



# Naturally Yours

The official newsletter of Tamar Natural Resource Management

October 2015

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City of  
**LAUNCESTON**



International Year of Soils - Tamar NRM Soils Field Day  
Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015





# Master Tree Growers Course in the Tamar Valley

In a joint initiative between Tamar NRM and Australian Agroforestry Foundation, a successful Master Tree Growers course has been held in the Tamar Valley.

The course participants, predominantly made up of local landholders, heard from national and local experts about planting and managing trees for conservation and profit.

The president of Tamar NRM Roger Tyshing said "We were keen to demonstrate that there is a middle ground in timber production which can be profitable and take into account the needs of the land owner, as well as environmental and landscape values. Judging from the feedback received, we think we achieved just that".

The course started on Friday 14th August and culminated at a presentation night on Friday 25th September, at Design Tasmania and a dinner afterwards.

Present at the presentations were Senator Richard Colebeck, Minister for Tourism and International Education and Minister assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment, local Member for Bass Sarah Courtney, MP and Mayor and Mayoress of Launceston City Council, Albert and Lyndle van Zetten.

Coordinator of the Australian Master Tree Grower Program, Rowan Reid who has been working with Australian farmers



*Coordinator of the Australian Master Tree Grower Program, Rowan Reid demonstrates pruning techniques*

for more than 30 years spoke about the program and how it is being effectively run in Australia and overseas, most recently in Indonesia.

*Continued Page 4*

## The new look "Naturally Yours"

August marked the "changing of the guard" as long time employee Amanda Bruce left and two new program coordinators were employed.

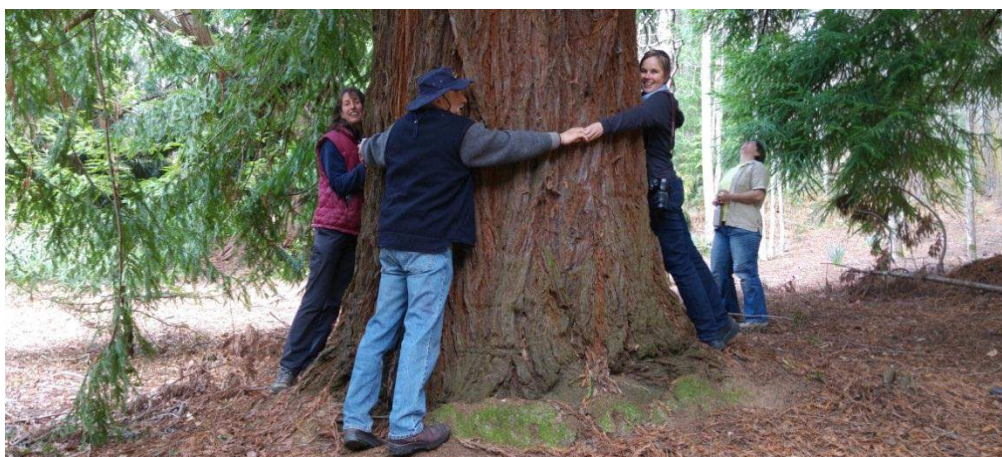
Judging from comments we have received, Amanda's efforts on content and style of past editions of "Naturally Yours" have been highly regarded.

We hope that the content and informative nature of "Naturally Yours" will continue, but that is for you to judge. Both of us bring photography and design to our new roles. Greg through running a graphic arts / printing business and Gill is experienced in photography, newsletters and websites.

We firmly believe that contributed articles from community groups are the best way to capture the pulse of the Tamar valley. Our role in preparing "Naturally Yours" is to reflect these thoughts and issues to change our region for the better.

Keep those articles coming!

*Co-Editors Greg & Gill*





# Annual General Meeting and Tamar Talks



*Tamar NRM president Roger Tyshing opens proceedings at the 2015 AGM*

Tamar NRM's AGM was held at West Tamar Council on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015, with 30 people attending. It was a wonderful opportunity for Gill and Greg, as the new Program Coordinators, to meet steering committee members and some of Tamar NRM's supporters and to thank Amanda Bruce for all her amazing hard work and dedication over the last 11 years. Roger Tyshing outlined Tamar NRM's achievements over the last 12 months including the success of the series of four "Rural and Urban Women Through the Seasons", Green Army, School Tree Day, our Feral Cat Forum and the continued achievement of Jayne Shapter and the wonderful volunteers who partake in the Ragwort Raids. Management Committee members were re-elected and we thank them all for their much valued continued support to the organisation. Dinner provided an opportunity

for people to meet, catch up, exchange ideas and relax before two very interesting speakers presented for the Tamar Talks.

This year we had Lee Adamson-Ringk and Caroline Brown speaking to the theme; 'Community, Working Women and the Environment - a juggling act'. Both Lee and Caroline talked about their journeys to reach where they are now, Lee with setting up a farm involving some very fat cows, sheep, a native nursery and beautiful Christmas Trees and Caroline working for Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and a new exciting adventure in heritage apples and cider. The talks by both these women were enjoyed by all.



*Tamar Talks presenters Caro Brown and Lee Adamson-Ringk*



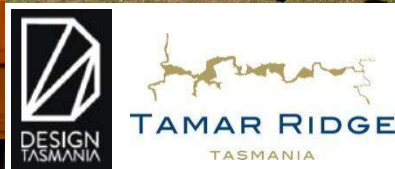


*Continued from page 2 . . .*

Rowan Reid was supported throughout the course by Andy Stewart an agroforestry farmer from the Otways in Victoria, master propagator and nurseryman Mike Robinson-Koss, bush foods marketer and promoter Amanda Garner, Biodiversity consultant Anna Povey, with ten Tamar region farm sites visited. Local businesses supporting the event included Habitat Nursery, Tamar Ridge Wines and Design Tasmania Centre.



## Master Tree Growers more pics



Tamar NRM, is keen to keep up the momentum started through running the course. We welcome interest and contact from others in the Tamar Valley. Program Coordinator Greg Lundstrom can be contacted on 6323 3310 or mobile 0438 642 112, or visit the website [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au)



# Tamar NRM Working Groups

We are blessed by having three formal working groups to drive action in the Tamar valley. Most of our works fits under one of these groups and we encourage supporters to consider joining one of the working groups.

Have a chat to our working group chairs, our president Roger Tyshing on 0448 666 500 or staff on 6323 3310.

## Weeds Working Group

*Chair:* John Thorp (0419 323 400)

## Sustainable Living Working Group

*Chair:* Bruce Jackson (0407 872 520)

## George Town Coastal Management Group

*Chair:* Ian Sauer (0407 046 346)

## Heating your home

Tamar NRM is hosting a free information session being run by Sustainable Living Tasmania regarding efficient ways to keep warm in your home. Sustainable Living Tasmania has also negotiated a bulk buy opportunity with Fujitsu on high-quality efficient heat pumps, available until 15<sup>th</sup> November.

The evening will cover how to effectively and efficiently keep warm at home, touching upon appropriate clothing, passive solar design, zoning, draught-proofing, and insulating, and then focussing on heater selection;

- The heat pump models on offer;
- How this special offer works; and
- Your questions

**Where:** West Tamar Council, Eden Street Riverside

**When:** 6pm - 7:30pm

**Wednesday 14th October**

RSVP: Please RSVP directly through the Sustainable Living Tasmania website

[http://www.slt.org.au/launceston\\_heat\\_pump\\_info\\_session](http://www.slt.org.au/launceston_heat_pump_info_session)

If you are interested in finding out more about the heat pump deal please visit the Sustainable Living Tasmania website

[http://www.slt.org.au/bulk\\_buy\\_details](http://www.slt.org.au/bulk_buy_details)

## Food Waste – Everyone's problem

Every year Australians throw away over \$8 billion dollars worth of food, most of which ends up in landfill. According to the University of Western Sydney, in Sydney alone, \$1 billion of edible food is thrown away annually, which works out, on average to \$1036 worth of wasted food for every household. Victorians are even more wasteful apparently, with each household wasting around \$2000 worth of food, according to Sustainability Victoria research.

Extrapolating the \$1000 per household food wastage figure to Tasmania, \$160,000,000 worth of food is thrown out each year. According to DPaC, the average number of people living in a Tasmanian household in 2011 was 3, so we are each wasting roughly \$330/person

What is worse is that this doesn't include pre retail wastage. According to a 2014 report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, roughly one-third of all food produced today — about 1.7

billion tonnes — is lost or wasted along the food chain. That's the equivalent to losing 20 to 40 percent of all produce worldwide before it even hits the store.



## Cleaning hardwood floors

Use boiling water and two teabags to clean hardwood floors. The tannic acid in tea creates a beautiful shine for hardwood floors. Let two teabags steep in the boiling water for a few minutes. Pour the tea into a bucket. Take a soft cloth and wring it out in the tea. The cloth merely needs to be damp, not soaked. This will enable the floor to dry quickly. Wash the floor and be ready to be amazed by the sheen.

# Boneseed Blitz – Alive and Kicking

With the help of a small band of young volunteers, Tamar NRM has been on the war path against boneseed in the Launceston area. Nat Baker (19) asked his mate Kaleb (KP) Page, his older sister Beth and their cousin Dylan to help him remove boneseed at a reserve in south Launceston. It took less than an hour to "Blitz" the boneseed, and it demonstrated to the group that with a bit of planning and a minimum of effort, everyone can make a small difference.

Dylan Pearce (12) said, "I didn't know what to say when Nat asked me to help but after we got in and started chopping, we were having fun and we got to improve the environment a bit." KP

agreed, saying, "When Nat mentioned it, I thought it was just one of his crazy ideas but now I realize how easy it is to have an impact and you can see what you've done for your effort."



*Dylan, Nat, KP and Roger tackle a large patch of boneseed.*



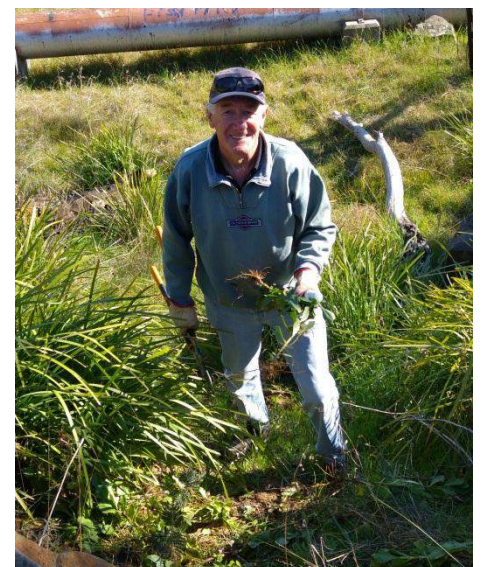
Landcare groups, community groups and councils are actively targeting boneseed at the moment. It's not the hardest weed in the world to get on top of, and Tamar NRM are promoting the "blitz" over October/November.

Boneseed is quite common in the Tamar Valley and is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). It can be found in disturbed bushland, housing development blocks and in coastal vegetation. It can invade the understorey of bushland and competes with native plants and reduces biodiversity, and dense infestations can be a significant fire hazard.

Boneseed is easy to identify at this time of year as it flowers from mid-spring to early summer. Normally growing as a bushy shrub up to 2 metres in height, even small seedlings flower with the seeds being shed during summer and autumn. After a fire, large numbers of boneseed seedlings may appear as the heat can crack the hard seed coat.

This time of year is the best time to start controlling boneseed as it is easy to identify due to its flowers. Plants can be cut or sawn off close to ground level and Roundup applied with a brush to the cut stump. Don't forget to wear gloves, a face mask and eye protection when using chemicals. If the plant has started seeding, cut off the seeds, seal in a plastic bag and dispose of them in your rubbish bin.

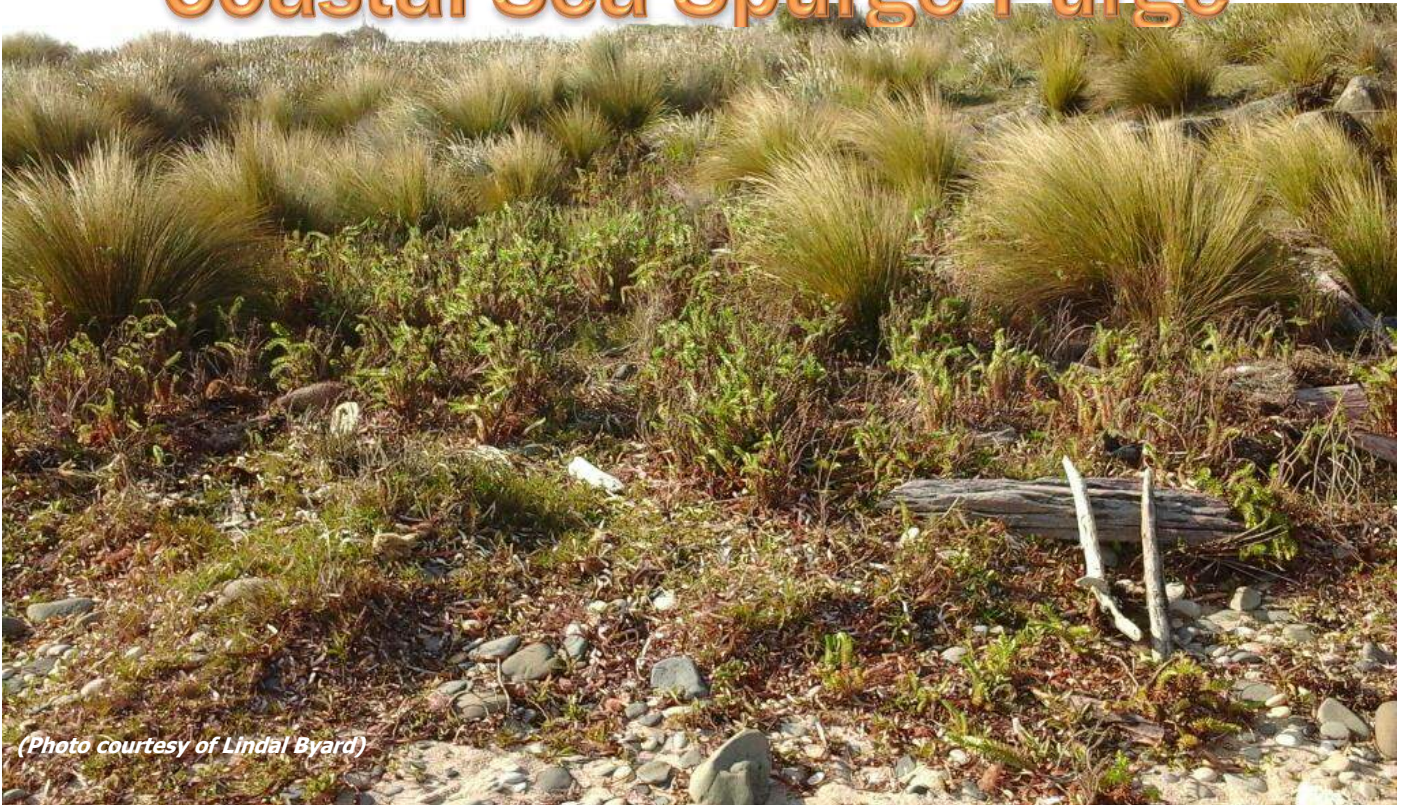
While we can't force landowners to remove it, sometimes a friendly word alerting a neighbor to a potential ongoing weed problem can go a long way.



*Friends of Punchbowl volunteer, Trevor Yaxley hand pulling boneseed at their last working bee.*



# Coastal Sea Spurge Purge



*(Photo courtesy of Linda Byard)*

*The early effect of spraying at the West of Weymouth - the drooping heads of Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*).*

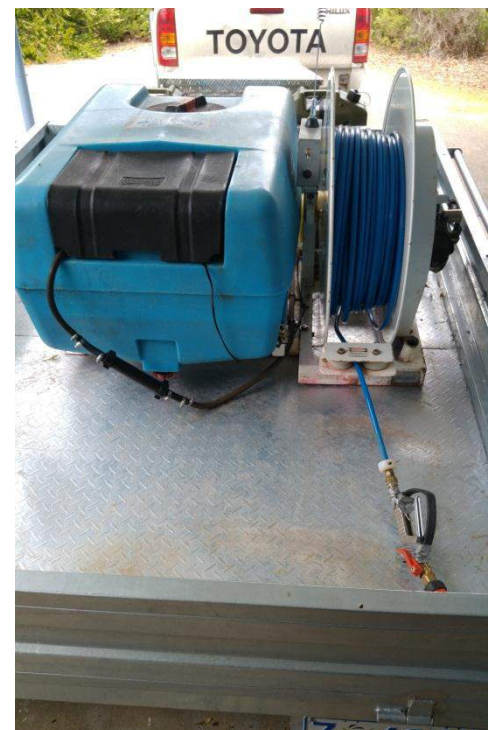
Tamar NRM continues supporting a community-based weed control strategy for sea spurge.

Sea spurge has the potential to change the character of our sensitive coastlines, sand dune systems and even impact on the nesting sites of coastal birds.

A sea spurge management strategy prepared for Tamar NRM in 2014, along with the George Town Coastal Management Weed Plan, provide guiding documents for targeting this coastal invader. The goal is to maintain the natural integrity of our coastal environment.

Community activities include hand pulling using best practice removal techniques and targeted spot spraying.

This season's sea spurge control is occurring from Green's Beach to Bellingham over the months of October and November. A contractor is supporting the community effort by undertaking the spraying of larger patches of sea spurge.



*A recent inclusion into the arsenal of weed control measures is the refurbished Tamar NRM trailer mounted spray unit.*







*Roger Tyshing, President, Tamar NRM  
presenting Tim vanWinden's class with thank  
you poster at Youngtown Primary School*

# Environmental Education - Schools

*"Youngtown Primary School at Youngtown and Port Dalrymple School in George Town have both partnered with Tamar NRM for our activity, and this year we are concentrating on bird attracting plants which will encourage native birds to come and nest".*

*Roger Tyshing, President, Tamar NRM*

## National Schools Tree Planting Day

As part of Australia's largest community tree-planting event, two schools in the region joined Tamar NRM on Friday 24th July 2015 to plant native trees for School Tree Day.

Youngtown Primary School was our first school in 2012 to plant a native habitat in their school grounds. This year's plantings were undertaken by Learner and Educator Tim vanWinden's Grade 2/3 students. Tasmanian Liberals MP Sarah Courtney joined in the planting day.

The initial day at George Town Primary got rained out, so the students drew pictures of the different seedlings they would plant and then they planted them on a nice sunny day in August (read Jenny's article).

A big thank you to Habitat Nursery for donating 30 native trees to each school for our event. This is the fourth year for their donation - a very generous contribution to the day.

### National Schools Tree Planting Day

*By Jenny Baxter - Port Dalrymple School*

**Friday 24th July 2015  
at Port Dalrymple School**

**Take 1:** Friday 24th July: BOM forecast fine morning , early afternoon rain.

Tree planting scheduled for 1.30pm-3.00pm

Do we cancel or take a chance with 46 eagerly waiting students. We took a chance.

1.00 pm - Down came the rain, who said BOM is wrong.

1.15pm - Amanda, Greg and Brian arrive with plants, tools, gloves and a smile.

1.30 pm - "Can we still plant our trees in the rain."

Not a sensible idea. A quick backup plan was devised. Each adult had a small group of students to work with in the classroom and we all became botanical artists and scientists. The students looked at the trees, did a detailed drawing and discussed the value of trees to the environment, which created an exciting learning experience.

**Take 2:** Tuesday 8th September : Another day planned for planting. BOM Forecast fine with late rain.

Gill arrived eager to get planting, so we prepared the site and small groups of students came to plant their special tree, many remembering the one they had drawn as botanical artists.

For many of these students it was the first time they have experienced putting gloves on, digging a hole or planting anything. With a little assistance from teachers, adults and older students all the seedlings were successfully planted.

Hopefully this was a memorable moment in their school life and as they continue at the school they will take pride in nurturing their tree.

Prep Menzies and 1½ Marshall would like to thank Tamar NRM for organising Schools Tree Planting Day and to Habitat Nursery for supplying the trees.



## Environmental Education - Schools

### Down by the Riverside

Gill visited Riverside High School to talk with some year 7 students about sustainable living.

Topics discussed included climate change (an issue they were concerned with), waste, recycling and reuse and ecological footprints and how we can reduce them. Some ideas brought up were:

- Magnetic cars;
- Turning off lights or having motion sensors in the classrooms;
- Having waste free cake stalls and barbeques for their fundraisers;
- Composting food scraps from the home economics class and the school more generally;
- Riding, walking and public transport;
- Composting toilets (not a well-received idea);
- Looking at the tuckshop and coming up with solutions to reduce the amount of waste generated; and
- The idea that animals recycled their food by regurgitating it up for their young (which lead into a discussion about coprophagy, why working with kids is so interesting!).

The idea of reducing their shower time down to 4 minutes was not looked on favourably however!

## International Year of Soils

Tamar NRM would encourage everyone to get involved with that vital resource we all rely on **soil**. As well as attending a field day on Friday, 4th December, check out the International Year of Soils website:

<http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/>



2015  
International  
Year of Soils

## Restore, Reuse, Recycle ...

### Do you have any old tools?

### Unwanted office furniture?

### Unwanted reference books?

Tamar NRM can make good use of unwanted items. In some cases restoring them, by bringing them back to life, selling them and returning the money to environmental projects.

Unwanted office furniture can be gifted or we will be happy to take it on a long loan arrangement. Furniture will be labelled with an acknowledgement of the owner/donor.

Unwanted Reference books - particularly gardening, environment, agriculture or sustainability can be used to bolster our library.

Contact Tamar NRM

Phone Office: 03 6323-3310

Mobile: Gill 0438 265 792; Greg 0438 642 112

## In memoriam David Lane

It is with a heavy heart we learnt of the passing of David Lane, a man who was widely respected in natural resources circles. David had involvement with Tamar NRM by providing sound advice on weed management and presenting at workshops. Condolences to David's family from all of us at Tamar NRM.



## Around the Catchment Coming Events

### 10th Anniversary of the Tasmanian Native Garden

at Heritage Forest, off Vermont Road,  
Saturday 24 October 2015 from 1pm to 4pm  
*Australian Plant Society Tasmania Northern Group in  
partnership with City of Launceston*

The Australian Plants Society Tasmania

### Spring Plant Sale

on 17th October at Max Fry Hall, Trevallyn 10.00am  
to 4.00pm

<http://www.apstasnorth.org/index.html>

### The Future of Energy documentary

Alternate Technology Association & Tamar NRM's  
Sustainable Living Working Group  
Friday 23rd October (TBC) at  
West Tamar Council Chambers, Riverside at 6 pm.

### Tamar NRM Soils Field Day

For International Year of Soils

- Know your soils
- Maximising production
- Land capability
- Soil Carbon

Friday, 4th December at  
Tamar property (TBA)

**More information view our website closer to  
the event: [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au)**

***If you have an environmental event to  
promote, let us know.***

***email: [tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au)***

# Naturally Yours



## Tamar NRM

### Tamar NRM Contacts:

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