



ANNUAL REPORT

17
18



nrmsouth.org.au



MISSION

To lead and support improved management of natural resources in Southern Tasmania.

VISION

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.

VALUES

Innovation
Excellence
Collaboration
Passion
Outcome Focused

CONTENTS

ABOUT US	2
OUR REGION	3
CHAIR'S REPORT	4
NLP HIGHLIGHTS 2015-18	5
PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW	6
HIGH VALUE SPECIES, PLACES AND COMMUNITIES	7
WATERWAYS AND COASTAL AREAS	11
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	16
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND DATA	20
WORKING ON COUNTRY WITH THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY	22
BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND ENGAGEMENT	25
BIOSECURITY PRACTICES	30
NRM FACILITATION	33
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	34
GOVERNANCE	35
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	37



ABOUT US

Our region's natural resources underpin both its economic prosperity and social wellbeing. Our role is to help manage our resources wisely and sustainably and keep our natural and productive landscapes healthy over the long term.

NRM South is one of three natural resource management bodies in Tasmania, and forms part of a national network of 56 similar bodies. We act as a 'hub', working on issues of statewide significance with partners that include government, research, industry, other non-government organisations, regional bodies, and the community. We build partnerships, secure and direct investment, connect knowledge and expertise to action, and increase the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities.

The southern Tasmanian region is renowned for its diversity of natural habitats as well as being a prime production area that is highly regarded on local, national and international stages. It has become a popular tourism and lifestyle destination, and now more than ever, it is vital that we have the foundations in place that will sustain our resources in the face of increasing pressures and a changing climate. NRM South addresses these needs via an evolving regional NRM strategy that identifies priorities and issues, and works with the community to implement strategic actions that can keep pace with a changing world.

We work to ensure that land, water and coastal management in the region is sustainable, improving productivity and long-term viability, contributing to the economy, the community and the health of the broader environmental landscape. While we are primarily based in Hobart, our team is represented across the region through the NRM Facilitator Network, a team of dedicated co-funded people who work within their local community through partnerships with local government and local NRM groups. Ultimately, our mission is to lead and support improved management of natural resources in Southern Tasmania so that all Tasmanians can continue to benefit from our environment.

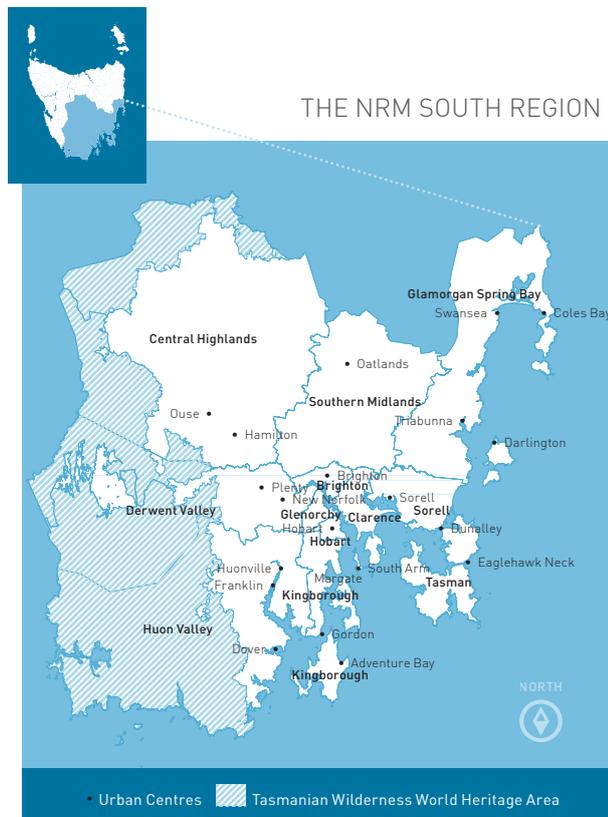
NRM South was established in 2003 under the Natural Resource Management Act 2002.

OUR REGION

Covering 2.5 million hectares, the Southern Tasmanian NRM region incorporates almost half of Tasmania's population of 513,000. It spans the 12 municipalities of Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman as well as the state and federal electoral divisions of Franklin, Denison and roughly one-third of Lyons.

Its people cover a broad social and demographic spectrum, and are employed in a variety of industries from aquaculture to government administration, renewable energy to food production. The region's natural features include near-pristine river systems and lakes, rich flora and fauna (including many species endemic to Tasmania), a range of complex and diverse landscapes, Aboriginal heritage sites with important cultural values, internationally recognised natural icons and a long and intricate coastline. It encompasses the World Heritage Areas of the South West Wilderness and Macquarie Island, four internationally recognised Ramsar-listed wetlands, seven national parks and twenty-two marine reserves, and an array of ecosystems with high terrestrial, estuarine and marine biodiversity values.

Southern Tasmania's wealth of natural resources supports its economic, social and environmental wellbeing. A richness of natural assets and diversity present both opportunities and complex management challenges. Effectively managing these valuable assets underpins the success of the key industries on which we rely and the lifestyle we associate with living in the Island State. Industries such as tourism, agriculture and fisheries rely on the region's natural resources in order to prosper, and they contribute significantly to the region's economy and identity. In recent years, exports of Tasmania's food and beverage products have been consistently valued at around \$700 million per annum and tourism revenue in Tasmania directly and indirectly contributes around \$3 billion to GSP. Revenue from primary production and tourism are largely dependent on our natural assets, demonstrating the value that our productive land and natural assets have in supporting our economy.



PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ASSETS

Projects targeting specific natural assets have been highlighted in our case studies, using the following symbols;



Land Assets: include topography, soils, vegetation and cultural heritage



Water Assets: include surface and groundwater resources and freshwater ecosystems



Coasts and Marine Assets: includes all areas influenced by the seas or potentially affected by coastal flooding/sea level rise



Biodiversity Assets: include terrestrial native species and ecological communities



Community Assets: include the people and organisations that represent regional community

CHAIR'S REPORT

NRM South has had a mixed year. We successfully facilitated and provided sustainability services to a wide range of community stakeholders. The organisation completed its commitments under the Federal Government's National Landcare Program (NLP1) funding program and hosted a very successful Forum with the University of Tasmania and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in April/May. The latter promises significant potential for future work in agricultural research and natural resource management here in Tasmania.

Unfortunately we and Cradle Coast NRM were unsuccessful in the Federal Government's initial tendering process under the new National Landcare Program (NLP2). As a consequence NRM South has been going through a re-organisation process. We have been re-engaging with our partners to look at future tender opportunities and readjusting the structure and size of our organisation to better meet the challenges ahead. The NLP2 program is smaller than NLP1 and requires more focussed projects with strong outcomes reporting. NRM South was recently successful in obtaining Federal Government funding for a Smart Seafoods project. This project aligns well with the new requirements of NLP2 funding.

We are confident that, with the support of our partners as well as the State and Federal governments, we will be able to get a number of new natural resource projects for Southern Tasmania.

I want to thank all our Board members for their work during the year. Christine Crawford, Jennie Whinam, Louise Wilson and Alastair Scott left the Board during the year. I want to thank them for their significant contributions. Mandy Richardson was appointed to fill one of the casual vacancies and Helen Crawford was appointed as the State Government's representative.

I would also like to thank our CEO, Donald Coventry, and all our staff for their hard work during the year. We have some highly talented people. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty associated with NLP2 and the subsequent reorganisation, we have lost a number of staff. I thank all of them for their service to NRM South and wish them all the very best for the future.

Andrew Scanlon
Chair for NRM South



WRAPPING UP NLP1; 2015–2018

The end of the 2017-18 financial year saw the wrap-up of activities funded under the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (Round 1). Our seven sub-programs have all overachieved on their targets, bringing a wealth of social, environmental and economic benefits for natural resource management in southern Tasmania.

WORKING ON COUNTRY

ENGAGED WITH
17 ORGANISATIONS
1,000+ INDIVIDUALS

BIOSECURITY

37 SIGNS INSTALLED
33,000 PEOPLE ENGAGED

GRANTS

\$380,000 FUNDING AWARDED TO
84 PROJECTS



INCLUDING NATURALLY INSPIRED, AND BITE SIZED GRANTS

BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

59 GROUPS ENGAGED
4,500 PEOPLE ENGAGED

PROTECTING SPECIES AND HABITAT

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT ACROSS **157** HA

RECOVERY ACTIONS FOR **16** EPBCA-LISTED SPECIES

3 EPBCA-LISTED COMMUNITIES PROTECTED



SUPPORTING ON-GROUND WORKS

70 PEOPLE FROM 40 PROPERTIES
ATTENDED SMALL FARM
PLANNING WORKSHOPS



HABITAT IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS CARRIED OUT
IN ALL OF THE REGION'S RAMSAR WETLANDS

68 LANDHOLDERS ADOPTING IMPROVED PRACTICES
OVER 24,000 HA



20% OF TASMANIA'S EPBCA-LISTED SPECIES
AND 4/5 LISTED COMMUNITIES HAVE
BENEFITTED FROM PROJECT ACTIVITIES

PROJECT DELIVERY

NRM FACILITATORS DELIVERED 40%
OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY THROUGH OUR
REGIONAL DELIVERY PROGRAM.

WATERWAYS AND COASTS

IMPROVED HABITAT FOR

10 EPBCA-LISTED SPECIES



ATTRACTED \$230,000 IN
CO-INVESTMENT & EXTERNAL FUNDING



SIGNED ON TO THE D'ENTRECASTEAUX AND
HUON COLLABORATION PARTNERSHIP

EXPANSION



SIGNED AN MOU WITH THE
CHINESE ACADEMY OF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
AND CO-HOSTED TASMANIA'S
FIRST AUSTRALIA-CHINA
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
TECHNOLOGY FORUM.

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

The management of natural resources in Southern Tasmania relies on investment based on sound priorities and effective guidelines for delivery. This often includes both monetary investment across a wide range of activities as well as the time, resources and in-kind support of partners. NRM South seeks out investment for the protection, management and improvement of our natural resources from a number of sources, but primarily receives income through the Australian and Tasmanian governments. We also partner with and support other organisations to obtain funding through different sources to leverage investment and outcomes.

The National Landcare Programme saw a reduction in Australian Government funding from the previous program and the commitment of a minimum allocation of 36% to on-ground community-based projects. We have drawn on internal funding sources to facilitate effective delivery of the program and continued to seek co-investment and in-kind support to leverage investment in activities. The chart below tracks funding received by NRM South over the past five years.

SOURCES OF FUNDING TO NRM SOUTH 2017-18

67%

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME

Regional funding from the Department of the Environment & Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

10%

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Funding from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

12%

FINANCIAL RESERVE

In response to the decrease in Australian Government funding, we have invested reserve funds to develop methods for securing alternative funding to maintain our capacity for delivery.

11%

OTHER

Partner project contributions including contributions to the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration and NRM South's Local Area Facilitation Program, and corporate income.

2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
3,388,393	2,370,006	2,438,291	2,252,763	2,438,752

STRATEGIC GOALS



ONE

Program and service delivery: Delivering NRM outcomes for the region

Priority 1 Build data and share knowledge

Priority 2 Support improved sustainable management practices

Priority 3 Build community capacity and engagement

Priority 4 Work on country with Aboriginal communities

Priority 5 Conservation practice enhancement

Priority 6 Biosecurity practice enhancement



TWO

Develop and oversee the 2015-2020 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania



THREE

Business sustainability, growth and development



FOUR

Govern and manage our business well



HIGH VALUE SPECIES, PLACES AND COMMUNITIES

Southern Tasmania is home to 149 EPBCA-listed species, five EPBCA-listed communities, one nationally-recognised biodiversity hotspot, four Ramsar-listed wetlands and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

Tasmania's southern shores also form part of the East Asia-Australasia Flyway, which connects north-east Asian breeding grounds with wintering grounds in Australia. Our region is home to many species that are rare or locally extinct on mainland Australia.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Surveys, threat assessments and population monitoring for priority threatened species

Weed control to protect threatened species habitat and the TWWHA

Supporting individuals in developing knowledge and technical skills in NRM

Propagation of threatened plants for revegetation and *ex situ* collections to protect against extinction

Reducing threats to EPBCA-listed species

Contributing to knowledge about the distribution of threatened species

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Support for TFL surveys has led to the discovery of a new population of the EPBCA-listed moleskin dogwood

Received an \$82,000 grant from the Australian Government's Threatened Species Recovery Fund, improving conservation actions to protect the threatened Morrisby's Gum

Community wildlife monitoring has engaged 125 properties and over 150 landholders, establishing 175 mammal monitoring sites

Support for the propagation and planting of 200 South Esk pine seedlings in threatened *E. ovata*-*C. oblonga* forest

Weed control work to protect 13.1 ha of nationally significant natural assets

Production of a draft report on findings from White gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) regeneration trials

259 people engaged (72 newly engaged) in a range of conservation-related NRM activities

14 EPBCA-listed species and two threatened communities have directly benefitted from conservation actions

Community interest and contribution ensures the program delivers high-level outcomes and attracts a significant co-investment of funding and time. Many projects would not happen without our contributions and rely on our role in facilitation and coordination of activities. Our focus on strategic planning - investing resources into determining the most suitable actions - helps ensure the projects undertaken are meeting community needs.

Activities under this sub-program are helping to protect nationally significant places, ecological communities and species through community-driven projects, and threat assessment and abatement activities. Project activities are bringing benefits to the landscape; protecting ecological function and integrity and helping to sustain the assets that contribute to our nature-based tourism economy.

We work in partnership with community groups, agencies, organisations and industries to improve knowledge about our unique and vulnerable species and environments, and to help protect them against the threats of pests, disease and mismanagement.

Program activities in 2017-18 included ongoing work with the Threatened Flora Link project, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) buffer weed control programs (Central Highland and South), conservation actions to protect EPBCA-listed species and community wildlife monitoring.

As in previous years, the HVS sub-program has overachieved on its targets. Considerable in-kind support and co-investment by partners within the NRM community has played a major role in this success, helping to achieve long-term outcomes. NRM South's Local Area Facilitator network has engaged with regional communities and enabled direct investment to prioritise on-ground activities, while gaining some administrative efficiency through in-kind contribution on behalf of the Facilitators' host councils.

To maximise outcomes for investment in volunteer engagement and capacity building, we support established volunteer groups who are actively working to protect threatened flora. Namely, Conservation Landholders Tasmania, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Threatened Flora Link and Threatened Plants Tasmania. Our partnerships and leadership role in building volunteer capacity has grown engagement and led to better outcomes for threatened species.

One of our most successful partnerships has been with Threatened Flora Link (TFL). Over the past five years, NRM South has supported TFL volunteers to undertake recovery activities for 174 threatened flora species across Tasmania. These activities have improved data on species distribution and threats and have significantly improved the prospects for many threatened species. In some instances, project activities have meant the difference between in-situ extinction and saving the species (for example, Morrisby's gum).

The TFL partnership represents a cost-effective model for improving knowledge about and undertaking conservation actions for high priority threatened flora. It has shown a consistent increase in the ratio of partner and philanthropic contribution to NRM funding, from 5:1 in 2014-15 to 10:1 in 2016-17. In 2017-18, the project leveraged at least \$171,194 of partner in-kind contribution from an initial investment of \$18,000 - a return of \$9.5 for each dollar invested by the three NRM regions - roughly consistent with the 2016-17 period. Over five years, projects have attracted over \$704,500 of volunteer and partner in-kind contribution and leveraged additional philanthropic and community funding.



Image: Participants in a eucalypt ID workshop

In 2017-18, support for recovery activities has brought benefits to 67 threatened flora species. Surveys have added valuable data on distribution and abundance for significant species (e.g a new population of EPBCA-listed moleskin dogwood was located which extended the known population size by four-fold) and ex-situ recovery actions have led to the successful propagation and survival of three EPBCA-listed genera of orchid.

We have continued to support priority actions for the conservation of endangered Miena cider gum and Morrisby's gum, both of which are in decline, and under

significant threat from browsing mammals. Prior to our focus on the species, the most recent census for the endangered and culturally significant EPBCA-listed *Miema ceder gum* had been in 2009 – and previous attempts at conservation actions had been unsuccessful.

Research into the effectiveness of caging to protect juvenile *Miema ceder gum* from browsing by stock, wildlife and feral animals demonstrated an 80% survival rate amongst juveniles at a site that contained relatively healthy adult trees (this was significantly lower at sites where the adult trees were dead). While browsing is still the primary issue affecting survival, these results demonstrate that other site-specific factors may be impacting growth. A Threatened Flora Link field trip acted on the findings



CASE STUDY: SAVING A SPECIES ON THE BRINK

In 2017, we secured \$82,000 in funding through the Australian Government's Threatened Species Recovery Fund for emergency intervention to save *Morrisby's gum* - a Tasmanian endemic at imminent risk of extinction.

Eucalyptus morrisbyii is one of Australia's most endangered eucalypts, with around 2,000 wild individuals occurring at only two locations in south-eastern Tasmania. We facilitated a collaborative project to help improve its survival through monitoring, seed collection, propagation and replanting. It was largely the persistence and passion of an NRM South staff member over many years that resulted in changed landowner practice and an investment in resources to help protect the remnants of this critically-endangered population.

Our online communications about the funded project attracted the attention of a local landholder who had established an insurance population in the 1990s, but which had since been overlooked. The inclusion of this healthy, mature plantation has put the recovery plan at least 15 years ahead. Significant investment in fencing to exclude browsers has also led to sustainable natural regeneration at the Calverts Hill stand, and *pakana Services* was engaged to spray serrated tussock and improve habitat condition. This has seen the emergence of hundreds of naturally regenerating seedlings growing alongside propagated plants.

of this 10-year long assessment, using the expertise of Aboriginal social enterprise '*pakana Services*' staff for caging and fencing juvenile plants. As a result, 11 saplings at a priority site have been protected.

We contracted the Derwent Catchment Project to carry out a survey across the distribution range of *Miema ceder gum*, and to identify other key management sites. The survey focused on population structure, health of individuals, accessibility and presence of threats and allowed for distinct populations to be assessed and prioritised for recovery actions. Results will be used to guide future recovery actions, as documented in the newly developed *Miema Ceder Gum Action Plan 2013-23*.

This strategic approach to conservation management is aligned to the federal conservation advice for the species, and, along with a commitment to establishing and maintaining relationships with landholders, has resulted in positive outcomes for both the species and local communities.

Our support for training events has engaged volunteers and landholders in threatened species recovery actions. For example, GPS and mapping training led to an increased number of volunteers participating in technical surveys and monitoring work. The project also increased the awareness of landholders involved in private land conservation on a wide range of topics including climate change, management of conservation values in dry sclerophyll forest, buying and selling conservation land, and managing native animals on conservation properties.

Led by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, we supported a community wildlife monitoring project that has captured data about wildlife (native and introduced) at 175 sites across 125 properties. This monitoring project has collected some of the most extensive distribution data on Tasmania's threatened mammal species and has improved landholder knowledge about the natural values on their properties. The project also recorded valuable information about introduced and roaming domestic species such as cats, dogs and deer.

One of the key targets under this sub-program was to improve habitat condition around two globally significant sites; the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) and Interlaken Reserve (a Ramsar-listed wetland).

In 2017, the weed management plan for Interlaken Reserve was updated with more accurate weed mapping. Previous weed control in the area had been ad hoc and funding dependent. Our investment in preparing a strategic plan, implemented by NRM South's Local Facilitator, resulted in more effective weed control measures and improved condition of the Ramsar site. The plan recommended that control effort be focused on isolated plants as a priority and, as a consequence, all 82 isolated gorse plants mapped across the 60 ha site were controlled in accordance with the management plan, with 12 additional plants being located and controlled in the process.



Image: Camera trap image of a wombat in the Tasman region



CASE STUDY: LANDOWNERS LEARNING ABOUT WILDLIFE

Partnering with TLC, this citizen science project delivered training workshops (as part of the TLC Wildlife tracker program) for landowners to monitor and record wildlife on their properties using camera traps.

Through our investment in community wildlife monitoring in three regions (Derwent Valley, Central Highlands and Tasman), we engaged 125 properties and over 150 landholders, to establish 175 mammal monitoring sites. This data collection and image analysis is improving our knowledge about threatened mammal species distribution, the presence of invasive species such as feral cats and deer, as well as informing local dog management policies. Landholder reports were prepared for four private properties in the Central Highlands outlining camera trapping results and management recommendations.

This monitoring work holds great promise as a model for community-driven threatened wildlife habitat improvement and pest animal control. Project activities have been further strengthened by two autonomous community groups in the Upper Huon and Bruny Island (supported by Naturally Inspired Grants) and there is a high level of enthusiasm in the community for this project – so much so that it has been difficult to keep up with demand.



Image: We have been working with private landholders in Tasmania's highlands to help them protect and manage the bogs and fens on their properties. These rare and fragile environments are under threat from grazing, weeds, and fire, and in many cases are also at risk from drying out.

Our role in the two TWWHA weed management partnership projects has matured, from supporting planning and investing a larger proportion of total funding to encourage collaboration, to that of a minor investor advocating for increased biosecurity and weed hygiene. Projects have established coordinated weed control planning and investment in two key boundary areas between the TWWHA and private land, and have been underpinned by significant investment by partners and land managers, with over 1:14 NRM to partner investment in the last financial year. From initial works focused on the eradication of high-threat weeds in the Central Highlands, the partnership has grown to incorporate more than 20 organisations over the last three years.

Local NRM Facilitator activities have enabled private landholders to undertake gorse control around a significant *Callitris oblonga* population, helping to reduce the threat of fire and impact of weeds on this threatened species. *Callitris oblonga-Eucalyptus ovata* forest is found only on three properties in the Glamorgan Spring Bay council region. Landholders have been supportive and enthusiastic, motivating them to submit a grant application to Landcare Australia and continue to build on these efforts. One landowner planted 150 *Callitris oblonga* seedlings and committed to managing fire and gorse on their property into the future.

Additional conservation actions to protect this vegetation community has come about through our support for Conservation Volunteers Australia to plant 200 black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) trees and undertake weed control along the Orford Rivulet, between Raspins Beach and Spring Beach. These seedlings were propagated by volunteers from the Spring Bay Wanderers at the Pulchella Community Nursery.

Protecting this threatened habitat will bring long-term benefits to other threatened species such as the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). Lack of feeding sites and nesting habitat are two of the issues facing this Critically Endangered species – and conservation efforts were further helped by our engagement of an arborist to create nesting hollows across 7 ha of coastline at Raspins Beach in Orford. These works have assisted conservation of the species by providing additional habitat. This has also raised awareness of the key threats facing Swift Parrots amongst local arborists and council, including why it is important to retain trees containing natural nesting hollows.

The High Value Places, Communities and Species sub-program has successfully delivered on conservation actions for threatened species and communities with considerable community group and landholder participation, alongside partner contributions. Over the past 3 years, it has attracted a 1:1 to 1:4 cash co-investment per annum.



The health and maintenance of Southern Tasmania's water assets is critical to the region's sustainability. Healthy aquatic environments are essential for clean drinking water, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health, irrigation, industry, aquaculture, fisheries, recreation and tourism.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration

Marine debris clean-ups

Shorebird protection

Waterway health

Protecting and restoring Ramsar sites

Education

Threatened species and communities

Weed control

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Program activities engaged 2,105 participants (30% new) through the delivery of 41 events

Over 5m³ of marine debris collected through support for a clean-up event

Support for two World Wetlands Day events, attracting over 500 people

Supported surveys leading to the discovery of a new population of Critically Endangered red handfish

Developed an ethical nature photography guide and poster

Priority weed treatment activities across 24.32 ha

3.6 ha of nesting shorebird habitat protected via fencing of important breeding areas

Over 1,200 feral pacific oysters removed from Parson's Bay and White Beach

Two interpretive signs installed at key public-use areas

Supported conservation activities in two Ramsar sites (Moulting and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon)

Conservation actions have supported seven EPBCA-listed species and one listed community

The Waterways and Coastal Areas sub-program addresses many of the harmful impacts affecting marine, coastal, estuarine and riparian environments and helps to protect the species – particularly shorebirds – that rely on them. By educating and engaging the community about common issues and threats, and what they can do about it, we are helping people to care for our waterways and coasts.

We work collaboratively to deliver positive outcomes for this vital shared-use asset: including with State and local governments, community groups, public and private land managers, the scientific community, Aboriginal communities, business and industries. Over 2017-18, we have continued to deliver projects in partnership with local councils, Parks and Wildlife, BirdLife Tasmania, community groups and other stakeholders.

While actions to protect threatened species have primarily focused on beach-nesting shorebirds, one of the stand-out highlights of the year was the discovery of an additional population of Critically Endangered red handfish. Since 2016, we have been working with Reef Life Survey (RLS) to increase the annual survey effort for handfish species in historical and known populations, with the aim of improving our capacity to assess population trends. Until January 2018, red handfish were known from one population, but a survey by RLS (supported by NRM South) discovered an additional population, making news on the international stage.

We have also continued working with researchers and the community to implement eco-mooring installations that will protect and improve habitat for handfish. Work on this research project has advanced and a PhD project is preparing to deploy several eco-moorings and compare the disturbance and recovery of habitat with traditional swing moorings.

Beach-nesting shorebirds continue to be the main focus of our conservation efforts and we have supported activities to protect important habitats, manage threats, improve awareness and address knowledge gaps in distribution and breeding. Agreement mechanisms such as service provider deeds with local councils and BirdLife Tasmania have helped us in delivering these activities.



Conservation actions have protected EPBCA-listed species including the Hooded Plover, Fairy Tern, Red-Capped Plover and Little Penguin.

Image credit: Eric Woehler

One important approach in protecting habitat and nesting areas for shorebirds has been through temporary fencing. Fencing of important breeding areas on the east coast of Tasmania has helped many breeding pairs to successfully raise chicks over the 2017-18 summer. Temporary fencing has been shown to increase community awareness of shorebird presence and encourages beach visitors to modify their behaviour around shorebirds. The fencing became a talking point for visitors and formed a part of shorebird awareness activities run by the PWS Discovery Ranger summer program.

NRM South has supported the PWS Discovery Ranger program for three years. The partnership is an important one because it assists NRM South in promoting awareness and protection of threatened species and sensitive habitats. The Discovery Ranger program has focused on the conservation of shorebirds and beach-nesting birds as part of their educational program.

In the Tasman municipality, habitat conservation and restoration efforts have protected three nests across two sites with temporary fencing, thanks to the efforts of seven volunteers participating from Marion Bay Coastcare and Eaglehawk Neck Coastcare. In the Glamorgan-Spring Bay region, four temporary fences were erected for shorebirds and breeding success was recorded for three Pied Oystercatcher chicks and six Hooded Plover chicks between Spring Beach and the Meredith River mouth. Interpretive signs were also installed at the Sorell and Dodges Ferry off-lead dog exercise areas.

Funds raised through a 2017 crowdfunding campaign supported shorebird monitoring efforts in 2017-18, contributing data to a long-term study undertaken by BirdLife Tasmania. Funds have also supported the development of a Beach-nesting Birds Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania. The strategy, finalised in early 2018, will be vital in ensuring and maintaining the effectiveness of future management action for beach nesting birds in Tasmania.

High-value habitat areas that have been targeted for on-ground actions include ongoing projects within the Ramsar-listed Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon and Moulting Lagoon sites – where we have been supporting weed control and revegetation works.

We have continued to support efforts to protect valuable coastal temperate saltmarsh habitat, which is a listed habitat community under the EPBC Act. Works to improve saltmarsh condition at Moulting Lagoon were carried out in partnership with the Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council and private landholders (Brown Brothers and Devil's Corner vineyards). Weed management, revegetation and stock exclusion fencing was carried out at Moulting Lagoon to protect riparian areas and saltmarsh. Activities resulted in revegetation of 800 plants over 0.5 ha, 1.4 ha of fencing, and 25 ha of weed control on public and private land. At Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon (PWOL), close to 7 ha of foreshore and associated tributaries has been managed to remove and control weeds.

The popularity and uptake of digital technology within the community is also helping in our engagement efforts. Since launching the Saltmarsh Matters app in 2016, our focus has been to develop the tools to support monitoring and evaluation of saltmarsh condition, share these with the community through awareness-raising engagement activities, and ultimately work on-ground with local communities to implement actions that improve saltmarsh condition. Over 2017-18 this has included making the app more user-friendly through the production of user guides, education events (such as World Wetlands Day) on the importance of saltmarsh, and improving saltmarsh conditions through fencing and revegetation.

In addition to working on multiple small projects, we are involved with larger, landscape-scale programs. Working collaboratively with other organisations has been a key component in broadening the reach and effectiveness of activities – especially with regard to landscape-scale initiatives.

During 2016-17, we brought together key stakeholders and the community to progress the first ever Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the Derwent catchment. Following on from this, in the last financial year, a pre-consultation report was developed, which included a model with a 'functional' interface that can be used to run and explore scenarios.

Collaboration on a weed control project for karamu has helped in developing a more strategic approach to management. We have invested significantly in efforts to remove karamu in the Derwent Catchment. Following a 2017 evaluation of control efforts to date, it was recognised that a more strategic approach to planning and implementation of control works was required. This year, this coordinated approach across tenure resulted in an estimated 50% reduction in area of infestations, but follow-up will be required across all areas.

The Derwent Estuary Program integrated information from karamu surveys into a seven-year control plan. The plan was used to lobby for funding to implement control works; attracting \$28,000 in this financial year. The collaborative approach of the karamu working group is a good example of how stakeholders working together can have a much bigger impact than acting in isolation.

Beach-nesting Birds Management Strategy



“The focus of the management strategy is beach-nesting birds in south-east Tasmania. While many shorebirds and seabird species inhabit or migrate to Tasmanian beaches for at least part of the year, only a handful rely on beaches in Tasmania for breeding. They are increasingly competing with humans for the beach environment, as tourism and population continue to grow. This is exacerbated by the breeding season overlapping with the peak beachgoing season for people.

It is thought that a gradual but steady decline, for the Hooded Plover at the very least, has been occurring for over 40 years, mainly due to a lack of recruitment. This trend has been difficult to track due to them being a comparatively long-lived species for their size, difficulty in detecting them, and their large dispersed breeding territories.”

A. Blakney, BirdLife Tasmania.



Image: Shorebirds information sign at Sorell.



CASE STUDY RAISING THE PROFILE FOR A VANISHING SPECIES



NRM South is helping to protect handfish habitat through support for research into ecologically sensitive moorings.

Image credit: Tim Lynch, CSIRO

Spotted handfish were the first marine fish to be listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Along with red and Ziebell's handfish they are also listed on the EPBC Act, are subject to a formal recovery plan and globally, are amongst the most at risk of extinction of marine fish species. Spotted handfish are restricted to 10 small sites in the Derwent estuary and D'Entrecasteaux Channel and have an estimated minimum population of 900 individuals. Red handfish are restricted to two known sites and may only have a minimum population of 40 individuals. Ziebell's handfish has not been seen for over a decade and may be extinct.

The outcomes from surveys and a captive breeding program supported by NRM South have attracted significant global media and helped raised the profile for these species. This will support future efforts to attract investment for handfish conservation. We have aligned our investment with the priorities outlined in the Handfish Recovery Plan, and with advice from the Handfish Recovery Team. As a result, we now have improved knowledge of the population and status of species and have implemented critical on-ground priorities and engaged critical stakeholders in recovery action. Our investment will have a legacy in how handfish recovery projects are prioritised in the future, and how they are delivered.



We supported surveys that located a new population of red handfish.

Image credit: Reef Life Survey



CASE STUDY BACK ON SOLID GROUND



Image: Local NRM Facilitator Paul Gray at the restored Mienna Park site.

It's a well-known fact that water will always find a way. In the case of Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, it was finding its way from multiple sources in the township of Sorell across to Mienna Park, where it was causing extensive erosion issues.

In 2015, Paul Gray, NRM Facilitator for the Sorell Council region, noticed an unusual tunnel formation at Mienna Park – adjacent to the lagoon's boundaries. It was the result of large volumes of stormwater concentrating at the site, with knock-on effects to habitat quality in the neighbouring Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon (PWOL). This Ramsar-listed wetland area is home to many vulnerable species including live-bearing seastar, lemon beauty-head daisy, sea lavender, Caspian Tern, Sooty Oystercatchers and Latham's Snipe.

Landscape restoration work involved a series of steps. Paul instigated the construction of diversion work; installing a new outfall, using gabion walls to slow the flow of water off a steep section and repairing eroded sections of land. Using excess soil from other works projects, mulch from tree removal projects, old hay bales from stables and ash from burn-offs, Paul filled in eroded sections by layering soil, mulch and ash. Once it had been left to stabilise over several months, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Green Army team members and volunteers from the Pittwater Orielton Landcare Group finished off the works by planting 4,000 trees, shrubs and groundcover plants.

While the project has been a great success, it wasn't without its challenges. Initial soil conditions weren't favourable for plant growth, and a range of land uses within the broader region has meant that Paul has had to create a landscape plan for the entire area to ensure successful management. Mienna Park will eventually be transformed into a native garden, with additional weed control and revegetation work to be done on adjoining sections. Using controlled burns – and incorporating cultural burning training into this plan – is also part of a longer-term land management strategy for the area. Sorell Council provided the majority of funding for this project, with some financial support from NRM South for revegetation works, alongside co-investment for Paul's council-based role.

The D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration is another example of a valuable partnership that is achieving significant results. Administered by NRM South, and now in its third year, this unique collaboration brings together government, community, managers and salmon farming companies to develop and implement strategic and practical ways to improve and protect our waterways.

The DHC's inclusive approach has flow-on benefits; reducing threats to local species, improving waterway health and improving transparency in future planning. The DHC is working to achieve ecologically sustainable aquaculture production, safeguard valuable marine ecosystems, ensure the long-term viability of seafood supply and support the businesses and local communities that depend on a healthy marine environment. The DHC assists seafood businesses to communicate meaningfully with stakeholders and to meet international standards in sustainable aquaculture production. Substantial funding is leveraged from industry to maintain this partnership and deliver projects.

The DHC has changed the way in which waterway information is shared and how on-ground projects are delivered. In 2017-18, we supported the development of the DHC's biennial 'Waterway Report Card', which is near completion and due for release later in 2018.

The collaboration has been highly successful in generating external investment, with NRM South investing \$10,000 NLP funds per year and receiving an additional \$70,000 external investment annually (plus significant in-kind support).

Other significant achievements in the last year include an annual community marine debris clean-up event. Due to extreme weather, one of the two scheduled events had to be delayed until later in 2018, so clean-up efforts were restricted to the Charlotte Cove region of the Huon Estuary. Around 50 people participated on the day and worked together to remove over 5m³ of debris from the shoreline. These efforts have a positive flow-on effect for changing practices and behaviour at the individual, community and industry level as well as reducing threats to local species and improving waterway health.

Direct engagement is an important tool and our presence at key events has helped to spread the waterways and coasts conservation message. In celebration of World Wetlands Day (February 2018) we partnered with groups including Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council, Clarence City Council, Sorell Council, BirdLife Tasmania, DPIPW, Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service and the University of Tasmania to hold a series of events and activities. The events engaged with over 500 attendees and showcased the value of our unique and beautiful wetlands.

As well as attending events to help promote a conservation message, we periodically provide useful public resources to help people minimise their impact on species and the environment. In 2017, we developed an ethical photography guide which received significant media attention. The guide provided advice on how to help nature photographers care for our wildlife and fragile flora.

In 2018, the content was reformatted into a poster version that could be displayed at relevant sites – such as tourist information centres and PWS offices. This was identified as a cost-effective way to reach a large audience over the long term, allowing a range of organisations (tourism, nature and education, photography-based) to print and display copies at strategic locations – particularly where hard copies would not have been practical.

Over the three years of NLP1, this sub-program has delivered numerous small projects and two larger landscape-scale projects. Project activities have attracted around \$230,000 in co-investment and external funding.



Our Ethical Nature Photography guide, also published as a poster



Image: Volunteers cleaning up marine debris at Charlotte Cove



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Engaging farmers and fishers to adopt sustainable practices can lead to multiple bottom line benefits, including better economic returns, improved landscape resilience in the face of a changing climate, improved yields and improved land- and seascape health.

This program area is managed by one of NRM South's Regional Landcare Facilitators (RLF).

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Soil, water, vegetation and grazing management

Workshops, including Property Management Planning workshops

Naturally Inspired Grants (landholders)

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

20 events engaged with 533 participants (43% newly engaged)

Changed management practices across 383 ha

Grazing management across 358 ha

12 km of exclusion fencing to protect riparian habitat

91 ha of weed treatment

30 ha of revegetation works

Revegetation of 5,000 plants including 1,200 plantings on Bruny Island

The growth of Tasmania's agricultural industry is reflected in the increasing popularity of our world-class quality produce on a local, national and global stage. In Tasmania's south-east, the appeal of the 'tree-change' lifestyle has seen a spike in the number of people acquiring smaller farms and turning their hands to small-scale and boutique production ventures in recent years. However, our agricultural industry is also faced with increasing pressures on our natural resources – from climate change, changes to land use and multiple environmental issues.

We support farmers in innovation and improved practices for soil and water health and the protection of our biodiversity assets in the face of increasing pressures from a changing climate. We provide links to information, advice and ideas that can help landholders manage or improve their properties, build resilience and save money. We share knowledge and information, connecting with land managers through workshops, events and one-on-one engagement. This is helping to protect and improve landscapes so that they can continue to support farmers and rural communities in the long term.

Engagement activities took the form of training workshops, providing information at field days and expos, displays, and the development and distribution of information resources. Over the last year, 20 workshops and training events have involved 533 attendees (with 43% newly engaged) in learning more about a range of topics relating to land management. Participant feedback reflects an improved understanding of the topics covered – particularly in relation to soil management, pasture management and farming and the law – and attendees have been influenced by the program to trial and/or apply learnings on their own properties.

Changed management practices have come about through revegetation, nutrient mapping and management, exclusion fencing, installing shelter belts and weed control activities. Over the last few years, there has been an increased interest amongst the farming community in the adoption of planned grazing techniques to improve pasture management. We have continued to support farmers in applying this practice and transition from a set stocking approach. These activities will continue to make a difference to water quality (through managing nutrient inputs and runoff and controlling access to riparian



Image: An Insectary Workshop held at Reid Fruits farm in Jericho discussed the benefits of on-farm insectaries, which are useful for integrated pest management, providing habitat for beneficial insects - which can improve horticultural productivity.

areas by stock) across the region and will provide better economic returns to farmers through improved pasture and increased availability of grass for stock.

In 2017-18 we supported conservation grazing management activities across nearly 360 ha, largely through projects funded under our Naturally Inspired grants for landholders. This has included the use of exclusion fencing, which restricts stock access to remnant bush and riparian zones, allowing for the regrowth of native, vegetation, improved soil condition (eliminating the issues of soil compaction, riverbank erosion and weed incursions), improved water quality (reduced sediment and nutrient flows into freshwater systems) and improved cattle health.

Key events include the sixth annual small farm planning workshop (26 participants), a Living Soils workshop (117 participants from across all three NRM regions), an on-farm insectary workshop (22 participants) and a Growing Resilient Pastures workshop (15 participants). Our Regional Landcare Facilitator (Agriculture) worked with partner organisations including Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, Dairy Tasmania, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Tasman Landcare, Huon Valley Council, Tasman Council, the Derwent Catchment Project and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to deliver activities across the region.

We continued with two innovative trials over the last year; a study on winter-active dung beetles and researching the viability of perennial legume (sandy soil) pastures (in partnership with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture).

The results of the dung beetle trial have not yet identified a species suited to Tasmania's winter conditions. Research into perennial pastures is ongoing. Due to a lack of rainfall, conditions have not yet been appropriate for sowing. NRM South and TIA will continue to monitor conditions and are committed to analysing and sharing results with the broader community as data becomes available. Once results from this trial are known, farmers will have access to a broader range of options for pasture species that are better adapted to the unique conditions of the East Coast of Tasmania. This will help local farmers to build resilience on their farms.

In the meantime, we continued to engage with farmers on the east coast, holding a Growing Resilient Pastures workshop in Swansea in January 2018 to discuss the use of perennial legume species as a means of improving farm resilience. Overall, there is good support for this trial and it is anticipated that it will lead to broad-scale adoption of alternative pasture species in the region.

The final round of Naturally Inspired grants for sustainable agriculture was launched in 2017, and 20 landholders received funding for sustainable agricultural practices and conservation projects. These grants provide assistance to landholders in implementing a range of on-ground activities and trials to improve productivity and resilience on farms. Activities included; riparian restoration, weed management, shelter belt planting, biodiversity protection, pasture trials and planned grazing trials.

Landholders who wrapped up activities over the last financial year achieved the following outcomes; 16 ha revegetated with 3,750 plants, 10km of fencing for improved

CASE STUDY PERENNIAL PASTURE TRIAL



In partnership with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and the East Coast Producers Network, we funded a perennial pastures trial on the East Coast. This area supports many grazing properties, but its sandy soils and unique rainfall patterns (wetter summers and drier winters) provide specific challenges for production. In the past few years, this area has been particularly dry, so trial results will provide valuable information around pasture species selection as part of land management decision-making.

This project has been well received and, as a result of increased engagement activities in the region, there has been good attendance at workshops and a demonstrated interest in implementing changes to land management. The majority (90%) of large commercial farms in the area have participated in engagement events relating to this trial and/or are a member of the East Coast Producers Network. All farmers who have participated have expressed interest in trial results and will consider implementing changes to their pasture management depending on results. It is anticipated that adopting pasture species that are better adapted to local conditions will lead to improvements in ground cover.

Partnering with TIA to run trials and activities ensured that farmers were confident the best available science was being applied. It helped to raise our profile amongst the farming community and TIA benefited from our experience in developing networks at a grass-roots level.



Revegetation activities saw approximately 5,000 natives planted across the region. This includes 3,750 plantings under our Naturally Inspired grants projects for landholders.

productivity or protecting riparian areas, 356 ha of land managed for grazing and 75ha of weed control work.

We have worked with weetaoona Aboriginal Corporation on the development of a farm nutrient loss index report for an Aboriginal-owned farm on Bruny Island. The report assessed the risk of phosphorus and nitrogen losses from the Murrayfield property. weetaoona Aboriginal Corporation have been very supportive of this project and the report will support better informed management decisions on the farm relating to soil amendment programs to achieve better soil health, improved water quality and improved profitability. In addition, 300 trees were planted by local Indigenous staff – improving habitat for wildlife and providing an opportunity for Aboriginal people to work on country.

A number of projects over 2017-18 incorporated revegetation work as part of project activities. On North Bruny Island, a creek was revegetated with 300 plants – which will bring benefits to riparian zone health, improve water quality and provide habitat for EPBCA-listed Swift Parrot and Forty-spotted Pardalote. At another site on North Bruny Island, 350 tubestock were planted to provide shelter for livestock and habitat connectivity, while at a third site, 350 were tubestock planted to slow down tunnel erosion and provide additional threatened species habitat.

On the Tasman Peninsula, 1,200 tubestock plants (*Eucalyptus globulus*, *Eucalyptus ovata* and *Acacia melanoxylon*) were planted across 5 ha of farmland to provide habitat for the endangered Swift Parrot and shelter for livestock, and to sequester carbon and reduce erosion. Further planting is planned for autumn 2018. We partnered with Tasman Landcare and Green Army to undertake this project, a collaboration which leveraged resources so that the project could be completed quickly and efficiently – with a cost-effective outcome.



Image: 25 Indigenous youth were involved in developing a bushfoods garden at Fat Pig Farm in Cygnet, funded via an NRM South grant. Their involvement in the project has given them practical skills in identifying Tasmanian bushfoods and understanding the requirements for growing these plants for harvest. Participants gained skills in gardening, landscape design and land management. Future visitors to the farm (which offers gourmet dining experiences) will also gain a better understanding of the importance and value of bushfoods.

IN FOCUS: PROPERTY PLANNING FOR SMALL FARMS

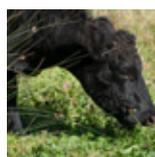


Over the course of NLP1, 70 people from 40 properties (representing 722 ha) attended PMP workshops. Feedback from a 2018 survey to previous participants reported broad-scale improvements to holistic management on properties (weeds, grazing, fencing and pest control), a better understanding of the interconnection of processes on their farms, time and money savings, and improved confidence in setting and implementing goals.

Survey responses give a general overview of the measurable benefits of changes to land management practices that have come about as a result of completing the PMP workshops:



81% reported a reduction in weeds or better weed management strategies



48% saw improved pasture health (e.g. increased stocking rates and more available feed)



33% undertaking biosecurity practices to improve animal and plant health



29% reported improvements in soil health on their properties



19% reported improvements to animal health with better animal performance due to fewer parasites



24% reported a combined total of \$1900 in saving for inputs such as hay and livestock drench



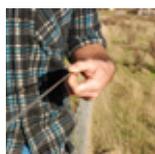
23% reported improvements to water resources, 1700m of creek and 3 dams improved through revegetation, weed control and livestock management



24% reported improvements to native vegetation through reduced weed infestations, livestock exclusion and recovery of understorey



19% reported undertaking re-vegetation work, with over 2000 trees planted



19% reported improvements to their farm layout resulting in easier movement of livestock, and improved pasture growth through installation of wallaby-proof fencing.

Since 2012, NRM South has offered an annual Small Farm Planning program in the Huon and Channel region. These regions support many diverse, small farms. Landholders in the area are often new to farming and may lack understanding about land management issues such as biosecurity (weeds, pests, diseases), riparian management or pasture health. In 2017-18, 26 attendees representing 15 properties in the Huon/Channel region participated in the course. Workshop attendees have created valuable local networks, creating a strong and resilient landholder community. This enables farmers to continue to share information and resources and is important in building resilience as farmers collaborate with each other.



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND DATA

In order to properly manage and protect Southern Tasmania's natural assets, it is important to have good data about our region, including its predominant features, pressing issues and future trends. It is also essential to be able to share this information with relevant groups - to facilitate effective decision making, on-ground activities and planning.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Environmental monitoring and mapping

Developing management plans

Knowledge and information-sharing

Providing training

Sponsorship

Climate change modelling

Landscape-scale planning

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

119 participants engaged through delivery of seven events

Ongoing review and development of the AdaptNRM climate change model

Worked with industry and government to build knowledge of water quality across the Derwent Catchment

Funded development of water quality reports for three Ramsar wetlands

The Building Knowledge and Data program aims to support individuals in industry, government and community groups to build their capacity to support technical skills development. We work with partners to improve NRM outcomes by gathering this information, generating new knowledge, and by disseminating it throughout the NRM sector.

Another component of the program is working with key industry groups, research bodies and organisations to develop data and knowledge-building activities such as trials, research, monitoring and policy/planning development that will fill knowledge gaps. As a hub of NRM activity, we bring together, analyse and share information relevant to the region, and act as an impartial knowledge broker.

Over 2017-18, our contributions to previous work have focused on the application of models and development of draft reports for management approaches. In the past year, technical workshops and meetings were held with State Government, University of Tasmania, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, NRM North, PWS and other stakeholders to analyse and assess AdaptNRM climate change data for inclusion into the Tasmanian Conservation Information System, discussion and updating of Tasmanian spatial Landcover data sets and products and progress planning relating to state-wide access to priority data sets.

The application of the AdaptNRM model was demonstrated through its use in an alpine communities research project in Mount Field National Park. The aim of this project was to improve understanding of alpine vegetation responses to climate change under different climate model scenarios.

This research is helping us to understand the adaptive capacity of plants to tolerate or respond to long-term temperature increases. This will be key to effective conservation and management of sensitive vegetation communities, including developing an ecological restoration and/or mitigation response. This research will be used to inform the next steps for monitoring priority vegetation communities in Tasmania.

Leverage on NRM South investment and in-kind contributions to the AdaptNRM work has demonstrated the value of these data sets through their ability to support improved decision-making. State Government have prioritised the inclusion of AdaptNRM data into the Tasmanian Conservation Information System, including through direct increased investment. This represents a significant return on the original NLP investment to the AdaptNRM dataset.

We have continued working with industry and government to build knowledge of water quality across the Derwent Catchment. In 2017-18, we made further contributions to the development of a final Derwent Water Quality Monitoring report as part of the Derwent Estuary Program Water Quality Working Group. This will assist in establishing a clear picture of environmental conditions for one of the most important waterways in Tasmania and provide a framework for improved environmental and planning decisions to maintain and improve the health of the waterway.

Our support for the development of two water quality reports has helped to identify the drivers for water quality decline and improvement at Moulting Lagoon, Apsley Marshes and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, three important Ramsar sites in southern Tasmania. This project has built on and consolidated knowledge of the causes and impacts of water quality issues through a literature review, GIS data analysis and modelling, to provide guidance on future management actions.

The development of these models and catchment-scale water quality decision support system is helping to identify specific actions and nutrient load reduction targets that will improve and protect water quality. It has addressed significant knowledge gaps and forms the first stage of Water Quality Improvement Planning, a knowledge-building process of modelling and assessment. Through consultation with the local community, a future planning process can examine the on-ground feasibility for implementing the actions, which can be prioritised based on cost, feasibility and potential for impact.

In consultation with Aboriginal community, we identified the outline of a monitoring program to support Indigenous fire management work. This program will provide a means for the long-term and sustainable improvement of Indigenous land management techniques in the implementation of Healthy Country plans and broader land management activities.

Revisions to the Vegetation Condition Assessment (VCA) Manual have been ongoing. The last year has seen the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas add an online portal to accept entry of VCAs which will facilitate collation of monitoring information into a central state government database. This will help direct management decisions.

Over 2017-18 we engaged with 119 participants through the delivery of seven events. The largest single event was the Celebrating Partnerships and Sharing Knowledge forum, delivered to 51 participants. This annual event brings together partners to network, discuss current and future directions and explore opportunities for collaboration on NRM issues. This year saw presentations and updates from the CSIRO (red handfish conservation), as well as weetaoona Aboriginal corporation and pakana services discussing issues around Indigenous land and fire management work.

Over the three years of NLP1, project activities under this sub-program have laid the foundations for broader community work that has contributed to; securing the future of Morrisby's gum; expanding biosecurity initiatives and weed management activities to protect a world heritage area; the incorporation of climate change research into PWS management plans for parks and reserves; collaborative development of a water quality improvement plan for the Derwent River catchment; and establishing a model for identifying drivers of water quality for Ramsar-listed Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes.



CASE STUDY: IMPROVING VEGETATION ASSESSMENT

The objective of using the VCA method in monitoring is to improve available data about vegetation condition in Tasmania. During training delivery of the VCA method, issues and inconsistencies were identified. This led to discussions with DPIPWE's TASVEG Mapping and Monitoring Program and Natural Values Atlas teams, and the launch of a revision of processes. This included updates to the TASVEG benchmarks, uploading and inclusion of TASVEG benchmarks data into the NVA, development of a VCA data entry portal in the NVA and a substantial revision of the manual (still underway) to improve accessibility of the method to new users and vegetation condition assessors.

These actions will ultimately improve the user experience for conducting VCAs. The anticipated outcome is a broader uptake and application of the method across Tasmania, and ensuring that data collected is immediately accessible for analysis.



WORKING ON COUNTRY WITH THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

Australia's Aboriginal communities were the country's first natural resource managers. Many of the NRM issues we are witnessing today are in part due to the removal of practices that formed part of a natural cycle of events across landscapes.

We support Tasmania's Aboriginal people to build capacity in NRM and provide opportunities for individuals to connect with broader networks, and work on activities that will improve social and economic outcomes and bring benefits for biodiversity, coastal health and meet conservation objectives for our land and sea-scapes.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Raising awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge within our community

Building and connecting Aboriginal communities to NRM networks

Providing access to information, training and NRM expertise for Aboriginal people/community organisations

Implementing the Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Delivered three events to 32 participants

Supported collaborative projects with Kingborough, Hobart City and Tasman Councils, and Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Fire Service and the STEPS program

Three individuals supported to complete a Cert. 1 in Horticulture

Supported employment opportunities for 11 individuals

Cultural awareness activities delivered nine events to 728 people via the Discovery Rangers program (PWS)

Supported six individuals to attend the national Aboriginal Fire Forum at Cape York

Provided direct support for 13 Aboriginal organisations and businesses

**Note: Where palawa language is used, there is no capitalisation of words.*

Over the last financial year, we have strengthened our relationships with many Aboriginal organisations and businesses. Projects under this program have helped to address cultural and NRM priorities and improve Aboriginal engagement in NRM activities. Key activities have included coastal management, building youth capacity, fire management planning, cultural heritage site auditing and protection, bushfood garden design and food production, re-vegetation work at culturally important sites and creating opportunities for the exchange of information and knowledge.

In 2017-18, events under this program engaged with 760 people. Engagement activities have taken the form of cultural awareness events via the Discovery Ranger program (a partnership between NRM South and Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service), cultural training, and fire management. Direct engagement was through meetings and consultations. We facilitated 35 sessions that engaged with an additional 150 people about activities related to improving understanding of cultural values and Indigenous priorities, for the purpose of informing future NRM project activity planning. For example, the potential for conservation and cultural knowledge exchange at Cockatoo Hills was discussed as an approach to build Aboriginal youth understanding on the cultural values of the endangered Miena cider gum and NRM approaches to their conservation in the face of climate change. There is a lot of enthusiasm within many Aboriginal organisations to consolidate resources with NRM South on more strategic and substantial partnerships.

Our recent focus has been on encouraging the NRM sector, local government and research institutes to develop relationships and projects with local Aboriginal corporations and businesses. This year has seen collaborative projects progress with Kingborough, Hobart City and Tasman Councils, the Tasmanian Fire Service, Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service and the STEPS program (an employment service provider). Efforts to develop cultural awareness within the NRM sector, research institutes and local government have improved cultural competency across multiple sectors.

One of the main challenges unique to this sub-program is the limited administrative capacity of many Aboriginal organisations. Planning and reporting regimes are also often not well aligned to the realities of working within the governance structures of Aboriginal community groups. Limited land and ocean resources under Aboriginal tenure in southern Tasmania restricts Aboriginal access to funding for the implementation of Aboriginal Ranger and IPA programs.

One of our key priorities is involving Tasmania's Aboriginal communities in the planning and delivery of natural resource management investment and activities. Over the last year, we developed an Aboriginal Engagement Good Practice Guide to strengthen the effectiveness of our Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework (developed the previous year) and our Reconciliation Action Plan (currently being developed). The aim is to build sustainable, trustworthy partnerships with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, businesses and organisations and to recognise the diversity and differences between

these sectors. Good practice relies on supporting Aboriginal priorities. We have provided local community groups, businesses and corporations the opportunity to articulate their priorities for and commitment to a southern Tasmanian NRM program which not only builds Aboriginal economic capacity but also leads to environmental and social outcomes that benefits all Tasmanians.

We have also increased the understanding of Aboriginal community groups and corporations on current and important NRM issues including government priorities, and details about our projects. This exchange of technical and cultural knowledge is not limited to this sub-program, but is incorporated within all of our sub-program areas. A continuous dialogue is helping to disseminate two-way knowledge sharing from a broad range of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations, e.g. Tasmania Fire Services, UTAS, pakana services, Bushcare, Landcare, and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. Additionally, it is helpful for Aboriginal partners to understand where efficiencies can be created when considering synergies between their own local and diverse cultural priorities and NRM South/Government priorities.



CASE STUDY: BUILDING THE BRUNY ISLAND TRAINEE ABORIGINAL RANGER PROJECT

Kingborough Council had a long-term interest in developing an Aboriginal Ranger Program on Bruny Island to tackle natural resource management issues. The weetaipoona Aboriginal Corporation wanted to build the capacity of their own community in the management of cultural and natural values and to provide employment opportunities for their young members. We facilitated conversations between stakeholders that led to the development of the Bruny Island Trainee Aboriginal Ranger project. This brought together wAC, Kingborough Council and various employment agencies to develop an opportunity for young Aboriginal people to develop skills in conservation and land management while building weetaipoona's knowledge about work and training programs and business development opportunities.

This pilot project has provided a model for a trainee Ranger program and has built a case for further support from Kingborough Council – which they are keen to provide. Kingborough Council and the employment agencies have gained a greater understanding of weetaipoona's aspirations regarding youth engagement and skills development and there is cohesion, commitment and much enthusiasm amongst all partners working on this project.



CASE STUDY: LINKING PAST AND PRESENT AT PREMAYDENA



In October 2017, a small group of participants attended a cultural competency training workshop at Fergusons Bay. Delivered by Judith MacDonald and Elder Rosalind from parrdarrama pungenna Aboriginal Corporation, attendees learned about traditional foods, materials, songs and protocols.

Since June 2016, Amanda Blakney (Tasman Council NRM Facilitator) has been supporting NRM South to administer a project with the parrdarrama pungenna Aboriginal Corporation to improve and maintain the foreshore vegetation at this site – currently consisting of pigface, kangaroo apple, native grasses, and a few eucalypts. Working collaboratively, Tasman Council and NRM South are acknowledging and resourcing parrdarrama pungenna Aboriginal Corporation members' connection to Country. It is both rewarding and essential to resource Aboriginal custodianship of a culturally important site, where social and environmental outcomes lead to improvements in coastal habitat, and improved cultural understanding and community relationships.

Events, face-to-face meetings and consultation have assisted communities in becoming involved in caring for their environment, increasing participation in sustainable NRM practices. We delivered three events to 32 participants (16 previously engaged / 16 newly / 14 Indigenous). Events focused on sharing Indigenous knowledge on fire management and culture, and developing stronger working relationships to identify and support future opportunities for collaboration. As part of this event delivery, parrdarrama pungenna Aboriginal Corporation were contracted to deliver cultural knowledge transfer activities and NRM activities. They were one of three Indigenous organisations contracted in the last year.

mina nina Tourism and Events and nita Education were also contracted to deliver Aboriginal educational and cultural activities. This was done via the 2017-18 summer Discovery Ranger Program (an NRM South partnership agreement with Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service), which also employed two Indigenous rangers. As part of this program, nita Education delivered nine events that engaged 728 participants in a range of cultural awareness activities across the region.

We supported three pakana services employees with formal horticulture training (Certificate 1). This training

will improve pakana services employees' capabilities in implementing sustainable management actions that maintain and improve ecosystem services. We also supported the employment of eleven individuals, including five indigenous rangers. Each of these employment opportunities provided direct economic and social benefits to members of Tasmanian Aboriginal communities.

To date, we have engaged with all Aboriginal community groups identified as active in land management in the southern region. Our collaborative approach has helped to strengthen the NRM capacity of Aboriginal landholders and custodians to manage their own social and cultural assets including land and coastal resources. For example, acting on discussions with Andry Sculthorpe (from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation) and Victor Steffensen (Mulong Pty Ltd) and following the successful fire management forum that we funded in 2016-17, we funded six Aboriginal community members to attend the national Aboriginal fire forum at Cape York. The knowledge and confidence gained from this experience has had multiple flow-on benefits, including informing two-way learning workshops with Tasmania Fire Services staff, and helping to direct current and future land management practices on Murrayfield (Bruny Island).

Input from local Aboriginal community groups, businesses and corporations in NRM activities contributes to improving environmental decisions related to protection of threatened species habitat protection, management of coastal climate change impacts and weed control, conservation of vegetation, fire management practices and cultural heritage protection.

IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT: A COMMUNITY SURVEY

Towards the end of the 2018 financial year, a survey was carried out to get feedback on the impact of NRM South support and to find out ways that we could improve engagement with Tasmania's Aboriginal communities. The following key themes were identified within the diversity of responses:

- Engage early and often
- Align priorities
- Build relationships
- Ask, listen and provide feedback
- Determine and agree on what success looks like
- Define protocols

The evaluation highlighted the significant diversity in the approaches and opinions within and between Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. The effectiveness of collaborative projects and the likelihood of positive results hinges strongly on acknowledging this diversity and engaging in conversations to share the different perspectives early and often.



BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Building community capacity is essential for achieving good NRM outcomes. An informed and engaged community can help to shape the direction of planning and policy and collective individual actions across a landscape can bring benefits to landscapes and waterways through improved behavioural practices.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Providing grants funding for community and landholder projects

Developing and distributing information resources

Presence at and support for community events

School/youth engagement

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Engaged 1,962 participants across 28 events

27 community groups (Rounds 9 and 10) completed and reported on their projects.

Supported eleven volunteers to attend the national Coast to Coast Conference (Hobart)

Engaged 22 individuals and 19 organisations via 22 direct engagements/site visits and support activities

Involved 933 participants through the delivery of 16 on-ground works activities

Facilitating community engagement and networking amongst community members and land managers in our region is a core part of our approach to improving natural resource management. This sub-program is overseen by a Regional Landcare Facilitator, who provides one-on-one support to community groups, coordinates the community grants program, delivers extension services, attends engagement and awareness events, provides resources, coordinates activities with NRM Local Facilitators, supports local events and delivers workshops.

Our support for forums and community events, and providing access to resources and skills development opportunities, helps community to better engage in NRM. In 2017-18 we supported public meetings, agricultural shows, field days, workshops and expos as well as projects that involved schools, landowners and community groups in on-ground activities to restore habitats. These types of events provide opportunities for community members to come together, connect and establish relationships that become the foundation of invaluable support networks, fostering knowledge and skills-sharing and developing essential resilience for responding to future NRM challenges.

Improving habitat – and including community within these activities – brings social, economic and environmental benefits. Involvement in capacity building activities gives more agency to individuals and communities over their local environment and important places. Projects have attracted in-kind contributions and leveraging that far exceed the original funds allocated. Skills learned as part of project activities stay with the individuals involved and bring value to communities as capacity to undertake NRM activities without ongoing assistance is enhanced.

Over 2017-18, we were involved in 28 events across the south-east with a reach of 1,962 participants (61% newly engaged). We carried out 22 site visits/ direct engagements involving 22 individuals and 19 organisations and involved 933 participants through the delivery of 16 on-ground projects.

The benefits of this approach are demonstrated through the consistently positive feedback we have received from community members and NRM stakeholders, who view NRM South as a source of quality advice and resources on a range of NRM topics including weed management, protecting native vegetation, and soil and pasture improvement.

The professional development opportunities we have provided to volunteers has helped to support local community groups. We supported five community groups (eight volunteers) to attend the Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Awards, two community groups (Otago Bay Coastcare and South Hobart Sustainable Community Group) to host public waterbug identification/water health workshops, and eight volunteers to attend the National Coast to Coast Conference in Hobart.

CASE STUDY: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS



In the Orford community, perceptions regarding the value of coastal habitats have been shifting in response to NRM South-supported activities. Projects have included developing a natural and cultural heritage values interpretation walk in Orford (involving the Orford Landcare Group, PWS and Orford Primary School) and activities to protect the foreshore and its shorebirds. This has provided opportunities for students to be physically active outdoors and connect environmental experiences with the school curriculum.

The Orford Community Group have become ambassadors for weed control and habitat protection - leading initiatives to remove gorse and replace pine forest with native trees. Children are talking to people at Orford Beach and telling them what to do to protect shorebirds and the reserve, and they wrote letters to adjoining land owners that included information about the potential impacts on native plants and animals of residents throwing garden waste into the reserve. This was very powerful communication with the broader community.

Awareness and education is crucial to addressing NRM issues as it is the people interacting with their local environments daily, often on private areas of land, who are the first to know about emerging threats, or whose behaviours may be most commonly influencing natural assets.



Image: Participants learning about aquatic invertebrates at a waterbug workshop in Otago Bay

Many community groups (including Naturally Inspired Grant recipients) received one-on-one support, which ranged from assistance in modification of project activities, attendance at significant events funded by grants, logistical support with project delivery, or technical support in acquitting grants and completing forms.

Closely linked to community engagement, our support for community education is helping to improve behaviours and shape attitudes. An example from the last year was a series of Waterbug Workshops, hosted by community groups and also presented to school children at the annual Kids Sustainability Conference. Two community groups now have several members with the confidence and skills to undertake ongoing waterbug monitoring of their local lagoon and waterway as an indicator of water quality.

This improved capacity will help supply information into the National Waterbug Blitz, beginning in the spring of 2018.

Our support for the development and distribution of NRM resources and communications products included the development and publication of a firewood brochure, supporting AgAssist to develop a series of communication products on a program to reduce fertiliser application on dairy paddocks, and support for BirdLife Tasmania to print their State of Tasmanian Birds Report.

TARGETED FUNDING

We have provided funding support to the community via our Naturally Inspired Grants (NIG - offered annually), Bite-sized Grants (offered all year round) as well as targeted funding rounds linked to strategic priorities. Our Naturally Inspired Grants program supports community groups to undertake on-ground actions that improves habitat condition for the benefit of EPBCA-listed threatened species and involves communities in caring for the environment and improving sustainability practices.

During 2017-18, two NIG rounds were finalised with completion reports submitted for 27 projects. These grants have seen projects such as wildlife monitoring, weed control, walking-track maintenance and development, revegetation and skills development across the southern region. Small grants provide community groups with the financial capacity to deliver projects with valuable on-ground outcomes and involving the community in on-ground NRM activities.

COAST TO COAST CONFERENCE



Image: Volunteers at the Coast to Coast Conference.

In April 2018, we supported representatives from eight community groups to attend the biennial Coast to Coast national conference for coastal management. This dynamic gathering of coastal carers delivered inspiring presentations, shared stories, and attended informative excursions and fruitful workshops. We supported and provided sponsorship for this event; which was attended by our RLF - who was on the conference organising committee and chaired sessions. We also hosted an information booth to showcase our coastal projects, which include shorebird conservation work at Ramsar sites and saltmarsh monitoring.

We sponsored a Little Penguin workshop which received great feedback for the momentum gained towards a state-wide collaboration. The workshop addressed best practice of volunteer guided tours, urban development around penguin rookeries, records keeping and data collection, monitoring technology and the future for Little Penguin management.

Conference organisers were very supportive in allowing multiple volunteers from one care group to share the sponsorship provided, recognising it can be difficult for a volunteer to dedicate a whole week to attending the conference, and also that coastcare groups are a collection of many passionate volunteers. The eight sponsorships we provided actually enabled 11 volunteers to attend the conference. This provided a great opportunity to build and strengthen connections and participate in great conversations. An additional six volunteers were supported to attend the Little Penguin Workshops.





Naturally Inspired Grants

Our final round of Naturally Inspired Grants for community groups and landowners was launched in April 2017 and the 2017-18 period saw the completion of all 36 successful projects. Round 10 grants comprised 16 community groups and 20 landowners (reported under Sustainable Management Practices) who shared in a total of \$257,000 in funding. Community groups received support for projects including native species protection, weed management, native revegetation, wildlife monitoring, cultural burning, and community engagement projects. Landholders received funds to carry out works such as managing weeds, improving water quality, creating wildlife corridors and riparian rehabilitation.

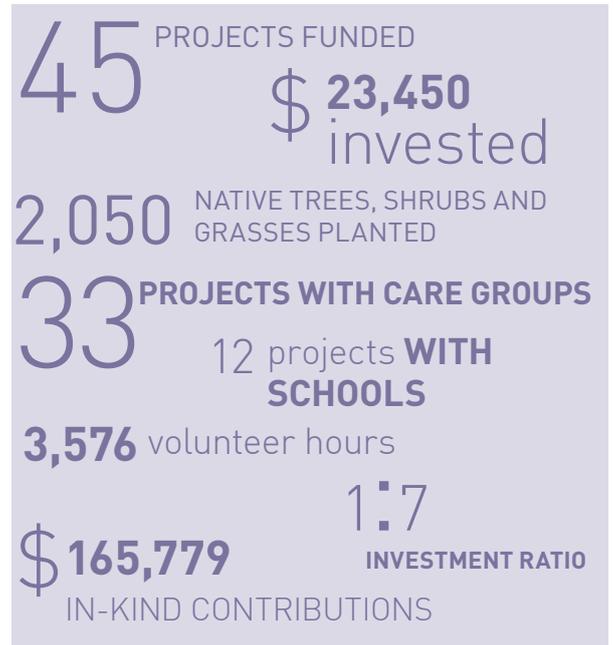
Last year's funding round offered an additional \$8,000 to eight community groups and landowners for biosecurity measures and improvements such as installation of wash down stations and signage – which also wrapped up in 2017-18 and is reported under the Biosecurity section.

Twenty-seven community groups (Rounds 9 and 10) completed and reported on their projects in 2017-18. These two grants rounds received funding totalling \$215,000, and leveraged additional in-kind contributions of \$359,443. On-ground activities included 150 hectares of sensitive or high value habitat treated for invasive weeds and over 70 hectares of habitat revegetated with native trees, shrubs and grasses, leading to improved habitat condition and threatened species protection.

Bite-sized Grants

In the 2017-18 financial year, twelve schools and community groups received Bite-sized Grants totalling \$7,985 in funding support. This included projects such as bush tucker gardens at Cygnet Primary School and Ptunarra childcare centre, weed control and revegetation activities across multiple sites, and training to improve volunteers' skills in chemical handling and wildlife rescue. Two of the grants (a bush tucker garden and workshops delivered at an Aboriginal childcare centre, and a cultural heritage assessment component of coastal restoration project) were provided with additional funding to support Indigenous engagement.

Over the three years under NLP1, these community NIGs and Bite-sized grants have provided close to quarter of a million dollars in funding to 84 projects. Over 15,000 volunteer hours have been invested in a diversity of projects – this represents nearly two full years of dedicated elbow grease! In-kind contributions to these projects have been valued at close to \$700,000. This represents a return on investment of \$3.4 for every \$1 invested by NRM South.



FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2017-18



BEFORE AND AFTER REMOVAL OF DAPHNE LAUREL

Fern Tree Daphne Laurel

Organisation: City of Hobart Bushcare/ Fern Tree Bushcare Group

Project Name: Conserving the forest ecology of kunanyi/Mt Wellington by controlling a highly invasive weed, daphne laurel (*Daphne laureola*)

Completed: March 2018 **Funding:** \$7,700

Once established, the complete eradication of any weed is a serious challenge. Where seeds are spread by animals, they can remain undiscovered for years. If seeds or suckers remain in the soil, there needs to be a plan and resources in place for potentially years of follow-up work. Grant funding helped Fern Tree Bushcare tackle an infestation of Daphne laurel in the foothills of kunanyi/Mount Wellington, allowing for the infestation to be mapped, and all known plants removed. With ongoing follow up work, this project will see the complete eradication of Australia's only known Daphne laurel infestation.

Grant funding meant early intervention by a mobilised team of dedicated volunteers, saving costly and extensive action once the problem had spread and the protection of a site that has significant cultural and social value to the local community. In addition, work could be carried out in an area that was outside of council jurisdiction and there was direct engagement and involvement of the local community (private landowners and volunteers).



Nests for unwelcome guests

Organisation: Sustainability Learning Centre and Hobart College

Project Name: Lend a Hand Citizen Science Project: Manage Rainbow Lorikeets to protect Tasmania's endangered Swift Parrots

Completed: Ongoing **Funding:** \$7,000

Outcomes: Hobart College students helped in the construction of specially designed nesting boxes to manage invasive Rainbow Lorikeets in the greater Hobart region. The first boxes were placed into trees at the Kingston golf course in August 2017. Environment team volunteers fitted ceilings and ladders into nesting boxes and filled the bases with nesting material. Nesting boxes were installed in council reserves and on private land around Kingborough and Hobart by Dr Dejan Stojanovic and his team of conservation scientists from the Australian National University. Local volunteers have been monitoring the boxes as part of this citizen science project.



Fat Pig Farm gardens get a break

Organisation: Fat Pig Farm

Project Name: Regeneration of public, food production and education areas.

Completed: March 2018 **Funding:** \$7,900

Outcomes: One of the challenges of Fat Pig Farm's site in Glaziers Bay is high winds, which have resulted in the loss of entire beds of vegetables over spring and autumn - and even a greenhouse. The existing windbreak needed filling in, and the edges of the market garden were boosted by the planting in of a couple of hundred native trees and shrubs. Grant funding supported a group of volunteers from the Huon Valley Roamers Landcare and Franklin Landcare groups to plant several hundred native trees and shrubs that will help protect the site.



BIOSECURITY PRACTICES

Tasmania is relatively free of pests, weeds and diseases. This is not only important in sustaining a healthy environment for species that are rare or threatened, it also plays a significant role in securing our productive and tourism economy.

Tasmania's pest and disease-free status in specific areas has secured our place in the export market, while our natural landscapes are an important drawcard in attracting an ever-increasing number of visitors to the State.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Supporting Discovery Ranger activities

Promoting the CCDD message through signage and washdown facilities

Providing hygiene kits to community groups working in remote and/or sensitive areas

Surveys

Awareness-raising about biosecurity issues

Training delivery

Site visits

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Engaged 2,428 individuals to adopt best-practice biosecurity protocols

Weed control activities over 21 ha and follow up activities over 60 ha

Installed seven wash down stations and nine signs

Supported training for six pakana services employees (an Aboriginal land management business)

Engaged with 30 organisations and industry groups

One new member has joined the Biosecurity Network

A weed management action plan was progressed for the Derwent Valley TWWHA Buffer region



Image: Raising awareness about the biosecurity message included attendance at events such as the Huon Show

Project activities under this sub-program have worked to maintain and improve ecosystem services through sustainable management of local and regional landscapes. We have provided tailored support to groups, organisations and individuals working in and visiting high value conservation areas and agricultural regions.

These activities have helped support communities to undertake biosecurity measures and reduce the threat of invasive pest, weed and diseases across southern Tasmania. Activities have also improved community awareness of, and capacity for, practical biosecurity controls and simplified hygiene messages and efficiently integrated biosecurity education into actions addressing multiple threats and assets.

Over the last financial year, 2,428 individuals were engaged in biosecurity awareness activities (through events or the provision of resources and advice). This included 1,693 members of the public (847 newly engaged) who participated in biosecurity themed events run by the PWS Discovery Rangers during their summer program. The Discovery Rangers program, delivered through a partnership with Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), was a highly effective delivery mechanism for targeting biosecurity messaging to a large number of individuals from a typically low-awareness, high-risk groups. This is especially relevant for local, interstate and international visitors to Tasmania's national parks during peak tourist season.

Guided by results of the 2017 Biosecurity Network survey, this engagement has focused on identified priorities by targeting high risk groups. This includes the agricultural sector, adventure racers, field naturalists who undertake field trips in a wide range of sensitive areas and future environmental professionals contributing to increased biosecurity awareness and improved practice across these user groups.

The 2017 biosecurity survey revealed that there has been a significant increase in the number of landholders with a biosecurity plan and an increase in the awareness of the two freshwater biosecurity threats since 2015. However, survey results also indicate that people visiting farmland, visitors to national parks in the peak tourist season, and people moving within Tasmania undertaking freshwater-based activities either have lower awareness of biosecurity threats or are less likely to implement good biosecurity practices. Awareness of the chytrid frog fungus is still low among locals and high risk groups, i.e.

those involved most often in freshwater-based activities, and people visiting the State's national parks during peak tourist season. Analysis of survey comments gave new insights, identified new potentially high-risk user groups and provided a mechanism for community input into the Biosecurity Network's communication plan.

Previous survey results consistently advocated working with schools as a good strategy to target future professionals and recreational users of high value assets. In response, we developed targeted activities delivered in late 2017, including two wildlife expos for students (with Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary), support for weetaoona Aboriginal Corporation to improve biosecurity practices for visiting tourists to their farm on Bruny Island (Murrayfield Station) and continued support for the Discovery Rangers program and Par Avion Wilderness Airlines.

We facilitate the Biosecurity Network*, who engage with high-risk user groups in communicating the biosecurity message. This model has been effective in communicating biosecurity messages to a wide range of people and supporting the development of guidelines, plans and biosecurity infrastructure to increase uptake of the Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry biosecurity protocols. If undertaken with each visit to sensitive areas in our natural and productive landscapes, these hygiene protocols reduce the risk of incursion or spread of pests, weeds and diseases.

There has been a considerable amount of national and State-based interest in this integrated biosecurity education and awareness approach as it focuses on simple preventive messages, rather than individual biosecurity threats. Network representatives have been invited to present at the National Biosecurity Forum and have been called on to submit a case study for the *Phytophthora cinnamomi* threat abatement plan review. The Network has continued to grow its membership and activity in the last year, with one new member joining (Glamorgan Spring Bay Council) and two members contributing to the action plan tasks for the first time (TasNetworks and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council).

Three collaborative weed control projects - the Huon, Derwent Valley and Central Highlands TWWHA buffer were incorporated into sub-program activities during this financial year. In total, 21.1 ha of weed control work was carried out, including control of invasive orange hawkweed across 18 ha at Butlers Gorge (part of the Central Highlands Weed Program developed by the Derwent Catchment program with support from NRM South and Crown Land Services), 3.1 ha of weed control in the Huon Valley, and 27 weed species treated at three priority locations. Follow up weed control activities were also carried out across 60 ha at Interlaken wetland. As part of these activities, six pakana services employees received training in GPS data collection techniques for recording weed data.



REVIEWING THE BIOSECURITY MESSAGE

Tasmania's strict biosecurity protocols are at the front line of keeping out pests, weeds and diseases that could cause havoc for our natural and productive areas. Tasmania is considered to be relatively free of many of the problem species found in other parts of the world, but there are still a number of issues that Tasmania's Biosecurity Network is working hard to keep contained.

One essential tool in helping Biosecurity Network members evaluate how well the biosecurity message is getting out - and adapt communications strategies to suit - is via regular surveys. A review of the most recent surveys shows that overall we're doing well, but that there are still some important gaps - most notably in awareness of freshwater threats chytrid and didymo. While the frog fungus chytrid is already present in Tasmania, the Biosecurity Network is trying to limit its spread. Didymo - an invasive algal pest that has already caused serious problems in New Zealand's freshwater systems - fortunately hasn't reached Tasmania yet.

Survey results show that awareness of these threats has increased since 2015 and people involved in freshwater activities have a high awareness of didymo. However, they are less aware of the threat posed by chytrid on their work, recreation and the health of natural ecosystems. The Biosecurity Network will be developing strategies to boost awareness about chytrid and how to prevent its spread with freshwater users in Tasmania.

Program planning and development for future on-ground works in the Derwent Valley included a weed action plan for the Derwent TWWHA Buffer and weed surveys for priority gaps identified in current Derwent TWWHA Buffer weed control partnership activities. This cross-tenure collaborative program involves a partnership between The Derwent Catchment Project, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania, the Dept. of State Growth, Tas Networks, Norske Skogg, and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

Infrastructure and information resources delivered in the last year include washdown stations, signs and manuals. Seven wash-down stations (including three for vehicle wash-down, one for vehicle and boot wash-down, one for boot and bike wash-down and two for boot wash-down

only) were installed on public and private land. Three of these wash-down stations were installed as part of the Wildcare Biosecurity Project. Biosecurity signage was installed at nine locations, sometimes in association with the installation of wash-down facilities. We funded a reprint of 150 Freshwater Biosecurity Hygiene Manuals for distribution to fresh water users including fossickers, kayakers, rafters, boaters and fishers and provided 52 biosecurity kits to individuals and organisations.

Funding distributed through Wildcare Inc for development of biosecurity infrastructure included:

- One wash-down station for boots and bikes at Maria Island ferry terminal (Triabunna marina) and information/instruction signage.
- Biosecurity signage at Triabunna and Maria Island.
- Vehicle wash-down station and signage for people arriving and departing at Calvert's Hill Nature Recreation Area
- Portable bootwash station and portable signage aimed at helicopter visits to Tasman Island
- Biosecurity signage at key anchorage points in Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour in the Southwest wilderness area targeting visitors arriving on private boats.

Over the three years of NLP1, we have received co-investment, external funding and in-kind support to the value of \$268,689 from delivery partners. This has included contributions to the development of heavy machinery and vehicle wash-down videos, community biosecurity projects, PWS and Wildcare group input into developing community partnerships for the Wildcare Biosecurity project, TWWHA buffer weed control activities, joint extension and communication activities, in-kind expertise in training events, and cost recovery for biosecurity kits provided to community groups, businesses, recreational users and NRM professionals. Overall, every \$2.20 of project investment attracted an additional dollar of co-investment.



Image: Biosecurity awareness activities carried out as part of the PWS Discovery Rangers summer program

*Tasmania's Biosecurity Network is a working collaboration comprising 18 organisations; Hydro Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, DPI/PWE (Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Biosecurity Tasmania, Natural Values Conservation Branch), Ecological Society of Australia, NRM South, NRM North, Cradle Coast NRM, Department of State Growth, the Livestock Biosecurity Network, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Inland Fisheries Service, Department of Defence, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Kingborough Council and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council - with support from other organisations.

NRM FACILITATION

Our community facilitation model incorporates NRM (Local Area) Facilitation and Regional Landcare Facilitator programs to deliver improved regional NRM outcomes. This co-investment partnership model employs dedicated NRM Facilitation staff working locally in support of NRM activities, building community capacity and working with the community at all levels for regional and national outcomes. We have valued this relationship with local council regions in Southern Tasmania, which ended with the wrap-up of NLP 1.

NRM Local Area Facilitators have worked closely with NRM South project management staff, and have supported each other on cross-boundary and collaborative projects. NRM Facilitators directly engaged with land managers and supported local events and capacity building activities across Southern Tasmania.

RLF PROGRAM PRIORITIES:

Fostering sustainable land management practices

Sustaining ecosystem-services and improving landscape-scale conservation outcomes

Connecting NRM organisations, community, Landcare and farmer production groups to build knowledge, skills and community capacity and resilience

Promoting opportunities for community groups and farming networks to access funding, engage with research and participate in training

Supporting the hands-on application of sustainable land and natural resource management practices

Providing community feedback to the Australian Government on emerging regional NRM issues

We have now wrapped up our co-investment partnerships with Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell, and Tasman councils, and joint partnerships with the Central Highlands and Derwent Valley councils, and a local landholder network Derwent Catchment Project (formerly Derwent Catchment NRM). To the end of June 2018, these co-investments have supported the employment of four dedicated NRM Local Area Facilitators hosted in partner organisations as well as the direct employment of an NRM Local Area Facilitator with the Huon Valley Council.

In 2017-18, NRM Local Area Facilitators supported their local communities through delivery of NRM training and local information events, providing support for seeking grant funds, applying for project funding to enable community actions and developing community partnerships – which unlocks both volunteer in-kind and financial contributions. They were also involved in building new knowledge, skills and resilience to strengthen NRM outcomes in their local areas.

NRM Facilitators delivered approximately 40% of regional activity through NRM South's Regional Delivery, funded by the Australian Government.

2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Huon Valley

The TWWHA Huon Weed Buffer project developed a five-year strategy and associated weed action plans for specific regions

Development of a spray-mounted drone to enable weed treatment in difficult-to-reach areas such as cliff faces

Treated 3.1 ha of high threat weeds in the TWWHA buffer region

Derwent Catchment

Installed wildlife monitoring cameras on four properties in the Central Highlands and Derwent Valley. This project was initiated to monitor deer in the highlands after reports of increasing numbers

Worked with TPT to modify 20 existing cages at St. Patricks Plains to assist Miena cider gum recovery

Significant weed management in TWWHA buffer, weed surveying completed in the Derwent Valley and a Derwent TWWHA Action Statement developed with partners to prioritise actions

Tasman

Facilitated two community wildlife workshops run by Matt Taylor (TLC) at the Tasmanian Wildlife Fair

Eaglehawk Neck, Marion Bay and Roaring Beach Coastcare engaged as 'shorebird guardians' to install temporary projective fencing around shorebirds nests and to be an on-ground presence at beaches

Sorell

Cat management at Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve

Weed control and a plant survey carried out by CVA teams at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon

Two World Wetlands Day events held

Glamorgan Spring Bay

CVA planted 200 *Eucalyptus ovata* at Orford to improve Swift Parrot habitat

Moulting Lagoon habitat improvements including revegetation of 800 plants over 0.5ha, fencing off 1.4 ha of sensitive saltmarsh and weed control across 25 ha

Worked with PWS to provide ongoing support to Friends of Maria Island in progressing their Wildcare Biosecurity Project

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Business development has been included as a strategic priority for NRM South as we explore options to broaden our revenue base and increase our capacity to deliver more and improved services.



Our business development strategy aligns with the mission, vision and values of NRM South. Our aim is to deliver high quality and increased NRM services to the southern Tasmanian community and help to build the knowledge and skills of staff; expand revenue sources, and/or build stronger relationships with stakeholders.

DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH CAAS

China is Tasmania's largest export market for our agricultural produce, and is also our leading source of overseas tourists and students. Chinese consumers and investors will be increasingly important for the growth of Tasmanian agriculture and are predicted to contribute \$10 billion per annum to the Tasmanian economy by 2050 (Sustainable Agri-Food Plan 2016–18).

Since 2014, we have been developing a working relationship with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) to progress knowledge and practice in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. China is seeking international expertise and support in developing its agricultural capacity as part of a long-term plan to transition to more sustainable farming practices, better natural resource management, environmental improvement and increasing production of safe and healthy food.

The last year has seen real progress in advancing the status of this relationship. In November 2017, we signed onto a joint Memorandum of Understanding with CAAS and the University of Tasmania. Subsequent to this, we co-hosted the first Australia-China Sustainable Agricultural Technology Forum with the University of Tasmania in May 2018.

Forum attendees included a 21-strong CAAS delegation as well as some 60 delegates from Australian NRM regions and the University of Tasmania. This Forum established an Australia-China Sustainable Agriculture Partnership that seeks to tackle the problems of agricultural natural resource degradation in both countries that will enable sustainable production of safe and nutritious food for Chinese, Australian and world consumers. Joint projects were developed under the key themes of soil health, waterway restoration and catchment management, bee health and pollination, and people and communities.

The collaboration has received strong industry and government endorsement including from; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources; the Tasmanian Premier; Deputy Premier; Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and the Minister for State Growth.

Images: Highlights from the MoU signing, forum, and field trips

Working with such a broad sector of the community – from government departments to private landholders, and volunteer community groups to research organisations – demands an in-depth understanding of how natural resource management issues apply in different contexts.

Small in size, yet delivering a consistently professional service, NRM South's skilled team and efficient systems enable programs, projects and grants to reach their intended targets and to deliver against priorities. Our philosophy is to ensure that adequate training and support are provided to staff, so that they can both perform effectively in their roles, and share skills and knowledge with other organisations and individuals within the community.

Over 2017-18, the NRM South team comprised six full-time and seven part-time staff members for a total of 10.6 full-time equivalent staff as at 30 June 2018 (down from 13.9 in 2016-17). Five staff members resigned during this period while one additional position was not renewed at the end of the contract period. Two new staff joined the team; filling the outgoing positions of Corporate Services Manager and D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Project Officer. Due to the uncertainty of the structure of program activities under NLP2, staff recruitment was kept to a minimum with internal staff taking on additional roles alongside short-term contract staff.

The focus of this year's activities has been wrapping up NLP1 projects, to the end of June 2018, and preparing a bid for the next round of Australian Government funding under NLP2. The tender process was a first for NRM South, operating under a completely changed business model for service contracting and deliverance. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our initial tender bid. Negotiations with Australian and State Governments are ongoing and we are planning an organisational reform process to strengthen our position for a tender resubmission later in 2018.

BOARD MEMBERS 2017–18

Andrew Scanlon – Chair (current)

Andrew is Principal Consultant, providing sustainability and environmental management services to industry. He has had a long career as a senior sustainability consultant and manager. Andrew is a Life Member of the International Hydropower Association and Chair of the Tasmanian Racing Club.

Michael Bidwell – Deputy Chair

Michael was nominated as the new Deputy Chair following the departure of Christine Crawford. Michael has 20 years' experience in planning, developing and delivering NRM and has experience in local government and government business enterprises.

Helen Crawford

Helen has 20 years' experience in natural values conservation and management, working principally for the DPIPW in various roles relating to public and private land conservation.

Dr. Peter Tucker

Chief of Staff to Andrew Wilkie, Peter has extensive experience in State Government, and business, management and marketing expertise.

Dr. Claire Ellis

Dr. Claire Ellis currently runs her own tourism company, and has expertise in regional and experiential product development. Claire is a Board Member of Volunteering Tasmania, Deputy Chair of Ecotourism Australia and a Board Member of the Australian Wildlife Collection.

Tom Dunbabin

Tom was a farmer and land manager for 35 years running a grazing business. Tom is a founding member of the Tasman Landcare Group and has held executive positions since its inception.

Mandy Richardson

Mandy Richardson is a business consultant with 25 years' experience in financial and general management across a range of public and private companies, government business enterprises and research institutes.

Departing Board members in 2017–18

Dr. Christine Crawford (former Deputy Chair)

Alistair Scott

Dr. Jennie Whinam

Louise Wilson

MEMBERSHIP

NRM South membership is open to organisations and individuals with an interest in NRM in Southern Tasmania. The member's association is an incorporated body and has a role in electing members of the Southern NRM Regional Committee – which in turn provides strategic guidance and direction to the CEO and Management Team of NRM South. The association meets formally each year for the AGM to ratify the Annual Report and Auditor's Report.

We wish to thank the organisational and individual members for their support and contributions over the last year.

NRM SOUTH STAFF 2017–18

Donald COVENTRY - CEO

Tim ACKROYD – NRM Facilitator (Huon Valley)

Wendy BATEMAN - Corporate Services Manager [commenced May 2018]

Maudie BROWN - Project Officer

Nepelle CRANE – Catchments and Coastal Coordinator/NRM Operations Manager

Keith DAVIS – Operations and Community Engagement Manager [departed February 2018]

Luke DIDDAMS – NRM Planning and Knowledge Manager [departed March 2018]

Kathie FLETCHER – Aboriginal NRM Support Coordinator [departed January 2018]

Holly HANSEN – Regional Landcare Facilitator (Agriculture)

Amelia FOWLES– D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Project Officer [commenced March 2018]

Emma KACZMARSKI – Corporate Services Manager [departed May 2018]

Nathalie LAURENCE – Communications Officer

Ken MOORE – Sustainable Agriculture Business Development Coordinator

Ruth OSBORNE – Regional Landcare Facilitator (Community)

Daniel PANEK – Monitoring and Reporting Coordinator

Sandy PIUSELLI – Corporate Services Coordinator

Kim STANSFIELD – Finance and Administration Support Officer

Helen WEBB – Organisational Support Officer [departed June 2018]

Dr. Magali WRIGHT – Biodiversity Coordinator [departed January 2018]

Belinda YAXLEY - Catchments and Coasts Project Officer [contract March – June 2018]

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2018

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	38
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	39
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	40
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	41
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	42
STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	50

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
 ABN 86 704 088 698

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	NOTES	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue			
Revenue	2	2,076,188	1,863,938
Other Income	2	362,564	388,825
Total Revenue		2,438,752	2,252,763
Expenses			
Project Expenses		1,464,791	1,299,454
Employee Benefits Expenses		678,093	674,024
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	6	20,287	20,363
Administrative and Other Expenses		232,775	249,552
Total Expenses		2,395,946	2,243,393
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		42,806	9,370
Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Projects Reserve	9	(396,440)	(284,431)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(344,673)	(275,061)

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
 ABN 86 704 088 698

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	NOTES	2018 \$	2017 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	1,666,241	2,003,168
Trade and Other Receivables	4	49,220	25,847
Prepayments	5	13,221	21,588
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,728,682	2,050,603
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and Equipment	6	33,941	52,629
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		33,941	52,629
TOTAL ASSETS		1,762,623	2,103,232
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	7	144,100	124,238
Employee Benefits	8	78,462	72,262
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		222,562	196,500
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits	8	9,363	22,400
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		9,363	22,400
TOTAL LIABILITIES		231,925	218,900
NET ASSETS		1,530,698	1,884,332
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		1,467,376	1,424,570
Committed Projects Reserve	9	63,322	459,762
TOTAL EQUITY		1,530,698	1,884,332

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
 ABN 86 704 088 698

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	RETAINED EARNINGS	COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2016	1,415,200	744,193	2,159,393
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	9,370	-	9,370
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	(284,431)	(284,431)
Balance at 30 June 2017	1,424,570	459,762	1,884,332
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	9,370	-	42,806
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	(396,440)	(396,440)
Balance at 30 June 2018	1,467,376	63,322	1,530,698

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
 ABN 86 704 088 698

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	NOTES	2018	2017
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from Grants/Members		2,003,786	1,965,485
Interest Received		37,621	50,028
Other Income		29,514	39,374
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(2,406,249)	(2,434,301)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities	3	(335,328)	(379,414)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from Sale of Plant and Equipment		-	100
Purchase of Plant and Equipment		(1,599)	(14,038)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities		(1,599)	(13,938)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Financial Support for pakana services		-	-
Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities		-	-
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		(336,927)	(393,352)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year		2,003,168	2,396,520
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	3	1,666,241	2,003,168

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

This special purpose financial report has been prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the Associations Incorporation Act 1964. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards and the Board has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs. The amounts presented in the financial statements are expressed in Australian Dollars and have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.

Significant accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report have been included in the relevant notes to which the policies relate. The notes highlight information about accounting judgements made when applying accounting policies that have the most significant effects on reported amounts. Accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions in the preparation of this Financial Report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Whilst estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis, actual results may differ.

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

2. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

Accounting Policies

Grants revenue is recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income when the Association obtains control of the grant and when it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the organisation and the amount of the grant can be reliably measured.

Interest revenue is recognised progressively as it is earned.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income in proportion to the stage of completion of the transaction at the balance sheet date.

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

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Financial Disclosure		
Grants and Subsidies – Government and Other Organisations	2,076,188	1,863,938
Total Grant and Subsidy Revenue	2,076,188	1,863,938
Other Income		
Interest Received	38,051	50,000
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Plant and Equipment		(4,413)
Financial Reserve Subsidisation of Activities	287,929	308,892
Other Income	36,584	34,346
Total Other Income	362,564	388,825
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME	2,438,752	2,252,763

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Accounting Policies

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short term highly liquid investments that are readily converted to cash within three months and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Cash on Hand	193,507	545,320
Cash at Bank	106	142
Term Deposits Held	1,472,628	1,457,706
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,666,241	2,003,168

Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of Surplus to Cash Flows from Operating Activities

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Surplus from Ordinary Activities	42,806	9,370
<i>Non-Cash Flows</i>		
Depreciation	20,287	20,363
Profit on Sale of Plant and Equipment	-	4,413
Movement in Committed Projects Reserve	(396,440)	(284,431)
<i>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(22,979)	10,757
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	8,367	1,143
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	19,468	(161,238)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	(6,837)	20,209
Cash Flows Provided by/(Used in) Operating Activities	(335,328)	(379,414)

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Accounting Policies

Trade and Other Receivables include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables are expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period and are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Association will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and its fair value, which is estimated as the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate where relevant. The amount of the provision is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Trade Debtors	26,539	3,990
Other Debtors	4,243	3,813
GST Receivable	18,438	18,044
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	49,220	25,847

5. PREPAYMENTS

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Prepaid Insurance	6,665	15,032
Prepaid Rent	6,556	6,556
Other Prepayments	-	
TOTAL PREPAYMENTS	13,221	21,588

6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Accounting Policies

Plant and equipment is measured at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the useful lives of the assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets in the 2018 financial year were:

Plant and Equipment	10-50%
Furniture & Fittings	10-40%
Website Development	40%
Project Related Assets	20-40%
Leasehold Improvements	2.5%
Motor Vehicles	20-40%

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT CONTINUED

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. Items of plant and equipment are derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the Association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying values of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Financial Disclosure	2018 \$	2017 \$
Plant and Equipment	99,178	98,109
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(85,533)	(76,858)
	13,645	21,251
Furniture and Fittings	39,944	39,414
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(31,020)	(27,596)
	8,924	11,818
Website Development	50,490	50,490
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(50,490)	(50,490)
	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	8,078	8,078
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,893)	(1,691)
	6,185	6,387
Project Related Assets	7,781	7,781
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(6,731)	(6,410)
	1,050	1,371
Motor Vehicles	35,926	35,926
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(31,789)	(24,124)
	4,137	11,802
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	33,941	52,629

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current and previous years are set out below:

	PLANT & EQUIPMENT \$	FURNITURE & FITTINGS \$	WEBSITE \$	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS \$	PROJECT RELATED ASSETS \$	MOTOR VEHICLES \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2016	15,440	15,160	-	6,589	-	26,278	63,467
Additions	12,435	-	-	-	1,603	(4,513)	14,038
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,513)
Depreciation	(6,624)	(3,342)	-	(202)	(232)	(9,963)	(20,363)
Balance at 30 June 2017	21,251	11,818	-	6,387	1,371	11,802	52,629
Additions	1,069	530	-	-	-	-	1,599
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(8,675)	(3,424)	-	(202)	(321)	(7,665)	(20,287)
Balance at 30 June 2018	13,645	8,924	-	6,185	1,050	4,137	33,941

7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Accounting Policies

Trade and Other Payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Association during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Trade Creditors	87,554	72,904
Other Current Liabilities	36,040	32,438
PAYG Withholding Payable	20,506	18,896
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	144,100	124,238

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
 ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Accounting Policies

Short-Term Employee Benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave, and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Long-Term Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employees' long service leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related service. 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.

Key Judgements

As the Association expects that all of its employees will use all of their annual leave entitlements earned during the reporting period before 12 months after the end of the reporting period, the Board considers that obligations for annual leave entitlements satisfy the definition of short-term employee benefits and, therefore, can be measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid to employees when the obligations are settled.

Defined Contribution Superannuation Expense

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Financial Disclosure	2018	2017
Current	\$	\$
Provision For Annual Leave	55,184	62,389
Provision for Long Service Leave	23,278	9,873
Total Current Employee Benefits	78,462	72,262
Non-Current		
Provision for Long Service Leave	9,363	22,400
Total Non-Current Employee Benefits	9,363	22,400
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	87,825	94,6624

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

9. RESERVES

	2018	2017
Committed Projects Reserve	\$	\$
National Landcare Programme	-	102,170
Department of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Forum	-	39,432
Volunteer Training Collaboration	-	-
Share Project Contributions	-	793
Essential Projects and Administration	-	287,929
D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration	37,612	24,409
Crowd Funding	-	7,070
Agricultural Extension Services	5,500	(2,041)
Threatened Species Recovery Program	20,210	-
Total Committed Projects Reserve	63,322	459,762
TOTAL RESERVES	63,322	459,762

10. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

In 2017/18, BDO Audit (TAS) were the Auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Amounts paid or due and payable to BDO Audit (TAS) for the current year:	8,850	12,500
Audit of Financial Reports and Grant Acquittals	8,850	12,500

11. IMPACT OF NEW AND REVISED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

AASB 2015-2: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 was adopted for the first time in 2017. The adoption of the Standard required professional judgement to be exercised in determining what information to disclose in the financial statements, where and in what order information is presented in the financial disclosures. The adoption of this Standard has not had a material impact on the financial statements.

Any new, revised or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not yet been adopted.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

12. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Economic Dependence

The Association is dependent on the ongoing receipt of Federal and State Government grants to ensure the ongoing continuance of its programs and operation of the organisation. At the date of this report, the Board of the Association has not received confirmation of ongoing support from Federal Government but has a strong balance sheet and continues to pursue funding opportunities with the financial support of the State Government.

b) Income Tax

As the Association is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax. This status is endorsed by the ATO. The Association also holds Deductible Gift Recipient status.

c) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). 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 Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST payable to, or recoverable from, the ATO is included as a current asset or current liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash Flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

13. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets known at the date of preparing this report.

14. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Board is not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period.

15. ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is 313 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN 86 704 088 698

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc., the members of the Board declare that:

1. The Financial Statements and notes thereto present a true and fair view of the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Southern Regional Natural 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 Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Chair: **Andrew Scanlon**

Dated this 30th day of August 2018



Deputy Chair: **Michael Bidwell**

Dated this 30th day of August 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc., is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of matter - Basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information included in the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.'s annual report, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of responsible entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act, the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964* and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit (TAS)

BDO Audit (TAS)



DAVID E PALMER





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2017-18 regional NRM delivery was jointly funded by NRM South, the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the Tasmanian State Government.