



# *Naturally Yours*

**The official newsletter of Tamar NRM - Winter 2018**



***Tamar Sustainable Living EXPO***

***Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Albert Hall***



# Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Co-ordinator Appointed

On the back of the Sustainability Energy Expo held in Launceston last September, Tamar NRM is running an expanded event this year. Gabrielle Stannus has accepted the role of Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Coordinator.

Gabrielle brings experience in designing and delivering community-based programs all with a strong sustainability focus. She lives at Liffey, having spent some of her early schooling years in Launceston, before living in Melbourne, where she completed studies at RMIT University and worked for local government in Victoria. Gabrielle said she is very excited to be working with Tamar NRM on this project.

Gabrielle is busy contacting local businesses, organisations and community groups to be involved with the Expo.

She will also be engaging with rural businesses and community groups in the George Town and West Tamar Council areas to deliver two satellite events in the lead up to the Expo on Saturday 13 October.

Gabrielle can be contacted on 0400 431 277 or visit the Tamar NRM website for a prospectus or more information: [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au)



***"This year we are aiming for a bigger event and we are delighted to have appointed Gabrielle Stannus to coordinate the 2018 Tamar Sustainable Living Expo. Last year's event attracted over 1,100 people and this year we aim to better that with more stalls and presenter spaces, and by incorporating aspects of sustainable living as well as sustainable energy".***

*(Roger Tyshing, President Tamar NRM)*



## Coordinator's Corner

Welcome to our winter edition of "Naturally Yours". Many of the articles included this quarter are in keeping with sustainable living which is a core business for Tamar NRM.

In June, the Tamar NRM Strategic Directions 2018-2021 were signed off by the Management Committee. Speaking from a staff point of view, responsible for implementing programs and projects and aligning them to the strategy, we like the succinct, straight to the point approach, taken in the document.

Behind the strategy is a process that commenced in June 2016 with a Reference Group meeting, which included "issues and values" mapping, ideas for new projects and capacity building.

An online survey and stakeholder consultation was followed by a process of alignment with the three Tamar councils' objectives, strategic plans, and relevant regional plans.

Over 120 people completed our survey and 82% of respondents believe caring for our Tamar region is the key role for Tamar NRM. "Sharing Knowledge" and "Embracing Community Involvement" are also seen as important roles.

We want to remain relevant and maintain the ability to respond quickly and effectively to community interest and natural resource threats. The strategic directions document does just that and has five key focus areas for attention over the next 3 years: Sustainable Living, Sustainable Farming, Biodiversity, Weeds, and Feral Cats.

Our president Roger Tyshing will be speaking about the strategic directions document on 12th July as part of our Living Sustainably evening.

The Strategic Directions 2018-2021 Document can be found on our website after the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Greg & Gill

# 2018 Tamar Sustainable Living Expo

**Saturday 13th October 2018**

*Get on board the Expo!*

*By Gabrielle Stannus*

It is great to be a part of the inaugural Tamar Sustainable Living Expo. I would like to thank everyone at Tamar NRM and elsewhere for the very warm welcome I have received.

Things are certainly gearing up and the Expo team are getting busier! We have booked Albert Hall for **Saturday 13 October 2018**, so mark that date in your diary now. In the meantime, here are a few ways you may like to get involved in the Expo before that day.

## Potential Partners

We are looking for sustainability-focussed businesses and organisations willing to partner with the Expo to bring it to life. We have a range of options available, including Expo Partners (Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze), Media Partners or Venue Partners.

Venue Partners would be particularly helpful in delivering our planned satellite events. We are trying to 'share the Expo love' in the Tamar Valley. So we plan to get out to George Town and Beaconsfield to run sustainable living events before the Expo.

We are very pleased to announce that [MODE Electrical](#) and the [University of Tasmania](#) have come on board as Gold Partners of the Expo. Their very generous financial support shows their commitment to making the Tamar Valley a better place to live and work in, and will help make the Expo a day to remember.



Thanks also go to [Sustainable Living Tasmania](#) and [Foot and Playsted](#) for signing up as Bronze Partners. Their practical advice and support is helping us behind the scenes as we organise the event and prepare communication materials.

A full list of the partnership types and benefits is outlined in the *Tamar Sustainable Living Expo - Partnership Prospectus*, available on the [Tamar NRM website](#). Please call me to discuss an arrangement to suit your needs.

## Seeking exhibitors

We are also looking for exhibitors to showcase leading sustainable living products, services and programs here in northern Tasmania. The Expo will provide your business or community group with an opportunity to attract new customers and/or members.

We really want to encourage as much local participation as possible. So this year, we have included a reduced cost option for not-for-profits and start-ups.

We have also provided an Early Bird special to encourage businesses to sign up now. That offer will close on 31 July 2018.

For full details, please read page 7 of the *Partnership Prospectus*. You can also download a copy of the *Exhibitor Application Form* from the [Tamar NRM website](#).



# 2018 Tamar Sustainable Living Expo - continued

## Volunteers wanted

We are also looking for some helping hands to assist in the lead up to and on Expo Day itself. Some of the tasks we would love to have help with are listed below. Maybe you have an idea of your own? I would love to hear it.



### *Before the Expo*

- Assist with Expo organisation and administration
- Promote the Expo at the [Harvest Market Launceston](#) and get a free brekkie!

### *On Expo Day*

- Welcome attendees as they arrive at the Expo
- Act as MC in our presentation and workshop spaces
- Conduct event evaluation surveys

Potential volunteers are encouraged to contact me directly.

## Share the Expo love!

Check out and share our [Expo Facebook event](#) with your family and friends. While you are there, remember to click on the 'Going' or 'Interested' buttons to stay abreast of latest Expo news.

If you have any more questions, please feel free to call or email me.

## Call for Expo Partners and Exhibitors

Businesses, community groups and individuals who want to be part of the 2018 Tamar Sustainable Living Expo should contact Gabrielle Stannus.

A range of sponsorship options are available to promote your business or organisation!

See the Partnership Prospectus, and talk to Gabrielle about the Early Bird special (closes 31 July 2018).

### **Contact:**

**Gabrielle Stannus**  
**Coordinator**

**2018 Tamar**  
**Sustainable Living**  
**Expo**

[gabrielle@inwardoutstudio.com](mailto:gabrielle@inwardoutstudio.com)

**0400 431 277**

**[www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au)**

## ***Costa for the EXPO!***

*Tamar NRM is delighted that well known Gardening identity Costa Georgiadis has agreed to come to the EXPO! Costa will be sharing his knowledge through out the day.*



***Another good reason to get on board this years EXPO***



# 20 Million Trees Finishes

by Gill Basnett

Three years of planting and seeding have flown by. As we start our final report for the Tamar Valley Rural Biodiversity and Landscape Learning Project, we look back on what we have achieved. The aim of the project was to increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat by reconnecting urban remnants to farmlands and nearby parks. We wanted to work with schools, community groups, landholders and councils to plant local natives across the landscape, and we have done just that!



In the last three years we have:

- Planted at least 18,688 seedlings;
- Direct seeded 23 ha of native shelterbelts;
- Worked with students from 15 schools and UTAS;
- Established shelterbelts with 16 landholders;
- Improved biodiversity in 18 council reserves;
- Had help from 9 community groups;
- Youngtown Primary won 2017 Tasmania Junior Landcare Care Award for their work with us; and
- Discovered a new Threatened Species Record.



We would like to thank the following, because without your help we couldn't have done it:

Students, teachers and parents of Dalrymple School, Exeter High, Exeter Primary, John Clavin School, Newstead College, Peddy Patter, Punchbowl Primary, Queechy High, Scotch Oakburn High, South George Town Primary, Tamar Valley Steiner, Trevallyn Primary, UTAS, Waverley Primary, West Launceston Primary, Youngtown Primary.



Volunteers from Bellingham Progress Association, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Friends of Exeter Farm School, Friends of Punchbowl, Landcare Tasmania, Lilydale Landcare, Lowhead Landcare, NRM North, Rotary Club of Launceston, West Tamar Landcare, Weymouth Progress Association.

Landholders involved across the Tamar.



The Tamar Works Teams (both Green Army and Work for the Dole).

**Special thanks** to staff from City of Launceston West Tamar Council and George Town Council for sites, site preparation and planting.



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

# Off-Grid and Leading the Way

*By Fiona Weller, Moores Hill Winery*

The winery building was completed in February 2017, just in time for vintage. The winery has 100 tonne capacity which is small in the world of wine but enough to produce 5000-6000 cases of wine per year. Our current production is in the range of 60-80 tonnes. The building was designed by Joel Fletcher of Simplicity Studio and built by D2 Spaces.

The brief was to build a functional winery building that sat proudly in its bush setting, using architectural elements to soften what is really, an industrial size shed. The external timber frame softens the aluminium sheeting and translucent polycarbonate panels provide texture and let in light. A large deck on the front of the building can be used for events at the winery.

When we were planning the build, we needed to consider power requirements of the winery. Most of the winery equipment uses 3 phase but we only had a single phase connection coming on to the property. We discovered that upgrading to 3 phase is expensive, so solar energy became an attractive option. While the solar system cost more to install than the 3 phase upgrade, there would be no ongoing power bills. We knew from talking with other wineries that power was a large cost, \$15-20K per year for a winery of this size. We worked with local supplier, [Mode Electrical](#) who had an impressive track record in delivering commercial systems.

The system comprises of 108 solar panels, providing 30kw and 80kw of battery storage. This gives us enough power to operate at peak harvest time, in Autumn which is usually very sunny.



The building isn't connected to the electricity grid so we can't export excess power back to the grid but we can send it to our cellar door so we can offset our electricity cost. In summer, the cellar door fridges, lights, dishwasher etc. are running on solar.

The large roof area of the winery collects a lot of water which is used throughout the winemaking process. Waste water is treated and held in a tank to settle before being dispersed into bushland on site. Grape marc (skins, seeds and stems) discarded from the winemaking process is used as compost on the vineyard.

Our business has won numerous awards over the past 12 months. In 2017 we entered the Tasmanian Tourism Awards for the first time, attaining a silver award. Moores Hill won the Innovative Process Award at the Innovative Tasmania Awards for winemaking in our off-grid winery.

Moores Hill received the award for Best Environmental Practice for our off grid winery at the Launceston Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

We also won the pinnacle of the awards: Business of the Year.

The winery project received an award for 'Special Achievement in Construction' at the 2017 Master Builders Awards.

Our winery building won 'Best non-residential project' at the West Tamar Council Design Awards.

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electrical | Renewable energy,  
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## Council Partnerships and Strategic Directions 2018-2021

We are pleased that the 3 Tamar Valley Councils have renewed their funding arrangements with Tamar NRM. Having secure base funding allows us to function as an organisation and pay for two FTE staff positions. Beyond that, we apply for grants to run programs and projects. We have been very successful over the last 3 years attracting grants totalling \$384,000 and have a further \$250,000 in submitted grant funding applications, which we are waiting to hear back on.

We acknowledge Launceston, West Tamar and George Town Councils for their belief in us and what we do to support local projects that involve the community and make a real difference.


In updating our Strategic Directions document, Tamar NRM aimed to be true to its guiding principles of respecting and valuing nature, being ethical, considering future generations, valuing biodiversity and being open and learn from all.


The strategic directions document has five key focus areas for attention over the next 3 years:

- Sustainable Agriculture;
- Sustainable Living;
- Biodiversity Conservation;
- Weeds; and
- Feral Cats.

Tamar NRM still remains focused on community driven issues in the Tamar Region and welcomes new ideas and fresh approaches. We want to remain relevant and maintain the ability to respond quickly and effectively to community interest and natural resource threats.

*Tamar NRM Reference Group and Friends*





### Living Sustainably

**When:** Thursday 12th July, 2018, 6.00 - 8.30 pm  
**Where:** Windsor Park Community Hall, Windsor Community Precinct, 1 Windsor Drive, Riverside

**A night of food and nutrition, waste minimisation, future directions, and meet our Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Coordinator.**

- ***Excellent Presenters on Sustainability***
- ***Strategic Directions***
- ***Locavore Challenge***
- ***Free Event***
- ***Members of the public welcome***

**RSVP:** [tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:tamarnrm@launceston.tas.gov.au)  
**Office: 6323 3310, Mob 0438 642 112**  
**Refreshments and sustainably sourced food supplied**

Our president Roger Tyshing will be speaking about the strategic directions document on 12th July as part of our Living Sustainably evening.

We hope you can get along to what will be a great night.

After that meeting the Strategic Directions 2018-2021 Document will be posted on our website.

Recycling and re-purposing household items just makes good sense. Contact your local council, waste transfer station or look on their websites. The photos below relate to the hard waste collection run annually by City of Launceston (see Regional Council Update on page 8).



*Left: Good resale and recycle success with this years Launceston hard waste collection.*

*Right: Uptippity tip shop at Mowbray takes unwanted items in good condition.*



# Tamar Region Councils



Completed in early 2017, Moores Hill Winery has won a raft of awards for their solar off-grid winery.

The building won 'Best non-residential project' at the recent West Tamar Council Design Awards.

You have to be impressed by the commitment to sustainability demonstrated in design, power generation and water harvesting.

The Tamar NRM connection comes in as Moores Hill Winery is one of the planting sites for our 20 million Trees project.

They engaged Martin Dingemanse from Mode Electrical (also a gold sponsor to the 2018 Tamar Sustainable Energy Expo) to supply and install the 30kw solar system that feeds an 80kw battery storage. This gives the winery enough power to operate at our peak harvest time, in Autumn.

You can read the full story on page 6 of the newsletter.



*by Michael Attard*

Wow! Over 60% of the 2018 hard waste collection was resold or recycled!

City of Launceston manages an annual hard waste collection service mid-March where residents are encouraged to take out larger household items that would not fit in the kerbside rubbish or recycling collection. This is a great opportunity to responsibly dispose of items that typically include whitegoods, televisions, furniture, trampolines, bicycles, bbq's, etc.

Residents are asked to register for the service, itemising exactly what items are left out for collection. The council then organises the collection schedule and 3 collection trucks. The first truck picks up resale items in good condition which are then sold at the Uptippity tip shop, the second collects recyclable material such as metal which is recycled via the Launceston waste centre and finally the third truck collects the landfill items that cannot be reused or recycled.

The great news is that the 2018 collection had over 1000 registrations with approximately 81 tonnes of hard waste collected and of this total 60% (49 tonne) was either resold or recycled and the remaining 40% (32 tonne) was landfilled. This is a fantastic outcome where the council has managed to divert the majority of hard waste material away from landfill and repurpose and recycle valuable items and materials.



*by Kerry Bendtsen*

Gordon Square Childhood Service is a not for profit child care centre and we are the only child care centre in the George Town and surrounding community. We provide care at our Long Day Care centre for children aged 6 weeks to 7 years and also our Outside School Hours programs for children aged 4 years to 13 years.

All 3 services have a strong focus on sustainability. These range from worm farms, composting, recycling, soft plastic recycling, gardening, and much more.

During upcoming vacation care program, we have a recycle day where children and educators will be creating masterpieces out of recyclable materials. It may be recycled clothes, household items and anything they can think of. The program also features a gardening day where children and educators will be replanting the vegetable garden. During the year they will be and using the vegetables in their cooking.

Vacation Care is run from the Baptist Church Community Hall in Goulburn Street, George Town. Enquires for this program can be made to Gordon Square Childhood Services on 63822445.





# Tamar Agriculture in Focus

## Pasture Establishment at Beaconsfield

by Greg Lundstrom, project management team

When it comes to managing pastures, support and encouragement to implement change is high on the agenda for the Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) Pasture Demonstration Site Project. Our technical working group, comprised of local farmers and industry experts, have identified that grazing management skills are needed and landholders need to be aware that upgrading pastures requires an equal amount of pasture utilisation. They consider that there are some gains to be made with cultivar choice, but there is a much greater potential for gain from improved pasture utilisation.

The project has a way to run yet and will continue until June 2020. During this time the survey and field day feedback sheets have given us insights into exactly what the farming community want to hear about. Practical demonstration remains important, and we are considering how best to address concerns that farmers attend field days and then go back home and have limited support.

Tamar NRM's consultant to the project, Eric Hall, has an understanding of the three PDS sites, knows the pasture compositions and just what soil and pasture management steps are needed. Results and analysis of PDS paddocks are posted on the Tamar NRM website under the ["Reports"](#) tab. We intend continuing to connect landholders by holding more field days and information sessions.

In a statement in May, the Chairman of a Tamar Valley ag-focused technical working group, Piper's Brook farmer Mr Ian Sauer, said "At the Blessington Field Day in March, producers witnessed first-hand excellent examples of pasture management and the early results of the improved pasture paddocks



Consultant Eric Hall and Beaconsfield Farmer Ben Hooper discuss a newly renovated pasture at "Springmere" in March.

showed over twice the productive output we wanted to demonstrate\*.

The results speak for themselves. Sharing the successes and the challenges with a broader group of Tasmanian famers is what the project is about".

Landholders will have a chance to see one of the sites in November at the "Springmere" Field Day near Beaconsfield.

*\*The project aims to demonstrate how the MLA target of increasing farm profitability of red meat by more than 10 per cent, through better pasture management and utilisation can be achieved.*



# "Critters" in the Creeks

## The Wonderful World of Waterbugs

by Greg Lundstrom

Engaging with schools, the community and incorporating scientific rigour into macro-invertebrate survey work will be offered throughout the Tamar Valley in northern Tasmania. Tamar NRM are taking the lead role in participating in this year's National Waterbug Blitz and partnering with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), City of Launceston's Natural Environment Unit, Plastic Free Launceston, NRM North and Landcare Tasmania.

This citizen science project aims to build a mindset of caring for waterways while building valuable data sets on river health.

Community educator and lecturer John Gooderham (of the Waterbug Company and co-organiser of The National Waterbug Blitz) has agreed to attend an afternoon/evening public education session (23rd October) and field sessions the next day (24th October).

Because the afternoon/evening sessions will include a "train the trainer" component, holding your own river health environmental education session is a real possibility. We can also provide a waterbug kit. The kit has all the equipment needed and was funded by AK Consultants in 2016. It is ideal for schools and community groups to help with collection, sorting and identification.

We are keen to hear from schools or community groups interested in participating at the October events, or hosting a session at their local waterway over spring.



Water bug Man John Gooderham to speak in October as part of Tamar's National Waterbug Blitz



Tamar NRM



### The Wonderful World of Waterbugs

**The evening session with John Gooderham**

**To be held in Launceston**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018**

For bookings and registration of interest call Tamar NRM on 6323 3310, Mobile 0438 642 112 or visit the website.

NATIONAL  
**Waterbug  
Blitz**





# Plastic Free July

by Plastic Free Launceston

## Be part of the solution!

This Tamar NRM working group is going to be absolutely flat out in July with a host of activities planned around Plastic Free July.

Plastic Free July aims to raise awareness of the enormous amounts of plastics in our lives and of the problems with single use disposable plastic and challenges people to do something about it. The idea is to get people to stop using single-use plastics for the month of July each year. Obviously this has the intention of longer lasting plastic reduction.

Although interesting to see how much plastic we use, going completely plastic free can be daunting. Plastic Free July is about raising awareness and doing your bit. Start small if you have to and build from there.

Need some help? Head to the Plastic Free July website [www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org) to take the Pesky Plastics Quiz help you track down where your plastics come from. They also have some great tips and ideas on how to reduce it.

### Choose what you will do:

- avoiding the plastics that seem to fill your recycling bin;
- targeting the takeaway items that could end up in the ocean;
- going completely plastic free (finding alternatives to everything) for a day, week, month or more.

Like the [Plastic Free Launceston Facebook Page](#) for events and tips coming up for the month of July (and beyond).



## Up and Coming Events:

### Plastic Free July Launch Morning Tea

Come along to TASTAFE Drysdale, Tuesday 3 July 2018, 10:30 am for morning tea and guest speakers, as well as an opportunity to win one of our plastic free prizes. Join MC Jo Palmer and speakers from Plastic Free Launceston and City of Launceston.

Drysdale Restaurant

93 Paterson St, Launceston

Cost: \$10

Bookings: [DrysdaleRestaurant@TasTAFE.tas.edu.au](mailto:DrysdaleRestaurant@TasTAFE.tas.edu.au)

### Other activities to get involved with:

- Harvest Market stall each Saturday in July
- Living with less plastic - a lunch time workshop, Friday the 30th June 12pm at Milkbar café St John Street
- Sunday Bag making workshop - July 15th, 2pm at Grammar Junior School Lyttleton street, East Launceston
- Don't forget to sign up to the Plastic Free July challenge [www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org)
- Watch the next ABC 'War on Waste' July 24<sup>th</sup>.

### To get involved contact:

Plastic Free Launceston

(A working group of Tamar NRM)

Mobile: 0402 503 324

Email: [pflaunceston@gmail.com](mailto:pflaunceston@gmail.com)



plasticfreelaunceston

# Rodent Control - High Risk to Raptors

by Peter Stronach, Landcare Tasmania

With the dry summer and recent rain across the state, rats and mice are now moving indoors across the landscape in both urban and rural settings. For some time we at Landcare Tasmania and Tamar NRM and a number of Landcare groups have been concerned about the impact poisons used to control rats and mice are having on our wildlife.

The threat is very real and some poisons are much worse than others. Wildlife specialist Nick Mooney has presented at a number of awareness raising info sessions run for groups around the state and his review paper was published in Tasmanian Bird Report Volume 38, July 2017 (Birdlife Tasmania).

Birds of prey, such as the endangered Masked Owl, are particularly vulnerable to rodenticides as are other predators and scavengers like quolls and devils which eat dead and dying rodents and so are poisoned themselves. But there are ways to minimise our impact.

Controlling introduced rats and mice is a necessity for many of us, whether on farms, in the bush or in town. However there are several things you can do to limit the impact on our wildlife. For most people using a combination of the methods described below will give the best results.

## Use manual traps

The old style mice and rat traps, live cage traps, plus some of their newer types like electric traps, still have a role to play in controlling rodent populations, particularly when not in large numbers. Such mechanical or electric deaths are safe for scavengers or predators because there are no poisons to pass on.

## Use lower impact poisons

Most rodenticides (poisons designed to kill rats and mice) are based on anticoagulants chemicals that kill by promoting uncontrolled internal bleeding. Older types of anticoagulants, called First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs), require rodents to take multiple doses and therefore kill more slowly but have less effect on animals that eat poisoned rodents. More recently developed Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) are used much more widely mainly because of the convenience of their "single



dose" effect. They kill rats and mice more quickly but more residual poison is ingested by raptors or other scavengers/predators and so can significantly affect local populations. **When using rodenticides a choice to use FGARs may well make the difference for your local raptors.**

## "But how do I know which is which?"

Fortunately, most SGARs are clearly labelled "single dose action" and you can check the label for the active ingredients.

✓ **FGARs - Warfarin, Coumatetralyl**

**X SGARs - Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum**

**Remember:** No poison is completely safe, so use poison as a last resort.

## Better prepare your facilities

How you physically prepare your property can make a difference to whether rats and mice will come in looking for food. Properly sealing houses and buildings so as to restrict entry is particularly effective, though can be difficult to achieve. Restricting the availability of food is also important, for example using rat and mice-proof compost heaps and using chicken feeders that are designed only to release food in quantities needed to feed your chickens.

## Education

And remember that others may not even know there impact, from shopping centres to your neighbours, if you are trying to protect habitat you need to get others on board, so don't forget to ask and look at the alternatives.



# Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders' Conference

**Wednesday 13th June 2018**

*by Toby Thorpe*

The Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders' Conference was a state-wide gathering held at the Sustainability Learning Centre, Mt Nelson, with virtual links to schools in Burnie, Launceston, Devonport, Nubeena and New Zealand. Two hundred and fifty inspiring youth from around Tasmania interacted with over 40 mentors, experts and professionals who supported them to plan on-ground activities to mitigate the effects of climate change in their schools.

The Conference was part of the Asia Pacific Youth Sustainable Development Goals Challenge, focusing on the two SDG's: Climate Action and Life below Water. Event convener Toby Thorpe, the Youth Facilitator at Education for Sustainability Tasmania (EFS Tas), said "We, as young people know that the irreversible consequence of climate change is something we don't want and we know that to stop it requires urgent collective action".

Keynote speakers included Laura Sykes, National Schools Program Director at the Australian Youth Climate Collation, Gustaaf Hallegraeff, Professor of Marine Science at IMAS, and Sophie Muller, Director of the Tasmanian Climate Change Office. The event brought together youth and experts in the fields of climate science, change, marine ecology, justice and action, renewable energy, STEM, and sustainability.

Students will continue to connect on-line throughout the process of implementing their projects. Contribution through this project will be shared in an E-Publication and be part of the agenda at the Australia Pacific Regional Centre of Expertise Meeting in Sydney in September 2018.

Convener Toby Thorpe said that he hoped that the practical activities will result in a network of engaged young people across the state, inspired to follow their interests by running their own events, volunteering, and investigating further study options. Planned projects from over 27 schools include forming a sustainability group, waste management initiatives, setting up recycling, planting trees to mitigate climate change effects, hosting educational community talks, creating a video documentary and conducting a local leadership event.

Nel Smit from Greening Australia said the event was made possible because of the enthusiasm of over 40 volunteers who will continue to mentor students and schools over the next ten weeks of the project's implementation.

For further information contact: Toby Thorpe [tobyjthorpe@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tobyjthorpe@yahoo.com.au)

**A Northern Perspective** - Students from Scotch Oakburn College, were one of five participating schools in the Launceston area who attended the Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders' Conference at Launceston Grammar. The student group chose to focus on a waste minimisation and management program. The Scotch Oakburn students will be looking to implement a trial collection of recycling, compost, paper and general waste in Week 3 of next term. They learned during the conference that the most successful programs had involvement of the wider community.

The Sustainability Learning Centre, Mount Nelson, Hobart was the central location with video conferencing links to Burnie, Launceston, Devonport, Nubeena and New Zealand. Launceston schools involved were Scotch Oakburn, Launceston Grammar, St. Patricks, West Launceston, and Launceston College.



# WEEDS TO WATCH and Deal with!

Tamar NRM receives many enquiries about declared weed and non-declared weeds, reported on various land tenures.

Depending on the weed, infestations vary across the Tamar Valley and so does the required weed control response.

This issue we feature an ornamental plant gone wild.

## **PAMPAS GRASS (*Cortaderia species*)**

Pampas is an aggressive environmental weed.

There are three species of pampas in Tasmania: *Cortaderia selloana*, Common Pampas Grass, *C. jubata*, Pink Pampas, and *C. richardii*, Toe Toe. Their features are similar so for practical purposes they are treated as one weed. All are large, vigorous, dense, tussocky perennials.

Pampas Grass is a declared weed in Tasmania under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999*. The importation, sale and distribution of pampas are prohibited in Tasmania.

North Eastern Tasmania has infestations, but if we all band together we can make a difference with its control.

Managing weeds is everyone's responsibility. Tamar NRM is only too happy to direct reports of declared and non-declared weeds if you are unsure who to contact. The various land tenures can make it difficult to know.

Further information on the three types of Pampas Grass (all declared weeds) see the Tamar Valley Weed Strategy Website.

<http://www.weeds.asn.au/tasmanian-weeds/view-by-common-name/pampas-grass/>

<http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/pampas>

(Information Source: Tamar Valley Weed Strategy Website and DPIPWE website)



*Pampas Grass sighting reported adjacent Punchbowl Reserve. Treated once already it has come back strongly. Note the dead gorse around it.*

### **Call for Volunteers**

**September/October 2018  
is Boneseed Blitz time!**

**Register interest and  
report sightings to  
Tamar NRM 6323 3310**

**A funding commitment of \$2,000 has been given again for the 2019 Ragwort Raid. We would like to thank RACT for ongoing support for this important event.**



*"The RACT is delighted to support Tamar NRM and again be part of this unique annual event. It's terrific that the raids not only eradicate a weed but also involve so many members of the community,"*



*Spanish Heath (next page). © Ian Sutton)*



# WEEDS TO WATCH and Deal with!

## Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*)

Tamar NRM has become really concerned watching the spread of Spanish Heath across the Tamar and beyond.

Spanish Heath is a declared weed under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999*, which means importation, sale and are prohibited in Tasmania. It is fast spreading across the north and becoming a huge environmental and pasture weed.

Often mistaken for a native heath or tea tree, Spanish Heath has the ability to take over agricultural and native bush areas, creating a monoculture. Because of this it is important we all act together to stop its spread and eradicate it where we can.

### How to Identify Spanish Heath?

Now is a great time to identify and remove Spanish Heath because it is flowering and seed should not have started to develop.

- Spanish Heath is a woody evergreen perennial (long-lived) shrub growing to a height of 1.5 to 2 metres and occasionally reaching 3.5 metres.
- Spanish Heath stems are woody and brittle, and the leaves are tiny (3 to 7 mm long), pointed, and clustered densely on the stem. The leaves have a longitudinal groove on the lower surface.
- Spanish Heath flowers appear from late autumn to early spring. The white or pinkish (as opposed to bright pink of *Epacris impressa*) flowers are 4 to 5 mm long and occur in loose groups towards the end of the stems.

### How Does it Spread?

Spanish Heath spreads through seed and stem layering.

Each flower of the Spanish Heath can produce hundreds of tiny, dust-like seeds, released after flowering. They are easily transported by wind, water, machinery, clothes and soil.

Layering occurs where stems contact moist soil and send down roots. Spanish heath is also capable of shooting from broken stems and roots.



### Do's and don'ts of Spanish heath control

#### Do's

- Plan control program to save time and money;
- Use a combination of different control methods;
- Consider the impact of your control methods on off-target things, especially if using herbicides;
- Ensure machinery and equipment is washed down between sites or prior to contractors leaving site;
- Revisit the site and use follow-up treatments over at least 5 years;
- Coordinate your control program with neighbouring landholders where your Spanish Heath problem crosses property boundaries;
- For large infestations, tackle smaller, outlying patches first. Larger infestation can be tackled later;
- Dispose of removed material carefully to avoid regeneration: burn if possible, otherwise pile where the plants won't stem layer.
- Hand-pull small plants. Take care because the roots are fibrous, readily breaks off near the base, often regrowing quickly from the broken stump.

#### Don'ts

- Don't introduce Spanish heath to Spanish heath-free areas (e.g. by failing to wash down machinery and equipment between sites);
- Don't rely on one attempt at control: follow-up is essential to eradicate Spanish heath.
- Don't slash flowering plants – this will spread the seed;
- Don't rely on slashing to eradicate Spanish heath – slashing can worsen an infestation;
- Don't rely on burning to eradicate Spanish heath – burning will worsen an infestation.

Check out DPIPWE website for more information [http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Weednote\\_spanishheath.pdf](http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Weednote_spanishheath.pdf)

# Tamar NRM Green Army

by Gill Basnett



With the wrap-up of the Green Army teams nationwide, Tamar NRM would like to thank the Tamar NRM Green Army team: Ian (Supervisor) Aiden, Beau, Benjamin, Brandon, Isaac, Jessy, Mathew and Waylon for all their hard work over the last 6 months.



They have made it very easy and very hard for me to coordinate their schedule. Easy, because they were willing and able to jump into any job thrown at them, worked well as a team and interacted professionally and well with the landholders and managers of the land they worked. Hard, because they complete jobs much faster than I anticipated and I struggled to keep ahead of them with work.



They have done some long and tough days such as weeding gorse from some small islands of Low Head in the middle of summer and planting 1668 plants in one day at a property near Beaconsfield.

## Overall they:

- Planted over 13,000 trees;
- Almost 100 ha of weed management including Gorse, Blackberry, Spanish Heath, Willow, Ragwort and Cotoneaster;
- Over 20 ha of trail maintenance and fire management works;
- Over 2 ha of erosion control works along the on the coast; and
- 1 km of fencing.

Greg and I are sorry to see the team finish and sincerely wish we could employ them permanently. Well done to them all and good luck in the future.



*Photos: Top - Willow removal down at Tailrace, Riverside.*

*Planting thousands of trees at Quamby Bend as part of the ALRS flood recovery program administered by NRM North.*

*Attempting a tree survival survey for me at Newnham bike path...somewhere in there are 50 melaleucas...*

*Graduation day. Tamar NRM would like to thank Manpower for all their work as the service provider for our Green Army Teams. It has been a great partnership.*



# Coastal Communities Update

The coastal communities in the George Town coastal region have put in an enormous effort working in their own neighbourhoods and reserves as well as coming together to share experiences.

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 last met on 17th April at Tam O'Shanter Golf to discuss actions driven by the George Town Coastal Management Plan and Action Plan.

This unique community driven plan is one of the first to focus on community concerns for their region and lay down actions to be undertaken by community members, councils, agencies and local organisations. It has been driven by the philosophy that actions should be strategic, based on sound science and research and focused on local and regional priorities.

Recently six coastal community groups have provided an update on their activities and they include everything from works on weed mapping and blackberry and sea spurge weed control to track maintenance, tree planting and, for most groups, Clean up Australia Day.

Well done to all coastal community group members and the general community, who tirelessly toil away working on projects that deliver on-ground benefits that the whole community can enjoy.

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

Tamar NRM stands ready to support these activities with advice and loan tools and equipment. You can contact Greg Lundstrom on 6323 3310 or mobile 0438 642 112.

The Coastal Plan, Action Plan update and Summary Document are all available off the Tamar NRM website under the "Reports" Tab:

[www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au)



**Applications Close 5pm, Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> August.**

**The Christopher Strong Sustainability Grant** recognises the vision, passion and appreciation Christopher Strong had for the natural world. It respects and values his significant contributions to the management of our resources with his dedication and tireless contribution to Tamar NRM. The Fellowship is open to any individual/school/community group undertaking a project in a Rural or Urban area.

**Funding allocated for a project is up to \$1,500.**

Copies of the application form are on our website [www.tamarnrm.com.au/NRM Fellowship](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au/NRM_Fellowship)

# Biodiversity Page - Tussock Skink

by Gill Basnett

It was with great excitement that we realised the little lizard found curled up asleep against the cold at Waverley Lake was in fact a threatened Tussock Skink (*Pseudemoia pagenstecher*).



Tamar NRM was out at the reserve with Waverley Primary students, City of Launceston staff and Rotary Club of Launceston volunteers planting trees, shrubs and grasses as part of our 20 Million Tree project. While digging through the mulch to plant a tree a lizard bundle was unearthed.



Listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Protection Act* (1995), the Tussock Skink is a small ground-dwelling lizard that lives in grassy and grassy woodland habitats. It is very similar looking to the Southern Grass Skink, which easily outcompetes the Tussock Skink.

Slimline bodies help them run very fast through the tussocks, but doesn't help with climbing, which is probably why they do better in grassy habitats. In fact, it is the mums who are the fastest, possibly because being able to run fast costs less energy than dropping a tail or losing your young (or being eaten...). Over the winter they store fat reserves in their tails so it can be expensive to lose them.

Habitat destruction through overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes and the spread of gorse all pose threats to the survival of this lizard.



Like all lizards, Tussock Skinks like to bask in the sun. Despite the poor climbing skills, they love low spikey bushes, as they are protected by the thorns as they soak up the rays. They are wary and shy creatures, making them difficult to see. When disturbed they hide away (or play dead) and take a long time to come out again, likely reducing their foraging time if there is a lot of disturbance.



Not a lot is known about the distribution of the Tussock Skink. Most records are old (the closest one is Evandale) and predictions of their range are based on potential habitat. This makes records like Waverley Lake important to log into the Natural Values Atlas, so land managers know they are there.

By reducing the extent and frequency of mowing in the reserve, the City of Launceston will help maintain habitat for the skinks. With the discovery, we will not be putting any further plants in either. Locals can help by keeping cats contained as predation by cats is a key threat.



Photo © Basile Morin



# The Good Wood

by Greg Lundstrom

The Tassie winter is here and with it the desire to keep warm. If you use a heat pump you are doing a service to the environment, as Tasmanian power has a high level of renewable energy generation. The benefits to air quality, particularly in built up areas, is important for human health. However, wood heaters are returning to many residences, as grid connect energy prices continue to rise.

There are simple and easy measures you can take to ensure efficient burning of wood and if you are buying new, then the new series wood heaters are much more efficient. Regardless of the heater you have, using well-seasoned wood is essential.

***When green wood is split it will generally look a lot darker in the middle of the block than around the edges. Freshly split green wood will feel cool to the touch due to the evaporation of moisture. Green wood will also feel significantly heavier than dry wood. When two pieces of green wood are banged together they will give a dull thud rather than the sharp ringing crack when pieces of dry wood are banged together.***

A more accurate way is to use an electrical resistance moisture meter (van be purchased for less than \$40). If you can't get the wood tested for moisture, you should look for signs that it might still be "green".

Reputable wood sellers will have meters and should be willing to verify their product's quality. It is vital to obtain permits from your supplier as illegal entry and environmental damage from wood hooking is on the rise.

If in doubt, store it for next year and buy some that is properly seasoned with less than 20% moisture content.

You can pick up an informative CD from Tamar NRM (provided by the Australian Home Heating Association) or go online to their website or the EPA for further information.



## Wood Heater Tips.

<http://www.homeheat.com.au/how-to-videos>

<http://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/air/air-quality-in-tasmania/reducing-air-pollution/improving-wood-heater-use>

Real-time Air Quality Data and Interpretation is also available from the EPA website

<http://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/air/monitoring-air-pollution/real-time-air-quality-data-for-tasmania>

(This website includes data from the George Town Air Monitoring Station which is the first collaborative air monitoring station to be established in Tasmania, involving State government, local government and industry.)



# Coming Events Tamar NRM

For more information view our website: [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au) or [www.facebook.com/TamarNRM15](https://www.facebook.com/TamarNRM15)

## Plastic Free Launceston - PLASTIC FREE JULY MORNING TEA

**Tuesday 3rd July 2018, 10:30 am Drysdale Restaurant, 93 Paterson St, Launceston**

**Cost: \$10 - RSVP by Friday 29 June to**

[DrysdaleRestaurant@TasTAFE.tas.edu.au](mailto:DrysdaleRestaurant@TasTAFE.tas.edu.au)

## LIVING SUSTAINABLY Reference Group & Friends

**Thursday 12th July, 2018, 6.00 - 8.30 pm  
Windsor Park Community Hall, Riverside**

A night of food and nutrition, waste minimisation, future directions, and meet our Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Coordinator.

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

## Plastic Free July:

Harvest Market each Saturday in July  
Living with less plastic - a lunch time workshop, **Friday the 30th June 12pm**  
at Milkbar café St John Street.

**Sunday Bag making workshop - July 15th, 2pm** at Grammar Junior School  
Lyttleton street, East Launceston

## Plastic Free July challenge

[www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org)

## Fully Booked--BURNING TO PLAN

**Friday 20th Saturday 21st July**

TFS Northern Region HQ, Youngtown

**Taking Expressions of interest if further funding arises -**

**[gill.basnett@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:gill.basnett@launceston.tas.gov.au)**

## The Wonderful World of Waterbugs

*An evening session with John Gooderham*

**Tuesday 23rd October 2018.**

**Venue TBA.**

## Critters in Creeks - Macro-invertebrate monitoring & Citizen Science

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

**Field Work at various locations - Schools and Community**

Bookings Tamar NRM on 6323 3310

## Support our Working Groups:

### Weeds Working Group

*Chair: John Thorp (0419 323 400)*

### Sustainable Living Working Group

*Chair: Vacant (expressions of interested welcome)*

### George Town Coastal Management Group

*Chair: Ian Sauer (0407 046 346)*

### Plastic Free Launceston

*Chair: Trish Haeusler ([pflaunceston@gmail.com](mailto:pflaunceston@gmail.com))*

# Other Events

## West Tamar Landcare Landcare for the Locals

**Rowella Hall**

**Sunday 15th July, 2pm - 5pm**

Short program of presenters, drinks and nibbles.

- Nature Conservation on Small Properties.
- Weed ID and management

**All welcome.**

## Tamar NRM Contacts

**postal:** PO Box 396, Launceston TAS 7250

**phone:** Office 03 6323-3310

**mobile:** Gill 0438 265 792; Greg 0438 642 112

**events co-ordinator:** Roger 0448 666 500

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

**web:** [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au)

**facebook:** [www.facebook.com/tamarNRM15](https://www.facebook.com/tamarNRM15)