



*AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY TASMANIA Inc.  
NORTHERN GROUP*

PRESIDENT  
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**President's Annual Report for 2021** - presented at the AGM on 15 February 2022

It is with pleasure I present the Annual Report for 2021 for APST Inc. Northern Group.

The **Office-bearers** for 2021 were:

President: Peter Dowde

Vice-President: Jo Boniface

Business Secretary: Anna McGrane

Minutes Secretary: Noel Manning

Treasurer: Rosemary Verbeeten

Delegates to Council: Jo Boniface and Robert Worland. Proxy, Peter Dowde.

Nursery Manager: Janet Hallam

Programme Coordinators: Roy Skabo, Janet Hallam, Sharon Percy & Gilly Zacks.

Newsletter Editor: Kay Pallett

Membership Liaison: Jill Clark

Tasmanian Native Garden at HFG: Daphne & Peter Longman, Fran Mason & Suzanne Talbot

Web master / Social Media: Karen Manning / Louise Skabo

Publicity: Janet Hallam

Librarian: Janet Hallam

Supper Coordinator: Sharon Percy

Strategic Planning Committee: Margaret Killen, Roy Skabo, Janet Hallam & Julie Nermut

Louise Skabo was duly elected APSTas (state) President.

Fortunately, there were no lock-downs in the state during 2021 so 10 general meetings were held featuring 8 guest speakers and 2 members' nights.

Once again there was no **Blooming Tasmania Festival**.

**Membership:** Several new memberships resulted from the spring Plant sale. Our total Group membership according to the email list stood at **127**.

**Finances:** A statement is issued elsewhere. An EFTPOS system is still being devised for future plant sales. Treasurer Rosemary Verbeeten was kept as busy as ever due to ongoing plant sales, nursery expenses and membership payments.

Northern Group had a surplus of funds that could be put to an appropriate cause. It was therefore decided at the July meeting that \$3000 be donated to the RTBG native garden and \$3000 towards the RTBG seedbank.

**Guest Speakers:**

Sib and Keith Corbett, Toni Furlonge, Mark Wapstra, Angus Stewart, Christopher Lang, Kathryn Pugh and Magali Wright.

**Excursions:** A record number of excursions were conducted including the Tasmanian Bushland Garden at Buckland, some private gardens including some owned by members, Royal Botanical Gardens Hobart and a visit to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Launceston for viewing of botanical art by Australian artists.

A state-wide **Members' Get-together** was held in the Tarkine area in November.

**Council meetings:** Due to their success, most meetings were held virtually. Decisions included: Membership fees were not increased.

It was decided that a Facebook page should be created to promote the goals of APST.

**Strategic Planning Committee:**

Announcements included: The new website was ready to 'go live'. Focus was being made on marketing the APST.

**Nursery and Plant Sales:** The autumn plant sale saw record sales due to limited access to the public in 2020. The net result of this was depletion of stock and a limited offering at the spring sale. Despite this, the spring sale was still an outstanding success, providing our propagators a reason to work extra shifts at times. Janet was sometimes overwhelmed by the number of volunteers.

**Viola Hederacea:** The seeds sown and looked after by members the previous year reached maturity during 2021 by which time they were placed in the nursery; they have seeded prolifically. A roster was drawn up for members to make daily visits to harvest and store seeds. As mentioned last year, this project was in accession to a request from the Royal Tasmanian botanical Gardens for creation of a 'seed orchard'.

The Northern Group Nursery continues to flourish thanks to Janet, Colin and the hard-working group of volunteers.

Plant sales are publicised by Janet in The Examiner thanks to Les and Julie Hodge, as well as by Roy Pallet's well placed road signs.

'**Cheltenham Reserve**'. Progress still pending.

**Tasmanian Native Garden at Heritage Forest, Launceston**

Dedicated garden managers, Peter and Daphne Longman, Fran Mason and Suzanne Talbot, continue to organise member working bees, develop and replenish with new plantings and ensure the plants are watered during dry weather. They also liaise well with the City of Launceston to ensure they provide plants and mulch, mow nearby areas and remove rubbish. As a result, the TNG is thriving and maturing and was a blaze of colour last spring.

**NG Newsletter:** Brighter and better than ever thanks to extra content from the large number of excursions during 2021 and Kay Pallett's excellent editorship; it can be found at: <https://www.apstasnorth.org/>

**Website:** Karen Manning continued to be a most efficient Webmaster. The site can be found at the above address. We were informed that Karen is to be given access to the new ASPST website.

**Facebook Page:** The Northern Group's page continues to be extremely popular with so many members out and about photographing plants and posting them to the site. Postings occur on an almost daily basis.

**Library:** The future of our collection of beautiful plant books held at Max Fry Hall is still undecided.

**Christmas Function:** This was held at the Launceston Elderly Citizens Club Hall, Landale St Invermay. Apart from being more economical than the Windsor Precinct, members were impressed with the hall and its facilities. The event was well attended and well supplied with food once again despite Covid 19 restrictions.

At the suggestion of Roberta I have opened recent meetings with an acknowledgement of respect for the aboriginal community. I feel this is appropriate as we study indigenous plants and the food that some provided but we have paid little attention to the indigenous humans. I hope the practice of paying recognition continues.

It has been my privilege to be associated with a group of conscientious and hard-working people. I intend now to step back from committee positions but remain active in such projects as propagation and seed harvesting.

Peter Dowde, retiring president.