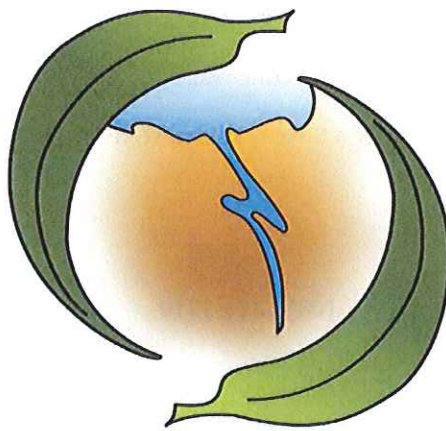


# **TAMAR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**



## **Tamar NRM 2014—2015 Annual Report**

**Supported by:**



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## **Table of Contents**

<b>About Tamar Natural Resource Management</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Management Committee</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Staff</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Key Numbers</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>President's Report</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Working Groups</b>	
George Town Coastal Working Group	12
Sustainable Living Working Group	13
Weed Working Group	14
<b>Projects</b>	
Equipping the Tamar Region Land Managers to Fight Ragwort	16
Serrated Tussock - prevent the incursion	18
Understanding Coastal Environs Amidst Change: to generate community action.	20
<b>Activities</b>	
School Tree Day	22
Feral Cat Forum	23
Green Army	25
Rural & Urban Women Linking through the Seasons	26
<b>Auditors Report</b>	<b>27</b>

## About Tamar Natural Resource Management

Tamar Natural Resource Management (TNRM) believes in making a positive difference to the environment and community of the Tamar Region. We do this by delivering community-based activities and projects such as grassroots workshops and field days, focussing on sustainable agriculture, sustainable living and the natural environment.

Starting in 1998 and based in the Tamar region of northern Tasmania, our community encompasses a wide range of representatives both rural and urban, with varied backgrounds in Landcare, education, business, Local and State Government.

We developed the Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy in 1999 updating the document in 2001, 2007 and 2012.

With the support and encouragement of Launceston City, West Tamar and George Town municipalities we have played a significant role in promoting and managing a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring the Tamar Region is "an attractive and prosperous place to live and work based on a healthy environment".

Since 2000 we have successfully attracted over \$6M of funding through a variety of projects partnering, for some, with community Landcare groups and organisations within the natural resource management sector.

Our niche in the natural resource management sector is:

- On-ground community activities/events;
- Community project management, monitoring and evaluation;
- Sharing community know-how for the benefit of all;
- Community education, awareness and training; and
- Making community connections.

# Management Committee

## **Roger Tyshing**

### **President**

Roger started his own Tree Surgery business in the Dandenong Ranges in 1984 and in 1987 bought a 240 hectare beef and sheep farm at Liena, Tasmania. Having sold the property in 2000, he moved to Exeter then Launceston. He has worked in agricultural extension, agripolitics, training and workforce development. He is currently a Director of the Migrant Resource Centre.



## **Ian Dickenson**

### **Vice-President**

Ian has been a farmer and forester for 40 years and is on many boards including the Forest Industry Council and TFGA Environment Policy Councils. Ian was the 1997 winner of Tasmanian Primary Producer Landcare Award and received the Order of Australia medal in 1990 for services to agriculture and forestry. He was recently made a life member of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.



## **Michael Purves**

### **Secretary and Public Officer**

Michael is the Municipal Planner with West Tamar Council, and has worked as a town planner in local government around Tasmania for the last twelve years. Michael has been with West Tamar Council since December 2007.



## **Anna Povey**

Anna Povey runs Bush Matters - a consultancy in botany, zoology, nature education and native vegetation management. Anna has a broad environmental knowledge, and loves to share this with others. Nature education, bush management, ecology, revegetation, native plant identification and propagation are her specialties. Anna also established and ran Bushways Environmental Services Tasmania with Helen Morgan. Anna was the first Understorey Network Co-ordinator and has been a Bushcare Support Officer with Greening Australia.





### **Mary Mulvaney**

Building on skills gained through her studies in environmental science and prehistory, Mary worked for several conservation agencies and organisations in NSW. She undertook diverse research projects, developed and implemented sustainable land management strategies, and produced interpretive material about natural and cultural heritage conservation and management, coordinating publications, exhibitions and events. With her family, she also built a house and garden at her rural property in the Southern Highlands of NSW, focussing on creating an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. She moved to Tasmania in 2010 and now works as School Executive Officer at the School of Architecture & Design at the University of Tasmania. She has been involved with Harvest Launceston Community Farmers' Market since its inception and is inspired by the community spirit exemplified by Harvest's stallholders, customers and committee.



### **Brian Baxter**

Brian is a 4th generation farmer on Greenside at Pipers River with dry land cropping, beef, sheep wool fat lambs, farm forestry & extensive Landcare projects. Brian has been involved with East Tamar Landcare since its inception in 1992 and was awarded the George Town Australia Day Citizen of the year in 2008 for service to the community and Landcare. Brian won the Primary Producer Landcare Award at Tasmanian Landcare Association held in November 2009 at Swansea.



### **Justine Brooks-Bedelph**

Justine is the Manager of Development Services for the George Town Council and has a Masters Degree in Environmental Planning. Justine feels privileged to have worked and lived in the Tamar Valley for almost 8 years, believing it is one of the most beautiful and environmentally diverse areas in Tasmania and is therefore committed to assisting with, where possible, sustainable land use management within the region.



### **Leanne Hurst**

Leanne is the Director of Development Services for the City of Launceston, with responsibility for delivering Building, Planning and Environmental services, coordination of Community, Tourism and Events activity and for oversight of strategic Economic Development projects. With more than 18 years experience in local government, predominately in the fields of community and development services, she believes passionately that the most powerful outcomes for communities originate from the ideas that come from the people who live there.



### John Thorp

John is a trained agricultural scientist and extension officer having worked at all levels from the field to highest levels of government. He is a participant in community groups and volunteers his time to local causes. As Project Director of John Thorp Australia, he undertakes natural resource management and agricultural projects for government and private enterprise. He has fulfilled the role National Weeds Management Facilitator, responsible to the Department of the Environment and Heritage and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Prior to that he held contracts for Project Manager for the implementation of the National Weeds Strategy and Executive Officer to Australian Weeds Committee. In September 2014 he was awarded the Council of Australasian Weed Societies Medal for National Leadership which recognises outstanding contributions to weed management in Australasia.



### Hugh McKenzie

Hugh is a Chartered Accountant, retired as a partner of accounting firm KPMG in 2011 and continues as a consultant. Currently he is President of the Scotch Oakburn Environmental Association Inc., former chairman and Board Member of Scotch Oakburn College. In October 2011 he was elected as an Alderman for the Launceston City Council on the Finance, Economic Development, Bike and Access Committees and is a council representative on the York Park and Inveresk Precinct Authority.



### Greg Unwin

Greg is a forest ecologist and Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania in Launceston. His teaching subjects include Agroforestry, Forest Ecosystems and Ecology and Management. Research interests centre on the dynamics of tropical and temperate forest ecosystems and the ecophysiological processes which sustain forest diversity and productivity.



### Attendance at meetings during 2014-2015

Management Committee Member	Possible Meetings	Meetings Attended
Brian Baxter	8	6
Justine Brooks-Bedelph (commenced February 2015)	3	3
Ian Dickenson	8	5
Leanne Hurst	4	2
Hugh McKenzie	8	6
Arthur Lyons (retired August 2014)	1	1
Mary Mulvaney (commenced December 2015)	4	2
Michael Purves	8	4
Anna Povey	8	5
John Thorp (commenced December 2015)	5	5
Roger Tyshing	8	8
Greg Unwin	8	3



## Our Staff

Greg Lundstrom  
Program Co-ordinator  
(commenced 20 July 2015)



Gillian Basnett  
Program Co-ordinator  
(commenced 17 August 2015)



## Previous Staff

Craig Williams  
Executive Officer  
finished 1 May 2015



Amanda Bruce  
Office Manager  
finished 18 August 2015



Denis Giasli  
NRM Facilitator (funded by NRM North)  
contract finished 30 January 2015





## Key Numbers

	Number	Attendees	Engagement Hrs
Schools	6	696	2147
Joint TNRM/NRM North Community Activities/Events	3	95	358
Workshops and forums	4	137	729
Community Events	5	171	410
Total		1099	3644

## President's Report

Well the last 12 months have again been an interesting year for Tamar Natural Resource Management. To sum it up in four words – consolidation, change, hope and frustration.

We have continued to remain focused on the main game, which is delivering great environmental outcomes for the Tamar Region.

One of Tamar NRM's greatest strengths has always been engagement with community and schools.

Successes with the series of four "Rural and Urban Women Through the Seasons", Green Army, School Tree Day, the Ragwort Raids and our Feral Cat Forum are just some of the highlights for the year.

During the year we secured our funding for the next three years from our three councils: City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town. Having presented to the each of the Councils and answering a range of questions regarding the work we do in the three municipalities, we were pleased to know that the value that Tamar NRM delivers was recognised by each municipality. We have focussed during the year on ensuring that we can clearly demonstrate to our councils, the value of the work we do. We also committed to reducing the amount of in-kind funding from City of Launceston and this has already started.

One of the great opportunities that arose last year had been the promise of the use of the old LCC Parks and Recreation headquarters at Lamont Street in Invermay. The move had been on the cards since late 2013. We all realised that there was a large amount of work required to bring the building up to operating standard, which has yet to commence and we are still not there.

At the last AGM, I invited you to watch this space and I shall repeat that because when we eventually do get into that building, we'll be kicking more goals than Jarrod Roughhead at his best at Aurora Stadium.

Of course the ongoing success of Tamar Natural Resource Management has been very much due to the hard work and commitment of our volunteer Management Committee. In the last year, we said goodbye the long standing committee member Arthur Lyons. I am happy to say that we keep in very close contact with Arthur and we are always pleased to work with him whenever the opportunity arises. In addition, Dino de Paulo left us as he moved on to Meander Valley Council as Michael Stretton from City of Launceston took on the role of General Manager of Wynyard Waratah Council. We are of course genuinely grateful for the contributions they made to Tamar NRM.

We welcomed several new Management Committee members onto the team during the year. Mary Mulvaney and John Thorp joined us through our skills-based selection process. John is also the Chair of our Weeds Working Group. Also joining us were Justine Brooks-Bedelph from George Town Council, replacing Dino de Paulo and Leanne Hurst from City of Launceston Council, replacing Michael Stretton.

We also said goodbye to Denis Giasili who had been our part-time NRM facilitator funded by NRM North. The end of that funding relationship has been very positive in many ways and has allowed us to maintain a range of discussions with NRM North regarding the best ways we can work together without the duplication of services and delivering value to the community in the Tamar region. We have been able to identify a number of opportunities to work together in the last year and we look forward to building on the strong foundations of that relationship and its successes.

Our Executive Officer of four years, Craig Williams, decided not to renew his contract and finished up in May. While it did not occur during the 2014-15 financial year on which we are reporting, it's pertinent to mention that our Office Manager, Amanda Bruce, also decided to move on after 11 years with Tamar NRM. Amanda filled many roles with Tamar NRM over the years but I think her outstanding achievement was the completion of the planting out of the Youngtown Regional Park. Starting out as a bare paddock under high voltage power lines, Amanda's vision has, with three grants to purchase trees, shrubs and grasses, the involvement of the City of Launceston to prepare the site and Youngtown Primary School students as well as local industry turned the bare park into a beautiful vegetated landscape. So to Amanda, on behalf of the Management Committee and the community, we say thank you, and we wish you all the best.

With change, comes opportunity and if you haven't already met them, I'd like to introduce you to our two program coordinators, Gill Basnett and Greg Lundstrom. Greg started with us at the end of July and Gill started mid-August. Both are highly experienced and bring a range of qualities, skills and knowledge of the natural environment to their roles. Their briefing was simply to "Just make things happen!" and I'm pleased to say that in the short time they have been with us they have done just that.

I think we are in for a very exciting few years. We have started this year with an stimulating Master TreeGrowers Program in partnership with the Australian Agriforestry Network and we have been busy mapping out the next 12 months with the aim of bring a wide range of interesting activities and events to the Tamar Region.

Last but not least, thank you so much to the Tamar NRM Management Committee who have worked incredibly hard this year to keep the show on the road. I'd especially like to thank Anna Povey and John Thorp who gave up enormous amounts of time to help with the selection process and project management in the latter half of the year.

On behalf of the management Committee and our Program Coordinators, I invite you to jump on board with us and enjoy and benefit from the journey that lays ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Tyshing', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Tyshing, President



## **Working Groups**

### **George Town Coastal Working Group (GTCMC)**

#### **Chairperson – Ian Sauer**

It is sometimes easy to forget what has been achieved over the last 12 months, a reflection of the years activity's shows many positive outcomes. Sometimes you feel like a duck, all calm with little motion on top of the water, but frantic action below the water to keep moving.

We have had our normal meetings during the year, normally held at the Pipers Brook Fire Station. Most of our meetings were used to plan or monitor projects the group had an investment in.

There are 2 main reasons why the group is successful:

1. Continued community interest and input, and
2. The unwavering support of Tamar NRM.

A philosophy of the group is always to be strategic, and it continues to be guided by the George Town Coastal Management Plan which was initially developed by the community in 2005 and has been regularly updated. The committee membership and partnerships are between the communities of Bellingham, Weymouth, Lulworth, Beechford, Bell Buoy Beach Low Head and Hillwood plus representatives from Tamar NRM, George Town Council and Parks and Wildlife.

Over the last 12 months, the GTCMC has been involved with a series of activity's including a forum called Managing our Coastal Environment, looking at issues of climate change, community mapping, sea spurge, feral cats, bone seed, and a range of other issues that affect our coastal environs.

Another area of focus for the group for the year has been the input into a project called 'Understanding Coastal Environs Amidst Change to Generate Community Action', this project has had a major focus on sea spurge looking at alternative control measures the community can undertake themselves. The project has been broken into 3 parts; firstly contractor will spray during spring, secondly areas have been set aside for alternative control techniques combined with photo monitoring points and lastly sea spurge management plans have been developed for all the coastal community's from Greens Beach to Bellingham. A big thank you from all committee members, to management committee member John Thorp who has taken over the management of this project and value added it considerably.

Still on a coastal theme, Dr Joanna Ellison from UTAS and her students have started a project monitoring the sand dunes at Weymouth, this has been a concern of the Weymouth residents, East Tamar Landcare, and the GTCMC members for some time, we now have fixed points installed to monitor the movement of the dunes.



An off shoot of this project is a UTAS student, Lochlan Skinner, who is doing a bachelor of Science, is going to do a 10 week project on the erosion issues on the Pipes River and the effects it has around Weymouth and Bellingham, another great project that will have lasting benefits. Lochlan, as part of his project, will have a forum to discuss the findings and make his results available to the public.

What is pleasing to me is, the projects and activity's that are developed by the community through the GTCMC have Practical application based on science and research, and activities are in the form of education extension and the development of decision support tools. Unlike other funding body's or processes, it is the community who take ownership and control, and the activity's and works go on well after the funding period has ended.

All of this work is made possible because of Tamar NRM and its support in finding resources and funding to keep implementing our strategic plan, a big thankyou to Tamar NRM.

The Next 12 months will have a strong component of reengaging with more community's and their members as well as reviewing our strategic plan and work plan.

For those of you that live or recreate in coastal areas please feel free to join our group, where you can have a say, bring along your enthusiasm, expertise, and most importantly make a difference.

## **Sustainable Living Working Group (SLWG)**

### **Chairperson – Bruce Jackson**

The Tamar NRM Sustainable Living Working Group reformed after a 15 month period of recess. The Terms of Reference of the group have been reviewed and the group agreed to continue to focus on improving energy efficiency, carbon management and resource conservation in the Tamar Region and working with other groups and organisations with similar aims. Encouraging the use of renewable energy will be a strong focus in the future.

Current projects are to find a venue with good foot traffic in the Tamar region where a display of the output and value of solar energy generation from solar panels in the Tamar region can be set up, and also to obtain a funding source for a Vegesafe soil testing program.

## **Weeds Working Group (WWG)**

### **Chairperson – John Thorp**

The Weeds Working Group (WWG) has coordinated another full year of community based and directed on ground action against prominent problem weeds in the Tamar Region.

This year the focus of on ground activity has targeted four key weeds (rice grass, sea spurge, serrated tussock and ragwort) in the Region and the results are indicating that the continued community efforts against these weeds are making significant inroads in reducing their areas of infestation.

Another successful Ragwort Raid Weekend was held early in 2015 with over 48 volunteers clearing Ragwort from more than 900 kilometres of roadside along the East, West Tamar and Nunamara area. Again the reports are that the concentration of this weed along the mapped roadsides has been further reduced and the volunteers are literally clearing less and less of this weed each consecutive year. The ongoing success of this activity lies with the tireless dedication and coordination by Jayne Shapter and of course the enthusiasm and perseverance of the volunteers, many of whom return year after year. Thanks also go to the volunteers from the Tasmanian Fire Service who participates on an annual basis. The activity is also supported by the West Tamar and George Town Councils who provide the facilities for collection and responsible disposal of the collected weeds.

In early March, Tamar NRM undertook its bi-annual Rice Grass survey in the lower reaches of the Tamar Estuary extending from Low Head to Middle Island and around West Arm to KELSO. The activity was conducted by Tamar NRM and volunteers. While the weather for the activity could not have been more perfect, the conditions volunteers found themselves in were at times testing, namely the glutinous and deep mud as they inspected the foreshore and mud flats through Low head and Kelso to Bell Bay and Beauty Point. The survey found and mapped new infestations in Kelso Bay and West Arm. Observations were made on the efficacy of the previous herbicide treatment. Monitoring is planned to determine the efficacy of the treatment. One large infestation in the upper reaches of Middle Arm was too large for the allocated resources and remained untreated. To ensure the lower reaches of the Tamar are to remain free of Rice Grass, there will be a need to source further funding options to enable expanded treatment of the infestations. The Weeds Working Group in partnership with Tamar NRM will continue to seek opportunities for funding to support this activity.

Tamar NRM, in conjunction with the George Town Council Coastal Management group, has implemented a sea spurge control program extending from Greens Beach to Bellingham. Spraying is to commence mid-September using a contractor with follow up to be undertaken by community groups which have been equipped with signage, sprayer, herbicide and protective clothing. Approval has been obtained from Parkes and Wildlife to undertake the work in this sensitive coastal ecosystem.

A serrated tussock study was undertaken to determine possible high risk areas in the Tamar Region in order to improve our detection rates for this species.

The WWG has been instrumental in gaining a minor use permit extension to cover metsulfuron in the splatter gun against woody weeds. This could be a much more cost effective solution than glyphosate. Tamar NRM will be reporting results of these trials early in 2016.

Tamar NRM has purchased a second hand trailer mounted quick spray unit which will be made available to groups to help make their work easier and more effective. Training will be provided to users and a minor charge will be made for use.

The influences of climate change are going to increase the pressures felt by regions from invasive weeds with the changing climatic conditions, and the Tamar Region will be no different. We recognise the tremendous work that is being done by the community in this endless fight against weeds, often with very little in the way of funding, instead relying on the enthusiasm and dedication of community members. The Weeds Working Group and Tamar NRM will continue to forge partnerships, seek support and source funding to support the community led action that will protect and enhance our environmental assets from invasive weed species.



## Projects

### Equipping the Tamar Region Land Managers to Fight Ragwort

Project Officer	Jane Shapter
Funding Source:	Caring for Our Country Community Landcare Grants Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
Project Scope:	The noxious invasive weed Ragwort continues to affect the Tamar Region agricultural community, impacting the production and yield potential of productive land in the region. The effects of the pest are enhanced by a lack of knowledge and awareness about options to support land management practices. Current control methods include the highly successful Tamar NRM Ragwort Raid and the continuing biocontrol response. The project will enhance and extend the positive effects of the current control activities through a combination of on-ground action, parallel awareness, biocontrol and future proofing the industry by educational and participatory programs with schools.
Achievements:	<p>Ragwort Raid—inclusion of a third Ragwort Raid activity which was held in the City of Launceston municipality (31 January, 2015) in addition to the ongoing Raid activities in the East and West Tamar 17 &amp; 18 January, 2015), covering almost 1,200 km (1,994 km) of roadside across the three municipalities.</p> <p>Volunteers came from the local Volunteer Fire Brigades in each area, local Landcare Groups, community members, industry groups and Tamar NRM.</p> <p>The amount of Ragwort removed from the East and West Tamar regions continued to dwindle due to the success of the program, with only small amounts now collected.</p> <p>The Blessington &amp; Nunamara Raid saw a significant amount gathered with a new collection method undertaken by participating TBUG (Tasmanian Bicycle Users Group) members. As it was difficult to collect large amounts on their bikes, they only removed seed and flower heads, bagging them for disposal.</p>





Other outcomes:

Survey of the presence of three biocontrol agents currently active against Ragwort demonstrated its effectiveness to Ragwort reduction in conjunction with the annual Ragwort Raids. However, although the now sporadic infestations sustain populations of the biocontrol insects they do not allow for enough breeding or dispersal to be truly effective. It was determined that further releases would be impractical.

The Ragwort infestations in areas prone to seasonal flooding showed less prevalence of the biocontrol agents due to reduced insect numbers from the floods drowning populations. These areas will need to continue to be managed and monitored.

The project facilitated the development of resources to support action against targeted weeds with pull-up banners, feather banners, cards and information sheets produced. The project also expanded the equipment available to the Ragwort Raid activities and volunteers including signage and high-visibility vests.

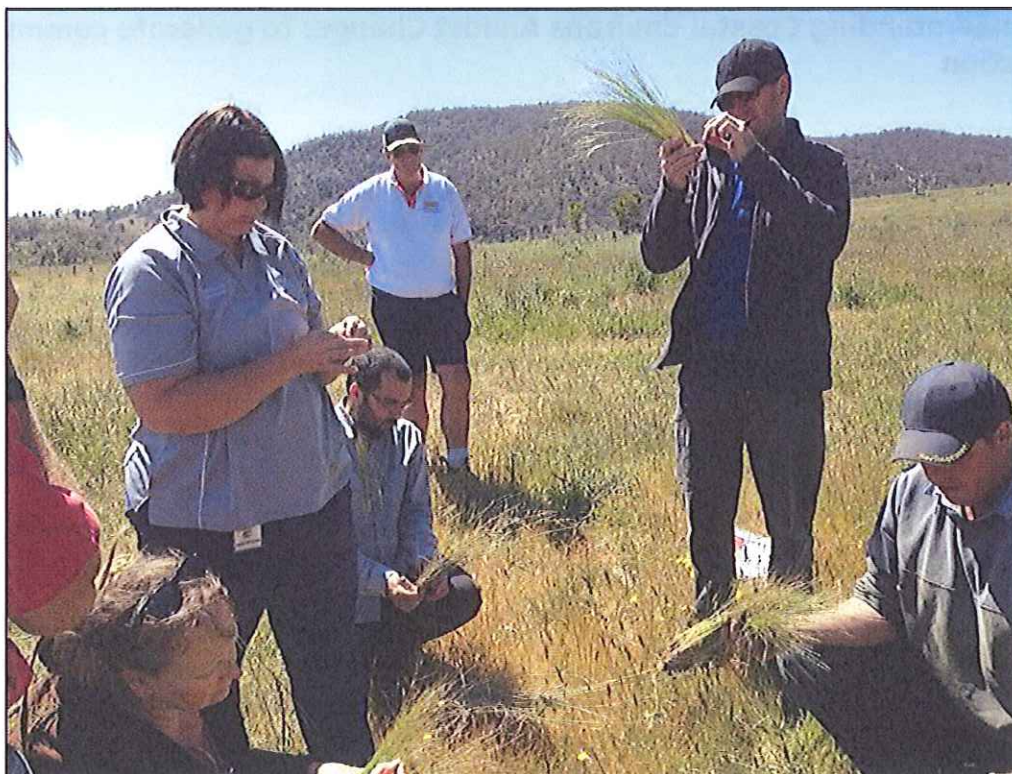
The final outcome was a report evaluating the benefit of the Raids to land managers and the partner councils (Launceston, West Tamar and George Town). The report highlighted the Raids had protected 64,600 hectares with an estimated \$2,022,900 of production losses from agricultural land being prevented each year within the Tamar Region.



## Serrated Tussock - prevent the incursion

Project Officer:	Denis Giasili
Funding Source:	Caring for Our Country Community Landcare Grants Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Project Scope:	<p>This project aims to decrease the chances of serrated tussock invading the Tamar region by building on a partnership with local government to declare the Tamar Region a serrated tussock free zone. The project aimed to identify, map and monitor high priority points of entry for the weed into the Tamar Region by recognising and communicating factors that promote dispersal. The project planned to conduct awareness activities to encourage a culture of intolerance fostering protection against invasion in the future.</p>
Achievements:	<p>A trained and knowledgeable contractor was employed for the project, commenced the evaluation of key risks and developed supporting resources.</p> <p>Developed and sourced resources included information banners, national best practice management guide for Serrated Tussock, identification and management brochures, USB drives with weed information for distribution, farm biosecurity signage and 'bumper' stickers.</p> <p>Evaluation of major transmission methods via unintentional transportation through actions of the public was identified. Assessment determined a number of high risk businesses and activities. Over 150 entities which could potentially spread the weed in to the Tamar Region were identified.</p> <p>The key risks to the Tamar Region were prioritised with over 60 organisations, businesses, groups and activities recognised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The survey activity commenced in parallel with awareness activities. The survey identified that a majority of organisations were unaware of the weed, risks it posed to the agricultural industry and its key identifying features (particularly when compared to the native grasses). Many organisations were also unaware of the serious incursions in the south of the state.</li><li>• The majority of large organisations and industries maintained excellent processes for ensuring washdown procedures, as did the farming industries — this limited transmission of the weed and other contaminants. The largest risks appeared to lie with small operators and some community groups as they did not have the necessary technology available for biosecurity practices.</li><li>• It was also found that a publically available washdown facility outside of normal carwash sites was lacking within the Tamar Region.</li><li>• Surveys did not identify any new infestations in the Tamar Region including agricultural, business, industry sites and community group locations.</li><li>• All survey participants received access to awareness programs and information resources.</li><li>• A successful field day was held outside of the Tamar Region to enable participants to view a significant Serrated Tussock infestation, talk to experts about treatment options and costs, discuss transmission methods and identify key features of the weed compared to native grasses.</li></ul>





## Understanding Coastal Environs Amidst Change: to generate community action

Project Officer: Craig Williams

Funding Source: Caring for Our Country Community Landcare Grants  
Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Environment

Project Scope: Using invasion and expansion of populations of the noxious and highly invasive coastal weed, Sea Spurge as a catalyst, the project sought to raise community knowledge and understanding of issues affecting local coastal areas. The project also sought to build the capacity of coastal communities to develop locally based solutions to tackle what will be long term issues as impacts of climate change will increasingly apply pressure to the resilience of these sensitive environments

Achievements:

- A&K Consulting were contracted to work with coastal community groups to develop 'local area management plans' to support them in making strategic investments in allocation of community time, enthusiasm, commitment and devotion to a long term activity.
- The George Town Coastal Management Committee representing coastal communities of the area, provided project oversight, input and direction for the consultants.
- Seven community groups were engaged with the project and have committed community resources for long term action and activity to preserve the integrity of their local coastal areas.
- An Sea Spurge Management Plan was developed as a resource for coastal community groups.
- Local area management plans have been developed for six coastal communities to enable strategic local action and activity.
- Capacity building was undertaken through workshops and training programs for: weed management and disposal, site management, photo point monitoring, GPS, mapping, chemical awareness, herbicide treatment and training, risk identification and management, recognition of coastal environmental assets and consideration for regeneration activities for degraded coastal areas.
- Community mapping has determined the extent of Sea Spurge infestation and other key weed species to the East and West of the Tamar River mouth within the municipalities of West Tamar and George Town Councils.
- Identification and acquisition of appropriate equipment and resources to support on-ground activities of community groups within and beyond immediate project timeframes.
- Development of trial sites to examine and test the viability and effectiveness of control methods for Sea Spurge such as: manual removal, herbicide treatments and their concentration rates, use of a heat gun in killing plants and limiting regrowth, competition from regeneration through revegetation after weed removal.
- Obtained support from the government sector, Parks and Wildlife, Crown Land Services, George Town Council and West Tamar Council to undertake project activities and on-ground works and conduct trials.
- Coastal Environs forum held with speakers addressing a range of topics including Sea Spurge, shore birds, feral cats and other invasive species, aerial mapping with drone technology and computer software, *Undaria pinnatifidia*, and impacts of climate change on coastal environments.



- Development of resources to raise awareness and knowledge about Sea Spurge and other coastal invasive species including banners, pamphlets, stickers, weed manuals and management plans.



## Activities

### School Tree Day – Youngtown Primary School & Port Dalrymple School

**Partnership:** Tamar Natural Resource Management  
Youngtown Primary School  
Port Dalrymple School, George Town

**Sponsorship:** Habitat Plants (Sally & Herbert Staubmann)  
([www.habitatplants.com.au](http://www.habitatplants.com.au))

**Activity Organiser:** Amanda Bruce

**Activity Scope:** To engage school students in natural resource management activities and National School Tree Day on school grounds.

- Objectives:**
- Have an on-site school activity planting 30 native trees and shrubs.
  - Learn about National School Tree Day and its importance (this year it was organised for Friday 24 July 2015).
  - Develop skills on how to plant natives and the reason why it is done.
  - Remember to water plants during the year especially on hot days.
  - Tell family and friends how important it is to put natives in their home gardens.
  - Have a fun activity while still helping the environment.

Tamar NRM would like to thank the following VIPs for their assistance in making School Tree Day 2014 another terrific event:

Habitat Nursery, Jenny Baxter, Brian Baxter, Sarah Courtney MP, Youngtown Primary School and Port Dalrymple School teachers and especially the participating students

**Attendees:** 60





## **Feral Cat Forum**

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The Feral Cat Forum, facilitated by Tamar NRM on 29<sup>th</sup> June was a huge success. Eighty one people from around the state attended. The majority of the speakers were excellent and we obtained fantastic press coverage, including three television news spots, ABC radio, and all three newspapers.

It has been clear to Tamar NRM for years that the problem of feral cats and the impact they are having on our wildlife and farm businesses is significant. There is an estimated 15 -23 million feral cats in Australia. Stomach content analysis has shown they consume between five to 30 animals a night. At a minimum that is 75 Million small mammals, birds reptiles and/or amphibians every day. On a proportional basis that means in Tasmania, we could have around 250,000 feral cats eating their way through 1.5 million native animals every day. On top of that there's the economic impact to farm businesses of Toxoplasmosis and Sarcosporidiosis to consider.

The forum certainly achieved Tamar NRM's objectives of:

- Improving understanding of the impacts of feral cats;
- Getting an idea of some successful feral cat programs; and
- Discussing programs that can be undertaken on a Regional and State-wide Basis.

Furthermore, Tamar NRM was recognised as taking leadership in this matter, generating support in the community for a grass roots approach to cat management, rather than the State Government's top down approach. In a session facilitated by Ian Sauer, forum attendees identified five important components of future cat management, feral and domestic, to reduce the impact on wildlife and economic impacts of feral cats. These are outlined as follows:

1. A bottom up or grassroots approach;
2. An effective wide scale trapping program to reduce numbers of feral cats;
3. Community education regarding de-sexing, containment and health issues;
4. Legislation around cat containment and de-sexing and subsequent enforcement of that legislation; and
5. Facilities spread throughout the state for holding and dealing with trapped feral cats.

Responsible cat ownership, of course, is the key to preventing unwanted litters, dumping and the impact of domestic cats on wildlife.

Since the forum, Tamar NRM has been in discussions with a number of organisations regarding an ongoing statewide collaborative approach to cat management. It was clear from the forum participants there is no appetite for simply waiting for the State Government's Cat Management Reference Group to develop a cat management plan. It is pleasing to know that Brian Baxter will be representing Tasmania Landcare on that reference group.

Tamar NRM is continuing to work with Kevin Knowles, a leader of the Upper Meander Landcare group to try to secure funding for community groups to increase their feral cat management activities.

Tamar NRM will continue to provide leadership in feral cat management to ensure that while we are all waiting for a Cat Management Plan to be drafted and hopefully implemented, the terribly impact of feral cats on our small native mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles every day is severely curtailed. After all if we do nothing and wait for six months to a year for a program to limit the impact of feral cats, that could mean 270 – 540 Million small native animals get wiped out.



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## **Green Army**

### **Urban / Peri Urban Costal and Riparian Restoration - Kings Bridge to Duck Reach**

**Partnership:** Tamar Natural Resource Management  
City of Launceston  
Conservation Volunteers Australia

**Project Managers:** Conservation Volunteers Australia

**Project Scope:** This project focused on protecting endangered species and increasing biodiversity in the area from Kings Bridge to Duck Reach along the South Esk River.

- Activities**
- Improved community access - trackwork, barrier and fencing management and erection.
  - Threatened species habitat protection and management - mapping, revegetation, community education.
  - WoNS removal - mapping, chemical treatment, mechanical removal.
  - Improved water quality - removal of WoNS, runoff control activities.
  - Two community participation and engagement events.



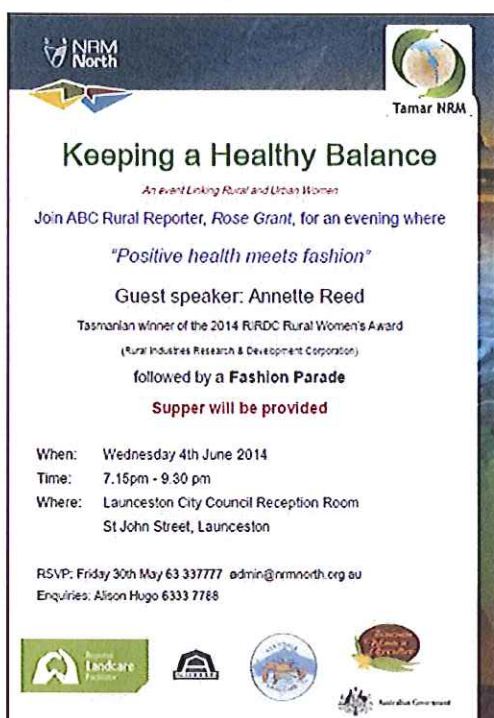
## Rural & Urban Women Linking through the Seasons

**Partnership:** Tamar Natural Resource Management/NRM North

**Project Managers:** Amanda Bruce - Tamar NRM  
Alison Hugo – NRM North

**Project Scope:** To encourage friendship and interaction between women of all backgrounds in both the rural and urban areas through four seasonal events, two rural and two urban, developed for the community.

**Attendees:** 70



**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 [edmin@nrmnorth.org.au](mailto:edmin@nrmnorth.org.au)  
Enquiries: Alison Hugo 6333 7788

Logos: NRM North, Tamar NRM, Landcare, RIRDC, Australian Government



An Invitation to Join  
Tamar NRM **Amanda Bruce**  
(Tamar Natural Resource Management)  
and  
Alison Hugo (NRM North)  
at our adventurous...

**'Brunch'-ing  
with the Birds**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014**  
8.00am - 11.00am  
Trevallyn Reserve  
(meet at 'Hoo-Hoo' Hut)

Join Sarah Lloyd and Anna Povey  
for a walk with, listen to and spot the native birds

*Must book as places are limited*  
RSVP: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014  
6323-3310 or  
[amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au)  
Yummy 'Brunch' provided

For your comfort & fun, bring along...

Logos: NRM North, Tamar NRM, Landcare, RIRDC, Australian Government