



Australian Plant Society Tasmania Inc – Northern Group President’s Annual Report for 2017

It is with pleasure I present the Annual Report for 2017 of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc - Northern Group.

Again, the Northern Group has had a very busy and successful year with many members participating in our activities.

Administration

The Office- bearers for 2017 were:

President	Lynne Mockridge
Secretary	Peter Dowde
Treasurer	Rosemary Verbeeten
Vice President	Roy Pallett, Louise Skabo
Council Delegates	Jill Clark, Lynne Mockridge
Nursery Manager	Sharon Percy, Assistant: Janet Hallam
Programme	Gilly Zacks, Janet Hallam, Roy Skabo
Newsletter editor	Louise Skabo
Publicity/Examiner	Janet Hallam
Welcoming Officer	Jill Clark
Heritage Forest Garden	Daphne and Peter Longman, Suzanne Talbot
Web master	Karen Manning
Librarian	Janet Hallam

I would like to thank all the office bearers for 2017 for your consistent hard work which has made my task, as President, much easier.

Membership

As at December 31st our group had 64 members. Welcome to the new members, many of whom take an active part in our group.

Nursery and plant Sales

The operation of the native plant nursery at Windsor Park, is a major activity for the group. In 2017 the members grew enough plants to hold a very successful plant sale in April but due to this success and the unseasonable weather later the one in October had to be cancelled. Gross takings for nursery and plant sale sales during the year were \$2248. Our

sales have been slightly less than expenses this year, but this is mainly due to no sale in October and ongoing improvements to the nursery.

Many thanks to Sharon Percy, our nursery manager for 8 years, for her tireless energy in organizing plant sales, propagating sessions and daily nursery maintenance. Many thanks also to Janet and Colin Hallam who have kept an eye on the plants and the watering system when Sharon has been unavailable.

Attendance at the monthly propagation sessions during the year and the presale sessions have been excellent for 2017, with an average of 12 members and as many as 18 attending, including some new members and visitors.

Also, members have rallied, as always, to help by watering plants and checking the nursery during the absences of Sharon during the year.

Program

The 2017 program for our monthly meetings has been very varied catering for a broad range of interests in the group. We have had contributions from guest speakers as well as from members on a club night. The program for 2017 included:

Saving Threatened Species & Environmental Law	Phillipa McCormack
A Socio-economic look at motivation for developing a native garden	Prof. Jamie Kilpatrick
Proteaceae – A Gondwanan Genus	Greg Jordan
Myrtle Rust	Tim Rudman
Tales of Giants and Pygmies	Mark Wapstra
What Eucalypt is that?	Alan Gray

Members contributions to club nights and special presentations included:

Daphne Longman – Australian Medicinal Plants

Peter Dowde – *Pittosporum undulatum* subsp *Xemmittii*, Not all natives are worth growing

Helen and Mick Statham - Plants Plus of Svalbard

Prue Wright – Nature around Alice Springs

Roy Pallett – Rabbits, fungi and lichens

Each meeting featured a “Plant of the Month” segment from members. Plants described in 2017 were: - *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Hakea myrtoidea* x *h petriodes*, Burrendong Beauty. *Doryanthus excels*, *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Clematis gentianoides*, *Microcanthus tetragona*, *Conesperma volubile*.

Thanks to Gilly Zacks, Janet Hallam and Roy Skabo for arranging a very interesting programme, and also to the members that contributed.

Excursions

We started the year with the Get together in Hobart which included trips to Mt Wellington, Mt Field and the Hartz Mountains National Parks

Other excursions included Tom Gibson Reserve and Powranna, Mt Barrow Reserve, Skemps, a weekend trip to Orford including a visit to Judy Harris's land at Pontypool and a walk in the Wielangta State Forest, a garden visit to Hosford's garden at Windemere and finished the year with our Christmas function at Windsor Park. Thanks to everyone who organized and contributed to these events.

Heritage Forest Garden

It has been a busy year in the garden for the group. Many thanks from our group to the dedicated committee, Peter and Daphne Longman and Suzanne Talbot, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. Along with the committee, there have been an average of 8 members who have rolled up and helped with the planting, weeding and pruning etc at the working bees held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. It is pleasing that some new members have come along to the working bees. Also, there have been many extra hours spent in the garden by this hard-working team. This year there were plantings carried out in autumn and spring.

Publicity

The Northern Group continues to gain publicity through various media.

- ***Examiner Newspaper***

Details of our meetings are still published in the Saturday edition on the gardening page and, as a result, we often see many new faces at our meetings.

- **APST North Web Site**

As the internet has become the main source of information for most people, our web site, www.apstasnorth.org has become a very important means of communication with many inquiries being received about our group and about native plants. As well as the public, our members use this excellent site as a resource. Thanks to Karen Manning for her work as Web master.

- **Plant sales**

We take the opportunity to publicize our group, through brochures etc, to interested members of the public during plants sales.

- **Newsletters**

Our quarterly newsletter is an excellent way of communicating with members, within the group and statewide, about our activities. The newsletters are also on our web site for all to access. Louise Skabo has done a very professional job with detailed reports on all our activities accompanied by many photos. Thank you, Louise for your excellent publications.

Also, NRM North publicize our activities in their newsletter.

- **Blooming Tasmania**

This year our participation at this show was very successful from a publicity point of view. It allowed us to interact with people who rarely have contact with native plant gardeners and the wonderful display of flowers from members gardens was very impressive. To all those who worked so hard to bring this about a very big thank you.

- **Official Opening of the Nursery**

This event was well supported by members of our group, councilors and staff of West Tamar Council as well as members of the public. It was featured on the West Tamar Council Facebook page straight after the event.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you all for the support you have given me as President over the last 2 years. It has been challenging and very busy but it has been such a pleasure to be involved with such an active group.

Lynne Mockridge
President, APST Northern Group