



The Launceston Landscape



August 2023

Issue No 134

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Society Meetings

A reminder that our regular monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30pm at Windmill Hill Hall (next to the Launceston Aquatic Centre). It would be appreciated if you could arrive a little earlier to help set-up. These meetings include a trade table, several competitions, guest speakers, general business and raffles. Members are invited to bring a plate of supper to share with others at the end of the meeting.

Meeting Dates / Guest Speakers / Topic

- 16 Aug Launceston Bonsai Group.
20 Sept Mark Hay – Allan's Garden Centre, Prospect.
18 Oct Noel Button – Some unusual flowering plants
15 Nov John Taber – Native Plants

Guests and new members welcome!

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Show Calendar 2023 / 2024

| | | |
|-------|------|--------------|
| 2-3 | Sept | Early Spring |
| 11-12 | Nov | Late Spring |
| 10-11 | Feb | Summer Show |

Results of Show Raffle

- 1st Lesley Guy (Beauty Point)
2nd Evelyn McNear (Longford)
3rd Sue Gillon (Launceston)

Our Executive:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Patron: | Her Excellency, The Honourable Barbara Baker AC | |
| President: | Erica Maxwell | 0411 410 647 |
| Vice President/ Show Manager: | Noel Button | 6394 4750 |
| Treasurer: | Marilyn Fraterman | 0419 036 833 |
| Secretary: | Liz Atkins | 0448 852 552 |
| Show Secretary: | Sarah Katarzynski | 6344 1200 |

Committee Members:

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Abby Gray | 044 705 0465 |
| Anna Vrantzis | 0417 589 037 |
| Elizabeth Taylor | 0417 360 738 |
| Joan Thompson | 0419 510 922 |
| Kay Maloney | 0403 906 462 |
| Pauline Torrents | 0409 493 184 |
| Vicki McCormack | 0409 217 806 |

Message from the Newsletter Editor

Thank you everyone who contributed articles and photos for this edition of The Launceston Landscape. A reminder to please check if there are any copyright conditions of any articles before submitting.

Please forward any items to
Noel Button

noel.button@hotmail.com

or give to him at the next meeting.

Hope you enjoy this edition and I look forward to receiving and publishing your contributions in future newsletters.

Happy gardening from
Patricia Beams



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year marks 185 years since our Society was formed. Given that Launceston was established in March 1806, our founders had great foresight to establish the Society so early in the history of this city. Many of the magnificent trees to be found in Launceston's parks, and in the gardens of stately homes throughout the district, are due to their efforts. Understandably, their initial focus was on the propagation and distribution of plants, particularly vegetables and fruit, as the Launceston settlement was still in its infancy. However, our founding members' interests quickly expanded to a diverse range of plants. They imported seed and plants from England and Europe, and in return shipped Tasmanian plants back to these countries, and in so doing created a greater appreciation of Tasmania's unique flora.

It is gratifying that our members have continued to champion this interest over the years. Fostering a passion for seeking out "the unusual", continuing to cultivate a diverse range of plants, and ensuring heritage varieties continue to be available. Our current members often delight in sharing seed and cuttings with others; and most importantly, they are willing to pass on their skills in propagation to the next generation of gardeners.

Once our founders established their gardens their attention turned to exhibiting and competitions. These exhibitions motivated members to excel, and educated and inspired others to propagate a more diverse range of plants. Gwenda Sheridan's *The Launceston Horticultural Society a History** chronicles the fierce competition that existed at times. Needless to say, that competitive streak is still evident amongst our members today. Our September Flower Show is an opportunity to showcase the joys of gardening, and for us all to celebrate our heritage as Australia's longest continuously running horticultural society.

Erica Maxwell

* Copies of Gwenda Sheridan's comprehensive history are available for loan from the LHS library or from the Launceston Library.

GENERAL MEETING - FLOWER OF THE NIGHT

One Stem

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| August | - | Camellia |
| September | - | Early Spring Bulb |
| October | - | Late Spring Bulb |
| November | - | Rose |

OTHER COMPETITIONS

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Produce | - | Fruit or Vegetable |
| Any other cut flower | - | A maximum of 3 stems of the same variety |
| Potted plants | - | Any size – any plant |

AUTUMN SHOW

Our newly structured Autumn Show, combining both displays and competitive sections, proved to be a great success. The support given by the Native Plant Society, the Northern Bonsai Group, the Northern Orchid Society, Bob Cherry's Team from the coast, and Joyann Bramich's Dahlias, in addition to our members displays, is greatly appreciated. A special thank you must go to Warren Prewer for his stunning pumpkin display.

The Vegetable, Floral Art and Succulent competitions, in addition to the One Metre and new Half Metre sections were well supported. The continued efforts of the Floral Art Group must be acknowledged.

EARLY SPRING SHOW

We will celebrate our 185th year of the Launceston Horticultural Society at the upcoming Early Spring Show. Our patron, Her Excellency, The Honourable Barbara Baker AC will officially open the show at 2:00pm on Saturday.

Members are asked for their support; no matter how small, to ensure a successful weekend.

Hall set-up will be on Friday 1st September from 10:00am onwards.

Contacts for volunteers:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Stewarding | Abby Gray | 0447 050 465 |
| Plant Stall | Erica Maxwell | 0411 410 647 |
| Refreshment Roster & Slice Donations | Maureen Coady | 0414 902 207 |
| Raffle Roster | Donna Miller | 0408 272 132 |
| Door Roster | Kay Maloney | 0403 906 462 |

Noel Button

BULB & ALPINE MEETING

The next Bulb and Alpine meeting will be on Saturday 9 September at 2:00pm at the home of Suzanne and Michael MacDonald, 42 Pyenna Ave Kings Meadows. All welcome, bring a guest if you like and something for afternoon tea. If you have something of interest from your garden please bring that as well. We always have an informative and fun afternoon.

FLORAL ART GROUP

I'm pleased to report that the group has been meeting on the last Saturday of every month. We have had constructive instruction from three knowledgeable ladies and wish to thank Gayle Carroll, Christina Owens and Gaye Ellis for their efforts. During these sessions we've learned to create Hogarth Curve, Leaf Manipulation, Complimentary Colour, and Vertical Arrangements. Newcomers most welcome. For more information contact Gayle Carroll on 6344 9953. Vicki McCormack



CACTUS GROUP

LHS Cactus and Succulent Group Road trip to Devonport Saturday 9 July 2023

Ten of the group were so fortunate to be able to visit a Cactus garden in Devonport today which belongs to Moon/Glenn Bramich who made us so welcome and is so passionate about his Cactus and all of his other plants. He has been collecting for over twenty years from memory, so it is an amazing collection. We car pooled from Launceston and arrived at Moon's at 10:00am and we were all in awe of his garden, it surely is amazing. Moon is so



well known for his cactus that he has even been bequeathed some enormous specimens that had to be craned into place in the front garden. He not only has Cactus but has, Rhipsalis, Bromeliads, Succulents, Air Plants, etc, etc. He has many plants for sale, even nice sized Cactus if anyone is looking for Cactus to use in Landscaping. We are hoping to visit him again in the Summer months so we can see many of his plants in flower. I am sure that the faces on our members said it all and all agree that we would have to visit at least four times to take all of the plants in, it is amazing. Thank you to Moon for being so helpful and we will be back!



Joan Thompson

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER

Snakes alive!! Tiger, Copper head and White lip are the ones to look out for. Mr Ian Norton filled us in on what to look for and how to identify between each kind of snake in Tasmania.

Tiger snakes have a larger head than a Copper Head and are by far the more dangerous.

Ian suggests that you have to try pretty hard to get bitten by a Copper Head. I'm sure none of us will try it deliberately.

Tiger snakes have a large head and a neck where Copper Heads have a tiny head and are usually dull coloured with roundish scales. White lips are usually about 1/2 metre in length in browns, green or black and as there name suggests, have indeed got white lips.

Ian suggested one of the best ways to drive snakes away is to spray them with a high pressure hose. Move water bowls to an area where you can see right around the bowl.

If bitten (say on the arm) bandage area from the tip of the fingers to just over the bite then from the shoulder down to the bitten area.

Treatment of snake bite in Tasmania is a cocktail of anti-venom and covers all types of snake bites in this state.

For land snakes keep your eyes open people.

Marilyn Donald

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER - 24 CARROT GARDEN PROJECT

The 24 Carrot Gardens Project educates children in health, wellbeing, and the importance of lifelong learning. 24 Carrot is a project of Material Institute, a not-for-profit based in Lutruwita/Tasmania with the vision of ensuring children, young people and their families are healthy, resilient and able to achieve their full potential.

The program supports 24 schools around Tasmania and recently expanded the program to include the North and North West of Tasmania, including the following schools.

East Tamar Primary School
Ravenswood Heights Primary School
East Devonport Primary School
Romaine Park Primary School
Montello Primary School



Erica Maxwell & Jo Dean - Presentation of \$1000

Since our last update at the LHS meeting there has been a lot of positive changes.

We have moved into our new 24 Carrot Gardens Northern Hub linked with Ravenswood Heights Primary School. To welcome us James Kream, of Kream Art decorated the outside walls with some amazing wall art.

Our Southern Chef Vlad and DJ Martin visited Ravenswood Heights Primary School and offered an afterschool learning program for students to learn about making and cooking Gozleme from ingredients sourced from the garden.

We were present as mentors at the Launceston Youth Climate Leaders gathering at UTas, where 70 students from 6 Launceston schools came together to learn ways to care for the environment and to create a small project they can implement in their school to complete in 4 months. Vlad provided a meal for all participants, students, teachers and mentors where all ingredients were locally sourced. This was a wonderful learning opportunity for students to experience new flavours and to understand the impact on the environment of their food choices. Menu attached.

Some of the foods were very new to students, which resulted in some compost being generated from discarded food, however this became new nutrients for the Ravenswood School Garden.

The Launceston schools are participating in a project "The Flavours of Launceston", generating a cookbook using some ingredients grown in the garden, and also contributing artwork for the cookbook which will be released at agriCULTURED on the 3rd and 4th of August. Check this link to buy tickets for the "Flavours of Launceston" event. Profits from the event supporting local community groups.

<https://www.agricultured.com.au/tickets/>

The 24 Carrot program expansion is funded by philanthropic funding and also through the State government education department, 50/50 at this point in time. We are thankful for the support provided by the Launceston Horticultural Society which has allowed us to continue to provide organic food growing, garden design and cooking education programs in schools in the Launceston area.

We are currently gearing up for our "Ladies who Swim" fundraiser.
All welcome to join the Northern jump, or donate to the cause.

<https://www.mycase.com.au/p/316294/nips-northern-immersion-of-permaculture-swimmers>

Thanks so much

Joanne Dean

MAY GUEST SPEAKER

Darren Cullen travelled up from Hobart to enthrall us with his fascinating exploits around the world in his pursuit of carnivorous plants.

Darren showed us many photos of various plants from places like Venezuela, Bolivia, USA, Papua New Guinea to name just a few.

Some places were only accessible by helicopter and many locations very hostile environments.

After risking his life on a number of occasions Darren has reached the conclusion he should concentrate on hunting down carnivorous plants in Australia.

There are many and varied types of carnivorous plants some quite large able to trap rats etc and some very tiny. A number of these plants have been successfully propagated and are relatively easy to maintain.

Darren assures us that Tasmania is an ideal environment in which to grow these plants outside as they need a winter cold.

Quite a few plants were brought along for members to purchase and add to their collection.

A very fascinating topic and one conveyed in a very passionate manner from an avid enthusiast.

Marilyn Donald

Growing Carnivorous Plants – By Darren Cullen and Jill Richards

Tasmania is home to nearly 20 carnivorous species, yet for some ungodly reason this beautiful and captivating family of plants have been unfairly labelled as being hard to grow.

No! Absolutely not.

Keeping a few simple guidelines in mind you'll find we are one of the best places in the world to grow many of the more common varieties and I'll tell you why.

For the sake of brevity I'll concentrate on the more easily acquired temperate varieties, these being the Venus Fly Trap, *Sarracenia* - the American pitcher plants and *Drosera* - the sundew

family. There are other families of plants that have more specific needs but here's the basics. Let's keep the easy ones alive before we start with the hard stuff!

Firstly, normal potting mix is fatal. They have evolved to live in nutritionally poor soils and thus are very susceptible to any chemicals. They need a slightly acidic media that can retain some moisture, and the most commonly used mix is a combo of sphagnum peat and washed horticultural sand. A ratio of 60/40 is ideal for me personally, but anything around this figure will work. Check that the sand does not have any salts or residual chemicals. I like to wash mine first just to be sure. Sphagnum moss is also good but is expensive and tends to grow quicker than your plants, swamping them over time.

Plastic pots are perfect, and as big as you see fit. A healthy plant will grow to completely fill a pot over time so give them space if you can spare it. Avoid terracotta or unglazed ceramics as they can leech nasty chemicals into the media, so avoid whenever possible.

Always have your plants sitting in a water tray. They are extremely hardy in the wild, but keep the media damp. In many places across the world growers have to buy copious amounts of distilled water, or resort to expensive reverse osmosis filtering systems, to keep their plants happy. An accidental spray with unfiltered tap water in Adelaide once decimated a friend's collection, but here in good old Taz, we can water straight out of the tap. If you want to be extra sure, collect rainwater and use that.

Despite what Barry from Bunnings will tell you, they are definitely not indoor plants. They need all the sun that you can give them, but they also need a winter dormancy. Tasmania has a lovely warm summer and a reasonably cold winter, perfect for their natural cycle. Yes, they look terrible during the colder months but come spring they will bolt out of the ground, so keep them outside. The light will also maximise any colour, whereas indoors they tend to be pale, elongated and sickly. And quickly dead.

The final thing to consider is not to feed them. They are not toys. Yeah, it's fun to fire off the flytraps to show the kids how they work, but continued fiddling with no nutritional benefit will weaken and exhaust the plant. Don't kill a fly with insecticide and then stuff it into a pitcher. Evolution has given them more than adequate capacity to catch enough food on their own. Sit back on a nice summer's day and just watch them do it. With a ruthless and surprising efficiency.

And that's about it. They will prosper if you follow these simple instructions.

If you need any more information there are growing guides on-line at the International Carnivorous Plant Society's webpage at <https://www.carnivorousplants.org> and just remember to reverse the seasons if the author is from the Northern Hemisphere.



Closer to home, there's the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society's page <https://www.vcps.org> and even closer still is the Facebook group for Carnivorous Plants Tasmania. We're always happy to answer a question.

Happy growing!

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER

Cressy residents Liz and Travis Preece run a business called LITTLE FOREST GARDENS and they came along on a freezing night to tell us all about it.



Liz, who works part-time for Tas Alkaloids, has turned her hand to growing and selling cut flowers to event co-ordinators and florists locally.

Liz's passion started off with roses then diversified into dahlias. Starting off with tubers they have since discovered that propagated dahlia cuttings survive Cressy conditions better.

The business is now expanding into "do it yourself weddings" and this has proven quite successful.

While Liz is coming up roses with her business her husband Travis, who is an electrician, has moved into bee keeping. They are now into their 3rd year of honey production and are running 15 hives from which last collection reaped some 300 kilo. Travis uses poly boxes which he finds are much better insulated than the traditional wooden ones and much more suitable for use in cold Cressy.



The members were fortunate enough to sample the honey and had the opportunity to purchase some as well.

Marilyn Donald

JULY GUEST SPEAKER

John McGaughey (pronounced McGoy), was kind enough to travel all the way up from Kingston to educate us on the types and finer points of grafting.

John is a very experienced grafter from way back and has grafted hundreds of trees but he still calls himself an extremely enthusiastic amateur.

We were educated on the many forms of grafting such as whip and tongue, wedge, side bud, veneer, root, approach and bridge.

Bud grafting is used on things like roses and stone fruit. Veneer is used on things that have a much more delicate stem such as Japanese Maple.

You may chose to graft for a more vigorous plant or maybe for varieties or to help heal a plant such as ringbarked tree where you would use a bridging graft or several grafts to aid the sap to continue to flow.



Succulents are very easy to graft. He pointed out that many of the ones seen in stores with a red or yellow topknot have had the top grafted on. Maybe that knowledge could inspire a new item in the succulents section in the show, imagine what you could come up with. This is John's philosophy entirely, "give it a go, what have you got to lose".

John is so enthusiastic he has an apple tree at his home with 15 varieties grafted on.

He had a strange tool in his box of tricks called an ozoffer or garden pruner, it cuts a wedge shape that you just line up with a corresponding cut on the grafter.

Once you have your grafts cut and wedged in, you then use grafting tape to bind the pieces together. Always wind from below the graft upwards.

It is better in most cases to graft when the wood is cold and the sap is just starting to run.

You can keep pieces to be grafted wrapped in tissue and gladwrap in the crisper in your fridge for several weeks.

After the talk John showed those interested how to actually cut the stems and wedge them together.

As John says "give it a go, it's fun".

Marilyn Donald

WESTBURY GARDEN TRIP

April 2023

On a bright sunny Saturday members from the Hort Society car-pooled and travelled to Westbury to visit four gardens.

The first was a neat cottage garden in New Street – very pleasant but very dewy underfoot as it was quite early in the day. Those who had sandals or non-watertight shoes must have had very wet feet at the end of that visit. We were also allowed in the garden next door – a man's garden, so easy to look after.

Second stop was "Culzean" in Birrallee Road, a large, well-treed garden with spacious lawns and mown tracks in amongst the glorious trees. I collected some wonderful conifer bark (with the permission of the owner) which looked very suitable for future floral art displays.

Lunch was bring-your-own at the Village Green and then off to a newish garden featuring spectacular hedging. The owners were mainlanders and very keen on their South American hedges which, when cut, spelt very nice. We were provided afternoon tea there in a sheltered patio off the house.





Our last garden was really an arboretum in Mary Street – a young arboretum but showing signs of being a wonderful garden in a few more years. We saw it with its autumn colours, It had a wonderful hedge (hawthorn?) on the street only planted since the



owners had bought the 11 acres ten or so years before and for which they had received a letter from the council thanking them for keeping it so neat and tidy! The large brick-walled vegetable garden behind the house was a joy to behold.

It was a wonderful day. Thank you, Liz, for organising it.

Sarah Katarzynski

DO YOU NEED GARDENING HELP

“The Yard Man” is available for all gardening requirements in addition to window cleaning, gutter clearing and pruning. Please call Matthew on 048 314 2182.

LAUNCESTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS GROUP – CITY PARK

Volunteers: Norma Purton & Elizabeth Taylor chatting to visitors.



BUTCHART GARDENS

Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada

Spring – 9 May 2023



Approximately 1904 Robert & Jennie Butchart came to Tod Inlet to make their home. For fifteen years the property had yielded the limestone and clay for Mr Butchart's nearby cement manufacturing plant. When the plant closed Mrs Butchart stood atop the quarry wall and with determination and imagination, envisaged a garden in the desolate quarry below which became the Sunken Garden. The humble start Jennie made in starting a small garden near the family residence has grown considerably since then.

I was lucky enough to have a breakfast in the original Butchart homestead. Walking through the gardens I didn't know where to look first. I was so overwhelmed.

Many beds are still edged in the blue flowers Jenny Butchart favoured. Tulips are planted among masses of Forget-Me-Nots (Alaska's State flower). I have never seen tulips like it. Over seventy gardeners maintain the gardens and hot houses. The Sunken Garden, Rose Garden, Italian Garden, Japanese Garden, Mediterranean Garden, Star Pond and Piazza. The Concert Lawn, Rose Carousel and Children's Pavilion and others. It was amazing and I will always cherish the memory of just being there.

Patricia Beams









AUTUMN SHOW DISPLAYS



AUTUMN SHOW



AUTUMN SHOW



AUTUMN SHOW



AUTUMN SHOW



AUTUMN SHOW



LAUNCESTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.
RESULT SHEET – 15-16 APRIL 2023
AUTUMN SHOW

FREE CHOICE – OPEN TO ALL

ONE METRE FREE CHOICE DISPLAY

Winner Louise & Noel Button
2nd Errol & Stephen Imlach

HALF A METRE FREE CHOICE DISPLAY

1st Maria Lawson
2nd Abby Gray

CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS

BEST EXHIBIT – CACTUS

Winner Joan Thompson For: Mammillaria Brain Cactus

BEST EXHIBIT – SUCCULENT

Winner Marilyn Von Stieglitz For: Aeonium Mardi Gras

BEST EXHIBIT – MULTI-PLANTED CONTAINER, CACTI AND/OR SUCCULENTS

Winner Marilyn Von Stieglitz

BEST EXHIBIT – CACTUS/SUCCULENT – INTERMEDIATE SECTION

Winner Ian & Dorothy Denman For: Mammillaria toluca

VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND NUTS

BEST EXHIBIT – VEGETABLE

Winner Noel Button Vegetable: Truss tomatoes

GIANT PUMPKIN

Winner Warren Prewer

BEST EXHIBIT - LARGEST/LONGEST VEGETABLE

Winner Warren Prewer Vegetable: Marrow

UGLIEST VEGETABLE OR FRUIT

Winner Warren Prewer Vegetable/Fruit: Beetroot

MOST UNUSUALLY SHAPED VEGETABLE OR FRUIT

Winner Vegetable/Fruit:

BEST EXHIBIT FRUIT/NUTS

Winner Warren Prewer Fruit/Nuts: Pears

BEST EXHIBIT – LARGE BASKET OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Winner Warren Prewer

FLORAL ART

OPEN FLORAL ART

JOAN WARD TROPHY AWARDED TO MOST OUTSTANDING EXHIBIT IN OPEN FLORAL ART

Winner Gayle Carroll For: The going down of the sun....

Cascading into Autumn

1st Gayle Carroll
2nd Marilyn Donald

Glass with Class

1^s Sarah Katarzynski
2nd Gayle Carroll

At the going down of the sun.....

1st Gayle Carroll
2nd Marilyn Donald

INTERMEDIATE FLORAL ART

MYRTLE BURROWS' TROPHY AWARDED TO THE MOST OUTSTANDING EXHIBIT IN INTERMEDIATE FLORAL ART

Winner Alice Imlach For: Mother's Day Centre Piece

A modern cascade.

1st Alice Imlach
2nd Sally Lethborg

A Mother's Day Centre Piece

1^s Alice Imlach
2nd Vicki McCormack

Succulent delight

1st Vicki McCormack
2nd Sally Lethborg

AMATEUR FLORAL ART

BEST EXHIBIT IN AMATEUR SECTION

Winner Noah Bullock For: Tapestry

A Mother's Day posy

1st Noah Bullock
2nd Maria Lawson

Autumn Tapestry

1st Noah Bullock

JUNIOR FLORAL ART SECTIONS

BEST EXHIBIT IN CHILDREN'S SECTION

Winner Alex Bullock For: Autumn crescent

6 Years and Under

Necklace made from nuts, pods, foliage and berries

1st Lillian Skinner

Depict a submarine

1st Lillian Skinner

7 to 10 years

Autumn in a basket

1st Maisy Swift

2nd Mabel Skinner

Make a scarecrow

1st Mabel Skinner

2nd Maisy Swift

11 to 14 years

A floral pumpkin

1st Alex Bullock

An autumn crescent

1st Alex Bullock



MEN ONLY SECTION

BEST EXHIBIT: Errol Imlach For: Autumn in Terracotta