

North West Group

Newsletter 461

September 2023



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Welcome to the September edition of the APSTNW newsletter.

The EXPO of EVERYTHING in Devonport is on this Saturday 2nd September at the Paranaple Convention Centre, Devonport. We will be there showing off the Society to everyone. If you can spare an hour or more please come on down and help grow our group. Set up from 9:00am

If you have any suggestions for additions to the newsletter or the plant group in general please share them with one of the committee, general members or myself, Simon.

Monthly meeting: The August meeting was held on a Tuesday daytime at the Tasmanian Arboretum with the guest speakers coming from within the Society and from the very top. APSTAS President Louise Skabo and Margaret Killen our membership officer.



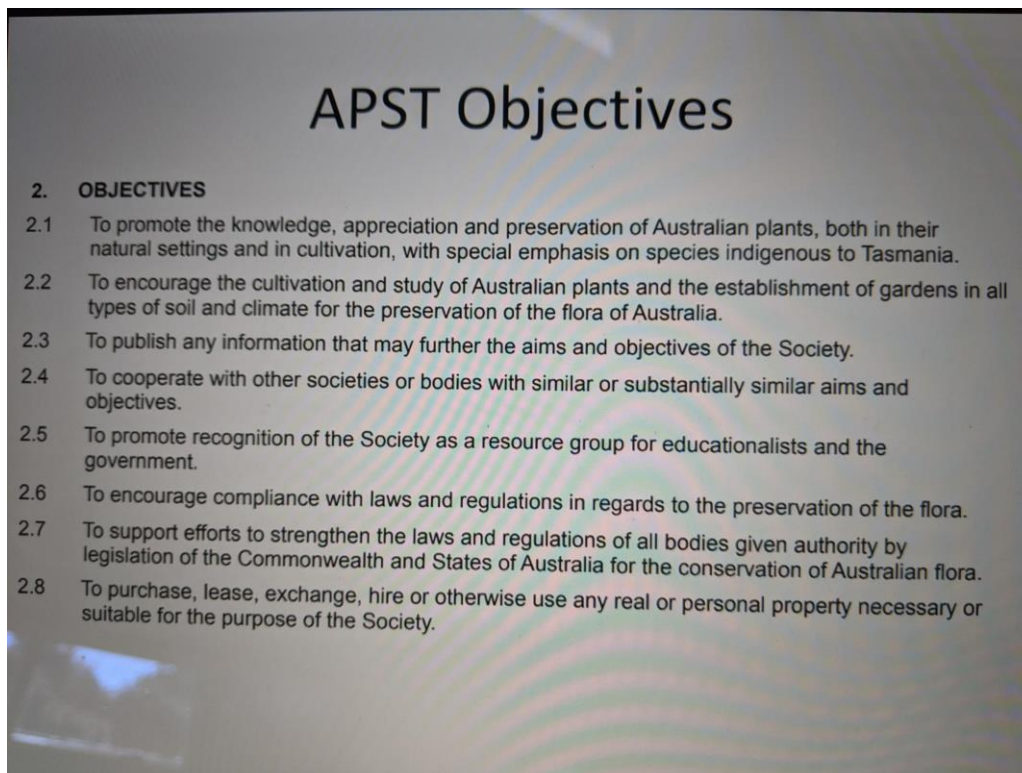
Both ladies spoke about how the Society started out on the Mainland and then in Tasmania as the Society for Growing Australian Plants. Wonderful computer slides help tell the history and story of the changing over to become the Australian Plants Society Tasmania. Brief histories of the



three Tasmanian groups were also told with the Launceston group the most active at the moment.

Objectives of the Society past, present and into the future were talked about. How to keep existing members while encouraging new membership was a question posed. With society in general being 'time poor' gaining the interest of the public will be a key issue moving forward.

Many thanks to Louise & Margaret for their time and effort in coming and talking at our meeting.



Plant table: Big thank you to Riitta and Jan B for the flowers and their written descriptions.

An excellent amount of flowering specimens were on show on the monthly plant table. All the plants came from Riitta and Jan's garden.

"I collected some of the more colourful winter flowering plants from our garden. One of the pleasures of growing Australian plants is that you have flowers all year round.



I had three Banksias: *B. menziesii*, *B. prionotes* the Acorn Banksia, and one of the modern miniature hybrids of *B. spinulosa*. I find these dwarf varieties look a bit unbalanced with bunches of very large flowers stuck on top a shrub barely half a meter. The common names for *B. menziesii*, according to the wonderful Banksia book by Kevin and Kathy Collins, are Menzies' Banksia or Firewood Banksia. One would think that such a beautiful red flowering shrub would have deserved a more imaginative name.

Other plants on the table included red flowering shrubs *Kunzea baxteri* and *Calothamnus sanguineus*. Two Hakeas with white and creamy flowers. Tall upright *Hakea minyma*, and large rounded *Hakea rostrata*, the latter one has a wonderful perfume. It has a common name "Turkey gobblers" due to the shape of the fruit, the hard nuts. The two *Correas* were *Correa backhouseana*, and low growing "Fat Fred". The two species of *Adenanthos* were *Adenanthos detmoldii* and *Adenanthos sericeus*, both purple foliaged and greyish green form. The *A. sericeus* become large shrubs.

Senna artemisioides and *Phebalium squameum* provided the yellow colours. *Lysiosepalum involucreatum* has mauve flowers. It does not seem to have a common name, you just have to get your tongue around the botanical one. It is a low growing shrub, spreading a couple of meters wide. In our garden it flowers all year round with small drooping mauve flowers resembling *Thomasia* flowers. It is closely related to *Thomasia* and *Lasiopetalum* as well as *Guichenotia*. It is a very attractive shrub, but the best thing is that it does not get eaten by animals; even hungry wallabies do not seem to want to taste it.

The main attraction on the table was a branch from a shrubby form of *Casuarina* or *Allocasuarina*, unfortunately I cannot any more identify the exact species of the several shrubby forms we grow, some Tasmanian, but some mainlanders. They do not have labels. As we live on the coast, we have the local Tasmanian trees: *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *verticillata* and *duncanii*. We also have the mainland *Casuarina torulosa*, purple drooping foliage and very thick brown corky bark.

My favourites are the shrubby *Casuarinas* or *Allocasuarinas*, but find it very hard to tell all of them apart. The main attraction was a branch from a medium straggly shrub with no distinct trunk. *Casuarinas* have often male and female flowers on separate plants. This one has the female flowers, small red tufts along the stems. When backlit by the sun they shine like red jewels. Our favourite book "Tasmania's natural flora", tells us that there are 70 species of *Casuarina*. Australia has 44 species and Tasmania has 7 species from genus *Allocasuarina*. The name *Casuarina* refers to the dense drooping branches resembling the drooping feathers of the Cassowary bird." Riitta B.

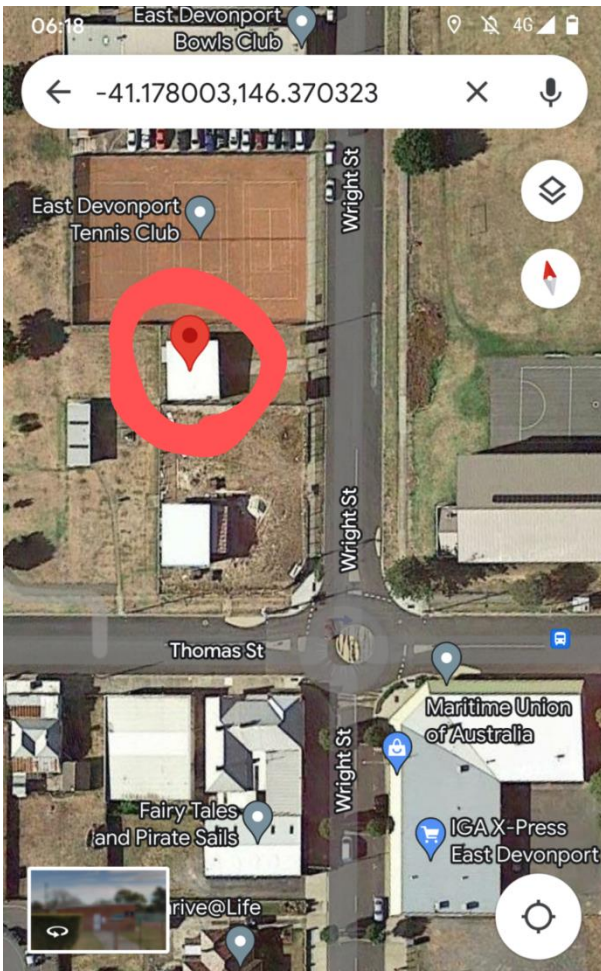
Plant propagation: Thursday 10am start

As usual there were a dedicated team at the monthly propagation session held at The Tasmanian Arboretum. Cuttings, potting on and liverwort removal and were all tasks being performed. The Spring plant sale isn't too far away and the collection of plants in the right size pots for sale is growing steadily. There will be about 2-3 more propagation sessions before the plant sale so please come on down and join in with all the great work of getting native plants out there into the wider community and gardens.



This is a hands on session helping, learning all about growing native plants from cuttings. It's a BYO lunch/drinks affair at The Tasmanian Arboretum, 'usually' on the Thursday after the Tuesday meeting. If new please contact a committee member for latest information on dates and location.

NEW TUESDAY NIGHT MEETING VENUE



Our regular third Tuesday night of month meetings are back on after the Winter break of daytime meetings. There is a new location for these meetings.

It's at the East Devonport tennis club rooms 48 Wright Street East Devonport.

The meeting will be in the square white club room right near the clay tennis courts. Hopefully our APST banner will be on the entrance gate at the footpath to guide you to the entrance.

Photo opposite shows the club room circled in red.

Plenty of street parking available.

Meeting starts at 7:00pm with all members and guests welcome.

APST 2024 CALENDAR ORDER NOW!!

The wonderful APST 2024 calendars are ready to order now. The calendar contains contributions from a few North West group members and purchasing one is a great way to support the Society, your fellow members as well as putting some colour on your walls at home.

They also make wonderful gifts.

Order yours **now** so you don't miss out, LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE.

Cost is \$17 each (you can order more than one)

It's a simple three step process to order.

1) Pay first.

Payment is preferably done directly to our bank account either electronically or in person at your bank or cash to the treasurer (Jan B) at the September meeting (correct change appreciated).

Details are:

Account name: **APSTNW**

BSB: **633000**

Account number: **152025870**

IMPORTANT Use your Surname and the word 'CALENDAR' as the payment reference.

2) Email our North West group secretary, Drew at

drew.thomas@iinet.net.au

with your full name and how many calendars you have **paid for** and the date of payment.

3) Pick up will be from October onwards either at the Tuesday night meetings, Thursday propagation sessions or at the Port Sorell Spring plant sale or by other arrangements.

*****Again please make sure you use your Surname and the word 'CALENDAR' as your payment reference and order now to secure your copy.*****

Thanks for your support of the Society in Tasmania and the members who have put in lots of hard work to make this this wonderful calendar. **Did we mention to order NOW as stock is limited!!**



Upcoming 'not to be missed' events and dates:

*****Saturday 2nd September:** Expo of Everything. Devonport. See below for details.

Tuesday 19th September: Meeting 7:00pm at **new venue** (see details above).

Thursday 21st September: Propagation session at the Tasmanian Arboretum starting at 10:00am until 2:00pm (or shorter time if that suits you better)

Sunday 22nd October: Port Sorell Spring Fair plant sale. More details to come.

*****Here's something else brand new the Society is trying for the first time.**

EXPO OF EVERYTHING

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

Yes, not only to see EVERYTHING (!) but to promote our Society, and in particular Port Sorrel Spring Fair sale.

On Saturday 2nd September, Devonport Council will mount an Expo of community activities. The event runs 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, at Paranple Convention Centre, Devonport.



We have agreed to participate. We'll have a couple of display boards, a couple of tables, some chairs – and hopefully some willing volunteers. i.e. you. We'll have blooms on display as well as photographs and be offering conversations and advice around beautifying and future proofing gardens.

Please consider offering your time to this. Full day 5 hour heroes are welcome but every hour people can spare will help.

Please contact Secretary Drew Thomas, drew.thomas@iinet.net.au Or 0488 402 210 with your offer of assistance.

It will be a great opportunity to make contact with an audience we rarely see.

Tid bits and left overs

(or should that be recyclables):



MYSTERY PLANT. CAN YOU I.D. IT?

Maybe someone can identify this plant?

2m tall shrub from the genus *Casuarina* or *Allocasuarina*.

Riitta B.

Also from Riitta and Jan B's garden.

"I spread some seaweed in the garden. Our local residents have been eating it!"



Happy reading. Hooroo Simon 😊