



*AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY TASMANIA Inc.
NORTHERN GROUP*

PRESIDENT
Peter Dowde 0363317761

www.apstasnorth.org Email: apstasnorth@gmail.com
Post: 45 Osborne Avenue, Trevallyn. Tas. 7250

President's Annual Report for 2020 - presented at the AGM on 16 February 2021

It is with pleasure I present the Annual Report for 2020 for APST Inc. Northern Group.

The Office-bearers for 2020 were:

President: Peter Dowde

Vice-President: vacant

Business Secretary: Louise Skabo

Minutes Secretary: Noel Manning

Treasurer: Rosemary Verbeeten

Delegates to Council: Roy Pallett and Louise Skabo

Nursery Manager: Janet Hallam

Programme Coordinators: Roy Skabo, Janet Hallam & Gilly Zacks

Newsletter Editor: Kay Pallett

Membership Liaison: Jill Clark

Tasmanian Native Garden at HFG: Daphne & Peter Longman & 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

The Northern Group has had a very successful year despite all the circumstances. We have seen an increase in membership, record plant sales and amazing support for our nursery and Tasmanian Native Plant Garden.

None of this could have happened without the support and dedication of our members.

On a sadder note, we lost one of our founding members, Marion Simmons and esteemed presenter, Alan Gray; they will both be sorely missed.

Although 4 meetings and associated presentations were cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic, working bees at the gardens and nursery still continued in a modified form.

There was no **Blooming Tasmania Festival**.

Membership: Several new memberships resulted from the spring Plant sale. Our total Group membership at the end of December 2020 stood at **115**.

Finances: A statement is issued elsewhere. An EFTPOS system is 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 now has a surplus of funds that could be put to an appropriate cause.

Guest Speakers: Tanya Bailey, Helen and Mick Statham, Paul Richardson & Amanda Walker, Mark Wapstra and Angus Stewart.

Excursions: Connorville, Waterhouse Conservation Area, Georgetown area, North Scottsdale Regional Reserve and a garden visit to Rosemary Verbeeten.

A state-wide **Members' Get-together** was held at Maydena in November.

Council meetings: The above delegates represented Northern Group. Due to the current circumstances, meetings were held 'on line' with one exception. This arrangement appeared successful and resulted in shorter meetings and less long distance travel to Ross. Tasks being undertaken for our Society include insurance matters, a new website, re-writing of our Handbook, digitalising Eucryphia journal, updating APST history, an induction kit for Councillors new Garden Guides and Botanical Names brochures for the public and development of new certificates for members.

Strategic Planning Committee:

The Strategic Planning Committee continued to advise Council on projects which need implementing for the future development of APST. Governance and Membership were largely dealt with in 2019 and the new website is a 2020 initiative along with developing Education and Conservation strategies for 2021.

Max Fry Hall. It was pleasing to see that the hall was reroofed thanks to a government grant for which Northern Group helped lobby. The promised donation of \$1000 towards this project was handed over by Northern Group.

Nursery and Plant Sales

Despite the stable (potting shed) being inaccessible for a time, propagation sessions continued in modified form with reduced participation. Some members carried on propagation at home. An unusual request came from the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens: a request to propagate *Viola hederacea* for 'seed orchard' creation; these are being minded by a few members and seedlings have now been potted-on and are growing in the NG nursery.

The new hardening-off bench was installed. Colin Hallam revised the automatic watering system. Between Colin, Janet and others the nursery was visited almost every day. Despite there being no autumn sale, private sales by members plus the spring sale netted a total of \$8157.10 for the year. A fantastic effort and a sell-out success.

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.

Eastern Barred Bandicoot. A request was received from NRM North suggesting a collaboration with APST towards conservation of this animal. NG decided to grow suitable plants for EBB land on an ad hoc basis but leave it to individual members to assist NRMN.

'Cheltenham Reserve'. A letter was finally received from DPIPWE stating that the parcel of land in Cheltenham Way was to be transferred to Parks Dept as a wildflower reserve.

Tasmanian Native Garden at Heritage Forest, Launceston

Dedicated garden managers, Peter and Daphne Longman 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. A wedding was held there in September.

NG Newsletter continued unabated under 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.

Facebook Page: The Northern Group's page has proven extremely popular with so many members out and about photographing plants and posting them to the site. The response from other members to identify plants has been amazing.

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

Thank you all for the hard work and support through a very difficult year.