

Eucryphia

Volume 25 No.2 June 2022
Journal of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.
Print ISSN 1324-3888 Online ISSN 2209-0452



Allocasuarina torulosa bark

EUCRYPHIA

ISSN 1324-3888

Published quarterly in
March, June, September and December
 by
Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc

ABN 64 482 394 473

**Patron: Her Excellency,
 the Honourable Barbara Baker AC,
 Governor of Tasmania**

Society postal address:

P.O. Box 1205

**GRAVELLY BEACH
 TASMANIA 7276**

Editor: Mary Slattery

eucryphiaeditor@gmail.com

Next issue: September 2022

Closing date for articles: **22 August 2022**

Contributions and letters to the editor are welcome. They should be forwarded to the editor by email in a word doc (not pdf) at eucryphiaeditor@gmail.com.

Original text may be reprinted, unless otherwise indicated, provided an acknowledgment of the source is given. Permission to reprint non-original material and all drawings and photos must be obtained from the copyright holder by the contributor..

Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views and/or opinions of the Society.

Distribution

Please refer any problems with receipt or distribution to:

The Membership Officer,
 P.O. Box 1205
 GRAVELLY BEACH
 TASMANIA 7276

or membership@apstas.org.au

Advertising Rates in Eucryphia

Up to a quarter page \$10.00; half page \$20.00;
 full page \$40.00

A discount of 10% is available to financial members and 5% discount is offered for four consecutive insertions of the same advertisement paid in advance.

Fees are payable to:

The Treasurer, Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>From The President</u> | 2 |
| <u>President's Annual Report</u> | 4 |
| <u>Council Report</u> | 5 |
| <u>Study Group Highlights</u> | 6 |
| <u>Vale Melva Truchanas</u> | 7 |
| <u>A Book Review, Caterpillars +</u> | 10 |
| <u>Members' Get-together 2022</u> | 11 |
| <u>ANPSA Biennial Conference</u> | 13 |
| <u>Tree Trunks</u> | 14 |
| <u>A Daisy Story</u> | 17 |
| <u>'Botanical Revelation' Review</u> | 19 |
| <u>WA Plant Names and Their Meanings</u> | 20 |
| <u>Membership Information</u> | 21 |
| Group News | |
| <u>Northern Group News</u> | 22 |
| <u>North West Group News</u> | 26 |
| <u>Hobart Group News</u> | 27 |
| APST Directory | 28 |

From The President

President Louise Skabo



APST members were greatly saddened to learn of the recent death of founding and life member, Melva Truchanas. She was a staunch supporter of our society from its earliest days of formation in Tasmania in the 1960's; an enthusiastic, committed and involved member. There was a huge gathering for her memorial service and it was a fitting farewell from the many groups and people that Melva was involved in over a long and active life. Member Sib Corbett says Melva was 'one of the giants of the Tasmanian conservation scene' and Heather Clark wrote that Melva was 'part of a strong team of like-minded protectors and promoters of our native flora who formed the heart of our society'. In Bob Brown's words, 'she was a tremendous advocate for the island's wild and scenic beauty'. She will be truly missed.

Autumn native plants sales were again popular and successful and a great way to advocate the value and beauty of growing native plants. Accolades go to those members who contribute their time and energy to propagation and sale days in North West, Hobart and Northern Groups. Each group found that having electronic payments available via 'Squares' was not only beneficial for sales but an essential service to our customers these days. APST is keen to remain relevant to the current needs of our members and our community by updating our technology, offering electronic banking, digital publications and a modern website. Plant Sale days also proved to be a wonderful marketing tool with Hobart and Northern Group signing up many new members and distributing free promotional material about our society and local natural habitat. One of the publications handed out was *The Importance of Small Reserves* compiled by Sarah Lloyd OAM.

With increasing population and pressures from developers, green spaces, often containing remnant flora, come under threat. Interested members of Northern Group met recently to discuss how they could best, in a more structured and ongoing way, contribute to conserving native flora and raising the profile of APST as a resource group in our area as well as developing better skills to be able to react to local issues threatening biodiversity. APST Council has not had a Conservation Officer for many years and perhaps regular meetings of interested members in each Group who could progressively pursue local matters, is the way to go?

Amanda Walker who designs our beautiful calendars wrote: 'We have plenty of good photographers and photos with some new areas represented' for the 2023 issue. She and Christine Howells have had an initial meeting sorting and making good progress. Calendars will be available from September.

There is still time to consider attending the *Australian Native Plants Society Australia* conference in Kiama, 10-16th September 2022. Look on the Australian Plants Society NSW website or <https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022> to read about it and the pre and post conference tours.

Wishing you all well. ☺

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

Amanda Richley and family, Anita Wild, Anna Summers, Caroline and David Rowell, Caroline Elsner, Carolynne Rumble, Chantelle Fair, Cherie Holmes, Claire Mullin (NSW), Claire Rumble, Elizabeth Grey, Ian Blaydon, Jo-Ann Kingston, Kathryn Godman, Katie Fuller, Mark Lawrence, Melanie & Dean Creedy, Michael Davies and family, Robert Richardson, Robyn Symons and Philip Watt, Siobhan Callahan, Stephanie Corbet, Sue Henn, Tania Wilby, Tessa and Peter Greiner.

Australian Plants Society Tasmania Incorporated **President's Annual Report (2021)**

Louise Skabo

Early in 2021, APST was honoured that Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania accepted an invitation to be our Patron. This grant of patronage will remain in place for the duration of Her Excellency's term of office. Her Excellency says she 'looks forward to meeting ...members sometime during her term of office'.

Members were fortunate throughout most of 2021 with no Covid-19 in the community enabling participation in all our varied and appealing activities. Tourism and hospitality did suffer bringing hard times for many Tasmanians. An upside of the ongoing pandemic was that many people continued to take a greater interest in their gardens and in planting native species resulting in all plant sales again being extremely successful. Due to this income, Groups accrued enough funds to be able to donate to organisations with similar aims. Beneficiaries included Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (Native Plant area and Seed Bank), Kingston Primary School (garden upgrade), Friends of Maria Island, Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Tasmanian Bushland Garden. The Group Nursery Managers and all members assisting them do a magnificent job in this important activity of our Society.

APST's first five objectives in our constitution have again been advanced in 2021 by Group endeavours. It was exciting to see the successful publication of the 3rd edition of *Tasmania's Natural Flora* by the Hobart Group. Congratulations to editor, Christine Howells, for her tremendous efforts over two years and to computer input and layout assistant, Alan Clark. It is a wonderful reference book and promotional tool for native plants. The calendars for 2022 were in even greater demand and we fully appreciate the work Amanda Walker puts into this artistic compilation of members' Tasmanian flora photographs. Thanks go to the Group and Region newsletter/journal editors and all contributors who advocate our aims via these attractive and educational digital issues and members who cultivate native plants in public and private gardens. Cooperation with other like-minded bodies was achieved with APSTI supporting *The Wonderful World of Insects* in our Neighbourhood' in Kingston which beautifully illustrated and educated about the importance of growing native plants to encourage a healthy environment and by Group associations with RTBG Seed Bank, sustainable Living Festivals and Port Sorell Fair.

We also had a huge loss this year with the deaths of valued Life Members Phyl Wyatt, Norma Ali and Joan Wilcox. All three contributed greatly to the development of the Tasmanian Region from its early days in the late sixties. That their efforts and that of many, many others be remembered is one motivation for the APST history project. It is pleasing that four or five members have put up their hands to delve into our archives and begin to gather Group information which will later be collated for the 2000 – 2020 history. We have Melva Truchanus to thank for producing the 1968 - 2000 history. Both will eventually be available on the website.

The new website was launched later than planned but it was well worth the wait and is a fresh, attractive and modern interactive site. We acknowledge the huge efforts of Margaret Killen in this project and appreciate that others have teamed up to assist her with managing, refining and further developing the website. It will encourage people to join Groups which are given priority position on the Home page. APST gained 56 new memberships in 2021, the best numbers since the Strategic Planning Group and its suggestions to improve our Society was started in 2015 and the trends are going in the right direction! With friendship and support to new members from longer term members, we can all play an important role in the future progress of our Society.

Heartfelt thanks to all Group Presidents, executive and appointed officers for their excellent contributions. Organising engaging guest speakers, varied walks/excursions, propagation and education sessions in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere is important for the continued success of our society and so too is good governance and advancing an inclusive administration.

Council has worked in a collegial atmosphere and I thank them for their input especially our dependable Secretary/*Eucryphia* Editor and very capable Treasurer, both long term Councillors. Thanks go to Margaret Killen who has ably coordinated Zoom meetings and kept us well informed concerning the new website development. We thank Sib and Keith Corbett for their knowledgeable contributions to Council before taking leave due to personal difficulties but their proxy, Tony Salt, was a valued replacement. Robert Worland has now retired in favour of the new Northern Group President and we thank Robert for his involvement in 2021.

Lastly, thanks to all those society members who are active and involved in supporting their Groups and continue to encourage others to join us in having fun while promoting and protecting our wonderful Tasmanian natural flora. ☺

Council Report

Leoni Read
Vice President



Who is on your APST 2022 Council? At our March 26th APST Council meeting, we welcomed in three new Council members, including the incoming treasurer, Tony (Anthony) Salt, Jenny Boyer, President of the Hobart group and Roy Pallett, President of Northern group.

This is what our 2022 APST Council looks like.

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Louise Skabo | President | Northern |
| Leoni Read | Vice President | North West |
| Mary Slattery | Secretary | North West |
| Tony Salt | Treasurer | Hobart |
| Jo Boniface | Councillor | Northern |
| Roy Pallett | Councillor | Northern |
| Riitta Boevink | Councillor | North West |
| Drew Thomas | Councillor | North West |
| Jenny Boyer | Councillor | Hobart |

Here are some of the highlights from the meeting:

APST Council meetings won't be quite the same without Rosemary Verbeeten, who has done a wonderful job as treasurer. At the recent AGM Rosemary was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, a small recognition for the countless hours spent keeping the financial records in such a meticulous manner.

How tech-savvy are you? It seems like only yesterday that we were fumbling around nervously, trying to work out how our mobile phones worked. Now of course, we can read the latest copy of *Eucryphia* on it! So here's an important question. Have you logged on to our APST website yet? It's a real credit to our organisation. Not only can readers access all the up-to-date information about each of the groups and what they are doing, but new members are able to sign up online. Have you checked out the Members Only page yet? Margaret Killen (our membership officer) is encouraging all APST members to sign up. Not only can members find out activities of each of the groups, but they can also read interstate APS journals and become familiar with governance issues.

At the Council meeting, although not a motion, it was recommended that groups make more use of archiving their records on a Google drive to preserve the Society's history. Due to natural attrition, our historians have found it difficult to locate some of our groups' relatively recent history. Gone are days of filling filing cabinets with hand-written minute books and photocopied newsletters from decades past, destined to be infested with silverfish, or worse still, ending up as landfill at the tip!

Updates on the Action List: other important matters dealt with at the meeting included:

2023 APST Calendars. It was decided to order 300. The Boyers and Amanda Walker will be the contact people for them and the calendars will be available from September.

Annual Members' Get-together at Ben Lomond - January 13 – 15th 2023

The Northern group are the organisers for this and 30 people have registered so far.

Conservation Officer Despite a number of important conservation issues, including native forest degradation, unfortunately we have not been able to find anyone willing to take on the role. Please make contact if you are willing to fill this important role. ☺



Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink,
Study Group Liaison



The ANPSA website, like the Tasmanian one, has been reconstructed. The webmaster informs us that the following addresses are now active: info@anpsa.org.au and studygroups@anpsa.org.au

Correa Study Group has a new leader: Jesse Granger jesse.granger.correasg@gmail.com Linda Handscombe is the newsletter editor dlhandscombe@bigpond.com

Garden Design Study Group Newsletter 119 May 2022

Leader : Lawrie Smith Newsletter theme: 'Design for Climate Change

This is a bumper issue with interesting articles.

Lawrie points out that in the vast continent of Australia climate change will have different impact in different areas, there is no 'one size fits all'. His article is an excellent introduction on the subject.

Another good article describing how they incorporated consideration of changing climate into their garden design is by Ros Walcott from Canberra. There are several interesting well illustrated articles describing gardens, one using containers, another a larger rural garden. A new section called 'Look critically at your garden' does not refer to criticism, but rather encourages analysis of what design issues have been used and their success. Lawrie writes: 'Too often we rush home from a nursery and plant a new acquisition without sufficient thought as to how it will contribute positively and effectively to the garden design.'

Wallum and Coastal Heathland

Leader : Allan Carr

The Study Group conducts many well attended walks on various heathland areas in Queensland. Descriptions contain useful detailed information on the plants that were observed. Some name changes are included and a description of the Midgen berry *Austromyrtus dulcis*. A small shrub with edible berries.

Australian Plants For Containers

Leaders: Ros and Ben Walcott

Good contributions from members. Really needs to be viewed online as it relies heavily on illustrations. Membership is free.

Gevillea Study Group Newsletter 121 Feb 2022

Leader: Peter Olde

The Grevillea SG has five sub chapters with local programmes of excursions and garden visits. This extensive newsletter has descriptions of many Grevilleas 'in the wild'. An article on the garden of the SG leader Peter Olde that was published in the Sydney Morning herald Oct 2021 is included. Discussion on the search for reliable root stock for grafting. Neil Marriot, curator of the living collection, describes a selection of rare Grevilleas in flower following the best rains since 1996.

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter 135 May 2022

Leader: Lyndal Thorburn

Growing Eremophilas on their own roots in the Eastern States seems to be problematic. Fortunately we in Tasmania can grow most Eremophilas on the coastal areas without needing to rely on grafted specimens. There is always lot of discussion in the newsletter on grafting. Good grafted specimens do often succeed better in Tasmania as well, but are expensive to buy. The feature species in this issue is *E. ionantha*. It is an erect shrub that can range in height from 0.4 to 2.5m. Flowers are violet (ionantha means violet), with a spotted throat. The newsletter includes an article on Eremophilas as standards. The Study Group has a plan for an Eremophila colouring book. Contributions for line drawings are invited. ☺



Vale Melva Truchanas 1930-2022

Mark Geeves



It was with a heavy heart that I learnt of the death of Melva last week. My brother Paul and I visited her over Easter and had a wonderful catchup reminiscing about our families, the environment and my mother Kay Geeves. Melva and Mum were great friends and our families shared many memorable times together, particularly at Lake Pedder before the flooding and we became even closer after Olegas died.

Melva's involvement with the Society goes back to the earliest days when the first meeting to form a group was held at Essie Huxley's house in Longley. Out of that first meeting an executive was elected with Mum as the first President and Melva as foundation Secretary. They made a formidable team and became very close friends for the rest of their lives.

The Southern Tasmanian local group was formed on 30th of November 1968 and by February 1969 had 27 members. Melva was a force of nature and words like committed, feisty and single minded come to mind. Melva was also at the forefront of Conservation issues within the society and as a member of the South-West Committee and the Save Lake Pedder Committee.

Melva and her husband Olegas were both champions of the Tasmanian wilderness and after Olegas' early death Melva ensured his photographic legacy remained at the fore of the Tasmanian and National consciousness. Melva was also a life member of the Tasmanian Greens and was wholly dedicated to their work and philosophy. Her quick wit and sharp mind were legendary. Melva called a spade a spade and you knew it if she didn't agree with your position. But if she shared your view she was a great inspiration and encourager.

Melva was a tour de force in the Society and was attending southern meetings until the last few days before her death. The Society is certainly richer for her input and unswerving commitment to the goals of the Australian Plants Society. She has touched so many of our lives both in Tasmania and nationally through the excursions, members' get-togethers and the biennial conferences that she always enjoyed.

'Melva was a much-admired, feisty woman who loved Tasmania's wild places and campaigned to protect them throughout her long life. She encouraged and supported young people to get involved and to get out and enjoy nature, especially the south-west wilderness,' said the Convenor of the Lake Pedder Restoration Committee, Christine Milne.

Bob Brown said that Melva was 'a true Tasmanian champion'.

Many of our members will have stories and fond memories of Melva and her zest for life. Her legacy lives on through her children, Anita, Rima and Nickolas of whom she was exceedingly proud. My brothers and I loved her and will miss her sage advice and links to our mother Kay.

Here's to a long life very well lived.
She will be deeply missed but fondly remembered!☺

Melva Truchanas

A Friendship in Tassie Plants

Dick Burns



Melva's 80th Birthday celebration was held with family and friends from the diverse fields that Melva is involved with – conservation (especially Lake Pedder), Blandfordia Alpine Club, etc., and of course SGAP/APST. I was struck that all the people who stood up to give tribute to Melva, also told stories about Olegas, Melva's late husband.

This was how it was when I first came to Tasmania; I was a bushwalker mainly then. Like all bushwalkers, I was entranced by Olegas' photos of the Tasmanian wilderness, and enthralled by his audio-visual slide shows. Since his death, one thing that Melva has done assiduously is to curate Olegas' slides and help recreate the shows digitally with the Launceston Art Gallery and Museum and the Museum of Australia.

Melva was a foundation member of our plant society and has contributed new thoughts and ideas ever since. My first recollection of Melva is from 1989 when she, as President of SGAP Tasmania presented me with Life Membership; I used to go down to Hobart each year to attend the Annual Dinner. As well, I was on the organising committee for the 1990 ASGAP Conference in Hobart, which Melva chaired. It may be around the same time that I got a bit annoyed with Melva when she held back an article that I had written for *Eucryphia* titled 'What's Wrong with SGAP?', inspired by a similar article that Marion Simmons had shown me. It was written in partial jest but the article was used as one of the pieces that led to the restructuring of SGAP Tasmania that eased the responsibility of Hobart, gave voice to the northern and north western groups and set up the structure of APST that we now know.



Left: Melva and Dick dolled up for the Australian Medal ceremony
Right: Melva pins a Life Membership badge on Dick Burns
 All photos supplied by Dick



Continued next page

Melva was a regular attendee of the biennial ASGAP conferences. Because of work I could get to only a few, but at the Canberra conference that preceded the 2004 Launceston conference,

Melva asked me to write a ditty, encouraging people to come to Launceston. It was at the conferences that we both struck up friendships with the late Mary Hancock, a great plant identifier and photographer, from NSW.

After I retired, I started writing pocket books and *Pathfinders in Tasmanian Botany*. Each time I went to Hobart, over lunch Melva would read what I'd written and make constructive comments – not all were received well. Melva was so treasured that I included Melva in the three people I could invite along when I was presented with my OAM. Lately we were keeping in touch by email.

Melva Truchanas is gone now, a great loss to family, our Society and all the other organisations to which she was an active contributor. ☹



Top:
Melva celebrating Dick's OAM with friends
at Mures.

Left:
Mary Hancock, Dick and Melva at Cradle
Mtn.

Above Right:
Melva enjoying her 80th with friends.
All photos supplied by Dick

Vale Melva

Keith and Sib Corbett

One of the giants of the Tasmanian conservation scene, an active member of APST/SGAP since its inception, and a good friend, has left us. Apart from the many other things Melva did, she came on many of our SGAP/APST walks, most memorably perhaps on the first walk we did to the Tyndall Range, in February 1985. Also on that trip were Jeanette and Don Closs, Kay and Dudley Geeves, Doris and John Wythes, Jill Roberts and family, Heather Guilline, Christine and Dave Howells and young Glynn, a younger Bruce Champion, and 75-year-old Duncan Wade. We also remember Melva being with us on a trip up Mt Jukes in 1990. She loved being in wild places, and was always good company. ☺

A Book Review: *Caterpillars, Moths And Their Plants Of Southern Australia*

Roy Skabo

If you were asked to make a list of pollinators the chances are that moths would come well down your list. This is just one of many misconceptions which will be rectified if you read this fascinating book by Peter McQuillan.

This book, published in 2019, is the latest of Peter's many publications.

The first section of the book explains why moths are important, describes the life cycle of moths and provides excellent diagrams of the structure of a typical moth, its larva and its pupa. Other headings in this section are FOOD PLANTS, STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL, SEASONALITY, COLLECTING MOTHS AND CATERPILLARS and CONSERVATION. A short section explains the differences between moths and butterflies, not as simple as you might think e.g. many moths are active during the day.

The moths in this book belong to 47 different families, each of which is introduced by photos of a typical caterpillar and adult and a paragraph on the main family characteristics.

The rest of the book contains information on individual species, one page per species and each page is a treasure trove of information, including descriptions, wonderful photos, life histories, food plants, a distribution map, a note on special characteristics or behaviours and on similar species.

At the end of the book there is a guide to further reading, an excellent glossary, an index of larval food plants, an index of common names and an index of scientific names.

Lovers of native plants will find the information on larval food plants of particular interest and may even be motivated to plant species which are favoured by moths (and butterflies).

By growing food plants you will encourage the moths and that will attract the birds which feed on their larvae. ☺



Members' Get-together January 2023

Roy Skabo

The March 2022 edition of Eucryphia contained details of the Members' get-together to be held on January 13th/14th/15th 2023 at Ben Lomond.

Bookings for the get-together are rolling in. As of April 30th there were 35 members who had paid their deposits. Accommodation for another 15 or so people was still available. The early bookings were necessary so that we could secure the two large ski lodges to accommodate participants

It will be a great opportunity to catch up with members from across the state and for many people it will be their first visit to this spectacular place.



As usual we will have a short easy walk on the Friday afternoon starting about 3 pm followed by a dinner at the NTAC lodge.

On Saturday breakfast will be provided at NTAC as will a takeaway morning tea and lunch. Dinner will be catered that night, also at NTAC.

There will be a range of walks on Saturday, to cater for all levels of fitness. The alpine flora should be at its best at that time of year and there are lots of interesting and beautiful plants to look at. A team from the Tasmanian Herbarium conducted a survey of the flora in February this year and we will have the results of their work available to us.



Left: *Bellenden montana* Ben Lomond track



Right: *Montia australasica* Ben Lomond

For those who like a bit of a scramble, there is the chance to see the cushion plant *Veronica ciliolata* subsp. *fiordensis*, found in Tasmania only on Hamilton Crags at Ben Lomond. Growing close to the accommodation is a *Gentianella* which is shortly to be described as a new species.

In addition we will make use of all you eagle-eyed plant spotters to search for the very rare *Carex cephalotes* which has been recorded from fairly close to the ski village and only in very small numbers. The Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre would like us to keep our eyes open for more plants

and perhaps find sufficient plants that seed collection will be possible there.

Useful reading is the paper: *Plant Communities of the Ben Lomond Plateau* by Davies and Davies prepared for the QVMAG in 1989 and still the standard reference for the area, though somewhat out of date now. (www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/files/assets/qvmag/library/publications/occasional/plant-comm-of-ben-lomond_1.pdf)

If you are joining us at the get-together please pay your \$20 per person deposit into the Northern Group's bank account BSB 037608 A/C No. 727784, and email Roy Skabo when you have done so letting him know which lodge (NTAC or Rovers) you prefer and **IMPORTANTLY** any dietary requirements. Email or phone Roy if you have any questions. .☺



© R Skabo

Ewartia catipes



Fabulous Peas 2022

FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar

15th - 16th October 2022

Expressions of interest: fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM NOW AVAILABLE at

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022/>

Hosted: Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.



Australian flora - Past present future
ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama



**Australian
Plants
SOCIETY NSW**



Registrations now open

Saturday 10 September to Friday 16 September, Kiama Pavilion

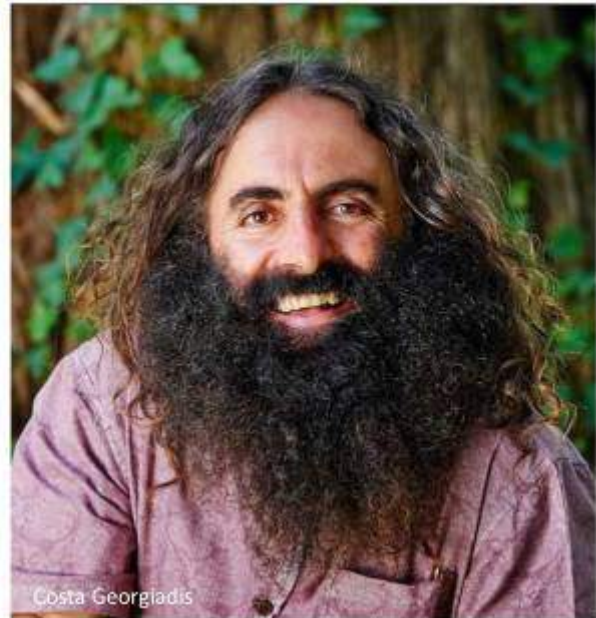
To register, go to:
<https://events.humanitix.com/2022kiama>

For more information, go to:
<https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

Keynote speakers, along with many more



Professor David Keith



Costa Georgiadis



Professor David
Lindenmayer



Clarence Slockee

Tours



Dramatic Pilliga
and Warrumbungles,
pre- and post-
conference, 6 days



Surprising Sydney
flora, post-
conference, 5 days



Sunny South Coast,
pre-conference,
5 days



World Heritage
Blue Mountains,
pre-conference,
5 days



Spectacular Lord
Howe, pre- and post-
conference, 6 days,
waiting list only

Register now

Questions? conf22@spin.net.au

Tree Trunks an admiration

Dick Burns

As the garden ages, shorter-lived shrubs die but replacements struggle because they cannot compete with the extensive root systems of the plants with longer lives. Nor can they cope with the shade from taller older plants, generally trees. Not that I mind too much – I like the exposed trunks.

I guess I've always admired the varied colours, shapes and forms of Australian tree trunks. I can remember as a young boy being fascinated by the paperbarks as we walked to Dad's fishing spots around Kurnell, where the *Endeavour* moored in Botany Bay and Englishmen first set foot on eastern Australian land. I've since worked out the trees were *Melaleuca nodosa*; the bark is formed in layers of large sheets of white 'paper'.



© D Burns

Carl Linnaeus, who developed the binomial system of naming plants, came up with the name *Melaleuca*, which simply means 'black-white' in Ancient Greek. Linnaeus did not explain why he chose that name, but it has been suggested that he was referring to the play of sunlight and shadow on the papery bark.

The bark that we see of most trees or shrubs is mostly a dead layer that protects the living cells that are just underneath the bark (hence the old method of killing trees by ring-barking). Half of these living cells transport water and dissolved minerals up from the roots to the leaves and the other half move glucose that is made in the leaves back down through the plant. Both are replaced by new cells regularly, increasing the girth of the trunk; the old dead inner cells become the wood and the dying outer cells become the bark. Increase in height occurs at the tip – the accompanying cartoon helped to correct the mistaken idea by many of my students over the years.

Some trees shed old bark regularly (normally annually) – gum trees or smooth-bark eucalypts are examples. My *Angophora costata*, Sydney Red Gum, sheds the old bark in patches or flakes. Ribbon gums drop the old bark in long strips; these often drape off side-branches, it is suggested to catch fires burning across the understorey and take it up to the canopy to heat the mature seed capsules, encouraging seed release.



© D Burns

Angophora costata bark

Continued next page

The newly exposed bark can result in spectacular colour banding, best shown by the eucalypt that is native to islands north of Australia, *Eucalyptus deglupta* or the Rainbow Gum – Melva Truchanas made me aware of this spectacular plant.

Right: *Eucalyptus deglupta*



Far left:
Eucalyptus subcrenulata,
Centre:
Eucalyptus pulchella
Right:
Eucalyptus sideroxylon bark

My local favourite is *Eucalyptus subcrenulata*, the Tasmanian Alpine Yellow Gum. I have a tree of *E. pulchella* (left) that shows off its white bark to all those driving down Deviation Rd; the photo shows that this species is a ribbon gum. The grounds of the Tasmanian Arboretum have groves of the white-barked tall trees of *E. viminalis*.

If the bark is retained on a eucalypt, it has to split as the tree girth increases and how that splitting occurs results in common names such as stringybark or box-bark. Particularly attractive in my garden is one with extremely hard, almost black bark, an ironbark, *E. sideroxylon*. Many tall-growing Tea Trees and Callistemons develop papery bark separated into narrow strips; in my garden are two 4-metre-tall *Melaleuca pallida*, sourced from along the Leven River, that do this really well. And the tree of *Leptospermum petersonii* that has been used in other articles has similar bark. My favourite tree with papery bark has to be *Persoonia linearis*: its flakes of dark brown bark can be peeled back to reveal a fresh salmon pink colour. Other *Persoonia* species have markedly different bark. The form of bark on banksias varies as well. My tree of *Banksia serrata*, planted in 1976, has developed hard brown bubbles whereas *B. integrifolia* forms boxes.



Persoonia linearis



Banksia serrata

The variety of colours is so important, as you can gather from what's already said. The casuarinas in the garden retain their bark; *Allocasuarina verticillata* has bark that is grey – in some lights it can be almost black - where *A. torulosa* is brown; the deep furrows are a spectacular feature of the trunk.



Allocasuarina torulosa tree.

I walked the old Cape Pillar Track many times and I always enjoyed the times when it passed through wetter areas covered by tall shrubs. Those areas always had groves of *Leptospermum glaucesens*. The bark was typical of the genus, but the trunks looked like the bark was woven. I never paused to photograph the trunks but one of the main reasons for planting a grove at the Tasmanian Arboretum was for this effect. Since I stopped caring for the Tasmanian Section, someone happy with a chain-saw, has removed the grove. I resisted completing the collection of Tasmanian -*Leptospermum* species because of the self-seeding of *L. laevigatum*; it is an environmental weed in the eastern parts of Tasmania as well as parts of Western Australia. That was until I saw the contorted trunks of very old trees of the species in Geelong botanical gardens and in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.



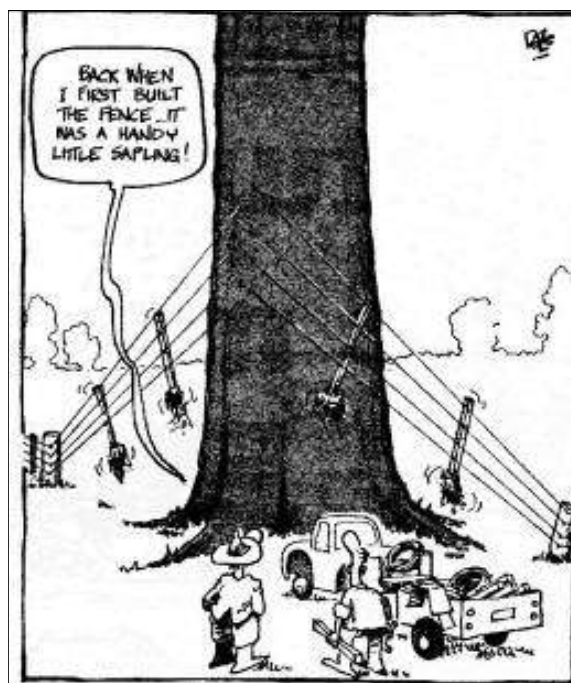
Hakea macreana,

I've raved about my *Angophora costata* so many times, but a smaller tree, *Hakea macreana*, is also one of my favourites; its dark trunk contrasts so well against the bright green foliage and when it flowers, the crown turns white with the mass of flowers.

The raving about my angophora is not just about the trunk but I think the whole tree shape is magnificent. That appreciation is probably due to my Sydney bush upbringing: when I first started bushwalking in Tasmania, I was taken by the Pencil Pines, *Athrotaxis cupressoides* – the way each was shaped individually by where it was growing (at that stage I was into Bonsai and Japanese gardens). The rambling branches of *Angophora costata* meant that each tree was different as well.

This randomness of Australia's dominant trees proved difficult for early European artists to paint; compare John Glover (1767-1849), born and trained in Britain, to the Australian-born William Pigeon (1816-1914). The artist's 'eye' was truly trained by the time the Germany-born Hans Heysen (1877-1968) was painting his River Red Gums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*. Heysen lived in the Adelaide Hills and many of his paintings were done in the Flinders Ranges. Those Ranges were where the photo was taken by Harold Cazneux of a River Red Gum and exhibited in 1937 as *The Spirit of Endurance* - it was still growing there when I last visited Flinders Ranges in the 2000s.

Despite the problems with leaves clogging gutters and the danger of having trees too close to the house, I still like them. ☺



A Daisy Story

Bruce Champion

A daisy was photographed around Rosny Hill Coastal Track and more recently along the Mortimer Bay Coastal Track. It was thought to be a lovely Tasmanian species. However, it should have been more carefully examined to compare it with images of that Tasmanian species. When the images were shown to a professional botanist it was identified as *Urospermum dalechampii*. This species is considered to have escaped from Government House or The Royal Botanical Gardens. It is now wide spread on the Hobart Domain and up the old railway line toward Granton, possibly spread by the old train traffic. It has also spread to the Derwent River's Eastern Shore. It is an introduced pest species.

The Wikipedia entry is as follows: *Urospermum dalechampii*, common name: Smooth Golden Fleece, is a perennial herbaceous plant belonging to the genus Urospermum of the family Asteraceae.

Urospermum dalechampii reaches on average 25 to 40 cm of height, with a minimum height of 10 cm and a maximum height of 50 cm. This plant is quite hairy, with a single or branched stem. Basal leaves are usually arranged in a rosette of toothed leaves, while cauline leaves are just a few and smaller, more or less undivided and amplexicaul. The flowers are hermaphrodite. The flower heads are sulphur yellow, about five centimetres wide. Involucral bracts vary from seven to eight. Blooms are abundant throughout the spring. The flowering period extends from September through to February. The long, beaked fruit is an achene, and has a feathery, slightly reddish pappus.

Luckily, the photos of what had been filed as a Tasmanian species of daisy were able to be correctly identified by a helpful botanist and the packet of seed heads collected to sow in the APST Hobart Nursery was then discarded.

So, what is the Tasmanian species for which the author mistook the pest species?

Podolepis decipiens is also a member of the Asteraceae family. The Tasmanian mainland form of *Podolepis* was changed from *Podolepis jaceoides* to *Podolepis decipiens* in about 2018 after the species was studied by the Tasmanian Herbarium. *Podolepis jaceoides* is now found to have been recorded only on Flinders Island. *Podolepis decipiens* is wide spread in south eastern Australia, SA, Vic, ACT, NSW and maybe in the border area into Qld.

In Tasmania it has been collected in the Central Highlands, around Hobart and Launceston, the Derwent and Esk River Valleys, and the St Helens area.

Tasmanian Plant Names Unravelled by Annie, Mark and Hans Wapstra explains that the genus name *Podolepis* is derived from the Greek *podos* (foot) and *lepis* (scale) and these refer to the long-stalked inner flower bracts.

'*decipiens*', is derived from the Latin *decipio* (to beguile, cheat or deceive) hence the common name, 'Deceptive copperwire-daisy'. The name 'copperwire' refers to the reddish wiry stems.

This large, yellow to orange flowering daisy reappears annually from thickened persistent root-stock with a basal rosette of leaves, 3 to 13 and even up to 20cm long by 5 to 15 and up to 30mm wide. Stem leaves 1 to 10cm long by 2 to 15mm wide. The leaves are typically lanceolate (wider near the stem) with few or many hairs, and the reddish stems are usually woolly or cobwebbed.

The flowers appear in early summer in Tasmania. The single flower radiates capitulum (complex flower head including phyllaries, ray and disc florets and scales) are 2 to 4 cm diameter and domed (hemispherical) atop a 4 to 10cm long stem. It has a prominent ring of 20 to 40 flat, 15 to 30mm long, ray florets and a mass of disc florets.

The fruit are cypselas (a single seed developed from an internal ovary usually with a pappus or tuft of bristles to aid dispersion). The seed is 2 to 4mm long with 20 to 40 pappus bristles 6 to 10mm long.

Urospermum dalechampii
flower, Coastal Track
West of Rosny Hill



© B Champion



© B Champion

Podolepis decipiens
flower, Deceiving
copperwire daisy,
Waverley Flora Park

This lovely daisy is found in many places in Tasmania but so far, the author has found it only in the Waverley Flora Park, Bellerive. He will now go looking in some of the other locations. Suggested other locations gratefully accepted, contact the Editor please.

Fortunately, another Hobart Group member is growing this beautiful Tasmanian daisy in her newly developed garden and has collected and sown seed. She was able to supply several nice pots of it for the Group's April Plants sale. The seed she generously provided has readily germinated in the Group's Nursery. These seedlings will be ready for sale in October and some hopefully will be in flower. It is a well worthwhile addition to any warm Tasmanian garden. ©

Urospermum dalechampii plant, Mortimer Bay Tangara Track.



© B Champion



© B Champion

Podolepis decipiens plants with reddish wirey stem, Waverley Flora Park

Inala Jurassic Garden & Nature Museum



Open: 9am - 5pm daily
Entry: \$10 Adult / \$5 Child

A 5 acre botanic garden with over 650 species planted in family groups demonstrating Gondwanan floristic links. Large representation of Tasmanian endemics and rare species. All plants labelled. Wheelchair friendly path winding through the garden. Outstanding collection of shells, fossils and minerals in the Nature Museum. Guided walks and accommodation available



BOTANIC GARDENS
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND INC.

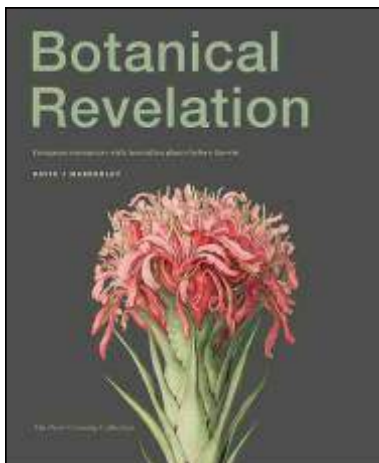
320 Cloudy Bay Road
South Bruny Island 03 6293 1217
www.jurassicgarden.com.au

BOOK REVIEWS

Botanical Revelation by David J Mabberley and *Western Australian Plant Names and their Meanings – a glossary,* 3rd edition by AS George

Dick Burns

Botanical Revelation by David J Mabberley, published by Newsouth Press, 2019



This is the 23rd book written by David Mabberley AM DSc, a British-born botanist who decided to set up his base here in Australia with his partner in Mount Victoria, in the Blue Mountains of NSW. I first became aware of Dr Mabberley's work with *The Plant-Book*, a portable dictionary of the vascular plants. I use it whenever I need to check a plant generic name, its distribution throughout the world, the full name of a person who described a vascular plant or their life span. The other Mabberley book on my shelves is one of the books on the supreme botanical artist, *Painting by Numbers: The Life and the Art of Ferdinand Bauer*. Before coming to Australia, Dr Mabberley held various posts including 'Keeper of the Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives' at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He was for a time Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Sydney. Academic posts include professorships at university of Leiden, a very old one in the Netherlands, and Macquarie University in Sydney.

He was invited to use an outstanding collection of early Australian botanical art made by Peter and Sally Crossing as the basis of a book on the scientific understanding of botany influenced by Australian flora prior to the 1859 publication of Charles Darwin's book on his theory to explain evolution. Peter Crossing was a banker who in the 1990s started collecting antiquarian books, and paintings, particularly related to flora.

In putting the book together, Dr Mabberley has supplemented the Crossing collection with other illustrations from a wide variety of primary sources and written a detailed text, also from primary sources. The resultant book, produced by the publishing company of the University of NSW, is sumptuous in every way. The quality of the layout and the reproduction of illustrations could place it in the 'coffee-table' genre but the book is a high-quality scientific text as well. Dr Mabberley spent four years working on this book, but he tells us in the acknowledgements that the work actually pulls together forty years of studying Australia's flora. The acknowledgements also tell of how wide-ranging was Mabberley's search for information – from Australia to Britain and Continental Europe to the Americas. The bibliography of references, from some of Carl Linnaeus' original papers to modern online information, runs for eight close-printed pages. Despite the author's scholarship, the text is very readable, in clear English.

Botanical Revelation covers much of the time period and participants as my *Pathfinders in Tasmanian Botany* but it benefits from David Mabberley's lifetime in botanical endeavour and his access to the resources: my knowledge is restricted by living on the North West Coast and with access to only secondary resources.

However, I am pleased to place my copy of *Botanical Revelation* by David J Mabberley not on the usual bookshelves, but in pride-of-place along with other quality art books. ☺



**Western Australian Plant Names and their Meanings – a glossary,
3rd edition by AS George, published by Four Gables Press, 2019**

This is the equivalent book for Western Australia to *Tasmania's plant names unravelled* by the Wapstra family, published in 2010. The Western Australian glossary is divided though; all genera names have their names explained, then all species are listed in a second section, with subspecies/varieties in a third part. Prior to the actual glossary there are several explanatory parts, dealing with how Latin and Ancient Greek work and the words are pronounced, the rules of botanical nomenclature, etc.

The count of all Western Australian vascular plants is (at the time of publication) some 12,600 taxa. That number includes more than 1300 plants that have been introduced to the state. We have 39 species named to honour the colonial collector, Ronald Campbell Gunn. The Western Australian equivalent is another collector, James Drummond, with 85 taxa named for him along with one genus, which also honours his brother Thomas, who collected plants in North America. Flicking through the listings for species, I came across '*cincinnatus*'. Expecting the name to have some sort of link to the city in the USA (which was named after Cincinnatus, a Roman general and dictator) I was surprised to find it refers to curled hairs on the plant – *Kunzea cincinnatus*. On the same page, there are several WA plants with the species name '*clementi*'. This time it's not a reference to calm or peace, but Emile Clement, another collector.

Among Alex George's additions is an alphabet he put together using WA generic names (along the lines of the old schoolyard – 'A for 'orses, B for mutton, C for yourself', etc.). Included in Alex George's alphabet is: 'M is for *Monotaxis*, too simple for governments', but also 'D stands for *Dryandra*, no banksias they', referencing this leading botanist's non-acceptance of the inclusion of *Dryandra* in *Banksia*. However, in the glossary, the scientist lists both names in each listing.

Because there are less than 3000 taxa in Tasmania, the Wapstras had room for more information, colour photos, etc. They also include the accepted pronunciation for each taxon, which the WA glossary lacks (a question of space). So *Australian Plant Genera* from 1981 remains a treasure (sadly out-of-date). But for those enquiring gatherers of Western Australian plants, or those interested in the source of words, I recommend this book. The photo for this article is of *Burnsya prostratus* photographing a plant of *Actinodium* species, 'like the spokes of a wheel'. *Actinodium* looks like a daisy, but is actually in Myrtaceae, another WA surprise. ☺

Redbreast



Nurseries

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANT GROWERS

Widest range available in Tasmania

Shrubs • Groundcovers • Trees

Refunds on returned Redbreast pots

Open 7 days



Channel Highway, Margate 03 6442 4833

Robin Hill Road, Flowerdale 03 6442 2025

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 \$20/year.

From January this year membership subscriptions can be paid online. During 2022 members will receive an email at the beginning of their anniversary month inviting them to resubscribe online.

If members want to opt to pay their subscription via the bank, EFT or cheque please notify me to have this noted.

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

Subscription Rates

Children under 16 free

- A. Individual, Organisation or overseas - \$40/year
- B. Individual with APJ - \$60/year
- C. Individual concession - \$37/year
- D. Individual concession with APJ - \$57/year
- E. Household - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$49/year
- F. Household with APJ - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$69/year
- G. Household concession - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$46/year
- H. Household concession with APJ - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$66/year
- I. Overseas Individual and Overseas Organisation with APJ (electronic) - \$65/year

Members receive each year:

Four issues of the APST journal *Eucryphia* (electronic).

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 the 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.

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.

Opportunities to work together on projects which showcase Australian plants and promote biodiversity.

Social interactions at all Group events including outings and end-of-year functions.

Margaret Killen

Membership Officer

membership@apstas.org.au

0409 430 665

PLANTS OF TASMANIA



NURSERY
AND
GARDENS

We stock the largest range of Tasmanian native plants available, suitable for every garden niche from coastal to mountain to rainforest. We also have many advanced feature plants available.

Our nursery and gardens nestle in the scenic foothills of Mt. Wellington, and are just 12 minutes from Hobart.

See our plant list at our website:

www.potn.com.au

Phone: 6239 1583 Email: sales@potn.com.au

Open 9 am – 5 pm 7 days per week

65 Hall St, Ridgeway, TAS 7054

10% Discount on plants for APST members

Show your membership card and save

(excludes already discounted items)

Northern Group News

Kay Pallett

Northern Group members enjoyed a gentle autumn. The first event was a successful visit by the Association of Australian Friends of Botanic Gardens who were impressed with the well set up, organised nursery at Windsor Park. In addition, Windsor Park project gardener, Tony Roberts, who is employed by the West Tamar Council, led the visitors on a tour of the reclaimed river flats that now showcase Tasmanian native plants in a strongly designed garden. Windsor Park was also the setting for the APST AGM for which the Northern Group were hosts, with members providing much appreciated refreshments.



Two views of the Windsor Park Garden so successfully created by Tony Roberts. Soil and rocks have been used to add interest and height to what were once open, flat paddocks.



The first speaker for this year was entomologist, Peter McQuillan who described *Pollination in the Tasmanian Flora*. It was an interesting night full of fascinating, comprehensive details about the range of creatures which pollinate plants and about how plants are favoured by, and adapt to, various insects, birds, even lizards. There were revelatory details such as Australia having 3,000 species of bees with 120 species in Tasmania; blue flowers are mostly pollinated by bees; flies are important and overlooked pollinators especially at high elevations where bees are less common; flies seem to prefer yellow and white flowers; birds are attracted to bright red, robust flowers e.g. *Telopea truncata*. Wasps, butterflies, moths and beetles as pollinators were also covered. However, there are huge knowledge gaps on pollinators because as many as two thirds of Tasmanian plants do not have a single pollinator recorded. Peter encouraged members to observe plants, take photos or make notes on their pollinator observations. He reminded us of the decline that is occurring worldwide, a decline that is not just in bees but other well known and not so well known insects. The next day fifteen members were fortunate to spend time in the field with Peter at Tom Gibson Reserve at Epping Forest. Peter discussed the numerous insects seen on the day and as one member said, ‘...opened our minds even more to the variety of ways our flora is pollinated.’



Members reveling at the chance to learn more about the pollination of Tasmanian flora.

(Peter McQuillan is on the extreme left of the r/h photo)



© M King

A colourful and informative March Plant(s) of the Month was presented by Louise Skabo - an interesting presentation on ground covers and how they can replace lawn-mowing chores. Louise listed several striking plants but focussed on *Zieria prostrata* and *Leptospermum rotundifolium*. Both ground covers spread between one to two metres sporting a profusion of flowers in spring.

At the nursery, member support on propagation days remains reliably strong - around the twenty mark. During March and April, in addition to propagation tasks, the focus was to prepare for the autumn plant sale where more than seventy trays were put out for eager buyers. Janet Hallam and the nursery team were happy with the excellent result. Eight new members attended the May propagation day. The nursery is thriving at present and the seed collecting project with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens has proven to be so successful (over 90,000 *Viola hederaceae* seeds collected) that members have agreed to a request from the RTBG to continue collecting the seed of another viola, *Viola cleistogamoides*.

The April speaker, Graham Green, told the special story of the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, gifted by the family to the community and now owned by the Southern Midlands Council. The Sanctuary might be familiar to many of us who have read Nan Chauncy's novels, in particular *They Found a Cave*. Today its ecological value is immeasurable. Graham opened with a brief history of the family's development of the bushland and how with their vision and love of nature it has flourished and today is the nucleus for surrounding reserves such as Flat Rock Reserve which is a Tasmanian Land Conservancy tract of land. Together these make up about 900 hectares of protected land which also connects to the Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area to the north. Graham who is responsible for maintaining Chauncy Vale described a diversity of vegetation types and landforms and the predominantly dry sclerophyll bushland which is especially important because so little is protected in Tasmania. Fortunately it is managed by an environmentally aware committee with a strong management plan. At present they are working to build visitor awareness of the dry sclerophyll habitat and the species within it.

April Plant of the Month, *Carpobrotus rossii*, 'a much overlooked edible succulent ground cover with medicinal potential' was the way Jon Hosford described this plant. It grows in full sun and although it prefers coastal sand dunes or rocky ground it is widely spread across Tasmania and other states. It is an excellent ground cover with bright pink flowers which appear in spring and summer followed by edible fruit which together with the leaves were a source of food for indigenous people.

Several other activities this month included the setting up an Australian plants display at the Launceston Horticultural Plant Fest on April 10th. The display was a success with people 'amazed at the diversity of the native flowers.' Organiser, Rosemary Verbeeten, received many favourable comments and it is now agreed that members will have a display at future shows.



© K Pallett

Some of the eye-catching native plants looking good on the day!

Continued next page

There was an excursion to Oura Oura Reserve (Bob Brown's previous home) near Liffey Forest with impressive *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *E. obliqua* noted on the first walk on the day. After lunch members walked in the Bush Heritage Reserve near the Liffey campground. It was an excellent 3.5 km walk with both rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest considered worthy of a visit in the spring or summer months.

The annual autumn planting at Tasmanian Native Garden (TNG) was a good day. The weather was kind and the organisation and preparation thorough, with eighty plants nestled into well nourished soil by fifteen conscientious members. Generally the TNG working bees have been supported by a small group and it would be appreciated if a few more members could manage a couple of hours once a month to pull a few weeds, trim and tidy plants thereby taking some of the load off the shoulders of the present diligent few.



Members at work: a planting day at the Tasmanian Native Garden.



At the May meeting Plant of the Month was *Solanum laciniatum* presented by Margaret Hosford who enlightened members on the versatility of this soft wooded shrub, native to the east coast of Australia. *S. laciniatum* grows quickly, has large green, deeply-lobed leaves with up to five spear like fingers that resemble the feet of kangaroos hence the name kangaroo apple. It has ruffled deep purple - blue flowers and the fruit is juicy and sweet but be warned unripened kangaroo apples are bitter and toxic. Margaret admired the First Nations peoples' knowledge of this plant and its medicinal uses. Today it is known to be a natural anti inflammatory and has a use in the production of cortisone based contraceptives.

May speaker Herbert Staubman (Habitat Nursery) spoke on 'Roadside Vegetation - using herbicides to cut the grass'. There was much to absorb with information on for example weed incursion, herbicide resistance and native plant destruction. Herbert provided many examples on ways in which roadside vegetation is helpful. Vegetation is a cheap and most effective way of preventing erosion because grasses left on the verges act as stabilisers preventing erosion. Vegetation is also important because it acts as a filter to trap sediments and pollutants before they get into the stormwater drains. Herbert's message was clear as were the telling photos that showed the harm being done to our roadsides since 2015 when 'poor practice' herbicide spraying replaced slashing of roadside vegetation.

The conservation advocacy group held its initial meeting. Eight members gathered to discuss how the group could become more active towards management in the conservation of native flora. It was formed in response to an April meeting business item about furthering two important constitutional objectives to take a more active role in the preservation of Tasmanian flora.

The May excursion organised by Ian Thomas was to Ralph Falls where nine members undertook an exhilarating and satisfying 4k walk bordering the Cash's Gorge circuit walk. They passed through pristine myrtle rainforest, dry montane herb fields, *Leptospermum lanigerum* forest to button grass paddocks - a kaleidoscope of diverse plant communities. ☺

(see related photos next page)



Left:
Ralph Falls
excursion
scenic lookout
camera moments

Right:
Fungi:
*Clavulinopsis
sulcata*. Photos:
L.Skabo



Northern Group Programme

| | | |
|------------|----------|--|
| June 4 | Saturday | Propagation 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside |
| June 21 | Tuesday | General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall |
| June 28 | Tuesday | Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray |
| July 2 | Saturday | Propagation 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside |
| July 19 | Tuesday | General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall |
| July 26 | Tuesday | Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray |
| Aug 6 | Saturday | Propagation 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside |
| Aug 16 | Tuesday | General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall |
| Aug 23 | Tuesday | Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray |
| Sept 3 | Saturday | Propagation 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside |
| Sept 20 | Tuesday | General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall |
| Sept 24-25 | | Display table: native plants , Horticultural Society Show, Evandale |
| Sept 27 | Tuesday | Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray |
| Oct 1 | Saturday | Propagation APST Nursery, WPC Riverside |
| Oct 18 | Tuesday | General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall |
| Oct 25 | Tuesday | Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray |
| Nov 5 | Saturday | Propagation 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside |

North West Group News

M. Slattery

After a successful plants sale in April, a review of our experiences found that we need more people to assist the treasurer, as sometimes people were kept waiting. In part this was due to unreliable technology, and we will find ways to overcome this. We were lucky with the weather, having a mild, slightly overcast day. The absence of wind was a bonus as on past occasions too high winds have caused havoc. We also found that having a 'special array' was a draw-card. John Tabor had brought plants with an edible theme, and these were popular.

Unfortunately our planned excursion to Dove Lake was called off due to very inclement weather, but there are more outings planned.

We have had good attendance at meetings, and the flower table has always had interesting plants for us to enjoy.

During winter we will have no night-time meetings at the hall. In July we will meet at a member's home, and in August we will meet at the Arboretum, where we shall lunch and Guest Speaker Philip Milner will attend. This will be followed by a walk around the Arboretum. ☺

North-West Programme

May Field Trip – O'Neill's creek – fungi spotting

June Field Trip – Union Bridge & Alum Cliffs

August 20th Daytime meeting at the Arboretum

Hobart Group News

J. Boyer

In January the Hobart Group only had the nursery session scheduled but some members who were out and about shared their experiences in the Hobart Group News (HGN). Lindsay Pender climbed Mt Wedge in the Southwest and photographed some impressive Gentians (*Gentianella diemensis*) and Mountain rocket (*Bellendina montana*). Sib and Keith Corbett walked to Tarn Shelf photographing *Cyathodes staminea* and *Euphrasia gibbsiae* and an impressive but rare flowering of *Dracophyllum milliganii* up on the Shelf. Phil Sumner was at the Inala Jurassic Garden photographing Eucryphia from the collection there. Bruce Champion featured Wallaby Grass in his city garden and Sue Newman wrote about her Blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticularis*) and native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) flowering at the same time in her garden. Christine's flower of the month was her potted *Rhododendron lochiaie*, the only Australian rhododendron, endemic to mountain tops in far north Queensland.

The Kingborough Day Meeting group met at their new venue in February to discuss their gardens over summer then ventured to the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Garden in March to view the new Tasmanian plantings. The evening meeting in February included members talking about their garden plants and in March after the AGM Phil Sumner talked about his trip to the mainland with extended time exploring South Australian plants, having been blocked by Covid from entering WA.

Fourteen members attended the propagation session on the first Saturday in March and were busy setting new cuttings, potting up those previously set and now rooted. As well as a productive team to enjoy working with it is an educational opportunity. Of course there was also weeding pots and nursery paths to catch up with.

At the AGM Jenny Boyer was elected President, Christine Corbett remaining as Secretary, Tony Salt as Treasurer and with Bruce Champion retaining Programme and Nursery responsibilities. Lorraine Pender and David Boyer joined Christine Howells, Heather Clark and Sue and John Brown on committee. Sue and John will be on leave until October but Sue will continue to be website liaison from the other side of the world.

The end of March saw Sib and Keith Corbett take up the reigns to lead a walk on Mt Wellington. With the ZigZag track closed, the walk started out on the North South track to Junction Cabin observing both geological, historical and botanical features including the Octopus Tree, Lone Cabin and the Pushback Tree.

The Kingborough Day people started the April activities with Peter Stronach talking about Landcare projects in Kingborough and other southern areas. The nursery volunteers prepared the plants for sale by weeding, making sure they looked their best for the plant sale the following week with final sorting to make life easier on the day. Bruce does an incredible job with the organisation and is supported by lots of volunteers, a mixture of people with good plant knowledge and others helping the day go smoothly. There was a panic with a COVID scare but fortunately it was not COVID so everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Bruce had documented the procedures so we would have coped but with more difficulties. Again the sale was very successful although numbers and takings were down with less people around due, we suspect, to COVID cautions. Perhaps less crowd meant more interaction with customers which was a bonus.

At the April meeting Jenny and David Boyer talked about their three Capes Walk in November when the flowers were at their best and the views were amazing. The huts were beautiful, comfortable and well equipped with loads of cooking utensils and even an outdoor hot shower on day two. The track was sited to maximise the views with varied surfaces over the four days and for someone who is always slow up hills, Mt Fortescue was a little tough but still enjoyable.

The trip to see the Fagus was much enjoyed by fourteen members in perfectly still sunny weather. After exploring prime spots for the 'fagus around Lake Fenton and visiting a giant *Richea scoparia* the group continued to Lake Dobson to walk around the Lake through the Pandani Grove, always a favourite. ☺



APST Directory

COUNCIL

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Postal address: | P. O . Box 1205, Gravelly Beach TASMANIA 7276 | | Email: | apstsec@gmail.com | |
| | | | Website: | www.apstas.org.au | |
| President | Louise Skabo | 63 34 6787 | Hobart Councillor | Anthony Salt | 0412 673 632 |
| Vice-President | Leoni Read | 0429 705 062 | North West Councillor | Riitta Boevink | 6428 6909 |
| Secretary | Mary Slattery | 0402 784 086 | North West Councillor | Drew Thomas | 6437 1802 |
| Treasurer | Anthony Salt | 0412 673 632 | Northern Councillor | Jo Boniface | 0434 981 438 |
| Hobart Councillor | Jenny Boyer | 62 93 1113 | Northern Councillor | Roy Pallett | 0438 392 041 |

GROUPS

Hobart Group

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|---|
| President | Jenny Boyer | 6293 1113 | Meeting place/time: General meetings: <u>Kingston Primary School Library</u> Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm except January, June, July and August. For winter meetings, www.apstas.org.au/calendar |
| Secretary | Christine Corbett | 6239 1904 | |
| Treasurer | Anthony Salt | 0412 673 632 | |
| Contact Officer | Bruce Champion | 6294 6970 | |

Northern Group

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| Postal address: | 45 Osborne Avenue, Trevallyn, Tas. 7250 | | Meeting place /time: <u>Max Fry Hall, Gorge Rd, Trevallyn</u> 7.30 pm Third Tuesday of the month (except January). Website: www.apstasnorth.org |
| President | Roy Pallett | 0438 392 041 | |
| Secretary | Anna McGrane | 0419 347 743 | |
| Treasurer | Rosemary Verbeeten | 0458 812 850 | |
| Eucryphia Liaison | Kay Pallett | 0400 097 025 | |

North West Group

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| President | John Tabor | 6428 6512 | Postal address: PO Box 68, Port Sorell, Tas 7307 Email: apstnorthwest@gmail.com Meeting place: St Pauls Church Hall, Cnr Thomas and Church Sts, |
| Vice-President | Joy McIntosh | 6426 2657 | |
| Secretary | Drew Thomas | 6437 1802 | |
| Treasurer | John Boevink | 6428 6909 | |
| Eucryphia Liaison | Mary Slattery | 0402 784 086 | |
