



Tamar NRM

**May
2012**

'Naturally Yours'

**Volunteer Recognition Event
Monday 14th May 2012**

'Hooray for Our Volunteers'

Another year has come to honour and thank our volunteers with the annual Volunteer Recognition Event just completed.

Tamar NRM wants to say to all our volunteers - the ones who attended the event and the ones who could not make it....**Hooray for You!**

If not for the volunteers, would Tamar NRM be able to continue - well, we might say 'possibly' but with the input and dedication provided with good humour and smiles we say 'definitely' - Tamar NRM will be here for a long time (think of us as a long distance runner - we start well, sweat a lot, drink a lot [water of course], run smoothly with the pack and then streak ahead with fresh ideas and always knowing the community support us).

Over the last four years we have held the Volunteer Recognition Event in the Rotunda at City Park and during this time the weather has been magnificent - cold yes but refreshingly so and today was no exception with shining sun - it obviously knows our volunteers look forward to the party and the weather acts accordingly.

Thank you to our sponsor, *All About Catering*, for the delicious sandwiches and slices provided and the cake - what a cake - yum....with the message 'thanks to our volunteers' - there were a lot of teeth flashing while munching it.

The Management Committee and staff will look forward to seeing more volunteers at the event in 2013 and know there will always be cake.

Thank you volunteers....you are our backbone supporting all we do for the community.

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AB



Thank you...

The Management Committee would like to thank all community members who participated in the workshops regarding the development of our new 2012-2016 Strategic Directions document. The document was launched on Tuesday 27th March and is now available for reading on our website (www.tamarnrm.com.au).

Without the assistance of so many people with their positive comments and enthusiasm, it would not have been so successfully developed (remember: our organisation is not a 'one-man band show' - all significant ideas were discussed with many community members).

Tamar Natural Resource Management appreciates the continued support and good will of our community friends.

Farewell!



The Management Committee would like to farewell three members - *Josef Hextall* having represented George Town Council, *Peter Button* having represented Launceston City Council and *Dave Maynard* representing the Australian Maritime College. All three contributed significantly to Tamar Natural Resource Management. Our organisation extends best wishes for their future endeavours.

and say Hello...



to *Dino De Paoli* who is the interim George Town Council representative on the Management Committee.

Linkedin surveyed over 1,100 Australian professionals – it revealed that the top office peeves are: people not taking ownership for their actions; dirty common areas; and constant complainers

FastThinking

A Brisbane resident weighed the junk mail he received over a year and found it totalled 34 kgs – he raises the question of how many resources and trees are wasted when there are a range of more sustainable advertising avenues

Brisbane Times

CSIRO scientists armed with a small remote-controlled helicopter with cameras are circumnavigating Australia – they are documenting the tonnes of litter left or washed up on the nation's beaches and calculating the impact on marine life

Adelaide Advertiser

Invasive species are a top threat to global biodiversity and the battle against them costs 120 billion dollars per year in the United States alone

Channel 7

...Shippets...

G day...is here!

Has anyone saidyou can go mad with too much sunshine...well let me tell you, YES you can!

But for our field day event at the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre - G day...is here! - on Saturday 25th February we wanted sunshine and we got it - 31°C. I was there looking stunning in different shades of green to match our new corporate colour but as the heat beat remorsefully down I slowly wilted and looked like a burnt salad without any dressing!!

I am diverging again which happens in my brain...

You may be asking secretly and not game to speak out loud - what is G day? It is all about Gambusia! But what is Gambusia? Yes, I can hear your brains a-ticking...Gambusia is a pesky little introduced fish that eats the tails of our native tadpoles and the eggs of our native fish and frogs.

G day was organised to invite the community to come along and learn all about and have a go at dipnetting for GAMBUSIA (yes I have it in capitals - this makes it important or I could be shouting, difficult to know as I am writing).

Grant Scurr, our Project Officer or Mr G as I call him took us all on the amazing journey to meet, greet and discuss the secret lives of the Gambusia.

We had games such as 'pin the hook' on the Gambusia - young and older generations had a go by being blindfolded and attempted to pin the hook mostly onto the Gambusia. There was spot the Green & Gold Frog and to make it easier for the near sighted (like me) we had A4 posters of the G&G frog tied to the native rushes next to the boardwalk. What did the community get for their efforts - chocolate green foil wrapped frogs! We also had balloons and banners and you missed them - like the grandparents say when they return from their travels - we have photos.

We also thought it a great opportunity to show interviews of volunteers who assist Mr G during the week. They told their stories noting both the positives and negatives of doing the job especially removing the traps from the water in mid winter (brisk to say the least and a negative I think).

Mr G was able to get an interview with the notorious Gertie Gambusia. He spoke with her just before she was dipnetted and removed for good from the wetlands. We got a scoop and so did Gertie (ha, my little and I mean little pun).



Left - Gambusia display banners & balloons
and above - traps in the wetlands

There were tables of water bugs (this is my lose term for creepy, crawling things) and lots of Gambusia which Mr G collected in a bucket. He took them home, added water and then placed in the freezer. Why you ask? It is the most humane thing to do...the Gambusia quietly go to sleep and never wake up.

There was a bit of chatter amongst the group about whether Gambusia were appetizing and should they be sampled on toast as a snack. I had a very long second look and so did we all - conclusion: forget it, this idea is really absurd

A fun day was had by at least fifty community members meandering the boardwalk - they visited, talked and viewed our displays. We also found out what Mr G really does all day, every day at Tamar Island.

Tamar NRM would like to say thank you to:

Alison Moore (Parks & Wildlife Service) and the wonderful volunteers (John Duggin, Bill & Pam Edmondson) at the wetlands who assisted us on the day; Hullabaloo Balloons; Gourlays Chocolates; Xerox (printed our banners) and yes, we would like to thank ourselves for coming out on a Saturday when we most likely wanted to go shopping - Craig Williams (Executive Officer); Grant Scurr aka Mr G (Gambusia Project Officer); and me aka AB (Office Manager).

Most of all we would like to thank the community who came, saw and know we are conquering this pest fish. Down with Gambusia!

Keep an eye peeled for other **G** days...possibly...

AB 



Left - community kids looking for 'creepy, crawling things' and above - one determined trapper of Gambusia having a go at dipnetting

some tips for organising good working bees and building team-work

Friends of Trevallyn Reserve (FOTR) is one of the longest running and most successful CareRes groups in Northern Tasmania. It works on weed eradication, re-vegetation and rubbish collection throughout the 440 hectare Reserve. FOTR works in close co-operation with Parks and Wildlife, the Launceston City Council and the West Tamar Council, the three bodies that hold land tenure over different areas of the Reserve. Those that founded the Group many years ago recognized that because volunteers generously give up their personal time, co-ordinators need to ensure the working bees are well organized. Here are working bee guidelines that FOTR co-ordinators try to follow:-

1. Try to always have working bees on a consistent day at a consistent time e.g. the second Saturday of every month from 10.00 – 12 noon. FOTR sticks fairly rigorously to the same days and times even when the days fall on public holidays or Easter etc.
2. Maintain an up-to-date emailing list. Remember that volunteers can change their email addresses and often fail to inform the co-ordinators. You may need to chase some of these up. You need to hang on to your volunteers if at all possible, so you need current email addresses.
3. Send out notices during the week of the working bee, and ensure that instructions on where to meet are clear and unambiguous.
4. Know exactly what your task is for each working bee. It is a good idea to inspect the site a couple of weeks beforehand to assess the amount of work involved. If you doubt there's enough work to sustain a well attended 2 hour working bee then always have a secondary fall-back task in mind. **Remember volunteers don't like to waste the time they are donating.** They need to experience a sense of achievement so that they are motivated to return.
5. Try to remember each volunteer's name and greet them individually as they arrive. Give special attention to new volunteers, introduce them to others and delegate someone to show them what to do and endeavour to have a word with them before they leave.
6. Always make sure your tools are well maintained and presented. There's nothing worse than blunt secateurs or odd gloves!
7. Ensure that you circulate a detailed report of each working bee to all volunteers. They love to read about what they've done and it is a great way to build team-work and camaraderie.

**Janet Hallam
for the Friends of Trevallyn Reserve Committee**



Some of the Friends of Trevallyn Reserve in a group photo



Janet Hallam with Boneseed



Anna Povey, Vicki Campbell, Jenny Mayne, Vicki Cox and Elizabeth collecting seeds

**Celebrating the Environment - women in our community
International Women's Day Event
Thursday 8th March 2012**

I woke to an ordinary day but when fully awake it dawned on me, this was international women's day and I was going to be away from the office - yeah, a field trip well actually the event was inside but let's say 'field trip'.

So after calming my stomach to eat breakfast I then moved onto packing my backpack and left for work (after you know doing the usual - cleaning my teeth!). I had been thinking, too much it seems, about the day - it was Tamar NRM's inaugural International Women's Day event.

I had organised six community women speakers to talk about their experiences and expertise interacting with the environment. I also decided to throw caution to the wind and jump right out of my comfort zone and include myself as a speaker which is why my stomach flipped/flopped at brekky.

I knew the other five speakers were fantastic as I had heard them at one time or another. So to delude myself into thinking I could join their ranks, I put myself as the initial speaker which meant the day could only go up from there. It was difficult to think about a topic without a natural resource management background so I thought about my expertise - the clock ticked, grass grew and then suddenly my brain cells dropped - yes, of course my topic would be 'Was I mad - my life with an NRM group?'. I posed this question at the beginning of my talk and answered it by the end - aahhh, Yes (on a personal note) I was mad and (on a professional note) Yes, I was mad working for an NRM group but pleasantly mad!

After me came the other community speakers as follows:

- Nathalie Servant, Community Safety & Development Officer, Launceston City Council (Title: 'From Paris to Launceston')
- Kris Schaffer, Bushfoods Garden Design (Title: 'Growing Respect Gardens')
- Debbie Searle, Monitoring and Improvement Officer, NRM North (Title: 'Lake Pedder & Beyond')
- Emma Williams, Healthy Coasts & Seas Program Manager, NRM North (Title: 'Making a Difference One Stitch at a Time')
- Anna Crews, Scotch Oakburn College Student (Title: 'Environmental Appreciation & Leadership for School Children')

Unfortunately Anna had a throat infection and was unable to speak but came along for the day to chat (the best she could) in the breaks with our audience.



Thirty community members (including the speakers) began the day listening to the varied talks. Once the day started it flowed so freely with chatting, laughing and a general camaraderie of being together to celebrate an important day for women around the world. Food was munched and tea cups rattled when we broke for the morning tea and lunch sessions. New friends were made.

What were the benefits from the day - well I think...new insights into the passions of other community members and their involvement with the environment, a joy for one day a year to just celebrate what we are all trying to achieve - harmony with our environment and our lives without creating any devastating waves. This was a day to focus on positives, maybe mention there will always be negatives but say we can overcome and carry on. To know our footprint should be tiny and do the best we can to make it so.

I am hoping we will have this as an annual event so fingers crossed and yes, you can bribe the judges (aka the Management Committee members and Executive Officer, oh and me as I need a holiday!!).

Tamar NRM would like to thank:

Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside as our venue;

All About Catering as our food experts;

CocoBean for the chocolates for our participants;

Community women members who attended the day - without you I would be sitting alone in a large empty room talking to myself (which of course I often do in the office - sshhh, don't tell anyone!)

Thank you from me:

The best speakers were there on the day so I thank them - Nathalie, Kris, Debbie, Emma and Anna.

You learn so much when you are not trying to learn which happened to me.

The best community members were there on the day so I thank them - you are too numerous to write all your names but as you know who you are - THANK YOU. See you next year (I hope).

AB 



Kris Schaffer (speaker) talking to our audience

Weed Check



Bridal Creeper

Asparagus asparagoides

Family	Asparagaceae
Origin	Native to S. Africa.
Description	Bridal Creeper is a perennial woody climbing vine with sharply pointed, glossy green leaves. It has an extensive tuberous root system. The green stems twine around other vegetation for support eventually smothering them. The stem has a zigzag appearance changing its direction at each node. Flowers are greenish-white and occur where the leaves meet the stem. Black shiny seed is contained in the ripe, red berries.
Distribution	<p>Bridal creeper is an escaped garden plant. It is found mostly in northern Tasmania, generally occurring in coastal or near coastal environments. Its preferred habitats typically have a temperature range between 10 degrees and 20 degrees celsius and an average annual rainfall between 500 mm and 1500 mm. The most severe Tasmanian infestations occur in the Tamar Valley, on Flinders Island and on the east coast. Significant but smaller populations of this weed also occur in coastal areas between Devonport and Burnie.</p> <p>The plant spreads by bird dispersal of the seeds and locally by root spread.</p>
General Notes	Bridal Creeper is particularly vigorous in alkaline sandy soils and thrives in areas high in nutrients such as drainage lines or roadsides next to farmlands.
Control	Bridal Creeper has a number of features which make it difficult to control - its tuber reserves provide a buffer against adverse seasons, it has a wide germination range and it can invade undisturbed land.

It is recommended that DPIPW be contacted for information on controlling Bridal Creeper



The 'Jemenas' Are Back
...or a sneak peek at our field day on Friday 30th March 2012

The day dawned slightly overcast and I thought 'oh no' (pardon the expression) but it was the scheduled day of the planting and painting our trailer field day. Twenty-three Grade 2 students from Youngtown Primary School would be winging their way or at least coming by bus to join the 'Jemenas', myself, three LCC's Parks & Recreation staff at Youngtown Regional Park. To do what you may ask? To plant 250 native shrubs and to group handedly make our trailer soar from being the wallflower at the ball to the stand out in the crowd.

But I should never have worried. When we have combined Youngtown Primary School and the 'Jemenas' together for an event there can be only one type of day - wonderful. To understand my mentioning this combination, please refer to my article in May 2010 newsletter - it was another field day with the same school (the student faces were the only change), the same organisation and the same place.

The new day was another great success.

So my thoughts turned from the weather as I knew it would be OK to then getting to work, waiting for my lift, packing the truck with the boxes and getting to the park before the kids arrived. At 9.30am the bus arrived at the small car park opposite the track leading into the park. I met the bus and was introduced to twenty-three excited faces...well it was really twenty-four students as one young lady was slightly older than the rest. Tsharne had worked her magic on two separate designs we would be painting on the two long sides of the trailer. I took the liberty of joining the two designs into one and this was our starting point.

I remember, in the very distant past, the days when we had trips from school - the excitement, the ordered chaos, the fun, the laughter and the impatience to start the day. This was how the Grade 2s were feeling. After walking them across the road, giving the initial talk on safety, morning tea and lunch times, the students were split into two groups - A and B (the group names took a lot of thought!).

Group A stayed at the trailer. It was sitting majestically on a very large tarpaulin supplied by Jemena. They would paint side one of the trailer. Group B walked over to the first mulched bed ready to get started on planting 125 native shrubs.

Their teacher, Tim vanWinden, stayed with Group A and kept a vigilant eye on flying paint brushes saying 'be careful of everyone's eyes when you turn around with the brush in your hand'. I was in awe of his ability to keep (at this stage only twelve kids) in line.

It was fun just watching the seriousness of their painting. They wanted it to look reasonably similar to Tsharne's original designs. Tsharne was there to keep an eye on the sacredness of her design but as the morning proceeded the painting took on a life of its own. It had traces of the original but Group A had made it theirs - I think we had an emu sitting in a tree. It was wonderful to watch it all unfold.



Left - Group A with their trailer side painted and on right - Group B with their final interpretation

The 'Jemenas' Are Back continued

During this time Group B came wandering back after planting their shrubs. Group A was satisfied with their work and so morning tea was organised. Graeme Bystersky from Jemena (my partner in crime for this field day) had an array of fruit and water for all. Munch, munch, munch and too soon the kids were up and wanting to get started.

Group B assembled at the second side of the trailer needing the 'make-over'. Group A was marched away to work on their plantings (there was really no marching, no slave labour) - they probably walked in a disordering fashion it was just me writing neatly (marching sounds orderly!!)

After watching the developing progress of Group B with the trailer - it brought a smile to my face every time I watched them dashing back for more paint (oh, forgot to say, we had 'Jemenas', several parents and Nathan, another teacher and leader of Group B - with us holding cut up egg cartoons containing the different trailer colours), the day would have been a rainbow of disaster without their participation and egg cartoon holding.

So back to what I was saying...after watching Group B for a while, I then made my way to the mulched beds where Group A was making significant progress with their 125 plants. This group planted two beds and the park was looking very full and native-like.

Once both sides were painted and the beds planted, lunch was on the menu.

This was our second project at Youngtown Regional Park and Jemena had supplied the funding for both. They provided people-power, equipment and the wonderful BBQ which always smells so yummy on a warm day - sausages and onions sizzling away.

Tamar NRM has been very lucky and privileged to work with the same organisation twice on something we hold dear to our hearts as well as theirs - the environment. We have also had twice the opportunity to have students from Youngtown Primary School be involved with our projects. They have come along to our field days with enthusiasm and awe about what they are doing and also young knee caps - mine still refuse to sit down just in case they snap when getting up.

They are our future environment lovers and if they enjoy our projects and take the knowledge away with them then they have made a significant contribution - this is the best part of our events.

Although I organised the field day as it is our managed project, I speak truthfully when saying - the day would not have been such a magnificent success and thoroughly fun-filled without the huge assistance from Graeme Bystersky from Jemena; the nine other 'Jemenas' attending the day; Tim vanWinden and the twenty-four students from Youngtown Primary School + the mums and other teacher, Nathan; Trevor Galbraith, Mark and Tim from Launceston City Council's Parks & Recreation Department - everyone made a contribution which made the day great.

So many of the community have a hand in the success of what we do. Without everyone there on the day, I would have been very alone planting and painting and the outcome would have been very different - probably be still there!

Here is my biggest smiley to all - you are the best!



AB



Left - some 'Jemenas' at the end of the day (two had already escaped) and on the right - Youngtown students planting native shrubs



Follow up - Graeme and I visited Grade 2 students at YPS on Friday 11th May to thank them for their wonderful contribution to the field day and to say how fantastic our trailer looks now. We were presented with a book (a copy for each) containing a story and photos coloured in by the students showing how much fun they had with the activities on the day. It is a truly memorable gift.

Jayne's Wild Garden...

Do you look for colour in your garden this time of the year?

All of the summer glory has gone with the first frost. My camellias are flowering. They started about a month early this year, but the most stunning flowers at this time of the year are banksias

Banksias were named for Sir Joseph Banks, a botanist, who travelled with Captain Cook in 1770. Three varieties are endemic to Tasmania, although one remains only on Bass Strait Islands. They are members of the proteaceae family which gives an indication of the conditions they like – an open sunny position in well drained soil. They are frost tolerant and, once established, can withstand dry periods. You will encourage more flowers and a denser plant by picking flowers or tip pruning as the flowers finish.

Banksia marginata, or honeysuckle, is widespread throughout Tasmania and is found in areas from coastal to sub-alpine. It grows to form a large shrub or small tree. The narrow flowers are crowded onto a narrow cone and provide nectar for honey-eaters.

Banksia serrata, or saw banksia, is largely found in the far north-west of Tasmania near Sisters Beach. The flowers are similar to *B. marginata*, but the cones are much larger.

Banksia integrifolia, or coast banksia, is found only on Long and Deal Island in Bass Strait. This species is widespread in Victoria. The flower is pale yellow and similar to *B. marginata*.

There are around 70 species of *Banksia* found in Australia and one extends into Papua and New Guinea. Most are found in south-west Western Australia. Some of these will grow well in Tasmania as they can handle cold weather, but not wet feet.

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

West Tamar Landcare Group



Banksia marginata
(photo from Wikipedia website)

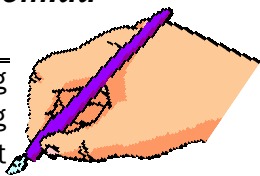
Banksia serrata (photo from Australian Native Plants Society - <http://anpsa.org.au/b-ser.html>)



Banksia integrifolia (photo from <http://www.oznativeplants.com>)

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



Next 'Naturally Yours' edition due: August 2012

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