timely in arranging business meetings and safeguarded our records. We could not have had a more trustworthy, and accurate Treasurer than Rosemary Verbeeten and Roy Pallett was an experienced and steadfast support with advice as Vice President.

2018 began with the ANPSA Conference. It was a brilliant success in no small part due to the organisational skills and vision of Margaret Killen as Conference Convenor and other APST Group members and, notably, Jill Clark.

Our NG membership was listed as 75 in December 2018, of whom 50 regularly participate in a least one of our activities. Particularly encouraging was to see new members become involved, in no small part due to Jill's liaison efforts.

Our Group Nursery has been at Windsor Community Precinct (WCP) for two years now and it has developed into an excellent facility mainly due to the tireless hard work, capable organisation and thoughtful input of Janet Hallam, Nursery Manager. She has been assisted by an informal committee of Sharon Percy, Colin Hallam, Julie Nermut and Gilly Zacks. NG spent a further \$1,540 on improvements and equipment here in 2018.

As our Group's only income source, the plants sales from our nursery are vital and sales in 2018 broke all previous records totalling \$7,803, well over two thousand of which were sold in 2018. We appreciate the time, effort and good management by Janet and other members who happily assisted. Monthly propagation sessions were very popular with an average of about 14 and up to 19 enthusiastic members attending. In February 2018 Costa Georgiadis of ABC's *Gardening Australia* visited the West Tamar Council's WCP which is landscaped with Tasmanian native species by the creative Tony Roberts.

Our Programme Committee organised a diverse range of expert guest speakers, club nights and excursions. Researching, networking and contacting knowledgeable and inspiring speakers is time consuming and our dedicated committee of three, Roy Skabo, Janet Hallam and Gilly Zacks tried to cater for the range of interests of our members. The 2008 presentations were of a high calibre, often fascinating and all speakers expanded our knowledge and understanding of our natural world. Thanks go to Group members who contributed to the 2018 programme – we are lucky to have many erudite members.

Roy Skabo and Janet Hallam explored opportunities for members to pursue our Society's objective of appreciating native plants in their natural environment as well as appreciating the efforts of some private land owners who help conserve our natural flora. Notable trips were February Plains, a Glengarry private property, Rocka Rivulet, Bluff River Gorge, and von Bibra private properties.

'To encourage the establishment of gardens in all types of soil and climate for the preservation of the flora of Australia' is a stated objective of our Society. We thank those members who opened their beautiful, largely native gardens to other, very appreciative, members. It was an enjoyable two-day event with two gardens on the East Tamar owned

by Daphne and Peter Longman and Margaret and Jon Hosford followed by the West Tamar gardens of June and Ross Mezger and the newly established garden of Rosemary and Alf Verbeeten. A special thanks to Margaret Hosford who efficiently organised this successful event.

Without the past persistence of Lynne Mockridge and the dedication of Peter and Daphne Longman and Suzanne Talbot, the Tasmanian Native Garden at Heritage Forest may have never developed into the showcase of Tasmanian native plants that it is today. Peter diligently attended meetings with the City of Launceston Heritage Forest Garden (HFG) Advisory Committee and finally succeeded in getting the path from the lower HFG to our previously isolated native garden. During the year scores of new species were planted, older plants removed, lawns regularly mowed by member, Ivor Conkie, and working bees for maintenance were very well attended. Costa Georgiardi visited the garden in September and was duly impressed with the concept and the outlay.

The Northern Group Newsletter, published by Kay Pallett quarterly on our website, is a real bonus for our Group. It synthesises the valuable information we hear at our monthly meetings from eminent botany guest speakers and member knowledge. Kay also submitted excellent summaries for quarterly publishing in *Eucryphia*. We thank Kay for her commitment to quality editorship.

Karen Manning continued to be our reliable and efficient Webmaster. The website is promptly updated and she has provided valuable insights into needed improvements.

Karen and her daughter, Claire, also assisted with setting up the NG Facebook page. Margaret Killen and Louise Skabo attended a government sponsored 'Media-Ready' session and Louise received two hours free tuition on Social Media. However, more work is necessary to promote the NG via social media to appeal to a younger demographic.

Our thanks go to Bruce Champion for his leadership in the Blooming Tasmania event, and to Jill Clark, Rosemary Verbeeten and Lynne Mockridge for their valued input and enthusiasm. We appreciate the assistance of Nigel Keefe, Bill Carney and all the APST northern members who helped to set up and worked over the weekend.

Janet Hallam was very reliable in submitting information about APST NG guest speakers and our upcoming plants sales to the Examiner via Les Hodge's 'Gardening Page'. This publicity about the speaker and the topic along with our meeting venue was published weekly in the Examiner. APST NG thanks Les Hodge plus Janet's tactfulness and perseverance in enabling this. Roy Pallett organised the production and distribution of our plants sale road signs which have proven to be very effective while Janet also arranged radio time on the day of plant sales and these interviews definitely attracted buyers. As well, NRM North and sometimes, Tamar NRM, publicised our events.

Library is the fifth hat that Janet Hallam wears as a contributor to APST NG. Unbeknownst to many members, Janet spends time all alone at Max Fry Hall sorting, re-organising and ensuring that our collection of beautiful plant books and other documents is in good order. As a backup to electronic storage, Janet has completed a hard copy set of our newsletters as they contain so much information about the history of Northern Group. Archiving methods for all our documents will be considered in 2019.

Conservation of our native flora is another important objective of our Society. Many of our members are involved in monthly working bees in 'Friends of...' groups around the Launceston and Tamar Valley region. As well, members participate in annual conservation events like Clean-Up Australia, Ragwort Raids and Boneseed Blitz days. Members also participate in surveys for the Tamar Saltmarsh/Wetlands initiative and Roy Skabo organises many of the northern Tasmanian surveys for Threatened Species Tasmania. On these occasions in 2018, the participants largely consisted of APST NG and Launceston Field Naturalists Club members. These events were sometimes physically demanding but always rewarding and we thank those enthusiastic members for helping in

this important work for our environment.

Margaret Killen is to be commended for her outstanding work in initiating and driving the Strategic Planning Committee as President of APST Inc. The document not only outlines a vision for the future of our Society, but sets out practical and achievable steps for developing a stronger and better organisation. This committee had representatives from each Group and the NG members, Janet Hallam, Julie Nermut and Roy Skabo have consistently supported the concepts and given their time and considerations by attending the meetings. The Macquarie Point Project fits in with this plan and Margaret is in the process of setting up a committee of Hobart members to develop a proposal on how APST Inc. can be involved in this wonderful opportunity to promote native Tasmanian flora in the middle of our capital city. ☺

Novels Inspired By Botanical People

(Continued from page 12)

I used to believe that a book once started should be finished. But not any more. So for me *Resolution* is unresolved and goes into the recycling bin. Johann Georg Forster obviously had a full and interesting life. I will wait for the biography.. Joseph Banks was going to be botanist on James Cook's second voyage (1772-75) but withdrew when Cook removed Banks' modifications to his ship for the expedition, *Resolution* (but Banks neglected to tell his lady friend whom he had disguised as a crew member). This expedition had a second ship, *Adventure*, commanded by Tobias Furneaux. Recently arrived in England from Germany, Johann Reinhold Forster was employed as naturalist to replace Banks. Forster decided to take his son, Johann Georg, to assist him. From aged twelve, Georg had accompanied his father on scientific expeditions. By that age, Georg was already fluent in French, Swedish and Russian as well as German and English. He was an accomplished painter, sketching many specimens on the voyage. After the voyage, Georg wrote an account of the voyage that was praised for its scientific and literary values. The Forsters are recognised in the genus name, *Forstera* in the Stylidiaceae family. One of our cushion plants, *Abrotanella forsterioides*, is named because its leaves resemble those of one of the *Forstera* species.

Forster senior was a quarrelsome, complaining man who irritated Cook so much that Cook would not take a botanist on his third voyage (1776-80). After the second expedition, Georg wrote an account of the trip, *A Voyage Round the World in His Britannic Majesty's Sloop Resolution*, published in 1777. Georg was made a Fellow of the Royal Society, but moved back to Germany, taking up a professorship in natural history and marrying. He accompanied Alexander von Humboldt on a European expedition, became a revolutionary, diplomat and accomplished author and translator of books. A full life worthy of a good biography.

I only knew that father and son Forster had travelled on Cook's second voyage and that Cook had written in his journal about how quarrelsome Forster senior was. So when I heard that a novel had been written about Georg's life, I chased a copy. The book *Resolution* was written by a historian, AN Wilson, author of a wide-ranging list of biographies.

Wilson alternates his narrative between the youthful joyful Georg and the mature unhappily married man. At the start of the novel, we find out how incredibly gifted the boy was and his experiences as Cook takes the ships into the cold of the Southern Ocean. After that is when I started to have trouble. Wilson plays around with history. He has Georg's teeth falling out and his face disfigured by scurvy, where we have been told that Cook avoided that scourge by insisting the crew eat sauerkraut; portraits of the mature Georg show no such disfigurement. He seems to have Georg witnessing Cook's murder on the third voyage while history tells us that Georg was in Europe. I had the same problem with *Gould's Book of Fish*, where Richard Flanagan fiddled with Tasmanian history. But Flanagan's writing is creative and good; Wilson's is not. ☺

Hobart Group Annual Report

Marrk Geeves, 2018 President

My 2018 President's report is written in the wake of what has been for some of our southern members a particularly traumatic summer with unprecedented fires in the Huon Valley and the broader world heritage areas in the south-west, west coast and central highlands. Not since 1967, have we been confronted with fires on such a scale and for such an extended period. The fires came very close to us in Port Huon and I know of at least one member who lost her garden near Geeveston. The realities of climate change will continue to impact on our flora into the future. Our work to grow and cultivate our unique flora becomes ever more important and our shared wisdom becomes an increasingly valuable asset to new members and the broader community.

The Hobart group has been busy with some great excursions and particularly well attended garden visits to member and non-member gardens. The interest in the garden visits clearly indicates that members are interested in growing plants and cultivating them in a garden setting. I wish to personally thank all those who have been so generous with their time, expertise and knowledge and who have welcomed members with such open hospitality.

Meeting attendance has been very good over the last year and we have enjoyed some outstanding guest presenters who have mainly focused on our core raison d'être 'Plants'.

Last month's talk on *Eucalyptus gunnii* var *divaricate*, Miena Cider Gums and *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* by Magali Wright and Eve Lazarus was an outstanding example, however there have been many more including a fabulous presentation by guest speakers Amanda Walker and Paul Richardson *Maatsayker Island Adventures*.

We have enjoyed some fascinating plants of the month presented by members and our display table has just groaned with the amount of flowering material supplied by a dedicated band of members. The display table is also an excellent source of cutting material for people who want to propagate. Thank-you to all those who have organised and supported our various programs that make our meetings a valuable and exciting experience for members.

Excursions have been well attended with such events as the wildflower walk on the Tasman Peninsula and our 50th anniversary walk to Hartz Mountains attracting large numbers of participants, to name just a couple. Our Christmas excursion to Randall's Bay was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank-you to everyone who contributed especially Pam and Tony Green for dressing up and decorating the venue.

The 2019 Calendar by Amanda Walker, supported by the Hobart Group, was a sell-out and just in time for Christmas gift giving. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it a reality, especially David Boyer who undertook distribution in his normal efficient manner.

On a personal level, the past year has not been easy for me and the ongoing tensions within the Hobart committee has coloured my decision not to seek re-election as President or in fact seek a position on the Hobart Group Committee. I wish to express a heartfelt thanks to those on committee who have supported me and to the broader membership who have had faith in me. I wish the incoming President and the new committee all the best for the future. ☺

Note from Phil Watson re Saltmarshes (see page 14)

We are currently in the early stages of developing a Lauderdale Salt Marsh Management Plan 2019 -2029 and would welcome comments on any issues of interest and concern in relation to the Saltmarshes. Those who attended APS (Tas) excursions and ANPSA Conference excursions are particularly welcome to comment directly to pwaon@ccc.tas.gov.au.

It is expected that the consultation draft Plan will be on the Clarence City Council website around June, July and August 2019

North West Group Annual Report

Joy McIntosh, 2018 President

Another year seems to have sped by with some interesting speakers and outings. In March Andrew from Biosecurity gave a very informative talk on the fruit fly situation. April saw John Tabor give an interesting slide show of the many plants found on treks he has done into the Denison Range and Lake Rhona. It was also the month we held our very successful plants sale at the Arboretum.

Greg Taylor from NRM gave an informative talk at our May meeting on the Minnow catchment weed plan, the most prevalent weeds being *Kunzea ericooides* and *Erica Lusitania* (Spanish heath). In June Jennifer Stackhouse gave us an insight into tour management, specifically garden tours, and also behind the scenes of the Chelsea Flower Show and how it works. Our July meeting was a daytime one held at Dick Burns' home at Penguin, an opportunity to check out Dick's garden, followed by a visit to Margaret Kinsey's Heybridge garden. In August we held our meeting at the Arboretum in the afternoon due to the Library in Devonport not being available. Our Guest Speaker was Matthew Rose, a land conservationist who spoke on his experience with revegetation and who lives off the grid near North Motton. He is passionate about educating future generations on the care of the environment. Also in August Riitta Boevink and John Tabor gave a talk to the Bunnings Garden Club on growing native plants. They went along with an impressive table full of flower specimens from their gardens.

The September meeting was our first to be held at the Paranaple Centre in Devonport, a very high tech venue which we found doesn't really suit how our meetings are run. The outing in September to a Glengarry property to identify plants and birds had a few setbacks partly due to the weather. This was a joint outing with the Northern Group and only one of our members was able to attend. In October we were once again involved with the Port Sorell Spring Fair, having another successful sale of our plants. And that month there was also a visit to Ann and Ben Ketelaar's wonderful garden in Devonport.

In November our Group hosted the annual get-together at Camp Banksia at Port Sorell. The weather smiled for and at us with a full program of garden visits and walks in Narawntapu National Park. To Leoni Read and all involved in the organisation of a superb weekend, a big thank you from your fellow members. Also to Riitta and John Boevink, John Tabor, and to Jessie Vonk, for sharing their gardens with us all. And to Peter French and John Tabor for leading the walks at Narawntapu. November was also the month we changed the venue for our meetings to St. Pauls Church Hall, Cnr Church and Thomas Streets, East Devonport. And a big thank you to Peter and Kate French for hosting our Christmas Break up in December at their home at Spreyton.

Throughout the year we have had many members participating in the propagation team and we thank them for their contribution and to Riitta who organizes the workload. Apart from the regular propagation days there have been a few extra ones throughout the year when there has been a need to manage the liverwort or get more cuttings in etc. This year the heat-bed at the Arboretum died during winter with the loss of some cuttings but it has been replaced and is working well. We thank Phil from the Arboretum for looking after that.

In January, the Riitta and John Show again gave a talk on native plants at the Bunnings Garden Club at Devonport, and although there were not many in attendance, those there were enthusiastic and asked questions.

Thank you to all committee members for the work you have done throughout the year and we look forward to another interesting year ahead. ☺

News from the Groups

North West Group

Riitta Boevink and Joy McIntosh

Jo Kingston from the Friends of the Lillico Penguins Group gave a very interesting talk at the March meeting on the group and all about the little penguins. The Lillico group is 25 years old and currently has 32 members. They are under the umbrella of Wildcare which provides infrastructure such as the insurance. During the seven month season there are one or two guides each night on the viewing platform. The role of the guides includes visitor education, interpretation of what people can see, protection of the site and record keeping. Detailed records have been kept throughout the years resulting in good data.

Jo said that on a warm summer evening up to 170 visitors have been counted visiting the viewing platform during the evening. They are also treated to beautiful sunsets, seeing the shearwater arrive in numbers as they use the same area for nesting, and have had wonderful displays by humpback whales in the bay. In August the male penguins arrive to renovate the nests. A few weeks later the females arrive and pick their partner for the season. They don't choose by the best nest, but the best voice! In penguin colonies, which may have thousands of birds, they unerringly recognise each other by the voice. Parents recognise their chicks in the same way. Both adults share the tasks of rearing the chicks, taking turns in incubating while the other one goes out to sea to get food. Jo emphasised that penguins are superbly adapted to living in the sea. They have fantastic feathers topped by an oily coating like a wetsuit. They can sleep floating in the sea and dive to the bottom of the Bass Strait to fish. Their hardship comes from the need to come to land to breed and to moult. Adults of three years upwards moult for two to three weeks in February/March after the chicks have departed to the sea. During that time, they do not eat or drink, and spend their time using as little energy as possible. To prepare for this fast they gorge themselves. Jo said they look absolutely miserable, are uncomfortable, hot, itchy, and usually just huddle miserably under bushes. If they survive, they emerge with magnificent new plumage with a blue sheen.

The main threats to Tasmanian penguins are habitat destruction and coastal fishing, which makes it harder for the parents to obtain enough fish during the breeding season when they cannot travel long distances. The population of the Lillico rookery has remained relatively stable over the years. Because it is a narrow strip along the highway it cannot expand. A low fence has been constructed along the highway to stop the penguins from going over the highway to look for further nesting sites. It is the height of the penguin to its' beak, because that is the height they can jump! Jo emphasised the need to have the guides as the increasing number of tourists also poses the risk of disturbing the penguins. They are blinded by any strong lights directed at them for example. Jo said there have been instances of tourists holding penguins to take selfies. We were enthralled by the wonderful story of the penguins!

Our autumn plant sale was the most successful sale ever!

We advertised by flyers, newspaper ad, notifying garden clubs, radio and good roadside signs. As before we surveyed how customers learned about the sale. 'Friends and neighbours' category was the biggest, but also included also garden clubs and the Arboretum Facebook. The newspaper ad and radio also were significant. A wide range of methods is needed, but personal contact is probably the most effective.

Drew did well promoting the sale in the early morning radio on Saturday. A lovely sunny day encouraged people to visit the Arboretum contributing to the successful day.

(Continued next page)

At 8 am the helpers arrived at the Arboretum gates to transfer the plants 300m from the nursery to the covered rotunda adjoining the carpark. We were scheduled to open at 10am, but the first customers were arriving before 9.30am! By 10am there was a crowd. Plants were flying off by the boxful (some people got the message and brought their own boxes), and in three hours we had virtually sold out!

One older gentleman donated us a boxful of interesting plants as he was downsizing. Our faithful West Coast member Don also brought in seedlings of *Banksia seminuda* and other gifts. John T had obtained several Staghorn ferns from his father-in-law's old plant. They went in a flash at \$15 each! This year there was lot of interest in groundcovers; every groundcover was sold. Some people were also looking for edible plants, someone wanted trees to bonsai, and a few were interested in plants suitable to use in fabric dyeing. Plants that wallabies leave alone are always in demand.

Seven new members joined at the reduced rate offered. I want to sincerely thank the wonderful team for the fantastic effort and for creating a lovely atmosphere with good humour and enthusiasm. Many customers appeared to enjoy just hanging around, chatting and inevitably filling their boxes with more and more plants!

At the April meeting we had a discussion on the new updated APST constitution. One of the proposed changes is the requirement that the group president is one of the two delegates to the APST Council. This affects the NW group, because not everyone who is willing to be the NW president is willing to also be the Council delegate. Although Council meetings are only quarterly, they take place in Ross on Saturdays. Depending on where you live on the NW Coast, the drive to Ross can be well over two hours one way. This requirement, if adopted, will restrict the potential pool of members willing to become president. One of the most often discussed issues is the difficulty of recruiting members to take up positions as office bearers leaving the running of the organisation to 'the same few members'. Dick had proposed an amendment to make this recommended but optional. At our meeting all members present unanimously supported the amendment. There will be more discussion on the constitution in the future. Drew Thomas was appointed as a proxy delegate to the APST Council as President Joy did not want to commit herself to all the Ross meetings.

Other matters discussed at the meetings were the need to comply with the Plant Breeders Rights at our plant sales. We are not permitted to sell named hybrids registered under the PPR scheme.

It was decided to close the NW Post Office Box in Ulverstone as APST does not require it any more and the NW group receives a negligible amount of snail mail.⊙

Bulky Backlog

Continued from page 16)

would like a plant as they were growing it, and now I was also.

My next encounter with Margaret Stones was in 2007 at the opening of the *Flowers of Tasmania* display at Launceston. This combined some of her paintings with some of the paintings by the Colonial artist William B. Gould made in 1829-1832. Margaret Stones' beautiful portrayal of Mrs Lindon's milligania, *Milligania lindoniana*, was used to promote it. We renewed our acquaintance here and she signed the catalogue for that display and my copy of *Beauty in Truth*, the book produced for her 1996 Melbourne retrospective exhibition.

Another part of my *Endemic Flora* story happened in 2004 when I visited Malahide Castle. Unfortunately this was on a day when Lord Talbot's garden was not open but I was able to observe some Tasmanian Eucalypts.⊙

Hobart Group

Sib Corbett, President

Last year ended on a high for Hobart Group, with great talks, walks and gardens in what was an amazing flowering season. Of course we thought we would continue that way in 2019, but the summer proved to be horrible as the effects of climate change came crowding in on us. Fires in the south saw some members leaving their homes, and all that fear and uncertainty has lingered even after the danger has passed. Meanwhile our beloved World Heritage wilderness burnt, and even now we are uncertain what is left of all those places which are so deeply important to us. Roads and tracks have been closed and we cancelled a number of proposed trips, including a weekend at now blackened Liawenee. Our last night time meeting included a timely talk on planning for fire near the suburbs around Hobart, given by John Fisher from the Hobart City Council.

Autumn has come, with relief from the horrors and some glorious calm days. Garden visits have been enjoyed in some new places, including to Les and Helen Payne near Rokeby and Jodie Presnall and Geir Rodven at Cremorne, and an old favourite with Christine Corbett and Alan Pegg's garden at Fern Tree. Our scheduled walk to Mt. Connection was called off in fierce winds, but the two autumn walks in Mt. Field National Park have been superb. Our next outing is a walk-with-a-difference on which we will look at the geological underpinnings to the vegetation on the eastern slopes of Mt. Wellington.

The March AGM saw the election of a new president (Sib Corbett), with most of the previous committee staying on. Bruce Champion has taken on the vice-presidency and much of the responsibility for our future programme. From June we move to day time gatherings for the next three months, starting on 12th June with an excursion to Launceston to see the Heritage Forest Garden then moving on to the brilliant landscaping of the Windsor Park Community Centre and the APS nursery there.

The vexed issues of the proposed new Constitution are slowly being worked out, with a decision made at our May meeting to modify the proposed wording so that it meets our expectations of what APST really is, to share our suggestions with the Northern and North West Groups and finally arrive at a satisfactory document which can be presented for ratification at a Council meeting, probably later this year.

The question of how to increase our active membership never goes away. APST Council is in the process of completing a strategic plan which we hope will point up some areas in which we can improve, particularly in adopting more modern methods of communication. In the meantime a questionnaire has been designed to help us better provide for our Hobart members. ☺

A Comment About Last Issue's Article: 'A Not-So-Recent Event'

(Continued from page 11)

Sir Isaac Newton obviously understood scientific progress when he wrote:

'I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.' ☺

Northern Group

Kay Pallett

Still, cool autumn days can be the best in the garden. For Suzanne Talbot, Daphne and Peter Longman it was also the time when the Tasmanian native garden at Mowbray was refreshed. New plants went in, ensuring the garden continues to flourish and as usual, members helped to make the day a success. Another success was the April plants sale. Our sale day is now well recognised so that by midday almost all plants had gone to new homes. The day was well organised and well supported by our group members. Thanks to Janet Hallam and her efficient team who now have begun to restock in preparation for the spring sale.

In March Jon Hosford shared his interest in the natural ecosystem of Northern Australia, in particular how the indigenous people harvested native plant foods. He highlighted their knowledge, their ability to read the land and to harvest foods in a sustainable way. As examples: they know to leave part of the waterlily root or Kurrajong root so that next season's food source will remain; and they know how to make toxic plants such as *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* edible. Jon's presentation provided interesting glimpses into food sources generally unknown to us. He recommended *An-me Arri-ngun: The Food We Eat* and *Ngan'gi Plants and Animals* as worthy reads.

Anita Hansen was April guest speaker. Anita co-edited The Royal Society of Tasmania's books *The Library at the End of the World: Natural Science and its Illustrators* and *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*. Her presentation, 'An Artistic Voyage Through the World of Plants - art and science' highlighted artists, their early illustrations and developing styles. Names such as Lesueur, Bauer, Meredith, Allport and Archer were just some of those presented while delicate, detailed botanical drawings impressed and informed us.

'Temperate Grasslands in SE Australia' was the topic chosen by May speaker, Ian Thomas. There were details of the grasslands' disappearance as well as factors affecting the distribution of this most threatened ecosystem in Australia. Only remnants exist now on private properties, road verges, cemeteries etc. Temperate grasslands and all the 'life' they contain are being rapidly excluded from farms or covered by towns. Of special interest was historical information gathered from pollen samples at Stony Creek, Spotswood. These showed that the banks of the Yarra River, prior to European arrival, were temperate rain forest, not grasslands as generally thought. Ian provided a most comprehensive and thoroughly interesting coverage on this under-valued part of our ecosystem.

For those who appreciate the many different *Hakea* species, in the March Plant of the Month Daphne Longman described *H. cucullata*, an unusual species, grown in her garden. This hood-leaved hakea is aptly named as the leaf does form a hood around the pink flowers which form in the leaflet nodes. It is part of the Proteaceae family, flowering from May to November. As a small tree it would make a striking addition to our gardens.

Limonium australe var. *australe* (yellow sea lavender) was Margaret Killen's choice for April Plant of the Month. It is an interesting perennial herb with five small yellow petals in pinkish-white papery sepals crowded on the upper side of its leafless branches. This attractive member of the Plumbaginaceae family grows in saline areas such as Swan Point, Long Tom Reef at Georgetown and it flowers from January to April. It is on the threatened species list so it is important that we learn to recognise this plant and foster its continued survival.

May Plant of the Month chosen by Rosemary Verbeeten is another interesting plant, *Geranium potentilloides* var. *potentilloides* (mountain cranesbill). It is a perennial herb with creamy pink flowers 1-1.5cm diameter with one flower per stalk. Common in Tasmania, it usually grows in damp areas and is often found in forests. If it is well-mulched Rosemary suggests this small, attractive plant could fit nicely in the suburban garden. ◊

Group Programmes

Northern Group:

Below are links to: APST Northern Group website, programme page and newsletters
<http://apstasnorth.org/index.html> <http://apstasnorth.org/pages/program.html>
<http://apstasnorth.org/pages/newsletters.html>

June	18	Tuesday	7.30pm	General Meeting	Speakers: Mick and Helen Statham, <i>Flora and Fauna of Iceland and Scottish Outer Islands</i>
June	25	Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am	Working Bee	Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
July	6	Saturday	1-3pm	Propagation	APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
July	16	Tuesday	7.30pm	General Meeting	Max Fry Hall, Club night
July	23	Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am	Working Bee	Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Aug	3	Saturday	1-3pm	Propagation	APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Aug	20	Tuesday	7.30pm	General Meeting	Max Fry Hall, Speaker: Peter Voller, <i>The Cleanup and Revegetation of the Supply River Valley</i>
Aug	27	Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am	Working Bee	Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Sept	7	Saturday	1-3pm	Propagation	APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Sept	17	Tuesday	7.30pm	General Meeting	Max Fry Hall, Speaker: Mark Wapstra

North West Group:

New meeting venue: St Paul's Hall, Church St. East Devonport

June	18	Tuesday		General meeting.	Favourite plant expo
June	20	Thursday	10am	Propagation,	Arboretum
July	18	Thursday	10am	Propagation,	Arboretum
July	20	Saturday			Winter daytime meeting—property of Phillip Milner.
Aug	20	Tuesday		General meeting.	Guest Speaker Dick Burns
Aug	22	Thursday	10am	Propagation,	Arboretum
Sept	17	Tuesday		General meeting.	
Sept	19	Thursday	10am	Propagation,	Arboretum
Oct	20	Sunday		Port Sorell Spring Fair	

Hobart Group:

Hobart Group meetings - Kingston Primary School library, (KPS), 7.30 pm;

Kingborough day meetings - Centacare Rooms, Balmoral Rd, Kingston Beach, 2 pm;

Hobart Group propagation - in the Group's Nursery at the rear of KPS 1.30pm.

June	5	Wednesday	2pm	Kingborough Day Meeting	– illustrated presentation by Carmen Walker on her garden.
June	10	Wednesday	7.45am -5.30pm	Hobart Group Winter Excursion to Launceston	– Heritage Forest Tasmanian Plants Garden and Windsor Park Community Centre, plus more. Contact Bruce Champion: ph 0408 146 041 or 6294 6970
July	10	Wednesday	2pm	Hobart Group Daytime Winter Meeting, KPS	Plant Identification Session
Aug	14	Wednesday	2pm	A Meander on the Domain	- Philip Sumner



Photos relating to article 'Saltmarshes', page 14. All photos © Phil Watson 1.

Disphyma crassifolium subsp. *clavellatum* flowers and foliage, Roundleaf pigface,
Lauderdale Saltmarsh

2. *Cotula coronopifolia* flowers, Water buttons, Lauderdale Saltmarsh

3. *Sarcocornia*, *Juncus* and *Gahnia* Lauderdale Saltmarsh

