



Tamar NRM

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'Naturally Yours'

Farewell to a few Good Management Committee Members

When I looked at taking on the role of President of Tamar Natural Resource Management, I looked very closely at the Management Committee. I was greatly impressed with the calibre of its members some of whom I have known for years. I continue to be greatly impressed by our Management Committee. Their great minds, their great ideas, their passion for the Tamar Region and the amazing breadth of knowledge they collectively possess have been a tremendous and ongoing asset to Tamar NRM.

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, quite a number of our Management Committee decided to step down at our AGM. This was probably, in many cases prompted by the decision last year to move to a skills-based Management Committee rather than a representative one. As we moved closer to the AGM all of our Management Committee members would have reassessed their position and many felt that it was time to step down - many due to work commitments or changing work priorities and some due to their personal circumstances changing.

So as not to create a mass exodus, three Management Committee members who originally opted to step down at our AGM have kindly agreed to stay on and step down within the next three months to enable some continuity as we bring on five new Management Committee members. Those who have stepped down are Arthur Lyons who represented Private Forests Tasmania and who has been with us for six years, Lee Bowkett, who represented Launceston Environment Centre and has been with us for four years, Chris Emms from Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service who was with us for one year. John Pitt from Pitt & Sherry stepped down prior to the AGM due to changing work commitments and while only with us for six years was a wonderful contributor to Tamar NRM.

Dino de Paoli, who represented George Town Council has also stepped down to take on a new position at Meander Valley Council as has Michael Stretton, who represented Launceston City Council as is taking up a new position at Wynyard-Waratah Council. We wish both of you all the very best in your new roles. Your contribution to Tamar NRM and the understanding and insight you have both been able to provide has been invaluable to us.

I am pleased to say that Arthur, Lee, Chris and John have agreed to stay on as members of our Members of Association (known as the Reference Group) and for that we are indeed grateful.

Roger Tyshing
President

Staff

Craig Williams
Executive Officer

Denis Giasli
(Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

Amanda Bruce
Office Manager (+ Newsletter Editor)

Contact Us

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

"excellence in natural resource management"



Tamar NRM is supported by

staff farewell

The Management Committee would like to farewell Mike Poole from the position of part-time NRM Facilitator. Mike was with us for five years and made many significant contributions to the community of the Tamar Region. Tamar NRM wishes him all the best for his future endeavours.



invitation...

Tamar Natural Resource Management
invites you to

'A 3 in 1 Celebration'

Come join our Community Friends in celebrating...

International Volunteers' Day
International Women's Day
and Christmas

...all in one BIG 'funtastic' event...

Thursday 4th December 2014

10.00am - 3.00pm

Windsor Community Centre,
1 Windsor Drive, Riverside

RSVP: Wednesday 26th November 2014

email: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au

Morning Tea and Lunch provided
Morning Tea sponsored by NRM North



Please note: places still available - join the fun - email me: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au

workshop...



The poster is set against a background of tall, dry grass. At the top, it says 'Tamar Natural Resource Management invites the community to a workshop on'. Below this, the title 'Farm Bio-Security' is written in large, bold, red letters. Underneath the title, in smaller orange text, it says '...how to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and diseases'. The date and time are listed as 'Thursday 27 November 2014' and '10.00am - 3.30pm'. The location is 'Will Green's Property, Cressy'. A list of topics to be covered includes 'Serrated Tussock identification and management' and 'Farm bio-security and hygiene'. It also mentions 'BBQ Lunch provided / RSVP by Friday 21 November 2014' and provides contact information: 't: 6323-3310 OR e: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au'. There are two logos: 'Tamar NRM' on the bottom left and the 'Australian Government' logo on the bottom right.

Tamar Natural Resource Management
invites the community to a workshop on

Farm Bio-Security

*...how to prevent the spread of
weeds, pests and diseases*

Thursday 27 November 2014
10.00am - 3.30pm
Will Green's Property, Cressy

Workshop will cover:
Serrated Tussock identification and management
Farm bio-security and hygiene

BBQ Lunch provided / RSVP by Friday 21 November 2014
t: 6323-3310 OR e: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au

Tamar NRM

Australian Government

Serrated Tussock is a highly invasive weed of temperate Australia and is one of Australia's worst agricultural weeds. Serrated tussock is of zero nutritional value to livestock. Its high fibre and low protein content mean that livestock forced to graze Serrated Tussock can starve to death with a full stomach. Large, dense infestations of the weed can reduce pasture productivity by up to 95%. It is of particular concern on non-arable, pastoral land with poor soil fertility, low rainfall and where over grazing has led to poor ground cover.

For more information about this weed, come along to our workshop on **Thursday 27th November**.

In 2009 the Green's property was found to be home to Northern Tasmania's largest Serrated Tussock infestation totalling 100ha. Since then the Greens have gone 'above and beyond' what most would consider reasonable (or even feasible), converting a non-arable grazing paddock into arable land and in doing so reducing their Serrated Tussock infestation by 99%, an incredible achievement for such a large area and in such a short period of time.

Come along and here Will Green's story and persistence in removing Serrated Tussock from his property.

We have organised a bus to take our group to and from the property in Cressy. Please RSVP to: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au and the bus pickup location will be given to you.

Please note: places still available - email me: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au

project update & workshop...

Understanding coastal environs amidst change to generate community action - funded by the Commonwealth Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The Coastal Environs project has been particularly focused on the invasive coastal noxious weed Sea Spurge and reducing the impacts it is having on our northern coasts. The project is also looking to address other issues of concern in our coastal ecosystems. The project priorities and activities are being coordinated through the George town Coastal Management Group (the communities of Bellingham, Weymouth, Tam O'Shanter, Lulworth, Beechford, Bellbuoy Beach and Hillwood - the project also includes the community group at Greens Beach/Kelso).

The consultants engaged for the project, AK Consulting, have been working closely with the community groups to undertake a range of activities that are coordinated around a developed, central community plan to tackle Sea Spurge and some localised action plans for specific communities. The range of activities undertaken and being planned include mapping the extent of the Sea Spurge infestation on our northern coastal area (from community knowledge and input), undertaking Sea Spurge removal activities, undertaking trials on other treatments for Sea Spurge including varying rates of herbicide and heat treatments, contractor spraying of other key weed species including Boneseed in the Hillwood area.

The coastal communities are to be congratulated on their commitment to undertaking this project to tackle Sea Spurge - it is a long commitment as the seed life in the sand for Sea Spurge is ten years and there is the constant threat of reinvasion from seeds carried in on the tides and currents. This project shows the commitment of our coastal communities to maintaining these sensitive coastal ecosystems and the amenity of the area so that all visitors whether local or from further afield are able to enjoy the natural beauty of the coasts.

Please book a place at our workshop 'Managing our Coastal Environment' (see flyer below) about how our coasts are going in this changing climate from state experts. Or maybe you might be interested in how drones can be used to map our coasts, monitor coastal profiles and even help map weeds - a local company will demonstrate the technology and the amazing clarity able to be achieved in the images.

If you would like to spend some time on our glorious beaches this summer soaking in the rays (responsibly of course - Slip, Slop, Slap, Slide and Shade), enjoying some fabulous company and maybe do a bit to help preserve these ecosystems for our children's children then contact the Tamar NRM office and we can place you in contact with a wonderful coastal group or maybe you can join our next coastal field day.

Craig Williams



Tamar Natural Resource Management invites the community to the workshop

Managing Our Coastal Environment

Sunday 7th December 2014
10.00am - 3.30pm

Tam O'Shanter Golf Club
19 Fairway Drive, Tam O'Shanter

The workshop will include a focus on Sea Spurge

RSVP: Wednesday 3rd December 2014
email: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au

Morning Tea and Lunch provided

Tamar NRM Australian Government

and another workshop...

Perennial Pastures Revisit

Monday 8th December 2014

11.30am - 1.30pm

"Greenhythe"

2 Archers Road, Hillwood

Tamar NRM in conjunction with the Tamar Valley Branch of the TFGA and TIA are holding a field day to revisit two former perennial pastures project sites.

The focus of the activity will be to see how the sites continue to progress and how the pasture types compare with more traditional mixes.

Catering will be provided

Please RSVP to 6323-3310 or email: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au

greenArmy projects...

The final preparations are underway for the commencement of the first of two GreenArmy projects being co-ordinated by Tamar NRM and the first participants will be on the ground from Monday 24th November 2014.

The first project will have a focus in the Gorge with activities ranging from removal of priority weeds (including WONS - Weeds of National Significance), upgrades to the walking tracks, revegetation and other associated activities.

The project would not have been able to be as extensive or effective without the partnership with the City of Launceston Parks and Recreation Department and the significant contributions they are making with site management, equipment and resources to enable a broad range of project activities.

Conservation Volunteers are the service provider and training agency that is delivering both the recruitment and co-ordinated supervision and training for the participants. The program will run for 26 weeks and will finish mid-2015 after which the second project will commence.

Project and activity updates will be made in the next newsletter.

Craig Williams



Burn Brighter this Winter

Store right, burn bright

Do you use a wood heater to keep warm in winter? Did you know that smoke pollution from wood heaters is the main cause of poor winter air quality in many Tasmanian townships? Wood smoke contains many of the same chemicals as cigarettes and is a serious health problem for many people in the community. Now the warmer months are upon us, there is a lot that you can do to prepare your home for winter and help your family and neighbours breathe easier this winter.

Dry seasoned firewood produces more heat and less smoke for your dollar:

- Stockpile firewood in summer. You'll have a supply of dry, well-seasoned firewood for the winter.
- Collect and store plenty of kindling and medium sized wood too – these help get a hot fire going quickly – reducing the amount of smoke from your fire.
- Pack your wood pile loosely and keep it covered. The wood will dry out faster and stay dry.
- Split logs before you store them. Small logs dry faster than big logs.
- Have your flue cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. Creosote (unburnt wood) can stick to the inside of your chimney preventing good air flow and reducing heat of the fire. This causes smoke to enter the room when you open the door to your wood heater.

Tip:
Did you know that an average sized piece of newly cut firewood holds about one Litre of water? This is what we mean by green wood. Imagine how much energy it takes to boil a kettle dry – holding 1 L of water. That's what happens when a green log is placed on the fire – all that water has to be boiled off before the wood can start to burn

A bright fire gives more heat for the same amount of wood than a smouldering fire:

- ✓ When lighting your wood heater use plenty of dry kindling and newspaper. Make sure the air intake is fully open.
- ✓ Gradually add larger pieces of wood when the fire is flaming and hot.
- ✓ Fully open the air intake when refuelling and leave it open for 15 to 20 minutes.
- ✓ Once the fire is burning brightly, close the air vent slightly and check your chimney to see that it is not smoking. If your chimney is smoking, open the air vent on your wood heater again.
- ✗ Don't overload the fire. Always leave enough space for air to circulate.
- ✗ Don't shut down the air intake at any time while your wood heater is operating. Let the fire burn out overnight and relight it in the morning.
- ✗ Never burn treated or painted wood.

A new wood heater that is compliant to Australian and New Zealand standards will produce less smoke than an older model and burn more efficiently.

For more information, contact **Jos Phillips**, Burn Brighter this Winter on 6777-2061 or visit Burn Brighter this Winter at www.epa.tas.gov.au



sustainability day...

Title: Sustainability Day “I am only a kid! What can I do?”

When: Wednesday 24th September 2014

Where: Youngtown Primary School

Purpose:

- To learn how to protect our environment
- How we can keep rubbish from going into the environment
- Reducing the amount of rubbish we use
- To understand how much rubbish we produce in one day and how we could reduce it

Activities:

- How long does rubbish last?
 - Each group received a box of rubbish and we had to order it according to what would decompose first through to what would decompose last
 - Some things that surprised us were that polystyrene and aluminium foil never decompose and it will possibly take a glass bottle one million years to break down
- Pinning our waste on the pin board in the GP room
 - Grade 3 and 4 classes collected all their rubbish from one day at school and displayed it in the GP room
 - It was amazing just how much rubbish there was in one day
 - It showed us that we needed to reduce our waste as much as possible
- Waste Free Lunch
 - All students in grade 3 and 4 were encouraged to have a waste free lunch on our sustainability day
 - This worked very well as there was hardly any rubbish in the bin
 - If we continue to have waste free lunches we receive a card that is signed for each waste free lunch we have
 - If we complete ten waste free lunches we get some cool prizes like stickers, specially made wristbands, pens and USBs
- Sorting rubbish and recycling
 - We were given a pile of mixed up rubbish and recycling and had to decide what should be placed in the recycle bin and what should go in the rubbish bin
 - We found out that steel pressure cans and all types of hard plastic can be recycled
 - We also found out that any object that has materials which are combined, such as polystyrene glued to cardboard, cannot be recycled



at Youngtown Primary School...



- Global Warming
 - Denis led us in an activity where we had to act out natural disasters such as cyclones and droughts
 - We learned that weather conditions over the world are changing and that this could be caused by the earth getting warmer
- Paper Towel
 - Craig showed us how we could clean our hands and then dry them using only one piece of paper towel
 - Wash hands, shake 12 times, fold the paper towel in half, use one side for one hand and the other side for the other hand
 - People in the audience were called to the front to help demonstrate
 - We were surprised to hear that some people use up to five pieces of paper towel to clean their hands
- Midway island
 - We watched a clip about albatrosses living on Midway island
 - Many of the adult and baby albatrosses are dying because they eat colourful pieces of rubbish, especially plastic, which they think is food
 - The ocean currents bring piles of rubbish to Midway Island and they are dumped on the beaches
 - We need to think very carefully about not dumping any rubbish into waterways or the sea

Overall Thoughts:

- We learned lots of things about sustainability
- Interesting
- Sustainability is important
- It was a good day with lots of fun activities that many people enjoyed
- Good to learn about sustainability
- We learned how some people recycle and some people don't recycle and how important it is that everyone recycles

We would like to thank Tamar NRM and all the people who came to help for giving us such an enjoyable day. We learned lots and we hope other students can learn the same things we did to make our world a better place.

Tim vanWinden and his Grade 4 Students
Youngtown Primary School
"Inspired Today - Prepared for Tomorrow"



a landowner's vision...

My husband and I love bush, so we were a little ambivalent when we purchased our property 12 years ago as approximately half of the block was a euc plantation. The plantation, like most things, has had advantages and disadvantages. On the plus side, the shaded grass under the trees was ideal for our horses, especially founder prone ponies. On the down side, annual weed management was challenging and time consuming as it required walking up and down each row of trees.

The plantation is scheduled for harvest in November 2014. Despite annual weed control efforts, weeds remain a major concern post-harvest, with blackberries being the worst but hawthorn, thistles, ragwort and holly are also present.

The plantation is on a steep south facing slope. Removal of the tree stumps and cultivation of the soil is out of the question economically and environmentally.

With these issues in mind we have been pondering what to do.....until our closest neighbour suggested poa. Poa is something near and dear to our heart. Our love affair with poa started in 2008, when I planted 4000 poa plants in our garden prior to our home wedding.

Poa - with other native grasses included - is a good idea for our site:

- there are significant areas within our plantation which are bare of exotic grasses. Exotic grass competition is one of the major impediments to native grass establishment;
- we have access to a ready seed source, on our property;
- a native grassland will allow us to control broad leaf weeds with relative ease;
- poa is a high protein, low sugar feed source, absolutely ideal for horses; and
- its beautiful and wonderful habitat.

Establishment Plan

Prior to harvest, we have mapped the location within the plantation of remnant veg, broad leaf weeds and exotic grass stands and where we wish to focus native grass and (white gum dominant) bush establishment. Prior to harvest, we will broad cast some native grass seed. Hopefully the harvest process will assist with seed soil contact and some seed will germinate this spring/summer. Harvest trash will be burnt in Autumn and again we are hopeful this will help the fire tolerant poa compete with other species.

Rufus wallabies will be an issue. In the bare earth areas, we will attempt to not burn the trash rather it will be left to hopefully provide some protection from browsing.

Weed control, grassland and remnant bush (white gum) establishment will be an ongoing process. This is a long term project, but if our vision is achieved we will have a beautiful hill with a mosaic of native grassland, bush areas and exotic grasses, perfect for our horse family.

Thanks to Habitat Plants, NRM North and Tamar Natural Resource Management for all their support and advice.

Katrina
(Lilydale landowner)



...rural & urban women linking through the seasons... WINTER

Season 1 - WINTER - Keeping a Healthy Balance - Positive Health Meets Fashion - Wednesday 4th June 2014

An evening of sharing stories

NRM North and Tamar NRM teamed up to bring you the first of a series of four events aimed at linking urban and rural women together through the seasons.

The event was held at the Launceston City Council Reception Room and was well attended by over fifty community members. Rose Grant, the local ABC Rural reporter, led us through the evening sharing many of her personal stories.

The guest speaker was Annette Reed, a local tomato farmer from Selbourne and winner of the 2014 Women's Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Award (RIRDC). Annette's story provided us with an insight into how to remain positive and hopeful while facing many a life challenge.

After supper the theme of sharing stories was continued with four women (all with connections to the land) telling their inspiring personal stories whilst they paraded in the latest fashions from Allgoods.

The evening was a great opportunity to network with women from both the rural and urban sector. Their personal stories gave all of us who attended hope and courage. Thank you to our storytellers/models: Yvonne, Elsie, Dee and Carolyn.

The event was also supported by Lilydale Landcare and Tasmanian Women in Agriculture.

Alison Hugo
Regional NRM Facilitator, NRM North



Left - our four models, below left - attendees and below right - guest speaker, Annette Reed
Photos by: Melissa Lewarn, NRM North



...rural & urban women linking through the seasons... SPRING

Season 2 - SPRING - 'Brunch'-ing with the Birds - Saturday 27th September 2014

What a fabulous day - **THANK YOU** to our two guest presenters - Sarah Lloyd and Anna Povey for coming along to talk to our sixteen strong community group about native birds, how to recognise them through their calls and of course the visual spotting.

You always have a great day when all aspects come together - weather, group attendees smiling the whole time, food, presenters, teamwork and the very special guests turn up i.e. for this day it was the native birds in the Trevallyn Reserve.

I learnt much about birds, their calls and especially my personal favourite was...wait for it...how to use my binoculars the right way. Hard to believe you think regarding my hand/eye co-ordination is reasonably good but this was something I had not mastered until this event. By the end of the morning, I was spotting birds left and right and possibly even spotting ones which were not even there!

I would also like to thank Di, an experience bird watcher, who sent me a list of the birds we were able to see and hear on the morning (from A-Z):

Black-faced cuckoo shrike
Brown goshawk
Brown thornbill
Butcherbird
Common bronze wing
Dusky woodswallow
Eastern spine bill
Fantail cuckoo (heard)
Forest raven
Golden whistler (heard)
Green rosella
Grey currawong
Grey fantail
Grey shrike thrush
Lesser wattle bird
Magpie
Masked lapwing
Pallid cuckoo (heard)
Scarlet robin (male)
Silver eye
Spotted pardalote
Striated pardalote
Superb blue fairy wren
Wedgetail eagle
Welcome swallow
Yellow wattle bird



Painting - Striated Pardalote by Carol Cowley - from our event.
Thank you, Carol, for the memorable gift you gave to our office.

Thank you to our morning tea
SPONSOR:
Banjos Launceston Central,
Brisbane Street, Launceston



Our Group - thank you for coming

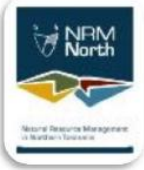

I love birds even though in the Tweety and Sylvester cartoons, I wanted the cat to win at least once (remember I am a cat lover). Please keep those lovely furry friends inside at night to protect our birdlife, remember to de-sex and microchip.

This was the second season of a partnership project with NRM North bringing the urban and rural communities together for fun filled events. I would like to thank Alison Hugo, NRM North Regional Facilitator, for her assistance with my urban event.

If you have not been to the WINTER or SPRING events so far, I urge to come along to our SUMMER one - see the flyer on the next page. Alison and I will be there - how could you resist! AB



...rural & urban women linking through the seasons... **SUMMER**




An invitation to join
Tamar Natural Resource Management
and NRM North as we go...

Walking the Gorge with Patsy Cameron

[date] January 2015
9.30am - 11.00am
Meet at the Gorge Carpark

Must book as places are limited

RSVP: [date] January 2015
6323-3310 or amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au
Yummy Brunch provided



Please note: the date is being finalised

The information will be sent to our database, added to the website calendar
and onto our facebook page

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

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

Here is the last instalment of the pictorial tribute by Sue Woinarski to her home garden - June to November 2014.



Left - Early Broad Beans and Right - Garlic



Left - Brassicas and Right - Snow Peas Flowered



Left - First Baby Romanesco and Right - Fennel

Tamar NRM would like to thank Sue for her dedication in sending through these photos during 2013-2014 showcasing her well established and ongoing home garden.

sustainable august...

The Sustainable Living Working Group co-ordinated an interesting and engaging range of activities during the fourth year of its 'Sustainable August'. The incredible breadth of local knowledge, expertise and willingness to share was again on show.

The activities commenced with a related event on the 31st July for a partnered field day with the Tamar Valley Branch of the TFGA looking at a **Solar driven gravity fed water system and pneumatic sheep handler**. While not an official Sustainable August event the subject was directly related and provided a fantastic prequel to the month of activities. The solar pump and the gravity fed water system were on working display for participants to view and many questions were asked of the owner. The pump was shown to be efficient and cost effective and has become an integral component of the water systems of the farm. The installed solar system has negated diesel run pumps and in the long term even reduced maintenance. The pneumatic sheep handler demonstrated a piece of farm technology that has reduced the timeframes for necessary stock maintenance and reduced the manual labour generally required for these oft repeated tasks.

Sustainable August commenced with a presentation on Community Based Social Marketing titled **Behaviour Matters**. The workshop discussed the cornerstone of sustainability as behaviour change on an individual and community level. If we are to move toward a sustainable future we must encourage individuals and organisations to engage in a multitude of actions (e.g. waste reduction, water and energy efficiency, transportation changes, etc.). To date, most programs to encourage such activities have relied upon disseminating information. Research demonstrates, however, that simply providing information has little or no effect on what people or institutions do. But if not ads, brochures or booklets, then what? Over the last decade a new approach *Community Based Social Marketing* has emerged as an effective alternative for delivering programs to foster and encourage sustainable behaviour. The presentation was based on the work of the internationally renowned practitioner of Community Based Social Marketing, Doug McKenzie-Mohr, and dissected why traditional programs have generally failed to generate the necessary behaviour change and provided examples of how community based social marketing can drive broad behaviour change. The workshop while intensive and aimed at large scale programs, identified how community projects can still engage a social marketing approach and components of the program with great success.

The program then moved to two interactive **Bush Foods** workshops with Kris Schaffer from Bushfoods Garden Design, one held at Punchbowl Reserve, and one held at Tresca Community Centre. Yet again the weather gods smiled on Amanda Bruce (AB) and the predicted rain held off at the Punchbowl workshop, while the Tresca workshop was bathed in sunlight. Both activities drew an engaged group and Kris was kept on her toes providing advice and answering questions throughout the day. Participants were provided with an understanding of the cultural significance of bushfoods and their role in Aboriginal life and how they could then incorporate bushfoods in to their modern gardens. As always there were many opportunities to taste the produce and instruction on how items can become a part of our dining experiences. The workshops provide understanding of the importance of our relationship and harmony with the land and a sense of place with our surroundings.

Kris Schaffer working her magic at the Bushfoods Workshop in Punchbowl Reserve



sustainable august...cont'd

The final event for the August program was *You and Your Home*, an engaging presentation and workshop by building designer, Theresa L Hatton. The workshop was broken into two sessions and dealt with the sustainable design and features of the Australian dream, the family home. The morning session was focused on what to look for or consider when buying or building a home and how sustainable design influences the efficiency and comfort of the home. The session covered everything from orientation of the home to take advantage of radiated right through to how landscaping can contribute to home and resource use efficiency. Participants were highly interactive through the presentation and were highly appreciative of Theresa's professional knowledge and advice. The afternoon session built on the information from the morning session and provided extensive, detailed information on topics such as insulation, heating/cooling, ventilation, windows, shading and zoning. Again participants benefited from Theresa's knowledge, experience and professionalism.

The *You and Your Home* workshop was supported by a number of local manufacturers and suppliers of sustainable living features for the home and they provided an amazing range of products that were given as door prizes to participants who attended. Specific acknowledgement must go to:

- **DMS Energy** who supplied a 250W Lava heater valued at \$1000
- **Island Block and Paving** who provided a \$200 voucher and 10% off for all attendees
- **Beacon Lighting** for supplying LED downlights
- **Caroma** for supplying a low flow shower fitting

Sustainable August would not be held without the contributions of the community and in particular we would like to thank Kris Schaffer for her entertaining workshops and Theresa L Hatton for a high quality, highly informative and relevant workshop.

Of course a thank you to all of the event sponsors and to AB for her work behind the scenes and also up front in the Bushfoods workshops. A final thank you to all of the participants for attending the events and engaging and interacting in each workshop.

Next year the calendar of events for sustainability will be changing with a move away from a focused month of activities to providing activities at specific times throughout the whole year, after all sustainability needs to be in focus for us all on a daily basis and not just for one month of the year.

Stay tuned for more information early in 2015.

Craig Williams



Theresa L Hatton advising our group about 'You and Your Home'

national landcare conference..

You may remember in September 2013 Tamar NRM won the Qantas Landcare Innovative Group Award at the Tasmanian Landcare Awards and conference. As a result Tamar NRM was the state representative at the National Landcare Awards which were held in conjunction with the National Landcare Conference in September 2014, in Melbourne.

I would like to say that we came away with the award but unfortunately the competition was extremely tough and the award went deservedly to Roleybushcare from Western Australia and their activities in conserving the bush from phytophthora dieback using their own designed hydraulic tree injectors to inject over 18,000 trees.

The Tamar Region was also represented in the Australian Government Landcare Facilitator or Co-ordinator Award by West Tamar Landcare's Jayne Shapter. Again we were unfortunately unable to carry away the award. I would like to congratulate Jayne for the nomination to the national awards (as category winner at the Tas Landcare Awards last year) and as a splendid representative of the massive community input that we see year after year in the Tamar Region.

Tasmania did manage to take away one award on the night, congratulations to Lansdowne Crescent Primary winning the Junior Landcare Team category, a well-deserved win and a thrill for the girls representing the school.

Although we didn't manage to come away with an award it was a pleasure to attend the event which was held in the magnificent Exhibition Building in Melbourne, do the inevitable networking but to also make some useful and interesting connections and to hear Bob Hawke speak about the official formation of Landcare 25 years ago.

The National Landcare Conference commenced for me a day early as I attended a workshop by the University of New England on a project they have been running for a couple of years now on what the future generation of NRM delivery might look like given iteration of the current structure and its delivery model. Incidentally Tamar NRM and the Tamar Region and community is one of the test cases and models that is being examined as part of this project. The workshop was extremely interesting with representatives from around Australia. There were some interesting models and potential stratagems being touted by the end of the workshop ranging from an environmental tax measure through to devolved styled delivery systems based on ground-up community landcare. More information will be forthcoming as the research continues.



National Landcare Conference Dinner

national landcare conference..cont'd

This was my first time attending the National Landcare Conference and I was impressed with the vast number of attendees flying in from all around the country, although I shouldn't have been surprised as the members and volunteers of Landcare would have to be some of the most dedicated, hardworking and passionate contributors in the volunteer field in this country. As is the case with these styles of conferences the days tend to start and conclude with plenary sessions with the middle of the day composed of a number of concurrent workshops/presentations, of course the hard part was deciding which sessions to attend.

The plenary sessions on day one were interesting and gave some really good understanding in to the seeding and growth of the initial Landcare movement with insight provided by people who were there from the outset. Celebrity Chef (although I suspect he would disagree with the title) Matt Moran also presented his story and his relationship to the land from growing up on a farming property and then moving back to a farming property later in life and the revival of 'paddock to plate' (I say revival but this may be a reflection of the popularity of the term in the mainstream food orientated media at the moment) and how that influences his restaurant business and also some of his principles on life. It was an interesting glimpse at someone who I really had only followed through occasional viewing of the Masterchef franchise, which incidentally Matt Moran has left because of the overt commercialisation of the program.

There was also a session by the Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, who talked about the changes to the funding for the National Landcare Program (formerly Caring for Our Country) and the introduction of the GreenArmy initiative. While much of the rhetoric was continued elucidation validating the changes the interesting part of this session occurred with an extended question time. It was quite evident that there is significant dissatisfaction within the Landcare community with the changes that have been undertaken to the funding, governance and delivery model for the National Landcare Program. The insistence from the federal government that the GreenArmy Program is a supporting structure was hotly disputed both with questions and comments from the floor.

While I missed one of the workshop sessions as I was required to participate in a nominees panel for our award category I did attend an interesting session on engaging volunteers and the community by Environmental and Science Communication Specialist Tanya Ha with a particular focus on meaningful engagement for long term participation and also for one off projects.

Day two for me was highlighted by one of the sessions in the main morning plenary by CSIRO Futures Lead Scientist, Dr Stefan Hajkowitz, who presented on global megatrends to be expected in the next couple of decades (some with a significantly earlier timeframe) and how these both may affect the Landcare movement and also be able to be used as an opportunity by Landcare (Dr Hajkowitz has presentations on megatrends that can be viewed on TedX). This was a fascinating presentation with some disturbing and dire predictions for both our foreseeable and distant future (not in terms of environment but more in terms of economies, social aspects, industry trends, consumerism and of course population - noting of course that each of these factors has an inherent impact to the environment). The presentation can be viewed through the Landcare Australia website.

The conference as a whole was highly engaging, full of inspiration and I came away with some new ideas for engagement and community participation that we will adopt in some future programs. The conference was buzzing with the usual enthusiasm that I see from our Landcare community but there was a definite undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the changes to the National Landcare program and how that would affect communities and the community Landcare effort. If you have the opportunity in the future to attend a conference please do, the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, full of enthusiasm and optimism for what can be achieved by the community.

Craig Williams

...if you live in Launceston, we need your help...

Tamar NRM is expanding its Ragwort Raids into Launceston.

Ragwort Raids on the East and West Tamar have been very successful over many years now and the ragwort on roadsides is much less. This has also encouraged land managers to control Ragwort on their land.

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 and along the Ben Lomond Road.

In mid January 2015 we would like to extend the Ragwort Raids into these areas and with your help, we will be able to remove this very toxic weed from roadsides.

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 on 6323-3310 or email: amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au.

A couple of hours is all we need from you 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



Please add this date to your diaries and note: site 1 and site 2 meeting addresses will be added to the flyer once finalised. The information will be sent to our database, added to the website calendar and onto our facebook page.

project update...

Equipping the Tamar Region Land Managers to Fight Ragwort - funded by the Commonwealth Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

After the continued success of the Ragwort Raids for 2014, which again have encountered and removed an ever decreasing number of plants - excellent work Jayne Shapter and our community volunteers - the project has gone into a short hiatus (much like the Ragwort plant). However, with the coming summer and plans for the next Ragwort Raids activities will finish the project with a flourish.

The next round of Ragwort Raids for the East and West Tamar have been booked and we want to see as many NEW faces on the Raids this year to support the work being done by many of our volunteers who are returning again, and again and again, year after year.

Excitingly the Ragwort Raids will be expanding and we have included a Raid in the Launceston municipality. This is an important development as there are a couple of problem patches around Nunamara and Blessington. The aim is to build support for the third Raid activity into our Ragwort Raid calendar and to build on the magnificent success of our current Raid activity.

Now is the opportunity to become a part of this extremely successful community led initiative and in particular we are looking for community support and participation from community members in the Nunamara and Blessington regions.

If you would like more information please contact Amanda at the Tamar NRM office.

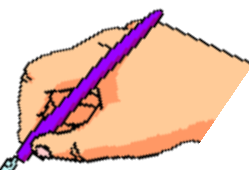
Craig Williams



Volunteers removing Ragwort from the roadsides (above) and always helpful are the local Fire Brigades (right)



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.



You like us I can tell...to confirm your liking us, please go to our Facebook page...or click on:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Tamar-NRM/251475738210175?fref=ts>

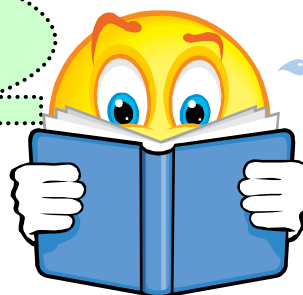
p.s. you can look at this page even if you do not have a Facebook account



As we come to the end of another year, Tamar NRM would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, a happy New Year and enjoy all with family and friends. Thank you for continuing to support our organisation. We know without you, our community friends, Tamar NRM would not be functioning as it does - thank you comes from the heart. Take care over the holiday period and see you at one of our events in 2015. Thank you, too, for the contributions made by the community to our newsletter and especially for those who have attended our events this year - you are fabulous (a big thumbs up).



Next edition of 'Naturally Yours' is available during:
February 2015



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