

**North West Group**

**Newsletter 463**

**November 2023**



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Welcome to the November edition of the APSTNW newsletter.

Our second plant sale of the year went well at Port Sorell (see full write up) Now to start to refill all our empty pots at the next propagation session.

This month we travel back to Port Sorell to visit John T's colourful native garden.

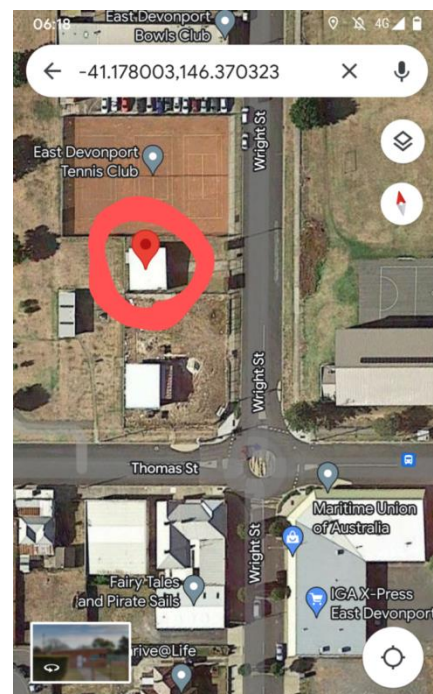
If you have any suggestions for additions to the newsletter or the plant group in general please share them with one of the committee, general members or myself, Simon.

### Monthly meeting:

The October meeting was mainly focused on the upcoming plant sale and future events for the next year. We are working on a 'guest speaker' list. If you have any suggestions of people or organisations that you think our members would be interested in listening to please share your ideas with a committee member or myself.

Meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the East Devonport Tennis Club 48 Wright St. East Devonport.

Arrive after 7pm for 7:30pm start.



### Plant table:

A very colourful plant table was on show with Spring flowers still blooming wonderfully. We had another showy selection from Riitta and Jan B's garden as well as from John T's. Mary S. also bought in some lovely specimens from her garden.

Thank you to everyone who bought in flowers to show and talk about.



### PROPAGATION AT THE ARBORETUM: Thursday 10am start.

A good team put the finishing touches to get our plants ready for the Spring sale. We still managed to do a few punnets of cuttings that will start to fill the void of all the sold plants. Plants that had been in members off site green/hot houses were adding to the collection which all made their way to Port Sorell for a short trip to the plant sale on the Saturday.

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.

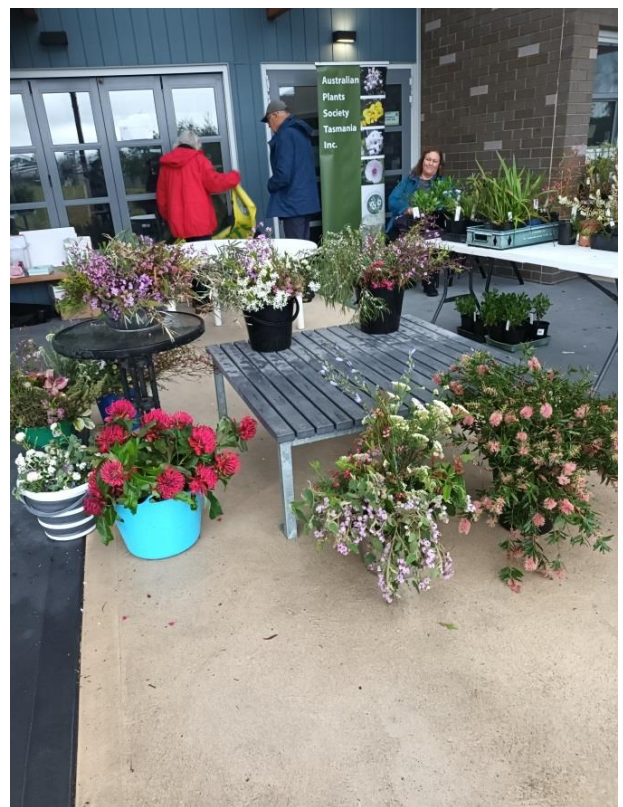
# PORT SORELL SPRING PLANT SALE

Thank you to Riitta for writing up a summary of the day and to Mary and Drew for the photos. And again to Riitta for being the propagation coordinator and pulling this event together with the help of a core team of members, you all know who you are. Well done everybody 😊

“For several years we have conducted our Spring plant sale as part of the Port Sorell Spring fair. This has introduced us to a public that might otherwise not have come across the Australian Plants Society. It has given us an opportunity to show the public the extraordinary range of colour and beauty of Australian plants in flower. I always regarded the occasion as a promotional opportunity for our group, even if we did not sell many plants. To that effect we have always created a colourful floral display and added buckets overflowing with branches of flowering shrubs.



Discussing with John T, our impressions of the event this year we both felt that there has been a definite increase in the interest in native Australian plants. In fact some people had come to the fair specifically to visit and buy plants from us. This is change from our first time at the fair, where our customers would buy a pretty plant on impulse. This time they more often bought several.





More people know names of the plants, some looking for Tasmanian ones specifically. The indications are that we have established a presence at the Port Sorell fair that many people look forward to.

This can also be seen in the sales: we sold about 300 plants, more than previous years, despite of the overall numbers at the fair being less, because of the heavy rain at the start of the day. We also welcome 5 new members! All this despite of the atrocious weather at the start of the day!

As the propagation coordinator, I want to thank all the members, who helped to transport the plants, arriving before 8 o'clock in the morning, helped to set everything up and stayed the day to clean it all up at the end. Much work also has gone into growing the plants at our nursery. In recent years we have adopted the practice of lodging the more frost sensitive plants in the glasshouses and shelters of various members. The heavy frosts at the Tasmanian Arboretum has previously caused too many losses and severely delayed our spring plants. These measures have resulted in more success for spring plants advanced enough for sale. Riitta B.

## Come and see my garden!

For this month's garden visit I went to the sandy soils of Port Sorell for a look at John T's wonderful native garden. Lots of the cuttings we use to propagate plants for our sales come from John's garden. Although not ideal, gardens holding endangered plants or rare natural variations play an important role in helping to secure their future. Enjoy John's write up and my photos 😊

## John's Garden History

"I retired from work 14 years ago and moved into my home at Hawley Beach which had been used as a holiday home, I had planted a few Australian native plants on one edge of an adjoining block of land some years before including a few plants from Western Australia. These plants had grown well as Hawley has a milder winter compared to many other areas of Tasmania.



Another reason for this was a wish to see if I could grow an attractive flower garden with Australian natives. As I had little knowledge of growing Australian native plants, I joined the North West Group of APST and participated in the monthly propagation activities.

As the block was prone to remaining wet during winter, with the help of my wife Pamela, I brought in soil to make raised beds to assist drainage. The beds and planting were completed progressively over 4 years.

Currently there are over 600 Australian species including approx. 150 Tasmanian and 200 from Western Australia.



Apart from getting the floral effect I wanted, a number of other positive changes were noticed as follows:

Native birds arrived including little wattle birds, driving out the sparrows and starlings. (I don't need to cover plants in my vegetable garden any more)

Native bees, other native insects and increased numbers of honey bees have arrived.

Blue tongue lizards are now living on the block.

Green Bell frogs are now using various areas of the garden as habitat.

A number of Western Australian Banksias, Hakeas and Melaleucas have helped the overall colour display in late winter/spring, giving a longer food source for the wildlife.

Looking ahead, I will try to extend planting of less common Tasmanian plants and natural variations.

John Tabor



## Upcoming 'not to be missed' events and dates:

**3<sup>rd</sup> November:** State wide Members Get together weekend away down around the Tasman Peninsular. Only for members who have already registered, no late bookings allowed unfortunately. Look for the write up in next month's newsletter.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November:** Meeting 7:30pm start at **new venue** (see map photo at top for location). 48 Wright Street East Devonport, East Devonport Tennis Club.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November:** Propagation session at the Tasmanian Arboretum starting at 10:00am until 2:00pm (or shorter time if that suits you better) Any help is greatly appreciated, come and learn how to grow plants.

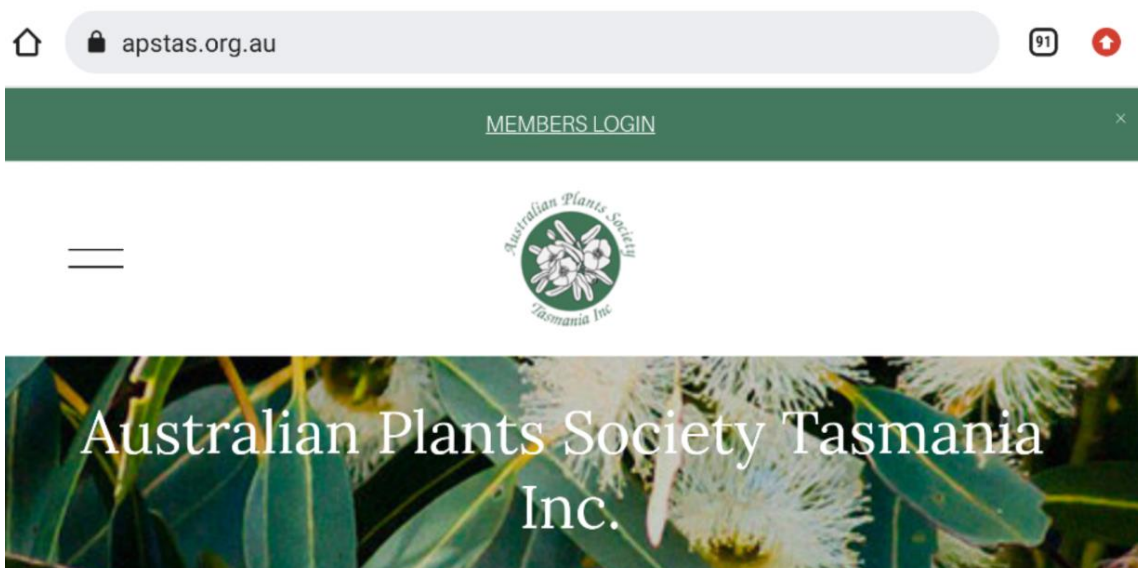
## Tid bits and left overs

**(or should that be recyclables):**

Don't forget the APST is online: <https://www.apstas.org.au/>

Here you can find previous newsletters, not just from the NW group but the two Tasmanian and Mainland groups too.

Upcoming events with map photos. Also resources about native plants, including their habitat preferences and where to buy them if they are available. Can't find a plant you would like in your garden, ask us and we may be able to source it for you.



**Happy reading. Hooroo Simon 😊**