

**TAMAR NRM Inc.**



# Tamar NRM

**2020-2021  
Annual Report**

**Supported by:**



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## 1. About Tamar NRM

Tamar NRM believes in making a positive difference to the environment and community of the Tamar Region. We do this by delivering 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 a wide range of representatives both rural and urban, with 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 City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town municipalities, we have 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 successfully attracted over \$7M of funding through a variety of projects partnering for some with community Landcare groups and organisations within the natural resource management sector.

Our focus areas are:

- Biodiversity;
- Weeds;
- Sustainable Agriculture;
- Sustainable Living; and
- New – Environmental Education

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; and
- 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 in order 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.

## 2. Management Committee



### **Roger Tyshing, President**

Roger believes in making a positive difference in the communities in which 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 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).

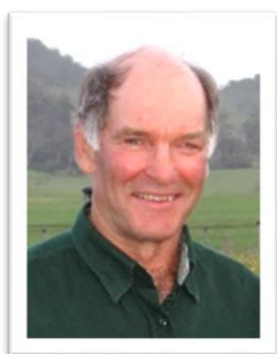


### **Ben Hooper, Vice President**

Ben is a third generation farmer on a property at Beaconsfield, focused on lamb production and maximising grazing efficiency. He holds a Masters 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. His previous industry roles include:

- Board Selection Committee for Meat and Livestock Australia
- Member and Chair of TFGA Meat Council
- State Representative to the Sheep meat Council of Australia

Ben passionately believes in education and self-improvement for everyone in the community especially in areas of NRM and agriculture



### **Brian Baxter**

Brian is a 4th generation farmer on "Greenside" at Pipers River with dry land cropping, beef, fat lambs, farm forestry and extensive Landcare projects as well as starting up a business as a fence contractor and vineyard construction. Brian has been involved with East Tamar Landcare since its inception in 1992, and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2017 for his service to natural resource management. This adds to his George Town Australia Day Citizen of the year award in 2008 for service to the community and Landcare and Primary Producer Landcare Award in 2009.

**Brigid Morrison**



Brigid has undertaken roles as an: industry investigator for adaptive water resources management with Sense-T, environmental policy advisor and has four year 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 Phytopthera Science and Management at Murdoch University.

**David Richardson – Resigned from George Town Council**



David Richardson is the Team Leader of Works and Infrastructure at George Town Council. David is a qualified horticulturist & arborist, which supports his affiliation with NRM throughout his career. He has served as a committee member on Northern Regional Weed Management Group and represented Break O Day and West Tamer Council’s as a NRM committee member. He has provided support and undertaken a number of NRM activities and initiatives, in particularly in his role as Parks Supervisor at West Tamar Council. David was also involved in the implementation and review of current ‘best practice for maintenance of State Roads roadside assets’ including vegetation control, in his role for Dept. of State Growth. David is a true advocate for Tamar NRM particularly in their effective management of nature’s resources.

**Chris Webb - George Town Council representative**



Chris Webb’s background is horticulture and landscape architecture, having run my own landscape company for 15 years he moved to Tasmania and joined the GTC as the new parks and gardens supervisor. Having been in this role just on 12months he got myself involved with the Tamar NRM management committee as well as being involved with the weeds working group and the weeds project committee to develop the new Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategic Plan.

**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 ecophysiological processes which sustain forest diversity and productivity.

**John Thorp**



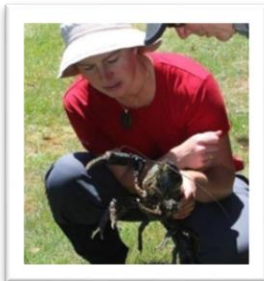
John is a trained agricultural scientist and extension officer having worked at all levels from the field to highest levels of government. He is a participant in community groups and volunteers his time to local causes. He recently retired from his business, John Thorp Australia, which undertook resource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

**Raoul Harper – Resigned from West Tamar Council**



Raoul Harper has been the West Tamar Council representative on the Management Committee since January 2019. Raoul is a senior local government executive having previously served as the General Manager of both George Town and Flinders Council's and is the current Infrastructure Manager at the West Tamar Council. He has a keen interest in sustainable development and engaging with communities to improve natural resource outcomes. Kristie Giblin fills the role as proxy when Raoul cannot attend.

**Kathryn Pugh**



Kathryn Pugh is an ecologist, currently employed as the Team Leader Water at the City of Launceston. 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.

**Phil Bonney - City of Launceston Representative**



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 regions natural assets.

**Emma Williams - City of Launceston proxy**



City of Launceston is represented on Management Committee via Parks and Sustainability, Infrastructure & Assets Network's Emma Williams and manager Phil Bonney. Emma is the Team Leader of the Recreation and Parks area with the City of Launceston. She took up this role early in 2020 following the roll out of Council's Organisational Alignment Project, and had previously been the Sustainability Officer, developing the City of Launceston's Sustainability Strategy. Prior to working with Council, Emma has used her environmental science qualifications and experience in NRM in Northern Tasmania for over 10 years, having worked in roles in both Tamar NRM and NRM North. She has also served as an elected representative of the City of Launceston in the previous Council term.

**Anna Povey - Resigned August 2020**



Anna Povey works for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, supporting landowners who have conservation covenants. Anna has a broad environmental knowledge, and loves to share this with others. Nature education, bush management, ecology, revegetation, native plant identification and propagation are her specialties. Anna established and ran Bushways Environmental Services Tasmania with Helen Morgan. Anna was the first Understorey Network Co-ordinator and has been a Bushcare Support Officer with Greening Australia.

Table 1: Attendance at meetings during 2020 -2021

Management Committee Member	Possible Meetings	Meetings Attended
Roger Tyshing	4	4
Anna Povey	1	1
Brian Baxter	4	4
Phil Bonney & Emma Williams (CoL)	4	2
Raoul Harper (WTC)	4	2
Ben Hooper	4	3
Brigid Morrison	4	2
Kathryn Pugh	2	1
David Richardson (GTC)	2	2
Chris Webb	2	2
John Thorp	4	3
Greg Unwin	4	3



## Our Staff

### **Greg Lundstrom, Program Co-ordinator - Retired March 2021**



After working in conservation and natural resource management for 20 years, Greg feels that his role as Program Coordinator for Tamar NRM over the past five years has been a remarkably different experience, for all the right reasons.

Greg's background is in natural resources management and conservation. He has post graduate qualifications in those areas and more recently undertook study on climate change law and policy at the University of Tasmania in 2015. From 2012-2014, he project managed a climate change regional adaptation plan and multi-sector risk assessment for the River Murray's lower reaches and the troubled lower lakes.

Community engagement remains the key to on ground action and working for Tamar NRM, for Greg, provides the right conduit for that to happen. His time with Green Corps and then nine years with Natural Resources S.A. Murray-Darling Basin saw him working in a variety of landscapes such as coastal, wetland, riverine, drylands and urban with farmers and groups such as Landcare, Coastcare and Waterwatch.

### **Alison Hugo, Program Coordinator**



Alison has worked in Natural Resource Management for over 22 years including working with Conservation Volunteers Australia, Break O'Day Council and NRM North as a NRM Facilitator and Biodiversity Coordinator. Alison has completed the Bachelor of Social Science with Charles Sturt University and undertaken TAFE horticultural studies specialising in Tasmanian Native plants. Alison completed the Tasmanian Leaders Program in 2019 and recently completed a Graduate Certificate in Tourism, Environmental and Cultural Heritage with University of Tasmania. Alison's interest lays in the importance of connecting and building a vibrant NRM community through facilitating innovative and engaging activities and events.

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



Nick Flittner is Program Coordinator at Tamar NRM, and brings with him a long career in project management in a variety of industries in Tasmania. For many years Nick worked in education, and then he moved into community and regional development, business support and agriculture, among others. Nick has worked for a number of 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 nearly 20 years on a farm near Deloraine 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.

## Other Staff

### Kay Bailey, Weeds Project Coordinator

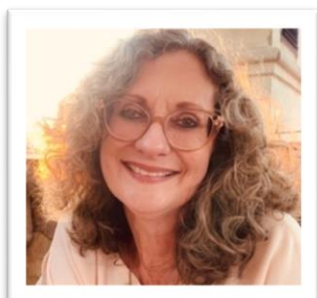


Kay Bailey is a community volunteer with Tamar NRM and many local groups including Landcare Groups. Kay was also the executive officer of Tamar NRM from the end of 2004 until beginning of 2009. From 2009 to 2013, Kay was one of the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) Coordinators based in Alice Springs.

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 in the position of Tamar NRM Weeds Project Coordinator. Kay has developed a “Tamar NRM Biocontrol Action Plan”, for Gorse, Patterson’s Curse and Ragwort.

Kay’s approach to life and natural resource management 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!

### Sandy Astill, Sustainable Living Festival Coordinator



Sandy has come on board to organise this year’s Sustainable Living Festival. She moved to Tasmania six years ago from Cairns, Far North Queensland, where she was an experienced fundraising and event coordinator, dedicating much of her professional career and personal time to organising large community events to raise funds and awareness for charitable and community organisations. Sandy also have a broad academic background, with a BA (Hons) First Class in Environmental Studies and a PhD in Society and Culture. She draws on her broad area of knowledge to form links between our natural, social, cultural, financial and spiritual environments to understand the role this plays in creating networks that strengthen our sense of place and connection, to in turn lead to a more sustainable future. The festival is on Oct 9 at Windsor Community Precinct.

### Chris Grose: Photographer

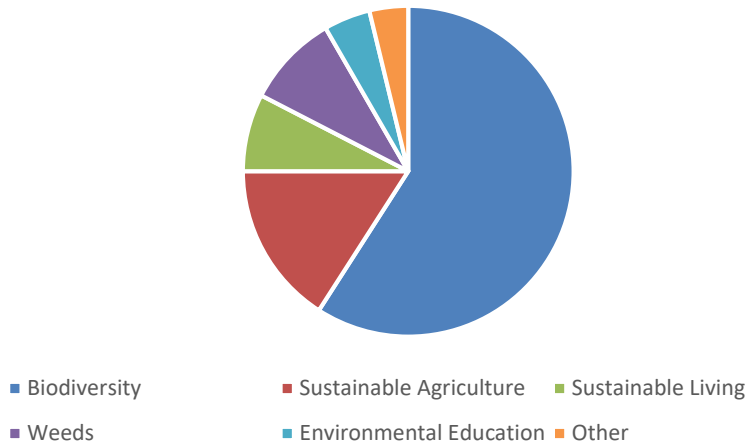


Chris is a retired soil scientist. He started his career in the UK and then Papua New Guinea before moving to Western Australia and, shortly after, to Tasmania where he has spent most of the last 27 years. Chris is also an enthusiastic amateur photographer having acquired his first camera at the age of 8 and has seldom been without one since. Retirement and the development (no pun intended) of digital photography has enabled Chris to focus on his hobby in recent years where, in addition to landscape and astro photography, he has discovered a passion for photographing spiders!

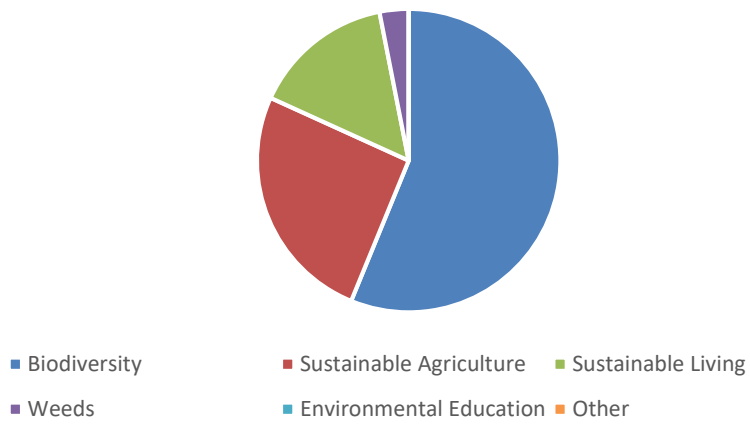
### 3. Key statistics: Summary of workshops and activities 2020/2021

Theme/Activity	Activities	Participants	Volunteers	Hours
<b>Biodiversity</b>				
Trevallyn Bioblitz	17		150	300
AUSMAP surveys	7		29	58
George Town Market	1	25		3
Tasmanian Government Bushfire Mitigation Projects	3	73		206
George Town Coastal Community Working Group activities	3	138		642
Plastic Free Launceston	12	526		42
Transition Tamar Workshops	6	90		180
Catch It in the Catchment	35		324	648
<b>Sustainable Agriculture</b>				
Farm Discussion Group	7	95		475
Carbon Neutral Farm Project	5	154		604
Healthy Soils Discussion Group	3	60		346
Agriculture Advisory Group	2	15		30
Small Farm Road Map	4	23		92
<b>Sustainable Living</b>				
Sustainable Community Working Group (SCWG)	7		29	60
Tamar Valley Leaders Lunch	3	205		410
<b>Weeds</b>				
Working Group meetings	1		11	27.5
Nasella Weeds events	3	18		54
Weed Strategy Forum	1	13		26
Ragwort Raid	3		44	221
Boneseed Blitz	3		34	68
Besom Heath Field Day	1	11		33
<b>Environmental Education</b>				
Youngtown Regional Reserve	4		70	140
George Town Primary	1		20	40
Riverside Primary	1		30	60
Other				
Council presentations	3		33	16.5
Tamar Reference Group	1		60	120
AGM	1	25		75
NRM management committee meetings	4		29	58
<b>Totals</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1471</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>5035</b>

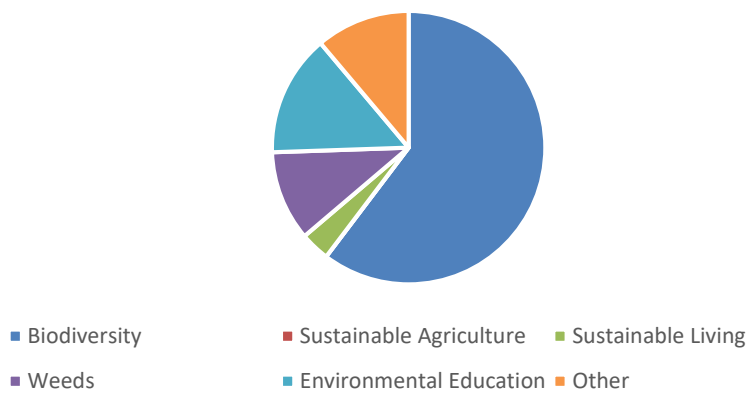
TNRM Theme Activities

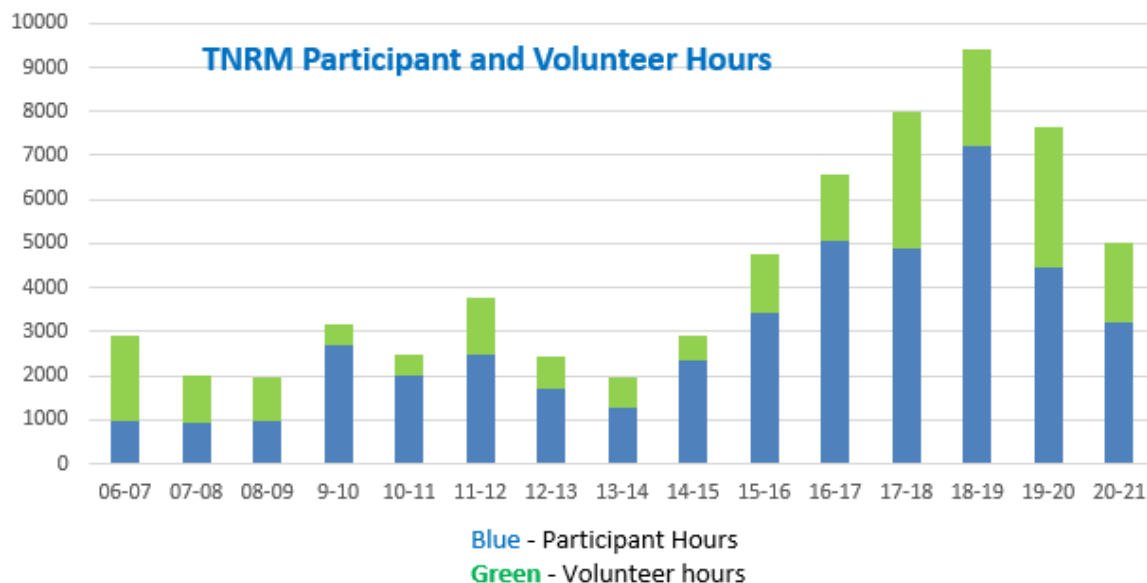
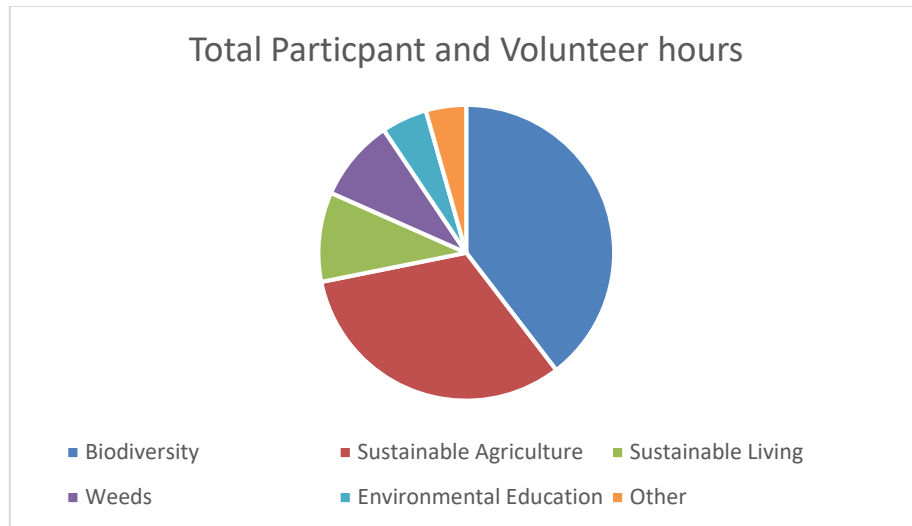


Participant Numbers



Volunteer Numbers





**Participant Hours**

Events held that involve learning, education or pass on knowledge, for instance forums, workshops, training days and field days such as: Pasture field days, Master Tree Growers, Backyards to Broadacres, fire management workshops, Expos.

**Volunteer Hours**

Events held that involve community members contributing their time and or resources for the benefit of the community, for instance: Ragwort Raids, Boneseed Blitz, School tree days, bag making workshops, Working Group meetings, MC meetings, Reference Group meetings and Tamar NRM volunteers exhibiting/presenting at events.

**Funded Tamar NRM Projects 2020-2021**

<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Weeds Action Fund Stage 2 - Targeted Large Grants	2024	Towards Gorse Eradication in the Piper's River Catchment Through Implementation of Property Weed Management Planning	\$70,895
Weeds Action Fund Stage 2 - Small Grants	December 2021	Detection and eradication of <i>Nassella</i> weeds (Chilean needle grass and serrated tussock) in the Tamar valley	\$9,800
Weeds Action Fund Stage 2 - Small Grants	December 2021	Development of a Weeds Management Strategy for the Tamar Valley	\$10,000
Weeds Action Fund Stage 1	December 2020	Prevention and early Detection of high risk grassy weeds, Tamar Valley	\$5,200
Weeds Action Fund Stage 1	December 2020	Besom Heath ( <i>Erica scopria</i> ) eradication project – Stage 1, Bridgenorth.	\$5,100
National Landcare Program – Smart Farms Small Grants	April 2021	Carbon Neutral Farming Benefits in a Northern Tasmanian context	\$61,420
National Landcare Program – Smart Farms Small Grants	July 2021	Small Farm Roadmap - Farming and Land Management at Field Days in the Tamar Valley	\$48,000
Tasmanian Government Pastures Pathway Small Project Fund	July 2021	Tamar Valley Farm Business Discussion Group	\$25,000
Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation Project	2018 -2021	Tamar Community Fire Resilience Project	\$25,043
Trevallyn BioBlitz	2020	Australian Government Communities Environment Program (CEP)	\$13,000

#### **4. President's Report: Roger Tyshing Tamar NRM President**

It is a great pleasure, once again, to present my President's Report to the Tamar NRM family.

After the COVID-19 State-wide shutdown in the latter part of last financial year Tamar NRM bounced back delivering a huge range of activities throughout the year at a slightly reduced output to pre COVID times. As you'll see in our financial report though, despite a slight reduction in our activities throughout the year, we are still looking good.

Very early in the financial year, Program Coordinator, Gill Basnett finished up to take on a new role with the Tasmanian Fire Service. In September we welcomed Alison Hugo and Nick Flittner as our two part-time Program Coordinators. We ran at 2.4 FTE for the next 7 months and then Greg Lundstrom retired in March. We then ran at 1.7 FTE and since then we've been thinking about how we best use that capacity and, as we remain committed to investing back into the community through employment and activity, we have since employed a part-time Communication and Administration Officer who strictly speaking started this financial year.

This year we stopped production of our newsletter, instead producing a short and sharp one pager called "The Bulletin" of which we produce 5 editions during the year.

We have been working on a website upgrade which will make it far more functional especially for staff, Management Committee and Working Groups Chairs as well as moving toward an e-newsletter rather than a downloadable pdf file.

With the lifting of COVID-19 Restrictions we tentatively moved back into running field days and workshops.

Last year we recommitted to running a Sustainable Living Festival and in doing so welcomed Sandy Astill as our Sustainable Living Festival Coordinator, Sandy has an extensive background in event management and just to put in a brief plug, our Sustainable Living Festival is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

I would like to thank our three partner councils, City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town, for their continued support. This support reflects the respective Councils' commitment to community-based NRM and the work Tamar NRM does in the region to benefit the environment and the community.

Thank you to our Working Group Chairs, John Thorp who chairs the Weeds Working Group, Jason Orr, who chairs the George Town Coastal Communities Management Group, Trish Haeusler who chairs Plastic Free Launceston and, the whole of the Sustainable Living Working Group.

All our working group Chairs are well supported by passionate committee members and enthusiastic and energetic teams of volunteers and participants.

Our weeds working group, chaired by John Thorp has continued to be active throughout the year. Our annual Ragwort raids in January and early February led by Project Officer, Kaye Bailey, were well attended and again attracted a number of new volunteers. Our boneseed blitz in October last year, although low key is an ongoing and essential community event. John has spearheaded new opportunities, opening up for TNRM in weed management. The State Government's Weeds Action Fund led to funding of some pilot projects initially as well as a larger Gorse project and we are confident of receiving for larger project funding as we build on our longstanding reputation for effective on-ground weeds management work and that's because being a proactive organisation, we make stuff happen.

Plastic Free Launceston ran Catch it in the Catchment in November with an excellent turnout of volunteers. They have continued to work with businesses around the region to reduce the use of single use plastics and have also continued their work in the Education space.

A large amount of our grant activity has been in the Agricultural and Weed space. We did receive a generous grant from the Federal Government through Bridget Archer to run a really successful BioBlitz in Trevallyn reserve and with some leftover money from that grant, we were able to run a number of smaller activities around biodiversity.

In the Agricultural space we continued to focus on improving soil health and pasture management in a sustainable way to improve productivity in the region. In addition, we ran some workshops for small holders around marketing. Over the next few years we see this as a space we can do more in especially given the Region has a huge number of small holders and niche producers.

We continue to be successful in attracting funding from Meat and Livestock Australia as well as funding from the National Landcare Program.

Our Farm Business Discussion Group has been amazingly successful, and we'll continue to support that group over the coming year.

Our Reference Group continues to remain strong and is a fabulous resource for our Program Coordinators and Management Committee. While we didn't hold a reference group function during the year, we have had input from members through our project advisory groups. So thank you to our reference group members new and old. We appreciate your continued input.

Last but not least, as we do every year, I am pleased to report on our engagement and volunteer hours. The accompanying graph shows that, post COVID lockdown, our engagement and volunteer hours have been less than last year however our activity pre COVID was indeed fast and furious. Last year, like every other organisation, we shut down our hands-on activities and this year we have struggled to regain the momentum of previous years. This year we face the challenge of reopened borders and the certainty of COVID cases within the community. I feel the realisation of operating in that brave new world is the biggest challenge Tamar NRM has ever faced to date.

What has remained clear throughout the last year and a half is that people's need to, and willingness to engage and remain engaged in caring for our environment and particularly the environment of the Tamar region has never wavered. Our challenge, is to harness that, create opportunities for our community and continue to make stuff happen!

## **5. Program Coordinators' Report:**

This year has been a year of transition with Gill initially leaving for new opportunities in July 2020 and Greg heading off in March 2021 to enjoy a very well earned retirement.

Alison and Nick both work part-time hours so given all the project funding that Gill and Greg had secured combined with post Covid delays there was not time to wonder what to do.

Tamar NRM continues to deliver programs and projects to benefit our environment and promote a sustainable way of life.

In 2020-21 saw activity across all of our five target areas of Biodiversity, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Living, Weeds and Environmental Education.



We are pleased to report that activities undertaken this year have been delivered in a safe and accident free manner with no serious personal injuries occurring. Our work health and safety processes are regularly updated and risks assessments undertaken for every event.

Finally, we highly value the support we receive from our three partner councils: City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town. Tamar NRM are very grateful and pleased to share that the 3 councils have committed ongoing funding for 3 more years, 2021-2024.

From Nick and Alison, please accept our appreciation for this support and the support we get from the broader community. You all are the key ingredient in “making stuff happen”.

Alison Hugo & Nick Flittner  
Program Coordinators

## 6. Tamar NRM Projects

- Trevallyn BioBlitz
- Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation Project
- Small Farm Roadmap Project
- Transition Tamar Workshops
- Farm Business Discussion Group
- Carbon Neutral Farming Project
- High Risk Grassy Weeds Project
- MLA Healthy Soils Discussion Group
- Biological Control Agents Project
- Tamar Pasture Improvement Demonstration Project
- Tamar Valley Weed Strategy website update
- Prevention and early detection of high risk grassy weeds project.  
(Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass)
- Biological weed control project (Funded by Tamar NRM)
- Besom Heath Chemical Control Trials
- Boneseed Blitz
- Ragwort Raid
- Plastic Free Launceston Community Education Project
- Sustainable Living Festival 2021
- Community AUSMAP Microplastics Surveys
- 2020 Catch it in the Catchment

## 7. Tamar NRM activities by Theme

### 7.1 Sustainable Agriculture



This year has been a watershed year in Sustainable Agriculture for Tamar NRN, as most of the formally funded grant projects came to an end by mid-year. Work continues on final reports, but the almost frenetic activity across a number of projects has now come to a close. We are seeking projects to take Tamar NRM forward for the next few years.

The **Carbon Neutral Farming project**, funded through the Landcare Smart Farms Small Grants project from the Department of Agriculture and Water resources, came to a conclusion with a field trip to Notley Valley Farm and an evening event at Moore's Hill Winery. Each event showcased a different aspect of carbon neutral farming - the benefits and opportunities of carbon sequestration in trees and soil at Notley Farm, and the impact of a reduction in energy and fuel use through solar energy at Moore's Hill. Information sheets on this project from consultants RMCG are available on Tamar NRM's website.

The **Small Farm Roadmap Project**, another funded through the Landcare Smart Farms Small Grants program, saw its final three workshops delivered across the Tamar Valley. Designed as a series of 6 inter-connected events for the small landholder sector, the three field days looked at Land Capability, Suitability and Sustainability; Native Grasses and their Management; and at Marketing Your Product. The events have been well attended and well received, and suggest that the small landholder sector is one where Tamar NRM can do more useful work in the future.

The final funded project is the **Tamar Valley Farm Business Discussion Group**, a project funded through the Tasmanian Government's Pastures Pathway Small Project Fund. A group of 15 farmers established the group in November 2020 and have met on the first Thursday of each month since. Farmers take it in turn to host the group at their own property, and the events have taken a set format - the host talks to the group about their own 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 a number of gatherings to talk about matters of relevance to the group. This has been a very successful project, and the discussion group will continue now that the formal project has ended. Tamar NRM will continue to support this group.

Early this year the **Tamar NRM Agricultural Advisory Group** was established to provide advice and guidance on agricultural matters. We are looking at where future activities and projects should focus, to build on the already significant achievements and reputation Tamar NRM has in this area.

## 7.2 Environmental Education



Tamar NRM continued the native vegetation corridor in the Youngtown Regional Reserve that was started in 2010. The staff at City of Launceston prepared the site then over 70 students from Newstead College and John Calvin School planted over 300 native species to improve biodiversity and habitat values and improve recreational amenity in this important reserve in the heart of Launceston. We also held native planting days at Riverside and South George Town Primary schools engaging over 50 students to help improve habitat values on their school grounds.



### 7.3 Biodiversity

#### Trevallyn Reserve BioBlitz



Tamar NRM secured funding through the Australian Government Communities and Environment Program to run the Trevallyn Reserve BioBlitz. A BioBlitz is a festival of science in nature and aims to improve knowledge, increase understanding and raise awareness of the Trevallyn Recreation Reserve and the species within it. On December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> over 150 students and community members joined the citizen science identification sessions including students from West Launceston, Riverside and Trevallyn Primary Schools. Collectively over 250 species were identified and

recorded including flora, fauna, birds, insects, spiders, reptiles and water bugs. All data was uploaded onto the I-Naturalist site for future reference.

Thanks to the Friends of Trevallyn for volunteering their time to help make the event such a success. Thanks also to all the Bioblitz leaders including Anna Povey, Jo Lyall, Gill Basnett, John Douglas, Roy Skabo, David Maynard, Simon Fearn and Greg Lundstrom.

#### AUSMAP - Australian Microplastic Assessment Project

Tamar NRM, Plastic Free Launceston and Conservation Volunteers Australia with guidance from a



report prepared by Jima Okari have been monitoring microplastics in the Tamar Estuary as part of the AUSMAP project. We monitor 4 sites on rotation, Greens Beach, Lagoon Beach (Low Head), East Arm Foreshore and Paper Beach on the West Tamar. We have conducted 7 monitoring sessions over the past 12 months and only found one trace of microplastics and that was at East Arm Foreshore on the East Tamar.

I would like to thank Jima Okari for his work preparing the desk top report, "Predicting the movement of microplastics along the Tamar Estuary". This report to help develop project monitoring sites in the Tamar Estuary. I would also like to thank Ashleigh Carden from Conservation Volunteers Australia Sea to Source Program for help coordinating the monthly monitoring sessions.

## Transition Tamar



Transition Tamar are the local face of the Transition Network; a worldwide movement which seeks to create resilient communities as part of moving to a low-carbon, re-localised economy. Transition communities adapt to the changing environment through skill-sharing, appropriate resource management technology & infrastructure, and seeding local food security. Their Vision is for Launceston and the Tamar Valley region to become a connected & resilient community through sustainable living, localised food production, circular

economy and regenerative development. They have a presence down at Windsor Community Gardens, Riverside where, supported by the West Tamar Council and Tamar NRM they hosted 6 community workshops with 90 community members in attendance, promoting local food security. Workshop topics included:

- \* Beginning Food Gardening
- \* Wicking Bed & Warm Weather Gardening
- \* Preserving Your Harvest & Seed Saving

Transition Tamar sit on Tamar NRM's Sustainable Community Working Group and are part of the organising Committee for the Sustainable Living Festival 2021.

## Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation Grants Program - Tamar Valley Fire Resilience Project

Tamar NRM completed the project by running a range of workshops and information sessions in partnership with Tasmanian Fire Service, Bushfire Neighbourhood Ready Program, Red Hot Tips Program, George Town Coastal Communities Management Group, Tasmanian Land Conservancy and Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife service. The aim of the workshops and information sessions was to build community resilience, promote community safety, develop fire preparedness skills and improve knowledge around fire behaviour, ecology and recovery.

Workshops held:

Burning to Plan Workshop - June 2021 - 15 attendees

Bushfire Preparedness Workshops/Assessments - January and June 2021 Lulworth and Weymouth - 58 attendees

## Catch It in the Catchment

Tamar NRM once again engaged Trish Haeusler to coordinate Catch It in the Catchment 2020. The community clean-up of Kanamaluka/ The Tamar Estuary ran for a week from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>. This enabled a greater cross section of the community to be involved in the event across the week

2020 figures	2019	2020
Number of registered clean-up sites	25	34
Number of volunteer participants	300	324
Weight of bagged rubbish collected(kg's) Does not include weight of larger items such as tyres, shopping trolleys, white goods or metal.	1101.4	775.6

Waste Audit:



Plastics such as soft plastics, plastic bags and food wrappers dominated waste audits, along with smaller pieces of unidentified plastics – plastics that had become brittle and have broken up into smaller plastic pieces. Drink containers, cigarette butts, polystyrene, that had also broken up into small beads, was also recorded at many sites.

The good news was that some sites recorded a decrease in waste from the previous year’s clean up. Tamar NRM are proud to be involved in one of the biggest catchment clean up events in Australia.

## 7.4 Sustainable Living

### Sustainable Community Working Group

The Sustainable Community Working Group reconvened in December 2020, meeting monthly. The group initially workshoped the groups aims and themes and came up with a strong focus of Connect, Educate and Mobilise. The group's main focus for the year has been on developing and organising the Sustainable Living Festival. The group have been instrumental in developing and organising the festival. A big thanks to Trish Haeusler from Plastic Free Launceston, Karen Hewitt from Transition Tamar, Sophie Hipkin Sustainability Officer from City of Launceston and Sandy Astill, Sustainable Living Festival Coordinator.

## Sustainable Living Festival

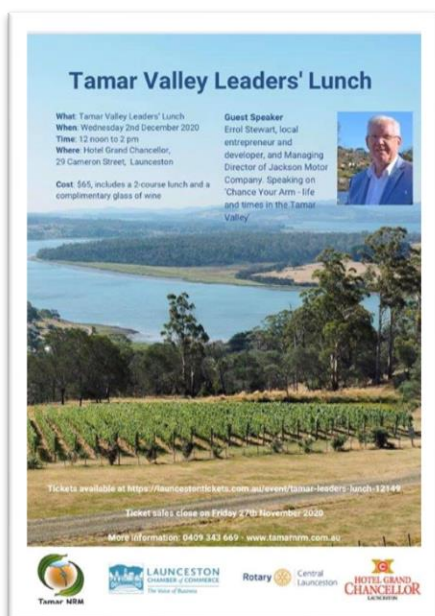


In March 2021 Sandy Astill was appointed the Sustainable Living Festival Coordinator. Sandy quickly got down to business and has been working diligently to develop and deliver a festival of inspiration, innovation and conservation. The festival's aim is to educate, engage and inspire community members by showcasing everything from sustainable gardening practices, electric vehicles to learning about Dung Beetles. Jon Dee,

social entrepreneur co-founder of Planet Ark and Rock Aid is the keynote speaker and will inspire the audience with sustainable business ideas. The festival has also incorporated Sustainable Film sessions, the Sustainable Business Awards and the School Super Hero Recycling Competition. The festival begins on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Welcome Cocktail event where the winner of the Sustainable Business Awards will be announced by Jon Dee. This will lead then into the main festival on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Windsor Precinct Riverside.

## Tamar Valley Leaders Lunches

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 in particular, and the broader civic community of the Tamar Valley in general. They provide an opportunity for Tamar NRM to establish relationships with people and organisations who may not traditionally be involved in our activities. Lunches are scheduled for every second month.



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

In 2020/21 we held three Leaders Lunches, with the following guest speakers -

- 2.12.20 - Errol Stewart - 65 attendees
- 10.2.21 - Premier Peter Gutwein - 100 attendees
- 19.5.21 - Professor David Adams - 42 attendees

Three more lunches are scheduled for the remainder of 2021. The lunches have been very successful and have created some good interactions between Tamar NRM and the business and civic communities of the Tamar Valley.

## 7.5 Weeds

Tamar NRM continued its extensive work on weeds in the valley this year. In addition to the regular annual activities, we have been successful with a number of grant applications for weed projects.

### Annual Activities

#### Ragwort Raid Jan-Feb 2021

During January and February 2021, Tamar NRM coordinated three Ragwort Raids covering the majority of major roads and many minor roads in the three Council areas.

The dedicated raiding days were:

30 January – East Tamar

31 January – West Tamar

3 February – Launceston and districts.

Ragwort Raid Coordinator Kay Bailey and Tamar NRM staff undertook the initial planning for the Raids which were located within each council area and based around previous and current known “hotspots” for ragwort.

Volunteers travelled over 1,000 kms of rural roads at their own expense, pulling and bagging the plants before they set seed. Roads included those managed by the Department of State Growth, Tamar councils, forestry and parks and wildlife. All plant material collected was securely disposed of courtesy of the municipal waste management facilities.

The annual Ragwort Raids are a key mechanism for preventing the widescale invasion of ragwort in the rural areas of the Tamar Valley. Collectively, compliance measures, public education, landholder action, biocontrol and the Raids form this region’s integrated weed management approach for ragwort.

#### Ragwort Raid 2021 - the stats

Municipal area	Patrol base location	Number of volunteers	Hours donated	Bags collected (2020 figure in brackets)	Land under invasion threat (ha)
George Town (30 January)	Pipers River Fire Station	12	60	5 (6)	17,000
West Tamar (31 January)	Winkleigh Hall	20	100	4 (4)	15,600
Launceston (3 February)	Waverley Lake	12	60	10 (9)	32,000
Total for all municipalities		44	221	19 (19)	64,600

A huge thank you to Kay Bailey, Tamar NRM Weeds Project Coordinator, for all her hard work in making the Ragwort Raid such a success.



### **Boneseed Blitz**

Over the months of September and October 2020, Tamar NRM and its partners staged the annual Boneseed Blitz.

This Tamar NRM organised event is in its fifteenth year and was supported by the Launceston City Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council, Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment, Parks and Wildlife Service, State Growth and various individuals, businesses, community and Landcare groups.

Reports from around the Tamar were that a substantial amount of work treating boneseed was undertaken by individuals – in Low Head, Beaconsfield, Deviot, Riverside and West Launceston. The efforts of those involved are to be commended. There is very likely that other groups have also been active removing Boneseed.



Volunteers Alex Fraterman, Trevor Stewart and Kay Bailey removing boneseed from the Swan Bay Foreshore Reserve and volunteers at the Ragwort Raid

In total 69 hours of volunteer effort was recorded by Tamar NRM during the Boneseed Blitz Week 2020.

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

### **Successful Grant Applications**

This year Tamar NRM has been very successful in obtaining funding for weeds projects.

The Weed Action Fund (WAF) is a program of \$5m over 5 years provided by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment for strategic weed management.

Tamar NRM was successful with two project applications from the Small Grants Round - \$10,000 to develop a new 5-year **Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategic Plan**, and another \$10,000 for a project called the **Detection and Eradication of Nassella Weeds (Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass) in the Tamar Valley**. Both these projects are underway and will be completed by the end of the year.

## Working Groups

### 6.1. George Town Coastal Communities Management Group (GTCCMG)



Chairperson – Jason Orr

Over the last twelve months the group bid a sad farewell to both Gill Basnett and Greg Lundstrom. Their support, advice and guidance during the last few years to the GTCCMG was invaluable. Alison Hugo and Nick Flittner have taken up the baton and the continued good work at Tamar NRM and we look forward to working with them.

The annual GTCCMG catch-up attracted another good turnout on 18 March 2021, at Weymouth. Representatives from most of our participants attended with plans to update the action plan, last done in 2017, discussed.



Before

After



Sea Spurge management - before and after

Working with Kay Bailey and Tamar NRM on the Weed Action Fund submission has ensured the group continues to work on a number of weed management strategies including Boneseed Blitz. Our continued efforts on sea spurge may be enhanced by way of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) proposed biological control trial at Low Head and the George Town coastal region.

The GTCCMG has formed a new partnership with the Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony (FOLHPC) to develop a strategic plan to remove and replace all African boxthorn and blackberry from the Low Head Conservation area within the next 12-16 years. Strategies were discussed at the FOLHPC Forum held on 19 June 2021. The input and advice from Dr Eric Woehler will be instrumental in guiding the group's activities going forward. This will also include working with Kay on the Weed Action Fund submission and the Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategic Plan 2021-2026.



Our coastal walks to share learning and build community continue to prove popular. The "Triple Bay" walk from Lulworth to Weymouth via Fanny's Bay Conservation Area, which was held on 24 July 2020, was oversubscribed. On 6 June 2021, a large group of like-minded people attended the "Beechford Coastal Walk and Talk", which was facilitated via the assistance of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). Planning is currently underway for a short "walk and talk" at Bellingham in 2022 and a 15km "Triple Pipers" trek from Pipers Head to Little Pipers River!

Tas Fire have facilitated two events in the last 12 months being a Bushfire Readiness workshop at the Tam O'Shanter Golf and Community Club on 14 January 2021 and a Bushfire Property Assessment on 12 June 2021 at Weymouth. Both events were well attended.



The "Catch it in the Catchment" was held 8 November 2020 with volunteers collecting marine debris along our beautiful kanamaluka/ Tamar estuary at Low Head and George Town. The GTCCMG continues to support annual "Clean Up Australia Day" events as well as local groups who collect rubbish at their respective working bees – or just when they're out and about for a walk. New additions to our war on waste this year included the CVA "Sea to Source" undertaken at Windmill Point on 25 February 2021.

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

## 6.2. Plastic Free Launceston



### 2020/2021 Plastic Free Launceston Report

The Plastic Free Launceston working group is proud to have continued its community education, displays at markets and partnership projects and discussions with local and state government representatives.

The Plastic Free Launceston working group, continued to meet its aim to increase the communities understanding of the social, economic and environmental impacts of plastic pollution. To accompany the 'not so good' story of the impact of plastic pollution, relevant and practical advice has been provided and targeted to the groups engage with during the 2020/2021 period.

The working group is composed of members who work in education, training and business. This mix of professional backgrounds have allowed the group to develop educational programs aligned with the national curriculum and suitable responses to enquires from businesses and community groups.

#### School presentations

Engagements with schools during the 20/21 financial year included presentations at local primary schools accounting for 14 hours of delivery to 138 children. These included:

- Trevallyn School leadership day - Plastic Free Launceston was invited to provide advice to student leaders planning a school-based project
- Brookes High School presentation accompanying MP Bridget Archer
- The Children's University workshops and presentations a-t
  - Summerdale Primary School
  - Exeter Primary School
  - Norther Suburbs Community Centre
  - Launceston Preparatory school
  - Launceston Grammar School

#### The Children's university

- After school care
  - At Anthony's
  - St Finn Barrs

During 2020/2021 we have been aware of the additional concerns and worries students might have as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. Equally, we have also been aware of the growing number of conversations concerning '*eco grief*' - the phycological response stemming from environmental damage and loss. In an attempt not to add to students concerns, the delivery of educational material was designed to be science based and practical, therefore providing opportunities to discuss realistic and effective responses at home and at school to the issue of plastic waste. Since the start of PFL education programs in 2017, it has been remarkably encouraging to notice the shift in the students' understanding of this issue and the extent to which they now express their understanding of the problem and how to respond to it.

#### New Partnership

Plastic Free Launceston is pleased to continue its ongoing relationship with Ashleigh Carden from Conservations Volunteers Australia. Ashleigh has attracted volunteers to assist with numerous clean

up events, as well as helping to identify rubbish hot spot areas along the Tamar Estuary and its tributaries. The identified areas are important entry sites for rubbish (predominantly plastics) to enter waterways and potentially flow on into marine environments.

### Community Engagement

At a community level, we worked with

- MOPS - Mothers of Pre-schoolers, Legana - presentation to mothers' group
- Windsor Community Hall – Wax wrap making workshops
- NRM North - Tamar Discovery Day at Sea Horse World, Beauty Point

### Plastic Free July – 2020

Plastic Free July (now a global campaign that started in Western Australia) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Anticipating a bigger celebration of this Australian initiative, our own events and activities were greatly curtailed. However, we were able to display at Harvest Market as well as run a popular Cup library encouraging the substitution of a borrowed cup for a single use coffee cup. A presence at Harvest Market also provided opportunities to talk with stall holders and problem solve any packaging challenges.

Publicity and promotion of Plastic Free July 2021 was again supported by our local media with interviews on LAFM, WAYFM and City Park Radio. Students from the Launceston Preparatory School this year were chosen to present on ABC Northern Tasmania radio with Belinda King – they did an incredible job.

In total 526 people engaged directly with PFL activities with 42 hours of volunteer delivery time and a total of 96 combined man hours of working group delivery.

As chair of the Plastic free Launceston working group, I would like to thank members of the working group - Alex and Eerin Hardman, Kylie Boatwright, Mel Morrison and Tori Haeusler, for their continued support during what has been a challenging time to deliver our programs. Ashleigh Cardmen - Conservation Volunteers Australia, Subhash Koirala- UTAS and Coordinator of The Children's University, have provided opportunities to increase our reach and deliver to new groups. We also wish to thank Tamar NRM for their support, particularly directed at our developing education programs.



Chairperson - Trish Haeusler