



Australian Plant Society Tasmania Inc – Northern Group President’s Annual Report for 2015

It is with pleasure I present the Annual Report for 2015 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 all of our activities.

Administration

The Office- bearers for 2015 were:

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

I would like to thank all the office bearers for 2015 for your consistent hard work which has made my task, as President, much easier.

Membership

As at December 31st our group had 89 members compared to 55 last year. Welcome to all the new members, many of whom joined when we had special membership offers at the plant sale and the 10th Anniversary.

Vale Maureen Johnstone

It was with much sadness that APST North learned of the passing, in June, of Maureen who joined our Group in 2006.

For many years she was an active member, being a Council Delegate and Welcoming Officer.

She will be greatly missed

Nursery and plant Sales

The operation of the native plant nursery at 'Grassy Banks' Bridgenorth, is a major activity for the group. In 2015 the members grew enough plants to hold 2 plant sales, one in April and one in October. Gross takings for these sales plus sales during the year were \$2933. Our sales have certainly exceeded expenses for the year.

Many thanks to Sharon Percy, our nursery manager for 6 years, 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 2015, with an average of 12 members and as many as 18 attending, including some new members.

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

In March, Sharon was very innovative by holding a propagating session for young first home owners to encourage them to plant natives and to introduce them to APST activities. Potting up sessions followed in September and October.

Sharon wishes to downsize and to travel so she would like to relinquish the nursery at 'Grassy Banks'. It will be a task for the members to find a new venue in 2016.

We are all very grateful to Sharon and Mike for the excellent facilities that they have provided at 'Grassy Banks' for the nursery.

Programme

The 2015 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 from members on a club night. The programme for 2015 included:

Ecology of Four Springs Lake

The Science behind large scale restoration plantings

in the Tasmanian Midlands

Exotic Gene Flow between Plantation and Native Eucalypts

The Orchid Conservation Programme

Private Land Conservation

Members Night: Atherton Tablelands, Smarty Plants

Landscape Design

Professor Nigel Forteach

Dr Tanya Bailey

Matthew Larcome

Dr Noushka Reiter

Anna Povey

Helen and Mick Statham,

Roy Pallett

Karen Johnson

Rare and Threatened North East Beauties

Mark Wapstra

Saltmarsh Wetlands

Vishnu Prahalad

Each meeting featured a “Plant of the Month” segment from members. Plants described in 2015 were: - *Leptospermum petersonii*, *Atriplex cinerea*, *Arthropodium strictum*, *Baloskion tetraphyllum*, *Thyptomene saxicola*, *Penatachondra pumila*, *Zieria littoralis*, *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*, *Astrolma humifusum*

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

Excursions

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

January - Vale of Belvoir

April - Revegetation Project, ‘Connorville’

April - Fagus, Cradle Mountain

June - Winter Orchids

July - Ellis Rowan paintings, QVMAG

September - Narawntapu National Park and nearby, a visit to view Gunn’s Tree Orchids

October - State Get - together at Tullah with excursions to Grandville Harbour and Lake Sandra

November - *Tetratheca gunnii*, Dan Hill Reserve

November - A plant survey of a covenanted property, Nabowla

November - TPT weekend, plant surveys at Waterhouse and Bellingham

Thanks to Gilly Zacks, Suzanne Talbot, Paul Edwards and Roy Skabo for organizing these excellent trips.

Heritage Forest Garden

It has been a very busy and exciting year in the garden for the group, culminating in the celebration on the 24th October of the 10th Anniversary of the foundation of the garden. Many thanks from our group to the dedicated committee, comprising 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 13 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 especially before the 10th Anniversary celebrations.

10th Anniversary

After many months of planning and effort by the many members, the 10th Anniversary celebrations in the garden were a great success with about 70 visitors and a good roll - up of members enjoying the garden, which looked magnificent in full flower.

Lynne Mockridge spoke of the history of the garden and the large and colourful interpretation sign, which was designed by Louise Skabo and Rosemary Verbeeten, was unveiled by the committee, A celebratory cake was then cut and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to Tammy Edmunds of the Launceston City Council (our partners in the garden) and Alison Hugo, NRM North, both of whom provided help and expertise in applying for and administering the Landcare grant, which funded the interpretation and gate signs, and for organization on the day.

The members should be congratulated for the team effort in preparing the garden, designing interpretation and gate signs and posters, sending out invitations, growing plants for gifts and providing refreshments.

Other significant achievements and activities in the garden this year included:

- Planting of 50 plants in Autumn
- Driftwood to finish the last of the garden edging.
- Dry creek bed was lined with stones
- Water feature in the lawn
- Interpretation sign
- Large welcome sign at the gate and a street sign
- Several articles in the *Examiner* Newspaper
- Book Launch in the garden by NRM North

Publicity

The Northern Group continues to gain publicity through various media.

- ***Examiner* Newspaper**
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.
- **!0th Anniversary Publicity**
We received much publicity before and after the event in the *Examiner* and on ABC radio. Thanks to Janet Hallam for all her media liaison, especially with the media release by NRM North
- **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 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.

Also, NRM North publicise our activities, such as the 10th Anniversary, in their newsletter.

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.

Thanks to Roy Skabo who has represented our group at meetings held with the Meander Council on the outcome of Cheltenham Reserve.

Christmas Dinner

The big social event for the year was the Christmas party held at the Max Fry Hall on December 4th

35 members had a very enjoyable evening celebrating the end to a very busy and productive year. Thanks to Jill Clark for co-ordinating the event and for Roy Skabo for organizing the photo competition.

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.

Julie Nermut

President, APST Northern Group