



Tamar NRM



'Naturally Yours'

May 2011

President's Report

I am delighted to announce to you Craig Williams has accepted and started in the position of Executive Officer for Tamar NRM. Craig comes to Tamar NRM with a diverse background including running part of the Fox Eradication Program, public administration, and community engagement. Craig will introduce himself in this newsletter, but please feel free to contact Craig at any time.

It has certainly been an extremely busy time whilst we have been waiting to fill the Executive Officer role. I can't believe it has been five months. However I am delighted to report to you not only did Tamar NRM stay afloat, we kept on track, kept on delivering projects, without any delays, managed to clean up a series of long standing issues, delivered a number of activities at short notice, wrote submissions, and kept all day to day running on schedule - not a bad effort.

This would not have been possible if it were not for the drive and enthusiasm of those in the office especially Amanda - a big thank you to Amanda.

As you are aware Tamar NRM has around an activity a week that the community are involved in. I would like to mention a few that highlight our diverse activities. We had a highly successful Community Coastal Forum at Tam O' Shanter Golf Club, a field tour looking at perennial pasture trials, we set up in partnership with TIAR, two bush foods days, introduction to corporate governance training day, and the list goes on.

At the moment we have partnered with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) who are helping the coastal communities from Bellingham to Bell Buoy Beach get on top of weed, track, revegetation issues and clean up work in their areas. The CVA team is doing a fantastic effort and they have cleared two hectares of blackberries, planted, bagged and staked 500 trees cleared kilometres of track.

Tamar NRM has always been of the opinion when it comes to weeds the only option is eradication. We will be starting an Australian Government funded project soon where we will be eradicating Boneseed and Bridal Creeper from the Tamar Region - more information is coming on this project soon.

In recent weeks Tamar NRM Management Committee made a submission to the Caring for Our Country Review. We sourced our direction for the submission from a range of community consultations that reflected what we have gleaned. Our submission can be seen on the Caring for Our Country website.

CONTACT US

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STAFF

Craig Williams
Executive Officer

Mike Poole
NRM Facilitator - Tamar

Grant Scurr
Gambusia Project Manager

Amanda Bruce
Administration Officer
Newsletter Editor

2011 Events Calendar

Tamar NRM loves to see as many of the community at our events during the year...so to make it easier for your diaries and not to overbook, here are a few annual ones. The dates may change each year but the events stay the same.

Now, please open your diaries and add in the following....

Annuals

SEPTEMBER

Monday 5th to Saturday 11th

Tamar NRM's Boneseed Blitz (Calendar of Activities to be developed closer to the dates)

(coincides with Weedbuster Week - 5th to 11th)

Wednesday 14th

Tamar NRM's AGM & 'Tamar Talks'

6.00pm - 9.30pm

Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Inveresk

DECEMBER

Thursday 8th

Tamar NRM's Christmas Celebrations

6.00pm - 8.30pm

Heritage Forest, Invermay

We will also email an invitation by including it in one of the quarterly newsletters, *eTamars* or just send out as a 'stand alone' flyer. The flyers will be for the above annual ones as well as other events yet to be thought of by the team.

please note:

If you would like to attend any or all of our events/activities, please contact the office on 6323-3310 to RSVP. We need to know for catering as well as some events/activities have limited numbers. We do not want you to miss out.

More for your diaries...our 'One-Offs' developed from projects we are currently managing or we have come up with a brilliant idea in the office. We would love to see you at one or more...

One-Offs

JUNE

Friday 3rd

Next Generation of Rural Landscape Governance Workshop

9.30am - 4.00pm

RDA Tasmania, 1st Floor, 29 Paterson Street, Launceston

Friday 10th

Maps, Weeds & Other Things!

10.00am - 4.00pm

Town Hall Committee Room, Launceston City Council, St John Street

Saturday 18th

Walk & Talk with Patsy Cameron

10.30am - 3.30pm

Boulder Beach, Mt William National Park (meet at Camp No. 4)

(Morning, afternoon teas and lunch will be provided)

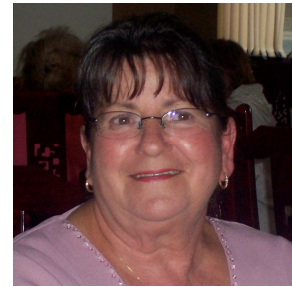
Friday 24th

Walk & Talk with Patsy Cameron

10.30am - 3.30pm

Tomahawk (meet at the BBQ area)

(Morning, afternoon teas and lunch will be provided)



Meet Patsy Cameron

Patsy Cameron (BA, MA) is an Aboriginal historian, heritage consultant and cultural artisan from the islands of eastern Bass Strait, Tasmania. She now lives at Tomahawk, a small coastal village on the northeast tip of Tasmanian, within ancestral clan-country and looking seaward across Ringarooma Bay toward her island home. She is the founding Director of Riawunna Centre for Aboriginal Education at the University of Tasmania Launceston campus and has completed a Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology UNE, and Geography UTas in 1990) and a Master of Arts (History) in 2008. Patsy was inducted onto the Tasmanian Women's Honour Roll in 2005 for her dedication to Aboriginal education and work in her Aboriginal community. Publications include *Grease and Ochre: The Blending of Two Cultures at the Colonial Sea Frontier* (2011). Her current academic research involves a re-examination and re-interpretation of Aboriginal histories and lifeworlds on the colonial sea frontier of northeast Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Patsy's knowledge in cultural placescapes is extensive as is her involvement in cultural Integrity training and education.

JULY

Friday 8th

Bridal Creeper Workshop

10.00am - 4.00pm

Churchill Park Function Centre, Invermay

AUGUST

Saturday 13th

"How I Reduce My Food Energy" Seminar

10.00 - 4.00pm

Windsor Community Precinct Centre, 1 Windsor Drive, Riverside

welcome Craig Williams ...new executive officer...



In generating what will be a regular contribution to the Tamar Natural Resource Management newsletter it seemed appropriate that my first foray should really be by way of an introduction and short work/life history.

I am a local Tasmanian having spent my childhood, education and working life in the State and have a great respect for the lifestyle available in the State, something maybe we are all guilty of taking for granted but are reminded of constantly through the news services. Tasmania surely must be one of the best places to raise a family where our children can have access to pristine wilderness half an hour from the doorstep. I have two children, Ethan 12 and Keeley 10 and am married to the beautiful Karan.

My background is science based with a Bachelor of Science from Tasmanian University, double major in Geology/Geophysics (yes I am a "rock doctor") with a minor in Zoology. As a consequence my work history has mostly been focused in associated areas such as a short stint with an mining exploration company (geology based), time at a wildlife park as an animal keeper followed by extended time at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and most recently with the Fox Eradication Program. While my work history has invariably had some natural science base the focus recently has tended to public sector management both through postgraduate study and work experience.

How does this ground me for a role in natural resource management? My core management skills and associated natural history knowledge will be foundational to the role but of course I will be learning an extensive amount about land management practices in the region and their NRM relationship and this is important to my worklife to continue to learn and extend my knowledge and experience.

On a lighter note I am an exhibiting artist, mostly specialising in natural history/wildlife art with a particular focus on scientific styled illustration generally incorporating insects as my main subject interest. The scientific art has also allowed me to work for a couple of years in collaboration with an arachnologist where I was contracted to produce illustrations of spider genitalia in the description of newly identified species. Interesting work to say the least!

I am looking forward to my time with Tamar NRM, we have an extremely proficient and professional team that has a tremendous capacity to produce amazing results from extremely finite resources. I would like to extend my thanks to the team for managing the station so capably during what has become an extended absence without an Executive Officer. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead that face the Tamar Region and community and also the wider Tasmanian and Australian community and landscape. I look forward to making your acquaintance in the coming months as we continue to manage the natural wealth and health of our region.

President's Report cont'd from page 1

However recommendations we made are:

1. Australian Government recognition of the significant contribution made by the Community, Farmers and Local Government to natural resource management.
2. Recognise the Regional Delivery Model as the main delivery platform for nationally prioritised issues.
3. Need for a commitment to long term, consistent Government investment into natural resource management.
4. Formally investigate and review the efficiencies gained by rationalising some regional bodies.
5. Formally review and analyse the present regional delivery model to include:
 - Barriers to community engagement
 - Governance
 - How to have Landcare as part of the Delivery model
 - Analysis of delivery transaction costs
 - Focus on sub regional and Landcare delivery models
6. Adoption of Minister Burke's 'Pillars for Landcare' allowing Landcare to target and deliver soil, carbon, climate change and food security issues.
7. Adoption of an ecosystem services approach.
8. Initiate already agreed to consistent data collection methodology to collate on ground data to confirm progress in natural resource management.
9. Development of a two tier investment stream based on National coordination through regions with local priority's delivered by Landcare, sub regions or local Government through the second tier.
10. Enhanced community engagement through 'bottom-up' approaches rather than 'top-down' focused ideologies.
11. Formal integration of Local Government into the new investment initiative/delivery model.
12. Development of a formal structure that fosters and encourages communication from the community directly to the decision making process.
13. Recognise the higher return on investment by tackling locally identified emerging issues.

It will be a busy time over the coming weeks and months. At present the focus of the office is putting together a submission for Caring for Our Country and the next big ticket item will be reviewing the Strategic Plan with major input from you, the community.

Ian Sauer

Tamar NRM's Gambusia Project

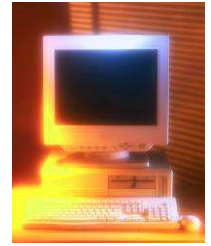
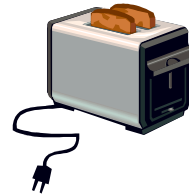
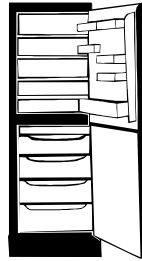
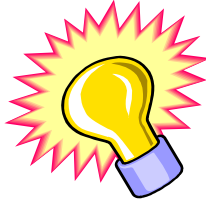
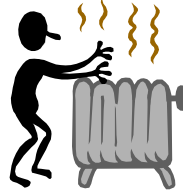
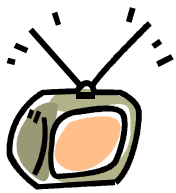
Volunteers wanted for the Gambusia project to help with trapping and hand netting, native fish rescue, distribution survey - if interested, please contact the office on 6323-3310.

Perennial Pastures Field Day

A demonstration field day on perennial pastures was held on Friday 13th May at three sites in the Pipers River district. Farmers and landholders were able to inspect and analyse the success or reasons for failure of 98 combinations of pasture grasses and legumes. Each site had a distinctly different soil type and neighbouring landholders could see which combination would be best suited to their soil type and farming operation. Key messages from the day were: adjust the soil chemistry imbalances before planting, make sure weed control is addressed well before soil preparation, give each legume and grass their own space to grow in, and select the correct grass/legume combination to suit the farming operation. A BBQ lunch was provided which enabled participants to talk and share ideas in a friendly informal atmosphere. Guest speakers were Eric Hall from TIAR and Bob Reid from Tasglobal Seeds.



Home Energy Use Pilot Study



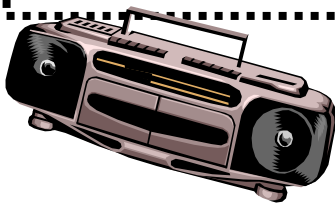
Can changing your power usage, change your life?

Tamar Natural Resource Management says, Yes...we can help. As power prices increase so does the pressure on households to economise. Tamar NRM has developed a project "Surge to Savings". This project will measure community support and action to reduce the use of residential power consumption.

Tamar NRM requests your last twelve months power bills and once our office has received them we will give you a 'Home Energy' booklet on how to reduce energy consumption. There are two booklets - one for homeowners and one for renters. An introductory letter explaining what we are trying to achieve will accompany the booklet. We will also request the energy bills for the twelve months during the project life and once ended will ask for an interview to determine how you used the advice in the booklet.

This project is an information gathering exercise and your details are kept strictly confidential. Throughout the project life, feel free to contact us and remove your name from the database - participation is voluntary.

If you would like more information about how you can help us and yourself at the same time, please contact the Tamar NRM office on 6323-3310.



March 2011 was Australia's wettest March on record
DAFF

The Chinese have a saying – the best time to plant a tree is a hundred years ago, the next best time is now
Strategy for Sustainability – A Business Manifesto by Adam Werbach

The University of Maine USA has developed a biodegradable golf ball whose core is made of ground-up lobster shells – the balls are intended for use on cruise ships or at driving ranges on lakes or the ocean
SBS

...snippets...

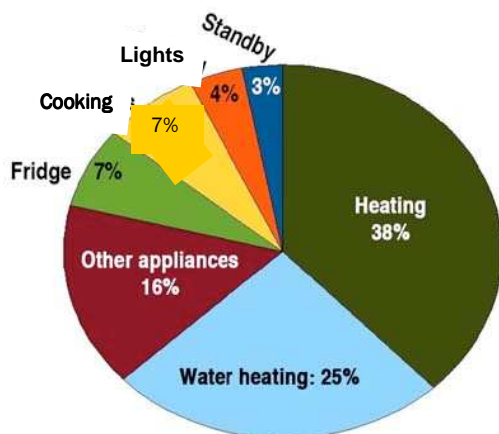
reduce your food footprint

Those of us who are serious about reducing our energy use and thus our carbon footprint have made many changes to our lives mostly painless even enjoyable, mostly cost neutral sometimes saving money. Thanks to Basslink through which power flows in both directions we can no longer bask in the belief that Tasmania's electricity is clean and green thus reducing our electricity use reduces our carbon footprint.

We tend to start with the simple, obvious things such as switching off lights when leaving a room, not boiling a full kettle of water for one cup, not leaving the fridge door open, and a multitude of similar small behaviour changes.

As we become more aware we go around the house, before bed, switching off all those little stand-by lights, wash clothes in cold water, take shorter showers and ensure any new electrical appliances we buy have the maximum number of energy efficiency stars. We may even buy or borrow a power usage meter and go around the house measuring the power usage of existing appliances and decide to replace some or use others differently.

Then one day we see this basic home energy pie chart and realise we've only been tinkering at the edges of energy saving.

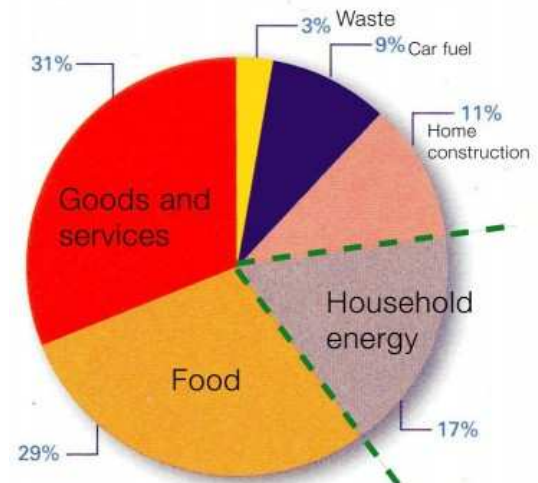


Basic Home Pie

So we get to work at reducing our energy use for water and space heating. We check our ceiling insulation, ensure air leakages around doors and windows are sealed, ensure heavy curtains or blinds keep heat in or out depending on where it is wanted, and study up on solar, heat pump, gas or other efficient means of heating water so that when our storage electric hot water service dies we are ready to install a better one rather than leave it up to the plumber who may wish to install another electric hot water service.

By this time we're feeling pretty good about our energy savings until one day we see the total energy use pie chart and realise we still have a way to go.

So we look at energy used to produce our food and realise this occurs at many stages. With annual crops such as vegetables and grain there's ploughing the land, planting the seed, fertilizing, watering, pest control, harvesting, processing, packaging, transport, storage and more.



Home Pie with the lot

Then there's animal products: grain fed beef uses far more energy than pasture fed beef but chickens are much more efficient at producing meat than beef regardless of feed. Also consider the methane produced by ruminants. Is it better to eat wild caught fish but risk depleting the natural stock or eat farmed fish that are fed on smaller fish harvested from the wild? Fortunately some people have gone to the trouble to produce information on how sustainable it is to eat certain species of seafood.

Another thing to watch is recipes: too many modern recipes require ingredients produced in different seasons whereas traditional recipes, developed in times of less storage and transport tend to use ingredients produced at the same time of year.

The most reliable way to reduce your food energy is to grow some of your own food. This can completely eliminate transport and packaging. You may not have much space, time or skill but anyone can grow a few herbs or lettuces or a tomato in a pot, and once you get a taste for fresh, home grown produce you'll only want more.

So if you grow some of your own or want to learn what others do come to Tamar NRM's "How I Reduce my Food Energy" seminar (for more information regarding date, venue and time, see calendar at front of this newsletter).

Reference: Pie Charts by permission of Waterworks Valley Community;

www.powerdowntas.org/content/index.php/site/start_extended/every_home_is_different

Sue Woinarski
Chair Sustainable Living working Group

“How I Reduce My Food Energy” Seminar

Saturday 13th August 2011

10.00 - 4.00pm

Windsor Community Precinct Centre, 1 Windsor Drive, Riverside

We all know that Tamar NRM supporters lead interesting lives and we are energy savers not energy wasters.

Have you ever been mushrooming, blackberrying or scrumping?

Have you ever grown sprouts?

Have you ever been fishing or hunting or kept working ferrets?

Do you buy your meat in bulk or share a beast with friends?

Do you grow your own herbs, greens or other vegetables?

Do you have any fruit trees or a berry patch?

Do you have a dairy cow or goat?

Have you ever made your own butter or yoghurt or cheese?

Do you buy fruit in bulk and bottle it or bottle fruit given to you by friends or neighbours or from your own garden?

Do you buy food from local producers or buy or barter from friends or neighbours?

Do you keep hens or ducks or geese for eggs or meat?

Do you keep rabbits for meat?

Do you keep bees?

Do you refuse to eat grain fed beef, or buy food grown on the other side of the world, or grown in a “controlled environment”?

Do you make your own bread or pasta, cakes, biscuits or pastries?

Do you make your own sausages or smoke meat or fish?

Do you make your own jams, pickles or other preserves?

Do you dry food?

Do you make your own hoummos or salsa or spreads?

Do you make your own beer, wine, ginger beer or other beverages?

Do you make your own tomato sauce or other sauces?

Do you make your own stocks and soups?

If you said “yes” to any of these or similar questions you have been reducing your food energy and have something to share with us all.

You don’t need to write a paper or talk for an hour or produce a power point presentation. Two minutes will be fine - a little longer would be better and a picture or two would be terrific.

I sure you are raring to share your experiences with like-minded people so please phone Amanda on 6323-3310 and book in for our seminar.

If, perchance you answered “no” to every question you certainly need to come and learn how others do it.

Looking forward to seeing you

Sue Woinarski
Chair, Sustainable Living Working Group

Jayne's Wild Garden...

What sort of a garden do you have? Whether it is a native garden, or something more exotic, there are native plants that look good in both. Bottlebrushes are such plants. Two varieties are endemic to Tasmania.

Callistemon pallidus, or Lemon Bottlebrush, grows to about three metres high and has lemon yellow flowers during late spring and early summer. Its new growth is an attractive bronze colour.

Callistemon viridiflorus, or Green Bottlebrush, grows to about two metres and also flowers during late spring and early summer.

These are tough plants and grow well in any soil including clay. They are cold tolerant and do well in full sun or part shade. These shrubs can provide screening, windbreak and shelter as well as attracting birds to your garden. They respond well to pruning and flowers keep well in a vase.

There are native bottlebrushes from other states and some hybrids which can give colour variations from white through pinks and mauves to deep red. There is also a dwarf hybrid called 'Little John' which grows only one metre high with red flowers and soft foliage.

Jayne Shapter
Tamar NRM's Weeds Working Group Member



©www.tradewindsfruit.com

Lemon Bottlebrush
Photo: www.tradewindsfruit.com

our wonderful volunteers

Tamar NRM held its annual Volunteer Recognition Event on Monday 9th May 2011 in the Rotunda, City Park. Thirty of our volunteers braved the cold (personally I love the cold and thought it mild but there were few shivers running through the group - possibly their excitement in anticipating the Rotunda Entrance Prize!!). We had smiles all round (due to the cold these had been frozen on their faces), laughter, food, hot drinks and finally a thank you cake.

Ian Sauer, President of Tamar NRM voiced "our volunteers are the backbone to our organisation".

Without the volunteers, could we do what we do? - the answer is No. If I had written Yes, you would have seen Tamar NRM staff sitting quietly in a corner, crying silently and being swamped under massive amounts of paperwork and plants. We would get root rot!!

Thank you to our sponsor for the event - *All About Catering*. We appreciated the glorious food as well as the good company and for the third year running - a May morning tea without rain!

Thank you again for keeping Tamar NRM tucked carefully into your thoughts and actions.

Tamar NRM's success is your success.

We look forward to seeing you at our future events and activities.

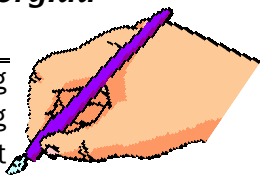


Ian Sauer, President, Tamar NRM and Jayne Shapter, Volunteer and member of the West Tamar Landcare Group



TAMAR NRM newsletters can be found on our website www.tamar-nrm.org.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. It would be great to see how a project started and how it has developed over time.



Next 'Naturally Yours' edition due: August 2011

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