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## Annual Report | 2022-2023

Supported by:



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## Welcome

Welcome to the Tamar NRM Annual Report, which covers July 2022 to the end of June 2023. The Report gives a snapshot of Tamar NRM's operation and activities over the last financial year. It includes profiles of our staff and Management Committee, descriptions of our activities, and an audited Financial Statement for the year.

At a Special General Meeting in September 2022, Tamar NRM adopted a new Constitution, bringing its governance and organisation structure in line with operational realities. Tamar NRM's Officers of Association are now made up of the President and two Vice-Presidents, each serving a two-year term and being available for re-election for further terms, with the President restricted to 6 consecutive years. A new category of Member has been created, replacing the existing Reference Group. At the March 2023 Management Committee meeting, a motion was passed that converted current Reference Group members to full association members.

This Report continues the feature that aims to reference our activities against the Strategic Statements in our Strategic Plan. Where relevant, you will find a small coloured box with a number and a green tick that refers to the Strategic Statements outlined on page 5.

We hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report, encompassing another busy year for Tamar NRM.

## About Tamar NRM

Tamar NRM believes in making a positive difference to the environment and community of the Tamar Region. We deliver community-based activities and projects, such as grassroots workshops and field days, focusing on sustainable agriculture, sustainable living, and the natural environment.

Starting in 1998 and based in the Tamar region of northern Tasmania, our community encompasses rural and urban representatives from varied backgrounds in landcare, education, business and Local and State Government. We developed the Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy in 1999, updating the document in 2001, 2007, 2012, and 2018 and again in November 2021.

With the support and encouragement of the City of Launceston, West Tamar, and George Town municipalities, we have a strong alignment with council priorities and goals. Tamar NRM has played a significant role in promoting and managing a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring the Tamar Region is an attractive and prosperous place to live and work, based on a healthy environment.

Since 2000, we have attracted over \$7M in additional funding to the Tamar Valley region through various projects, grants, sponsorships and partnerships.

### *Our focus areas are:*

- Biodiversity
- Environmental Education

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Living
- Weeds

*Our niche in the natural resource management sector is:*

- ⇒ On-ground community activities/events
- ⇒ Community project management, monitoring and evaluation
- ⇒ Sharing community know-how for the benefit of all
- ⇒ Community education, awareness, and training
- ⇒ Making community connections

*Our values are:*

1. Respect and Value - We respect nature and natural processes.
2. Be Ethical - We will be fair and open in our business dealings and give fair value to have mutually beneficial relationships with our partners, employees, and volunteers.
3. Consider the Future - We have a duty of care to those around us, as well as to future generations.
4. Be Open and Learn - Keep an open mind about new ways of thinking and doing. We listen to and learn from all.
5. Share - We seek ways for the whole community to share in the responsibility of maintaining and valuing biodiversity.

## Strategic Plan

Tamar NRM's Strategic Plan runs from 2022 to 2030 and is available on our website.

There are eight strategic statements against which activities and projects in this Report are tagged:

1. We have a culture of good governance.
2. We understand (and can evidence) our impact.
3. We have a well-resourced, effective and valued team.
4. We have a diverse and supported volunteer community.
5. We provide accessible ways for diverse stakeholders to engage with us.
6. We remain relevant to our funding councils
7. A key strength is our partnerships
8. We understand and build on our distinctive role in the community



Look for the green tick for how our activities align with our strategic statements.

## **Our People**

### **Management Committee**

#### **Ben Hooper, President**

Ben commenced as Tamar NRM's President after the 2021 AGM. Ben is a third-generation farmer on a property at Beaconsfield, focused on lamb production and maximising grazing efficiency. He holds a Master of Business Administration - Agricultural Innovation and a Graduate Certificate in Management as well as an Agribusiness and an Advanced Diploma of Farm Business Management. Ben is the current Chair of the Tamar Valley Branch of TFGA and offers tutor support to Exeter High School. Ben passionately believes in education and self-improvement for everyone in the community, especially in natural resource management and agriculture. His previous industry roles include the Board Selection Committee for Meat and Livestock Australia, Member and Chair of TFGA Meat Council, and State Representative to the Sheep Meat Council of Australia.

#### **Kathryn Pugh - Vice President, City of Launceston Representative**

Kathryn Pugh is an ecologist currently employed as the City of Launceston's Manager of Parks and Sustainability, Infrastructure and Assets Network. Kathryn has extensive experience in landscape water quality and aquatic habitat monitoring, impact assessments and threatened species management, and more recent experience in drainage asset management. She has a Bachelor of Science and is a Certified Environmental Practitioner. Kathryn became the City of Launceston representative in December 2022.

#### **Brigid Morrison - Vice President**

Brigid has undertaken roles as an industry investigator for adaptive water resources management with Sense-T, Environmental Policy Advisor, and she has four years of experience as an Associate Lecturer at UTAS. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.Sc. Hons), Plant Biology and Geography (Aquaculture minor) and worked as a research assistant at the Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management at Murdoch University.

#### **Roger Tyshing**

Roger believes in making a positive difference in the communities where he lives and works. Roger moved to Tasmania in 1987 after buying a 240-hectare beef and sheep farm at Liena, Tasmania. He had previously owned a Tree Surgery business in Melbourne. Having sold the property in 2000, he moved to a smaller farm at Exeter and then to suburban living in Launceston. He has worked in agricultural extension, agri-politics, training, and workforce development and has been active in community not-for-profit organisations. Having missed farming, he spent 2.5 years working as the Farm Manager at Hagley Farm School. Roger is now back working in skills development. In recent years, Roger has chaired Landcare Tasmania (2016 - 2018) and Migrant Resource Centre (2018 - 2020). Roger served as Tamar NRM's President from 2015 until the 2021 AGM, when his term expired.

### **Chris Webb - George Town Council representative**

Chris Webb's background is in horticulture and landscape architecture. Having run his landscape company for 15 years, he moved to Tasmania and joined George Town Council (GTC) as Parks and Gardens Supervisor. After one year in this role, he became the GTC representative on the Tamar NRM Management Committee. Chris also engaged with the Weeds Working Group and Weeds Project Committee to develop the new Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategic Plan. Chris resigned from the committee, with his last meeting in December 2022.

### **Greg Unwin**

Greg is a forest ecologist and Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania in Launceston. His teaching subjects include Agroforestry, Forest Ecosystems and Ecology and Management. Research interests centre on the dynamics of tropical and temperate forest ecosystems and the Eco physiological processes that sustain forest diversity and productivity.

### **John Thorp**

John is a trained agricultural scientist and extension officer, having worked at all levels, from the field to the highest levels of government. He participates in community groups and volunteers his time to local causes. He recently retired from his business, John Thorp Australia, which undertook resource management and agricultural projects for government and private enterprises. He has fulfilled the National Weeds Management Facilitator role and was the Project Manager for implementing the National Weeds Strategy and Executive Officer to the Australian Weeds Committee. John is currently the Chair of Tamar NRM's Weed Working Group.

### **Phil Bonney**

Phil Bonney has represented the City of Launceston since late 2019 as part of his Parks and Sustainability role. He has worked in infrastructure, asset, and open space management, most recently in local government. Phil is particularly interested in how communities value, interact with and support the region's natural assets. Phil resigned from the committee, with his last meeting in September 2022.

### **Michael Foster**

Michael is a member of the executive management team at West Tamar Council, where he works as Manager Works. He is responsible for managing the Works Department's operations in delivering works and services to the developing communities of the West Tamar region. Michael has over 12 years of experience in contract/project management, procurement and coordination/management roles in the local government sector, and an extensive building and construction industry background. He is passionate about building competent and effective teams, emphasising safety, quality and integrity, helping people fulfil their potential and working to their strengths. Michael has Work Health & Safety, Fleet Management, Building and Construction Management and Competitive Systems and Practices (LEAN) qualifications, specialising in continuous improvement and productivity improvement. Michael is a family man away from work, enjoys holidaying and caravanning

and is an avid road cyclist. Michael became the West Tamar Council representative in December 2022.

### **Tim Reed**

Tim is a farmer and agricultural contractor and lives with his young family at Rosevale on a medium-sized farm with a sustainable/regenerative focus. After completing a horticulture traineeship in a native plant nursery, Tim stayed in the horticulture and agriculture sector, working on various farm enterprises in Tasmania and New Zealand and developed an interest in forestry and sustainability and the link to soil health and plant growth. Tim won the 2021 Landcare Tasmania Farmer of the Year Award. Past President of Soils First Tasmania and the Launceston Mountain Bike Club and current President of the Rosevale Hall Committee, Tim hopes to bring his land manager experience and passion for a healthy and sustainable environment to his new role at Tamar NRM. Tim's first meeting was in December 2022.

### **Andrew McCarthy**

Andrew McCarthy is the Director of Infrastructure & Development at George Town Council. He is responsible for infrastructure, projects, planning and development, and the outdoor workforce. Andrew was previously the Manager of Business Enterprises at the City of Launceston. His portfolio included UTAS Stadium, the Launceston Leisure and Aquatic Centre, Carr Villa cemetery and Building Surveying Services. Andrew holds several tertiary qualifications, including a Master of Business Administration. Andrew is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and served on the board as Director of New Horizons from 2013-2021. Andrew became the George Town Council representative in March 2023.

### **Kristie Giblin**

Kristie was the Media and Communications Officer for West Tamar Council and was the West Tamar Council representative for three meetings. She left the committee after the September 2022 meeting.



*Figure 1 - Spring wattle at Trevallyn Reserve. Credit: Jessie Stanley*



Table 1- Attendance at meetings during 2022 -2023

Management Committee Member	Possible Meetings	Meetings Attended
Ben Hooper (President)	4	4
Brigid Morrison (Vice President)	4	3
Kathryn Pugh (Vice President)	4	2
Roger Tyshing	4	1
Phil Bonney	1	1
Chris Webb	1	1
John Thorp	4	4
Greg Unwin	4	4
Michael Foster	3	2
Andrew McCarthy	2	1
Kristie Giblin	1	1
Andrew McCarthy	2	1
Brian Baxter	1	1
Tim Reed	3	2

Strategic Statement

# 1.

## We have a culture of good governance



## Our Staff

### **Nick Flittner, Program Coordinator**

Nick Flittner is a Program Coordinator at Tamar NRM and brings a lengthy career in project management in various industries in Tasmania. Nick worked in education for many years, then moved into community and regional development, business support and agriculture. Nick has worked for several organisations across Tasmania, including the Cradle Coast Authority, Northern Tasmania Development, the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian and Farmers and Graziers Association. Nick has lived in the north of Tasmania since he moved to the state in 1996, and after 20 years on a farm near Deloraine, he now lives in Launceston. He has travelled overseas frequently in recent years and is looking forward to working with the local community once again. Nick enjoys getting out and about and expects to cover some miles in his new role.

### **Kirstin Seaver, Program Coordinator**

Kirstin's role with Tamar NRM began as a volunteer in July 2022. She then joined part-time as a Program Coordinator, which became a full-time role in November. Arriving from NE Victoria in 2021, her background in tourism, community building, governance, councils, recruitment, marketing, communication, horticulture, and farm management has contributed to Tamar NRM's portfolio. Kirstin is especially focused on the volunteer base and the next generation of Project Officers and Interns. In her spare time, Kirstin can be found hiking Tasmania's wilderness, sailing her timber dinghy, farming her community garden plots or volunteering anywhere in the environment.

### **Jessie Stanley, Communications**

Jessie works two days a week and is responsible for Tamar NRM's branding, events promotion, social media, website, and IT. She previously worked in a similar communications role at NRM North but is new to natural resource management work. She has a Bachelor of Tourism Destination Management and postgraduate studies in economics. She brings experience in project management, marketing, research, finance, tourism, economics, administration, and small business management and has worked in far-flung places like Mongolia, Arnhem Land, and the Kimberley. Jessie completed the Tasmanian Leaders Program in 2018.

## Project Staff

### **Trish Haeusler, Project Coordinator and Working Group Member**

Trish founded Plastic Free Launceston, a community group dedicated to ridding the city of single-use plastics. Plastic Free Launceston was started in early 2017 after identifying a need to respond to the growing concerns of plastic pollution. A Facebook page launched a community conversation, and it quickly progressed into an active working group of Tamar NRM.

Trish coordinates Tamar NRM's annual litter clean-up, Catch It in the Catchment, and runs the popular Source to Sea program. Trish also works extensively on environmental education programs around plastics and rubbish in schools.

### **Kay Bailey, Weeds Project Coordinator**

Kay Bailey is a community volunteer with Tamar NRM and many local groups, including Landcare. Kay was also the Executive officer of Tamar NRM from the end of 2004 until the beginning of 2009. From 2009 to 2013, Kay was one of the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) Coordinators based in Alice Springs.

Her interests and work roles have all been in the environmental / conservation areas, including park and reserve planning, natural heritage, broad natural resource management and invasive species management. Since her return to Tasmania, we have engaged Kay as the Tamar NRM Weeds Project Coordinator. Kay has developed a "Tamar NRM Biocontrol Action Plan" for Gorse, Patterson's Curse and Ragwort.

Kay's life and natural resource management approach has always been to "Just Do It." Find a way to make things happen and, whilst planning is imperative, spend your time achieving rather than talking!

### **Denis Giasli, Weeds Project Coordinator**

Denis has been a Land Manager for over ten years, specialising in Property Management Planning, Land Rehabilitation and Weed Control. In 2017, he purchased "Braeside" at Winkleigh, taking on the ambitious task of converting a 300-acre Blue Gum plantation to pasture. Denis manages Tamar NRM's Besom Heath Eradication Project, funded by the Tasmanian Government's Weeds Action Fund.

### **Kate Richards, Casual Project Officer**

Kate joined Tamar NRM in March 2023 to assist with the Soil.4Sisters project for International Women's Day. With a degree in Outdoor Education and experience in Environmental Education, Kate's diverse skills will contribute to the organisation's diverse portfolio. She is passionate about protecting and promoting our national parks and reserves and their natural and cultural history. Kate is looking forward to engaging with the team at Tamar NRM and facilitating a wide range of community events for young and old in the Tamar region.

### **Jonty Dehnert, Casual Project Officer**

Jonty began volunteering at the Cambridge Street Reserve and joined Tamar NRM in May 2023. Jonty is an energetic father of two and a passionate environmentalist. He is currently completing a Masters of Protected Area Conservation through the University of Tasmania, which he hopes to turn into a fruitful career in natural resource management. His favourite part of working with Tamar NRM is seeing how locals connect with their environment and witnessing new connections made with every project.

**Joshua Steer, Intern Videographer (Big Picture School)**


Joshua became an intern with Tamar NRM in April 2023 to work on video productions. He has produced several short video clips highlighting the work and people of Tamar NRM and has contributed a youthful perspective on our work.

**Chris Grose, Photographer**

Chris is a retired soil scientist-turned-photographer whom Tamar NRM engaged to produce several high-quality photographs of the natural and human elements of the Tamar Valley region. Chris completed his work in September 2022.

**Strategic Statement**

**3.** We have a well-resourced, effective and valued team



*Figure 2 - Grinning ear to ear - Communications Coordinator Jessie Stanley at The BIG Plant in July 2022. Credit: Chris Grose.*

## President's Report

As we close out the 25th year of operations for Tamar NRM, we can again be proud of our work and impact on our community. The unique model of Tamar NRM, with the support of our three funding councils, has delivered continued engagement, education, and on-ground actions to improve and preserve our regional environment and communities. The feedback I get from Councils is positive and supportive, which is good as we move to renegotiate our funding agreements in 2024.

Tamar NRM's strength and experience in weed management are well known within the Tamar Region. It is now being noticed more widely with the Northern Midlands Council contracting Tamar NRM to write their municipal weed strategy. I can think of no greater positive feedback to the Weeds Committee and Tamar NRM, and this development recognises our expertise and experience in this field.

We continued our annual Ragwort and Boneseed work activities in the weed space this year. The need for continued and consistent yearly work with these weeds can often seem never-ending, but the incremental and long-term focus makes a difference. Weed management has no easy ways or shortcuts—just regular hard work.

As we see with Besom Heath, weed management is best carried out before the weed gets out of control – and there is significant long-term work required to prevent a bigger problem from developing. This often creates the problem of convincing people there is a problem, but the fact is that every effort and dollar spent now does save incalculable future costs.

The Farm Discussion Group continues to be a great success. The regular monthly meetings and farm visits have become a significant opportunity for the participants to meet and share updates on activities and provide a social catch-up. The social aspect of this group cannot be undervalued. The ability to regularly catch up with people with shared focus and experience offers a great way to debrief, talk through issues and provide a sounding board for advice and ideas. When I hear feedback from members that they regret that they occasionally must miss attending due to work commitments, it highlights the group's importance to me.

The regular attendance of Rohan and Emily from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) adds value to the group, providing access to the work TIA is doing and allowing two-way communication between producers and researchers. The group also includes the organising of training and extension activities.

The Farm Discussion Group reinforces the strength of Tamar NRM. The initial funding from the State Government got the group up and running. The ability and experience Tamar NRM had to apply for and win the grant funding has allowed the group to start and now requires a couple of emails per month to organise. The positive return to the community from this work and effort from staff would be difficult to calculate, but it is immense.

The financial report shows that Tamar NRM has recorded a significant negative cash result. The Management Committee forecasted and accepted this as we could spend retained funds to maintain operational tempo. Continuing operations rather than restricting activities to return a better financial result was considered more essential.

It has been two 3-year funding agreements where Tamar NRM has not had an increase in contributions from the partner councils. This has resulted in a flat income stream while operational costs have continued to increase. This result is unsustainable in the medium term, and without increased income, our ability to maintain current operations will require significant review.

Considering the increased operational costs and depletion of financial reserves, we have initiated negotiations for a significant increase in core funding from our Council partners. While it would not be prudent to lock in our proposed funding ask, I am confident it will be well received due to the goodwill between Tamar NRM and our regional councils.

Looking forward, I intend to review our management structures within Tamar NRM to assess how fit for purpose our current structures are and where operational and management processes can be improved. I also feel a need to define the President's role better and improve the Management Committee's function to reflect contemporary corporate governance practices. I would appreciate any thoughts and input on this issue as we progress this review.

Finally, things don't happen unless good people are in the right positions and motivated to make a difference. So, to everyone who engages with Tamar NRM, from staff to committee members to volunteers, whether you contribute a little or a lot, you should rightly be proud to make this great organisation what it is and the impact we make on our region.

*President - Ben Hooper*



*Figure 3 - Beauty Point Wharf. Credit: Chris Grose*

## Program Coordinators' Report

This year has been another big year for Tamar NRM with several changes and developments in addition to our usual crowded and exciting program of events, activities and projects.

Staff have again been a feature of this year.

Jessie Stanley, who was employed at the end of the last financial year, worked diligently on developing the new Tamar NRM website whilst managing the myriad demands from staff and project officers for the organisation's day-to-day work. Jess has brought a high standard of presentation and professionalism to Tamar NRM; we can be justly proud of our organisation's 'look and feel' through the website, social media, publications and promotional materials.

Kirstin Seaver came on board as a Program Coordinator after volunteering for the BIG Plant in July 2022. Kirstin has added another level of community engagement to the organisation. She is out and about in the community, devising new programs, deploying projects and building relationships with stakeholders and community groups. Kirstin is particularly interested in encouraging the next generation of project officers who might work for Tamar NRM and has engaged two casuals to work as required on our projects. She has also developed new projects, including the On Farm Forums series, Soils4Sisters, Tamar Tree Trail and Treasures of the Tamar (which replaces the Discovery series). Kirstin has initiated an internship opportunity for senior school students interested in our activities to learn on the job and be mentored. A student from the Big Picture School, Joshua Steer, has created video footage for a Video Resource Library whilst accompanying Kirstin to many events. An ongoing collaboration with the Australian Plant Society of Tasmania on the City of Launceston Reserve Pilot project has resulted in a mutually beneficial relationship with longer-term opportunities.

We are also fortunate to have the services of our Finance Officer, Marissa Walters, who now handles all the accounts, freeing up Program Coordinators to concentrate on developing projects and programs.

We had two big community tree planting events this year – the BIG Plant in July, a partnership with the City of Launceston which saw Tamar NRM engage over 800 people over four days to plant 4000 trees at the Launceston waste recycling centre, and two projects under a partnership with West Tamar Landcare - the Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee program - which saw 500 trees planted at Frankford and Young Town Reserve.

We also partnered with the City of Launceston to run the Ravenswood Plant Out in November.

Weeds continue to be core business for Tamar NRM, with the annual work on Ragwort, Serrated Tussock, and Boneseed alongside the two big Tasmanian Government Weeds Action Fund projects tackling gorse in the Piper's River catchment and Besom Heath in the Bridgenorth area. Thanks to our Project Coordinators Kay Bailey and Denis Giasli for their work on these multi-year projects.

This year, a new area of interest for Tamar NRM has come from the Sustainable Community Working Group, who, fresh from their successful Sustainable Living Festival the previous

year, have engaged with the Community Gardens of the Tamar and Meander Valleys. A Community Gardens Open Day was held in November 2022, which saw 15 of the 32 gardens in the area open up to the public. The day was very successful and led to the formation of the Tamar and Meander Valley Community Gardens Network, which meets every season and is hosted by a different garden each time.

We want to acknowledge the generosity of two organisations who have kindly donated to Tamar NRM - Tasmania Feedlot at Powranna who saw the media about the Community Gardens Open Day and now regularly donate composted cow manure to the community gardens of the Tamar Valley.

Secondly, St Patricks College and the students from their sustainability and environment committees raised \$3,800 in donations to support Tamar NRM's environmental education activities. Thank you so much.

Tamar NRM Management Committee oversaw the development of a new Constitution this year, which was adopted at the Special General Meeting in September 2022.

And finally, Tamar NRM hosted two high-profile Tamar Valley Leaders Lunches this year, with the Premier Jeremy Rockcliff in February 2023 and the Three Mayors of the Tamar Valley – Danny Gibson, Christina Holmdahl, and Greg Kieser in April. The Three Mayors Lunch felt like a family affair!

We want to acknowledge the support of our fellow team members, the Management Committee, our funding councils of the City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town and most importantly, the community members who engage with their Tamar NRM.

*Program Coordinators - Nick Flittner and Kirstin Seaver*



**Strategic Statement**

**8.** **We understand and build on our distinctive role in the community**





## Activities and Projects

### Biodiversity

- Planting Trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Ravenswood Community Plant Out
- The BIG Plant
- City of Launceston Reserves Project
- Friends of Low Head Penguins Project

### Environmental Education

- Tamar Discovery Series
- Treasures of the Tamar
- Video Resource Library
- Source to Sea

### Sustainable Agriculture

- Farm Business Discussion Group
- Soil4Sisters
- On Farm Forums

### Sustainable Living

- Tamar & Meander Valley Community Gardens Open Day
- Tamar Valley Leaders Lunch Series
- Catch it in the Catchment

### Weeds

- Detection & Eradication of Nassella Weeds (Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass)
- Towards Gorse Eradication in the Piper's River Catchment
- Besom Heath Eradication Project
- Boneseed Blitz
- Ragwort Raid

## Additional Funding Sources

Funding source	Completion date	Project title	Amount
Tasmanian Government - Weeds Action Fund Stage 2 – Targeted Large Grants	June 2024	Towards Gorse Eradication in the Piper's River Catchment Through Implementation of Property Weed Management Planning	\$70,895
Tasmanian Government - Weeds Action Fund – Facilitated Grant	June 2024	Besom Heath Eradication Project	\$67,322
Tasmanian Government - Weeds Action Fund – Targeted Small Grant	June 2024	Besom Heath Eradication Project: Extension	\$50,000
Australian Government	November 2023	Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee	\$10,000
Australian Government – Volunteer Grants	November 2022	Tamar Discovery Series	\$5,000
St Patricks College		Donation	\$3,800
Healthy Tasmania – Neighbours Everyday Grant	December 2023	Russell Street Community Garden	\$2,000
Tasmanian Deputy Premier International Womens Day	March 2023	Soils4Sisters	\$1,500

## Biodiversity



### Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee

Tamar NRM teamed up with West Tamar Landcare and won a \$10,000 grant to plant 1000 trees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in 2022.

A celebratory event held in November, officiated by the Governor of Tasmania, Barbara Baker, doubled as a tribute to the Queen who had died not long before. One thousand trees were then planted during April and May to complete the *Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee* Project.

Forty community members from Frankford, managed by West Tamar Landcare, spent the day of Saturday, 22nd April, planting 500 trees at the Frankford Memorial Hall site in Frankford. Over three days in May, another 500 trees were planted by students from John Calvin School and Newstead College at Young Town Reserve in Launceston.

Memorial plaques have been erected at each site to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.



Figure 4 - Letter box drop flyer used to promote the planting event at Youngtown Regional Park.



Figure 5 - Newstead College Students have planted trees with Tamar NRM at Youngtown Regional Park for many years to help rehabilitate the area. Credit: Nick Flittner

## Ravenswood Community Plant Out

Tamar NRM teamed up with the City of Launceston, Ravenswood Neighbourhood House, City Mission and the Australian Plant Society Tasmania to plant native plants in the park next to the Ravenswood shopping centre on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

It was a lovely community event with many school kids, their parents, and other community members stopping to plant some small plants and trees in the garden beds. They could also pot up and take home a vegetable seedling provided by the combined Ravenswood Community Gardens.

We hope to do more such events next year in the Ravenswood and Northern Suburbs areas.



Figure 7 - Participants at the Ravenswood Community Plant out were given a tomato seedling to take home to plant. Credit: Nick Flittner



Figure 6 - A bright colourful poster was designed to help promote the event.

## The BIG Plant

Tamar NRM received \$10,000 from the City of Launceston to organise and run an event that had an ambitious aim to plant 5,000 trees at the Launceston Waste Transfer Centre – and we nearly got there!

This fabulously successful community event saw nearly 800 people from schools, businesses, community groups and families plant 3,723 trees in four days (Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>).

A huge thank you to Project Coordinator Trish Haeusler and her team of volunteers. We also had great support from the City of Launceston workforce and managers to make the event successful.

The weather was kind – it started raining on Sunday evening after all of the trees were planted and we were packed up and at home!

**The BIG Plant**  
5,000 trees in 4 days!

**28 - 31 JULY**  
Join us to plant trees & celebrate National Tree Day!  
Register yourself, family, school, community group or business.

REGISTER:  
[QR Code]

tamarnrm.com.au

Supported by City of LAUNCESTON, Tamar NRM, national tree day



**The BIG Plant**

Over four days, between 28 - 31 July 2022, the kanamaluka / Tamar community came together to plant trees at the Launceston Waste Centre.

**3,723 TREES**  
were planted, which was 74% of our aspirational target of 5,000.

**775 PEOPLE**  
14 Schools = 483 Students & teachers  
15 Community groups = 111 Individuals  
8 Businesses = 24 Individuals  
157 Individuals, families and friends

An average of **5 TREES** per person were planted - this included little kids from grade 2!

**20 VOLUNTEERS**  
Greeted with a smile, drove the shuttle bus, helped dig holes, planting demonstrations and kept the site safe and organised.

**Thank you**  
for a HUGE community effort!

Supported by City of LAUNCESTON, Tamar NRM, national tree day



Figure 8 - The BIG Plant had tremendous support from the Council and community. Clockwise from top left – Promotional poster, school students from across the region helped with planting, an infographic was used to promote the project outcomes, the scale of the planting was impressive to see, CoL councilors attended with great enthusiasm. Photo credit: Chris Grose

## City of Launceston Reserves Project

This pilot project commenced in December 2022 involving the Friends of Cambridge Street Reserve, the City of Launceston, and Tamar NRM to collaborate on the restoration of native vegetation and removal of weeds in small bushland reserves. The key outcomes sought are community engagement and education.



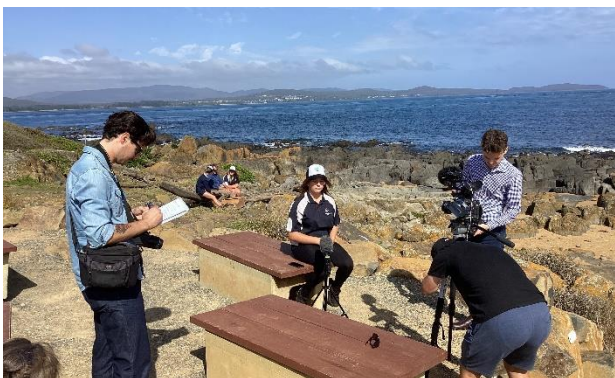
*Figure 9 - Magali Wright, visiting ecologist, delivered an on-site eco-restoration workshop. Credit: Kirstin Seaver*

Tamar NRM provides access to tools, resources, and administrative and PR support. The Australian Plant Society Tasmania provides expert advice on native plants and restoration techniques. The City of Launceston provides access to GIS mapping software for appropriate project documentation and coordination between the project members and the CoL Park teams.

A regular newsletter is distributed to keep the community and stakeholders informed of the project's progress after the working bee sessions held on the first Thursday and Saturday of each month. A visiting ecologist, Magali Wright, delivered an on-site all-day Eco-restoration workshop on March 21<sup>st</sup> to benefit the project, volunteers and Council staff.

## Friends of Low Head Penguins & Shorebird Surveys

Planning and developing a Volunteer Guide Training program with Low Head Penguin Tour Operator, Parks TAS, BirdLife Tas and Friends of Low Head Penguins (FoLHP) is underway after regular meetings throughout the year. A Media Day highlighting the local school's involvement with the nesting box project was held on March 18th, resulting in national ABC TV coverage. Nick Duigan MLC also presented the FoLHP story to Parliament on May 30<sup>th</sup>, mentioning Tamar NRM, raising awareness of the project and potential funding opportunities.



*Figure 10 - The nesting box project received national media coverage. Credit: Kirstin Seaver*

## Environmental Education



### Tamar Discovery Series

Tamar NRM received grant funding from the Australian Government as part of the 2021 Volunteer Grants Program to run a series of community educational workshops. These workshops were designed to help build knowledge, awareness, and understanding of various natural resource-related topics in the Tamar Valley.

The workshops and outings were free and led by experts in their fields. In this period, Discovery Series trips included :

**15<sup>th</sup> September** – Little Penguins Walk and Talk at Low Head with Dr Eric Woehler and Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony. 15 Attendees

**20<sup>th</sup> October** – Celebrating Tasmanian Native Plants at Carr Villa Flora Reserve with APST expert Roy Skabo – 21 Attendees

**22<sup>nd</sup> October** - Celebrating Tasmanian Native Plants at Cataract Gorge with APST expert Roy Skabo – 20 Attendees

**12<sup>th</sup> November** – Weeds Identification and Management at Kate Reed Reserve with Weed Project Officer Kay Bailey – 15 Attendees

**26<sup>th</sup> November** – Volunteering – Bus Trip to Wildcare Expo in Ulverstone with Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony, Australian Plant Society Tasmania and Tamar NRM volunteers – 9 Attendees on bus. This was a productive networking event with other Wildcare groups from nearby regions, allowing our volunteers to learn from other like-minded organisations.



*Figure 11 - Little Penguins Walk and Talk at Low Head with Dr Eric Woehler and Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony. Credit: Kirstin Seaver*

## Treasures of the Tamar

This series celebrates world environmental days, focusing on the local humans, flora, fauna, fungi, insects, birds, and their ecosystems. Free educational talks and activities with guest presenters help to reveal the incredible diversity of our Tamar Valley landscape and its inhabitants.

- **February 2-4: World Wetlands Day** – held at the Tamar Wetlands Centre – Tamar NRM shared a stall with Plastic Free Launceston for a day of activity. The water bugs activity was a hit with the children, some of whom stayed for the entire two-hour session poking through buckets of water in pursuit of water bugs. Some scared themselves with a look at creatures through the Tamar NRM microscope!
- **February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wings over Wetlands** – Bird photography masterclass or 2023 with Vince Brophy at Tamar Wetlands Centre. Fully booked (10)
- **February 4<sup>th</sup> – Wings over Wetlands** – Damsels & Dragonflies at Old Macs Farm with Emeritus Professor Nigel Forteath. Fully booked (15)



*Figure 12 - The Treasures of the Tamar Wings over Wetlands hosted a Damsels & Dragonflies event with Emeritus Professor Nigel Forteath. Credit: Kirstin Seaver*

## Video Resource Library

Joshua Steer from the Big Picture School was engaged as an intern in the first half of 2023 to create a series of short community engagement, public relations, and educational video clips and related collateral.

The topics and themes align with Tamar NRM's strategic goals and feature interviews with many people who have helped build the organisation.

Kirstin has been working with Josh to develop a youth perspective on our work and to create a legacy project. There is the potential for an annual internship program that could attract grant funding.



*Figure 13 - Intern, Joshua Steer joined the team and has done a brilliant job of capturing some of Tamar NRM's activities on film. Credit: Kirstin Seaver*



## Source to Sea

Tamar NRM secured funding through the TasNetworks Tasmanian Futures Sustainable Future Grants Program to facilitate a kanamaluka/ Tamar estuary, Source to Sea Education Program.

This program facilitates excursions that educate the community and local students on the impacts of land use on the estuary catchment, with a particular focus on the King Meadows Rivulet. The full-day excursion starts at the source of the Kings Meadows Rivulet, Kate Reed Reserve, and follows it downstream until it drains into the North Esk at Queechy Lake. There are several stops along the way where students are met by experts from various backgrounds who talk about different aspects of the rivulet's journey.

The program is designed for Year 4 Science students, and teachers are encouraged to download the excursion booklet and get in touch if they would like to participate.

Source to Sea was planned with teachers, students, and the curriculum in mind.

Since the program commenced, participants have included schools, Friends of QVMAG, Scouts, and the Children's University.

Tamar NRM would like to continue this program and expand it to a broader audience in future.



*Figure 14 - The Source to Sea excursion booklet was designed in collaboration with educators and a graphic designer.*



*Figure 15 - Source to Sea participants investigate and identify water bugs to help assess the quality of the waterway. Credit: Jessie Stanley*

## Sustainable Agriculture



### Farm Business Discussion Group

Initially, a Tamar NRM project funded in 2020 through the Tasmanian Government's Pastures Pathway Small Project Fund, a group of 15 farmers from across the Tamar Valley continues to meet on the first Thursday of each month. Farmers take it, in turn, to host the group at their property. The events have taken a set format - the host talks to the group about their farm and business, then the group is taken on a tour of the property, followed up by more conversations and a social event, usually in the form of a BBQ. Guest speakers have been invited to several gatherings to discuss matters relevant to the group.



*Figure 16 - Farmers meet monthly and discuss pasture and animal management, healthy soils, carbon, forestry, water management, weeds, financial matters, health and well-being – and more! Credit: Nick Flittner*

Monthly discussions centre around pasture and animal management, healthy soils, carbon, forestry, water management, weeds, financial matters, health and well-being, and succession planning. This project has been successful and will continue with more members joining when the opportunity arises.

### Soil4Sisters – International Women’s Day 2023

This series of interactive workshops for women and girls for International Women’s Day (March 8<sup>th</sup>) focused on food security, community gardening, seed saving and vegetable growing. The theme was Embrace Equity, and the funding was provided by Hon Jo Palmer, Minister for Women and Minister for Agriculture.



All sessions offered up to 20 people; some were booked out, especially at Punchbowl, where over 30 attended.

Seven sessions of two hours were conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> of March across all three municipalities,

*Figure 17 - The Soil4Sisters project attracted participants from across the valley with requests made for Tamar NRM to host more in the future.*

- How to grow and harvest vegetables and herbs
- How to access and engage with community gardens
- Take home samples and support material provided
- Learn how to save seeds with success
- Engage and share with new and old friends
- Non-English speaking community members welcome

<p><b>Launceston</b> <b>8 March</b>                  UIAS Inveresk Community Garden:                  10:30am                  Punchbowl Community Garden:                  4pm</p>	<p><b>West Tamar</b> <b>9 March</b>                  Beccorsho Neighbourhood House:                  10am                  Strindor Community Garden:                  1pm - 4pm</p>	<p><b>George Town</b> <b>10 March</b>                  George Town Neighbourhood House:                  10am                  Low Head Community Garden:                  1pm</p>
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Light refreshments included - **Bookings essential!**  
 Scan code for more information and to register

at the UTAS Inveresk Community Garden, Punchbowl Community Garden, Windsor Community Garden, Low Head Community Garden and at the gardens at Beaconsfield Community House and George Town Neighbourhood House. in the Launceston, West Tamar, and George Town municipalities,

Project Officer Kate Richards assisted with the preparation and delivery of the event and proved to be intuitive, proactive, and experienced in making our guests welcome and comfortable. Over fifty positive feedback surveys are being collated, ready for the grant acquittal, with further workshops requested in several locations and various topics. An article was published in The Launceston Examiner on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. An Instagram and Facebook page has been established to keep the group conversations, ideas and connections going. The feedback was very positive, with many opportunities for further program development.



*Figure 18 - Program Coordinator Kirstin Seaver with Soil4Sisters participants at the Low Head Community Garden. Credit: Kate Richards*

### **On Farm Forums**

New in 2023, this series of topical hands-on workshops and forums is aimed at the small or recently arrived landholder who wants to connect with their peers whilst learning new skills and sharing experiences. Topics covered in the year's first half include Fire Permits, Control Burning, and dealing with Feral Cats, delivered in partnership with Red Hot Tips and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.

Future sessions will feature Trees on Farms, Biosecurity issues, managing water resources, soil health and anything that goes with the small farm territory for hobby or commercial land managers. These workshops are being held across the Tamar Valley in all three Council areas in collaboration with expert partners.



*Figure 19 - Cat trap demonstration - The Feral Cats on Farms forum attracted many participants concerned by feral cats and their rights and responsibilities. Credit: Jonty Dehnert*

## Sustainable Living



### Tamar & Meander Valley Community Gardens Open Day

The inaugural Tamar & Meander Valley Community Garden Open Day ran in November 2022, with 13 gardens in the Tamar and Meander regions opening for the day.

Tamar NRM helped to promote the event through its website using an interactive map, social media, media, colouring book and public signage. At the same time, each garden organised its activities, volunteers and local promotion. Some of the activities for the day included plant and flower sales, music, BBQ, kids' activities, games, pizza, mini-workshops, tours and composting demos.

Radio interviews with Tamar FM, ABC, Way FM, Community Park Radio, and an Examiner article helped promote the day.

The overwhelming consensus was that it was a highly successful day. As a result of participation in the Open Day, participating gardens have formed a Community Gardens Network, which includes the 30 community gardens in the region. (see report in Working Groups – Sustainable Community Working Group).



Figure 20 - Tamar NRM helped to promote the event through its website using an interactive map, social media, media, colouring book and public signage.

#### Participating gardens

- Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House Garden
- Blackstone Community Garden
- Deloraine Community Garden
- George Town Neighbourhood House Garden
- Low Head Community Garden
- Mole Creek Community Garden
- Northern Suburbs Community Centre Garden
- Pioneer Parade Community Garden
- Rotary Punchbowl Community Garden
- Ravenswood Heights Primary School Community Garden
- University of Tasmania Community Garden
- Westbury Community Garden
- Windsor Community Garden

*Thank you to volunteer and Community Garden Network Convenor Karen Hewitt for her dedication to this Sustainable Community Working Group initiative!*

## Tamar Valley Leaders Lunch Series

This series of business-style lunches has been created through a partnership between Tamar NRM, the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Central Launceston, and the Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston.

The lunches are a mechanism for Tamar NRM to increase its involvement with the business sector and the broader civic community of the Tamar Valley. They allow Tamar NRM to establish relationships with people and organisations who may not traditionally be involved in our activities.

Guest speakers are invited based on their links with the Tamar Valley, their standing in the community, and the nature of their work or the activities they are involved in.

In 2022/23, we held four Leaders Lunches with the following guest speakers -

- Adam Mostogl from the Van Diemen Project, who spoke on the topic of *Tasmania: In Or Out of the Global Agenda for Sustainability*
- Dr Tony McCall, Project Director, Future Scanning, Economic Evaluation and Policy, Office of the Coordinator-General, on *Circular Economy investment opportunities in Tasmania*
- Premier Jeremy Rockliff with the topic: *Tasmania – the Way Forward*
- The Three Mayors - Danny Gibson – City of Launceston, Christina Holmdahl – West Tamar Council and Greg Kieser – George Town Council on the region's future.



Figure 21 – Posters promoting the Tamar Valley Leaders Lunches

## Catch it in the Catchment

Catch it in the Catchment 2022, in its fourth year, gathered groups from across the Tamar Valley to collectively work towards reducing the amount of rubbish in and along our local waterways and, in doing so, prevented it from entering the network of creeks, rivulets and rivers that flow into kanamaluka.

In partnership with Clean up Australia, Catch it in the Catchment has become an important event in the Tamar Valley, and it continues to attract new groups to participate.

2022 saw an emphasis on little pieces of rubbish that are often overlooked - especially plastics “breaking up” into smaller plastic fragments. Children from local schools challenged themselves to see how many little pieces they could pick up. At both Riverbend Park and Punchbowl Reserve, which both appeared to be litter-free, the students initially estimated they would pick up a few hundred pieces - over 700 little bits of rubbish (again mainly plastics) were picked up at Punchbowl and approximately 1,000 from Riverbed Park! Good work, kids!



Figure 22 - Catch it in the Catchment poster to promote the event across the valley.

### 2023 Participating Groups

- Hillwood Progress Association
- Tasmanian Divers
- Launceston Field Naturalist
- Friends of Redbill Point
- Kelso Fire Station volunteers & community members
- Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony
- St Finn Barr's Primary School
- East Launceston Primary School
- Soroptimists Launceston
- Plastic Free Launceston
- NRM North-Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program staff
- East Tamar Landcare
- Scotch Oakburn College
- Newstead Christian School
- Punchbowl Primary School
- Friends of Riverside
- Friends of QVMAG
- Northern Suburbs Community Centre
- Free to be Girls - Youth group from Beaconsfield

### 2023 Sites Targeted for Clean-Up Event

- Lagoon Beach – George Town
- Low Head
- York Cove- George Town
- Redbill Point
- Hillwood
- Beaconsfield
- Greens Beach
- Riverbend Park
- Windsor Park
- Heritage Park
- St Leonards Park
- Hobblers Bridge Park

- Punchbowl Reserve
- Royal Park
- Swan Bay
- Garden Island
- York Town Rivulet
- West Arm
- Northern suburbs parkland
- Kings Meadow Rivulet
- North Esk River

Catch it in the Catchment relies on community involvement, and many groups, seeing the benefits and the importance of this event, are keen to continue to support it—a special thank you to Jason Orr, who rallied and supported several groups from the East Tamar area.

*A big thanks to Catch it in the Catchment Coordinator Trish Haeusler.*



*Figure 23 - Described by Jason Orr as the most significant "catch" - a dozen shopping trolleys! These were retrieved from York Cove by the Tasmanian Divers. Credit: Public Facebook post – 22 Nov 2022*

## Weeds

Strategic Statement **4.**

Strategic Statement **5.**

Strategic Statement **6.**

Strategic Statement **7.**

### Detection & Eradication of Nassella Weeds (Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass)

Ten volunteers spent an afternoon at Mt Direction on October 5<sup>th</sup> to identify and dig up Serrated Tussock plants, ably assisted by scent dog ‘Sugar’. Volunteers treat the sites annually, some of whom were trained in a previous Weed Action Fund project.

Ten bags of weed were collected, and an additional eight were collected during a survey in late November.

Tamar NRM has obtained funding from the Tasmanian Government’s Highly Invasive Grasses Project for ongoing monitoring of Serrated Tussock at Mt Direction over the next two years.



*Figure 24 - Sugar is a scent dog trained to detect Serrated Tussock. Credit: Emma Smyth from Scent Dogs Australia*

### Towards Gorse Eradication in Pipers River Catchment

This partnership project between Tamar NRM, East Tamar Landcare Group, Lilydale Landcare Group and the Launceston and Northeast Railway was funded through the Tasmanian Government’s Weeds Action Fund. The project commenced in September 2021 and runs for three years.

Awareness of gorse as a land management issue in the catchment has resulted in the number of known sites more than tripling since the funding application was made, from 21 to over 70. The aims for the second and third years of the project are to focus on follow-up treatment and increase the proportion of sites treated.

An important element of the project is annual reviews between the project coordinator and the landholder to assess the level of achievement of the actions in the management plans and the development of an updated action plan for the forthcoming year.

Project leadership by Coordinator Kay Bailey has been outstanding and is a key contributing factor to the success of this project.



*Figure 25 - A flyer to create awareness that it is the time to treat gorse - Spring 2022.*



## Besom Heath Eradication Project

Funded by the Weeds Action Fund, this 3-year project is designed to tackle and hopefully eradicate Besom Heath from Tasmania.

Besom Heath is growing in a small area of land in the Bridgenorth and Rosevale area. If left untreated, it has a similar invasive weed potential to Spanish heath or gorse, and there are sites within the project area that you can't walk through because of how thick the Besom Heath has grown.

Besom Heath is an introduced shrub from Europe, a close relative of the better-known Spanish Heath; the two are easily confused when not in flower. The weed infestation at Bridgnorth and Rosevale is the only known infestation of the weed anywhere in Australia; hence, much of the work being done as part of this project is a first, nationally and worldwide (as far as we are aware).

Achievements so far have been to successfully identify a chemical treatment for this weed through a 2-year chemical trial funded by Tamar NRM. The following financial year will see the production of a Besom Heath Best Practice Manual with associated herbicide information and a delimitation survey to map the extent of the infestation.

On-ground treatment of Besom Heath will commence with the engagement of landowners in the second and third years of the project.

## Boneseed Blitz

From 24 September to 2 October 2022, Tamar NRM and its partners coordinated the annual Boneseed Blitz. This event is now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, supported by the Launceston City Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council, Parks and Wildlife Service, State Growth, West Tamar Landcare Group, George Town Coastal Management Group, Low Head Progress and Heritage Association, Hillwood Progress Association, Hillwood Fire Brigade and various individuals and community groups.

A feature of this year's Blitz was that in addition to the increased number of events supported directly by Tamar NRM (six), there were an increased number of hours devoted by individuals to controlling boneseed in key

*Figure 27 – Six Boneseed Blitz events occurred in 2022 at Supply River mouth, Lulworth, Weymouth, Hillwood, George Town and Swan Bay*



*Figure 26 - Besom Heath is an introduced shrub from Europe, a close relative of the better-known Spanish Heath; the two are easily confused when not in flower.*

*Credit: Svetlana Kourova Flickr creative commons licence*

**Tamar NRM**  
**Boneseed BLITZ WEEK**  
24 Sep - 2 Oct 2022  
Help control boneseed in the Tamar Valley!

Join us at one of the organised Blitz events to remove boneseed  
Set up a Boneseed Blitz event with your group  
Remove boneseed from your property  
Report any sightings to Tamar NRM on 03 6323 3310 or 0456 853 445

Any community group can participate. Fit a boneseed eradication activity around an existing working bee or at a time that suits - during or either side of Boneseed Blitz Week.

For further information:  
kaybailey321@gmail.com 0456 853 445  
tamarnrm.com.au

Tamar NRM can assist with free loan equipment including dabbers and loppers. Training is available for those who need it.

! Boneseed is an invasive weed of national significance. It invades natural areas and out-competes native plants. It can invade the understory of bushland, reduce biodiversity and become a fire hazard.

City of LAUNCESTON  
West Tamar

locations, thus ensuring that the impact of the Blitz activity was much more significant.

Over 162 hours of volunteer effort were estimated to be undertaken during the Boneseed Blitz Week 2022. This is a reduction of 40 hours from 2021 but remains a substantial commitment. Follow-up and consolidation of the impact of boneseed control was achieved at the Blitz locations with fewer resources.

The Tamar NRM Weeds Working Group continues to list Boneseed as one of its priority weeds, with the Boneseed Blitz as one of Tamar NRM's signature events.

### Ragwort Raids

In January 2023, Tamar NRM coordinated four Ragwort Raids covering most major and minor roads in the three Council areas over four events between the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.

Demonstrating the benefit of community-driven weed control programs, the Ragwort Raids have been operating for the past 24 years, with 2023 continuing to maintain the numbers of volunteers, length of roads patrolled and amounts of ragwort removed.



*Figure 28 – Tamar NRM's Kirstin Seaver marking major and minor roads surveyed and weeded. Credit: Jessie Stanley*

The Raids have also complemented the actions of many landholders to control this weed on their property by using several integrated measures, including chemical, mechanical, and biological control.

Ragwort is a poisonous weed in Tasmania, harmful to livestock. It could invade 64,600 ha in George Town, West Tamar and Launceston. Thanks to regular efforts, the threat of infestation and financial burden has been avoided.

*Table 2 - Table 5 - Results from the 2023 Ragwort Raids (2022 results are in brackets)*

Municipal area	Patrol base location	No. of volunteers	Hours donated	Bags collected	Land under invasion threat (ha)
East Tamar 21 Jan 2023	Pipers River Fire Station	20 (20)	82 (100)	2 (4)	17,000
West Tamar 22 Jan 2023	Winkleigh Hall	23 (26)	94 (130)	6 (5)	15,600
Launceston & districts 24 & 28 Jan 2023	Nunamara & Blessington Halls	21 (16)	89 (80)	24 (19)	32,000
<b>Total for all municipalities</b>		<b>64 (62)</b>	<b>255 (310)</b>	<b>32 (28)</b>	<b>64,600</b>

## Working Group Reports

Tamar NRM is committed to the regional natural resource community by identifying and establishing effective Working Groups and assisting them to achieve their goals.

This is done through financial and administrative support, provision of insurance cover where required, and communications assistance with group events.

Currently, there are six Tamar NRM Working groups:

1. Sustainable Community Working Group
2. George Town Coastal Communities Management Group (GTCCMC)
3. Weeds Working Group
4. Plastic Free Launceston
5. CALD Community Connections Working Group
6. Russell Street Community Garden Working Group



## Sustainable Community Working Group

### Sustainable Living Festival

In 2022/23, the Sustainable Community Working Group (SCWG) confirmed that they would again undertake to run another Sustainable Living Festival-themed 'Going Circular', and to this end, Sandy Astill, from Cause & Effect, was formally engaged as Festival Co-Ordinator. After consideration, it was decided to run the event in a more reliable part of the year - as regards the weather - with the festival now being scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 2, 2024, with a week of events leading up to the Business & Community Awards on March 1st, and the Festival the following day. Both the Awards & Festival will take place at the Tramsheds at Inveresk, with the Festival spilling out into the UTAS Community Precinct and Community Garden.

### Working Group Membership

- City Of Launceston – Sophie Hipkin/Alison Roush
- First Nations Rep - vacant
- George Town Council - vacant
- Launceston Chamber of Commerce - Will Cassidy
- Plastic Free Launceston - Trish Haeusler
- Tamar NRM - Nick Flittner
- Transition Tamar - Karen Hewitt

### Tamar & Meander Valley Community Garden Open Day

The inaugural Tamar & Meander Valley Community Garden Open Day ran in November 2022, with 13 gardens in the Tamar and Meander regions opening for the day (see page 30 for report).

## Community Garden Network

Following the inaugural Open Day, a formal Network commenced operation in February 2023, which supports the Sustainable Community Working Group's vision of *educating, connecting, and mobilising the community to realise a regenerative local future for the Tamar Region.*

The Tamar & Meander Valley Community Garden Network now meets seasonally across the region to connect Community Gardeners with peers, celebrate their work, and sow & exchange ideas & connections between the gardens that make up our regional, grassroots food security network.

Community Gardens are a fundamental component of any local food security network, functioning as:

- A food basket for those in need.
- A connection point for like-minded local people.
- A focal point to contribute back to your community.
- Educational opportunities to upskill people on how to be more self-sufficient.

A location for seed banking and exchange - especially of crucially important locally acclimatised heritage and heirloom seeds.

The Tamar & Meander Valley Community Garden Network features many unpaid volunteers who do amazing things in the community to foster connection, feed and bring people together.



*Figure 29 - Image taken from the Autumn Community Garden network get-together - Joining the CGN Convenor and the Tamar NRM Coordinators are gardeners from Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House, Blackstone Community Garden, Deloraine Community Garden, The Farm Project, MACS Garden, Meander House Community Garden, Mole Creek Community Garden, NSCC Community Garden, UTAS Community Gardens, Windsor Community Garden and Westbury Community Garden. Credit: Kirstin Seaver*

## Sustainable Community Working Group

Hiring communications personnel in the form of Jessie Stanley has made a measurable difference in the quality, quantity and effectiveness of communications and design to raise awareness of and promote SCWG and SCWG-associated events - check out the graphics if you don't believe us!

Unfortunately, we have lost a Group member just into the new reporting year (representing the West Tamar Council). We will lose another early next calendar year (from the Chamber of Commerce). It is, therefore, a priority that we urgently fill these and existing vacancies to ensure an even spread of workload, inclusion of all stakeholders and funders, and that a diversity of voices, viewpoints and networks is represented. We continue, however, to look to improve our focus and tie-in outcomes to our stated themes - be they building community, educating citizens & students, improving health & well-being outcomes, raising environmental awareness, or exploring the possibilities of circularity - to see a genuinely sustainable community alive and thriving in the Tamar region.



Figure 30 - Pull up banners created for SCWG to promote their mission and themes at relevant events.

they building community, educating citizens & students, improving health & well-being outcomes, raising environmental awareness, or exploring the possibilities of circularity - to see a genuinely sustainable community alive and thriving in the Tamar region.

*Co-Convenors - SCWG - Karen Hewitt & Trish Haeusler*

## George Town Coastal Communities Management Group

During the last twelve months, the group welcomed Kirstin Seaver to the Tamar NRM Program Coordinator role. Kirstin's advice and assistance have been greatly appreciated.

The annual GTCCMG catchup was held in February at the George Town Yacht Club. The club overlooks the kanamaluka/Tamar estuary and was an ideal venue to discuss and review our coastal action plan. Action items from the meeting included ChemCert training, cat management activities and seeking an update on the George Town Council's review of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

The annual Tamar NRM Boneseed Blitz was well supported with community events held in Hillwood, George Town, Lulworth and Weymouth. Our volunteers were also out and about at Low Head, Beechford, and Bellingham. The efforts across our communities are making a noticeable difference. Many sites have seen a decline in plant numbers, some with no reports at all.

The group turned out in force at the "Catch it in the Catchment" and with other "Clean Up Australia" events. Our volunteers collected marine debris, along and, within our beautiful kanamaluka/ Tamar estuary at Hillwood, Low Head and George Town. The most significant "catch" this year was a dozen shopping trollies! These were retrieved from York Cove by the Tas Divers dive club, supported afterwards by the George Town Yacht Club, who provided a thank you BBQ and much-needed warm showers. This is an excellent example of the GTCCMG working with other groups across our region who share a love and care for our coastal environment.

The GTCCMG has been working with Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony and their nesting box program. The three local schools constructed sixty nesting boxes, and with the assistance and guidance of BirdLife Tasmania, these were strategically placed throughout the Low Head Conservation area.

A feral cats forum held in June at Hillwood was well attended. Moving forward with the learnings from the forum, together with the assistance of West Tamar Landcare, we plan to implement a cat management plan for the Low Head peninsular.

Tamar NRM and GTCCMG were regularly out and about, attending events and engaging with local communities. These included attending the George Town Council Roadshow events



*Figure 31 - Eric Woehler from Birdlife Australia with a wooden penguin box. Credit: Joshua Steer*

held in several of our coastal towns and our display and information stall at the Weymouth Easter Market.

The time and effort invested by all our coastal communities, who work tirelessly to improve the coastal areas of our beautiful region, is acknowledged and much appreciated.

*Chairperson – Jason Orr*

## Weeds Working Group

The Weeds Working Group brings together practitioners from several organisations across the Tamar Valley who are interested and involved in weed management. The group met three times this year.

Members include the three Tamar Valley Councils, National Parks and Wildlife, Crown Land Services, NRM North, Biosecurity Tasmania, and community members.

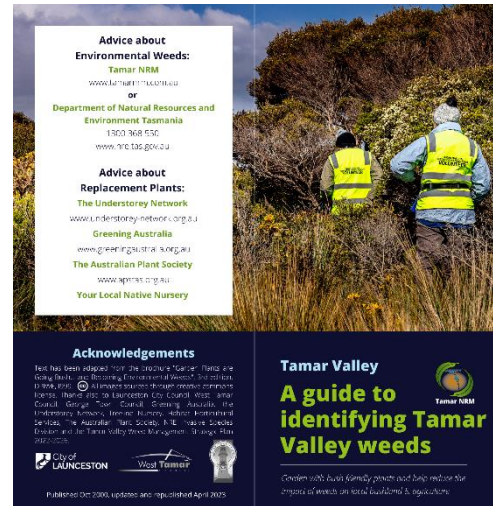
The recently produced Weeds Strategic Plan Strategic Plan will form the basis of weed control and management over the next five years. A copy can be downloaded from the Tamar NRM website.

The group is also reproducing the Tamar Valley Weeds booklet, which will provide a quick reference for people seeking to identify weeds in the valley. There will be printed and electronic copies made available.

*Chairperson – John Thorp*

## Plastic Free Launceston

Plastic Free Launceston continued to deliver educational sessions and complement aspects of the Australian Curriculum for school-based delivery. The educational sessions highlight practical ways to be weaned off unnecessary and single-use plastics and look at interesting new designs in materials to eliminate fossil fuel-derived plastics. Participants are also introduced to Micro and Nano plastics and, unfortunately, Pico plastics! Using the citizen science AUSMAP equipment for school-based workshops, students sieved and searched beach sand to identify microplastics. This led to discussions on how microplastics have become so ubiquitous in marine environments and what are some positive actions to respond.



*Figure 32 - Draft cover of the reproduced Tamar Valley Weeds booklet that will be finalised in 2024.*



*Figure 33 - Plastic Free Launceston Logo*

Groups that participated in the education sessions include:

- Children's University students:
- George Town
- St Leonards Primary School
- East Tamar Primary School
- Northern Suburbs Community Centre – George Town Rd
- Northern Suburbs Community Centre - Dover Street
- Invermay Primary School
- West Launceston Primary School
- Launceston Preparatory School
- St Finn Barr's Catholic Primary School
- Tas TAFE
- Adult Migrant English class
- Incorporated into Tamar NRM's Source to Sea excursion with the Friends of QVMAG

### Plastic Free July - Projects

Plastic Free July 2022 featured Scotch Oakburn College Year 8 Student Maddie Hassell. As part of a school-based project, Maddie was mentored by Plastic Free Launceston to launch her Plastic Free dry-cleaning bags. This launch gained great support from George's Dry Cleaners and was featured on the front Page of the Examiner.



*Figure 34 - Maddie Hassell was mentored by Trish at Plastic Free Launceston and launched her dry cleaning bags, supported by George's Dry Cleaners. Credit: Trish Haeusler*

Plastic Free Launceston also launched its Water Refill Project at The Grain Grocer in June 2023. Joanne Walsh, the owner of Grain Grocer, provided a space for the launch and was the first business to display the water refill sign. This project is ongoing, and more companies will be approached over the summer to offer a service to refill your water bottle for free.



*Figure 35 - Trish Haeusler launched Plastic Free Launceston's Water Refill Project at the Grain Grocer with owner Joanne Walsh. Credit: Nick Flittner*

Promotion of Plastic Free living continued throughout Plastic Free July 2022 with a stall at Launceston's Harvest Market, ABC interviews on Northern Tasmania Breakfast and the Drive afternoon program, and City Park Radio.

Meeting and talking about reducing plastic waste with business owners, project officers and campaign organisers continues to be part of the core work of this working group. Meeting with the founder of Plastic Free July during her visits to Tasmania



provided valuable support and an invitation to be part of nationwide discussions with other similar groups, such as Plastic Free Launceston.

Plastic Free Launceston is now in its 6th year, and in that time, we have seen a huge shift in how our community thinks and talks about plastics. It would be safe to say most of our community knows about the problem – Plastic Free Launceston is proud of the public education it has delivered. Still, the need to nudge behavioural changes continues!

*Chairperson - Trish Haeusler*

## CALD Community Connections Working Group

Tamar NRM has teamed up with the Women's Friendship Group (Afghan community refugee support group) to provide activities and experiences in natural resource management for the Afghan community in the Tamar Valley. Other migrant groups are welcome to join the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Community Connections Working Group.



*Figure 36 - A trip to Trowunna Wildlife park was a highlight for the CALD Community Connections Working Group. Credit: Nick Flittner*

The idea is to offer experiences in natural resource management to migrant and refugee groups in Tasmania by involving them in the regular work of Tamar NRM plus the occasional special activity. This will provide opportunities for our new Tasmanians to interact with the broader community and develop skills and contacts.

## Russell Street Community Garden Working Group

For six months, from November 2002 to June 2023, Tamar NRM facilitated negotiations between community members at Russell Street in Invermay and the City of Launceston to decide the long-term future of the Russell Steet Community Garden. The garden had been established in 2014 but had lost its popularity recently, and the management burden had fallen to a few local individuals.

After many meetings and proposals, a good outcome was achieved – the vegetable garden component will be removed and the park restored to a general use public space, managed by the Council. The local community will be consulted for new, redesigned park ideas.






























*Figure 37 - Poster used to revitalise interest in the garden space at Invermay.*



# Acknowledgements

## Our Funders & Partners

We want to acknowledge our funders and partners, as without them, we could not do everything we do.

-  AUSMAP
-  Australian Plants Society of Tasmania
-  Birdlife Australia
-  Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
-  City of Launceston
-  Clean Up Australia
-  Conservation Volunteers Australia
-  Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
-  East Tamar Landcare
-  Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony
-  George Town Council
-  Hillwood Progress Association
-  Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston
-  Landcare Tasmania
-  Launceston Chamber of Commerce
-  Lilydale Landcare Group
-  Mode Electrical
-  NRM North
-  Red Hot Tips
-  Rotary Club of Central Launceston
-  Tasmanian Government
-  TasNetworks
-  The Van Diemen's Project
-  Transition Tamar
-  University of Tasmania
-  Velo Wines
-  West Tamar Council
-  West Tamar Landcare
-  Wildcare Tasmania

# Financial Report - 2022/23

# Tamar NRM Inc

ABN 60 048 647 495

Special Purpose Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2023

**Tamar NRM Management Committee as at 30th June 2023**

**Officers of the Association (Section 23 of the Constitution)**

President	Mr	Hooper	Ben	03 6383 1420	0407 511 001	springmere@bigpond.com
Vice President	Ms	Morrison	Brigid	03 6324 3837	0418 131 629	brigid.morrison@utas.edu.au
Vice President - CoL Rep	Ms	Pugh	Kathryn	03 6323 3622	0409 001 724	Kathryn.Pugh@launceston.tas.gov.au
Committee member - WTC Rep	Mr	Foster	Michael	03 6394 5384	0499 220 339	michael.foster@wtc.tas.gov.au
Committee Member - GTC Rep	Mr	McCarthy	Andrew	03 6382 8899	0417 399 868	andrewm@georgetown.tas.gov.au
Committee Member	Mr	Tyshing	Roger	0448 666 500	0448 666 500	rtyshing@gmail.com
Committee Member	Mr	Thorp	John	03 6344 9657	0419 323 400	jrathorp@gmail.com
Committee Member	Dr	Unwin	Gregory	03 6324-3822	0417 540 745	G.Unwin@utas.edu.au
Committee Member	Mr	Reed	Tim		0407 688 619	wenlockenterprises@gmail.com
Staff - Program Coordinator	Mr	Flittner	Nick	03 6323 3310	0409 343 669	nick.flittner@tamarnrm.com.au
Staff - Program Coordinator	Ms	Seaver	Kirstin	03 6323 3310	0438 265 792	kirstin.seaver@tamarnrm.com.au

Tamar NRM Inc  
Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
Income			\$
Contributions		1 93,860	1 93,860
Grant Funds		3 9,700	1 34,289
Interest		5,272	1,949
Other Income		1 9,144	2 5,370
Total Income		<u>257,976</u>	<u>355,468</u>
Ex penses			
Operation & Administration		1 49,234	2 01,157
Depreciation		2,111	2,814
Employee Benefits		2 04,610	1 42,949
Total Expenses		<u>355,955</u>	<u>346,920</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year		<u>(97,978)</u>	<u>8,547</u>

Tamar NRM Inc  
Balance Sheet  
as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
Current Assets			
Cash		1 76,883	2 94,228
Assets		5 7,500	3 30
Receivables		<u>234,383</u>	<u>294,558</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment		<u>6,332</u>	<u>8,443</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>6,332</u>	<u>8,443</u>
Total Assets		<u>240,715</u>	<u>303,000</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables		3	2
Provisions		9,278	3,165
Grants Received in Advance		2,786	4,072
Total Liabilities		<u>12,044</u>	<u>7,239</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions		<u>8 61</u>	<u>2 73</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>8 61</u>	<u>2 73</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>70,505</u>	<u>34,812</u>
Net Assets		<u>170,210</u>	<u>268,188</u>
Equity			
Retained Earnings		<u>170,210</u>	<u>268,188</u>

Tamar NRM Inc  
Statement of Cash Flows  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Local Government contributions (incl GST)	213,246	2 13,246
Grants received (incl GST)	35,527	67,831
Interest received	5,272	1,949
Other received (incl GST)	17,854	39,983
Net GST	(7,498)	(10,797)
Operating expenses (incl GST)	(381,747)	(348,999)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	(117,345)	(36,787)
Cash flow from Investing Activities		
Payments for Plant and Equipment	-	-
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(117,345)	(36,787)
Cash and cash equivalents opening balance		3
Cash and cash equivalents closing balance	294,228	31,015
	176,882	2 94,228
Reconciliation of Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(97,978)	8,547
Depreciation	2,111	2,814
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(57,170)	10,978
Increase/(decrease) in payables	16,112	17,219
Increase/(decrease) in employee entitlements	(698)	(3,723)
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	20,279	(72,624)
Cash flows from operating activities	(117,345)	(36,787)

Tamar NRM Inc  
Statement of Changes in Equity  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Balance 1 July	268,187	259,640
Comprehensive Income	(97,978)	8,547
Balance 30 June	170,209	268,187



Tamar NRM Inc  
Notes to the Financial Report  
as at 30 June 2023

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Reporting Framework

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Association Incorporation Act 1964. The Management Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical cost, and except where stated, does not take into account changing money values.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting and disclosure requirements specified by all Accounting Standards with the following exceptions:

AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures  
AASB 114: Segment Reporting  
AASB 124: Related Party Disclosure  
AASB 139: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement

Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resultant financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring the substance of the underlying transactions and other events reported.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in preparation and presentation of the financial report.

a) Employee Benefits

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

b) Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is brought to account on an accruals basis.

c) Receivables

Receivables are recorded as amounts due less any allowance for impaired debts

Tamar NRM Inc  
Notes to the Financial Report  
as at 30 June 2023

d) Grant Revenue

Untied grants are recognised as revenue when received or when the Association obtains control over the assets comprising contribution. Specific purpose grants are recognised as revenue in the year that relates to the contractual obligations to spend the funds.

e) Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an expense item.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

f) Payables

Accounts payable are recognised when the Association becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods or services.

g) Liability of Members

The Association is Incorporated under the Association Incorporation Act 1964 (as amended). The members are liable in the event of winding up to the amount not exceeding \$1.00 per member in accordance with the Association's constitution.

2. Cash Assets

	2023	2022
		\$
Everyday Account Tamar Fund	2 8,582	4 7,139
Debit Cards	4,200	4,200
Term Deposits	1,956	743
Petty Cash	142,021	242,021
Total Cash Assets	176,883	294,228

3. Receivables

Sundry Debtors	5 7,500	330
Total Receivables	5 7,500	330

4. Plant and Equipment

Plant and Equipment	3 5,682	3 5,682
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(29,350)	(27,239)
	6,332	8,443

Tamar NRM Inc  
Notes to the Financial Report  
as at 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
<b>5. Payables</b>		
Australian Taxation Office (PAYG)	2,270	6,872
Accrued Expense	-	695
Contributions Received in Advance	-	14,577
Unearned Revenue	2	-
GST Payable	7,273	975
Sundry Creditors	4,567	46
<b>Total Payables</b>	<b>5,167</b>	<b>23,165</b>
<b>6. Provisions</b>		
Annual Leave	2,786	2,860
Time in Lieu	-	1,212
Long Service Leave	861	273
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>3,646</b>	<b>4,345</b>
Current	2,786	4,072
Non-Current	861	273
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>3,646</b>	<b>4,345</b>

Employee benefits

i) Short term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

ii) Other long term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long service leave and annual leave which is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

iii) Sick leave

No accrual is made for sick leave as the Associations' experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. The organisation does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

Tamar NRM Inc  
Notes to the Financial Report  
as at 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
7.Grants Received in Advance		
Unaquitted specific purpose grants at 30 June related to the following projects:		
-Gorse Weed Action Fund	4,081	2,499
- Bioblitz	-	4,803
-Besom Heath Weed Action Fund - Stage 2	23,500	-
Balance of grant funds carried forward	2 7,581	7,302

Specific purpose grant funds are recognised in the year that relates to the contractual obligation to spend the grant fund. Unspent grant funds at 30 June are recognised as a liability.

8.Capital Expenditure

Acquisitions of assets are initially recorded at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

In accordance with the Association's policy, the threshold limits detailed below have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class:

Office Equipment  
Computer Equipment  
Plant & Equipment

No capital items were purchased during the year.

9.Economic Dependency

The Associations's operations are funded by contributions and in-kind support from the local government member organisations.

10.Additional Association Information

The Tamar Natural Resource Management Strategy Reference Group Inc. is an Association Incorporated operating in Tasmania.

Principal administration office and place of business:

City of Launceston (Depot)  
50 Remount Rd  
Mowbray TAS 7248



## **Tamar NRM Inc.**

### **STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

#### **In the opinion of the Management Committee:**

a) the attached Statement of Comprehensive income is drawn up as to give a true and fair view of the result of the activities of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2023;

b) the attached Statements of Financial Position, cash Flows and Changes in Equity are drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at 30 June 2023;

c) as detailed in Note 1 to the financial report, the Management Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity. Accordingly, this special purpose financial report has been prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (as amended); and

d) there are, when this statement is made out, reasonable grounds to believe the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed at Launceston this     day of     2023. **Oct 2, 2023**

In accordance with a resolution of the Committee of Management.

*Ben Hooper*  
Ben Hooper (Oct 2, 2023 17:06 GMT+11)  
President



## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Tamar NRM Inc

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Tamar NRM Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of cash flows and statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement on behalf of the committee.

### Opinion

In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of Tamar NRM Inc as at 30 June 2023, and its financial performance for the year then ended;
- (b) we obtained the information we required for the audit and Tamar NRM Inc kept proper accounting records and other books during the year ended 30 June 2023; and
- (c) the rules relating to the administration of the funds of Tamar NRM Inc have been observed.

### Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania) 1964* ("the Act"). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Act and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Synectic Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd

Authorised Audit Company 385720 | ABN 30 146 220 215  
Devonport | Hobart | Launceston | [www.synecticgroup.com.au](http://www.synecticgroup.com.au)  
State-wide: Postal P.O. Box 6003, Devonport TAS 7310 | Phone 03 6424 1451 | Email [info@synecticgroup.com.au](mailto:info@synecticgroup.com.au)  
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



#### **Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report**

The committee of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 and the Act and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

  
**Synectic Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd**



Benjamin Coull  
**Director**

Date: **03/10/2023**