

**North West Group**

**Newsletter 464**

**December 2023**



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Welcome to the December edition of the APSTNW newsletter.

There will not be a meeting this month; instead we'll be having a social end of year gather at John T's home in Hawley Beach. All members welcome to celebrate another year of friendship, learning, growing and sharing our wonderful native plants with the wider community.

Day walk with the Northern Group 11<sup>th</sup> December. See 'events' for full description.

'Come and see my garden' featuring members gardens will be back next year.

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 November meeting was the last proper meeting for the year. A few new plant sale options were discussed and will be looked at in more detail. Guest speaker ideas are always welcomed.

Drew T. gave a 'plant of the month' talk on *Viminaria juncea* commonly called native broom or golden spray due to the fact that the branches become thickly lined with small, lemon-yellow pea flowers 1 cm long. It is the only species in its genus.

It is listed as 'endangered' in Tasmania, known from only one location near Coles Bay. It is common on the Mainland.



For more information see: <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/gnp4/viminaria-juncea.html>

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.

Please note there is no meeting in December and January. Propagation will be on as normal.

## PLANT TABLE HIGHLIGHTS

Five members provided a wide range of samples from their gardens. Marianne introduced us to a less common shrub called *Howittia trilocularis*, quite a mouthful to pronounce. My old edition of Wrigly and Fagg does not offer any common name, so no alternative. It is a medium shrub belonging to the Malvaceae family. Leaves are hairy, smallish mauve flowers are Hibiscus like. Contrasting look is provided by *Homoranthus flavescens*, again no common name. It is a spreading shrub to 40cm high. Branches appear to be layered horizontally. Cream tiny flowers are in erect clusters on top of the branches.



Peter F. had the popular *Leptospermum rotundifolium* "Jervis bay", one of the most spectacular Tea trees. It grows to a 3m shrub.

Drew T. bought in *Myoporum floribundum*. This medium shrub is suitable as a specimen plant with room around it to display the graceful horizontal branching. The prolific white flowers are scattered on top of the branches looking like a sprinkling of snow. The flowering lasts for months.

Ian H. always has a range of perennials and annuals. He has seven different types of *Conostylis* in his garden. *Bulbine bulbosa* is self-seeding. He also had *Pimelea ferruginea* in three different colours as well as the Tasmanian endemic *Pimelea nivea*.

Our large *Eucalyptus globulus*, the Tasmanian Blue Gum has one branch low enough for picking the beautiful large flowers. One does not often get to see the flowers close. Also from our garden was an apricot coloured *Melaleuca fulgens*.



This year, in our garden, a medium sized *Chamelaucium uncinatum*, the GERALTON wax, is flowering well. Also the *Lomatia tinctoria*, the Guitar plant, is in flower. *Lomatia tinctorias* come in extremely varied leaf forms and heights. The tall form in our garden is slowly forming a clump by suckers. The *Sambucus gaudichaudiana*, native Elderberry with white berries seeds itself in our bushland. It dies back in winter, and grows quickly into a small shrub with soft foliage similar to the European Elderberry.

Words by Riitta B. many thanks. Photos by Simon V.

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

After the last sale it was time to take stock of our plants and start building towards next year's Autumn sales (yes there could be more than one). There was a lot of potting on of plants from small seedling pots into the 1 litre pots that they will be sold in. This will give them time to settle down and look their best for the sales. Plants with flowers always out sell and go quicker than those without flowers, even if it's the same species.

It was great to have two new members from the Port Sorell area come to their first propagation session. They had a go at most of the jobs we do and hopefully they'll be back for more and continue learning all about the techniques involved in growing native plants from cuttings.



There will be a usual session on 21st December.

See 'events' below.

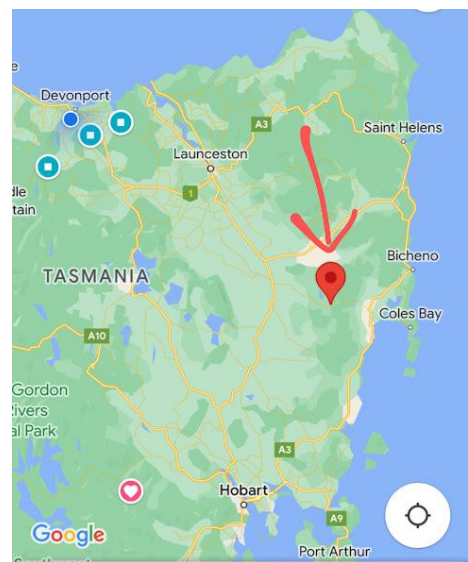
This is a hands on session helping, learning all about growing native plants from cuttings. It's a BYO lunch/drinks affair at The Tasmanian Arboretum, 'usually' on the Thursday after the Tuesday meeting. If new please contact a committee member for latest information on dates and location.

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

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December:** Northern Group outing. All North West group members are invited.

We have an excursion to **Snow Hill** near **Lake Leake** on **Monday 11th December**. We have been there before and it has proved very popular.

This is an interesting place with a greater number of eucalyptus species in a small area than any other place in Tassie. There are lots of other species present too.



Kalangadoo Store

We will meet at the **Kalangadoo store** and leave there at **9.30 am**. We can leave some cars there probably.

Walking is easy along a gently sloping road for about 200m. We should see lots of waratahs in flower and lots other blossom.

It can be cold up there so dress according to the forecast. Bring lunch and other needs for a day in the bush. Obviously a Eucaflip will be handy.

If you let **Roy Skabo 0458 696 639** know that you are coming he will circulate the names of attendees to facilitate car-pooling.

The total driving distance will be about 280 km (140 km each way from **Launceston**) so petrol costs will be about \$56 to be shared between people in a car.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas end of year get together for North West group at John Tabors home in Hawley Beach (Port Sorell) starting at 5:30pm. Bring a plate of food to share. John will give a guided tour of his native garden (featured in November's newsletter) will you try and count ALL the species??

Come and catch up with the other North West members, share in some delicious food and one lucky attendee will win a great door prize (no it won't be a door so you can leave the trailer at home, unless you plan on taking a cutting from every single plant John has, then you will need a trailer)

For those that don't know where John lives, please use the contacts on page one and a member will respond to your query. No need to RSVP. Hope to see you there.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December:**

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 native plants.



## Tid bits and left overs

### (or should that be recyclables):

The world's tallest Christmas Tree.

Days before Christmas in 1999, an intrepid team of climbers set about putting the Styx Valley near Maydena on the map and in the minds of people across the world. Little-known before then, by creating the world's tallest Christmas tree, they captured the imagination of people around the world and showcased one of the Styx's greatest assets, its giant centuries old trees.

Climbers festooned an 80m tall Eucalyptus regnans in 3000 fairy lights, baubles, presents and a giant fluorescent star that sat atop the highest branches. Images were broadcast globally and a new battleground in the forest campaign was carved out.

While an application was made to the Guinness Book of Records for recognition of the tallest ever Christmas tree, it was refused. To be considered a "Christmas" tree, it must be a spruce from the Northern Hemisphere!

(Article credit The Wilderness Society, photo credit Rob Blakers)



**Have a safe and fun  
end to the year and  
we look forward to**

**another wonderful year full of native  
plants in 2024**

**Hooroo Simon 😊**