

# *Eucryphia*



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*Hakea multilineata* © D. Burns

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**C o n t e n t s**

<a href="#">Membership subs. and renewals</a>	3
<a href="#">Membership Report</a>	4
<a href="#">From The President</a>	5
<a href="#">Report from Council</a>	6
<a href="#">ANPSA News</a>	7
<a href="#">Study Group Highlights</a>	9
<a href="#">APST Get-together, Maydena</a>	10
<a href="#">Betty Maloney and Alec Blombery</a>	12
<a href="#">The Rainforest/Wet Sclerophyll Patch at 7 Clarke Avenue</a>	15
<a href="#">Beetles Around the Bush: Part Two</a>	18
<a href="#">An All-time Rave: <i>Doryanthes excelsa</i> Gynea Lily</a>	22
<a href="#">APST Calendar</a>	25
<a href="#">A Rave From DB - <i>Hakea multilineata</i></a>	27
<b>Group News</b>	
<a href="#">Northern Group News</a>	29
<a href="#">North West Group News</a>	30
<a href="#">Hobart Group News</a>	31
<a href="#">Hobart Group Programme</a>	32
<a href="#">Northern and North West Group Programme</a>	33
<a href="#">APST Directory</a>	34

## Membership subscriptions

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

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

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

Also, a hard copy and cheque can be forwarded to The APST Inc. Treasurer, PO Box 1205, Gravelly Beach Tasmania 7276.

Membership Type	\$ per annum
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Household - each additional adult	9.00
Household - each child under 16	1.00
Overseas and Overseas Organisation (banker's draft AUD)	55.00
Additional subscription for the <i>Australian Plants Journal</i> - APJ	14.00

## Australian Plants Journal

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

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

## Membership badges and cards

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

## Membership 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.

## Websites

**APST Inc.**

[www.apstas.org.au](http://www.apstas.org.au)

**Northern Group**

[www.apstasnorth.org](http://www.apstasnorth.org)

**ANPSA Inc.**

[www.anpsa.org.au](http://www.anpsa.org.au)

## Membership

*Margaret Killen, Membership Officer*



### New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members to **Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc:**

Kate Bond of North Hobart; Marianne Stagg of Port Sorell (returning member);  
Kate Shaw of Kingston; Rosland Minchin of Dynnyrne;  
Eileen Dean, Allan Gorman and Sue Kokavec all of Murdunna,  
Marita Bodman of Low Head; Ros and Tony Simmonds of Legana.

### New Members Application Form

The new (July 2020) form is now able to be filled in on your computer and is available on the **APST** website at

<http://apstas.org.au/docs/member-application.pdf?pdf=member-application>

### Membership renewals and changes

Your subscription renewal date is due on the anniversary month of when you joined. Renewal reminders are now sent to you by email, or posted if you do not have an email address.

Please return your completed scanned/photographed form to [membership@apstas.org.au](mailto:membership@apstas.org.au) or the hard copy to:

The **APST** Treasurer,  
PO Box 1205,  
Gravelly Beach  
Tasmania 7276.

### Membership Queries

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

Margaret Killen  
Membership Officer  
0409 430 665

**Don't Forget:**

**APST** Members' Get-together  
and Annual Dinner  
November 27—29  
Maydena

## From The President

*Jenny Boyer, President.*



Hello Members

Tasmania has been one of the lucky states, escaping the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic and allowing us to be out and about visiting some of our favourite haunts and resuming some gatherings albeit with strict precautions. Our thoughts go to those not so lucky, especially Victorians who are under Stage 4 lockdown at the time I am writing.

Planning for the Members' Gathering at Maydena in November is proceeding with our Saturday night Annual Dinner venue now booked. So it is time to organise your accommodation at Maydena. See details from the Hobart Group President Sib Corbett in this edition of Eucryphia.

Unfortunately our Vice President and long serving Council member, Life Member Dick Burns, resigned from Council in June due to personal difficulties. Thank you Dick for your years of service to APST and we will greatly miss your contribution at Council meetings. I hope you will be able to remain involved locally and continue to enjoy native plants. Council has appointed Margaret Killen to fill the role until the AGM in March 2021. Thank you Margaret.

After Zoom meetings in May and June Council will meet at Ross at the end of September. It seems likely that the success of the Zoom meetings will lead to this platform being used for some Council meetings into the future, especially in winter. Calendar production has commenced and details regarding price and ordering and distribution will be made by Council at the end of September and will be advised in Group newsletters.

An electronic Eucryphia will be the standard from September with only those unable to download it on their phone, tablet or computer being sent a printed copy. Other states have moved in this direction with people appreciating the environmental benefit and the improved layout possible with an electronic publication.

Enjoy your spring flowers

Regards,

Jenny Boyer. ☺

### Advertising Rates in Eucryphia

B/W only, up to a quarter page \$10.00; half page \$20.00;  
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A discount of 10% is available to financial members and  
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The Treasurer, Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.  
P.O. Box 1205, GRAVELLY BEACH  
TASMANIA 7276

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## Report From Council

*Vice President, Margaret Killen*

I wish to pay tribute to Dick Burns who recently retired from the role of Vice-President. I always enjoyed reading Dick's review of the meetings which were informative and easy to read with Dick's skills as an author shining through. I have taken up the role of VP until the AGM which is in March next year.

The Treasurer and Journal Editor have been supplied with laptop computers to assist them in the work that their roles require. Discussion regarding the website is ongoing and Council is looking at a variety of options.

As a flow-on from the new Constitution the roles, policies and general information in the APST Handbook are being updated, led by President Jenny. Work on the Garden Design brochure and Certificate templates are ongoing. Annual calendars have been very successful and will be made again for 2021. Council now has a place in the 'cloud' to store documents so that all material it uses and needs ready access to is easily found. The 'New Member' form is to be revised so that a person becomes a member without the necessity of going via the councillors, and the form will be made into a fillable pdf.

The revised Banksia book (Collins) will be available through the Society, look at the advertisement below. <sup>Ⓢ</sup>

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### **Banksias : Second Edition**

A new updated and expanded book by renowned Banksia grower Kevin Collins, Alex George and Kathy Collins is now available. The recommended retail price is \$69.

They can be ordered direct from the Banksia Farm but there would not be much saved on individual orders because of postage costs.

However APST has the opportunity to order a box of 14 books which we could sell to members for around \$55. We can only action this if we have enough pre-orders.

If you are interested, can you please text me on 0434 870 576 or email [jennyaboyer@gmail.com](mailto:jennyaboyer@gmail.com). A decision to proceed or not, depending on interest, will be made at the end of September and you will be notified.

Jenny Boyer. <sup>8</sup>

North West group have booked the chalet, in Maydena for the Get-together and there are a couple of single beds (shared room) and a Double Bedroom still available.



## ANPSA NEWS

*June report from President Margaret Matthews*

This year has been a very difficult one for most people, with the bushfires followed by the COVID pandemic. It has made it almost impossible to continue with the events planned by our member societies, yet groups are soldiering on, adapting to the constraints. One positive thing to come from this terrible series of events is a growing appreciation of the natural world, with more people having time to spend enjoying their gardens and their local environment.

As the peak national organisation for growing and conserving Australian Plants ANPSA has an important role in public policy debates. ANPSA made a submission to the National Royal Commission on the Black Summer Bushfires, based on the ANPSA Policy on Bushfires. The submission can be found at

<http://anpsa.org.au/ANPSA/ANPSA-BushfiresSubmission-May2020.pdf>

Our archivist Kerry Smith is continuing to progress the transfer of ANPSA's digital records to the National Library of Australia. The Manuscripts Rights Agreement is proving challenging but will be discussed at the next Council meeting in November.

The Australian Plants Society Victoria is holding the 13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020 - *Mint Bushes & Allied Genera* in Melbourne on the weekend of October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> : <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/> There are five speakers including Amanda Shade from Kings Park Western Australia and Trevor Wilson from the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. The talks will be online and available prior to the weekend for registered attendees. Six gardens will be available to visit over the weekend. It's great to see that APS Victoria has found a way to hold this event given the current environment and I urge everyone to consider supporting the event. I am intending to be there.

Glenn Leiper, the winner of our 2019 Australian Plants Award in the Amateur category was recently featured on Gardening Australia when Jerry Coleby-Williams visited Glenn's suburban backyard that is growing some of Queensland's rare and threatened plant species. Our webmaster has added a link to the segment through the page on our website about the Awards.

Brian Walters, our very much appreciated webmaster, has also added a link to a Gardening Australia segment on Marion Blackwell's garden on ANPSA's Facebook page. Marion is a Landscape Architect and Environmental Scientist who has spent her life using and promoting native flora in gardens. Marion's 1971 article 'Planning an Australian Garden' was featured in the Summer edition of Australian Plants which celebrated 60 years of our ANPSA journal. The Gardening Australia segment can be found by searching for 'Marion' on our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/anpsa>

Marion was the recipient of the Professional Australian Plants Award in 1993. Unfortunately, we are missing many of the citations for the recipients of the Australian Plants Awards. If you have copies of these citations, for example from the 2007 conference, please let me or Brian know.

At the April meeting of the ANPSA Executive and Council we agreed to a contract for the redevelopment of the ANPSA website. This process is being managed by Ben Walcott and Brian Walters and the Executive are very grateful to them for undertaking this considerable effort.

(continued from previous page)

Several longstanding members of the Western Australian Wildflower Society were awarded the Medal for the Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day honours for their service to conservation and the environment: Bronwen and Greg Keighery and Margaret Owen.

Congratulations to Peter Olde, leader of ANPSA's Grevillea Study Group on being awarded an OAM for service to native flora in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

If you know of members of our other member societies who received an OAM please let me know so that we can publicise their achievements.

We have several vacancies for leadership of our Study Groups including the Fern Study Group. Thank you to the retiring leader Peter Bostock for his work.

Sadly, the leader of the Brachychiton Study Group, Kerry Rathie died suddenly in March this year. Kerry had led this study group since 1993. He wrote the book 'Brachychitons, Flame Trees, Kurrajongs and Bottle Trees' (copies still available). I'd like to acknowledge the invaluable work Kerry did for the Study Group and our Society, and in promoting this beautiful group of plants, and express our sympathy to his wife Annabel.

As President I have been receiving and reading the journals from other states. I am

*(continued next page)*

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## Study Group Highlights

*Riitta Boevink, Study Group Liaison*

### Wallum and Coastal Heathland SG No 47

Leader: Barbara Henderson, NL Editor: Allan Carr

Detailed descriptions of two 'feature plants': *Eucalyptus bancroftii* (Tumbledown gum) and *Gompholobium pinnatum* (Poor man's gold). The common names are imaginative. Perhaps if more plants had funny common names, they would be better known. The latter plant is a delicate small shrub with yellow flowers.

### Grevillea SG, No 116, June 2020

Leader: Peter Olde, Victorian programme leader: Neill Marriott

Congratulations to Peter Olde for being awarded an OAM medal in the General Division for service to Australian native flora. Peter Olde became the leader of the Grevillea SG in 1980, a position he continues to hold. He was appointed NSW life member in 1998 and received the Australian Plant medal in 2015. He has since co-written the three volume Grevillea Book and, from 1993 been Honorary Research Associate at the National Herbarium of NSW at the Botanic Gardens.

The newsletter contains some advice on how to get your stubborn non flowering Grevilleas to flower. An article by Richard Tomkin on his Changers Green Nursery with an invitation to join his Grevilleas Q&A Facebook group. This is an extensive newsletter with a wealth of information on Grevilleas, largely from the warmer parts of Australia.

### Garden Design SG No 112

Leader/Newsletter Editor: Lawrie Smith

The theme of this issue is fire risk and garden design. Other topics include topiary. As always, the newsletter is well illustrated and is best viewed on line. The newsletters are all posted on the ANPSA website and available for anyone to read. Copy can be read on <http://anpsa.org.au/design/> or Google 'Australian Garden Design'.

### Fern SG No 145, July 2020

Peter Bostock has retired as the SG leader after 15 years. Steve Lamont from Sydney is the new leader, but will be assisted by Peter Hind and have ongoing assistance from Peter Bostock.

The newsletter has a detailed, well written description of an adventurous walk from Evans lookout to Neates Glen near Sydney. Wide range of ferns was observed.

There is also an article on the recovery of a site on Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains after bushfire. The backburn had turned and burned an area of rainforest. One interesting observation was that *Dicksonia antarctica*, which had toppled due to burning through at the base, were now sprouting along the trunks lying on the ground. Apparently they will grow roots wherever the trunk makes contact with the ground as long as the ground is moist. ☺

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### ANPSA news (continued from previous page)

impressed to see that some states have an active Study Group Liaison Officer who provides a précis of recent Study Group newsletters for printing in their Journals. This is very useful as it prompts members to seek out a recent newsletter which may have items of interest to them, for example in the November 2019 Waratah and Flannel Flower Newsletter, there is advice on dealing with bud borer in Waratahs.

**Banksias**, 2nd Edition, by Kevin Collins, Kathy Collins and Alex George has been published and is available through member Societies or direct from Kevin Collins (for a signed copy) through the Banksia Lovers Facebook Page, which is worth a look for the wonderful photographs. ☺

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## The Maydena Members' Get-together



27-29<sup>th</sup> November

*Sib and Keith Corbett*



Arrangements are coming together for this weekend, which looks like being fairly popular. Here is an update of the program, but our first priority is to know how many are coming.

If you have booked for this event, or intend to go, **please email** the Corbetts (keith.corbett@bigpond.com) to let them know numbers and names (even those who have already contacted us, please). Please also advise if there are any particular dietary requirements.

You need to bring your own lunches each day.

### Programme summary

Friday 27 November will involve a half-day excursion to the Florentine Valley and the Growling Swallet cave mouth. This involves an hour's drive followed by an easy three-quarters of an hour's walk each way. We need to meet at the Giants Table (June Road, Maydena) by 1.30 pm, ready to move on in as few cars as possible. Please let us know if you want to miss this walk and arrive later in the day.

In the evening there will be a meet-and-greet at 6.30 pm at the Giants Table – a soup/sandwich/quiche type meal, followed by a presentation introducing some of the history and landscapes to be seen. Cost will be about \$25 per head (not yet finalised), to be paid in cash at the door.

Saturday 28 November is our exploration into South-West Tasmania. This will be a long day, out to Red Knoll at the end of the Scotts Peak Road, but the only significant walk will be about three-quarters of an hour around the Twisted Sister circuit. We need an earlyish start, so be prepared to leave Giants Table at 8.30 am.

The APST Annual Dinner at the Summit Restaurant will require us to meet at the Maydena Bike Park (on the main road) ready to catch the buses at 6.30 pm. Cost is \$45 per head, and you can pay by cash or card (preferred) at the base before en-bussing.

Sunday 29 November will be more leisurely, with a complete change of scene to Mt Field National Park. We meet at Lake Dobson Car Park ready to start walking by 10 am. It takes about 30 minutes to drive up the hill from National Park to the lake, and you will need a Parks Pass. A walk around the beautiful Pandani Grove circuit area will be followed by a walk down the rock river track below Lake Fenton. We will have lunch on the plateau and then depart at your convenience.

We look forward to seeing you there. ☺

(See also ad page 6)

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## Betty Maloney and Alec M Blombery Influencers in Australian Garden Design

Dick Burns

I am grateful to Merle Thompson, co-editor of Australian Plants Journal, and members of Northern Beaches Group of APS NSW, Harry Loots, Georgine Jakobi and Eleanor Eakins, for providing information for this article. I was dumbfounded to find that there was not a Wikipedia entry for either Betty Maloney or Alec Blombery; I dare say there are entries for self-promotors with limited talent like the Kardashians or Rebel Wilson. If you do not recognise those names – good on you! And there are recollections of events with maybe faulty recall of dates from two and three decades past.

Through the 1960s to the 1990s these two Sydneysiders were great influences on Australian garden design and choice of plants. Separately and together, they were authors of books that were down-to-earth and practical while showing true artistry.

Their books were in the shops during the time I was establishing my garden and their ideas struck a chord with me. Alec seemed to be the gatherer of information, Betty was the artist. When I was laying a set of steps (or constructing anything) or seeking information about a plant, I would go to one of Alec's books; Betty's ideas on garden design were my guide – Edna Walling was a pioneer of the use of Australian plants, but her settings were a bit English to me. Betty embraced the Australian environments. Both were members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants in NSW.

Betty Maloney is recognised on the web but, as noted above without a Wikipedia entry; I had to go elsewhere to find basic information regarding Alec.

### Betty Maloney

Born in Melbourne in 1925, Betty Maloney studied art along with her sister Jean Walker, with whom she later wrote the influential book *All about Australian Bush Gardens* (initially released in two parts). Her move to Sydney is not outlined but, with her husband Reginald, she bought a forested suburban block in Frenchs Forest (one of Sydney's northern suburbs) to build their home. They only cleared enough of the land for the house and Betty established her own bush garden, which features repeatedly in the above-mentioned book. She supplemented the natural bush with ferns, grevilleas, banksias plus other members of Proteaceae. Narrow winding paths trailed through. Near the house, Betty used square pavers set in pebbles, leading to the more bushy tracks covered with fallen leaves. The end of the carport I remember was filled with a bank of orchids, mainly the Sydney Rock Orchid, *Thelychiton speciosus* (syn. *Dendrobium speciosus*). Large windows in a corner of the living room looked into the garden. The garden was made a Trust Garden by the National Trust in her lifetime.

As well as botanical and garden books and articles, interestingly, Betty wrote books on the game mahjong and on thimbles, the latter based upon her own collection. Her botanical art was exceptional. She died in Sydney during July 2001 after a long, painful illness, Reginald passed away in December of the same year. There is a 'Betty Maloney Crescent' in Banks, ACT.

The house and garden were sold in 2002 by auction to a young couple who said that they would maintain the garden. The local council, Warringah Shire, had recognised it with local heritage significance and Betty's sister, Jean Walker, sought the garden's

preservation by the NSW Government, to no avail. Two members of the Northern Beaches Group report that a two metre high fence was erected and recently one member peeked over the fence to find the garden had gone. However another person who recalls the purchase price for the property has sent me a current photo showing the letterbox and a basketball hoop on the grassed nature-strip and reports a bush garden still exists and the house has been extended. Obviously, two different properties. From this distance, the latter seems more likely – 18 years on, any children of the young couple would be teenagers hence the basketball hoop and extensions. Betty's garden would have changed with the tastes of new carers.

If the garden was lost, it is a sad but recurring happening. An early member of the North West Group of APST was Irene Kerslake. On retirement, she bought a house on a double block in Devonport and established a magnificent Australian plants garden. Irene, a slight woman, dug meandering pathways, lined them with dolerite flagstones that she collected herself and gathered Australian plants from Tasmanian and mainland nurseries. When she died, the new owners of her property bulldozed the garden. I'm sure that the two great gardens built by Jeanette and Don Closs and the garden of John and Marion Simmons have met similar fates.

### Alec M Blombery

Alec Blombery did not take an active interest in Australian plants until he turned 40. He was born a Sydneysider in 1925, one of seven children. The early death of his father meant Alec had to leave school and earn money to support his family. He saw active service in New Guinea during World War Two. He trained as a plumber after the war and used that training to become a building inspector, later supervising the construction of new buildings for his employer. He married, fathering two children, raising them in the family home in Eastwood, another northern suburb.

Alec had a retentive brain skilled in plant identification and propagation. He was active in the Society for Growing Australian Plants in NSW (now APS of NSW) and wrote an article for the second-ever issue of *Australian Plants* (March 1960) on the propagation and growing of *Prostanthera* species. Volume 7, issue number 55 of June, 1973 was devoted to the Stony Range Reserve; the only author acknowledgement I can find is 'Alec M. Blombery', so he must have written all the articles. Photos are sourced from other places, but there are 22 line sketches of groups of plants each signed by 'Betty Maloney'.

Stony Range Reserve (now Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden) was established encompassing an old sandstone quarry on Pittwater Road, Dee Why, a beachside suburb just north of Manly. The current website is worth checking out; it gives the size of the reserve as 3.3 hectares. Remnant bushland surrounded the quarry and in 1957, it was gazetted for the protection of local flora and fauna by Warringah Shire Council. A volunteer group had formed to lobby for its protection and then to restore the land. Alec Blombery was on board, taking charge of track layout and building construction. Gullies, once choked with lantana and privet, were cleared (As a boy, when the family visited Manly or La Perouse, we spent time exploring the tunnels under the mass of lantana. Both lantana and privet were prime targets of the Bradley sisters as they developed their method of bringing back the bush.).

Alec was involved with the plant selection (not restricted to the local flora) and his greatest triumph is still the rainforest gully. Betty Maloney was also an early volunteer

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– Frenchs Forest is a mere 6 km away – and this is probably where Betty and Alec formed their friendship. Betty became Publicity Officer for the Reserve.

Alec remained an active member of the Northern Beaches Group of APS for the rest of his life. In September 2002, aged 89, Alec Blombery had a severe heart attack and died in hospital following a stroke. He had received a NSW Premier’s Community Award in 2002. Some of his twenty-odd books are still available. My brief involvement with Betty and Alec started at a night at the opera. Each time returned to Sydney for a family Christmas, I would always go to the Sydney Opera House to see one. In 1987, the couple sitting next to me struck up a conversation, and I found out that they went as often as they could to Bayreuth for the Richard Wagner festival, where a new production of the full Ring Cycle of four operas was performed. We also talked about Australian plants and home gardens and swapped names. Betty and Reginald Maloney invited me to come and see their garden and stay the night. On that occasion, as we relaxed after dinner with a scotch and ice (my first), Betty showed me a copy of the limited edition book of her paintings for the book *The Proteaceae of the Sydney Region* with text by Alec, published by Angus & Robertson in 1981. (A later book with the same title appeared in 1992, published by Kangaroo Press, this time with photos supplemented by Betty’s drawings of foliage and fruits; I used it as a major reference as I built up my collection of both slides and garden plants of Proteaceae.) Betty commented that there were a few copies of the book unsold and I stupidly didn’t ask about purchasing one. The next morning I strolled around their garden before heading back to my mother’s home.

Betty had asked if I would like to visit Stony Range Flora Reserve, and that is where I met Alec. He invited me to visit his extensive garden behind his Eastwood home. We wandered his garden sipping champagne, so the following summer, during his visit to Tasmania, I was asked to take Alec to Cradle Mountain and I returned the gesture. We admired Cradle Mountain and its vegetation sipping champers from chilled flutes. Alec was growing native orchids and while visiting his garden, he gave me tubers of selected forms and hybrids involving Pink Rock Orchid, *Dendrobium kingianum*. On the drive to Cradle Mountain, it was Alec who spotted the tall yellow-flowered bush of *Persoonia muelleri* off the road near Post Office Tree, that I have showed others ever since.

One would hope that Betty Maloney and Alec M Blombery are not forgotten by Australian plants people.©

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## The Rainforest/Wet Sclerophyll Patch at 7 Clarke Avenue

*Bruce Champion*

On moving into this Clarke Avenue home in February 1996, it was delightful to find a nice *Lagarostrobos franklinii*, Huon pine, growing under a large *Dicksonia antarctica*, Soft treefern, at the top of the path on the northern side in the shade of the house and that of the next door neighbour. A second, smaller, Soft treefern was growing to the west of the big one. It was realised that this was an ideal site for a shady, wet garden. An *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, King Billy pine, was bought and grown into a large pot under the big treefern for a Christmas tree. Some years later, after carefully watering it at regular intervals, it was left for a few weeks, leaving its watering in the hands of a daughter. It rained during the absence, so it was thought that the small tree would be OK, but it was forgotten that it was under a large treefern. The King Billy succumbed. So, in went the watering system for the back garden and its wonderful how plants respond to regular watering. Two years ago, it was puzzling that the big bed of *Anigozanthos flavidus*, Kangaroo paws, that had flowered prolifically for many years, had a very poor show of flowers. Finally their water supply pipe line was checked. It was found that the very large *Callitris rhomboidea*, Oyster Bay pine, had grown a huge root under its water pipe line and pulled the line apart at a tee joint, depriving the Kangaroo paws and it of water. After repairs, this year they were back to their magnificent display of tall flowers. Enough digressing!

Tucked into the northern side of the big treefern is a 1.4m high *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*, Celerytop pine, also in a large earthenware pot and beside it an earthenware bowl with three plants purchased from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens at the first Blooming Tasmania Festival at which APST had a booth.



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**Left:** Huon pine trunk right of centre, behind Kingbilly pine with Pencil pine on the left.

*(continued next page)*

A 4L/hr dripper was installed down the centre of the big treefern and another down the smaller one. This has resulted in them both at least doubling in height over the last 14 years and the need to watch that the dripper tubing is long enough to keep the drippers in the centre of their treeferns. They were also given regular watering with a weak sugar solution which was reputed to encourage lush frond growth. They are tall enough to now not need this sugar fix.

Another King Billy pine was purchased and after several increases in pot size, to the largest earthenware that can be managed, has now grown to over 1.5m high. It has two 4L/hr drippers as does the in-ground Huon pine. This has grown from about 1.5m to over 3.5m high. It was found that the Huon pine is a male tree and to get some seed a small female plant in a pot has been placed under it. Beside this small Huon pine is another pot with an old *Blandfordia punicea*, Christmas bells, which flowered for a couple of years some time ago but not since. Another plant happy in its location but not wanting to flower.

As the APST Hobart Group have been growing other wet sclerophyll and rainforest species, several more of these plants have been acquired. One of the Group's *Anopterus glandulosus*, Tasmanian laurel, had been planted under the southern side of the Huon pine and a few years ago a second one was received and planted a little further to the west of the first laurel and thus less in the shade of the house but more sheltered from the wind that funnels up the northern side of the house. This second laurel is now 1m high, the same height as the first, although it is half its age, suggesting that this species prefers less wind and more sun than had been expected. Both plants flower magnificently in spring.

To the King Billy and Huon pines have been added an *Athrotaxis cupressoides*, Pencil pine, also now in the largest earthenware pot, set beside the King Billy between the big treefern and the path to the back garden which runs up beside the western side of the



© B. Champion

Pots of pines, violets and ferns in the rainforest and wet sclerophyll

house. The tip of a small branch of *Richea dracophylla*, Pineapple candleheath, which had been picked up from the ground along a track during a bushwalk, was set in a plastic, cuttings propagating box. It successfully struck and was potted up and placed on top of the limestone aggregate mulch around the trunk of the Pencil pine. Needing a dripper for it, one of the Pencil pines two 4L/hr dripper's tubing was extended and the dripper positioned over the *Richea*'s pot thus watering both plants. Recently a small *Nothofagus gunnii*, Deciduous beech, was acquired, one of several propagated from material that Sib Corbett brought into the Group's nursery. It has been placed on top of the limestone mulch around the trunk of the King Billy pine and fitted with an extended dripper as per the *Richea*. It has changed the colour of its leaves, only to yellow - no frost or ice to redden them, and is now shedding them.

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These are a *Richea pandanifolia*, Pandani, in the centre, to one side is a sprawling *Richea gunnii*, Bog candleheath, and on the other side is a sprawling *Athrotaxis Xlaxifolia*, Hybrid pencil pine. Both these side plants now need to be potted on separately or planted in this garden area. They also need their identities checked as they are not growing upright as expected. Beside this bowl is a 0.75m high *Atherosperma moschatum*, Sassafras, in a small pot under the huge *Pandorea pandorana*, Wonga vine, which has spread over 20m along the top of the northern side fence. This vine is in need of constant pruning to retain it 'sort of' within the property's boundary, but provides a nice screen from the neighbours.

In front of this row of pots and bowl, have been planted several ferns, possibly *Blechnum watsii*, Hard waterfern, and *Blechnum nudum*, Fishbone waterfern. *Viola hederacea*, Native violet, happily wanders around beneath them. One pot beside the big treefern holds an *Agastachys odorata*, Fragrant candlebush, which was grown from a cutting collected from near Square Tarn, south of Mt Picton. It was in flower when it was presented to a delighted Jeanette Closs who loved the 'White waratah' as she called it. She was in a nursing home at that time and after she died, her daughter Lydia returned it to be looked after here. It hasn't flowered since but is growing well. Maybe it needs more sunshine. The bowl is another story. During a visit to Plants of Tasmania, three *Microcachrys tetragona*, Creeping pines, were purchased, one labelled male and two labelled female. Strangely, all three produce small green fruit, but none mature and turn red and fleshy as female fruit are supposed to. Again, conditions may not be quite right, they may need sunshine to fruit properly.

A large piece of *Microsorium pustulatum*, Kangaroo fern, torn off nearby vegetation was collected along another mountain track and carefully brought home. A micro spray was set up on the side of the big treefern. Then a 100mm plant pot was cut in half and the two halves nailed to the treefern below the spray with long galvanised nails. The half pots were filled with good, peat moss laden, potting soil and a piece of the Kangaroo fern embedded in each pot. The remainder of the Kangaroo fern was embedded in the ground beneath the smaller treefern between it and the big treefern. There is now a lovely large patch of Kangaroo fern across the ground between the treeferns and two nice terrestrial plants are growing on the big treefern. They do like the regular moisture. A small *Platynerium bifurcatum*, Staghorn fern, has also been attached to the big Soft treefern under the microspray and is growing well, now it is established.

To the west of the smaller Soft treefern are several more, wet sclerophyll, species, *Pomaderris apetala*, Common dogwood, *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, Roundleaf mintbush, and a second attempt *Pittosporum bicolor*, Cheesewood. This has tripled in height in 12 months in spite of being planted in the same location as the first. 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again' (reportedly said Bruce of Scotland as he watched a spider trying to climb back up its thread.) The same applies to Australian plant growers. More digression! The final few plants here are two bushy *Bauera rubioides*, Wiry bauera, and a couple of struggling *Tasmania lanceolata*, Mountain pepper. Maybe they don't like the mintbush they are growing under and need to be moved.

One problem with growing plants in pots is what to do with them when they get too big to man handle in their large heavy pots. Some consideration was given to planting the pines in the ground under the treeferns. However, during the garden reconstruction for the rear access ramps, it was found necessary to install a new watering circuit for the rainforest wet sclerophyll plants and the ground below the treeferns was dug up to trace dripper lines.

It was found that the ground is thick with matted Soft treefern roots to well away from their trunks. So, to dig holes for the pines and other potted plants will be a very hard task. Needs more thinking about, or just someone with muscles and a sharp spade!

It is hoped that this short treatise may encourage others to try growing some of our lovely rainforest and wet sclerophyll species in the shade of their own and/or their neighbour's house. It is very rewarding. ©

## Beetles around the Bush: Part 2

Phil Watson

### Are we good pollinators?

In contrast to bees, butterflies, hoverflies etc., who become covered in pollen as they seek out the flower's nectary, we as jewel beetles are phytophagous (plant-eating) and happily munch into both the flowers and pollen. There are many other plant-eating beetles including the beautiful Christmas beetles and rose chafers as well as leaf beetles (Chrysomelids) scarabs, longicorns and click beetles. When feeding we may or may not transfer pollen. Sadly, as pollen and nectar feeders we can sometimes starve to death when our preferred flowers on which we are feeding die. However, if we are not too fussy, we can fly over to other blooms and during cold winters we can survive by hiding under bark or moss.

Around 150 million years ago plants and pollinators began specialising and adapting features that suited each other's needs and our beetle ancestors were in the very first batch of insects to be part of nature's matching game. Given that many of the longest-lived plants are pollinated by the longest-lived insects, we have developed close relationships with numerous primitive flowering plants. We have become particularly attracted to white flowers which open during the day and feature wide bowl-shaped flowers that are easy to crawl around. The best-known examples to describe our preferred plants are Magnolia species and Water lilies (*Lotus* spp.).

Looking closer at the Magnolia species, they have evolved with lots of pollen and robust leaves to allow us to eat some of their plentiful supplies of pollen and bits of their leaves without causing them serious damage. They have clever designs that restrict access by other insects particularly during the critical pollination stages. Like many plants that we pollinate the flowers have a musky or spicy scent or sometimes fermented smells which other insects do not like at all.

### Warm sunny days suit us



JEWEL BEETLES READILY FLY ON HOT DAYS: CREDIT: BRISBANEINSECTS.COM<sup>2</sup>

We love being active when the warm summer days arrive, feeding on foliage, bark, nectar and petals. Most of the native flowers that we frequent feature composite heads of dull whites, greens and yellows allowing us to hang out and attract mates. For example, when we fly around in the woodlands on hot sunny days we happily land on yellow wattles, *Acacia* spp., white flowering gums, *Eucalyptus* spp., white inflorescences of everlastingbushes, eg. *Ozothamnus ferruginous*, white flowering dolly bushes, eg. *Cassinea aculeata* and even exotic sunflowers eg. *Helianthus biennis* in people's gardens<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately, on these flowers we must compete with other insects such as flies, wasps and butterflies.

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## We have tricky ways to defend ourselves

Although some of our beetle cousins are nearly indestructible with their extremely hard protective chitin (special tungsten tipped drills are needed to insert pins for mounting) others such as the Strong flying rhinoceros beetle (Scarab family) are big (60mm) with scary weapons. These weapons include spiky legs and mandibles or sharp snouts for pinching and stabbing. Additionally Rhinoceros beetles make loud hissing noises during battles repelling attackers.

As fighting takes up a lot of energy we protect ourselves by other techniques including camouflage using cryptic colourations such as bits of plant litter draped over our bodies to blend in the understorey.

Our favourite method is to act dead and just tumble down through the foliage disappearing into the leaf litter. Other times when frightened we roll up into a ball and tuck our legs tightly against our body and pretend to be a seed or small lump of dirt before tumbling down into the understorey. The good thing about acting dead and dropping out of the flowers or off the tips of leafy twigs is that it really frustrates beetle collectors who are trying to collect us using their big butterfly sweep nets.

Our Rove beetle cousins have another trick! When annoyed they squirt a stinking liquid from their anal glands. Other Jewel beetles have poisonous body tissues, derived from poisonous and stinking ingredients accumulated in our bodies after feeding on plants containing bioactive ingredients such as the toxic pyrrolidine found in Fireweeds or Groundsels (*Senecio* spp).

These forms of defence only work well if our predators have good memories and are capable of learning. To make it easy for them to remember we have evolved conspicuous colourations and patterning that they recognise as poisonous.

A couple of our Tasmanian Jewel beetles use mimicry to protect them from being preyed on by birds when they fly on hot sunny days. These include the uniquely marked Jewel beetle *Castiarina ocelligera* which mimic the distasteful Soldier beetles. They remain perfectly safe when fully exposed on various local plants such Tea trees *Leptospermum* spp., Native box, *Bursaria spinosa*, Daisybushes *Olearia* spp., Billy buttons *Craspedia glauca* and Native carrot *Daucus carota*. Similarly the Red and black patterned Jewel beetle *Nascioides parryi* which mimics the Smelly true bug nymphs (Hemiptera) are left completely undisturbed when feeding in the White gum and Silver wattle (*Eucalyptus viminalis* and *Acacia dealbata*) flowers.<sup>iv</sup>

Other seemingly edible Jewel beetles and Blister beetles (Meloidae) along with different insects such as Oecophrid moth all cleverly mimic the same inedible species such as toxic net wing or Lycid beetles (Lycidae). Fascinatingly, when a chain of edible insects all mimic the same toxic insect they are grouped into what scientist term 'Batesian chains'.<sup>v</sup>

## Our unusual behaviours; hill topping, clicking and interest in bottles and other bright shiny surfaces.

Like all other creatures Jewel beetles major drive in life is to attract a mate and reproduce. We employ a special mate-attracting technique also used by butterflies, known as 'hill topping'. To do this we climb or land on trees or even prominent twigs located on high isolated landscape vantage points, commonly local hill tops, and use our brilliant colourations and pheromones to attract mates. A number of Tasmanian Jewel beetles engage in this mating behaviour including Magenta coloured jewel beetle (*Melobasis hypocrita*) and Light green coloured jewel beetle (*Melobasis purpurascens*) that gather on hill tops with juvenile White gums, wattles and Silver banksias.<sup>vi</sup>

Our cousins the Clicking jewel beetles (*Astraeus fraterculus*) from Western Australia who frequent mostly *Hakea* spp. and *Daviesia* spp. make a strange click noise when startled. This is caused by their elytra's elastic-muscles releasing the stored up energy under tension and snapping open their elytra to hurl themselves out of trouble.

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One of the most spectacular and often peculiar Jewel beetle is the *Julodimorpha bake-welli* from WA. They were considered to be at risk in the 1980's because the males were trying to mate with beer bottles. The luckless Casanovas would blunder upon beer bottles on the edge of roads and stagger over their mistaken lady friend, leaving their real females in the lurch. Scientists consider that our males are mistakenly enticed towards the glass bumps on the base of the bottles which refract light to look a lot like female beetles.

On hot sunny days a few of our Tasmanian Jewel beetles including the Light green coloured jewel beetle (*Melobasis innocua*) which lives in open woodlands on White gums and Silver wattles are unfortunately fatally attracted to dangerous bright shiny surfaces such as hot highways and shop windows. Similarly they are also sadly enticed to shiny pool surfaces where they inevitably drown. Others such as the Dark purple coloured jewel beetle (*Pseudanilaria piliventris*) are bizarrely attracted to UV light emitted from white washing hung outdoors in hot weather.

### Back from extinction; Simpson's Stag Beetle



SIMPSON'S STAG BEETLE - BACK FROM EXTINCTION CREDIT: TASMANIAN THREATENED SPECIES UNIT

Although a very distant cousin of ours, the recent discovery in 1999 of the previously believed to be extinct endemic Simpsons Stag Beetle (*Hoplogonus simsoni*) makes a worthy subject to mention. It is a flightless, glossy black, ground-dwelling beetle reaching up to 32 mm in total length. Stag beetles have enlarged mandibles (or jaws) which, in their resemblance to the antlers of a male deer (or stag), give these beetles their name. Simpsons Stag Beetle is found only in a small area of north-eastern Tasmania centred on the Blue Tier. Simpsons Stag Beetle lives in leaf litter on the floor of mature wet eucalypt forest, damp forest, rainforest and mixed forest. A deep layer of accumulated leaf litter is vital to the survival of this species. The main threat to this species is any activity resulting in exposure and drying of the soil and leaf litter. This includes activities that open up the forest canopy or disturb the forest floor, such as cutting or clearing live or dead vegetation, and burning<sup>vii</sup>.

### Conclusion

The decline of insects and particularly beetles provides a clear harbinger of climate change when we reflect on the notion that insects provides 99% of biodiversity of all creatures and beetles make up 40% of the insect population.

From another perspective of the importance of insects and hence beetles, if all creatures larger than a mouse dropped dead biodiversity would be reduced by 1%. If all insects dropped dead we could expect the occurrence of the sixth great world extinction with impacts well beyond Covid19!

(For references see next page)

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## Inverawe Native Gardens

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## An All-time Rave

### *Doryanthes excelsa*, the Gymea Lily

Dick Burns

One spot where Dad fished was in the estuary Port Hacking; we picnicked on the banks while the men fished from a rowing boat. To get there, we caught a Cronulla line train. One of the small stations the train stopped at was Gymea, my first encounter with that name. However, I cannot remember my first encounter with the plant that so typifies the Sydney Sandstone Flora. (I know that I've raved about others – *Angophora costata*, *Telopea speciosissima*, any *Persoonia*; I haven't raved about Flannel Flower simply because I cannot grow it.) 'Gymea' is the name for *Doryanthes excelsa* in the language of the Eora people, the Aboriginal tribe that once roamed the area. It was adopted by George Bass (1771-1803) to name Gymea Bay. He and Matthew Flinders explored Port Hacking in a small sail/rowing boat, *Tom Thumb*, in 1796 when Sydney was a six-year-old convict settlement in Port Jackson. Bass is commemorated in the name Bass Strait, which he and Flinders sailed through as part of their circumnavigation of Van Diemen's Land in the *Norfolk* a few years later. George Bass was the first European to gather samples of the plant for the English botanists. The location for the gathering is 'Port Jackson' (as given in *Flora of Australia* volume 46, p. 86) and David Mabberley states that some of the material (on p. 235 of his book) was collected in 'mountainous parts of New South Wales'. In 1796, George Bass did attempt to find a way through the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, so he may have collected more material on that expedition. A route through the Blue Mountains was found in 1803 by others. Bass took the specimens with him when he returned to London in 1799.

On the Flinders/Bass explorations, Bass seems to have been the naturalist. For instance he recorded geological observations of the Furneaux Islands and carried out dissections on native animals. Flinders and Bass did not just share a love of exploration, according to a letter written by Flinders in 1800 but only discovered in 1998.

Gymea Lily was actually named and described in 1802 from Bass's specimens by José Francesco Correia de Serra (1751-1823), a Portuguese botanist – there are alternative



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spellings of his name and I'm using the one I chose for *Pathfinders in Tasmania Botany*. To find out how a man from Portugal described an Australian plant, see *Pathfinders*, pp. 45-48; the genus *Correa* was named for José.

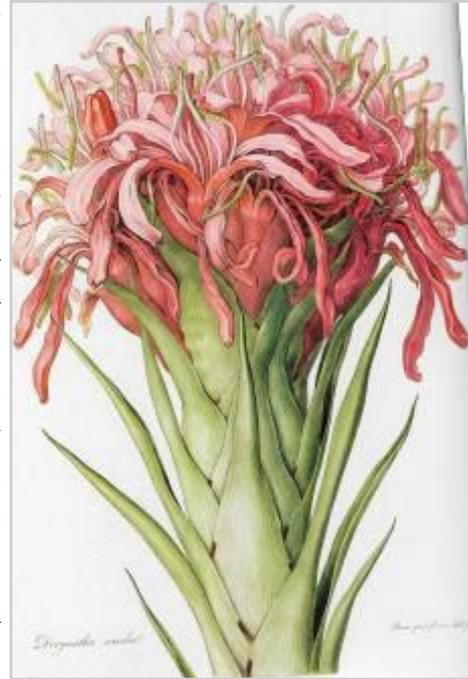
To develop the name for the species, Correia used the appearance of the flower stem or 'scape'. He used Ancient Greek to generate the name for the genus: *dory* is a spear and *anthos*, a flower, referring to the spear-like flowering scapes. For the specific name, Correia used Latin: *excelsus* means elevated or high, referring to the elevated flowers.

*Doryanthes excelsa* is a giant grass-looking tussock with lanceolate leaves, bright green in colour. The flower-head is held on a firm erect leafy scape, 2-5 m tall. The head is a globular cluster of dark to scarlet red 10 cm-long flowers that open in sequence. The other species is *Doryanthes palmeri*, found in north east NSW and south east Qld. Gymea Lily occurs in open forest in eastern New South Wales, mainly in the Sydney Sandstone region. *D. palmeri* has even longer leaves but the flowers are distributed along the scape which is not as rigid – the one time I saw it in flower, the scape was bent, curling down.

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In Robert Brown's *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae* of 1810, it is grouped with *Crinum* and *Calostemma* in Amaryllideae, illustrated with one of Ferdinand Bauer's art works (see pp. 164-167 of *Pathfinders*). The Bauer illustration that appears here is copied from Mabberley, p. 234. In later books, it is listed in the family Agavaceae with the genus *Cordyline* but now it is considered in a separate family of one genus, Doryanthaceae, with one genus of two species. Bauer did other drawings of Gynea Lily, at least once of the whole plant: that watercolour is now in the collection of the State Library of New South Wales.

Earlier illustrations of *D. excelsa* were done by John William Lewin (1770-1819). The son of an English professional botanist, he emigrated to the new colony, arriving in 1799 and becoming Australia's first resident trained artist. His first two books were on the insects and then birds of New South Wales. The first untrained artists of the new settlement when showing the Australian scenery were more fascinated by grasstrees (*Xanthorrhoea* sp.) than Gynea Lily, according to the few books I have. John Lewin was trained mainly to draw animals and because he was somewhat dependent on sales, sketched what would sell, hence birds and insects. The Governor, Philip Gidley King was apparently planning to compile a book on local flora and commissioned Lewin to prepare sketches. These were kept by the King family (see *Pathfinders* p. 226) until sold in the twentieth century (from Mabberley p. 208). One drawn in 1806 is reproduced in Mabberley as the frontispiece.



A reference on p. 86 in *Flora of Australia* indicates that Gynea Lily was being cultivated in Europe by 1812. Mabberley (p. 235) says that plants flowered in Kent in England in 1814 and 1826 in Lanarkshire (Scotland).

Here is one suggestion for the remarkable appearance of this plant. Because Gynea Lily grows in open forest, it evolved its large leaves to compete with the shrubs for sunlight to photosynthesise and developed the tall flower stem to rise above the understory so birds could pollinate the red flowers – it is shaped for a large pollinator with its firm stem and big flowers.

Its giant bright green grass-like leaves and the large scarlet-red flowerhead make *D. excelsa* an awesome landscaping plant, a fact recognised immediately on arrival in Europe and finally acknowledged by Sydney designers when Circular Quay and the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens were redeveloped in the 1990s. Maybe it's a Sydney thing. The Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra has used the plant but I cannot recall Gynea Lily being used in Melbourne even in the Cranbourne development: if I'd seen it, I would have photographed it. It grows in Hobart –



Margaret Allan told me that one was growing in the Hobart Domain – and on the North West Coast. There must be at least one mass planting somewhere in Sydney for the cut-flower trade. Each September, one of the David Jones stores would celebrate spring by filling the ground floor with flowers. One year I found, on a visit from Tasmania, the store was awash with the red flower heads of Gynea Lilies (along with other Aussies), some on their long stems, but others cut so that the flowers were at eye-level.

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others cut so that the flowers were at eye-level. At first I thought it a travesty to cut the stems but as I wandered through the display, I came to appreciate seeing up-close the large individual flowers.

Those that have read my other ‘rave’ articles may remember what I’ve called my scatter-gun approach when I started my garden. However, I included several plants of the Sydney Sandstone Flora. I found my first Gynea Lily on my first trip back to Sydney after buying my Penguin home in 1976. I planted it in a what-was-then sunny spot below my bedroom window – the theory was that when it flowered, I could admire the red flower-head through the window. That plant has never flowered. I found a second plant in Sydney in 1982/83 which I planted well out into the garden. That plant has flowered. Once. At least it resulted in my garden being featured on the gardening page of the local newspaper, *The Advocate*. I’ve always known that a variety of leaf shapes and colours is essential to the pleasure of a garden. My two grown Gynea Lilies certainly do that. There is a Gynea Lily at Hawley on the way to Riitta and John Boevink’s home that flowers every year and Riitta’s plant produced its first flower-head this past season.

At my last school, Penguin High, the groundsman and I worked together in choice of plants for new and redeveloped garden beds. The last one was a raised bed in a concrete play area. The raised bed was surrounded by bench seats, so a few small eucalypts would provide shade and the raised bed would display the striking Gynea Lilies so well. So I chased around and found two in Hobart. The planting of the garden became a working bee for the North West Group of APST. Everything was growing well when I left the school. The Principal also retired around that time and the incoming Principal decided that the raised bed interfered with the spread of concrete, so removed it. No letter to APST, no offer to gather the unwanted plants. It was an example of what happens when a person with particular ideas or projects moves on.

This year I have planted a third Gynea Lily within the sight-lines of a couple of my windows. ☺

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*D. excelsa* garden 1998

## Calendar for 2020

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

September	2	Wednesday	Hobart	KDM
September	5	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
September	9	Wednesday	Hobart	General Meeting
September	15	Tuesday	Northern/North West	General Meeting
September	17	Thursday	North West	Propagation
September	17	Thursday	North	Excursion
September	19	Saturday	Hobart	Garden Visit
September	22	Tuesday	Northern	Working Bee HFNG
September	27	Sunday	Hobart	Walk
October	3	Saturday	Northern	Plants Sale
October	3	Saturday	Hobart	Propagation
October	7	Wednesday	Hobart	KDM
October	14	Wednesday	Hobart	General Meeting
October	17	Saturday	Hobart	Plants Sale
October	18	Sunday	North West	Plants Sale
October	18	Sunday	Hobart	Excursion
October	18	Sunday	Hobart	Walk
October	20	Tuesday	Northern	AGM and General Meeting
October	25	Sunday	Hobart	Walk
October	27	Tuesday	Northern	Working Bee HFNG
November	4	Wednesday	Hobart	KDM
November	7	Saturday	Hobart/Northern	Propagation
November	11	Wednesday	Hobart	General Meeting
November	15	Sunday	Hobart	Excursion
November	17	Tuesday	Northern/North West	General Meeting
November	21	Saturday	Council	Council Meeting
November	24	Tuesday	Northern	Working Bee HFNG
November	27-29	LWE	All members	Get-together at Maydena
December	2	Wednesday	Hobart	KDM EOY Lunch
December	4	Friday	Northern	Christmas Dinner
December	6	Sunday	Hobart	EOY Lunch
December	15	Tuesday	Northern	Working Bee HFNG

Note that Hobart Group propagation sessions are now held as above from 1pm till 4pm.

There may be other events not listed here, as Groups reconvene in the near future.

Keep in contact with your Group, and be sure to read the next *Eucryphia*.



© D. Burns

**Above:** *Hakea victoria*

See also *Hakea muliniata* on the front cover

## A Rave From DB - *Hakea multilineata*

Dick Burns

This seems to be the year for winter-flowering Hakeas. My first of the genus, *Hakea laurina*, was planted in 1976 and has survived the ravages of wind (early on the tree was starting to tip over from the prevailing wind and I saved it with a few rocks around the base) and breaking off of a major branch. The final indignity was a massive V-shaped prune by Aurora to keep it a metre away from the power line. But each year the few remaining stems still produce the red and white pom-poms.

My replacement *H. bucculenta* (the first was seed-grown) is grafted and produces deep pink flower heads prolifically – my first plant was orange-flowered. The *H. clavata* gave out many of its cream and red pom-poms this year. And the *H. teretifolia* produced masses of white flowers along its long arching stems, as I hoped it would – in the bush around Sydney and those I planted in the Tasmanian Arboretum showed me how an inauspicious needlebush with the common name of Dagger Hakea could light up. As I write this, the small tree of *H. macreana* is budding up; it is a beautiful plant, a well-shaped tree with a dark brown trunk topped by a light green dome of needle foliage. The prolific production of woody fruits weighs the branches down, meaning that every few years, I have to cut the lower branches off. The *H. prostrata* must be six metres tall now: its flowers are small white and inconspicuous – it has stayed in the garden as a talking point. But bright pink flowers all down the erect stems inspired me to select *H. multilineata* to rave about this time.

Both my plants of *Hakea multilineata* have grown as erect shrubs to three or four metres. I planted each one up the back of the garden in shallow poor soil. It lights up that part of the garden with the generous production of brilliant pink flower spikes in leaf axils. The woody fruits that follow resemble clusters of small smooth *H. sericea* or *H. decurrens*. It is found naturally in south-western Western Australia. I cannot remember seeing it in the wild, but I have seen the close relatives, *H. bucculenta* and *H. francisiana* (which now includes *H. coriacea*). Because of the leaf appearance, this group of hakeas is referred to as ‘the grass-leaved Hakeas’. The flower spike of *H. multilineata* is much shorter than the other two species mentioned.

The genus name, *Hakea*, honours Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake, a Councillor in Hanover, Germany. I wrote about the little we know of him in *Pathfinders in Tasmanian Botany* on pages 181-183. The name was published in 1797, nine years after the First Fleet settled around Sydney Cove – I’ve speculated in *Pathfinders* about how a Sydney plant got to Hanover so fast. The species name, *multilineata*, is descriptive and refers to the several thread-like nerves running through each leaf. (*H. bucculenta* interestingly refers to the shape of the fruits, well-rounded or ‘full-cheeked’).

I’ve raved about many plants in the garden over time. My Woody Pear is still catching the morning light; visitors regularly ask ‘can you eat the fruit?’.



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Above: *Brachybiton acerifolius* fallen leaves and flowers  
See also previous page and front cover

My *Lepidosperma ensata* is still arching gracefully under the *Angophora*. I've yet to write about my Illawarra Flame Tree, *Brachychiton acerifolius*. It doesn't flower every year and the plant has grown so tall now that the main way I know it is flowering is from the fallen red flowers among the dropped leaves. But nothing compares to seeing a plant you've read about in the wild. I first saw *H. victoria* when I walked around Burrendong Arboretum near Wellington in NSW one hot summer's day (along with the hybrid *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty'). But nothing beats seeing all its forms in Fitzgerald National Park in WA. °

**References:**

- Flora of Australia* Volume 17B *Proteaceae* 3 *Hakea* to *Dryandra* 1999
- Elliott & Jones, *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation*, Lothian, 1990
- SGAP Vic Inc. and Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants, *Hakea*, booklet prepared for The Hakea Weekend, October 1996.

# Inala Jurassic Garden & Nature Museum



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## Northern Group News

Kay Pallett

Northern Group members continued to function behind the scenes for the month of June. The Tasmanian Native Garden and nursery were kept 'ticking along' by members working individually or in pairs during the lockdown period. At the garden in July, a pleasing number of 14 volunteers helped with the usual weeding, pruning and removal of some of the more 'invasive' plants. The September working bee will prepare for a spring planting following the cancellation of the preferred autumn planting. The garden now needs a concerted effort to get it ship-shape after the lock-down. Our managers, Suzanne, Daphne and Peter would appreciate members' help in achieving this at working bees held on the fourth Tuesday every month.

At the nursery, propagation work was not possible in June but after completing a Covid-safe plan the sessions restarted in July with 15 members (the allowed number) attending. August also had full attendance. Janet reported that the shade house is full again and all is in readiness for an October sale which with an outside venue should be safely manageable. It was pleasing that despite the missed autumn sale many plants have been purchased by members - a most satisfactory development. It was also noted that the new outside bench, purchased from the East Tamar Men's Shed, has been covered and is now nicely accommodating all plants. Disused pallets have been used to build three extra work benches in the outside area - another satisfactory development.

Although meetings were not held in June and July, Plants of the Month were presented online in the newsletter. In June Kay Pallett described *Alyogyne huegelii* as a colourful Plant of the Month. For July, Elizabeth Bradley highlighted the versatile correas growing in her West Tamar garden, in particular *Correa reflexa* var. *nummularifolia* which forms an excellent ground cover with the added bonus of flowers in July. Elizabeth pointed out that this tough coastal round leaf correa is not quite the same as subspecies *nummularifolia* which is found only on the Furneaux Islands and was recognised by Paul Wilson in 1961 when he split the Bass Strait Island form from the other Tasmanian and mainland forms - the variety usually found in mainstream nurseries.

There is a correction to the NG report in the June Eucryphia. May Plant of the Month was not *Alyogyne huegelii* but the attractive *Asterotrichion discolor* which Rosemary Verbeeten has in her garden. Commonly known as Tasmanian currajong it is hardy and fast growing with an abundance of white scented flowers plus it is endemic to Tasmania. It varies in height from a medium shrub to small tree and is 2 - 4 metres wide. The plant is dioecious with the male flowers being star-shaped, white and more fragrant than the smaller female flowers. It can be easily propagated and is good in a vase.

Finally, in August members were once again able to meet in Max Fry Hall. The carefully planned meeting extended into the big hall to accommodate safety regulations and a pleasing number in attendance. Business was covered quickly with Louise Skabo's role of Business Secretary confirmed, March Minutes accepted, dates for the spring sale and Christmas dinner agreed upon. Roy Skabo spoke of a project with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. The aim is to propagate plants of species for which seeds are needed by the Gardens. Roy reported that there are sufficient volunteers to establish a small seed orchard at the nursery at Windsor Park so the project can proceed. However, additional participants would be welcome to join in on this educational, interesting and useful project. NG members will be also involved with an NRM North plus Land Conservancy project involving habitat species for the eastern barred bandicoot.

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It was great to have August Plant of the Month presented by Margrieta Veiss. Her enthusiasm for *Philotheca myoporoides* saw several plants purchased at the evening's end.

This species which belongs to the Rutaceae family was a favourite because it has pinky white flowers displayed in winter and spring; is hardy; and can be used in hedges or as highlight specimen. It grows to about a metre high and is 80cm wide, has narrow leaves which when crushed have a citrus smell. It propagates easily and it lasts well in a vase.

To conclude the meeting members were treated to a slideshow of Helen and Mick Statham's experiences in Iceland. It was a most informative presentation on the self-drive tour around the entire island. Their photos showed snowy mountains, many waterfalls, fertile fields with sheep as well as more barren rocky areas, cooling lava fields and thermal pools. There were turf houses, unusual and very old with many maintained today as museums. The birdlife included terns, razorbills, kittiwakes and puffins and importantly there was a range of plants clearly photographed for us to enjoy. The trees such as downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), Fjalldrapi dwarf birch or Iceland's only conifer, a juniper (*Juniperus communis*) were especially interesting. Their ground hugging height was testament of adaptation to the harsh conditions. We appreciated the opportunity to view this remarkable island.◊

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## North West Group News

Riitta Boevink

The APST AGM due to be hosted by the NW group was cancelled due to Covid19 restrictions. The NW monthly meetings were also suspended, the last one being on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

Apart from propagation activities in small groups we resumed our activities with the traditional daytime meeting in July. This time we visited the home and garden of Leonie and Bob Read in Sheffield. An informal meeting took place in their kitchen. One issue discussed was the future of our book sales. Clive has been looking after our stock of books available for members to buy, but the sales have dwindled. Decision will need to be taken about what to do about the remaining books.

After the meeting we admired the garden that Leonie and Bob have created on the empty paddock next to the house. It is well fenced so despite of the rural setting plants have been able to flourish unmolested by wallabies. We then drove to the other side of Sheffield to the property of Robert Gower. While the Read property was in a sheltered valley, the Gower home is in a more open site looking at views of Mt Roland, and is more exposed to prevailing winds. As an ex-nurseryman Robert is accustomed to growing his plants from seed in large quantities. Large numbers of Manuka Teatrees for future honey production were planted into unmown grass. A wide range of other trees and shrubs were also planted. Robert found that the local wallabies had not touched the plants in the tall grass. We were all given a small Teatree plant to take home.

A levelled area near the house for car parking had unearthed rocks that were used to create a retaining wall. Many small native shrubs were planted on the wall.

We decided to hold the August meeting also as a daytime meeting at the Arboretum Education Centre, a spacious venue that allows for social distancing. The Guest speaker was Phil Milner. Phil is a foundation member of the Tasmanian Arboretum in Eugenana as well as a foundation member of the APST NW group. He has more recently taken on the role of developing the Australian section of the Arboretum, this being separate from the Tasmanian section that was established early. The Arboretum area has been divided into a system of 20m squares. The Australian section covers 80 of the squares. These are marked with metal markers sunk into the ground and which sometimes can only be found with metal detectors. The hilly site with steep slopes poses problems for

(Continued next page)

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**North West Group News** (continued)

vehicles eg lawn mowers that need access. So a system of paths was created to zigzag across the slopes. Phil prefers late spring planting as that gives plants a full season growth before they are hit by the winter frosts as the Arboretum is a cold location.

After the meeting we walked to the Australian section. Some of the original Eucalypts from the site were towering on the slopes and a more recent group made a lovely woodland effect as we entered the Australian section. Groups of *Prostantheras*, *Hakeas* and some *Grevilleas* had been planted and doing well. On the way back we followed the road past the small lake in the Arboretum and were treated to the sight of several platypuses floating and diving nearby. ◊

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## Hobart Group News

*Sib Corbett*

After nearly five months of inactivity forced by Covid19 restrictions on meetings and travel, Hobart Group APST has re-opened for business.

A visit to the glorious Howrah garden of Pam and Tony Green proved a worthy celebration of our re-emergence, with members treated to a wonderful display of winter flowers and the pleasures of seeing APS friends. There were so many things in abundant flower here, particularly *correas* and *banksias*.

Our first walk since March was the long-promised exploration of the Tinderbox Hills, including a 67ha property which the Tasmanian Land Conservancy are negotiating to purchase. This is a rare opportunity to reserve a piece of bushland close to Hobart, one which provides a habitat link between Tinderbox Hills and Bruny Island, particularly important as Swift Parrot and Forty Spotted Pardalote breeding territories. This walk was particularly complicated to organize, needing landowner permission and TLC co-ordination for several "sussing out" trips before the event. On the first we were accompanied by Phill Laroche from TLC, followed by a further exploration of the Tinderbox Reserve, a beautiful grassy hillside managed by PWS but having no legal access from the Hills. A last minute invitation to join Anne and Tony Crawford in their garden at the western foot of the Tinderbox Hills allowed us to extend the walk, with some of the group returning to cars to drive around, and the rest of us finding our way down through the Reserve to the Crawford's back gate (thanks to rogaining champ Peter Tuft for his hi-tech GPS assistance). The Crawfords provided a sumptuous afternoon tea and a delightful wander through their large garden, which includes over 60 *hakeas* - many grown from seed.

Our first general meeting was held on August 12 at Rosny Library, where we enjoyed an excellent presentation by Phil Watson from Clarence Council, describing that Council's successful program of environmental management in their plethora of natural areas. At that meeting we were able to ratify a donation to Friends of Rosny Hill to help with their legal battle to save that important area of urban bushland from development. We also approved a donation to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy for their Tinderbox property purchase.

Back in March we were urged to encourage the formation of an Eastern Shore APS Group, but our August meeting at Rosny was not attended by any members or potential members from that area, and the proposal will lapse until there is more support.

Preparations for the *Maydena Get-Together* continue, with strong support from members. Now we need crossed fingers that there are no further restrictions in November, and that the weather gods are kind. ◊

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## Hobart Group Programme

September	5	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm
	9	Hobart Group General Meeting at KPS 7:30pm 'Seed orchard collections at the RTBG Nursery'
	19	Garden visit Sib and Keith Corbett's then Christine Corbett's and Alan Pegg's both at Fern Tree
	27	Walk Ridgeway Tracks
October	3	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm Preparing for Plants Sale
	7	Kingborough Day Meeting 1:30pm - visit to O'Kine's at Dodg- es Ferry, car pool or bus
	14	Hobart Group General Meeting at KPS 7:30pm 'What causes climate to change'
	17	Plants Sale at KPS Library Porch 8:00am for 10:00am to 3:00pm then pack up/put away
	18	Excursion to Clarence Council Reserves meet at Winifred Curtis entrance Waverley Flora Park 1:00pm
	25	Walk Remarkable Cave to Brown Mountain (tbc)
November	4	Kingborough Day Meeting 2:pm at Centrecare Kingston Beach - then visit Kingston Wetlands
	7	Propagation at Hobart Group Nursery KPS 1:30pm
	11	Hobart Group General Meeting at KPS 7:30pm Presentation 'The French Connection- Post Churchill Fellow- ship : From Type specimen to fabric design'
	15	Excursion Murdunna area (tbo)
	27-29	APST Members Get-together Maydena
December	2	Kingborough Day Meeting End of Year lunch location and time tbc
	6	Hobart Group End of Year Lunch, Randalls Bay

tbc = to be confirmed; tbo = to be organised when contact details available

### Northern Group Programme

Below are links to: APST Northern Group website, programme page and newsletters

<http://apstasnorth.org/index.html> <http://apstasnorth.org/pages/program.html>

<http://apstasnorth.org/pages/newsletters.html>

Sept	5	Saturday	1 - 3pm <b>Propagation</b> APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
	15	Tuesday	7.30pm <b>General Meeting</b> Max Fry Hall, Guest speaker: Amanda Walker, <i>Maatsuyker Island</i>
	17	Thursday	<b>Excursion:</b> Waterhouse area for flora and archaeology, Ian Thomas
	22	Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am <b>Working Bee</b> Heritage Forest Native Garden
Oct	3	Saturday	10 am until sold out <b>Spring Plant Sale</b> Max Fry Hall, Trevallyn
	20	Tuesday	7.30pm <b>AGM &amp; General Meeting</b> , Max Fry Hall, Guest speaker Mark Wapstra <i>The importance of type specimens in plant classification</i>
	27	Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am <b>Working Bee</b> Heritage Forest Native Garden
Nov	7	Saturday	1 - 3pm <b>Propagation</b> APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
	17	Tuesday	7.30pm <b>General Meeting</b> Max Fry Hall, Guest speaker: TBA
	24	Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am <b>Working Bee</b> Heritage Forest Native Garden
Dec	4	Friday	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>
	5	Saturday	1 - 3pm <b>Propagation</b> APST Nursery, WPC Riverside
	15	Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am <b>Working Bee</b> Heritage Forest Native Garden

### North West Group Programme

Meets third Tuesday each month at 7.30 pm Saint Mary's Anglican Church Hall, corner of Thomas/ Church Streets, East Devonport.

Propagation sessions - third Thursday each month, at the Nursery in the Arboretum

Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	Plants sale, Arboretum
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Speaker - Robyn Mayne " <i>A pinch of gourmet indulgence</i> ". Using traditional Tasmanian bush tucker ingredients when cooking.
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Banksias - Ian Hutchinson
Nov 27/29	Members Get-together - Maydena
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Gathering (tba)

APST Directory

Australian Plants Society

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TASMANIA 7276

Email:  
apstsec@gmail.com  
Website:  
www.apstas.org.au

COUNCIL

President	Jenny Boyer	0434870576	Hobart Councillor	Keith Corbett	62391688
Vice-President	Margaret Killen	0409430665	North West Councillor	Riitta Boevink	64286909
Secretary	Mary Slattery	0402784086	North West Councillor	Drew Thomas	64371802
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten	63944600	Northern Councillor	Louise Skabo	0467199602
Hobart Councillor	Sib Corbett	62391688	Northern Councillor	Roy Pallet	0438392041
M'ship Officer	Margaret Killen	0409430665	North West Councillor	Riitta Boevink	6428 6909
Public Officer	Mary Slattery	0402784086	North West Councillor	Drew Thomas	64371802

GROUPS

Hobart Group

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

Northern Group

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

North West Group

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



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*Angophora costata* in the sunset (photo © D. Burns)