

# Joint Media Release

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2015

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## Garden milestone celebrated with free open day

The Northern Group of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania (APST) in partnership with the City of Launceston will commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tasmanian Native Garden at Heritage Forest with a Free Open Day this Saturday.

When APST members arrived at the site to establish a Tasmanian native plant garden in 2005, they were faced with a plot of land rampant with blackberries, thistles, and hawthorn seedlings. Ten years on, the garden has developed into an excellent showcase of what can be created using Tasmanian native plants. The garden is permanently open to the public.

The initial idea had its genesis in 2001 after a small native garden in the First Basin at the Gorge, the responsibility of APST, was destroyed by floodwaters.

“We’ve enjoyed significant support from the City of Launceston over the years but it is the collective contribution of hundreds of volunteer hours from our members that has really created this beautiful area”, said APST President, Julie Nermut.

Andrew Smith from the City of Launceston said while the open day is about celebrating 10 years of the Tasmanian Native Garden, it’s also about recognising the importance of building and maintaining working relationships.

“The Australian Plant Society has developed an attraction that we could not have achieved easily on our own and they have also joined in the broader management and development of Heritage Forest through their involvement in the Heritage Forest Advisory Committee,” said Mr Smith.

The installation of interpretation signage through NRM North’s Community Grants gives visitors detailed information about the gardens. This Community Grants project is supported by NRM North through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme.

The Open Day for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tasmanian Native Garden will be celebrated with free native plants, refreshments and guided walks on Saturday October 24 from 1pm to 4pm. The unveiling of the interpretation sign is at 2pm.

Where: Off Vermont Road, top of Caswell Street, Mowbray.

Ends

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For more information contact Julie Nermut, President of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania on 03 6331 6106.

