



## **Australian Plant Society Tasmania Inc – Northern Group President’s Annual Report for 2014**

It is with pleasure I present the Annual Report for 2014 of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc - Northern Group

### **Administration**

The Office- bearers for 2014 were:

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

I would to thank all the office bearers for 2014 for your consistent hard work which has made my task, as President, much easier.

### **Membership**

As at December 31<sup>st</sup> our group had 55 members compared to 54 last year, one new member joining us in 2014.

### **Nursery and plant Sales**

The operation of the native plant nursery at ‘Grassy Banks’, Bridgenorth is an integral activity for the group. In 2014 the members grew enough plants to hold 2 plant sales, one in April and one in October. Gross takings for these sales were \$2405. In addition, \$750

worth of plants was sold during the year. Our sales have certainly exceeded expenses for the year.

The group is indebted to Sharon Percy, our nursery manager, for her tireless energy in organizing plant sales, propagating sessions and daily nursery maintenance.

Attendance at the monthly propagation sessions during the year and the presale sessions have been excellent for 2014, with an average of 12 members attending.

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

Initiatives that have helped with nursery organization this year, have been arranging plants in alphabetical order at the nursery and at plant sales and the detailed documenting of cutting material supplied by members at the propagating sessions.

### **Programme**

The 2014 programme 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 members providing activities on club nights. The programme for 2014 included:

An illustrated talk on the ANSPA Conference	Jill Clark
Fungi: Facts and Fallacies	Dr Genevieve Gates
Establishing a Genetic Framework for Resilient Woodland Restoration	Dr Tanya Bailey
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> Conservation	Matthew Larcombe
Botanical Quiz	Prue Wright
Australian Plant Forum for propagators, gardeners and landscapers	Janet Hallam
Three New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands	Margaret Killen
Finding Botanical Lazarus	Mark Wapstra
Growing an Insect-friendly Garden	Simon Fearn

Each meeting featured a “Plant of the Month” segment from members. Plants described in 2014 were: - Genus *Adenanthos*, *Microcachrys tetragona*, *Nothofagus gunnii*, *Grevillea callichlaena*, *Grevillea x semperflorens*, *Richea dracophylla*, *Stylidium despectum* and *Kennedia nigricans*.

We have many keen photographers in our group and their talents were shown in the excellent photos that were entered in the competition of 3 categories, plants, places and people, at our annual dinner.

Thanks to Gilly Zacks, once again, for arranging a very interesting programme, and also to the members that contributed.

### **Field Trips**

During the year we have had a varied range of field trips which included:

January - Mt Barrow

April - Fungi excursion on the Bromfield’s property

September - State Get together at Orford with excursions to coastal areas, Bluff River Gorge and the Thumbs

October - Plant survey of a property, Esk Highway near Conara Junction

October – A plant survey of a property ‘Rathmolyne’, Breadalbane with Threatened Plants Tasmania.

Thanks to Gilly Zacks, David Meadows and Roy Skabo for organizing these excellent trips.

### **Heritage Forest Garden**

The garden has continued to develop during 2014 thanks to the dedication of the committee comprising Suzanne Talbot, Peter and Daphne Longman. 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 12 working bees held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, Also, there have been many extra hours spent in the garden by this hard-working team.

The garden has had many visitors this year, especially in November, when members conducted guided garden walks as part of a Wildflower Bus Tour organized by NRM North (Natural Resource Management).

Significant achievements and activities this year included:

- Planting of 100 plants in Autumn and 80 in September
- Extension of the logs around the garden beds
- Direction signage in the Heritage Forest
- Inclusion on the Launceston City Council Web Site
- An article about the garden in the Examiner Newspaper
- Visit from an officer from Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania
- An award titled, *Sustainable City Natural Environment Conservation*, presented to the group at a Launceston City Council function

During 2015 we will celebrate 10 years since the garden was established and it certainly wouldn't have developed to the wonderful garden it is today without the splendid team effort, Thanks to all who have helped this year and over the last 9 years.

### **NRM North**

This year members have been actively involved in some activities organized by NRM North

These include:

- Production of a brochure on native plants suitable for growing in coastal gardens, titled, *Native Plants of North Eastern Tasmania*
- A 3 day Botany course conducted by Mark Wapstra and Fred Duncan
- Wildflower Bus Tour traveling to Windsor Park, Heritage Forest Native Garden and Cheltenham Reserve.

### **Publicity**

The Northern Group continues to gain publicity through various media.

- Examiner Newspaper gardening column.  
Details of our meetings are published in the Saturday edition on the gardening page and, as a result, we often see many new faces at our meetings. Thanks to Janet Hallam for her media liaison.
- APST North Web Site  
As the internet has become the main source of information for most people, our web site, [www.apstasnorth.org](http://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 Trevor Yaxley for his 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. Thanks to Louise for your excellent publications.

### **Conservation and related activities**

As well as being heavily involved in the activities happening in our group, many of our members have found time to be very active in local Landcare and Wildcare groups such as Friends of Punchbowl Reserve, Friends of Machen's Reserve and Friends of Trevallyn Reserve. Also, many members have been involved in property surveys for Threatened Plants Tasmania.

Some members have conducted guided walks for community groups in areas such as Cheltenham Reserve while others have been active on working bees held in the garden of a valued member who required some assistance.

I wish to thank you all for the support you have given me in my new role as President and especially to Janet Hallam for her advice and mentoring. It is wonderful to be involved in such an active group.

Julie Nermut President APST Northern Group

