



## Group Newsletter July 2023



Hobart Group members inspecting an old growth giant *Eucalyptus regnans* during the walk to Duckhole Lake 2 July 2023  
(Photo Tony Salt)

### Welcome to New Members

Greetings from the APST Hobart Group to new member Julian James of North Hobart. 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 August, Wednesday, 2.00pm, Kingborough Day Meeting, Meet at Anne and Tony Crawford's garden, 493 Tinderbox Road Tinderbox.** Please bring food to share. If the weather is bad again, the meeting will be at B Block Kingston Library for another general plant discussion. Entry from Church Street. Contact: Carmen Walker

**5 August, Saturday, 1.30 to 4.30pm, Propagation, Kingston Primary School Nursery,** setting semi-hardwood cuttings, potting up and potting on as required, plus weeding where needed. Contact Bruce Champion.

**6 August. Sunday, Walk, Arm End Circuit, South Arm Peninsula,** meet at Arm End car park 10.00am, about 1 hour from Hobart. Drive through Possum Bay to end of road. An easy walk of about 5 to 6km, some geology and history (but not much in the way of plants!). Bring lunch, wet weather gear. Contact: Keith Corbett

**9 August, Wednesday, 7pm, Hobart Group General Meeting** at Kingston Primary School Library, (committee meeting from 6:30pm, all welcome). Keith Corbett on 'Wild Places in South-West Tasmania'. A personal look at a couple of the wild beautiful and interesting places in the South-West. Plant of the month *Boronia anemonifolia* by Bruce Champion. Contact: Prue Wright.

**2 September 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.

**3 September Sunday, 10am, Walk, Prosser River TLC property** - grassy woodland: Contact: Keith Corbett or Peter Tuft.

**6 September, Wednesday, 2.00pm, Kingborough Day Meeting, garden visit**, 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 Miceys Beach from Randalls Bay, and maybe Echo Sugar Loaf**, bring lunch and wet weather gear. More details next month. Contact Keith Corbett.

### Contacts:

Carmen Walker: 0421 449 446 or [cwalker4761@gmail.com](mailto:cwalker4761@gmail.com)

Bruce Champion: 0408 146 041 or [brchamp@ozemail.com.au](mailto:brchamp@ozemail.com.au)

Keith Corbett: 0419 593 059 or [keith.corbett@bigpond.com](mailto:keith.corbett@bigpond.com)

Robyn & Peter Tuft: 0414 297 489 or [robyn@tuft.id.au](mailto:robyn@tuft.id.au)

Prue Wright: 0438 410 192 or [redgum101@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Propagation

(Nursery Coordinator)

The propagation session on 1 July was attended by a small 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 on another cold afternoon. We hope to see lots of propagators on 5 August to set cuttings collected from the old display plants in the nursery, pot up any struck cuttings and some of the seedlings and pot on any plants which are ready plus pot washing and weeding of pots, paths and garden areas. Plenty of trees still available for the taking, so, come and help yourselves.

On Thursday 20 July while at the Nursery, Bruce was contacted by the landscape contractor for the new grades 1 to 3 garden project which has been taking place for many weeks now up hill and toward Hutchins Street from to Nursery. Dave from Deep Earth had been asked by Sue Small the Landscape Architect to obtain some plants for the garden from our Nursery. We were able to immediately supply 4 *Banksia marginata* in 75mm pots. We then put aside 3 *Allocasuarina littoralis*, 7 *Agonis flexuosa* 'Nana', 14 *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *spathulata* and 1 *Hakea salicifolia*. Most in 75mm pots or forest tubes and several in 100 and 125mm pots. We will hold these plants until Dave's employees are ready to plant them.

## APST Hobart walk to the Duckhole Lake Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

(Tony Salt)

Early Sunday morning, heading South through Huonville, on the left, the powerfully calming Huon River glistening with early light, on through Geeveston, a gently warming sun enlivening the quaint pastures, variously dotted with black faced sheep, coats whitened by shearers combing, calves nuzzling their mother's softness, apple trees wisely withdrawn to bare form, re-arming for the breakout to come....

continuous white double lines centre a tarmac directing the ever curving, rising, falling, bending, flowing roadway..... and that's just the drive to Dover.

Our small convoy, 9 walkers in 4 cars, began at the Port Esperance playground. Adjacent, a more remarkable gathering occurring. Aligned on the Jetty, (approx. 140 metres!) it was entirely clustered with placid seagulls, standing to staid attention facing the sun, – thousands of them, a rare and wonderful sight. Their beautifully groomed stark white breasts reflecting sunshine to shimmer the water.

A short drive South through Strathblane and onto the Darcy link track. .... and then .... the ugliness of man's rapaciousness is displayed. 'Tis shattering to see the tragedy of destroyed Native Forest. "Old growth" laid waste, destroyed in a vulgar aggressive manner. Visibly driven by hate this unconstrained violent turmoil is our unescapable path to the remnant (selectively logged) forest of the Duckhole Lake track. Depressed and saddened by this unchecked vandalism I am reminded of the relevance of our Society's fundamental objective of preservation of Tasmania's natural flora. Stopping native forest clearfell is more relevant today than when our society began. The large sparkly new precast bridge over the Creek town rivulet at the start of the Duckhole track is a pertinent example of how Forestry Tasmania has misplaced more than a billion dollars subsidising atrocities. Forestry Tasmania shows a fundamental irrational pricing of undisturbed forest.



Hobart Group members on the Duckhole Lake Track

*Nothofagus cunninghamii* takes a small share, *E. lucida* and *Atherosperma moschatum*, use some of the remainder with *Dicksonia antarctica* capturing most of the escaped rays. Trackside displayed *Blechnum nudum*, *Hymenophyllum cupressiformis*, *Gahnia grandis*, and occasionally the Bruce Champion favourite *Aristotelia peduncularis*. The gentle *Prionotes cerinthoides* and *Clematis aristata* clung to old stumps of logged forest giants. *Pittosporum bicolor* interspersed *Coprosma quadrifida*, *Pimelea drupacea*, and spasmodically *Tasmannia lanceolata*. The woolly tea tree, *Leptospermum lanigerum*, becomes prominent along with *Anodopetalum biglandulosum* (Horizontal). Gigantic and mighty, sentinel Stringybarks, to the sawmiller's claws implacable, wined us with respect .....and so it goes on..... The walk is only about 4.5 k long. However, with our botanical engagement meant we turn a rated 1.5 hour trip into a 3 hour stroll. A plant list from this walk will

Boots on, walking the track. A teeming tributary of the Creek town rivulet parallels our way. The source is the foothills of Adamsons Peak at Manuka Flat approx. 400m high. The bright sunshine is gobbled up high by *E. regnans*, and *E. obliqua*. Shorter, the occasional



The Duckhole Lake Track boardwalk through tall giants



*Trochocarpa cunninghamii* fruit and foliage

go onto our website's/Google drive for use and refinement.



*Pseudopanax gunnii* flowers



*Pseudopanax gunnii* palmate leaflet leaves

Closer to our destination was a clearing, presumably to helicopter deliver the extraordinary board walk planks. These large planks (approx. 7.5m long, 250mm wide, and 38mm thick) are of treated pine from New Zealand *Pinus radiata* plantations (in my opinion). A savage indictment that our forestry is well behind the times. New Zealand banned native forest logging in 2002! Returning to the clearing, it allowed sunshine to expand the variety of shrubs. There was much chatter here about species. The *Pseudopanax gunnii* was a challenge.

Duckhole Lake appears by surprise. The shrubbery leans over into the water hiding any banks, the water glassy smooth apart for the widening wrinkle carved by the solitary Australian Grebe which I was assured was not Hoary headed. Lunch on the sandstone bank delivered a serene view over the lake to the foothills leading to Adamsons Peak.

Keith explained that: “the top of Adamsons Peak had the usual dolerite cap, beneath which a thick section of Triassic sandstone, and beneath that was a thick section of Permian mudstones. But here on this alluvial flat, covered in rainforest, we were probably down in the basement rocks, below the Permian. This would almost certainly include Precambrian dolomite, as at Hastings Caves, a bit further along. This would explain the flooded sinkhole which is Duckhole Lake. The abundant sand along the creek banks would have been eroded from the Triassic sandstones up the slopes *ibid*”.

Returning to the cars it was a short drive to the Hastings Hot springs. For a meagre \$4 we were entitled to bathe in the hot (about 23°C where it comes in) really large beautifully clear pool but, no togs so, no go! The extensive board walk passed the junction where emergent underground hot water flowed into a vigorous stream of surface run off headed to Lune River. Amazing temperature difference. Dominant stands of *Melaleuca squarrosa* entangled with cutting grass made impenetrable thicket both sides for a large part of the walk. Again, we were fortunate that it was a beautiful clear sunny day justifying Ice creams and snacks at the gift shop. (Photos by Peter Tuft)

### Kingborough Day Meeting 5 July Excursion

(Carmen Walker)



Jon Eslings, Pam, Gill, Rose, Lorraine & Carmen



*Banksia integrifolia* flower and foliage and ground cover form plant



On Wednesday 5th July, the Kingborough Day Group members went to Jon Eslings' garden. Jon showed us around his nursery and explained how it works. He doesn't sell to the public, only wholesale. Jon also showed us the hot house which works really well. We then went and had a look at his garden which looks really good. There is still more to be done in the fire pit area. It was a very enjoyable excursion.



*Banksia marginata* flowers are yellow then change to pink then change back to yellow flowers. Cuttings will flower in same sequence of colour changes. Most unusual!

*Grevillea rhyolitica* hedge



*Acacia longifolia* fine leaf form hedge being admired by Kingborough Day Meeting Members

(Photos by Tony Green)

### Christine's plant of the month

(Christine Howells)

Personally I don't do hot and humid, especially at the unseasonal levels experienced in the Kimberley last month, but these three grevilleas seemed perfectly happy. They were all seen in Purnululu National Park where two of them are endemic, so it's their favourite spot, and the other is widespread across northern WA and the NT.



*Grevillea psilantha* flowers



*Grevillea psilantha* plants rhs

*Grevillea psilantha*, the rock grevillea, obviously grows in rock and was hanging out of crevices in Cathedral Gorge where it was in full bloom, its white flowers a strong contrast to its dark, linear leaves. It is classified as rare/near threatened under WA laws and is limited to Purnululu.

*Grevillea miniata*, the sand grevillea, on the other hand, has spread itself a bit more widely but is still limited to the southern Kimberley, and in Purnululu there are good stands along the sandy plains at the northern edge of the stunning rocky features for which the area is famous. *Grevillea miniata* has greyish holly-like leaves and bright golden yellow flowers with a streak of green when in bud and a red throat as the flowers mature.



*Grevillea miniata* flowers and leaves



*Grevillea miniata* swathe mid background

The other grevillea that was putting on a stunning display was *Grevillea wickhamii*, the holly grevillea. I don't recall it being quite so 'show-offy' on previous viewings, but the masses of red pendant racemes that were clustered along the trunk and branches were a spectacular contrast to the grey/silvery holly-like leaves.



*Grevillea wickhamii* flower clusters



*Grevillea wickhamii* bushes

Oh well, they are northerners, and while it was wonderful to make their acquaintance, this southerner is much happier in cooler climes!

(Photos by Christine Howells)

## Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group (FoKL)

(Astrid Wright)

This month we did roving weeding either side of the Fiona Allan Track and above the Weerona Trail.

There were very, very few weeds in the areas, and our workers were pleased to note this.

Then a walk into the Providence Valley Rivulet gully.

And there we have a lot of forget-me-nots.

It sometimes seems pointless to keep pulling this weed out,

but it is obvious that we are giving the native vegetation a chance to be established.

The question about removing the fence around Janets Pond has not yet been resolved.

We had an inspection of the wayleave under the power lines by four people from TasNetworks.

They were very satisfied with our wayleave maintenance.

### AUGUST PROGRAM

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Roving weeding either side of the Glover Track, KR 21. 9.00 am – 11.30 am with coffee and biscuits. Meet at the end of Poets Rd.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** Gorse weeding near corner of old Fielding land, KR 13. 9.00 am – 11.30 am with coffee and biscuits. Meet at the Forest Rd. car park.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>** Roving weeding at the end of Forest Rd, KR 23. 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm with coffee and biscuits. Meet at the Forest Rd. car park.

## Flowering Plants in My Garden

(Sue Newman)

How I envy residents of WA having an abundance of wonderful eucalypts flowering at this time of year. Also many of them are not too big for a suburban garden. I am always on the lookout for plants of these gems in nurseries. So this month I'm featuring my *Eucalyptus tetraptera*, a fascinating mallee from the



*Eucalyptus tetraptera* buds and leaves



Flower bud spilling its cap



Flowers fully open

south coast, growing up to 3 metres. It has huge leathery leaves with large flower buds arranged singly in leaf axils on rigidly down turned peduncles (that's the bit that holds the flowers on to the stem!). The common names are four winged mallee or square fruited mallee but so far I don't have any fruit.

The buds take forever to open. I think I planted mine about 5 years ago. It didn't enjoy the rain last winter, some of the leaves developed big black circles and I was worried it would give up but it bravely soldiered on. It is not a tidy plant but that is its natural straggly form. It's had to cope with strong wind and it's difficult to tie up because it is so spread out and at one stage I pruned it to save it from blowing over.



*Eucalyptus tetraptera* small tree  
in Sue's Acton Park garden  
(Photos by Sue Newman)

## Pitfalls of an exposed garden!

(Lorraine Pender)

My garden in Blackmans Bay began in 2019. We downsized from a 2 hectare bush block, on mudstone to approximately 2,500 sq. m of poor sandy soil with solid sandstone not too far below the surface. In fact one large section of garden has sandstone right at the surface. When we moved in there was lots to do so in came some landscapers to clear away a boundary of wattles and quite a bit of *Pandorea jasminoides* which was serving the function of a living fence. Then permanent boundary fences went up in an effort to keep out wallabies and rabbits. Mostly successfully but the odd rabbit has taken up residence from time to time. The garden beds were formed, a dry stream bed leading into a small stream which flows to a natural pond was the final construction by the landscapers.

Then over approx. 3-4 months I set to and planted out from a list of natives that I was given. Some I could not find to buy so lots of substitutes went in. One was *Spyridium vexilliferum*, Helicopter bush. It grew well just by a rock outcrop and was looking very happy for a few years. Then I noticed the middle of the bush was looking a bit sad and discovered that at the base one branch was splitting away in the centre. Then this year as the autumn winds came and hammered my garden again I saw that the *Spyridium* had



*Spyridium vexilliferum* var. *latifolia* bush



Wind broken branches

failed to withstand the wind whipping through and most of the branches

*Spyridium vexilliferum* var. *latifolia* flowers were broken off entirely. In an effort to propagate this plant I asked for an ID from the Tasmanian Herbarium and so I now know that it is *Spyridium vexilliferum* var. *latifolium*. So, I have 2 species of *Spyridium vexilliferum* in my garden. The other is a fine leaf form, *Spyridium vexilliferum* var. *vexilliferum* and it grows naturally in Tasmania.



*Spyridium vexilliferum* var. *vexilliferum* bush  
Note the fine leaves

(photos by Lorraine Pender)

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

At our Hobart Group meeting in June, Agustina Barros, a visiting academic to UTas, introduced herself. She is looking for help from our Society to identify native versus introduced plant species on kunanyi/Mount Wellington. So if you are interested in a walk on the mountain identifying plants, please contact her:

[anaagustinabarros@gmail.com](mailto:anaagustinabarros@gmail.com) mobile 0477980016

Agustina is wanting to visit the Mountain in October and November

## New Census of Vascular Plants issued by the Tasmanian Herbarium (Bruce Champion)

Here is a link for the 2023 edition of the Tasmanian Herbarium's Census of Vascular Plants:

[https://flora.tmag.tas.gov.au/census/2023\\_Census\\_of\\_Tasmanian\\_Vascular\\_Plants.pdf](https://flora.tmag.tas.gov.au/census/2023_Census_of_Tasmanian_Vascular_Plants.pdf)

Keen followers of the Herbarium's publication may also be interested to know that the Flora of Tasmania's (FOT) Ericaceae treatment has been revised AGAIN! Notable in this 2023 issue is that *Astroloma pinifolium*, Pine heath, has been returned to its original Robert Brown name, *Stenantha pinifolia*. *Astroloma humifusum*, Native cranberry or Cranberry heath, has been returned to *Styphelia humifusa* (Cav.) Pers., Syn. Pl (Persoon) (1805)



## **Hobart Group General Meeting 12 July 2023 notes**

**GUEST SPEAKER** – Introduction by Peter Tuft. Malcolm Wells on the *Endemic orchids of Tasmania*. Of the 200 species of orchids that grow in Tasmania, 65 occur only in Tasmania. Most of the endemic species are threatened with extinction. About 80% of our orchid species prefer grassland habitats. Most have a very close association with a particular species of fungus. Eighty-seven percent of our native grasslands have gone. So, cemeteries, golf courses and roadsides have become critical habitat for orchids, and grassland.

Malcolm has written an app for Apple smartphones on the Orchids of Tasmania. This may not be available soon when Apple Store updates its products.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

We need another Hobart Group representative to attend the APST Inc Region meeting at Ross in September. Transport can be provided. We need someone new to attend as a proxy, with Jenny Boyer and Tony Salt already attending.

APS calendars will be ready in September, \$17 for members. Amanda Walker has collated the plant pictures from members and done more beautiful layouts. Please order through David Boyer. You can order multiple copies. They make great presents. (See page 10)

## **Tasman Peninsula Get-together Registration (see page 12)**

**(Jenny Boyer)**

Hello Members,

Just a 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](mailto: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  
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery  
Plants of Tasmania  
Redbreast, Margate  
Wild Island  
Inala Jurassic Garden

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



## **ANPSA Biennial Conference 2024 – Melbourne**

“Gardens for Life”

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Victoria

30th Sep – 4th Oct 2024

To be held at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre. The conference topics include Gardens for Wildlife and Habitat, Restoration and Revegetation of Wetlands, Grasslands and Verges, Care for the Rare, Insects and Biodiversity, Garden Design, Indigenous Food Plants and many more.

Tours before and after will go to Victoria’s best wildflower areas and day excursions will feature new botanic gardens, private gardens and wild areas.

Website to register your interest :

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

Contact Details : [anpsaconference@apsvic.org.au](mailto:anpsaconference@apsvic.org.au)

# Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. Annual Get-Together

## Tasman Peninsula, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:keith.corbett@bigpond.com)) or Prue ([apsthobartsec@gmail.com](mailto: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