

# *Eucryphia*



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© P. French

*Billardiera longiflora* , taken in the Tasmanian Alpine section of the Tasmanian Arboretum.

# EUCRYPHIA

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## From The President

*President Louise Skabo*



Congratulations to Riitta Boevink of APST North West Group on her recent Life Membership award. NW Life Members Dick Burns and Mary Slattery nominated Riitta for her 20 years of dedicated service to promoting Australian native plants and her contributions to the Society in administration and leadership at NW Group, Society Council and ANPSA ( Australian Native Plants Society Australia) level. Her citation is published in this issue of Eucryphia. Riitta is a valued member who has made outstanding contributions to our Society.

Riitta continues as the ANPSA Study Groups liaison officer for our Society giving précis of their newsletters in Eucryphia. There is a fount of knowledge on native plants and growing them within these groups and we could all benefit by joining the ones which interest us most. It is a great way for new members to learn about our unique flora. There are about 16 Study Groups covering a diversity of interests and you can read about them via links on our APST website: Go to 'Resources', then 'Study Groups'.

Another resource we wish to encourage for members, as well as the general public, to use is the APST Facebook site. This was started by Bruce Champion and later, the Northern Group Facebook site amalgamated and administered it. There are over 1400 members and it recently changed to a private site to avoid unsuitable posts. A Hobart Group member has offered to post southern APST events and it would be great if a NW Group member also contributed their activities plus photos of native plants from gardens or the wild. It would be wonderful if as many members as possible who use or would be happy to use Facebook, ask to join the APST FB site and make posts. It is another way of achieving our objectives concerning Australian native plants and educating the public about their attractiveness, usefulness and value.

This will be my final President's blurb as my three-year term finishes at the end of March. The APST Council is there to assist the Groups in furthering the aims of the Society. Open two-way communication channels between Council and Groups are important for APST to remain united and to keep developing as a vibrant Society. Group Councillors, in particular, have a key role to play in keeping Group members accurately informed about Council matters, (especially those which directly affect the Groups like insurance, policy improvements and Group and Council responsibilities) as well as in communicating to Council the points of view and suggestions from Group members. Putting your hand up to be one of our Group member representatives, a Councillor for a couple of years, or hold an Council executive position or appointed position like Journal Editor or ANPSA Delegate etc, is an excellent way to learn about our Tasmanian Society, the national body ANPSA and to introduce fresh ideas. We all love Australian native plants, protecting them and maintaining our unique biodiversity and APST can be a small but effective advocate.

We would love to see you at the Society AGM, Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, in Hobart at the Kingston Primary School, Church St., at 11a.m. You could car-share. A light lunch will be provided. This is a time for any member to raise concerns, share views and meet your new Council and fellow members from other Groups.

Wishing all our Society members an enjoyable, social and edifying year and one where our aims to protect our native flora are satisfyingly advanced.

Louise. ☺

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

Emma Williams, Grant Scurr, Rebecca Gottschalk, Magdalena Toth,  
Catherine Allan, Martin Russnak, Andy van Emmerik, Meg Lorang,  
Laura Roemkens, James Black, Andrew Vocke and Claire Webb.

## Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink,  
Study Group Liaison



These are just some highlights from Study Group newsletter that might be of interest for Tasmanian members. I encourage all our members to peruse the newsletters available on the ANPSA ( Australian Native Plants Society Australia) website. The website is very clearly laid out and easy to navigate. Nearly all the newsletters are freely available for anyone to read. Many of the older issues have interesting articles and stories with plenty of great photographs. A few Study Groups keep the current year issues for the paid up members, but most are free. There is a wealth of information in these newsletters.

### **Australian Pea Flower** Study Group Newsletter 'Pea mail' No 5 June 2023

Leader: Shirley McLaren

As Tasmania has 56 species from the genus Fabaceae, this Study Group should be of interest to many Tasmanian members. Australia has total of 1100 species.

In the June issue the focus is on the genus *Bossia*. I checked in the 'Tasmanian Natural Flora' : we have four species. Several species of *Bossia* have leaves which are replaced by minute brown scales or flattened branches. *Bossia riparia*, which grows in Tasmania, is one of these.

The newsletter includes a story of a winter holiday trip to Innes National Park in South Australia.

In mid July they found *Templetonia retusa* in flower.

The Pea Flower Study Group also has a Facebook group for members.

### **Banksia** Study Group Newsletter No 30 Summer 2023

Leaders: Kevin and Kathy Collins

The newsletter contains a long article on grafting of Banksias. This is necessary for Western Australian species in the Eastern states. Fortunately in Tasmania we can grow Western Australian Banksias on their own roots, as grafting Banksias appears to be quite a challenge. There is also an article on a research project evaluating *Banksia coccinea* resistance to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

**Eremophila** Study Group newsletters are extensive, well illustrated, full of detailed information. Current issues are only available to paid up members, but membership costs only \$5 per year. ☺

## All Members Are Invited to the APST Members' Get-together!

Mark your calendars for an exciting event hosted by  
APST North West Group this year  
on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2024!

Join us in the vibrant Sheffield area for a memorable gathering filled with camaraderie and adventure. The highlight of our gathering will be the Annual Dinner at the charming Black Stump nestled in Gowrie Park.

Experience the warmth of the Black Stump with a variety of accommodation options including cosy self-contained cottages, backpacker-style lodging, and serene camping facilities right at your fingertips.

While our team finalises the details, anticipate an array of delightful activities including scenic walks, enchanting garden visits, thrilling orchid hunting, and some invigorating longer treks.

Get ready to create lasting memories and forge new connections at the APST Members' Get-together—it's an event you won't want to miss!

## Report from Council

*Vice-President Judith Blayden*



One of my tasks is to keep you all informed about the Council business and activities through Eucryphia but sometimes it's difficult to know what information members would like to hear. Suggestions and questions are always welcome.

Council met by Zoom on 25<sup>th</sup> November and many of the issues discussed were purely administrative in nature, but the issues of the development of the conservation strategy and progress with the handbook may be of general interest.

APST has been concerned about and involved in conservation of native plants for some time and in this area we seem to be ahead of other regions and organisations. In the previous Eucryphia the Conservation Officer wrote about the need to develop a strategy to assist in promoting and implementing the conservation of native plants and environment. A draft policy has been prepared and will be circulated to all members so that everyone has the opportunity to add to it or comment on it before it is adopted by APST. It may be that the strategy could become a blueprint for other groups throughout Australia.

Good governance has been a goal for Council and to ensure transparency and understanding of policies affecting the society and the responsibilities of office holders work has been undertaken to develop a handbook that will be available to all members online. As you can imagine, this has been a major undertaking as the need to develop policies is identified and as circumstances drive the need for change to some positions. The aim is for role descriptions, policies and guidelines to be available on the web in 2024.

If you enjoy being part of APST and value the work it is doing, you might consider stepping up to take on a role within your group. Several groups have identified positions which need to be filled for the new year. Getting more involved is one way of assisting the Society but it isn't just a one-way street because you can find that your involvement is a pleasure and you might discover skills you didn't even know you had. ☺

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## Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 23rd March 2024**

**Please join us at the Kingston Primary School.**

This is an opportunity:

- To vote in the Annual General meeting
- To see your council in action at the ensuing Council meeting
- To visit the Hobart Group's nursery



### **Registrations are Now Open!**

Welcome to the ANSPA 2024 Biennial Conference, proudly hosted by APS Victoria  
The Conference is being held in excellent facilities at The Round in Nunawading,  
near Melbourne.

Registrations are now officially open, and we invite you to secure your spot  
for this exciting event.

Take advantage of the opportunity to connect with fellow Australian native plant  
enthusiasts and expand your knowledge.

Enhance your conference experience by joining one of our pre-conference or  
post-conference tours, designed to showcase the best of Victoria's landscape.  
Additionally, we're thrilled to offer two days of excursion, Tuesday and Thursday  
during the conference week, allowing you to unwind and discover the beauty of  
natural landscapes, public and private gardens.

Register now and secure your place at the ANSPA 2024 Biennial Conference.  
We can't wait to welcome you !

Registration Now Open

[Register Now](#)

## A Moment of Celebration and Surprise

On a memorable day in February, our esteemed President Louise took centre stage to present a truly special honour: Life-Membership to the remarkable Riitta Boevink!

Picture this: amidst the warm embrace of the North West group, Riitta found herself enveloped in a whirlwind of surprise and emotion. Riitta's astonishment was palpable as President Louise bestowed this prestigious recognition upon her.

But here's the twist: the air was filled with anticipation as the secret remained tightly under wraps, thanks to the impeccable discretion of our dear members and the stealthy efforts of none other than Jan. Even the dedicated propagation team, who share countless moments with Riitta, managed to keep this extraordinary news a delightful secret.

It was a moment of pure joy, a celebration of friendship, dedication, and the cherished bonds that tie our APST community together.

Let's raise our glasses to Riitta Boevink, a beacon of inspiration and a testament to the spirit of our North West group. May her journey ahead be as bright and extraordinary as the admiration and gratitude we shared for her today!



**Citation**  
for Life Membership of the  
**Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.**  
for  
**Riitta Boevink**

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

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

Within the North West group, Riitta assumed various roles, including President in 2008, 2009, and 2010, and is currently President again (2023), Propagation Manager, Plant Table Scribe, and Programme Coordinator. She actively contributed to organisational tasks for events like Member's Get-togethers, local Annual Group Meetings and General Meetings, playing a pivotal role in maintaining a beneficial environment for NW members.

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

These include

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

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

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

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

Nominated by Mary Slattery and Dick Burns.

9/01/2024. ☉



Riitta with the display at the Port Sorell Spring Fair



# The Sagg - From Neglect to Respect

Phil Watson

(This is an update by Phil of his article from Eucryphia Volume 14 No 8 —Ed)

## Introduction

For a long time, *Lomandra longifolia*. (sagg or spiny headed mat rush) has been classified into a plant family known as the Grass tree family (*Xanthorrhoeaceae*), which included 51 *Lomandra* species, all of which are native to Australia.

However, if you find a sagg tussock that has had reasonable amounts of moisture during its growing period, pull out a leaf stalk from the base and chew the soft white fleshy base section of their strap-like leaves.

Unexpectedly, it will somewhat taste and look like the base of a raw white asparagus stalk. With this in mind, it is not surprising to know that *Lomandra* have been reclassified from the *Xanthorrhoeaceae*, family into the family *Asparagaceae*, subfamily *Lomandroideae*. This reclassification results in *Lomandra* sp. Joining other strap leaved plants such as *Cordyline* (cabbage tree), *Phormium* (NZ flax) and weedy *Agave* cactus (century plant). Additionally, the Asparagus family also consists of numerous colourful herbaceous members found in our grassy woodlands such as *Arthropodium* spp., (vanilla and chocolate lily) and *Thysanotus* spp., (twinning fringed lily), which could be considered unlikely cousins of *Lomandra*.

Botanically, *Lomandra longifolia* is a small, tufted rush, with long strap like, green leaves. From the leaf base a tall slender, attractive yellow flower spike appears in the early growing season and persists for many weeks. As the spike matures, the structure is replaced by a tan, fruit-bearing shaft, composed of attractive clusters of small nutlets.



Figure 1:

*Lomandra longifolia*

Image: Canberra Nursery and Landscape

## Changing Attitudes from Farmers

Its aboriginal cultural heritage cannot be underestimated. However, in contrast to the respect shown for the plant by the Aborigines, from early colonial times up to now pastoralists and farmers alike have neglected and weeded out this native rush. Generally, they considered it as an intruder, capable of degrading their fine pastures. This prompted a 'search and destroy' attitude resulting in its unrelenting removal by ploughing under, digging out, burning, or spraying.

Interestingly following a wildfire or planned burn, the sagg is one of the earliest plants to recover in the blackened landscape by sending up green shoots from their rhizomatous roots and subsequently rapidly flowering to provide the earliest available nectar for insect pollinators. Curiously the earliest of all responders are foraging ants that busily collect seed with fleshy appendages (elaiosomes) released from various obligatory seeding plants. The ants store these seeds underground providing them with a long-term larder for feeding their brood stock. This seed pile often includes seeds thrown from sags.

The sagg provides an important buffer to the elements and promotes native butterfly populations by being a larval food source for their caterpillars.

*Continued next page*

Other roles, beyond stock shelter, such as its ability to create refuges and habitat for native birds, fauna (e.g. bandicoots), as well as a myriad of insects, in conjunction with its ability to produce the first flush of new greenery in the blacken moonscape following wildfires or prescribe burns, has helped it regain the respect amongst today's environmentally aware farmers.

## Landscape and Garden Values

In recent years, the sagg and its cultivars have proven to be popular landscape plants, respected and used by landscape architects and horticulturalists alike, for its resilience and consistency of form. When incorporated as framework plants, either in formal settings or in revegetation projects, they consistently perform their amenity and ecological roles, with minimal follow-up maintenance requirements.

They are tolerant of climatic extremes and soil conditions, which will often cause the demise of most other 'hardy' native plants. They also establish with ease from either seedlings or transplanted mature plants. Transplants are commonly available from building or development sites, where earthworks destroy most of the other native vegetation, which will generally die if transplanting is attempted.

These unique attributes have finally been recognised, ensuring its regular use in difficult locations, such as broad scale plantings within road islands and along roadsides.

Away from these public sites, they are equally valuable as feature plants in a domestic landscape setting. They add textural interest to rockeries and native gardens due to their foliage, flowers and fruits.

They can even be picked for use as attractive shapes in floral art or dried vase arrangements.



Figure 2  
Lomandra's flower spikes  
Image: Yarra Valley  
Council

## Aboriginal Plant Use

Aboriginal families travelling through the woodland landscapes relied on their intimate knowledge of native plants to relieve their hunger and thirst. For example, the hard black seeds were often roasted to make a course gruel porridge.

Additionally, due to its easy availability, the sagg was known to provide a sweet moisture-laden snack. One could imagine their youngsters extracting the young central leaves from sagg tussocks and enjoying the asparagus or pea-like flavour and texture of the succulent white leaf bases!

*Continued next page*

When camped in one place, the nectar-laden flowers were steeped in water to provide a sweet citrus flavoured drink by adding formic acid exudates of foraging ants. Given sufficient time, this enriched water could ferment sufficiently to brew a slightly intoxicating beverage.

The leaves were important for making dillies. These woven baskets were used for collecting plant foods or shellfish such as oysters, muscles, scallops, and even crayfish. The women would dive off the rocks into the cold estuarine waters, with their dillies strapped over their shoulders to collect a feed of the bountiful shellfish within the versatile baskets.

The baskets were made for carrying most of their needs using the following basic method. The leaves once picked were split down the centre into two and left to dry for 3 or more days. Before being worked they were dampened with water for 24 hours to render them pliable. This process of making the leaves supple, allowed their use to be extended to bandaging for sores or abscesses on the arms and legs, which needed to be kept clean and tied up.

## Conclusion

Today, environmental attitudes are slowly changing towards understanding the ecological significance of sagg. This is a spin off from their awareness of the values associated with their property's remnant bushland, be it pristine or degraded. Not only is sagg being accepted as an integral part of their grassy woodlands, but also it is being recognised for the important ecological roles it performs.

Additionally, the sagg along with its many recently developed cultivars and hybrids has gained prominence in mass plantings as part of landscaping projects due to its resilience to changing climate extremes and attractiveness. ☺

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## RTBG Seed Collection - a means of species survival

Roy and Kay Pallett

The implications of global warming on agriculture, coastlines, marine species, sea levels, rainfall, air temperatures etc. are becoming part of the thinking of a growing proportion of the population. The effects on Tasmanian species are less widely known and appreciated by our community. Many Tasmanian species are endangered, not just by their rarity, but also by the changing climatic conditions.

For many of us in the Northern Group the extent of the seed bank responsibilities has been an eye-opener and members have been encouraged to support James Wood and the seed collecting programme where possible.

The Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC) at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens was established in 2005. Tasmania is not alone in this venture but allied with the Kew Gardens Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP). As a backup, half of each seed collection made in Tasmania is sent to MSBP.

Our Group has committed to assisting where possible with financial donations; successfully growing *Viola bederacea* for seed at the nursery in 2021 from which 90,941 seeds were collected; and also with volunteers to assist James Wood on his seed collecting trips.



Not all of the ventures are successful, but some field trips have been very fruitful. For example, the trip to Mt Puzzler Reserve near Fingal in February 2023 gathered the planned number of seeds which included *Stackhousia monogyna*, the focus of the day, as well as some seed from *Coronidium scorpioides*, a *Senecio* and *Ozothamnus* sps. Yet a second visit in late November, 2023 to collect *Tetratheca pilosa* seed was a disappointment.

Another seed collecting visit to Conara was less successful, despite *Tricoryne elatior* having been marked on a previous trip and a few having been bagged. On the collection day we found that many of the marked plants had been browsed and realised that the best place to find the small delicate stems with correspondingly tiny seed pods was amongst crowded poa and lomandras! There was, however, a little seed collected, and the few plants that had been bagged on the earlier trip were productive.

Above: **Left:** *Tricoryne elatior* **Right:** Tagged and bagged *Tricoryne elatior*

Below: **Left:** *Eucalyptus gunnii* leaves, Mt Barrow in background. **Right:** *Eucalyptus gunnii*. (see next page)



More recently Kay and Roy joined James and David Marrison on an outing to a plateau on the south-west of Mt Barrow, accessed via the Mt Barrow Discovery Trail. *Eucalyptus gunnii* (cider gum) was the target species, and also to search for more *Acacia axillaris*, known in one small spot in the area. *E. gunnii* (previous page) grows in relatively narrow strips around the margins of the marsh. This meant that two of us took the northern side, which turned out to be the more abundant as far as seeds were concerned. Gumboots were needed to traverse the marsh which was alive with native plant species and water holes, and little streams to fill the gumboots of the inattentive walker. The southern side party walked further (7km in the day) and worked harder to get the seeds than the collectors on the northern edge of the marsh. It was a good result with a collection of seeds from 31 selected trees. These seeds undergo a meticulous process at the Seed Bank to be a cleaned, cut, tested and counted before storage.

Even though *E. gunnii* is a comparatively small tree growing up to 10 metres, individuals sampled were uncooperative, refusing to flower on the lower branches. Pole loppers were needed.

To ensure genetic diversity, seed samples were taken from trees a minimum of 50 metres apart. Hybridisation was the other problem with *E. gunnii* and *E. coccifera* interbreeding, so care had to be taken in selecting 'pure' trees.



The population of *E. gunnii* is not large and it is regarded as endangered. According to the Tasmanian Threatened Species Listing Statement, '...population estimated to be less than 2,500 individuals and an estimated continuing decline of at least 20% within 5 years'.

*E. gunnii* (at left, along a marsh edge) grows on the edge of moist areas on dolerite up to 1,050 metres above sea-level. It is very frost resistant, but susceptible to drought conditions. Consequently, it is endangered as over time temperatures will increase and rainfall patterns will change along with a decrease in snow such that the vegetation dynamics will change and trees from much lower elevations will eventually replace *E. gunnii* and many associated plants.

We ate lunch, sitting on a dolerite boulder at the edge of the marsh next to a clump of small *Acacia axillaris* trees. There were orchids, a *Chiloglottis* species at our feet (as well as mosquitoes). Time did not allow us to explore further, as James had hoped, for the acacia, plus it was clear that the seed pods were not yet ready.

Ex-situ plant conservation in the form of seedbanks such as the aforementioned MSBP endeavour are vital for preserving species such as *E. gunnii*. However, as the journal 'Nature Plants' revealed - seed banks are not a viable option for all plants when stored in seed banks. In fact 36% of endangered plant species cannot tolerate the drying process and therefore cannot be frozen, the key process they need to go through to be safely banked.

On the day *Telopea truncata*, waratahs, a feast for the eyes, were a bonus. At their flowering peak in obviously an ideal season they were dotted on the plateau; but even more spectacular was the kilometre or two of waratah understory that we passed through on the Discovery Trail. David described it as the best waratah stand he had seen in Tasmania.

It was a privilege to visit an area previously unknown to us and to witness the waratahs in full bloom.

Seed collecting of waratah will be the next target, possibly in April. ☺



Any volunteers?

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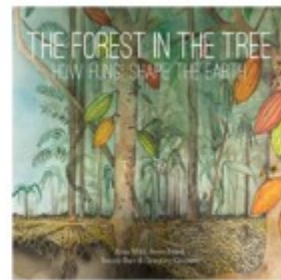
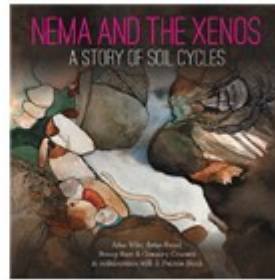
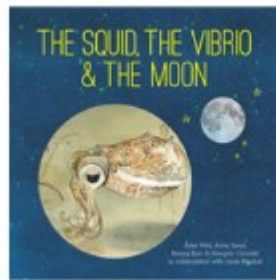
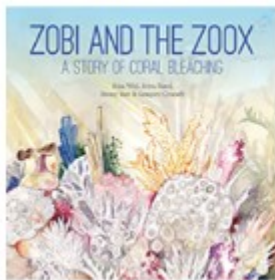
Margaret Killen

If you are looking for some different and fascinating books for the young people in your life, or to donate to a school library, I would recommend some, or all, from this set 'The Small Friends Book Set' <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/8014> by CSIRO Publishing. When I gave them to my grandchildren their parents commented that they also learnt a lot as well.

'The Small Friends Books series combines cutting-edge scientific research, rich narrative and beautiful illustrations to tell stories that describe symbiotic partnerships between microbes and larger life forms. Each book is also a kind of symbiosis: a collaboration between writers, scientists, artists, designers and educators.

Reading level varies from child to child, but we recommend these books for ages 8 to 12.' (CSIRO Publishing)

- The Forest in the Tree: How Fungi Shape the Earth
- Nema and the Xenos: A Story of Soil Cycles
- The Squid, the Vibrio and the Moon
- Zobi and the Zoox: A Story of Coral Bleaching



A mesmerising view of *Richea scoparia*

## News From The Groups

### Northern Group

Kay Pallett

It was the beginning of summer, the busy Christmas month, yet members managed the usual nursery tasks; an early working bee at the Tasmanian Native Garden; and the CSR working bees including a visit by four City of Launceston staff to look at progress in the reserve and consider plans for the new year. The Christmas dinner attended by 38 members brought much cheer, chat, food and laughter. Peter Longman's Santa performance usually marks the end of the APST year but for a few, there was one final excursion to Snow Hill near Lake Leake - an interesting place with a greater



© F. Tilsley

number of eucalyptus species in a small area than any other place in Tasmania. Among the many other species present was the native Solomon's seal, *Drymophila cyanocarpa* (left), *Viola bentonicifolia* and a *Thelymitra* sp.

In the new year the propagation sessions were well attended and preparation for the autumn sale was front of mind, as was how to reorganise the tasks at the Windsor Park nursery. This was discussed over drinks at the end of the January session and has resulted in members undertaking specific jobs with Janet Hallam as overall nursery manager. An extra propagation session in February was necessary, mostly repotting, to ensure plants were ready for the April 27th sale.

The first Conservation Reserve Committee meeting of the year was held towards the end of January. The Cambridge Street working bees have continued, the February one particularly challenging in the hot windy weather. The Tasmanian Native Garden working bees have been focused on weeding and spreading the Council-delivered mulch. Building and fencing on a neighbouring property has finished and the garden has settled, Daphne Longman reported, but the faded information sign is in need of replacement.

An early January excursion to Weaver's Creek, Mt Barrow Plains, rewarded members with a mass display of *Leptospermum lanigera* while *Comesperma retusa* was another stand out on the day. During a summer visit to Paradise Plains (below right), there was much to see. Many species of daisies such as *Coronidium monticola*, a new addition to the Tasmanian Census of Vascular Plants, were sighted. Some other plants noted were *Trachymene humilis*, *Epilobium billardioreanum*, *Pappocroma bellidioides*, and *Xerochrysum subundulatum* (below left).



© L. Skabo



© L. Skabo



The Ben Lomond excursion was cancelled. The first of the native plant displays at the Horticultural Show was also cancelled. However, in early February there was a seed collecting trip with James Wood from the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre to Second Lagoon in the Lake Augusta area. This was a return trip because some of the species had not been seed ready on the previous trip. James intends to return with member volunteers on February 29. This will be the last opportunity for members to experience this area with experts from the Royal Botanical Gardens.

The February AGM covered business efficiently as 38 members met for the first time this year. The elections of a new President, Vice President and secretary were endorsed. Roy Pallett, outgoing president, welcomed Dale Luck, President, Jeff Campbell, Vice President and Karin Fiedler, business secretary. Rosemary Verbeeten continues in her role as treasurer and Noel Manning remains the minutes secretary.

The appointees positions were filled except for those of the publicity officer and newsletter editor/Eucryphia liaison which were deferred. The office bearers and appointees reports were adopted including the treasurer's report.

The general meeting heard about the formation of a new nursery management team; discussion on increased plant prices; the acquisition of a defibrillator, and the possible declaration of Windsor Park as a botanical garden. Both latter matters are before the West Tamar Council. The Programme Committee has in place a full list of interesting speakers to provide information and challenges for members - a most promising year is ahead. ☉



Seed collecting — an intense, ground level task in the Lake Augusta area

## North West Group President's 2023 Report

*Riitta Boevink*

The year 2023 has seen some changes in the NW group, a change of meeting venue being the most significant. The new venue at the East Devonport Tennis Club, just one street away from the previous venue at the Anglican church hall, is working well for our small group. Our NW membership is 50, but increasing the number of active members continues to be a challenge.

Attendance at our monthly evening meetings has remained around 10 to 13 members. Attendance at the propagation sessions at the Tasmanian Arboretum has been also around 10, although I recall one meeting when there were only three of us. We work from 10am, often till 2pm. The propagation team has become skilled and well organised. We continue to have issues due to ageing of the facilities as well as usual problems with liverwort and other weeds that beset old nursery facilities. A special thanks go to Marianne and Bradley Stagg, who spent a day thoroughly cleaning the old glasshouse, which had become heavily coated with algae and moss. We have endeavoured to increase our focus on growing Tasmanian species, and need to thank John Tabor for his expertise in this area. He has been able to gain access to many of the less common plants.

The rent we pay to the Arboretum was increased from \$500 to \$1000 annually. I will leave the financial details to the treasurer.

Our autumn plant sale at the Arboretum was well attended. The Spring sale took place at the Port Sorell Spring Fair in October. This has been the practice for several years. Despite of a rainy start of the day it was eventually well attended. Holding the spring sale as part of a general fair, give us access to customers, who would not normally travel to the Arboretum for a plant sale. We set up a plant display and have a lot of promotional material. The feedback we received was indicating that we have become better known as a group. Some people come to the fair specifically to buy plants from us. Another promotional/ marketing event was Devonport 'Expo of everything', where we had a display with information.

The newsletter editor position was left vacant at the 2023 AGM due to the resignation of the previous editor. Initially, as a temporary measure, our secretary Drew Thomas continued to inform members of events by his delightful postings called 'cuttings'. Simon Van der Veen agreed to explore developing a more comprehensive newsletter. Previously the newsletter was only published bi-monthly, but this created problems with information dissemination. Thanks to Simon, our newsletter has developed into a lively, well illustrated and informative monthly publication.

Guest speakers over the year were Fiona Flett from NRM on a conservation project on Three Hummock Island. In April Greg Close, a bird expert and a photographer. The meeting in July was a day meeting at the Arboretum with Philip Milner, a well known plant expert, as a speaker. He spoke about the evolution of our plant life. Afterwards he led a walk through the Arboretum following Gondwana plants. In August Louise Skabo and Margaret Killen visited us giving a presentation on the history of APST. Our traditional end of year gathering was held at home of John Tabor. This gave us an opportunity to look through John's wonderful garden packed with native plants.

Future challenges for us continue to be engaging more of the less active members as well as attracting new ones and developing activities that attract participation. The North West population is very scattered and distances are long limiting the number of members willing and able to travel to events.

I wish to thank all those members, who have provided loyal contributions over the past year and hope our group continues to develop. ☺



# Membership Information



Margaret Killen  
Membership Officer

Membership of the APST Inc. gives people interested in Australian native plants connection to an extensive network of knowledgeable and enthusiastic people throughout Tasmania and the wider world. To discover our Objectives have a [look here](#) on our website.

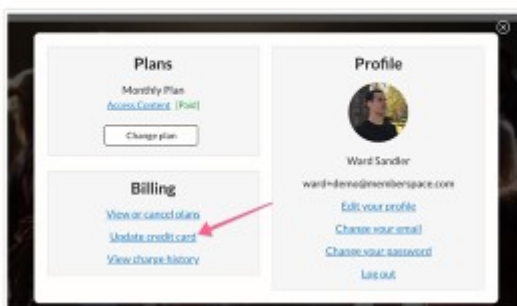
## Managing Subscriptions:

If you have subscribed on-line and need to **update or change your information** such as personal **Details** (e.g. email), membership **Plan** (e.g. concession status) or **Billing** information (e.g. credit card) use the '**Member Menu**' located centrally on the top green bar of the website and follow the prompts via 'Your Account'.

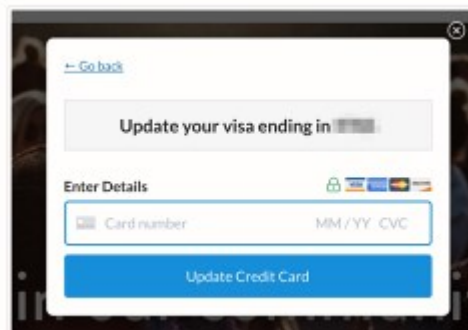
The following guide gives an example of how to update your credit card details.

1 Open your Account

2 Click the 'Update credit card' link under the 'Billing' section:



3 Enter your new card information and click 'Update Credit Card':



For all other subscription (e.g. EFT payment) or membership enquiries or access to the *members only* section of the website, please contact the Membership Officer on [membership@apstas.org.au](mailto:membership@apstas.org.au).

Please note that your credit card details are kept on a secure payment system (*Stripe*) which we (APST) do not have access to. *Stripe* facilitates the transfer of money from your bank (via your card) to the APST bank.

## Annual Subscription Rates

Children under 16 are free

A. Individual, Organisation or overseas - \$40

B. Individual with APJ - \$65

C. Individual concession - \$37

D. Individual concession with APJ - \$62

E. Household - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$49

F. Household with APJ - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$74

G. Household concession - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$46

H. Household concession with APJ - Individual plus 1 additional adult - \$46

I. Overseas Individual and Overseas Organisation with APJ (electronic) - \$71

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

\*The Australian Plants journal (APJ) is a national quarterly hard-copy publication which requires an additional subscription rate of \$25. These are inbuilt in the above rates.

Margaret Killen  
Membership Officer

[membership@apstas.org.au](mailto:membership@apstas.org.au) 0409 430 665

# APST Directory

## COUNCIL

Postal Address:	P.O. Box 1205 Gravelly Beach Tasmania 7276	Email:	<a href="mailto:apstsec@gmail.com">apstsec@gmail.com</a>		
		Website:	<a href="http://www.apstas.org.au">www.apstas.org.au</a>		
President	Louise Skabo	63 34 6787	Hobart Councillor	Jenny Boyer	62 93 1113
Vice-President	Judith Blayden	0408 491 107	Hobart Councillor	vacant	
Secretary	Mary Slattery	0402 784 086	North West Councillor	Drew Thomas	6437 1802
Treasurer	Anthony Salt	0412 673 632	North West Councillor	Riitta Boevink	6428 6909
Membership officer	Margaret Killen	0409 430 665	Northern Councillor	Dale Luck	0418 830 995
			Northern Councillor	Ian Thomas	0438 392 041

## GROUPS

### Hobart Group

President	Jenny Boyer	6293 1113	<b>Meeting place/time:</b> <b>General meetings:</b> <u>Kingston Primary School Library</u> Second Wednesday of the month 7pm Winter meetings: <a href="http://www.apstas.org.au/calendar">www.apstas.org.au/calendar</a> <b>Kingborough Day Meetings</b> <u>2pm Centacare Units Meeting Room,</u> Kingston. <b>first</b> Wednesday of the month (not January) Carmen 0421 449 446
Secretary	Prue Wright	0438 410 192	
Secretary Email	<a href="mailto:apsthobartec@gmail.com">apsthobartec@gmail.com</a>		
Treasurer	Anthony Salt	0412 673 632	
Contact Officer	Janet Stephens	0438 705 319	

### Northern Group

President	Dale Luck	0418 830 995	<b>Postal address:</b> 45 Osborne Avenue, Trevallyn, Tas. 7250 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:apstasnorth@gmail.com">apstasnorth@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Karin Fiedler	0431 247 405	
Secretary Email	<a href="mailto:k.e.fiedler@icloud.com">k.e.fiedler@icloud.com</a>		<b>Meeting place /time:</b> <u>Max Fry Hall, Gorge Rd, Trevallyn</u> 7.30 pm Third Tuesday of the month (except January).
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten	0458 812 850	

### North West Group

President	Riitta Boevink	6428 6909	<b>Postal address:</b> PO Box 68, Port Sorell, Tas 7307 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:apstnorthwest@gmail.com">apstnorthwest@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Drew Thomas	6437 1802	
Treasurer	John Boevink	6428 6909	<b>Meeting place:</b> 48 Wright Street (Tennis Club) East Devonport 7310 Except for June July and August.
Eucryphia Liaison	Mary Slattery	0402 784 086	