



**Tamar NRM**

**August 2012**

# ***'Naturally Yours'***

You may have only one event you want to attend during 2012 and let me persuade you the one you should go to is our Annual General Meeting...it has lights, action and community members and of course us...the Tamar NRM staff and Management Committee members.

I know what you maybe thinking...why go to an AGM - they seem all the same but no they are not.

We have a wonderful team ready to sing and dance for you (well, I don't as I have no talent - not even able to whistle!). But we would like you to come and hear what has been happening with Tamar NRM throughout 2011 and 2012.

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Remember I always say...we feed you...and following the *yummies* we have the 'Tamar Talks'. The topic this year is: 'natural resource management and the community - is it sustainable?' (a Q&A Panel with invited community members will be on hand for a chat with the audience).

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**6.00pm - AGM**

**6.45pm - Yummies**

**7.30pm - 'Tamar Talks'**

**The place to be: The Tramsheds, Inveresk**

## **Staff**

**Craig Williams**  
Executive Officer

**Mike Poole**  
NRM Facilitator - Tamar  
(works: Monday & Tuesday)  
**Denis Giasli**  
(works: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

**Grant Scurr**  
Gambusia Project Officer

**Amanda Bruce**  
Office Manager  
Newsletter Editor

## **Contact Us**

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**RSVP all important by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

Please ring 6323-3310 or email me: [amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au) (remember I am waiting for you to contact - I never go home, I'm always here...just waiting!)



# Jayne's Wild Garden...

We can see that the days are getting a little bit longer. Soon Spring will be here and we can look forward to many flowers in the native garden. Melaleucas are among the most prolific flowering plants. There are over 200 species of these plants, commonly called paperbarks or myrtles, including both shrubs and trees.

The flowers are rich in nectar, rather like miniature bottlebrushes, and range from white yellow and orange, through to pink, red and purple.

Three species are endemic to Tasmania:

**Melaleuca gibbosa**, or small-leaved melaleuca, grows 1 to 2 metres high and has mauve flowers mainly during spring, but sparsely for most of the year. It is best pruned lightly after flowering to keep compact and bushy.

**Melaleuca squamea**, or swamp melaleuca, is a large shrub or small tree to 3 metres. Flowers are usually pink-purple or occasionally white or yellow in late winter and spring. This variety is wide-spread through south-eastern Australia as well as Tasmania.

**Melaleuca squarrosa**, or scented paperbark, has a pale yellow flower spike about 4cm long and grows into an upright shrub. The flowers are profuse and scented in spring and summer.

All of the melaleucas like some moisture during summer. They can tolerate poor drainage in winter and are usually frost hardy. Seeds form in woody capsules along the stem.

Another popular variety is **Melaleuca linariifolia**, Snow-in-Summer, an attractive tree with masses of creamy-white flowers in late spring and summer. This is not endemic to Tasmania, but is a very popular garden plant.

Jayne Shapter



Melaleuca gibbosa (photo: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2010>)



Melaleuca squarrosa  
(photo: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>)

Melaleuca linariifolia  
(photo: <http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki>)



Melaleuca squamea  
(photo: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>)





*August 2011 began our inaugural Sustainability Month...*

...it was a fabulous success with several activities organised. Many of you might remember the seminar 'Reduce Your Food Energy, Eat Sustainably, Live Well' with invited community speakers talking about their own experiences of how they became more sustainable.

Well, August 2012 is nearly upon us and we have again sat still for a few minutes and thought of a few events.

...we hope you are able to come along, eat and have lots of fun...



The above 'blurb' was written in our special edition e*Tamar* for July 2012 advising of the forthcoming events.

We are now into mid August and a few are 'done and dusted'. We have had a very good response from the community so for those who came along, thank you...

There are still a few events left to attend during Sustainability Month and the flyers are included in this newsletter.

Remember to RSVP as some events have limited places and you know we love hearing from you.



*'Reduce Your Food Energy' Seminar (II)*

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012

10.00am - 4.00pm

*Morning tea, Lunch & Afternoon Tea provided*

Windsor Community Centre, 1 Windsor Drive, Riverside

RSVP essential so we can feed you...6323-3310 or email: [amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)



“Reduce Your Food Energy”

s e m i n a r (II)

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012

10.00am - 4.00pm

Windsor Community Centre

1 Windsor Drive, Riverside

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Tamar NRM

Do you want to grow your own mushrooms?

Do you fear pressure cookers?

Can you make sourdough bread?

What are we not being told?

What is Permaculture?

Why test your soil?

Are you ready for Transition Tamar?

Can you eat your greens every day of the year?

What are the latest developments on food security?

*Come and join our guest speakers, hear their stories and many others. You can do it too!*

*Ask questions and have your say!*

RSVP for catering: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Tel: 6323-3310 or email: [amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)



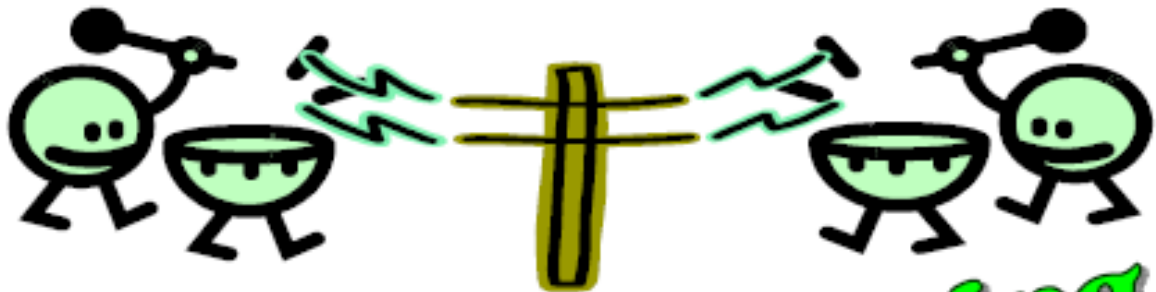
## ***How to beat rising power costs?***

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**10.00am - 12.45pm**

**RSVP for registration and directions to the three locations by:**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August to 6323-3310 or email: [amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)**



## **how to beat rising power costs?**

You can reduce your power bills perhaps even eliminate them!

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

10am - 10.45am at Pipers Brook

11am - 11.45am at Weymouth

12.00noon - 12.45pm at Tam-O-Shanter

Come and see real life examples of energy savings and energy production and talk to the owners of set ups which are grid connected and sell excess power back to Aurora.

Pay back periods are decreasing as panel costs fall and power costs rise.  
See old photovoltaics, new photovoltaics, evacuated tube hot water, heat pump plus solar hot water and a domestic wind turbine.

Then to finish the day why not have lunch at the  
Tam-O-Shanter Golf Club - bookings essential to 6323-3310

**for registration and directions**



**Tamar NRM**

**RSVP by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**Tamar Natural Resource Management on 6323-3310**

**or email: [amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)**



## Spring Seed Swap

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**10.00am - 12.00noon**

**Launceston Environment Centre, 72 Tamar Street, Launceston**

**RSVP: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 6323-3310 or email: [amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)**

*Come along and talk with other community members on the best seeds to sow.*

*If you have any produce to give away, please bring on the day.*



**contact: 6323-3310**

*‘Naturally Yours’*

***Lecture by Jack Gilding***

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

**3.00pm - 4.00pm**

**Topic: 'Community-owned renewable energy for Tasmania'**

**Town Hall Reception Room, Launceston City Council, St John Street, Launceston**

***Afternoon tea provided***

**Limited places available**

**RSVP by Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012 to tel: 6323-3310 or email**

**[amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)**

**Tamar Natural Resource Management**



**invite you to a lecture by  
Jack Gilding**

Jack Gilding is the former Executive Officer of Hepburn Wind.  
It is a community co-operative with over 1,900 members.  
It has built and operates Australia's first community-owned wind farm near Daylesford in Victoria.  
Jack will talk about the lessons learnt and the prospects for small community renewable energy projects in Tasmania.  
There is a range of technologies for projects such as wind, small-hydro, solar and biomass.

**on**

***'Community-owned renewable  
energy for Tasmania'***

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

**3.00pm - 4.00pm**

**Town Hall Reception Room, Launceston City Council,  
St John Street, Launceston**

**RSVP for afternoon tea:  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
Tel: 6323-3310 or email:  
[amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)**



**Tamar NRM**



## A Local Treasure

Who has the most spectacular springtime garden in the Launceston area? The answer, you might be surprised to hear, is the Launceston City Council (LCC). And it is not a garden which requires much work, just some weeding and perhaps a fire every few years. Watering is taken care of by Mother Nature.

This garden contains something like 250 species of flowering plants, including orchids, lilies, shrubs, creepers and trees. It even has a very impressive waterfall.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about this garden is that large numbers of people walk or drive through it every day without realising what a treasure it is. Many of them don't even notice the flowers because they are intent on getting to the barbeques, the duck pond and the playground equipment.

If you still have not worked out which garden this is, here are two further clues: it is bordered by a golf course on one side and by suburban Launceston on the others.

The garden is the native bushland area of Punchbowl Reserve, which each spring puts on one of the best displays of wildflowers in Tasmania.

From early October to late November this area is a blaze of colours which change as different species come into bloom. Some of the flowers are strikingly obvious, including the beautiful white stars of the native Clematis which are draped all over supportive trees and shrubs and the large yellow and brown donkey orchids on their tall stems. Others are no less beautiful and colourful but require a bit of a search. These include the brilliant scarlet flowers of the running postman and the deep violet flowers of a low-growing Hovea both of which are members of the pea family.

While this bushland is in very good shape because the staff of the LCC have been excellent custodians, there are parts of it where weeds like blackberry, boneseed and gorse have grown, many of them hidden away in the thicker parts. It is not always possible for busy council staff to spot these well-hidden weeds whereas interested members of the public, during a walk in the Reserve, might well notice them.



*Wurmbea dioica* (early nancy) (white flowers)



*Kennedia prostrata* (running postman) (red pea flowers, groundcover)



In order to encourage members of the public to get involved in spotting (and eradicating) these unwanted intruders it is proposed that a “Friends of Punchbowl Reserve” group be formed, along the lines of several other successful groups associated with local reserves like the Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area.

To enthuse people interested in forming such a group, a “wildflower walk” and barbeque will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Punchbowl Reserve.

Native-plant experts will be leading short flower-spotting walks, hourly from 10.00am to 3.00pm and the BBQ (with food and non-alcoholic drinks supplied) will be available from noon. Children are welcome and it is suggested you bring your camera and notebook. The walks, which will begin in the upper car park, are easy but please wear appropriate clothing including good walking shoes or boots and, hopefully, sunscreen will be necessary.

Photos supplied are taken in the Punchbowl Reserve or nearby reserves. All species shown are common in Punchbowl Reserve.

**Roy Skabo**



*Arthropodium strictum* (chocolate lily) (purple flower)



*Astroloma humifusum* (native cranberry) (red tube flowers)



*Hovea heterophylla* (winter purplepea)

**Anyone who cannot attend on 29<sup>th</sup> September but who might be interested in joining the Friends of Punchbowl group should feel free to contact Roy Skabo by phoning 6334-6787 or by email:**

**[rskabo@gmail.com](mailto:rskabo@gmail.com)**

# ...Shippets...

**Sydney** has reduced its water consumption by 20% in the past 10 years  
*EcoNews 080512*

**The proportion of WA's water sourced from recycled sewerage** has reached record levels while the amount taken from dams has plummeted to less than 30% - recycled water is currently only used for non-drinking purposes while a two-year trial is carried out ahead of the planned inclusion of recycled water in the main household supply from December  
*WA Today 060612*

**Apartment living** has become more attractive to young families, with location and convenience – at an affordable price – overriding the importance of a big house with a backyard – people are beginning to opt for a ‘European lifestyle’ of high density living with easy access to community amenities – a village atmosphere, cafes, shops, and communal open spaces within walking distance  
*AFR 100612*

**While the Dutch** send less than 3% of their municipal waste collections to landfill, they have established over 30 ‘Repair Cafes’ across the Netherlands to recycle more household appliances and clothing – neighbours meet socially at the cafes and pool their skills and labour a couple of hours a month  
*SMH 100512*

**Joolz**, a Dutch baby stroller manufacturer, has printed on its recycled cardboard packaging directions on how to turn the packaging it into a brand new household item  
*Springwise 220612*

**Q-Sera**, a start-up company that has emerged from the University of Queensland, has raised \$900,000 to develop technology for producing a high quality serum based on the blood clotting properties of the venom from Australian snakes  
*StartUpSmart 190612*

**Employer-provided training** has the same effect on job satisfaction as a 17.7% net wage increase, according to a study of nearly 5,000 workers in Spain  
*HBR 190512*

**The UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills** recently reported that the global low-carbon goods and services industry is worth \$5 trillion  
*AFR 220612*

**Farmers** are having to use poisonous chemicals and revert to outdated tilling methods to cope with a growing breed of herbicide-resistant “super weeds” - the problem, triggered by overuse of the popular weedkiller Roundup, poses health and environmental risks including soil pollution and toxicity to humans – it is driving up farm costs  
*SMH 080512*

**The golden wattle** is the national floral emblem of Australia – while a native of the eastern states, it has become an invasive weed in WA - it was introduced during the visit of Queen Elizabeth in 1954 where many residents were given a plant  
*Countryman 170512*

**Scientists** recognise 5 previous mass extinctions of species on Earth - humans are now causing the 6<sup>th</sup> - the main drivers of biodiversity loss are conversion of habitats to provide land for farms and cities, and the impacts of introduced species  
*The Conversation 080612*

**Humans** are sending species extinct at a rate 100 to 1,000 times greater than the natural background rate - WWF's global Living Planet Index indicates that animal populations fell by 28% between 1970 and 2008 - in Australia, more than 1,700 species and ecological communities are known to be threatened and at risk of extinction  
*The Conversation 080612*

**The insatiable Western appetite** for coffee, chocolate, timber and other goods threatens a third of the world's most vulnerable animal species, reported by University of Sydney researchers in a 5 year study – they tracked 5 billion supply chains involving 15,000 commodities produced in 187 countries - the findings could lead to improved labelling on thousands of supermarket products, making sustainability ratings the norm rather than the exception and enable stricter controls on the trade of products that damage animal habitats  
*SMH 070612*





# Sustainable House Day

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Visit a Sustainable House in your Neighbourhood**

Sustainable House Day (SHD) started in 2001 as an initiative of the Australian Solar Energy Society (AuSES).

Over 200 homes opened their doors to over 40,000 people on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011 for Sustainable House Day's 10th Anniversary as millions of Australians continue to embrace renewable energy, recycling and other practices designed to lessen our impact on the environment.

Homes opened free providing a fantastic opportunity for people seeking to make their own homes or rental properties greener.

SHD gives people the chance to get a real-life look inside houses designed, built or fitted out with sustainability in mind and are able to talk to the owners receiving unbiased advice.

Each year the average Australian household contributes 13 tonnes of greenhouse gas to the atmosphere—enough to fill more than 700 balloons every day while each household also draws an average of 73,000 buckets of water a year – enough for around 12 baths a day. Do your bit to reduce this by getting involved with Sustainable House Day.

For more information on where to find sustainable houses in your region to visit, go to the website: [www.sustainablehouseday.com](http://www.sustainablehouseday.com)



# School Tree Day

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012 Tamar NRM organised our first School Tree Day with Youngtown Primary School at Youngtown. A semi-beautiful day (weather wise) was in the making. Teacher, Tim vanWinden, joined us with his Grade 2 class (you may remember Tim and his class were involved with our 'Plant Trees & Paint Our Trailer' field day in March this year at Youngtown Regional Park). What wonderful and continued enthusiasm for our ideas and events from YPS. They are keen to be involved and have fun whatever the weather.

Sally Staubmann from Habitat Nursery was on hand to assist with the plantings of 30 native shrubs. Habitat Nursery (aka Sally) very kindly donated the shrubs for School Tree Day. This was a 'littler' adventure than the previous field day but very worth it. The soil was muddy and solid from the cold July day but after the grass was broken up, little fingers dug deep and added 30 new members (although a bit green and stick like) to the YPS community.

Our President, Ian Sauer, gave a small speech of thanks for YPS being involved then he and the Principal, Troy Roberts, signed the School Landcare Partnership. What does this partnership mean you may think - well it states on the document..."the intent of this partnership is to foster collaboration and learning between the students and families of Youngtown Primary School and Tamar NRM through interaction and involvement in a range of mutually beneficial activities". Tamar NRM hopes to keep holding activities and to include students from YPS. The future of our environment is there within the school grounds and in the minds of the youngest student.

Grade 2 and Mr V (as his class calls him) was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for being part of School Tree Day. I love those kids - their smiling faces were turned upwards to the adults (because we were taller!) - they really want to have a go - they put on the gloves, picked up the trowels to break the compacted soil and they were off 'doing their thing' of giggling, chatting, looking and seeing a new, exciting world and knowing their small part will make a difference.

Tamar NRM announced we will be there again next year for School Tree Day to see how these plants have thrived and are growing healthy and strong. We will add more shrubs to the plant family on the YPS grounds.

I like new events - they get the blood pumping as you never know what excitement you engender in the hearts and minds of other community members. And as I always say - it gets me out of the office...the chains are unshackled and I am away running like a...well, not sure like what but something really fast...jumping for joy that the word is out - AB has escaped and is heading in your direction to plant a tree, sing a song or talk to new friends. See you soon at any event Tamar NRM has planned during the coming months.

Thanks again to YPS for taking part in School Tree Day - a special component of National Tree Day. Hug a tree - you never know they may be a relative come back to see you.



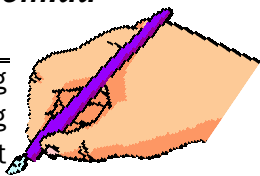
Grade 2 digging holes for the plants (above) and Ian Sauer, President, Tamar NRM and Troy Roberts, Principal, YPS with the signed School Landcare Partnership (below)





TAMAR NRM newsletters can be found on our website [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au)

Would you like to contribute an article to our newsletters – we are always interested in receiving news of completed projects funded by Tamar NRM and how they are progressing and being maintained by the landholder or community group. If you have always wanted to write a short story, then grab pen and paper (or as we all now use a computer) and start writing about your project. Please email any article (preferably with an after photo but if you have a before photo of the site, this would be fabulous) to [amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au). It would be great to see how a project started and how it has developed over time.



Next 'Naturally Yours' edition due: November 2012

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