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Contents

[From The President](#) 3

[Study Group Highlights](#) 4

[Report from Council](#) 6

[Corbett's OAM](#) 7

[Conservation, Biodiversity Strategy](#) 10

[Dampiera](#) 13

[Roadside Vegetation—Benefits of La Niña](#) 17

[Conservation by Northern Group](#) 21

[A Striking Plant From My Garden](#) 23

[Membership Information](#) 25

Group News

[Northern Group](#) 26

[North West Group](#) 29

[APST Directory](#) 32

From Your President



President Louise Skabo

This winter, Margaret Killen and I have given presentations on 'The Secrets of APST' to both the Northern and North-West Groups. We realized that there were many new members and even some long term members who were unclear about our Society's structure and: What was our foundation? What does Council do? How are subscriptions used? What is ANPSA? What are Study Groups? The vital role of Groups. Why have a strategic plan? Etc. We hope we have helped make things more lucid and emphasized that APST members, as well as the thousands of 'big island' Australian plants members, are all one family who have the same aims – principally - a love of and interest in preserving, propagating and promoting our unique Australian flora.

We really enjoyed attending the NW Group meeting, talking to members and hearing about their plans and activities. After socializing over lunch on this perfect winter day, we had a delightful walk in the Tasmanian section of the Arboretum.

Open communication lines are important so that our Groups remain a unified Tasmanian Society. However, clear communication is something that needs constant awareness and improvement. Recently, as one example, I realized that the APST Council had not sufficiently promoted our award system to Groups. Many members thought that Life Memberships and also Certificates of Appreciation awards were only for members who had contributed to both their Group **and** to Council and/or ANPSA. In reality, these awards are open to members who have not necessarily ever been on Council but who have given long- term outstanding contributions in furthering our Society's objectives. Members just need to nominate people backed up with dot points on their excellent work.

The 2024 Tasmanian APST Calendar is again full of stunning photos of plants and scenes. Thanks go to Amanda, all the members who contributed – whether your photos were chosen or not- and to the Boyers for their marketing efforts. There are only a small number of calendars not sold despite having now ordered nearly a 100 more than last year. They will be available from late September. The calendar is an excellent way to promote our Society and native plants.

The Members' Get-together from November 3rd to 5th at Tasman Peninsula will be a special occasion in a spectacular part of our island state and it is not too late to join us by completing the Registration form and emailing it to Prue at apstho-bartsec@gmail.com

It has been a mild winter with July 1.40 °C warmer than average, the highest in 114 years of records, and I am expecting to hear that August was even warmer! The native plants are confused but I hope they will still be floriferous this spring and that members have enjoyable and inspiring excursions and gardening. ☺

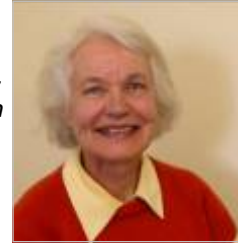
Welcome to New Members

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

Keith and Fran Thompson; Mark Thompson; Jill Roche; Keith and Megan Darke; Phil Hollow; Hassan Ahmed; Julian James Scollain; Christa Bartjen-Westermann; Shannon Lovell Greene; Catriona McLeod; Graham Rugg.

Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink,
Study Group Liaison



The Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) with the awkward acronym ANPSA has a wonderful website anpsa.org.au, that is extremely easy to navigate. With one click you can find clear information on all the Study groups and easily downloaded copies of newsletters in some cases going back to early 60's! These are freely available for anyone to read. They are a treasure trove of information and full of excellent photographs. Because of the abundant photos, the newsletters are best viewed with the illustrations. A few of the Study Groups make the current year's newsletters available only to members, and only include them on the free website after a year. However, many publish even the latest ones on the ANPSA site.

Some of the most popular groups, such as the Grevillea SG, or the Garden Design SG, have 'chapters' in several states, but most focus their local activities, such as garden visits and field trips in the State of their leader. They all have members from across the continent. Despite our southern location in a cooler climate, we in Tasmania can grow a surprisingly wide range of plants. Frost-tender plants from the humid subtropics and tropics are least likely to survive, but plants from WA are often okay, because we generally do not have hot humid summers.

We do not have any records to tell how many of our APST members are members of a Study Group. Some groups are obviously more relevant to our conditions e.g. most *Correas* grow well here. It is unfortunate that no SG leader is based in Tasmania, and to my knowledge there is no local gathering under the umbrella of an SG. There is a possibility for Study Groups to conduct meetings online, supported by ANPSA. This would help to build up possibility of face to face contact between Tasmanian members as well.

ACACIA Study Group Newsletter No 154, Leader : Bill Aitchison, April 2023

There is an article called 'Acacia Seeds and Beef Sausages', referring to a PhD research on nutritional qualities of some selected Acacia seeds. The focus is on commercial food production. A second article describes an *Acacia acuminata* form that is being sold as 'Edible Australian Tucker Bush' — not the most elegant name I think. Interesting information on its usage is included in the article. Another discussion of interest is a question: does the prostrate form of *Acacia baileyana* become an environmental weed, like the tree form does outside its home territory in NSW. The verdict is not final, but it does tend to set only few seed.

There is a book review of a new book on floristry, *Bush Flowers* by Cassandra Hamilton and Michael Pavlov. They are florists and growers of Australian plants. The review includes a comment that: 'many of us have come across situations where South African species are wrongly represented as being Australian natives, To their credit the authors of the book state that South African *Leucodendrons* and *Proteas* are not included. This might be a good present for a local florist.

(continued next page)

CORREA Study Group Newsletter No 66 June 2023, Leader: Linda Hascombe

This newsletter is full of colourful pictures and interesting stories of different Correas. A short piece on photography. A good story of the annual 'Correa Crawl' in Victoria on Kings' Birthday weekend. The group visited several private and public gardens, and by the look of it had an enjoyable time. Maria Hitchcock OAM, writes about a group of Correas with a Plant Breeder Rights PBR status. She explains the associated costs associated for the breeder, and why plant sellers need to be aware of PBR rights.

GREVILLEA Study Group Newsletter No 125, June 2023, Leader Peter Olde

Peter Olde writes on taxonomy issues on *Grevillea gaudichaudii*. He explains the difference between horticultural and botanical naming of plants. As an example he says, he has seen the Grevillea Long John being sold under four different names.

Correspondence from a UK member discusses a confusion between *Grevillea barclyana* the Gully Grevillea, and *Grevillea Barcly's* daughter. ☺



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Report from Council

Vice President Judith Blayden



Council met by Zoom on 24th July 2023.

Conservation Survey Results: At the time of the meeting there had been 56 responses to the Conservation Survey. It was decided to take out a one-year subscription to Survey Monkey to allow additional time for a greater number of responses to be made to the survey. This will also allow for any future use of the platform for a strategic planning survey later this year.

2024 APST Calendars: It is expected that the calendars will be available for distribution in September.


Safety issues: Issues relating to the safety of volunteers and participants in APST activities were discussed. The existing coverage of APST insurance and provision of safety equipment is being investigated.

Website: Work is continuing on the website. Information about events will now be found in the 'News and Events' section of the site. A calendar of upcoming events is available, and a new place provided for sponsors and like-minded organisations to inform APST members of their events.

Asset management: The Company Secretary keeps the register of the assets of APST and in order for that to be accurate and up to date groups are asked to ensure that their asset lists are up to date, and any changes, with full description and preferably a photo, are sent to Mary Slattery, APST Council Secretary.

Strategic planning: The current strategic plan expires at the end of the year and is being reviewed by the Strategic Planning Committee. This involves considering what has been achieved in the past three years as well as looking towards the future of APST and the views of the Groups about these issues are welcomed.☺

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Congratulations to Sib and Keith Corbett

It was wonderful to see two quiet achievers and life members of our Society acknowledged more widely for the work they have done within a variety of not for profit organisations and as individuals over many decades. I am sure you will wholeheartedly agree they deserve their Medals of the Order of Australia with this impressive list.

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION 2023

Mrs Elizabeth Bothwell CORBETT (Sib)

Fern Tree TAS 7054

For service to conservation and the environment.

Australian Plants Society Tasmania:

- Former President.
- Life Member, since 1988.

Tasmanian Bushland Garden:

- Former Secretary.
- Member since inception in 1999.

Tasmanian Land Conservancy:

- Volunteer, since 2010.
- Life Member, 2019.

Environment - Other:

- Volunteer, Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club, since 2012.
- Botanist and Vegetation Mapper, with the Tasmanian Government for 40 years.

Publications:

- Author, *Vegetation of the Central Plateau: Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area*, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, 1996.
- Co-Author, *The Vegetation of Rocky Cape National Park*, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, 2003. Awards and Recognition includes:
- Australian Plants Award - Professional Category, Australian Native Plants Society Australia, 2007.



Above: Sib at an APST function in 2022.



Above: Sib under the sandstone cliffs at Bluff River Gorge, 2014

**MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
IN THE GENERAL DIVISION 2023**

Dr Keith Douglas CORBETT

Fern Tree TAS 7054

For service to conservation and the environment.

Australian Plants Society Tasmania:

Former President, Hobart Group.

Life Member, since 2010.

Tasmanian Bushland Garden:

- Former and current President.
- Member since inception in 1999.

Environment - Other:

- Volunteer, Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club, since 2012
- Volunteer, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, since 2010 and Life Member since 2019.

Geology:

- Geologist, 60 years.
- Member, Tasmanian Geoconservation Database Reference Group, 2010-2020.

Publications:

- Author and co-author of over 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers on Tasmanian geology.
- Co-Author, *Geological Evolution of Tasmania*, Geological Society of Australia, 2014.
- Author, *Child of Gondwana: the Geological Making of Tasmania*,
- Forty°South Tasmania:Contributing Author, since 2001.
- Forty°South Publishing since 2019.

Awards and Recognition include:

- W.H. Twelvetimes Medal, Geological Society for Australia, 2010.



© C. Corbett

Sib and Keith at Crescent Bay 2021

Sib and Keith Corbett

Dick Burns



I cannot remember when I became aware of Sib and Keith in the Society. Was it Sib designing the displays at the Hobart Flower Shows? Or through my occasionally joining their annual Easter trips? Or Keith taking us to the Hobart Town Hall after Hobart's Annual dinner to see how an election was going? For sure it was something to do with Hobart Group, because Sib and Keith have been fiercely loyal to the Hobart Group. I remember that first Easter trip was into the Tyndall Range after I'd been there for an Easter trip with my bushwalking club, the North West Walking Club. At that time, Keith worked for the HEC as a geologist. One other trip I joined with Sib and Keith was into the 'waratah' valley under Mt Sedgwick north of Queenstown during flowering season. The aim of the trip was to spot the trees with yellow flowers; I'd been there several times before but coming in a more difficult way.

With his geological knowledge, Keith was most helpful as the official checker of my pocket book on the geology and landforms of Cradle Mountain; Sib made many helpful suggestions as well.

Soon after I'd developed awareness of Tasmanian Land Conservancy, probably via the Vale of Belvoir, I discovered that the Corbetts were even more involved: Sib and Keith were the experts on a trip I did with TLC to their land south of Adamsons Peak where the d'Entrecasteaux voyage had set up camp.

Sib and Keith shared my love of Cradle Mountain. They had explored all parts of what has been ruined by the tourist-oriented decision-makers (I was incredulous when in the USA they had moved vehicles back from the view/experience at Grand Canyon while Tasmanian PWS were intent on moving the vehicles closer). I explored the parts around the Mountain that Sib and Keith had sought out and so glowingly spoke about.

Congratulations Sib and Keith on your most recent awards. ☺



Towards APST Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy

Conservation Officer
Phil Watson

What are members' interests in caring for local bushland patches?

Background

At the 2022 ANPSA National Conference in Kiama, strong interest was shown by delegates (especially the younger students) in the value of local bushland patches. It was recognised that local remnant bushland areas, provide unique opportunities for urban and peri-urban residents to experience and commune with nature. In fact, for a large portion of urban residents and school students it's the only way they may have to experience the wonders of our native flora and the habitats it provides for our native fauna and birds. Consequently, APST proposed that they would develop an *APST Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy and Activity Plan 2024-33*, on the back of the success of the APST Strategic Plan 2016-2021.

The Strategy seeks to identify and prioritise a range of activities that local APST group members could contribute towards protecting and enhancing the richness of native flora in local bushland patches, in partnership with other land managers without duplicating or competing with existing volunteer activities.

To understand members interest and preferences in relation to the conservation and biodiversity issues associated with local bushland patches, thanks to Margaret Killen a short online questionnaire has been available to all members. So far 58 responses have been received providing an indicative understanding of how members value local bushland patches and their keenness to contribute to their protection and improvement.

Summary so far of Survey results:

Q1: *Which group are you associated with?*

North 50%, Hobart 29%, NW 21%

Q2: *Do you have a local bushland patch you enjoy walking and the native flora and fauna?*

Yes 90%, No 10%

Q3: *Provide name and location of your local bushland patch*

Fifty different local bushland patches were named, many being Local or State Govt. owned reserves and most within the broader urban footprints of Launceston and Hobart, but also enthusiasm shown for bushland patches in Bicheno, Gravelly Beach, Hawley, Somerset, Wynyard, Koonya, and Buckland (Tasmanian Bushland Garden).

Q4: *How can APST assist in the protection and enhancement of local bushland?*

A broad range of responses were provided that could be summarized into the below categories.

- **On ground activities:** - surveying flora and fauna, ID and recording flora via the website *iNaturalist*, etc; weeding; cultural burning and growing local native plants (seed collection, propagation, planting, and maintenance)
- **Local Bushcare groups:** - join or gather members to convene a group such as those caring for Cambridge St. Reserve, Tasmanian Bushland Garden, etc.
- **Partnerships:** - with Local Govt, Landcare Tasmania, Wildcare, schools etc

- **Advocacy and Lobbying:** - draft Development Application submissions on behalf of APST to ensure no or minimal clearing or impacts to remnant urban bushland patches.
- **Education and Promotion:** - actively promote the values of urban bushland patches for current and future generations via field trips, education walks, articles, social media, schools etc.

Q5: Which Conservation-orientated organisation could partner with APST?

The more common responses included, Landcare Tasmania, Wildcare, Local Governments, Threatened Plants Tasmania, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Q6: Which ways could APST generally contribute to the conservation of Native Flora?

The responses provided reflect the current activities groups are already involved in, as well as emphasising the important contribution members can make to protecting and improving remnant bushland patches.

Q7: Would you as a member be interested in participating in specific conservation projects?

Yes 82%, No 18%

Q8: What type of participation could you provide?

Of the 50 responses, on ground activities 20%, planning and networking, 12%, both 36%, and specific ways of contribution 32%.

Outcome from members interests and preferences:

Firstly, for those who have yet to complete the survey your contribution is still welcome!

The survey so far confirms members appreciate the immense value to the local community of remnant bushland patches. Members strongly support APST participating in their care, particularly in relation to caring for their rich reservoir of local native plants and the fauna and bird habitat they provide.

Based on the Survey so far, your comments are welcome on the initial draft **Vision, Mission** and **Pledge** as guiding statements for the **APST Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy 2024-33**

Our vision

Native flora in our local bushland patches is protected, appreciated, and enjoyed by all our members and their local communities.

Our mission

To protect and improve local bushland patches by contributing to their care and management.

Our pledge

We remain united as native plant lovers to protect and enhance bushland patches so that local communities can connect and commune with nature's local flora and fauna. ☺

Contact: Phil Watson;
APST Conservation Officer
philiplwatson02@gmail.com

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Dampiera

Dick Burns

The April 2023 issue of Fronds, the newsletter of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, features an article on the Garden's work to conserve the rare *Dampiera fusca*. That article prompted this outline of the picturesque genus *Dampiera*. A fuller examination is in *Flora of Australia*, volume 35 or *Elliott and Jones* (see references).

The standard association of this genus is with flowers of blue, a colour lacking in the flower palette of Tasmania. There is the herb, *Brunonia australis* and we do have one species of *Dampiera*, namely *D. stricta*.



Left: *Brunonia australis*



Above right: *Dampiera stricta*



Below right: *Dampiera stricta*

Some species of *Brachyscome* have blue flowers and occasionally you can find blue forms of *Olearia phlogopappa*. Sightings of *Brunonia* are rare, and in Tasmania, at least, *Dampiera stricta* can vary through to pink; when we used to stay in the Bicheno Church Camp (no longer there) we used to search the local paddocks for the pink flowers of the dampiera. My photos of the pink form are from around Coles Bay. The paddocks are now under one of the Bicheno motels.

Tasmania's deficit of blue flowers is to a large extent due the pollinators we have and what they see with their eyes. Generally blue flowers are pollinated by insects – red flowers are more often birds' domain – and we have all seen photos of some flowers taken with ultra-violet light, showing what the insect sees. A plant will evolve in response to the pollinator (and vice-versa). For instance birds have more weight and need to perch so the plant will have stout stems or criss-crossing branches (e.g., waratahs and grevilleas).

(continued next page)

Plants in the genus *Scaevola* direct the pollinating insect to the nectar provided by the flower past the pollen, through the shape of petals, as with many in the whole family of Goodeniaceae. All in that family have bilateral symmetry as do the flowers in another family common in Australia, Lamiaceae. Most families of flowering plants have radial symmetry, like a daisy or a tea tree.

Dampiera stricta was first described and named by James Edward Smith, a botanist and protégé of Sir Joseph Banks, as *Goodenia stricta* from material collected around Sydney Town. Specimens of the genus *Dampiera* were first collected in 1699 by the first Englishman recorded to visit Australia (then 'New Holland'), that pirate, navigator and author, William Dampier. The material he gathered from Shark Bay in Western Australia was used by the botanist Robert Brown (also one of Banks's protégés) to formally describe and name the genus in his book *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen*, published in 1810.

Most garden specimens of *Dampiera* are mainland species. In 1980, Alec Blombery recommended only four species, including *Dampiera stricta*. In 1999, Paul Urquhart listed only two species he recommended. On his website, Angus Stewart recommends eight species or cultivars.

There are sixty-nine species listed for 2021, the genus is found only in Australia. However, I found each time I wandered through Western Australia, alone or on one of the ASGAP Conference tours or as plant guide, coming from Tasmania I'd get excited when I spotted a blue flower, whether it be a *Lechenaultia*, or a group of *Brunonias*, or the related fan-flowers, or rarely the blue-flowered *Comospermum* and (particularly) a *Dampiera*. Some of the *Dampiera* spp I saw are in following photos.



Above left:
Dampiera welsiana

Above right:
Dampiera welsiana in the
rockery



Dampiera dentata

The species are twining or upright, mostly herbs; some have large leaves around the base. I used to get more excited when I'd encounter *Dampiera wellsi* with its distinctive flower clusters. And I'd get really excited whenever I'd see a dampiera that wasn't actually blue; the *Dampiera dentata* is obviously from a very dry area – I used to look out for it as the tours went into The Olgas, near Uluru.

I've tried several species of *Dampiera* in my garden but the one that held on the longest was *Dampiera purpurea*. It grew in two different spots in the garden and several other NW members have it and other *Dampiera* species growing. ☺



Dampiera purpurea

MAIN REFERENCES

- Dick Burns, *Pathfinder in Tasmanian Botany*, The Tasmanian Arboretum, 2012.
 Elliott & Jones: *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants*, Vol. 8, 1984, pp. 164- 177;
 also Supplement, 1994-2000.
Flora of Australia, volume 35, Brunoniaceae, Goodeniaceae, AGPS 1992.

Every two years ANPSA holds a Conference and Seminar hosted by one of its Member Societies, on a rotating basis. The conference schedule is as follows:

2024: Victoria

2026: South Australia

2028: Queensland

2030: Canberra

2032: Tasmania

2034: Western Australia

2036: New South Wales

Associated with each Conference is a week-long seminar including field trips to gardens and natural areas. The Seminar program usually comprises a series of lectures by expert speakers interspersed with the field trips. Two special features are part of each Seminar program:

The AJ Swaby Address by an eminent authority in the field of horticulture or science of Australian native plants.

The presentation of ANPSA Australian Plants Awards. These awards are issued in Professional and Amateur categories and recognise outstanding achievements in the field of Australian native plants.

Other features of the Conference/Seminar program are the Pre- and Post-Conference Tours. These guided tours allow participants to experience the diversity of the flora of the host State and are usually of 5 days duration.

The next Conference will be held in Melbourne, Victoria from 30th September to 4th Oct 2024, with the theme "Gardens for Life". The conference will be hosted by members of the Australian Plants Society (Vic).



We encourage you to take a look at the short promotional video on the **APS Vic website**

<https://apsvic.org.au/anpsa-biennial-conference-2024/>

Contact Details

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Roadside Vegetation – the benefits of La Niña

Phil Watson

Generally, most of Tasmanian rural roadsides are vegetated with native and exotic grasses, groundcovers, wildflower patches, shrubs and trees. Unfortunately, they also host a spectrum of weeds, bottles, cans, plastics, and degraded herbicide barrens. With the benefit over the last three years of a moist La Niña weather pattern some of the floristically uninteresting drier roadsides revealed rarely seen local wildflower gems. This has been the case along the roadsides in the Mt. Rumney region where soil moisture is the key limiting factor for floral displays.



Yam daisy *Microseris walteri*: Image courtesy Chris Lindorff from Neds Corner

Floral displays during the recent moist La Niña weather

Throughout the dry decades, Mt. Rumney roadsides tend to stay well covered with hardy local native grasses such as kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*), short and common wallaby grasses (*Danthonia carphoides*, *D. caespitosa*), the velvet wallaby grass *Poa rodwayi*, the common plume grass *Dichelachne rara*, the thatched saw sedge *Gahnia radula*, sagg *Lomandra longifolia* and sword sedges *Lepidosperma* spp. as well as a diversity of groundcovers, shrubs and trees. Thanks to the members of the Mt. Rumney Landcare Group, the roadsides have also remained relative free of rubbish and weeds.

Over the last three years the region's blue gum *Eucalyptus globulus*, brown and white peppermints *E. amygalina* and *E. pulchella* woodlands and adjoining roadsides have been blessed with constant soil moisture, which normally limits the diversity and richness of the wildflowers. With the reliable rainfall from the La Niña cycle, many considered locally extinct native plants reappeared from their torpor as soil-stored seeds, bulbs, corms and tubers burst into life. These included several orchids such as tall potato orchid *Gastrodium procerum*, the leopard and tiger orchids *Diuris pardina* and *D. sulphurea*, early nancy *Wurmbea* sp., the red running postman *Kennedia prostrata*, the tiny yellow star, *Hypoxis glabella*, the cryptic little Australian carrot *Daucus glochidiatus* along with the narrow leaf New Holland daisy



Vittadinia muelleri, yam daisies *Microseris scapigera* and *M. walteri* both highly valued as bush tucker for their sweet tasting tuberous yams all reappeared. Also concealed amongst the thriving native grass tussocks have been a selection of infrequently seen plant species that survive the challenges of the previous years of very low soil moisture. For example, yellow drifts of leek lilies, *Bulbine glauca*, the creeping yellow-flowering *Goodenia lanata*, the blue and white flowered spoonleaf, field and hill daisies, *Brachyscome aculeata*, *B. spathulata*, ssp. *spathulata*, and *B. decipiens*, the yellow flowers of curling everlasting *Coronium scorpioides*, billy buttons and scaly buttons (*Craspedia glauca* and *Leptorhynchus squamatus*), the delightful blue bells *Wahlenbergia* spp., drifts of chocolate and vanilla lilies *Athropodium strictum* and *A. millefolium*, blue flowering sweet-scented hound's tongue *Cynoglossum saueolens*, and the four native groundsel including the uncommon leafy groundsel, *Senecio squarrosa*.

Trees and shrubs covered in fresh green leaves and showy flowers.

Moreover, the trees and shrubs also responded to the soil moisture exhibiting thick crowns of healthy foliage and unusually voluminous and colourful blossoms. Blackwoods, black and silver wattles, native boxes, native hopbushes and even the sheoaks were covered in flowers proving to be magnets for pollinating insects such as native bees, wasps, beetles, butterflies, etc. Shrubs were also laden with fresh green leaves and flowers including bush peas such as the showy bossia, *Bossiaea cinerea*, grey parrotpea, *Dillwynia cinerascens*, golden pea *Aotus ericoides* and the heartleaf and matted bushpea, *Pultenaea daphnoides* and *P. pedunculata*. Many other normally scraggly-looking shrubs were rejuvenated including the white flowering viscous and shrubby daisybushes, *Olearia viscosa* and *O. ramulosa*, the buttonleaf and yellow everlastingbushes, *Ozothamnus scutellifolius* and *O. obcordatus*. Of course, the native bush birds were happily feeding their nestlings and even able to raise a second clutch given the luxurious amounts of nectar and insects available to feed their young.



Viscous daisybushes, *Olearia viscosa*: Image Courtesy Robert-pergl
<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/>
<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2913125>

Weeds also benefited from luxurious moisture levels.

With the prolific growth, weeds, previously rarely seen, began to raise their sleepy heads in unexpected locations. Small seedling outbreaks of gorse, spanish heath, serrated tussock, and canary broom (WONS weeds) along with the environmental weeds such as *Agapanthus* sp., golden wattle and wirilda, *Acacia pycnantha*, *A. retinoides* required regular attention. Constant monitoring and removal of these outbreaks prevented them from escaping into the neighbouring grassy woodlands, which provides homes, including tree hollows, for an array of feathered, furry, insect and reptilian species including the swift parrot and the masked owl.

Unusual threats to roadside rosy hyacinth orchids!

Daily bike commuting up the Mt Rumney Road has its advantages. It provides time to gain a window into the life cycles of the roadside native plants. Annually, the most absorbing life cycle enjoyed every year, beginning in November for two months is the emergence and progressive growth of a patch of young asparagus-like shoots of rosy hyacinth orchids *Dipodium roseum*, located just past the beginning of Mt Rumney Road.

The recent moisture from La Niña provided a boost in numbers, size and floral display for this orchid patch. Since the start of La Niña onwards, the numbers of stems increased from just a few wiry shoots that only partially flowered to sixteen succulent-like stems that presented prolific floral displays. During this vegetative growth phase their flowering has never been guaranteed due to a range of threats including drought, grading of the road edges, careless pedestrians, foraging rabbits etc. and roadside slashing.

Let me recount one such instant which nearly resulted in destruction of the year's growth.

One December Sunday morning, a roadside slashing sign appeared on Cambridge Road near the intersection with Mt. Rumney Road signalling the intention that the annual slashing of both Cambridge and Mt. Rumney roadsides was imminent. This slashing is mainly aimed at reducing risk of fire, whilst limiting the expansion of growth into the hardened verges and improving visual amenity. There were hyacinth orchid stems still hidden amongst the long grass and ready to burst forth into a cluster of tall rosy-pink flower spikes. They were being threatened by the ominous rotating blades of the roadside slasher. Finding and speaking to the contractor seemed the best way to stop the inevitable happening to the orchids.

Being Sunday, it was necessary to wait till early Monday morning to wave the tractor driver down. Happily, he was very sympathetic and keen to avoid them. Not only did he not mow the area but also recorded a diary note to avoid all future annual slashing along this area. Over the next few weeks after the slashing had finished many residents could not understand why this area had not been slashed. It was only when the glorious floral display appeared that the reason was revealed itself.

Rosy hyacinth orchids - saprophytes, pheromones & tiny seeds

For the record these hyacinth orchids are leafless saprophytes (obtains food from decaying organic matter) relying on underground fungi to post nutrients and moisture to their fleshy deeply foraging roots (rhizomes). This allows them to survive on roadsides and woodland sites. They display showy spotted pink flowers on a tall spike (up to 30 cm) with a striped labellum (lip) which with the aid of a female pheromone scent, attracts male native bees for pollination services.

Interestingly, they disperse some of the smallest diameter seeds in the plant kingdom which must form a close bond with the underground fungi to ensure seedlings survive.

Strengthening Mt. Rumney's Sense of Place

Over these three La Niña years the floriferous roadsides have contributed significantly to Mt. Rumney's natural environment and strengthened the sense of place for both the local community and visitors alike. It is also anticipated that the numerous cycling visitors who regularly challenge themselves on the steep ascent up to the scenic Mt. Rumney lookout have enjoyed both the colourful roadside wildflower displays as well the progressive growth and flowering of the hyacinth orchids.☺



Conservation Work By APST Northern Group

Progress Report

Roy Skabo

During Covid, northern Tasmanians were very fortunate that the local councils kept their reserves open as places for people to exercise. Thus, within the five km travel limit most of us had several pleasant places to visit and many of us became more familiar with reserves we had not previously taken much interest in.

Two things became obvious, that Launceston has a number of bushland reserves with high conservation values and that those natural values were deteriorating because our councils did not have the resources to do the necessary up-keep, mainly the prevention of weed incursion.

About the middle of last year Northern Group members decided to form a conservation committee with the aim of rehabilitating some bushland reserves.

Several of our members had worked as volunteers and organisers with 'friends of' groups so we felt we had the necessary skills to form similar groups for one or more of the bushland reserves in our vicinity.

As our first reserve we chose Cambridge St Reserve in West Launceston, a small two-hectare reserve with a very diverse flora including at least two threatened species, *Brunonia australis* and *Prasophyllum robustum*. Much of the reserve was in fairly good condition though with lots of gorse, cotoneaster and similar woody weeds. The remainder contained areas of exotic grasses and herbaceous weeds.

We approached the City of Launceston (CoL) with an offer to form a volunteer group to work in Cambridge St Reserve. With their approval we letter-boxed all the surrounding houses and obtained publicity in various media. The focus was a guided 'flower walk' in the reserve early in November, at which we recruited quite a number of volunteers.

Because of the requirement that all volunteers be insured if they work on CoL-managed properties we arranged for APST to become a member of Tasmania Landcare, which amongst other benefits, provides insurance for groups like ours. This is a statewide membership so any of our APST groups can take advantage of it.

We decided to have two working bees each month, on the morning of the first Saturday and the afternoon of the first Thursday, beginning in December last year.

The turn-up in December was excellent and has continued to be strong since.

We were very fortunate to have Dr Magali Wright of the Landscape Recovery Foundation Ltd conduct a workshop for both our members and staff of the CoL. With Magali's guidance we formulated a plan for future work in the reserve.



Northern Group participants during the Magali Wright workshop.

Her environmental consultancy group offer free workshops to Not-for-Profit organisations which was most helpful in setting strategy for restoring reserves.

We have now weeded about half of the reserve. The other half is going to be more difficult because of infestations of exotic grasses and other persistent species. The CoL has, at our request, arranged for spraying of plants like ivy and blue periwinkle which are almost impossible to eradicate by hand-weeding.

We will hold another flower walk at Cambridge St this spring in the hope of attracting more volunteers and we have plans to do similar work in the wonderful Carr Villa Flora Reserve, another hotspot for native plants including numerous threatened species.

We have continued to garner publicity including radio interviews and a front page article and photo featuring our members.

Our efforts to date have provided a number of benefits. The rehabilitation of Cambridge St Reserve is well under way, a good relationship with the CoL has been established, many members of the public have been involved in our work and are learning about our native plants and, finally, the profile of the APST has been given a boost. ☺

Below: Members clearing exotic bulbs



© L. Skabo

Below: CSR May Saturday workers



© A. Smith

Below: Monitoring burnt areas at CSR



© L. Skabo

Below: Roy and volunteers at CSR



© L. Skabo



Left: This map of Cambridge Street Reserve is updated each working bee month to monitor areas weeded, special flora species found, type of weeds etc.

A Striking Plant From My Garden

Ricinocarpus pinifolius – Wedding Bush

Dick Burns

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



© D. Burns

MAIN REFERENCES

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

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

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 look on our website.

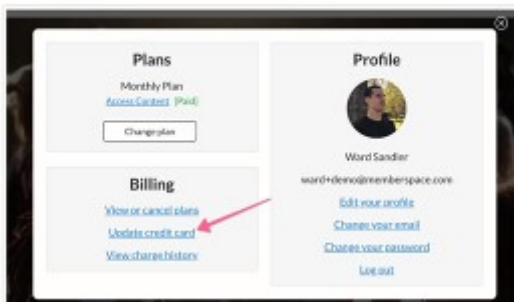
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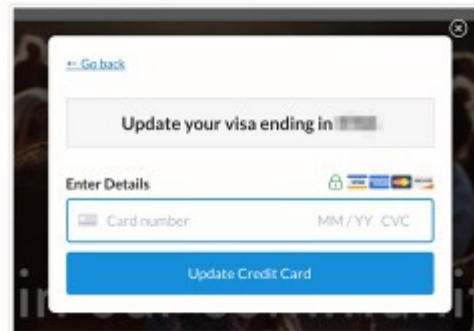
The following guide gives an example of how to update your credit card details.

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 subscriptions (e.g. EFT payment) or membership enquiries or access to the *members only* section of the website, please contact the Membership Officer (details below).

Annual Subscription Rates:

Children under 16 free

- A. Individual or Organisation - \$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) - \$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. ☺

Group Reports

Northern Group Report

Kay Pallett

The winter months saw the nursery crammed with bustling members, particularly restocking the shade houses as they propagated a range of cuttings and undertook the usual maintenance jobs. The small industrious group that makes up the two Cambridge Street working bees is having success as they remove weeds such as cotoneaster and scabiosa plants. They are well supported by NRM and the City of Launceston Council. Their newsletter which details these activities, is a worthy read as it covers the conservation efforts in this Launceston reserve.

The Tasmanian Native Garden is looking neat and ready for the spring flush. The regular working bee members together removed weeds, added mulch to thinning beds or pruned. They cut out dead or dying branches from some of the older trees and shrubs to keep plants fresh or from blocking paths - a more common task as the garden ages. The new labels have all been installed and look pleasingly clear and sturdy.



© K. Pallett



© K. Pallett

Members tidying at Tas. Native Garden, and just around the corner, *Zieria littoralis* enjoying winter sun.

An activity that delighted members was the excursion to the property, Black Sugarloaf, owned by Sarah Lloyd and Ron Nagorcka. Sarah, a bird expert but more recently known for her expertise on slime moulds, has quite quickly become a



© L. Skabo



© L. Skabo

Left: Members at the Black Sugarloaf property,

Right: M. Killen viewing slime mould up close

world expert. At her property she has discovered nearly 200 species and has written *Where the Slime Mould Creeps* - a fascinating book, as was the excursion for those able to attend.

In June at a short business meeting attended by almost 40 members, Andrew Smith asked members for help to fill in the gaps in the plant images on the website. Members were also needed to write a brief description for each plant. He also informed members on the QR bar codes that link the plant labels at Windsor Park Gardens to our website. Margaret Killen reported on her attendance (representing the Northern Group) at the Tamar Leaders' Lunch, and at another meeting about the development of the old university site at Newnham. Both meetings provided opportunities for APST Inc. to become known and have some input in the broader community. e.g. Margaret informed an interested landscape planner of the Tasmanian Native Garden at Heritage Forest.

Plant of the Month, *Stylidium graminifolium*, the narrow leafed trigger plant, was presented by Margaret Killen who described its clever pollination and her recent successful experiment to propagate seeds very simply, by allowing them to self seed, catching them in a carefully placed pot. This was followed by the first of three speakers, Janet Hallam, who in a clear delivery, informed members on Plant Breeders' Rights, trademarks, marketing and cultivar names, showing how they relate to propagators. Of special interest was where to find background information and the propagation details of plants.

Louise Skabo's comprehensive presentation outlined the history, structure and governance of APST. Margaret Killen, the final speaker, provided details about recent Council goals such as strategic planning, constitution and website updates finishing with an outline of ANPSA Inc., the national body. It was a full night packed with information much appreciated by members.

July meeting was another Group speakers' night in which members presented early botanists. Vera Taylor described the life and achievements of Leonard Rodway—the Tasmanian Government Botanist whose book *Tasmanian Flora (1903)* was the standard botanical reference until updated by Winifred Curtis forty years later. Rodway's herbarium eventually became the Tasmanian Herbarium that we know today. It contains his manuscripts, notes, drawings plus correspondence from well known botanists and is accessible to the public.

David Waters chose Joseph Dalton Hooker who travelled worldwide: from Antarctica, to the Himalayas, India, to Morocco and Western United States collecting prolifically for Kew Gardens where he was director for twenty years. He produced copious publications such as *Flora Novae-Zelandiae*, *Flora Tasmaniae*. He was an amazing man and an influential botanist.

It was left to Judith Blayden to complete the evening with French explorer botanist, Jacques Labillardière. Her presentation evoked the influence of European politics and the circumstances of the botanists who collected species from faraway places over periods of several years absence from their homes. Labillardière, the naturalist on Bruni d'Entrecasteaux's expedition, collected many species over three years but had the misfortune of having them seized by the Dutch on arrival in Java. Subsequently, the British captured the Dutch ship with the botanical treasures which were then taken by the British to London. Fortunately with the intervention of Joseph Banks the samples were returned to Labillardière who wrote, [*Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen*](#) (1804 -1807), the first general description of the flora of Australia. He also collected and named Tasmania's floral emblem, *Eucalyptus globulus* and Victoria's floral emblem *Epacris impressa*.

Business from the July meeting was brief: Andrew Smith provided an update on bar codes; Roy Pallett opened discussion on Groups devising a certificate for

recognition of notable service of members; Rosemary Verbeeten gave reminders about calendar orders and the September Horticultural Show display; and after a vote it was decided that meetings would be for 30 minutes each month. The August meeting accepted the Treasurer's report; noted further discussion on a certificate of recognition; heard a reminder on the Society Get-together; and made a decision on the Christmas dinner date.



Orthocerus strictum



Licuala ramsay

August Plant of the Month was *Orthocerus strictum*, bird's-mouth or horned orchid - a favourite chosen by Jeff Campbell. It is a self-pollinating, usually solitary orchid found in a wide range of habitats from grassy forest to heath. Although it can be found in a number of places *O. strictum* is listed as rare. Jeff has only managed to see it three times

Ian Thomas kindly filled in for our rostered speaker who was unable to attend. His topic: 'Tropical Forests', highlighted not only the marvelous diversity of the species in the forests but also the limit of the Australian tropical forests. He spoke of structurally complex environments and the ways in which plants adapt. He described the strategies used to survive e.g. the reduced growth of woody tissue which increases the ability of plants such as palms to grow large leaves e.g. *Licuala ramsayi*. The tropical forests are geographical islands whose unique floras, limited in extent, are under threat from climate change and human activities. He compared these with other island vegetative communities, finally stressing the value of reserves in cities as well as in the country. A timely, well supported presentation with a sobering reminder another ecological system is vulnerable.

Throughout the colder, wetter months members have continued to be involved. Whether it be at Cambridge Park, the nursery, the Tasmanian Native Garden or monthly meetings the numbers have been strong and consistent - a positive outlook for the coming months beginning with our spring display table at the



North West Group Report

Simon Van der veen

The practise on the North West is to have no meeting in June, as members have some distance to travel in darkness. Daytime meetings are held in July and August. The July Newsletter contained an innovative new segment: ***Come and See My Garden***. Editor Simon explained: We'll be visiting a group member's garden, taking in the delights and hearing the story behind it. First up is our President Riitta and husband Jan Boevink, they live in Hawley Beach. Their property is called 'Jaribo' and this is their story. (See NW newsletter for the full story.)



Riitta and Jan in their garden at Jaribo, Hawley Beach.

© S. Van der veen

The July meeting was held at the Arboretum, local plant expert Philip Milner was our special guest speaker. Philip has been a long standing member of the Society and has a high level of plant ID expertise both local and Australia wide.



© S. Van der veen

Philip also has history with planting out the Australian section at the Arboretum so his knowledge and experience meant a fascinating and insightful talk and walk focusing on the history of the plants of the old Super-continent Gondwana in his talk entitled 'Continents Adrift'.

He spoke about the connections of the Plant Kingdom at the family level across the Southern Hemisphere and then discussed the evolution of the Australian flora of today from their early ancestors on Gondwana.

Philip spoke about the plant families which are now prominent within the Australian flora. The Arboretum has a wealth of trees and plants with ancient lineages dating back to the time when the continents of the Southern Hemisphere were joined together in the supercontinent of Gondwana.



© S. Van der veen

After Philip's talk there was a quick lunch break with some tea and treats before we set off to explore the geographical collections of South America, Gondwana, the Australian rainforest and Tasmanian sections of the Arboretum to observe the connections and relationships of plants at the family and genus level across the Southern Hemisphere.

Members listening to Philip in the Arboretum grounds.

Lots of questions were asked and answered as the group strolled through the Arboretum with Philip pointing out plants and their key ID features and where they fit into the bigger picture or jig-saw puzzle before, during and after when the 'CONTINENTS became ADRIFT'.

On the plant table Riitta provided *Banksia brownii*, flowering for the first time, the feathery foliage is unusual; *Hakea multilineata* a large shrub, *Hardenbergia violacea* a popular climber that provides a splash of purple colour in winter, and *Hakea bucculenta* which flowers well every year and is a grafted specimen.

Jan Boevink spoke about Acacias: 'When flowering many acacias are intensely yellow with so many flowers that branches can break in heavy rain or wind. Flowers come typically in balls or roundish shapes and in rods with smaller ball shape individual flowers. We have many others not currently flowering, but I should have included *Acacia adunca*, a very attractive small acacia with reddish new leaves, currently flowering beautifully.'

Jan had brought 14 types of Acacia, all plants derived from seed mainly provided by the Acacia Study Group of ANPSA.

Philip Milner commented that the acacias at Hawley (Port Sorrell) are flowering at least a month ahead of his at Lower Barrington.

As usual there was a dedicated team at the monthly propagation session held at The Tasmanian Arboretum. Cuttings, potting on and liverwort removal were all tasks being performed. The Spring Plant Sale isn't too far away and the collection of plants in the right size pots for sale is growing steadily.

Marianne and Bradley Stagg spent time cleaning the glasshouse roof and walls at the Arboretum where we do our propagation sessions! This was a serious job, because over time the glasshouse has become darker and darker from algae and mossy growth on the roof under the netting. Some patches were actually black. See the difference they made!!



In the August newsletter Simon wrote: 'This Issue I was very privileged to visit the garden of one of the founding members of what was then in 1978 called the 'Society for Growing Australian Plants', Mr Dick Burns of Penguin. I had a lovely chat with Dick and looked around his garden.' See the full write-up in our Newsletter.



On the media front,

- Secretary Drew had 15 minutes of fame with Mel on a Saturday morning radio segment regarding native flora. Giving North West Group a good plug, this chat was preceded by a similar one from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden
- Devonport Council are hosting an *Expo of Everything*, in the Paranalple Centre, at which NW group has a stall on 2 September. As this is just after Wattle Day, wattles will abound! ☺

Check out the Native Plant Societies in Australia

anpsa.org.au

NSW www.austplants.com.au

SA www.australianplantssa.asn.au

TOP END www.topendnativeplants.org.au

QLD www.npq.org.au

CANBERRA nativeplantscbr.com.au

VIC www.apsvic.org.au

WA www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au

TAS www.apstas.org.au

APST Directory

COUNCIL

Postal address:	P.O. Box 1205 Gravelly Beach TASMANIA 7276		Email: apstsec@gmail.com	Website: www.apstas.org.au
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Secretary	Mary Slattery	0402 784 086	Hobart Councillor	Jenny Boyer 6293 1113
Treasurer	Anthony Salt	0412 673 632	Hobart Councillor	David Boyer 6293 1113
Public Officer	Mary Slattery	0402 784 086	Northern Councillor	Jo Boniface 0434 981 438
Membership Officer	Margaret Killen	0409 430 665	Northern Councillor	Ian Thomas 0438 392 041

GROUPS

Hobart Group

President	Jenny Boyer	0434 870 576	Meeting place/time: General meetings: <u>Kingston Primary School Library</u> Off Church St, Kingston Second Wednesday of the month 7pm Kingborough Day Meetings, First Wednesday of the month (not January). Contact: Carmen Walker
Secretary	Prue Wright	0438 410 192	
Sec. Email	apsthobartsec@gmail.com		
Treasurer	Anthony Salt	0412 673 632	
Contact Officer	Janet Stephens	0438 705 319	

Northern Group

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

North West Group

President	Riitta Boevink	6428 6909	Postal address: PO Box 68, Port Sorell, Tas 7307 Email: apstnorthwest@gmail.com Meeting place: Tennis Club, Wright St, East Devonport. Third Tuesday of month except for January, June, July and August.
Secretary	Drew Thomas	6437 1802	
Treasurer	John Boevink	6428 6909	
Eucryphia Liaison	Mary Slattery	0402 784 086	