



Group Newsletter August 2023



Anne Crawford talking to the Kingborough Day Group members about *Isopogon formosus* in bud 2/08/2023 (Photo Tony Green)

Welcome to New Members

Greetings from the APST Hobart Group to new members Catriona McLeod of South Arm, Graham Rugg of Cradoc and Julian Scollian of North Hobart. I apologise for misreading Julian's name from the Membership Officer's email last month. We hope you can join us at our meetings, propagation sessions, walks and/or excursions. Please you make yourself known at our Meetings or a propagation session, where, if you haven't already done so, you can select a plant for your garden or balcony/porch. Thank you for joining our Society.

Event Calendar

(Carmen Walker, Prue Wright and the Program team)

NOTE: FOR EXCURSIONS AND GARDEN VISITS, IF RAIN HAS BEEN OCCURRING UP TO 1 HOUR BEFORE THE EVENT IS DUE TO START, IT WILL BE CANCELLED.

If in doubt, phone or email the Contact person (details of contact persons on page 2).

2 September Saturday, 1.30 to 4.30pm, Propagation, Kingston Primary School Nursery, setting cuttings of stock plants, potting up and potting on as required, plus weeding. Contact: Bruce Champion.

3 September Sunday, 10am, Walk, Prosser River TLC property - grassy woodland: Contact: Keith Corbett or Peter Tuft. Meet at Buckland Service Station, **with clean boots**, to convoy to site.

6 September, Wednesday, 2.00pm, Kingborough Day Meeting, garden visit, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens main entrance to look at the native plant gardens. If weather unsuitable meeting will be at B Block Kingston Library for another general garden discussion. Entry from Church Street Contact: Carmen Walker.

13 September Wednesday, 7pm, Hobart Group General Meeting at Kingston Primary School Library, (committee meeting from 6:30pm, all welcome): Robyn and Peter Tuft presentation on "Arid plants of Port Augusta Botanical Gardens and Roxby Downs (South Australia). Contact Prue Wright.

18 September Monday, 11am, Tasmanian Herbarium, College Drive, Sandy Bay more information later. Contact Prue Wright.

23 September Saturday, 10.30am Walk to Mickeys Beach from Randalls Bay, and maybe Echo Sugar Loaf, bring lunch and wet weather gear. More details next month. Contact Keith Corbett.

4 October, Wednesday, 2.00pm, Kingborough Day Meeting, garden visit, Sue and Mike Newman's 72 Axiom Way Acton Park. If weather unsuitable meeting will be at B Block Kingston Library for another general garden discussion. Entry from Church Street Contact: Carmen Walker.

7 October Saturday, 1.30 to 4.30pm, Propagation, Kingston Primary School Nursery, setting more cuttings, potting up and potting on as required, plus weeding where needed, contact: Bruce Champion.

8 October Sunday, 10am, Walk,

11 October Wednesday, 7pm, Hobart Group General Meeting at Kingston Primary School Library, (committee meeting from 6:30pm, all welcome): Contact Prue Wright.

23 October Saturday, 10.30am Excursion, bring lunch and wet weather gear. More details next month. Contact Prue Wright.

Contacts:

Carmen Walker: 0421 449 446 or cwalker4761@gmail.com

Bruce Champion: 0408 146 041 or brchamp@ozemail.com.au

Keith Corbett: 0419 593 059 or keith.corbett@bigpond.com

Robyn & Peter Tuft: 0414 297 489 or robyn@tuft.id.au

Prue Wright: 0438 410 192 or redgum101@gmail.com

Locations:

Kingborough Day Meeting, B Block Kingston Library, entry via Church Street for parking.

Kingston Primary School Nursery Our nursery is at the rear of the school. Access is off Sherburd Street via Freeman Street off Church Street. Park up the driveway between the end of the school and the basketball courts and walk along the back of the school to the open gate in the tall colorbond fence.

Kingston Primary School Library is accessed via the school's carpark off Church Street. Park in the top (staff) carpark. Walk in through the wide main path up the steps to the sandwich board pointing through playground and through the playground to the library passage access door on the right. Enter and walk to the automatic library doors on the left to join our meeting.

A Message from APST Hobart Group President

(Jenny Boyer)

Hello Hobart Group members,

Is it still winter? Some plants are giving us an early spring flowering treat and the weather is encouraging us out and about but there is a couple of indoor things to think about.

2024 APST Calendars

With the APST Calendar growing in popularity each year orders for the 2024 Calendars have been coming in steadily. Of the 350 print run David is who coordinating the orders advises he has only 14 uncommitted. This means that if you don't want to miss out, you need to contact David Boyer promptly. See page 8.

Email: apstcalendars@gmail.com Phone or text: 0488 082 089

APST Website

Have you investigated the apstas.org.au website lately? It is the easiest way to read back copies of Eucryphia rather than searching old emails or saving them in a separate file. As from this month you will be able to access our Hobart Group News from July 2023. Your normal delivery by email will not be affected.

Eucryphia and HGN are in the Members only section. If you have renewed your membership via the website you should be able to access the Members only section already. If you paid by some other method you need to contact the Membership Officer, Margaret Killen to get a one-time code to set up ongoing access. Of course there is lots more interesting stuff on the website too.

Email: membership@apstas.com.au

Kingborough Day Meeting Members Report 2 August 2023

(Carmen Walker)

The Kingborough Day Meeting members went for a garden visit to Ann and Tony Crawford's garden in Tinderbox.

They saw *Kunzeas*, *Hibbertia*, *Eucalypts*, *Phebalium*, *Correas*, *Scaevolae*, *Hakeas*, *Banksias*, *Westringias* and many more beautiful plants. It was a very enjoyable garden to visit.



Eremophila nivea



Dodonea sinuolata with red fruits



Thryptomene saxicola in full flower



Calothamnus quadrifidus



Acacia aphylla



one of the *Hakea* species



Xanthorrhoea australis in a pot, flowers annually



Correa 'Ember Glow'



Acacia 'Scarlet Blaze'

Another of the many *Hakeas*
this one with purple flowers



(Photos by Tony Green)

The 4 October garden visit will be to Iluna Bluewater's garden in Fern Tree.

On 6 September Kingborough Day Meeting members meet at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Main Gates at 2pm to have a look at the Native Garden.

Propagation

(Nursery Coordinator)

The propagation session on 5 August was attended by a keen group of propagators. Cuttings of several more species were set and plenty of potting up of small pots, mixing bins of soil, pot washing and weeding was done. Thank you all who came along to work with plants. On 2 September cuttings of Nursery stock plants will be collected and set, pot washing, soil mixing etc and weeding as required.

Christine's plant of the month

(Christine Howells)

One of the interesting plants on our walk earlier this month was the grey saltbush, *Atriplex cinerea* which lined Shelly Beach which is north of Opossum Bay on the eastern side of Arm End. Recently moved, with all its friends, from the family Chenopodiaceae to Amaranthaceae, it is salt tolerant and usually found at the high-water mark.



Male flowers showing creamy anthers

Atriplex cinerea is excellent for coastal revegetation and stabilisation – quite a lot of erosion was evident along parts of the beach, but less where this plant occurred. It would make a good contrast plant in a reasonably well drained garden site, and would be very happy in a coastal garden which would be subject to salty conditions. Apparently, the foliage can be used for its salty, herby flavour in soups and stuffings or can be cooked like spinach. I haven't tried it myself!



Atriplex cinerea at high water mark on Shelly Beach

Atriplex cinerea is usually a much-branched, rounded shrub about 1 m high, with dense silver-grey foliage and ridged stems. The leaves are up to 8 cm long, elliptic to oblong, and have a slightly sticky feel due to bladder-like hairs. The male flowers are in crowded spikes at or towards the end of the branches and are purple when in bud, becoming creamy yellow when the anthers emerge. The female flowers are more modest, being in small clusters and occurring lower down in the which leaf axils. As they mature they become corky allows them to float so they can find new locations.



Purple buds of male flowers

(Photos by Christine Howells)

Flowering Plants in My Garden: *Crowea* species

(Sue Newman)



Crowea exalata flower



Crowea saligna flowers, note the spider

I have two species of *Crowea*, *C. exalata* which occurs in the eastern states except Tas, and *C. saligna* from NSW. There is one other species, *C. angustifolia* which is from WA. There are also cultivars.

They are lovely plants which flower for many months, including winter, in sun or shade and the bushes are a useful size for small gardens, growing up to 70 cm. My *C. exalata* plants have multiplied, I'm assuming this is from seeds but I'm not sure. The new plants appear close to the original ones. Pruning needs to be done to keep the plants bushy.



Crowea exalata flowers and foliage

They need moist free draining soil. The flowers are a pretty pink star but I recently discovered a white flowering *C. exalata* at a nursery so I bought one.

I was at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens recently where they have a very healthy display of *Crowea exalata* underneath the restaurant deck along with *Philotheca myoporoides*.



Crowea exalata flowering bush



Crowea saligna flowering bush

(Photos by Sue Newman)

The following are notes from the APST Hobart Group Meeting 9 August 2023

Federation Peak – a special wild place in SW Tasmania

(Keith Corbett)

This is from a talk given to Hobart Group on 9 August, 2023. Federation Peak is perhaps the most spectacular wild place in Tasmania, and the most rugged of any of Australia's mountains. Located at the eastern end of the heavily glaciated Arthur Range, in the central part of the South-West, the 1225m peak is difficult to get to by either of the main routes – from the end of the Picton Forestry Road at Farmhouse Creek, via the West Craycroft Valley and Moss Ridge, or from the Arthur Plains via Luckman's Lead and the Eastern Arthur Range. Getting to the peak is one thing, but the final ascent is a daunting 100m climb up an almost sheer quartzite face. It was not climbed until 1949, by a group from Geelong College led by John Bechervaise. This was after many previous unsuccessful attempts (in which Botany Professor Bill Jackson was involved, amongst others), most of them just finding a feasible route to the base of the peak. It has now been 'done' in a weekend, and even in one day. Hobart GP Kevin Doran has been there 23 times, and summited on 16 trips. His book 'Federation Australia's Adventure Peak' (2004) gives a good summary of the history and conditions.



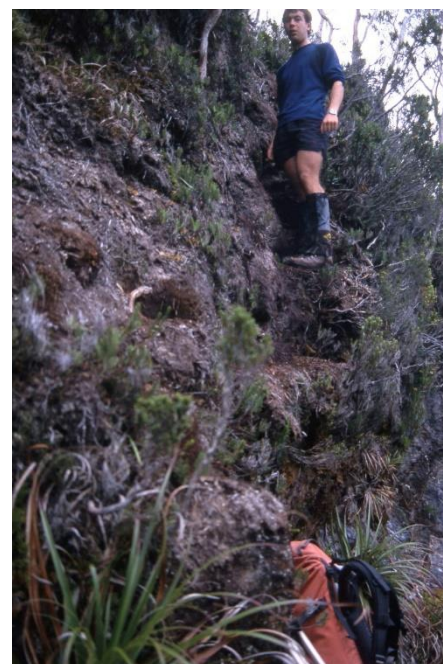
Federation Peak from the air



John climbing up to Moss Ridge

I went to Federation Peak in March 2001, with son John as guide. This was a year after Sib had been there, and climbed the peak, on a work trip mapping the vegetation. We went via the short route from Farmhouse Creek, crossed the South Craycroft, and followed the West Craycroft

Valley, to camp at the base of Moss Ridge. Moss Ridge is an extraordinary place, as unique in its own way as Federation Peak itself. The 'track' climbs some 600m over a narrow, forest-clothed quartzite ridge with a number of projecting semi-open 'teeth' with flattish tops and precipitous sides. It's very strenuous, and I had little time to focus on the unusual vegetation. Two things struck me, however. One was the abundance of tall, pandani-like bushes, which I initially assumed to be pandani. But they were more slender, there were no leaf scars, the fronds were more delicate – and one of the bushes had the remains of a large **terminal** flower spike. I realized after that these were the arboreal form of *Dracophyllum milliganii* – the same plants we had seen flowering abundantly at Mt Field (Tarn Shelf), each about 30cm high (curly mountain heath) a couple of years ago. This arboreal form occurs around the wet mountain slopes of the SW, apparently.



John on Moss Ridge

The other odd thing that struck me as I struggled up the ridge was the great depth of fibrous **peat** on the tops of some of the 'teeth', and the presence of **buttongrass** on the tops. Steps cut in this peat are a feature of the track. Buttongrass forms after repeated fires, but how did fires get to these tops surrounded by forest?



John & Keith on top Federation Peak

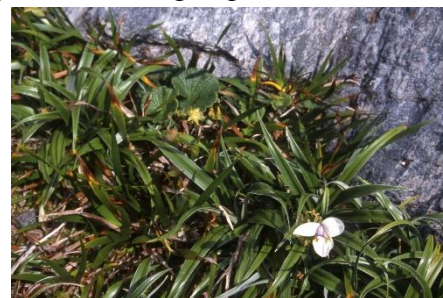
We camped on the new platforms on Bechervaise Plateau, then set off next morning over the first ridge, down a steep vegetated gully, up through the aptly named Chockstone Gully, and around the hairy Southern Traverse to the beginning of the climb. John led up confidently, and I followed – not quite so confidently. There were good footholds and handholds in the quartzite, but the exposure is extreme. On top, we enjoyed the elation and great views of the surrounding mountains and valleys – a great vista of truly wild country.

Then down again, more carefully, trying not to look all the way down to Lake Geeves, 700m below. Around and up the final steps of the Traverse, and we were on the flat part of the range again. And I was



Richea alpina Mt Bobs

able to notice some of the small alpine plants present, including the beautiful *Richea alpina* (short candleheath), leaves of *Milligania* sp, *Geum talbotianum* (Tasmanian snowrose) and *Orites milliganii* (toothed orites), and an unexpected flower of *Diplarrena latifolia* (western flag-iris).



Plants around Federation Peak



More plants around Federation Peak

After a quick visit to Hanging Lake and its encircling moraine, John then led us along the range, around a projection called the Devils Thumb, and down the Forest Chute on the north side of Federation. Through a fine old rainforest, with occasional glimpses up to the awesome faces of Federation, past Lake Gaston at the bottom, then up a remarkably clear pebbly rock chute (a glacial phenomenon most likely) back to Bechervaise camp. We returned via Moss Ridge – a bit easier going down – the next day, after the most exhilarating experience I’ve ever had in the bush.

(photos by Keith Corbett)

More Hobart Group General Meeting 9 August 2023 notes

For Plant of the Month, Bruce Champion spoke about *Boronia anemonifolia*, stinking boronia, of the Rutaceae family. Bruce observed that the leaves are surprisingly initially compound, pinnate and bipinnate. Bruce has seen them in Bluff River Gorge and recently around Rocky Tom.



Boronia anemonifolia branches of long leaf stems with leaflets
(Photo by Bruce Champion)



From the flower table

Acacia boormanii, Snowy River Gum, in the Boyers Bruny Island Garden.

This tree was a sucker from our old garden, transplanted 20 years ago. Now 5 metres high and no signs of more suckers for renewal, unfortunately, as this one won't last forever.

A great delight each winter/spring.

Tasman Peninsula Get-together Registration (see page 9)

(Jenny Boyer)

Hello Members,

Just another reminder you need to register for the Tasman Peninsula Get-together to assist with the planning. We have about 45 registered but there are others who have mentioned they have booked accommodation but we have not received a registration from as yet.

I'm looking forward to welcoming everyone and a reminder that the Hobart Group are hosts for the event so the more Hobart Group smiles the better to welcome participants to this special area.

The Program Committee will be doing reccies early September and will have more program information after that.

Meanwhile enjoy our spring like weather.

Jenny Boyer

Hobart Group President

If you don't wish to continue receiving our HGN please advise the Editor by reply email.

E&OE



ORDERS FOR APST 2024 CALENDARS

The 2024 calendar is now being prepared by Amanda Walker and should be available for collection early September.

Calendars can be ordered by email to apstcalendars@gmail.com, or texting or phoning me on 0488 082 089. If you are not able to pick up your order at our meetings or the Get-Together, please advise an alternative

More calendars have been ordered this year than in previous years with the hope that additional copies can be sold to commercial outlets. Those in the South which we will be contacting, as they have sold calendars in past years, are:

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
Plants of Tasmania
Inala Jurassic Garden

Redbreast, Margate

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
Wild Island

If you are aware of other outlets which may be interested in our special publication, please advise me by email to the above address.

I look forward to another great publication.

David Boyer

Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. Annual Get-Together

Tasman Peninsula, November 3rd to 5th 2023

Planning is well underway for a fantastic weekend of walks offering superb wild flowers and spectacular scenery. An afternoon walk is planned for Friday starting 2pm for those who can make it and a welcome function that evening. Many members are also opting to stay Sunday night to enable a full day on Sunday and a short walk Monday before heading home.

A welcome function is planned for Friday evening and the annual dinner on Saturday night, both at the Lufra Hotel at Eaglehawk Neck.

As we need to know how many people are coming, the earlier the better for planning, if you haven't already registered can you please complete the following registration form and send by email to Keith (keith.corbett@bigpond.com) or Prue (apsthobartsec@gmail.com).

You can also register by phoning Prue Wright on 0438 410 192

Registration Form

Name/Names:.....

Address:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

Accommodation If booked:.....

Please circle which nights: **Friday**

Saturday

Sunday

Please circle the types of walks you interested in:

Short

Half day

Full day

Full Day Faster (for example
adding
Mt Brown to the Crescent Bay walk)

Also circle if you are interested in **Friday pm** or **Monday am** short walks.

Thank You

Hobart Group Program Committee