



Tamar NRM

# ***‘Naturally Yours’***

## Happy New Year

to those community members we have not seen so far in 2015...as another great year begins we hope to see you at one of our events

**February 2015**

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*“excellence in natural resource management”*

# ragwort raid - 2015

Successful Ragwort Raids were held once again in 2015. This time, a new area was added and innovative methods used to collect the ragwort plants. Volunteer numbers were the same as 2014.

Distances covered were as follows:

East Tamar – 219 km or 438 km roadsides

West Tamar – 208 km or 408 km roadsides

Launceston – 154 km or 308 km roadsides

Frankford – 20 km or 40 km roadsides

The amount collected was a little more than last year on the East Tamar. Around a dozen bags were collected from the West Tamar, much less than last year.

The Launceston Raid was supported by members of TBUG (Tamar Bike Users Group) who rode their bikes around a loop from Myrtle Park to Nunamara then back through Patersonia. The total amount collected was close to twenty large chaff bags. The first raid through Launceston has proved a great success, with significant quantities collected.

It was very pleasing to note that the raid through Frankford netted only two bags, a huge reduction on last year when we collected ten.

Thanks must be given to West Tamar Council who give significant support each year, City of Launceston, East Tamar, Lilydale and West Tamar Landcare Groups, TBUG and volunteers of the Tasmania Fire Service, as well as those volunteers who are happy to help out each year. Thank you all for another great ragwort pulling season.

Jayne Shapter  
Ragwort Raid Co-ordinator



Ragwort Raid volunteers at Myrtle Park (from left to right)  
Mick Statham, Craig Loosemore, Helen Statham, Craig von Stieglitz, Anne Booth,  
Jayne Shapter (co-ordinator with sign), Laura Wordsworth, Nick Wordsworth, Anna Povey  
(photo: John Thorp)

# thank you...raiders

Thank you to the 55 volunteers, from Landcare groups, local fire brigades, farms and concerned individuals and family groups as well as a group of five cyclists from Tamar Bicycle Users Group [TBUG] who collectively covered 582 kilometres of roads (at their own cost) in the Launceston, West Tamar and George Town municipalities, pulling ragwort from the sides of roads over the Ragwort Raid weekends and some weekdays in between.

Its been calculated that a total of 305 hours was voluntarily committed to this important task. This year of course we extended the Raids in the Launceston municipality and in doing so we had many first timers come along to make their contribution in what was in some areas, very difficult weather conditions.

Many volunteers commented on the amount of ragwort on properties adjoining the roads that were covered, including plantations. I urge landholders and land managers, large and small, public or private to now do their bit and take the opportunity to pull or spray the ragwort on their land before the ragwort sets seed this year. If everyone takes responsibility for their bit, it will make a huge difference to the region.

Information about managing ragwort is available from Tamar NRM so if you know of someone who has ragwort on their property, please encourage them to do something about it.

Also thank you to Jane Shapter who co-ordinated the three Ragwort Raids and to John Thorp, Chair of our Weeds Working Group, for his assistance.

**Roger Tyshing**  
President, Tamar NRM



Ragwort Raid Co-ordinator,  
Jayne Shapter and  
Tamar NRM President,  
Roger Tyshing disposing of  
Ragwort (photo: John Thorp)



# green army

## What is Green Army?

The Green Army is an Australian Government Department of The Environment programme. It is a hands-on practical environmental action programme supporting local environment and heritage conservation projects around Australia. The programme is funded by the Australian Government with an allocation of \$525 million over four years. This initiative provides opportunities for young Australians aged 17 - 24 years to gain skills and training in the environment and conservation fields and to enhance their employment prospects. Each Green Army project runs for 20-26 weeks with a team of ten (one team supervisor and nine participants) allocated to each project.

## What about Tamar NRM and Green Army?

Our organisation successfully applied for two Green Army projects during the first application round. The first of those projects commenced prior to Christmas last year. The project activities are centred in the picturesque surrounds of the Gorge. Participants are undertaking a range of activities including weed control (in particular they are targeting Weeds of National Significance [WoNS] and other significant weeds invading the reserve), restoration of playground equipment and seating, upgrading tracks and walkways, fencing maintenance and revegetation. The City of Launceston Parks and Recreation Department (PR) have provided incredible support to the project with allocations of tasks and activities. The PR department has also provided tools, equipment and the necessary materials needed to undertake each task as well as assisting the Team Supervisor with additional support where necessary.

## Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and Green Army?

CVA is delivering the on-ground project and training of participants. This organisation has a long history of delivering conservation projects around the country. They provide working opportunities and support for volunteers and participants to the benefit of the environment. CVA's participant interview process has led to a highly engaged and productive project team.

Tamar NRM

*See the following pages for Ian Gleeson's [Green Army Supervisor] report and comments from the team...*



# green army

When I was first appointed supervisor of a Green Army team I was full of misconceptions (similar to work for the dole, these young people don't want to work etc etc).

Realisation of the true situation started as I began reading the job applications, these were young people that really wanted to work. It was very hard to pick only nine from the many good quality applicants but it had to be done. Interviewing applicants brought home the desperate situation that many of these young people were feeling.

Now three months into the program I am supervisor to a team of nine young men (I am not sure why but there were no female applicants).

I have been able to watch this team develop into a well organised, punctual and reliable unit that never shy away from the job in hand. They have been trained in first aid and have completed another four training courses relevant to the work that they are carrying out and I feel confident that they are now much better prepared to start building worthwhile careers in whatever field they eventually choose.

It is my hope that these young men will soon find permanent work and then I will be able to confidently start the interview process for my next team.

Ian Gleeson  
Supervisor, Green Army



Stage 1 - restoring  
Photo: Ian Gleeson



Stage 2 - half way there  
Photo: Ian Gleeson



Stage 3 - Stagecoach restored (Gorge)  
Photo: Ian Gleeson

FYI - this maybe the oldest remaining piece of playground equipment in Launceston - does anyone remember having their wedding photo taken with the Stagecoach or the kids' birthday? Tamar NRM would love to hear if you have a connection (this information supplied by Ian Gleeson - thank you).



# green army

## Comments from the nine member team...

"The Green Army has helped give me a stronger work ethic and develop better team work skills"

**Jack Lawton**

"Since I have started working with the Green Army I have developed a strong work ethic that has helped me to appreciate the work we are doing. Working with a varied group of people has also taught me important skills that I often find myself applying in daily life"

**Brodie Webb**

"The Green Army to me means that I can get out in the beautiful gorge and do something special for my community plus I've made some great new friends"

**Joshua Cox**

"What I believe I've got from this job is the outdoor experience, meeting a new group of guys and doing good for the community gives me a good feeling"

**Jamie Hartman**

"The Green Army is a great program for anyone looking for paid employment, to meet new people and to learn new skills for future employment opportunities. I now feel that I have a good work ethic and I enjoy the area in which I work"

**Stephen Dunham**

"After working for the Green Army I can go into my next job knowing that I have the relevant team building and learning skills needed. I will be confident to walk into my next job and put my new skills to work"

**Aaron Fletcher**

"Since working with the Green Army I feel that I have learned a great many new skills both in the practical certificates as well as learning to work alongside of a diverse group of people. The work we do has tested my skills and helped give me a sense of place, as I feel we are in a way giving back to the community"

**Robin D Verhoeff**

"Since joining up with the Green Army I feel like I have learnt a lot in the way of a good work ethic. I have gained many new skills and friends through this program but nothing beats my experience of actually being able to work and hold a job"

**Brendan Riley**

"Since I started with the Green Army I have learnt a lot about the different plants and things and have met a good group of people"

**Harley Summers**



# top 10 summer tips to stay cool...

## 1. On hot days, heat comes straight through unprotected windows

The answer is to shade your north and west facing windows. Awnings, deciduous trees and pergolas with deciduous vines are particularly good options because they give you shade in summer and sun in winter. If these are not an option, you could consider putting a reflective film on the glass. This works well in summer, but means you get less sun in winter — unless you get the clever stuff you stick on with Velcro dots and can then take down.

## 2. A bit of opening and shutting can make a big difference

Shut your windows and curtains on hot days then open up the whole house when it gets cool in the evening. Thick curtains with 'block out' backing or solid blinds (not ones with gaps in them like Venetians) will make a bit of a difference to your summer cooling and a lot of a difference to your winter heating. Also, if you have bits of your house which you just cannot keep cool, shut the door to these areas so they do not heat the rest of the house.

## 3. Use a fan first

Fans are a good money saving tip — they cost virtually nothing to run, while your air conditioner can guzzle electricity.

Evaporative coolers do not use as much energy as refrigerated air conditioning, but this is a personal choice.

## 4. Set your thermostat to 24°C

Hot weather can make you want to set the cooling all the way down to 21°C. But cooling to just 24° should keep your home comfortable and saves you money — setting your thermostat just 1° cooler can up your cooling bill by 15%.

## 5. Just cool the room you are in

Shut the doors to the room you are cooling and seal the gaps so your nice cool air does not sneak out under the door. Weather strips are a cheap and easy way to do this, and will also keep the heat in when you want it - in winter.



Try and stay cool this summer...  
(image: google images/cool)

# top 10 summer tips to stay cool...

## 6. Get yourself some insulation

It does not just keep your house warm in winter, it also keeps it cool in summer, particularly if you combine bulk insulation (big batts) with foil insulation (thin sheets). Ceiling insulation can cut your energy use by 45% which means it pays for itself in reduced energy bills. And with the price of energy set to rise, insulating now is a smart way of avoiding excessive energy bills in the future.

## 7. Hang out in the great outdoors

When it gets cooler in the evenings, cooking in the backyard or at the electric BBQ at the local park can be a lot nicer than cooking in a sweaty kitchen. Sit out on garden furniture and make your outdoor space a nice place to hang out.

## 8. Try some old tricks

If you just cannot cool your house properly, try using a spray bottle to spray water on your face, carrying around a wet face washer on the back of your neck, wetting your sheet before going to bed or setting up a 'kiddy' pool on the veranda for your sweaty feet.

## 9. Look after your cooler

If you have got an air conditioner, keep the outdoor bit of it shaded (e.g. with plants) and clean its filters regularly.

## 10. Want to make longer-lasting impact?

Here are some suggestions that do not quite fit into 'quick and easy' but are worth thinking about:

- 1) If you are thinking of buying an air conditioner, think about ceiling fans and good insulation first. Then make sure you get one with a high star rating for energy efficiency and one which is the right size for the room you will be cooling.
- 2) Paint your roof and walls a light colour! This will keep your house cooler by reflecting heat (but you might want to check with your council – some have rules around roof colour).
- 3) If you are getting new windows, go for ones which open wide, so you can get lots of cool air into the house quickly. Also avoid aluminium frames, because heat passes through them easily.
- 4) Outdoor paving can store heat, making your house cool down slower in the evenings. You could replace it with plants or a drought tolerant lawn or simply try to shade it.



# walking the gorge

"Rural & Urban Women Linking through the Seasons"  
Season 3 - **SUMMER** - 'Walking the Gorge with Patsy Cameron'  
Thursday 29 January 2015

What can I say about this fabulous day...you know when something is **FABULOUS** when everything comes together - the presenter, people arriving on time, weather, food, especially no accidents...and this day, with Patsy Cameron as our guest presenter and our thirty-six community attendees, was **THE** fabulous day.

We could have doubled the numbers for the walk as it certainly appealed to our community. Unfortunately with a large group there are always more difficulties with the presenter being heard by all. It turned out to be the right sized group.

Thank you to Alison Hugo, NRM North Facilitator, who was my project partner and supported my summer event. Alison was the 'go to' person for the walk as well as the 'first aider' (and happily there were no incidents - yah).



Unfortunately for me, I was only able to be there to meet and greet and get the community to sign-in (you know the old OH&S regulations must be completed) and I was there at the Basin Cottage when our group arrived for brunch but missed the walk as just getting over bronchitis and the lungs refused to take part!

Although not on the walk I know how fantastic Patsy is as I been on a few with her before [in different places].

Even if you have previously walked with Patsy, each time is like the first time - you get to hear the history of the area - her wealth of knowledge is amazing.

I did get positive feedback from a few community walkers and I thank you for taking the time to send a comment. It makes me feel we are on the right track in our events and our community members like and support each and every one we organise.





Patsy holding grass to make plaited string



Our group walking the suspension bridge



Patsy telling the history of the Gorge area



Community members make plaited string

## 'A 3 in 1 Celebration'

Have you ever been to a great event...I have and I organised it [too much pat 'me-self' on the back - apologies but it was a great event on Thursday 4 December 2014] entitled 'A 3 in 1 Celebration' - the flyer read...'come join our Community Friends in celebrating...International Women's Day, International Volunteers' Day and Christmas...all in one BIG 'funtastic' event...'

Another brilliant inaugural event for Tamar Natural Resource Management [still too much patting on the organisation's back - again apologies - I get so excited about our events].

The event had a fabulous line-up of community speakers - from first to last but not the least...

Patsy Cameron  
Emma Williams  
Ella Dixon  
Norika Chynoweth  
Melissa Lewarn  
Jillian Weston

\* to read what each 'chat-ee' chatted about, please see the program on the next page \*

I opened the day by saying...'there is no hard and fast rule about this event. It is really a get together for the community and to celebrate these three focal events in a year. For me the day has always been to bring the urban and rural communities (especially for women) together and enjoy an event. It is totally focused on fun and the enjoyment of listening to the 'chat-ees' as we all come from different backgrounds. I think sometimes we can get caught up in our professional lives with the expectation that if invited to speak at a gathering we have to only talk about this aspect. This day is focused on the community knowing we, i.e. Tamar Natural Resource Management, is out there, what is and can be achieved with help from our friends and there is an eclectic group of people involved in our industry'...and after what seemed to me I had been babbling for ages...the day began.

Including 'chat-ees', thirty community came along and literally walked through a torrential storm to get from the carpark into the Windsor Community Centre. To make the day more Christmassy I had a few balloons which decided to try and wriggle out of my grasp while I was jumping between puddles to get to the centre - I am sure they were trying to take off to the Land of Oz - can say triumphantly they never escaped from me and happily brightened our event.

The day was truly fun-filled and awe inspiring - our six 'chat-ees' had such diverse backgrounds and their presentations were extremely interesting.

My sincere thanks go to:

- ⇒ The wonderful 'chat-ees' - Patsy, Emma, Ella, Norika, Melissa and Jillian - without them I would be sitting in a large empty room with balloons!
- ⇒ La Cigale in Yorktown Square, Launceston for donating the 'Chat-ees' gifts - thank you to the owner, Kattie for agreeing to donate and to Ali for organising the gift bags [can say...great shop for gifts for your loved ones - if never been, have a wandered over for a look]
- ⇒ NRM North for sponsoring the delicious morning tea
- ⇒ Windsor Community Centre for setting up the room
- ⇒ The community attendees
- ⇒ And to the Christmas balloons for decorating the room and not flying off to Oz - they were raffled off at the end of the day.



contact: 6323-3310

‘Naturally Yours’



Norika Chynoweth



Jillian Weston



## Tamar Natural Resource Management 'A 3 in 1 Celebration'

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014

International Volunteers' Day



International Women's Day

and Christmas



PROGRAM

TIME	CHAT-fest	CHAT-ees
	10.00-10.30am Morning Tea Sponsored by NRM North	
10.30-10.35am	Welcome to Country	Patsy Cameron Aboriginal Historian
10.35-10.45am	Open the 'Funtastic' Day	Emma Williams Alderman, Launceston City Council
10.45-11.00am	Why 'A 3 in 1 Celebration'	Amanda Bruce Tamar Natural Resource Management
11.00-11.20am	'1981: Smithton – The Only Asians in the Village'	Ella Dixon Department of Premier & Cabinet
11.20-11.40am	'Youth Spirit'	Norika Chynoweth St Patricks College
11.40-12.00pm	'Chasing Sirens'	Melissa Lewarn, NRM North
12.00-12.20pm	'Life, Luck, Lilydale and Landcare'	Jillian Weston Lilydale Landcare Group
12.20-12.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Raffle Draw	Amanda Bruce
	12.30-1.15pm Lunch Tamar Natural Resource Management	
1.15-1.35pm	'Tasmanian Aboriginal Women- Commemorating the Past and Celebrating the Present'	Patsy Cameron Aboriginal Historian
1.35-1.55pm	'The Long Way Round'	Emma Williams, NRM North
1.55-2.15pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Raffle Draw	Amanda Bruce
2.15-2.45pm	General Chat-fest	Everyone
2.45-3.00pm	Thank You	Amanda Bruce

\*\*Chat-ees gifts donated by La Cigale, Yorktown Square, Launceston\*\*

# like blueberries? *but don't like* rust!

## Blueberry rust in Tasmania

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014, blueberry rust (*Thekospora mimima*) was detected in Tasmania by Biosecurity Tasmania during inspection of a consignment of blueberry plants imported from Victoria.

Blueberry rust is a fungal disease and a List A declared plant pest under the Plant Quarantine Act 1997. It has the potential for significant impacts on berry industries in Tasmania. This information is provided to keep stakeholders updated with the ongoing blueberry rust response being managed by Biosecurity Tasmania in collaboration with industry.

To date, 38 Tasmanian properties have been identified with blueberry rust infected plants. Eradication activities have been completed at all but two of these properties.

Biosecurity Tasmania is currently working with two growers where infected plants have been identified to assist them in undertaking the required activities to eradicate the disease from their properties. More than 65,000 blueberry plants and 26,000 potential host plants have now been physically inspected across Tasmania since the surveillance sampling program began in September 2014. Of these, approximately 200 blueberry plants have been confirmed with blueberry rust infections.

Tasmanians who have blueberry plants should be aware that there is a slight risk that some plants that previously looked clear of the fungal disease may have been hosting it without showing visible symptoms. Warm, humid weather conditions present the ideal time for the signs of the fungus to become evident.

Anyone with blueberry plants especially those purchased in the last six months is asked to continue checking their plants for any signs of blueberry rust. Identifying and removing the disease at all sites is vital for eradication to be achieved in Tasmania.

If a blueberry plant looks sick or shows sign of rust, please do not touch or move the plant. Contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165-3777 and they will arrange for a Biosecurity Officer to speak with you and, if necessary, attend the property to inspect the plant.

Visit the DPIPWE website for response updates and information to help identify plants that might be infected with blueberry rust – [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity/current-biosecurity-threats](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity/current-biosecurity-threats)



Biosecurity Tasmania, DPIPWE  
Email: [advisory@biosecurity.tas.gov.au](mailto:advisory@biosecurity.tas.gov.au)

Dark brown spots, a sign of blueberry rust  
Photo: DPIPWE website



# welcome...new MCs

MC = Management Committee



## Mary Mulvaney

Building on skills gained through her studies in environmental science and prehistory, Mary Mulvaney worked for several conservation agencies and organisations in NSW. She undertook diverse research projects, developed and implemented sustainable land management strategies, and produced interpretive material about natural and cultural heritage conservation and management, coordinating publications, exhibitions and events. With her family, she also built a house and garden at her rural property in the Southern Highlands of NSW, focussing on creating an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

She moved to Tasmania in 2010 and now works as School Executive Officer at the School of Architecture & Design at the University of Tasmania. She has been involved with Harvest Launceston Community Farmers' Market since its inception and is inspired by the community spirit exemplified by Harvest's stallholders, customers and committee.

## John Thorp

John is a trained agricultural scientist and extension officer having worked at all levels from the field to highest levels of government. He is a participant in community groups and volunteers his time to local causes. As Project Director of John Thorp Australia undertake natural resource management and agricultural projects for government and private enterprise. He has fulfilled the role National Weeds Management Facilitator, responsible to the Department of the Environment and Heritage and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Prior to that he held contracts for Project Manager for the implementation of the National Weeds Strategy and Executive Officer to Australian Weeds Committee.

Other work includes program and legislation reviews, including industry assistance and support programs, development of legislative principles and reviews of national and state strategies. Prior to starting his own consulting business he was Director of Plant Industries and Chief Quarantine Officer for Tasmania in the Department of Primary Industries, having played a key role in gaining access for Tasmanian produce into various Asian markets, including apples to Japan.

John commenced his career as a production horticulturalist in the Department of Agriculture and spent 13 years of his career developing the foundation of the current Tasmanian wine industry. His career has been spent tackling problems and innovating wherever he has worked, with the challenge of the national weeds position representing an enormous, but very rewarding task. In September 2014 he was awarded the Awarded 2014 Council of Australasian Weed Societies Medal for National Leadership which recognises outstanding contributions to weed management in Australasia. John Thorp Australia has won a number of business awards for its excellence in agribusiness and microbusiness.



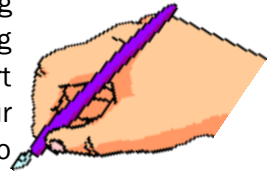
# farewell...denis giasli

The contract for Denis Giasli, NRM Facilitator finished on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Denis had been working in the Tamar NRM office since March 2012. The Management Committee thanks him for his work during this time and wishes him good luck in future endeavours. Denis is now located at NRM North's office - to contact telephone their office on 6333-7777.



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: May 2015

*Tamar NRM likes you, our wonderful community friends, would you please like us on Facebook...*



Tamar NRM is on Facebook - to view it and please 'like us' just click on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Tamar-NRM/251475738210175?fref=ts> or go to our website: [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au) and go from there.

*p.s. you can look at this page even if you do not have a Facebook account*

**FYI -**

**Tamar NRM has 197 Friends as of February 2015**

**THANK YOU for the wonderful support and please accept this electronic balloon from us to you, our Friends**

