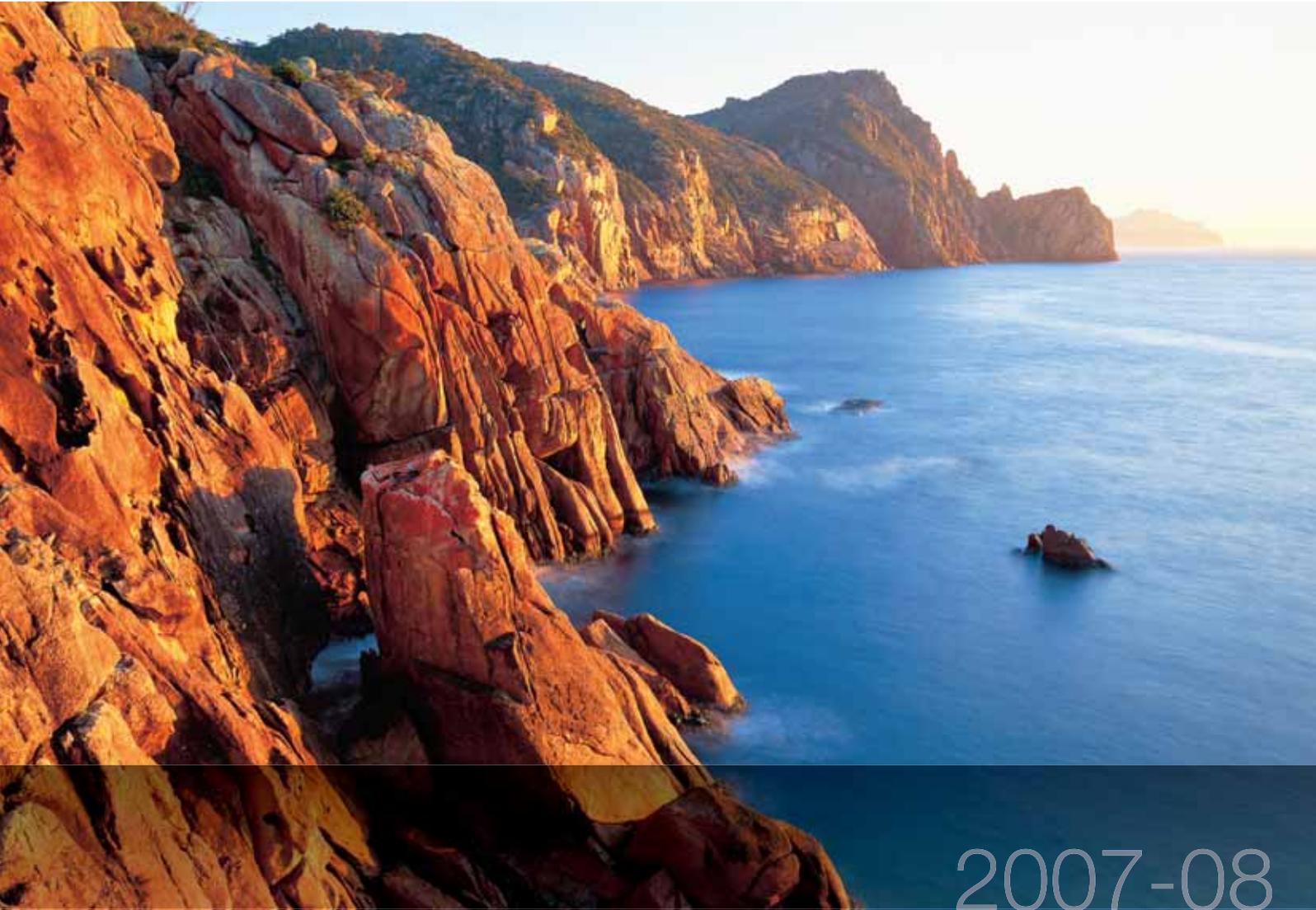


A Year in the South



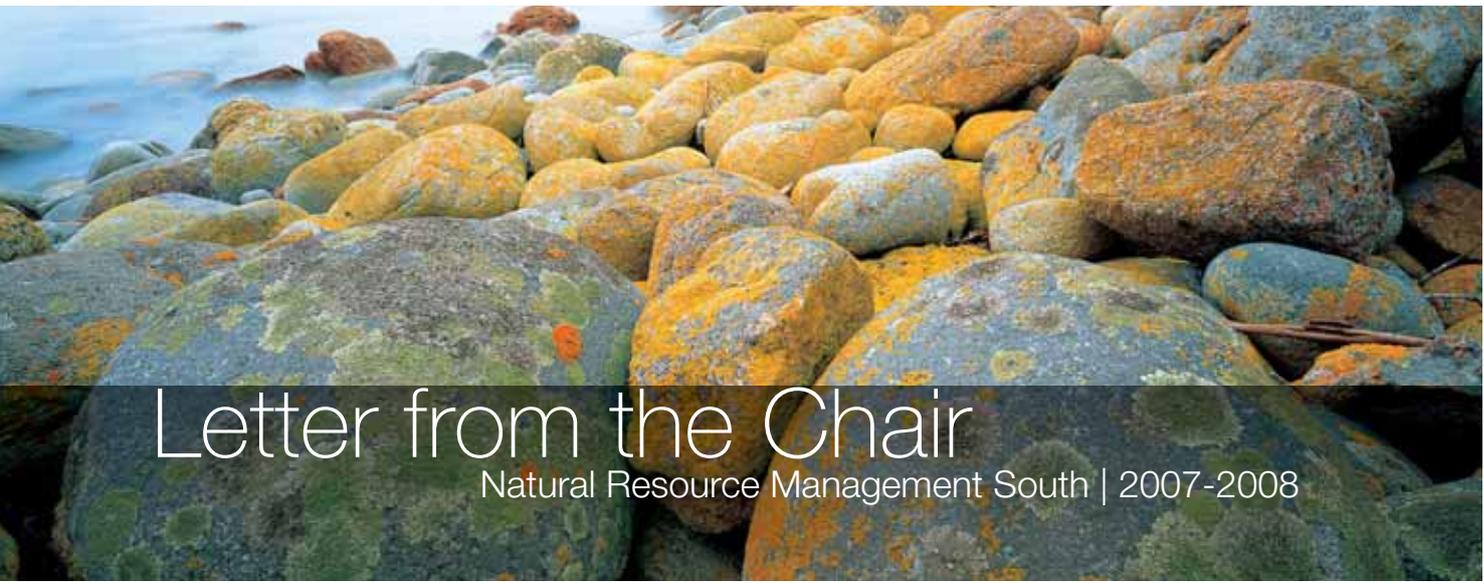
Improving Natural Resource Management in Southern Tasmania

2007-08
NRM South | **Annual Report**

Contents

NRM South Annual Report 2007-2008

Letter from the Chair	1
Our Region: Southern Tasmania	2
Our Region's Strategy	3
Our Role: Natural Resource Management South	4
Highlights: 2007-08	5
Strategic Directions: 2008-09 and beyond	6
Performance Report Performance against the NRM South's Corporate Plan and Annual Business Plan	7
CASE STUDY Clean, Green Marine: Helping the Fishing Industry Tackle Point-Source Pollution	8
CASE STUDY Reporting with a human face: Piloting the MSC Technique in Tasmania	9
CASE STUDY Local Government: Banding Together to Preserve Aboriginal Heritage	11
CASE STUDY Little Swanport: Catchment, River and Community	16
CASE STUDY Here to Share: Managing Tasmania's Coastal Playground	18
Performance Report Performance against the Natural Resource Management Act 2002 Functions and Powers of Regional Committees	19
CASE STUDY NRM Incentives: Supporting Landholders in Making a Difference	20
CASE STUDY Flowing Freely or Calling for Care? Understanding Our Rivers	21
Financial Report	22
APPENDIX A: NRM South Programs	30
APPENDIX B: NRM South Committee Members	33
APPENDIX C: NRM South Standing Committees	36
APPENDIX D: Members of the Southern Regional NRM Association	36



Letter from the Chair

Natural Resource Management South | 2007-2008

I am pleased to present the NRM South Annual Report for the 2007-08 financial year. Amidst significant changes nationally, NRM South has continued to work successfully with the community, our partners and stakeholders to implement our current programs. Of the 56 projects initiated over the last two years, 23 were completed by the end of June 2008. Some of the exciting outcomes from these investments are presented as case studies within this report.

This annual report demonstrates that NRM South continues to grow in its effectiveness and capacity to support regional stakeholders and the community to work towards implementing the Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania (Southern NRM Strategy). We have seen strong delivery against our Corporate and Annual Plan objectives, with the investment of over \$5 million in funds for 57 projects addressing the strategic priorities of the Southern NRM Strategy. This has been underpinned by strength and continuous improvement in our organisational governance, monitoring and reporting framework, and investment planning processes.

The year has also seen an increased focus on communication and relationship development with the regional community, stakeholders and investors. Some of the highlights include sponsorship of community events such as the Mountain Festival's climate change program and the inaugural Tasmanian Youth Environment Conference as well as many industry forums and workshops.

Nationally, Natural Resource Management (NRM) has undergone a significant review, resulting in a new consolidated national natural resource management program, *Caring for our Country*. This and other new and emerging national programs create opportunities for NRM South and Tasmania.

We have had the opportunity to input into this, amongst other national issues, through the National NRM Regions Working Group. As Chair of NRM South, and representing the three Tasmanian regions, I have found this to be a valuable forum for discussion and it has provided opportunities to showcase Tasmania's excellence and leadership in regional NRM. It is with pleasure, embracing the opportunities that it presents, that I have taken on the role of chairing this national group until April 2009.

Within Tasmania, NRM South has contributed to the Tasmanian Government review of the NRM Framework and the legislation underpinning regional natural resource management, the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*. The Tasmanian Government has reaffirmed its strong commitment to regional natural resource management, with revised legislation anticipated to be tabled in Parliament in early 2009.

In order for NRM South to continue to be pro-active and provide strong leadership in the Region, the committee and management have commenced a review of NRM South's role and strategic directions,

which will be completed by December 2008. This strategic planning has been informed by consultation with regional stakeholders and the community and internal evaluations of programs and processes. It has highlighted the value of current partnerships and relationships and the important role that regional NRM bodies can play in regional planning processes and in the sharing of information and knowledge about our Region's natural resources.

As we look ahead into 2008-09, NRM South will be working closely with our current partners, our regional community and all stakeholders in the Region to ensure we focus on delivering strategic NRM priorities in Southern Tasmania. We will be actively seeking funds to increase our capacity to deliver regional NRM outcomes and we will be working closely with our current investors to ensure effective and efficient delivery of their priorities.

We recognise many of the issues facing our regional community and landholders, including the drought and other impacts of climate change, and are committed to leading and supporting the Region with adaptive and mitigating NRM solutions. We are in this for the long haul, together.

In closing, I wish to thank Association members for the opportunity to continue the valuable work we are doing in the Region and to thank my fellow Committee members and staff under the leadership of Director, Vanessa Elwell-Gavins. The results within this report are testament to the commitment, loyalty and hard work of the team over the last 12 months.



Dr Christine Mucha
Chair



Our Region

Southern Tasmania



The Southern Region spans the area of Tasmania covered by the 12 Southern Tasmanian Councils: Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman.

Southern Tasmania has a wealth of natural resources. The Region covers approximately 2.5 million hectares (38% of Tasmania), encompassing the South-West Wilderness World Heritage Area, the Macquarie Island World Heritage Area and four internationally recognised, Ramsar-listed wetlands. The Region features river systems and lakes in near pristine condition, a highly diverse flora and fauna population, including a number of species threatened and/or endemic to Tasmania, a range of soils in complex landscapes, internationally recognised 'natural icons' and an exceptionally long and complex coastline.

The Region is home to more than 50% of the Tasmanian population and supports diverse rural industries including agriculture, horticulture, fishing, aquaculture and forestry. The Region's water resources, land resources (soils, and geological features and processes), native flora and fauna, marine, coastal and estuarine resources and air underpin the environmental, social and economic well-being of the Region. They have intrinsic values as well as supporting agricultural systems, industry, tourism, ecosystem health and human needs.

TOP

The spectacular dolomite pillars of Cape Raoul on the Tasman Peninsula

RIGHT

Viticulture at Bream Creek



Our Region's Strategy

The Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania

The *Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania* (Southern NRM Strategy) was developed in consultation with regional stakeholders and the community and accredited by Tasmanian and Australian Government Ministers in 2005.

The Southern NRM Strategy articulates a regional vision, which is that:

The Southern Region's natural resources will be protected, sustainably managed and improved for the shared environmental, social and economic benefit of our Region by a well-informed, well-resourced and actively committed community.

The goals of the Southern NRM Strategy are to:

1. Facilitate participation, communication, networks and partnerships with all sectors of the community to develop and implement the Southern NRM Strategy.
2. Maintain and improve the condition of the Southern Region's natural resources.
3. Contribute to the development of sustainable human communities to provide employment and a quality lifestyle.
4. Assist in the development of a sustainable and balanced approach to economic development.
5. Build the capacity of all sectors of the community to work together and share responsibility for sustainable natural resource management, to monitor resource condition, and to ensure well-informed decisions.

The Southern NRM Strategy has identified a number of resource condition targets with a 20-year timeframe in mind. These resource condition targets address such attributes as water quality in rivers, wetlands and estuaries, soil condition, vegetation extent and condition, threatened species and ecosystem health.

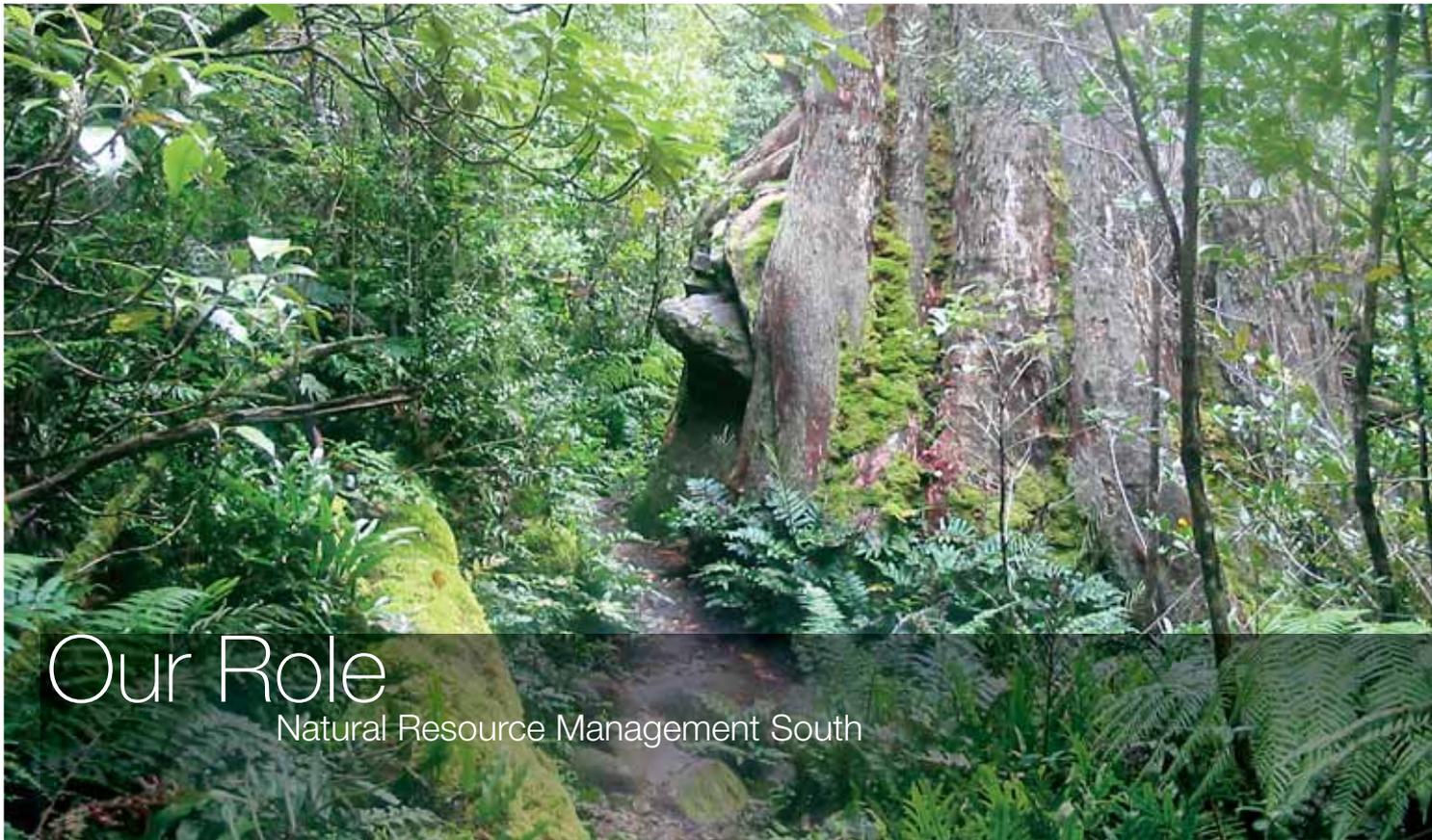
The Strategy is due for review by 2009-10.



TOP
A typical river in the Huon catchment

FAR LEFT
Phragmites australis, a common wetland species

LEFT
Farmers in Little Swanport Catchment assess the results of salt tolerant pasture trials



Our Role

Natural Resource Management South

Improving Natural Resource Management in Southern Tasmania

Who we are

The Southern Natural Resource Management Regional Committee (NRM South) is one of three regional natural resource management committees in Tasmania. These organisations were established in January 2003 as independent bodies in response to the *Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework* and the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*. NRM South's principal functions and powers, as defined under the *Natural Resource Management Act*, are to develop and implement a strategy for natural resource management in Southern Tasmania.

NRM South is the managing body of the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated. The Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association comprises nominees of interested stakeholder organisations and members of the public who sign the Association's Charter and pay an annual membership fee. Members of the Association during 2007-08 are listed in Appendix D.

The role of the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated is to provide the governance and organisational framework for the Southern Regional Committee, which trades as NRM South. The Association accepts NRM South's annual report and audited annual financial statements, and appoints the membership of NRM South as the regional committee 'declared' as the authorised natural resource management regional committee under the *Natural Resource Management Act*.

NRM South, on behalf of the Southern Regional NRM Association Incorporated, is responsible for delivering the functions and powers defined for regional committees under the NRM Act and for ensuring compliance with all statutory and other responsibilities, on behalf of Association members and stakeholders.

The membership of NRM South as the regional committee has remained stable at 14 during 2007-08. The term of office and short biographical information for each member is detailed in Appendix B.

Appendix C details the role and membership of NRM South's four standing committees; the Executive, Audit, Remunerations and Communications and Marketing Committees.

NRM South's reporting, accountability and other rules for its operations are defined in the *Rules of the Southern NRM Association Incorporated*, as per the requirements of the *Tasmanian Incorporated Associations Act 1964* and declaration order issued by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water first 'declared' the Southern Natural Resource Management Committee as a regional committee under the NRM Act on 17 April 2003. All changes of membership of the regional committee are notified to the Minister, who must consider whether NRM South's membership as a whole allows it to retain its status as the 'declared' regional committee for natural resource management in Southern Tasmania. NRM South is accountable to the Minister and through him to the Parliament of Tasmania.



TOP
The 'Octopus Tree' in Hobart's
Wellington Park
LEFT
The enormous nest of
Aquila audax fleayi:
the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle

Highlights

2007-2008



A summary of NRM South's highlights for the year is detailed below. Highlights in each Corporate Plan Key Result Area are detailed in the Performance Report on page 7.

TOP
A restored riparian zone on the
Derwent River at Gretna

BELOW
Austrelaps superbus,
the Lowland Copperhead,
inhabits marshy areas including wetlands



- Strategic investment, management and oversight of some 56 projects contributing to the vision of the Southern NRM Strategy.
- Successful completion of 23 projects in the past two years, providing condition assessment methodologies (e.g. Vegetation Condition Assessment), skills development, awareness and capacity building (e.g. marine forums, feral species identification tools, sediment and erosion control tools) and on-ground action.
- Regional consultation to identify emerging catchment and bio-regional needs and priorities from a technical perspective, a sub-regional community perspective and a statewide perspective.
- Simplification of NRM South program structure to facilitate more integrated natural resource management through a *Healthy Catchments and Coasts* Program, a *Healthy Region* Program and a *Healthy Seas* Program.
- Trial of new monitoring, evaluation and reporting methodologies including program logic and the *Performance Story* and *Most Significant Change* reporting methods (see Case Study page 9).
- On-going provision of technical and facilitation support for NRM South and stakeholders undertaking strategically important projects contributing to implementation of the Southern NRM Strategy.
- Improved communications, with a focus of tailored communications to target audiences and the introduction of a number of new information and communication products.
- Sponsorship of community events including the Climate Change program within the Mountain Festival, the Tasmanian Youth Environment Conference and attendance at events including the Treadlightly Envirofest sustainability festival, Local Government Association of Tasmania Annual Conference and other targeted industry events.
- Securing \$1.8 million in 'core' funding from the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* program for 2008-09 and on-going commitment by the Tasmanian Government to funding \$480,000 per annum for each of the next five years.



Strategic Directions

2008-09 and beyond

NRM South seeks to be a leader in natural resource management, not just in the Region but also in the national landscape. In order to do this, we need to be visionary, looking to the horizon for new ways of approaching issues. We need to be pro-active, by identifying and responding to issues as they emerge, and we need to be responsive and connected with our regional community and stakeholders, whose voices we represent.

As such, NRM South has commenced a review of the organisation's strategic directions and a review of the role of the organisation in the Region and how best to support implementation of the Southern NRM Strategy. This will significantly inform the way in which we do business in the 2008-09 financial year and beyond.

Some of the current considerations that have informed this review to date include:

- The Australian Government's new national natural resource management program, *Caring for our Country*, with its more contestable funding environment. 2008-09 is designated by the Australian Government as a 'transition year' for its national natural resource management programs as it juggles finalisation of the *Natural Heritage Trust Extension* and the *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality* and commencement of its new program, *Caring for our Country*. New funding arrangements both nationally and at State level require regional bodies to operate as independent businesses. This opens doors to new ways of doing business.
- The Tasmanian Government's review of the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* and its reinforcement of the role of Regional NRM Committees in the State reinforces NRM South's commitment to delivery against the legislated functions and powers of regional committees.
- The issues and opportunities raised in the consultations undertaken by NRM South with regional stakeholders, partners and the community will continue to inform investment decisions and have already resulted in a new structure for NRM South's programs.
- Climate change, including the on ground implications, the priorities in regional planning processes and State and Australian Government policy developments are areas of high priority for NRM South and it is critical for us to lead and support the Region in responding to this issue.
- Increased regional planning processes and reviews in Southern Tasmania are incredibly valuable and NRM South plays a key role in informing regional decision making processes of the relevant NRM priorities and issues.

Throughout this period, NRM South will continue to address our key goals:

- To promote the adoption of the Southern NRM Strategy in policy, planning and decision-making.
- To build and disseminate knowledge of the Region and condition of Southern Tasmania's natural resources as well as their trends, particularly in the context of climate change.
- To support the community to manage regional natural resources more effectively.
- To address key natural resource management priorities.

Upon completion of the strategic review, NRM South will be more effectively poised to adapt and respond to emerging issues and opportunities. The review will inform a new strategic Corporate Plan, better tailored to the changing operational environment, and from this the 2008-09 Annual Business Plan.

In 2008-09, NRM South is committed to improving the valuable partnerships developed to date and to building strategic partnerships and alliances to work with regional stakeholders in new areas of priority. Not only will we be securing on-going funding by preparing a four-year funding proposal for 'core' funding from *Caring for our Country* but we are working to position ourselves appropriately for a more diversified funding environment to increase investment into implementing the Southern NRM Strategy.

In partnership with current providers, we are looking forward to completing all contract obligations under the *Natural Heritage Trust Extension* and *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality*. We will be sharing the many outcomes achieved to date in implementing the Southern NRM Strategy and national funding programs and are excited about commencing implementation of new programs and activities.

We are committed to making 2008-09 an exciting, productive and rewarding year as we work with our regional community, partners and stakeholders to improve natural resource management in Southern Tasmania.



Performance against NRM South's Corporate Plan and Annual Business Plan

NRM South's business is driven by a Corporate Plan that sets strategic directions for NRM South as an organisation. Each year, NRM South prepares an annual business plan, reflecting the Key Result Areas in the Corporate Plan. The annual business plan identifies a number of discrete projects which are the focus of NRM South business for that year. Business plan projects will vary from year to year to reflect changing needs and priorities.

Corporate Plan Key Result Areas

The Key Result Areas (KRAs) identified in the Corporate Plan are:

1. Implementation of approved programs
2. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
3. Communication of regional NRM issues and achievements
4. Effective relationships and partnerships
5. Southern NRM Strategy implementation
6. Community and stakeholders supported to undertake NRM activities
7. Southern NRM Strategy and investment planning
8. Organisational maturity and governance

Performance against each key result area during 2007-08 is summarised in the following pages.

TOP

Midlands sheep farmer

TOP LEFT

Sarcocornia quinqueflora

'Marsh Samphire'

– a common coastal herb

RIGHT

Serrated tussock – a target of
Southern Tasmanian Weeds Strategy

FAR RIGHT

Migratory shorebird signage
in Ralphs Bay



Corporate Plan KRA 1: Implementation of approved programs

This key result area addresses NRM South's core activities under six programs to implement the Southern NRM Strategy, with funding secured from national funding programs and approved by Australian and Tasmanian Government Ministers. NRM South's programs in 2007-08 were Integrated NRM, Water, Land, Marine, Coastal and Estuarine, Flora and Fauna and Cultural Landscapes. Appendix A details program activities undertaken during 2007-08.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Strategically invested \$5,012,723 in funding through 56 projects addressing strategic priorities identified within the Southern NRM Strategy.
- Successfully sought an extension for 27 projects, which have needed additional time for proper completion due to factors such as drought.
- Maintained strong relationships with service providers and partners.
- Successfully completed 23 projects, providing condition assessment methodologies (e.g. Vegetation Condition Assessment), skills development, awareness and capacity building (e.g. marine forums, feral species identification tools, sediment and erosion control tools) and on-ground action (e.g. Bruny Island Threatened Species and Weed Project, New Town Rivulet Stormwater Works).

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan Project	Result 2007-08
Establish effective contracts for all approved activities	Roll out of remaining RIP1 & RIP2 programs approved to June 2008	On track. All projects initiated
Ensure effective progress of outputs and outcomes from activities	Effective completion of approved programs	On track. Most projects are delivering or exceeding expected outputs and outcomes. Some 25 projects have been extended at this stage to December 2008, while two projects have been extended to June 2009

Clean, Green Marine: Helping the Fishing Industry Tackle Point-Source Pollution

With an international reputation for supplying premium seafood, Tasmania's commercial fishers are keen to showcase the industry's clean and green credentials, and to ensure that Tasmania is leading the world in environmentally-aware fishing practices.

Commercial fishers in the Southern Region are taking action to control and reduce industry pollution through an industry partnership with NRM South. A pilot study of the volume and types of waste typically generated by commercial fishing is helping to inform the development of industry-led best-practice methods for tackling fishing related pollution at marinas, ports and slipways.

Waste generated from extended fishing trips and routine maintenance has been assessed through a study of Margate jetty, while heavy maintenance-related waste streams and their potential for environmental impact have been determined through studying Nubeena slipway.

At Nubeena, where each year up to 15 fishing boats go to have spent antifouling sand-blasted off, the study has assessed the best way to capture and contain antifouling paint particles, preventing them from contaminating marine waters.

"Historically, spent antifouling has simply been scraped off by the water's edge and paint particles, containing copper and tributyltin, just washed into the sea," explains the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council's Project Officer Emily Ogier. "Now, by using less toxic paints and better managing the waste, we're preventing a significant source of marine pollution."

The knowledge and understanding gained from the Margate and Nubeena studies is now being used by Tasman Council, the Southern Waste Strategy Authority and the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council to generate frameworks for marine waste management that can

Case Study Industry/Local Government Partnerships/ Healthy Seas



Mel Fazackerly (Tasman Council), Emily Ogier (Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council) and Byron Stacey (Nubeena Slipway) examine the Nubeena slipway

be used at other marinas, ports and slipway facilities in Southern Tasmania, resulting in better management of marine pollution risks.

"Today's fishers and marine farmers aren't just putting premium seafood on our tables," says Emily Ogier. "They're determined to make Tasmanian seafood the most environmentally aware and sustainable in the world."

Corporate Plan KRA 2: Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

This key result area addresses the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of program and project performance, the Southern NRM Strategy and program implementation.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Further developed the monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework and action plan that was drafted in February 2007.
- Completed an evaluation of the first year of implementation of NRM South programs.
- Established a preliminary *Program Logic* framework to identify assumptions underlying NRM South's programs, clarify immediate outcomes, intermediate outcomes and longer-term resource condition outcomes anticipated from NRM activity in the Southern Region.
- Participated in an Australian Government pilot *Performance Story Report*, an evaluation and reporting mechanism using multiple lines of evidence to capture quantitative as well as qualitative information about outcomes from program implementation.
- Invested in a pilot of the *Most Significant Change* qualitative evaluation methodology to identify 'significant change' events within Landcare groups in the region (see below Case Study).
- Initiated a statewide Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework to align with national moves towards *Program Logic* frameworks.
- Participated in the *National Landscape Logic* project (a Commonwealth Environment Research Fund project run by the University of Tasmania, involving six regions in Tasmania and Victoria, seven research institutions and the Tasmanian and Victorian Governments). It is anticipated that the *National Landscape Logic* project will provide a valuable validation mechanism for key assumptions within NRM South's programs.
- Initiated development of a number of tools designed to assist with long-term resource condition monitoring. These include the Tasmanian River Condition Index (see Case Study on page 21), *tracking water condition* project, an estuarine water quality monitoring framework, projects setting benchmarks for soil condition and vegetation condition and projects investigating marine ecosystems (including SeaMap), foreshore values and rocky reefs.

Reporting with a Human Face: Piloting the MSC Technique in Tasmania

Few people would regard project reports as a source of light reading, but thanks to an NRM South supported pilot this may be about to change.

With the assistance of NRM South, the Tasmanian Landcare Association (TLCA) has undertaken a region-wide pilot of the *Most Significant Change Technique* (MSC), an analytical tool enabling natural resource management activities to be reported with a human face.

Unlike traditional reporting methods, MSC is a story-based technique. Departing from measures of hectares, kilometres, numbers of plants or breeding pairs, MSC instead collects personal interpretations of change.

The pilot arose from an earlier project to gather information on Landcare outcomes in the Southern Region, coupled with a desire to trial MSC in a Tasmanian context.

In one-on-one interviews, Tasmanian Landcare volunteers were asked to tell stories about significant changes they had experienced through their involvement with Landcare groups, what had impacted their group and the work it was undertaking.

"The TLCA exists to give care groups a voice and the opportunity to express ideas, needs and concerns about Landcare," explains TLCA Executive Officer Jodie Epper.

"With over 360 member groups statewide there are literally thousands of powerful, personal Landcare stories just waiting to be told, and much we can learn from them."

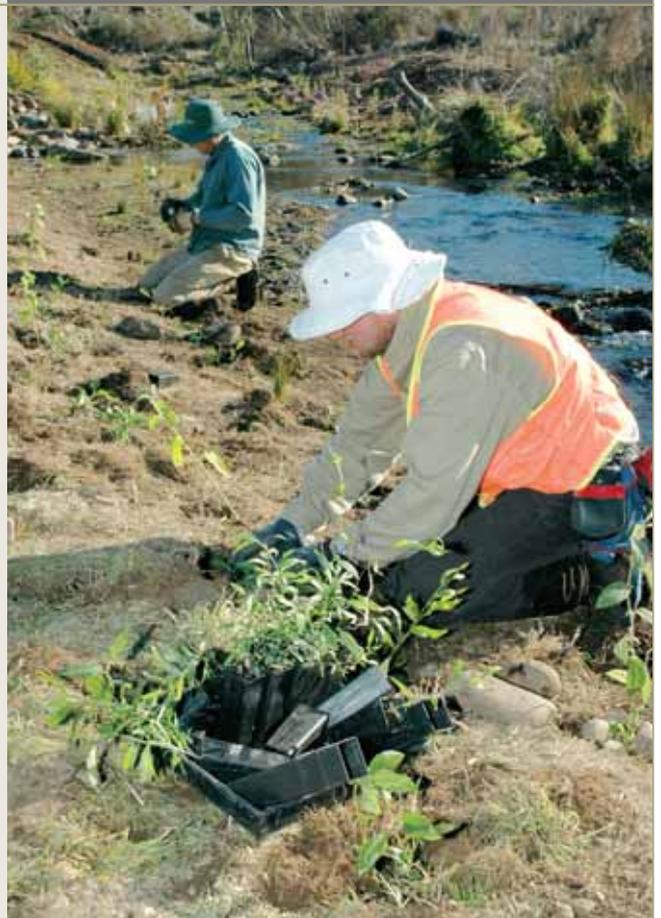
Some forty stories were collected from volunteers around Southern Tasmania before being reduced to just three stories seen as telling the most significant change. Even the process of reduction was driven by human impacts, with shortlisted stories speaking profoundly to Landcare field-operatives and managers.

"The MSC pilot has enabled the work done by volunteers to be integrated into the bigger regional picture," says Jodie Epper.

"We now have a clearer understanding of the needs and drivers of care groups within the Region and this will support us in working to reverse land degradation and in achieving ecologically sustainable management of our land and water resources."

Case Study

Support for the Care Community/ Healthy Region



Landcare volunteers helping restore the New Town Rivulet were amongst those participating in the MSC trial

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan Project	Result 2007-08
Develop an appropriate monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework	Finalisation and implementation of the framework	In progress The draft monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework initially approved by NRM South in early 2007 has been further developed in light of changes in federal and state reporting requirements Initiated a state-wide monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement framework under development across the three Tasmanian regions
Develop and implement an appropriate information and data management framework	Finalisation and implementation of the framework	In progress Commissioned and commenced work with an external consultant to support the development of an information and data management framework Draft framework and policy complete Participated in a number of cross-regional data and information management activities including the Data Access Working Group and the Data Library project, both initiated by the Tasmanian Government to address statewide needs under a national framework
Evaluate program implementation	Review and evaluation of NRM South programs	Completed in October 2007. The evaluation concluded that most NRM South activities/projects are delivering the outcomes originally anticipated
Negotiate responsibility for resource condition monitoring	Development of a resource condition monitoring framework	In progress Initiated development of a number of tools designed to assist with long-term resource condition monitoring
Identify contribution of action at paddock level to resource condition change	Participation in National Landscape Logic Pilot Program	On-going The Director represents the three Tasmanian regions on the Advisory Board and NRM South staff have participated in various forums to advance Landscape Logic, including a retrospective project looking at water quality in Tasmanian catchments; a retrospective project on vegetation management in Victoria; and a 'knowledge broking' project, designed to help the transfer of Landscape Logic findings to regional bodies



RIGHT
A volunteer with
The Understorey Network collects
native seeds for propagation

Local Government and the Community: Banding Together to Preserve Aboriginal Heritage

Case Study

On Ground Works/
Support for the Aboriginal Community/
Healthy Catchments and Coasts

Across farms and suburban subdivisions, riverbanks and coasts, Southern Tasmania contains an abundance of Aboriginal cultural heritage. With the East Coast especially rich in significant sites, NRM South is supporting the Aboriginal community's efforts to protect and preserve their cultural heritage.

NRM South Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer Paul Dawson has been working closely with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) to ensure that contemporary activity respects the sites and their values.

"Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are irreplaceable," Paul Dawson explains. "On the East Coast they are increasingly threatened by coastal development and supporting the Aboriginal community's aspirations to protect their cultural heritage is paramount."

To counter this threat NRM South has helped facilitate effective partnerships between stakeholders and the Aboriginal Community with a ground-breaking pilot between Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and TALSC.

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Aboriginal Coastal Values Project invested \$70,000 in a range of activities which actively engaged the Aboriginal Community in local natural resource management. In addition to taking effective action to conserve and protect Aboriginal heritage sites in the Glamorgan-Spring Bay area, the project helped foster wider community awareness, understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage and culture.

The project developed and implemented techniques which are managing access and mitigating potential impacts on Aboriginal Heritage sites and native remnant coastal vegetation.

TALSC's Senior Aboriginal Heritage Officer and an Aboriginal works crew concealed and protected a large midden, active over thousands



Aboriginal works crew rebuilding the coastal track

of years of continuous occupation, and a popular coastal walking track which crossed over a number of sensitive areas has been re-routed and lengthened.

"In addition to protecting these sites, new interpretative signage is being developed to explain their significance and value," Paul Dawson added.

"This project has demonstrated the value of working with the local Aboriginal community in protecting Aboriginal heritage and has provided a powerful model for other local government areas."

Corporate Plan KRA 3: Communication of regional NRM issues and achievements

This key result area addresses communication with the community, stakeholders, partners and investors, which is so pivotal to the role of NRM South as a regional body. NRM South's ability to communicate key messages about natural resource management issues, challenges and good management practices underpins the ability of our regional community to protect, maintain or improve the condition of our natural resources.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Developed and implemented a structured communications plan to target audiences including regional stakeholders, partners and investors, focusing on NRM South programs, opportunities and emerging issues.
- Significantly increased organisational focus and capacity to deliver communications and community engagement activities, with the addition of a Communications Officer to the team at NRM South.
- Conducted a comprehensive series of consultations with stakeholders and the community about current and future investment priorities, a key input into the revision to NRM South's program design and effectiveness in implementing the Southern NRM Strategy.
- Communicated with stakeholders and potential investors/partners about program achievements to date through a new look monthly e-newsletter, *NRM Snapshots*, and a new quarterly print newsletter, *Naturally Inspired*.
- Presented regional progress reports and performance presentations to the Joint Steering Committee (comprising senior officials in the Australian and Tasmanian Governments on behalf of ministers).
- Prepared successful investment proposals to secure core funding and seek additional project grant funds.
- Communicated and engaged with the community through a number of events including NRM South's pinnacle sponsorship of the Mountain Festival's Climate Change Program.
- Significantly increased positive media coverage through press, print, radio and television of NRM South and NRM South activities including Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour benthic survey results, migratory shorebird signage (see Case Study page 18) and the Southern Tasmanian Weeds Strategy.

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan Project	Result 2007-08
Communicate information on outputs, outcomes and resource condition to appropriate audiences	Develop and implement an effective communications program	Initial program completed, on-going Communications plan developed and implemented, including new channels of communication to address outputs and outcomes communication
Raise awareness in the community about NRM	Establish baseline awareness levels through a Community Survey to set target increase in community awareness of NRM	Complete Baseline awareness measured, methodology and measures for ongoing measurement developed Preliminary analysis of the results of a Rural Landholder Survey conducted as a national pilot by the Bureau of Rural Sciences

Corporate Plan KRA 4: Effective relationships and partnerships

In championing the Southern NRM Strategy, NRM South is dependent upon effective relationships and partnerships with investors, key stakeholders, service providers, other regional NRM bodies and the community. Effective relationships and partnerships underpin everything that NRM South does, thereby influencing our ability to facilitate implementation of the Southern NRM Strategy.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Strengthened relationships with State and Australian Government investors through the regional investment planning process (including the NRM Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement team and Sustainable Farm Practices team).
- Improved relationships with local government at all levels through support and participation in regional planning reviews, communication of and engagement in NRM activities and by conducting training for relevant local council staff on use of NRM data and information (for example coastal values).
- Increased focus on cross-regional collaborations, including initiating the re-establishment of the communications working group.
- Fostered stronger relationships through a process of consultation with technical specialists and our sub-regional and regional community to identify current and future issues and opportunities.
- Strengthened our national links through the NRM South Chair's participation as the Tasmanian representative on the National NRM Regions Working Group.
- Participated in development of, and signed the first Aboriginal Regional Partnership Agreement in Australia.
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the Tasmanian Government and NRM North and Cradle Coast NRM on a Property Management Systems Framework to develop a consistent approach to managing property issues while sustaining farm business profitability and environmental values.
- Strengthened the partnerships between NRM South and project steering committees, working groups and service providers to ensure effective and timely delivery of project outcomes.
- Continued the important partnership with the University of Tasmania and other regional bodies through two national projects; one addressing best practice regional governance for regional NRM bodies (involving nine regions in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales), and the National Landscape Logic project, involving six regions in Victoria and Tasmania, seven research institutions and two State Governments.
- Continued a successful relationship with The Mountain Festival and initiated or further developed relationships with many community and stakeholder organisations, including Sustainable Gardening Australia, the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens and the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative.

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan Project	Result 2007-08
Establish and maintain effective partnerships	Partnership program	Maintained or strengthened current partnerships Established new relationships and partnerships to address current and emerging regional priorities

Corporate Plan KRA 5: Southern NRM Strategy implementation

This key result area addresses all activity undertaken by NRM South to deliver or facilitate implementation of the Southern NRM Strategy. It encompasses work undertaken by NRM South alone or in partnership with other organisations to address targets in the Southern NRM Strategy. It also addresses policy and institutional arrangements which may impact on the region's ability to protect, maintain or improve the condition of our natural resources.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Through NRM South projects, delivered a number of important management actions within the Southern NRM Strategy to address regional priorities.
- Contributed to several policy and institutional reviews to raise the importance of integrating natural resource management planning with other broader policy issues and debates.
- Trialed new reporting and evaluation methodologies including participation in the *Performance Story* reporting pilot, which has provided a comprehensive picture of multi-stakeholder contribution to NRM in the Derwent Catchment, and the *Most Significant Change* pilot, through which the Tasmanian Landcare Association documented the contribution made by the 'care' community to achievement of targets within the Southern NRM Strategy (see Case Study page 9).

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan Project	Result 2007-08
Identify contribution to Southern NRM Strategy implementation by others	Southern NRM Strategy contribution program and documentation	Progressed in 2007-08 through new monitoring, reporting and evaluation methodologies Will be further guided in 2008-09 by the framework provided by <i>Program Logic</i> across the Region
Address institutional and policy barriers to Southern NRM Strategy implementation	Institutional review and policy commentary	Contributions to policy reviews and reviews of planning schemes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of the NRM Act • The State Government draft Climate Change (State Action) Bill • The Joint Land Use Planning Initiative review involving Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Brighton and Southern Midlands municipalities



LEFT
Conservation volunteers have been working to revegetate the Jordan River at Brighton

Corporate Plan KRA 6: Community and stakeholders supported to undertake NRM activities

Supporting the community and stakeholders to undertake NRM activities is a focus for NRM South. It is through increased regional capacity of stakeholders and the community to manage natural resources on the ground in the local environment that improvement and protection of Southern Tasmania's natural resources can be achieved sustainably, and with results beyond those achievable with investment of core funding alone.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Provided local government training in Coastal Values and set up a framework for future training of a similar nature.
- Supported the Care Community in action planning.
- Established and supported community partnerships with Conservation Volunteers Australia, Green Corps and Landcare's *Extra Hands* programs which increase the capacity for the delivery of on-ground works.
- Through NRM South's *NRM Incentives* project, increased protection for key natural resources through management agreements with 21 landowners for 31 sites, protection of 749ha of vegetation and 11km of waterways, and establishment of three soil management sites and three weed control sites (see Case Study page 20).
- Supported Property Management Planning across some 28,000ha of private land on the Tasman Peninsula, East Coast and in the midlands.
- Supported local government and catchment community groups to undertake NRM activities including creation of wildlife corridors and buffer zones for important bushland in the Huon and Kingborough municipalities, weed management in Glamorgan Spring Bay, Southern Midlands and parts of the Derwent Catchment and riparian management along New Town Rivulet amongst others.
- Provided community, stakeholder and government briefings and information sessions on unique features of the Bruny Marine Bio region and Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour.
- Developed and promoted information products in partnership with community organisations including:
 - Local Council-based *Native Plant Species Lists*, in partnership with The Understorey Network and the Department of Primary Industries and Water
 - The *Feral Deck*, identifying feral species and their management actions, in partnership with World Wildlife Fund's Threatened Species Network.
 - *Prevent the Spread* marine pest information and best-practice management guidelines to prevent the spread of marine pests to the Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour area.

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan Project	Result 2007-08
Improved NRM practice with the community and stakeholders in the Region	Skills Development and Community Education Program	The program was effectively managed and implemented to support the community and stakeholders to improve NRM practice in the Region, with an extension of the program approved to December 2008
Support the community and service providers to implement the Southern NRM Strategy	Community and stakeholder technical and facilitation support program	Effectively implemented through six staff dedicated to providing or brokering technical and facilitation support for key stakeholders and sectors, delivery of NRM South or other NRM activities



RIGHT
Tasmanian Environmental Flows Project
Aquatic Ecologist, Adam Uytendaal,
assessing water quality

FAR RIGHT
NRM South staff member
Kaylene Allan with a student at the
Tasmanian Youth Environment Conference

Corporate Plan KRA 7: Southern NRM Strategy and investment planning

This key result area addresses those elements of NRM South's work required to further develop the Southern NRM Strategy and secure resources for its implementation.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Completed an important program of consultation, evaluation and review of its own business development priorities in the light of catchment and bio-regional need and current work by existing stakeholders. This will form the basis for NRM South's business planning for 2008-09 and beyond, as well as the review of the Southern NRM Strategy required by 2009-10.
- Secured core resources for NRM South programs and activities from the new national NRM program, *Caring for our Country* (for 2008-09), and the Tasmanian Government (for five years).

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan Project	Result 2007-08
Identify business opportunities for Southern NRM Strategy implementation	Complete business development plan	Completed significant foundation work through extensive consultation and change in program structure, informing recent investment proposals. This will support business planning processes which are on track for 2008-09 Governments now require regional bodies to operate as independent business entities
	Complete business investment and marketing documents targeting stakeholder groups and programs including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> research organisations industry local government national NRM funding programs climate change program other business opportunities 	National NRM funding program business investment and marketing documents were a focus for 2007-08 and have been completed, securing investment for 2008-09. This will enable completion of other existing and new priority business development and marketing documents in 2008-09 (as identified in the business development strategy)
Review resource condition targets and management action targets	Review of targets	Not required until 2009-10 Will be informed through the development of regional <i>Program Logic</i> by asset area
Identify catchment and bio-regional priorities for NRM South investment, planning and service delivery	Development of catchment and bio-regional framework	Completed an extensive consultation process to refine our understanding of issues and priorities at the catchment and bio-regional scale across the Region
Ensure seamless flow-through from NHT2/NAP to new national NRM program	Transition to future programs	The extensive planning and consultation conducted by NRM South during 2007-08 has provided a robust framework capable of ready transition to a new operating environment and new national funding programs from 2008-09
Secure an appropriate level of resources to implement the strategy	Review of strategic priorities and investment priorities	NRM South reviewed the strategic priorities and investment priorities identified in the Southern NRM Strategy at a workshop with members and staff on 18 October 2007. This review was informed by the 2007 consultations and program evaluation
	Develop regional investment proposal	Regional investment proposal submitted and core funding secured for 2008-09
	Develop sponsorship program and policy	Sponsorship policy drafted
	Exploration of fee-for-service opportunities	To be addressed through business development strategy in 2008-09

Little Swanport: Catchment, River and Community

Case Study

Support for the Community/
Healthy Catchments and Coasts

The community in the East Coast farming catchment of Little Swanport has come together to develop a catchment-wide approach to local planning issues.

Through funding assistance totalling \$145,000, NRM South has supported the community in the development of the Little Swanport Whole-of-Catchment Planning Model.

While many landholders have previously been active in local Landcare, changes in funding processes and gaps between funding programs have resulted in significant disillusionment. The pressures of drought and increasing dryland salinity further setback progress, and at the inception of this project, many landholders had disengaged completely from the NRM process.

Bringing together Southern Midlands Council, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and local landholders, the Little Swanport Catchment Management Plan Implementation Committee worked with the entire community to reinvigorate local NRM activities.

Key to this was the employment of a Catchment Coordinator within the catchment. A genuine local, Sandy Dunbabin brought valuable personal connections and established networks to the project.

Sandy Dunbabin provides a vital link between landholders and NRM resources across the region, arranging field days, coordinating farmer discussion groups, assisting scientific researchers, coordinating water quality monitoring and even helping to organise a variety of social events.

"You really can't overstate the importance of social networks in driving rural communities," says Sandy Dunbabin.

"Over 150 people attended the Catchment and Country Womens Association Bush Dance, including a member of State Parliament."

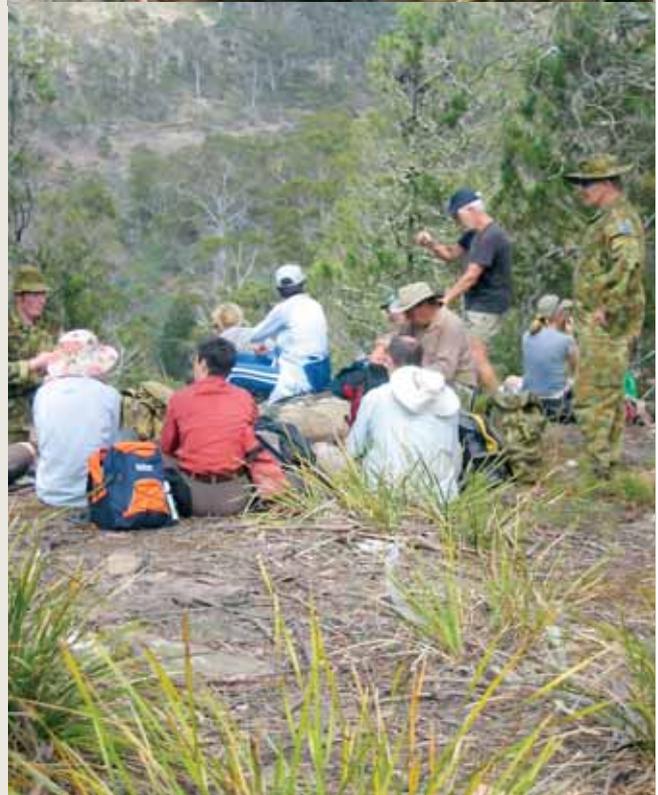
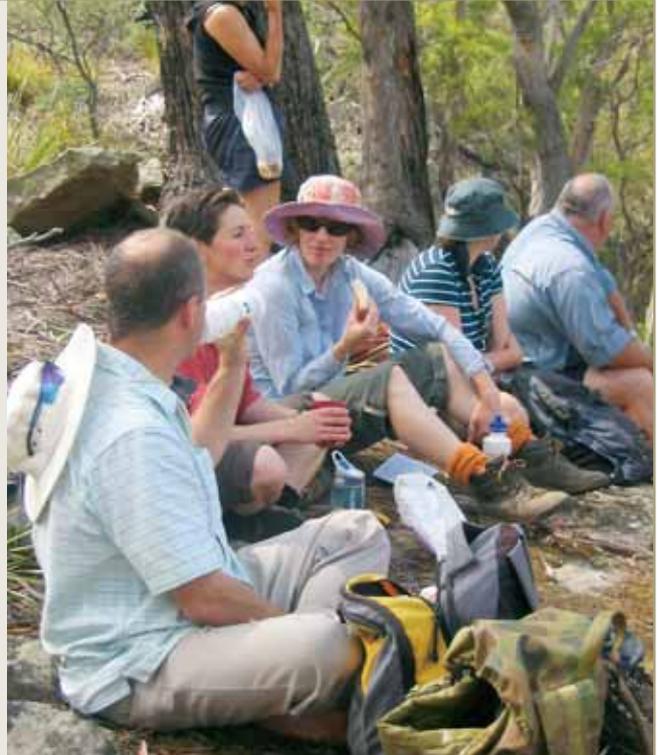
"Now we even have a logo and tagline 'Working Together to look after Our River and Our Community', and that's exactly what the Little Swanport community is doing."

"The project has focused on the community's efforts to sustainably manage the entire catchment," Dunbabin adds.

Designed as a pilot with potential for application in catchments across the region, the project has attracted a lot of attention both in Tasmania and in the wider Catchment Management community, including a presentation at the 11th International River Symposium.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has committed a further \$50,000 towards catchment management in the municipality, and extended the process to incorporate neighbouring Swan-Apsley catchment ensuring the hard work to date will not be wasted.

NRM South will also be extending the pilot model to a number of other priority catchments in 2008-09.



Social events, like this catchment bushwalking day, are strengthening the community at Little Swanport

Corporate Plan KRA 8: Organisational maturity and governance

This key result area addresses all elements of organisational management and decision-making, compliance responsibilities under legislation, human resource management and financial management.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

During 2007-08, NRM South:

- Held six NRM South meetings, eleven Executive meetings, four Audit Committee meetings, and four Communications and Marketing Committee meetings to progress NRM South business and business delegated to Standing Committees. The Remunerations Committee met in late June 2007 to make recommendations on all remuneration matters for 2007-08. Key strategic matters considered by NRM South during 2007-08 included evaluation of current NRM South programs, the shape of NRM South programs to implement the Southern NRM Strategy in future years, and risk management.
- Collaborated with NRM North and Cradle Coast NRM to develop a combined regional submission to the review of the NRM Act and NRM Framework.
- Implemented internal management and adaptation processes to facilitate a smooth transition in the light of changes in the external funding environment and new national Natural Resource Management program, *Caring for our Country*.

RESULTS FOR 2007-08

Objective	2007-08 Business Plan project	Result 2007-08
Develop and implement effective governance and business management systems	Contribution to review of NRM Act	Collaborated with NRM North and Cradle Coast NRM to make a combined regional submission to the review of the NRM Act
	Contribution to Bilateral Agreement for new national funding program	Not sought
Build effective internal management systems, processes and relationships	Review of staffing and budget requirements for the period post July 2008	Preliminary review of staffing undertaken but completion postponed because of funding changes, internal role review and future direction setting
	Performance management system	Completed staff performance plans and performance management system Completed a competency framework for staff, encompassing core competencies and job-specific competencies.
	Routine matters	On-going: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Annual Business Plan, annual agenda & annual budget • Quarterly risk management planning and analysis • Completion, refinement and implementation of business management systems, policies and procedures • Financial management systems and processes • Executive support for NRM South and its standing committees • Document management and archiving • Staff recruitment

Here to Share: Managing Tasmania's Coastal Playground

Case Study

Healthy Catchments and Coasts/
Community and Government Partnerships



Pied Oyster Catchers

With its many bays and inlets, South Eastern Tasmania includes over 1600km of coastline. The *South East Coastal Management Strategy*, which incorporates three flagship projects, has made significant progress towards improving the condition and management of a priority section of this coast.

A watery playground for suburban Hobart, most people are unaware that our coasts provide habitat for local and migratory shorebirds.

A key part of the strategy has been the installation of new signage at 21 significant lagoons and beaches. The signs highlight the importance of our beaches and wetlands in the lifecycles of local and migratory birds, from shearwaters to penguins, oystercatchers and the critically endangered little tern.

Targeting recreational beach users – from swimmers, surfers and fishers to dog walkers, horse riders, trail bike riders and four-wheel drivers – the shorebird signage has been developed through strong partnerships between state and local government and the community.

Across Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell, Tasman and Clarence municipalities and ranging from Dennison Beach, north of Bicheno, around to Five Mile Beach, near metropolitan

Hobart, the signs contain information about shorebirds, threats to them and their habitats, and how the community can minimise these threats.

“Migratory birds and the Tasmanian community share a love of the water.” says NRM South Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Community Engagement Officer Fleur Gedamke.

“While we enjoy ourselves by the water we need to be mindful that our coastal regions are fragile and need our protection,” Fleur Gedamke adds.

“The *South East Coastal Management Strategy* is developing mechanisms to enable us to manage our coasts and to remember that they are here to share.”

In addition to signage, the project has also started restoration work at the internationally significant Orielton Lagoon. One of just ten wetlands in Tasmania listed under the international Ramsar Convention, Orielton lagoon contains important salt marsh habitat which has increasingly become threatened by urban expansion.

Significant inroads have also been made in the war against weeds. All four coastal councils are developing coastal weed management programs, the first stage in tackling and defeating what is a growing problem.



Performance Report

2007-08

Performance against the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*

Functions and Powers of Regional Committees

	Statutory Functions and Powers	Status and Progress in 2007-08
1	To identify the priorities for natural resource management in the Region	Initially completed as part of Southern NRM Strategy development. Reviewed in 2007 as part of consultation on catchment and bio-regional needs and priorities. Requires annual review in light of business development.
2	To prepare a draft Southern Regional NRM Strategy	Completed. Review of Southern NRM Strategy, including targets, required by 2009-10.
3	To facilitate implementation of the Southern NRM Strategy	On-going role. Implemented in 2007-08 through approved programs and funding, and support for stakeholders.
4	To promote natural resource management principles	On-going role. Implemented in 2007-08 principally through NRM South communications and marketing program including community education and engagement activities, contributions to policy reviews and advocacy amongst stakeholder groups.
5	To facilitate the integration of natural resource management and planning activities in the Region	On-going priority, with increased attention anticipated from 2008-09. Addressed in 2007-08 principally through participation in Joint Land Use Planning Initiative operating across four local government areas, and work to support development of council-based information & data systems.
6	To seek, manage and allocate funds according to the Southern NRM Strategy	On-going need, with increased focus from 2008-09. In 2007-08, funding secured from multiple sources including core regional investment under <i>Natural Heritage Trust Extension</i> , <i>National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality</i> , regional competitive and strategic reserve programs, Weeds of National Significance program, National Landcare Program, Woolworths Drought program, and Designer Carrots Market-Based Instruments program (administered by Queensland Department of Natural Resources).
7	To coordinate the Region's participation in national and State programs relating to natural resource management	On-going need. Theme-based support in 2007-08 was coordinated primarily through technical facilitation staff, including support for funding submissions through Envirofund, Community Water Grants and the National Landcare Program.
8	To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Southern NRM Strategy	On-going priority. Evaluated the implementation of programs contracted in response to NRM South's first regional investment proposal. Draft MERI framework implemented and being reviewed in context of <i>Program Logic</i> methodology supported by Australian Government.
9	To develop and implement processes to ensure appropriate education and training in natural resource management	On-going priority. Numerous stakeholder education and training tools addressing NRM priorities were completed in 2007-08. Implementation of training has commenced with on-going support and implementation required. Community education and training resources and activities to address priority NRM issues and key messages have been administered through NRM South's Skills Development and Community Education program.
10	Do anything necessary or convenient to perform the functions and powers as defined in the NRM Act	Met corporate governance, compliance and reporting responsibilities.

NRM Incentives: Supporting Landholders in Making a Difference

Case Study

Healthy Catchments and Coasts –
On Ground Works/Support for Landholders



According to Steve Joyce, NRM Officer with Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Councils, *NRM Incentives* has been a major driver of recent NRM activity on farms throughout the Region.

"No landholder likes watching the land deteriorate, but during drought it's difficult to continue Landcare work," says Steve Joyce.

With agricultural landscapes, from sheep farms to vineyards, comprising a large proportion of the Region, their sustainable management is a key aspect of the NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania.

While many Southern Tasmanian landholders are actively engaged in the NRM process, the pressure of drought has slowed momentum in improving the condition and sustainability of their land.

Despite this, *NRM Incentives* has surpassed expectations in empowering the Region's landholders to undertake practical works resulting in real improvement in the quality and sustainability of soil, water and biodiversity on Southern Region farms.

In partnership with Greening Australia and Agricultural Resource Management, through *NRM Incentives*, NRM South has injected over half a million dollars into works that have benefited both landholders and the environment, principally through improving soil, water and native vegetation management.

NRM Incentives funded erosion control works, including weeding, revegetation and fencing, at this creek near Lake Meadowbank

The 'no forms' process underpinning *NRM Incentives* has been an instant hit with farmers, with rapid and obvious results. In the Coal/Jordan, Swan/Apsley and Derwent catchments, hundreds of kilometres of new fencing have been built, dozens of off-stream watering points installed, swathes of weeds removed, tens of thousands of native seedlings planted, and a range of erosion control activities for north-facing slopes have taken place.

In addition to improved land management practices, *NRM Incentives* has delivered improved water quality in rural creeks and rivers, increased protection of threatened species and quality of habitat, as well as greater control of weeds, pests and diseases.

"*NRM Incentives* has enabled landholders to continue practical work which is making a real difference to resource condition," says Steve Joyce.



FAR LEFT
Wool production is a key
Midlands agricultural activity

LEFT
The results are dramatic in this
fencing trial on a north facing slope

Flowing Freely or Calling for Care? Understanding our Rivers

Case Study Healthy Region

Rivers are the lifeblood of Tasmania's unique landscape and of its many towns and hamlets. They sustain our native ecosystems, irrigate our pastures and crops, provide us with a playground, supply our drinking water and take away our waste water. However you look at it, our rivers are extremely important and much rides on their health.

So which of our rivers are healthy, and which need some tender loving care? A statewide project being coordinated by NRM South is developing a new Tasmanian method that will answer this question.

The Tasmanian River Condition Index (TRCI - or 'tricky' as it is affectionately known) draws on a team of experts in river health from around Australia.

"Tasmania has many hundreds of rivers, streams and creeks and understanding them is crucial in determining how best to manage them," explains NRM South's TRCI Project Manager Johanna Slijkerman.

"In an era of increasing pressure on water resources, the decisions water managers make today may have far-reaching consequences for future generations. TRCI will assist in catchment management based on the best available scientific information."

TRCI will assess river health across four aspects: streamside vegetation, aquatic life, frequency and quantity of flow and channel physical form. These four aspects provide a holistic approach to assessing river condition that will provide information critical to monitoring, understanding and managing our rivers.

As part of the assessment, current condition will be compared to pre-European condition. This will provide a thorough understanding of the impact we have already had on our rivers, as well as setting reference points for monitoring future change.

Test assessments to validate the new methodology are being undertaken throughout the State. Due late in 2008, the results will definitely be interesting.



Paul Wilson, Coordinator of the Victorian Index of Stream Condition and Johanna Slijkerman, TRCI Project Manager, testing the draft TRCI method at St Patrick's River

"TRCI is shaping up to be a vital tool in ensuring that our rivers are managed in an ecologically sustainable manner. It's proving its value already, and we hope it will become part of the standard river management toolbox," says Jo Slijkerman.

BELOW

Assessing the results of trials in the Little Swanport Catchment





Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.
Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

Principal Address – 13 St Johns Ave, New Town

Registered Office – 13 St Johns Ave, New Town

Principal Activity – Governance, organisational framework for administration and implementation of the Southern Natural Resource Strategy as required under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2002* for Southern Tasmania

Number of full-time employees: 14.2

Reporting Entity

Name of Auditor – Macquarie Accounting Pty Ltd

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	2008	2007	2006
	\$	\$	\$
Operating Profit	262,244	148,244	(46,752)
Professional Income	5,381,045	5,511,520	1,643,800
Cash at Bank	3,907,342	3,487,649	2,627,301
Trade Debtors	2,617	988,598	-
Current Assets	3,982,719	4,494,336	2,631,556
Non-Current Assets	14,595	13,303	12,552
Bank Overdraft	-	-	128,993
Trade Creditors	103,240	157,576	58,906
Current Liabilities	183,092	206,149	232,773
Non-Current Liabilities	-	-	2,700

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Revenue	2	5,691,254	5,633,750
Employee Benefits Expense		835,172	683,277
Depreciation and Amortisation		8,278	6,281
Other Expenses		4,585,560	4,795,948
Profit before Income Tax		262,244	148,244
Income Tax Expense		-	-
Profit from Operations		262,244	148,244
Reserves	10		
Decrease in Future Projects Reserve		(749,512)	1,744,610
Total Movement in Equity of the Association		(487,268)	1,892,854

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
Equity			
Future Projects Reserve		3,322,478	4,071,990
Retained Profits		491,744	229,500
Total Equity		3,814,222	4,301,490
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand		350	350
Cash at Bank		9,066	89,316
Deposit - Tascorp Public Finance Corporation		3,898,276	3,398,333
Trade Debtors		2,617	988,598
Other Debtors		1,893	-
Prepayments		11,426	14,389
Provision for GST		59,091	3,350
		3,982,719	4,494,336
Non-Current Assets			
Plant & Equipment		7,032	7,032
Less Accumulated Depreciation		4,555	1,742
		2,477	5,290
Office Furniture & Equipment		22,817	16,955
Less Accumulated Depreciation		15,156	10,908
		7,661	6,047
Furniture & Fittings		6,610	2,902
Less Accumulated Depreciation		2,153	936
		4,457	1,966
		14,595	13,303
Total Assets		3,997,314	4,507,639
Current Liabilities			
PAYG Withholding Payable		15,815	-
Trade Creditors		103,240	157,576
Other Creditors		7,871	3,612
Provision for Long Service Leave		10,000	10,000
Provision for Annual Leave		46,166	34,961
		183,092	206,149
Total Liabilities		183,092	206,149
Net Assets		3,814,222	4,301,490

Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Income		
Funding Received	5,380,709	5,511,256
Members Receipts	336	264
Interest Received	308,525	166,114
Less: Interest attributable to unexpended grant moneys	-	(46,584)
Other Revenue	1,684	2,700
	5,691,254	5,633,750
Expenditure		
Accountancy Fees	9,020	12,380
Advertising	4,821	2,185
Annual Leave - Provision	11,205	(3,374)
Auditor's Remuneration	8,600	7,668
Bank Charges	742	61
Communications	2,012	7,820
Consultancy Fees	33,802	4,885
Depreciation	8,278	6,281
Equipment Purchases	832	926
Fringe Benefits Tax	3,529	3,778
Hosting Agreements	44,891	55,808
Insurance	14,797	2,853
Legal Costs	3,425	5,971
Long Service Leave - Provision	-	5,000
Meeting Expenses	25,885	3,777
Motor Vehicle Expenses	59,716	57,455
Postage	-	28
Printing & Stationery	9,698	9,927
Protective Clothing	-	2,788
Registration Fees	818	1,383
Repairs & Maintenance	477	217
Staff Employment Costs	20,880	709
Service Provider Payments	4,317,631	4,573,324
Staff Training	7,592	12,527
Sundry Expenses	172	-
Superannuation - SGC	67,431	55,449
Telephone	5,645	4,240
Travelling Expenses	11,141	10,790
Wages	735,656	630,493
Waste Disposal	117	108
Working Group Expenses	20,197	10,049
	5,429,010	5,485,506
Operating Profit before Income Tax	262,244	148,244

Statement of Cash Flow for the year ended 30th June 2008

	Note	2008 \$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Grant Funding Received		6,131,541
Payments to Contractors		(4,716,343)
Payments to Employees		(819,158)
GST Refunded/(Remitted)		(166,794)
Other Payments		(263,076)
Interest Received		261,941
Other Income		1,754
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	4	429,864
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Acquisition of Plant & Equipment		(10,527)
Reimbursement of Plant and Equipment		358
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities		(10,169)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		419,695
Cash At Beginning of Financial Year		3,487,997
Cash at End of Financial Year	3	3,907,692

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2008

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania). The financial report covers Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as an individual entity. Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. is an association incorporated in Tasmania under the Associations Incorporation Act. The financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as an individual entity complies with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) in their entirety.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Accounting Policies

(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

(b) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within the association includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the

item will flow to the association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including building and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Leasehold Improvements	20 %
Leased Plant and Equipment	20 %
Office Equipment	10-40 %

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

(d) Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST. Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(f) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(g) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The committee evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the association.

Key Estimates - Impairment

The committee assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
2. REVENUE		
Operating Revenue		
Funding and Member Receipts	5,381,045	5,511,520
	5,381,045	5,511,520
Non-Operating Revenue		
Interest Received	308,525	166,114
Less: Interest attributable to unexpended grant moneys	-	(46,584)
Other Revenue	1,684	2,700
	310,209	122,230
	5,691,254	5,633,750
3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on Hand	350	350
Cash at Bank	9,066	89,316
Deposit - Tascorp Public Finance Corporation	3,898,276	3,398,333
	3,907,692	3,487,999
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,907,692	3,487,999
	3,907,692	3,487,999
4. CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Net Surplus		
Net Surplus for the period	(487,268)	1,892,854
Adjustments for Non-Cash Components in Profit		
Depreciation	8,278	6,281
Other Non-Cash Items	599	(4,104)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
Decrease in Trade and Other Receivables	931,311	(1,002,432)
Decrease in Trade and Other Payables	(34,261)	102,281
Increase in Provisions	11,205	87
	429,864	994,967
5. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade Debtors	2,617	988,598
Other Debtors	1,893	-
Provision for GST	59,091	3,350
	63,601	991,948
	63,601	991,948

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
6. OTHER		
Current		
Prepayments	11,426	14,389
	<u>11,426</u>	<u>14,389</u>
7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant & Equipment		
Plant & Equipment	7,032	7,032
Less Accumulated Depreciation	4,555	1,742
	<u>2,477</u>	<u>5,290</u>
Office Furniture & Equipment		
Office Furniture & Equipment	22,817	16,955
Less Accumulated Depreciation	15,156	10,908
	<u>7,661</u>	<u>6,047</u>
Furniture & Fittings		
Furniture & Fittings	6,610	2,902
Less Accumulated Depreciation	2,153	936
	<u>4,457</u>	<u>1,966</u>
Total Plant & Equipment	<u>14,595</u>	<u>13,303</u>
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>14,595</u>	<u>13,303</u>
8. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
PAYG Withholding Payable	15,815	-
Trade Creditors	103,240	157,576
Other Creditors	7,871	3,612
Total Trade and Other Payables	<u>126,926</u>	<u>161,188</u>
9. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for Long Service Leave	10,000	10,000
Provision for Annual Leave	46,166	34,961
	<u>56,166</u>	<u>44,961</u>
10. RESERVES		
Future Projects Reserve		
	3,322,478	4,071,990
	<u>3,322,478</u>	<u>4,071,990</u>
Movements during the year		
Future Projects Reserve		
Inflows	3,322,478	1,744,610
Outflows	(4,071,990)	-
	<u>(749,512)</u>	<u>1,744,610</u>
11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION		
Macquarie Accounting Pty Ltd were the auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.		
Audit & Review of Financial Reports	8,600	7,668
	<u>8,600</u>	<u>7,668</u>
12. ASSOCIATION DETAILS		
The principal place of business is:		
Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. 13 St Johns Ave, New Town, Tasmania		

Statement by Members of the Committee

In the opinion of the committee:

1. The accompanying financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as at 30 June 2008 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Christine Mucha
Chair



Roger Howlett
Deputy Chair

Dated 11.09.2008

Independent Audit Report to the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (the association) which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008 and the income statement, statement of recognised income and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

The financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania) including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2008 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania).



John Langford
Macquarie Accounting Pty Ltd
Dated this eighth day of September 2008

Appendix A: NRM South Programs (July 2007 - June 2008)

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Activity Name	Service Provider/Partner	Total Funding	Completed
Tasmanian River Condition Index: Stage 2 [Statewide]	Earth Tech	\$285,000	COMPLETED
Tasmanian River Condition Index: Stage 3 [Statewide]	NRM South	\$285,000	
Develop a Holistic Environmental Flow Framework for Tasmania's Catchments [National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality – South and North NRM Regions]	Department of Primary Industries and Water	\$988,500	
Develop and Implement a Framework to Measure Change in Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Water Quality	Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute	\$250,000	COMPLETED
Providing a Framework to Improve Management of Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Habitats: Foreshores	Aquenal Pty Ltd	\$179,000	COMPLETED
Provision of Ecological Character Descriptions for Three Ramsar Wetlands in Tasmania [Project funded from National element of NHT in Northern and Southern Tasmania]	Helen Dunn and Frances Mowling	\$60,000	COMPLETED
Update of <i>A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia</i> (Tasmanian Wetlands) [State-wide project funded from National element of NHT]	GHD Pty Ltd	\$80,000	COMPLETED
Establishing baseline data for monitoring vegetation condition [Statewide]	Department of Primary Industries and Water	\$92,875	COMPLETED
Port Davey Marine Pest Survey	Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute	\$65,300	COMPLETED
Establishing Water Quality Baselines to Set Trigger Levels for Resource Condition Targets	Hydro Tasmania Consulting	\$170,000	COMPLETED
Tracking Water Condition	NRM South	\$100,000	
Investigating Deflation Basins	University of Sydney	\$83,700	
Identifying Priority Freshwater Dependent Ecosystems	RMCG	\$126,000	

PLANNING

Activity Name	Service provider/partner	Total Funding	Completed
Improving Council-based Information and Data Systems	Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority	\$150,000	
Conservation and Protection of Critical Freshwater Ecosystems through Natural Resource Management planning [South & North NRM Regions]	Hydro Tasmania Consulting	\$465,000	COMPLETED
Implement a Whole of Ecosystem and Whole of Catchment Planning Model	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	\$132,000	
Deliver Property Management Planning in the Southern Region: Stage 1	Rural Development Services/ Tasmanian Landcare Association/ Rod Knight GIS	\$331,000	COMPLETED
Macquarie Island Pest Management	Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service	\$30,000	COMPLETED
Glamorgan Spring Bay Aboriginal Coastal Values	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	\$70,000	

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Activity Name	Service provider/partner	Total Funding	Completed
Implementation of the Southern Weeds Strategy: Stage 1	Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority	\$370,000	COMPLETED
Implementation of the Southern Weeds Strategy: Stage 2	Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority	\$90,000	
Support for the Care Community to Address Resource Condition Targets	Tasmanian Landcare Association	\$80,000	COMPLETED
Addressing Rural Tree Decline	University of Tasmania	\$245,000	
Implementing the Nicholls Rivulet Rivercare Plan	Huon Valley Council	\$53,000	
Implementation of the Central Highlands Council and Derwent Valley Council Weed Management Plans	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee	\$77,061	
Woolworths Drought Adaptive Landcare	NRM North and NRM South	\$150,000	

ON-GROUND ACTION

Activity Name	Service Provider/Partner	Funding	Completed
NRM Incentives	Greening Australia (Tasmania)/ Agricultural Resource Management	\$513,000	COMPLETED
NRM Incentives Extensions and NAP Grazing Management Incentives	Greening Australia (Tasmania)	\$653,500	
Implement Threatened Species recovery plans: Stage 1 [Statewide]	Department of Primary Industries and Water/Inland Fisheries Service/ CSIRO/The Understorey Network	\$300,000	COMPLETED
Implementing Threatened Species Recovery Plans to Protect National and State-Listed Threatened Species: Stage 2 [Southern NRM Region]	Department of Primary Industries and Water/Inland Fisheries Service/CSIRO	\$180,000	
North West Bay River Risk Management Works	Kingborough Council	\$120,000	COMPLETED
Strategic Management of High Priority Weeds (Southern Midlands)	Southern Midlands Council	\$20,000	COMPLETED
Vegetation Support for Community Groups Implementing Agreed Plans/Connecting People to Plants: Stage 2	The Understorey Network	\$72,480	COMPLETED
Implementation of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	\$42,000	COMPLETED
St Crispin's Well, North West Bay River Water Quality	Hobart Water	\$18,400	COMPLETED
Huon Kingborough Biolinks	Kingborough Council/Huon Valley Council	\$277,500	
Sedimentation and Erosion Control in the Derwent Metropolitan Region	Derwent Estuary Program	\$120,000	
Implementing NRM Actions in the Derwent Catchment	Greening Australia/Derwent Catchment NRM Committee	\$250,162	
Implementing the Integrated South East Coastal Management Strategy	South East Regional Development Association/Sorell Council/Clarence Council/Tasman Council/Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	\$300,000	
New Town Rivulet Stream and Wetland Rehabilitation	Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils	\$80,000	
Improving Management Practices Impacting on Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Water Quality: Remediation of Point Source Pollution	Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council/ Tasman Council	\$162,308	
Nationally Strategic Control of Outlying Boneseed Infestations Across Tasmania [Statewide]	Project management through the Southern Weeds Officer employed by Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority	\$205,700	
Inter-regional Control and Eradication of Isolated and Outlier Infestation of Weeds of National Significance Grasses [Statewide]	Project management through the Southern Weeds Officer employed by Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority	\$54,520	
Southport Lagoon Conservation Area Coastal Works	Parks & Wildlife Service	\$97,000	COMPLETED
Brighton/Southern Midlands: A Combined Approach to Jordan River Works	Brighton and Southern Midlands Councils	\$75,000	
Hayes Creek Rehabilitation	Hobart Water	\$29,000	
Bruny Island Threatened Species and Weeds	Kingborough Council	\$80,154	
Implementing Priority Weed Mapping and Control on Maria Island	Wildcare: Friends of Maria Island	\$24,000	
Maintaining the Momentum: Management of High Priority Weeds – Southern Midlands Municipality	Southern Midlands Council	\$24,165	
Continued African Boxthorn Control in the Coal River Valley	Coal River Products Association	\$29,000	
Implement Priority Works – Swan Galaxid in Little Swanport Catchment	Inland Fisheries Service	\$26,700	
Implement Priority Works – Pittwater Orielson Lagoon	Sorell Council	\$26,700	
Lakes Sorell and Crescent (Interlaken Wetlands)	Derwent Catchment NRM Committee	\$92,000	
Rebuilding Ecosystem Resilience: Long-spined Sea Urchin	University of Tasmania	\$20,000	COMPLETED
Incentives for Improved Management of Priority Natural Habitat in the Tasmanian Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot	Southern Midlands Council	\$930,000	COMPLETED
Implementing Critical Cross-Regional National Threatened Species Recovery Plans	Department of Primary Industries and Water	\$1,100,000	

CROSS REGIONAL PROJECTS MANAGED BY OTHER REGIONS

Project Title	Lead Region	Service Provider	Total Funding	Completed
Soil Condition Monitoring and Evaluation	Cradle Coast NRM	Department of Primary Industries and Water	\$421,807	
Condition of Rocky Reef Communities, a Key Marine Habitat Around Tasmania	Cradle Coast NRM	Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute	\$290,000	
Rice Grass Eradication from Targeted Areas in Tasmania	Cradle Coast NRM	Department of Primary Industries and Water	\$115,000	
Management of Aboriginal Coastal Lands	NRM North	Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	\$674,742	
Best Practice Salinity Management	NRM North	Serve-Ag/Agricultural Resource Management/Private Forests Tasmania	\$1,200,000	
Regional Salinity Data Audit	NRM North	Hocking et al	\$40,000	
Municipal Salinity Hazard Assessment	NRM North	Department of Primary Industries and Water	\$115,000	



RIGHT
Volunteers from The Understorey Network plant native species on a section of the Coal River

Appendix B: NRM South Committee Members

July 2007- June 2008

Name	Background
Michael Bidwell Jun 2006 - 30 Sept 2008	State Land Management Officer, Hydro Tasmania Member, Southern Tasmanian NRM Facilitators Network Member, Tasmanian Government Inter-Departmental NRM Committee Convenor, Tasmanian Recreational Lakes Committee Member of the Southern Regional Weeds Management Committee Former Member, Wellington Park Management Advisory Committee and Former Deputy Wellington Park Trust Member Former Member, State Bushfire Planning Committee Former Natural Resource Management Officer, Glenorchy City Council
Cam Crawford 1 Oct 2006 - 30 Sept 2010	Manager, Business Development and Strategy, Hobart Water Former roles include Marketing and Communications for private sector and government. Combined Bachelor of Science (Geography), Bachelor of Laws, GAICD
Dr Christine Crawford 1 Feb 2005 - 30 Sept 2008	Program Leader (Natural Resource Management), Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute Recipient of the Vice-Chancellors Award for Outstanding Community Engagement, 2005 Extensive experience in research, development and management of coastal, estuarine and marine environments Ecological consultancy experience
Dr Hans Drielsma Jan 2003 - 30 Sept 2008	Executive General Manager, Forestry Tasmania Director, Australian Forestry Standard and CRC Forestry Former Managing Director, State Forests of NSW Former Commissioner, Forestry Commission of NSW Extensive experience in forest policy and management
Tony Ferrier Jan 2003 - Sept 2010	Director, Community Planning and Development, Kingborough Council Former Manager, Environment and Development Services, Huon Valley Council Board Member, Greening Australia (Tasmania) NRM South representative on the State NRM Council Extensive statutory planning experience and previous broad NSW State agency experience in catchment and public land management Tertiary qualifications in Natural Resources, Urban and Regional Planning and Surveying
Rodney Gibbins 1 Oct 2006 - 30 Sept 2010	Former Chair or President of TAC, TAEA, TALSC A partner in developing natural resource management plans through TALSC, ATSIC and OAA over the past 20 years Involved in developing <i>Ask First</i> booklet regarding development and impacts on Aboriginal culture and heritage Led the consultation between State Government and Aboriginal community regarding the first State Coastal Policy and the Arthur-Pieman Management Plan
Roger Howlett (Deputy Chair) Jan 2003 - 30 Sept 2008	Former General Manager, Clarence City Council Member of Tasmanian Heritage Council Member Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal Commissioner Resource Planning and Development Commission Former Chair, Tasmanian Envirofund Assessment Panel Extensive experience in Local Government land use and strategic planning in Tasmania, NSW and UK Masters of Town and Country Planning, Economics degree
Alice Johnson 1 Feb 2005 - 30 Sept 2008	Strategic and Statutory Planner, GHD Pty Ltd Former Executive Officer, Water Resources Division of DPIW Several years of legal and administrative experience, Tasmania and UK Bachelor of Arts (Environmental Studies), Bachelor of Laws, Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor, Supreme Court of Tasmania
Dr Christine Mucha (Chair) Jan 2003 - 30 Sept 2010	Chief Executive Officer, Hobart Water Chair, Wellington Park Management Trust Board member of Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and University Foundation Fellow Australian Institute of Company Directors Corporate Leader of the Year in the 2006 Tasmanian Business Leaders Awards Tertiary qualifications in agricultural science and agricultural economics, experience in agriculture and management of natural resources

Appendix B: NRM South Committee Members

July 2007- June 2008 (continued)

Name/Term	Background
Helen Pryor Jan 2003 - 30 Sept 2010	<p>Coordinator of the Environment Challenge website for Sustainable Living Tasmania</p> <p>Former Project Officer with Parks and Wildlife Service developing management plans for offshore islands</p> <p>Extensive community involvement with Tasmanian Environment Centre (now Sustainable Living Tasmania), Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Coastal and Marine Network, New Town Rivulet Catchment Care Group, Friends of Port Cygnet</p> <p>Extensive involvement with program management and public policy through National Estate Grants, National Landcare Program Assessment Committee, State Land and Water Management Council, Sustainable Development Advisory Council, NHT and Envirofund State Assessment Panel</p> <p>Bachelor of Education</p>
Dr Rosemary Sandford 1 Oct 2006 - 30 Sept 2010	<p>Research Fellow (Policy), Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre</p> <p>Former Director, Tasmanian Heritage Office</p> <p>Former Senior Policy Adviser to the Premier of Tasmania</p> <p>Joint Chair, Global Climate Change Collaborative (G3C)</p> <p>Member of Birds Tasmania and South Hobart Progress Association</p> <p>Involved in establishing Landcare in Tasmania</p> <p>Extensive experience in environmental policy and conflict resolution, Natural Resource Management, and integrating climate science in public policy and government decision making.</p>
Maria Weeding Jan 2003 - 30 Sept 2010	<p>Farmer in Southern Midlands</p> <p>Landcare Program Manager, Southern Midlands Council</p> <p>Landcarer of the Year (2001)</p> <p>Treasurer & Member, Midlands Tree Committee Inc.</p> <p>Member, Local Government Association of Tasmania Climate Change Reference Group</p> <p>Member, State Biodiversity Committee (1999), (developed Tasmania's Nature Conservation Strategy)</p> <p>Chair, Interim Southern Technical Reference Group (2002), (managed contract for Southern Regional NRM Situation Paper)</p> <p>Former Member & Secretary, Board of Greening Australia (Tasmania)</p> <p>Former Member, State Threatened Species Community Review Committee</p>
Dr John Whittington May 2005 - 30 Sept 2008	<p>Deputy Secretary, DPIW</p> <p>Former General Manager, Resource Management and Conservation Division, DPIW</p> <p>Former Manager, Water Assessment and Planning Branch, DPIWE</p> <p>Extensive experience in natural resource management and planning, and related R&D, particularly in water and catchment management</p>
Ian Whyte 1 Oct 2006 - 30 Sept 2010	<p>Senior Project Officer (Policy), Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, (responsible for policy development and Government relations in NRM and environment protection)</p> <p>Former Executive Officer (NRM), Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association</p> <p>Former CEO, Forest Industries Association of Tasmania</p> <p>Various operational and management roles in private sector forestry in Tasmania (1980–95)</p> <p>Director, Board of the South Eastern Nursing and Home Care Association</p> <p>Member of Institute of Foresters of Australia</p> <p>Fellow Australian Institute of Company Directors</p>

NRM South Committee Members



Michael Bidwell



Cam Crawford



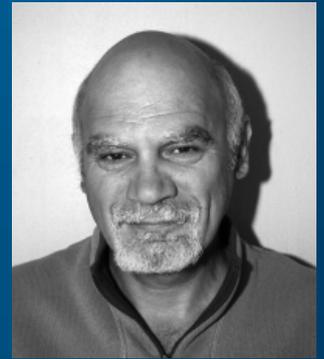
Dr Christine Crawford



Dr Hans Drielsma



Tony Ferrier



Rodney Gibbins



Roger Howlett (Deputy Chair)



Alice Johnson



Dr Christine Mucha (Chair)



Helen Pryor



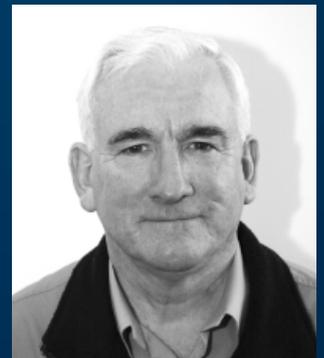
Dr Rosemary Sandford



Maria Weeding



Dr John Whittington



Ian Whyte

Appendix C: NRM South Standing Committees

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee generally meets monthly and has broad responsibility for organisational governance, human resource management policy, financial management and mentoring the Director.

The Executive Committee is chaired by Christine Mucha, with other committee members being Tony Ferrier, Roger Howlett, Rosemary Sandford with Vanessa Elwell-Gavins (in attendance - minutes).

Audit Committee

Members of the Audit Committee include Tracy Matthews (NRM South Financial Adviser, Wise Lord & Ferguson, Chair), Alice Johnson, Christine Mucha and Ian Whyte with Vanessa Elwell-Gavins (in attendance - minutes).

The Audit Committee meets quarterly. Its role is to oversee NRM South's responsibilities for financial management, internal audit, preparation for external auditing, management of risk, fraud and insurance.

Remunerations Committee

The Remunerations Committee is chaired by Christine Mucha, with other committee members being Maria Weeding and John Whittington along with Vanessa Elwell-Gavins (in attendance - minutes)

The Remunerations Committee meets annually to review remuneration policies and adjustments. Its meeting to discuss remuneration for 2007-08 was held in June 2007.

Communications and Marketing Committee

The Communications and Marketing Committee provides guidance to NRM South staff and committee in relation to communications, marketing and community engagement strategies and activities.

The Communications and Marketing sub-committee, chaired by Cam Crawford, met on four occasions over the period of this report. Members of this committee include Michael Bidwell, Roger Howlett, Christine Mucha and Helen Pryor with Natasha Stapleton (in attendance) and Patrick Taylor (in attendance - minutes).

Appendix D: Members of the Southern Regional NRM Association (July 2007 - June 2008)

Birds Tasmania
Cambium Land and Water Management Pty Ltd
Central Highlands Council
Clarence City Council
Coal Valley Landcare (Coal River Products Association Inc)
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources
Department of Primary Industries and Water
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee Inc.
Derwent Valley Council
Eastcoast Regional Development Organisation Inc.
Ensis
Forest Industries Association of Tasmania
Forestry Tasmania
Forests and Forest Industry Council
Friends of Conningham, Oyster Cove and Lower Snug
GHD Pty Ltd
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Greening Australia (Tasmania) Inc.
Hobart City Council
Hobart Water
Howden Landcare Group
Huntingfield Coffee Creek Landcare Group Inc.
Huon Valley Council
Huon Valley Environment Centre Inc.
Hydro Tasmania
Jordan Catchment Land for Wildlife Inc.
Kingborough Council
Leaman Geophysics
Midlands Tree Committee Inc.

Mortimer Bay Coastcare Group Inc.
Mountain Festival Inc.
National Council of Women of Tasmania Inc.
New Town Rivulet Catchment Care Group Inc.
Port Cygnet Land and Water Care Group
Private Forests Tasmania
Regnans Enviro Consulting
Seven Mile Beach Coastcare Group
SFM Environmental Solutions
South Channel Coastcare Inc.
Southern Beaches Land/Coastcare Inc.
Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania
Southern Midlands Council
Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority
Sustainable Living Tasmania
Taroona Environment Network Inc.
Tasman Council
Tasman Landcare Inc.
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association Inc.
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council
Tasmanian Land and Water Professionals Pty Ltd
Tasmanian Landcare Association Inc.
Timber Communities Australia
Timber Communities Australia - Huon Resource Development Group
Tranmere-Clarence Plains Land & Coastcare Inc.
United Nations Association of Australia (Tas) Inc.
Upper Derwent Valley Landcare Group
White Beach Landcare Group Inc.

Thank You



NRM South would like to thank:

- Our Investors, in particular the Australian Government and the Tasmanian State Government for the funding that has enabled delivery of the Regional Strategy in Southern Tasmania.
- Our Service Providers and Partners for their dedication and work in implementing activities to maintain or improve the condition of our natural resources in Southern Tasmania.
- The community of Southern Tasmania, whose tireless work and commitment to natural resource management through times of change and adversity ensures the long term sustainability of our natural resources.



Australian Government



NRM South Staff

Director: Vanessa Elwell-Gavins

Programs Staff

Programs Manager: Alistair Kay

Water Management Coordinator: Aniela Grun

Flora & Fauna Coordinator: Nikki den Exter

Land Management Coordinator: Barry Hardwick

Tasmanian River Condition Index Project Manager: Johanna Slijkerman

Water Planning & Evaluation Officer: David Lenel

Communications and Partnership Staff

Communications & Partnerships Manager: Natasha Stapleton

Water Technical Facilitator: Kaylene Allan

Marine, Coastal & Estuarine Technical Facilitator: Fleur Gedamke

Industry & Landcare Liaison Officer: Natalie Holman

Aboriginal Community Support Officer: Paul Dawson

Communications Officer: Patrick Taylor

Corporate Services Staff

Office Manager: Ellayne Wiles

Finance Officer: Sheena Bell

Administration Officer: Ben Bailey

Administration Assistant: Nick Sargent

Photographs by: Rob Blakers, Sandy Dunbabin, Earth Tech, Nicole Middleton, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council, The Understorey Network, Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Brighton Municipal Council, Wildseed Tasmania, Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute

NRM South
E: admin@nrmsouth.org.au
P: 03 6208 6111
www.nrmsouth.org.au

Design by Green Team Australia
www.greenteamaus.com

Printed on Spicers Tudor RP
100% recycled paper
Printed by Monotone Printers
Hobart, Tasmania



Australian Government



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities