

Launceston Horticultural Society Inc.

Feb—April 2018

Issue 117

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The Launceston Landscape

Welcome to your newsletter!

We value your contributions and invite members to send in items of interest. For all newsletter submissions please send through to email address: launcestonhs@gmail.com as first preference. Alternatively items can be collected at monthly meetings.

Society Meetings

A reminder that our regular monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 8:00pm at Windmill Hill Hall (next to the Launceston Aquatic Centre). These meetings include a trade table, *Flower of the Month*, 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.

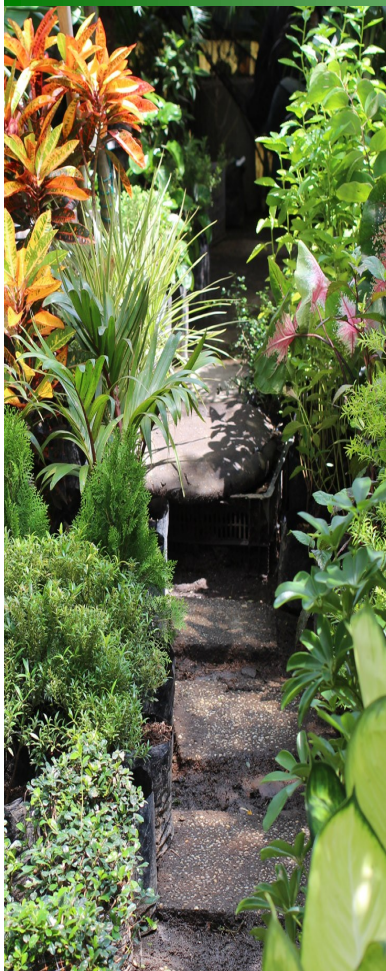
Meeting Dates

-16th January -21st February -21st March -18th April
Guests and new members welcome!



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Our Executive

Patron:	Her Excellency, Professor, The Honourable Kate Warner, AM
President:	Noel Button Tel 63 944750
Immediate Past President:	John Stuart 0418 316 152
Vice President:	Peter Bugg
Treasurer:	Lyn Stuart Tel 0498 592 157
Minutes Secretary:	Alice Imlach
Committee Members:	
Gayle Carroll	63 449953
Peter Bugg	0407 447 721
Michael MacDonald	63 431308
Suzanne MacDonald	63 431308
Norma Purton	63 274304
Kay Maloney	0403 906 462
Pam Bennell	0427 637 208
Michael Webster	0400 831 984
Errol Imlach	63 401656

Message from the Newsletter Editor

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



Happy gardening from Harley

[Click here for link](https://www.facebook.com/Launceston-Horticultural-Society-449834321852071/)

<https://www.facebook.com/Launceston-Horticultural-Society-449834321852071/>



President's Report

Summer heat and dry is upon us once again. The physical challenges these create for the gardener and his/her plants can be exhausting – but we have little choice but to plod on!

Our Late Spring Show certainly had St Ailbes looking its best – a presentation of which we should all be proud! I must reinforce Peter Bugg's comments with reference to the stage display created by Bob Cherry and Neil Jordan. Their display was stunning and we greatly appreciate their efforts. Neil has kindly provided an article for this edition of the Landscape. Mark McDevitt, our guest speaker in November, provided an interesting presentation on his personal journey with horticulture. He has also kindly offered to provide articles on his "Gardening Between the Lines" concept.

Every member will receive a hard copy of this edition enabling you to have membership renewal and office-bearer nomination forms. Please return these promptly and make sure you indicate your preference for a hard or email copy of future Landscapes. On the back of your membership form is a brief optional survey.

The committee, head stewards and our Show Secretary held an extra meeting in December to evaluate and modify our show schedules. This was a very productive and sociable wind up for the year. Our Christmas function was also a successful and enjoyable evening.

We have finally done it! Over two days members worked tirelessly to remove all unwanted materials from below St Ailbes stage. We now have a spacious storage space where, hopefully, mould has little chance of growing! Many thanks to all those members who helped.

Happy watering.
Noel Button



Vice President's Report

The Society's Late Spring Show was held on November 11 and 12 featuring Roses, Irises and Rhododendrons. Exhibits in all sections were of a high quality and the show was well attended despite there being opposition from other events and exhibitions being held on that weekend. Special mention must go to President, Noel Button who won the best exhibits in the Rose, Iris and Rhodo sections. A great hat trick, Noel.

A special feature of this show was the colourful stage display featuring Sweet Peas, Poppies, Lupins and Delphiniums. This blaze of colour was put on by Bob Cherry and Neil Jordan and was a real highlight. To produce a show such as this requires a lot of time and effort from lots of volunteers and to all of those members, many, many thanks – the show doesn't happen without you.

Congratulations to all the winners of the many, many sections. Not every entry unfortunately can be a champion or win a prize, but the exhibits of all make the show a success. So, to all exhibitors – winners and non-winners – thank you for your contributions. The many entrants displaying their wares makes these shows a success.

Peter Bugg



Summer Show Helpers

Our upcoming Summer Show is on **Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th February** and any additional helpers would be very much appreciated. If you are able to help out, please feel free to contact the following members:

Door Roster	Kay Maloney	0403906462
Raffle Roster	Ian & Dorothy Denman	63301786
Plant Stall	Suzanne MacDonald	63431308
Refreshments	Norma Purton	63274304
Setting up/packing up	Michael MacDonald	63431308
Stewarding	Jean Roper	0407367409

Novelty sections in our February and April shows

February Show	longest bean	biggest zucchini
April Show	biggest pumpkin	biggest marrow biggest onion plus others

Show Calendar 2018

Autumn Show	April 21st and 22nd
Early Spring Show	September 15th and 16th
Late Spring Show	November 9th and 10th

Guest Speakers

February 21st	Tas Water (general water consumption advice)
March 21st	AGM (no guest speaker)
April 18th	Neil Jordan (lewisias and delphiniums)
May 16th	Paul Swiatkowski (pleoines) - note this is different from peonies !!!!

A tribute to George F. Harding

A tribute to **George F Harding** who died in January 2017 at the age of 95 compiled from information provided by George's daughter, Karon Smith who had this to say about her much-loved father:

There is a saying: Jack-Of-All-Trades – Master of None. But it was very different for George Harding as he became a Jack of All Trades and a Master of every single one of them! George contributed to the Launceston Horticultural Society both as a respected exhibitor and as a judge. His first foray into flowers was with chrysanthemums and in quick time, he became an acknowledged guru. He went on to win championships across Tasmania and Victoria including Champion Bloom at the Royal Melbourne Show twice and an Australian Championship.

In the early 1960's, George first got to know a fellow named Charlie Smith who was the dominant dahlia grower at the time. Charlie offered George some tubers to get him started and Charlie says 'it was the worst thing he ever did' – it was the beginning of a very strong rivalry and an even stronger friendship that was to last decades. As usual, George quickly mastered the art of growing top class dahlias and he and Charlie won over 20 Tasmanian Championships each over the next 50 years. Although George was known around the country through poultry and chrysanthemums, dahlias took his renown to another level. Over the years, a precise approach to cross breeding saw him create in excess of 100 high quality new varieties – all with the Formby prefix. This led to recognition from around Australia and in the US where Formby Perfection was inducted into the American Hall of Fame and Formby varieties were grown and acknowledged by the Chelsea Gardens in England. He recently told granddaughter Louisa that one of his proudest moments was to hear that Formby Kaitlin had recently been very successful on the show benches in the US.

Continued on following page ...

George's expertise in flowers and poultry was widely and constantly recognised and he was in high demand as a judge. He judged at shows all over Australia including the Royal Melbourne Show on a number of occasions. He certainly maintained his wits and judged his last dahlia show at Latrobe in 2016. George also created a beautiful collection of bonsai with self-taught skills. In recognition of George's contribution to dahlia growing the Tasmanian Dahlia Society has introduced a new class in our summer show called **The Formby Challenge**. Exhibitors are invited to enter a single bloom of the Formby variety.

Contributed by Noel Button



Highfield House Bus Tour

Up at the crack of dawn to catch the bus at the Brickfields at 7.15am. I grabbed a seat close to the front to watch the scenery go by. The fields were lush with greenery and blossom, even fields of tulip. We stopped at Penguin for a water stop then on to Stanley. We crested the hill to see a large paddock of parked cars, fortunately for us we were pre-paid so were able to go straight in. Norma said be back before 4 as that's when we leave. It was just after 10.30 when we arrived. "How will I ever fill in time 'til 4?" I thought. Well, I needn't have worried.

As you entered the regular visitor carpark, it was filled with plant stalls and related ornaments and materials then on to the garden where cinerarias skirted a tree, which was supporting a rose decorated swing and picture frames. A table and chairs with tea set at the foot of the tree and a shop mannequin and pram all decorated with plant material completed the tableau. Further around the corner was a display of mosaic birdhouses the local garden club had made. These were displayed on poles. (I now want one.) A large marquee was set up to provide shelter for various guest speakers including Tino Carnivale from Gardening Australia and Gregory Milner from Melbourne who spoke on floral art and cut flowers and did demonstrations.

The house itself was decorated inside with garlands of flowers and flower arrangements. The cellar had a surprising display inspired by the movie "Frozen" with everything painted silver. The courtyard off the kitchen had novelty succulent displays such as chairs and various kitchen containers filled creatively. Two barns housed the flower show exhibits and arrangements. The chapel was also decorated and had musicians playing. Outside, 3 display gardens were set up and judged also.

Needless to say, I certainly managed to fill in my time! Despite the cold wind, it was lovely. Let's hope they do it again.

Contributed by Marilyn Donald



LAUNCESTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.

I, (Ms. Mrs. Miss. Mr.) _____

of _____ P/Code _____

apply to become a member of the Launceston Horticultural Society.

Phone no. _____ Email _____

My special interest is _____

How do you wish to receive your quarterly Landscape newsletter and Show
Schedule? : (please tick) Mail **OR** Email

I agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the Launceston Horticultural Society

(Signed) _____ Date _____

Annual membership:

\$15 single

\$25 family

Please return to:

The Treasurer

Launceston Horticultural Society

PO Box 2043

LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

LHS Members Survey

What would you like to gain from being a member of the L.H.S?

Are there some benefits we can improve on?

How can you make a contribution to the L.H.S?

LAUNCESTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.
NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARER

POSITION NOMINATED FOR:

(Please tick) President
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Committee member

Nominee:.....

Proposer:.....

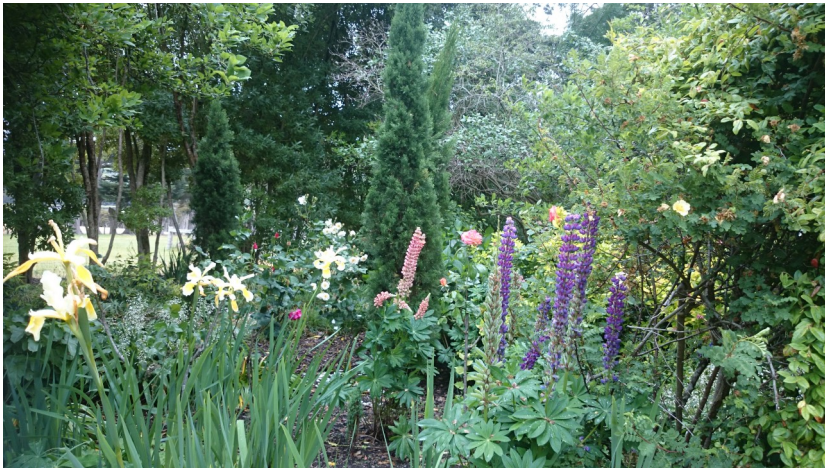
Seconder:.....

Signature of Nominee:.....

Nomination to be returned to the secretary, PO Box 2043, Launceston, by

14 March 2018

LHS November Freshwater Point Homestead garden visit



Gardening between the lines with Mark McDevitt

What does this mean? It is a method of maintaining and developing a garden giving consideration to the environment, your sanity, health and the health of everything that lives within or visits our gardens.


The story behind this method comes from working within both the Agricultural and Horticultural industries. Combined with years of study in both commercial and organic horticulture and teaching in both of these areas. There was a time of some confusion as to what was right and what was wrong. Given there are two sides to every story and somewhere in the middle is mutual ground. This applies to how we garden, hence Gardening Between the Lines.

It can be easy to get yourself into an argument when it comes to gardening and what is deemed right or wrong. There are some who are not open to compromise and have the ability to make one feel quite guilty for using that little bit of herbicide along the back fence line, or there are those that choose the herbicide approach alone regardless of the long term effect on their garden, health and the environment.

So where do you see yourself in the story of gardening, are you organic or do you even care? Do you have an understanding of the differences between permaculture and biodynamic principles, and does it even matter to you. Gardening Between the Lines is finding what works for you, your garden, the environment and your lifestyle. I do not believe that we gardeners in general go out with the intention of destroying nature for sheer pleasure.

As a starting point in this conversation lets talk about the use of herbicides in our gardens. The reasons for using them and are we using them over and over and not actually dealing with the underlying problem we are faced with. Or have we just purchased a block of land that is overgrown with a variety of grasses, weeds and other vegetation that we need to remove.

Continued on following page



Is there an area in our own yards that we have neglected and let the vegetation get out of hand. Have we given due consideration to when we remove this unwanted growth what are we going to replace it with or what are we going to do so that the situation does not recur and the cycle continues. So many questions in a complex environment.

Throughout the world various grass species have become resistant to herbicides through over use. A classic example of this can be seen in varieties of rye grass grown in orchards and vineyards where the amount of herbicide that is required to clean along rows has increased seven fold over the years due to the resistance of weed and grasses to the herbicide. We all know that bare ground is unhealthy ground that becomes the receptacle for unwanted seed.

By not leaving the ground bare by covering it with landscape or living mulches we can reduce or even eliminate the ground being the receptacle for weed seed. Thus resulting in not having to spray this area again and all aspects of soil life improves significantly simply because it is covered. The area is now productive rather than requiring constant attention and further use of herbicide.

Given we have tools and methods at our disposal for the control of weed, it is now a question as to where we start that control and that is often the hot topic of discussion. Do we just spray and knock everything down and then start with a clean slate or do we chip away at it digging and pulling. Composting, burning or carting the waste away, there are choices and they depend on many factors.

Time, cost, our ability to carry out manual labor, the area requiring attention. A few square metres being a lot easier to manage than 2000 square metres plus. The final part of the question is what we are seeking to create around us.

If we decide to use a knock down herbicide to start things have the thought in your mind that this will be the last time I use it. Don't kick yourself if this doesn't happen as long as our intention is to reduce usage or eliminate it completely everyone should be happy.

Continued on following page

I will close this article by saying everything raised is a discussion only. It is not a statement of what is right or wrong, but rather to provoke thought of what is the best situation for you, giving consideration to our environment and your health. There are plenty of other discussions we can have such as the use of insecticides but this can be for another time.



Contributed by Mark McDevitt

Facebook page

Do you have any pictures or articles you wish to have put onto the LHS Facebook page?

If you do please send these items to Kim Morgan at kim.mor01@bigpond.com.au. If members could please send a bit of information as to the pictures and their names so as this can be included also.

****If at first you don't succeed plant and plant again****

Floral Art Group

The floral art girls have met regularly over the past year taking part in workshops which I have run at Glenara Lifestyle Village. LHS have kindly made a donation to Glenara for the use of their facilities and also enabling the girls to participate without any undue costs. We thank the Society for this.

The workshops have seen many different creations and what is really important is that we all learn from one another. It has been really gratifying to see two of our amateurs, Kathy Nolan and Vicki McCormack gaining the confidence to display their work on the show bench. Keep it up girls. Rosie McCullagh, Helen Wheeldon and Suzanne Bullock have been promoted to the Intermediate class and all seem to be handling this very well. Helen has not had a good year healthwise but we hope to see her back exhibiting strongly in the New Year and giving the others a run for their money! Sarah Kartazynski has been promoted to the Open group and needless to say has done very well leaving the tutor wallowing in her wake! Keep up the good work, everyone.

And we cannot leave the children out of this. Thanks to Suzanne Bullock and Marilyn Donald, who have spent a lot of time encouraging the children to enter. Some of the marvellous exhibits that come to mind were the "Cupcakes", "My little Market stall" and "My little Garden Party". The thought that has gone into some of these exhibits has been awe-inspiring. The prize money in the Children's section has been increased and I am sure this has been very well received. Looking forward to many more great exhibits next year.

It is most gratifying to see the "show benches" come alive with all your beautiful exhibits. Not many would realise all the time, thought, care and money that goes into putting a very good exhibit on the bench. The floral art has proven to be a great attraction for many of the public at the "shows". With this in mind, we are endeavouring to come up with different ideas, such as the Melbourne Cup hats, handbags and shoes to help keep the public interest. These exhibits are usually a great challenge to the girls and I must congratulate you all on the beautiful exhibits you presented for these titles. We must also thank the LHS Society and Committee for the greatly improved benches and backdrops provided for us to display our work. They have made quite a difference to the overall look of each exhibit and are very much appreciated by us all.

Continued on following page ...

Workshops for next year will not start until mid-March due to prior commitments. There is a show in early February which I urge all to take part in and also remind you that you need to ring me to register your entry and enable me to provide a space for you. It remains for me to thank you all for the delicious lunch enjoyed at the Casino and to wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

Contributed by Gayle Carroll



Floral Art Thankyou Gayle

Quite a few years ago now I put my first floral art arrangement, since I was a child, into the flower show I stood back and looked at all the exhibitors and through “Oh my goodness I badly need some lessons”.

I asked Gayle Carroll if she would teach me as she was showing in Open class and obviously knew more than I. “Oh I’m not a teacher”, she said, but later she offered to help me out. One thing led to another and now she teaches about 12 of us, not including the children.

Gayle has thrown herself into the unpaid job with a relish and goes way beyond all expectations. On behalf of all the group thankyou very much; it is very much appreciated.

Contributed by Marilyn Donald

Sweet Peas - An Interesting Adventure

Many members may remember the display of Sweet Peas at the November Show as a part of our stage display. These were mostly of the Gawler Hybrids with a few from the Early Multiflora (English) Hybrids. These are but two of the early (spring flowering) Sweet Peas. There are several different styles of Sweet Peas available internationally. Bob Cherry and Neil Jordan have started growing and breeding Sweet Peas on the North West Coast. The aim is to breed better Sweet Peas for Tasmanian & Australian gardens.

Most Sweet Peas fall into one of two categories. They are either early (spring flowering) Sweet Peas and are sown around March to flower in spring, or they are late (summer flowering) Sweet Peas and are sown around September to flower in summer. The latter, which have the greatest range available, have tended to be shunned in Australia, because in many areas the summers are too hot and the flowers tend to be smaller and with shorter stems. Whilst this is true of many mainland regions, they can be grown to good effect in Tasmania. By far the best known of these, and with the broadest range of colours and styles, are the Spencer types that are widely grown in the UK and the subject of amazing displays at Chelsea Flower Show and similar events there. We hope to have a display of these at our February Show. The early flowering types, including Australia's remaining type, the Gawler Hybrids (from Gawler in South Australia), are the only descendants of what was once a highly competitive industry with a dozen or so Australian breeders.

It is sad to say that the McDougall family, who have produced these over several generations are like many of us, getting on in years with no obvious successors, not contactable on the internet, and thus the great Australian Sweet Pea Hybrids could be said to be in serious decline. The goals of Bob & Neil's breeding program are to firstly establish the best currently available hybrids for both seasons, and then to breed new ranges of locally-produced hybrids. Both Spencer and Gawler Sweet Peas are bred for exhibition purposes. They are large -flowered, quite beautiful and quite highly scented. Their major shortcoming is that they grow to at least 2 metres tall and that is difficult for most gardeners to accommodate. Another target is to breed a broad range of exhibition standard Sweet Peas that only grow to around 1 or 1.5 metres tall - much more suited to backyard gardens. It is possible for Tasmanian gardeners, especially in cooler areas, to grow both spring and summer flowering Sweet Peas of excellent quality. The plan is to have Sweet Pea seed available for sale at our February Dahlia Gladiolus and Lilium Show, along with Delphinium, Poppy, Lewisia and Primula seed. *Photos on following page...*

Contributed by Neil Jordan



Bob and Neil's sweet peas display and the LHS Christmas Dinner held at Steve's Grill (All photos contributed by Kay Maloney)

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