

Eucryphia



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Richea dracophylla on the Organ Pipes track (P. 17)

<p>EUCRYPHIA ISSN 1324-3888 Published quarterly in March, June, September and December by Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc ABN 64 482 394 473 Patron: Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania Society postal address: P.O. Box 1205 GRAVELLY BEACH TASMANIA 7276 Editor: Mary Slattery eucryphiaeditor@gmail.com Contributions and letters to the editor are welcome. They should be forwarded by email in a word doc, not pdf, to the editor at eucryphiaeditor@gmail.com or typed using one side of the paper only. If handwritten, please print botanical names and the names of people. Original text may be reprinted, unless otherwise indicated, provided an acknowledgment of the source is given. Permission to reprint non-original material and all drawings and photos must be obtained from the copyright holder by the contributor.. Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views and/or opinions of the Society.</p>	<p>Contents</p>
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Membership subscriptions

Annual subscription payments may be made by EFT (electronic funds transfer) directly into the Society's Westpac bank account as follows:

Name: **Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.** BSB: **037015** Account: **194644**.

Please identify your EFT payment by recording your **Membership Number** and if room your **Surname** into your bank's **Description/Reference** field.

Also, a hard copy and cheque can be forwarded to The APST Inc. Treasurer,

Membership Type	\$ per annum
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Individual concession - Student, Pension Concession or Department of Veteran's Affairs Pension	37.00
Household - each additional adult	9.00
Household - each child under 16	1.00
Overseas and Overseas Organisation (banker's draft AUD)	55.00
Additional subscription for the <i>Australian Plants Journal</i> - APJ	14.00

Australian Plants Journal

Please note that a subscription to the APJ entitles members to receive only those issues that are published during the members' subscription period.

Back copies of the APJ may be purchased by contacting your Group Secretary.

Membership badges and cards

Membership badges (metal) are supplied to all new members with their new members kit.

Membership name cards are issued to all new members.

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Substantial discounts are offered on book purchases through your Group Secretary.

Websites

APST Inc.
www.apstas.org.au

Northern Group
www.apstasnorth.org

ANPSA Inc.
www.anpsa.org.au

Membership

Margaret Killen, Membership Officer



New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members to the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc: **Maggie Waddell** of Geilston Bay; **Vera Taylor** of Newstead; **Lee Beswick** of Trevallyn; **Lauren Faulkner** of Riverside; **Anna Lovitt** of Launceston; **Rosemary Savic** of Mayfield; **Liz Atkins** of Launceston; **Sandy Ramage** of Launceston; **Marg Leedham** of Port Sorell; **Lee Thompson** of West Kentish; **Jennifer Rowlands** of Devonport; **Rod Spark** of North Hobart; **Kathy Williams** of Trevallyn; **Ha Truong & Piers Allbrook** of Tinderbox; **Mark & Helen Jessop** of Geeveston; **Jeffrey Campbell** of Perth (Tas); **Alex Wilson** of Mountain River; **Derryn Wilson** of Lower Wattle Grove; **Catherine Strudwick** of Kingston Beach; **John Street & Mary-Kate Pickett** of Deep Bay; **Lobelia Boyer** of Launceston; **Barry Ahern** of Riverside and **Jennifer Craigen** of Beauty Point, Helen and Stephen Wallace of Bungendore NSW.

New Members Application Form

Please find the form at <http://apstas.org.au/>

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Your subscription renewal date is due on the anniversary month of when you joined. Renewal reminders are sent by email, or hard copies posted to those without email. Please return your completed scanned/photographed form to membership@apstas.org.au or post the hard copy to:
The APST Treasurer, PO Box 1205, Gravelly Beach Tasmania 7276.

Membership Queries

If you have any queries, updates or corrections regarding your membership, or your contact details, please contact me.

Margaret Killen

Membership Officer

0409 430 665

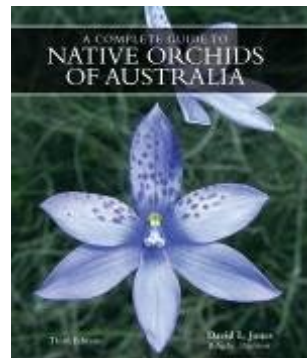
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at

<http://newhollandpublishers.com/orchids>



From The President

Jenny Boyer, President.



Hello Members,

What a spring display this year whether you are in the garden or out in the bush the flowers have been magnificent. Personally I have been lucky to have a couple of trips to Tasman Peninsula, where the floral stars have depended on which track you took on the day but there was no dispute that the star attraction on the Collins Cap walk, near Hobart, last weekend was *Richea dracophylla* but there were so many other things flowering prolifically and competing for the star title.

This edition of Eucryphia is the first to be electronic as the standard and distributed by email but some print copies will be available for members without computers, tablets or smart phones. We don't want members to miss out.

Our APST Inc. 2021 Calendar is a beauty, using member's photos, with design, layout and image processing by Amanda Walker and Christine Howells again providing the botanical information. This year we have supplied the calendars to other outlets so you may see them at the Royal Botanical Gardens, the QV Museum, TMAG, Wild Tasmania as well as Redbreast and Plants of Tasmania nurseries.

By the time this Eucryphia reaches you, many members will have enjoyed the Get-together at Maydena which promises to be a wonderful event. I would like to express my thanks to Sib and Keith Corbett for the huge effort they have put into this event which has attracted numbers far exceeding the expectations and therefore creating extra challenges.

2020 has been an interrupted year for Group Programmes and Zoom meeting challenges for Council. While we still need to be COVID alert, hopefully we can enjoy our end of year festivities without any problems and have a more normal year to follow.

Happy Christmas everyone.

Jenny Boyer. ☺

Advertising Rates in Eucryphia

Up to a quarter page \$10.00; half page \$20.00;
full page \$40.00

A discount of 10% is available to financial members and
5% discount is offered for four consecutive insertions of the same advertisement
paid in advance.

Fees are payable to:

The Treasurer, Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.
P.O. Box 1205, GRAVELLY BEACH
TASMANIA 7276

Report From Council

Vice President, Margaret Killen

Since the last report we have had one face to face meeting (September) and one Zoom meeting (November) with a full quota of officers attending. The agenda has changed slightly to assist Council have a more involved role in strategic planning and Business Arising is now tabled in the Action List.

The business of Council covered:

Insurance – review

Budget 2021 – provision for insurance; fees; subscriptions; new website; journal (Eucryphia), finance, secretarial and membership expenses.

Membership – numbers are stable at 288 members in the 221 memberships.

Constitutional change – to allow AGM video conferencing. The exact change and rationale will be forwarded in time for a vote at the March AGM.

Strategic planning – progress tracking tool.

‘Tasmania’s Flora’ APST calendars have been very successful with 230 printed and sold by the end of November. This year the calendar was sold through a number of outlets around the state and it has been especially successful at the RTBG.

Approval for a new website was given, it is planned to be built and go live by the end of March 2021.

All groups have purchased a “Square” device which allows EFT payments at plant sales. Hobart group’s is up and running and half their October plant sales were diverted this way. North West Group’s square is active and ready for the next sale.®

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ANPSA NEWS

Margaret Matthews, President

After much deliberation the APS NSW Biennial Conference Committee has decided to postpone the ANPSA biennial conference from 2021 to 2022. The Committee found planning for the conference difficult due to:

- Our members tending to be from the 'higher risk' category and uncertainties about a vaccine
- Challenges with travel given changing restrictions, particularly from other states and internationally
- The changing social distancing levels and requirements at the conference and on buses, with flow-on impacts to tours, excursions and of course costs, and
- Their view that a digital conference is not a good alternative given how important social interaction and exploring the region's flora are at these conferences.

The new dates for the Conference are: 11th September to 16th September, 2022.

The potential implications of this decision include a permanent shift in the years we hold our national Conference, from odd numbered to even numbered years. The Australian Plants Awards, usually presented at the conference, will also be postponed until 2022.

ANPSA's Public Officer John Carter has recently sold his Canberra home and is moving to Bowral in NSW. As ANPSA is incorporated in the ACT this means John can no longer perform this role for ANPSA. This is a loss for us as John has done such a wonderful job.

Fortunately, Stephen Saunders who is currently the Public Officer for ANPS Canberra has agreed to take over this position subject to approval by the ANPSA Executive at the meeting in November.

ANPSA's Council and Executive continue to meet remotely, until recently by teleconference but now adopting Zoom so COVID 19 has not impacted the administration of ANPSA.

The position of Publicity Officer for ANPSA is still vacant. This important role provides an opportunity to learn more about ANPSA and its member societies and get to know more about the many interesting activities being undertaken around Australia to promote knowledge of our wonderful native plants. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this role, please contact me or our Secretary, Christine Curry.

We also have vacancies for leaders of several important study groups including Waratah and Flannel Flower, Boronia, Rainforest and Brachychiton. The Study groups are an integral part of ANPSA's work, promoting plant groups and increasing knowledge of their biology and how to grow them.

Steve Lamont from the Sydney Chapter of the Fern Study Group has replaced Peter Bostock as leader. Thank you to Peter for his leadership of this Group.

The Australian Plants Society Victoria used online technology to hold the 13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020 - Mint Bushes and Allied Genera recently: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/>

The garden visits planned for the event sadly had to be cancelled as Victoria is still under quite severe Victorian lockdown.

I am currently in Melbourne experiencing the lockdown with my family. I had hoped to visit the gardens as part of the FJC Rogers seminar.

I spent a week in Canberra visiting other family on my journey from Perth to Melbourne and was at last able to visit the new Banksia Garden at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

The garden celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. It was officially opened on October 21st by Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley. Hosting more than 70 different types of banksias from around Australia, the 2,500 square metre garden was established using cutting-edge grafting technology and required the construction of thermal walls to shield plants from Canberra's chill and to absorb and radiate heat from the winter sun. The *Banksia dentata* collected from tropical Kakadu National Park has been planted in pipes, essentially very large pots with wheels, so it can be wheeled under shelter to protect it from Canberra's winter frosts.

We are still missing many of the citations for the recipients of the Australian Plants Awards. If you have copies of these citations, for example from the 2007 conference, please let me or Brian Walters know.

The redevelopment of the ANPSA website is close to complete. Thank you to Ben Walcott and Brian Walters for undertaking this considerable effort..^⓪

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Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink, Study Group Liaison



Garden Design Study Group Newsletter No 113, Nov 2020

Leader: Lawrie Smith

All the issues, including the current one, are available on the ANPSA website:

<http://anpsa.org.au/design/> or Google 'Australian Garden Design'.

The theme for the next issue due in February will be 'Time as a design constraint or opportunity'.

All past issues are indexed and available on the website. In garden design 'a picture is worth a thousand words', so looking at the actual newsletter is recommended.

Pea Flower Study Group Newsletter No 1, Sept 2020 'PEA MAIL'

Leader: Shirley McLaren NSW

Tasmania has many pea flowers, so this SG should be of interest to our local members. This is the first newsletter of the newly resurrected Pea Flower SG that was previously called Fabaceae SG. The purpose of the name change is to accentuate only those legumes that have pea flowers.

Fabaceae is the legume family, the plants of which are generally recognised by their pod-shaped fruit. Not all of the Fabaceae family have the typical pea flower. Plants with pea shaped flowers are a subfamily of Fabaceae, and the name of the subfamily is Faboideae or Papilionidae.

Faboideae is the largest group of legumes. In Australia it is represented by around 160 genera and over 2,000 species. As Faboideae is not a familiar term, the Study Group has been resurrected as the 'Australian Pea Flower Study Group'. The purpose of including Australia in the name is to make it clear to the international readers that this group is purely about Australian Pea Flowers.

An example of international interest is an article by Judy Clark from UK, who is growing *Pultanea juniperina*, the prickly bush pea in her garden. The newsletter also has photos and plant descriptions from Australian members. Marilyn from Bull, Victoria, has an extensive range. She says she is particularly interested in foliage plants. Many of the peas have interesting foliage. The Study Group appears to already have many enthusiastic members and the newsletter has got off to a good start.

Wallum Study Group Newsletter No 48 Oct 2020

Leader: Barbara Henderson

Wallum' is a Queensland term for coastal heath. The feature plant *Sowerbea juncea*, vanilla lily, is probably the favourite plant of many wallum watchers. Not only is it delicate and colourful, but the perfume can be exquisite, too. It can be grown in a container or around the edges of a pond. It grows in moisture retentive acidic soils from Southern Queensland to Tasmania. There is also an interesting article on the horticultural potential of wallum plants. The writer deplores the loss of habitat as a result of residential development on the Gold Coast. 'Preservation by cultivation' is the term used by many study group leaders. Many rare plants have been saved by gardeners growing them in their backyards.

Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group Newsletter no 27, Oct 2020 'ISOPET'

Leaders: Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett

A very extensive and informative newsletter. It includes an article by Catriona Bate called '250 years of Botanical Study'. It tells of the first observations of Isopogon and Petrophile by Banks and Solander, when they arrived on the Endeavour at Botany Bay in 1770. There is also useful advice on growing conditions derived from advice related to growing South African Proteas and Leucadendrons. To quote: 'a little known fact is that Isopogons and Petrophiles are more closely related to South African Proteas and Leucadendrons than they are to familiar Australian Proteaceae like Banksias and Grevilleas'. Much work has gone into developing good forms of South African Proteas and Leucadendrons, while comparatively little work has been done so far on the Australian Proteaceae.

Grevillea Study Group Newsletter 117, Nov 2020

Leader: Peter Olde

The Study group managed to have meetings in Sydney and Melbourne despite of the restrictions imposed by COVID19 rules. There is an article on the name change of *Grevillea latrobei*, discussing how it came to be changed to *G. rosmarinifolia*. Also notes on grafting as grafting Grevilleas has become popular.

Australian Plants for Containers Study Group

Newsletter No 36 Sept 2020

Leaders Ben and Ros Walcott

Many contributions and lively discussion by members. Some examples of Bonsai. A report by Walcotts on the Eremophila Study Group Conference in Queensland. They noted that many Eremophila enthusiasts with larger shrubs in their garden also grow special plants in pots. Growing in containers gives you flexibility if you need lighter soil or sheltered position.

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No 128 Sept 2020

Leader: Lyndal Thorburn

The Study Group managed to hold it's conference in late July/August amidst COVID restrictions. *E. miniata* is described in detail as the feature species.

Acacia Study Group Newsletter no 148 Oct 2020

Leader: Bill Aitchison

For new members the email-only option will be offered for the newsletter.

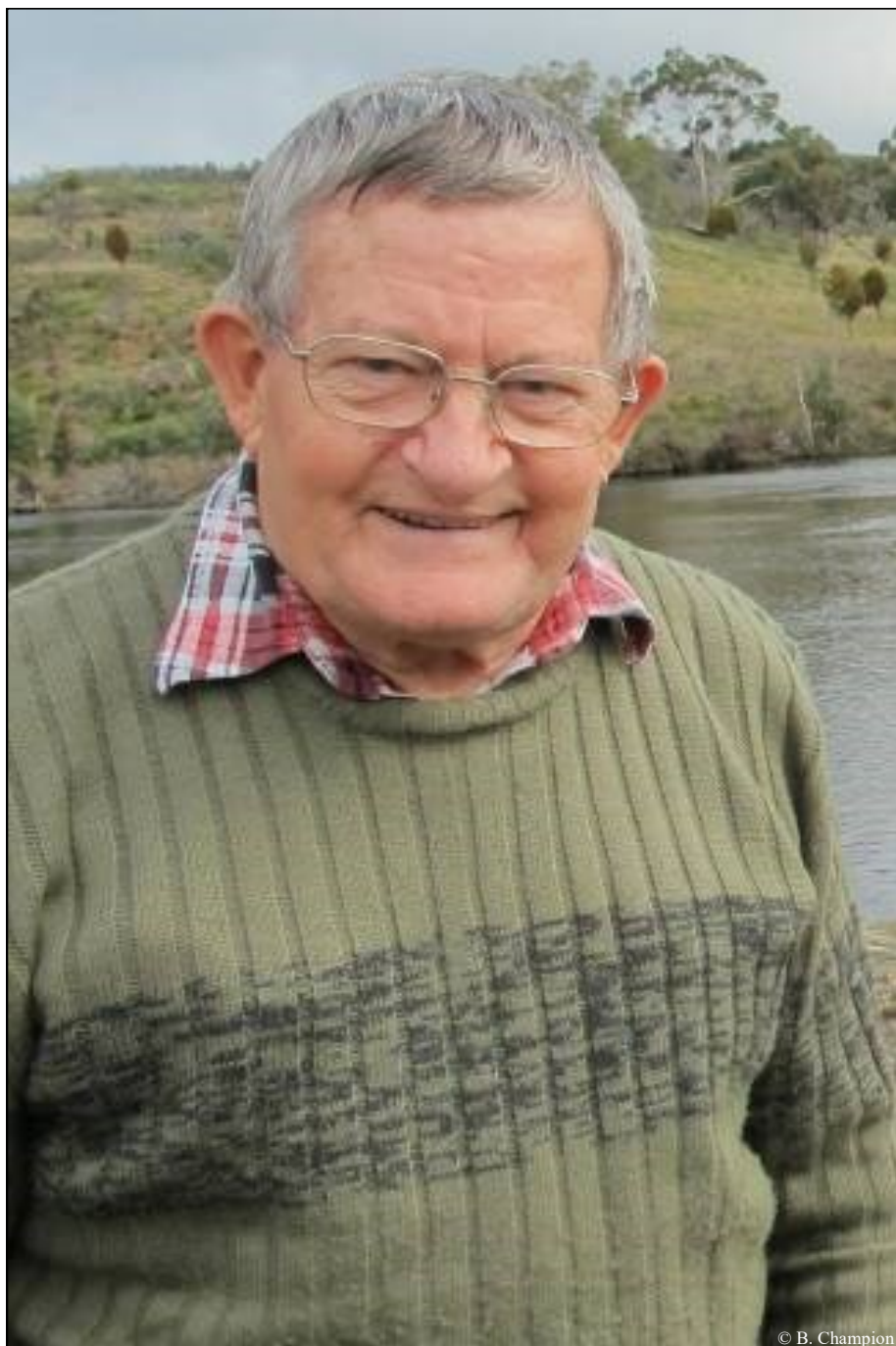
There are links to ABC reports on Wattle Day celebrations and a link to a virtual Wattle Walk in the ANBG. Descriptions of two new species of Acacia: *A. ureniae* and *A. lachnocarpa*. There is also advice on growing *A. glaucoptera* from cuttings.

Dryandra Study Group Newsletter no 79 August 2020

Leader: Margaret Pieroni, Newsletter Editor Tony Cavanagh

Margaret Pieroni has been the leader since 1987 assisted by Tony Cavanagh. Both have been affected by ill-health and are pleading for volunteers to take on the roles to give them a break.

A Dryandra Lovers Group has been started on Facebook. There is information on Dryandras with underground stems. ©



© B. Champion

Alan Gray at the confluence of the Broad and Derwent Rivers.

Vale Alan Gray

9 September 1947 to 19 September 2020

Bruce Champion

Sadly, my dear friend and one of the founding members of the Society for Growing Plants Tasmanian Region (now APST Inc.) died after he fell and bumped his head on Wednesday 16 September. Alan had been my mentor and botany expert/mate since I asked him for help to find *Acacia derwentiana* in the 'wild' to photograph for the Endemic flora page on the APST website in early January 2015. Since then we made over 30 field trips together, just enjoying each other's company and, more-often-than-not, finding more species to photograph for the Endemic and Seasons pages for the website. Alan's experiences with the Tasmanian Herbarium meant that he knew where to find most species that we were seeking. We also spent time down at the Hobart nursery propagating seed that Alan had acquired and wished to grow. Alan was very instrumental in helping me produce the species lists for the Hobart and Environs Tours we conducted for the ANPSA 2018 Hobart Conference. We went to all the National Parks and listed as many species as we could find at the same time in 2017 as the Conference was held in 2018 so that we knew which species would be in flower and other species of interest to Conference delegates. Alan was one of the botanists during the Harts NP Tour.

In 2019 Alan was recommended for Honorary Life Membership of APST Inc. as he hadn't been a Member for many years. He was made an Honorary Member at last year's Hobart Group End of Year lunch at Randalls Bay. The following is based on the citation for his Honorary Life Membership.

'Alan Gray was the founder vice president for the Tasmanian Group of the South-East Region of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) Victoria, first appointed 26 May 1969. He and Kay Geeves had been corresponding regularly with Thistle Harris (Stead) and Kay worked with Alan and others to form the Group, then in 1971 to establish SGAP Tasmanian Region.

Alan spent many happy hours in the bush in the early days of SGAP with people such as Margaret Allen, Jeanette Closs and Kay Geeves, finding new species and identifying them.

Alan conducted fortnightly botany classes in members' homes.

In 1978 Alan was appointed as a part-time consultant for three years to assist teachers in fostering an interest in native plants under an Australian Schools Commission Plan. He contacted over 20 schools, had an education kit published and a film about Australian plants made for showing in schools. He was contracted for 20 hours per week but in fact, had worked closer to 35. The ASC Plan was later changed to teach teachers instead of student groups to provide better continuity.

In 1980 Alan mounted the main display at the Hobart Group's Annual Wildflower Show., and became Secretary of SGAP Tasmania in 1981-82 and became custodian of the Region's first mulcher that was available for hire to Members.

In 1983, Alan was nominated for the Australian Plants Award and was highly commended. He was renominated for 1984.

In 1987, Alan, George Wade and Cree Allen prepared a management plan for Snug Tiers.

In 1997, Alan was awarded the Australian Plants Award - Professional section, the medal and citation being presented to Alan by Jennie Lawrence at a State Get-together in Coningham.

Alan had a diverse career in horticulture:

He started work in Chandler's Nursery as his mother was a Chandler,

He spent some time at UTAS with Prof Jackson,

He did about three years of teaching Australian Plants in Primary Schools in the late 1970's,

He worked in Canberra for the Forest Research Department,

He worked at some stage for Forestry Tasmania,

He worked for Greening Australia several times,

His daughter said: "There may have been a few minor contracts as he and mum ran their little business 'Environmental and Botanical Consultancy' up until Mum's death", and

He had, more recently, worked as an Honorary Botanist in the Tasmanian Herbarium for 20+ years.

Over the years, Alan identified and described the following species as listed in the Tasmanian Vascular Plant Census 2019:

Richea X curtisiae,

Sprengelia sp. Mt field = *Sprengelia minima*,

Acacia derwentiana,

Eucalyptus brookeriana,

Eucalyptus nebulosa,

Limonium australe var. *baudinii*,

Vittadinia burbridgeae with Rozefelds,

Pomaderris pilifera subsp. *talpenticula* with Wapstra,

Pimelea leiophylla with M. Baker, and

Hymenophyllum applanatum with R.G. Williams.

Alan also revised accounts of families in Flora of Tasmania Online including:

Dilleniaceae, version 2009: 2, 11pp,

Convolvulaceae, version 2009: 2, 11pp, and

Stylidiaceae, version 2009: 2, 9pp.

According to The Australian Plants Journal Index for volume 1 - 8, Alan had contributed at least 39 articles on Australian plants especially Tasmanian, covering many of our endemic species, Tasmanian eucalypts, wattles, conifers, climbers and propagation techniques.

Alan had recently revised his key to the Tasmanian Eucalypts and was still agonising over some minor details of it. At the time of his death, he was working on a revised key to the Tasmanian Acacias and worrying about *Acacia retinodes* and related subspecies or varieties.

Vale Alan, my friend, you will be greatly missed. ©



Alan Gray with *Agastachys odorata*
Hartz Rd, Hartz National Park..

Are you missing out?

Dick Burns

The Australian journal for our association of societies, *Australian Plants*, has for the past few years been better than ever. The editors, Merle Thompson and John Aitken, are to be congratulated. They plan ahead, setting a theme for each issue. For forty years, the journal was the ‘baby’ of the founding editor Bill Payne – he was a familiar sight at biennial conferences, always seeking ideas, preferably with the author attached, for his journal. That technique continues with the current editors. *Australian Plants* has always presented a mixture of scholarly articles with those of members, reporting on their gardens, special interests, etc. With their themed approach Merle and John produce a more cohesive journal.

The last four issues will illustrate this better than my waffling on.

Summer 2019/20; volume 30, no. 241.

This issue was put together to celebrate the 60-year anniversary of the *Australian Plants* journal. The editors selected articles spanning the sixty years, each one written by an eminent person from different states – our representative article was written by the late Jeanette Closs.

Autumn 2020: volume 30, no. 242.

The theme of this journal was ‘Bushfires’. That topic was inspired by speakers at the 2018 Hobart Conference. Initially the concept was how bushfires have affected different parts of Australia. I wrote on the way fires have affected Tasmania, but most proposed articles did not eventuate. The catastrophic fires of the 2019/20 spring and summer mainland bushfires led to articles that are immediate and relevant. The articles focus on their effect upon plants and potential for recovery.

Winter 2020: volume 30, no. 243.

It is 250 years since Lieutenant James Cook sailed the barque *Endeavour* into Botany Bay. This issue contains articles on Cook, Joseph Banks, Daniel Solander and the artists of the voyage. Most interesting to me as a Sydney escapee is an attempt to locate where specific specimens were collected.

Spring 2020: volume 30, no. 244.

This issue on the genus *Eremophila* was coordinated by Lyndal Thorburn, the leader of the Eremophila Study Group. It examines eremophilas in the wild and in the garden (both private and public), their response to fire and their hybridisation and propagation.

Previous issues of *Australian Plants* that focus upon special groups of plants have dealt with Australian carnivorous plants (no. 237) and in no. 240, ‘mini-myrtls’, the genera within Myrtaceae with flowers resembling miniature tea tree blooms, once referred to as STABM (*Scholtzia*, *Thryptomene*, *Astartea*, *Baeckea*, and *Micromyrtus*), but now with several newly-described genera.

For several years now, there has been a special issue preceding each biennial conference outlining the special features of the host region and of the conference tours.

If you haven’t organised your subscription to *Australian Plants*, please consider it. The cost is \$14.00 per annum and transfer details are in the subscriptions box in your *Eucryphia*.[◊]

Eremophilas

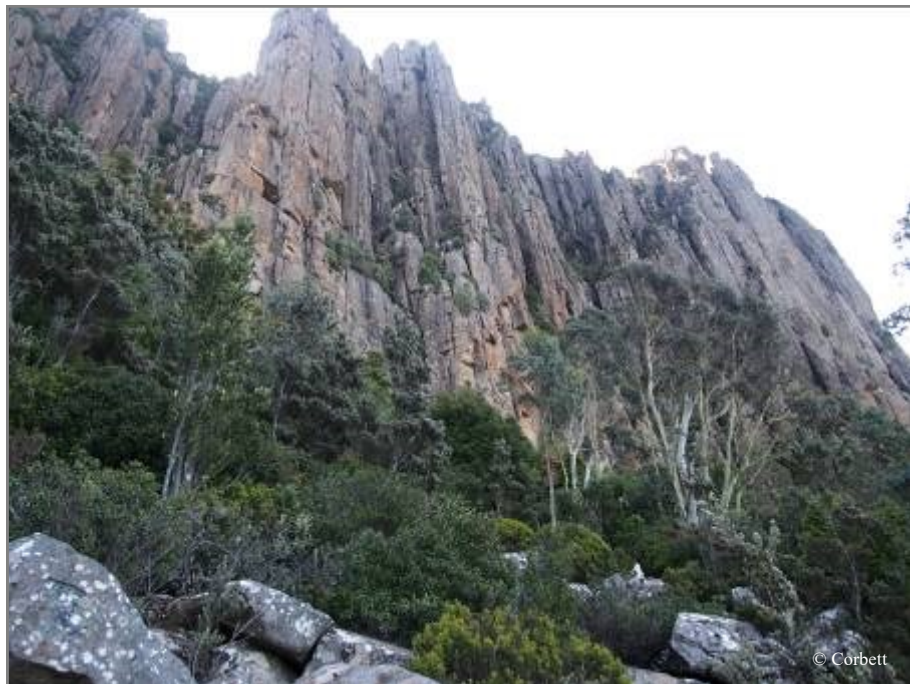
**Spring 2020
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\$6⁵⁰

Australian Plants

The Magic Of The Organ Pipes Track, MT Wellington

Keith & Sib Corbett



The Organ Pipes Track runs across the eastern face of Mt Wellington at an altitude of 960m, within the sub-alpine zone. The track passes just below the dolerite Organ Pipes, and crosses a series of open scree fields alternating with areas of forested scree. The track has been there for many decades – probably since the 1930’s – but was upgraded recently at considerable expense to a much better, and safer, walking surface suitable for families. It is now one of our most popular walks, and we regard it as one of the best and most spectacular walking tracks in the state. The track begins at the Chalet, on the mountain road, and joins the Zig Zag Track between the Springs and the summit after about two kilometres. There is an alternative down the Sawmill Track to Sphinx Rock.

In addition to the wonderful aerial views out over Hobart and the Derwent Valley and beyond, and of the spectacular organ pipe columns soaring above – often with climbers attached – there is the wonder of the great masses of huge boulders looking as if they have just been frozen in the midst of crashing downhill. But they are in fact perfectly stable, now that the ice which originally provided the lubricant for them to move (they’re an Ice Age phenomenon), is no longer present.



The view over Hobart, with the boulder scree in foreground.



Richea dracophylla on the track.

For plant lovers, the flora developed on these scree fields is a source of endless pleasure, and each year we watch with interest as the flowering of species works its way up the big hill. Beginning with the hakeas (*H. lissosperma*), with their creamy white spider flowers in October,



©Corbett

followed by the richeas (Mt Wellington is one of the few strongholds of *Richea dracophylla*, the pineapple candleheath or dragon heath as we still call it) through November, then the waratahs in late November-early December, associated with golden shaggypea (*Oxylobium ellipticum*) and a number of other species.

Now is a perfect time to walk the Organ Pipes Track, with the waratahs in full bloom and lots of lush great creamy richea flowers still present, in places forming avenues carpeted with their dragon-scale bracts. There are also eyebrights (*Euphrasia collina* subsp. *dimenica*), speedwell (*Veronica formosa*), variable orites (*O. diversifolius*), white bauera and *Olearia phlogopappa*, while cheeseberries (*Cyatoides glauca*) and mountain berries (*Leptecophylla juniperina*) add colour and interest. There are also occasional orchids in flower. The canopy consists of snowgums (*E. coccifera*), urn gums (*E. urnigera*), myrtles and banksias. Most of these plants are endemic to Tasmania. We would recommend this track to APSTers any time of the year, but particularly through November-December.



© Corbett

Above
Hakea lissosperma,
the mountain
needlebush

Centre
Richea dracophylla
flowers

Opposite
Tasmanian Waratah
Telopea truncata



© Corbett

Of special interest along the Organ Pipes Track – actually just above it, on one of the climbers' tracks up to the pipes – is a patch of an extraordinary hybrid *Richea* discovered by Sib two years ago. (see below). It's a hybrid between *R. dracophylla* and *R. scoparia*, which overlap in their distribution here over 50 m or so. The *R. scoparia* occurs around the base of the cliffs and extends up to the plateau, while the *R. dracophylla* comes up to the cliffs from below. The hybrid is intermediate in leaf size, and has very attractive red-dish pink flowers. It's been examined and collected by herbarium experts, but they regard it as being too variable to be given formal species status. ©



GARDEN DESIGN – A LOOK BACK

A bit of reminiscence

Dick Burns

Some of the books on my shelves deal with the history of Australian gardens. Those that cover colonial times are split between ‘colonists recreating home’ and ‘mixing Australian flora with that from home’. Considering the fact that Australian plants were being grown in Europe before the first European settlements, I think that many colonists were experimenting with the new flora – the line I took in *Pathfinders in Tasmanian Botany*.

The book on gardens that lives strongest in my memory however is *Australia's Quarter Acre* by Peter Timms (from the Miegunyah Press in 2006) because, as its subtitle says, it is ‘the Story of the Ordinary Suburban Garden’. Peter Timms was for some years primarily involved with curating at Australian art galleries and museums; he is also an art critic, writing for newspapers and journals. His first book that I read was *Making Nature: Six Walks in the Bush* of 2001, a departure from art criticism and more on the diversity of thoughts prompted by the varied tracks around his home - I cannot find the book on my shelves – I guess I ‘loaned’ it to someone. At some stage Peter moved from Victoria to Hobart with his partner. Peter followed up *Australia's Quarter Acre* with a companion book, *Private Lives: Australia at Home since Federation*, an examination of the changes within the home.

I was raised in a Sydney suburb. Most of the photos and diagrams Peter uses for illustrations are from houses more grand than ours or any of my extended family. We lived in workmen’s houses in suburbs like Balmain, Leichhardt and Marrickville. All houses were constrained by the necessities of life, more so in working class suburbs. My mother was raised in a Surry Hills, adjacent to the city centre, in a house that still had gas lighting. Baths were had in an open door-less washhouse, separate from the house, up the back. Peter Timms explains why: the laundry required hot water (Mum used to boil the linen - sheets, hankies, etc.) and that hot water was produced in a wood-burning copper. Two aunts and uncles were one step up from gas lighting in that their homes had electricity. But the dunny was down the back of the yard against the back fence; the sewer had been connected but the houses were built during the time of the regular visits by the ‘night-soil’ collector. Back laneways are a feature of many inner suburbs, remnants of the requirement for the collector’s quick take-away.

In my suburb, Marrickville, there are many of these relic laneways but our house must have been built soon after the complete sewer was provided; I found a brass tap stamped ‘1913’ and I took that to be the year the house was built. The toilet was part of the house, but at the back and with the door facing the back yard. Dad’s mother’s home was built the same way in Balmain, another (then) working-class suburb.

Marrickville has posh enclaves with houses that had front gardens for display similar to those in *Australia's Quarter Acre*. One is The Warren; it takes its name from the original mansion built on one of the higher points in the suburb. The man who built the mansion, Thomas Holt, was a founder of one of Sydney’s main hospitals, a founder of AMP and he brought in 60 rabbits from England, letting them loose. (It’s thought that the mansion was named for a friend rather than the link with rabbits.) Cottages like the one I was raised in didn’t have space for a front garden, but we had a reasonable back-yard.

The internet gives the distance from Sydney GPO to Marrickville PO as about seven kilometres.. To Belmore PO, a new suburb when Mum’s brother built his house, the road distance from the GPO is given as 23 km. My uncle had a front garden for his roses and lawn, but still an unsewered outside loo out the back (we were invited over for

an inspection when it was connected to the sewerage system in the 1950s). He had a garage built, but it was down at the back fence, away from the house. Peter Timms explains this also in his book; the car replaced horses, so the garage naturally went where the stables used to be. As well, before petrol service stations proliferated, people had to store the flammable fuel at home, so it was safer to have the garage as far from the house as possible. We now expect sewerage to be part of the deal with new developments but a workmate in the 1960s living at Blacktown (44 km west of the GPO), still had the regular visit from the ‘night-soil’ collector.

Each householder worked with the constraints of his or her block to grow plants. All I can remember of one aunt’s home is a gigantic camellia. My Belmore uncle was very keen on his dahlias and took me around his back garden each flowering season – he gave me several tubers for the Marrickville garden. Gran’s back garden featured a perfumed honeysuckle. Our back garden had what Dad called ‘Star of Bethlehem’, better known as agapanthus, that sent up a single head of flowers each year, a single stem of asparagus fern, and outside the toilet, a magnificent frangipani tree. Dad tended the roses and I pruned the hydrangea.

Naturally when I bought my (first and only) house in Penguin, I started with the plants I knew. I found a frangipani which failed, the agapanthus grew but was dug out when I noticed it going wild on the North West, and the roses planted by the initial owners succumbed to the mattock as each one thorned me. They had also planted a honeysuckle which I left, but it rarely produced perfume despite prolific growth and it took about twenty years to exterminate. Fortunately I’d tried the asparagus fern as an indoor plant – I spent a week on Lord Howe Island as a volunteer digging it from the wild. And there was freesia: their perfume made visits to Sydney cemeteries more pleasant. The few plants that I scrounged had self-seeded and were becoming a plague until pademelons took up residence at Deviation Rd.

I also reminisced about the Sydney bush in the selection of plants for my garden and the stories of those plants have appeared in *Eucriphia* many times before.®



A snowy photo taken by Peter Longman at the Tasmanian Native Garden at Mowbray.

Lichens in the Garden

Dick Burns

If you have some rocks or shrubs and trees stable non-shedding bark in your garden, you probably have some lichens – they can also grow across the soil or even on leaves. They may be some shade of green, grey, black or orange; they may be leafy and raised somehow off the substrate or flat and crinkled; or they may be like coloured dust across the bark or rock.

Lichens are not single organisms, but consist of two different organisms living together in a symbiotic relationship - an alga or a cyanobacterium (once referred to as blue-green alga) which contains chlorophyll to make food and a fungus which gives structure and shelter to the other organism, and also can source other nutrients from the environment. Both the alga or cyanobacterium and the fungus have evolved so that neither can exist outside of the symbiosis. The epiphytes (organisms that grow on plants) just do so seeking support to grow, but some lithophytes (those that grow on rocks) can extract minerals from the rock, slowly weathering the rock.

I started thinking about doing this article after I noticed one of my basalt/dolerite rocks edging a pathway had turned from its original brown-grey to an all-over cream, I assume due to being covered with lichen growth. When I was establishing my pathways and garden beds, I looked for pavers and edgings locally and in the highlands, generally in old abandoned quarries. If I found a manageable rock with orange lichen growth, I would try to work it into a garden rockery, hoping that the orange colour would spread. But the orange-coloured lichens did not appreciate the local climate and departed, succeeded by more Penguin-tolerant lichens. After some forty years, my garden has not developed any great lichen display. Not so, my 'other garden' at the Tasmanian Arboretum where a range of lichens flourish – but more of that later.



A cluster of old lichens

© D. Burns

If you want to make a display using lichens, you would have to continually maintain an artificial environment in the garden over decades. I say ‘decades’ because lichens don’t have the reputation for rapid growth. Deviation Rd (thankfully) is narrow and not heavily used; people tend to drive their cars down the centre of the asphalt that was laid more than twenty years ago; lichen patches have grown to only 3 or 4 cm where car tyres don’t rub the surface.

An alternative would be to choose a particular location for your home and garden. Old Man’s Beard (*Usnea* species) are among the most attractive lichens with pale draping fine-branched tendrils; but you need a wet forest or rainforest for it to be showy (the Spanish Moss of the USA Everglades and beloved of American gothic films is neither lichen nor moss but a bromeliad). To get those orange, yellow and black colours on rocks, a block of land right on the coast would be good. One of the more attractive features of highland open areas is Coral Lichen (*Cladia retipora*), but so much of the high country is reserved. Otherwise, I could imagine it being a lawn substitute.



Usnea capillacea



Cladina confusa

I’ve been considering lichens that add to the look of the garden. Perhaps we should consider utility. Some lichens are useful in dyeing – a woman in the local bushwalking club always was on the lookout for lichens that she could use to dye her knitting wool. Lichens have been the source of antibiotics. Some can be eaten, but they would never become staples of our diet because of their growth speed.

Lichens are useful for indicating environmental changes. I was told of one particular observation; outside the shelter hut on Mt Eliza is a large rock that has developed a different lichen flora to other rocks around the hut. The position of the slab is convenient for men adjusting their bladder pressure late at night. Perhaps they think that a bare rock is a better environmental target than a living shrub. Gintaras Kantvilas, of the Tasmanian Herbarium and my great help with my books, told me of that and another observation – after PWS installed a galvanised metal observation platform above the dolerite columns at Devil’s Gullet, lichens have disappeared from the columns below the platform: rain-leached zinc from the galvanising has changed conditions.

Perhaps the most possible use for lichens is education – not so much in private gardens, more so in public spaces, not just in types of lichens and their structure, but plant succession, environmental change - even extending the symbiosis of the two organisms in lichens to talk about other examples of working together.

There is a great variety of lichens at the Tasmanian Arboretum. One of the two men who conceived the idea of an arboretum in the North West, David Richmond, was keen on using the arboretum to educate. He noticed that one of the Celery Top Pine placards in the Tasmanian Section had a good range of lichens growing on it, so he suggested I organise an interpretive display. Gintaras identified the more common species on the two-metre Celery Top (he stopped after twenty) and I organised the local walking club to pay for the interpretive sign, which included the names of the twenty lichens. After a few years, I noticed that the lichen community had changed – a succession had occurred. The replacement signs took a more wide-ranging approach with a few long-term studies added – what kind of lichens grow on the three rock types in the arboretum and an attempt to replicate Gintaras' observation on the effect of zinc, using Celery Top Pine posts (the posts supporting the original placard are treated radiata pine so have no lichen growth). It's too public to try Gintaras' other observation.

So if you have lichens growing in your garden, treasure them, because they add interest to the place as well as indicating you have a healthy garden. ©

MAIN REFERENCE

G Kantvilas & SJ Jarman, *Lichens of Rainforest in Tasmania and south-eastern Australia*, The Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra



Lichen on Couta Rocks



Lichen on granite, Mt Chappel

BOOK REVIEW

***Banksias*, by Kevin Collins, Kathy Collins and Alex George 2nd edition**

Dick Burns

The postman provided a coincidence; one day my copy of the second edition of *Banksias* and the next day he delivered the issue of *Australian Plants* or APJ (vol. 30, no. 243) which commemorates the 250th anniversary of the *Endeavour* voyage and its visit to Botany Bay, New South Wales.

Both publications have one man at their centre, Joseph Banks. He was the man after whom the genus was named; he was the person responsible for the botanical activity on the *Endeavour* voyage as well as its art; he was the moderator between the stern James Cook and the natives during the stay in Tahiti; Banks was in a large part responsible for the first European settlement in what was to become Australia; Sir Joseph established centres for scientific endeavour in London both at Kew Gardens and his home in Soho Square, where botanists such as James Edward Smith, Robert Brown and the father and son Hooker commenced their work and flourished. And this year, 2020, marks another important anniversary – in 1820, Sir Joseph Banks died.

Neither publication makes this a special feature. After my visit to London in the time that I was researching for my book *Pathfinders in Tasmanian Botany*, I wrote to Kew Gardens suggesting that a statue of Banks be erected in the grounds of Soho Square to recognise this anniversary of the man who established Kew Gardens. Such action would be important because all that remains of Sir Joseph Banks in Soho Square is one of those blue discs that are all over Britain, so often saying “foo slept here one night” or something similar. Londoners allowed Banks’ home, so important to natural science in Britain, to be demolished in 1937 for the building of Twentieth Century House, the centre for an American film company.



Soho Square

Sir Joseph Banks is commemorated in Australia through place names (Banks Strait, the Sydney suburbs of Bankstown, Banksmeadows and Banksia, etc.). Monuments and statues abound – just do an internet search – including a most useful seat at Kurnell, where the *Endeavour* crew first landed in Botany Bay: my sister and I played on it and climbed over it when we went for family picnics. The suburb of Botany in Sydney has an interesting statue; there is a photo in the APJ on p. 255. Before Matthew Flinders wrote the name ‘Australia’ on his map of the continent, ‘Banksia’ was one suggestion for the name of the combined New Holland and New South Wales. It was Carl Linnaeus Jr who conferred the name *Banksia* on the genus of plants that give the title to the book.

This is the third book in my collection devoted to illustrating and describing each species of banksia. Alex George wrote three editions of *The Banksia Book* (1984, 1987 and 1996; I have kept the last) then combined authorship with Kevin and Kathy Collins to prepare the more comprehensive *Banksias*. Alex George is a professional botanist with 60 years of experience. When he worked at the Western Australian Herbarium, he established a plantation of *Banksia* species that was later devastated by phytophthora disease. He has described over 30 taxa of the close-to 100 taxa (species plus any subspecies or varieties) of *Banksia*. He wrote the treatment of the genus in the *Flora of Australia* series, vol B, 1999, and is an active participant within our sister group, the Wildflower Society of Western Australia. Kathy and Kevin Collins are best known for their Banksia farm at Mount Barker in Western Australia where they are growing all known species of *Banksia* (plus many other Australian species).

Those who went to the Albany Conference had the opportunity to visit and many other APST members, like me, have visited the plantation while travelling through WA. (Banksia Farm is now closed to the general public.)

The above number of *Banksia* taxa is taken from the book and is much lower than the number sometimes quoted; those that believe that the genus *dryandra* should be placed in *Banksia* will give a much higher number of taxa. The authors of this book state that the genus *dryandra* evolved from a species of *banksia* and continue to recognise *dryandra* as a genus.

The book, *Banksias*, has 376 pages crammed with information. Occupying the first third is background, from history (both of fossils and botanical recognition) to uses (art, utility and in forming a garden). For the first edition, the authors asked for information about where banksias were growing in gardens. I thought it remarkable that Don Ablitt from west of Smithton was able to grow so many species so I organised him to submit his list and I also sent my successes at Deviation Rd. That is followed by descriptions in alphabetical order of each species and subspecies. The description of taxa includes photos, distribution maps and drawings of seeds.

Since the first edition was published, a new species has been named and described *Banksia vincentia*, named for its location near the town of Vincentia, near Jervis Bay, NSW. It is part of the *B. spinulosa* complex and there are only four plants growing in the wild. As well three newly-described subspecies or varieties of western banksias have been recognised.

The second edition has the same number of pages as the first. Whatever has been added has been achieved through tweaking and manipulation of photos, etc. The new species is not inserted alphabetically but following *Banksia spinulosa*.

Banksias is a great book full of concise information that should be on the bookshelf of anyone interested in the genus *Banksia*. If you already have the first edition, keep it and perhaps acquire your information about new taxa from elsewhere. If you do not have a copy of *Banksias*, I'd recommend that you buy this new edition. I will keep both, simply because my first edition is signed.^o



Above left
Banksia laricina.

Above centre
Dick on Banks
Monument - Kurnell

Left
Banksia coccinea



Above
Banksia marginata

Calendar for 2020 - 2021

This Calendar of events is compiled from best available information supplied by Groups and Council but is subject to change. To avoid clashes that may limit opportunities for all members to participate, event organisers are requested to consult this Calendar when finalising arrangements.

Subject to COVID 19 restrictions

December	2	Wednesday	Hobart	KDM EOY Lunch
December	4	Friday	Northern	Christmas Dinner
December	5	Saturday	Northern	Propagation
December	6	Sunday	Hobart	EOY Lunch
December	15	Tuesday	Northern	Propagation
December	15	Tuesday	North West	Christmas gathering
January	21	Thursday	North West	Propagation
January	26	Tuesday	Northern	Working Bee HFNG
February	3	Wednesday	Hobart	Kingborough Day Meeting
February	6	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
February	8	Wednesday	Hobart	General Meeting
February	16	Tuesday	North West/Northern	AGM and General Meeting
February	18	Thursday	North West	Propagation
March	3	Wednesday	Hobart	Kingborough Day Meeting
March	6	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
March	10	Wednesday	Hobart	AGM and General Meeting
March	16	Tuesday	North West/Northern	General Meeting
March	18	Thursday	North West	Propagation
March	23	Tuesday	Northern	Working Bee HFNG
March	27	Saturday	All Members	APST Annual General Meeting
March	27	Saturday	Council	Council Meeting, Kingston
April	3	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
April	3	EASTER	SATURDAY	

April	4	EASTER	SUNDAY	
April	7	Wednesday	Hobart	Kingborough Day Meeting
April	14	Wednesday	Hobart	General Meeting
April	20	Tuesday	North West/Northern	General Meeting
April	22	Thursday	North West	Propagation
May	1	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
May	12	Wednesday	Hobart	General Meeting
May	18	Tuesday	North West/Northern	General Meeting
May	20	Thursday	North West	Propagation
June	2	Wednesday	Hobart	Kingborough Day Meeting
June	5	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
June	15	Tuesday	North West/Northern	General Meeting
June	17	Thursday	North West	Propagation
June	26	Saturday	Council	Council Zoom Meeting
July	3	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
July	7	Wednesday	Hobart	Kingborough Day Meeting
July	20	Tuesday	Northern	General Meeting
July	20	Tuesday	North West	Day meeting
July	22	Thursday	North West	Propagation
August	7	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
August	17	Tuesday	North West/Northern	General Meeting
September	25	Saturday	Council	Council Meeting, Ross
November	TBA	Annual Dinner and Get-together		
November	27	Saturday	Council	Council Zoom Meeting

Note that Hobart Group propagation sessions are now held as above from 1pm till 4pm. There may be other events not listed here, as Groups reconvene in the near future. Keep in contact with your Group, and be sure to read the next *Eucryphia*.

Northern Group News

Kay Pallett

This September Northern gardens, boosted by consistent rain, were resplendent in colour. Nursery propagators tackled a range of tasks such as potting on, repotting or weeding. Janet Hallam called for cuttings, in particular the much favoured *Lechenaultia biloba*.

Having missed the opportunity to rejuvenate sections of the Tasmanian Native garden in autumn, this became a September task. On the day approximately fifteen people braved the mostly fine weather to put in a hundred new plants. Suzanne cited Daphne and Peter for their extra efforts during this 'difficult' year. Indeed all those members who contribute to the maintenance are to be congratulated.



Meeting night began with a few minor items so that we were ready for Rosemary Whish-Wilson's lesser known Plant of the Month - *Scaevola aemula*. Rosemary recommended reading more about *S. aemula* from the Threatened Species Flora Listing. The species has a limited geographic range centred in the Douglas Apsley area and is fire stimulated.

Rosemary obtained cuttings from a friend's east coast garden and these have ensured that several members now have *S. aemula* growing successfully in their gardens.

Maatsuyker Island is familiar to weather watchers but at the September meeting members heard some history, a little of the prolific birdlife and gained an insight into the botanical richness of this isolated island where the wind averages 26 knots every hour of every day.

Speakers Paul Richardson and Amanda Walker spent six months as caretakers on the island during winter 2015. Helicopters provide the only access. Parks and Wildlife strictly limit this access so that the island is free of pests and invasive species - only three weeds remain.

Incessant wind and salt does stunt vegetation in exposed areas but where there is shelter the species range is rich. Trees such as *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Melaleuca squarrosa* and *Banksia marginata* are abundant. There is also a stand of *Eucalyptus nitida*, Smithton peppermint. The understorey is crowded with ferns plus too many other species to fully list but there are westringias, corraes, olearias, stylidium, orchids etc.

The first excursion since March was to the Waterhouse Conservation Area where, accompanied by NE parks Ranger, Nick Dahl, eighteen members quickly found plants such as *Clematis microphylla*, *Senecio pinnatifolius*, *Leucopogon parviflorus* and *Pommaderis paniculosa* subsp. *paralia*. After lunch at the Ramsar listed Little Waterhouse Lake cameras clicked on more plants including *Xanthorrhoea arenaria*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Leucopogon collinus* and the threatened species, *Hibbertia virgata*. At the last stop *Glossodia major*, *Aotus ericoides* were among those noted.

Ian Thomas demonstrated soil-coring techniques showing the effects of climate and sea level changes on the flora over 15,000 years.

The plant sale in October, the first for the year sold 1,200 plants in record time - the clean out of stock a relief to Janet Hallam who congratulated all those members who had worked to make it happen.

On October 5th several members met at the nursery to take the first practical step to create, in conjunction with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, a seed orchard. Having met the strict requirements set out by RTGB, members carefully counted tiny viola seeds and placed them in punnets. Sharon Percy reported the first germination of these seeds on October 31st. For details of this project see Roy Skabo's report in Northern Group October Newsletter (www.apstasnorth.org).

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October 17th - a special day and a first for the Tasmanian Native Garden because it was the venue for a wedding which fortunately had good weather.

In October Roy Skabo organised three excursions. The first was to Nigel Keefe's property at Curries Dam where members found *Lobelia pedunculata* (pratia), *Orduffia reniformis* (running marsh flower) and *Hypolepus* which is an unusual fern found among the reeds. Along the driveway an abundance of *Pimelea flava* also drew attention.

Next, the group of fourteen moved to Mt George and delighted in a range of plants including *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Thysanotus patersonii*, *Phyllanthus gunnii* and *Apbelia pumilio*, a threatened species. The lunch spot was surrounded by *Goodenia ovata* and *Diuris pardina*, a striking leopard orchid.

At the well attended October meeting, Mark Wapstra spoke on the meticulous process by which a plant gets its scientific name. He used *Eucalyptus globulus*, the blue gum collected by Labillardiere in his informative presentation. He explained the holotype as being the one plant that displayed all the characteristics of the species: the one used for future reference. With *E. globulus* the plant chosen was the one from Recherche Bay collected in 1792/1793. Mark mused that had the French not cut it down it might still be alive today.

The next day Mark led an excursion of fifteen members plus guests to the North Scottsdale Regional Reserve that was principally set up to protect the burrowing crayfish found in the area.

Ricinocarpus pinifolius and *Aortus ericoides* were most impressive. Also found were



Foraging at the North Scottsdale Regional Reserve



Ricinocarpus pinifolius,
Aortus ericoides

Caladinea species plus three species of *Diuris* orchids that Jeff Campbell was able to name. From this little-studied reserve the group was able to add seventy records to the Natural Values Atlas.

The third excursion was to the Northern Midlands into the dry sclerophyll forest of the Powranna Nature Reserve, made picturesque with *Pultenaea prostrata*, two *Hibbertia* species, the blue heads of *Caesia calliantha* interspersed with white-faced *Drosera gunniana*. There were orchids such as *Caladenia clavigera*, *Glossodia major*, *Thelymitra rubra*. The small plants *Lomandra nana* and *Siloxerus multiflorus* claimed interest as the smallest species, in Tasmania, in their respective genera. Twelve members, including new members enjoyed the day.

In the last week of October a visit to Rosemary and Alf Verbeeten's garden was a treat for those who joined the North West members over lunch and afterwards experienced the wonderful garden at Gravelly Beach - a remarkable achievement in just three years.

At the November meeting Julie Nermut introduced us to *Eremophila decipiens* as Plant of the Month. Widespread in Western Australia to Esperance peninsula, *E. decipiens* flowers from winter through to summer. It grows strongly in Julie's garden displaying an abundance of orange flowers.



The November guest speaker was Angus Stewart, an expert and a breeder of kangaroo paws since 1981. He spoke of the journey to successful commercial production of the *Anigozanthos* species - a journey which ensured that the W.A. wildflower has been conserved in the wild.

Information on growing conditions was pertinent and helpful for all who grow this iconic Australian flower. A bonus was the potted plants and cut flowers brought along for members to view.

On 27-29 November twenty nine northern members look forward to the Maydena Get-together and the opportunity to explore southern areas and enjoy conversations over dinner with fellow members.°



Corbett
grandsons
preferring
the boulder
scree to the
Organ Pipes
Track
See p.16

Hobart Group News

Sib Corbett

The first general meeting as COVID restrictions eased was held on the Eastern Shore, as reported previously, and in September we were finally able to return to our favoured venue at Kingston Primary School. Our first guest speaker was Lorraine Perrin from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, who described their programme of ex-situ conservation of Tasmanian native plants. They now have 138 critically endangered species in pots, grown from the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre collection of 45,000,000 stored seeds, representing 1,157 taxa. The preservation of our floral heritage is in good hands.

In October Christine Corbett spoke on the basic causes of climate change, a sobering topic which should be compulsory study for those in power. Our final meeting for the year featured Deb Wace, a Churchill Fellow, describing her early involvement in the fight to save the Recherche Peninsular from logging, followed by her travels in Europe to view first hand the earliest plant collections from that part of southern Tasmania, and how they provided her inspiration for fabric printing.

General meetings have also displayed a collection of spring flowers which have delighted us all and may have inspired customers eager to support our October Plant Sale, which broke all records. Thanks to Bruce and his helpers for their constant devotion to propagation at the Kingston Primary School nursery.

Garden visits in September featured the Ferntree garden of Sib and Keith Corbett, with its collection of Tasmanian natives (plus obligatory rhododendrons) and Christine Corbett and Alan Pegg's garden in a more sunny part of Fern Tree, with both Tasmanian and Australian native plants.

Walks have attracted a welcome influx of new members as the older legs dictate rather easier routes than we followed in days gone by. During the lockdown mountain bikers forged a number of new tracks in the Ridgeway hills and we were able to take advantage of them to enjoy great flowers and views in October. By November flowers reached mass perfection on Tasman Peninsula and we took full advantage of the new, improved track from Remarkable Cave to Crescent Bay and Brown Mountain.

Our newly appointed Conservation Officer Phil Sumner has been looking at our involvement and provided a discussion paper on priorities for our support for various conservation organisations. We realize others are more capable of mounting campaigns to preserve our precious wild places than we are, but we have the financial resources to support selected groups.

Our newsletter continues to provide information and pleasure. After 15 years in the job Maria Honey is ready to hand over to a new editor, although we have insisted her delightful front page accounts of life in the bush at HGN Headquarters must continue, and she has agreed.

We look forward to showing part of Southwest Tasmania to APST members at the end of November Get-together and ask everyone to use whatever influence they have to see us granted good weather. It has indeed been a strange year. During our enforced absence the bush has worked miracles to provide better-than-ever flowers to delight us and renew the inspiration we take from nature.

Veronica formosa, on the Organ Pipes track



© Corbett

North West Group News

Riitta Boevink

September Guest Speaker Dick Burns - Alpine Conifers of Tasmania

Dick started his talk by showing what distinguishes conifers from other plants, then pointed out that what we call 'pines'

‘ that grow naturally in Tasmania are not true pines botanically. He went on to show how to identify each of the conifers that are found in our mountainous regions. Those that normally grow as trees are:

- *Athrotaxis cupressoides*, Pencil Pine.
- *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, King Billy Pine.
- *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*, Celery Top Pine.

Those that normally grow as shrubs are:

- *Diselma archeri*.
- *Podocarpus lawrencei*, Plum Pine.
- *Ptherosphaera bookeriana*.

The prostrate *Microcachrys tetragona*, Creeping Pine, completes the list.

The talk concluded with ways that conifers are used, particularly by Dick. Propagation of the different forms is an important pursuit in itself. Celery Top timber is used in kitchen cupboards. Dick has used both King Billy and Pencil Pine to make picture frames. These two pines feature in many historic and iconic Tasmanian photographs.

Many photos were taken by Dick on bushwalks around Cradle Mountain, the Walls of Jerusalem and in the South West, Mt Anne, South West Cape and Federation Peak.

A trip to Pine Lake was planned for September 26th, to view alpine conifers. Due to predicted inclement weather this trip was cancelled with another date yet to be set. However Peter French did venture up on that Saturday.

Spring Plant Sale October.

The North West group has been a regular participant in the Port Sorell Spring Fair. Due to COVID19 the fair was cancelled this year. As we had plants ready for that event a plant sale at the Arboretum was organised in its stead. We arrived at the Arboretum at 8.00 a.m on Sunday to set up. It had rained all day on Saturday. What a relief on Sunday to wake to a bright, sunny day! We opened for business at 10.00 a.m and had sold out by midday! We did not have as many plants as we have for the Autumn Sale, but still a good selection.

There appears to be an increasing interest in native plants. We were apologetic to latecomers who missed out on plants. They seemed quite happy to have a walk in the Arboretum with their dogs. In fact they commented it was good for our organisation to have sold everything. Some offered donations and we sold two halfprice memberships.

October Meeting Guest Speakers: Jill and Neil Colgrave, Tasmanian Orchids

Orchid enthusiasts Jill and Neil Colgrave gave a very interesting and well illustrated presentation on Tasmanian orchids. They devote much time to searching out the elusive flowers. They brought in some potted specimens. It is illegal to dig up orchid plants from the wild, but sometimes nurserymen with a license rescue soil from development sites that have orchid bulbs. Our president John Tabor also brought in a pot of Sun orchids that he has had for 20 years.

Tasmania has only one epiphytic orchid, the Gunn's tree orchid *Sarcocilus australis*. It grows in gullies or rainforest. The many white roots are long and spread through the bark or branches of the supporting shrub. The fragrant white flowers hang down.

All other Tasmanian orchids are terrestrial. Many are tiny, and spend most of their lives under ground. They burst into flower after a fire or other event eg. slashing has

cleared the ground as they cannot compete with dense vegetation. If no clearing occurs, the bulbs stay dormant for many years. The peak flowering is in spring, but some species will flower at other times. The flowers can be insect or wind pollinated, and the bulbs also can multiply. Tasmania has 214 species of orchids, of which one third are endemic. New species are still being discovered.

Botanists also reclassify plants creating new groupings, or splitting previously grouped into separate species. Good places to find orchids on the North West Coast are the Henry Somerset reserve and some locations in the Narawntapu National Park.

The plant identikit published by the APST Hobart group on Common Orchids of Tasmania is a very useful pocket size resource for identifying orchids.

The Plant Table.

This is still a feature event of our meeting nights. The results can cover two table sometimes, and further details can be found in our newsletter.

At the November meeting it was announced that Drew had finally managed to get us a working 'Square' (a device for allowing card payments). Now we can use it for Plant Sales, which in the current environment is almost a must. Thank you Drew.

Trip to Rosemary Verbeeten's garden, Gravelly Beach

A combined Northern and NorthWest group visit to Rosemary Verbeeten's garden took place on October 24th. It was a good opportunity to meet and converse with members from the Northern group and this was appreciated by many.

To view a garden that has been transformed in three years, through skill, knowledge and a lot of hard work, is a valuable lesson to all of us.. All those who have inherited a previous owners' established garden could appreciate the effort in planning, removal and new plantings that had taken place.

Rosemary's hospitality and passion for plants underscored the day. The site slopes from west to east. House and permanent structures are cut into the slope near the west fenceline. A small creek on the southern boundary flows into the Tamar river which is over the road from the western fenceline. A pond and bog is being established in this low SE corner.

Rosemary explained that part of the appeal of this property was the control they had over three fencelines. Two roads and a creek provide privacy and also form barriers to the possibility of encroaching, unwanted plants. The establishment of secure, barrier fencing to exclude wallabies, was one of the first projects completed. This has allowed extensive plantings of groundcovers and small shrubs to be established. The Old Coach Road, boundary has a new paling fence with an extensive row of Melaleuca 'Snow in Summer' on the curbside along with Morning iris, *Orthoanthos multiflorus*.

The potting shed and propagation area was envied by some while others were interested in the location of the vegetable garden, orchard and chook run. The design principles were best appreciated when viewed from the veranda of the house.

After lunch Rosemary guided us through the garden responding to countless questions and sharing her observations of the natural cycles that occurred there.

She particularly drew our attention to two areas of grass that had been marked off.

These areas were not being mown. Numerous orchids, bulbs and grasses were reestablishing themselves, including *Arthropodium strictum*, Chocolate lily. She intends to assist this process by burning the two areas in Autumn. ☺



A lovely ball of
Pimelia ferrugina
in Rosemary's garden

APST Directory

COUNCIL

Postal address **P. O. Box 1205,
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TASMANIA 7276**

Email: apstsec@gmail.com

Website: www.apstas.org.au

President	Jenny Boyer	0434870576	Hobart Councillor	Keith Corbett	62391688
Vice-President	Margaret Killen	0409430665	North West Councillor	Riitta Boevink	64286909
Secretary	Mary Slattery	0402784086	North West Councillor	Drew Thomas	64371802
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten	63944600	Northern Councillor	Louise Skabo	0467199602
Hobart Councillor	Sib Corbett	62391688	Northern Councillor	Roy Pallet	0438392041

GROUPS

Hobart Group

President	Sib Corbett	6239 1688	Meeting place/time:
Secretary	Christine Corbett	6239 1904	General meetings:
Treasurer	Anthony Salt	0412673632	<u>Kingston Primary School Library</u>
Contact Officer	Bruce Champion	6294 6970	Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm except January, June, July and August. For winter meetings, www.apstas.org.au/calendar
			Kingborough Day Meetings:
			<u>2pm Centacare Units Meeting Room</u> , turn left off Balmoral Rd. Kingston.

Northern Group

President	Peter Dowde	63317761	Postal address: 45 Osborne Avenue, Trevallyn, Tas. 7250
Secretary	Louise Skabo	6334 6787	Email: apstasnorth@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten	6394 4600	Meeting place /time:
Eucryphia Liaison	Kay Pallett	0400097025	<u>Max Fry Hall, Gorge Rd, Trevallyn</u> 7.30 pm Third Tuesday of the month (except January). Website: www.apstasnorth.org

North West Group

President	John Tabor	6428 6512	Postal address: PO Box 68, Port Sorell, Tas 7307
Vice-President	Joy McIntosh	6426 2657	Email: apstnorthwest@gmail.com
Secretary	Drew Thomas	6437 1802	Meeting place/time:
Treasurer	John Boevink	6428 6909	<u>St Pauls Church Hall, Church St, East Devonport</u> 7.30 pm, Third Tuesday of each month (except January, July and December)
Eucryphia Liaison	Mary Slattery	0402784086	