



Tamar NRM

may 2014

'Naturally Yours'

Our volunteers are wondrous people to behold...

...during rain, hail, sleet or snow our dedicated volunteers assist our organisation to de-weed, re-plant and many, many other things!

Without YOU i.e. the volunteer [now give yourself a hug] our organisation would not be able to achieve what we have over these many years.

Our Volunteer Recognition Event was again held during National Volunteer Week 12-18th May (ours: Monday 12th in the Rotunda, City Park). Weather was welcoming to our group as we are exposed to the windy element in the Rotunda but the day was calm and happy. It knew we were there to say thanks to the volunteers who help us help the environment so the weather was on its best behaviour.

We have again been privileged to have local business, **All About Catering**, sponsor this event making it year number four. Thank you to Brendan and his team for the delicious food and for their dedicated support.

President, Roger Tyshing echoed what our organisation knows - without the continued and active support from our volunteers we could not achieve so much. He then gave a resounding thanks to all past, present and hopefully to all future volunteers.

...we love you volunteers...you are the best!



Volunteer and Rotunda Entrance Prize winner, Theresa Hatton with her Tamar NRM bag of 'goodies'



THIS ISSUE

Article Title	Page
Our volunteers are wondrous people to behold...	1
You might remember reading this...	2
Trees for shelter, timber & profit	3-4
RAGWORT...tamar nrm needs your help	5
Gorse...of course!	6-7
WIN an iPad	8
Remember 'what happens in a veggie garden' continued	9
Facebook	10
Next newsletter edition	10

Staff

Craig Williams
Executive Officer

Mike Poole
NRM Facilitator - Tamar
(Monday & Tuesday)

Denis Giasli
(Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

Amanda Bruce
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Contact Us

Telephone 6323-3310
Facsimile 6323-3385
Website www.tamarnrm.com.au
Email tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au

"excellence in natural resource management"



Tamar NRM is supported by

you might remember reading this...



"Hi Wonderful Tamar NRM Friends

You may remember our April 2014 eTamar mentioning the following activity (if not, here is a snippet)...

[For you...a taste of what is to come this year and into 2015...](#)

Two brilliant organisations have joined forces to present our community friends with four extraordinary events under the title: 'Rural & Urban Women Linking Through the Seasons'. Two brilliant staffers...Amanda Bruce (aka ME) from Tamar Natural Resource Management and Alison Hugo from NRM North are organising two rural and two urban events during this year and into 2015 (we started a bit late!!).

Our first rural event organised for **WINTER** by Alison and supported by Amanda is:



Keeping a Healthy Balance

An event Linking Rural and Urban Women

Join ABC Rural Reporter, *Rose Grant*, for an evening where

"Positive health meets fashion"

Guest speaker: Annette Reed






Tasmanian winner of the 2014 RIRDC Rural Women's Award
(Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation)

followed by a **Fashion Parade**

Supper will be provided

When: Wednesday 4th June 2014
Time: 7.15pm - 9.30 pm
Where: Launceston City Council Reception Room
St John Street, Launceston

RSVP: Friday 30th May 63 337777 admin@nrmnorth.org.au
Enquiries: Alison Hugo 6333 7788



Good Friends of Tamar NRM...the day will soon be upon us - both organisations would love to see you at the very first event. RSVP as soon as possible. Thanks. Amanda

P.S. invite your friends and family - information is on our website: www.tamarnrm.com.au/calendar and on our Facebook page - **more is always merrier!!!**

‘Trees for Shelter, Timber and Profit’

On a warm Tamar Valley (north of Launceston) day in February, over 40 people visited two properties to see and discuss profitable tree growing options to improve land use, increase agricultural productivity and profit primarily through shelter for stock and timber production.

The host landholders, Adam Culley and Ed Archer, with properties at Frankford and Hillwood respectively, spoke about what they had done and their expectations. Both landholders treat farm forestry as a business venture and have a keen eye for a profit.

Eleven years ago Adam planted and has since managed a 10 hectare plantation of *Pinus radiata*, *Eucalyptus nitens* and canker tolerant *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Strathallan and Kukupa clones) species for high quality clearwood. The pine has been high pruned and commercially thinned whereas the eucalypts and cypress have been waste thinned from an early age and high pruned on time to exacting standards. Adam has funded his plantation enterprise as a superannuation investment. He stressed the value of seeking independent professional advice from organisations such as Private Forests Tasmania and obtaining Farm Forestry Toolbox estimates of future wood production. His plantation management is copy book and he has AFG Pruned Stand Certification. Unfortunately the pine suffered recent and unforeseen windthrow following thinning. Adam’s advice was; *‘Firstly to decide what end result you want, learn about forestry, pay attention to existing and future markets (as the management decisions you make today will determine the type of products you have to sell tomorrow) and importantly, enjoy what you do.’*

Ed has successfully integrated *E. nitens* and *E. globulus* shelterbelts into a largely beef enterprise to increase agricultural production. His 30 hectares were established under a joint venture with Gunns in 1998 and 2005. Each season, the 60m wide belts increase liveweight by 20 kg per beast and enable earlier joining. Shelter keeps the stock cool in summer and warm in winter. Feed is provided both within the shelterbelt and in the lee. The belts are planted on the poorer sites to maximize land use resulting in a net gain in pasture production and livestock health and weight. Further, the trees have provided biodiversity and increased property value and at harvest will diversify farm income. Ed’s message was; *‘I am convinced my shelterbelts have been successful. They have proved their worth many times over. I would like even more. I’m sure the harvesting and re-growing of trees will be challenging but this is now just another part of our business.’*

Greg Unwin, Adjunct Senior Lecturer (Forest Ecosystems / Agroforestry), School of Land and Food, University of Tasmania aroused the farmer’s interest as his power point presentation showed how farm profits could be increased by shelter.



Senator Richard Colbeck in a Q&A with the field day visitors

‘Trees for Shelter, Timber and Profit’...cont'd



David Bower, Private Forests Tasmania, lead a discussion about plantation management
E. nitens (left) and C. macrocarpa (right)

Tony Stonjek, director of AKS Forestry Solutions and AFG member, discussed markets and harvesting in small farm forestry blocks and stressed the importance of economies of scale and benefits to coordinate small operations across several local plantations.

A BBQ lunch and ice cream were provided by the local TFGA Tamar Valley Branch. It was pleasurable to eat ‘Landfall’ beef, produced by the Archers, knowing that it was both ‘grass fed’ and ‘eucalypt sheltered’.

Senator Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator for Tasmania, gave national perspective of the potential role for private forestry and expertly answered many questions during a lively discussion.

Mark Leech, Chairman, Board of Private Forests Tasmania provided a summation of the key learnings on the day. The highlights were the landholder messages, sharing of experiences and their demonstrated capacity to overcome various site specific challenges to successfully grow and manage, and now harvest, trees.

The event was organised by TFGA (Tamar Valley Branch), Tamar NRM, Australian Forest Growers, Private Forests Tasmania, Institute of Foresters, AKS Forestry Solutions and University of Tasmania.

The full field day notes, authored by Private Forests Tasmania, are at www.pft.tas.gov.au and www.tamarnrm.com.au

Arthur Lyons
Private Forests Tasmania

RAGWORT...tamar nrm needs your help...

Tamar NRM is planning to expand one of its very successful programs. Ragwort Raids started on the East Tamar 15 years ago. In that time, the quantity of ragwort collected from roadsides has reduced from a very large truck load to a wheelbarrow load this year.

Ragwort Raids on the West Tamar have only been going for about 7 years. We are winning the war, but we still have difficult areas in Birralee and Frankford which will provide entertainment for several more years.

Tamar NRM now has its sights set on the City of Launceston. There are areas of ragwort along Prossers Forest Road, near Nunamara, St Leonards and Upper Blessington. Another area of concern is the Ben Lomond Road.

A member of West Tamar Landcare encouraged his friends to help him remove that on a visit in February this year. Well done, Martin.

Next year we would like to do more. But we need HELP!! If you have a couple of hours to spend helping to control this weed, please contact Jayne Shapter (6394-4376) or Amanda Bruce at Tamar NRM (amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au).

A couple of hours and we will finish up with a sausage sizzle. We hope that this action will encourage private landowners to control ragwort on their properties...**PLEASE help if you can.**

Jayne Shapter
Ragwort Raid Co-ordinator



Community members removing Ragwort during previous Raid years - they have made significant difference to our environment by removing this weed from both the East and West Tamar - thank you to our community members fighting the 'weedy' fight!!



Tamar NRM will keep reminding you during the year but to help us and just to be on the safe side, please make a note on your fridge or add the string around your finger to remember our 2015 Ragwort Raids are coming (dates to be advised)

Gorse...of course!

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is native to Western Europe and its propensity to be in some form of flower for the year round lead to the proverb: *"When gorse is out of bloom, kissing's out of fashion"*

To date kissing is still in fashion and gorse can be seen with its distinctive bright yellow pea-like flowers all year round, even in Australia after its introduction in the early 1800's. Since its introduction in Australia gorse quickly became established and is now regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, economic impacts, environmental impacts and distribution in both rural and urban settings. Gorse is listed as a WoNS (Weed of National Significance) and in Tasmania is a declared weed under the Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999.

In Tasmania gorse is a major agricultural weed that is widely distributed around the island and can be found in most municipalities. Serious infestations are reducing pasture and stock productivity and it has been conservatively estimated that the cost to woolgrower's in the state, due to lost production, would be around \$1 million annually. The weed also is a serious threat to natural environments such as forests, woodlands, riparian vegetation, wetlands and native grasslands. Added to this gorse acts as a natural shelter for many pest animals and in serious infestations it will increase the threats from bushfires.

There are two main periods of flowering in Tasmania where the plants are a riot of the bright yellow flowers, late-winter to spring and autumn. However, if conditions are right flowers can be found all year round.

So what is it that makes gorse so successful? Like many invasive plants and animals they have a wide tolerance range and are adaptable, occurring in fertile soils, light sands, heavy clays and disturbed soil plus a range of rainfall patterns. The plants produce prodigious amounts of seed (a mature infestation can produce up to 6 million seeds annually), the seeds can be shot up to 5 metres when seed pods split and they are also distributed by birds and insects. As with a number of other highly invasive plants gorse seeds have incredible permanency in the soil due to their waterproof waxy coating and can remain active for 30 years. Add to this that a single plant can live for up to 30 years and we have a long term agricultural problem that is in need of strategic concentrated effort in a coordinated partnership approach.

The Tamar Valley is categorised as Zone B - Containment, with the distribution of gorse ranging from common to occasional.

A Co-ordinated, Integrated Control Program Works Best

Reducing gorse infestations needs to use a planned approach that integrates a variety of methods depending on the circumstances around the infestation and previous treatments.

A plan is critical in your approach to tackle infestation and given the extensive distribution of the weed it would be advisable to coordinate actions with your neighbours as it is more than likely infestations cross boundaries. Methods available include;

- Mechanical removal with machinery is effective on large scale infestations, however this activity will disturb the soil and will need to be combined with other methods to knock back the regrowth in the area.
- Burning infestations is only an effective if combined with other methods given the heat will promote increased germination of seeds.
- A number of herbicides are registered for use against gorse and options for their use will be determined by the time of year, the size of the infestation and what other methods will be combined with the treatment.
- Grazing and cultivation with competitive pasture species can be used in combination as a means to followup initial treatments but will need to be highly managed both with stock and pasture and the maturity of the growing gorse seedlings.
- Biological controls for gorse have also been released but again these are best used in combination with other methods and are really only part of a control program, not eradication.
- Ultimately prevention is the most cost-effective method of preventing gorse infestation. It is important that when you are conducting activities in areas with gorse that your machinery, equipment and vehicles are cleaned on site, preventing any further spread of seed.

Gorse...of course! cont'd

What is Tamar Natural Resource Management doing to help in the control of Gorse?

1. Making available information on the best practice methods of controlling gorse:
 - See our weeds website www.weeds.asn.au/
 - Links to other websites www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse/ and www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds
 - Providing best practice manuals on gorse - contact the Tamar NRM Office
2. Supporting control programs from other agencies
3. Applying for funding to target removal of gorse from key locations
4. **Gorse Control Best Practice Field Day - stay tuned for this event to be promoted soon**
5. **Gorse Biocontrol release in the Tamar Region - Gorse Soft Shoot Moth**
 - If you would like to take part in this activity in December this year contact the Tamar NRM Office to register your details.

As a final and yet incidental thought, while you are constructing you integrated gorse management plan what would be the most appropriate drink to promote insight and detail to the plan?



Gorse (photo: <http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au>)

Gorse Wine...of course!

Watching an old episode of *River Cottage* recently, they were making wine from ingredients sourced by foraging, and one of the tipples was made from Gorse flowers. The downside, of course, is that you need to collect mammoth amounts of flowers (and of course you would want to be certain they haven't been sprayed with herbicide) and that is a task that requires nimble fingers, protective clothing and a number of fellow co-conspirators. We are definitely not advising keeping gorse on your property. In fact you have a legal requirement as a property owner to undertake control or even eradicate. But it may be fun to make along the way and a good way to celebrate once you have cleared your property of this highly invasive weed.



Craig Williams

WIN an iPad

Through a project last year Tamar NRM developed the Farm Trials website (www.farm-trials.tamarnrm.com.au) for farmers around the Tamar Region to read about farm trials and the outcomes. The website contains several farm trials with photos, videos, diagrams and other interesting information.

What we need from you?

New trials are needed...if you are developing a trial and you feel it might be of interest to other farmers then please email to our office (tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au) - once reviewed the trial will be uploaded onto the Farm Trials website. If you have more than one farm trial then please send as many in as you are managing.

***There are two iPads to WIN...
...register your trial(s) to have an opportunity to win one***

For example, here is an existing trial on the website:

Brian Baxter, a farmer from East Tamar, has registered his composting trial for inclusion on the website. Brian is taking advantage of a waste product (grape skins) from a neighbouring vineyard to provide the raw material for making the compost. This large expanse of compost will allow him to build on a smaller trial that has been backed with scientific monitoring and to conduct his own larger scale trials. Brian has had the compost tested and has found some interesting results.



remember 'what happens in a veggie garden'...

Have a look at our November 2013 and February 2014 newsletters for photos from previous months...

Here is the continued pictorial tribute by Sue Woinarski to her home garden - March to May 2014



Left - Carrot seeds ripened and Right - Beetroot flourishing

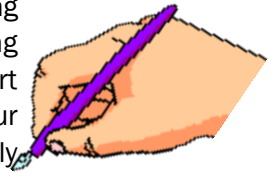


Left - Salad green loved the rain and Right - Borlotti beans ripened



Left - Pumpkins harvested and Right - Snow peas germinated

Would you like to contribute an article to our newsletters – we are always interested in receiving news of completed projects funded by our organisation - 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 either a before or after site photo [or possibly both] - 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.



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

...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 and go from there.

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



Next edition of 'Naturally Yours' is available during:
August 2014



*Some newsletter editions are on our website www.tamarnrm.com.au/newsletters
For copies of earlier editions, please contact the office (tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au)*