

## North West Group

Newsletter 467

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Welcome to the March edition of the APSTNW newsletter.

We have a wrap up from the AGM, the highlight being Riitta B being given life membership. Congratulations Riitta.

The Autumn plant sale will be on 24<sup>th</sup> March in the carpark rotunda at the Tasmanian Arboretum starting at 10:00am. Volunteers on the day from 8:00am greatly appreciated.

### Plant Sale

Australian Native Plants

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
10am – 2pm

at the

TASMANIAN ARBORETUM  
EUGENANA

- ◆ Unusual native Plants
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Australian Plant Society Inc.  
North West Group

## Monthly meeting: AGM

February meeting was our **AGM**. We had it at the Arboretum with a nice turn out of members. We got through the essentials in a timely fashion. All the committee positions stayed the same.

The NW group will be hosting the other two Tasmanian groups this year for the annual State get together over the November long weekend. Sheffield area seems to be the centre point for the weekend. If you have any ideas, suggestions for walks or possible native gardens to visit please do share them with a committee member.

### Guest speaker:

Tony Roberts travelled from Launceston to be our guest speaker. Tony is employed by the West Tamar Council and was instrumental in establishing the Windsor Park native plantings many years ago. This reserve has a great representation of many Tasmanian plants and includes most if not all of the Tasmanian Eucalypts.

Tony told us about and showed photos covering the journey from grassy paddocks to spectacular native reserve. Starting by planting out along a degraded creek line, the plantings spread to follow a through road, walking tracks and some more wet land areas.



The local Council liked the progress they saw and decided to build a 'wellness centre' within the grounds. Instead of being a disruption to his plans, Tony turned the works into a positive by using the fill cut for the building site to make some hills and dolomite rocks that had been dug up landscaped the new hills and perfectly chosen native plants covered the hills and grew in and out of the rocks.

Works to two existing dams created another wonderful wet land area. All of Tony's work has improved the habitat for local birds, frogs and mammals and given the local community a wonderful natural area to explore and immerse themselves in.

Future plans are to make labels not only containing the scientific and common names but also a QR code which will give all the details specific to that plant.

The Launceston group of the APS have their propagation headquarters within the reserve and help out with propagating plants needed for upcoming works and also use the reserve as a resource for taking cuttings of Tony's wonderfully chosen and sourced native plants.

We thank Tony greatly for travelling from Launceston to share his story of this amazing native reserves history. We wish him all the best with the future works within the reserve.

Stay tuned for news of a group visit to Windsor Reserve with Tony acting as tour guide. This will be in the not too distant future.

## PLANT TABLE

The plant table was back for the first time this year. We had a colourful selection from Riitta and Jan's garden with two interesting Eucalypts. *E. macrocarpa* with apparently the largest flowers within the species (yes they were very big) and the other with an oddly elongated flower and operculum, looking more like a witch's nose than a typical Eucalypt flower.

John T. also had a collection of beautifully coloured natives, mostly purples and shades of stunning red.



## LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO RIITTA B

Introduction by Louise Skabo.

“As APST Inc President, I have found Riitta to be a thoughtful and contributing member of Council and she puts her views across quietly but with vigour. Her reviews of the Study Groups newsletters in *Eucryphia* are always an interesting summary to try and entice members to join. These Study Groups run by the national body, ANPSA, could be better utilised by our Tasmanian members as they are an excellent source of native plant information. Congratulations Riitta on this well-deserved recognition of Life Membership.”

The official citation by the APST committee.

Riitta Boevink has been a member of the Society since 2003, joining alongside her husband Jan, with the intention of creating a native garden for their new home at Hawley Beach. Beyond mastering the knowledge of well-suited plants, Riitta has emerged as an advocate within the North West group, actively disseminating information and sharing her acquired skills in propagation, cultivation, and learning.

In 2006, Riitta played a significant role in a presentation to Latrobe High School on Wattle Day and participated in displays at the Ulverstone Visitors' Centre—both deemed commendable endeavours. In 2011, she authored a full-page spread in the *Advocate* newspaper titled 'Embrace a Garden Close to Home,' providing insights and photos of the Boevink (Hawley Beach) and D. Burns (Penguin) gardens.

Within the North West group, Riitta assumed various roles, including President in 2008, 2009, and 2010, and is currently President again (2023), Propagation Manager, Plant Table Scribe, and Programme Coordinator. She actively contributed to organizational tasks for events like Member's

Get-togethers, local Annual Group meetings and general meetings, playing a pivotal role in maintaining a beneficial environment for NW members.

Riitta has actively conceived many ideas, and initiated them to encourage an increase in membership of the Group. They include

- initiating a series of articles on various topics written by different members of the Group;
- making contact with Port Sorell Garden Club and consequently becoming an active member of the team that organises the annual Port Sorell Spring Fair in which the NW Group has always participated;
- being part of a team that gave weekly talks at the local Bunnings hardware store.

Riitta was an active member of the Organising Committee for the most recent Tasmanian Biennial ANPSA Conference and the tour from Hobart to the West Coast

Since 2008, Riitta has been a North West councillor and served as an ANPSA Tasmanian delegate from 2010 to the present, attending all conferences. Her dedication led to her appointment as ANPSA Vice-President in 2017, President in 2018, 2019, and 2020, and again as 2nd Vice-President in 2021.

In 2017, Riitta took on the role of Study Group Liaison Officer for Tasmania, a position she still holds, contributing a quarterly review in Eucryphia.

Throughout all these endeavours, Riitta has remained a cheerful and supportive member, consistently going above and beyond for the Society. Riitta is undeniably a valuable and worthwhile member.

Nominated by Mary Slattery and Dick Burns.

And the response from Riitta after receiving her special award.

“Shock and surprise! I was made a life member at our AGM! Special thanks to Mary, who made the nomination. Thank you Ian H. for providing the flowers you see in the vase. And thank you everyone for being there and making it a happy occasion.”

Riitta B.



## **PROPAGATION AT THE ARBORETUM:**

Another quality session was had in February. We are in the process of potting up last year's cuttings into their final pot size (usually 1 litre). This will give them time to settle in and look their best for the two Autumn plant sales scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March at the Arboretum and 6<sup>th</sup> April at EcoFest, Camp Clayton, Ulverstone.

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:**

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March:**

Meetings are back on Tuesday nights at the East Devonport Tennis Club rooms, 48 Wright Street East Devonport. Come along after 7pm for 7:30pm sharp start. Guest speaker: Petra Wilder President of the newly formed Tugrah/Devonport Land Care group. She will be talking about the objectives and purpose of their group, some of the great work already achieved, projects in the pipeline and possibilities of collaborating in some way with our group in different ways in the future.

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March:**

Final propagation session before the Autumn plant sale, at the Tasmanian Arboretum starting at 10:00am until 2:00pm (or shorter time if that suits you better)

### **Sunday 24th March:**

Autumn plant sale in the main carpark rotunda at the Tasmanian Arboretum. Sale starts at 10:00am but help will be needed from 8:00am onwards to move, sort and set up the plants on tables. Help during the day with keeping the sale queue as short as possible and answering questions if confident. Mentioning membership to all visitors will be helpful. Please contact a committee member if you'd like to help out in any way and need more information.

### **Saturday 6th April:**

EcoFest plant sale Camp Clayton, Ulverstone. Selling (hopefully the few) remaining plants from the week before and membership drive. More details next month.

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April:**

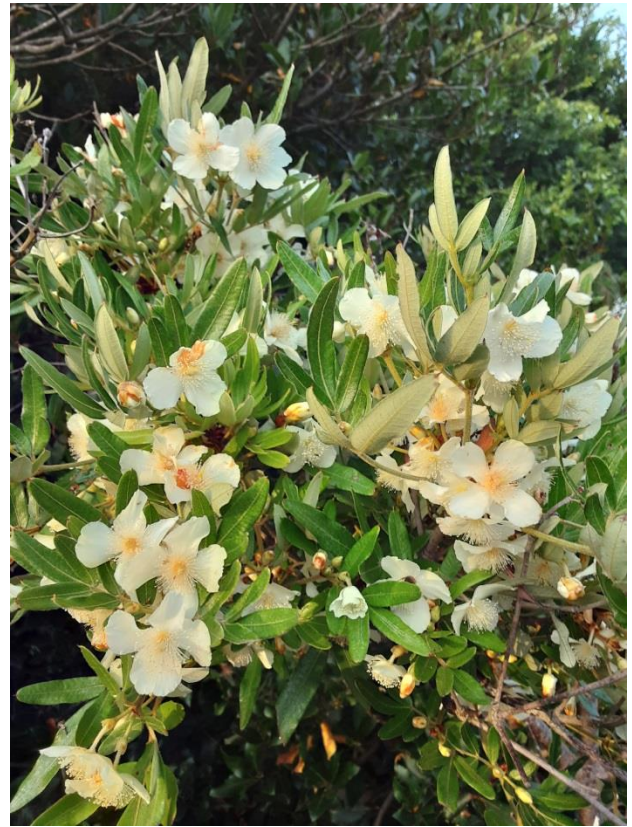
Regular Tuesday night meeting East Devonport Tennis Club 7:30pm start.

## Tid bits and left overs (or should that be recyclables):

These tid bits missed out on being included in last month's newsletter so the timing is slightly off.

From Riitta and Jan B's garden.

"The good bout of rain and warm season have allowed the *Euchryphia moorei* burst out in blossom. This is a small tree when grown in favourable conditions. Originates from rainforest gullies in NSW and Victoria. Not entirely happy in our windy seaside garden. Last year it suffered with exposure and I thought we lost it, but it has rallied and looks beautiful in flour. The flowers are 3 cm across. This one is about two meters tall shrub.



*Euchryphia milliganii* grows in a large container in a sheltered corner behind the garage. Needs watering every day if I remember. This is the small Tasmanian endemic that you meet on the mountain tops in high rainfall areas. *Euchryphia milliganii* flowers are small. Our plant produced a few flowers last year, but does not have any this year. The book "Tasmania's Natural Flora" says *Euchryphia milliganii* requires a definitive cold period to promote flowering. The small yellow bubbles on the tips are not flower buds. Someone once told me on a walking trip, they protect the growing tips from the cold.

Maybe someone can tell me if this is correct?"

**Hooroo Simon 😊**

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