



Naturally Yours

The official newsletter of Tamar NRM - December 2017



The Year in Review



Coordinator's Corner

This edition of the newsletter is a bit different. We thought we would undertake a quick year in review. So much has happened in 2017 and we could not have done it without the support and partnerships that have been established over the years, and it is some of these that we want to celebrate here.

Firstly, Tamar NRM could not do what we do without the backing from our supporting councils: City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town. Secondly the guidance and assistance from our Management Committee as well as Reference Group Members is invaluable in giving us direction, endorsement and encouragement. Thank you all for your time and energy over the last year and we look forward to working with you in 2018.

Over the last year we have continued to apply for grant funding, but our focus has been on the enabling projects we have already received funding for to be successfully delivered, primarily 20 Million Trees, Backyards to Broadacres workshop series, and Bushfire and Biodiversity as well as our long-standing

signature events such as Ragwort Raid, Boneseed Blitz, education events and community engagement.

We cannot overlook the massive contribution of you, the community volunteers who willingly give your free time to a cause you believe in. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006 report) has reported that value of voluntary work in Australia is estimated at \$43 billion, with nearly one third of Australians identifying as volunteers. The Tamar Valley is no exception, and probably well above the national average, judging from the interactions we have on a daily basis. We know only too well the willingness of the community to participate when asked.

The high levels of in-kind voluntary hours we include in our funding bids helps us leverage funding into the region, where environmental conservation and sustainable living projects can be delivered to the benefit of all.

Enjoy the following pages as you are the ones that made it a reality.

Greg & Gill (Program Co-ordinators)

Tamar NRM Christmas - New Year Break.

The Tamar NRM office will be closed from COB December 19th to January 8th.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season.

See you again in 2018 !



Cover Photo: James Boags Brewery Workers at work during the 2017 Boneseed Blitz.

2017 Ragwort Raid



January kicked off as usual with our annual Ragwort Raid, once again demonstrated the benefit of a community driven, collaborative weed control program.



Landcare groups such as East Tamar and West Tamar again turned out in force along with volunteer brigades, George Town Deputy Mayor Tim Harris, Launceston Alderman Simon Wood, community members and RACT staff.



Thanks as always to the support of the three councils and to again to RACT for sponsoring the event.



January 2018's Ragwort Raids

East Tamar - Saturday January 20th 9am-12pm, meet at Pipers River Fire Station, followed by a BBQ.

Launceston - Saturday January 20th and Tuesday 23rd January 9am-12pm, meet at Waverley Lake Carpark, Naroo Street, (BBQ lunch at Pipers River Fire Station on Saturday).

West Tamar - Sunday January 21st 9am-12pm, meet at Winkleigh Hall, followed by a BBQ.

Contact Jayne Shapter for more information and to register 0447 944 377

Boneseed Blitz

This year's Blitz saw Tamar NRM partnering with Landcare Tasmania, James Boags, West Tamar Landcare and West Tamar Council to remove Boneseed from 6ha of bush in Beaconsfield.



As James Boags had a factory maintenance day, 45 staff descended upon Beaconsfield to lend a hand. It is amazing what a large group can get done in just a few hours. A patch of bush that was being overrun by Boneseed was cleared out into many large piles.



The Tamar NRM Green Army then spent a few days weeding what was left.

Tree Planting



Tamar NRM again partnered with councils, schools, Landcare groups, Rotary Club of Launceston, landholders, our Green Army team and other volunteers to plant almost 9,000 local native plants in the Tamar and, this year, Meander Valley regions.



Over 6,800 of these plants were part of our Tamar Valley Rural Biodiversity and Landscape Learning Project funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



Over 20 hectares of private property also had direct seeded shelter belts as part of the project.



Without the help of all the students, volunteers, staff and landholders we would not have been able to reach this goal.



If you missed out this year, we are doing it all again in 2018. Contact Gill if you are interested in being involved.



Sustainable Energy Expo



In September, Tamar NRM ran a Sustainable Energy Expo in Albert Hall. With 22 exhibitors, 9 speakers and over 1100 people through the doors - it was a great success.



All aspects of sustainable energy generation and energy efficient building design were covered, even electric vehicles!



We are sincerely grateful for the support of the **City of Launceston**, **Mode Electrical** and **EPA Tasmania** who were our Platinum, Gold and Silver Sponsors respectively.

EXPO sponsors:



Also, a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out on the day.



After the success and feedback from the Sustainable Energy Expo, we are planning on expanding it into a Sustainable Living Expo in 2018 so watch this space.



If you are a business or small operator in the Sustainable Living field and wish to be part of our Expo in 2018 please contact us on:

Phone: 03 6323 3310 or email:

tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au

Fire Mitigation & Biodiversity Project



Tamar NRM has partnered with TFS Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods to run fire workshops around the Tamar including Greens Beach, Kelso, Lulworth and Tam O'Shanter.



These have included introduction workshops looking at fires role in the environment, regional fire management, fire behaviour and mitigation. For these workshops Tamar NRM also partnered with relevant land managers such as Parks and Wildlife, Department of Defence and Local Council.



These workshops have been followed on by a Bushfire Property Assessment Field Day.



A two day "Planning to Burn" workshop was held for landholders with Conservation Covenants and Land for Wildlife to produce property bushfire management plans.



Tasmanian Land Conservancy partnered in this well attended workshop.



Project funded under grant from the Federal Government administered by the Tasmanian State Government.

George Town Coastal Community Action Plan Launch

In 2005, the George Town Coastal Management Plan broke new ground when it was launched as the first truly community driven coastal management plan in Tasmania.



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Earlier this year, a partnership of the coastal communities involved in the George Town Coastal Management Group, Tamar NRM, George Town Council, Parks and Wildlife and TFS developed the 2017 Action Plan. This was launched by Minister Groom in February.



Since the launch the communities have been undertaking actions such as weed control, track maintenance and fire control. Tamar NRM and the George Town Coastal Communities Management Group has also run three capacity building events.



Chemical Use and Spray Trailer Operation in Weymouth



Coastal Plant Identification Walk at Beechford



Community Coastal Weed Identification and Treatment Workshop.



Sustainable Living Working Group

Along with the Sustainable Energy Expo the Sustainable Living Working Group ran a few interesting events this year focused around different seasons.



In autumn, 13 people visited Ross and Judy Flint's property in Exeter for the Blank Slate Workshop where they were starting a new adventure.

Having left their food forest in Rosevears, they were endeavouring to start a new version in a completely different site.



Soil was the focus of the workshop. Steve Solomon and Sophie Lapsley talked about how to test your soil, what to look for and how to improve it.

Farewell to Bruce Jackson who is standing down after more than two years as Sustainable Living Working Group chair. We will miss Bruce's enthusiasm. If you would like to join the Sustainable Living Working Group please contact Gill - Ph. 6323 3310 gill.basnett@launceston.tas.gov.au



Tamar NRM partnered with Tasmanian Renewable Energy Alliance to run a Save Energy Save Money Forum. With a new low interest government loan scheme about to be released it was decided it was a perfect time to talk Sustainable Energy. Like the Solar Battery information evening, this one was well attended with over 70 people coming along. Feedback from these two events inspired the Energy Expo.



Sue Woinarski and Ross Flint wanted to talk "Sustainable Winter - A Year of Greens". Held at Max Fry Hall this workshop looked at growing greens all year round, farming rabbits and no till gardening.



Education Programs

We love partnering with schools, QVMAG, Tamar Wetlands and Dept of Education to run interesting and fun and workshops for kids. The energy of our young people is infectious and their depth of knowledge inspiring.



Mary from Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group, Kim from UTAS and Trevallyn and Invermay Primary Schools removed up 47.5kg of rubbish from Heritage Forest for Clean Up Australia Day.



We love our water bugs and so do the kids.



This year's Big Day of Science run by QVMAG saw us folding and talking frogs. What do they eat, where do they live, what are the threats? Hundreds of origami frogs were taken home by kids at the end of the day.



Tamar NRM has partnered with Youngtown Primary School for almost 10 years. We have undertaken planting projects at Youngtown Primary, Youngtown Regional Park (with City of Launceston) and Glenara Lakes as well as Sustainability Days. This year Youngtown Primary School won the Junior Landcare Team Award for their work, which students and Tamar NRM presented at the Landcare Tasmania Field Day.



Youngtown Primary Kids have fun, eat cake and care for the environment.

Kids for Kids conference again at Riverside.



Tamar NRM and Plastic Free Launceston join forces

Plastic Free Launceston (PFL) will operate as a working group of Tamar NRM enabling it to run activities and events and apply for grants while being able to remain focused on changing people's behaviours in the use and disposal of plastics.



PFL have been effective already in assisting businesses to source alternatives to single use plastics such as plastic cups and plastic straws and encouraging people to make and use their own re-useable shopping bags.

In December Trish Haeusler (pictured above with Tamar NRM President Roger Tyshing) and PFL volunteers set up an information bay at Young's Vegie Shed.



Landcare Tasmania Partnership

Tamar NRM and Landcare Tasmania have a long history of successful partnerships on projects, as well as Tamar NRM being a Landcare Tasmania member. This year was no exception with organised events such as the MOB (Member Outreach Bash) at East Tamar for local member groups, an amazing Boneseed Blitz (see page 6) and facilitating a field trip for the Landcare Tasmanian Awards.



A great day at the MOB in October at Pipers River.



Gill outlines the Youngtown planting project during the Landcare Awards field trip.



Weeds Working Group on our "Hit List" - Serrated Tussock

In 2017 we were always on the lookout for new and emergent weeds.



When you have a weed like Serrated Tussock emerging, what do you do? Work with the landholder, local Landcare Groups, the state agency and deal with it! Because it closely resembles native grasses an identification and treatment workshop was held at Hillwood in November.



More information about the Weeds Working Group or the MLA Pastures Demonstration Project please contact Greg - Ph. 6323 3310 greg.lundstrom@launceston.tas.gov.au



Pasture Improvement Demonstration Project

This three year project funded by Meat and Livestock Australia kicked off in September, and is showcasing the best pasture species/cultivars for local soils and climatic conditions and innovative grazing management practices, to demonstrate profitability into the red meat supply chain.

Setting up three demonstration sites, one in each of the Tamar Councils regions and collecting baseline data is underway, with Field Days planned in 2018.



With 15 year experience as of TIA's Herbage Development Program our consultant, Eric Hall believes this type of project has the potential to provide great benefits to the farmers in the Tamar Valley region by giving them a better understanding of the requirements for establishing and managing sustainable productive perennial pastures.



Backyards to Broadacres

The Tamar Valley Backyards to Broadacres project commenced in 2016, with a series of 10 farm focussed workshop themes. So far, 190 landholders operating at varying scales have attended.



Dung beetles and Earthworms in Farming Systems at Exeter



Making Biochar at Rosevears



Trees on farms field day at North Lilydale



Animal Health at Pipers River



And it all starts with the soils and the pastures.



This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government

TFGA Tamar Valley Branch

East Tamar Landcare Group



*Tamar NRM's Green Army Team working to protect the endangered plant *Tetratheca gunnii* (shy pinkbells), Dans Hill Conservation Area, June 2017*

Support our Working Groups:

Weeds Working Group

Chair: John Thorp (0419 323 400)

Sustainable Living Working Group

Chair: Bruce Jackson (retiring)

Call: Gill Basnett for information 6323 3310

George Town Coastal Communities Management Group

Chair: Ian Sauer (0407 046 346)

Plastic Free Launceston

Chair: Trish Haeusler (0402 503 324)

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