

Eucryphia



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J. Hall

A bright yellow flower of *Hibbertia scandens* growing in a local garden.

EUCRYPHIA

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From The President

President Louise Skabo



APST Inc Council is pleased to welcome Philip Watson from Hobart Group as our new Conservation Officer. Last *Eucryphia*, I lamented that APSTI had not had a conservation officer for many years and then Phil rang to offer his service. He has extensive experience in Local Government strategic planning matters as a Project Officer and is keen to start on the process of developing a conservation strategy for our Tasmanian plants society. With Phil working on this with assistance from members who are already involved in conservation matters within their Groups and other members who have a wish to contribute more to the preservation of our unique flora, APSTI hopes 'to promote recognition of the Society as a resource group for educationalists and the government' (APSTI Constitution). Our society aims to continue and further our partnerships with other organisations and government to ensure local reserves and national parks are preserved in excellent condition for future generations.

Following from this, at the last Council meeting, it was moved that, as a society with three constitutional objectives referring to the preservation of Tasmanian flora, a submission should be written to the Tasmanian government on their 'State Planning Provisions Review – Scoping Issues'. These provisions have lost some of the checks and balances which were in place prior to a new Planning Scheme in 2017 and now, with the legislated five year review, it is Tasmania's chance to try and correct any deficiencies. APST Inc submission mainly covers the areas of SPPs relating to the Environmental Management Zone and the Natural Assets Code where more 'permitted uses' and 'exemptions' greatly reduce the rights of the community to have a say with proposed developments including commercial developments in our national parks and reserves – such vital places in the preservation of Tasmania's flora and fauna. Any interested member can request our Society Secretary, apstsec@gmail.com, to email this document to them.

Amanda Walker has designed a gorgeous calendar from members' photographs and it should be printed by now. It is a great way to promote Tasmanian flora. Read the information Jenny and David Boyer have written in this *Eucryphia* if you wish to buy this limited edition calendar for 2023.

A small contingent of APST members will represent Tasmania at the upcoming Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) conference in Kiama, 10-16th September. Roy and I are looking forward to attending and meeting many other knowledgeable and interesting native plant enthusiasts and exploring what looks like a florally fascinating region of NSW.

I wish you all well. ☺

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

Anthony, Melinda & Harrison Williams; Antoinette Hanna; Carmen Holloway;
Jim Lane; Jonathan Metcalfe; Leon Lange; Marilyn & Alex Fraterman; Rae Bassett;
Rikki-Lea James.

Council Report

Leoni Read
Vice President



Having Covid meant I missed the June APST Council meeting, however I can refer to the minutes and reports to bring you some of the highlights.

Archiving records: At the March 26th APST Council meeting, it was recommended that groups make more use of archiving their records on a Google drive to preserve the organisation's history and are encouraged to continue to do this.

APST Website: It was decided that there is a need for a website development committee to be formed to review the new website for improvements, additions, removals and adjustments to be made and to enact and report on these changes.

Updates on the Action List:

2023 APST Calendars make wonderful gifts. The Boyers and Amanda Walker are the contact people if you wish to order some.

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

Just a reminder that the Northern group are the organisers and if you haven't booked accommodation or wish to register, you are encouraged to do so asap.

Conservation Officer In the last report it was reported that we had not been able to find anyone willing to take on the role, which was disappointing because of the number of important conservation issues, especially native forest degradation. Fortunately, Phil Watson has stepped forward to fill this important role and joined the discussion.

Some things which were discussed:

- Conservation of bushland

- Traditional work of conserving plant species

- Question/Influence plans of other bodies regarding conservation

- Consultation with members for true representation on submissions, and instigation of partnerships where possible.

The new State Planning Scheme needs immediate consideration.

A Resolution was passed that a submission be written re the invitation for public input to the scope of State Planning Policies (SPP) Review. APST will concentrate on ensuring good policies for public land reserved for nature conservation or within Tasmanian National Parks. ☺

Fabulous Peas 2022

FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar, Victoria

15th - 16th October 2022

Discover the extraordinary world of Australian pea plants.

Saturday York on Lilydale, Mount Evelyn

Speakers with expertise in identifying, growing and propagating peas. Learn about current research into propagation and growing-on techniques. Evening dinner and an entertaining speaker.

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Sunday Coach tours to public and private native gardens which include a wide variety of pea species.

Also Art exhibition and sale featuring pea plants from 8th – 16th October at Karwarra Australian Plant Garden and Nursery.

Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink,
Study Group Liaison



The ANPSA website, like the Tasmanian one, has been reconstructed. The webmaster informs us that the following addresses are now active: info@anpsa.org.au and studygroups@anpsa.org.au
NOTES FROM STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTERS August 2022

Study Groups allow members with specific interests to develop that interest to the fullest extent and to contribute in a practical way to the body of knowledge of the Australian flora. Membership of a Study Group can vary from just a few members to over 200. You can find links to all the Study Groups on the ANPSA website. As the Tasmanian Study Group liaison officer I receive copies of all the newsletters published by the Study Groups. I peruse them and make brief comments on items that I think might interest Tasmanian readers. Most newsletters are now available on the website. Most make the latest one available to the members only, but the Garden Design SG has all the newsletters available for anyone to read.

Garden Design Study Group Newsletter 117, Nov 2021

Leader : Lawrie Smith

The theme for the NL is 'Very small gardens and courts'. The Garden Design newsletters are best viewed on line because the extensive illustrations are central for conveying design aspects. There are several excellent gardens depicted.

Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group No 53 July 2022

Leader : Allan Carr

Feature plant segment contains a description of the intriguing little plants of genus *Utricularia*. Allan Carr reports that they have appeared in large numbers on damp sand and at the edges of pooled water on Bribie island. *Utricularia dichotoma*, Fairies Aprons, occurs in Tasmania.

Banksia Study Group Newsletter No 27

Leaders: Kevin and Cathy Collins

This issue is largely devoted to the second instalment of the report of the big journey the Collins made in 2018. The report covers their exploration of Australian plants grown in France, Germany and the Netherlands. They say it demonstrates the effort botanic garden curators, staff and individual private collectors put into growing our beautiful Banksias in the Northern hemisphere. There are lovely illustrated descriptions of these gardens. Kevin Collins gave a talk to members of the Linneus Society in France. The Botanical Garden in Bonn has developed special technique for propagating *Banksia coccinea* from cuttings.

Grevillea Study Group Newsletter No 122 June 2022

Leader: Peter Olde

The Grevillea Study Group has active chapters in NSW, VIC, SA, WA and Qld.

In her latest newsletter, Jane Fountain, the national SG coordinator congratulates Peter Olde for the news that his paper on two new species related to *G. macleyeana* has been published in *Telopea*. Peter himself thanks two SG members, who helped him in searching out wild populations of the *Grevillea macleyeana*. The newsletter includes a contribution by Helen Howard on 'the impact of climate change on the nursery industry'. She describes the adverse effect of the high rainfall on Grevilleas during the last two years. It appears that many of the older hybrids are more resilient. If you want to attract birds to your garden, her advice is to have species more dominant than the large flowered hybrids. You will provide lots of hiding places for the little birds by planting smaller, bushy even prickly shrubs between the larger flowering hybrids. 'Recently it has been noted that there are fewer small birds in native gardens. The balance in planting should help keep an even balance for both larger and smaller birds'.

The issue also includes large amount of detailed information on the very numerous Grevillea species and hybrids. ☺



ANPSA Study Group Leaders. Contacts and Fees as at April 2022

STUDY GROUP	LEADER	Address	Email	Phone	FEES
Acacia	Bill Aitchison	13 Conos Court Donvale VIC 3111	acaciastudygroup@gmail.com	03 9872 3583	\$10/\$7 New mem- bers email only
Australian plants as bon- sai	<i>In recess</i>				
Australian food plants	Sheryl Back- house	201 Old Mt Sam- son Rd Mt Samson QLD 4520	australianfoodplants@gmail.com	07 3289 4198	Email only = no fee
Australian pea flower	Shirley McLar- en	45 Forest Lake Way Toronto NSW 2283	fabpeamail@gmail.com		Email only = no fee
Australian plants for containers	Ben and Ros Walcott	10 Wickham Cres Red Hill ACT 2603	benwalcott5@gmail.com roswalcott5@gmail.com	0422 442 742	Email only = no fee
Banksia	Kevin Collins	PO Box 132 Mt Barker WA 6324	banksia@westnet.com.au 08 9851 1770	0438 684 801	Email only no fee
Correa	Jesse Granger Newsletter	26/132 Somer- ville Rd Hampton Park VIC 3976	jesse.granger.correasg@gmail.com	0404 265 384	Email only no fee
Dryandra	Margaret Pie- roni	22 Ravenhill Heights Denmark WA 6333	mpieroni@bigpond.com	08 9848 3331	\$10/\$12/\$5
Eremophila	Lyndal Thor- burn	3 Considine Close Queanbeyan NSW 2620	lthorburn@viria.com.au	0418 972 438	\$5
Eucalyptus	Warwick Varley	PO Box 456 Wollongong NSW 2520	warwick@alliedtrees.com.au	0402 763 414	Email only = no fee.
Fern	Steve Lamont	158 Deepwater Rd Castle Cove NSW 2069	lamont@family-law.com.au	0409 955 224	\$5
Garden design	Lawrie Smith	38 Sandpiper Av- enue North Lakes QLD 4509	GDSDG@anpsa.org.au	0411 228 900	No fee
Goodeniaceae	Leader – Royce Raleigh	c/Wimmera Growers of Aust'n Plants PO Box 533 Horsham Vic 3402	goodeniaceastudygroup@gmail.com	03 5383 6200	Email only no fee
Grevillea	Peter Olde	140 Russell Lane Oakdale NSW 2570	peter.olde@exemail.com.au		Email only no fee
Hakea	Paul Kenne- dy	210 Aireys Street Elliminyit VIC 3249	hakeaholic@gmail.com	03 5231 5569	\$10/ - /\$5
Isopogon And Petrophile	Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate	PO Box 291 Ulladulla NSW 2539	isopetstudygroup@gmail.com	0409 789 567	Email only no fee

Wallum And Coastal Heathland	Allan Carr	PO Box 541 Bribie Island QLD 4507	carr.allan44@gmail.com	0424 322 242	\$5
Eremophila Qld Vic Sa	Jan Glazebrook Chris Strachan Tim Wood			(07) 5546 8590 0432 621 392 0439 394 735	
Grevillea Qld Vic	Denis Cox Ross Reddick Neil Marriott			(07) 5546 8590 (07) 33901908	
Fern Qld	Helen Jeremy		ANPSAferns@bigpond.com	0429 065 894	
Study Group Coordinator	Jane Fountain	5 Kirkdale Rd Chapel Hill, Brisbane QLD 4069	jlfountain5@gmail.com	0417 538 383	

Inala Jurassic Garden & Nature Museum



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APST 2023 Calendars

The time has again come to order your special calendars. The copy is at the printers, and we are expecting to pick up the 300 that we have ordered before the end of August. While we will try to distribute them to the Groups shortly after that, it is likely that they will be passed on to the North and North-Western Councillors at the September Council Meeting and be available to members shortly afterwards. As in previous years, Amanda Walker has spent many hours in assembling the calendar from members' photos, and if the cover photo below is any indication of the result, we are in for another treat. Christine Howells has assisted Amanda and provided the appropriate text. Thank you Amanda and Christine.

The format of the calendar is the same as in previous years. There has been a minor increase in the printing costs since last year and the cost of materials has risen slightly because Amanda has requested satin paper to make the colours more vibrant. As a result, the cost to members will be \$17 a calendar. While there will be only a small profit for APST, the major reason for producing a calendar is for publicity, and because it provides a great collection of photos from our members of flora and special places to adorn our walls.

Each Group will be responsible for taking orders, collecting and holding funds, and distributing calendars to members in their Group.

For the North West Group, place your order with Drew Thomas (0488 402 210) and your banking details are BSB 633-000: Acc No: 152025870 .

For Northern Group, place your order with Rosemary Verbeeten. Ordering and banking details are BSB : 037-608 Acc No: 727784

For Hobart Group, place your order with me by phone (0488 082 089) or by email to apstcalendars@gmail.com. Banking details for EFTPOS payments are: Acc Name APST Hobart, BSB 037-015, Acc No 194054. It is expected that calendars will be available at the Hobart Group meetings on 14th September and 12th October.

Payments for calendars can be by cash for members of the Hobart Group, and if absolutely necessary for members of the Northern Group, but must be by direct deposit for the members of the North West Group. In the event you are not able to attend meetings, we can probably arrange for your order to be picked up at an appropriate location. Please contact Drew, Rosemary or me if this applies to you. Calendars will not be posted out unless the postage is paid for.

Any queries: David

0488 082 089

Or apstcalendars@gmail.com ☺



Members' Get-together January 2023

Roy Skabo

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

Bookings for the get-together have now reached over 40, sufficient for a good get-together but there is still accommodation available for another dozen or so people spread over the two lodges.

If you want to participate in this gathering of members at the botanically and scenically superb Ben Lomond then let Roy Skabo (0458696639, email rlskabo@gmail.com) know which of the two lodges you want to stay at and deposit \$20 per person in the Northern Group's account BSB 037608, Account No. 727784.

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



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A Tasmanian Rave

Prionotes cerinthoides – Climbing Heath

Normally this series has been of plants in my garden, but I've failed in my many attempts at getting this species established.

As a Sydneysider used to the flora around the city and in the Blue Mountains, I had never seen anything like it, probably neither had any other Tasmanian visitors. The vivid pink bells draped through the green of the rainforest were a unique surprise – a jolt even – to any walker.



close-up of *Prionotes cerinthoides*,
Mt Murchison

My first year of living in Tasmania was spent in Hobart, so bushwalking trips were often into the South West. Through the years, I became keen to look out for the flashes of pink on any walk from late summer to Easter. I've seen it at the real Lake Pedder growing in folded greyed quartzite, in the rainforest of the North East Ridge of Mt Anne, on the climb to Adamsons Peak, on the start of the Bird River Track out of Queenstown and most gloriously massed and falling from the nearby slope and trailing under the boardwalk to Lake Margaret; in my memory there is a recollection of clambering around coastal rocks (again quartzite) and spotting a branch of Climbing Heath growing out of a crack.



Prionotes cerinthoides, Lake Margaret Track.

A ranger reported seeing it near Cradle Mountain; it is on the list for the Norfolk Range and *Prionotes* has been collected in the North East. Margaret Kinsey showed us a whole cliff of it at Detention Falls west of Wynyard, where the flowers are pale pink. Southerners will have their favourite spot to go and admire *Prionotes cerinthoides* but it can be seen from the car around the start of the track for Mt Murchison south of Tullah.



Prionotes cerinthoides, Mt Murchison

Prionotes cerinthoides is in a genus of its own. With the common name, Climbing Heath, the first word describes its habit then the second recognises the group of plants to which it belongs, the epacrids, early-on called 'heaths'. For the botanical name, '*Prionotes*' was developed by Robert Brown and he published it in his 1810 Prodrum: Brown chose the Ancient Greek word 'prionotus', meaning 'jagged like a saw' because of the serrated margins of the leaves. He must have seen the species during his stay in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1804. Previously Labillardière had described the species as *Epacris cerinthoides*, based on collections from his stays in Van Diemen's Land in 1792-1793. The species epithet that Labillardière chose reflected the resemblance, probably of the tubular flowers, to the European/Mediterranean genus *Cerinte*. The ending '-oides' means 'looks like'.

Prionotes cerinthoides doesn't follow the field rule for recognition of the epacrids; their leaf venation is parallel where other shrubs, trees and herbs in Tasmania have network venation in their leaves.

Climbing Heath doesn't twine or have tendrils as do the majority of climbers. Instead it depends upon its slender stems threading their way up cracks in the rock or tree bark – I've noticed it growing up through moss in order to reach higher. New growth often is red or orange, typical of many epacrids.

The strong pink tubular bell flowers seem to be shaped for pollination by long-tongued birds. I've seen many flowers on *Prionotes* with a hole near the top of the bell, where a long-tongued bird would be seeking the food and so helping the pollination process. However, I've seen so many tubular flowers with similar holes (correas, eremophilas for example); honey bees have learnt to bypass the pollination by cutting holes in the bells and getting straight to the food whether it be nectar or pollen.



Prionotes cerinthoides bored by bees.

I saw *Prionotes* cultivated successfully in shallow pots of terra cotta by Margaret Allan and Jeanette Closs and in a rotting log in the garden of Sib and Keith Corbett. One Launceston friend had it growing in a hanging pot lined with paperbark; the Climbing Heath had penetrated the bark and was hanging down, flowering. I have tried the pots at Penguin and failed. I did keep *Prionotes* growing in an old tree stump but when the automatic watering failed, it died. I did try cultivating plants at the Tasmanian Arboretum, recognising that it's cooler and wetter at the Arboretum, but I've not been able to check whether my last attempt has succeeded or failed.

Try Climbing Heath. ☺

MAIN REFERENCES

Robert Brown, *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insularum van Diemen* 1810 (1960 facsimile).

Dick Burns, *Pathfinders in Tasmanian Botany*, 2012.

W Rodger Elliot and David L Jones, *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants*, vol. 8, 2002.

DL Mabberley, *The Plant-book*, 2nd edn, 2002.



A Significant Tree in the RTBG

Exocarpos cupressiformis, Common Native-cherry

Reproduced from the 'Fagus' magazine with kind permission from author: Frances Alexis

This tree is not significantly large or exotic and is often dismissed as 'just another bit of greenery' in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. In fact, as its common name suggests, it is quite common in the Tasmanian bush but is one of only two Tasmanian natives on the register of plants in the Gardens, indicating that it is not 'common' in cultivation. However, the specimen at the RTBG is a significantly old tree (and needs a bit of support in its old age by means of a metal prop) and may be a relic from the original Domain vegetation, so is worth a close look.



You will find this tree on the lawn between the path to the northern gate and the fence bordering the Domain Road, opposite the end of the Oak section and just before the Greater Hobart section. A set of shallow steps allows access to the lawn and the tree.



The *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, or Common Native-cherry, is a member of the Sandalwood family, *Santalaceae*. The botanical name of the genus comes from the Greek *exo* meaning outside and *carpos* meaning fruit, describing how the fruit is borne outside the fleshy part that resembles a small red cherry.

The species name, *cupressiformis* is for the shape of the tree using the Latin *Cupressus* (Cypress) and *forma*, (form or shape) in reference to the growth habit that is something like that of the Cypress. The common name refers to the fact that it is widespread, growing from the Atherton tablelands in Queensland to southern Tasmania, and across to the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia and bears small red 'fruits' like a cherry. Often shortened to 'native cherry' or 'wild cherry' it is also known as 'ballart' or 'cherry ballart', especially in the mainland states, from the Victorian Aboriginal words 'balad', 'balot' and similar for some species.

Continued next page

The first European to record this plant was the naturalist/botanist, Jacques Labillardière who sailed on D’Entrecasteaux’s 1791 expedition in search of La Pérouse, the French explorer who had not been heard of since he left Botany Bay in 1788. Admiral Bruni D’Entrecasteaux commanded two frigates, the *Espérance* and the *Recherche*, the latter being the flag ship, and both were equipped for scientific exploration. The scientific staff on the *Recherche* were Jacques Labillardière and Louis Deschamps, both naturalists; Piron, artist; Felix Delahaye, gardener and botanist; Pierre Renard, surgeon; and Claude Bertrand, astronomer. In 1792 the *Recherche* anchored in what is now called Recherche Bay on the south-eastern coast of Van Diemen’s Land where Labillardière gathered many new specimens: one of these was a new genus, *Exocarpos*, species *cupressiformis*. Labillardière formally described the plant in 1800 but we have no physical type specimen. This was possibly lost when his collection of over 4000 plants was seized, first by the Dutch then by the English as the expedition tried to return to Europe. The collection was finally returned to Labillardière in 1796 after protracted lobbying and help from Sir Joseph Banks, a fellow naturalist and friend of Labillardière. The illustration, possibly made by the artist, Piron, on board the *Recherche*, and described by Labillardière, in his two-volume text, *Voyage in search of La Pérouse* (1800), is so precise that it serves as the botanical type for this plant.

The fruit of the plant intrigued early European writers. It seemed to be another example of the bizarre forms of life to be found in Australia, here is a ‘cherry’ with the pit on the outside; as unusual as a duck billed platypus, a pouched kangaroo and trees that shed bark rather than their leaves.

These bright red edible fruits catch the eye (and taste buds). They ripen in late winter and early spring and are unlike other fruits in that the ‘cherry’ is the red swollen stem while the fruit is the hard green external seed. The edible, fleshy, fruit-like structure is actually an enlarged, succulent section of the flower stalk (receptacle), beyond which the seed and true fruit protrude. The fruiting receptacle is 4-6mm long, obovoid to ellipsoid. The fruit is sweet and palatable when fully ripe, but is rather astringent before this.



Above left: the Native-cherry fruit and seed.

Right: A mature tree

Left: Seedlings of *Exocarpos cupressiformis* on a private property



The flowers are equally insignificant and very hard to see unless magnified. These greenish-yellow tiny flowers are only 2-5mm across and are attractive to native bees. They are situated in small clusters along the branches. Usually only one of the flowers from the cluster is fertilised and matures in a fruit. They flower mainly from October to May so take a magnifying glass on your next bush walk and you may be rewarded with a close-up view of these tiny blooms or if you go in late winter/spring you will see and maybe taste the red 'cherries'.

Exocarpos cupressiformis provides an excellent habitat. Fruits are a food for native birds including Silvereyes, Mistletoe birds, Satin Bowerbirds, Grey Butcherbirds, Honeyeaters, Currawongs and Parrots, many of which disperse seed. Many birds find shelter in its dense foliage.

Native-cherries in the bush are biodiversity hotspots. They seem to attract echidnas, possums, foxes, swamp wallabies, white-winged choughs and bronzewing pigeons. This might be because they modify their immediate environment. Possibly they create moderate micro-climates in their foliage, reduce soil temperatures, increase soil water retention, concentrate nutrients in the soil beneath their canopies, and alter the understorey vegetation.

A small to medium pine-like tree, *Exocarpos cupressiformis* has dark brown-ridged bark.

Timber from the Native-cherry is pinkish, soft, close-grained and light when dry. It is excellent for turning and is used for decorative items for the home. In the past it was used for tool handles, wheel spokes and gun stocks. Indigenous Australians ate the fruit, used the wood for spears and spear throwers and reportedly used the sap as a treatment for snakebite.

Other Tasmanian native-cherries include: *E. nanus*, Alpine native-cherry; *E. strictus*, Palefruit native-cherry; *E. sylvicola*, Coast native-cherry and *E. humifusus*. The latter plant, *E. humifusus*, Mountain native-cherry, is endemic to Tasmania. This low sprawling woody shrub is widespread above 1300m, growing over the surface of rocks, or maybe more upright in sheltered elevated areas of the Central Highlands. ☺



Sources:

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Wapstra M, Wapstra A, and Wapstra H, *Tasmanian Plant Names Unrav-elled*, Fullers Bookshop Pty Ltd, 2010

[https://theconversation.com/Native-cherries-are-a-bit-mysterious,-and-possibly-inside-out-\(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/Native-cherries-are-a-bit-mysterious,-and-possibly-inside-out-(theconversation.com)) accessed, 19/04/2022.



Membership Information

Margaret Killen
Membership Officer



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

Australian Plants Journal (APJ) subscription to members is \$20/year.

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

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

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

Subscription Rates

Children under 16 free

- A. Individual, Organisation or overseas - \$40/year
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- I. Overseas Individual and Overseas Organisation with APJ (electronic) - \$65/year

Members receive each year:

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

Group newsletters.

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

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

Members enjoy:

New members receive a plant token to choose a free plant from the group's nursery.

Meetings featuring knowledgeable speakers.

Excursions to places of botanical interest, including private properties.

Visits to public and private native gardens for inspection and enjoyment.

Free exchange of information.

Access to APST group libraries.

Access to society publications at a discounted rate.

Australian plants flower shows and exhibitions.

Access to rarer plants, made available at some monthly meetings or propagation sessions.

Propagation sessions at Group nurseries for furthering knowledge on growing plants including rarer species.

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

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

Margaret Killen

Membership Officer

membership@apstas.org.au

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Northern Group News

Kay Pallett

Northern Group members dodged the often prolonged rain patches this season to participate in the usual propagation and working-bee sessions. Following the autumn sale, the propagators began restocking the nursery, refreshing the shade house, tidying up all stock, weeding pots (and the shade house floor). Over winter the heat pad in the shade house encouraged the cuttings to make a good start ready for the spring spurt.

At the Tasmanian Native Garden the new plants are looking good, certainly not lacking in water and a little sunshine. Throughout the winter months the TN gardeners, a small but steady band weeded, mulched and pruned. For their efforts they were rewarded with friendly chat, warm drinks and delicious food in addition to the satisfaction that comes from being in fresh air on usually sunny working-bee mornings.



In the garden: *Allocasuarina crassa*, *Notelaea ligustrina* (planted in autumn), *Grevillea australis*.

June guest speaker, Leon Lange, a landscape architect is a strong advocate for native plants. It was interesting to learn of this profession which provides design solutions for built and natural environments. Leon works closely with engineers, horticulturalists, environmentalists and architects on a diversity of projects ranging from small residential gardens to large community developments. A landscape architect aims to make a connection with the natural world. It is important for our health and the health of the planet that connections with nature are built into all projects and that sustainable building materials are used with consideration for best environmental practices.

July speakers were Jenny and David Boyer who gave northern members a glimpse of the rich, diverse plant communities contained on Bruny Island – a very small part of Tasmania but interestingly a microcosm of Tasmanian flora with the exception of alpine plants, although some alpine flora is present at a lower altitude but where the climate is harsher



Calytrix tetragona and waratahs thrive on Bruny plus a white kangaroo apple *Solanum lacianatum* – a surprise discovered on one of the walks

Continued next page

June Plant of the Month, *Xanthorroea drummondii*, a Western Australian species chosen by Rosemary Whish-Wilson was a feature in her childhood family garden and often the background for special photo occasions. Rosemary has growth photos spanning 70 years and estimates this plant is about 124 years old. *Chorilaena quercifolia* featured as July Plant of the Month. Kay Pallett chose this native, also from Western Australia because it is an adaptable plant with attractive pendulous flowers in a range of colours.

At the August meeting three members spoke on a chosen plant family. Janet Hallam gave a thoroughly researched presentation on the family Rhamnaceae (buckthorn). It is an important family with 55 genera worldwide (19 in Australia and 5 in Tasmania). Plants are associated with herbal medicine, dyes, wood and edible fruit such as *Ziziphus jujuba*, the red Chinese date. Rhamnaceae flowers are generally small and insignificant. Many genera have a dense furry cover and bracts e.g. *Spyridium vexilliferum* has tiny white flowers in its centre and conspicuous bracts. Even more showy were the yellow bracts surrounding *Siegfriedia darwinoides* which Janet photographed in Cranbourne Gardens. Thorns are a characteristic in the Rhamnaceae family but this is not an obvious feature of the genera in Tasmania. However, there is a relic Gondwanan genus, *Discaria pubescens*, found on the Central Plateau that is very thorny.

Peter Dowde chose the Myrtaceae family, economically important for its timber, essential oils, horticulture and floristry. It includes a wide range of genera such as the myrtle, kunzea, bay rum tree, clove, guava, even eucalypts, in this large family of 5,5950 species all of which are woody with evergreen leaves. His was an informative coverage with historical details e.g. *Eucalyptus obliqua* collected from Adventure Bay in 1777. Peter also noted *Melaleuca leucadendra*, the first melaleuca to be formally described. It was first noted from a plant growing in Indonesia.

Andrew Smith finished the evening with a polished presentation on the Solanaceae family, a significant food source. In addition, the family has many important medicinal uses. History tells of uses as a poison but it can also be an antidote e.g. for nerve gas. Solanaceae includes herbs, shrubs and small trees. There are 100 genera world wide with approximately 2,700 species. Australia has 23 genera and around 299 species.

There has been only one excursion during the winter months. In early June several members visited the Briseis Water Race. Lee Bowkett, a fern expert led the group on a walk through lush native flora. *Todea barbara* (austral king fern) was found growing along the water race. This is one of the few Tasmanian fern species that grows a trunk. It is fairly uncommon and Lee had not seen it before. There were interesting colourful fungi and two orchids: *Corybas aconitiflorus* and a *Pterostylis* species.

Corybas aconitiflorus, cradle or spurred helmet orchid



Lunch break at Briseis Race



At the July meeting the Northern Group Reserves Conservation Committee was officially endorsed. Dale Luck reported on the progress being made at the August meeting. He described developing a network and recognition from government and semi-government bodies, also community groups. Meetings with all groups have been favourable and supportive. Cheltenham Reserve and Cambridge Reserve are two that members have listed for attention “to foster the APST conservation objectives and to promote the recognition of the Society as a pre-eminent group to consult on the conservation planting of Australian native plants.”

Also in July, approximately eighteen members with frosty fingers participated in The Big Plant project. It was a satisfying morning's effort despite an early, icy start. Our members planted *Eucalyptus amygdalina* and *E. viminalis*, *Bursaria spinosa* and an *Allocasuarina* species.



Members at work during The Big Plant, adding trees to land surrounding the Launceston Waste Centre.

Members are now making preparations for the fast approaching spring season. The Northern Group is responsible for the APST marquee at Blooming Tasmania to be held at Woolmers, 8th October. Those at the nursery are working towards a bumper plant sale. Others are organizing a display table at the Launceston Horticultural Show in October and again in November. It's promising to be a busy productive spring.



Northern Group Programme

Sept 3	Saturday	Propagation 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Sept 20	Tuesday	General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
Sept 24-25		Display table: native plants , Horticultural Society Show, Evandale
Sept 27	Tuesday	Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Oct 1	Saturday	Propagation APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Oct 18	Tuesday	General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
Oct 25	Tuesday	Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Nov 5	Saturday	Propagation 1 - 3pm APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Nov 12-13		Display table: native plants , Horticultural Society Show, Evandale
Nov 15	Tuesday	General Meeting 7.30pm Max Fry Hall
Nov 16	Wednesday	Excursion Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area
Nov 22	Tuesday	Working Bee 9.30 -11.30am Heritage Forest Native Garden, Mowbray
Dec 3	Saturday	Propagation APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
Dec TBA		Christmas Dinner 6.30 pm Windsor Community Precinct
January	13-15/2023	Statewide Members' Get-together at Ben Lomond



Hobart Group News

T. Salt.

Echo Sugarloaf track gave us lots of best moments. Keith and Sib Corbett led the May walk starting at the beautifully serene Randalls Bay, winding gracefully up to a sheltered mere for a quiet reset, then on to the hilltop for lunch. The view south to the Huon estuary and North over Kangaroo Bay towards Cygnet is gently powerful in its breadth and quietude. Christine Howells had related plant identities (approx. 52 !) to Kate Story who had the brilliant idea to make and send this sequential list to all who attended. Keith said it would be a great idea to do this for all walks. He also pointed out the extensive dike of dolerite and explained the pebbled scree about the track was due to weathering of dolerite that formed Sugarloaf. Botany and Geology from the experts.

Continuing the plant list idea Prue Wright had prepared a comprehensive list for a July walk to the surprisingly varied small reserve in Hawthorn Drive Maranoa (adjacent to Blackmans Bay). In addition, Prue and Margaret supplied an aerial view of the reserve. *Leucopogon virgatus*, *L. collinus* and *L. ericoides* that Prue had thoroughly detailed in our group discussion a few days prior were now easily recognised.

An aerial map with species identified was provided by UTAS scientists Dr Rod Griffiths, Jane Harbard and Chris Harwood on our June Knocklofty Reserve visit. This greatly assisted us to clearly locate and distinguish diploid and triploid *Acacia dealbata*. Fascinating stuff when you get into polypoidal genetics. A quirky *Acacia*, possibly *dealbata* \times *mearnsii* was really enchanting and the cute small but somewhat angry *Acacia gunnii* -the ploughshare wattle – a tetraploid if you were asking.



Acacia gunnii spherical flowers clusters and 'ploughshare' phyllodes. Photo Lorraine Pender.

Continued next page



Dr Rod Griffin explaining the features of the *Acacia gunnii*

Peter Murrell reserve walk replaced our intended and fully researched *Eucalyptus cordata* subsp. *quadrangulosa* excursion that Bruce had planned but had to be postponed due to some careless mowing by authorities, I understand. Instead (with Bruce supplying a comprehensive plant list) we were guided by David Reynolds who has been hugely involved with this conservation area for over 30 years. His dedicated engagement with this local natural resource is commendable - we need to protect such native reserves. Again, it was reinforcing to the identity memory brain part to see *Epacris impressa* white and red and *E. lanuginosa* that Bruce had described and Sue had provided gorgeous samples at our winter replacement day meeting.

The scope of these walks including many plants identified are related in detail in our monthly newsletter. These articles and other contributions are very comprehensive and a great read. Christine Howells describes the plant of the month with beautiful photos, Sue Newman narrates her garden's native flora also illustrated with photos, regular articles from Bruce Champion are compendious. Heather Clark relates her Bruny Island walk highlighting fungi form and colours. Philip Sumner's conservation reports have been particularly important in alerting us to the creeping loss of much of our wilderness to profiteers. Astrid Wright keeps us alert to activities of Bushcare at the Knocklofty reserve.

All members are invited to contribute to our monthly newsletter such as Jennifer Lavers description of her garden revamp at Sandy Bay. Lorraine and Lindsey Pender have gently morphed the HGN to carry committee decisions and general meeting reports. The detail that our Secretary Christine Corbett relates of our guest speakers' topics is amazing and is a fabulous reference, eg. Fiona Scott's detailed lecture on seaweeds. (Fiona told us the best place to snorkel locally!). Carmen Walker updates us in the HGN with our Day Group activities. These meetings range from local walks, garden visits including to the RTBG, climate change and election discussions, topical artists (Deborah Wallace) and guest speakers. Ecologist Richard Robinson an authority on Fungi gave a wonderful talk at our July meeting.

Propagation grew apace with Bruce's governance. Despite this cold winter period participation has been more than sufficient to maintain and improve our stock of seedlings. Weeding of the nursery confines, and maintenance of trays of plants, was done. Soil from our stock holdings was combined to a special ratio, some with a special secret ingredient! Cuttings of many species have been established. Seeds have developed enough to be placed into tubestock. We have "potted-on" tubestock into larger pots to maintain them as firmly established healthy plants for sale at our spring event.

Improvements were made to the storage area by having permanent lighting professionally installed. This has been a major improvement to safe access to storage. Bruce installed a motion activated light to improve safe access to equipment required for our evening meetings.

In this winter period we have replaced evening meetings with day events and gatherings and this worked effectively. In particular the revitalisation of the traditional winter lunch was held in Hobart on 24th July at the New Sydney Hotel. This is an occasion wherein all members can gather to chat and remove winter isolation by sharing a meal and enjoying conviviality. A great idea to renew this social event. Table decoration strictly Tasmanian Native Flora -beautiful! - speaking of beauty, photos contrasting winter snow covering summer gardens at Keith and Sib home at Fern Tree.

We look forward to resumption of evening meetings this September after the winter recess. President Jenny Boyer has suggested a revamp of meetings combined with a 7.00pm start. Our first speaker is Rebecca Jones to talk of recovery of the gene pool of *Eucalyptus gunnii*, functionally extinct in the wild. ☺

North West Group News

M. Slattery

The winter June daytime meeting was held at the home of John Tabor, and afforded members another look at this compact but very full garden of native flora.

The July meeting was held at the Arboretum, and in the absence of the executive was chaired by Riitta Boevink and minuted by Joy Mackintosh. After the business of extending propagation sessions to prepare for the Port Sorell Spring Fair, Guest Speaker Philip Milner spoke on the Proteaceae family tree and shared some of the evolutionary history and diversity of this fascinating family. (See poster next page)

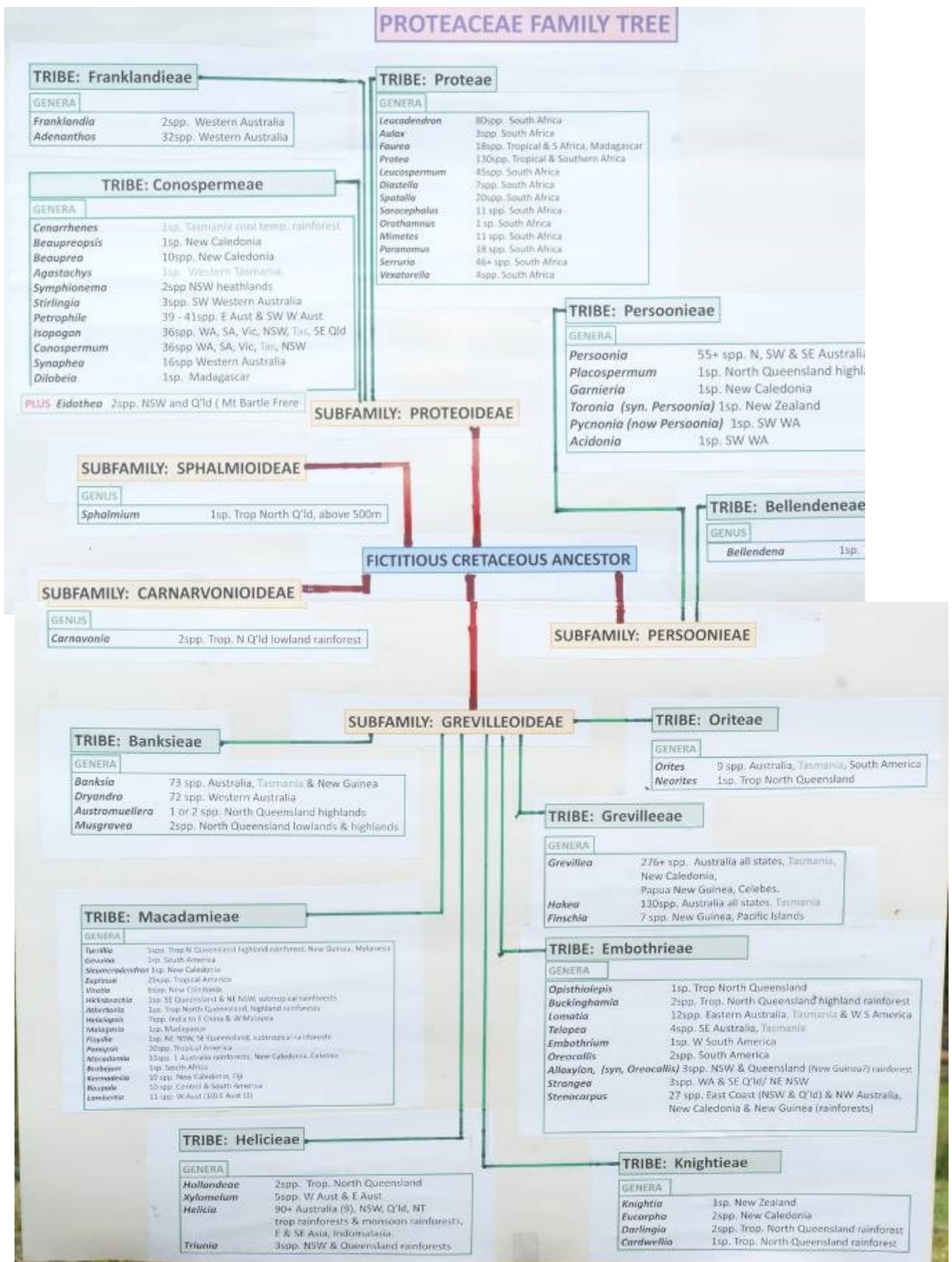
The Port Sorell Spring fair is an opportunity for the North West Group to advertise the presence of APST on the coast, and to sell native Australian plants to the public. The Fair is always well attended and in the last couple of years the public have shown much interest in growing natives.

In September we return to the hall for our meetings. As some of our members are attending the ANPSA conference in Kiama in September, we look forward to some interesting recollections of this event. Peter French, in collaboration with other members, is attending to our programme, and Riitta Boevink is overseeing the propagation sessions at the Arboretum nursery. ☺



Above: a striking photograph of *Phebalium davesii* (Davies waxflower) taken by Graham Green. This is an endemic with a very restricted natural range. Although rare in the wild, some of our members have it growing in their gardens. Graham has a *Phebalium davesii* which has been in his garden for about 25 years and was sourced from Plants of Tasmania Nursery.

This is a sample of the kind of plants we should be propagating and selling so that our plant heritage can survive.



APST Directory

COUNCIL

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

GROUPS

Hobart Group

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

Northern Group

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

North West Group

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