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Northern Group Newsletter

June - July 2023

A kaleidoscope of colour... surprising to many because it is winter colour that is demanding attention.

Cryptandra amera at Tasmanian Native Garden



The winter months compared to spring can be considered drab in the garden but that is a deceptive view as shown by these photos. Members were asked to capture favourite winter plants to share in this newsletter for all to appreciate.

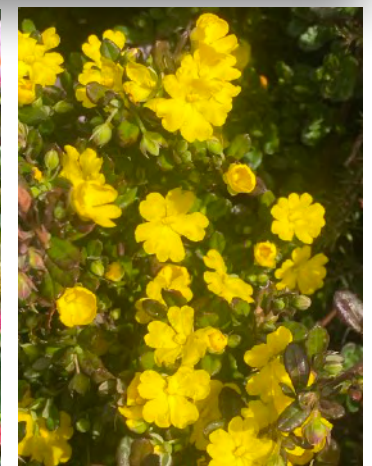
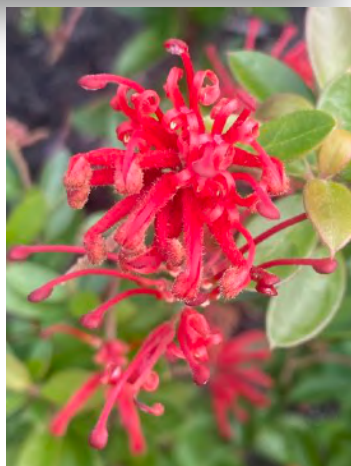


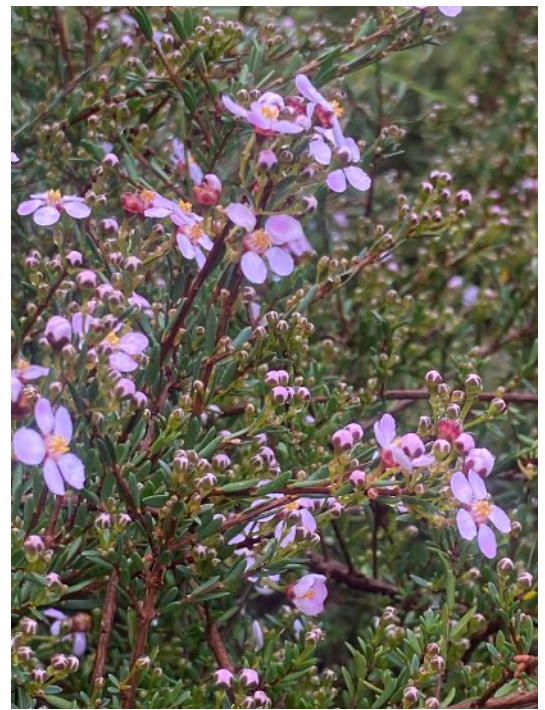
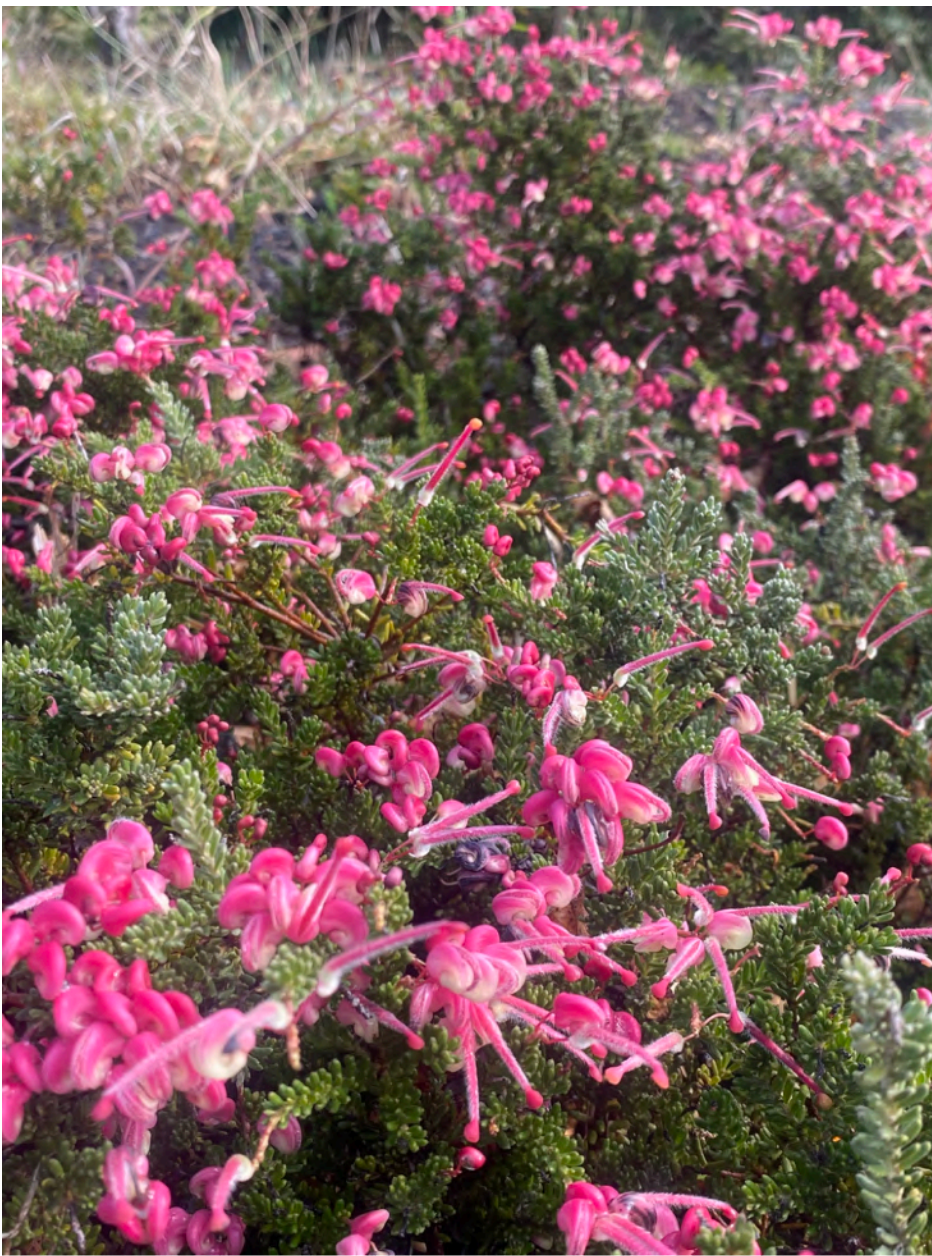
< *Spyridium scortechinii* with *Thryptomene saxicola* (below left). Ian and Judith Blayden's garden is very much in its infancy but some of the new plants are flowering nicely which 'portends good things in a couple of years'. (Ian)

Janet Hallam shared closeups of *Correa* 'white tips' and *Crowea exalta* x 'poorinda ecstasy' - a hybridised seedling plus a colour shot of *Acacia vestita* contrasted with blue-grey *Hakea petiolaris* and copper-leaved *Leptospermum* 'starry night.'



Daphne and Peter Longman have *Hardenbergia violacea* - both pink and white flowered plants - scrambling over a stump plus *Spyridium scortechinii* - a flower-strewn bush in another part of the winter garden at Dilston.





A quick walk around the Pallett garden found these bright 'sparks' happy to shine in wintery conditions: *Grevillea rhyolitica* deua gold, *G. rhyolitica* x *victoriae*, *Prostanthera* 'poorinda ballerina', *Hibbertia empetrifolia*, *Grevillea lanigera* 'little drummer boy', *Euryomyrtus ramosissima* (top right) and *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (bottom right).

Thursday, 1 June + Saturday, 3 June Cambridge St. Reserve Working Bees

Friends of the Cambridge Reserve newsletter is a must read highlighting the great work that is being done there in the war against weeds. More cotoneaster, gorse, pincushion flowers were tackled to effect. The group is now noticing native plant seedlings appearing - a pleasing development.

More volunteers would hasten this very worthy project.

Saturday, 3 June Propagation, Windsor Park Nursery

This session, the focus was on cuttings because in the cooler weather the strike rate had slowed so there was not much potting-on to be done. It was the usual two very busy hours followed by a welcome drink and delicious cakes.

Janet has asked that more Tasmanian plants be propagated and reported that they had managed to get ten punnets of cuttings following the Paradise Plains excursion. These are now on the heat pad so it is hoped that the strike rate will be good. She also reminded members to share around the task of washing dirty pots, punnets etc. - maybe take some home to wash.

The BOM website got a good workout in the week prior to this excursion. Each day the forecast had been the same: "showers". Fortunately, by Friday there was a slight change to: "showers in the late afternoon and evening". We decided to go ahead.

So, on the Saturday morning 20 members gathered at the entrance to "Black Sugarloaf", the property owned by our hosts for the day, Sarah Lloyd and Ron Nagorcka.

Sarah is an award-winning naturalist with a long-standing expertise on birds and a more recent expertise on slime moulds. She began studying these rather esoteric organisms a few years ago and has quickly become a world authority on them with one species named after her.

Her studies in her "back yard laboratory", the wet sclerophyll forest on Black Sugarloaf, have turned up nearly two hundred species of slime moulds. Her wonderful photos of these organisms have been used to illustrate her fascinating book "Where the slime mould creeps".

Our excursionists walked along the driveway through beautiful wet forest with a very diverse flora which included tall eucalypts, shrubs such as *Correa lawrenciana*, and *Pultenaea juniperina*.



A few hundred metres into the property we met with our hosts near the entrance to a track where Sarah does a lot of her research.

Sarah gave us a brief introduction to slime moulds, explaining that they had caused considerable taxonomic confusion since their discovery.

After being included in the plant kingdom as part of fungi they were reclassified into the animal kingdom because of the ability of the plasmodium stage of their life cycle to move considerable distances in search of food.

Currently they are classified as amoebozoans, a group of their own.



It was not long before Sarah drew our attention to a white patch on the side of a fallen log. Most people would not have noticed it and if they did, would have assumed it was a fungus or lichen.

Under a hand lens it resolved itself into hundreds of tiny, stalked fruiting bodies of a slime mould. At the end of each stalk was a sporangium which contained the spores which would become the next generation of this species.

Physarum compressum >



↓ A short distance further along the track Sarah had



noted another slime mould, this time in the plasmodium (mobile) stage of its life cycle. >

This consisted of hundreds of individual amoeba-like cells which were moving together across the



bark on the log, like a swarm of microscopic earthbound locusts, feeding on bacteria and other microorganisms. The leading edge of the plasmodium was a more-or-less straight line while its rear tapered to a narrow tail.



The next slime mould we saw was on the stem of a huge *Clematis aristata* which had climbed several metres up into a tree. Sarah said the *C. aristata* is a particularly favoured host species for slime moulds.

< *Ceratiomyxa-fruticulosa*

At the end of the track we emerged from under the canopy of trees into a pleasant open area where Ron and Sarah had built their charming dwelling over the past thirty years. Our hosts had provided chairs for all of us and we sat and ate lunch in the pleasantly warm sunshine.





During lunch Sarah showed several of us her microscopes and the camera she uses for photo-stacking, a computer-aided technique which compensates for the lack of depth-of-field in macrophotography.

Under her microscope we saw the beautiful, iridescent blue sporangia (spore-containing structures) of a specimen of *Lamproderma aff. muscorum* she had preserved by drying (photo below).



After a relaxed lunch break we thanked our hosts and set off on the 2 km walk back to the cars. It had been a very pleasant day, providing the chance for both newish and long-standing members to enjoy a most informative day together.

The BOM website had proved its value yet again. It started raining a couple of hours after we got home!

(People photos: L Skabo. Other photos used with permission of Sarah Lloyd)

June General Meeting

On the cold winter's night, 39 'rugged up' members, (including three new) arrived at Max Fry Hall and were pleasantly surprised to find the hall comfortably warm. Thank you to Bruce P. for putting out the chairs for our meeting and for the welcoming hall.

Dale opened the meeting and worked through the agenda. Several items were covered e.g. Margaret K's attendance at two meetings (see below). Andrew spoke on the QR bar codes that link the plant labels at Windsor Park Gardens to our website. Members were asked to submit images of plants, including those for which they were not writing descriptions. Permission must be given to use the photograph on the site. Andrew to send an email list of those plants on our website which are missing images. Dale told members of Sib and Keith Corbett's OAM for services to conservation and native plants. He suggested that a letter of congratulations be sent on our behalf.

Margaret represented APSTNorth at two important meetings: the Tamar Leaders' Lunch in April; another about the development of the old university site at Newnham. At the Leaders' Lunch Margaret responded to a 'Greening Launceston' mention asking a question about wildlife corridors/habitat - a conservation concern which ties in with APSTNorth's Reserves work.

Discussion on the University site included landscaping with exotic and native plants. After the event Margaret was able to talk to the landscape planner and the Uni Rep about our garden at Heritage Forest, following which they planned a visit for the next day.

As Margaret says these are good opportunities for APST to become known regarding our objectives and what we do. It would be good if we continue to send representatives from the Group but plan first as to how our presence best fits in with the theme of the lunch and what input we might like to take advantage of.



Stylidium graminifolium also known as the narrow leaved trigger plant.



S.graminifolium grows in the Southern hemisphere, throughout Australia, as far south as Tasmania. The hot spot is south west Western Australia. They can grow under the same environmental conditions as carnivorous plants such as sundews (*Drosera*) i.e. in poor waterlogged soils.

Pollination of these plants is interesting. The flowers, in their early life, have the male parts containing the pollen. As the individual flowers get older the female pollen receptor becomes available. Then the pollen part recedes and the pollen is deposited. This maturing of the flowers along individual flower spikes from bottom to top can be seen above right. Margaret noted that the need for a time delay in pollination over the life of the flower is because the stigma and anther are fused. The risk of self-pollination or hybridisation between trigger plants is reduced because head-clubbing trigger plants will collect pollen from other head-clubbing trigger plants while side-clubbing ones will get pollen from other side-clubbing trigger plants.



< Margaret placed a pot with potting mix adjacent to some potted stylidiums. By catching seeds in situ she has been successful in propagating this attractive plant.

Previously she had little success at growing them in the ground but from the healthy lot shown in her pot she is hopeful of seeing a change this spring.



Speakers: Janet Hallam, Louise Skabo and Margaret Killen: 'Secret of the APST and Plant Piracy'

Janet speaking on plant rights was the first of the informative speakers on the night. In her thorough presentation she clearly explained plant breeders' rights, trade-marks, marketing names, cultivar names, scientific names and how they relate to propagators.

Significantly we learned that the plants protected by **Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR)** are the only plants not allowed to be propagated for sale. A government agency, Intellectual Property Australia (IPAustralia), is responsible for all aspects of IP such as copyright, patents, trademarks, PBR.



This symbol seen beside the Mini Cog name and also on the back of the label indicates that this plant cannot be propagated.



The same symbol can be seen on the *Leptospermum* 'Love Affair' label but interestingly when checked in the database it is shown that the PBR has expired.

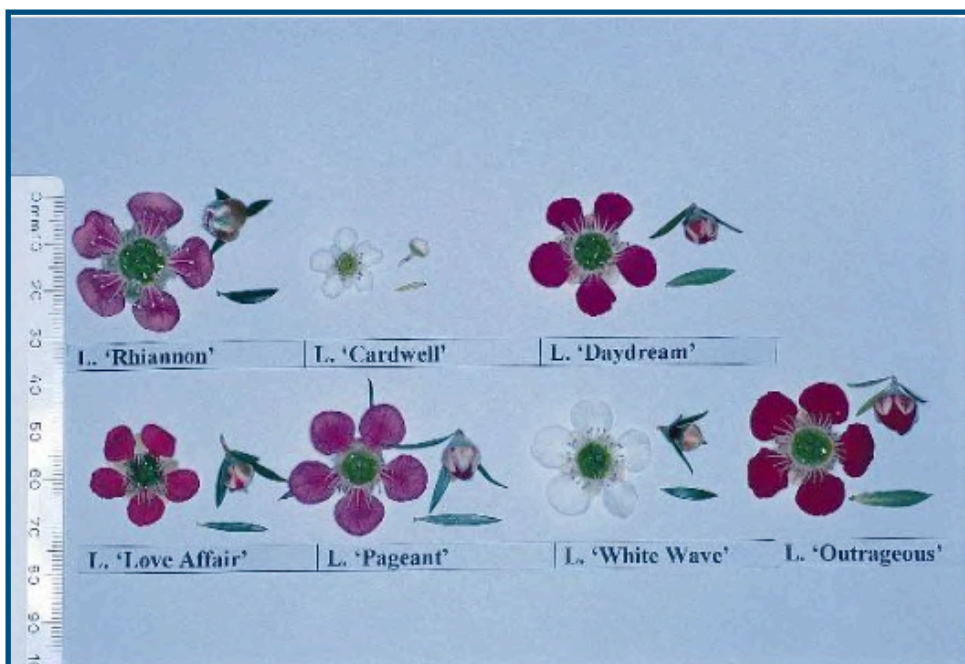


Janet noted that the most a plant breeder can have plants protected is for 20 years, so in the example of *Leptospermum* 'Love Affair,' when checked, its PBR had expired.

Sometimes they are terminated because plant breeders have to pay a fee so they need to be sure the plant has commercial potential to justify the PBR protection.

Janet is impressed by the information to be found on the online PBR database. By exploring further on the database she discovered details on each plant such as the history of how it was bred.

Summary	
Variety	Love Affair
Synonym	N/A
Common name	Tea Tree
Breeders' code	N/A
Trade reference	N/A
Other reference	N/A
Certificate number	1886
Application number	1999/391
Status	● Expired



At right is an example showing five cultivars that have been created using *L. rhiannon* and *L. cardwell*.

Leptospermum hybrids - 'Daydream', 'Love Affair', 'Pageant', 'White Wave' and 'Outrageous' with comparators (parents) 'Rhiannon' and 'Cardwell' (top left) showing the differences in flower size and colour, bud shape and colour and leaf shape.



Trademark symbols [®] and [™] do not prevent plants being propagated for sale but it does mean that the name cannot be used.

Therefore on propagation the scientific name is to replace the trademarked name. It is worth noting that PBR protected plants often have trade-marked names.

As with a PBR listing, the Trademark listing needs also to be checked. This can be done from the Intellectual Property i.e. IPAustralia website.

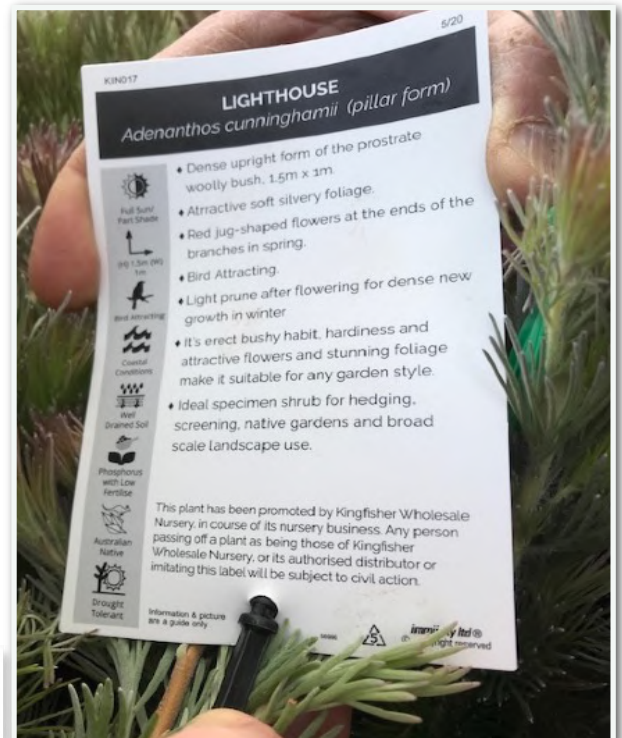


When checking on *Correa* 'Tucker Time' Dinner Bells it was found that the trademark had been removed in 2014 as the renewal fee had not been paid. Note that 'Tucker Time' are the trade marked words.

Marketing names are sometimes dressed up to look like registered cultivar names with no reference to the species from which the plant is propagated.




In this label for *Adenanthos* 'Lighthouse', to be assured that it is a marketing name Janet said to check if it appears in the *Australian Cultivar Registration Authority* (ACRA) database. It is the only way to distinguish between a marketing name and a registered cultivar name.



She also suggested propagators should avoid knowingly using marketing names because they are ephemeral and their use destabilises the accurate use of plant names. For example, the same plant may appear under a different marketing name in another nursery in another state so it is best to use the scientific name if it is included.

Australian Cultivar Registration Authority was set up in 1962 and is a signatory to the 2004 International Code for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. It is administered by a committee of representatives from the States' Botanic Gardens, ANPSA and Greenlife Industry Australia and its office is in the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The purpose of ACRA is to stabilise plant names and give users confidence that, when using cultivar names, it is the plant's *official* name. Importantly there is no restriction on propagating or using the cultivar names. In fact we need to use the names as they are the official names unlike trademark names which cannot be used and must be replaced with scientific names.

On **scientific names** botanists follow taxonomic conventions and methods ensuring consistency in the classification and naming of plants. The best plant name authority for propagators to refer to is the Australian Plant Census (APC), run by botanists and taxonomists for botanists and taxonomists.

	Propagate for sale?	Where to check?	Symbol
PBR (Plant Breeders' rights)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant label • PBR database • ACRA plant List 	
Trade marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, if no PBR • Can't use the name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant label • Australian Trademark database 	® or TM
Marketing names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Ignore those names • Use scientific species name or cultivar name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACRA Plant List 	
Cultivar names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, if no PBR • Use registered name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACRA Plant list 	
Scientific names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restriction • Cite correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed taxonomic names as per Australian Plant Census (APC) or APNI 	

Next speaker, **Louise** divulged the ‘mysteries’ of APST, answering the following questions in her excellent presentation.

What is APST ?

What are District Groups?

What is Council?

What does Council do?

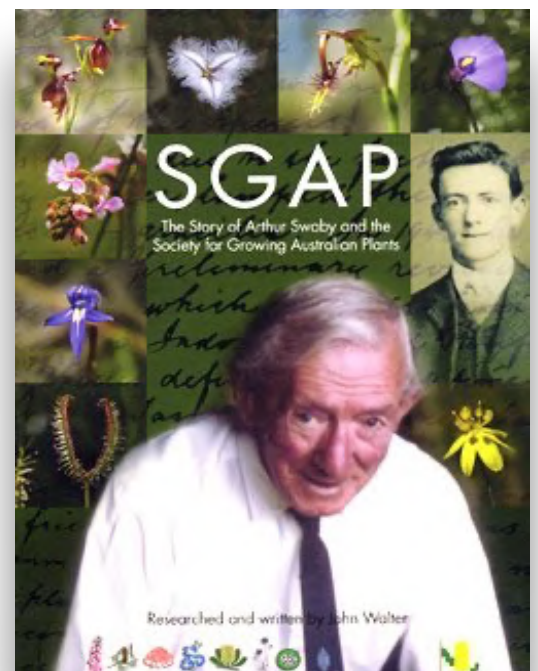
How are your subscriptions used?

The beginnings of the society were in Victoria where Arthur James Swaby (1887-1979) wrote a column in the popular “Your Garden” on natives in 1950s.

He used the slogan ‘Australians for Australia’ and over 400 growers from all states rallied to his ideas to form an association. Hence the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) was established in Victoria with Newsletter No.1 in May, 1957.

Within a year, societies had been established in six states, including NSW.

Book published for 50th anniversary >



Tasmania’s beginnings were Initially as part of **ASGAP- South East Region** which saw Tasmania combined with Victoria. Kay Geeves (Hobart) and << John & Marion Simmons (Launceston) were 3 of 22 Tasmanian ‘lone or country members’.





On 30 Nov 1968 the Tasmanian Group established SGAP Tasmania – but it was still part of the SE Region.

It was not until 1971 that the Tasmanian Region was admitted to the ASGAP Federal Council with Kay Geeves as President, Melva Truchanas as Secretary, Bob Wyatt as Treasurer and Jill Roberts.



On the 17th November, 1976 that ASGAP Northern Group was formed with Mick Statham as first President (Melva Truchanas history). There were 19 members who formed the Region's first District Group. Bruce Champion (ASGAP Federal Sec.) and Jeanette Closs (President SGAP in Hobart) travelled north for this formative meeting. By 1978 the North West Group had formed with Colin Dean as its first president.

The SGAP Council

- o In 1969 an executive committee known as the **Council** formed in Hobart to deal with administrative and business details. This was only HG members.
- o 1987 SGAP Tas became Incorporated.
- o Seven years later in 1994 Northern and NW Groups were invited to join Council – each with two representatives.
- o Graeme Roberts and John Simmons were the first Regional President and Vice President.



A NEW CENTURY – A NEW NAME

Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. is formed, in line with other states.



In 1998-9 SGAP becomes Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc. and Tasmania is no longer a Region but a **Society**.

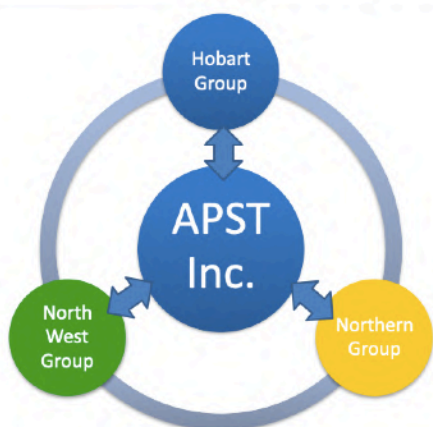
All members belong to the [AP Society Tasmania Inc](#) and elect their Council at the Annual **General** Meeting each March.

Council consists of: Executive (Pres, VP, Sec, Treasurer, Public Officer) plus Membership Officer and 2 delegates from each Group (11)

Three **District Groups** Hobart, NW and Northern elect their 2 delegates at their Annual **Group** Meeting as well as their District Group executive. Both Council and Groups also have many essential Appointed positions.

The 3 existing District Groups are known as GROUPS. All APST members belong to a Group and are the bedrock of APST. Groups are self-sufficient financially and prepare their accounts using the Chart of Accounts drawn up by the Council Treasurer.

Successful Groups are friendly and collaborative and offer a range of native plant activities such as guest speakers, propagation, excursions, conservation at Cambridge St. Res., Christmas gathering and Tasmanian Native Garden.



What does Council Do?

Council manages the business and affairs of the Society in compliance with Associations Incorporation Act (Tas) & our Constitution. It is responsible for the good Governance of our Society. There is a Council Handbook which sets out how we operate with Standing Orders, Executive and Appointed Officers' Roles and responsibilities, Society Policies, Guidelines and Procedures and official form.

The Society annually registers as a Charity/ Not for Profit Organisation.

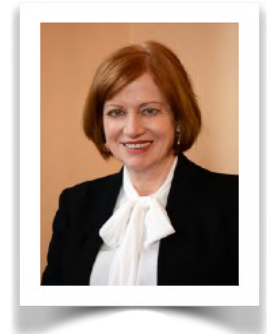
Council manages Membership of the Society and administers the financial affairs:

1. Membership subscriptions
2. Records of all transactions of Society, consolidated accounts and arranges an annual audit
3. Payment of ANSPA levees and fees
4. Study Groups' subscriptions
5. Society memberships - RTBG, Landcare, Blooming Tas.
6. Australian Plants Journal subscriptions/ distribution/postage

Other Council responsibilities

- Administers Website
- Negotiates Insurance policy
- Society Journal/ inter Group communication
- ANPSA Liaison Officer 4 meetings per year
- Help Groups further the Society's objectives and keeps a unified approach; mainly by admin functions
- Members' Get-togethers on a Group rotation
- ANPSA national conference (in Tasmania every 14 years – next one early 2030s)
- Accepts nominations and decides Awards
- Oversees archiving and APST History
- Appoints a Patron

Governor of Tasmania Her Excellency,
the Honourable Barbara Baker, AC.



How are subs used?

- Auditor
- Insurance: public liability insurance
- Website: Annual costs including development, on-line payments, server fees
- Eucryphia Journal published quarterly
- ANPSA – APST pays annual levies per member, Study Group fees,
- National ANPSA Conference every 14 years- covers up front costs or any losses

Also extras:

- Costs of Council sub-committee eg. Strategic Plan Group-consultant fees and admin costs
- Many years subsidised delegates to ANPSA conferences
- State-wide APST publicity – Calendars up-front publishing, Blooming Tasmania costs and Flower Shows e.g. Agfest and City Hall Hobart , brochures and banners for the Society
- Small Project Fund – in abeyance
- Zoom costs for meetings –Council, SPG, ANPSA, Website meetings

APPOINTEES of COUNCIL work on behalf of the whole Society but are not members of Council

- Membership Officer (From 2023 is again a member of Council)
- Editor – Eucryphia
- Website Administrator Strategic
- Website Administrator Technical
- Website Information Officer
- ANPSA Delegate
- Study Groups Liaison
- Conservation Officer
- Strategic Planning Coordinator (other SP Group members - 3 Reps from each Group)
- Australian Plants Journal Liaison

GROUP APPOINTEES - Members' who lead and assist are the heart of our Society

The **elected Executive** is responsible for managing Group affairs according to the APST Constitution and Handbook. **Group appointees** undertake the following group roles:

- Program committee
- Nursery Manager
- NG – Tasmanian Native Garden Managers
- Newsletter Editor
- Eucryphia Liaison
- Membership Liaison
- Website Officer
- Reserves Conservation Committee
- Librarian
- Publicity – Facebook, other media, pamphlets
- Supper Coordinator

★ Louise's presentation clearly exposes the **Mystery of APST** because as she so wisely points out, mystery disappears with:

- Good **communication** –the importance of each Group's elected Councillors - 2 way information
- Council AGM and meeting documents on Groups' Google Drives
- **Transparency** of financial matters – on Groups' Google Drives
- Every member able to contribute to our Society and its future



Margaret, third speaker, expanded on aspects of Council governance and finished with a focus on the Australian Native Plants Society of Australia - the national body.



Margaret began by briefly covering Council objectives.

The first two objectives:

1. To promote the knowledge, appreciation and preservation of Australian plants both in their natural settings and in cultivation, with special emphasis on species indigenous to Tasmania.
2. To encourage the cultivation and study of Australian plants and the establishment of gardens in all types of soil and climate for the preservation of flora of Australia.

Other objectives include publishing information; cooperation with similar bodies/societies; the promotion of the Society as a resource group; and help to enforce laws to protect the flora.

Three important governance documents are the Tasmanian Corporations Act; the APST Constitution which contains the rules by which the Society is run; and the Handbook which as Margaret says has everything in it! These documents need to go hand in hand with good management practices and planning for the future.

Margaret outlined the beginnings of a small strategic planning group to make decisions about aims and future plans, always keeping the objectives front of mind. By 2018 the first 5 year plan was passed by Council.

Strategic Planning Timeline

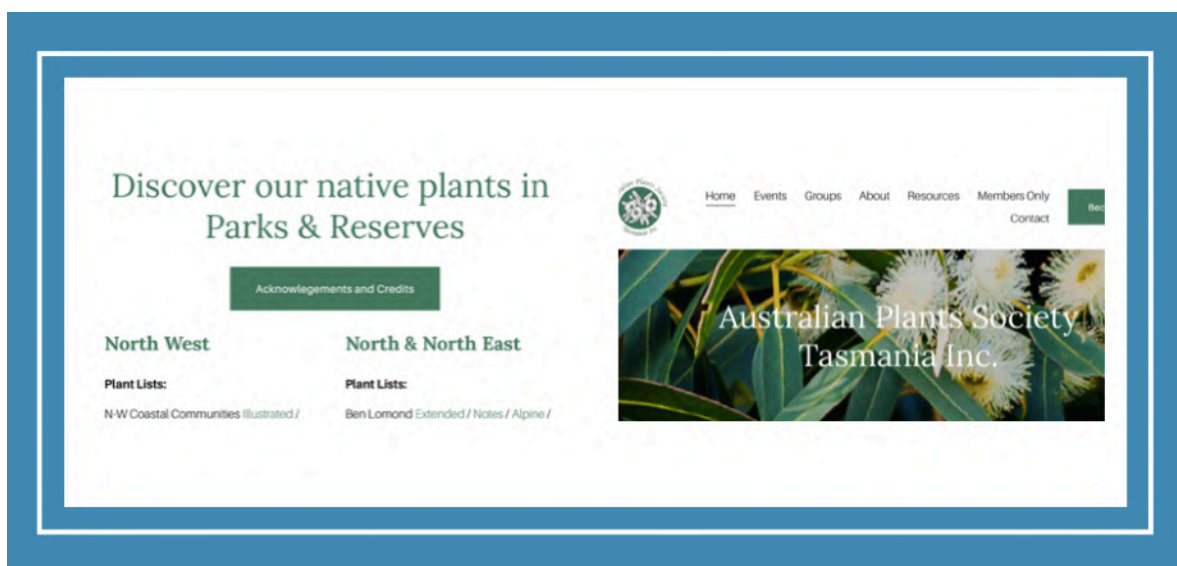
- 2015 – membership was declining. There was money which was not servicing the members and donations were given out randomly.
- 2016 – a small number of members from all Groups started work. (Strategic Planning Group). A survey went to all members, other organisations, interested parties.
- A consultant was engaged to help devise a plan based on information from survey, information gathering and analysis, using tools such as SWOT.
- 2018 – first 5-year plan passed by APST Council.
- 2023 – review of last plan and prepare for the next.



Members being surveyed during the deferred End of Year Gathering at Ben Lomond Jan. 2023.

Out of the strategic planning there have been several progressive steps. Memberships are now blossoming. The membership renewal and new member processes are streamlined and digital. The Constitution has been updated as has the website which Margaret reminded us 'is the place to find anything you want to know'. For example there are lists of flora to be found in areas that members can check out via phone or download. (See webpage)

<
An expansive website, it covers all Groups and it is kept current by a small team who welcome any suggestions from members for content, improvements etc. (Karen Manning is the person to email if you have information to be added to the website.)



Another important strategic planning

impetus has been strengthening the conservation focus and consequent activities such as the Cambridge Street Reserve restoration.

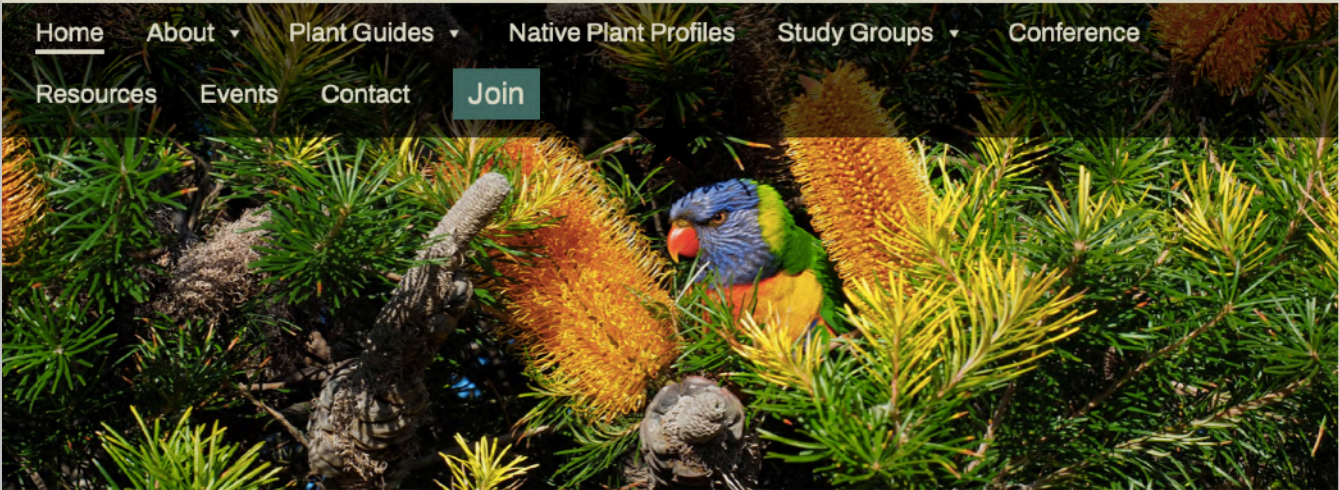
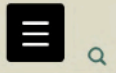


To conclude Margaret focussed on the Australian Native Plants Society Incorporated (ANPSA) - the national body.

Its excellent website

Address: anpsa.org.au





ANPSA facilitates Study Groups

Presently there are 18 study groups which undertake the study of some particular aspect of Australian plants. It could be a genus or a related group of genera. >

v



Australian Food Plants Study Group

Information about study groups e.g. the subjects and aims of particular groups and how to join them can be found via a direct link from the APSTAS website.

Also *Eucryphia* has a study group liaison person from the NW Group i.e. Riita Boevink who writes a precis of information from study groups.

Margaret issued a warning: *Members can become quite obsessed with study groups!*

Study groups have a platform at the Conference to present findings and some sophisticated, wonderful books can be presented at such times.



Australian Pea Flower Study Group

ANPSA supports the Biennial Conferences

Every two years on a rotating basis ANPSA holds a conference and seminar hosted by one of the member societies. In 2024 Victoria is the conference host, followed by South Australia in 2026, Queensland in 2028, Canberra in 2030 and Tasmanian 2032.

It is a week long seminar with field trips to gardens and natural areas plus pre and post Conference guided tours. There are lectures, expert speakers, the A.J.Swaby Address - a special feature, given by an eminent authority in horticulture or science of Australian native plants. Yet another important feature is the presentation of the Australian Plants Awards in both professional and amateur categories.

Last year the Conference was in Kiama.



‘Excellent’ was a much used word as Margaret described events e.g. an excellent lecture such as the one on climate change; an excellent dinner; an excellent tour to Lord Howe Island.



The climate IS changing – and fast
Background Co2 = 280 ppm in past 800 000 years
August 2022= 419 ppm
Link between Co2 and temperature
2019 = hottest and driest years on record
PCC suggest >1.5 degrees by 2030
xtreme FFDI days – increased 10X since 1960

[Next year the Conference is hosted by Victoria on the broad theme of 'Gardens for Life'. Details in email 3/5/2023 plus newsletter with Conference excursions etc.]

Margaret's knowledgeable presentation together with those from Janet and Louise helped clarify the lesser known information, the structure, workings, the secrets or 'mysteries' of the Society to which we all belong.

Dale closed the meeting encouraging members to ask questions of the speakers over supper generously provided by Catherine and Andrew. He also thanked Anna and Janet for their supper contribution at the May meeting.

Tuesday, 20 June Working Bee Tasmanian Native Garden, Caswell Street Mowbray



Note new label on *Podocarpus lawrencei* >



The regular weeding is having results and together with the steady trimming/pruning the garden is looking tidy and cared for. Fran brought her wheel barrow to spread more mulch where needed. As Suzanne noted much of the winter work has been done but of course there is still work such as cutting back straggly trees and a few patches like the south east corner that require attention.

Thursday, 1 July + Saturday, 3 July Cambridge St. Reserve Working Bees

This month, one working bee task was to remove seedlings of 'pincushion' (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*) which had germinated. By consistently tackling these, another weed can be eliminated from the reserve.

Also it is recognised that freeing the reserve of weeds is compromised, unless the surrounding gardens have weeds, e.g. Spanish heath, removed from them. This is being acted upon with a measure of success.

Scabiosa atropurpurea >
Photo: Greg Jordan



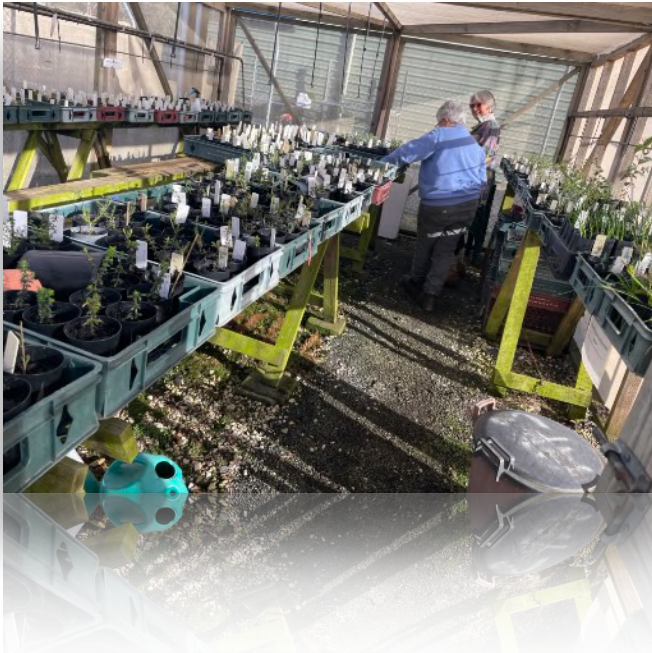
Saturday, 1 July Propagation, Windsor Park Nursery

For this session, tasks included 10-12 punnets of cuttings which having successfully struck, needed to be potted up.



Members busy in the Stables: propagating cuttings (left) and potting up rooted cuttings (right).





There was work done in the shade house and outside racks to clear liverwort, moss etc. from the pots.

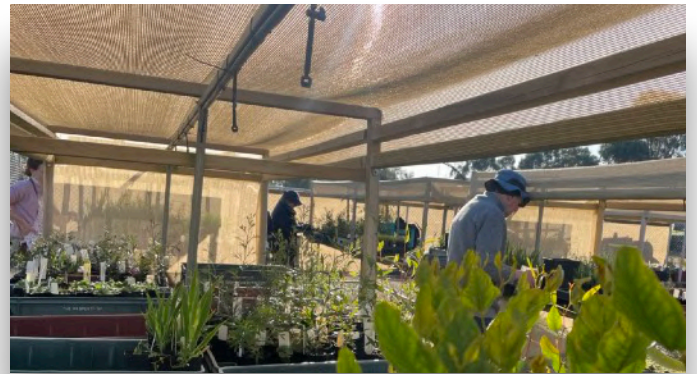
The shade house plants were fed with a little Osmocote.

Lobelia weeding plants from the outside racks. >



Some of the stock plants were repotted - a long overdue task, according to Janet.

< Members cleaning pots and labels.



July General Meeting

Rosemary encouraged members to order calendars if they don't wish to miss out. Horticultural show to be earlier in September. Andrew, Ian Thomas and Dale were presented with books for their Field Nats. talks. Andrew thanked members who have sent in plant descriptions for the website plant lists and he reported that most of those are on the website now. Next, Andrew had printed barcodes, for the Windsor Park Gardens link, to be tested with a range of different phones - hence his request for members to use their phones on a few of the bar code examples in the box on the table in the supper room.

Member recognition paper discussion followed and it was decided that Louise would prepare a paper prior to further consideration at the August meeting. The decision to continue with 30 minute business meetings at the very beginning was affirmed by members with the proviso that they finish at 7.30 so that guest speakers don't have to wait.

Speakers: Vera Taylor, David Waters and Judith Blayden

It was a Group night where three members each researched an early botanist and presented three detailed, interesting and thoughtful coverages of their lives and achievements.



The Tasmanian Government Botanist for 36 years, **Leonard Rodway**, whose meticulous work extended over fifty years, and who could be considered the founder of Tasmanian botany, was Vera Taylor's choice - her interest sparked by a friendship with his great grandchildren.

Leonard Rodway was born in 1853 in Devon, England. He became a dentist and emigrated to Brisbane in 1879. There he married before moving to Hobart where in 1884 he was honorary dental surgeon for 32 years at the Hobart General Hospital.

Rodway's spare time was spent learning about Tasmanian flora. His study of Tasmanian botany was such that he became a recognised authority and was asked to teach botany to pharmacists. In addition he was a keen collector for botanist, Ferdinand von Mueller - the main authority for Australian flora at that time. He also corresponded with botanists at Kew Gardens as well as others in Sydney.



Within four years of his arrival in Tasmania he was an important member of the Royal Society of Tasmania to which he contributed many papers over 33 years.

He became recognised internationally for his work on mycology, bryophytes and ecology, publishing *Tasmanian Bryophyta-Vol. I Mosses* in 1914 and *Vol. II Hepatics* in 1916.

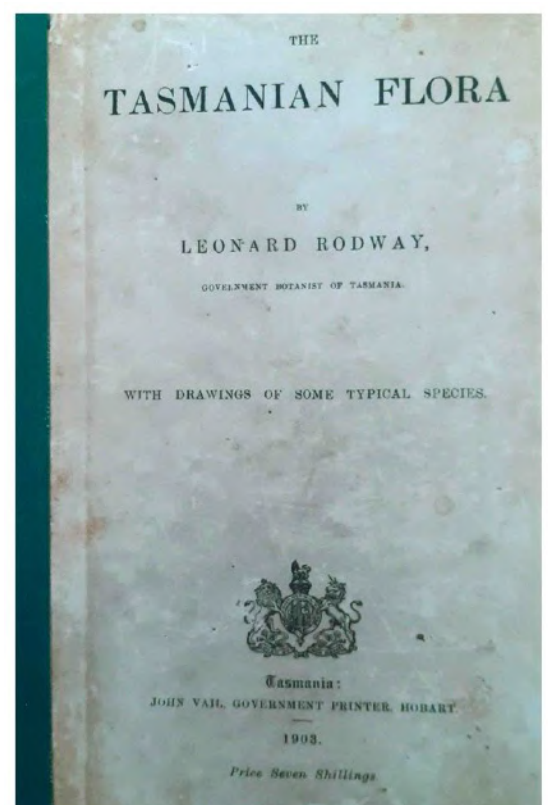
His work was meticulous - he was determined to differentiate the plants in his collections which previously had only a broad classification. For example, in a letter written to the curator at the Tasmanian Museum, he clearly described the differences between specimens of two acacias that today are known as *A. dealbata* and *A. mearnsii* whereas von Mueller had recorded them under the one species.

From 1896 Rodway was made honorary Tasmanian Government Botanist and realised the need to update the reference for Tasmanian flora. He was well supported and able to use available collections from the early botanists.

Tasmanian Flora was published in 1903. >

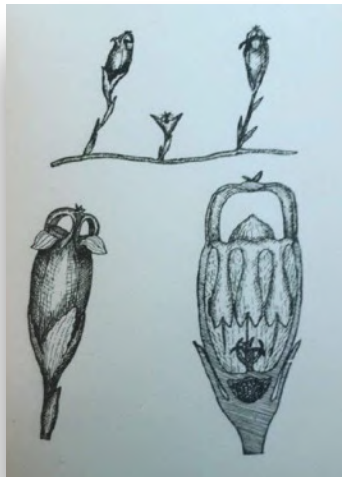
Rodway used drawings and precise explanations from his notes and extensive collections. This comprehensive book became the major reference on Tasmanian botany for 40 years before it was revised by Winifred Curtis.

In 1933 Rodway lectured for six years at the University of Tasmania - the first lecturer in botany. Around this time he was expanding a herbarium (aided by his whole family). This would become known as the Tasmanian Herbarium.



Rodway presented his six volumes of manuscripts, notes, drawings plus all his correspondence from well known botanists to the Herbarium. It is a valuable, impressive collection accessible to the public.

Visiting the Herbarium collection with a great great granddaughter. >



< Thymia rodwayi ^



Lyn Cave and Sarah Hodason

One of the highlights for Vera was to see beautiful, detailed paintings of e.g. *Thymia rodwayi*, fairy lanterns. Others included this *Leptospermum* and the *Gaimardia*.



Meuller and Rodway
Gaimardia Fitzgeraldi 1896

Another important aspect was Rodway's involvement with the Tasmanian Field Naturalists. Edmund Elliot, who initiated the idea for the Field Naturalists said, 'I would never had hoped for a Naturalists club if there had been no Leonard Rodway. He was equally at home in rough bush or stormy water, always cheerful, helpful and knowledgeable. He was a tower of strength to me.'

Rodway led the club's first trip to Cascades in 1904. He also wrote articles on this and many other trips which subsequently resulted in publications e.g. *Some Wild Flowers of Tasmania* (Hobart, 1910)



Leptospermum grandiflorum - Rodwayanum

He was also a member of the National Parks Board and a leader in the formation of the first government reserve at Russell Falls (est. 1885). Mt Field and Freycinet followed, and by 1921 he was helping Weindorfer promote Lake St. Clair National Park. It is therefore not surprising that he was awarded several medals such as the very first Royal Society of Tasmania Medal awarded in 1928.

As Vera noted there are several places in Tasmania which bear his name such as Rodway Valley on Ben Lomond. Then there are the plants such as *Entoloma rodwayi*, *Ozothamnus rodwayi*, *Poa rodwayi* and *Eucalyptus rodwayi*, black swamp gum.

He was 82 when he died in 1936 and in 1941 his widow bequeathed his botanical library to the Royal Society.

This portrait was painted posthumously by his daughter for the museum where it hangs in the Gallery.

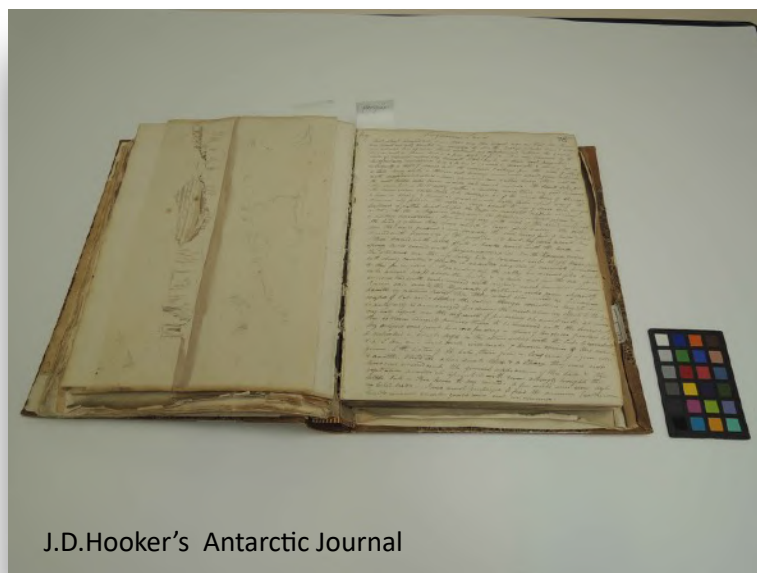
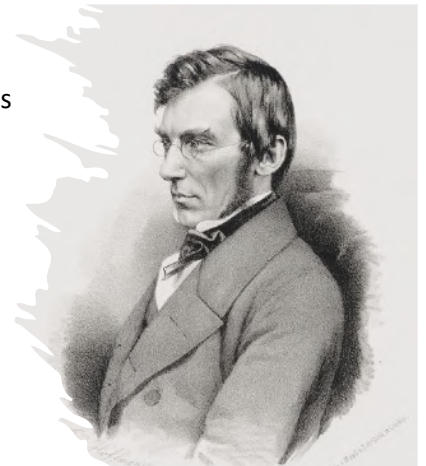


David Waters researched **Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker** and it was with much admiration that he described his life of travel and plant collections.

J.D.Hooker was born in 1817. His father William J.Hooker, was a regis professor of botany at the Glasgow University and the first Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens (Kew). Consequently Hooker spent considerable time around plants with his father in the herbarium and also attended at a very early age (5 or 7 years) his father's lectures at the university.

Eventually he trained in medicine to become a surgeon. Thus he was given the opportunity to join Captain Ross on his Antarctic expedition as assistant surgeon. Over the next four years Hooker returned to the Antarctic three times.

The Antarctic expedition provided collection opportunities at Madeira, Cape Verde Islands, St Helena, Cape of Good Hope, Crozet Islands, Kerguelen Islands, Hobart, Tasmania, Auckland and Campbell Islands on the way to the Antarctic. At each place he collected samples under all weather conditions. For example on the Kerguelen Islands he described the difficulty of trying to chip ice off specimens. Hooker found it easier to sit on them to make them thaw so that he could gather them.



J.D.Hooker's Antarctic Journal

While in Hobart, he spent time making good friends with Ronald Gunn and others who continued to supply him with specimens over the years.

They left Hobart in May to sail south west to the Auckland and Campbell Islands on the way to the Antarctic. On the return from the first Antarctic leg of the voyage he spent a few more months in Hobart, finding more samples, talking to local botanists and visiting local herbariums.

He then collected from Port Jackson before wintering in the Bay of Islands in New Zealand where he added many more samples to his collection before a return to Antarctica.

As David noted all the journey was entirely under sail - the last of the expeditions to do so. Captain Ross was now satisfied that they had found the south magnetic pole which was the goal of the expedition.

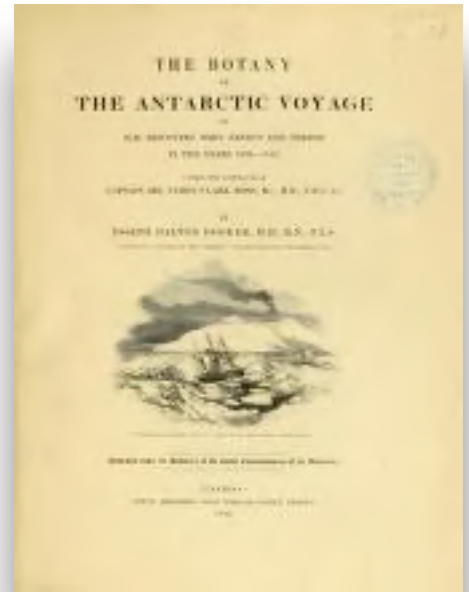
This time the return journey was up through the Atlantic where they wintered at the Falkland Islands on way to Tierra del Fuego. In 1842 they went back to the Antarctic, to Cockburn Island for a third time with Hooker still collecting botanical samples as they explored. The next year they were back in England where in 1846, Hooker became the botanist for the Geological Survey, his interest being in paleobotany. He continued to explore and discover new things e.g. he was the first to describe a coal ball which is a lump of petrified plant matter found in coal seams. Interestingly work done by Hooker at this time disappeared and only just resurfaced in 2011.



Even on board ship Hooker was also working on his publications, and was doing art work.

< Hooker's drawing of tussock grass, Falkland Is.

It took several years to compile and publish *Flora Antarctica: the botany of the Antarctic voyage* (1844–1859).



The second part of *Flora Antarctica*, was *Flora Novae-Zelandiae* (1853) - an easier publication to prepare because much of the material had been collected, identified and typed by others whom Hooker had met on his trip.

Finally in 1859, *Flora Tasmaniae*, (two volumes) was compiled from plants collected not only by Hooker, but also from others who continued to send him plants. This was the third and final part in this extensive work.

While on leave from the Geological Survey work he visited the Himalayas and was the first European to collect samples. He camped in Darjeeling and wanted to explore East Nepal and Sikkim: going into Sikkim without permission, being imprisoned for a short time before being released. He returned to Britain in 1850 much later than intended. He had collected over 7000 samples and brought them back to the Kew herbarium.

In 1855 he was assistant director at Kew Gardens, working under his father for ten years until his father died and he became director, remaining in the position for another twenty years.

By 1860 his interest in phytogeology (looking at plant distribution in correlation with rock types around the world) drew Hooker to journey to Palestine and later in 1871 to Morocco into the Atlas mountains where he was looking for Arctic and Antarctic remnants, vegetation, plants. He found nothing there. He wrote many papers describing this work.

In 1877 yet another journey was undertaken this time to western U.S. and into the Rockies where as usual he collected prolifically for Kew Gardens.

His legacy was great e.g he was elected leader of the Royal Society for three years and was rewarded three prestigious Royal Society medals. In Tasmania there are plants named after him: *Acrothamnus hookeri*, *Euphrasia hookeri*, *Olearia hookeri*, *Ozothamnus hookeri*, *Scaevola hookeri*.



Acrothamnus hookeri (Walls of Jerusalem)



Scaevola hookeri (Lake Mackenzie)



David's summary:
An amazing man!
Every time I look
him up I find
something else
new about him.



The French botanist, **Jacques Labillardière** captured Judith Blayden's interest. He was, like J.D. Hooker, an explorer botanist. Judith found it particularly intriguing that Labillardière and his team walked into an environment where everything was new. They may have heard about aspects or seen dried specimens but for them in that environment everything was different.

Botanist, James Edward Smith said in 1793: "When a botanist enters on the investigation of so remote a country as New Holland, he finds himself as it were in a new world. He can scarcely meet with any certain fixed points from whence to draw his analogies, and even those that appear most promising, are frequently in danger of misleading, instead of informing him." This was the experience for these early botanists because all was totally new and unexpected while at the same time there was an awareness of the responsibility before them.

Labillardière was born in Normandy in 1755. He studied medicine and then in 1783 journeyed to Britain where he spent eighteen months, in that time becoming friends with Joseph Banks.

Banks generously allowed people to view his journals and specimens collected during Cook's expedition so Labillardière gained an idea of what the land was like in New Holland.

By 1791 Labillardière was on board the d'Entrecasteau expedition sent to find what had happened to the La Perouse. Judith focussed on Labillardière's time in Tasmania.

The ship arrived in April, 1792 at Recherche Bay for a short concentrated stay and left in May. Labillardière and his team collected 500 specimens before the ship headed north to New Holland then onto New Guinea before returning to Western Australia. Sadly they sailed past the place where La Perouse had died because it was thought he would not have ventured there.



The expedition intended to make its way back through Bass Strait but missed it so returned to Bruny Island arriving on January 21 before leaving February 27, 1793. This period on Bruny Island was a useful one because the plants seen during the previous Tasmanian visit were now in different stages of development and so botanically very interesting.

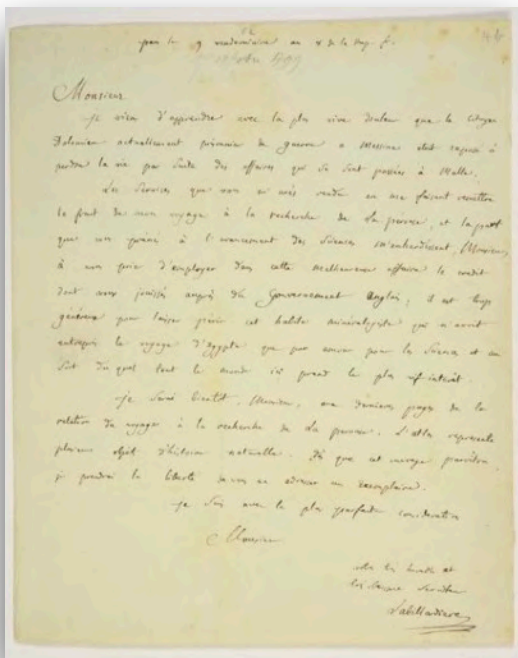
Life on board was not a happy one as some officers were royalists and some botanists were republicans. Back home Louis XVI was executed and France was at war with Europe. There was friction between officers and botanists. One incident saw the botanists being stranded overnight on shore because the officers didn't 'see' the signal fire!

Soon the expedition was on its way to New Zealand, the Friendly Islands and Ile de France - the end of the journey for d'Entrecasteau who died there.



The *Esperence* sailed into Java in October that same year but because France was at war with Europe the expeditioners were prevented from leaving by the Dutch.

Moreover, the incredible number of specimens (5,000) and the precious botanical journals were seized to be taken to Holland. Next the Dutch vessel was captured by a British ship (Holland now being in the hands of the French) so instead the precious botanical cargo arrived in England.



In England, Joseph Banks became involved, tasked with sharing parts of the collection with all interested parties.

However, Labillardière eventually returned to France and immediately wrote to Banks asking for help in getting his collection returned.

<

Banks spent time and effort persuading the government that returning the specimens was the right and honourable action even though Britain was at war with France. He was successful. The specimens were soon back in the possession of Labillardière.

Subsequently life for Labillardière was reasonably settled and he had his vast collection to work on.

He published: *Novae Hollandiae Planetarum Specimen* in 1807, having worked on it for three years. It was the first general description of Australian flora.

< Engraving from a drawing:
Cyathodes glauca
 in Labillardière's *Novae Hollandiae Planetarum Specimen*
 plus his *Eucalyptus globulus* specimen >



He died in 1834. His legacy was significant, having described 30 genera and 100 new species.

Some of these are Tasmanian lichen, *Cladia retipora*; the first fungus, *Aseroe rubra*; the first mosses such as *Hypnodendron comosum*. Liverwort, *Hymenophyton flabellatum* and seaweeds such as *Durvillea potatorum*. Celery top pine, *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*, musk daisybush, *Olearia argophylla*, native laurel, *Anopterus glandulosus*, dogwood, *Pomaderris apetala*, waratah, *Telopea truncata* all so well known today. The soft tree fern, *Dicksonia antarctica*, and a climbing heath, *Prionotes cerinthoides* were two more distinct Tasmanian plants.

In addition, he described and named the Tasmanian and Victorian floral emblems: *Eucalyptus globulosa* (above right) and *Epacris impressa*.

Judith concluded: Labillardière was an interesting and contradictory man with a passion and love for botany and clearly science too. His contributions to Australian plant knowledge were enormous.

For members a rewarding night that finished with a delicious supper prepared by Louise and Fran.

Plant That Pleases

Hakea decurrens

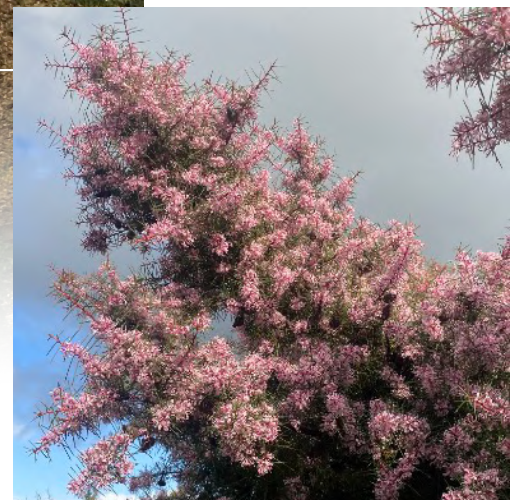


This very beautiful 'blossom' tree in the Tasmanian Native Garden is a stand out choice for a plant that pleases.

Daphne Longman extolled not only its beauty but also other assets...

It is a supermarket for birds and insects - its branches laden with pollen and nectar.

In addition its prickly foliage provides a home, keeping little birds safe from predators.



Reminders

More details on the website:- apstas.org.au

Friday, 1 September, **Set up display** tables for Launceston Horticultural Show at Evandale.

If you can help or provide flowers please send
an email to Rosemary Verbeeten or
Anna:- apstasnorth@gmail.com

Saturday, 2 September **Propagation** at Nursery. Cambridge St **working bee**.

Thursday, 7 September, Cambridge St **working bee**.

Saturday, 9 September, **Excursion**: native gardens visit.

Monday, 11 September, **Excursion**: Herbarium visit, Hobart.

Tuesday, 19 September, **Meeting** night with speaker Rod Griffin 'Acacia Genetics'

Wednesday, 20 September, **Excursion**: Acacias with Rod Griffin

Tuesday, 26 September, Heritage Forest Native Garden **working bee**

Last minute CALENDAR orders need to go to Rosemary Verbeeten

KPallett: editor