



# Naturally Yours

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



*Christmas and New Year's greetings  
and wishing you all a great 2019.*



# Wildlife Caught on Camera

by Gill Basnett



In our autumn 2018 edition we talked about using motion triggered wildlife cameras to survey the fauna of some of our regions reserves. Well, over the last few months we have continued to set up cameras to see what species inhabit our local bush.

There is something exciting about putting up a camera on a likely looking log, hollow or rocky outcrop, or where there is lots of tell-tale diggings, scats (poo) or tracks and coming back to see what animals have been past. Who exactly is living in this patch of bush (or garden...)? Will you just get photos of the waving vegetation or shadows moving across the ground, because you set the camera up poorly? Or will there be something more exciting?

So you've set up the camera, even put a little bait in front of it and left it for a few days, weeks if you manage to resist the temptation to go check. Now you are going to collect them, if you can remember where they are... Turing off the camera and seeing that a few hundred photos have been taken builds the excitement! Who have we caught on camera?



A quick scroll shows lots of grass waving and shadows... bummer. But then the animals start to show themselves. Sometimes it is just a flicker of movement, an ear or tail in frame, a blur of animal flashing past or an inquisitive nose poked too close to identify. But others are perfect. A good shot of an animal or small snippets of behaviour when set to video. Suddenly the effort has been worthwhile. A feeling of success. Maybe confirmation of a suspicion you had about that track/scat/digging, an expected visitor but a good biodiversity record nonetheless or something more exciting. So, what have we captured so far? Check out our [website](#) for more images/videos

## The Usual Suspects:

Common Brushtail Possum, Bennett's Wallaby, and Pademelon.



## The more Interesting:

Bluetongue, Echidna, Black and Grey Currawongs, Tawny Frogmouth, Superb Fairywren, Beautiful Firetail, Tasmania Scrubwren and Waving Human ☺



## The Very Exciting (all firsts for me):

Long-nosed Potoroo, Tasmanian Bettong and Spotted-tailed Quoll!!!



## The Expected, but Disappointing:

Cats (pet and feral), Black Rat, Rabbit, House Mouse, Blackbird, (lots), Dogs (pets)



# Coordinator's Corner - Thank You All!

Another busy year is coming to a close, and we reflect on what made 2018 memorable and think of the many, many people we need to thank for their assistance and hard work. Without the ideas, labour, attendance at events, encouragement and ongoing backing, Tamar NRM would not be able to achieve the positive impacts on sustainable living, agriculture and biodiversity in the Tamar. To all of you, you know who you are; we want to give a big thank you.

There are a few special mentions:



Tamar NRM president, Roger Tyshing, and Management Committee for their ongoing support, volunteering and advice.



Staff, Councillors and Aldermen of City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town Councils, with your support and partnerships we make great things

Members of our Reference Group for ideas, inspiration, knowledge and support. It is extremely valuable to have such a wide range of expertise at our fingertips.



happen.

Our Working Group chairs and members, it is a pleasure to be able to support such enthusiastic groups doing great work in our region.



Eric Hall, Ian Sauer and the technical working group for making the Tamar NRM/MLA pasture improvement project such a success for Tamar landholders.



Schools, community members, council staff and landholders for helping us plant over 12,100 seedlings this year!

Jayne Shapter for being the driving force behind 17 out of 20 Ragwort Raids! (see article within)



The Tamar Works Crew. What hard work! Weeding, rubbish collection, track maintenance, tree planting and more across the Tamar and Meander Valleys.



Gabrielle Stannus for an exceptionally successful Tamar Sustainable Living Expo! (See article within).

David Cleaver, TFS Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods, for all your assistance in running our fire workshops. Your knowledge and skills are greatly appreciated.



We hope you all have a safe and happy festive season and look forward to 2019!

*Greg & Gill*

Program Coordinators Tamar NRM

# Tamar 2018 Sustainable Living Expo

## It's a (Plastic-Free) Wrap!

*By Gabrielle Stannus*



What a day! Over 1100 people came along to our inaugural Tamar Sustainable Living Expo on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, with another 500 attending satellite events around the Tamar leading up to the day. What a beautifully busy day it was! I am still recovering even now.



We had over thirty fabulous exhibitors, including businesses, not-for-profits and community groups, who showcased products and services that are leading the way in sustainable living. Many of these exhibitors are local to the Tamar Valley, so remember to get out there and support them. Now I know the day was busy, so I am writing them down here now to help jog your memory.

Alternative Technology Association (now trading as Renew), Australian Electric Vehicle Association, Bootstrap Enterprises, CBM Sustainability Group, City of Launceston, Degree C, Dr Scott Bell, Growdomes, Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group, Home Efficiency Group, Inwardout Studio, Kay's Oils, Landcare Tasmania, Metro Tasmania, MiPassion / MiEssence, MODE Electrical, Nature Gleam, NRM North, 1300tassolar, Permaculture Tasmania, Plastic Free Launceston, Solahart Northern Tasmania, Snug House, Sustainable Living Tasmania, Theresa L Hatton Building Design, Tamar Bicycle Users Group, Tamar NRM (of course!), Tas Heating & Cooling, Tasmanian Organic-Dynamic Producers, Tasvent Supply Company, TasWater, University of Tasmania and YakksBatts



Along with the exhibitors we have more than thirty people delivered twenty-four workshop and presentation sessions in four locations inside the Albert Hall and outside in and around the Growdome in City Park. Topics included: solar power, electric vehicles, sustainability, healthy lifestyles, climate change, recycling plastics, condensation, commuting on a bicycle, converting your car to veggie oil, healthy soils and more. The Growdome was certainly a 'hot' place to be, in more ways than one, especially when Costa Georgiadis held a workshop there. People were lining up outside to get in. Next time we will need a much larger space!



Where would we have been without the assistance of some wonderful volunteers? Eighteen volunteers contributed approximately 100 hours of their time in the lead up to and on the day of the Expo, including the fabulous roving performers from the Interweave Arts Group, where people had reused plastics to highlight their impact on threatened species. Boy, are they not shy! I know these volunteers did not put up their hands seeking recognition, but I think they deserve some. So here goes. Thank you to:

Dave Basnett, Brian Baxter, Edwina Bloom, Annie Harvey, Stacey Hataier, Ben Hooper, Chris Lundstrom, Celeste Nicholson, Anna Povey, Jenny Purtell, Garry Stannus, Marie Stannus, Roger Tyshing, Greg Unwin, Helen Unwin, Ludovic Vilbert, Sue Woinarski, and Anne Young.



*Gold Partner, City of Launceston, provided a stall for Northern Waste Management Group to talk all things waste and recycling.*

We couldn't have done it without our partners. Their generous financial and in-kind support really made a difference to the smooth running of the Expo. So I would like to thank them all once again!

### **GOLD PARTNERS**

- Mode Electrical
- University of Tasmania
- City of Launceston

### **SILVER PARTNERS**

- TasWater
- Home Efficiency Group

### **BRONZE PARTNERS**

- Environment Protection Agency
- Foot & Playsted
- Sustainable Living Tasmania
- George Town Council
- West Tamar Council

### **VENUE AND MEDIA PARTNERS**

- Harvest Market Launceston
- ABC Northern Tasmania 91.7



*UTAS (Gold Partner) discussed the wide range of opportunities available in Sustainability fields at the university.*

### **My Expo Highlights**

How could we overlook Costa Georgiadis, host of ABC TV's Gardening Australia, and our official Expo Champion? After officially launching the Harvest Market's new FOGO bins, Costa made his way to the Albert Hall precinct where he was promptly swamped by the "young ones" at the Growdome. And Costa stayed swamped until the end of the Expo, graciously posing for selfies with many exhibitors and attendees after presenting and/or facilitating three unique sessions. Sadly, I was not one of the lucky ones to get a selfie with Costa. You could say I was a tad busy on the day, and I could not bear to interrupt his continual stream of admirers.



*Costa happy to talk all things permaculture with everyone.*



*Martin from Mode Electrical (Gold Partner) providing one on one advice about solar and battery power during the ATA Speed Dating - Ask and Expert session.*

For me it was a thrill to be able to give away over \$8,000 worth of prizes and goodies at the Expo. Yes, you read it correctly. We gave away some great prizes to some very lucky people, including the winners of our Expo Passport competition:

- MODE Electrical: Energy Audit for a Business – Won by Chilli
  - Inwardout Studio: Garden Design – Won by Tom
  - Forest Walks Lodge: Guided Rainforest Walk – Won by Yvonne
  - The Home Efficiency Group: Heat Pump Service – Won by Hedi
  - Hollybank Treetops Adventure: Outdoor Eco-Adventure – Won by Jan
  - Kay's Oils: Young Living Pack – Won by Jane
- A lucky bunch of people they are. But you had to be in it to win it. So do not miss out next time!

# Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Continued

## Finally...

I really hope that those of you who attended the Expo found it a worthwhile experience, and that you are now better placed to make cost effective, smarter, sustainable choices to help you do more with less. Remember to stay in touch with Tamar NRM to find out what new sustainable living programs and activities will be taking place in the near future.

Thanks to all of you for the marvellous support you provided to me during my time as Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Coordinator. It really was a buzz meeting and working with you all. I wish you all the best in your endeavours to live more sustainably. Now more than ever, our planet needs your help.

**Gabrielle Stannus**  
Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Coordinator



**Thank You Gabby!!**

Tamar NRM would like to say a big thank you to our Sustainable Living Expo Coordinator, Gabrielle Stannus and her partner Ludo Vilbert, Inwardout Studio, for all their work in making the 2018 Sustainable Living Expo such a huge success. It has been a pleasure having you on board and your expertise and enthusiasm has been invaluable.



*Healthy soils mean healthy lives. Theresa Chapman (RMCG) runs through some practical ways to test your soil health*



*You can't be "green" without green. Inwardout Studio provided indoor plant options and a great place to relax.*



*Water on tap to refill your bottle and reduce waste thanks to TasWater (Silver Partner).*



*Thirty three stalls provided a wide range of sustainable living information such as Silver Partner Home Efficiency Group.*



It was fantastic having a range of not-for-profit and community groups involved like Landcare Tasmania, TBUG, Plastic Free Launceston, Tasmanian Organic-Dynamic Producers, Permaculture Tasmania, Alternative Technology Australia and Sustainable Living Tasmania.



The carpark was full of electric cars and bikes as part of the display from Australian Electric Vehicles Association.



Oils ain't oils! Scott Bell demonstrates how to convert a diesel car to veggie oil!



Todd Houstain from Sustainable Living Tasmania (Bronze Partner) talking about how we can secure a stable climate.



Graeme Stevenson providing the wormy lowdown in a panel session on healthy soils with Theresa Chapman and Costa.



Jenny and Annie in their fantastic costumes from Interweave Art's Remade - Turning plastic waste into wearable art.



Costa christens the new Food Organic Garden Organic (FOGO) bins at Harvest Market (Venue Partner).



We had Facebook, door, passport and stall prizes to be won such as this great LED camping light donated by ATA.

# Tamar Sustainable Living Expo - Satellite Events

We tried a few different things at the Expo, including holding 10 satellite events. This certainly made it a busier time for us, but gee what fun we had! These satellite events, held in the lead up to and after the Expo, attracted more than 550 attendees. Thanks to those members of the Tamar Valley community who got behind the Expo and created related activities to encourage even more local participation.

Special thanks for their role in delivering satellites events go to:

**Hannah Brunetti**, Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House – Sustainable Living Market and Getting Grubby with Costa.

**Sandy Murray**, UTAS **Owen Tilbury**, BOFA – Food Fighters screening/Expo opening night.

**Christopher Walkden**, Australian Electric Vehicles Association – Electric Experience: Test drive or ride an EV.



## Getting Grubby with Costa!

And grubby they got!

Every one of the 15 kids that attended the Beaconsfield satellite event on the 12<sup>th</sup> October knew of the ABC TV Kids program 'Get Grubby TV' featuring Dirtgirl, Scrapboy and Costa the Garden Gnome. When kids see Costa on Gardening Australia they have been known to say to their parents "What's our Costa doing on your program!"

At Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House Costa crafted a session with the kids teaching the benefits and techniques of weeding before inspiring them into nature play mode where they were asked to create something out of what they could find around the yard.

The pictures on this page and page 9 say it all! Their imaginative art creations were: *Glowing Diamond Bell*, *Shovel World*, *Flower Smurf*, *The Statue of Gardening*, *Garden Graffiti*, *Faraway Farm* and *the Fairy Garden*.



## Getting Grubby with Costa!

Continued:



*The Fairy Garden*



*Shovel World*



*Glowing Diamond Bell*



*Faraway Farm*



*Garden Graffiti*





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again to our  
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# Burning to Plan Workshop

By Anna Povey, Conservation Programs Officer, Tasmanian Land Conservancy - <https://tasland.org.au/blog>

For many landholders, the question of how to burn their property for risk reduction and biodiversity conservation can be a paralysing one. So many things to consider, including how best to protect their house, whether parts of the vegetation would be damaged by a fire or if a fire would stimulate regeneration, and the safety and practicality of planned burning. It could go so very wrong if they don't have experience.



Fortunately for landowners of 21 properties, they had the opportunity to attend a Burning to Plan workshop on 20-21 July. Organised by Tamar NRM's Gill Basnett, with Tasmania Fire Service's David Cleaver and Stephen Bresnehan, and Tasmanian Land Conservancy's Anna Povey, the workshop helped landowners to develop fire management plans for their properties.

The presence of different experts from the different organisations meant that landholders' various needs and concerns could be addressed. Information included fire and ecological health, risk reduction in the landscape, property protection, legal requirements, and things to think about before lighting up.



As one participant wrote, "I arrived feeling a little stupid and frankly slightly sceptical of how a group of professionals each with their unique expertise and with many years of experience could possibly help me (the idiot with a fear of fire and lack of knowledge) make decisions and offer additional perspectives to help me expand my options with regard to planned burning or my safety in the case of wild fire. This is vitally important information and indescribably empowering for an urban person recently relocated to the bush..."

*For the short time I was there I felt truly looked after, you should be thrilled, your team are all fantastic and immeasurably patient. Each question was generously answered albeit in my case often repeatedly. I can't thank you enough."*

Landholders from around the state made the trip to Launceston for the workshop. They came from properties large and small, some with experience of burning and some without, some experienced rural landholders and some new to the bush. Some of the bonus outcomes came from discussions between landholders about all sorts of topics, including a number of ways of controlling bracken.



Many of the landholders were conservation covenant owners, so authorisation from the Private Land Conservation Program at DPIWVE would be required before they could burn. The fire management plan produced during this workshop would meet the needs of the program, by protecting any special values that should not be burnt (such as rainforests or other fire-sensitive areas), and setting a fire regime that would accommodate or even benefit biodiversity (for example with a mosaic of burn patches in dry forests).

With the expert advice of David and Stephen, some landholders decided that they could address their safety needs simply by preparing the house and near surroundings, and that they wouldn't need to burn their bush yet. Others planned burns to reduce fuel in nearby forest, to rescue native grasslands from shrub invasion or to encourage seedling regeneration. Even just one Sagg at a time, to burns of hectares, landholders gained confidence that they could burn according to their plan. The ecological knowledge of Gill, Anna, David and Stephen meant that the complexities of each properties' needs could be addressed flexibly, with the aim of maintaining thriving natural ecosystems.

**NOTE:** An actual burning field day was planned for September/October which has been postponed to autumn 2019. Funding for this project was through a grant from the Federal Government administered by the State Government. Tamar NRM is looking for further funding for the project. If you are an interested landholder please contact Gill Basnett [gill.basnett@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:gill.basnett@launceston.tas.gov.au) 0438 265 792.

# Tamar Region Councils



## Paintback Scheme

Did you know Exeter Waste Transfer Station is part of the Paintback® scheme? The scheme was established in 2016 with a number of sites around Australia (including Mowbray, Exeter and George Town West Transfer Stations) and is a world-first, industry-led initiative designed to divert unwanted paint and packaging from ending up in landfill and vital waterways.

Along with disposing of waste paint responsibly, Paintback is committed to researching new ways to repurpose unwanted paint materials.

Paintback is the way to:

- Responsibly deal with waste paint after painting.
- Declutter your garage, shed or under the house of old paint containers.
- Recycle and reduce waste going to landfill.
- Avoid landfill fees that may apply to waste paint.

Exeter is also going through a re-vamp, with a new Community Hub opening in Murray Street. "The aim of this project is to eventually consolidate many of Exeter's community services and have a centralised point for the town, close to the main shopping district." Rolph Vos, West Tamar Council's General Manager said.

Along with a park on Billoo street and other proposed designed public spaces and a strong pedestrian network, the new-look town should become a vibrant and more sustainable community.



## Electric Vehicle Fast Charger Comes to Launceston!

Tasmania's first public 50 kw DC electric vehicle fast charger was officially switched on by the City of Launceston on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Launceston's Paterson St East car park. Hopefully this is the beginning of a Tasmanian car charging network, open Tasmania's roads up to electric vehicle drivers.

The Tritium fast charging station is capable of charging the majority of electric vehicle batteries to 80 per cent within 30 minutes. Without a fast charger it is 1.5-2 hours to charge the vehicle on an AC charger. With the fast charger, someone from Hobart could spend just 10-20 minutes charging their vehicle to get enough of a charge to make it all the way back to Hobart!

The charging station is free to use for all drivers until the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, when fees for charging will be set.

"The rise of electric vehicles is important for the state as the zero-emission driving capabilities of EVs ensures we can keep our biggest asset – our air and environment – clean for tourists," Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten said.



Photo supplied by City of Launceston.



## Looking after their own Patch

A revitalised community at Low Head came together to participate in September's Boneseed Blitz.

Fourteen Low Head volunteers comprising representatives from the Friends of Low Head (Low Head Landcare Group), Progress Association and individual members of the public took to the task of removing and treating Boneseed at affected areas along the Low Head coastal area. Quite a large infestation was found at Lagoon Beach.

Great to see the adjoining local residents getting on board by cutting and treating Boneseed on their properties too.

Deputy Mayor Tim Harris was a real motivator getting good numbers along to the working bee.



The works were consistent with the actions identified in the 2017 update of the George Town Community Coastal Management Plan.

In the future Low Head Community is keen to tackle gorse and then rehabilitating the areas where gorse has been removed.

# It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas

By Gill Basnett

It is December and the Christmas decorations have been out in the shops for months now. But what if you want to get into the Christmas spirit without all the plastic? Do we really want Christmas to look a lot like a big pile of waste come boxing day?

There is a lot we can do to reduce the holiday waste, here are a few ideas. You don't have to do them all, managing your sanity at this time of year is also important!! But every little bit helps.

## Christmas Tree oh Christmas Tree

If you don't already have that plastic tree that you bring out year after year, or it is looking very tired and you are thinking of a new one, how about getting a live one in a pot, or get creative and make one out of a dead (or live) branch or pile of driftwood or cut a weedy wildling pine that is growing in native bush.



Photo: Christine Philipp

## Bunting Anyone?

Most people seem to have that box of Christmas decorations they pull out each year, which is fantastic. Keep on reusing them as long as possible. But if you need new ones, get the kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews to make them; it's great to be able to embarrass them when they are older. Or have fun making your own out of fabric, paper, wool, seed pods and cones, painted wood feathers or bunting (colourful fabric or paper ribbon or flags tied up with string).



## Get Real

I know, it is the holidays and parties are in full swing and who wants to do the washing up?? But real plates, glasses, mugs and cutlery are so much classier and nicer to use. Don't have enough? Get everyone to bring their own, borrow from a friend or get some more from the op-shop. Worried about things breaking, maybe it's time to set up that picnic set you've been meaning to for years??

## Home Made, Secondhand, Time, Experiences

It is tempting to get that joke present which is great for a quick laugh or those cheap gifts to fill the stockings, but they usually end up straight in the bin. But how about showing your love with a homemade gift, or put the challenge out there to find the best second hand present or a great experience, say white water rafting, a cheese making course, a concert, ukulele lessons, dinner or the promise of a few hours work in the garden or babysitting?



## It's a Wrap

Recycled brown paper, newspaper or magazines make great wrapping paper with twine or cloth ribbon. Or how about a tea towel or pretty old fabric? Carefully opened presents mean you can reuse wrapping paper again next time.



# The Work Commute

By Gill Basnett

When I first arrived in Tasmania I moved in to a house full of bike..... enthusiasts.... At the time "bike nutters" did spring to mind, but I have since been converted, at least in part. Hooning down a narrow rocky track and whizzing around corners at breakneck speed or donning the lycra with the padded bum and heading out in a "bunch" has not become my thing, but I have learned the value of my bicycle for commuting about town.

I know, Launceston can be a bit hilly! And this can be a bit off putting. But getting around town can be easier on a bike than in a car. I started with a ride from Trevallyn to Town Hall, quite pleasant and not too long, at least on the way to work. The hill at the end of the day was an initial challenge, but having finally conquered the ride all the way home without stopping, I was feeling pretty good. It took me less time to get to and from work (even with the hill), I didn't have to worry about parking and I got some exercise without having to schedule it in.



Anna (TBUG) helps people out with different bike carrier options at the Tamar Sustainable Living Expo.

Now I get to ride along the levy banks to work. I don't need to race, I can take my time and enjoy the changes to the river and stop to do some bird watching if I want (shhhh don't tell Greg that is why I am sometimes late, I spotted a Lewin's Rail one day). On a sunny day it is a really nice way to start and finish the work day, and it is actually not that much longer on a bike than in a car to Mowbray, in fact it's quicker if there is traffic. With the gift of pannier bags from my bike enthusiastic housemates, my bike is even more useful now. Going to the

markets or shops is a breeze as I don't have to carry shopping home on my back or dangling from the handlebars.

You don't need the newest bike or the latest gear to have the benefit of riding about town (or anywhere). My bike is a hand me down, as are my pannier bags. You can get great bikes second hand online or even cheaper down at Uptipity (Mowbray) or second hand shops. If you want something new, there are plenty of bike shops around town who can help you out. Or, if you want a little help up those hills, try out an e-bike to give you that extra boost.



Malcolm, (TBUG) demonstrates how easy it is to ride an e-bike at the Tamar Sustainable Living Expo

If you are still unsure about what you might want bike wise, or are not confident about riding on the road or just want a group to ride with, check out the Tamar Bicycle Users Group (TBUG) website for information including their next community ride. Ride leaders are a great font of knowledge <https://tamarbug.org.au/>. Or, if our fantastic mountain bike trails is more your thing, Launceston Mountain Bike Club offer lots of riding events and even have training sessions for those keen to get on a mountain bike but wanting some extra skills [www.launcestonmountainbikeclub.com/](http://www.launcestonmountainbikeclub.com/).

Tassie is a great place to get on your bike. Whether it is fast or slow, along the flat rail trails or up and down the mountainsides, on the latest and greatest models or an old classic. I never thought I would be a bike "nutter", and I don't think I have quite reached that level yet, but I do love using my bike to get around town.

# Trialling the Effectiveness of Virtual Fence Devices on Tasmania's West Coast

Story and images courtesy of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program.



New research has found that small, easily transported and installed virtual fence devices have potential to substantially reduce wildlife roadkill in Tasmania. The paper 'Roadkill mitigation: trialling virtual fence devices on the west coast of Tasmania' has been published (Wednesday 28 November 2018) in the Australian Mammalogy journal.



Lead author, Dr Samantha Fox from the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program (STDP), says the paper shows that the devices have a significant impact on reducing the roadkill of Australian native species.

"Tasmania has an abundance of medium-sized, nocturnal macropods and this together with narrow windy roads and fast speed limits, results in a high roadkill rate," Dr Fox says. "We studied roadkill on a single stretch of the Arthur River/Marrawah Road on the west coast for a three-year period to determine whether virtual fence devices are effective in reducing roadkill."

"The results show a reduction in total roadkill, and that of the common species (Pademelons and Bennetts Wallabies), by 50 percent. This suggests that these devices have enormous potential to substantially reduce roadkill rates."

Dr Fox says the data revealed that while the virtual fence devices significantly reduce the number of animals killed on the road, they do not completely remove the risk of animals being hit by vehicles. "This confirms the belief that the devices alert animals to the oncoming traffic rather than frighten them away from the road altogether," Dr Fox explains.



In the trial area chosen for this study, Tasmanian Pademelons and Bennetts Wallabies comprise the bulk of the roadkill events across the three-year period. The paper found that installing virtual fence devices on roads that suffer from roadkill "hotspots" should provide some advance warning to wildlife in the vicinity of the road.

"Many unique mammal species no longer found in the wild on mainland Australia are still found in Tasmania, and that makes mitigating roadkill hotspots an important conservation tool to help maintain presence of these species in their last remaining strong-hold," Dr Fox says.

The authors also believe that road-managers, including councils, may benefit from the knowledge of the results of the trial.

"Future mitigation of roadkill on Tasmania's roads relies on the collection of roadkill data around the State to identify hotspots that could then be targeted with the installation of these devices," Dr Fox says.

# Tamar Ag in Focus

By Project Manager Greg Lundstrom

The Tamar NRM / Meat & Livestock Australia three year producer demonstration site (PDS) project continues to draw producer support, with a good attendance at our last Field Day, held at "Springmere" south of Beaconsfield, on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018. The day attracted 39 people (mostly landholders), who heard from a number of industry experts about growing good pasture and the resultant benefits that brings.

## Presenters included:

Ben Hooper (landholder): Background on the Springmere property.

Eric Hall (Program Contractor): Getting the farming system right - (Soil, Plants, Animals).

Jason Lynch (Macquarie-Franklin): Rotational Grazing – it really matters!

Mick Taylor (MLA): MLA producer programs and online tools support decision making

Greg Lundstrom (Tamar NRM): Feedback analysis and surveys of producers.

Peter Ball (TIA): The importance of species diversity in pastures.

Tamar NRM believe that holding field days are an excellent way producers can best experience the reality of practice change. Thanks to Ben and Louisa Hooper for hosting the event.

## Real instances of change:

Tamar NRM completed Case Studies and Narratives with four producers as part of project monitoring to demonstrate implementation of pasture improvement practices. Coupled with the feedback sheets from field days and the producer surveys undertaken at the commencement of the project in 2017, we are well placed to understand what the issues and barriers are on the journey to better pastures.

The richness of the information we are getting helps us design the field days and information provision to match producer's need.

Examples of producer quotes include a producer just starting out who said:

*"Livestock genetics and terminal sires are areas of interest. We have started with good sheep, but if I don't breed them right, then the sheep that I've got won't stay the way they are."*

A producer in the West Tamar spoke about their experience in managing pastures by saying:

*"We put almost 400 ton of lime on the pastures three years ago. The improvement in pasture is quite noticeable and the stock also looks healthier, this is likely due to release of minerals. Initially we only guessed when applying fertilizer and minerals but now we rely more on agronomist advice."*

While another spoke about the importance of maintaining the nutrient base:

*"Another important thing is to budget your nutrients to the amount of stock you are running and knowing which nutrients you are taking out. We have been able to make some changes by doing nutrient budgeting where we are not actually spending any more money, but we are putting the right nutrients in and the right amount of those nutrients."*

Providing information on pasture utilisation has been a recent focus. The project will now incorporate topics such as livestock genetics, that have been identified as important by producers involved.

The three year project is half way through and seeks to demonstrate on 136 ha of land at three Tamar Valley properties that pasture and associated grazing management practices can increase the profitability of the red meat supply chain by at least 10%.

*Landholder Ben Hooper, who hosts of one of the three PDS farms at a pastures demonstration paddock*



# International Farm Management comes to Launceston

Exciting things are happening on Tasmanian farms and the International Farm Management Association biennial Congress in Launceston 3-8 March 2019 will showcase some of the exiting developments, including spectacular growth in berry fruit production, viticulture and dairying, and new irrigation schemes.

David Armstrong, Chair of the organising committee, said "the theme of the Congress is growing agriculture in Tasmania". As well as invited presentations around the theme, the 5-day Congress includes 2 days of visits to farms and businesses in Northern Tasmania. The field visits are a great opportunity for farmers, consultants and others interested in agriculture, to see what is happening here."

Delegates will have an opportunity to see and hear how Brian and Michelle Lawrence as winners of the 2016 Dairy Business of the year award are managing their business. Hear how robotics can reduce labour needs in the dairy, and how the Ashgrove Cheese family business is growing and planning to use their milk to produce 3,000 tonnes of cheese a year.

New community-based irrigation schemes in Tasmania are creating new farming opportunities including cherries in the dry Midlands, and vegetable seed production by international companies like Bejo Seeds.

The berry fruit industry is expanding at a phenomenal rate, with the farm gate value increasing more than 5-fold over the last 5 years.

As well as these new industries visitors will have an opportunity to see how traditional farming

businesses, including red meat, vegetables and wool are changing and growing through technology and marketing. David Armstrong said "these industries are growing while protecting the environment".

The main conference goes for 5 days, including 2 days of visits to farms and businesses in Northern Tasmania, with an additional 2 days for Next Gens (Saturday 2nd-Sunday 3rd).

Tamar NRM will be involved by assisting with the North East Tasmanian bus trip North East – on the theme diversification and tourism (management of native and plantation forests in Tasmania, visit a very successful cropping and grazing business, vineyard and winery producing cool-climate wine).

Details are on the web site [www.ifma22.org](http://www.ifma22.org).



*Innovating agriculture in Tasmania - Rob Salmon, Tasmanian General Manager, Bejo Australia, beside a parsley seed crop.*



See [www.ifma22.org](http://www.ifma22.org) for details

22nd Congress for the  
**International Farm Management Association**

**Growing Agriculture @ 41 Degrees South**

8 March 2019 | Launceston

Presentations, farm visits and workshops – how to increase agricultural output in regions like Tasmania. Join with farmers, farm management consultants and academics from around the world.

# 20 years of Ragwort Management in the Tamar

By Greg Lundstrom

January 2019 will mark our 20th year of "Raiding" in the Tamar Valley. After 19 years and a concerted effort by community groups, Landcare groups, Tas Fire Service, the Tamar Councils, agencies, and landholders the Tamar Valley can demonstrate that is getting on top of Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris* syn. *Senecio jacobaea*).

Planning is well underway and community groups are asked to register their interest in participating in 2019. A lot of the "regulars" such as Landcare groups and local fire brigades are to attend, and 3 staff from our sponsor Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT) have registered.

## The dates for the 3 Tamar Valley Raids are:

- **East Tamar** - Saturday 2nd February, 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. Meet at 9.00 am Pipers River Fire Station.
- **West Tamar** - Sunday 3rd February 2019, 9.00 am -12.00 noon. Meet at 9.00 am Winkleigh Hall, Winkleigh Road.
- **Launceston** - Wednesday 6th February, 10.00am to 4.00pm (2 sessions)
- Where: Launceston, Tasman Highway & Blessington Road. Meet at 10.00 am or 1.00 pm Waverley Lake Carpark, Naroo Street.

The three Tamar Valley Councils are an integral part of the raids. They target Ragwort as part of their reserve and roadside maintenance program and assist with compliance matters for those landholders unwilling to fulfil their obligation to control this declared weed.

Last year our volunteers travel 819 kms of roads in their own vehicles and at their own expense. The volunteers know the potential for Ragwort to become a serious issue for the region and remain committed to targeting the weed.



In February 2018, Jill Jones, Environment Extension Officer, State Roads, sent a letter of thanks to the volunteers. In the letter Jill said:

*"The longevity of the "Raid" really is a great example of community commitment and direct action which benefits the wider community."*

The Ragwort Raids event is underwritten by City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town Councils, with specific funds provided again this year by RACT.

## Safety First

Each Ragwort Raid volunteer will be required to register and complete an induction for "Working On or Near Roadsides". TNRM staff will conduct the inductions and explain the WHS requirements. Sites identified as areas that were too large to be weeded within the required timeframes are noted for later follow up.



*Ragwort - Easily identifiable and best hand pulled before seeding*

Supported by:



*Tamar NRM wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support from the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania.*

## Call for Volunteers

*Can you help out for a morning or afternoon?  
Become a "Ragwort Raider"*

**Call 6323 3310 to register**

# Ragwort Control in Good Shape as Jayne Shapter Steps Down

Jayne Shapter has reluctantly had to step down as Ragwort Raid Coordinator, a position she has held for 17 years, starting in 2002.

Her involvement over nearly two decades, as the driving force in keeping this invasive weed under control in the Tamar Valley has turned this activity into a signature annual event run by Tamar NRM in partnership with the Tamar community. Weed mapping over the years reveals that the raids are reducing the hold Ragwort has across the Tamar Valley.

Jayne's other involvements have been as a member of Tamar NRM's reference group, its weeds working group and as part of the Tamar Valley Weed Strategy (TVWS) from its beginning

in 1993, serving on the steering committee for many years. It was TVWS that started the Ragwort Raids.

And it's not just Tamar NRM. Jayne has served as an office bearer for West Tamar Landcare, a group she joined in February 1992. She received a State Landcare Award in 2013 (Facilitator/Coordinator) and was nominated for a National Landcare Award in 2014. Jayne was awarded the title of West Tamar Citizen of the Year in 2016

Well done Jayne! Tamar NRM staff and Management Committee would like to thank you for all your work and support over the years. Make sure you keep in touch and drop in for the BBQ on Ragwort Raid days.



*Jayne in 2011 with the then Tamar NRM president Ian Sauer receiving a certificate acknowledging 10 years of service.*

# Boneseed and the biodiversity threat to the Tamar

By Greg Lundstrom

It's impossible to talk about environmental sustainability without mentioning the threats to our native vegetation posed by weeds like Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*).

Boneseed is an invasive woody weed originating in South Africa and a Weed of National Significance. It invades natural areas and out competes native plants. Boneseed's threat to bushland and conservation areas lies in its vigorous, competitive growth and the ability to regenerate prolifically after fire, allowing Boneseed to dominate and smother native plants. Once a few bushes have established themselves in an area, any new soil disturbance or fire will trigger off the mass germination of soil stored seed and lead to the dramatic suppression of the native vegetation. Dense stands of Boneseed have significantly affected the available food sources and habitat for native birds and animals while favoring introduced ones such as Blackbirds and Sparrows.

Boneseed is common within the Tamar Valley but not unmanageable. It occurs along the coast strip, riparian zones of rivers and creeks and areas of exposed soils such as steep banks along highways. In early spring you will notice Boneseed flowering in patches around the Tamar including larger outbreaks around Hillwood, Windermere, Low Head, Mount George, Greens Beach, Beaconsfield, Exeter, Rosevears, Riverside and the outer suburbs of Launceston and some of the reserves.

The annual Boneseed Blitz event, now in its thirteenth year, aims to stop the spread of this weed through a public education campaign. Some property owners do not realise they have a 'declared weed' and it is their responsibility to control it on their land.

Secondly we target the weed with the help of community volunteers at dedicated Boneseed weeding days. Friends of groups, Landcare groups and individuals all rally to manage Boneseed before it forms and drops seed (mature plants can produce 50,000 seeds that remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years).



*Large patch of Boneseed at Lagoon Beach dealt with by the Low Head volunteers.*

## Boneseed Blitz

Organised by Tamar NRM, and supported by the City of Launceston Council, West Tamar Council, Georgetown Council, Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment, Parks and Wildlife Service, State Growth and various community and Landcare groups, the blitz is in its thirteenth year. About 40 volunteers freely gave of their time at dedicated Boneseed Blitz days over August-September.

Beechford, Hillwood, Launceston area, Beaconsfield, Exeter, Punchbowl and Low Head communities responded to the call and we always want to hear of other areas where weed control works have occurred.

Around 12 Low Head volunteers turned up on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at their regular working bee and made it a Boneseed focus at Lagoon Beach.

A similar story came from Beechford, where on the 25<sup>th</sup> August the community pulled most of the infestation beside the bridge on The Esplanade.

To all who participated in this year's Blitz, well done and thank you.

You can read the 2018 Report on our website under the "Reports" tab - [www.tamarnrm.com.au](http://www.tamarnrm.com.au).



Further Boneseed control information available from [DPIPWE website](http://DPIPWE) or [Tamar Weeds Strategy](http://Tamar Weeds Strategy)

# Environmental Education

## National Waterbug Blitz

Tamar NRM partnered with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), City of Launceston's Natural Environment Unit, Plastic Free Launceston, NRM North and Landcare Tasmania for this year's National Waterbug Blitz held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October.



## Frogs and Snails and Waterbug Tails

A public awareness session about how monitoring aquatic life can paint a picture of river health was held at QVMAG followed by a field session starting at Queechy Lake the next day. Community educator and lecturer John Gooderham, the co-organiser of the National Waterbug Blitz, lead the activities collecting and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates in various stream samples.

Attendance was low, most notably schools and the timing of future events for greater buy-in will be considered.



## Kids for Kids Conference:

K4K: Launceston – "Game Changers and Change Makers" conference was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at UTAS Newnham Campus involving St Leonards, East Launceston, West Launceston, Mowbray, Riverside and Youngtown primary schools.

A variety of workshops and presentations were delivered over the course of the day including aboriginal sharers of knowledge, outdoor classroom, and reducing waste. Tamar NRM delivered three interactive 40 minute workshops on the topic of "Frogs of Tasmania".

## QVMAG Friends' Ask and Expert in the Wild

Gill put the Tamar NRM Waterwatch Kit and Wildlife Cameras to use out at SKEMPS (a property owned by Launceston Field Naturalist Club in Myrtle Bank) on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Ask an Expert in the Wild family day run by Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Friends and Launceston Field Naturalist Club.

The sunny weather and an opportunity to check out SKEMPS and talk to experts brought out 67 people (mostly families) to find and identify insects, spiders, waterbugs and other wildlife on Launceston's doorstep.



*Collecting Wildlife Cameras identifying scats, tracks and other traces and having out identification verified on camera.... Spotted-tail Quoll, two in fact!*



## Water monitoring & Critters in Creeks

Tamar NRM is now better placed to support schools and community groups monitor waterways with a grant received from Bell Bay Aluminium to purchase community friendly water monitoring equipment. Waterways Heath and "Train the Trainer" Sessions are available with hire kits available at reasonable rates.

# 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)

## Call for Volunteers for the 2019 Tamar Valley Ragwort Raids Ring and register now!

### East Tamar

**Saturday 2nd February**

From 9.00 am to 12.00 noon

Meet at 9.00 am Pipers River Fire Station  
BBQ Lunch provided.

### West Tamar

**Sunday 3rd February 2019**

From 9.00 am -12.00 noon

Meet at 9.00 am Winkleigh Hall, Winkleigh Road  
BBQ Lunch provided.

### Launceston

**Wednesday 6th February**

From 10.00 am to 4.00 pm (2 sessions)

Where: Launceston, Tasman Highway & Blessington Road  
Meet at 10.00 am or 1.00 pm Waverley Lake Carpark, Naroo Street  
Lunch provided.

**Supported by: RACT**

### "Coasting in February"

**Sunday 24th February 2019**

From 9.00 am -3.00 pm

Showcase of community coastal works from George Town to Bellingham. Free BBQ - New volunteers welcome.

## Tamar NRM Equipment for Hire - 2019



### Spray Trailer

\$100/day, \$150/Weekend,  
\$500/Week



### Cage Trailer

\$50/day, \$80 weekend,  
\$200/week



### Pottiputki Tree Planters and Kidney Trays

\$50/week (max of 2 weeks)



### Back Pack Spray Units

\$25/day, \$50/week (max of 2 weeks)



### Waterwatch and Water monitoring equipment

P.O.A.



### Wildlife Motion Cameras

\$50/week (max of 2 weeks at a time, \$100 deposit)

**A variety of hand tools available to community groups and schools.**

**\*Subject to availability and hire conditions.**

## Christmas Closing Dates

**The Tamar NRM Office will be closed between COB Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January.**

**We would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe festive season and we shall see you all in 2019!**

## Other Events

### Living with your Cat around the Gorge

Stone Shelter next to the Inclinator on the Basin Road side of the Gorge.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

Gorgeous Walks & Talks Series: with Shane Westley, NRM North Cat Management Coordinator Learn about cat behaviour and the management of cats to protect wildlife. How to look after pet cats that live on the suburban fringes of the Gorge bush-land?

## Tamar NRM Contacts

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