

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



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# Contents

ABOUT US	2
FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR	4
CEO REPORT	5
HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16	6
PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW	7
THE 2015-20 NRM STRATEGY FOR SOUTHERN TASMANIA	8
OUR REGION	10
STATEMENT OF COMMON PURPOSE	11
HIGH VALUE SPECIES, PLACES AND COMMUNITIES	12
WATERWAYS AND COASTAL AREAS	17
BIOSECURITY PRACTICES	21
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	23
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND DATA	27
WORKING ON COUNTRY WITH THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY	30
BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND ENGAGEMENT	33
BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE	46
APPENDIX 1	49
APPENDIX 2	51
APPENDIX 3	54
APPENDIX 4	58
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	60



# About Us



**Southern Tasmania is a region characterised by a high diversity of environments and systems of production; with fragile alpine regions that are home to rare endemic species, and lush valleys that are bursting with a variety of produce, there are many reasons that Southern Tasmania is becoming a hotspot destination for those seeking a quality lifestyle. The region's abundance of natural resources underpins both its economic prosperity and social wellbeing, and the role of natural resource management is helping to ensure that we use our resources wisely and sustainably while protecting the environment.**

NRM South was established in 2003 under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*. It is one of three natural resource management bodies in Tasmania, and forms part of a national network of 56 similar bodies. NRM South is responsible for identifying the region's priorities for natural resource management, working with the community to prepare a regional NRM strategy and facilitating its implementation.

A non-government leader in natural resource management, NRM South acts as a 'hub' engaging and working on issues of statewide significance with many partners including government, research, industry, other non-government organisations and 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 NRM South team is located across the region, primarily based in Hobart, but also through the NRM Facilitator Network, dedicated co-funded staff who work within their local community through partnerships with local government and local NRM groups. 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. 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.



## 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

## 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** Working 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**

# Foreword from the Chair

**We live in a part of the world that is blessed by some of the most extraordinary natural assets anywhere on the planet, and with a community that has a close and abiding relationship with the environment in which they live.**

We must respect this blessing, not take these natural advantages for granted and not be blasé about how our natural resources are managed. To do otherwise would put at risk not just our environment but our economic future as well.

Southern Tasmania has been fortunate not to have suffered the landscape degradation that is apparent in many parts of mainland Australia. Our rivers are in reasonably good health, we have retained large swathes of native vegetation in protected areas, our wildlife is the most diverse and abundant in the nation, and salinity and soil erosion are not the problem they are in the Murray-Darling Basin or in south-west Western Australia. That's not to say, however, that we don't have any natural resource management issues here. Because our region is so dependent on its natural resources, it is vital that any risks to those resources are not allowed to take hold. It's the job of NRM South to address those issues and to ensure we protect what we have and improve those areas where natural resources are under pressure.

The future of our region will be fundamentally based around our clean and green brand fostered by sustainable industries, most of which rely entirely or in part on healthy natural resources. NRM South is central to that future. Our work in promoting improved natural resource management is fundamental to the reputation that this region holds in the domestic and international marketplaces.

Healthy natural resources are not just a matter of competitive economic advantage; they are also intrinsic to the everyday enjoyment of those of us who live here. Whether it's enjoying a bushwalk through one of our parks or reserves, catching a fish in an unpolluted river, or taking pleasure in fresh, local produce on our dinner tables, we all have a stake in looking after our natural assets.

For over a decade, NRM South has been a significant player in fostering the improved management of our natural resources. Arguably we have become the major contributor in this area. And our work has been demonstrably successful. Let me give you just one example; some time ago we surveyed 150 rural landholders to assess whether our work had been influential. The results indicated that as a result of their interaction with NRM South;



- 84% had an improved understanding of natural resources issues;
- 79% had an improved capacity to manage their natural resources;
- 66% saw an improvement in the health of their natural resources; and
- 53% enjoyed an improvement in profitability and productivity.

This annual report provides many other examples of the good work of NRM South that has continued through 2015-16, aimed at the achievement of our mission to lead and support improved natural resource management in Southern Tasmania. One very important initiative in support of this mission is the statutory requirement for us to develop a regional natural resource management strategy. 2015-16 has seen the successful completion of this strategy that establishes a blueprint for the community to work towards key improvements in the region's natural environment. I congratulate all the NRM South staff and our partners who have been involved in this significant undertaking. Indeed, I thank and congratulate our CEO, Donald Coventry, and all his staff for their outstanding efforts during the course of the year.

Of course, none of our work would be possible without the financial support of the Australian and State governments. We are enormously grateful for the ongoing backing of our major investor, the Australian Government, through the National Landcare Programme, without which we would not be able to continue. The Tasmanian Government has also provided financial and technical support, for which we thank them.

Finally let me thank my fellow directors for their efforts during 2015-16. Their contribution to the stable governance of NRM South has been crucial to the organisation's success.

**Max Kitchell**  
Chair for NRM South

# CEO Report

**The prolonged dry stretch over the 2015-16 summer, followed by severe flooding in autumn and winter, has highlighted that our expectations of what is normal will have to change.**

As an NRM organisation, we need to be active in the thinking, planning and actions that will build landscapes, economies and community capacity to ensure structural resilience is developed and maintained. This offers both significant challenges and opportunities. It is ultimately what our organisation was set up for and where we have built knowledge, skills and community capacity – but if we are active, nimble and innovative we can also position NRM to deliver increased services that will be valued, sought after and supported by government, industry, academia and the community.

NRM practitioners often work in a complex realm. Facts and understandings can be uncertain, values in dispute, stakes high and decisions urgent<sup>1</sup>, and societal understandings sometimes incomplete, contradictory or subject to changing requirements. To navigate this terrain effectively, good clear knowledge is needed, along with robust delivery mechanisms and practical and high order community skills. A long-term approach built around engagement and trust offers the best method of delivering sustainable practices across a region.

Lately, we have also been seeing a developing niche interest in sustainable practice that aims to sell to a burgeoning market, especially China. This is especially the case for Tasmania with its clean, green branding. Opportunities exist in the development and delivery of models and methods that demonstrate the link between best practice, quality product and market buy-in. Transparent production methods and a demonstration of provenance provide an increasingly sought-after assurance of an environmentally sound product.

This Annual Report covers a broad array of activities including the development of the Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania, facilitation and engagement, biosecurity, planning, Aboriginal engagement, sustainable agriculture, threatened species conservation efforts, monitoring and evaluation and much more.

In 2015-16 with just 16 (full and part time) staff and four regionally co-funded NRM Facilitators we have achieved considerable regional activity including: engaging the



community in NRM through 358 events that were attended by over 12,000 individuals; delivering 103 projects, with the support of over 147 individual partners (including government, industry, community groups and not-for-profits); and providing direct NRM advice and support to 34 community groups and 136 individual landholders.

We could not do this without our partners, with whom we have a collaborative working relationship, supporting and working alongside each other – both in the NRM South region, and on statewide matters. As a result, we have leveraged our regional NRM projects and programs of \$744,000 into a \$2.7 million program, made possible with \$1.9 million in-kind (\$1.2M) and cash (\$0.7M) partner investment and project support.

I would like to thank those partners we have worked with – without whom we could not achieve so much, as well as the NRM South Board and Audit and Risk Committee members who offer input into strategic direction, good governance and advice. I would also like to thank my staff: I am fortunate to have such a dedicated, very hard working, professional and collaborative team. Finally, thanks to Howel Williams who steps down as Deputy Chair and a special thanks to Max Kitchell, who steps down after six years' leadership of the Board and who has been a pleasure to work with – offering the right mix of hands-off guidance, support and a prod when needed!

I often say, usually to myself, that I have one of the best jobs in the country. I live in a beautiful state and city, I work in a field and discipline that adds real value to society, I very much enjoy my interaction with our many stakeholders, I run a focused, flexible and very active organisation and I have dedicated and talented staff and Board members. It's true that funding is always a challenge, but I do believe that we can, with thought and effort, build a more diversified and secure funding base. Every day is interesting, demanding and rewarding, so every day it is a pleasure to walk in the front door or to go off to a meeting. I aim for an organisational culture that is collaborative, cooperative and considerate. On starting two and a half years ago, I said that I wanted our interaction to be enjoyable; I hope it is for you, as it is for me.

**Donald Coventry**  
CEO, NRM South

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<sup>1</sup> Science for the post-normal age, Funtowicz and Ravetz

# Highlights 2015–2016

## PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

**103**  
PROJECTS

**140+**  
PARTNERS

## NRM STRATEGY

**2015**  
**2020**

NRM STRATEGY FOR  
SOUTHERN TASMANIA  
FINALISED AND RELEASED



## ENGAGEMENT

**358**  
EVENTS  
ENGAGING  
OVER

**12,168**  
PEOPLE

**34 GROUPS**  
**136 LANDHOLDERS**  
SUPPORTED WITH NRM ADVICE

## REGIONAL STAFF



**16**  
INTERNAL  
POSITIONS

13 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT



**4**  
EXTERNAL  
POSITIONS

3.8 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

## GRANTS

**\$184,396**  
FUNDING AWARDED TO

**55**  
PROJECTS



INCLUDING NATURALLY INSPIRED  
GRANTS, BITE-SIZED, BIOSECURITY,  
WATERWAYS AND CULTURALLY  
INSPIRED GRANT PROJECTS

## COLLABORATION

**FORMALISED A STATEWIDE  
COLLABORATION WITH LANDCARE  
TASMANIA, NRM SOUTH, NRM NORTH  
AND CRADLE COAST NRM BY SIGNING  
A SHARED STATEMENT OF COMMON  
PURPOSE**

## LEVERAGE

**\$2.7M**

OUR REGIONAL PROJECTS  
VALUE, THROUGH NRM SOUTH  
AND PARTNER INVESTMENT

**28%**

NRM SOUTH REGIONAL  
PROJECT FUNDING

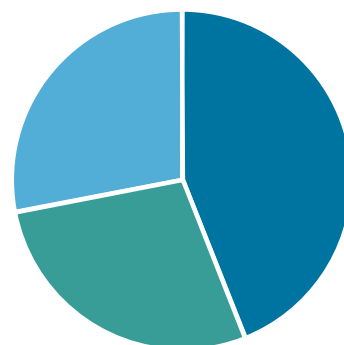


**28%**

CASH

**44%**

IN-KIND  
LABOUR



\*SEE APPENDICES FOR A FULL LIST OF PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

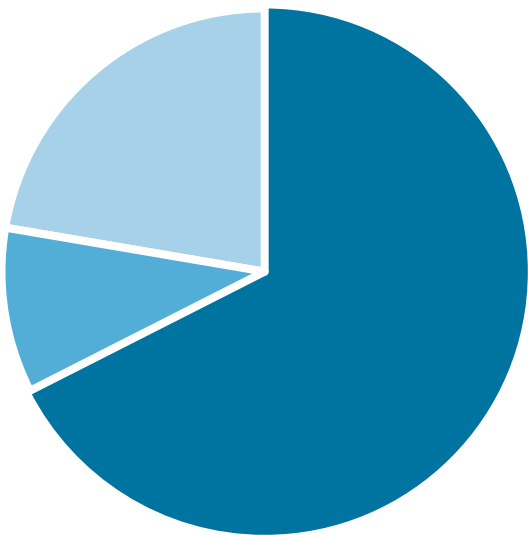


# Performance Overview

The management of natural resources within 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 attain funding through different sources to leverage investment and outcomes.

During 2015-16, NRM South achieved 93% of planned and budgeted NRM program and service delivery against strategic priorities, and we 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, and illustrates the result in changes to funding for 2015-16.



The last year was a settling-in period for the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme, which was rolled out in May 2015. This saw both a continued reduction in our Australian Government funding and a commitment of 36% minimum allocation to on-ground community-based projects, which has meant that we have drawn on internal funding sources. In response to these changes, we have taken measures to maximise organisational efficiencies and to develop methods for securing alternative funding to maintain our capacity for delivery at previous levels. As a result, 22% of our funding is from other sources, including internal financial reserves, and we are continually investigating avenues to boost revenue through a range of strategies.

## SOURCES OF FUNDING TO NRM SOUTH 2015-16

68%	NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME Regional allocation to NRM South
10%	STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDS Funding from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)
22%	OTHER Project fund contributions including Regional Planning for Climate Change and corporate income.

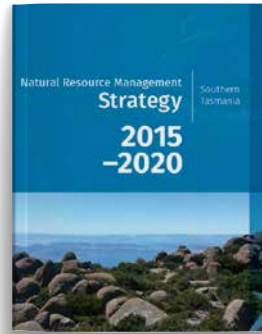
2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
2,851,302	2,905,331	3,715,457	3,388,393	2,370,006	2,438,291

# The 2015-20 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania

The 2015-16 period saw the final steps in the preparation and ultimate release of the updated Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania (the Strategy). This revised Strategy provides a framework for action to guide activity that will help manage and improve natural resources in Southern Tasmania. It is the product of over a year's worth of consultation with individuals from community groups, business and industry, environmental organisations, peak bodies, volunteer groups, research and education bodies, Aboriginal groups and government departments. It consolidates not only the views of the broader community, but also the concurrent issues associated with a future changing climate. It identifies the social, economic and environmental values of the region and outlines how the community can work together to manage and improve land, water, coasts and biodiversity values.

From June 2014 until mid-2015, NRM South carried out an extensive consultation process with the community in order to capture a comprehensive snapshot of the needs, concerns and aspirations of multiple stakeholders. The consultation and review process comprised targeted online surveys (completed by over 120 individuals), regionally hosted NRM stakeholder sessions (89 participants), a regional workshop (over 25 organisations represented), and a statewide workshop (run by the three NRMs and attended by 30 state organisations) to review how natural resource management works across the State and assess how this would influence the Strategy's effectiveness.

Once the information from the consultation process had been collated, a draft summary was produced and released for public comment in September-October of 2015. NRM partners and the broader community were invited to contribute to this review. Based on the feedback received, the final strategy was completed and accredited by the Tasmanian Government in February 2016.



The Strategy was accredited by the Tasmanian Government in accordance with the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* on 23 February 2016, and a print edition was released in May 2016.

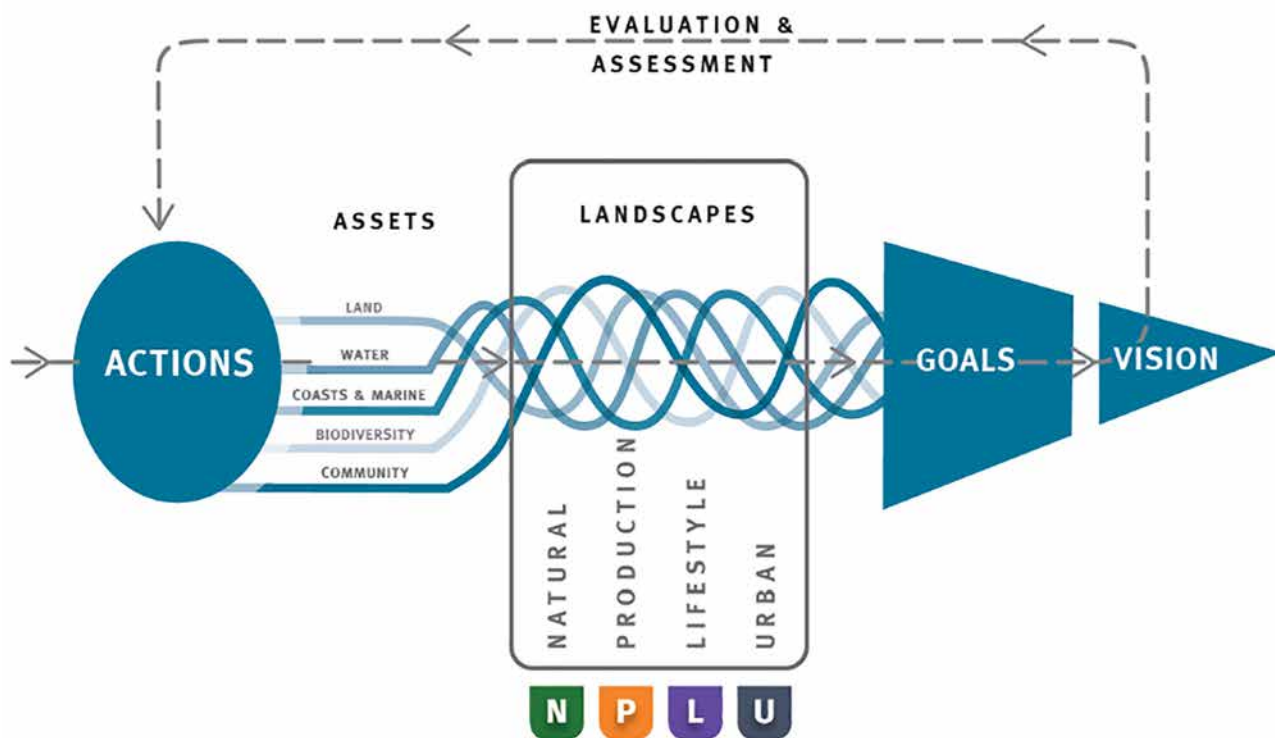
NRM South is now developing a framework to engage with the community and monitor the implementation of the Strategy. This will include further consultation and direct work with key contributors identified for Priority Actions in the Strategy. This framework will identify and celebrate where activity is being undertaken towards targets. Importantly, it will also recognise activities that are not being undertaken to prioritise areas for improvement. The framework will form the basis for tracking our community's progress towards the Strategy's goals.

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Southern Tasmania's natural resources are lived in, visited and enjoyed by many people – families, tourists, farmers, businesses, school children, workers, locals and more. Similarly, the management of these resources is a task that is shared by many people and organisations in the community.

The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a framework to guide activity that will help manage and improve Southern Tasmania's natural resources. It is a whole-of-community document that provides both a vision and direction for the future management, enhancement and protection of natural resources in the region.





As the custodian of the Strategy, NRM South is responsible not only for overseeing the regular review and updating process for the document, but also facilitating the implementation of priority actions across the region. The Strategy is one of three in Tasmania and is complemented by the strategies for the Northern Tasmania and Cradle Coast regions.

The Strategy takes both a landscape and assets approach to managing Southern Tasmania's natural resources. The landscape approach categorises the region's land and seascapes by predominant use (natural, production, lifestyle, urban) and identifies their natural, social and economic values, and how to best manage them. The assets approach details the region's land, water, coastal, marine, biodiversity and community assets and articulates specific threats, opportunities and actions to protect these assets. These two complementary approaches allow for how different people in the community view and work within the region.

The Strategy provides a vision for the natural resources and community of the Southern Tasmanian region. It takes into consideration the future potential impacts of a changing climate on the region's assets and landscapes and how to prepare for and respond to this. Outlining Southern Tasmania's landscapes and biophysical assets, the Strategy sheds light on their possible futures and maps out both long-term landscape goals and short-term targets and priority actions.

“The Strategy aims to balance the three essential structural elements for natural resource management – the environment, the economy and the community.”

The Strategy aims to balance the three essential structural elements for natural resource management – the environment, the economy and the community – for the overall benefit of Southern Tasmania. It recognises the need for multiple sectors to work in harmony with state and local government, industry, primary producers and the wider community to balance these elements against development opportunities and to find solutions to existing problems, leading to an improved and sustainable environment.

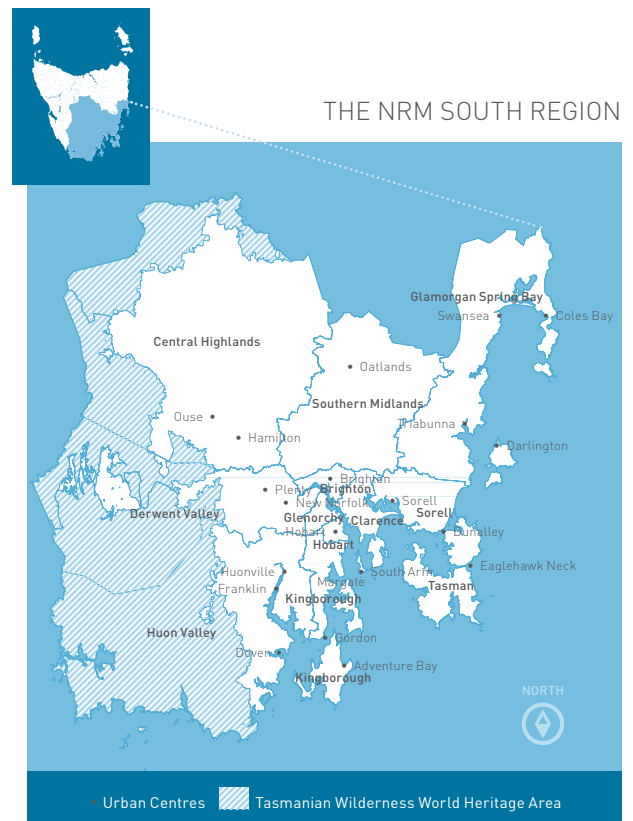
# Our Region

The Southern Tasmanian NRM Region covers 2.5 million hectares and includes Hobart, as well as its urban fringes and towns. It supports almost half of Tasmania's 513,000 population and 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.

Its natural features include near-pristine river systems and lakes, rich flora and fauna, including many species endemic to Tasmania, a range of complex landscapes, 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 varying ecosystems with high terrestrial, estuarine and marine biodiversity.

Southern Tasmania's wealth of natural resources supports its economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Its richness of natural assets and diversity presents both opportunities and complex management challenges, and effectively managing these valuable assets underpins the success of the key industries on which we rely and the lifestyle we associate with living on the Island State. Industries such as tourism, agriculture and fisheries rely on its natural resources in order to prosper, and they contribute significantly to the region's economy and identity. Exports of Tasmania's food and beverage products in 2014-15 were valued at over 611 million<sup>1</sup>, and tourism generates around 1.6 billion per year for the State, demonstrating the value that our productive land and natural assets have in supporting our economy.

<sup>1</sup> Value of Tasmania's International Exports by Region and Product 2012-13 to 2014-15, Department of State Growth, Tas.



Southern Tasmanians are energetic volunteers and research shows that volunteers provide nearly \$5 billion in benefits to the community and that volunteers provide an average return of \$4 for every \$1 spent, making our environmental volunteers arguably our most valuable asset. In southern Tasmania, there are over one hundred community groups as well as landholder and farmer groups that are caring for bushland, coastal areas and cultural heritage in the region.



# Statement of Common Purpose

In October 2015, Landcare Tasmania and the State's three regional NRM organisations formalised their collaboration by signing a shared Statement of Common Purpose at the State Landcare Conference. In signing this agreement, NRM South, NRM North, Cradle Coast NRM and Landcare Tasmania demonstrated their commitment to collaborate with resources, improve communications and actively support each other in natural resource management efforts. This agreement demonstrates the value of working together and the clarity of roles.

Landcare Tasmania was founded as the state peak membership body for community; it provides an independent, representative voice for community landcare in Tasmania, and is a member of the National Landcare Network. NRM South has a long history working closely with Landcare Tasmania, providing support by sharing exhibition space at community events such as Agfest, as well as making significant contributions to the organisation and delivery of the 2015 State Landcare Conference. In addition, NRM South and Landcare rolled out a Southern Region Green Army team as a partnership project.

"The agreement recognises that while we all play different roles across the State, we can have a shared purpose and vision. By identifying how we can work together and communicate openly, we can much better engage with the community, especially the Landcare community, across the state". Max Kitchell, NRM South Chair.

The signed agreement is a long term one, and will build on the existing efforts of organisations involved to build mutual recognition for collective efforts in the Landcare movement across the State. "Landcare Tasmania has grown from community and is governed by community and we will still represent community Landcare as an advocacy body." Roger Tyshing, President of Landcare Tasmania.

At a legislative level, the collaboration will see the three bodies combine with Landcare Tasmania to contribute to state and national policy. While the need to facilitate a broader approach to managing Tasmania's natural resources has been acknowledged, so has the need to maintain a degree of regional independence. Tasmania is leading the way in developing a model of good working relationships between the state Landcare body and the three regional bodies, and other states and territories are watching closely.

"Landcare Tasmania  
has grown from community  
and is governed by community  
and we will still represent  
community Landcare  
as an advocacy body."





## High Value Species, Places and Communities

Southern Tasmania boasts a stunning array of species and vegetation communities – from tiny mosses in the region’s alpine zones to giant humpback whales off the coast. However, many of these species and communities are under threat and, in some cases, Tasmania is seen as a ‘last refuge’ for many plants and animals.

### KEY PROGRAM AREAS

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Monitoring and reporting on threatened species

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Weed control to restore habitat values for threatened species and other high conservation areas

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Ex-situ conservation activities

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Supporting tailored training activities for threatened species recovery

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### 2015-16 OUTCOMES

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Developed and finalised two statewide partnership agreements with ten partners, with another focused on acoustic bird monitoring under development.

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Facilitated expert input into fuel reduction burn planning for threatened bird habitat on land owned by weetaipoona Aboriginal corporation and provided funding for employment of the weetaipoona community to protect this habitat from wildfire.

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Completed 63.7 hectares of weed control, protecting nationally significant assets, including one EPBCA threatened community and six EPBCA threatened species.

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Conservation activities (propagation and/or seed banking) for four EPBCA listed species.

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Awareness raising and skills development for 305 participants across 25 events.

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Image credit: Tim Rudman



‘A large part of the work done to protect threatened species and communities is in the form of on-ground activities; particularly surveys, monitoring and weed control work.’

NRM South works on and supports dozens of projects across the Southern Tasmanian region, using a multitude of approaches aimed at; the protection and conservation of places, species and vegetation communities of national and regional significance.

The High Value, Species, Places and Communities program is multifaceted with strong partnerships, co-investment and a range of community-driven projects all focused on the same goal. While many of NRM South’s program areas incorporate conservation of threatened species and communities, activities included specifically within this program are the Threatened Flora Link, the White Gum Regeneration Trials, the Miena Cider Gum Recovery Project, the Alpine Sphagnum Bog Recovery Project, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) Buffer and Interlaken Weed Control, and support for groups who undertake this work.

A large part of the work done to protect threatened species and communities is in the form of on-ground activities, particularly surveys, monitoring and weed control. Working in often remote locations and on difficult terrain, teams of volunteers and researchers invest hundreds of hours every year, surveying sites for the presence of rare and threatened species, tackling invasive weed species and keeping an eye out for signs of potentially devastating introduced diseases such as myrtle rust.

Project activities attracted \$296,656 in co-investment, external funding and in-kind contributions, with \$151,438 for statewide Threatened Flora Link project activities and \$72,000 co-investment and in-kind support from five partners for the TWWHA Buffer and Interlaken Weed Control project.



HIGH VALUE SPECIES, PLACES AND COMMUNITIES

## CASE STUDY THREATENED FLORA LINK



Unlike many charismatic animal species, plants are often overlooked when we think about species under threat. However, Tasmania is home to 492 threatened flora species, 108 of which are listed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBCA, the national environmental protection legislation). The Threatened Flora Link (TFL) project works to increase knowledge of both the distribution of and threats to Tasmania's threatened plant species, carrying out a range of activities that will help stop them from heading towards extinction (RTBG). A team of volunteers assist with monitoring, on-ground activities and propagation efforts in the laboratory at the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens (ex-situ activities). Key project areas include protection of grassland remnants through weed control, ex-situ and on-ground conservation efforts for threatened orchid species, and work to protect seedlings in one of the only remaining patches of Morrisby's gum (Calvert's Hill).

The project, which has built on the work of previous partnerships, has been running for four years in its current format. Two years ago, NRM South took on a statewide coordinating role and, during this time, there has been a focus on continuously developing partner organisations and volunteers. Over the last four years, project activities have contributed to volunteer-driven recovery activities for a steadily increasing percentage of Tasmania's threatened flora – from an estimated 4-6% in 2012-14 (southern data only) to 21-22% in 2014-16.

The growing number of threatened species for which survey, monitoring and site assessments are undertaken has increased available data regarding population size, distribution and threats, with recommendations for changes in conservation status and management actions resulting from this work.

Image: TPT volunteers  
I. Visby (L) and V. Muller (R)  
on a weeding working bee.

'The contribution that the TFL makes to threatened flora recovery is significant at all levels, and it is an extraordinary achievement. There is nothing like it in Australia in terms of the number of species involved and the demonstrable benefits the program brings. I am very proud that DPIPWE can contribute to it, and I look forward to being able to continue that support in the coming year.'

**ANDREW CRANE, SECTION HEAD, THREATENED SPECIES SECTION, DPIPWE.**

In 2015-16 for each dollar of funding provided by the three Tasmanian NRM bodies, over \$9 was partner in-kind or additional leveraged funding. This contribution has grown from the previous year, a growth for which the large part is due to the increase in volunteer time towards project activities across the State.

*TFL is a partnership between Threatened Plants Tasmania (Wildcare Inc), the Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, DPIPWE's Threatened Species Section, Tasmanian NRM bodies (North, South and Cradle Coast), and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.*

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

Contributed to the recovery of 25 nationally listed species state-wide (survey, ex situ and/or on-ground works).

Involved with the monitoring and/or surveying of over 70 species (19 nationally -listed, 69 state-listed) with increases recorded for five threatened species.

Recovery actions (experimental caging, weed control, interpretive signage) across 55.6 ha of habitat for 13 nationally-listed and 41 state-listed species as part of the Orchid Conservation and Research Program at the RTBG.

Ex situ recovery activities for 11 EPBCA-listed orchid species.

1,610 volunteer hours for monitoring and weed control over 37 field trips, 392 hours on program planning, volunteer co-ordination and coordination of training activities, and 450 hours for ex situ orchid conservation activities statewide.

Five training sessions delivered (88 participants).



# Species and Communities on the Brink

Tasmania is home to hundreds of threatened plant and animal species, and has four habitats listed as being in need of protection. NRM South works with a range of partners across Southern Tasmania to conserve and protect species and vegetation communities at risk of extinction, including:



## FORTY-SPOTTED PARDALOTE

NRM South, the Understorey Network and Kingborough Council have supported a series of revegetation projects (including a three-year Biodiversity Fund project with landholders) and habitat regeneration trials on Bruny Island that are helping to create habitat corridors for this threatened species.

Image credit: Dave Curtis



## EUCALYPTUS OVATA-CALLITRIS OBLONGA FOREST

*Callitris oblonga* is endemic to Tasmania and is the dominant understorey tree in *Eucalyptus ovata*-*Callitris oblonga* forests, listed as threatened on the EPBCA. NRM South has supported projects led by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to tackle invasive weeds as well as mapping surveys to improve knowledge about the extent and condition of forested sites.

Image credit: Friends of Westgate Park



## TASMANIA'S THREATENED ORCHID SPECIES

Over one third of Tasmania's orchids are threatened with extinction and many others are naturally rare, only known from a small number of populations in Tasmania. Current activity focuses on collection and banking of seed and mycorrhizal fungi and propagation for insurance populations at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

Image credit: Lorraine Perrins



## SWIFT PARROT

Swift Parrots are a migratory species that breed in Tasmania over summer. They have recently been declared Critically Endangered. NRM South has supported a number of revegetation projects to help restore essential habitat corridors, as well as the construction and installation of nesting boxes via Green Army activities.

Image credit: Dave Curtis



## ALPINE SPHAGNUM BOGS AND ASSOCIATED FENS

Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens ecological communities are listed as a threatened vegetation community under the EBPCA, with fire being one of the most serious threats. NRM South initiated a study to investigate the condition of and potential impacts to the bogs and fens, with management recommendations provided to six public and private land managers in the Central Highlands.



## MIENA CIDER GUM

In the current absence of a formal Threatened Species Recovery Plan for this declining species, NRM South has developed an Action Plan in collaboration with key specialists. Miena cider gum is an endemic eucalypt from the Central Plateau of Tasmania that has seen a significant loss of mature trees across its range in the last 20 years. Recent activity led by Derwent Catchment NRM has focused on protecting seedlings from browsing and collecting seed from multiple provenances for seed banking and propagation.



## MORRISBY'S GUM

NRM South, the Understorey Network and the Parks and Wildlife Service are implementing recommendations of a working group focused on Calverts Hill Nature Reserve, home to the largest of two stands of Morrisby's Gum that is in serious decline. Seed production is low and successful seedlings are intensively browsed, putting this population at high risk of extinction. Conservation activities include trialing the success of different interventions techniques in protecting seedlings.



## Waterways and Coastal Areas



Image: Representatives from the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration formalising their agreement in December 2015.

From rivulets to estuaries, saltmarshes to the sea, the coasts and waterways in Southern Tasmania are a vital part of a healthy, productive environment. As the majority of the population in the southern region live near coastal areas and waterways, it makes managing impacts an essential, but challenging, activity.

The focus of NRM South's Waterways to Coasts program includes minimising impacts on marine, coastal, estuarine and riparian environments across the region, protecting the species that rely on these areas, and increasing community awareness about the importance of looking after aquatic habitats. NRM South works with a range of partners to deliver these outcomes: state and local governments, community groups, public and private land managers, the scientific community and researchers, Aboriginal communities, business and industry.

### KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Marine debris clean-ups

Monitoring

Shorebird protection

Waterway health

Protecting Ramsar sites

Education

Threatened species and communities

Weed control

### 2015-16 OUTCOMES

4,968 participants engaged via 54 awareness-raising and capacity-building meetings and events.

14 individuals and six organisations engaged through 16 direct engagements/site visits.

Weed control activities carried out over 12 hectares.

Five cubic metres of waste removed from Bruny Island shores as part of a volunteer clean-up day.

Contributed to the release of the first report card on the state of the Huon/D'Entrecasteaux waterway.

Completed project activities have attracted \$157,350 in co-investment and external funding.

Targeted activities over 2015-16 have incorporated on-ground work to help protect two coastal Ramsar sites (Moulting Lagoon and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon) including upgrading stormwater infrastructure, weed management and revegetation works. Supporting activities such as tree planting, educational campaigns, monitoring and weed control have helped protect numerous species that live in and use coastal and waterway environments. These include EPBCA-listed species and communities (such as Swift Parrot, Spotted Handfish, Hooded Plover, migratory shorebirds and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh) and other priority species and habitats (Little Penguin habitat, and coastal, riparian and wetland environments).

Direct engagement has been a powerful tool in helping to spread the coastal conservation message, and NRM South have supported the work of Discovery Rangers over the summer season, as well as holding stalls at a number of key events including World Wetlands Day, community fairs and markets. Finally, the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Col-



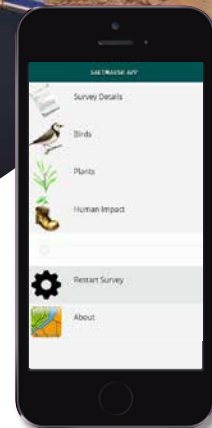


Image: Catchment and Coastal Coordinator Nepelle Crane at a World Wetlands Day event.

laboration formalised and revitalised a long standing partnership, to demonstrate good stewardship and responsible use of the waterway, and encourage active participation in positive practices. This revitalisation saw the co-funding of a Catchments and Coastal Coordinator, and the release in early 2016 of the first-ever report card on the condition of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Huon Estuary.

## WATERWAYS AND COASTS COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Opened in March 2016, this round of expressions of interest (EOIs) offered funding to community-led restoration and conservation projects for waterways and coasts, including saltmarsh and wetlands, marine and terrestrial threatened species habitat, estuaries, coastal lagoons and rivers.

Six projects were funded for a total of \$25,160 (with in-kind contribution from recipients valued at \$26,985) supporting both waterways and biosecurity activities. The projects included: two projects to install environmentally responsible moorings in sensitive anchorages in the Derwent River (vital habitat for the critically endangered spotted handfish, *Brachionichthys hirsutus*); a project to conserve and protect shorebird and Little Tern habitat at the Orford Bird Sanctuary on the East Coast; two Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome biosecurity projects at Little Swanport and on the Tasman Peninsula; and a project to install signage highlighting the values and threats to Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh at Impression Bay, Premaydena.

### In the news

From shorebirds to coastal revegetation for Swift Parrots, marine debris clean ups, and the release of the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration Report Card, NRM South's Waterways to Coasts projects often featured in local media over 2015-16.

## AN APP-TASTIC ACCOMPLISHMENT

NRM South funded the development of the state-wide Saltmarsh Matters App by Esk Mapping & GIS with support from UTAS, BirdLife Tasmania and NRM North. This app was officially launched by University of Tasmania's Distinguished Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick as part of the Clarence and Sorell councils' World Wetlands Day Celebration at Cambridge on Saturday 30 January 2016. The app supports the community in state-wide monitoring of the condition and values of coastal saltmarsh.

## WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2 FEBRUARY 2016

NRM South both supported and participated in two World Wetlands Day events held at Sorell (30 January) and Moulting Lagoon (6 February). There were around 200 participants across the two events, with associated news features for each in local media.





## CASE STUDY A HOME AMONG THE GUM TREES



Tucked away near the mouth of the Huon River, Shipwrights Point is a popular local government-owned public recreation reserve that includes a campsite, playground, dog-walking areas, and a jetty. It is also an important foraging and nesting area for the critically endangered Swift Parrot.

Swift Parrots, recently uplisted to 'Critically Endangered' are in decline due to a number of factors, including a loss of suitable habitat for feeding and nesting, as well as nest predation by the introduced sugar glider. A migratory parrot, they breed mostly along the south-eastern coast from St. Helens to Southport.

The black gums (*Eucalyptus ovata*) at Shipwrights Point are not only part of a threatened coastal woodland vegetation community but also provide an important food source and nesting habitat for Swift Parrots, who feed on the nectar of the flowering trees and make their nests inside hollow tree branches or trunks – which can take hundreds of years to form.

From 2013-16, NRM South's NRM Facilitator and the Huon Valley Council's NRM Unit have been undertaking habitat enhancement work and community engagement to take care of the important vegetation community at Shipwrights Point. The health of native vegetation has declined over a number of years at the site, partly due to the fact that Shipwrights Point experiences large visitor numbers and accommodates a range of recreational activities. Mature black gums at the site were suffering from fungal growth, with some trees posing a threat to public safety due to the risk of falling limbs. The aim of the project has been to safely retain as many of the existing mature gums as possible, and revegetate key areas of the site to provide habitat for the longer term.

From 2014, staged revegetation works were carried out at the site, which were completed in May 2016 with a community planting day involving 167 students from Sacred Heart Primary School, and additional support from pakana services and Castle Forbes Bay Landcare Group.

'The community tree planting event was a great success. It was educational, engaging and gave a sense of ownership to the local community in this project and the values at Shipwrights Point. Kids were able to learn more about Swift Parrots and how they will help to protect them.'

**TIM ACKROYD, NRM SOUTH FACILITATOR**

Over the next year, the focus for the site will be maintenance, weed control, in-fill planting and installing interpretative signage.

*Swift Parrots breed only in Tasmania, along the eastern coastal strip, the Wellington ranges near Hobart and on Maria and Bruny islands. They can travel up to 5,000 kilometres between their mainland wintering grounds and their breeding sites in Tasmania, the longest migration of any parrot in the world!*

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

The protection and management of 11 mature black gums.

Over 100 black gum saplings planted as well as about 800 native understorey plants.

Revegetation efforts have increased the area of native vegetation at Shipwrights Point by 1600 m<sup>2</sup>.

One school – 172 people (167 pupils) – engaged in a community tree planting event, with positive promotions through Council newsletters and local media articles.

Five members of the Castle Forbes Bay Landcare and Coastcare community group took part in a tree planting event.

Image credit: Chris Tzaros



## CASE STUDY BIRDS OF A FEATHER



Formed in 2014, the South East Regional Shorebird Alliance (SERSA) is a network of like-minded organisations working together in response to the increasing threats faced by many of Tasmania's resident and migratory shorebirds. NRM South, BirdLife Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Crown Land Service and eight coastal councils participate in SERSA. Shorebird protection is promoted in a number of ways; by increasing awareness, encouraging behavioural change, reducing the levels of disturbance being experienced by nesting shorebirds and little penguins, and adopting other recovery/protection activities. SERSA is also involved with conservation activities to improve condition and habitat for Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh (a threatened ecological community), notably at two Ramsar sites; Moulting Lagoon and Pitt Water – Orielton Lagoon.

Since its inception, SERSA partners have developed strong networks and extensive reach to community, seen community education lead to action and observed some positive breeding successes in multiple locations, associated with SERSA activity. Over the 2015-16 summer breeding period, shorebirds in some locations were seen actively nesting within existing fenced areas, and using these "safe" zones to raise their young.

SERSA partners are responsible for gathering information, coordinating regional activity and sharing information. NRM South acts as the lead for the alliance, coordinating two meetings per year and promoting summer breeding messages through regular communications. NRM South also provides funding to partners for specific activities, such as funding Discovery Rangers to deliver visitor and local community events to raise awareness.

'The beach roves are particularly effective in presenting shorebird messages. With the high visitation on the East Coast and many people visiting for the first time, it is great to educate visitors about pressure on the beach. It appears that signage is either missed or ignored by some people, so good old face-to-face interaction is the way to go.'

**LIZ ZNIDERSIC, DISCOVERY RANGER  
AT FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK.**

The Discovery Ranger program has been key to getting the shorebird protection message across at a regional level. As part of their summer program, rangers met beach goers in target areas, and also visited local towns with public displays to keep the message going. Rangers also provided key resources (branded messaging such as magnets, dog leads and flyers) to visitors, and extended their engagement to the Hobart International Airport, where they provided a meet and greet to individuals arriving in Tasmania.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

Discovery Rangers have engaged 1,073 individuals.

NRM South worked with SERSA partners to deliver over 52 engagement events to 2,194 participants, across 29 sites in the Southern NRM Region.

NRM South contributed \$15,000 to the project, and partners contributed over \$35,000 in-kind.

SERSA won the State Landcare Award Partnerships category in 2015, and will represent Tasmania in the 2016 National Landcare Awards.

Developed a bird monitoring approach via a Saltmarsh App and monitoring program, which will support SERSA data collection.

Image credit: Eric Woehler



# Biosecurity Practices

This awareness-raising program highlights biosecurity issues to both the Tasmanian community as well as visitors to the State.

## KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Supporting Discovery Ranger activities

Promoting the Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry 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 via presence at community events, videos, publications

Training delivery

Site visits

## 2015-16 OUTCOMES

Supported the PWS Discovery Ranger program to deliver biosecurity message to over 4,000 visitors to Tasmania's national parks.

Installed three biosecurity signs and supported new or repositioning of boot cleaning stations in the TWWHA where needed.

Directly engaged 40 key groups.

Reported on baseline surveys of people visiting Tasmanian's natural places to inform six-monthly Biosecurity Network Action Plans.

Carried out an annual follow-up biosecurity survey.

Completed NRM South biosecurity guidelines for staff and contractors.

Delivered biosecurity training for five tourism operators and two Green Army teams.

Participated in a an implementation working group for the national *Phytophthora cinnamomi* threat abatement plan.

Direct engagement of 4,888 community members in biosecurity messages through mechanisms including: events, signage, training, website, magazine articles and social media posts, training activities, a biosecurity survey and distribution of biosecurity kits to groups.

Across Tasmania, biosecurity issues are being addressed through targeted communications campaigns and improving biosecurity infrastructure. These activities are part of a state-wide effort to change people's behaviour around biosecurity practices, in order to reduce the spread of pests and pathogens that can impact on high-value places, species, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Areas (TWWHA) and other significant areas.

Activities are being carried out through Tasmania's Biosecurity Network; a working collaboration currently comprising 35 members. These are drawn from: Hydro Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, DPIPW (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 and Kingborough Council – with support from other organisations.

As a member and facilitator of Tasmania's Biosecurity Network, NRM South has continued to work on making the Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry protocols a universal practice among people visiting natural and production landscapes in Tasmania, with a focus on getting the biosecurity message out to new audiences. The Network's communications plan directly engages key user groups, including tourism, and recreation industries (with a focus on activities that may impact natural spaces – such as bushwalking, mountain-biking, sailing and four-wheel driving) as well as the agricultural industry.

## BIOSECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In April 2016, NRM South delivered funding through an EOI process to support the southern Tasmanian community in improving biosecurity practices in relation to environmental and agricultural assets. Projects funded through this EOI include biosecurity infrastructure that promotes and enables Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry protocols in natural and agricultural landscapes.

Three successful projects were funded for a total of \$5,269 (and \$8,900 in-kind): a mobile washdown and signage for the Huon Agricultural Show and also for trail running events in national parks (Endorfun), and biosecurity signage, kits and volunteer training for seed collection activities for the Friends of Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

'These activities are part of a state-wide effort to change people's behaviour around biosecurity practices, in order to reduce the spread of pest and pathogens that can impact on high value places, species, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Areas (TWWHA) and other significant areas.'







# Sustainable Management Practices

By raising awareness of the know-how and benefits of sustainable management practices through workshops and field days, displays and development of resources, NRM South is helping to improve landscapes and keep them healthy so that they can continue to return dividends to farmers, the community, the environment and the economy in the long term.

## KEY PROGRAM AREAS

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Soil, water and grazing management

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Workshops

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Training

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Property management planning

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Healthy farms and catchments

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Sustainable production

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## 2015-16 OUTCOMES

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517 participants were engaged through the delivery of 22 sustainable management practices' events (of which around 40% were newly engaged).

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Engagement of 58 individuals (36 for the first time) and 12 organisations (five new) through a total of 68 site visits or other direct engagement.

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The start of a new sandy soils improvement trial across three properties in Glamorgan Spring Bay has seen improvements in groundcover condition.

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A fully booked small farm planning workshop delivered for the fourth year running (see overleaf).

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Overall, the project has delivered a range of activities in the region, including \$78,787 in landholder conservation and agriculture-based grants, matched with an additional \$50,237 in cash contributions and \$77,065 of in-kind labour.

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The production industry plays a key role in driving the Tasmanian economy. This aim of this program area is to support farmers, landholders and producers on projects that contribute to the sustainable management of the natural environment. This is achieved through boosting the capacity and skills of farmers, productive groups and networks, including Aboriginal communities.

NRM South facilitates and supports innovation and improved practices, and shares knowledge and information by running workshops and events as well as providing links to information, advice, ideas and events that can help landholders manage or improve their properties. Numerous workshops were held over 2015-16 including two soil nutrient mapping and nutrient use efficiency budgeting workshops (42 participants), principles of farm drainage (25 participants), a small farm planning program (25 participants) and plant ID and pasture management (41 participants).

Dedicated NRM South staff are on hand to provide extension support via the Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) and the NRM Facilitator network. This takes the form of site visits to discuss property management issues, help with applying for grants funding, or simply providing advice or information over the phone. Over the last year, around 60 people (the majority of whom were newly engaged) received one-on-one support from NRM South's RLF team.

With both an exceptionally dry summer, followed by periods of flooding later in 2016, the production industry has faced many challenges across Tasmania. In the face of increased climate variability and a growing production industry, a strong focus on improved soil, water and pasture management are key elements of NRM South's approach to sustainable agriculture. With livestock being the principal agriculture industry in the south, improved soil and pasture is vital to the future of the industry in terms of productivity, profitability, and natural resource sustainability.



In the face of increased climate variability and a growing production industry, a strong focus on improved soil, water and pasture management are key elements of NRM South's approach to sustainable agriculture.

## 2016 SMALL FARM PLANNING PROGRAM

Over the past four years, NRM South has offered a Small Farm Planning program in the Huon and Channel region. Organised by NRM Facilitator, Tim Ackroyd, the program runs over four months in the summer-autumn period. Five workshops are held during weekends at participants' properties. The workshops take a practical, and, where possible, 'hands-on' approach, and include presentations on a range of topics such as: soil health, grazing management, native vegetation, browsing mammals, weeds and animal husbandry.

The 2016 workshop series was the fourth year that this program has been running and was quickly booked out, attracting land owners from properties across the Huon and Channel region as well as the Derwent Valley. Over the course of the workshops, participants developed a property management plan with support and guidance from the project team. The series of five workshops covered tailored property planning, soil and water management, pasture management, (including how to identify and use pasture plants), animal welfare, biosecurity, disease prevention, marketing principles, holistic land management, planned grazing, weed management, the benefits of native vegetation, revegetation, action planning and the value of local networks.

Participants gained an understanding of the process of property management planning, with detail on specific areas and consideration of the protection of natural resources, and gained an understanding of new sustainable farming concepts, such as holistic grazing.

This Small Farm Planning program was run with the support of Huon Valley and Kingborough councils.

Image: Gerard Crochon explaining the holistic approach of soil-grass-animal care at a Small Farm Planning workshop on his property in Nicholls Rivulet.

## CASE STUDY HEALTHY HORSE EXPO



### **Following on from a successful horse expo run in 2015 at Brighton, NRM South, in partnership with NRM North and with the support of Cradle Coast NRM, also ran a state-wide “Healthy Horse and Land” expo in April 2016.**

Held in Campbell Town, in Tasmania’s Midlands, the expo aimed to support horse owners in improving both their land management practices as well as the health and well-being of their horses. Around 120 horse enthusiasts visited the event to listen to horse management specialist and keynote speaker Mariette van den Berg of MB Equine talk about property planning, planned grazing, pasture management, horse nutrition, soil health and drainage.

Anthea Simmons – a farmer from the Huon Valley, dressage judge and long-term horse owner – shared her journey of working with NRM South to develop her horse/beef cattle property, incorporating the principles of planned grazing and the importance of maintaining soil biology and chemistry. Anthea has invested a lot of time and effort in recent years, working with local soil biologist Letetia Ware, to improve her farm’s soil health. She demonstrated the benefits to both her property and animal health by implementing her learnings. Anthea’s interest in planned grazing and soil biology stemmed from workshops she had participated in over a number of years, coordinated by NRM South.

Herb Staubman of Habitat Plants, one of many stall holders who was on-hand to chat with attendees, discussed the importance of planning revegetation sites and how to create windbreaks, using native, local species. Twelve other stall holders presented a variety of land management and horse-related products and ideas, including Cynthia Cooper, an equine industry legend, who had a display and products for sale promoting natural horse care.

Cradle Coast NRM staff engaged many participants with their demonstration of basic soil tests. NRM South and NRM North staff discussed weed issues and helped visitors to identify mysterious plants they had brought along. Expo participants were kept well fed by an enthusiastic bunch of pony clubbers representing Midlands Pony Club and several lucky punters went home with lucky door prizes donated by a range of organisations.

Post-event feedback suggested that many of the people who had attended would be trialing and/or implementing learnings from the day, that they had increased their knowledge of land management practices and that a future expo would be welcome. A local group of horse owners in the south has since expressed interest in running a field day to continue learning the principles of pasture management and soil conservation and this has been flagged for follow-up by NRM South staff in 2017.





## CASE STUDY HEALTHY FARMS, HEALTHY CATCHMENTS



As part of NRM South's response to conserving and improving production landscapes in Southern Tasmania and supporting the uptake of sustainable practices by small, medium and large-scale commercial agriculture, a series of soil nutrient-use efficiency roadshows were held at Oatlands (Southern Midlands), Murrayfield (Bruny Island) and Hamilton (Central Highlands). These workshops were geared towards helping farmers learn more about the mechanics of soil, including the optimal levels of nutrients, pH and salinity for pasture production, building and maintaining soil fertility, and how to do simple soil tests.

As an example of the application of this knowledge, a Nutrient Use Efficiency case study was carried out on Murrayfield Station, which is owned by weetapoono Aboriginal corporation. The station possesses a rich Aboriginal cultural heritage, conserves its biodiverse environment and produces premium lamb and fine wool. It is also a venue for Aboriginal people undertaking agriculture and land management training, is a host of Aboriginal cultural workshops and offers accommodation for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The workshops enabled upskilling of 28 farmers through comprehensive training on soil tests, soil nutrient maps over-laid by stocking rates, and developing nutrient use efficiency budgets by paddock or farm management zones.

As a result of the workshops, the farmers reported an increased understanding of their soils and how to best manage fertiliser application. It also enabled networking with other farmers leading to increased social interactions between the participants, community unity and support.

**'Gone are the days when you can blanket spread the same fertiliser blend and rate across the whole farm, as every paddock has different requirements based on fertility and removal rates. The Fert\$mart program takes the guesswork out of your farm variability and will help maximise a return on fertiliser investment.'**

**LUKE TAYLOR – AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT.**

Expected environmental benefits from the workshops include reduced fertiliser use resulting in reduced nutrient run-off to waterways and leaching into groundwater. But ultimately, it is anticipated to have helped farmers increase profitability through increased yields, and the production of premium quality products that attract higher prices and reduced input costs by using less fertiliser.

*The workshops originated from the Fert\$mart program developed for the Australian dairy industry and workshops that were held for dairy farmers under the Dairy Cares for the Derwent program.*

*The success of the dairy industry workshops led NRM South to engage AgAssist to deliver workshops for the beef and sheep grazing industries in other areas of Southern Tasmania.*

### HEALTHY FARMS, HEALTHY CATCHMENTS ROADSHOWS AND FARMING PRACTICES WORKSHOPS IN 2015-16

**Nutrient efficiency workshops:**  
three workshops training 28 farmers.

**Principles of drainage, and livestock fencing under pivot irrigation:** two workshops with 34 farmers.

**Pasture principles workshops:**  
three workshops and 59 farmers and hobby farmers.

**Derwent Valley, Central Highlands workshop 'From Drought to Winter':**  
10 farmers supported.





## Building Knowledge and Data

In order to properly manage and protect Southern Tasmania's natural assets, it is important to have a solid foundation of knowledge about the characteristics of the region; including its predominant features, pressing issues and future trends. In addition, it is vital to be able to share this information with relevant groups in order to facilitate effective decision making, on-ground activities and planning. NRM South works with partners to improve NRM outcomes by gathering this information, generating new knowledge, and by disseminating it throughout the NRM sector. As a hub of NRM activity we bring together, analyse and share information relevant to the region.

The Building Knowledge and Data program aims to support individuals in industry, government and community groups, including the Aboriginal community, to build their capacity to support technical skills development through knowledge-sharing and training events. Another component of the project 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.

“In order to properly manage and protect Southern Tasmania's natural assets, it is important to have a solid foundation of knowledge...”

### KEY PROGRAM AREAS

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Environmental monitoring and mapping

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Developing management plans

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Knowledge and information-sharing

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Providing training

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### 2015-16 OUTCOMES

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45 community members trained in the use of a newly developed Saltmarsh Condition Monitoring App through five saltmarsh monitoring events.

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31 trainees accredited in Vegetation Condition Assessment through two NRM South funded/supported training courses.

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Completion of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Weed Buffer Management Strategy (Huron).

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Continued work on a mammal monitoring project accruing data on mammal populations. This survey work will continue through to 2017-18.

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Continued work on water quality monitoring across the Derwent River Catchment.

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Began work on an Aboriginal knowledge-sharing project investigating kelp populations and links to traditional crafting and climate change.

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Hosted the Healthy Landscapes Group collaboration to coordinate landscape scale projects.

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Developed a GPS and GIS training package for volunteers and community groups.

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Across this sub-project, in-kind support and co-investment was on average equivalent to a 1:5 NRM South contribution to total investment ratio (\$69,314: \$337,052).

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## CASE STUDY PUTTING ALL YOUR EXPERTS IN ONE BASKET

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With such a diverse range of activities happening in the NRM space across Southern Tasmania, it makes sense to regularly get as many people together as possible to share their experiences and learn from each other. Consequently, NRM South initiated a series of annual forums in 2012 with the aim of supporting local government, industry and NRM professionals through expert presentations and providing opportunities for knowledge sharing and networking. These forums covered current and emerging tools in NRM such as coastal management, volunteer management, hot topics in NRM, and knowledge and information.

The 2015 forum, held 30 October at the Sustainability Learning Centre, focused on issues surrounding climate change and attracted an audience of around 50 people. There were 22 organisations represented at the day-long forum and seven departments/organisations presented on a range of topics over the course of the day, including predicting future scenarios and managing risks.

This event, which gathers together experts delivering on a variety of topics as an in-kind contribution, allows NRM South to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building to community and NRM professionals.

These forums have proven to be very popular with our stakeholders and we will continue to run at least one per year. Upcoming NRM forums in the 2016-17 financial year include the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon 'Our Waterway' mini-conference and a forum to support the delivery of the recently updated NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania.

**"I really appreciated the opportunity to improve my understanding of who is doing what and how in regard to climate change. The forum definitely advanced my knowledge and also made apparent some further opportunities to pursue."**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM ATTENDEE.**

*The forum welcomed presenters from: Department of Premier and Cabinet; Climate Change Adaptation Unit; Think South/Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority; Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment; Hydro Tasmania; Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies and Kingborough Council.*

*Stakeholder groups represented: Hydro Tasmania; Huon Valley Council; Welling Consulting; Wild Ecology; University of Tasmania; DPAC; DPIPW; Department of State Growth; Clarence Council; IMAS; Forestry Tasmania; STCA; Atlas of Living Australia; Tasmania Fire Service; Kingborough Council; Landcare Tasmania; 3S sustainable systems and solutions; Tasman Council; AK Consultants; Conservation Volunteers Australia; Tasmanian Planning Commission and Threatened Plants Tasmania.*

## CASE STUDY A HEALTH CHECK FOR VEGETATION



When the health of plants in a habitat community starts to go into decline, it has serious knock-on effects for the biodiversity values and overall landscape function for that area. But what keeps vegetation healthy? Understanding the answer to this fundamental question helps land managers figure out what they need to do to improve or maintain the health of native vegetation. By using the Tasmanian Vegetation Condition Assessment (VCA) method as an on-site tool, land managers can gather valuable data on the condition of a site and devise strategies to look after it.

In order to properly monitor a site, researchers need information on both the condition and extent of the vegetation. Before the VCA method was developed, there was insufficient data to properly assess the condition of native forest vegetation in Southern Tasmania, and this lack of data made it difficult to properly develop effective management plans. The VCA method was developed in collaboration between DPIPW and Tasmania's three NRM regions to improve the availability of relevant data.

The aim of the Vegetation Health Check Project has been to increase the capacity, usability and uptake of the VCA method and to support actions to improve vegetation condition on public and private land – all while building capacity in the NRM workforce. To achieve this goal, a three-pronged approach has been developed; focusing on building capacity through delivering accredited training courses, improving processes to simplify the VCA method and sharing practical examples of how to use the VCA method to increase its use by relevant groups.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

31 trainees accredited through two NRM South-funded training courses.

Video presentation of VCA method completed and shared online via social media.

Assisted DPIPW in collating a state-wide register of completed VCAs to be stored in the Natural Values Atlas, representing a significantly improved and more accessible statewide data resource.

Co-investment from other Tasmanian NRM Regions to extend training delivery into northern Tasmania.

Work has begun on a full update and revision of the TasVeg VCA Manual.

Over the four years that the project has been running, it has grown from delivering training, to developing case-study material, promoting use of the VCA method and more recently seeking to recover costs for training delivery and obtaining co-investment support from the other Tasmanian NRM Regions. Overall, 86 people have become accredited VCA practitioners, significantly boosting the number of NRM practitioners who are now familiar with this methodology. A total of 150 VCAs have been carried out at 112 sites across the Southern Region, adding a wealth of valuable data on vegetation condition in the region, and 20 VCA assessments and landholder reports have been completed.

Consolidating previous work, the project will inform the restoration and management of key coastal habitat sites, improve management of land around Ramsar sites and contribute to the wider use of a consistent methodology, as well as supporting landholders to manage threats to native vegetation.







## Working On Country with the Aboriginal Community

NRM South is committed to promoting the inclusion of Aboriginal people/organisations in natural resource management activities as part of our Working on Country program area.

### KEY PROGRAM AREAS

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Raising awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge

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Building and connecting Aboriginal communities to NRM networks

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

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Developing and implementing an Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework

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Developing and managing NRM South's Working on Country sub-project

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### 2015-16 OUTCOMES

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Compiled and finalised NRM South's first Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework Strategy.

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Employed a dedicated staff member to support the implementation of the Framework.

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Commenced work towards 13 of the Framework's 16 stated goals.

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Rolled out a targeted grant funding round for Culturally Inspired projects, which has launched five projects with a funding value of \$5,000 per project.

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Image credit: Catherine Douglas

We are supporting Tasmania's Aboriginal people to build capacity in Aboriginal communities and work on activities that will build social and economic value alongside positive biodiversity, coastal and conservation outcomes for our land and sea-scapes. Over the 2015-16 period, NRM South has continued to work with the Aboriginal community on a range of projects. We have engaged with individuals and groups to promote knowledge building and skills development, and supported Aboriginal businesses through direct employment and contracting services. Most notably, we have continued our four-year strong working relationship with the not-for-profit, social enterprise 'pakana services', a business that provides work and training for Aboriginal people in the NRM and agricultural sectors.

As part of our mandate to support and increase the involvement of Aboriginal people in natural resource management, NRM South employed a dedicated Aboriginal NRM Support Coordinator in December 2015 to support engagement across the Southern region. A significant component of this has been the development of NRM South's Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework (the Framework), which was completed in June 2016. The Framework was designed to enhance the way that NRM South works with and supports the Tasmanian Aboriginal people; creating the necessary pathways to better understand the practices needed to build enduring relationships with Aboriginal people and organisations in Southern Tasmania.

## ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Developed over the course of 2015-16, NRM South's Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework aims to:

- improve NRM South's internal capacity to better engage with Aboriginal communities and improve knowledge of local Aboriginal issues;
- integrate Aboriginal contribution to NRM into planning, policy and on-ground works as a matter of course; and
- build capacity externally among the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, their organisations and corporations across the cultural land and sea-scapes of Southern Tasmania.

As well as being circulated internally with NRM South staff and Board members, the Framework was also sent to nine Aboriginal organisations and communities and two Aboriginal community members for comment, and was made publicly available on NRM South's website. In addition, it was distributed to local government and non-Aboriginal organisations as part of engagement meeting discussions. Feedback that was received was incorporated into changes to the final document.

Implementation started formally after the NRM South Board endorsed the draft framework in March 2016. However, many of the goals encapsulated in the Framework were already consistent with NRM South's ongoing commitment to working with the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

The Framework will allow NRM South to successfully provide regular and ongoing encouragement to NRM South staff and other non-Aboriginal people to actively engage in learning about Tasmania's history, cultural protocols and values, and cultural communication nuances. The Framework will inform educational workshops, social media articles, and an array of written materials and documents to bring current and historical issues, and good engagement practice into the broad reach of the NRM sector.

## CULTURALLY INSPIRED GRANTS

A one-off round of funding targeted towards Aboriginal people and organisations was rolled out in April 2016. These 'Culturally Inspired' grants aimed to increase the engagement, participation, employment and capacity of Aboriginal communities to further activities and projects for natural resource management, cultural heritage protection and knowledge-sharing. They will in turn benefit Tasmania's biodiversity, cultural heritage, land and seascapes and offer the opportunity of improved Aboriginal custodianship and connection to Country.

Five projects received \$25,000 in funding, covering a range of activities: researching sustainable kelp-harvesting practices; monitoring wild Pacific oyster beds; developing a fire management regime to protect Swift Parrot and Forty-spotted Pardalote habitat; holding a cultural youth education camp; and protecting coastal cultural heritage through the development of a cultural community and art space. Many of our natural resources have elements of both environmental and cultural importance. These grants are also helping to facilitate future cultural heritage protection by providing Aboriginal youth access to resources and environments that teach them the value of culture, family cohesion, and community reconnection with ancestors and custodianship.

Culturally Inspired grants are just one of many activities that are underpinned by the Framework – guiding the organisation and supporting others to better work with Aboriginal communities in Southern Tasmania.





‘For pakana services to be fully commercial and to perform in such a competitive environment is a tribute to the hard work of the Aboriginal community. This could only be achieved by providing quality work at a competitive rate.’

JOHN EASTON, PAKANA SERVICES MANAGER

## PAKANA SERVICES

NRM South has continued to lend its support to the Aboriginal enterprise pakana services and, over the course of 2015-16, pakana services took its final steps to full independence as an autonomous organisation.

The primary focus of pakana services is on-ground land management activities (brush cutting, weed control, fencing, tree planting, track work, protecting Aboriginal cultural sites, and property maintenance). pakana services currently has one full-time manager and several casual Aboriginal employees on the books, many of whom were previously long-term unemployed. pakana employees gain accreditation in technical skills and, since its inception, several employees have transitioned into other employment positions.

One of the main indicators of its success is that it has become a competitive self-funding business, holding its own in an environment where there are many other contractor services (often sole traders with low overheads) as well as those who are working for free every day doing similar types of work (e.g. Green Army, Conservation Volunteers).

Despite its many achievements, pakana services is more than a land management business. It has positive social impacts in the lives of Aboriginal people by providing meaningful, paid work, training and a pathway to further employment.

Image: pakana services workers C. Blake (L) and R. Redford (R) constructing an enclosure to protect endangered miena cider gum seedlings.







## Building Community Capacity and Engagement

Building capacity and engagement is all about providing the community with the skills and resources that they need to look after our region's natural assets and giving them the opportunity to be involved with solutions.

Image: Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group and UTAS planting habitat trees at Apollo Bay on Bruny Island as part of a Naturally Inspired project grant.

### KEY PROGRAM AREAS

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Providing grants funding for community and landholder projects

---

Developing and distributing information resources

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Presence at and support of community events

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Facilitating the Volunteers Coordinators Network

---

School/youth engagement

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### 2015-16 OUTCOMES

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40 events supported.

---

1,733 people engaged.

---

16 partnerships/collaborations.

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Nine organisations/events financially supported through sponsorship.

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Provided \$48,000 in Naturally Inspired Grant funding to community groups and schools.

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Supported 16 community groups, 20 landholders and 18 public land managers on conservation projects through Green Army team activities.

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Getting community groups and schools involved in caring for their natural resources and valuing and using all forms of community skills and knowledge is a direct way of empowering communities and engaging them more actively. These activities form a foundation for raising awareness at a local level. The kinds of activities that NRM South are involved with as part of this priority action include forums, displays at community events, resources and promotional activities, delivering targeted funding programs and providing access to skills development.

In 2015-16, NRM South continued to work on improving the sharing and delivery of knowledge and information to the broader community. We supported and/or were present at a total of 40 events across the region, such

as Triabunna Seafest, Bream Creek and Huon Shows, and the Kids4Kids Sustainability Conference. Working collaboratively with other organisations is also an important part of strengthening networks and advancing project activities. We worked with over 12 partner organisations during the last year, including the Green Army regional partnership with Landcare Tasmania, UTAS CARES and the Volunteer Coordinators Network.

Calling on the community's creative talents as an alternative way of getting across the conservation and sustainability message is a powerful tool to boost engagement. With this in mind, NRM South, in collaboration with City of Hobart Bushcare, ran our first-ever photography competition as part of Volunteer Week. The competition encouraged entrants to use images to convey a conservation message and was very popular, receiving 47 entries. Using social media to run a People's Choice voting category for the most popular image reached over 6,400 people and resulted in a strong spike in the number of followers and levels of engagement, which has given us a much stronger platform and broader audience when sharing resources and information online.

As in previous years, we rolled out another round of Naturally Inspired Grants for landholders and community groups (Round 9), while many of the previous years' funded projects wrapped up over the course of the financial year. Eleven community groups and schools were engaged through Round 9 Naturally Inspired Grants program and received financial support of \$48,067 to implement agreed environmental projects and activities.

NRM South's Local Area Community Support program (NRM Facilitation staff) have played a core role in direct engagement with land managers and also supporting the roll out of localised events and capacity building activities with local communities across Southern Tasmania. Engagement events and training opportunities consistently attract good attendances indicating topics to be relevant to and valued by the Southern Tasmanian NRM community.

## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH EVENTS

Over the 2015-16 period, NRM South has continued to support community engagement via events – either by directly organising specific events, or contributing to events led by other organisations. This effort has resulted in the direct participation of 727 people at events ranging from field days, to workshops, Regional Strategy meetings, clean-up days, conferences, Aboriginal cultural events and competitions. Of particular note are the levels of engagement around strategic priority areas of biosecurity awareness, threatened species protection, sustainable practices and Regional Strategy development.

In addition, NRM South has provided sponsorship funding to nine events and conferences that were geared towards promoting or increasing community participation in NRM-related activities.

## TARGETED FUNDING

NRM South provides funding support to the community through a number of targeted funding programs: Naturally Inspired Grants (offered annually), Bite-sized Grants (offered all year) and targeted funding rounds linked to strategic priorities.

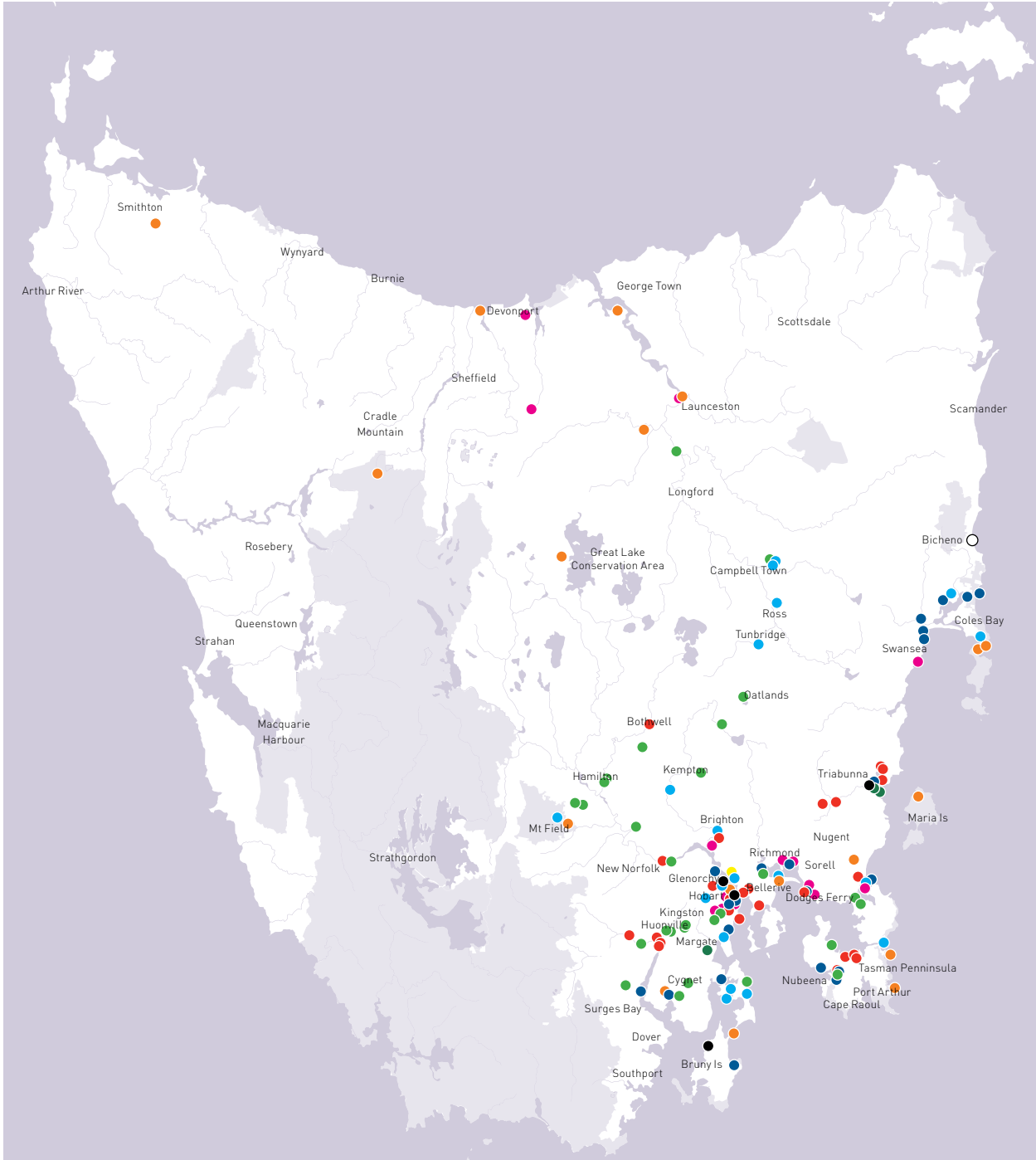
### Naturally Inspired Grants

NRM South supports community groups and landholders to implement activities through the 'Naturally Inspired' Grants Program – providing funding and support for projects that improve native habitat, protect our threatened species and/or improve sustainability practices. The 2015-2016 round of Naturally Inspired Grants (Round 9) was launched in April 2016 and attracted a large number of submissions. Divided into two categories, 11 community groups and 13 landholders shared in over \$110,000 of funding. Community groups were provided funding support for projects including marine debris clean-up activities, weed surveys and control, native revegetation and raising awareness of environmental issues (via natural values signage, interpretative trails and community events). Landholders received funds to carry out works such as riparian rehabilitation, protecting remnant vegetation for threatened species, reducing nutrient run-off, managing environmental weeds and improving soil health (see Appendices for a full list of projects).

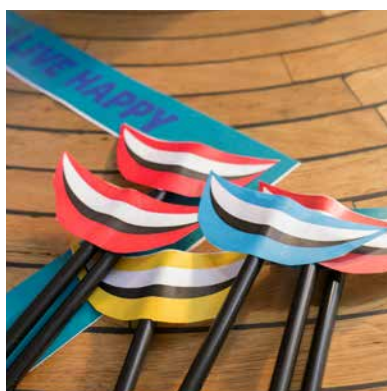
A number of projects that received funding for Round 8 of the Naturally Inspired Grants in early 2015 were also completed during the last year, including: track work, erosion control and weed control at Chauncy Vale; weed eradication on Maatsuyker Island and near native bushland at Fern Tree; water tank installation at Tennison Woods EcoCentre; rehabilitating a section of Daley's Creek near the Prices Bay saltmarsh; marine debris removal throughout Kingborough, saltmarsh conservation work in Cape Deslacs Nature Reserve; and supporting the 2015 Tasmanian State Landcare Conference.

Selected projects are being supported via NRM South and Landcare Tasmania's collaborative regional Green Army team, providing assistance to the community for on-ground action, as well as helping Green Army team members to actively learn through hands-on experience.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE NRM SOUTH REGION DURING 2015-16







Images from the 'Caring for the Environment' Photography Competition awards event held in May 2016.

## CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS – IN PICTURES

In April 2016, NRM South – in collaboration with City of Hobart Bushcare and the Volunteer Coordinators Network – launched their inaugural photography competition as part of National Volunteer Week. The aim of the competition was to encourage submissions from members of the community to raise awareness about the tireless work that volunteers do in caring for the environment. There were a total of 47 entries from a range of age groups, with many prizes on offer thanks to multiple sponsors. All submissions were posted on NRM South's Facebook page as part of a 'People's Choice' voting process, which attracted the highest level of activity that NRM South has had on its Facebook page to date. Overall, the competition was a great success and will become a regular annual event.

## Community projects

Three targeted Community Project funding streams were made available over the last year: Culturally Inspired Grants, Waterways and Coasts Community Projects, and Biosecurity Infrastructure Community Projects. A total of \$55,429 in funding was made available to individuals, groups and organisations from the southern Tasmanian community to undertake projects that delivered specific natural resource management outcomes. The Culturally Inspired Grants resulted in five projects sharing in \$25,000 of funding for Aboriginal groups to work on NRM activities. Waterways and Coasts funded six projects for a total of \$25,160 to work on issues of waterway health, while the Biosecurity Infrastructure stream funded three mobile washdown and signage projects for a total of \$5,269.

Image (facing page): Franklin Primary School Sustainable Garden Group installing a kitchen garden using funds from a Bite-sized grant.

## Bite-Sized Grants Overview

<b>2013-14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$5,611</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>\$19,750</b>
Financial year	Projects funded	Money devolved by NRM South	Total volunteer hours	Overall total in-kind contribution
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$5,028</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>\$37,845</b>
Financial year	Projects funded	Money devolved by NRM South	Total volunteer hours	Overall total in-kind contribution
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$7,383</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>\$46,390</b>
Financial year	Projects funded	Money devolved by NRM South	Total volunteer hours	Overall total in-kind contribution

## Bite-Sized Grants Over 3 Financial Years

<b>40</b>	<b>\$18,022</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>\$72,380</b>	<b>\$17,780</b>	<b>\$90,160</b>
Projects funded	Money invested by NRM South	Total volunteer hours	Value of volunteer hours	Total cash in-kind contributions	Total in-kind contribution

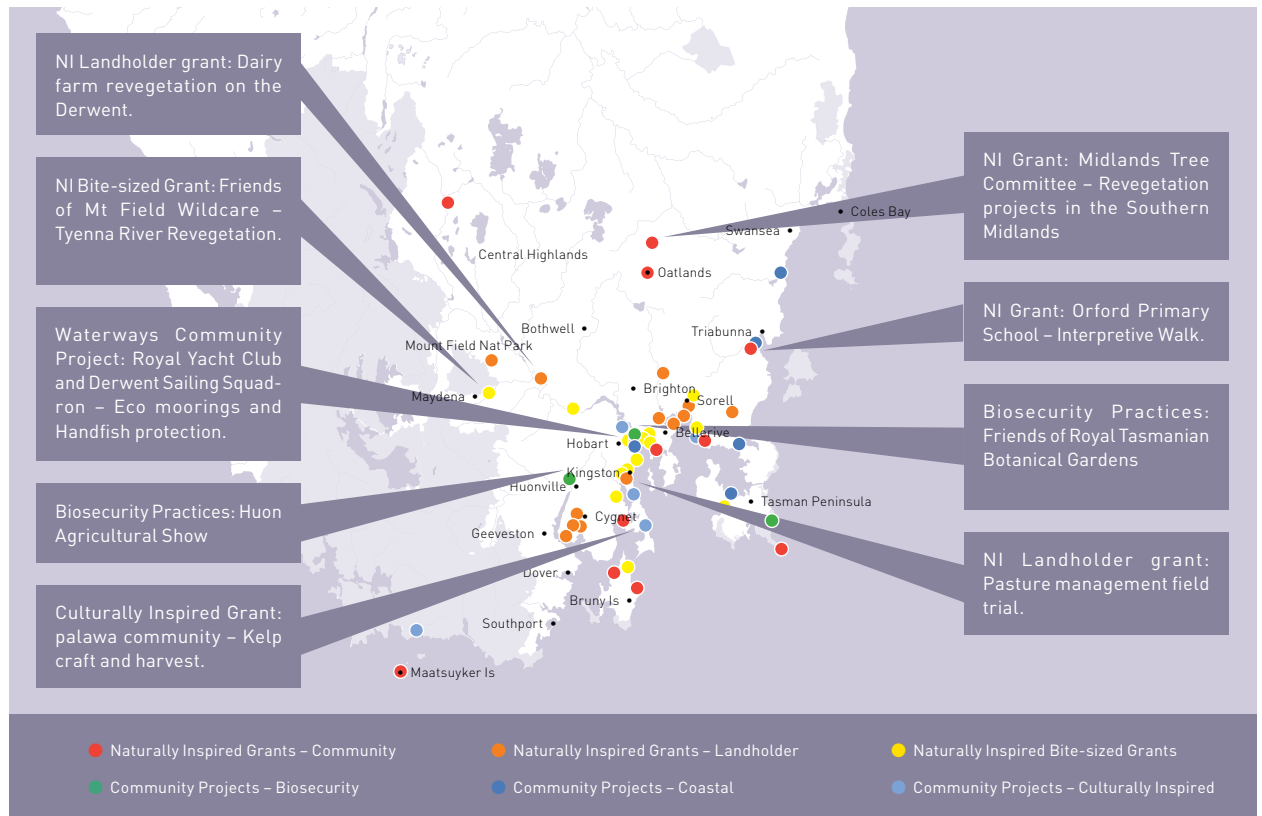
### Bite-sized Grants

Launched in January 2014, the Naturally Inspired Bite-sized grants program provides support for small, short-term projects ranging from \$200 – \$500. They are designed to give groups more opportunity to apply for small amounts of funding when needed. In the 2015-16 financial year, 16 projects were funded, with \$7,384 devolved by NRM South and in-kind cash contributions of \$3,410. Volunteers dedicated 1,228 hours of their time (representing a value of \$42,980) across the projects. The total in-kind contribution was \$46,390 – continuing a pattern of year-on-year increase since 2014. Taking an average from outcomes across the years, for every \$1 invested by NRM South there is a \$5 in-kind contribution from the community.



## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2015/16

The map below covers all of the NRM South grants awarded in 2015-16. This includes 24 Naturally Inspired Grants supporting community groups and landholders as well as 14 targeted grants and 16 Bite-sized Grants.



Naturally Inspired Grants Round 9	Landholder Grants	13 landholders undertaking sustainable agriculture activities
	Community Grants	11 groups undertaking conservation activities
Naturally Inspired Grants Bite-sized Grants	Community groups, scouts and schools	16 Grants
Community Support Projects	3 funding rounds	Culturally Inspired (5 projects) Waterways and Coasts (6 projects) Biosecurity Infrastructure (3 projects)



## FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16



### Weed Control on Maatsuyker Island in Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area

**Organisation:** Friends of Maatsuyker Island

**Grant Type:** Naturally Inspired Grand Round 8

**Completed:** March 2016      **Funding:** \$5,478

**Major outcomes:** Two working bees over a combined 18 days and involving 8 volunteers to control invasive environmental weeds (particularly blackberry, *Montbretia* and *Hebe elliptica*). This work is part of ongoing weed management on the island.



### Reducing Marine Debris in the D'Entrecasteaux

**Organisation:** Sustainable Living in Kingborough

**Grant Type:** Naturally Inspired Grant Round 8

**Completed:** May 2016      **Funding:** \$5,500

**Major outcomes:** Over 20 engagement events were held, including numerous cleanups (Margate, Woodbridge and Gordon jetties; 8kms of foreshore north from Alonnah, Cemetery Beach and Great Taylor Bay on Bruny Island; Tinderbox West, Kingston Beach and Gordon campsite foreshore). A number of debris hotspots were also identified. Around 7.5m<sup>3</sup> of marine debris was collected by the cleanups undertaken throughout this project, involving over 850 volunteer hours.



### Remediation of Lower Daley's Creek

**Organisation:** Saltwater River / Premaydena Coastcare

**Grant Type:** Naturally Inspired Grand Round 8

**Completed:** June 2016      **Funding:** \$5,500

**Major outcomes:** Weed removal of crack willow, blackberry, pine and sweet briar across 1,962m<sup>2</sup> and the same area revegetated with 280 native plants. The on-ground work occurred almost exclusively on public land, complementing the substantial, ongoing weed control and revegetation, and dam improvement, work being undertaken by the private landowners.



‘NRM South provides support to organisations involving volunteers as well as local councils via an informal collaboration.’



## Protecting Habitat for Threatened Species

**Region:** Cygnet

**Grant Type:** Landholder Grant Round 8

**Completed:** June 2016

**Funding:** \$4,600

**Major outcomes:** 485m of fencing was constructed to prevent stock from accessing eight hectares of native forest that had feeding and nesting habitat for native species. Weed control of gorse, Spanish heath, holly and blackberry occurred over a 1.5-hectare area, which was then planted with 330 native tree and understorey plants.



## Managing Highland Grasslands

**Region:** Cockatoo Hill, Tasmanian Central Highlands

**Grant Type:** Landholder Grant—Round 8

**Completed:** June 2016

**Funding:** \$5,500

**Major outcomes:** : Livestock was removed from the property to enable regrowth of rare plants and reduce stock impacts on wetlands, springs and peat bogs. Property surveys confirmed the presence of threatened highland poa grassland and other threatened plant species. Initial spear thistle control was carried out over 250 hectares and an interim property management plan was developed for the site.



## CASE STUDY VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS NETWORK



NRM South provides support to organisations involving volunteers as well as local councils via an informal collaboration. By working together, NRM South aims to more efficiently support volunteers and build knowledge, skills and capacity within the volunteer community. From 2012 to 2015 this took the form of a training program (the Volunteer Training Consortium) to support a flourishing volunteer community that was informed, safe, inspired and effective. Over \$30,000 was invested by consortium partners in this training program, and nearly 200 environmental volunteers benefited from free or heavily subsidised training.

From July 2015, the collaboration shifted focus, and consortium partners committed to jointly explore capacity building and community engagement opportunities as they arose through a Volunteer Coordinators Network (VCN) with the aim of supporting each other to be effective volunteer coordinators.

The VCN is a collaboration led by NRM South with Parks and Wildlife Service, Landcare Tasmania, Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, and Southern Councils (Kingborough, Glenorchy, Huon Valley, Hobart, Clarence, Sorell and Tasman). In the last year, the VCN has been involved with supporting volunteers and coordinators to attain their Working with Children registration, provided funding support for the newly established UTAS CARES initiative, and sponsored prizes in the first National Volunteer Week photography competition.

Over the last four financial years, NRM South has invested a total of \$12,954 into this network, and leveraged support from a variety of partners to a value of \$18,343, giving a total project value of \$31,297. This has enabled 197 volunteers to receive training – including 108 trained in St Johns Provide First Aid, 10 in Remote Area First Aid, 10 with a Chainsaw Operators Licence, 17 in Safe Use of Brushcutters, 14 in Safe Use of Chemicals, 26 in Fire Ecology and 12 received Chemcert accreditation.

*UTAS CARES is a collaboration between the University of Tasmania, NRM South, Landcare Tasmania, City of Hobart Bushcare, Birdlife Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service, and was initiated in late 2015 by Dr Elizabeth Shannon. It connects university staff and students with a range of volunteer environmental care groups in Southern Tasmania, giving them the opportunity to engage with the Tasmanian environment, culture and community. The program is interested in the positive physical and psychological benefits that volunteering can have on volunteers, as well as the obvious environmental outcomes.*

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

**Organised training for 20 volunteer coordinators in Engaging Young People (delivered by Volunteering Tasmania).**

**Organised first aid training for 14 community volunteers.**

**Sponsorship of and involvement in the new UTAS CARES initiative.**

**Collaboration on National Volunteer Week celebrations including sponsorship of prizes for a photo competition.**

Image: (L-R) R. Osborne (NRM South) Dr. Shannon (UTAS CARES), S. Johnson (Student Volunteer Army – NZ) and K. Warr Pederson (UTAS) at UTAS Student Volunteering Week.





# Green Army

## Early in 2015, NRM South partnered with Landcare Tasmania in submitting a project proposal for Round 2 of the Australian Government's Green Army Programme.

The "Working in Southern Tasmania to protect and conserve species and places" project aimed to support regionally focused Green Army teams that could contribute to community projects while receiving valuable on the job training.

The successful project was initiated in May 2015, with a completion date of September 2016. Three consecutive Green Army teams, each made up of nine participants aged between 17 and 24 (and one supervisor) work for blocks of 20 weeks across a range of projects. The teams are coordinated through NRM South, and supported by a steering committee comprised of NRM South, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Landcare Tasmania. An important element of the Green Army Programme is the provision of funding, of up to \$10,000 per team, to support on-ground activities. These funds and the teams' labour have provided much-needed assistance to regional projects in the community and professional NRM sectors.



Australian Government



The NRM South – Landcare Tasmania Green Army collaboration is supported by the Australian Government's Green Army Programme.

## 2015-16 OUTCOMES

While the third team's work is still ongoing, project teams 1 and 2 have been involved with over 54 regional projects. Their efforts have contributed to habitat protection, enhancement and restoration across a range of threatened species' habitats. Activities included including weed control across 25 hectares, weed surveys and monitoring, propagation (1,710 plants), installing 400 metres of fencing and revegetating 1.7 hectares with over 3,000 plants. The teams also participated in 10 monitoring/surveying events as well as track work and installing interpretive signs for community projects.

Across the three teams, work will be completed on at least 108 project sites, with participants forming valuable networks with 60 community groups, organisations and individual landholders. The teams will have worked with 19 landholders on their properties, as well as 26 community groups on 74 project sites and with 14 organisations on 19 project sites.

Teams carried out 216 days of on-ground work. Local community groups, landholders and local government contributed with resources via grant funds, on-site training/inductions by professionals and community, NRM South coordination and Green Army Programme funds. The minimum value, including Green Army labour and contributing resources, for this project is \$677,905.

By the end of this round, the project will have supported 27 Green Army participants with a diversity of skills, networks and work experience across numerous sites in Southern Tasmania.

*Green Army activities have been carried out within rural areas, coastal zones, in urban parks and reserves and in high biodiversity zones (Bruny Island, Pitt Water Orielton Ramsar site and saltmarsh zones).*



## TEAM 1 MAY–OCTOBER 2015

Supported six local community groups, seven individual landholders and seven public land managers. The team worked on weed control across 4,500m<sup>2</sup>, revegetation (300 plants) and plant propagation (200 plants), wildlife monitoring (three surveys), weed surveys (two) and repairing and upgrading tracks (413m fencing).



## TEAM 2 NOVEMBER–MARCH 2016

Supported 10 local community groups, four individual landholders and five public land managers. The team worked on weed control across 17.4ha, plant propagation (960 plants), wildlife monitoring (one survey), weed surveys (one), track work and feral oyster control.



## TEAM 3 APRIL–SEPTEMBER 2016 (ONGOING)

From April 2016, team three will have supported 16 community groups, six public land managers and nine landholders. Details of on-ground works will be collated on completion. One of the highlights for this team was making nest boxes for Swift Parrots supporting researchers in response to damage to nest sites on the East Coast.

**‘One of the most pleasing aspects of this partnership is the way in which Green Army has been embraced by all partners. An understanding of the programme has developed that complements the team, the project partners they assist, and ultimately our local environment. The teams are fortunate to be undertaking a range of conservation activities throughout diverse locations in Southern Tasmania. With this comes the opportunity to be working alongside a range of committed people, with particular emphasis on our Community Care Groups, where there is often a blending of our youth together with senior community members, working together for a common cause’.**

STEVE BAILEY, CVA GREEN ARMY COORDINATOR – TASMANIA





# NRM Facilitation

## NRM South is the key driver of the NRM (Local Area) Facilitation program.

This is a co-investment partnership model employing dedicated NRM Facilitation staff who work locally to support NRM activities, build capacity and work with the community at all levels for regional and national outcomes. They also actively build the profile of and integrate NRM within their organisations.

NRM South continued a co-investment in partnership with Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell, Tasman, Central Highlands and Derwent Valley councils, and local landholder network Derwent Catchment NRM. This co-investment supported the employment of four dedicated NRM Facilitators in those partner organisations. NRM South also directly employed two NRM Facilitators to work alongside Kingborough, Huon Valley, and other regional councils.

NRM Facilitators form a NRM Facilitator Network, and work closely with the Regional Landcare Facilitators, NRM South project staff, and each other on cross boundary and cross-collaborative efforts. NRM Facilitators also work together as colleagues. They form the NRM Facilitation network, and are mentored and supported by NRM South staff through formal training, networking opportunities and collaborative efforts.

This year, NRM Facilitators actively worked with their community delivering training and engagement on NRM issues through 78 NRM capacity-building events, and engaging 2,997 individuals across their local areas (30% of whom were new). They also worked with 143 individuals, community groups, and other land managers and organisations to provide professional support to land management issues, including one-on-one advice, property plans, support with grant applications and project development, trials and demos, and landholder and farming networks.

NRM Facilitators deliver approximately 40% of regional activity through NRM South's National Landcare Programme Regional Delivery. They are integrated into local NRM Networks, and represent local government, NRM South and their community on NRM issues. They also act as a lever for building momentum in NRM in their areas by seeking partnerships that provide both in-kind and financial support.

In 2015-16, NRM Facilitators supported their local community to seek grant funds, or applied for grant projects to enable action. This year they sought projects to the value of \$284,335 (via 39 grant applications). Of these, 54% of the funding was successfully secured, with an additional 24% pending.

Image: NRM Facilitator Amanda Blakney discusses shorebirds and marine debris issues with students at the 2016 Festival of Bright Ideas.







**NRM Facilitators in 2015-16**  
(L to R) Paul Gray, Jen Milne, Josie Kelman, Terry Higgs, Tim Ackroyd, Holly Hansen and Amanda Blakney (replacing maternity leave position Jen Milne).

## NRM FACILITATION HIGHLIGHTS 2015-16

### Regional

Supporting NRM Facilitator activity through three regional Green Army teams.

Success with new Mountain to Marine Biolink Green Army team with five councils.

### Huon Valley

TWWHA buffer weed project, MOU with Huon Valley Council and PWS developed a strategic weed plan to support active weed control in 2016-17.

Completion of Stage 2 Swift Parrot forage protection at Shipwrights point.

### Kingborough

Completion of Alum Cliffs coastal incentives, and woody weed workshops.

### Derwent Catchment

Helped landholders during the drought and the floods through workshops and support.

Continued work on Dairy Cares for the Derwent and farm mapping on nutrient-use efficiency.

### Tasman

Strategic support to serrated tussock management, and ongoing support to feral oyster control with the community.

### Sorell

Continued mammal monitoring of public reserves with community and cat management actions.

Installation of stormwater device at Pitt Water Orielton Lagoon Ramsar wetlands.

### Glamorgan Spring Bay

Ongoing success with coastal shorebird protection and engagement.

Little Penguin project initiated to work with schools on nest and habitat protection.

Support for farmers on sandy soils amelioration trials.



# Business and Governance



**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.**

From a bird's eye view of landscape-scale issues, down to the individual level of revegetating a stream bank or giving advice on how to better manage a small hobby farm, the collective skills and knowledge of the NRM South team plays a key role in effectively addressing a range of natural resource management issues across Southern Tasmania.

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. NRM South's philosophy is to ensure 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 the 2015-16 period, the NRM South workforce comprised nine full-time, six part-time and one casual staff member for a total of 13 full-time equivalent staff (down from 13.3 in 2014-15). In addition, NRM South hosted the employment of one full-time pakana services staff member. As of June 2016, this arrangement has ended as pakana services became an independent business, but remains hosted at NRM South office, and maintains a connection with NRM South staff through a service arrangement. The resignation of the Operations Manager facilitated a restructure with the introduction of a flatter organisational structure, which allows for closer links between the CEO and operational managers.

Following the transition to the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme in the last financial year, the main focus of this year's activities was continuing established projects – most of which will be running until



2018. The need for new positions to support some of NRM South's key areas of activity was highlighted, and the 2015-16 financial year saw the creation of three new positions (Business Development Manager, Catchments and Coastal Coordinator and part-time Aboriginal NRM Support Coordinator). Three staff members resigned during 2015-16, including the Operations Manager, and short term Business Development Manager (the latter position will be reassessed in 2016-17).

In this year, the Corporate Plan was renewed, being more closely aligned with our major funding programs, business development initiatives and governance processes. This will allow for a greater line of sight from our on-ground project through to the strategic priority areas of the Corporate Plan. This has also allowed the organisation to focus its internal reporting down from quarterly to six monthly, freeing up valuable staff time while maintaining an appropriate level of reporting to meet good governance practice.

The 2015-16 period saw the completion of the updated Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania, a task which NRM South is responsible for under the *Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002*. This completed strategy incorporates climate change considerations and allows for a continued integrated focus for natural resource management activities in Southern Tasmania – both building on what has been accomplished to date, and planning for the future.

This year has also seen the introduction of a new innovative data collection and reporting system across the organisation called Fulcrum. The new system is a mobile, tablet and desktop application which staff are using to record our engagement, events and on-ground work activities. The implementation of this new system has enabled simpler reporting, organisation wide consistency and accurate spatial recording of our work.

## BOARD

Declared a Regional Committee under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, NRM South includes a representative of the Tasmanian Government, Howel Williams (Deputy Chair).

Since September 2010, Max Kitchell has chaired the Board and 2016 will see his valuable contribution come to an end as he has served the maximum two terms allowed under the rules. Max Kitchell has also played a leading role in NRM governance as Chair of NRM Regions Australia. Howel Williams has served as Deputy Chair and is resigning from the Board due to a change in his role within DPIPWE. During 2015-16, Andrew Scanlon came on as a Board member, and Alistair Scott and Jennie Whinam filled casual vacancies to the period of the 2016 AGM. Both Heather Chong, and Greg Lehman stepped down as members during this period.

NRM South has two ongoing sub-committees: a remuneration committee and an audit and risk committee, which is independently chaired by Tracy Matthews. A sub-committee was formed for the period of the Regional Strategy's development.

## BOARD MEMBERS 2015-16

### Max Kitchell – Chair

Max brings over 20 years' experience in senior management roles within the Tasmanian, Victorian and Australian governments. He is a member of the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal and Chair of the Small Pelagic Fishery Scientific Panel, NRM Regions Australia and the national BlueFin Tuna Management Advisory Committee.

### Dr Howel Williams – Deputy Chair

Currently Director (Policy and Projects) in the Resource Management and Conservation Division of DPIPWE, Howel is involved in a range of projects aimed at sustainable management and conservation including the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program.

### Michael Bidwell

Michael has 20 years' experience in planning, developing and delivering NRM and has experience in local government and government business enterprises.

### Dr Christine Crawford

Christine has extensive experience at a state, national and international level in research and management of natural resources, especially estuarine, coastal and marine environments. Christine has a strong interest in governance, science communication and community engagement.



## Matthew Pitt

Matthew is a farmer in the Upper Derwent Valley and runs an agricultural services contracting business. He has been involved with Landcare since 1992 and until late 2015 was the Chair of Landcare Tasmania.

## Peter Tucker

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

## Dr Jennie Whinam

Jennie has been a senior ecologist for Tasmania's World Heritage Areas at DPIPWE for the past 25 years. Jennie has extensively researched vegetation conservation and management issues in alpine areas, peatlands, Subantarctic islands, climate change, biosecurity and fire.

## Alistair Scott

A former journalist and ministerial policy adviser at both State and Commonwealth level, Alistair has held senior management positions in the Tasmanian State Service. He has extensive experience in conservation and NRM.

## Andrew Scanlon

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.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

NRM South is a not-for-profit, member-based Incorporated Association registered as "Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association". Membership of the association is free and open to organisations and individuals with an interest in natural resource management in Southern Tasmania. The association is an incorporated body and have 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 Annual General Meeting to ratify the Annual Report and Auditor's Report. Members frequently get involved in other NRM South activities including reviewing and updating the Regional Strategy, attending conferences and events and in supporting on the ground programs. For more information on becoming a member, visit the NRM South website.

## ORGANISATIONS

Birdlife Tasmania

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Derwent Catchment NRM

DPIPWE

Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House Inc

Forestry Tasmania

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Glenorchy City Council

Greening Australia

Henskens Rankin Wines

Midlands Tree Committee

New Town Rivulet Catchment Caregroup Inc

Pipshy Building Services/Consulting

Sorell Council

Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare

Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania

Southern Midlands Council

Taroona Environment Network

Tasman Council

Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc

Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council

## INDIVIDUALS

Heather Chong

Stuart Blackhall

Nick Day

Renate Nelson

Susan Dahlberg

Fiona Brine

Bob Holderness-Roddam

Graham Flower

Judy Micklewright

Louise O'Bryan

Christine Mucha

Geordie Wright

Carl Bennett

Frances Maxwell

Nicole Andersen

## 2015-16 NRM SOUTH SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAM AREA (TOTAL 103)

### Build Data and Share Knowledge

CSIRO AdaptNRM climate change biodiversity modelling for Tasmania partner support

Derwent Catchment Water Quality Monitoring Project partner support

Develop a GPS and GIS basic training package

Development of Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Weed Buffer Management Strategy

Finalisation of the NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2015-20

Healthy Landscapes Group (landscape scale project developments)

Kelp Research Project – Culturally Inspired

Mammal monitoring – Part A

Morrisby's Gum (*Eucalyptus morrisbyi*) at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve management plan

Saltmarsh monitoring App (state-wide) with training and monitoring sessions

State Government's Single Planning Provisions process state support

Statewide service level agreement with DPIPW – digital spatial data.

The Tasmanian Shoreline Monitoring and Archiving Project (TASMARC) regional project support

Vegetation Condition Assessment case study video and training course

### Working On Country with Aboriginal Communities

Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework

Aboriginal Engagement Forum

Cultural Awareness training

Culturally Inspired Grants – 5 groups supported

Training support in NRM

### Build Community Capacity and Engagement

Carbon Farming booklet

EDO Waterways Guide Development

Moulting lagoon community report

Naturally Inspired Bite-sized grants

Naturally Inspired Grants round 9 – Community

NRM Facilitator Network

NRM Facilitator regional events support (Seafest, Bream Creek Show, Koonya Garlic Festival, Invasive Species Forum, Huon Show, Bushfest)

NRM South Marquee Resource

NRM South regional event sponsorships (9)

Regional Green Army teams X 3 teams

UTAS Cares project (partner)

Volunteer Coordinators Network

Volunteer week celebration and photo competition launch

Working with children check/support to volunteers with permits

### High Value Species, Places and Communities

Alpine Sphagnum Bog management plans

Building on a sound idea (acoustic bird monitoring project) stage 1

Callitris oblonga postcards

Conservation Landholders Tasmania – Ecological Burning Forum

Conservation Landholders Tasmania Bird conservation forum

Interlaken Community Report Card (stage 1)

Invasive Species and Threatened fauna monitoring (Central Highlands)

Miena cider gum recovery

Moulting Lagoon Ramsar site stage 2 on-ground works

Support for weeta-poona Culturally Inspired grant and fire planning workshop

Threatened Flora Link – ex-situ Orchid recovery

Threatened Flora Link – statewide on-ground works (multiple sites)

Threatened Flora Link – volunteer threatened flora surveys and monitoring

Threatened Flora Link – volunteer training

Threatened Flora Link-Calverts Hill Nature Reserve field trials and on ground works

TWWHA buffer weed control Central Highlands weed control partnership

White gum regeneration trials

## Biosecurity Practices

Biosecurity Infrastructure Community Projects – EOLs

Biosecurity community survey

Biosecurity training activities (multiple)

Development of NRM South Biosecurity guidelines for staff and contractors

Devonport TT-line terminal billboard  
-Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry

Discovery Ranger Activities

Hellfire Cup wash down sign – RideClean

Hygiene Kit Distribution

Implementation of communications plan

Participation in National Phytophthora threat abatement working group

Produce new biosecurity videos – Vehicles and machinery stage 1

Regional biosecurity displays (Liawenee and AgFest)

## Waterways and Coasts

Alum Cliffs landholder incentive program

Boneseed control – Bicheno

Channel Waterways Report Card

Clyde River restoration management plan

Coastal incentives – Help Protect the Alum Cliffs Reserve weed program

D'entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration

Derwent catchment water quality program

Derwent Valley weed management program

Discovery Rangers – shorebird awareness

East coast Little Penguin surveys and habitat management

Feral oyster control – Tasman

Glamorgan Spring Bay – on-ground protection works, shorebird awareness

Marine Debris program: Clean up event (Bruny Island) and awareness flyer

Montagu St (PWOL Ramsar) Stormwater Project foreshore revegetation

Other Catchment and Coastal programs

Saltmarsh awareness and monitoring

Saltmarsh postcards

South East Shorebird Regional Alliance (SERSA)

Spotted Handfish Recovery

Swift Parrot foraging protection – Shipwrights Point

Tasman– shorebird awareness/schools program

Waterways and Coasts-Community Project EOL's

Weed management – Dodges Ferry Recreational Reserve

World Wetland Day events-(Clarence City Council event)

World Wetland Day events- (Glamorgan Spring Bay event)

## Sustainable Management Practices

Dairy Cares for the Derwent (also NI Grant supported)

Healthy Horse and Land Expo

Naturally Inspired Grants Round 9 – Landowners/Sustainable Agriculture

NRM Facilitator Network – landholder support

Pasture Principles

Plant Identification and Pasture Management Workshop

POMS Oyster monitoring – Culturally Inspired

Principles of Drainage Workshop

Reducing Critical Weed Threats to High Priority Nature Conservation Areas in Kingborough – CVA on private land project

Sandy Soil Amelioration Trials

Serrated Tussock Monitoring and Management

Small Farm Planning Program – Huon and Channel

Soil nutrient mapping and nutrient use efficiency budgeting workshops



## COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2015-16 (TOTAL \$184,396)

### Naturally Inspired Grants (Community) Round 9 – recipients total \$55,996

Project Name	
Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group (KLAG) Inc	KLAG Apollo Bay Reserve Revegetation
Bruny Island Community Association Inc. (BICA)	Community-Based Wildlife and Feral Cat Monitoring on Bruny Island – A Pilot Program for Tasmania
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Bruny Island – A Tonne in Ten
Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI), Wildcare Inc	On-going Weed Control and Survey Program for Maatsuyker Island (Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area): 2016/17 season.
Midlands Tree Committee	Maintaining momentum – supporting revegetation projects in the Southern Midlands of Tasmania.
Orford Primary School	Orford's Natural Values Interpretive Walk
Friends of Tasman Island (Wildcare Inc)	Tasman Island: Continuation of Weed and Rubbish Management
Tranmere-Clarence Plains Land & Coastcare Inc	What Can We Find In Our Saltmarsh ?
Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc	'A Day on the Marsh' – Engaging community in the protection of our saltmarshes
Greening Australia Tasmania	Oatlands School community direct seeding trial and planting on the Oatlands School Farm
EDO Tasmania	EDO Waterways and the Law Guide (state-wide)
Tasmanian Land Conservancy	Enhancing World Heritage Area values at Five Rivers Reserve through community participation in weed control activities

### Naturally Inspired Grants (Landholder) Round 9 – recipients. Total \$65,587

Project Name	
Private landholder	Milford Farm conservation
Private landholder	Dairy Cares – improving effluent at Mount Cygnet Dairy
Private landholder	Clarendon Estate Riparian Improvement Project
Private landholder	Inghams Waterview Sanctuary Stage 2
Private landholder	Pasture management field trial to maximise grass production and increase biological activity, water filtration and soil carbon
Private landholder	Cross Creek restoration
Private landholder	Ellendale Spanish Heath Control and Trial Evaluation Project
Private landholder	Removal of declared weed and native revegetation for improved grazing management
Private landholder	Re-wilding White Kangaroo Rivulet to the Coal River junction
Private landholder	Agnes Creek creek restoration

Private landholder	Gorse eradication in White Kangaroo Rivulet riparian zone
Private landholder	Pasture & Orchard Restoration – Petchey's Bay Organic Farm
Private landholder	Final Stage – Fencing of native Remnants, exclusion of cattle grazing, and reduction in browsing animal impacts on river flat affecting productivity.

### **Naturally Inspired Bite-sized Grants (\$7,384)**

### **Project Name**

MacKillop Catholic College	Tennison Woods EcoCentre Indigenous garden
Lewisham Foreshore management association	Removal of remnant tea tree groyne stakes and building rubble along the Lewisham Foreshore
Friends of Mt Field Wildcare	Tyenna River Revegetation
Friends of Peter Murrell Reserve	Purchasing equipment and herbicide to support monthly working bees
Tasman Landcare Group	Raising awareness of Landcare and NRM programs in the Tasman Catchment
Southern Beaches Land & Coastcare	Blackberry control at Jacks Flat stage 2
Tranmere Clarence Plains Land & Coastcare	Supporting our NI grant project – Buffering the Clarence Plains Saltmarsh
Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet	Reed Planting along the Sandy Bay Rivulet and Community Newsletter
Catholic Parish of Sandy Bay and Taroona	Native garden rehabilitation
Friends of Maatsuyker Island	Printing of Art Card series as a fundraiser for the Friends of Maatsuyker Island
Snug Primary School	Bush Tucker Garden
Lansdowne Crescent Primary School	Native animal monitoring in school grounds
New Norfolk Scout Association	New Norfolk Scouts Environmental Badge
Bellerive Primary School	Recycle and Reuse for Renewal
Birdlife Tasmania	Enabling community-supported shorebird education year round
Tasmanian Land Conservancy	Maintaining the natural values of Lutregala Marsh Reserve, Bruny Island

### **Culturally Inspired Grants (\$25,000)**

### **Project Name**

palawa Community	Ensuring the long term viability of kelp craft and cultural harvesting practices
pakana Services	Building skills in the monitoring of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS)
palawa Aboriginal Corporation	Supporting On Country visits for Youth to engage in Aboriginal Culture
Park Beach Surf Riders	Creating an Aboriginal Culturally inspired Community Gathering area at Park Beach
weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation	Developing a plan to reduce fuel in threatened species habitat, while protecting important habitat values

## Waterways and Coasts – Community Projects(\$25,160)

	Project Name
Cameron of Tasmania Pty Ltd	Develop and implement a farm biosecurity plan to allow resumption of oyster spat production
Derwent Sailing Squadron	Replacement of high profile and high impact moorings with an eco-mooring
Orford Community Group (OCG)	Reduce the threats from humans and dogs on Hooded Plovers (HP) and Fairy Terns (FT)
Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania	Replacement of high profile and high impact moorings with an eco-mooring
Saltwater River Premaydena Coastcare/ Tasman Council (sponsor)	Raise the profile of the Norfolk Bay Saltmarsh Coastal Complex, and it's values and threats through signage and awareness event
SeaPerfect Pty Ltd	Implement new biosecurity procedures on Little Swanport farm and share information nationally.

## Biosecurity Infrastructure – Community Projects (\$5,269)

	Project Name
Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens	Biosecurity signage, kits and volunteer training for seed collection activities
Huon Agricultural Society	Mobile washdown and signage for Huon Agricultural Show
Endorfun	Mobile washdown and signage for trail running events in National Parks



## COMMUNITY EVENTS DELIVERED IN 2015-16 (358 EVENTS)

## PARTICIPANTS

**Build Data and Share Knowledge**

Climate Change Knowledge Forum	61
Celebrating Partnerships Event	60
Annual General Meeting	50
Vegetation Condition Assessment training	14
World Wetland Day Bird and saltmarsh walk and talk	9
Mammal monitoring (Ridgeway Park Hobart)	8
Saltmarsh monitoring	7
Mammal Monitoring Workshop	10
Saltmarsh flora survey – Boomers Marsh	15
19th Australasian Bat Conference Field Day	42
Statewide Planning Scheme: Stormwater workshop	20
Statewide Planning Scheme: Natural Assets Code workshop	20
Saltmarsh Training and Survey – Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare	19
Mammal Monitoring	8
Saltmarsh monitoring and training (at Shark Point Rd)	9
Saltmarsh monitoring and training (at Sorell Council)	8

**Working On Country with Aboriginal Communities**

Aboriginal Engagement Forum	18
Cultural Awareness Training	20

**Build Community Capacity and Engagement**

National Tree Day – Tasman Landcare Group	8
Engaging Young People workshop	4
Spring Bay Childcare Centre Fair	4
UTAS community engagement grant discussion	1
Bushfire Risk Forum	3
Landcare Tasmania Conferance Field trips	8
Tasmanian Wildlife Fair	8
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee AGM	3
Heathy Hills weeding working bee and flora survey	5
Stepping into the Future	8
Clarence Seafarers Festival	8
Huon Show	8
Taroona Seaside Festival	5
Bushfest	16
Kids4Kids Conference	8
Triabunna Harvest Festival	4
Swansea Country Fair	5
Bicheno Fuel Reduction Forum	4
Bonorong Wildlife Forum	4
Naturally Inspired – Community Groups Grant Writing Workshop	17
UTAS Cares O Week	50
Koonya Garlic Festival	20
Understorey Network thankyou to Sponsorship support	10
Seafest	200

Bream Creek Show	30
Small Farms Expo	60
Young people's Tasman Activity Booklet	7
Go Batty at Calvert Park	49
Volunteer Week celebration and photo exhibition(entrants and sponsors)	50
Parks and Wildlife Service Wildcare Volunteers thankyou event	50
Dairy Forum	6
Roaring Beach Coastcare	10
Whale Viewing Area Opening	20
Invasive species day	14
Community Wellness Expo	20

## High Value Species, Places and Communities

Threatened grasses training	15
Best Practice Weed Management Workshop	8
East Risdon threatened flora survey	14
Heathy Hills weeding working bee and flora survey	7
Township Lagoon Weeding working bee and grassland paper daisy survey	4
Milford Caladenia saggicola monitoring	7
Milford – Prasophyllum milfordense monitoring	3
Threatened grasses training	15
Coles Bay flora survey	16
Kingston orchid survey	6
Conservation Landholders Tasmania – Bird Conservation Forum	35
Weeding working bee – Amy st Reserve	5
Jordan Nature Reserve weeding working bee	5
Mt Wellington Euphrasia survey	9
Men's Shed capacity building – volunteer co-ordination	10
Orchid conservation activities *	8
Boomers Marsh threatened flora survey	13
Moulting Lagoon Bird Count	0
Dropping pine survey – Mt Field East	9
Heathy Hills weeding and monitoring working bee 2	3
GPS training: 4 session course *	13
Ecological Burning forum – Conservation Landholder Tasmania	60
Sedges training	16
White gum regeneration trial monitoring field trip	10
Murrayfield fuel reduction burning and threatened species workshop	19

## Biosecurity Practices

Fortescue Bay Trail Run	140
Green Army Biosecurity training	9
Biosecurity Network action planning meeting	10
Hellfire Cup	200
Biosecurity video workshop	10
Discovery Ranger training and induction – Biosecurity activities	15
Tarkine BioBlitz	100
Trout Guides and Lodges Didymo prevention training	9
Field trips for landcare conference	40

Field trips for Sprout Cross-pollinate conference	40
Biosecurity Network meeting	10
Discovery Rangers – Spirit of Tasmania presentations and roves (80 events)	3165
Discovery Rangers – Hobart airport roves and displays (2 events)	161
Discovery Rangers – Discovery Table and rove (13 events)	743
Discovery Ranger – Maria Island Ferry presentation (2 events)	65
Agfest	57
Liawenee Trout weekend	23
Green Army Biosecurity Training	9
Endorfun Freycinet run*	188
Invasive Species Forum -Orford	14

## Waterways and Coastal Areas

Eaglehawk Neck Gala Fair	25
Meeting with Vishnu Prahalad	1
Saltmarsh Matters Monitoring training for community (part of Landcare conference)	11
Derwent Catchment monitoring program	8
Spotted handfish recovery workshop	10
South East Regional Shorebirds Alliance meeting	9
World Wetlands Day Steering Committee meeting	6
National Estuaries Network	18
World Wetlands Day Steering Committee	6
Discovery Rangers training	18
World Wetlands Day Steering Committee	4
Discovery ranger engagement activities ( beach roves, airport, Spirit of Tasmania) 97 events	4014
Coles Bay Community Market	70
Bicheno Market	21
Spotted handfish recovery workshop	8
Oyster Smash	25
World Wetland Day Dogs Breakfast	1
World Wetlands Day (Pitt Water and Orielton Lagoon)	100
World Wetlands Day (Browns River wetlands)	50
World Wetlands Day (Moulting Lagoon)	90
Penguin awareness	70
Shorebird awareness raising	16
FRDC Project 2015-024 (Managing ecosystem interactions): Community Reference Group meeting	7
Water Quality Improvement Planning workshop	30
Love Living Locally	100
Eaglehawk Neck Gala Fair	25
Restoration of Pioneers Park Rivulet walk	9
Angasi (native oyster) reef restoration workshop	22
South East Regional Shorebirds Alliance meeting	9
Stormwater and sediment control training	12
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform: meeting and field trip	17
Stormwater and sediment control training	8



Shipwrights Point – tree planting with Sacred Hearts Catholic School, Geeveston	181
Derwent Catchment Working Group	8
Restoration Planting	8
Spotted handfish recovery workshop	8
Restoration Planting	20
Mienna Park Restoration Project	8

## Sustainable Management Practices

Engaging with Science: A professional development and networking	100
From Drought to Winter	10
Healthy Horse and Land Expo	140
Introduction to Best Practice Weed Management Workshop	10
Midlands Tree Committee AGM – presentation on fungi on farms	7
Naturally Inspired – Landowner Grant Writing Workshop	8
NIG9 Landowner Grants Application Writing Workshop	8
NRM South RLF and Sustainable Agriculture Reference Group Meetings ( 2)	8
Pasture Principals field day – Derwent	8
Pasture Principals field day-Tasman	10
Plant Identification and Pasture Management Workshop – Huon	41
Principles of Drainage Workshop	25
Serrated Tussock engagement	40
Small Farm Planning Program – Huon-Channel 1-5	
- Workshop 1: property planning (21)	
- Workshop 2: soil and water (20)	
- Workshop 3: pasture and animal management (20)	
- Workshop 4: marketing and holistic grazing management (22)	
- Workshop 5: weeds, revegetation, native vegetation, planning, networks (26)™	26
Soil Nutrient Mapping and Soil Nutrient Efficiency Budgeting Workshop – Hamilton	27
Soil Nutrient Mapping and Soil Nutrient Efficiency Budgeting Workshop – Bruny Island	15
Soil Nutrient Use Efficiency Workshop-Oatlands	15
Soil Science Australia's Mike Temple-Smith Lecture and Q and A	50
The real dirt on small scale farming TWI event	45
Woody Weed Management Workshop	29
Woody weeds follow-up information session for Kingborough landowners.	12
Cattle Breeds and Management	29
Livestock fencing under centre pivot irrigation	9

<b>Total</b>	<b>12,168</b>
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## PARTNERS WE WORK WITH

AgAssist

Antarctic Climate and  
Ecosystems CRC

Australian Government  
representative

Australian Wool Innovation

Belinda's Natural Therapies

Bicheno Earth and Ocean

BirdLife Tasmania

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary

Bookend Trust

Bruny Island Boat Club

Bruny Island Environment Network

Bureau of Meteorology

Bush Heritage Australia

Cassandra Strain

Castle Forbes Bay Landcare

Central North Field Naturalists

Clarence City Council

Coal Valley Products Association

Community groups in  
Southern Tasmania

Conservation Landholders  
Tasmania

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Conservation Volunteers Tasmania

Cooee Communications

Country Womens Association  
– North Bruny

Cradle Coast NRM( Regional  
NRM Organisation)

Crown Land Services

CSIRO

Dairy Tasmania

Department of State Growth

Derwent Catchment  
NRM Committee

Derwent Estuary Program

Devils Corner Vineyard

DIER – Department of State Growth

Dodges Ferry Tasmanian  
Fire Service

DPIPWE (Biosecurity Tasmania)

DPIPWE (Natural and  
Cultural Heritage)

DPIPWE (Natural Values  
Conservation Branch)

DPIPWE (Threatened Species  
and marine section)

East Coast Producers Association

Ecological Society of Australia

Endorfun

Enviro dynamics

Environmental Defenders Office

Esk Mapping and GIS

Federal Group's "Community  
Cares" volunteers

Festival of Bright Ideas

Forestry Tasmania

Freycinet Lodge

Friends of Rocky Hills

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian  
Botanical Gardens

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Glenorchy City Council

Green Army

Greening Australia

Habitat Nursery

Harvey Norman Hobart

Hellfire Cup

Huon Agricultural Society

Huon Aquaculture

Huon Valley Council

Huon Valley Producers Network

Huon Valley Roamers

Hydro Tasmania

Indigenous Land Corporation

Inland Fisheries Service

Institute of Marine and  
Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

Karadi Aboriginal Corporation

Kingborough Council

Koonya Garlic Festival

Landcare Tasmania

Larks Distillery

Livestock Biosecurity Network

Local Government  
Association of Tasmania

Macquarie Franklin

MB Equine

Meat and Livestock Australia

Melshell Oysters

Midlands Pony Club

Mountain Trails

Mulong Pty Ltd

Natural Horse World

NRM North (Regional  
NRM Organisation)

NRM South Board

pakana Services

palawa Aboriginal Community

Par Avion

Parrdarrama Pungenna  
Aboriginal Corporation

Pennicott Wilderness Journeys

Pitt Water Orielton Wildcare group

Plants of Tasmania Nursery

Port Phillip Westernport CMA

Private Forests Tasmania

Redlands estate

RM Consulting Group

Royal Tasmanian  
Botanical Gardens

Sense T

Shutterbug Walkabout

Sonia Singh Tree Change Dolls

Sorell Council

South East Regional  
Shorebirds alliance

South East Tasmania  
Aboriginal Corporation

Southern Beaches  
Coastcare Landcare

Southern Coastcare  
Association of Tasmania

Sprout

Sustainability Learning Centre

Tasman Council

Tasman Landcare Group

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Tasmanian Aboriginal  
Land and Sea Council

Tasmanian Farmers and  
Grazing Association

Tasmanian Fire Service

Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Tasmanian Parks and  
Wildlife Service

Tasmanian Parks and  
Wildlife Service – Discovery

Ranger Program

Tasmanian Women in Agriculture

Tasmanian Writers Centre

TasNetworks

Tassal

TasWater

Terrain NRM

The Bend Vineyard

The Understorey Network

Threatened Plants Tasmania

Tourism Tasmania

University of Tasmania

UTAS CARES

Volunteering Tasmania

Wayne Barbour-Territory Natural  
Resource Management

weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation

White Beach Coastcare

Wild Ecology

Wildcare Inc

Wineglass Bay Cruises

## MULTIPLE PARTNERS

Private landholders

Schools (Dunalley PS, Eaglehawk  
Neck PS, Swansea PS, Sorell PS,  
Sacred Heart PS and others)





# Financial Statements

For the Year Ended  
30 June 2016



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	61
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	62
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	63
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	64
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	65
STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD	73

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

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	NOTES	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue	2	2,083,014	2,261,650
Other Income	2	355,277	108,356
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>2,438,291</b>	<b>2,370,006</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Project Expenses		1,253,276	926,519
Employee Benefits Expenses		749,436	997,728
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	6	22,271	50,729
Administrative and Other Expenses		326,339	318,418
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>2,351,322</b>	<b>2,293,394</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period</b>		<b>86,969</b>	<b>76,612</b>
Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Projects Reserve	10	(350,411)	(279,601)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<b>(263,442)</b>	<b>(202,989)</b>

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

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	NOTES	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	2,396,520	2,521,852
Trade and Other Receivables	4	56,939	47,698
Prepayments	5	22,731	21,429
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,476,190</b>	<b>2,590,979</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and Equipment	6	63,467	85,088
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>63,467</b>	<b>85,088</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,539,657</b>	<b>2,676,067</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	7	305,810	163,688
Employee Benefits	8	54,816	62,283
Support for pakana services	13	-	15,297
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>360,626</b>	<b>241,268</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee Benefits	8	19,638	11,884
Provisions	9	-	80
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>19,638</b>	<b>11,964</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>380,264</b>	<b>253,232</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,159,393</b>	<b>2,422,835</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		1,415,200	1,328,231
Committed Projects Reserve	10	744,193	1,094,604
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>2,159,393</b>	<b>2,422,835</b>

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 2016

	RETAINED EARNINGS	COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>1,251,619</b>	<b>1,374,205</b>	<b>2,625,824</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	76,612	-	76,612
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	(279,601)	(279,601)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>1,328,231</b>	<b>1,094,604</b>	<b>2,422,835</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	86,969	-	86,969
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	(350,411)	(350,411)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>1,415,200</b>	<b>744,193</b>	<b>2,159,393</b>

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



## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	NOTES	2016	2015
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from Grants/Members		2,032,457	2,210,769
Interest Received		80,182	88,366
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(2,241,769)	(2,589,593)
<b>Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities</b>	<b>12(a)</b>	<b>(129,130)</b>	<b>(290,458)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Proceeds from Sale of Plant and Equipment		24,564	16,455
Purchase of Plant and Equipment		(5,389)	(11,377)
<b>Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities</b>		<b>19,175</b>	<b>5,078</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Financial Support for pakana services		(15,377)	19,890
<b>Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities</b>		<b>(15,377)</b>	<b>19,890</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held</b>		<b>(125,332)</b>	<b>(265,490)</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year		2,521,852	2,787,342
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year</b>	<b>12(b)</b>	<b>2,396,520</b>	<b>2,521,852</b>

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 2015

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania). 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.

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

#### a) Revenue

Grants revenue is recognised in the Statement of 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. If conditions are attached to the specific grant which must be satisfied, the amount is recognised as a liability until those conditions are met.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon delivery of the service to the customer.

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

#### b) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### c) Trade and Other Receivables

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.

#### d) Plant and Equipment

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 2015 financial year were:

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

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.

#### e) Impairment

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.

#### f) Trade and Other Payables

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.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

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### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

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#### g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

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.

#### h) Employee Benefits

##### *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.

##### *Defined Contribution Superannuation Expense*

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

#### i) 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.

#### j) Economic Dependence

The Association is dependent on the Australian Government for the majority of its revenue used to operate the organisation. At the date of this report, the Board of the Association has no reason to believe the Australian Government will not continue to support the organisation.

#### k) Comparative Figures

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

#### l) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The Board evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into these Financial Statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Whilst estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis, actual results may differ.

##### *Key Estimates*

##### *a. Impairment*

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

##### *b. Estimation of Useful Lives of Assets*

The Association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its plant and equipment and intangible assets with a finite life. Useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event.

##### *Key Judgements*

##### *a. Employee Benefits*

As the Association expects that all of its employees would 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.

#### m) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

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 2016

### 2. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<i>Revenue</i>		
Grants and Subsidies – Government and Other Organisations	2,083,014	2,261,650
<b>Total Grant Revenue</b>	<b>2,083,014</b>	<b>2,261,650</b>
<i>Other Income</i>		
Interest Received	72,461	89,947
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Plant and Equipment	19,824	10,430
Other Income	262,992	7,979
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>355,277</b>	<b>108,356</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>2,438,291</b>	<b>2,370,006</b>

### 3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash on Hand	190	352
Cash at Bank	554,548	530,093
Cash on Deposit	1,841,782	1,991,407
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>2,396,520</b>	<b>2,521,852</b>

### 4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Trade Debtors	14,720	-
Other Debtors	3,841	11,561
GST Receivable	38,378	36,137
<b>TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>	<b>56,939</b>	<b>47,698</b>



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

### 5. PREPAYMENTS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Prepaid Insurance	15,107	15,192
Prepaid Rent	6,385	6,237
Other Prepayments	1,239	-
<b>TOTAL PREPAYMENTS</b>	<b>22,731</b>	<b>21,429</b>

### 6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Plant and Equipment	107,364	189,878
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(91,924)	(168,130)
	15,440	21,748
Furniture and Fittings	39,414	41,099
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(24,254)	(22,834)
	15,160	18,265
Website Development	50,490	50,490
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(50,490)	(50,490)
	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	8,078	8,078
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,489)	(1,287)
	6,589	6,791
Project Related Assets	6,178	105,218
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(6,178)	(104,941)
	-	277
Motor Vehicles	48,444	82,878
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(22,166)	(44,871)
	26,278	38,007
<b>TOTAL PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>63,467</b>	<b>85,088</b>

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 2016

### 6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT CONTINUED

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

	PLANT & EQUIP- MENT \$	FURNITURE & FITTINGS \$	WEBSITE \$	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS \$	PROJECT RELATED ASSETS \$	MOTOR VEHICLES \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2014	36,581	13,885	367	6,993	15,430	61,802	135,058
Additions	4,221	7,156	-	-	-	-	11,377
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	6,025	6,025
Transfer to pakana services					4,593		4,593
Depreciation	19,054	2,776	367	202	10,560	17,770	50,729
Balance at 30 June 2015	21,748	18,265	-	6,791	277	38,007	85,088
Additions	645	1,145	-	-	-	3,599	5,389
Disposals	123	1,029	-	-	-	3,587	4,739
Depreciation	6,830	3,221	-	202	277	11,741	22,271
Balance at 30 June 2016	15,440	15,160	-	6,589	-	26,278	63,467

### 7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Trade Creditors	241,501	107,757
Other Current Liabilities	32,122	38,597
PAYG Withholding Payable	32,187	17,334
<b>TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>	<b>305,810</b>	<b>163,688</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

### 8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<i>Current</i>		
Provision For Annual Leave	54,816	62,283
<b>Total Current Employee Benefits</b>	<b>54,816</b>	<b>62,283</b>
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	19,638	11,884
<b>Total Non-Current Employee Benefits</b>	<b>19,638</b>	<b>11,884</b>
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>74,454</b>	<b>74,167</b>

### 9. PROVISIONS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Member's Guarantee Contribution to pakana services	-	80
<b>TOTAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>80</b>

### 10. RESERVES

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>Committed Projects Reserve</b>		
NRM Planning for Climate Change (Stream 1)	-	25,363
National Landcare Programme	136,155	311,558
Volunteer Training Collaboration	2,936	4,304
Rapid Eye Imagery Contribution	-	75,000
Essential Projects and Administration	579,160	650,383
D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration	29,369	28,386
Green Army	(3,427)	(390)
Total Committed Projects Reserve	744,193	1,094,604
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>744,193</b>	<b>1,094,604</b>

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 2015

### 11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

In 2014/15, BDO Audit (TAS) were the Auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Amounts paid or due and payable to BDO Audit (TAS) for the current year: Audit of Financial Reports and Grant Acquittals	12,500	11,200
	12,500	11,200

### 12. CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>a) Reconciliation of Surplus to Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Surplus from Ordinary Activities	86,969	76,612
<i>Non-Cash Flows</i>		
Depreciation and Amortisation	22,271	50,729
Profit on Sale of Plant and Equipment	(19,824)	(10,430)
Movement in Committed Projects Reserve	(350,411)	(279,601)
<i>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(6,999)	121,691
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	(1,302)	12,418
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	139,879	(265,192)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	287	3,315
<b>Cash Flows Provided by/(Used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>(129,130)</b>	<b>(290,458)</b>
<b>b) Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
<i>Cash Balance Comprises:</i>		
Cash at Bank	554,548	530,144
Cash on Hand	190	352
Term Deposits Held	1,841,782	1,991,407
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>2,396,520</b>	<b>2,521,903</b>



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

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### 13. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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Since the 2014 financial year, Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. has hosted the developing social enterprise pakana services Ltd, which employs aboriginal people working in land management and conservation. This hosting arrangement included the provision of cash flow assistance to the enterprise. A new hosting arrangement was negotiated during the current financial year which resulted in pakana services Ltd transitioning to an independent operation and no longer requiring cash flow assistance.

### 14. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

### 15. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

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

### 16. ASSOCIATION DETAILS

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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 2015

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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 2016 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 **Max Kitchell**

Dated this 1 day of September



Deputy Chair **Howel Williams**

Dated this 1 day of September

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, the income statement, profit and loss statement with appropriation statement, statement of cash flows and statement of recognised income and expense for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and statement by members of the board.

### Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

### Opinion

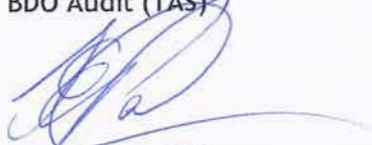
In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc as at 30 June 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania).

### Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

*BDO Audit (TAS)*

BDO Audit (TAS)



DAVID E PALMER

Partner

Signed at Hobart, dated this *5<sup>th</sup>* day of September 2016









Cover page image by Mieka Tabart, submitted as part of a Volunteer Week Photography Competition. The image features volunteer Col Rowe (pictured) working to remove yarrow from Tasman Island with Wildcare Friends of Tasman Island. Col has been working as a volunteer for the last 25 years and is a shining example of the hard work that many Tasmanians are doing behind the scenes.



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2015-16 regional NRM delivery was jointly funded by NRM South, the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the Tasmanian State Government.