



Tamar NRM

**August 2015**

# ***‘Naturally Yours’***

## **so long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye**

This is my last - article and newsletter and soon to be day - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2015 as I have resigned.

On my last day I will have worked with Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy Reference Group Inc. (known as Tamar NRM and Tamar **Natural Resource Management**) for eleven years.

I never thought to have stayed so long...it was possibly the need to find out how crazy you very passionate 'NRM-ers' were so I could sit down one day and write my memoirs 'Life with an NRM community' - naturally a best seller.

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The truth is I have met so many wonderful, stupendous, terrific, absolutely 'fabulissimo' people during the years. You have made me feel very welcome even with my 'black thumbs' as you know I cannot grow anything. You wanted me to 'come and join us' and I stayed.

But I feel the time is right for me to go and possibly/just maybe there are new horizons waiting for me to climb over or look into [I am not sure what you do with horizons but will try doing something with them!].

I would like to thank our Community Friends for the really beautiful way you have included me in the natural resource world. Instead of listing everyone I need/want/love to say thank you [which would mean several pages later you would be asking yourselves 'what is Amanda doing with this article - making a telephone directory!']

...so to everyone I have met along my journey whether I have spoken to you, greeted at one of our events or just having received my emails, newsletters, viewed the facebook postings or read our website - and in spite of this you have stayed on the database - I say you are truly great people.

Just to show "I came, I saw and not conquered but contributed" to this organisation I have compiled some statistics of my own (this is only a short list).

So here goes:

Designed:

- Promotional Banners x 16
- Current Letterhead and Business Card x 1
- Invitation flyers x 185
- Annual Reports x 11

**Our organisation is supported by**



***“excellence in natural resource management”***

# so long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye cont'd...

## Events:

- Organised x 203
- Attended x 183 (thought I needed to rest in the office)

## Projects:

- Managed x 15
- Assisted other staff on their projects x 65

## Worked with:

- Executive Officers x 3
- NRM Facilitators x 7
- Gambusia Project Officers x 2
- Management Committee members x 40
- Presidents x 2
- Conference Convenor x 1

There are a few more I could add to this list but life would be a bit boring if you knew every statistical facet of someone's working career and remember I have my memoirs to write for my old age! [rapidly approaching].

Here is another thank you...**THANK YOU** for always being so supportive of the many events which you have been a part of for Tamar **Natural Resource Management**. I have only had this organisation in mind when doing anything. In many ways I have a genuine love for this organisation as sometimes I feel it is a living being. I have loved being part of the fantastic work it has done.

I wish all success to Tamar **Natural Resource Management** for its future...and all the very best to the new Program Co-ordinators.

My heart is full of thanks and will remember your kindnesses to me (this too will go into the memoirs!!).

Take care of yourselves...I wish you all happiness for your futures too (I sound like a Christmas card - many of you might know how much I like adding people to my imaginary Christmas card list).

As I said above...So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye...

**ME** aka **AB** aka **Amanda Bruce**



# hello and welcome...

to our new Program Co-ordinator,  
**Greg Lundstrom**

Greg brings over 20 years experience in NRM to the position of program coordinator, Tamar NRM. Ten of those years in program and project management with Natural Resources S.A. Murray-Darling Basin. His experience includes a wide range of on-ground works, resource condition monitoring, nationally accredited training, working in a variety of landscapes such as coastal, wetland, riverine, drylands and urban with groups like Coastcare and Waterwatch.



Greg Lundstrom

Greg has delivered youth development projects as a Green Corps team leader and his community environmental education work has received recognition and acknowledgement at community award events.

Over the past two years Greg has project managed a climate change regional adaptation plan for the River Murray's lower reaches and the troubled lower lakes. This multi-sector plan partnered with local government, indigenous people, emergency management, police, SA Country Health, Regional Development Australia, Primary Industries, Department of Environment and Adelaide University.

Greg and his partner Chris have a keen interest in nature, sustainability (having built their own mud brick house), and growing their own food. They moved to Tasmania in March and Greg has just completed a winter study unit in climate change law and policy at the University of Tasmania.

Greg said he wants to get to know the local grass-roots community groups as soon as possible to help support their efforts in achieving good NRM on-ground outcomes.

Greg started in the Tamar NRM office on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

His contact details are:

M: 0438 642 112

E: [greg.lundstrom@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:greg.lundstrom@launceston.tas.gov.au)

# hello and welcome...

to our new Program Co-ordinator,  
**Gillian Basnett**



Gillian Basnett

Gillian Basnett (Gill) has worked in the environmental conservation sector in ACT, NSW, WA and SA for the past 15 years. For the last five years Gill has managed her own business, contracting her services to the Department of Parks and Wildlife as a field technician undertaking fauna management and translocation programs, Bamford Consulting Ecologists running fauna assessments, Millennium Kids facilitating children's desire to help the environment through small to large projects and with her own project Re-Cyc-Ology inspiring engagement with nature through the construction of nesting boxes work wildlife with school and community groups.

Gill has a strong ecological background, particularly in wildlife assessment and fire ecology. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and passion for the environment with others through community engagement projects such as fire management for biodiversity and biodiversity conservation on private property, education walks with school students and community groups, presentations, workshops, environmental tours and camps. Gill has increased peoples understanding of the environment and ecological processes and inspired changes in the way they act and manage land that will benefit all.

Gill has a Bachelor of Science in Resource and Environmental Management, Master of Environmental Science and a Master of Environmental Science - Research. Her speciality is in fire ecology and she has a keen interest in wildlife, particularly birds. Her Masters thesis was “Developing models to predict the impacts of fuel reduction burning on habitat complexity, ground-dwelling mammals and understorey birds.” She has worked for a range of both government and non-government organisations including NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, SA Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Millennium Kids.

Gillian starts with Tamar NRM on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

Her contact details are:

M: 0438 265 792

E: email, as yet, to be organised with council

# from the President...

Hi Folks and welcome to the August edition of Naturally Yours. For those of you who might not know Amanda is leaving us, officially on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Having said that, Amanda's last day in the office will be Friday 14<sup>th</sup> so if you'd like to catch up with her before she leaves, you'll need to do that before that Friday.

I have no doubt that everyone in the Tamar NRM community who has dealt with Amanda over the years would like to thank her for everything she has done in the time she has been with Tamar NRM and for her untiring commitment to Tamar NRM and what we stand for.

Amanda has been with Tamar NRM for an amazing eleven years. During that time the organization has changed considerably and like any healthy organization, is continuing to do so. Tamar NRM has been through many ups and downs and Amanda has managed to ride them out with patience and determination. Along the way she has implemented many highly successful initiatives such as her Bush Tucker days, her annual Volunteer recognition event and International Women's Day celebration she merged into a series of highly successful, well attended events throughout the last 12 months. Amanda also started up and ran our school Tree Day events at Youngtown and Port Dalrymple Primary Schools, with this year the fourth year we've worked with Youngtown Primary School and that's significant because it so important for us to be encouraging our most important and sometimes over-looked natural resource, young people.

I think Amanda's "piece de resistance" has been her success in converting a couple of hectares of open ground known as Youngtown Regional Park into a beautiful parkland with endemic trees and understory shrubs and grasses over a series of plantings in 2010, 2012 and again this month. This she achieved by successfully applying for grants and harnessing the power of community through business, schools and volunteers and adding in a very liberal dose of "Amanda Bruce" enthusiasm.

Over the years she has supported, backed up and propped up Executive Officers and project officers and a myriad of volunteers sometimes in very difficult circumstances. At times Amanda has had to complete and wrap up unfinished projects when people have unexpectedly left and she has represented Tamar NRM at numerous school and community events throughout the region always ensuring Tamar NRM was getting noticed, attracting new supporters and keeping them up to date with what we are doing.

In my 20 months as President of Tamar NRM I have found Amanda to be always infuriatingly well organized. When she organized events we were always set up early ready to go well before our guests rolled in the door and the events and activities have run like clockwork.

On behalf of our Management Committee, past and present and all the Tamar NRM community I would like to wish Amanda all the best for the future and although she has rightly chosen not be on our database for at least twelve months, I am sure you'll all agree with me when I say that she will always be welcomed back to attend any of our future events as a special guest.

While one era ends and a new one begins, Tamar NRM has employed two Program Coordinators, Gill Basnett and Greg Lindstrom. Greg has already started with us and Gill is starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> August. Their profiles are on pages 3 and 4 in this newsletter and I'm sure you'll see they are both highly knowledgeable and experienced in the NRM space. We had some amazing candidates for the positions and it was an extremely difficult choice for the selection committee. Hopefully, during the next twelve months we will have some of the other candidates undertaking some short term project work with us, as we are already talking to a number of them about opportunities that are presenting to us.

**Roger Tyshing**



# recycling

## Kerbside recycling assessments - helping you know what can and cannot be recycled

To help householders in the northern Tasmanian area learn what can and cannot be recycled two auditors have been getting elbow deep in rubbish to help out.

Contamination in the bins, such as food, nappies, lawn clippings and plastic bags hamper the recycling process and cause hazards for the sorting staff at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF - where the recycling is sorted).

"Things like electrical items, plastic bags and coat hangers can damage collection trucks and cause injuries to the people who sort your recycling" according to Mary Gill, one of the NTWMG recycling auditors.

Bins with too much contamination are not collected by the recycling truck and have to go to landfill, wasting the good recyclables in the bin.

The results from the assessment show most people are doing well and want to recycle correctly. A common contaminant in recycling bins is soft plastics, like bags, film and bubble wrap.

Recycling must be put in the bin loose, not in plastic bags, boxes or other containers. Newspaper should also be loose, and not tied in bundles. Shredded paper cannot be recycled in kerbside recycling bins.

The assessment process is as follows:

- Each kerbside recycling bin will be checked three times
- A pass, improvement required or fail sticker will be left on each bin after each inspection
- A form outlining the reasons for the decision and an information brochure will be left in the households mailbox.

For more information on how to recycle correctly visit: <http://rethinkwaste.com.au/news/need-help-with-your-kerbside-recycling>.

## 2015 Waste NoT Award winners

The NTWMG would like to congratulate all of the 2015 Waste NoT Award winners. The winners are George Town Neighbourhood House for their "Reduce, reuse, revamp rubbish" program, Steve Colwell for his pop-up swap meets in Scottsdale and Youngtown Primary School's grade 3 and 4 classes for their waste free lunch program.

To find out more about the winners visit go to: <http://rethinkwaste.com.au/news/waste-not-awards-2015-winners-announced>.

## Special collections

The three Tamar councils, George Town, Launceston and West Tamar all offer a variety of special collection services to increase recycling of difficult materials in the area. The collections offered by each council can be seen in the below table.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Collection</b>
George Town	Council Chambers 16-18 Anne Street, George Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fluoro tubes and bulbs (unbroken)</li><li>• Mobile phones and accessories</li><li>• Household batteries including AAs, AAAs and button batteries</li></ul>
Launceston	Town Hall St John Street, Launceston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fluoro tubes and bulbs (unbroken)</li><li>• Mobile phones and accessories</li><li>• Household batteries including AAs, AAAs and button batteries</li></ul>
West Tamar	Riverside and Beaconsfield service centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fluoro tubes and bulbs (unbroken)</li><li>• Household batteries including AAs, AAAs and button batteries</li><li>• Printer cartridges</li></ul>

**Regan East**

Waste Management Officer, City of Launceston

# autumn event...

...as part of the partnered project 'Rural and Urban Women Linking through the Seasons'...

'The Tamar Valley - Stories from the Land and the River' was held at the Rosevears Waterfront Tavern on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. It was the final event in the series of very successful events that NRM North and Tamar **Natural Resource Management** have collaborated on together over the past twelve months.

'Stories from the Land and The River' showcased six inspiring guest speakers that own and/or manage small and/or large production based businesses in and around the Tamar Valley.

The day was led by Caroline Brown from Brady's Lookout Premium Ciders. We heard from Frank Archer from Landfall and Farm Fresh, Dianne Maynard from Van Dieman Aquaculture, Lee Adamson-Ringk from Killiecrankie Farm, Sue Jacobs and David Kenyon from Inspirations Garden Centre and the Off Shoots Programme, Stacy File from Hillwood Berry Farm and Frank Strie from Biochar Organics.

Some of the key messages that stood out from the guest speakers throughout the day included: their love and passion for living and working in the Tamar Valley, keys to a good business is market research, quality branding and marketing strategies, succession planning, experiencing failure is an important part of the journey, be prepared to work hard and always be passionate about your product.

The day was well attended by over 40 community members and was held in the wonderful new art gallery space at the Rosevears Waterfront Tavern.

**Alison Hugo**  
Regional Landcare Faciliator  
NRM North

*Previous seasonal events include: 'Walking the Gorge with Patsy Cameron' (summer event), 'Brunching with the Birds' at Trevallyn Reserve with Sarah Lloyd and Anna Povey (spring event) and 'Keeping a Healthy Balance' with Annette Reed and Rose Grant (winter event in 2014). AB*

Our audience at the winter seasonal event on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Rosevears Waterfront Tavern



# Jayne's Wild Garden...

Do you look at the beautiful Eucalypts in our forests and think – I'd love to have one of those in my garden, but they are too big? There are a few that are small enough to grow in any garden. They grow to only 6m, or less. Most come from Western Australia, which means that they may need special conditions in Tasmania, but we have a couple of endemic Eucalypts as well.

*Eucalyptus risdonii* is found on the Eastern Shore in Hobart and in the Mangalore area. It is listed as threatened. It likes shady moist conditions and can handle wet soil in winter. It is a lovely specimen tree with distinctive glaucous foliage and creamy flowers from spring through to summer. As with all of these eucalypts, it attracts birds.

*Eucalyptus nitida*, or Smithton Peppermint, grows widely on the West Coast of Tasmania. It prefers well - draining soils. This small tree looks much like the larger peppermints with bluish leaves and creamy flowers and provides food for birds.

*Eucalyptus caesia* is probably the best known of the exotic eucalypts. It will handle many soil types, including clay. It is dry tolerant and is usually frost resistant. This is a beautiful specimen tree with weeping silver branches and foliage, also pink or red flowers in spring. This also attracts birds, including honeyeaters.

*Eucalyptus rhodantha* is a very uncommon tree, but very beautiful. It prefers sandy soil and is tolerant of dry conditions. It is usually frost resistant. It has red flowers late in summer and into autumn, as well as silver foliage.

*Eucalyptus kingsmillii* is very similar to the previous one. Flowers are usually red, but can be yellow. They like full sun and a sandy soil. They are frost resistant and attract many birds, including honeyeaters.

*Eucalyptus kruseana*, or Book-leaf Mallee, is a stunning small tree. It can handle shady conditions, but requires a sandy soil. It tolerates dry conditions and is frost resistant. It flowers both in spring and autumn and has unusual silver foliage with creamy yellow flowers. This eucalypt also attracts birds, including honeyeaters.

The exotic trees are well worth trying in Tasmania. They will happily tolerate the cold, but not wet feet. I have seen many of them growing happily in the National Botanic Garden in Canberra. Conditions there are much colder than Tasmania, but it is very dry.

Jayne Shapter  
West Tamar Landcare Group



*Eucalyptus risdonii*

Photo: [http://www.australiaplants.com/Eucalyptus\\_risdonii.htm](http://www.australiaplants.com/Eucalyptus_risdonii.htm)



have you seen  
this weed?



**Bridal creeper** (*Asparagus asparagoides*) is classified as a Weed of National Significance and a declared weed in Tasmania. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for smothering native plants and impacting on biodiversity and agriculture.

In the days of the 1870's colonial Australia, it was used in floral arrangements and as the name suggests, in wedding bouquets. Since these times it has spread widely throughout southern Australia, but remains relatively uncommon in Tasmania.

Community awareness is vital for any hope of eradication of this plant from Tasmania and for the general community, hand removal of the entire plant including all the underground rhizomes and tubers can be very effective on new small infestations. Proper disposal is essential through kerbside collection or tip facilities. Fruiting shoot material should be bagged immediately to avoid it being dropped while transported (*for more information view the factsheet by clicking the link below*).

Bridal Creeper is spread predominantly via fruit-feeding birds, humans (e.g. roadside dumping). New infestations are often observed along tree lines, perching places, under power lines, along roadsides and in remnant vegetation.

Locally it is present at Greens Beach and at locations down both sides of the Tamar estuary where it has been identified and treated in the past. However it could pop up in other locations that we are not aware of.

Today bridal creeper can still be found in some homes (as an indoor plant) and in home gardens. As a declared weed it must not be sold, transported, traded or planted. Property owners are required by law to control bridal creeper.

In 2010-2012 Tamar NRM ran a project entitled 'Forming Partnerships to Eradicate Boneseed and Bridal Creeper in the Tamar Valley' supported by the councils of Launceston City, George Town and West Tamar.

Its aim was the identification and eradication of bridal creeper by increased community awareness and mapping of infestations. Tamar NRM and councils remain committed to eradicating any infestations of Bridal Creeper as they are discovered.

If you see this plant in your area, then report the infestation to your local weeds officer or Tamar NRM by phoning 6323 3310.

A fact sheet with key identifying features is available at:

[http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper/docs/Bridal\\_creeper-Tasmania.pdf](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper/docs/Bridal_creeper-Tasmania.pdf)

and

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/a-asparagoides.pdf>

*Information adapted from: National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee fact sheets, Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems (Weeds CRC) and the Tamar NRM Weeds Working Group.*

# fire forum

Fire, fuel reduction burns and using fire on farms were all topics discussed at the Tamar NRM forum on ‘Fire – managing fire for safer communities’ on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. About 25 people, including some local farmers and representatives from the Launceston City Council and the Tasmania Fire Service, attended the public forum at the Tramsheds in Invermay.

Presenters at the forum were our own Roger Tyshing, Pipers Brook Cattle farmer and long-time volunteer firefighter Ian Sauer who is also chair of the State Fire Management Council, Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) Fuel Reduction Unit manager Sandy Whight, TFS Community Engagement Officer Dr Stephen Bresnehan and Blessington farmer Ian Dickenson. TFS Tamar district officer Ian Cawthorn also joined the panel to answer questions after the forum.

The recently formed Fuel Reduction Unit at the TFS is undertaking a program of fuel reduction burns throughout Tasmania, to reduce the risk and severity of bushfire. How bushfire risk is assessed, how burns are conducted, the effect on the native ecology of an area and how communities can become involved, were all discussed.

We were very pleased at the turnout at the forum with many questions and interest from the audience. Although not a huge turnout, we were very impressed to see people came from afar, including Lake Leake, Blessington and Pipers Brook, on a rainy, cold winter’s night.

We particularly want to thank Amanda Bruce for her tireless efforts and enthusiasm in making this great event happen.

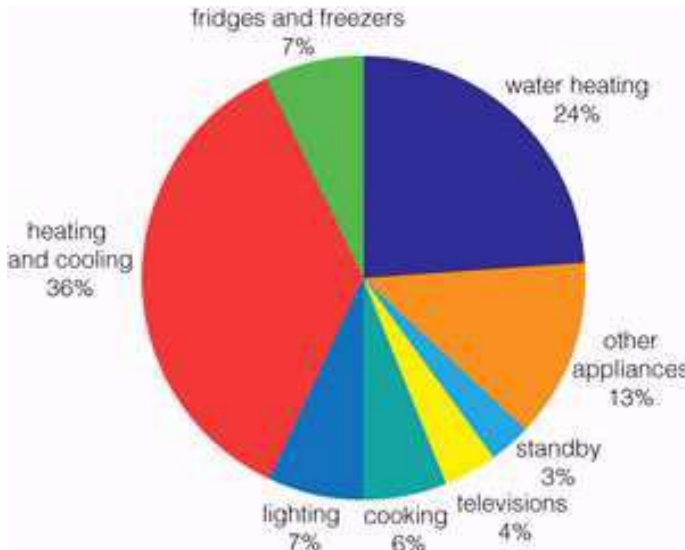
**Catherine Clemens**  
Media and Communications Officer  
Tasmania Fire Service - Fuel Reduction Unit  
[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)



Our presenters, in action, as the Q&A panel at the end of the evening

# the BIG four

Did you change your light bulbs to compact fluorescents (or even LED) and turn your appliances off at the wall, and then did you think “Where’s the big drop in my power bill?” when the next invoice arrived? I may be able to answer that:



You will notice that the four largest parts of your home power usage are:

1. Heating & cooling
2. Water heating
3. Other appliances
4. Fridges and freezers

Lighting efficiency losses and standby power are small parts of your whole bill.

- A. **Efficient heating and cooling** is number one, but in Tasmania, it is mainly heating so we will concentrate on that.
  1. *Insulate*:- if you haven’t already, insulate your ceiling and floor if possible. Walls are hard to insulate in existing brick veneer buildings. There are techniques for weatherboard.
  2. *Double glaze* – windows account for 40% of the heat loss in the average house. There are cheaper alternatives to the specialized window products, eg products like Clear Comfort (a plastic film that you stick on the window frame yourself), or DIY where you glue a strip of wood inside the existing pane and add another piece of glass – they don’t have a vacuum inside, but a lot better than what you have now, and reduces condensation too.
  3. *Gaps* – seal them, around windows, under doors, around pipes, old-fashioned vents high upon the wall. Use a caulking gun or sealing materials available at your local hardware store.
- B. **Water heating** - we assume that you already have the low flow shower head, have set your hot water thermostat as low as possible and use hot water sensibly (take a short shower rather than a bath etc).
  1. *Install a solar system* if you can. Evacuated tube systems are 12% more efficient than a flat panel.
  2. *Instant gas systems* are next best.
  3. *Heat pump systems* are good as well.
- C. **Fridges and freezers** – if nothing else, check that the seals are in good condition.
  1. Do you need that fridge/freezer in the garage, or could you shop more frequently and *turn one off*?
  2. If it is over 5 years old, could you *buy a more efficient one*?
- D. **Other appliances** – the tumble dryer, dish washer and washing machine are the main ‘single use’ appliances that guzzle the electrons.
  1. *Dry your washing in the sun* or on a rack in the front room.
  2. *Wash your dishes in the sink*
  3. If you cant do 1 and 2, at least *buy an efficient model* next time you replace the existing one.

Bruce Jackson

Chair, Sustainable Living Working Group

# a year of greens...

Peter Coxhead stole the show at the Sustainable Living Working Group's seminar "Reduce Your Food Energy, Eat Sustainably, Live Well" in 2011 with his stories of his self-sufficient, sustainable lifestyle. Asked to what he owed his robust good health, he replied "Eating greens every day".

Unable to persuade Peter to write up how he managed this, I set out to see if I could do it. Here are the results.

The first thing I learned is that plants like silver beet, cabbage, broccoli, kale, fennel, and spinach are seasonal producers and have a particular time of year they produce best, whereas plants like lettuce, rocket, mizuna, tatsoi and mustard have a short life cycle and need to be sown several times during a year.

Something that you need to know about my gardening is that I save seeds. That entails allowing some plants to complete their whole life cycle – flowering then going to seed. Some seeds always manage to escape my collecting efforts so that self-sown seedlings pop up everywhere – tomatoes, lettuce, silver beet, broccoli, celery, parsley, peas, beans, carrots, parsnips, fennel.....the joyful abundance of it all.

Month	Eating	Planting
<b>January 2014</b>	Second sowing lettuce	Potted on and planted second sowing Rocket
	Parsley	Planted second sowing lettuce
	New self-sown celery	Transplanted self-sown celery
	Rocket and Aragula	Sown fennel
	Silver beet	
<b>February 2014</b>	Lettuce	Sown and potted on Mustard
	Parsley	Sown and potted on Tatsoi
	Celery	Sown and potted on Mizuna
	Silver beet	Sown and potted on Aragula
	Rocket and Aragula	Third sowing lettuce
	Kale regrowth	Sown Cabbage and Broccoli
<b>March 2014</b>	Lettuce (3 <sup>rd</sup> sowing)	Potted on and planted out lettuce
	Rocket and Aragula	Planted out Aragula
	Mustard	Planted out Mustard
	Tatsoi	Planted out Tatsoi
	Mizuna	Planted out Mizuna
	Silver beet	Potted on Cabbage
	Kale regrowth	Potted on Broccoli
	Parsley	Sown Kale
	Celery	
<b>April 2014</b>	Lettuce	Potted on Kale
	Rocket and Aragula	
	Tatsoi and Mizuna	
	Mustard	
	Silver beet	
	Kale regrowth	
<b>May and June 2014</b> (very similar)	Lettuce	Fourth sowing lettuce
	Rocket and Aragula	Plant out Cabbage
	Tatsoi and Mizuna	Plant out Broccoli
	Mustard	Plant out Kale
	Silver beet	
	Parsley and Celery	
	Kale regrowth	
	Fennel	
<b>July 2014</b>	Lettuce	Potted on and planted out lettuce
	Aragula and Rocket	
	Mustard	
	Broccoli (last year's regrowth)	

Tips: If you don't pull out old broccoli and kale plants they will produce regrowth next season before the new plants.

Self-sown lettuce appears in August.

Self-sown silver beet appears in September.

Rocket and aragula last longer if you harvest them heavily to delay flowering.

Mustard sown in January will produce till July if harvested heavily.

Freckle lettuce has the best flavour, grows all year and can be harvested one leaf at a time.



# Killiecrankie Farm

Our farm was a bit of a consolation prize.

It wasn't as large as we would have liked nor on productive soils. Two years of searching and being outbid on better properties ended in our purchase of a small 60acre farm on impoverished soils with existing land degradation and poor fencing. But we had a permanent spring fed water source.

So began our Whole Farm Plan, looking at the onsite issues of soil profile damage, watercourse amelioration weed management, Native Forest conservation, threatened fauna species and deciding what we actually could do with our patch of land.

Due to the scale of the property our thoughts on a Speciality Timber Agroforestry pretty much went out the door, intensive horticulture was the only viable enterprise.

And so we turned towards establishing Tasmania's first and only Christmas Tree Farm. With our low quality soils we chose trees which would do well here. No supplementary watering to make up for low rainfall. No augmented soil organic material to pretend we had red basalt. Choosing tree species which would put up with low soil organics, seasonal waterlogging and parching, wind blasting and sun burn.

Our trees have been planted sustainably, using local plant production, minimalized soil nutrient and weed control. We protect the trees from rabbits and wallabies, tree guarding ever single tree, re-using the guards each year. And a few rabbits make it into a casserole. Often. As our trees matured, waste trees are fed into a contracted wood chipper and chips reused on site to mulch the following years crops and other amenity plantings around the farm. All the trees are pruned by hand, and the site disturbance now the woodland is established consists of periodic mowing and the odd chipper truck visiting once a year. Soil drainage is greatly improved, organic matter on the increase and crop protection improves as the nearby Revegetation bands mature.

But that took care of only four weeks of production a year – Christmas is only a very short period!



Christmas at Killiecrankie Farm - new trees



Opening of the nursery in 2012



# Killiecrankie Farm

cont'd...



Shortest Food Mile

Based on my experience with unsuitable plants that were purchased from Garden Centres and subsequently died when taken to the harsh garden conditions at our Farm, I decided to grow my own. As a horticulturist starting a small Nursery in 2012 was not a huge step – the idea however was - growing all of the plants free range – outdoors in the fullness of Tasmania's weather, and Glengarry's aggressive microclimate of extreme frosts to -7oC and higher Summer temperatures to 35oC.

A polytunnel is used for the seedlings early unheated germination if needed, before being thrown outdoors to the weather to grow on as young potted plants. Once in the Nursery, plants are not protected by shade cloth, polythene or glasshouse. As an ex-paddock the Nursery is very exposed to driving winds and rain.

Plant selection has been very important. If a particular plant is not of tough stuff, and can't survive the local conditions it won't be produced. You won't find impatiens here. Perennials are the speciality, focusing on flavoursome, perfumed, fragrant and colourful plants which return every Spring.



Killiecrankie Farm Dirt

The benefits are tough plants, ready for the garden grown without high inputs such as heating of propagation benches or climate controlled greenhouses. The cost of course are plants that not mature at the beginning of Spring, as they mature with the Season, naturally. They may not be as large and shrubby at the Nursery due to the mean conditions – but the plants are ever so grateful to be moved to a new garden where they generally get gentler growing conditions and flourish.

**Lee Adamson-Ringk**  
Manager & Owner

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

Next 'Naturally Yours' edition due: November 2015

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