

# *Eucryphia*



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M. Monks

*Acacia cognata*

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## From The President



*Louise Skabo*  
President

Visiting highland areas to escape a hot summer has been rewarding. Beautiful scenery and alpine native species make these special places. Excursions are fun, educational and a great opportunity to get to know our fellow members better. This is particularly true of the annual Members' Get-togethers. Northern Group is hosting the next one and will inform members directly of the programme. As well, members from all Groups are welcome to participate in any walks listed on the APST Inc website calendar of events as long as the excursion leaders are given prior notice.

APST extend condolences to the family and friends of Life Member, Joan Wilcox who died this year. Joan's enthusiasm, love for native flora and volunteer efforts for APST along with her fellow recently deceased members, Phyl Wyatt and Norma Ali, contributed greatly to the formation and development of the our society from the 1970's.

The new APST Inc website was launched in October after some delays due to the new Memberspace and finance sections. We thank Margaret Killen for her tremendous past and ongoing efforts in ensuring, along with Kingthing marketing agency, that this is a modern, well designed, and informative website. There is a Members' Only section which safely stores member subscription information, details about member-only activities, the latest *Eucryphia* journals and Governance documents. To access the Members' Only section, members have to log in **only once** and the site will also be used to easily renew and pay your annual subscriptions.

Karen Manning is APST Inc website manager and activities/programme/photo updates should be sent to your Group website liaison or Councillors who will forward them to Karen. Help to keep our website fresh and relevant by updating your activities. New links like Group newsletters will be added soon.

An email has been sent to members inviting them to APST Inc AGM at Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside, hosted by Northern Group on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March. This is your opportunity to put forward ideas for the benefit of our society. Due to government Covid-19 indoor number restrictions, we need to know if you are planning to attend this year, so please RSVP soon.

Be sure to also consider attending the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) conference in Kiama, 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.

Let's hope there are no serious interruptions caused by Covid-19 during 2022.

I wish members a healthy and safe year. ☺

---

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

Kaz Awad, Chris Blackman, Judith Blaydon, Adrian Cavicchia, Wayne Goodwin,  
Yvonne Joyce, Carol Kerr, Lars Roberts.

---

## Members' Get-together 2022

At the Northern Group's February general meeting it was decided to hold the next get-together at Ben Lomond National Park on the weekend of January 13th/14th/15th which is when the flowers will be at their best.

The Ben Lomond plateau is a one hour drive from Launceston and is overlooked by the second highest peak, in Tasmania, Legges Tor. The last 15 km is good gravel road and includes the amazing Jacobs Ladder just below the plateau. The flora is magnificent and includes some very interesting species. The views are also spectacular and the walks vary from easy to reasonably demanding. A selection of guided walks will be offered.

Accommodation will be available at two ski lodges and catering will also be arranged.

Because accommodation needs to be locked in fairly, soon we are asking members to let us know as soon as possible if they intend to participate. Depending on numbers, we may have to make accommodation available on a first come first served basis. We will be asking people to secure accommodation with a deposit, details below.

We will be using the Rovers Ski Lodge and the Northern Tasmanian Alpine Club (NTAC) lodge both of which provide comfortable bedrooms and good bathrooms/toilets either en-suite or shared between two bedrooms.

Accommodation at NTAC lodge is as follows:

8 rooms upstairs at \$90 per night per person, so 16 people if 2 to a room

4 older rooms downstairs at \$80 per person per night could accommodate another 8 people

Accommodation at Rovers Ski Lodge \$70 per person per night in en-suite rooms. There are 14 rooms so that provides accommodation for at least 22 people.

Full catering (breakfast, morning and afternoon teas, picnic lunch and dinner) \$70 per person per day will be provided at the NTAC lodge and that will mean that people at Rovers will need to walk (or drive) about 200m for breakfast and dinner. Lunch will be a picnic lunch eaten out on the walks. Vegan and vegetarian meals available at same cost but we will need to know if you require those options.

Cost may seem high but the clubs need to operate generator and water system and need a caretaker on site A Parks pass will need to be displayed on each car.

Check in time about 3 pm Check out Sunday between 10 am and noon

It may be necessary for single attendees to share a room with one other single person

Because of the limited accommodation we suggest that you book a room as soon as possible, indicating where you wish to stay (Rovers or NTAC) and pay a deposit of \$20 per person to secure your choice of room. We reserve the right to allocate people to the alternative lodge when their preferred lodge is full. In that case we will let you know For further information please phone or email Roy Skabo (0458696639, [rskabo@gmail.com](mailto:rskabo@gmail.com)) and look at the websites of the two clubs.

Deposits should be paid into the Northern Group account: BSB 037608 A/C No. 727784 with your name(s) Also email Roy Skabo that you have paid and what your preferred accommodation is.

Looking forward to seeing our southern and north-west members at the get-together.☺



## Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boerink,  
Study Group Liaison



**Garden Design Study Group** Newsletter 117, Nov 2021  
Leader : Lawrie Smith

The newsletter can be seen at <http://anpsa.org.au/design/> or Google 'Australian native garden design'.

The theme of this issue is 'gardens in shade'. This is a bumper issue best viewed online as it is full of photos of gardens using shade as a design element. Lawrie is recommending formation of local Garden Design Study Group chapters. Members would visit gardens with the focus of the design and discuss aspects of the design and exchange ideas.

Several members have written very entertaining articles on their own experiences with the use of shade in their garden. Lawrie reminds us of the inevitable changes that happen in the garden over time when trees and tall shrubs grow. Plants originally placed in full sun may end up shaded by the trees. Or windows in the house will not receive as much sun as desired. It is important to estimate the eventual shade cast by the tree at different times of the day in its full height.

The theme for the next issue is 'Design for Climate Change'.

**Eremophila Study Group** Newsletter No 134 February 2022  
Leader: Lyndal Thorburn Membership is \$5 per annum

Eremophila Study group newsletters are always of high standard. While Tasmania does not have any endemic Eremophilas, quite a few species grow well here. Being inland plants many will tolerate light frosts. Humid and wet conditions are more of a problem. There are active local subgroups in Sydney, SA, and Melbourne. This issue has detailed information on what information is needed for the complex task of correctly identifying Eremophila species. There is also a list of keys available online.

**Acacia Study Group** Newsletter 151 January 2022  
Leader: Bill Aitchison

The Acacia study Group maintains a seed bank. They welcome appropriately identified seeds from the members. Tasmania, however, has restrictions on importing seeds from interstate unless the supplier has the appropriate authority. This issue has many brief contributions by members illustrated with photos. The enormous variety of Acacias is astonishing. There is a mention of a new series of stamps that were issued in September 2021 featuring Acacias with different coloured flowers. The series is entitled 'Wattle Wonders'. Bill usually also points out Acacia related items in the news media.

**Dryandra Study Group** Newsletter No 82  
Leader: Margaret Pieroni

A Ph student is writing on his research on the pollination ecology of the Northern Sandplain Dryandras. The research took place at the HiVallee farm. Many of those who attended the conference in Albany would be familiar with this property. There is a posting by a member from France who grows Dryandras successfully. We are fortunate in coastal areas of Tasmania to be able to grow Dryandras without needing to be restricted to grafted specimens. Grafting is necessary in the more humid South Coast of NSW with high rainfall. Phil Trickell describes his experiences in grafting. The newsletter also includes a description of a fieldtrip to the Bowelling area in WA.

The leader comments that 'Dryandras have been rather overlooked since their unfortunate inclusion into Banksia'. To my knowledge this has not been officially adopted in Tasmania. I have seen plants in nurseries with a label naming a Dryandra as Banksia. The Dryandra and Banksia study groups have remained separate.. ☺

## Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. Annual General Meeting Agenda

Date: **Saturday 26th March 2022**

Time: **11:00 am**

Place: **Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside, Tasmania.**

Item	Description	Responsible
1	<b>Welcome:</b> Introductions; Reading of Objectives.	President
2	<b>Apologies</b>	Secretary
3	<b>Review of actions</b> from 2021 Annual General Meeting	President
4	<b>Acceptance of Minutes</b> of 2021 Annual General Meeting	President
5	<b>President's Annual Report</b>	President
6	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> including Financial Statements	Treasurer
7	<b>Auditor's report</b>	Treasurer
8	<b>Opportunity</b> for questions to Councillors	President
9	<b>Special resolution:</b> Constitution amendment That the Constitution reflect that two signatories be required for all financial transactions actioned by Council or any group of APST Inc. Moved by: M. Slattery Seconded by: M. Killen	President
10	<b>Appointment</b> of the Auditor	President
11	<b>Election of Council Officers:</b> President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Public Officer; Group Councillors	President
12	<b>Appointments:</b> ANPSA Delegate 1; ANPSA Delegate 2; APJ Liaison Officer; Eucryphia Editor; Strategic Planning Coordinator; Website Liaison Officer; Study Group Liaison Officer; Membership Officer	President
13	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Secretary
14	<b>Meeting close</b>	President

At the meeting, members will have the opportunity to:

- find out about APST Inc's operations and finances;
- speak about any items on the agenda;
- vote on any resolutions proposed;
- appoint an auditor;
- elect councillors; and
- appoint officers.

At the meeting, members will be asked to vote to:

- accept the minutes of the last annual general meeting
- accept the annual report
- accept the auditor's report
- accept the annual financial statements





**Australian flora - Past present future**

**ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama**



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## **ANPSA Biennial Conference – Kiama, 11 – 16 September 2022**



We are excited to be hosting the next ANPSA Biennial Conference in Kiama in September 2022. We aim to bring you a wide range of interesting speakers and enjoyable activities. We will of course be operating at the highest Covid standards and guidelines to keep us all safe and healthy.

For further information, see the APS NSW website (<https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>) or send us an email: [office@austplants.com.au](mailto:office@austplants.com.au).

Theme: Australian flora - past present future. Explore the flora of 40,000 years ago, understand opportunities and threats we face now and consider how the future might unfold, along with our role in that.

Location: Kiama, with the conference to be held at the Kiama Pavilion.

Excursions: Robertson Rainforest, Fitzroy Falls, Wollongong Botanic Gardens, Minnamurra Rainforest, Royal National Park, Kamay - Botany Bay National Park, Bulli Grevillea Park and native plant reserves in Southern Sydney.

Pre and post conference tours: Lord Howe Island, Warrumbungles and the Pilliga, Blue Mountains, Sydney and the South Coast.

Hold the dates - Sunday 11 to Friday 16 September 2022!

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## Valé Phyl Wyatt

Bruce Champion

Phyl Wyatt was a quiet achiever in the Society for Growing Australian Plants Tasmania (SGAP Tas.) and latterly called Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. (APST Inc.). Quiet in that there are few references to her in past Newsletters and Eucryphia. However, she was never really quiet, voice wise, and I have very fond memories of the lovely sound of her voice whenever we met, always friendly, always having nice and constructive things to say and always willing to lend a hand or help with many of our Plants Society activities. One reason there are few mentions of Phyl in our publications is that she was very involved with Guides Tasmania (which, incidentally, celebrated 110 years of activities last year).

I first met Phyl and her wonderful husband, Bob, way back in 1971 when Sandra and I came to Tasmania and we became involved with SGAP Tas. Theirs was the first garden I/we visited on a sloping block in Lindisfarne and we became very good friends from then on. While Bob took up positions on the SGAP committee, Phyl was always by his side and willing to help in any way she could while always busy with her Girl Guides activities. Phyl and Bob were joint Newsletter Editors in the early 1970's. They were also very involved with the 1975 SGAP Australia Federal Conference and inaugural seminar.

In 1977, Phyl was elected as Membership Officer and she was active in many of the Hobart Group's Flower Shows. She was convenor of the 12-14 October 1984 show at the Union Building at UTAS. I loved working with her on the Bicentennial Wildflower Show, our first at City Hall. Phyl organised the purchase of T-shirts and windcheaters for the Committee to wear on that and many following occasions. I still have mine and proudly wear them to Propagation sessions (I have also inherited Bob's windcheater and wear it bushwalking). Phyl, often with Bob at her side, sold countless hundreds of raffle tickets at our City Hall and other flower shows. She certainly helped Meg Walker and others make the posies that we used to give away at these shows. Phyl was also on the Committee, with Bob as Chairman, for the ASGAP Conference and Seminar held at UTAS in 1990.

Phyl and Bob have always been interested in growing Australian Plants in their Lindisfarne and then Howrah gardens and were one of the first to grow *Rhododendron lochiaie* and *Banksia Prionotes* in Hobart. I used to hanker after their beautiful *Kunzea baxteri* which grew up over their front fence in Lindisfarne, it was the best I have seen in Hobart. It was with great pleasure that I proposed Phyl and Bob to be Life Members in December 1993. This award was very justly deserved. They were wonderfully active members until a few years ago when age and illness caught up with Phyl. However, she and Bob attended our Hobart Group Plants Sales until October last year. Even if they didn't buy a plant, they always gave us a generous donation.

Thank you Phyl for a very memorable friendship.

Valé Phyl!





## IN MEMORY OF PHYL WYATT

*Dick Burns*

Life Member Phyl Wyatt passed away last year. My main involvement with Phyl was with the organising committee for the 1990 Hobart ASGAP Conference. She organised all the co-ordination of the transport for the conference and all the trips from the conference. They went so smoothly!

No doubt that was a strong reason for both Phyl and husband Bob in becoming Life Members in 1993; that came through the Hobart Group. On a personal note, Phyl and Bob sent me congratulations when I was awarded the OAM and commiserations when my leg was removed. Bob was most helpful when I was seeking information about Joe Picone for an article I was writing for my local walking club magazine. ☺

## Valé Joan Wilcox

APST would also like to acknowledge the passing of Joan Wilcox earlier this year. Joan attended the very first meeting of what was to become APST, and until recently attended the Kingborough day meetings of the Hobart group. Joan was awarded Life Membership in 1984. ☺

## 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.

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## Life Membership

*Dick Burns*

Life Membership is awarded to members who give outstanding commitment and/or service to their club or society and Honorary (Life) Membership is awarded to others who have advanced the aims of that club or society. The length of our list of recipients reflects the commitment of so many people. Here it is (remember that our first meeting was held in November 1968) and those that are no longer with us are in italics.

*Ron Smith* (Honorary 1971)  
*Kay Geeves* (1977)  
*Margaret Stones* (Honorary 1981)  
*Margaret Allan* (1981)  
*Jeanette Closs* (1983)  
*Joan Wilcox* (1984)  
 Bruce Champion (1986)  
*John and Marion Simmons* (1986)  
 Sib Corbett (1988)  
 Dick Burns (1989)  
*Meg Walker* (1990)  
*Norma Ali* (1992)  
 Bob and *Phyl Wyatt* (1993)

*Gladys Holmes* (1995)  
 Melva Truchanas (1996)  
*Heather Gulline* (1998)  
*Jill Roberts* (2001)  
 Christine Howells (2006)  
*Brian Halivell* (Honorary 2007)  
*Noel and Pat Kerrison* (2007)  
 Rosemary Verbeeten (2008)  
 Keith Corbett (2010)  
 Margaret Kinsey (2011)  
*Alan Grey* (Honorary 2019)  
 Mary Slattery (2019)

Kay, Margaret A, Heather, Gladys, Melva and Joan were/are also Foundation Members.

I've got some idea of the main reasons for the awarding of this honour, for instance Kay Geeves was instrumental in setting up the Tasmanian Society, Margaret Stones painted the illustrations for the *Endemic Flora* series of books and Margaret Allan was the keeper of the lists of flora from localities plus our main contact with Winifred Curtis. Over the years, different people have suggested carrying out such a project or recording interviews of Life Members, but nothing has eventuated.

Is it timely that now on the new website reports of why the different people were awarded Life Membership is being recorded.



Life Members at Margaret Kinsey's presentation: Pat Kerrison, Dick Burns, Rosemary Verbeeten, Margaret Kinsey, Jill Roberts, Noel Kerrison

## Valé Norma Ali

*Bruce Champion*

Norma Ali was an active Member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants Tasmania (SGAP Tas.), and the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. (APST Inc.). Norma and her husband Roger (dec.) were founder members of SGAP Tas. joining in 1969. They set up Ali's Native Plants business to sell cut flowers and later as a nursery which continued until 1984. Norma and Roger put on the first exhibition of Australian Plants on a stand in Wesley Church Hall at the Hobart Rose Show in 1971 using exhibits from Members' gardens. They sold plants from their home up a steep drive at the top of O'Connor Court Sandy Bay and at the Champion's Wirreanda Nursery Mount Rumney until January 1975 when the Tasman Bridge was knocked down and that nursery closed. They then sold plants at the Salamanca Market until Roger's death in 1982. They owned a large block of land along the Channel Highway in Flowerpot and grew many interesting plants for cut flowers. Banksias were a specialty.

Norma was involved with most of the SGAP and APST Hobart Flower Shows over the years, setting up tables of flowers in vases or helping with raffle ticket sales etc. in later years. She was also involved in a flower and artwork display and plants sale at Chauncy Vale on the January long weekend in 1991 with Meg and Tom Walker.

Norma was awarded Life Membership in July 1992 and Will Fletcher wrote a lovely article on page 6 of the September 1992 APST Inc. Newsletter:

'Norma and Roger Ali were involved with SGAP from its inception in Tasmania in the late 1960's. They had migrated to Tasmania from South Australia (and elsewhere), already being keen native plant enthusiasts, and they continued to enthuse as the Tasmanian branch got going. In fact the very first flower show was entirely set up by Norma and Roger. They slotted it in as an adjunct to the rose show, with their flowers displayed in painted stubbies!

Norma and Roger were pioneer growers of native plants in Tasmania and introduced Tasmanians to a wide selection of species as well as encouraging people to grow their own plants. They established a nursery on their property at Sandy Bay and also sold plants at Salamanca Market. In recent years Norma has been concentrating on the continuing and constant work of terracing her hillside and erecting bunny proof barriers to protect the growing garden.

At various times Norma has been a member of SGAP council and secretary of the Flower Show committee. She has contributed often to the newsletter. For the rest of the time Norma is always available to help out, or work on various projects. Norma has an extensive love of native plants and has enthused many people. What's more, her enthusiasm has never flagged.

Norma is one of those really valuable people, who is there at all times to help keep the wheels in motion. In fact, she is more than valuable, she is invaluable!

Congratulations Norma, this membership is well deserved!

This was followed on the same page by:

**'TO NORMA    Anonymous**

I think that I shall never see  
a block as steep or rabbity.  
How a living soul could make it thrive  
is beyond me .....

To Norma, small and light of frame  
Perseverance is your game,  
well deserved all accolade,  
you deserve a remote controlled automatic spade;  
but as one of these hasn't come to grip,  
you had better settle for Life Membership!

Norma Ali



Norma moved to a more easily accessible home in Flowerpot Crescent Blackmans Bay and often hosted Members to show them the wide range of Australian Plants in her garden especially many species of Correas. When she moved, she offered APST Hobart Group her nursery propagation equipment and we gladly accepted many pots and the mist propagator spray timer as Bruce Champion's was not as reliable. Later we purchased a Tilting Arm switch but her device is still there as back up.

In later years Norma was very involved with the Kingborough Day Meeting Members providing flowers for the display table and talking about them. She was refreshments lady until mid-2021.

Valé Norma, a lovely, knowledgeable, helpful, kind lady.



## APST Members' Get-together 2021

John Tabor

This report was unfortunately cut short in the last issue, so herewith the continuation of John's report, with my apologies. Ed.)

### Saturday: 13<sup>th</sup> November

First stop was Black Bull Scrub on the way to Marrawah. This was particularly memorable for the mainly pink *Bauera rubioides* which was profuse and which had great variability in the shade of pink and size of flower. Several double pink forms were also found. Splashes of yellow were found to be the pea flowers of *Aotus ericoides* and *Dillwynia sericea*. In this heavy clay soil were also twisted multi branched *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *Tetratheca pilosa* and *Allocasuarina zephyrea*.

Stop 2 was Gardiner Point (Edge of the World) at Arthur River, with great views of the rugged coastline and the mouth of the Arthur River. Memorable plants were *Leptospermum lanigerum* and *L. laevigata*, *Correa backhouseana* and the grey foliage of *Leucophyta brownii*. Also *Beyria lechenaultia* (both male and female), *Acrotriche affinis* and at a nearby brief stop, *Olearia glutinosa* (rare).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> stop was also the longest at Couta Rocks south of the Arthur River. Here there was a large diversity of plants and we stayed far longer than our planned time at this location. Just a few of the many species which took our attention were *Lotus australis*-a very dark pink form and regarded as rare. We were indeed fortunate that Don Abblitt knew the location of the only few plants of this in this area. Others were *Veronica derwentiana*, *Spyridium vexilliferum*, *Cullen microcephalum* (rare in Tasmania), *Acacia verticillata* ssp. *ruscifolia*, *Olearia lepidophylla* and *Apium prostratum*. Also shown to us by Don was the fern *Asplenium obtusatum* ssp. *northlandicum*, growing in rock crevices exposed to the sea spray.

By the time we left Couta rocks, we were overdue for lunch and drove straight to the picnic ground with amenities at Julius River for our late lunch. Some of us took one or both short walks from here through impressive rain forest and saw huge specimens of *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Nothofagus cunninghami*, *Huperzia varia*, *Duplazium austral*, *Pteris comans* and *Aristotelia peduncularis*.

We then returned to Riverbend via Kununnah Bridge after a long, tiring and enjoyable day.

After a very enjoyable dinner, we were treated to an excellent presentation from Dick Burns showing photos of various areas of the South West of Tasmania including Mt Anne and other areas where he had many bush walks and conducted official plant collecting activities over many years.

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

We woke up to driving rain and at first thought we may not be able to take our final excursion to Rocky Cape. However by the time of departure, the weather was moderating with only occasional showers and we set off for the coastal heathlands of Rocky Cape under the guidance of John Tabor and assisted by Don Abblitt.

We split into two groups with the first group using the plant list prepared by Dick Burns and exploring the area near the Boat Ramp at Burgess Cove until they had had enough of the occasional showers and wind and headed home.

The second group with John Tabor and Don Abblitt headed up the track connecting to the Postman's track and turned back just before Blandfordia Hill for a total walk of approx. two hours. Conditions were only fair with showers every 20 minutes and a cold wind, but also some sunny patches where we even warmed up.

There is a huge number of plant species in this area and many were in flower. Of note were a number of acacias including *A. myrtifolia* and *A. suaveolens*. Also *Boronia pilosa* var. *laricifolia*, *Aotus ericoides*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Epacris impressa*, and *Gompholobium huegelii*.

It was obvious everyone had a great weekend and it was rewarding to be a part of it.

I wish to thank everyone who had a part in making it such a successful event.

John Tabor  
President  
North West Group.

## Establishing a seed orchard – Northern Group’s Experience

Janet Hallam (Northern Nursery Manager)

A group of volunteers at the Northern Group nursery recently wound up their successful project to establish a *Viola hederacea* ‘orchard’ from which, during November to February, seed was harvested.

Establishing a seed orchard was the brainchild of Roy Skabo. Roy felt there was scope to use the nursery’s facilities to propagate plants not just for our twice-yearly plant sales but to aid long-term plant conservation aims as represented by the work of the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Garden’s Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC) more commonly known as the Seed Bank.

Approaches to the Seed Bank were made indicating our willingness to establish a seed orchard, and asking if it was feasible. They agreed and, by providing detailed notes, they ensured volunteers knew exactly what was entailed. The Seed Bank requested we use *Viola hederacea*, for our first attempt. Our target was 20,000 seeds.

### Timeline

In late September 2020, 350 seeds arrived from Hobart. 10 members sowed them into small punnets on October 5<sup>th</sup> and by October 31<sup>st</sup> Sharon Percy, in whose glasshouse the seed punnets were placed, noticed the first shoots. About 60 tiny seedlings were potted-up on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 and kept in the shade-house, and by April 3<sup>rd</sup> the surviving plants (39) were re-potted into bigger pots. The seedling survival rate was compromised by the excessive wet weather. By June the plants had burgeoned over the sides and were given a severe clip.



Overview of the *V. hederacea* seed orchard. There were 79 plants.



Seed sowing day Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. Margaret Killen delicately sorting *V. hederacea* seeds on the white sheet, overlooked by Sharon Percy and granddaughter.



TSCC manager, James Wood and curator, Lorraine Perrins visited our nursery in August 2021 to check the orchard's progress and were duly impressed. They also supplemented our plants with another 40 they had raised. Being shade-lovers, the violas were kept in the shade-house, an environment they loved.



In the Shade-house looking over the *Viola hederacea* plants. Seed Bank director, James Wood explaining something to Roy Skabo, with RTBG Curator, Lorraine Perrins and Janet Hallam looking on.



The delicate chasmogamous *Viola hederacea* flowers we are used to seeing, on one of the orchard plants.

The first flower was noticed on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and a few in September but their capsules didn't ripen. The first ripe capsules were harvested on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and by November 22<sup>nd</sup> they were coming thick and fast and Louise Skabo's fabulous roster for our 14 volunteer pickers swung into gear and continued unabated until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February 2022 when capsules became harder to find.

#### What we learnt

Many of us were aware that violas produce 2 types of flowers – the readily seen or *chasmogamous* open flowers and also hidden *cleistogamous* flowers. Several years before, this had been explained when we helped the Seed Bank collect *V. cleistogamoides* seeds at Powranna Reserve.

If conditions are right, Violas go on producing the self-pollinating cleistogamous flowers secretly, long after the open visual flowers have finished. We witnessed this first hand at our orchard when the harvest appeared to be finishing because there seemed to be so few flowers, and yet day after day there would still be many capsules to pick. On examination we realised why, the flowers were there but almost invisible.

The volunteer pickers soon learnt about timing and technique. Initially it was thought the capsules had to be open with seeds displayed before picking. But after opening, the seeds dispersed with amazing speed and because of our once-a-day only visits, many were missed. At the Seed Bank where the pickers are on site, seed collection is sometimes done twice a day.



James fortunately advised us that if the round capsule heads were firm and at a gentle squeeze they split, they were fine to pick. We noticed that the capsule heads had opened out and dispersed their seeds inside the collection envelopes by the next day.

Viola seeds are prolific and their dispersal is swift and efficient. At the height of the harvesting, volunteers were picking occasionally up to 70 capsules a day and frequently 50 a day. The round capsule head splits and opens with three arms each containing up to 6 or more seeds i.e. 18+ seeds per capsule. As the arms dry and contract, the seeds are propelled outwards. This is why we are quietly confident we have exceeded our 20,000 target.

The capsules are usually a marbled purple colour. We observed that of our 79 plants there were about 4 whose capsules were white, although inside their seeds were the usual healthy black. Whether this whiteness has significance the Seed Bank are not sure but asked us to keep them separate so they can investigate further, which we've done.



The delicate chasmogamous *V. hederacea* flowers we are used to seeing, on one of the orchard plants.

Six collections (2 envelopes per collection) were regularly and reliably transported to the RTBG by volunteer, David Waters, from December to February. The final tally won't be known until May when Seed Bank staff return from their own seed collecting excursions in the wild and are able to get down to the business of sorting, cleaning and counting.

So, was it worthwhile? We certainly think so. Are we up to trying another one? Most likely. ☺



L Skabo

## Ferocious Weeds

Dick Burns

In a book I recently read, a wealthy USA couple planted a Moreton Bay Fig, *Ficus macrophylla*, in their extensive garden on land that they owned on one of the Hawaiian islands. When they died, the exotic garden was willed to Hawaii as a botanical park. The fig thrived, so much that Steven Spielberg used it in the film *Jurassic Park*, the first and probably the best of the series. It seems to have been the one with the pronounced buttresses behind which Sam Neill found the hatched dinosaur eggs. The previous ones that the *Tyrannosaurus rex* pushed the car into and the one that Sam Neill and the children sleep in afterwards looked like Hollywood fabrications.

I've had the impression that most of the tropical islands in the Pacific have a flora that is a mixture of indigenous and exotic – plants that have attractive flowers or foliage having been brought in by gardeners, as did the wealthy Americans, and have flourished. When I went to Tahiti and the Marquises Islands, that habit became obvious as I travelled. The first eye-catcher was on Tahiti. *Miconia calvescens* was introduced from the Caribbean area in 1937; it liked it so much that the fig-like plant is endangering local communities. It has been estimated that one quarter of the Tahitian rainforest is *Miconia*. The species is also a Hawaiian threat – there, efforts are underway to control it.

It's not just tropical areas where exotic plants go wild. Previous articles mention eucalypts flourishing in Portugal and around San Francisco. Australian plants such as acacias and melaleucas have become invasive environmental weeds in South Africa and Florida. I was amazed travelling around the Northern Hemisphere to see Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, growing wild – it's even cultivated in the Lisbon botanical gardens in Portugal. As Tasmanians drive down the Midlands Highway they bemoan the loss of grassland to this plant introduced as a 'natural fence' or garden plant. The Murchison Highway goes through groves of English Broom, *Cytisus scoparius*, near Hampshire and the Waratah turnoff.

Non-careful roadworks, the rush to seal the Cradle Mountain Road, threatened to introduce thistles to Cradle Mountain for a while. And it seems that the garden escapee, Foxglove or *Digitalis purpurea*, long confined to the Meander area, is heading to Cradle Mountain.

We Australians seem to have a different approach to our indigenous flora and fauna. Are there equivalents in the UK or USA to our Australian plant societies? It is probably better to consider fauna at this stage because there is more easily accessed evidence. We in this country consider cats and foxes as dangerous because they live in our natural environments and eat small mammals, birds and lizards. Hence I was amazed when in England to see TV programmes that regarded foxes as cute. And English documentaries on domestic cats map their nocturnal foraging without considering the number of birds each cat eats. A recent TV show on veterinarians showed them catching feral cats de-sexing them, and then releasing them to eat more native animals.

Home gardeners and farmers are not the only ones that introduce plants that become environmental weeds. When I first visited the Cranbourne Australian Garden, an offshoot of the Melbourne Gardens, I offered to send *Correa alba* among my donation to their starting out, I was told that species was a no-no because *Correa alba* occurred locally and the Tasmanian form could hybridise with the Cranbourne taxon. Perhaps the planners have become more relaxed now that so many plants are growing at Cranbourne. The latest issue of *FronDS*, the magazine of the Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra, has an article on the escape of Red Passionfruit, *Passiflora cinnabarrina*, from the Gardens. ANBG grows only Australian plants; Red Passionfruit is a perennial vine that grows down the east coast and in the ranges south of Sydney to East Gippsland. First planted in the early 1970s, it was reported as self-seeded outside the Gardens in 1998. The fruits are dispersed by birds, local flying foxes and possibly possums. Hundreds of plants are now growing outside of the Gardens, and it sounds like the growth and effect upon the environment is similar to our pest species, Banana Passionfruit, *Passiflora mollissima*. ANBG has continued to cultivate Red Passionfruit and beyond the Gardens, the article says that the numbers can be reduced, but the plant can never be eradicated. ☉







*Passiflora cinnabarina* ex Wikipedia



Jurassic Park fig tree,



Gorse in Lisbon Gardens





*Miconia calvescens*

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## Membership Information

M. 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

- A. Individual or Organisation - \$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 - \$55/year
- Children under 16 free

### 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 & 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 end of year especially functions.

Margaret Killen

Membership Officer

[membership@apstas.org.au](mailto:membership@apstas.org.au)



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## Northern Group News

Kay Pallett



K. Pallett

Activities for Northern group members quietened a little as meetings were in abeyance over the summer months following a well organised, well attended and most successful Christmas dinner early in December. However, at the Tasmanian Native Garden a small dedicated group weeded, mulched and pruned throughout the summer holidays. Their efforts ensured that the garden looks good, especially these attractive grasses greeting visitors at the entrance.

At the nursery the maintenance work was constant. When members were not collecting *Viola hederaceae* seeds for the RTBG Seed Bank they were adding to the species range which will be on offer at the autumn plants sale on April 30. Fortunately, members are spreading the workload as over twenty members turned up to re-organise trays, repot, propagate, weed, wash pots and complete other necessary tasks at the February propagation day.



R.. Pallett

Members at work in the propagation shed.



Several members took the opportunity to explore more of our natural environment, to delight in the rich floral displays which followed the wet spring. Roy Skabo's meticulous ground work ensured that members were treated to memorable experiences such as the spectacular display of *Utricularia monanthos* (below) seen in mid December at Jonah Bay on the Arthurs Lake excursion.



On this excursion there was a good range of plants noted such as *Bellendena montana* (below) and threatened species such as *Acacia siculiformis* and *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*, the *M. axillaris* thriving after the wet spring.





In mid January Bare Rock at the back of Fingal peaked the interest of seventeen members. They were not disappointed, rewarded with magnificent views of the Fingal Valley stretching from Ben Lomond to the Mt. Nicholas Range. The expert knowledge of Alex Buchanan, the excursion guide, was also appreciated as members were able to find answers to species questions.

All were pleased at the diversity found. For example, the 'vulnerable' *Spyridium obcordatum* was growing precariously on the edge of the cliff, another threatened species *Teucrium corymbosum* was making a show amid *Senecio linearifolius*. The grassy area was dotted with *Leptorhynchos squamatus*, *Lagenophora stipitata*, *Helichrysum leuteoalbum*



K. Pallet



L. Skabo

**Above:** *Velleia montana* seen on Lake Augusta excursion.

**Left:** *Mazus pumilio* seen at a damp spot on Bare Rock

The third excursion to Lake Augusta, Liawenee, at the end of January was described by Roy Skabo as having an amazing small plant diversity. The excursioners found *Ranunculus collicola*, the Lake Augusta buttercup, which is known only here (two records) and nowhere else in the world.

*Australopyrum velutinum*, a grass, also very rare was found at Carters Lakes. In addition at this site: *Xerochrysum subundulatum* and *Leptorhynchos nitidulus* - not rare but certainly attractive.

Other species noted were *Herpolirion novae-zelandiae* white, *Nertera granadensis*, (orange cushion beads), *Gentianella eichleri*, *Podolepis decipiens* (below left) and *Viola hederacea* (below right).



L.,Skabo



L. Skabo





Above is a striking photo: *Ornduffia reniformis* taken at Double Lagoon east of Lake Augusta on the Central Plateau.

In February there was a pleasing turnout for the AGM followed by the General meeting. Once more members were spread out in the larger hall space and in the interests of Covid safety it was decided that supper would not be served.

Retiring President, Peter Dowde welcomed members to the 2022 AGM and proceeded with the presentation of the annual committee reports. J. Hallam thanked Peter who as President was 'always there' to consult, to help at all times. Peter has given an amazing 45 years of service with more to come as he plans to continue his interests in the nursery.

Roy Pallett is the new President and Dale Luck is Vice President. Jo Boniface continues as Northern Councillor with Ian Thomas to act as a Proxy Councillor. The appointee roles saw a few changes. Gilly Zachs resigned from the Programme Committee and her place has been filled by Ian Thomas. Gilly is now the Group Membership Officer, a role previously held by Jill Clark who helped oversee a strong rise in memberships. Louise Skabo thanked Jo Boniface as the retiring Vice-President, Robert Worland, as retiring Councillor and the appointees.

A quick start to the General Meeting saw the business covered efficiently. The *Viola hederacea* seed collecting project, now finished, was a success and suggests we should be involved in future projects with the RTBG. A phone and phone plan tied to the Square is to be purchased for plant sale EFTPOS payments. The new APST internet site needs a password for first use of the entire site but not for subsequent visits. It also has an easy-to-use link to pay annual subscriptions. On April 10th members will organise a table display at the Launceston Horticultural Society Show. There was discussion that resulted in support, in principle, of the formation of a conservation advocacy group and that we hold the state get-together 13-15 January 2023 at Ben Lomond.

It is the start of a promising year with promising speakers such as Peter McQuillan, 'Pollination and other plant/insect interactions' plus Graham Green, 'Chauncy Vale/Flat Rock Conservation area' .... and supper! There is much to look forward to in 2022. ☺

## Northern Group programme for 2022

March 5	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
March 15	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
March 22	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
April 2	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
April 10	Sunday	<b>Display table: native plants</b> , Horticultural Society Show, Evandale
April 19	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
April	TBA	<b>Excursion</b> to Chauncy Vale
April 26	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
April 30	Saturday	<b>Plants Sale</b> Max Fry Hall
May 7	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
May 17	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
May 24	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
June 4	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
June 21	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
June 28	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
July 2	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
July 19	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
July 26	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Aug 6	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Aug 16	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
Aug 23	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Sept 3	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Sept 20	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
Sept 24-25		<b>Display table: native plants</b> , Horticultural Society Show, Evandale
Sept 27	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Oct 1	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Oct 18	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
Oct 25	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Nov 5	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Nov 12-13		<b>Display table: native plants</b> , Horticultural Society Show, Evandale
Nov 15	Tuesday	<b>General Meeting</b> 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
Nov 16	Wednesday	<b>Excursion</b> Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area
Nov 22	Tuesday	<b>Working Bee</b> 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Dec 3	Saturday	<b>Propagation</b> APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Dec	TBA	<b>Christmas Dinner</b> 6.30 pm Windsor Community Precinct
January	13-15/2023	<b>Statewide Members' Get-together</b> at Ben Lomond



## Hobart Group Programme to July 2022

*B. Champion*

March	2	Kingborough Day Meeting 2:00pm at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens for a walk around and afternoon tea in the Café
	5	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm
	9	Hobart Group AGM/General Meeting at KPS 7:30pm Short presentation on South Australian adventures
	12	Boat trip around Maria Island meet at Triabunna
	27	Walk or garden visit
April	2	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm
	6	Kingborough Day Meeting 2:00pm at Kingston Library B Block off Church Street for a presentation about Landcare
	13	Hobart Group General Meeting at KPS 7:30pm presentation "The rise of the drones: using remote sensing to inform ecological restoration"
	16	Hobart Group Plants Sale in the Library forecourt at the Kingston Primary School 10am to 1pm setup from 8am
May	25	Walk?
	4	Kingborough Day Meeting 2:00pm at Kingston Library B Block access off Church Street <sup>R1.1</sup>
	7	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm
	11	Hobart Group General Meeting at KPS 7.30pm. Presentation on seaweed.
	29	Walk?
	1	Kingborough Day Meeting 2:00pm at Kingston Library B Block access off Church Street,
June	4	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm
	8	Hobart Group Acacia excursion 2:00pm Wednesday Knocklofty Reserve meeting at Forest Road carpark led by Rod and Chris Griffin and Jane Harbard
	2	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm
July	6	Kingborough Day Meeting 2:00pm at Kingston Library B Block access off Church Street <sup>R1.1</sup>
	13	Hobart Group General Meeting at KPS 2:00pm a presentation on the Three Capes walk
	16	Excursion to Hawthorn Drive Reserve Maranoa for excellent winter flowers. Meet Hawthorn Drive 2:00pm

tbc = to be confirmed; tbo = to be organised when contact details available

## North West Group Report

*M. Slattery*

North West had an enjoyable end-of-year gathering at Mary's home, where the garden was described by a Northern guest as 'quaint'. The meal was excellent contributions by all, and the conversations flowed everywhere. Our two newest members Lou and Therese popped in to say hello before embarking on the Spirit. Our February AGM brought no change in Office Bearers, and was followed by a general meeting during which the programme was discussed and many suggestions made. Peter has translated all these into a programme for us. The plant table was again a highlight, and our newsletter gives more details on the many contributions to this.

However it is worthy of note here that Riitta brought a delightful dwarf Eucryphia, the dainty *Eucryphia milliganii* to share with us.



*Eucryphia milliganii*

### North West Programme

#### March

Tuesday 15 General Meeting. Guest Speaker—mobile phones and pkotos  
Thursday 17 Propagation

#### April

Sunday 10 **Plants sale**  
Tuesday 19 General Meeting  
Thursday 21 Propagation  
Saturday 23 Fagus outing, Cradle

#### May

Tuesday 17 General Meeting  
Thursday 19 Propagation  
Saturday 21 O'Neills Creek fungi hunt



# APST Directory

## COUNCIL

**Postal address:** P. O. Box 1205,  
Gravelly Beach  
TASMANIA 7276

**Email:** [apstsec@gmail.com](mailto:apstsec@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.apstas.org.au](http://www.apstas.org.au)

President	Louise Skabo	6334 6787	Hobart Councillor	Keith Corbett	0419 593 059
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	Rosemary Verbeeten	6394 4600	Northern Councillor	Jo Boniface	0434 981 438
Hobart Councillor	Sib Corbett	0419 593 059	Northern Councillor	Roy Pallett	0438 392 041

## GROUPS

### Hobart Group

President	Vacant	0419 593 059	<b>Meeting place/time:</b>
Secretary	Christine Corbett	6239 1904	<b>General meetings:</b> <u>Kingston Primary School Library</u> Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm except January, June, July and August. For winter meetings, <a href="http://www.apstas.org.au/calendar">www.apstas.org.au/calendar</a>
Treasurer	Anthony Salt	0412 6 73 632	<b>Kingborough Day Meetings:</b> 2pm Centacare Units Meeting Room, Kingston. first Wednesday of the month (not January).
Contact Officer	Bruce Champion	6294 6970	

### Northern Group

President	Peter Dowde	6331 7761	<b>Postal address:</b> 45 Osborne Avenue, Trevallyn, Tas. 7250
Secretary	Anna McGrane	0419 347 743	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:apstasnorth@gmail.com">apstasnorth@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten	6394 4600	<b>Meeting place /time:</b> <u>Max Fry Hall, Gorge Rd, Trevallyn</u> 7.30 pm Third Tuesday of the month (except January).
Eucryphia Liaison	Kay Pallett	0400 097 025	

### North West Group

President	John Tabor	6428 6512	<b>Postal address:</b> PO Box 68, Port Sorell, Tas 7307
Vice-President	Joy McIntosh	6426 2657	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:apstnorthwest@gmail.com">apstnorthwest@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Drew Thomas	6437 1802	<b>Meeting place/time:</b> <u>St Pauls Church Hall, Church St, East Devonport</u> 7.30 pm, Third Tuesday of each month (except January, July and December)
Treasurer	John Boevink	6428 6909	
Eucryphia Liaison	Mary Slatter	0402 784 086	

