

Eucryphia



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Contents

From The President	3
Study Group Highlights	4
Report from Council	5
President's Annual Report	6
Honorary Membership Presentation	9
Citation for Tony Roberts	10
Members' Get-together and Annual Dinner	13
A Striking Plant From My Garden	15
The Arbonaut	17
Hardenbergia comptoniana	19
Membership Information	21
Group News	
North West Group	22
Hobart Group	24
Northern Group	25
APST Directory	27

From Your President

June 2023



President Louise Skabo

Cold nights and winter have arrived but we can still enjoy our native plants with their splashes of colour - deciduous beech, *Nothofagus gunnii* in mountain areas and at the coast, sunshine wattle, *Acacia terminalis*, banksias, correas and other Tasmanian plants are flowering. It is also a good season for planting, and, after the APST Groups' successful Native Plants Sales, there will be many people busy in their gardens. Well done to those members involved in the propagation and nurturing of plants in our three nurseries, especially the hardworking managers. It is rewarding when thousands of new native plants are in gardens, out-competing the roses!

The parklands of Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside are also looking impressive at this or any time of the year. At the April Northern Group meeting, Tony Roberts, Project Gardener at WCP, was presented with an **APST Inc. Honorary Membership** for his efforts in promoting and preserving Tasmanian native plants in public spaces. An article about the award evening, including Tony's citation outlining his outstanding achievements, is in this *Eucryphia*. Congratulations to Tony.

The March AGM was held in the attractive surrounds of the Arboretum near Devonport, with warm hospitality given by the NW Group. At lunch time, attendees were invited for a tour of their nursery and first choice from a variety of plants before their sale the following week. Thank you NW Group!

APST welcomes to Council:

- Our new Vice President, Judith Blayden (from the Northern Group), who brings proficiency in law, psychology, conflict resolution and strategic planning to assist us. Judith has also agreed to join our Strategic Planning Group.
- Councillor, Dr Ian Thomas, whose knowledge and skills in palaeoecology and education are much appreciated by Northern Group.
- APST Membership Officer, Margaret Killen, who is now a member of Council.

Sincere thanks to Leoni Read who served two years as Vice President of Council. Leoni resigned from Council due to too many other commitments – something to which many of our 'retired' member volunteers can relate! Thanks also go to retiring Councillor, Roy Pallett, NG President, who has served diligently for several years. However, Roy has agreed to continue as a proxy for NG Councillors.

Blooming Tasmania has been an important promotional event for APST over many years. The festival and guide booklet of Tasmania's gardens was informative and popular with both locals and tourists. In 2019 APST created an excellent stage display of native flora, 'Coast to Mountains' at the Albert Hall. Cancellations due to Covid and other factors greatly affected memberships and despite Margaret Killen (Chair) and the Blooming Tasmania's committee's sterling efforts, a Special General Meeting will be held in June for members (including APST) to vote on ceasing operation. We thank Margaret for taking on the position of BT Chair at a difficult time and doing her best to retain this event.

My President's annual report is in this journal but I reiterate my thanks to all those members who contributed their time and energy in 2022 enabling our Society to thrive, develop and remain relevant in fast changing times. ☺

It is with pleasure that we welcome the following new members to APST:

Lisa Schroeder; Diana Northey; Gwen Mao; Julia King; David Lewis; Cody Pearce; Jessica Bell; Polly Foster; Julie Sanderson; Gloria Zaverdinos and Rick Nuttall; Jessie Stanley; Trish Haeusler; Karen Keats; Mardi McSullea; Samantha Jones; Sue Lee; Caitlin Saunders; Ella Pietraroia; Donna Boyce-Monaghan; Mike Sharmon, Karen Cooper, Sarah Thornton, Neal Masters, Daniel McGough; Tony Roberts.

Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink,
Study Group Liaison



Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No 137 Dec 2022

Leader: Lyndal Thorburn

The Eremophila Study Group newsletters are very informative for any Eremophila lovers. Many varieties can be successfully grown in Tasmania in drier areas. As they prefer drier conditions, the heavy rains in Victoria and NSW during the La Niña has resulted in many losses in gardens that have become waterlogged. Even in well drained spots, constant rain can make Eremophilas very unhappy. Lyndal mentions a new website called 'Gardening Responsibly'. It is a consortium of many organisations that offers information on ornamental plants, that will not become weedy in a garden. Sellers can place the 'Gardening Responsibly' Ecolabel on the plants in nurseries. The feature species in this issue is *Eremophila gilesii* 'Charleville Turkey Bush' or 'Green Turkey Bush'. Many Australian plant species have different common names in different regions. This makes it important to identify the botanical names as that is the only way to be sure what species you are talking about. *E. gilesii* is found across the drier regions of all the mainland states except Victoria. It is a small shrub to about 0.8m. One sub-species popularly grown can become an environmental weed. The newsletter includes some interesting suggestions for ensuring success with cuttings and a recipe for natural fungicide.

Grevillea Study Group Newsletter No 123 Oct 2022 and No 124 Feb 2023

Leader: Peter Olde

The Grevillea Study Group has chapters in NSW, Vic, SA, WA and Qld with regional activities. Following the rebuild of the ANPSA website, instead of members receiving the newsletter directly, members will be sent a link when the newsletter is uploaded to the ANPSA website. There is a description of the Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic Garden at Bulli, well worth a visit. This park began in 1980 to provide display for the very large collection of rare Grevilleas and other rare Australian plants held by the Grevillea Study Group.

Issue No 124 is an extensive newsletter full of detailed information on numerous Grevilleas. It includes an interesting story on *Grevillea barklyana* and hybrids thereof. This large shrub grows well in Tasmania.

Australian Plants For Containers Study Group Newsletter No 40 October 2022

Leaders: Ben and Ros Walcott

Great collection of plants grown in containers from the Walcott garden and from various members. Includes a photo of a stunning specimen of a large *Phaius tankervillea*, the Swamp orchid from Lawrie Smith in Queensland. Also a contribution from Holland. Best viewed on line to see the photos. Available on the ANPSA website for anyone to see.

Banksia Study Group Newsletter No 29

Leaders: Kathy and Kevin Collins

The newsletter includes a link to a presentation on Eastern Banksia Cultivars given at the 2022 ANPSA conference in Kiama. The leaders observed WA Banksia species at a windswept coastal location growing less than half their normal size. Other similar dwarf varieties from windswept coastal sites have come true to type retaining the small size. Many such dwarfed and floriferous individuals have been grown and promoted as registered cultivars. The Collinses are experimenting with *B. coccinea* colours trying to achieve a strong yellow one. There are wonderful photos of *B. coccinea* colour variations.

Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group Newsletter No 53

Leader: Allan Carr

A note from the leader of the only observed Southern Swamp orchid *Phaius australis*, much like the *Phaius tankervillea* mentioned in the Container Study Group newsletter, about it having vanished from Bribie Island. The feature plant is *Utricularia lateriflora*. A tiny bladderwort. It is one of the more intriguing carnivorous plants. ☺

Report from Council

Judith Blayden



The Annual General Meeting was held at the Arboretum, Eugena on 25th March 2023 and was followed by a meeting of the newly elected council.

Positions elected at the AGM are:

President Louise Skabo (NG)
 Vice President: Judith Blayden (NG)
 Secretary / Public Officer: Mary Slattery (NW)
 Treasurer: Anthony Salt (HG)
 Membership Officer: Margaret Killen (NG)

Group Councillors:

Drew Thomas and Riitta Boevink (NW)
 Jenny Boyer and David Boyer (HG)
 Jo Boniface and Ian Thomas (NG)

Appointments made at the Council meeting are:

ANPSA Delegate: 1. Drew Thomas 2. Riitta Boevink
 Study Group Liaison: Riitta Boevink
 APJ Liaison: Dick Burns
 Website:

Administrator: Margaret Killen
 Technical Officer: Andrew Smith
 Information Officer: Karen Walden Manning
 Conservation Officer: Phil Watson

Editor: Mary Slattery

Strategic Planning Coordinator: Margaret Killen

The popular calendar will be available again in 2024 in a similar format to 2023. A group of members has been working on designing and developing the calendar: Amanda Walker (HG) will arrange members' photography. Christine Howells (HG) will be editing plant names and Jenny and David Boyer will market the calendar. Details of price and ordering procedures will be provided in July.

Phil Watson, the APST Conservation Officer is aiming to develop a strategic plan based on members' opinions and a conservation survey will be distributed shortly so that members can make their views heard. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and give your ideas about this issue.

ANPSA has developed number of Position Statements relating to Mountain Bike Trails, and Renewable Energy and their effect on native vegetation and these were discussed at the meeting. Council accepted them as excellent national guidelines and will apply them as appropriate for APST. It was also agreed that APST needs to concentrate our limited resources on Tasmanian members' conservation priorities.

The update of the Handbook is progressing. Roles and responsibilities were amended and approved and other jobs allotted for June completion. Work being undertaken includes three new website roles decided by the APST Website Steering Committee for good governance and distribution of the workload. It is planned to have the updated Handbook on the Governance page of the website by July. ☺



President's Annual Report 2022

President Louise Skabo

It is with pleasure that I present the report from the Australian Plants Society Inc. (APST) covering the period from March 2022 to March 2023 AGM.

Life Memberships were presented in 2022 to two very deserving Hobart Group members who have given exceptional service to APST over 22 years. Jenny and David Boyer have continually contributed to the running of the Society over that time with Jenny serving several terms as HG and Society President and both she and David completing many terms of office as HG Treasurers, committee members and APST Councillors. They were Councillors this year and both made genuinely valuable contributions. Their dedication and experience continues to be a great asset to our Society.

The outstanding service to APST by Rosemary Verbeeten was recognised at the March 2022 AGM with a Certificate of Appreciation. Already a Life Member, Rosemary later undertook the roles of APST Inc Treasurer for seven years and Australian Native Plants Society Australia (ANPSA) Treasurer for three years. Thanks go to Anthony Salt for agreeing to become APST Treasurer, an essential and responsible position.

Council was pleased to have Philip Watson agree to be APST Conservation Coordinator, as this role had been vacant for some time since Jean Taylor stepped down from the position after many dedicated years of work. Phil is first developing a strategic plan which will include a member survey so that the direction of APST conservation policy is instigated by our members.

A sad occurrence this year was the death of Life Member, Melva Truchanas, a feisty and loyal member and a dedicated conservationist. Melva was actively involved in APST and was supporting the Restore Lake Pedder Movement until a week or so before her death. Melva and her husband, Olegas, were key campaigners in the bid to save Lake Pedder in the 1970s which gave rise to the Green political movement. Both Bob Brown and Christine Milne praised Melva at her memorial service and the room was crowded with family, conservation friends and members of APST. We will strive to ensure Melva's vision and enthusiasm is continued.

STRATEGIC PLAN - Growing our Society

To maintain and increase membership, to modernise our administration and to promote our organisation, having a strategic plan and a vision for the future is crucial. APST's current 2018-23 plan developed by our Strategic Planning Group coordinated by Margaret Killen and a consultant, and implemented by Council, has already accomplished many goals with others in progress. The SPG met recently to prepare the 2023-28 plan and this will be presented to members in a few months.

CONSERVATION

Conservation was an important theme at the ANPSA National Conference at Kiama in October 2022. The emphasis was for APS Societies to be involved with local community projects aimed at preserving native habitat for flora and fauna and to respect the knowledge of local indigenous people. As well, two ANPSA position papers were approved at the national Council meeting concerning mountain bikes and renewable energy and their effects on native vegetation. Tasmanian members who attended the biennial conference were impressed with some presentations by eminent speakers about preserving our biodiversity in an era of global warming.

APST individual members have always been involved in conservation groups/ projects, defending remnant communities, threatened species and wetlands while participating in Friends groups and other like-minded organisations. However, as a Society we have a fairly low community and state profile in conservation. Our conservation strategic plan will include the means of realising greater recognition. One way is establishing partnerships with respected entities. One such partnership continued in 2022 with APST Northern Group maintaining a seed orchard for the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC).

Another successful collaboration was established in 2022 between APST NG Reserves Conservation Committee and the City of Launceston, Landcare and Tamar NRM. All APST Groups are now under the umbrella of Landcare for insurance purposes and assistance when establishing further such initiatives.

Early in the year, APST Council was alerted to the State Planning Provisions review by an article written by Hobart Group Conservation reporter, Phil Sumner. Council decided to make a submission on the scope and content of this review. I wrote the submission with advice from Phil Watson, NFP PMAT (Planning Matters) and Todd Dudley of North East Biodiversity Network. We were concerned

that many provisions relating to our National Parks and Reserves (where 70% of our native flora is supposed to be protected), needed better checks and balances. Proposed developments including commercial developments can be approved without any opportunity for public involvement and comment. Many provisions were inconsistent with the three most fundamental objectives of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1933 (LUPAA) – objectives which are essential for sustainable planning and protecting our ecology for future generations. The APST submission was no 56 of 162 lodged. We received notice in October '22 that 'a detailed report explaining the way the feedback will be used in the review process will be made available in the coming months'. We have not yet received further information.

GOVERNANCE

Council has been continuing to modernise or write additions to the APST Handbook relating to Position Descriptions, Policies, Guidelines and Procedures. These needed updating to include electronic platforms and applications and changing roles partly due to our new interactive website. Membership and Treasurer's roles have significantly changed and new positions were created to share the load of administering and progressing the website. A largely updated Handbook shall be posted on the Members' Only website pages in the near future. Completion of a Policy Register is a next step in facilitating good governance and also finalising contemporary archiving practises.

MEMBERSHIP

A strategic goal was to establish a sustainable membership, attract younger members, be welcoming and inclusive and ensure effective communication. Groups are committing to this plan with changes to meeting procedures and encouraging member input into decision making. The appointment of dedicated Group Membership Liaison Officers is effective especially since it was decided in 2022 that Membership Lists distribution will be limited due to privacy reasons. Membership Liaison Officers and Group Secretaries will have a list and ensure new members are welcomed, introduced to others, given information about the Group and its activities and encouraged to participate. Other Group appointees can get lists from Group Secretaries as needed to fulfil their roles. Membership Liaison Officers play an important role in retaining new members.



APST is pleased with the upward trend in membership since the start of our strategic plan and particularly since specific goals were implemented in 2019. (Graph supplied by M. Killen)

PROMOTION

The three Group Nurseries through their propagation, growing and selling of native plants continue to be a popular and effective way to promote and implement our Society's aims. Another member undertaking which increases knowledge and appreciation of native plants is via APST's various publications which continue to have excellent sales. Both these pursuits also support Group finances and allow donations to worthy organisations who share our objectives. A large donation was made to the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre this year. TSCC works to conserve Tasmania's floral biodiversity. Hobart Group Nursery donated native plants for enhancing the grounds of the

Kingston Primary School including shade trees. Bruce Champion and HG members taught planting techniques to the children while promoting the use of native plants.

The APST 2023 Calendar was again a sell-out in 2022 with over 300 sold throughout the state. Our talented member, Amanda Walker, compiled a beautiful collection of members' photographs and Jenny and David Boyer, along with our treasurers, are to be thanked for their administrative and marketing efforts.

This year saw NG join the Launceston Horticultural Assoc. and put on flora displays in their pavilion at their quarterly shows. This was at the instigation of Rosemary Verbeeten and has proved an effective and economical way to promote native plants. APST supported Blooming Tasmania at Woolmers in October and this proved a successful publicity exercise with our special Australian flora attracting a lot of attention from the visiting public.

APST has also joined the Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens as an Associate Member and this gives all our members access to their quarterly magazine, *Fagus*. This is available on the Members Only section of our website. APST has already had two articles printed in this publication and if Groups have an interesting plant-related story, the *Fagus* Editor is happy to consider submissions.

COMMUNICATION

Another goal of our strategic plan was modernising the APST website. This year our Membership Officer has been requesting members to register on the new 'Memberspace' facility. This allows on-line applications and renewals, and payments are working smoothly via the on-line system. Once all members have entered their information into this up-to-date system our volunteers' workload will be greatly reduced while it provides statistics to track our Society's progress. There are more than one hundred and fifty members enrolled and we encourage all others to take a few minutes to sign in and assist us while also benefiting from access to the 'Members Only' pages containing many Australian Plants Societies' informative journals and private information on excursions and also our Members' Get-togethers.

In June, Council endorsed the formation of a website sub-committee, to develop strategies, initiate improvements, gain technical expertise and to enact and report on these changes. This is now called the APST Website Steering Committee and interested members from any Group are invited to participate (via Zoom at 3 meetings a year). A valuable current project is the upgrading of the Resources/Plants in the Wild pages with lists/descriptions and linking them to photographs to aid identification. This proved valuable for the recent Members' Get-together on Ben Lomond.

Thanks go to the Group newsletter editors who produce attractive and educational issues. These inspire members to participate and attract new members. Newsletters are in the process of being linked to the APST website for easy access, reference and to secure their important role in recording the history of our Society.

MEMBERS

Members are the heart and life of the Society and the range of appealing activities they organise attracts and retains people who want to learn about native flora. On behalf of our Society, I thank all members who are active and involved in supporting their Groups and above all the leaders of these activities who devote innumerable hours for the benefit of their fellow members and the community. These include arranging knowledgeable guest speakers for meetings, planning excursions and walks where members are inspired by plants in their natural habitats or in gardens, managing the Group nurseries and leading conservation efforts in Reserves and public native gardens.

The Members' Get-togethers are enjoyable social and educational events. The latest gathering at Ben Lomond National Park was organised by Roy Skabo with help from some Northern Group members. It was a spectacular place where attendees could appreciate northern Tasmania's unusual or endemic flora and its alpine habitat.

I thank those members who have given their time and contributed conscientiously as Councillors. It was beneficial for Council having two of the three Group Presidents on board. Special thanks to members holding executive roles. Society Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer have responsible positions accountable for APST compliance with laws as an incorporated body. We have dependable, trustworthy members in Mary Slattery and Anthony Salt. Mary also works hard editing our quarterly journal, *Eucryphia*, and I request members who have an interesting story, even if short, about members' activities or native plants, to write it up and submit it to make the journal a comprehensive reflection of Tasmania's dynamic native plants society. ☺

Louise Skabo
 March 2023
 President
 Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.

APST presents an Honorary Membership to Tony Roberts



Tony Roberts, Project Gardener at Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside, was presented with an APST Honorary Membership by Tasmanian Society President, Louise Skabo, at the Northern Group meeting on April 18th in front of nearly 40 members.

Northern Group invited Tony to attend the meeting because the speaker, Rebecca Jones, was giving a presentation of great interest to him - 'Plant genetics and saving the endangered *Eucalyptus morrisbyi*'. Tony has obtained and grown a large number of Tasmanian Eucalypts including this endangered species, in the Windsor Community Precinct parklands.

Thus, the presentation of the award came as a complete surprise to Tony. He was clearly moved by this recognition. His wife Judy said she was thrilled because Tony had devoted decades working well above and beyond the hours required by his job, creating, developing and promoting the use of Tasmanian native plants for public parks. She considered both Tony, and the parklands, were deserving of this acknowledgment.

Following is the Citation listing some of Tony Roberts' achievements, submitted by the Northern Group to the APST Council and subsequently accepted for the Honorary Membership award.

'Honorary Membership is awarded to any non-member who has rendered notable service in furthering the objectives of the Society'. (*APST Constitution 2019*) ☉



A vista leads the eye over a wetlands garden (*Melaleucas gibbosa, pallida, virens, squamea, squarrosa; Leptospermum lanigera, Acacia melanoxydon, Ghania* and other sedges and reeds) up to a swathe of *Allocasuarinas* and beyond to Mt Barrow on the distant horizon. All Tasmania's 7 species of *Allocasuarina* are planted (and labelled) there.

This is the citation accompanying the nomination of Tony Roberts as an Honorary Member

Author-Janet Hallam

The Northern Group would like to nominate Tony Roberts to be awarded an Honorary Membership of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Incorporated.

This nomination is made in the context of Tony's outstanding and unwavering promotion of Tasmania's native flora through designing and establishing the parklands and gardens at the Windsor Community Precinct in Riverside, exclusively using Tasmanian native plants.

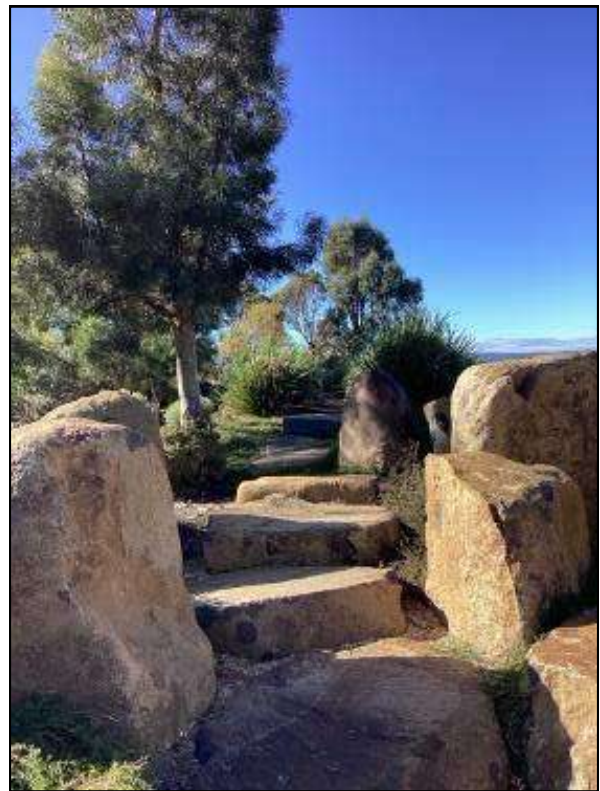
Windsor Community Precinct Parklands

Background

- Prior to 2007, before the establishment of the Windsor Park Health and Community Centre complex, the Windsor Park Football Ground was the only facility on a 10- hectare block of low-lying, degraded farmland owned by West Tamar Council, through which a little-known track went down to the Tamar River.
- In 2007, a concept plan for the area to establish a large Health and Community Centre and develop the area through providing more playing fields for cricket and soccer, was produced by West Tamar Council.

2007- 2010

- As an assistant to the original project gardener, Tony Roberts was asked to work on re-routing a walking trail which was to be subsumed by the health complex about to be built.
- At this initial stage, Tony's first idea of re-routing the trail through native flora plantings was mooted and agreed to.
- A walkway was begun highlighting imaginative plantings of Tasmania's understorey species which were complemented with Tony's dolerite rockwork and sculptures from local artists.



Left: Prostrate *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Pultenaea pedunculata*, prostrate *Banksia marginata*, *Oxylobium ellipticum*, *Hibbertia serpyllifolia* and *Lomandra longifolia* border a path leading to clusters of *Eucalyptus pulchella*, *E. rubida*, *E. pauciflora* and *E. coccifera*

Right: Dolerite steps and rock work. Path shaded by *Eucalyptus pulchella* and lined by *Lomandra longifolia*, *Leptospermum rupestre*, *Pultenaea pedunculata*, *Ozothamnus buechananii* and *Pimelea filiformis*

2010-present

- Tony was now the Project Gardener for the whole area.
- After successfully completing the native flora walkway, other areas of the parklands were developed bit by bit and grant by grant, all of which highlighted the use of various Tasmanian plants and genera.
This includes endemic eucalypts, native Allocasuarina species, native hakeas, melaleucas, correas, grasses, small groundcovers, edible plants, numerous other understorey plants, wetland plants etc – in a variety of situations, full-sun, shade, creek-side revegetation, wet areas, wind-breaks, native bird and animal habitats, children’s play areas, dog-exercise yard, car-parks, forecourt planters and close planting to buildings.
- All this was complemented by imaginative use of dolerite rockwork and earthworks to create swathes and undulations.
- Innovative drainage design for this low-lying area was also undertaken by Tony.
- The design demonstrates how native plants can filter contaminants from water run-off – a real contribution to the environment.

Summary

- The Windsor Community Precinct Native Parkland has evolved through a progression of smaller but coherent projects, each one the brainchild of Tony Roberts.
- Today a full range of the possibilities and landscaping potential of Tasmania’s native plants, is on display
- It is no small project and Tony has not only designed but personally undertaken the work associated with layout, plantings, rockwork, and drainage with assistance and support from West Tamar Council Parks and Reserves.

Promotion of Windsor Park Community parklands as an educational asset

- There are 199 Tasmanian species planted there, including 57 endemic species.
- Tony has named many of them and personally engraved metal labels.
- Tony has produced a booklet ‘Tasmanian Native Gardens, Windsor Community Precinct: general information and plant species’
- Tony has conducted many tours from the general public around the parklands showing how Tasmanian native plants can be used effectively for landscaping.
- Forestry Tasmania have used the area to conduct two Eucalypt ID workshops for its staff.
- RTBG sent its Native Garden curatorial team to visit and talk with Tony about his ideas and experiences with various plants in a public park environment.
- Visit from the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC) staff who were convinced that the area was secure and suitable to meet its requirements and standards for establishing a seed orchard, a rarity outside the confines of the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens. This was undertaken during 2020 – 2022.

**Recognition and accolades for this special area**

- An interstate tour group of Association of Australian Friends of Botanic Gardens members now include a visit to the parklands on its itinerary.
- There was a strong belief from the AAFBG visitors that the Park should be registered as a Botanic Garden.
- A growing and enthusiastic reception from members of the general public
- Use of the area by APST for its AGM.

Left:

Eucalyptus tenuaramis shade a small dolerite contemplative rock circle.

Other parks landscaped by Tony using Tasmanian native flora.

- Lions Park, Pitt Ave, Riverside
- Tail Race Park, Trevallyn

Relocation of APST Northern Group nursery

- In 2016 when needing to relocate its nursery it was Tony who suggested that it be re-located at the Windsor precinct adjacent to a community Garden
- He believed it would be 'a nice fit' with the ethos of the area and so it has turned out
- Since relocation, he has been a wonderful support to the APST Northern Group Nursery e.g. gravelling the shade-house pathways, putting up wind shelters around the nursery perimeter, advising on plants, and donating plants he has propagated.
- The nursery has permission to cut any material or seeds from the parklands to propagate and has done this increasingly.
- Re-locating its nursery to the Windsor Precinct has been extremely beneficial to APST.

Knowledge of Tasmanian Flora

- Tony has an outstanding knowledge of Tasmanian flora in their natural habitats, an interest begun growing up in the Huon Valley
- This knowledge has now been complemented by his expertise in using native plants in a landscaping environment.
- He regularly goes into the bush to collect seeds to propagate or to look for variant forms of plants for cuttings. ☺

Member Surveys - Conservation and Planning for our Future

This year APST intends to survey all members to get their ideas and views on two matters:

Conservation of our Bushland and The Future of APST— the next 5 years.

You will have received the first survey in late May about conservation of our bushland. There is still a little time to respond as it closes in early June.

The second survey, yet to be forwarded. will be about the future of APST—the next 5 years.

You are encouraged to take a little time - only 3 or 4 minutes - to take part in these surveys so that together we can plan the best outcomes for our Society.

If you have any questions, please contact

APST Secretary Mary Slattery

apstsec@gmail.com

or

P.O. Box 1205, Gravelly Beach, Tasmania 7276.

Member's Get Together and Annual Dinner

3-5 November 2023

Hobart Group



IMPORTANT NOTICE: We need to know how many are coming, so could you please let us know if you have booked, and preferably where.

Email Keith (keith.corbett@bigpond.com) or Pru (apsthobartsec@gmail.com).

Preparations are well under way for our Member's Get-together on the Tasman Peninsula on 3-5 November, 2023, hosted by Hobart Group and based at the historic Lufra Motel. The program for the two days of walks and excursions is still being finalised, but will include the walk from Remarkable Cave to Crescent Bay through perhaps the most spectacular coastal heath in Tasmania. Other places of interest will probably include Lime Bay, Cape Hauy Lookout and the Tessellated Pavement area (where there's a bit of geology as well!). Our Annual Dinner will be held at the Lufra on Saturday night.

A notice regarding accommodation options was sent to all members in early March. We look forward to seeing you there! ☺



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A Striking Plant From My Garden

Ricinocarpos pinifolius – Wedding Bush

Dick Burns

I've no memory of when this plant went into the garden but I planted it in front of the house because of my limited sightings of the species in the wild where it was a low knee-high shrub (say along the Coles Bay Road).

The species was named and describe by a French botanist, Renè Louiche Desfontaines (1750-1833), in 1817. He noted the similarity of the fruits of this species to the fruits of the Castor-oil Plant (genus *Ricinus*); *carpos* is Greek for 'fruit'. *Ricinocarpos pinifolius* seems to have been the type species (the first described); the species epithet describes the leaves for their resemblance to those of a pine. The Castor-oil Plant produces seeds that looked like (to the naming botanist anyway) ticks, hence the name – *Ricinus* is Latin for 'tick'.

I couldn't find a definitive reason for the common name 'Wedding Bush'. One source suggested it was because of the greyish foliage (not true; the leaves are definitely green). Another suggested reason was that the species was used in wedding bouquets. Because the flowers exude a pleasant scent, this could be the origin of the common name. Another idea could be that more common reason – the Australian species reminded early settlers of a plant from 'home', as 'honeysuckle' was an early name for banksias.



The Encyclopaedia states that *Ricinocarpos pinifolius* has a widespread distribution along the east coast, from Southern Queensland to our Tasmania. In the wild it has preference for sandy soils and a sunny position with dappled shade.

The genus does not appear in nurseries often because it can be difficult to propagate. Elliott and Jones suggest suckering as a possible means apart from seed: garden plants can be stimulated to sucker by damaging the roots with a garden fork. My plant has never suckered, possibly because of the laziness of the gardener. That part of the garden is old clay that has been depleted of nutrients, but it is on a slope that gets full sun. My specimen is 4 m tall; the maximum height in publications is 3 m, so it relishes the spot. However a couple of sites (including that of Angus Stewart) describe the plant as 'small'. However I cannot blame any such publication for my planting mistake.

I'm sure that in 2022, I had two bursts of flowering, and as I type this in late January 2023, the flowering branches of Wedding Bush fill the window; most references give the blooming season as spring. But I need to keep in mind that the NSW Christmas Bush turns out to be Penguin Autumn Bush.

The plant, like many, has both male and female reproductive parts on the same plant, but they are in separate flowers. The flowers in focus in the photo of a branch have many stamens so they are functional male flowers. On female flowers the anther is prominent and any surrounding stamens are reduced in size.



© D. Burns

Riitta and Jan Boevink have another species on a raised bed in their garden at Hawley Beach with broader leaves; it flowers spectacularly and profusely as well.

So, if you have a place in the garden, and you see a Wedding Bush in a nursery, grab it. It will reward your senses, both sight and smell. ☺

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The Arbornaut

A Book Review

Roy Pallett

My major recollection of the first Botany 1 field trip to Grass Tree Hill was the performance of Bill Jackson, then a lecturer in the Tas. Uni Botany Dept. Our first stop was to look at the dry sclerophyll vegetation right at the crest of the road to Richmond. As you would expect of 'freshers' on their first field stop ever, we all stood there not knowing what to do when he told us to look at the plants. 'You've got to look at leaves on the plant, their shapes, colour and how they are arranged' or words similar to those. When we all stood there confused and gawking, he said 'This is what you do' and proceeded to climb the nearest eucalypt. I can't remember whether this was an *E. viminalis* or an *E. risdoni*. The species name is largely irrelevant now.

However, it was the first notion we had that not all botany is best done at ground level and the canopy above head height is probably just as important or more important than what most ground level botanists see. Unfortunately for Bill it did not end well. A branch broke under his weight and he landed on his head in a manner that would have killed a less robust human being. He was rushed to the outpatients at the Royal and the excursion continued with Ian Murfett in charge. We were all impressed when he returned to the excursion with a bandaged head about two hours later.

In the following years we learned that he was a much better botanist than driver and as he drove us somewhere he told us to look at all the plants we were passing, but we were rather more interested in whether he would keep the small bus on the road.

As he tried to teach us, the canopy is a most important part of botany and few botanists ever go there. I am not sure that any of us were convinced about canopy botany and ecology and I really had to wait until I read the exploits of Meg Loman – 'The Arborist'¹ She contends that '..... upward of half of all terrestrial creatures live about 100 feet or more above our heads,' indicating that the book is not just about botany, but is rather a book about tree top ecology and about her journey from Elmira, Seneca Lake, New York, via an Australian PhD, to the top of the forests in all continents. Her interest in nature started as a young girl when she was more attracted to plants and birds eggs than the usual behaviours of young girls. Her passage through college and university was not always easy, as was often the case for young women in science in the late 60s to mid-70s. She eventually made the change from temperate birches and the like in the northern hemisphere to Sydney University to study the flora in a northern NSW sub-tropical rain forest. The challenge she and a colleague overcame was to devise safe ways to get to study foliage and animal life 'one hundred feet in the air'. This was done by devising new rope climbing techniques which she used in many countries to become the world leader in the field.

However, she states '...we may have been trailblazers in field biology, but we bruised ourselves on a glass ceiling every time we reached beyond what was expected....'



Meg Loman on the Peruvian Amazon Centre for Tropical Studies walkway, '125 feet up in the canopy'

This book is not just the personal story of a highly talented and driven woman, her travails, her marriage and its break-up, the effects of her international recognition, the demands on her family and her battles with fellow scientists, politicians and sometimes big business interests. It is also strong on the science behind the life in the tree tops – the botany and the ecology.

The book is well written and fortunately comes with a comprehensive glossary of terms which can be very helpful at times, especially if you are occasionally unsure of what she is getting at. The other very useful tool is the 9 page index.

As the back cover of the book states ‘Loman launches us into the life and work of a field scientist and ecologist. She also offers hope, specific plans and recommendations for action despite devastation across the world, A captivating blend of memoir and fieldwork.’



Canopy walkway, Penang Hill, Malaysia

Does the book have any implications for us? We are all ‘ground bound’ plant lovers and amateur botanists. It would benefit our understanding of our native trees if we were able to support the building of a canopy walkway (the type that Loman promotes but not as ambitious as the one in the photo above) through tops of rainforest trees in a gully about the size of Notley Fern Gorge or smaller.

Taxonomy, identifying the various genera and species, with the possible exception of seeing new epiphytes, won’t change much if we spend time looking at tree tops from a canopy walk way. However, it could improve our understanding of the ecology, the diversity of life forms and the need for conservation of forests, with particular emphasis on forest microclimate and species interactions – especially in the time of climate change.

A tree top bridge would be another contribution to educating the public about the importance of forests, with the hope that if it proves successful it could lead to more citizen science initiatives help protect rain forest ecosystems.

It would help not just our members’ understanding of treetop foliage, but also be a tourist attraction, which nowadays seems to be a ‘grabber’ for politicians.

‘The Arbornaut’ by Meg Loman is thoroughly recommended. ☺

¹⁴The Arbornaut: A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us by Meg Lowman (Author), Sylvia A. Earle (Foreword, Contributor), Publisher – Allen & Unwin 2021.



Hardenbergia comptoniana

A Raving Climber

Dick Burns

I thought that the garden wouldn't supply any more raves but then out of the back windows in early September I saw two flashes of blue/purple. Two separate plants of *Hardenbergia comptoniana* had burst into flower. There had been a mass of the species down the front garden near the tree of *Angophora costata* in previous years – I was surprised how much there was of it when it died and I was cutting it out. However, I liked this Western Australian species more so than *Hardenbergia violacea*, the species that grows around Sydney. *H. comptoniana* forms a (tangled) mass where the eastern species grows more open; it has thinner stems, softer leaves that are a lighter green and flowers that are bluer than the purple/mauve of *H. violacea*. I bought two plants from the old Forestry Commission Nursery at Perth in 1980, but I didn't record where they were planted; perhaps these were the original two. For sure, one of the early plantings was just near the back of the house, adjacent to the main path. Over time two shrubs had grown up and died, but *H. comptoniana* abides.



Hardenbergia comptoniana



Hardenbergia violacea.

The stems and foliage of that plant died but the tap root was there and recently each year it would put out new growth, but by this time, rabbits and pademelons had found the garden. And both relish *Hardenbergia*. I fenced the bed but the munchers still got in. With the fencing strengthened, over the last few years the plant has grown fast and it is twining at least 2 m up into the surrounding shrubbery; *Climbing Plants in Australia* say it can reach 6 m. *H. violacea* plants tried recently have failed because of the enthusiasm of the herbivores, as did the attempt to establish the Tasmanian form at the Arboretum – specimens were planted late one afternoon and I decided to cage them the next day; too late! Not a trace of them could be seen after one unguarded night.

A few years ago Christine Howells gave the North West Group a number of seedlings and one of those is twining its way up a manfern trunk. The North West propagation team had successfully struck cuttings from one of my plants of *H. comptoniana* but the fencing failed to stop the rabbits and pademelons feasting on my cutting-struck plant. Both current specimens grew fast and are too high now. The older plant is a more-pleasing deeper colour than the one growing on the manfern.

The genus *Hardenbergia* was named by the British botanist, George Bentham (1800-1884), who wrote the authoritative *Flora Australiensis*, (1863-1878) based wholly on herbarium specimens. Countess Franziska Hardenberg von Heugel was sister of Baron Karl von Heugel (1795-1870). The Baron travelled extensively – two different Tasmanian species are named in his honour and Mt Heugel bears his name. Franziska was a patroness of botany and cared for her brother's plant collection while he was on his travels. Henry Charles Andrews (1794-1830) described and illustrated many Australian plants in the English journal *Botanist's Repository* and first named this species to honour Mary, first Marchioness of Northampton, whose family name was Compton. George Bentham later reassigned the species to the genus *Hardenbergia*.

There are currently three species in the genus. The third one, *H. perbrevidens*, is endemic to central inland Queensland and was only described in 1995. It is not widely cultivated, *H. violacea* occurs down the east coast, from Queensland, through New South Wales to Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. The species can be a climber or groundcover – one selected form is sold as ‘Happy Wanderer’. There is also a shrubby form. From memory, the Tasmanian form is a low clumping shrub, although this may be due to grazing – the species was found on farmland in south east Tasmania. For years there was an upright form in the garden but it wasn’t a very inspiring plant so I wasn’t too upset when it died (my mattock might have had a hand in that). There have been many flower colours found with this species, ranging from the standard purple to pinks and white. *Hardenbergia comptoniana* occurs naturally in southern Western Australia on the coastal plain from Perth to Albany and in jarrah and karri forests.

Hardenbergia comptoniana climbing form

Hardenbergia comptoniana flower mass



© D. Burns

Hardenbergia comptoniana is often called Native Wisteria which is OK, but I have never understood the common name for the eastern *H. violacea*, Native Sarsaparilla. I think I read somewhere that a brew from the leaves tastes similar. Sarsaparilla (it’s all new to me) extract is reputed to be a medicinal help in dealing with arthritis and some skin conditions. I’d never encountered sarsaparilla until I first came to Tasmania in 1953. We saw a bottle of soft drink with that label, so we bought it – tasted like medicine so it was ditched. I was surprised when I did a Google search for this article, I was surprised to see that it was still available; the ‘flavour’ is often artificial.

For gardeners wanting a fence or an old tree stump covered or desiring a blue/purple display, I can recommend *Hardenbergia comptoniana*. ☺

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Jones & Gray: *Climbing Plants in Australia*, Reed Books, 1988.

Mark Wapstra et al., *Tasmanian Plant Names Unravelled*, Fullers Bookshop 2010, p. 149.

Membership Information

Margaret Killen
Membership Officer



Subscriptions are paid annually and fall due on the anniversary of the month of joining.

Australian Plants Journal (APJ) subscription to members is \$25 per year. From January this year membership subscriptions can be paid online.

If members want to opt to pay their subscription via the bank, EFT or cheque please contact the Membership Officer, details below.

New members can join online via the website <https://www.apstas.org.au>

Subscription Rates

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Members receive each year:

Four electronic issues of the APST journal *Eucryphia*.

Group newsletters.

An invitation to the annual Members' Get-together hosted by Groups on a rotational basis (usually held in November).

An invitation to attend the biennial (every two years) Australian Native Plants Society, Australia (ANPSA) national conference, hosted by states and territories on a rotational basis.

Members enjoy:

- New members receive a plant token to choose a free plant from their group's nursery.
- Meetings featuring knowledgeable speakers.
- Excursions to places of botanical interest, including private properties.
- Visits to public and private native gardens for inspection and enjoyment.
- Opportunities to work together on projects which protect and showcase Australian plants and promote biodiversity.
- Free exchange of information.
- Access to APST group libraries.
- Access to society publications at a discounted rate.
- Australian plants flower shows and exhibitions.
- Access to rarer plants, made available at some monthly meetings or propagation sessions.
- Propagation sessions at Group nurseries for furthering knowledge on growing plants including rarer species.
- Social interactions at all Group events including outings and end-of-year functions. ☺

Margaret Killen

Membership Officer

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North West Group News

Drew Riitta Simon and Mary

Propagation began the year in January, followed by the Annual Group meeting in March. At this meeting Riitta Boevink was elected President, to a sigh of relief from (an absent) John Tabor. Prior to the AGM, Drew had kept us informed as to happenings with 'Cuttings', for which we were grateful. Simon Van der veen has now take on the role of Newsletter editor and is proving excellent.

Some who had attended the Annual Get-together at Ben Lomond shared a few of their experiences, and thanked the hosts of the event (Northern Group).

At the March meeting Guest Speaker Iona Flett, NRM Coordinator for Cradle Coast Authority, gave us an illustrated presentation on 'Native tree planting for environmental restoration'. Iona is responsible for CCA's Three Hummock Island project (protecting Hooded Plovers from feral cats), coordinating NRM Planning, and the monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and improvement (MERI) work required for our Regional Land Partnerships projects. There are three projects happening:

River Restoration: Restoring the habitat of the Freshwater Crayfish (aka Lobster to Old timers like me). A challenge here is to convince landowners to give up part of their land for prevention of degradation near river edges, or to remove the drinking place of cattle from the river edge to a different location.

Saltmarsh Restoration: Covering the area from Robbins Passage to Boullanger Bay. Reversing the degradation of fragile ecosystems by successfully removing threats such as rice grass and replacing with local plants.

Island Restoration: On Three Hummock Island, removing the feral cats. Use of new technology called the 'Felixer' cat grooming trap, a machine with artificial intelligence (AI) able to apply poison to cats by only using AI. This will allow native animal and bird species to make a comeback.

March propagation saw the continuance of readying the plants for the upcoming plants sale.

The North West group were this year's host of the Society AGM at the Arboretum. After the formalities were over, John Tabor lead the way as we popped over to the nursery to sell some of our plants. Peter French took those not staying for the Council meeting on a lovely stroll through the Arboretum. By all accounts everybody had a wonderful day with some seeing their first wild platypus. Well done to all our members involved in making the AGM such a positive experience.

Continued next page

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At the end of March we learned of the death of former member Ben Ketelaar, survived by his wife Ann. Ben and Ann established a get-together on their property for APST NW and other friends and neighbours about once a year in November, catered for by Ann's quality kitchen products. Our group has had the benefit of the wide variety of plants on their property which has provided cuttings for propagation and sale, thus spreading their successes around Northern Tasmania. Ben and Ann withdrew from our group over two years ago after health setbacks, but kept attending to their marvellous garden, with the help of some of their family. It has been a great privilege to know them and their can-do attitude. We sympathise with Ann who will have to go on into our shared future without Ben.

At the April plants sale the weather forecast was ominous! It rained the night before! But in the morning clouds had dissipated, sun was out and all was well. At 8 o'clock precisely the gate was opened and the three early ones Mary, Rütta and Margaret drove in. Mary began filling her van with the plants at the nursery, and driving them the short distance across the car park to the rotunda. Soon Simon drove in and promptly started shifting the new fold-up tables to the rotunda. Other helpers soon arrived. We have been trying to grow more Tasmanian plants as specialist Tasmanian nurseries have been closing down. As in previous years, first customers began arriving at 9.30, but we did not begin to sell till 10am. Between 10 and 11 am there was the usual rush, the rotunda packed with people. Many people were looking for plants to attract birds into their garden. Great to see how many more people are now knowledgeable of Australian native plants. We find it impossible to predict what type of plants people will be looking for as each year is different. Most of the trees and tall shrubs sold this time.

April meeting's Guest Speaker was Greg Close, a local bird expert and fantastic photographer whose topic was 'Birds in Natives'. Greg interspersed the show with examples of birdcalls and there was much conversation as members recognised the birds and their habits. We thank Greg for sharing his photos, which have taken much time and patience, as well as skill to take.

North West Group do not meet in June, and there will be daytime meetings in July and August.

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Hobart Group News

Prue Wright

For Hobart Group the 2023 year resumed with a Corbett Walk on Mt Wellington, taking in the Organ Pipes to the Springs. It was a glorious summer day and well attended by the young and the young at heart. They enjoyed a superb array of subalpine flora as well as sweeping views over Hobart and the Derwent River. Keith explained the geology of the area; the massive dolerite columns and the boulder screes being formed at the end of the last ice age 10,000 years ago. The final stop was to look for remnants of the historic Exhibition Gardens, erected below the old Springs Hotel site in 1930 but mostly destroyed in subsequent bushfires.

March brought us another stunning summer walk, this time it was to the Hartz Mountain area. Walking south from the car park we were immediately amongst wonderful alpine plants, many in flower. An interesting find was a spot where *Eucalyptus coccifera* and *E. vernicosa* overlapped. *Richea pandanifolia* were spectacular and to find all the *Eucryphia milliganii* were flowering was a treat for all. Stops at Lake Esperance and Ladies Tarn, and here some turned back for the Lake Osborne walk while others tackled Hartz Peak. The few King Billy pines at the lake shores were wonderful to see, but it is sad to reflect on how few there are compared to what must have been throughout the area before our frequent bushfires.

In April the walk was to a lesser known spot – The Needles is off the Gordon Road past Maydena. It is a challenging walk with varying degrees of UP. This time the intrepid walkers faced weather reported as ‘cold, drizzly and windy’ but they were treated to *Dracophyllum milliganii*, *Isophysis tasmanica*, *Richea acerosa*, *Cenarrhenes nitida*, *Prionotes cerinthoides* and many other subalpine flora. It was agreed that the weather conditions only added to the wild drama of the place – the photo tells it all.



Prionotes cerinthoides



A drizzly view on The Needles

Shorter excursions have been to Trial Bay (Kettering), Knocklofty, and to the garden and surrounds of members Peter and Robyn Tuft. This one was high in the hills above Kettering, and once again we were treated to spectacular views, this time over Bruny Island and away out to the Tasman Peninsula. After strolling through their native garden we ventured down into the bush, amongst giant *E. obliqua* and *E. globulus*, with an interesting understory that included a nice stand of *Acacia leprosa* var *graveolens*. The Tufts have a constant struggle with possums, especially in a small gully where they are planting their own arboretum. This so far includes a Leatherwood, King Billy, Pencil, and Huon Pines and even a Wollemi. It was a very enjoyable outing.

Meetings resumed in Feb and we have had a variety of very interesting speakers, including John Davies on the vegetation of Mt Field, with extensive surveys carried out 40 years apart, and Barry Blain on his passion for Wollemi pines, as well as PoM and flower displays. We welcome 12 new members to our fold so far this year and hope to meet them soon on excursions and/or meetings.

Kingston Day Group members have also been meeting regularly, making the most of the good autumn weather with monthly excursions to local reserves, nurseries and gardens.

Our Plant Sale was the most successful autumn sale in recent years. Customers are mostly looking for smaller flowering plants and shrubs for their gardens, and propagation sessions will be concentrating on cuttings to refill the shelves for the spring sale. ☉

Northern Group News

Kay Pallett

This season, propagation was always well attended with members tackling the numerous nursery jobs. In the shade-house, plants made impressive progress to be ready for the autumn sale rather than the October sale as was intended. Almost 1200 plants were sold on the sunny sale day - another testament to the conscientious work of all those members who participate in the journey from cutting to potted-up sale plant.



A wet March working bee at the Tasmanian Native Garden was followed by the very busy April working session during which about thirty new plants went into gaps around the garden. Leon Lange led the installation of the new stakes and labels, showing members how to place them securely into the ground. Some helped in the more intricate task of gluing the labels to the stakes. Others continued the weeding, mulching tasks. While not as many stakes went into the ground as was hoped it was a productive session which will continue in May.



Members at the end of the busy April TNG working bee

One of the new labels

There was the excursion to Briseis Water Race in March, a pleasant stroll noting ferns such as *Cyathea australis*, *Todea barbara*, *Histiopteris incisa*; and another journey for several members who attended the APST Inc. AGM hosted by the NW Group on Saturday 25 March at the Tasmanian Arboretum at Eugena. Members enjoyed a tour of both the Arboretum and the NW Group's nursery, crowded with healthy plants, ready for the autumn sale.

The first guest speaker for the year, Magali Wright, as a facilitator from the Landscape Recovery Foundation, led a workshop to discuss the overall management of Cambridge Street Reserve, planning for strategies to do this and ways in which to measure the progress.

That evening Magali described the orchid conservation work and the research she is part of at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. The work involving the collection of mycorrhizal fungi alongside the seed, its storage and the propagation and re-establishing of endangered orchids in some areas in the Midlands is remarkable. Magali's words certainly had an impact also as to how we engage with orchids in situ. As we enjoy the natural environment we must be alert to the damage we are inflicting

Continued next page

with close-up orchid photography. Use telephoto lens. Avoid posting locations on social media as this leads to an area being trampled and orchids disappearing. Members are asked to spread the word, help to change behaviour.

March plant of the Month was *Scaevola aemula*, a cheerful, long-flowering ground cover which has formed colourful mounds in Kay Pallett’s garden. For April Plant of the Month, Louise Skabo introduced us to *Lotus australis*, the austral trefoil, a rare species that grows on calcareous coastlines, and was seen by members at Mariposa beach, near Falmouth at a previous Members’ Get-together.



Lotus australis, Mariposa Beach



Native plant display, LH Show

Another very much appreciated activity was the April native plant display at the Launceston Horticultural Show at Evandale. Once again the species’ diversity, and the colour-filled display favourably promoted the use of native plants in our gardens.

The Conservation Reserves Group is actively participating in the conservation of the Cambridge Street Reserve. The Thursday/Saturday working bees attract a regular group and the Committee is working towards a Friends of the Cambridge Reserve set up for future oversight of this reserve.

Rebecca Jones, April guest speaker, spoke on ‘Recovering the gene pool of a Tasmanian eucalypt species functionally extinct in the wild: *Eucalyptus morrisbyi*’. Rebecca showed how the genetic studies of many threatened plants are being used as the basis for increasing species populations. We were treated to a geneticist’s role in threatened species conservation and, as in Magali’s work on orchids, were shown how through scientific research we are able to more accurately ensure that struggling plants may hopefully be removed from endangered lists.

At the April meeting an honorary membership of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania was awarded to Tony Roberts in honour of his outstanding work through designing and establishing parklands and gardens, exclusively using Tasmanian native plants. These are found at Windsor Park Gardens, Riverside.

In May, propagation and working bees at Cambridge Street Reserve continued, and also at the Heritage Forest Native Garden where more of the new labels were installed alongside the weeding and mulching tasks. At the general meeting Roy Skabo’s Plant of the Month was *Thelionema grande*, the tufted granite lily. As Roy had just dug up and divided this plant in his garden he had large quantities to share with members. Next, the main act for the night was a most comprehensive presentation by Ian Blayden, covering plant evolution from their single-celled precursors to the huge complex species we enjoy today.

A final activity for the season was the excursion led by Ian Thomas to the Mathinna /Paradise Plains. Nineteen members explored the grassland, shrubland, rainforest and wetland areas with the added bonus of Ian’s geological description of the area. Members enjoyed a full and rewarding day.☺



Left:
Paradise Plains



Right:
Members at Mathinna Plains

APST Directory

COUNCIL

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Membership Officer	Margaret Killen	0409 430 665	Northern Councillor	Roy Pallett	0438 392 041

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Contact Officer	Janet Stephens	0438 705 319

Meeting place/time:

General meetings:

Kingston Primary School Library

Off Church St, Kingston

Second Wednesday of the month 7pm

Kingborough Day Meetings,

First Wednesday of the month (not January).

Northern Group

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Secretary	Anna McGrane	0419 347 743
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten	0458 812 850
Eucryphia Liaison	Kay Pallett	0400 097 025

Meeting place /time:

Max Fry Hall, Gorge Rd, Trevallyn

7.30 pm

Third Tuesday of the month (except December and January).

Website: www.apstasnorth.org

North West Group

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