

Eucryphia



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Leptospermum nitidum
© D Burns
See article p. 15

EUCRYPHIA

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Contributions and letters to the editor are welcome. They should be forwarded by email in a word doc, not pdf'd, 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.

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From The President

*Louise Skabo
President*



Convivial company, beautiful rainforest walks and tasty dinners created a most enjoyable Members' Get-together in the Tarkine area. It was great to see quite a few new faces among the numerous attendees. Thanks go to the NW group team led by President John Tabor, to Don Ablitt for leading the walks and Dick Burns for taking us on a pictorial walk in Tasmania's rugged west.

The 2022 calendars were hot property this year with demand exceeding supply. The talented Amanda Walker has again produced a superb calendar and thanks go to her, Jenny and David Boyer and Christine Howells while they were on holiday, for the production and distribution and to all those members who contributed to the photos. APST might do one more calendar in 2023, so, with the abundant native flower season this year, keen photographers should plan their submissions right now just in case.

On behalf of APST, I recently attended the project 'The amazing world of insects in our neighbourhood' at the Kingston Community Hub and nearby reserves. APST was able to auspice this event because it fitted well with our constitutional objectives, and our support was appreciated. I have written a report in this issue of Eucryphia.

Congratulations to all groups for their successful native plant sales this spring. APST sales are now well known and respected in the local communities due to the quality and diversity of species on offer. Thanks go to all members who grow the plants, maintain the nurseries and assist at sales, especially the hard working nursery managers. Propagation sessions are always enjoyable and educational but an additional reward for participating members is that excess funds raised are donated to like-minded organisations such as Tasmanian Landcare,, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden and Tasmanian Bushland Garden.

I wish you all a safe and joyous Christmas and hope to see you at the Annual General meeting on March 26th 2022 in Launceston.©

An Apology

Maureen King's photo of Black Bull Scrub in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area is featured in the 2022 calendar for the month of September. It is incorrectly attributed to another person who forwarded the image on Maureen's behalf while her computer was being repaired.

Our sincere apologies to Maureen.

Amanda Walker and Christine Howells

Membership

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

Margaret Killen,



Membership Officer

Simon Barnsley, Jill Bennett, Katrina Dick, Graeme and Ruth Evans, Rod Holden, Digory Hulse, Julie Johnson, Ken Johnson, Kirsty Kay, Jo Leedham, Keryn and Garth Madsen, Kevin McInerney, Henriette Norris, Gillian Pitt, Therese Tyacke and Lou Prass, Caroline Remenyi, Veronica Richter, Fiona Roark, Kirstin Seaver, Robin Smithies, Simon and Prue van der Veen, Ted and Noni Vidor, Michelle Watson, Claire Wilson, Rae Young, Trent Hicks of Auckland NZ.

Membership renewals and changes (how you will receive reminders)

Your subscription renewal is due on the anniversary of the month you joined.

Renewal reminders are sent by email or hard copies posted to those without email.

You can now renew your subscription easily on the website: www.apstas.org.au

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

Margaret Killen

Membership Officer

0409 430 665 ☺

APST Subscriptions

Membership Type	\$ per annum
Individuals and Organisations	40.00
Individual concession - Student, Pension Concession or Department of Veteran's Affairs Pension	37.00
Household - each additional adult	9.00
(Children under 16years are free.)	0.00
Overseas and Overseas Organisation (banker's draft AUD)	55.00
Additional subscription for the <i>Australian Plants Journal</i> - APJ (until Janu-	14.00

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.

Membership Benefits

Some of the benefits that members enjoy are to receive discounts and the following businesses offer them: *Habitat Plants* at Liffey – 10% discount; *Inverawe Native Gardens* at Margate – half price entry; *Plants of Tasmania Nursery and Gardens* at Ridgeway - 10% discount (non-discounted items).

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

'Australian Plants' Journal

Australian Plants is a quarterly journal produced by the Australian Plants Society NSW and is loaded with up-to-date ideas, inspiration and information about Australian native plants. The current public cost of subscribing is \$30pa. More information can be found [here](#).

From January 2022 the cost to members will be \$20. Subscriptions to the journal are purchased as an added extra cost to your APST membership.

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.

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Study Group Highlights

Riitta Boevink,
Study Group Liaison



Australian Plants for Containers Study Group Newsletter No 38 Sept 2021

Leaders: Ros and Ben Walcott

There are lots of beautiful photos. The newsletter is available for anyone to see on the ANPSA website. It includes a guide for growing glorious Blandfordias in containers. There are many examples of a wide variety of plants to grow in pots and hanging baskets. A special feature on *Anigozanthos*, the Kangaroo paws, that Walcotts grow in containers in Canberra. The climatic and soil conditions are not favourable in their Canberra garden for Kangaroo paws. The potted specimens live only a year or two. They have accepted these plants as annuals and biennials, but during this short time they make a glorious display as illustrated in the photos.

Grevillea Study Group Newsletter No 120 Oct 2021

Leader: Peter Olde

A very informative issue for Grevillea lovers. *Grevillea curviloba* has been renamed *Grevillea lawrenceana*. The newsletter contains an interesting story about the origin of this name going back to early eighteen hundreds in UK. Four new *Grevillea* species are described. Many interesting contributions from members.

Garden Design Study Group Newsletter 117, Nov 2021

Leader : Lawrie Smith

This newsletter is available on the website: <http://anpsa.org.au/design/> or Google 'Australian Garden Design'.

The theme of this issue is: 'Visual attributes of a Garden'.

This is an excellent issue with much discussion on different aspects of Garden design. It includes a description of the garden of the O'Neil's, who exchanged a large award winning garden for a suburban-size one. There are also good contributions from members. ☺

**The APST Website, www.apstas.org.au
Is now
Open for Business!**

Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. Annual General Meeting Agenda

Date: **Saturday 26th March 2022**

Time: **11:00 am**

Place: **Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside, Tasmania.**

Item	Description	Responsible
1	Welcome: Introductions; Reading of Objectives.	President
2	Apologies	Secretary
3	Review of actions from 2021 Annual General Meeting	President
4	Acceptance of minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting	President
5	President's Annual Report	President
6	Treasurer's Report including Financial Statements	Treasurer
7	Auditor's report	Treasurer
8	Opportunity for questions to Councillors	President
9	Special resolution: Constitution amendment That the Constitution reflect that two signatories be required for all financial transactions actioned by Council or any group of APST Inc. Moved by: M. Slattery Seconded by M. Killen	President
10	Appointment of the Auditor	President
11	Election of Council Officers: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Public Officer; Group Councillors;	President
12	Appointments: ANPSA Delegate 1; ANPSA Delegate 2; APJ Liaison Officer; Eucryphia Editor; Strategic Planning Coordinator; Website Liaison Officer; Study Group Liaison Officer; Membership Officer	President
13	Next Meeting	Secretary
14	Meeting close	President

At the meeting, members will have the opportunity to:

- find out about APST Inc's operations and finances
- speak about any items on the agenda
- vote on any resolutions proposed.
- appoint an auditor
- elect councillors
- appoint officers.

At the meeting, members will be asked to vote to: accept the minutes of the last annual general meeting

- accept the annual report
- accept the auditor's report
- accept the annual financial statements

Our new membership system and how to use it.

APST Council and Strategic Planning Group

Background

A few years ago, APST decided to head down the track of keeping up with technology so that we are not left behind as things change. One major item was a new website with a simple navigation path, a contemporary look & feel that is quick & easy to update without additional costs and enables on-line membership subscriptions.

What is changing?

One change is that membership subscription renewals will be sent to you from the website, using your email address, rather than from the Membership Officer. The website, through the MemberSpace platform, will be the secure repository (database) for all your membership details including your email address. Payments will be completed on-line except for those few people who do not use electronic banking who will still be catered for. Having an email address is key, so for those few people who do not have emails (3.5%) subscriptions will continue to be completed manually. Please note that there can only be one email address per subscription, otherwise you would receive a reminder for each address.

Another change is that in the future, notifications such as significant announcements, special resolutions or notices for the AGM, will be sent to you via the website using the email in your account, *so it is important that everyone, including life members, creates an account.*

How this works for you

First step - use the email which was sent to you recently and create an account. This puts your details into the membership system. When things change you will be able to update your details (e.g. address) or change your membership subscription plan or change your password. No payment is required at this point. You will start receiving membership renewal notices in 2022, in the month it is due.

Tell everyone & celebrate

Let's tell everyone about our great Society by sending them to the website www.apstas.org.au

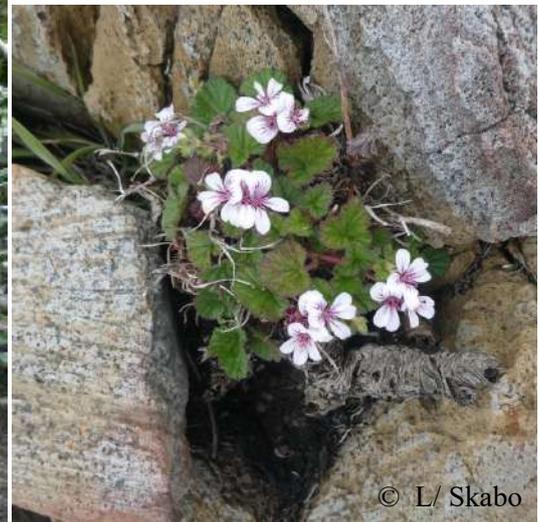
Support

As with many new processes, things do not always go exactly to plan so, please let us know if you need help. Contact your Council delegate, Group Secretary, Membership Officer Margaret Killen via membership@apstas.org.au or ring 0409 430 665. ☺



Left: An example of the beautiful rainforest near Trowutta Arch, taken during the Members' Get-together.

Below: *Pelargonium australe* seen on the same trip.





Dr Karen Stack, retired academic now a pastel and textile artist.



Bronilyn Smith, photographer, writer and author.

“The Amazing World of Insects in our Neighbourhood”

“If we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well. But, if the invertebrates were to disappear, the world’s ecosystems would collapse.” (Sir David Attenborough)

Textile art, photography, talks, native plant-insect walks and insect hotels were on offer from 5-8 November at the Kingston Community Hub and nearby locations to highlight the important role insects play in maintaining balance in our ecosystem and the growing concern about declining insect numbers partly due to habitat loss.

To enable the artists to apply for a Kingborough Council grant to mount this project for the public, they needed an incorporated body to auspice the event. APST Inc. considered it fitted well with our objectives and we gave our support. The hand printed, quilted and embroidered art work above was created by artist Karen Stack to thank Kingston Beach Coastcare Group and APST Inc for their support and it beautifully reflects both our organisations.

I attended the opening evening presentation which included two excellent talks on insects, one by the Senior Curator of Invertebrate Insects at TMAG, Dr Simon Grove, and another by Kathy, a science teacher at Friends. We were told about red jewel bugs which eat only native hop bushes, *Daviesia latifolia*, the painted cup moth which makes a chrysalis disguised as a perfect copy of a gum-nut and that they nibble leaves of *Eucalyptus pulchella*. Tasmanian hairy cicadas, we learnt, are very ancient and only exist in two places in the world (Tas and Vic), while the Tasmanian snow flea or scorpion-fly, the relict *Nannochoristidae* also have Gondwana links.

The next day I visited the impressive art and macro-photography exhibition and saw children and their parents enjoying constructing insect hotels to take to home gardens – a great idea. ☺





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ANPSA Biennial Conference – Kiama, 11 – 16 September 2022



We are excited to be hosting the next ANPSA Biennial Conference in Kiama in September 2022. We aim to bring you a wide range of interesting speakers and enjoyable activities. We will of course be operating at the highest Covid standards and guidelines to keep us all safe and healthy.

For further information, see the APS NSW website (<https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>) or send us an email: office@austplants.com.au.

Theme: Australian flora - past present future. Explore the flora of 40,000 years ago, understand opportunities and threats we face now and consider how the future might unfold, along with our role in that.

Location: Kiama, with the conference to be held at the Kiama Pavilion.

Excursions: Robertson Rainforest, Fitzroy Falls, Wollongong Botanic Gardens, Minnamurra Rainforest, Royal National Park, Kamay - Botany Bay National Park, Bulli Grevillea Park and native plant reserves in Southern Sydney.

Pre and post conference tours: Lord Howe Island, Warrumbungles and the Pilliga, Blue Mountains, Sydney and the South Coast.

Hold the dates - Sunday 11 to Friday 16 September 2022!

Strategic Sponsor



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SYDNEY ROCK ORCHID

Dendrobium speciosum

Dick Burns

It's a rave plant, but I can't claim this as a garden rave – when you see (and smell) one growing properly, you will rave too.

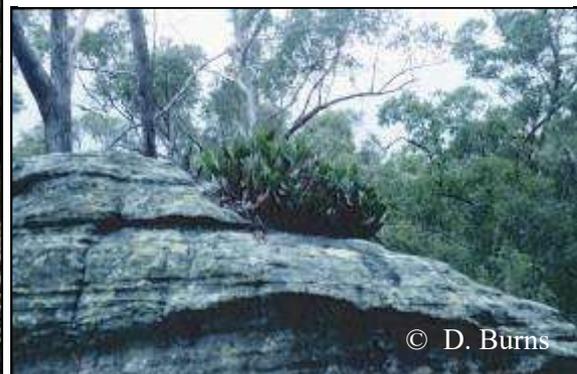
I must have visited the family in Sydney in the 1983 September holidays and gone for a walk in Kuring-gai Flora Park (now Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden), near Ku-ring-gai Chase which is the national park north of Sydney: living in a suburb that is south of Sydney Harbour, most of my bush exploring was in Royal National Park, south of Botany Bay and Port Hacking. Royal National Park was the first national park for Australia, and both it and Ku-ring-gai Chase, so close to the city, escaped suburbanisation because of their “uselessness” (poor soils and ruggedness).

Kuring-gai Flora Park featured planted areas, all displaying Australian species. It is another gem from John Wrigley, who later was instrumental in establishing the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra and then North Coast Regional (Coffs Harbour) Botanic Garden. The planted areas were full of spring colour, but what caught my eye was a mass of cream-coloured sprays of *Dendrobium speciosum* planted along a sandstone outcrop – the photo is somewhat blurry but you can get the idea. But not smell the perfume. I knew I had to try growing it at Deviation Rd. I've seen *Dendrobium speciosum* in the wild since, in the lower Blue Mountains west of Sydney and in Queensland, in Blackdown Tablelands, but just the pseudobulbs (the swelling between the roots and leaves) and foliage, never the flower sprays.

In Sydney, Alec Blombery had *Dendrobium speciosum* in his garden and Betty Maloney had banks of it growing at the end of her carport. APST member Barry Dudman grows it in Somerset; the one I saw was in a pot happy in an orchid potting mix.



Left: *Dendrobium speciosum* APS NSW



Above: *Dendrobium speciosum* Blackdown

The English botanist and Linnean Society founder James Edward Smith named the species *Dendrobium speciosum* in 1804 from material sent by the Surgeon-General with the First Fleet settlement and active collector, John White. The collection was from “Port Jackson”, which could be anywhere in the Sydney region. Smith chose the epithet, *speciosum*, to describe the beautiful or showy flowerhead. The genus name, *Dendrobium*, was first published in 1799 by Swedish botanist, Olaf Swartz; he recognised the epiphytic growth of many species in the choice of name – *dendos* means ‘tree’ and *bios* means ‘life’. *D. speciosum* grows mostly on rock (a lithophyte) but can grow on trees (an epiphyte): neither provides food directly but does give support, the plant clinging to the host by its roots. For some botanists the species is assigned to the genus *Thelychiton* which is not universally accepted. The orchid is found beyond the Sydney region, from southern Queensland into Victoria.

I cannot remember the source of my plant; most likely I was given it by Alec, who also gave me pseudobulbs of *Dendrobium kingianum*, which I cultivated on bark for some years. Over the years, I tried growing *D. speciosum* on a piece of local granite, then on bark hanging near the front door, but my feeding and watering were rather spasmodic. About ten years ago I took the assembly off the hook by the front door and put it on the low wall of dolerite at the front path, intending to do something better. Surprise, surprise! Some months later, I noticed white roots creeping over the dolerite. So I left it and the plant has formed several new pseudobulbs.

A few years ago, I saw flower bud spikes but they disappeared. Suspecting my resident pademelons, the next year Margaret Kinsey helped me to construct a barrier, but the wallabies got through and my flower buds disappeared again. This year I haven't seen a pademelon hopping around the garden since March, and to confirm they've gone, this year's buds have survived to form flowers. Not like photos in books, but I have flowers on my Sydney Rock Orchid! My plant is not very photogenic, but I'm proud (and biased).

And it is confirmation that the pademelons are gone. But I'll leave the fences around the beds for a while. I don't know who else grows epiphytic orchids – Margaret Kinsey has some growing on trees in her garden and Don Ablitt grows Gunn's Tree Orchid, *Sarcochilus australis* – but they are worth a try. ☺



Above: *Dendrobium speciosum* Kuringai Chase

Below: *Dendrobium speciosum*



APST Members' Get-together 2021

John Tabor

APST North West Group hosted this year's excursions in Circular Head based at Riverbend Youth Centre camp at Trowutta Rd 5 minutes from Smithton from November 12th to 14th.

Approximately 50% of the 50 participants stayed at the camp and were looked after very well by the volunteer staff with excellent evening meals (available to everyone) and breakfasts and cut lunches for residents.

Plant lists for the 3 days were kindly prepared by Dick Burns.

Friday November 12th

Friday afternoon 1pm we were in the hands of North West member Don Abblitt, who guided us to Trowutta Arch for a short walk to two sink holes. One of these had subsided and formed a rock archway through which we were able to walk to the sink hole. This had filled with water and was covered in green duck weed. It was a spectacular sight and experience. The walk was through lovely rain forest with many fern and fungi species. Although showers were forecast, no rain jackets were needed. We saw ferns *Asplenium flaccidum* and *A. appendiculatum*, *Lastreopsis acuminata* and *Pellaea falcate*.



© J. Tabor

Saturday November 13th

Saturday morning, with again clear skies, Don Abblitt led the many vehicles, (reduced a little through car pooling) on the Tarkine circular drive with planned stops to enjoy the many plants of this unique area.

First stop was Black Bull Scrub on the way to Marrawah. This was particularly memorable for the mainly pink *Bauera rubioides* which was profuse and which had great variability in the shade of pink and size of flower. Several double pink forms were also found. Splashes of yellow were found to be the pea flowers of *Aotus ericoides* and *Dillwynia sericea*. In this heavy clay soil were also twisted multi branched *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *Tetrathea pilosa* and *Allocasuarina zephyrea*.



**Black Bull scrub
*Tetratheca ciliata***



Members' Get-together Photos



Right: A fungus seen near Trowutta Arch

© P.Wright



Left: *Eucryphia* sp at Julius River with sticky new leaves

© P.Wright

Below: The mob rocking at Couta Rocks.



© P.Wright

Members' Get-together Photos



Acacia verticillata var *verticillata* at
Couta Rocks

© P.Wright



Veronica formosa—
At Couta Rocks

© K. Pallett

Couta Rocks



© K. Pallett

Members' Get-together Photos



Chiloglottis Comuta
Found on the Get-together weekend

© L. Skabo

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Olden remedies for bushwalking-induced aches and pains

Phil Watson

Phil has written this—in his words—‘for the many APS folk who have enjoyed a life time of bushwalking primarily to immerse themselves in nature and enjoy the local floral delights’)

For many seasoned bushwalkers, decades of walking and scrub bashing have unfortunately taken their toll!

Worn and aching joints, rheumatism, cuts, burns, bites, skin infections, bruises, broken bones, wrinkled leathery skin etc., are just a few of the legacies endured by veteran walkers who continue to enjoy the not so gentle art of bushwalking.

This is all very understandable when you recount the innumerable extended trips carrying heavy packs across mountainous or scrubby terrain or just decades of regular day walks with your club.

Generally your immediate response these days when burdened with cuts, aches and pains etc., involves digging into packs for bandages, painkillers or even anti-inflammatories. On arriving home, a long hot shower or soak in the bath with good old Epsom salts often provides temporary relief. Worst case scenario for persistent aches can result in seeking a referral to a specialist!

Our bushwalking experiences tend to pale into insignificance when you cast your mind back to early forbearers or the Aboriginal tribes who lived a life style that was reliant on constant bushwalking through the untracked landscape. With no modern medicines, it’s intriguing to explore the by gone day treatments that are reported to be ‘tried and proven’.

Whale carcasses relieved rheumatic aches and pains

As a persistent and common complaint for bushwalkers, there are a few remedies that are recorded anecdotally by aboriginal and colonists to relieve the symptoms. A fairly common approach involved plunging patients in cold water for as long as possible and repeating this on a regular basis when the aches reappeared. Another involved using a vapour bath made by covering a hot fire pit with green leaves and pouring water on it. The sufferer would then be placed over this and covered with a skin rug and steamed till profuse sweating occurred resulting in reportedly, remarkable pain relief.

Native medicine men of various tribes used roo intestines twisted like a fine twine to check circulation and pain by careful tightening them both above and below the aching areas.

Bushwalkers stepping it out along stretches of remote sandy beaches, may have come across a whale carcass. History reveals that these provided a rare opportunity to relieve aching arthritic joints. Bazaar as it seems, chronic rheumatism suffered within coastal aboriginal tribes as well as town folk living along the lower NSW coast achieved long-term relief by bathing within the fluids of washed up whale carcasses. Ideally periods of up to 30 hours were recommended. Apparently the covering of whale fat, the warm oily liquids and the gaseous vapours generated by the rotting carcass proved rather successful. Even local businessmen in towns like Eden were happy to accommodate tourists willing to pay to use whales recently brought ashore by whalers.

Biting insects repelled by native plants

Many records reveal numerous ways of warding off insects. The leaves and small branches of coastal ballart or native cherry (*Exocarpos sp.*) which is closely related to sandalwood, or hop bush (*Dodonaea sp.*) are just a couple of well-known native plants that emitted insect repelling smoke when burnt in camp fires. The coastal daisybush (*Olearia sp.*) was either burnt or smoked or rubbed into the body as mosquito repellent. Aborigines often greased their full bodies with rancid animal fat to stop flies and mosquitoes biting!

Toothaches and headaches relieved

On long multi day trips that often resulted in large amounts of sweet foods being eaten, walkers can be subject to toothache. This was also a constant problem especially with older aborigines as they ground down their teeth over decades of tearing fibrous bark off stems of plants, eating coarse, nuts or seed-based meals and crunching into bulbs and tubers. Their favoured treatment was placing a wad of pre-chewed hop bush (*Dodonaea sp.*) leaves onto their aching teeth. Also effective were eating raw native sour thistles (*Sonchos sp.*) to soothe the pain as well as to induce restful, pain-free sleep.

Just as useful was the sweet gum or manna that oozed from the trunks of our common white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). This was stuffed into hollows of aching teeth and for walkers it could be a good option until a dentist visit was made.



Bushwalkers with headaches could benefit from the aboriginal solution which used the ground clematis or headache vine *Clematis gentianoides* by tying a band of leafy vines around their head to gain long lasting relief.

Cuts, burns and bruises remain a bushwalkers companion.

Cuts, abrasions, burns, itches are pretty much a given on a long bushwalk. Luckily there are still many bush plants that still provide just as much relief as commercial ointments.

Crushed leaves of the problem weed known as cleavers or sticky willie, (*Galium aparine*) is a commercial source of the bioactive ingredient 'courmarin' (closely related to 'warfarin' used in all blood thinning treatments) which is well respected for relieving pain from bites, burns, eczema and acme. Many would be aware that the juice from a young bracken fern fronds (fiddle-hook) gives rapid relief from bites and stings. Additionally the common weedy mallow (*Malva sp.*) has copious amounts of mucilage in its leaves and stems. It soothes stings, abrasions as well as sunburn much the same as a commercial emollient.

The humble little plantain (*Plantago sp.*) weed packs a real punch when it comes to soothing bites, burns, stings etc., as the crushed leaves contain the bioactive ingredient 'aucubin' which when the leaves are rubbed directly over the problem area rapidly eases the discomfort. Additionally the leaves when crushed into water mobilises 'aucubin' which provides a 'bitters' as good as the bitters used in lime, lemonade and bitters. It acts to increase the flow of gastric juices, improving digestion and stomach upsets.

When bushwalking through open grassy woodlands in spring patches of yellow lily-like flowers are commonly seen. These are the yellow flowering leek lily (*Bulbine sp.*) and along with the sprawling purple flowering pig face (*Carprobrotus sp.*) provide a clear gel from their crushed leaves, similar in appearance and consistency to *Aloe vera*. These gels are very reliable soothing agents for all burns, wounds, cuts, rashes and boils.



Pig face (*Carprobrotus sp.*)

Thirst Quenchers and emergency water supplies

Many long walks during late summer often have a day or two where water availability is uncertain. This means a much heavier pack! So what alternatives were used by aboriginals faced with the same dilemmas?

Just to moisten their mouths they commonly chewed a few young needle-like stems of she oaks or even the green she oak cones, with significant success

Yabby holes were accessed with drinking straws made out of hollow reed stems such as southern reed or bamboo reed *Phragmites australis*.

Alternatively they widen the holes and used sponges made of balls of grass attached to end of a stick to reach deep down and soak up the water at the base. Even in the driest of landscapes, many trees with forked stems have water stored cryptically in the fork. Sponges made from grass balls did the job.

Often, when there was fouled or muddy water, they would use a banksia cobs or flower cones as crude filters with the bonus of added sweet banksia nectar. Of course if it was likely in sandy areas that sub surface water existed water holes were dug to reveal and retain the water. Grass sponges were then used to filter the water before drinking. If a dew was expected, the dew drops formed on grassy patches overnight provided sufficient water using elongated grass balls swiped across these areas early in the morning.

Conclusion

It's not surprising that before modern medicine, old treatments for aches and pains, mostly using local plants, were very successful. Of course, up until the late 19th century, doctors of medicine were primarily trained as botanists and herbalists to learn the plethora of plant-based treatments applied to particular medical conditions. Every indigenous population across all continents had a reservoir of cultural knowledge for treating aches and pains. This article is just a glimpse into this fascinating world of cultural medicine! ☺

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ANOTHER RAVE

Leptospermum petersonii -- Lemon-scented Tea Tree

Dick Burns

This was among the first plants I chose for the garden, bought as *Leptospermum flavescens* in 1976. It was meant to be a shrub so I had no qualms about planting it near the house, about a metre away from one corner. Even after I realised it was not *L. flavescens*, *L. petersonii* is described in books as a “medium to tall shrub” – no worries then! My plant quickly demonstrated that it wanted to be a tree, and a fine tree it grew to be. Melaleuca and tea tree roots have the reputation for messing with house foundations, but all this plant has done is move the pavers on the pathway between it and the house. It now towers over the house, maybe 7 or 8 m tall.



paving garden 2 '19.
© D Burns

In the early 1990s, Diana Snape and the garden design study group ran a competition for good photos of gardens from each region. A photo of that part of my garden including the Lemon-scented Tea Tree was judged one of the best in Tasmania – Diana’s book that came out of that competition featured the Champion (Mt Romney) and Corbett gardens. Branches overhung my roof and all the local brush-tail possums in the area seemed to gather nightly (aren’t they supposed to be solitary?) to jump from those branches, landing like elephants and drum across the skillion roof (that corner was my bedroom). A few years ago I had the overhanging branches trimmed back, but for a time one possum persisted; having to jump further meant the roof-landing was much louder.

For once it is not the flowering that has me raving about *Leptospermum petersonii*. It is the well-shaped tree growth, the trunk with its pale greyish-brown papery bark and the dark green dense crown with its strong lemon-scented leaves. The plant has one extra advantage in this once-crowded garden – that of the paved area on one side providing a clear view of the whole tree. The pavers are made of coloured cement poured into two-litre ice-cream containers. The original varied-brown cement has weathered to grey, with the green of moss. One of my early Sydney-reminiscent acquisitions is *Clivia* (an exotic plant, I know!) and each spring its orange flowers brighten up the shady area at the foot of the tree.

The name *Leptospermum* was first applied to the description of the species *Leptospermum scoparium*. The father-and-son botanists, Johann George Forster and Johann Reinhold Forster, described the species (and hence gave the name to the genus) in 1776; the Forsters were the botanists on Captain James Cook's second expedition. Because the expedition visited both New Zealand and New South Wales and the species grows in both places, we do not know if they used primarily a NZ or NSW specimen for their description because they did not nominate a type specimen. A taxonomist from USA, Rogers McVaugh, chose a reference specimen in 1956, but I cannot access that paper on line without paying, so I do not know if he chose a NZ or NSW specimen to represent the genus. The Forsters named the genus for its tiny seeds – *leptos* in Greek means “thin” or “slender” and *sperma* is “seed”. The species name *petersonii* commemorates WJ Peterson who collected the original specimen in 1905 from Wilsons Peak on the NSW/Qld border.

Regarding the common name, most books repeat the tale that James Cook's expedition made a brew with the leaves but Wrigley & Fagg and the website of the Australian National Botanic Gardens attribute the making of an infusion with the leaves to early settlers. *Wild Food in Australia* by AB & JW Cribb suggests that *Leptospermum* species were used for brews in the early days of Sydney because of the high cost of China tea. When the Cribbs tried Lemon-scented Tea Tree, they found it “strongly aromatic but pleasantly acceptable”. Their suggestion is to use a few leaves of it in a conventional pot of tea for a refreshing variation. (Jeanette Closs used *Backhousia citiodora* the same way.) I have tried brews with hot water on leaves with all Tasmanian species and the most pleasant is with *Leptospermum rupestre*; *L. lanigerum* was to my taste unpleasant. The commonest commercial “tea tree oil” is extracted from *Melaleuca alternifolia* – one site has illustrations of their bottled product alongside a photo of *Leptospermum* sp. Sublime ignorance!

The reason for any plant to produce scented leaves is generally accepted to be to stop insects eating the food-producing ‘factory’ of the plant. Lemon scent is particularly common over families because it is strongly repellent. Although on one bushwalk, trying to be environmentally friendly, I took a citronella-based repellent. I was plagued with insects until one of my party gave me their Rid or Aerogard to use.

Leptospermum petersonii flowers prolifically but the white flowers are not as well formed as other species of *Leptospermum*. Some species have the standard five petals that are broad enough to overlap. Some of the more attractive species are larger as well. The erect shrub, *Leptospermum turbinatum* lights up each spring with masses of pure white flowers down the stems. Selected forms of *L. rotundifolium* such as ‘Lavender Queen’ are coloured various shades of mauve and white. In my garden the mauve or red hybrids from Peter Ollerenshaw such as ‘Rhiannon’ are short-lived. I have some forms of *L. scoparium* in the garden gathered from all over Tasmania with well-formed flowers, some with pink flushes, some that turn pink when fertilised; one is a small tree with white flowers and red centres.



Left:
Leptospermum scoparium with red centres.

Below:
Leptospermum laevigatum
Geelong Botanical Gardens



The best flower on a Tassie species has to be on *Leptospermum nitidum*.. (See cover page) This species retains its sepals and when they are red, the broad white petals are highlighted by red triangles. At the Tasmanian Arboretum, I found plants sourced from the West Coast are more reliable than plants propagated from the highlands. Some plants have petals with undulating edges – even better!

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And there is *Leptospermum polygalifolium*. Norma Duff and I were travelling home and we stopped for a coffee break in Westbury. Growing in a front garden was a miserable burgundy-leaved tea tree with big white flowers. A few branches were hanging over the footpath so we snatched a few cuttings, intending to give the tea tree a better home. Mine grew to be a fine small tree, identified by an expert as *Leptospermum polygalifolium*. But one year I saw about a dozen seedlings growing in the neighbours' yard. So my wonderful tree had to go. The neighbours left one seedling to grow. Rather than a tree, it grew as a shrub, 2 m high and spreading across the ground by about 4 m, still with the burgundy foliage and white flowers – a good hedging plant for someone.



Right:

Leptospermum polygalifolium tree.

Below:

Leptospermum laevigatum



I'd been avoiding planting *Leptospermum laevigatum* at the Arboretum because of its potential to become a weed but planted a few after I'd seen really old plants with their twisting trunks at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and in Geelong Botanic Gardens, planted in the 1850s.

There are twenty plants of *Leptospermum* species still surviving in the Deviation Rd garden. Who knows how many others have failed! No doubt other tea trees will inspire another rave. What is your favourite? ☺

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AUSTRALIAN PLANTS JOURNAL

Winter 2021 issue



Dick Burns

This issue of APJ is one of the better ones: the whole edition is devoted to *Isopogon* sp. and *Petrophile* sp., members of the Proteaceae family with very similar appearance. The issue was prepared by the Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group. Being mostly compact shrubs, they make excellent garden plants, and as recommended in the journal, really good pot-plants. Floral display on a number of species is spectacular, and their colour ranges from white into yellow and pink. Their names both come from Ancient Greek: *Isopogon* = “equal beard” referring to the evenly haired fruit and *Petrophile* = “rock-lover” so named because many of the early-named species grew in rocky habitats. They were both named from material collected around Sydney, but like *Banksia* sp., their most spectacular species are from Western Australia.

I was used to seeing both genera in the Sydney bush where the common names come from the woody fruit that is retained at the top of old stems, Drumsticks and Conesticks respectively. Early plantings at Deviation Rd were *Isopogon anemifolius* and *I. anethifolius*. The latter grew tall, flowered but then was blown down. At Deviation Rd, I did try other species of isopogon later but the plants either failed or were eaten by my pademelons. I cannot recall seeing any petrophiles in nurseries.

Tasmania has one listing; *Isopogon ceratophyllus* is described in Winifred Curtis’s 1967 *Students Flora Part 3* and the location is given as “local in the islands of Bass Strait”. The species is listed in *King Island Flora, a field guide* of 2002 and in this APJ it is stated to be on Flinders Island. I feel that I saw a plant growing in the granite heathland on Schouten Island but I could not stop because it was a bush-walking party hurrying to get to a spot. A few years later, the area was devastated by a bushfire. I finally saw and photographed *Isopogon ceratophyllus* in the Grampians of Victoria.

For identification of plants seen in the wild, I have depended upon *A Field Guide to Isopogons and Petrophiles* by Robert M Sainsbury, who endeavoured to include all Western Australian species, and some Eastern species.

This issue of *Australian Plants* is a thorough examination of both genera with emphasis on recent developments. There is an abundance of illustrations; I liked an early-on set of photos showing the main distinguishing features between the two genera; I tried to do this for my WA guiding trips but not so successfully. Foliage is similar and often flowering looks similar, confusing even botanists. *Isopogon dubius* is an excellent example where the naming taxonomist wasn’t even sure if the species was an isopogon. The authors go on to discuss recent developments in the botany of the two genera. In the APJ, there are lists of the most successful isopogons and petrophiles for the different climatic regions of Australia plus the most suitable species for growing in pots.

The Study Group has been successful at grafting difficult-to-grow species and there is, what looks to me, a fully illustrated step-by-step set of instructions to the procedure. (I tried to graft once but it failed to take, and I still have the scar in my finger where the very sharp knife slipped.)

This is a thoroughly and thoughtfully prepared guide to these interesting genera. If you don’t already get *Australian Plants Journal*, obtain a copy of this one – it is a valuable addition to any gardening bookshelf.☺

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Isopogon anemifolius.



Isopogon ceratophyllus



Isopogon buxifolia.



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Northern Group News

Kay Pallett



Olearia phlogopappa enclosing *Clematis aristata* at the Tasmanian Native Garden, Mowbray shown above.

In September the Tasmanian Native Garden had much to delight visitors, rewarding those who regularly tend this special place. *Hakea decurrens*, *Melaleuca pustulata*, *Grevillea australis*, *Olearia phlogopappa* and both *Clematis aristata* and newly planted *Clematis microphylla* were just some of the early spring flowering species making a show. At the September meeting Ken Saunders was farewelled and thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the Northern Group. Plant of the Month was described by Peter Longman who extolled the virtues of *Comesperma volubile*, the bright blue love creeper. It appears each spring in front of his place on the Tamar River and twines itself attractively around twigs, Clematis, and Bursaria, as well as less desirable black -berries. The guest speaker was Chris Lang, curator of Tasmanian flora at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Prior to the presentation Peter Dowde formally presented Chris with our donation to the RTBG.

It was an informative evening as Chris detailed the site plan for the new Tasmanian flora garden. It was interesting to learn of the process of recreating garden beds, adding clean soil, mulch and rocks when landscaping the new environmental zones to show plants in different habitats.

Chris described how *Nothofagus cunninghamii* leaves, cast in metal, were used as a path feature at the entrance to the completed rainforest zone. New meandering paths enhance the visitor experience by creating pathways that draw people into the zones for a closer sensory experience. Detailed labels have been included and the Aboriginal knowledge of Tasmanian plants is also clearly on display.

There were two excursions this month. The first to a Beauty Point property was attended by ten members who enjoyed stately *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *E.amygdalina*, as well as large *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Exocarpos cupressiformis* and *Allocasuarina littoralis* trees. Some of the flowers noted were *Bossiaea cinerea*, *Pultenaea daphnoides*, *Pimelea linifolia*. In the wetter areas there were *Gabnia grandis* and several fern species such as *Gleichenia dicarpa*. On the day, the acacias were an eye-catching mass of colour.



Janet Hallam and Suzanne Talbot in a grove of *Acacia verticillata*.

© L. Skabo

After lunch the group visited the York Town historical site which Prue Wright and Margaret James had helped to revegetate, replacing gorse and other weeds with native plants. *Epacris impressa* 'impressed' with all colours profusely on display. However, *Pultenaea juniperina* and *Thebelymitra*, sun orchids, were not yet in flower. On the second excursion members visited the gardens of John Tabor and Riitta and John Boevink, where members delighted in the colourful displays and the large variety of plants. *Banksia solandri*, *B. menziesii*, the white *Tetratheca thymifolia*, *Lasopetalum baueri*, *Spyridium ulicinum*, *Melaleuca micromera*, and *M. wilsonii* were a small sample of the stunning flora photographed by appreciative NG members.

In October Janet Hallam and her team at the nursery sought more plants for propagation e.g. grevilleas, correas and boronias. Attendance has been steady at propagation where the aim is to 'focus on plants fundamental to establishing and developing native gardens, particularly Tasmanian species.' (J. Hallam, October meeting nursery report) To add diversity Sharon Percy has sown several trays of seeds which are now in pots. The nursery team put in extra hours, this month, to prepare for the Spring plant sale which was once again a success despite fewer trays being on sale this year. Approximately 900 hundred plants went to new homes, a pleasing effort from all those involved.

At the October meeting Margaret Hosford described Plant of the Month, *Tasmannia lanceolata* (Mountain pepper). Margaret covered a range of material providing interesting details about this versatile plant. She spoke of numerous pharmacological benefits as it is an antioxidant. It is anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory, anti-allergy etc. Aboriginal people used whole peppercorns or crushed the spice into a paste for tooth aches. It was also used to treat stomach aches and later used in colonial medicine for treating scurvy. Margaret shared recipes and reminded us that as a garden plant it is attractive with lush foliage aromatic leaves, and bird-enticing berries.

Guest speaker, Kathryn Pugh is Team Leader Water, Infrastructure and Assets Network for the Launceston City Council. The team works to rehabilitate, revegetate urban waterways as well as making flora assessments for fuel reduction burns. Cambridge Street Reserve is a patch of remnant bushland where in 2020 a critically endangered leek orchid was found. This find affected how fuel reduction burns are conducted. At Carr Villa there was another important recent find, the broad-lip bird orchid, (*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*). Kathryn stressed that these discoveries are important because places do not have protection unless they are known to contain rare species - only then can they be protected, along with surrounding plants. She encouraged members to become familiar with the *Natural Values Atlas* and use it to record sightings so that plants are recorded and thereby protected.

Kathryn also suggested that young people be made aware of the value and environmental importance of these reserves for both flora and fauna. Members learnt much of the incredible richness of species in our small reserves and sadly, about the difficulty of preserving these public areas from wood hooking, becoming weedy rubbish dumps or flora-damaging bike tracks.

A well attended excursion to Cambridge Reserve saw members delighted by patches of *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Brachyscome spathulata*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *Clematis aristata*, *Olearia lirata* and orchids such as *Pterostylis melagramma* and *P. nutans*. At Carr Villa the species were equally prolific and highlights were the orchids *Calochilus robertsonii* and *Diuris maculata*.

Left: *Diuris maculata*, Leopard orchid
and

Right: *Calochilus robertsonii*, a bearded orchid, both growing at Carr Villa in a waste area eventually destined to be a grave site.



There were more excursions this month. The first of these was to the bushland area on the Birrale Road which is the designated new gaol site. About fourteen members enjoyed the walk in open woodland - one of the best! *Micrantheum hexandrum* provided a stunning display and it was just one amidst a wide diversity of flora, including *Pterostylis* and *Chiloglottis* orchids peering out from the grass and leaf matter strewn underfoot. On the follow-up excursion to the RBGI, Chris Lang guided fifteen members around the Tasmanian native garden section. Members were impressed by all the new work. Chris said the aim is not only to display plants in a natural setting but also, interestingly, to show how they might work in a garden setting.

NG members were involved in extra activities. Five members represented the group at the Windsor Park Sustainability Festival which provided an opportunity to promote APST, the nursery and the plant sale. Members were fully occupied with a constant stream of interested visitors who also appreciated the propagation demonstrations. Another activity, the seed orchard project a year on, has been successful and members are rostered to begin the vital harvest of the viola seeds. The harvest time is expected to last for a number of weeks.

In November members continued nursery tasks and the fight against spring weeds at the Tasmanian Native Garden. There was an excursion to Chris Calverly's 'Tayene' property which he has been developing over forty years. There were approximately one hundred *Telopea truncata* trees growing around his house. Some other species viewed were: *Herpolirion novae-zelandiae*, *Isophysis tasmanica*, *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* and *Barbarea australis* which is endemic and endangered. Members also enjoyed walks amid the *Nothofagus cunninghamii* and *Aristotelia peduncularis* plus a platypus performance as an extra treat.

At the November meeting Margaret Killen described 'Wonderful wattles' with a focus on their benefits in fixing nitrogen and carbon. She noted Professor Mark Adams' (Swinburne) study which shows "that in dry climates like Australia, trees and other forms of vegetation respond to rising carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by increasing their efficiency in using water to acquire carbon." *Acacia harpophylla*, brigalow, is most adept at carbon storage. The guest speaker was Magali Wright whose presentation, 'Orchid Conservation in Tasmania' described the latest means being used to propagate and thereby conserve endangered orchid species. A diversity of fungal and seed collections is being stored and there are eight threatened species now in cultivation. *Caladenia*, *Pterostylis* and *Prasophyllum* have so far been successfully cultivated. Magali did note that studies have shown that the simple act of treading on ground around orchids even for an 'innocent' photo can

cause compaction of the vital mycorrhiza nodes and thus disrupt the plant's ability to develop. She asked that we avoid crossing taped-off areas and also dissuade others so that orchids have a greater chance of survival.

Between November 12-14 around twenty three of our members attended the State Get-Together at Riverbend, Scotchtown. It was a species and scenically rich weekend and thanks must go to the Northwest Group for their diligent work in producing such an interesting and convivial gathering.

December 3rd: NG members are preparing for the Christmas dinner, a chance to celebrate a busy but stimulating and enjoyable year of APST activities. In addition the indefatigable Roy Skabo has an excursion (or two) planned for both December and January. Details are on the website: www.apstasnorth.org. ☉

Hobart Group News

Tony Salt

Months of extraordinarily wet conditions, dams overflowing, sodden soils, seemingly relentless rain. The wattles blustered their joy with the most extravagant blossoming ever remembered. Likewise, garden visits, although often ventured in rain, were a delight. In October, Betty Hansson's garden in Margate showed a wide variety of plants in full flower bordering softly padded walkways. Tall eucalypts nurtured an under storied multi-coloured chorus of *Olearia phlogopappa*, *Telopea speciosissima* and the cream *Telopea* 'Snow maiden' were stunning. Presently garden visits have generally supplanted monthly walks however a visit to Sue Newman's garden at Lauderdale commenced with a walk along the Tangara trail. Sue and Mike's community input here has elevated recognition of native flora and their garden also displayed this enthusiasm. Our forthcoming visit to Lorraine and Lindsay Pender's in Blackmans Bay will also feature a plant survey of an adjacent property. Finishing by sharing tea and cakes makes a lovely relaxing day.

Carmen Walker has organised a more suitable room for day meetings at the Kingston library for next year. At the September meeting, Christine Howells spoke of her trip to New Caledonia and for October, Inverawe, the large native garden at Margate was explored courtesy of the owners Bill and Margaret. Pam and Tony Green welcomed members to visit their garden in October followed by, of course, afternoon tea.

Evening meetings burst anew after the winter recess with a really comprehensive lecture on Australian ferns by Mark Wapstra. As we all know Mark is an accomplished authority on this subject and his illustrated talk was extremely detailed and engaging. Our secretary (Christine Corbett) has a wonderful summary of his visit in notes of the meeting. She also has a comprehensive summary of our October lecture by Brad Potts and Peter Harrison titled 'Eucalypts and climate change'. We will arrange to visit the experimental plots that these scientists use to develop strategies for amelioration of climate damage. Gintaras Kantvilas, the Tasmanian and indeed a world authority on Lichens, gave us a treat at our November meeting with actual samples to illustrate his talk. These were available for us to peruse in detail and that added to his interactive discussion - a gripping lecture on an area that gives us a new scope of enjoyment on our walks.

It is gratifying to see that our identikit booklets continue to sell well at a steady pace. Christine Howells' revised edition and newly printed Tasmanian Natural Flora, Edition 3, is 'flying off the shelves' and exceeding all expectations of sales.

Propagation sessions monthly are not only effective in imparting skills of growing from seed and cuttings but are another venue to discuss common interests in the rescue of Tasmania's precious flora. A result of this activity is plant sales day! This Spring Sale scheduled for the 16th October had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Nonetheless our rescheduled event on 30th October was a great success. We were treated with good weather and an even flow of customers. It should be noted that the helpful interaction of our members with the public made it a very enjoyable day and gained the Society eight new members. ☉

APST Directory

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GROUPS

Hobart Group

President	Vacant	0419 593 059
Secretary	Christine Corbett	6239 1904
Treasurer	Anthony Salt	0412673632
Contact Officer	Bruce Champion	6294 6970

Meeting place/time:**General meetings:**

Kingston Primary School Library

Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm
except January, June, July and August.

For winter meetings, www.apstas.org.au/calendar

Kingborough Day Meetings:

2pm Centacare Units Meeting Room, Kingston.
first Wednesday of the month (not January).

Northern Group

President	Peter Dowde	63317761
Secretary	Anna McGrane	0419347743
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten	6394 4600
Eucryphia Liaison	Kay Pallett	0400097025

Postal address: 45 Osborne Avenue,
Trevallyn,
Tas. 7250

Email: apstasnorth@gmail.com

Meeting place /time:

Max Fry Hall, Gorge Rd, Trevallyn 7.30 pm

Third Tuesday of the month (except January).

Website: www.apstasnorth.org

North West Group

President	John Tabor	6428 6512
Vice-President	Joy McIntosh	6426 2657
Secretary	Drew Thomas	6437 1802
Treasurer	John Boevink	6428 6909
Eucryphia Liaison	Mary Slattery	0402784086

Postal address: PO Box 68,
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Email: apstnorthwest@gmail.com

Meeting place/time:

St Pauls Church Hall, Church St, East Devonport

7.30 pm, Third Tuesday of each month (except
January, July and December)
