



Hobart Group Newsletter October 2023



Reg the Raven, waiting for treats, see Maria's article page 4

(photo by John Honey)

Welcome to New Members

Greetings from the APST Hobart Group to new member Ann Popelier from Longley. We hope you can join us at our meetings, propagation sessions, walks and/or excursions. Please you make yourself known at our Plants Sale, 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).

The 22 October Sunday, 10.00am to 12 noon, Excursion to the Mt Canopus-Centori Bush Reserve near Mt Rumney was postponed due to predicted bad weather. A new date will be advised when it has been decided. We have been invited to join the activity and it will be a great opportunity to talk to professional ecologists about the flora and fauna surveys they have done on this bush reserve. Meet at the Canopus Reserve entrance where it is named. There is ample parking along Canopus Road, contact: David Boyer.

1 November, Wednesday, 2.00pm, Kingborough Day Meeting, at B Block Kingston Library to discuss the meeting program for 2024. Entry from Church Street. Contact: Carmen Walker.

3 to 6 November Friday to Monday, APST Inc. State Member's Get-together Tasman Peninsula based at Lufra Hotel, Pirates Bay: 62 attendees. Portable microphones will be used so all members can hear the walk leaders. Rooms at the Lufra will be ready at 2 p.m. on the Friday. A drink tab will be available on the Friday evening for a welcome drink excluding spirits.

8 November Wednesday, 7pm, Hobart Group General Meeting at Kingston Primary School Library, (committee meeting from 6:30pm, all welcome), more details when received. Contact Prue Wright.

11 November Saturday, 1.30 to 5.00pm, Propagation, Kingston Primary School Nursery, setting cuttings of member's plants, potting up and potting on as required, plus weeding. Contact: Bruce Champion. **Note 2nd Saturday due to State GtG.**

18 November Saturday, 2.00pm, Garden visit, Sue and Mike Newmans Acton Park, 72 Axiom Way, opposite pink Flower Trolley, bring a small plate to share. Contact: Sue Newman 0409 505 564.

2 December Saturday, 1.30 to 5.00pm, Propagation, Kingston Primary School Nursery, setting cuttings of quick growing plants to the April Plants Sale, sowing seeds if space in the bog propagators, potting up struck cuttings and of size seedlings, potting on small plants. Discarding old trees, help your selves, weeding as required; contact: Bruce Champion.

3 December, Sunday, 12.00 noon, Hobart Group, Christmas lunch, Sib and Keith Corbett's garden, 35 Pillinger Drive, Fern Tree, bring a plate to share and drinks for self. Contact: Keith Corbett.

6 December, Wednesday, 12.00 noon, Kingborough Day Meeting, Christmas lunch, Legacy Park on the Domain, bring a plate to share and drinks for self; contact: Carmen Walker. **Contacts:**

Carmen Walker: 0421 449 446 or cwalker4761@gmail.com David Boyer: 0488 082 089 or davidcmboyer@gmail.com

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

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.

A Message from APST Hobart Propagation Convenor

(Bruce Champion)

Dear Members,

Congratulation to the many members who helped propagate the plants we had for the Plants Sale on 14 October, they we all looking very good and presented well.



Plant trays all set up ready for customers; Daisies, Ferns, Orchids, Prostrate and Wollemi pines



Sunny and well drained and Coastal or sunny and dry.



Part/full sun well drained and Trees.

Thank you to the large group of members who arrived at or just before 8:00am to help set up the tables which Bruce and Tony had located on the prior Thursday, then transport the many barrow loads of trays full of plants from the nursery through the Gilley Garden and teacher's study then the Library passage out to the forecourt. These were all laid out according to their type of plant labels and Sue N. and others installed the photo description posters attached to steel bookends behind the illustrated plants. They certainly helped sell those plants. Meanwhile Tony and Sue F. set up the cash and eftpos payment table while David and Jenny set up the calendars, books and identikits plus the give-away pamphlets etc. Heather and John set up the Church Street sandwich board and long coreflute notice, the carpark fence banner and a flag rope to stop parking in front of the banner. Ann set up the pot pricing coreflute sheets and many helpers brought out the small tables for the plant pricing and cardboard boxes for the sold plants.

By 9:45am we were all set up and the first customers were arriving. It was, as usual, very busy for the first hour of sales then a steady stream for the next hour and a trickle for the last hour. The weather was very trying with gusting wind but few plants were blown over and then the rain showers, so a fantastic effort by all to sell as many plants as we did. Takings were down by about 25% due to the referendum, the weather and the lower number of plants. The ones that did sell out were the prostrate and most things that were in flower or illustrated on the posters.

Packing up was swift and everyone helped put things away where they had been found. All but a few minor things such as laying out all the wet plant type notices to dry and tidying the shed were done by 2pm and the Convenor was home by 3pm after organising his last Plants Sale.

Sunday 15 October, Flora Walk around parts of Knocklofty Reserve, West Hobart, in conjunction with the Friends of Knocklofty (FoKL) Bushcare members. Bruce Champion led the attendees across the Forest Road carpark extension to see what was a beautiful sandy heath area but now, due to climate change, is an almost barren area under small *Eucalyptus pulchella* trees. The only species struggling to survive are *Gahnia radula*, *Leptomeria drupacea* and some small *Leucopogon ericoides*. More of the latter were seen as the group continued over to a large *Exocarpos cupressiformis* where Bruce explained that this species and the *Leptomeria* are hemiparasitic. That is, they make root contact with host plants such as *Acacias*, *Eucalypts*, *Melaleucas* and possibly even grasses and sags, and extract protein and water from their hosts without killing them. Bruce also explained that *Exocarpos* species grow their seed externally to the fleshy edible fruit. Strawberries also have external seeds.

The group were then led up to the Main Trail and around past the two picnic table areas to the Glover Track. This was named after the colonial artist, John Glover, who walked up the track which is now the Glover Trail to paint a view looking down the gully to the far side of the Derwent River. FoKL members arranged for interpretive signs to be made and installed up the gully at images featured in Glover's painting and a large sign with a copy of his painting at the head of the gully on the Main Trail. Bruce led the group down around a sweeping bend where a huge amount of sandstone had been removed in the past from a buttress featured in Glover's painting. He explained that some years ago he was concerned that a rock in the Salvator Rosa Glen at the exit of a culvert pipe was directing water flow into the side of the stream bed causing tunnel erosion which was undermining a large group of tall *Eucalypts*. He initiated a Federal Government Water Grant for the HCC to harden the stream bed and stop the erosion and this has been very successful.



Oxylobium ellipticum flower cluster and leaves

Broom spurge, was leafless and in flower.

A little further down the hill, after identifying many plant species, Bruce led the group up a foot track which links the Glover Trail to the Kirby Court Trail up hill. A short way up this track Bruce showed the group a newly seen very floriferous *Oxylobium ellipticum*. There is another plant nearby further back down the track which had finished flowering. Bruce had only ever seen these plants the previous week and now knows there are three of this species in this area. The first was discovered further up the side of the gully by a FoKL member during a solo roving weeding session a few years ago. As we walked up the track many small *Epacris impressa* plants were noticed and a nice clump of *Amperia xiphoclada*,

Up on the Kirby Court Trail, the first found *Oxylobium* was pointed out but not visited due to track closure by CoH because of illegal bike track work in the area. At the junction of the link track across to the Main Trail, the cluster of triploid *Acacia dealbata* were discussed. These plants do not produce viable seed, if any, due to their extra chromosome and have spread by rhizomatous root shoots. The bulldozer grading of the Trail has cut of the original large cluster into two, one on either side of the Trail and spoil has been dumped to the north beyond the water tank producing another small triploid cluster from root shoots.

The Group moved on to Janets Pond where Bruce discussed the pros and cons of removing the wire mesh fence which had been installed when the Pond was recreated from an old farm dam at the suggestion of Janet Ault (dec) wife of FoKL's original convenor. The pond was lined with bentonite clay but dogs got in the water and punctured the clay layer, so the fence was installed. No decision has been made on the fence's removal and this is not the place to put the arguments for and against. The group were then led around the Pond past a group of huge *Acacia riceana* which HCC had planted along with a forest of *Eucalyptus globulus*. One *Acacia riceana* bush was so large it has formed an arch over the Main to Kirby Court Trails walking track. Nearby one of many *Pomaderris elliptica* bushes was heavy with flowers but not visited due to lack of time. The group were then led back along the Main Trail and shown an *Acacia gunnii* bush with spent flowers & empty seed pods. *Acacia riceana* living up to its common name, Arching wattle



We then returned to the carpark where the CoH Bushcare supervisor has spread out a large number of trays of several species of Tasmanian plants growing beautifully in forest tubes. These were offered to local residents and Reserve visitors as giveaways. As few people had come due to the cool weather, our group was able to help ourselves to many more than the suggested 2/person. They are very good plants. Thank you to the FoKL members who attended this supposedly joint APST Hobart and FoKL floral walk round. The former members missed a lovely floriferous excursion and some beautiful free plants.

Propagation

(Nursery Coordinator)

Two pre Plants Sale propagation sessions on 30 September and 7 October were again well attended by our propagators. Lots of sale pot weeding was done. We also sorted plants into their groups for the plants sale. We also cut wine boxes in half and taped them up for customers to carry home plants. Check all plants for printed labels. The directional signs were checked to make sure we knew where they will best be placed due to the use of the main carpark in lieu of Hutchins Street entrance.

On 7 October we checked that all was OK and Plants Sale day helpers were reminded what they can do to help to set up from 8.00 to 10.00am on 14 October. Thank you all that attended these sessions you are treasures.

The next propagation session has been set for the 2nd Saturday in November, the 11th, due to the State Get Together over the 1st weekend. Please bring some cuttings from your gardens along to be set in the mist propagator. We need to broaden our range of plants and especially need lots of prostrate plants. So come and play with plants at our Kingston Primary School Nursery.

Life in the Margate Hills

(Maria Honey)

Life in the hills above Margate seemed unchanging, peaceful yet full of interest. The wallabies and pademelons visited almost every morning knowing there'd be something for them. The possums came at night, not regularly, but often enough for us to meet the babies, either in their mothers' pouches or on their backs, or scratching on the glass kitchen doors when they'd learned that was what possums, even tiny ones, do when they want a treat. Most days the brown falcon appeared in the distant *Eucalyptus pulchella*. Seeing me coming down the steps with her early morning treat she'd fly to the 'talking tree'. I'd tell her she was beautiful and occasionally she'd nod and cluck as if she just couldn't help agreeing. After she'd gone, our last regular visitor, the grey shrike-thrush, would let us know of his arrival on the pergola, melodiously suggesting he, too, would appreciate an offering.



Grey shrike-thrush at kitchen window



Reg

Yes, life was predictable, gentle and serene, until one morning Reg arrived. Our local ravens have been surprisingly timid, untrusting birds, inspecting an occasional small handout of leftover meat from a distance, sneaking up on it then, at the last moment, flying up to check it out once more from above.

Reg's arrival was unexpected. Black, superbly glossy, strutting and handsome, he appeared outside the kitchen window, peered in and cawed arrogantly. Foolishly, I threw him a piece of raw meat, and from that day, as far as he was concerned, he was our special pet. The avian wars began.

If the falcon didn't immediately scoop up her raw meat, I'd hear the beat of Reg's powerful wings and he'd grab it, fly to the pergola to make sure we could see him and tear it to

pieces there to demonstrate his dominance. The little grey shrike-thrush was attacked and warned off. What had been a lovely morning routine became less pleasant. I'd stand guard once the treats were put out, but Reg was resourceful and very quick. A bamboo rake waved threateningly defeated him for a while, but not for long.

But about three months ago help arrived in the form of our falcon's new mate. He's young, speedy and aggressive and, devotedly protects his older partner. He's tackled and/or chased Reg off several times, forcing him to head for the highest tree to sulk. Of course he's unrepentant and still cleverly sneaky, but local peace and serenity has been, to a certain extent, restored.



Ready for breakfast (photos by John Honey)

Flowering Plants in My Garden: *Olearia phlogopappa*

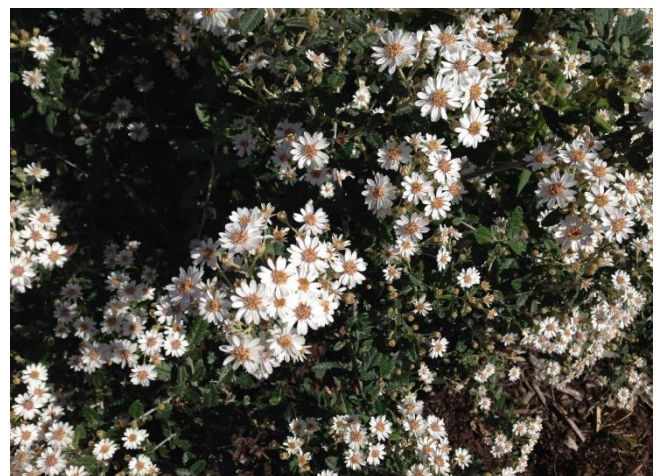
(Sue Newman)



Olearia phlogopappa in a friend's garden in Lenah Valley
Plants in my garden have only been short lived over the years. I've had purple, white and pink flowers. The current one is pink but is not looking happy although last year it was fine.

Commonly known as daisy bush it is found in eastern NSW, Victoria and Tasmania flowering from spring into summer. The white form is more common in nature. Pruning after flowering is necessary to maintain a compact habit with well drained moist soils in full sun or semi shade.

Olearia phlogopappa is my favourite plant name. I'm inspired to write about it having seen the most amazing plant in a friend's garden at Lenah Valley, about 2 metres tall with pink flowers and looking very healthy.



Olearia phlogopappa white flowers

(Photos by Sue Newman)



Acacia verticillata



Bedfordia salicina



Diplarrena moraea



Epacris virgata var *Kettering*



Goodenia ovata



Stackhousia monogyna



Tetratheca pilosa

(Photos by Tony Salt)

Notes from Minutes of the Wednesday, October 11th, 2023 APST Hobart Group General Meeting

The Guest Speaker was Magali Wright, Orchid Preservation Research Program.

Magali informed us that there are 216 known species of orchids in Tasmania, which is 40% of Australia's nationally occurring orchids. Magali works out of the Seed Conservation area at the Botanical Gardens with James Wood.

All orchid species form mycorrhizal fungal associations.

The purpose of the Program is to improve the status of orchids by collecting seeds from threatened orchids to store in the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre. They are developing an orchid translocation program to build separate orchid colonies in different parts of the state. They do field collections (fungi and seed), fungal isolations, seed processing and symbiotic propagation. From 2,000 seeds from one species they were able to propagate 26 plants. A translocation program has begun in the Midlands. Extensive surveys are the first step, then assessment of translocation sites. They are currently focusing on private properties

with Midlands Conservation Fund Stewardship Agreements. They observe available pollinator plants. Orchids grown in cultivation are often larger than when grown in the wild.

Trampling of orchids by photographers is unfortunately occurring. Some signage is being installed.

Ethical photography – it can take only five minutes standing beside a wild orchid for ten days to change the mycorrhizal make-up of the soil. Cutting away surrounding plants from an orchid in order to photograph it is also damaging the plant long term. It is important to have good boot and equipment hygiene.

Magali recently held a second ethical photography workshop, both of which were successful.

How to help:

Practice ethical photography,
Join Threatened Plants Tasmania,
Donate to the Orchid Preservation Program, and
Visit the Landscape Recovery Foundation website.

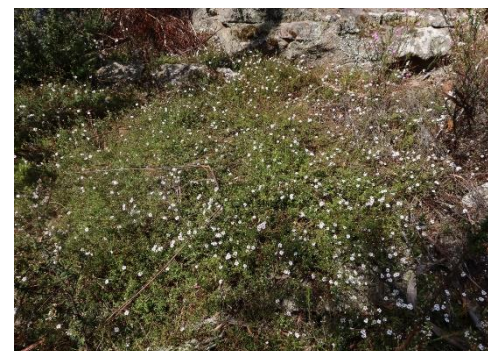
Fire intensity, frequency, soil moisture and at the wrong time for germination are also a risk to orchids. A cool, and better, burn may reduce competition which allows orchids to flourish after a fire.

Flower of the Month: Peter Tuft spoke about, and shared, flowering cuttings of *Olearia phlogopappa*, Dusty daisybush, from separate white flowering and pink flowering plants. (See page 5)

Flower from the table: *Carpobrotus rossii* Native Pigface from the garden of Robyn and Peter Tuft.



Olearia lirata Bluff River Gorge



Euryomyrtus ramosissima Bluff River Gorge

Where I've Been, What I've Seen:

Bruce Champion and Sib and Keith Corbett separately found the flowers in Bluff River Gorge to be magnificent. However, the tracks on both sides of the Gorge are becoming dangerous.



Carpobrotus rossii

Other Business: included

Water for the garden at TBG, Buckland – Bruce raised the issue of perhaps not having sufficient water for the plants in our forecast hot summer. Keith said that the TBG has a 10,000L water tank and a water carter's tanker load is sufficient to fill it, so the meeting agreed to supply tanker loads as required.

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

E&OE

Mt Rumney Landcare Group Inc



Explore Canopus-Centauri Bush Reserve

On date to be advised

From 10am – 12 noon.

You are invited to join your neighbours to attend a community event at the Canopus-Centauri Bush Reserve which is a fine example of a Black Gum grassy woodland.

The walk will be led by staff from Envirodynamics in order to discover, discuss and hopefully see the diversity of wildflowers and wildlife that exists on the reserve.

Please meet at the Canopus Road entrance to the reserve where the reserve name is located

There is ample parking along Canopus Road.

Phil Watson, APST conservation officer, has arranged for APST members to participate in this community group event and to discover the reserve's flora and fauna with members of the Mt Rumney Landcare Group.

A well-known consulting firm, *Envirodynamics*, have done flora and fauna surveys and will use this field event to advise on the surveys, and to discuss and hopefully see the diversity of wildflowers and wildlife that exists on the reserve.

This will be an opportunity for us to consider whether APST Hobart Group would benefit from being involved as an organization in the care of reserves and have the capacity for it.

David Boyer