



Naturally Yours

**The official newsletter of Tamar Natural Resource Management
September, 2016**

- Coordinator's Corner
- Launch of Tamar Valley Rural Biodiversity and Landscape Learning Project
- National Tree Day
- George Town Coastal Community Action Plan
- Tamar Region Councils
- Meet the New Staff
- Weeds - Boneseed Blitz; Roadside Vegetation Management
- 2016 AGM
- Woody Yaloak-Otways Study Tour
- Biodiversity Page
- Science Week at QVMAG
- "Vegesafe"
- Food Miles . . Why They Matter
- Reference Group Quiz Night Get together
- Quick Spray Unit ready to go!
- Upcoming events

 **City of
LAUNCESTON**

**West Tamar**
COUNCIL



Launch of Tamar Valley Rural Biodiversity and Landscape Learning Project

This year Tamar NRM turned our National School Tree Day Event into the launch of our 20 Million Trees project - Tamar Valley Rural Biodiversity and Landscape Learning Project. As outlined in previous newsletters, Tamar NRM received \$107,800 through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. The idea behind our project is to use the money to increase biodiversity within the Tamar through direct seeded diverse native shelterbelts and planting native seedlings in council reserves and schools with the help of community groups, school kids, residents, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Tamar NRM Works Team.



At the project launch, 100 plants were planted by students from Youngtown and Launceston Steiner Primary Schools joined by parents, teachers, Bass MP's Sarah Courtney and Andrea Dawkins, Launceston Mayor Albert Van Zetten, West Tamar Mayor Christina Holmdahl, Tamar NRM and City of Launceston staff and volunteers. Another 30 grasses, not as interesting to the kids as the trees, were planted by the Tamar NRM Works Team who also did a little tidy up around the site after the planting.

We would like to thank Mayor Van Zetten and Mayor Holmdahl for officially opening the project with interesting speeches and joining in by each planting a tree. Thank you also to the City of Launceston staff for organising the site preparation before the event and joining in on the day.

We were really pleased to get the following feedback from the Steiner School students, it is what makes it all worthwhile.

Cover Photo: Tamar Valley Steiner School students planting at the launch of Tamar Valley Rural Biodiversity and Landscape Learning Project and School National Tree Day in July.
© Steiner School

"Thank you for helping us learn how to plant the trees We would love to help plant trees again! "

Coordinator's Corner

Every Week is Science Week!

It was inspirational to be at QVMAG during their "Big Day of Science" in August and to observe the fascination and interest shown by the 1,400 strong crowd.

Tamar NRM ran an interactive "water bug" session where people were invited to look at live aquatic invertebrates and then draw, build or fold one of their own critters using a selection of materials.

The origami was very popular with the kids folding up either a water bug, or a spider and decorating it with eyes, eggs, legs and spots. The basic bugs were creatively adapted into all sorts of wonderful insects.

The family groups that stopped at our stall were actually drawing on their past learnt and observed science experiences, using their understanding of insect morphology and putting their scientific experiences to work. For proof just check out the bug pictures on page 13!

Today, the nature based observations people make is finding its way into citizen science projects. The science community are better at teaching the community the methodology to be used, documenting these observations and formalising a data collection and analysis process. That way the datum is scientifically defensible should it be challenged and builds on other data sets.

(Continued page 5)

After the planting, Gill took the students on an environmental walk through Youngtown Regional Park to where we held the launch. She talked about why plants were important and the reason why we planted so many different species. The kids investigated some habitat trees and measured them by seeing how many people it took to reach all the way around. We talked about the impacts of weeds and looked at areas that had been eroded after the floods. Despite all that, I think the most fun was had jumping in all the puddles and getting muddy.



Below: Mayor Van Zetten, Mayor Holmdahl, Bass Member Andrea Dawkins and Tamar NRM president Roger Tyshing officially opening the project.

"We loved planting trees to make the environment better" - Abi

"We liked making the environment a better place for animals. We learnt that habitat trees are better for animals, and good for the environment" - Griffin

"I liked measuring the tree to see how big it was" - Tibbs

"I liked measuring the tree, and planting trees" - Edie



Australian Government



"This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government"



national tree day

PLANET ARK TOYOTA

Lilydale Landcare contributes to 20 Million Trees and National Tree Day

By Jillian Weston Lilydale Landcare

On an absolutely magical day, sun shining, ground soft from recent rains, twelve avid environmentalists gathered to do their bit to improve our environment now and into the future.

Our site was a degraded patch of remnant bush in part of the extensive WAG Walker Rhododendron Gardens at Lalla, near Lilydale, North East of Launceston. Although most of the gardens feature a huge variety of exotic trees, shrubs and ground covers, Margy and Chris Dockray, owners and designers were keen to have some areas of locally occurring natives as a contrast to the huge banks of Rhododendrons, some easily 15 metres high and twice as wide.

Armed with a fabulous selection of species endemic to the North East from Habitat Nurseries and donated to Lilydale Landcare by Tamar NRM as part of their 20 Million Trees Project, tree guards, stakes and weed mats from NRM North and our own gloves,

shovels, mallets and chainsaws, we channelled our inner mountain goat and tackled the steep and slippery site. Working well in teams we managed to account for at least 125 trees and many more were taken away to be planted as part of other projects in the local area.

After a welcome cuppa, cake, bread and cheese, many of the participants stayed on to enjoy some of the many sculpted walks and the extensive new plantings which have been established by Chris and Margy since they purchased the famous site some five years ago.

This is such a special feature of our area and we were pleased to be able to make a contribution to the ongoing improvement of this amazing site.

Lilydale Landcare thanks all those involved in making this possible.



CVA Plant at Lilydale Falls

Tamar NRM would like to thank Grant Houniet from Conservation Volunteers Australia and his team of volunteers who helped us out with the 20 Million Trees project by planting 70 trees, shrubs and grasses around the entrance to Lilydale Falls.

Eight volunteers, and a helpful mulch spreading rooster called Freddie, got stuck into beautifying the area and adding species diversity into the site.

Thank you also Trevor and Kris from City of Launceston for providing the site and the mulch. CVA undertakes many interesting volunteer activities, so if you are interested in joining in please contact them on 03 6334 9985 or visit their website www.conservationvolunteers.com.au

We also thank them for use of their marquee for the 20 Million Trees Launch event.



Lilydale landcarers out and about on National Tree day.



"This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government"

Coordinator's Corner

Every Week is Science Week (Continued)

Correlation does not necessarily equal causation.

But don't make the mistake of reading too much into your data set, particularly if it is collected over a short time frame, and with limited collection frequency. There is a lot of ordinary variation in environmental systems and a drop in numbers of species recorded for instance, does not mean that there is an external cause like human impacts. However, rightly or wrongly never stop trying to make sense of the natural world.

One great website to visit is the Living Atlas where you will be able to become an active participant. *iNaturalist* is also an exciting new App for your phone where you can easily log your findings, see what is around your area and keep abreast of naturalist news around the world. And check out *Sci-starter*, *Fungi map*, *Climate watch*.

In your journey of discovery there are plenty of "friends of" groups, Parks and Wildlife projects, Landcare, progress associations and special interest groups you could join. Contact your local council, NRM or search the net.

Tamar NRM always welcomes your science observations . . . email Greg or Gill and share your story in future newsletters.

George Town Community Coastal Action Plan gets the nod

On the 6th September a small enthusiastic number of coastal groups, progress associations and individuals met at Weymouth and voted to endorse the latest review of the George Town Coastal Community Action Plan.

It been 11 years since the original plan and action sheet were developed, a plan that broke new ground when it was launched as the first truly community driven coastal management plan in Tasmania. The Sea Spurge, Blackberries, Boneseed and Rice Grass weed control programs are examples of ongoing projects that stem from the plan.

Rather than fade into the background, the plan continues to breathe life into on-ground actions by taking a grass roots approach and periodically reprioritising the works program. Consultation with the major stakeholders including Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Fire Service, George Town Council and Tamar NRM continues, with a view to getting final sign off and a Launch event in December.

The current update of the action sheet for on-ground works commenced in October 2015, and is being driven by the George Town Coastal Community Management Group with support from Tamar NRM. It involves the George Town Council area coastal communities of Low Head, Bellbouy, Beechford, Lulworth/Tam O'Shanter, Weymouth, Bellingham and Hillwood.

As well as the substantial in-kind contributions from all parties, the completion of the action plan has been given a boost due to a contribution of \$2,770 from George Town Council toward finalising the action plan. It will enable further stakeholder consultation, capacity building events to involve new volunteers, printing and contributing toward the cost of a launch.

You can find out more by contacting Tamar NRM on 6323 3310 or go to the website: www.tamarnrm.com.au.



Reports from the Tamar Region



Windsor Community Garden Comes to Life!

The Windsor Community Garden was officially opened by Mayor Christina Holmdahl in April 2016. The Mayor acknowledged the contribution the garden makes to social inclusion, health and wellbeing – we have already seen members being more active and making new friends. Not only is it a positive experience for retired members or those who stop by after work, but three local early childhood education providers have also taken up memberships.

Mayor Holmdahl also acknowledged the tireless effort of the Parks and Reserves staff in establishing the garden. The bespoke cement raised garden beds were all made on site by the team and are a sustainable and long-lasting alternative to timber beds.

The garden complements the Windsor Community Precinct which has sporting facilities, an outdoor amphitheatre and barbeques. A 2.5 km walking trail meanders down to the river past the accessible playground, the community garden, and the off-leash dog exercise area. The beautifully landscaped 21 hectares contribute to the natural ecosystem with native flora planted throughout and wetlands developed on site.

There is plenty of space still available for new members to join the community garden. Fees are \$20 per year for communal access or \$50 per year for a personal bed.



"Polly" the super robot the latest weapon in reducing landfill in Launceston

In the era of online shopping, polystyrene packaging has become ubiquitous. The synthetic material is one of the most widely used plastics on the planet and while it's lightweight and cheap to produce, it takes a very long time to biodegrade. In the past, it's been one of the materials that commonly ends up in landfill or littering the sides of roads. Therefore City of Launceston has taken action by installing the first council-owned polystyrene-recycling robot in Tasmania at the Launceston Waste Centre. The IS-Recycling SH150S robot - which has been dubbed Polly - melts polystyrene down into ingots which are then shipped off for recycling. Launceston Mayor, Albert van Zetten, says people can now dispose of polystyrene for free at the Launceston Waste Centre with the added benefit of knowing the material is being recycled.

"Polystyrene in landfill is a particular concern because it takes up a large volume of air space compared to its weight," Mayor van Zetten says. "It's also a concern in the environment because it's manufactured from petroleum-based plastic and does not biodegrade easily - it simply breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces that make their way into our waterways and other sensitive parts of the natural environment. So as a Council we're thrilled to be able to install this machine at the Launceston Waste Centre, significantly cutting down on the amount of polystyrene going into landfill in Northern Tasmania."



Devil Release

George Town Council has been active in promoting awareness of the recent release of 33 Tasmanian devils at Stony Head between Beechford and Lulworth.

While this is great news for the recovery program it is important that local drivers take great care on our roads, for the safety of the devils and travellers alike.

The Save the Tasmania Devil Program has worked hard over the past months to try to mitigate the risk of roadkill for this release at Stony Head. You can help by taking care while driving at night and slowing down between dusk and dawn and during wet driving conditions.

Report all Tasmanian devil roadkill reports to www.tassiedevil.com.au or text 0427 733 511 or devildisease.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov



(See the article on the Tasmanian devil release on page 12 of this Newsletter for more information).

Tamar NRM Works Team

With a view to supporting council and communities, the Tamar NRM Works Team (Work for the Dole Project) has commenced in the Launceston council area. Activities include weed eradication (e.g. Boneseed, Blackberry), track building and rejuvenation, landscaping, rubbish removal, tool maintenance and repair and cleaning tasks.



The works team is ably supervised by Anthony Gibbons, seen here with the work commuter in Heritage Forest.

The team started in September and our aim is to build conservation values and a sense of community ownership into Heritage Forest and local parks and reserves in the City of Launceston Council area.

The mentoring of job seekers in conservation means that works team participants will gain experience in bush management, tool maintenance and repair.

Tamar NRM has purchased a 12 seater commuter to transport participants between sites. If you see them out and about give them a wave or congratulate them for contributing to our area by undertaking works that would otherwise not get done.

Meet the new staff

Anthony Gibbons, Tamar NRM Works Team Supervisor



Anthony Gibbons has lived in the Tamar region for much of his life and started in the role of the Tamar NRM Works Team Supervisor in August, 2016. The role is an eight month position running two Work for the Dole teams to undertake land management programs in the three council areas including Holwell Gorge and Council reserves. Anthony has worked in a similar role based at George Town, employed by Mersey Natural Resource Management Group Inc., working in various sites around Northern Tasmania, from Georgetown to Bridport, to Devonport, to Cressy and a week on Flinders Island. Anthony has also held a range of roles, many managerial, for various meat processing companies such as Lenah Game Meats, Sanikleen, Tasman Meat Pty Ltd, T. & R. Meats, S.B.A. Foods Pty. Ltd. and Rio-Tinto. Anthony lives with his wife on a farm in the West Tamar producing Angus cattle and cross breed sheep. He is also keen on Australian rules football having played over 350 senior games including 10 grand finals and coached at two football clubs.

Debbie Tickner, Project Administration Assistant

Debbie took on the new role of Project Administration Assistant in September. She will be assisting Tamar NRM staff and the management committee with a variety of tasks over the next 4 months. Debbie has worked and lived in Launceston for most of her life and comes to Tamar NRM with over 20 years' experience in administration, safety, environmental management and licensing for the forest industry. Debbie says she aims to help Gill and Greg to support the community in achieving greater outcomes for Tamar NRM.



Debbie started working in the forest industry for the Tasmanian Forest Industry Training Board as Database Administrator issuing forest operator licenses and ensuring that training had been completed for environmental care, safety and many tasks undertaken both on a bush coupe or in a log yard or mill. Working with ForestWorks, Debbie oversaw the introduction of the national Forest Operator Licensing System and spent time conducting skills audits and managing the Forest Industry Assessor network, working on training and assessment projects.

Debbie has helped improve safety in the forest industry and for many years has convened the Tasmanian Forest Industry Safety Standards Committee, reviewed the Forest Safety Code, Tasmania and been a member of the National Committee to review and rewrite a number of chainsaw manuals.

September is Boneseed Blitz Month!

This year's "Blitzers" were seen out and about actively targeting Boneseed on the 11th September on reserves and roadsides at Punchbowl, St. Leonards, Windermere, Meadows Ridge as well as Gravelly Beach and Rosevears Drive. These areas were chosen to align with known Boneseed sites where previous weed control work had occurred.

This year's highlights were the total removal of an infestation at Meadows Ridge Reserve and removal of the accessible plants along Rosevears Drive. Some large stands of Boneseed occur on private land, which will require public education to be undertaken for those who unknowingly have Boneseed as a garden plant, and to ensure those sites don't become a regular seed source for the surrounding landscape.

A substantial start was made on the foreshore reserve at Windermere where residents stopped and showed interest in the community effort. With the exception of Windermere, most sites we visited were fairly clear of the dreaded Boneseed, in part due to earlier and ongoing removal by the community and council staff.

This year, the Boneseed Blitz patrolled around 72 kms of roadside. Not bad for a day's work! Community groups and Tamar NRM Works Team will be doing some follow up weed control and additional mapping to aid future planning.

Jayne Shapter, Gill Basnett and Roger Tyshing after completing the Rosevears Drive section of the Blitz.



Above: Jim and Suzanne Talbot pulling Boneseed near Punchbowl Reserve during the "2016 Boneseed Blitz".



Boneseed in flower looks a lot like a Daisy Bush.



So what's the problem with Boneseed?

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera*) is quite common in the Tamar Valley and is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). WoNS are assessed by prioritising weeds based on their invasiveness, potential for spread and environmental, social and economic impacts. Consideration is also given to their ability to be successfully managed. Boneseed can be found in disturbed bushland, housing development blocks and in coastal vegetation. It invades the understorey of bushland and competes with native plants reducing biodiversity. Dense infestations can be a significant fire hazard. Boneseed is a "declared weed" and as such, landholders need to remove the plant from their properties.

Despite often being mistaken for a Daisy, Boneseed is easy to identify at this time of year as it flowers from mid-spring to early summer. It grows as a bushy shrub up to 2 metres in height but 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.

Small plants can often be hand pulled. Larger plants can be cut or sawn off close to ground level and Glyphosate 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 seeded, cut off the seed heads, seal in a plastic bag and dispose of them in your rubbish bin.

Tamar NRM can assist community groups with their efforts in targeting this weed by:

- Promoting your Boneseed Blitz working bee day
- Supplying weed treatment information
- Supplying "Dabbers" for cut and swab treatment
- Hiring out our trailer mounted Quick Spray unit
- Helping with identification

Further information on Boneseed is available from DPIPWE:

<http://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/weeds-index-declared-weeds/boneseed/boneseed-control-guide>.



Boneseed cut and swabbed out of Windermere Reserve during the Boneseed Blitz.

Spot the difference?



Can you spot the difference? Boneseed in the foreground with native Goodenia in the background. Always check the flowers and leaf shape before cutting it down.



Tamar NRM's Weeds Working Group comprises Tamar NRM; 3 Councils - City of Launceston, George Town and West Tamar; community and industry representatives; NRM North; DPIPWE; DIER (Dept. State Growth) and Parks and Wildlife. The group met on 16th March to maximise the effectiveness of weed control programs. The group aims to coordinate the efforts of organisations and groups managing weed issues within the Tamar Region. As such, we are interested in furthering the conversation on areas of shared responsibility to maximise effort and minimise the use of resources for us all, with particular emphasis on cooperation across land tenures.

Roadside Vegetation Management

Towards 'Best Practice' Recognise Problems - Explore Solutions

Fifty one council and agency staff, contractors and community members from around Tasmania converged on Campbell Town to discuss management of roadside vegetation. The forum was organised and funded by North East Bioregional Networks, Herbert Staubmann and Tamar NRM. Presentations were given by: Todd Dudley (Revegetation Manager/Contractor) on the history of roadside vegetation management, Bill Walker (NRM Officer Circular Head & Waratah-Wynyard Council) with a municipal road manager's perspective and Herbert Staubmann (Revegetation Contractor) on environmental issues with current roadside vegetation management. This was followed by a facilitated discussion by Tamar NRM to explore concerns and solutions.

The difference between weed management along roadsides and management of roadside vegetation as a whole were outlined. Concerns were raised about increased use of chemicals to keep roadside vegetation down and not just to control weeds. This practice could have unintended consequences such as herbicide resistance, increased erosion impacting the structural integrity of roads as well as causing siltation of creeks, rivers and estuaries along with increased litter and pollutants from roads, loss of biodiversity and threatened species from road corridors and damage to Tassies "Clean Green" image. But, how do land managers such as Councils and Department of State Growth address these issues while maintaining a safe and efficient road network for all users?

There was a definite desire amongst participants to move towards a 'best practice' approach. Topics discussed included better education at all levels, how to empower landholders and communities to be involved, development of state-wide best practice protocols and management procedures, possible funding opportunities and the need to differentiate between weed control and vegetation management.



The roadside debate.

What is the way forward in managing our roadside vegetation?

Unsprayed (Left) and (below) Sprayed.



© Photos courtesy Herbert Staubmann and Todd Dudley

2016 AGM

This year's Tamar NRM AGM has come and gone. Thank you everyone who attended the meeting on 13th September, we really appreciate you giving up your evening. We are grateful to all our reference group members, both new and old, for their continued support, without it we would not be as dynamic an organisation as we are.

Outcomes of this AGM were some changes to our constitution, the biggest of which was a change in name. This is not likely to impact many people other than staff, who have to use our full name on applications and official documents. We are now formally known as Tamar NRM Inc. instead of Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy Reference Group Inc., this should save us a lot of time and ink in the future.

Roger Tyshing was elected as President for a second two year term, which is fantastic. His drive and enthusiasm has been invaluable. Management Committee members Anna Povey, Brian Baxter and Juanita Sands were endorsed for another two years with Leanne Hurst, Justine Brooks-Bedelph, James Ireland, Greg Unwin, Ian Dickenson and John Thorp making up the rest of the Committee. We, as Program Coordinators, would like to formally thank the whole committee for their time, encouragement and commitment. Our jobs are made much easier by having such a supportive Management Committee.

The evening was finished off with conversations over refreshments followed by the Tamar Talks, this year given by the Program Coordinators. Greg outlined the S.A. Murray-Darling Basin approach to climate change adaptation and problems with the lower lakes and Coorong, while Gill discussed how new fire management regimes have helped save the Gouldian Finch in Northern Australia.

Productive Catchments Study Tour

Tamar NRM's field trip to Victoria, involving our long time Landcare sister group, Woody Yaloak Catchment Group and "Bambra" Agroforestry Farm/Yan Yan Gurt West Farm, was inspiring for the six participants who took up the opportunity to attend. An action packed trip, visiting seven farms in two days, we were shown highly effective practices that are making farms productive and sustainable. Over dinner at Colac, we were treated to a presentation by Brett Ryan, Land Health Manager, Corangamite CMA.

At Woody Yaloak we saw aspects of the group's current productivity focus (pastures, cropping and soils) blending with the more traditional Landcare (such as care for waterways, remnants and rabbit and weed control). At the Otways, agroforestry and productive farming were on show at the Farms of Bambra Agroforestry Farm and Yan Yan Gurt West.

A big thank you to Cam Nicholson, Alice Knight, Bret Ryan, Troy Missen, Evan Lewis, Rowan Reid and Andrew, Jill, Hugo and Kristy Stewart for their hospitality and building on our knowledge gained at the Master TreeGrowers program run in 2015.



"Everything from cut flowers and forestry to managing riparian zones and invasive species control. The tour demonstrated a successful and productive Landcare model."



Biodiversity Page

Devil Release at Stony Head

Thirty three Tasmanian devils from Maria Island and several captive facilities were introduced to Stony Head on 30 August to live with the existing population of devils, as increasing devil numbers in the wild helps restore the natural balance.

The Save the Tasmanian Devil Program (STDP) is a joint response by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments to the threat of the Tasmanian devil from Devil Facial Tumour Disease. The program is supported by a range of partners including the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, Devil Island Project, San Diego Zoo Global and the Zoo and Aquarium Association and its associated wildlife parks.

The majority of devils were fitted with satellite-linked GPS collars. The collars will assist with monitoring post-release, allowing data to be received and better observation of the devils as they make their way in the new landscape. The collars will have reflective tape on to help motorists see them at night.

The STDP has worked hard over the past months to try to mitigate the risk of roadkill for the release at Stony Head. These mitigation measures include:

- Placing bait stations in the north of the property to try and keep devils close to the release site;
- Working closely with local councils to erect road signage on the main Bridport Road and smaller roads within the George Town and Dorset councils to ask people to slow down and be aware of wildlife;
- Assessing the Bridport road for possible 'hotspots' for roadkill where devils may be likely to cross the road and looking at installing Virtual Fence devices;
- Trialling aversion therapy on the devils prior to release to try to scare them away from the sound of a vehicle;
- Installing LED trailer mounted active signs near the release site to remind drivers to be aware of wildlife at night;



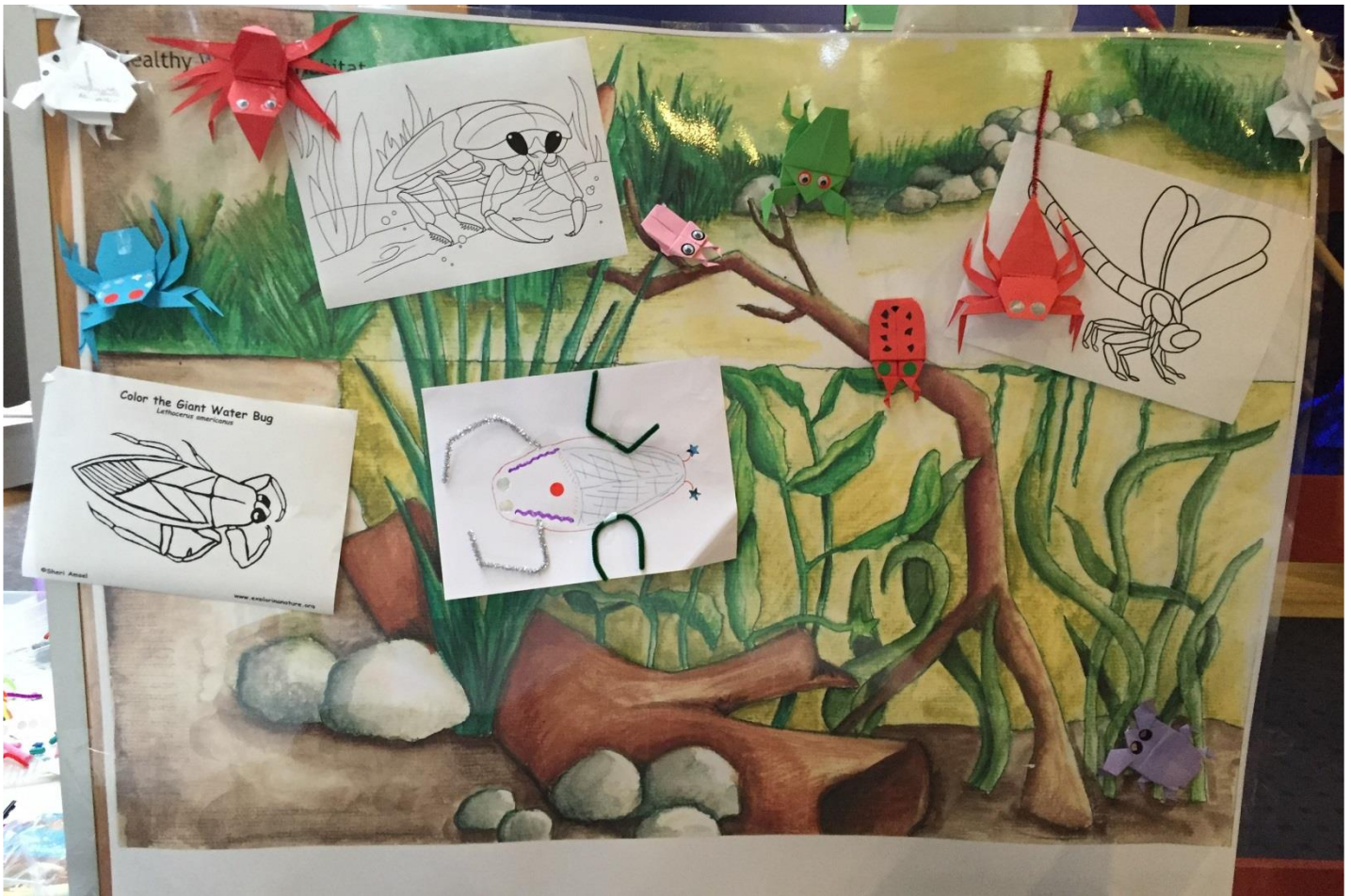
- Liaising with local councils about clearing roadkill off the road;
- Distributing brochures about the Stony Head release to the local community asking the public to continue to watch out for devils;
- Attaching reflective tape on GPS collars and;
- Applying bleach marks to the released devils to make them more visible.

For regular updates and information about the Stony Head trial, see the STDP website: www.tassiedevil.com.au and Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/SavetheTasmanianDevilProgram/>

The STDP keeps data of all Tasmanian devil roadkill reports. Reports can be made online at www.tassiedevil.com.au or you can send a message (and photograph if possible) to devildisease.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or 0427 733 511. You can help by taking care while driving at night and slowing down between dusk and dawn as Tasmanian devils are very hard to see against a black road surface, particularly when it is wet.



Environmental Education



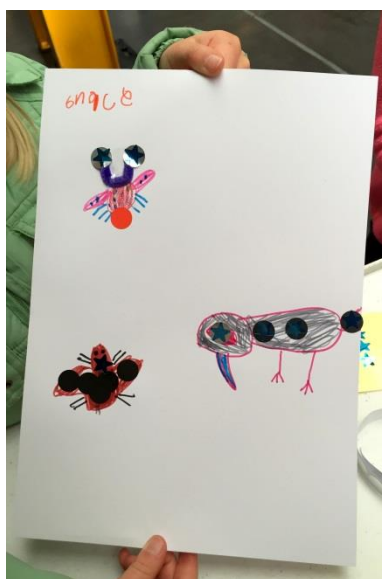
The Big Day of Science at QVMAG

The Program Coordinators facilitated a bug session for the "Big Day of Science" at QVMAG for Science Week. We had a stall with live water bugs as well as lots of craft and colouring in for kids to be able to make their own bugs. We had great fun creating a "critter" with the kids, and asking them to explain how the bugs, move, breathe, eat and travel. The origami was very popular with water spiders and water bugs being the two most popular choices. There were 1400 people who attended the day.





Features of the live macro invertebrates (e.g. the ghostly eyes of the flatworm) were an inspiration for the creations



Ambria's bug called Aiden



Chloe's bug drawing

School Sessions still popular!

Gill presented a small workshop at Riverside Primary on the 24th August with two year one classes on a "Seeds to Trees" session discussing how seeds spread and what they need to grow as well as the importance of habitat. Gill said "The students were very knowledgeable and engaged and enjoyed looking at different seeds and then playing Cat Chasies on the oval"

Tamar NRM continues to get enquiries for school education sessions and will be developing other themes relevant to the local environment in addition to our water bugs and river health.

Sustainable Living Profile

'Vegesafe' heavy metal testing for your veggie garden.

By Bruce Jackson, Chair of Tamar NRM's Sustainable Living Working Group

I was always a tiny bit concerned when I kept digging up old nails and various other bits of plastic and metal as I turned over my veggie beds. We have had this house for over a quarter of a century, but it was built in the 1960's, and we have no idea what others have done to the back yard before we bought it. Maybe they burnt rubbish down where we have our main veggie beds now? Was the house painted with lead paint at some stage and could that have been scraped off and re-painted? Did that carrot make a slightly metallic sound when I dropped it into the saucepan – maybe I should peel it as well rather than just scrub all the soil off?

Heavy metals such as lead can get into your body with minute amounts of soil, or can be absorbed into the plant through the roots. Over time lead can accumulate in your brain and cause all sorts of neurological problems, cadmium can wreck your kidneys and liver.

The only way to be sure is to test. So I checked out the Vegesafe website on: <https://research.science.mq.edu.au/vegesafe/how-to-participate/> where I found clear directions on how to collect and submit samples for heavy metal testing. I collected my samples into zip-lok plastic bags, filled in the forms, popped in a cheque for \$30 (voluntary donation) and posted the samples off. Several weeks later I received my results and a thank-you email and tax-deductable receipt for my donation.

I was pleased (and a tiny bit relieved) to find that my veggie soils were all within the normal ranges.

So I am scrubbing rather than peeling my carrots again.

If you would like to be sure that your veggie garden soils are not contaminated with heavy metals, just go to the Vegesafe website and check out the service they offer.

Site	Arsenic	N	Cadmium	N	Cromium	N	Copper	N	Managanese	N	Lead	N	Nickel	N	Zinc	N
1 Old	0	< 100	0	< 20	32	< 100	31	< 6,000	372	< 3,800	36.6	< 300	0	< 400	180	< 7,400
2 BBQ	0	< 100	0	< 20	31	< 100	16	< 6,000	432	< 3,800	37.9	< 300	0	< 400	92	< 7,400
3 West	0	< 100	0	< 20	34	< 100	23	< 6,000	400	< 3,800	12	< 300	0	< 400	239	< 7,400
4 Front	0	< 100	0	< 20	9	< 100	7.2	< 6,000	297	< 3,800	10.7	< 300	0	< 400	53.2	< 7,400
5 Drip	0	< 100	0	< 20	15	< 100	28	< 6,000	257	< 3,800	24.9	< 300	0	< 400	585	< 7,400

Bruces' heavy metal test results

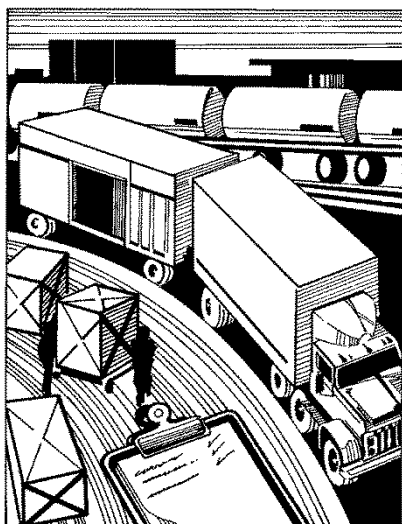
N = Normal, < means 'less than'

"Polly" the latest weapon in reducing landfill

Launceston Waste Centre, significantly cutting down on the amount of polystyrene going into landfill in Northern Tasmania."

See page 6 for the full story.





Food Miles

Why They Matter

By Gill Basnett

Have you ever wondered how far your food has travelled to reach your plate? Maybe it has come from your garden or the farmer down the road. Or, maybe it has travelled over the sea from the mainland or even further afield from another country entirely. Does it really matter? I would say yes.

The greater the distance the more resources used to get it to your plate, how it was transported may also be a factor. For example, carting one kg of rice for 1000km by an aeroplane would create approximately 61 kg of Carbon, by a car 50 kg of Carbon and by a Train approximately 17 kg of Carbon. However, where it was produced can also be important. For example, rice grown in a very wet climate will use fewer resources to produce than trying to grow rice in a dry climate that needs more inputs such as water irrigation.

Calculating food miles and their impacts can be very confusing, as there are quite a few factors you may choose to consider. This is especially the case for anything that is packaged. Where did the fresh produce come from to make the contents in the product, where was it then

packaged and how did it get to Tasmania?

An easy way to reduce those miles, as well as the impacts of your food purchases, is to grow your own produce or buy fresh and buy local. There are many fantastic growers and producers here in the Tamar. Some things you can get from the producers door, there are regular farmers or harvest markets set up where you can buy delicious local products, or, with the age of the internet, you can now buy local online. Also a number of cafes and restaurants choose to get their products locally, just ask them when you go.

Another way to do it is to come along to the Tamar NRM and the Sustainable Living Working Group Tamarvore Dinner!

Tamarvore Dinner

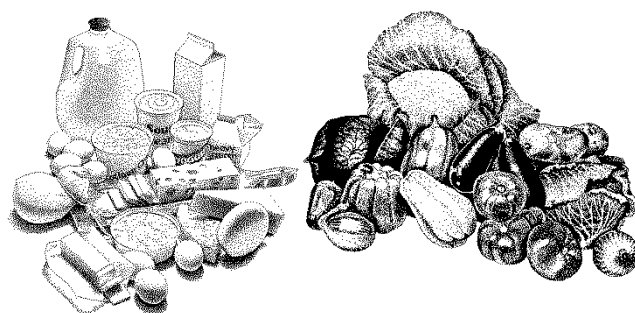
Tamar NRM and the Sustainable Living Working Group are promoting the concept of buying local with a Tamarvore Dinner. All the produce will be purchased within the Tamar Valley and cooked up into a delicious three to four course dinner with accompanying wines (local non-alcoholic drinks available for those who would prefer). There will be talks by guest producers and a good opportunity for a fun night out. Spots are limited, so you need to book early.

When: Thursday 10th November

Where: Launceston City

Cost: \$60 per person

If you are interested in making a booking, please contact Debbie Tickner or Gill Basnett at Tamar NRM on 03 6323 3310 or tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au.



Reference Group Quiz Night

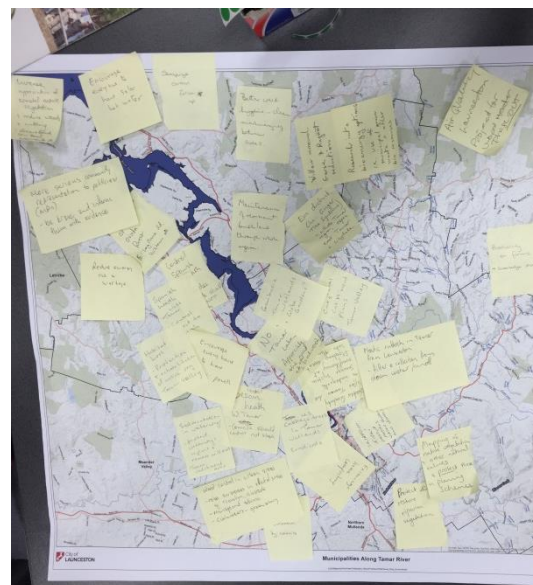
The Tamar NRM Reference Group met at a workshop/Quiz night on the 28th June, 2016. Twenty two members attended the meeting, held at Windsor Community Precinct Hall, with another 13 people offering their apologies. We held a quiz, presented by ecologist Kathryn Pugh and ran a values mapping session to gain an understanding of what was important to Reference Group members, particularly in the light of the recent membership drive, which has boosted the group numbers to 65.

The evening went well, with a lot of valuable information received from participants during the values mapping session. Ideas were raised about what Tamar NRM should focus on, the direction for the organisation, possible project areas and important features of the Tamar region. Program Coordinators are collating this information to add into the process of updating the Tamar NRM Strategic Directions for 2017-2020.

We would like Tamar NRM supporters to add to the mix of ideas as we shape our future direction. A big thank you to our guest quiz master Kathryn Pugh.



Congratulations to the Mayflies for winning the quiz.



New project ideas flowing during the strategic directions and values mapping session.

Register for the Australian Forest Growers National Conference 2016

Private forest owners, farmers and land managers will be gathering in Launceston in October for Australia's Biennial National-Conference run by Australian Forest Growers (AFG).

AFG are now offering tickets for single days at the Conference including full day field tours – the tours (\$137/full day including coach, lunch and field day notes are exceptional value as most tours access properties and discuss topics not generally accessible – details at on the website, see the 'full day field tours' and 'half day field trips' links). Persons wishing to attend on any or any other event, such as the Conference Dinner for the presentation of the national Tree Farmer Award, must register soon on the Conference site.

Tamar NRM, in conjunction with NRM North, is pleased to be organising a full day tour focusing on natural resource management. Tamar catchment issues are to be covered and ecosystem services discussed by local conservation expert Anna Povey explaining the importance of biodiversity and trees on farms.

Australian Forest Growers Biennial National Conference 2016

'Making the Right Choice'

Sunday 23 October to Wednesday 26 October 2016

Hotel Grand Chancellor, 29 Cameron Street

LAUNCESTON Tasmania

More details are available from the Conference website at <http://www.afg.asn.au/news/afg-2016-biennial-national-conference>

Around the Catchment

Coming Events

Movie Screening - Eden, The Journey Continues

West Tamar Council, Eden Street, Riverside
Tuesday 20th September, 6pm

Penguin Habitat Tree Planting Day

Low Head Conservation Reserve
Thursday 22nd September 1:00-3:30pm

Movie Screening - Dirt! The Movie

West Tamar Council, Eden Street, Riverside
Tuesday 18th October, 6pm

Tamarvore Dinner

Four course meal with accompanying drinks made from delicious local Tamar produce.
Secret Launceston Location
Thursday 10th November
\$60 per person (bookings essential, tickets limited)

More information view our website closer to the event: www.tamarnrm.com.au

Other Events

Youth Food Movement Reel Food Night, Outdoor Cinema

UTAS - A Block - Old Cafeteria
Food Fair Documentary and discussion
Thursday 22nd Sept 5pm
Students \$5, Non-students \$10
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au>

NRM North Weeds Workshop - Longford

Longford Town Hall, 67 Wellington St Longford
24th September 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
<http://www.nrmnorth.org.au/events>

***If you have an environmental event to promote, let us know.
email: tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au***



Control Weeds

Trailer Mounted Quick Spray Unit Available for Hire

Easy to use with 50 metre retractable hose. Instruction provided on safe use of unit and permitted herbicides.

Landcare and community groups supported with discount hire rate of \$50 per day.

Bookings: Tamar NRM

Phone 6323 3310 or Email



This service made possible by Tamar NRM with the support of Tamar Councils.

Support our Working Groups:

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)

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