

ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010

ABOUT US

NRM South was established in May 2003 under the *Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002* and is responsible for developing a shared strategy for natural resource management in Southern Tasmania.

NRM South applies the strategy by working and engaging with all three tiers of government, industry and the community to protect and enhance Southern Tasmania's land, freshwater, coastal and marine environments and the variety of life they support.

NRM South is one of three regional natural resource management bodies operating across Tasmania and part of a national network of 56 similar bodies.



NRM South is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country and the Tasmanian Government.

CONTENTS

From the Chair	2
From the Chief Executive Officer	3
NRM South Overview.....	4
Stakeholders	6
Membership.....	7
Snapshots	8
Year in Review.....	10
Results and Achievements	12
Healthy Catchments & Coasts	13
Summary of Key Achievements Across	14
the Five Priority Areas	
Knowledge & Information.....	16
Communications & Engagement	18
Partnerships & Business Development.....	24
Review of Southern Regional NRM Strategy	26
Governance and Structure	27
Our People and Organisation	31
Financials	33
Income Statement	35
Balance Sheet	36
Independent Auditor's Report	44

FROM THE CHAIR



... a year of progress and success in both strategy and execution.

We are pleased to present the Annual Report for 2009-2010. It captures a year of progress and success in both strategy and execution. The year can best be characterised as building on NRM South's strong foundations, including consolidating our funding, strategic direction, organisational structure and how we operate.

A major focus was facilitating the review of the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Strategy. We assessed the achievements of the previous strategy as well as the changes in the operating environment for natural resource management (NRM) over the past five years. The review involved listening to the community and working together to develop a strategic framework that will guide us all in developing implementation activities for the next five years. The process also reinforced a shared commitment to, and knowledge of, NRM. You can read more about the strategy review in this report.

The Board and staff have continued to strengthen relationships and partnerships with the community through many projects but of particular note is the second year of the Naturally Inspired Grants Program – supporting local groups and volunteers with targeted funding to achieve tangible, on-ground outcomes. I have been impressed by the long-term commitment of volunteer groups and delighted that NRM South has been able to support their efforts through this program.

This year saw the first part of a two stage process to create a new governance structure. Changes to the Board included reducing the number of members while retaining diverse skills and talent. All Board members participated in the Australian Institute of Company Director's 'In-Boardroom' training that clarified the roles and responsibilities of directors in setting strategic direction and overseeing risk management. Board and organisational reporting processes improved greatly as a result of this training, paving the way for a very successful year.

This work coincided with refining NRM South's Corporate Plan 2010-2015, outlining our collective responsibilities and, importantly, identifying key success measures. The Plan guides the organisation in reporting to the Board and also communicates to all the role of NRM South and how it contributes to the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Strategy.

In 2009-2010, NRM South has been influential beyond our region through our efforts in statewide and national initiatives. This helps to position us well with funders and has contributed to NRM South being highly valued as a resource for NRM knowledge. Staff capacity also increased through exchanging knowledge and learning. Key activities included participating in the National NRM Knowledge forum, active involvement in the National NRM Working Group, convening the Tasmanian Chairs group and sharing our experience and raising our profile with the Australian Government. Through all these activities I believe we have extended networks and established a reputation of great value for the future.

NRM South's success is due in large part to our funders and partners, in particular the State and Australian Governments. The strong commitment of our management and staff is reflected in the many achievements described in this report. Underpinning this are the Members of the Association and the numerous organisations, individuals and volunteers involved in natural resource management. I thank long-term board members who are retiring this year. Tony Ferrier, Helen Pryor and Maria Weeding, and Cam Crawford and Rosemary Sandford who resigned earlier in the year, have all made strong contributions to the Board over many years.

My term also ends this year and I wish NRM South, the incoming Board members and Chair, the staff and all involved in NRM the very best. I believe that we are leaving NRM South in a good position; financially we are very strong, we have a committed team and a clear sense of direction from our Corporate Plan and the regional strategy. There will be ongoing challenges but these will be far outweighed by the rich rewards of natural resource management.

Dr Christine Mucha

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



... I have observed an increased profile and awareness of the importance of natural resource management.

This year completes my first 18 months as CEO of NRM South. In that time I have observed an increased profile and awareness of the importance of natural resource management, a tangible impact on the ground, and growing confidence and determination to make a positive and enduring difference.

One of the highlights for me in moving to Tasmania was experiencing the shared commitment to NRM from across the community. I am still struck by the persistence and dedication of so many volunteer community groups and individuals and I continue to look for more ways to support their efforts.

I am pleased to be able to report key achievements across all our program areas;

- Delivering strategic, on-ground outcomes through our Healthy Catchments & Coasts program including major successes such as willow removal in the Mountain River catchment
- Sharing information through projects such as the *Keeping it Clean* manual that enlist organisations and individuals in preventing the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens
- Inspiring action - for example, the high level of land manager engagement in the Living Soils project
- Building partnerships through continued work with over 100 community groups and all 12 Southern Councils.

NRM South has moved from strength to strength this year. The appointment of Vani Welling as Operations Manager in January enabled us to develop new management and reporting systems, and increase our organisational effectiveness. This internal work means we are better able to deliver NRM outcomes across the region and as a result we are well placed to implement current programs and meet new challenges. We have now completed and acquitted all projects remaining from previous Commonwealth funding programs and have actively pursued the development of new programs as part of the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country.

NRM South staff have intensified their efforts. As I read this report I am really proud of their achievements, especially in providing information to, and engaging with, the diverse community that comprises Southern Tasmania. They have worked tirelessly to complete projects, discover new ways of integrating NRM information, build new partnerships and, importantly, deliver results on the ground.

I am sorry to be losing long-term Board members this year, especially our Chair, Christine Mucha. I appreciate the solid support they have given me in establishing myself in the CEO role. They leave the organisation in a good position with a strong sense of direction encapsulated in the Regional Strategy and the Corporate Plan, solid governance, and with keen incoming Board members who are sure to be able to continue the good work.

I look forward to working with you again in the year ahead to move us significantly closer to our shared vision to protect, manage and improve our region's outstanding natural values.

Dr Kathleen Broderick

NRM SOUTH OVERVIEW



OUR REGION

Our region is one of the most environmentally diverse areas anywhere in Australia, with abundant natural resources.

It features river systems and lakes in near pristine condition, 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 looking out to hundreds of offshore islands and stacks.

Encompassing the World Heritage Areas of the South-West Wilderness and Macquarie Island, four Ramsar-listed wetlands, seven national parks, 22 marine and 55 forest reserves, it includes a wide array of varying ecosystems with high terrestrial, estuarine and marine biodiversity.

Covering 2.5 million hectares, it spans the cities of Clarence, Glenorchy and Hobart, the urban municipalities of Brighton, Kingborough and Sorell and the rural municipalities of Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Huon Valley, Southern Midlands and Tasman.

The region's wealth of natural resources underpins its economic, social and environmental well-being, with its richness and diversity of natural resources presenting both opportunities and challenges.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our region supports almost half of Tasmania's population of 500,000 and includes Hobart and its urban fringes as well as rural towns and hamlets. Its political boundaries include the electoral divisions of Franklin, Denison and roughly one third of Lyons.

Our community is diverse, covering a broad social and demographic spectrum, and employed in a wide variety of industries from aquaculture to government administration, scientific research to renewable energy production. Some eighty-five per cent live in Greater Hobart with fifteen per cent based on farms and in rural towns.

They are energetic volunteers, with over one hundred local community groups caring for bushland, coastal areas and cultural heritage. In rural areas, active landholder and primary producer groups are also working to improve the management and condition of natural resources.

Our established industries, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism, all rely on the region's economy and identity.

OUR FOCUS

Our focus is guided by the Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania – a shared strategy for integrated natural resource management across Southern Tasmania.

The strategy was first developed with the community and natural resource management stakeholders across Southern Tasmania, accredited in May 2005 by the Australian Government and ratified by the Tasmanian Minister for Primary Industries and Water. As required by the *Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, NRM South facilitated a review of the strategy during 2009-2010 and developed a new regional strategy to guide our work and that of many others over the next five years.

NRM South pursues the shared vision articulated for the region in the Strategy;

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.

In pursuing this vision we focus on three key priorities;

- Building partnerships
- Delivering effective and well targeted programs and services
- Sharing knowledge and inspiring action to improve regional natural resource management.



OUR PROGRAMS

To deliver on our strategic priorities, NRM South delivers, supports and facilitates a wide range of projects and activities under the programs of;

- Healthy Catchments & Coasts
- Knowledge Management
- Communications & Engagement
- Partnerships & Business Development.

... we share
responsibility
for managing
natural resources
sustainably, and for
providing economic
resources to do so.

Previous page from left: Coastal wetlands at Moulting Lagoon (left), At higher altitude snow-drift marks the edge of the sub-alpine and alpine (centre), Rare butterflies inhabit the Central Plateau.

Top: Community members learn about Aboriginal coastal values.

OUR GUIDE

NRM South is guided by seven principles for natural resource management from the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework. These help focus decisions and action and ensure we achieve the greatest benefit from the time, energy, skills and money that we and our partners invest in fostering our natural resources.

Ecosystem Approach - Natural resource management should be based on an understanding of the relationship between natural resources and the ecosystems they support, and upon careful monitoring of change over time.

Balanced Decisions - Natural resource management decisions should take proper account of the range of environmental, social and economic benefits, values and costs in accordance with the objectives of the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System.

Integrated Management - The management of natural resources should be integrated within regions and catchments, as well as across industry sectors, government agencies and specific issues.

Priority Based - Natural resource management actions are undertaken according to priorities that are based on the best available science and information and relevant experience, as well as on assessment of the relative cost-effectiveness of various options.

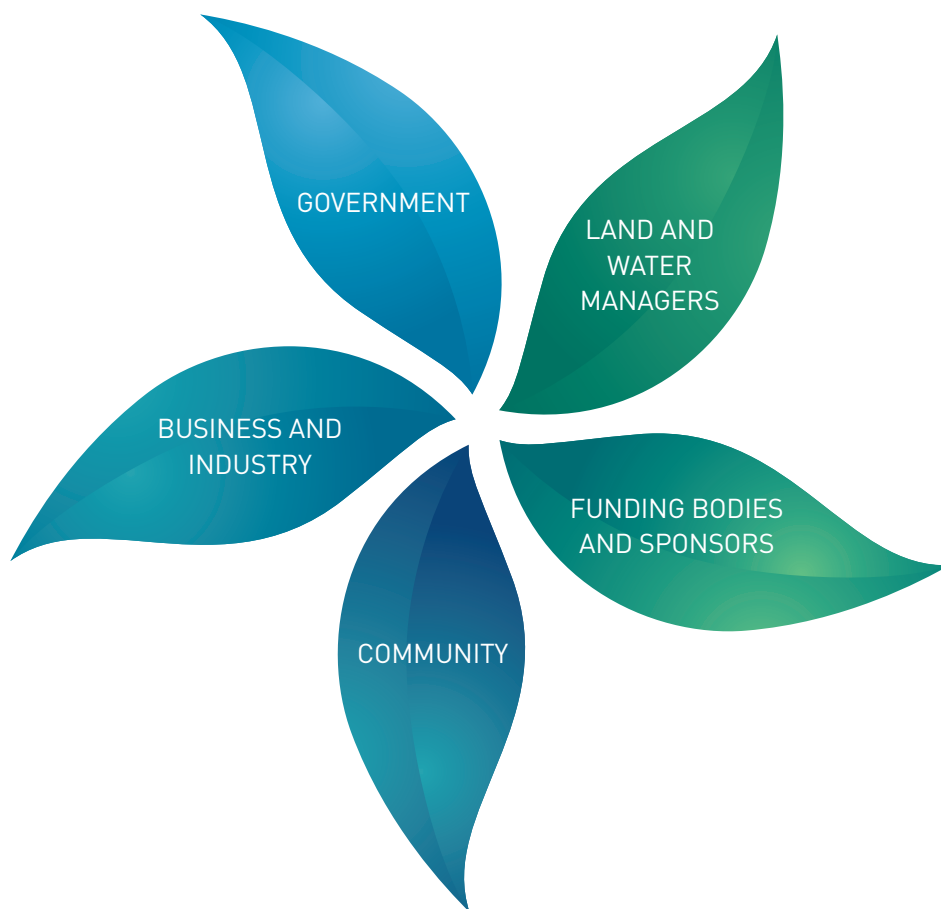
Prevention is Better than Cure - It is often more efficient to prevent damage rather than repair it. Therefore, where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Partnerships - To be effective, natural resource management requires partnerships between all levels of government and the community, including the Aboriginal community, industry, land holders and individuals with agreed roles and responsibilities.

We are ALL Responsible - All Tasmanians receive benefits from the use, development and conservation of natural resources: we share responsibility for managing natural resources sustainably and for providing economic resources to do so.

STAKEHOLDERS

NRM South's most valuable and powerful resource in achieving real and lasting natural resource management outcomes is the dedication and shared vision of its many stakeholders.



In managing Southern Tasmania's natural resources NRM South collaborates with a wide range of individuals and organisations.

These range from other NRM bodies, business and industry to land and water managers, from funding bodies and sponsors to every tier of government, and from the most seasoned community landcarers to children learning about their environment.

By working with our many stakeholders we can move confidently towards a healthy, resilient region that is sustainably managed for future generations.

Government

NRM South works with and on behalf of all tiers of government in meeting shared goals and objectives, including the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman Councils.

Land and Water Managers

The active involvement and cooperation of Southern Tasmania's major land and water managers is critical to improving the condition of Southern Tasmania's biophysical and freshwater assets. They include the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Inland Fisheries Service, Parks and Wildlife Service, Crown Land Services, Hydro Tasmania, Transend, Forest Practices Authority, Forestry Tasmania, Derwent Estuary Program, Southern Water, Wellington Park Trust, farmers and landowners.

Funding Bodies and Sponsors

We work closely with funding bodies and sponsors to ensure we deliver mutually beneficial outcomes. In 2009-2010 our financial supporters included both government and industry, represented by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, Landcare Australia and Woolworths.

Business and Industry

NRM South collaborates with business and industry to encourage use of management techniques and operating methods that foster sustainability. Partnerships include the Derwent Estuary Program, Forestry Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania, agribusinesses and primary producers.

Community

Our largest stakeholder group is the people of Southern Tasmania. We work on their behalf in striving for a healthy, resilient region. We build relationships across social, cultural and educational divides, with young and old, urban and rural, aboriginal and non-aboriginal, to ensure collective ownership of Southern Tasmania's natural values.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2009-2010 there were 49 organisations and individuals registered as financial members of the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association, representing local government, business, community groups, consultants and individuals.

Corporate Members

Birds Tasmania
Central Highlands Council
Clarence City Council
Coal River Products Association
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee
Department of Primary Industries,
Parks, Water and Environment
Eastcoast Regional Development
Organisation
Forest Industries Association of Tasmania
Forestry Tasmania
Forests and Forest Industry Council
Friends of Peter Murrell Reserve
GHD
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Greening Australia
Hobart City Council

Howden Landcare Group
Huon Resource Development Group
Huon Valley Council
Hydro Tasmania
Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group
Leaman Geophysics
Midlands Tree Committee
Mortimer Bay Coast Care Group
Mountain Festival
Onstream
Port Cygnet Land and Watercare Group
Private Forests Tasmania
Regnans Enviro Contracting
SFM Environmental Solutions
South Channel Coastcare
Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare
Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania
Southern Midlands Council

Southern Water
Sustainable Living Tasmania
Tasman Council
Tasman Landcare Group
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Tasmanian Land and Water Professionals
Tasmanian Landcare Association
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
Terrapix
Timber Communities Australia
Timber Communities Australia
(Huon Branch)
White Beach Landcare Group

Individual Members

Daniel Lester
Graham Flower
Vanessa Elwell-Gavins

SNAPSHOTS

NRM South works with a broad spectrum of issues, audiences and natural values. These 'snapshots' illustrate the diversity and reach of NRM South's initiatives in 2009-2010. Collectively they deliver our priority programs of Healthy Catchments & Coasts, Knowledge Management, Communications & Engagement and Partnerships & Business Development.



Increasing understanding and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage

Working in partnership with the Aboriginal community, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Palawa and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, NRM South presented a series of workshops to deepen coastal land managers' understanding of coastal Aboriginal values. The three workshops engaged nine coastcare groups, six local government representatives, two industry groups, five natural resource management consultants, two NRM Regions and two State Government agencies, and provided an opportunity to learn first-hand from the Aboriginal community about community cultural values.

Each full-day workshop included a 'Gumnuts to Buttons' session, presenting an Aboriginal perspective on Tasmanian history, and a field trip to a coastal Aboriginal cultural heritage site. Participants gained greater awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal cultural values and learned how to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, as well as the legal implications of failing to do so.

By building people's understanding and expertise, and fostering closer collaboration with the Aboriginal community, the workshops will help protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in coastal areas into the future.

Encouraging urban residents to "become natural resource managers"

NRM South ran a communication campaign over the summer aimed at everyone in greater Hobart and encouraging us all to make a positive difference to the region's natural values. The central message was that we can all be natural resource managers – whether by planting native trees to improve habitat, cleaning our boots before bushwalks to prevent the spread of weeds and diseases or by picking up rubbish from the beach to care for our wildlife.

The campaign featured local people and real activities around Hobart. Using a range of direct, engaging messages and the theme, "I work for NRM", the ads ran on buses, billboards and in local newspapers, encouraging everyone living in the region to "become a natural resource manager today".

The campaign highlighted that anyone can make a difference and demonstrated the importance of natural resource management and the work of NRM South to the urban population of greater Hobart.

Helping regional councils reduce erosion and run-off

NRM South has been supporting regional councils to prevent erosion and sediment run-off on council work sites in a number of practical ways. Working with the Derwent Estuary Program sediment and erosion control project, NRM South provided councils with;

- Sediment socks and filter bales to stop sediment run-off reaching stormwater drains and urban waterways
- Factsheets, information and advice to control erosion on building and worksites
- Hands-on workshops and training for council road and work crews, planning and development staff.

By using this equipment and applying these principles, councils and communities will further protect valuable topsoil and reduce sediment runoff, contributing to keeping our waterways free of turbidity.



Combating freshwater pests and pathogens

Protecting Southern Tasmania's freshwater species from the introduction and spread of freshwater pests and diseases is a key focus for NRM South. Threats include the potential introduction of didymo freshwater algae (Rock Snot) and the spread of existing conditions such as phytophthora root rot, chytrid fungus frog disease and platypus fungal disease. NRM South responded by working with key stakeholders to fund, develop and distribute a Field Hygiene Manual called *Keeping it Clean*.

Keeping it Clean was co-written by NRM South's Kaylene Allan and Hydro Tasmania's Simon Gartenstein and designed specifically for Tasmanian conditions. The manual and its hygiene protocols were developed primarily for use by agencies including the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Hydro Tasmania, Inland Fisheries Service (IFS), NRM bodies, Forestry Tasmania, regional water and sewerage corporations, local councils and the Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board who monitor and manage water quality in our waterways, wetlands, swamps and boggy areas. These are the organisations in the front-line of preventing, detecting and managing freshwater aquatic pests and pathogens.

The project was funded collaboratively by NRM South, Hydro Tasmania, NRM North and Cradle Coast NRM, with significant input and involvement from DPIPWE, Forestry Tasmania, IFS, Parks and Wildlife Service and Quarantine Tasmania.

Boosting soil health through new cropping techniques

Recognising that soil health is fundamental to sustainable agriculture, NRM South is supporting the development and trials of new approaches and new land management techniques across the agricultural sector.

In March we invited Central Western NSW farmer Colin Seis to present a seminar on his pasture cropping technique and to guide Tasmanian trials in the Midlands and Derwent Valley. Pasture cropping is an innovative land management system that combines cropping and grazing and where each activity benefits the other both economically and environmentally.

Successful seminars in Oatlands, Hamilton and Hobart were enthusiastically followed by additional events at Premaydena and Runnymede and gave the impetus to develop our two-day Living Soils Forum which focused on agricultural soil health.

Reaching out to rural lifestylers on the urban fringes

NRM South has developed a range of initiatives and resources aimed at the region's growing population of rural lifestylers – those living on 2-10 hectare blocks on the urban fringes who don't live off the land or consider themselves primary producers.

In June we ran a pilot targeting the Tinderbox area, presenting an informal Sunday workshop on managing land for lifestyle and for its natural values. Participants discussed a range of relevant topics with guest speakers from Kingborough Council, the Understorey Network, DPIPWE's Gardens for Wildlife Program and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. Subjects included the value of bushland, ecology on small blocks, weed management, land clearing and living with wildlife. Participants also had a guided walk and talk and took away a flyer with ten tips for how to achieve an environmental/lifestyle balance on their block.



YEAR IN REVIEW 2009-2010

July 2009



Start of projects and activities supported by the Naturally Inspired small grants program

Two-day Vegetation Condition Assessment training course

Woolworths Drought Landcare program delivers training workshop for agricultural extension officers

August 2009



Two community tree planting days on Bruny Island to restore Forty-spotted pardalote habitat

Woolworths Drought Landcare program delivers four 'Adapting to Drought' workshops with NRM North in Swansea, Longford and Campbell Town

Joint sponsorship with NRM North of Municipal Salinity Hazard workshop in Campbell Town

Over 60 agronomists, agricultural consultants and industry field officers attend NRM South and NRM North sponsored Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research Soil and Nutrient workshop in Campbell Town

September 2009



NRM South activities in Huon Valley featured at Huon Show

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness workshops at Sorell and Hobart

Present paper on Tasmanian River Condition Index at Riversymposium, Brisbane

Knowledge Sharing Forum for community NRM organisations

Sixteen Weeds of Southern Tasmania information sheets published

January 2010



Launch of new-look Naturally Inspired quarterly print newsletter

Software developed for better data capture of on-ground NRM activity, in collaboration with NRM North and Cradle Coast NRM

February 2010



Forty-spotted pardalote survey

NRM South's new, stand-alone website goes live

Australian Institute of Company Directors 'In Boardroom' training for NRM South Board Members

Acquisition of Rapid Eye aerial imagery for Southern Tasmania

Local Area Coordinator starts in Upper Derwent/Highland Lakes

Strategy Review consultation sessions with local government

March 2010



Pasture Cropping seminars with Colin Seis at Oatlands, Hamilton and Hobart

Agreement reached with DPIPW for access to Department's NRM data

Pittwater - Orielson lagoon community information session at Sorell

Coastal Erosion and Recession Community Forum

Partnership with STCA to demonstrate sediment and erosion control techniques and provide information on weed hygiene at Sustainable Building and Lifestyle Expo, Glenorchy.

Keeping it Clean freshwater pests and pathogens field hygiene manual published

Sponsorship of community attendance at National Landcare Forum, Adelaide

October 2009



Native Birds and Habitat workshops at Huntingfield and Bruny Island

Community Support Officer employed in partnership with Southern Coastcare Association

First of 12 Sediment and Erosion Control workshops for regional councils

Southern Tasmanian Spring/Summer Weed Blitz begins

Woolworths Drought Adaptive Landcare Program farmer incentives available

November 2009



Tree Decline Toolbox launched at Oatlands

Creeping Backyards information sheets published

Attendance at Derwent Symposium and participation as panellist

Tasmanian River Condition Index launched at North West Bay River, Margate

Community consultation workshops for Regional Strategy review in Bothwell, Hobart, Buckland and Eaglehawk Neck

Mountain to Marine, Huon and Swan Apsley/Little Swanport Priority Area brochures published

Sponsorship and attendance at Sustainable Living Expo in Hobart

Sponsorship and participation in Tasmanian Community Landcare Conference, Swansea

December 2009



NRM South "We work for NRM" campaign begins

Tasmanian River Condition Index seminar held for scientists and water managers

Two Weed Hygiene workshops for Council work crews at Glenorchy

Coastcare Week 'Sharing the Shoreline' field tour and information evening

Tasman/Sorell Local Area Coordinator starts

April 2010



Attendance at National NRM Knowledge Forum in Darwin, showcasing Healthy Catchments & Coasts program

Pasture Cropping seminars with Colin Seis at Premaydena and Runnymede

Coastal Fencing workshop delivered in partnership with Clarence City Council and SCAT to protect region's fragile dunes and coastal areas

May 2010



Environmental Works signage installed across Huon Valley

Nearly 100 farmers attend NRM South's Living Soils Forum at Oatlands

Healthy Catchments & Coasts program promoted at Local Government Association of Tasmania conference

Participation in assessment process of Tasmanian Landcare Association's Landcare Grants

Presentation of Healthy Catchments & Coasts Program to Australian Water Association Tasmanian Branch

Participation in Liawenee Open Day, distributing *Keeping it Clean* flyers for recreational enthusiasts

June 2010



NRM South presents "Keeping it Clean" at Australian Water Association Tasmanian Branch TasWater 10 conference

NRM South distributes weed booklets and native plant lists to hundreds of community members at Treadlightly Envirofest

Draft Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2010-2015 released for public consultation

First 'block owners' land management workshop for urban fringe acreages held at Tinderbox

NRM South makes submissions on the State Coastal Policy, Regional Land Use Plan and Review of the *Drains Act 1954*

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

NRM South continued to deliver and support initiatives, projects and programs in 2009-2010 to achieve measurable short and longer term benefit for the region's natural values.

NRM South supported the delivery of over 70 projects across our region, encouraging additional in-kind support and resources from numerous dedicated organisations and volunteers to achieve greater impact from integrated and effective natural resource management.

NRM South has made significant progress in its strategic priorities of building partnerships, sharing knowledge and inspiring positive action through targeted and effective action, as well as by supporting and facilitating a wide range of projects and activities through investing in four Programs:

Program	Investment
Healthy Catchments & Coasts	\$928,000
Knowledge Management	\$595,000
Communications & Engagement	\$869,000
Partnerships & Business Development.	\$412,000

NRM South supported the delivery of over 70 projects across our region...

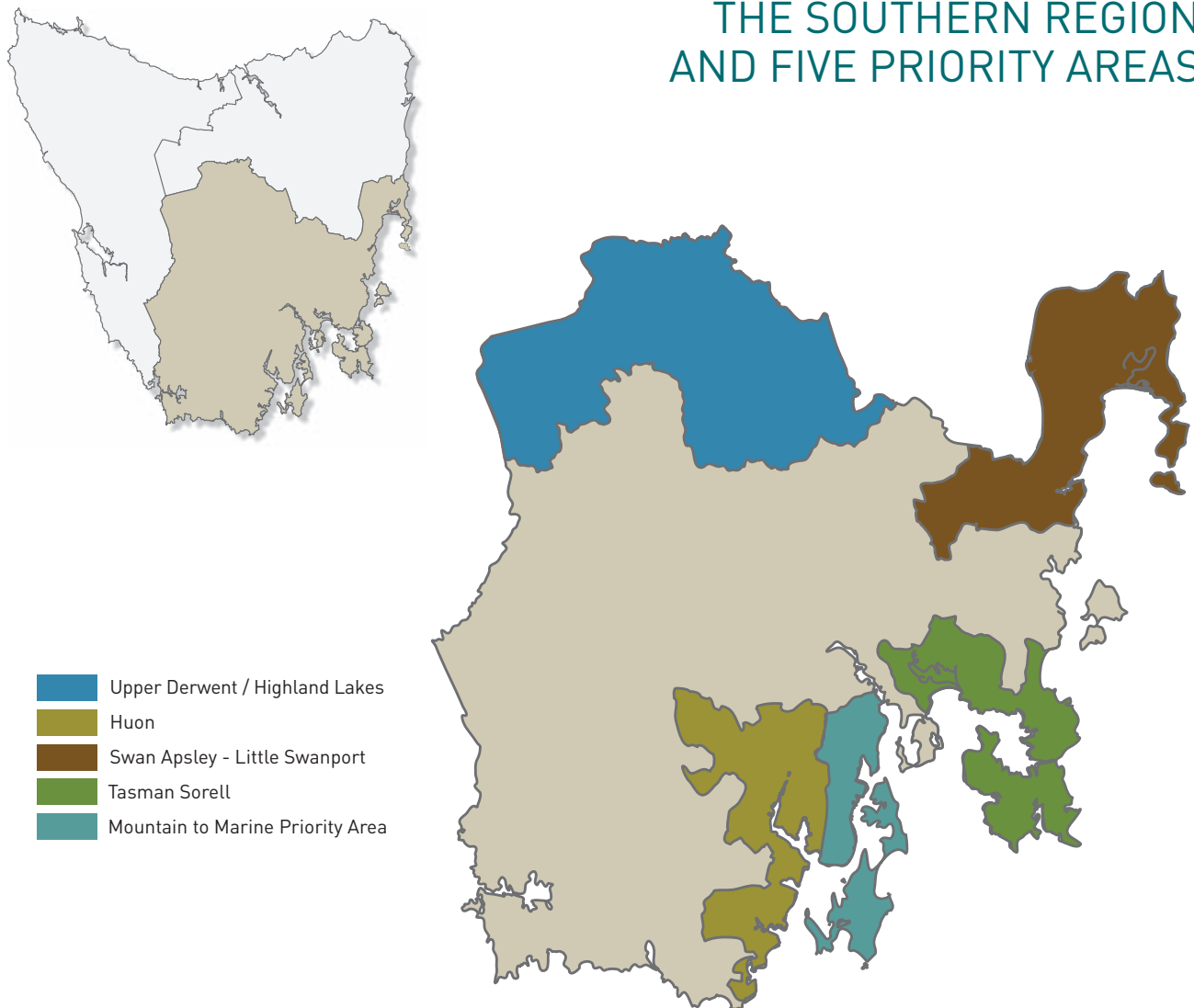
Below: Assessing wetland regrowth at the Lake Sorell Ramsar site.



RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

HEALTHY CATCHMENTS & COASTS

THE SOUTHERN REGION AND FIVE PRIORITY AREAS



The overall program;

- Provides a framework for local coordination to maintain or improve natural resource condition
- Maximises investment in natural resource management through coordination and collaboration across stakeholders and activities
- Delivers on-ground outcomes while engaging and building the capacity of local communities
- Operates in close partnership with local government through dedicated coordinators
- Acknowledges that the community that lives and works in a local area is a fundamental building block of sustained and effective natural resource management, and actively engages members in project delivery
- Builds on the Little Swanport 'Whole of catchment and whole of ecosystem planning' project undertaken by Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council in 2006-07, following extensive expert and community consultation
- Identifies the unique characteristics of each priority area based on different social, economic and environmental values and issues
- Designs and delivers tailored approaches to engagement, planning and on-ground works to address local issues
- Works closely with local coordinators who play a critical role in understanding the community and tailoring natural resource management approaches
- Brings together local, regional, state and national priorities
- Continues to build strong foundations in each priority area by;
 - establishing networks and relationships with and between the community and key stakeholders
 - undertaking strategic on-ground works
 - encouraging capacity building activities to achieve outcomes.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE FIVE PRIORITY AREAS

Coordinators and working groups are now established in all five priority areas and are operating strategically to deliver the most important outcomes.

Building a Strong Foundation

We have made solid progress in building capacity and strong working relationships in local areas. Coordinators and working groups are now established in all five priority areas and are operating strategically to deliver the most important outcomes. Their work includes aligning actions and initiatives with priorities, guiding the direction of activities and ensuring that they are complementary.

Relationships with State agencies are also stronger. For example, the collaboration between NRM South and the DPIPWE Protected Areas on Private Land program has helped us identify shared priorities and run joint engagement activities.

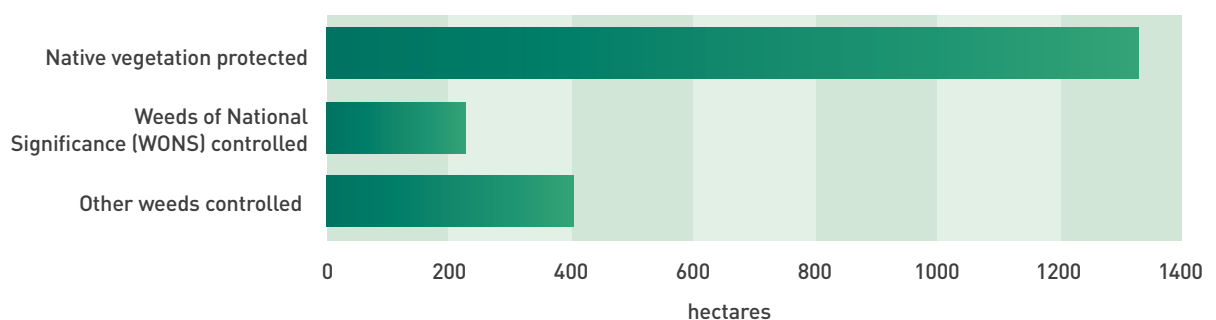
In addition to the direct funding of on-ground activities, NRM South has also initiated and developed knowledge products and quality systems for monitoring, evaluating and reporting and improvement processes.

On-ground Outcomes

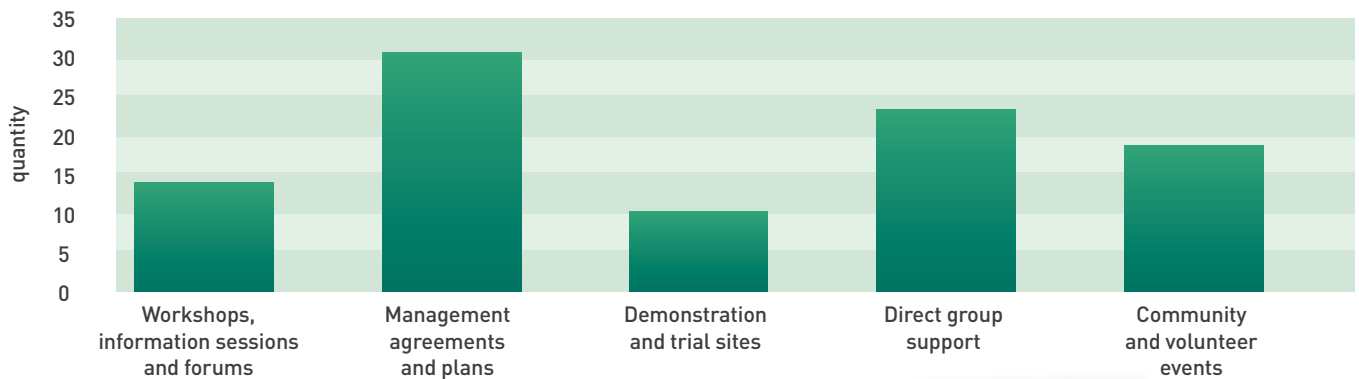
On-ground action across the priority areas has had a major impact. Over 400ha of weeds have been treated and controlled, including 240ha of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) tackled through partnerships. By engaging with landholders we have seen an additional 1325ha of native vegetation and habitat benefit from improved management. The status of three Ramsar wetlands has also improved through strategic weed control works, fencing, and collaboration with neighbouring landholders. NRM South has delivered workshops, information sessions and forums throughout the year covering topics including native birds and habitat, Ramsar site values, Aboriginal cultural heritage, farming techniques for the future, soil health, climate change, vegetation condition assessment and coastal erosion. These have led to an increased interest in learning more effective ways to tackle NRM issues by adopting sustainable practices underpinned by management agreements and plans and a demand for demonstration and trial sites for sustainable land management techniques.



Sample of Healthy Catchment & Coasts On-Ground Achievements



Sample of activity across Healthy Catchments & Coasts



Community Awareness and Capacity Building

NRM South has worked closely with local government, community members and landholders to raise awareness of NRM issues and their role in helping to address them. Activities have included presentations, newsletters and radio spots as well as participating in many community and volunteer events. We've had very positive feedback from the brochures and newsletters that target priority areas and highlight the relevant natural values to stimulate understanding of, and involvement in, natural resource management.

Local coordinators have deepened relationships with key landholders, community groups and public land managers. This enables coordinators to match the needs and priorities of the local community with the priorities of funders and investors.

Building a community's capacity to address issues effectively is vital to success. Over the year many community groups have received direct support from coordinators in activities such as developing management plans and communication strategies or in accessing funding support via the Naturally Inspired Grants.



Below left to right: Demonstrating freshwater hygiene at the Liawenee Open Day (left), Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet received a Naturally Inspired Grant towards restoring Sandy Bay Rivulet (right).



RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

KNOWLEDGE & INFORMATION

NRM South is supporting our regional community to improve decision-making and management of natural resources by;

- Building understanding of NRM values, threats and management solutions
- Developing better NRM knowledge and information
- Enhancing access to NRM knowledge and information.



Above: Our new PDAs will be instrumental in gathering data for mapping progress.

We are also improving our performance by developing better ways and systems to monitor, evaluate and enhance our program delivery.

Knowledge activities through the year have included advice on emerging policy and legislation such as the *Drains Act* and State Coastal Policy, forums to build NRM knowledge, enhancing access to and use of NRM data, developing guidelines to improve NRM activity, and collaboration with other stakeholders to generate additional data.

We are also improving our performance by developing better ways and systems to monitor, evaluate and enhance our program delivery. As part of development of the Draft *Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2010–2015* we have proposed a strategy for monitoring and evaluating regional NRM activity.

Summary of Key Achievements

- Publishing *Keeping it Clean* Aquatic Pests and Pathogens manual, the culmination of a two year partnership with industry, stakeholders, Cradle Coast NRM and NRM North to prevent the severe degradation of aquatic ecosystems that has occurred in New Zealand, Canada and South America
- Conducting Vegetation Condition Assessment of habitat being restored for the Forty-spotted pardalote and comparing with other control sites to measure the difference
- Supporting the development of a Regional Soil Condition Report card based on sampling and testing at 35 sites
- Reaching agreement with the NRM Regions and DPIPW to expand access to and increase sharing of NRM data
- Investing jointly with other NRM Regions in state-wide satellite imagery for Summer 2009–2010 as a significant advance on the previous data available. It is now being used all NRM Regions and DPIPW to update land-use layers.
- Investing jointly with the other NRM Regions in Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and customised software to enable field officers to collect data about on-ground NRM activity and outcomes. This information will be used to map progress throughout the region.
- Helping the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority to integrate better management of NRM values and threats into the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Framework 2010–2035
- Liaising with the Tasmanian Planning Commission about the Regional Planning Initiative schedules to advise them on achieving better management of NRM values and threats
- Supporting the Landscape Logic NRM program hosted by the University of Tasmania. This program is developing evidence-based tools to guide investment in managing vegetation condition and water quality.

PROJECT IN FOCUS

The Wind in the Willows? No Longer at Mountain River!

ISSUE:

Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), classified as a Weed of National Significance (WONS), is a scourge of many of Southern Tasmania's waterways, invading extensive stretches of river and creek banks and destroying delicate riparian ecosystems. The Mountain River catchment has been particularly affected with willow well-established along the banks of Mountain River and its many tributaries. Flowing from headwaters high in Wellington Park, the river's upper reaches are particularly sensitive and provide habitat for rare plants and threatened vegetation communities. While efforts by community landcarers had reduced the scale of infestation, real progress required a catchment-wide solution.

APPROACH:

During 2009 NRM South and Huon Valley Council developed a formal partnership to coordinate NRM action in the Huon Valley, allowing significant, concerted work to take place on a catchment scale. Together NRM South, Huon Valley Council and the Mountain River community have developed a long-term management plan for the catchment and initiated extensive treatment and eradication work. With the near-unanimous support of upper catchment landholders this has finally enabled the community to gain the upper hand.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

After a year of concerted willow removal, Mountain River's upper catchment is now significantly closer to a natural state. With the agreement and support of 98% of riparian property owners, contractors have removed Crack willow from more than 12km of the upper catchment. Extensive rehabilitation activity has accompanied removal, including revegetation with species native to the upper catchment.

Project sites were toured during April by the National Willows Coordinator and will feature in future national presentations on willow removal.

Local visibility and community awareness has been reinforced with long-term signage installed at strategic willow removal locations throughout the catchment. These 'Environmental Work in Progress' roadside signs will continue to draw community attention both to the environmental works that have taken place in the area and to the ongoing partnership between Huon Valley Council and NRM South.

The project has been so successful that, as of 30 June 2010, Mountain River and all associated tributaries from the headwaters in Wellington Park to the confluence with Crabtree Rivulet can now be confidently declared as being free of Crack willow.



BEFORE



AFTER

...Mountain River and all associated tributaries from the headwaters in Wellington Park to the confluence with Crabtree Rivulet can now be confidently declared as being free of Crack willow.

Above from top: Before and after photos show native vegetation replacing willows and blackberry.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT



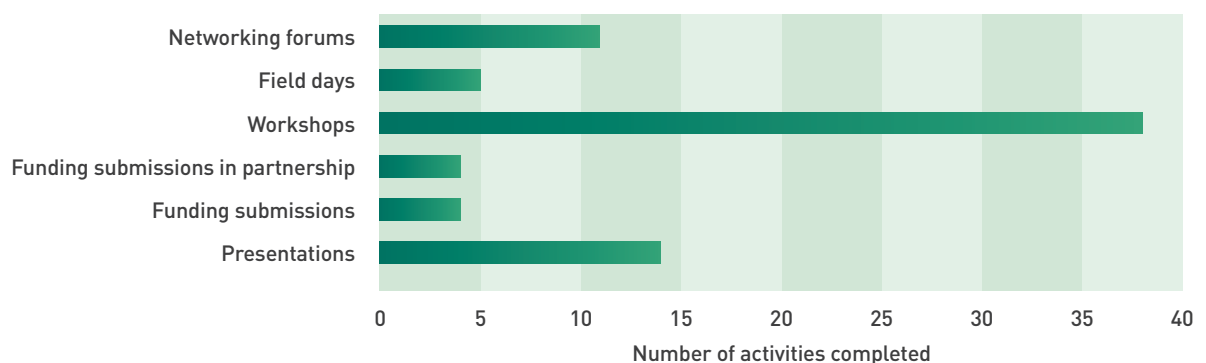
NRM South has formalised and begun a Community Engagement Program to encourage behaviours that will maintain and grow Healthy and Productive Landscapes, Healthy Ecosystems, Economic Productivity, Social Wellbeing and Effective Partnerships.

Above: A billboard from the summer awareness campaign.

The program is built upon nine principles that underpin all our engagement in the region. They are: Engage broadly, Listen and communicate back, Operate with integrity and openness, Take an individualised approach where appropriate, Focus on the positive, Develop continuing engagement, Demonstrate high quality program and project management, Integrate information and activity where appropriate and Have an ongoing improvement cycle.

NRM South has supported communities over the year by jointly identifying their information and development needs and developing an up-to-date, publicly accessible storehouse of vital community level information relevant to NRM in Southern Tasmania. We have also provided supporting tools, skills and capacity development and delivered a small grants program to support the significant contribution made by volunteer care groups, schools and other community organisations to NRM outcomes.

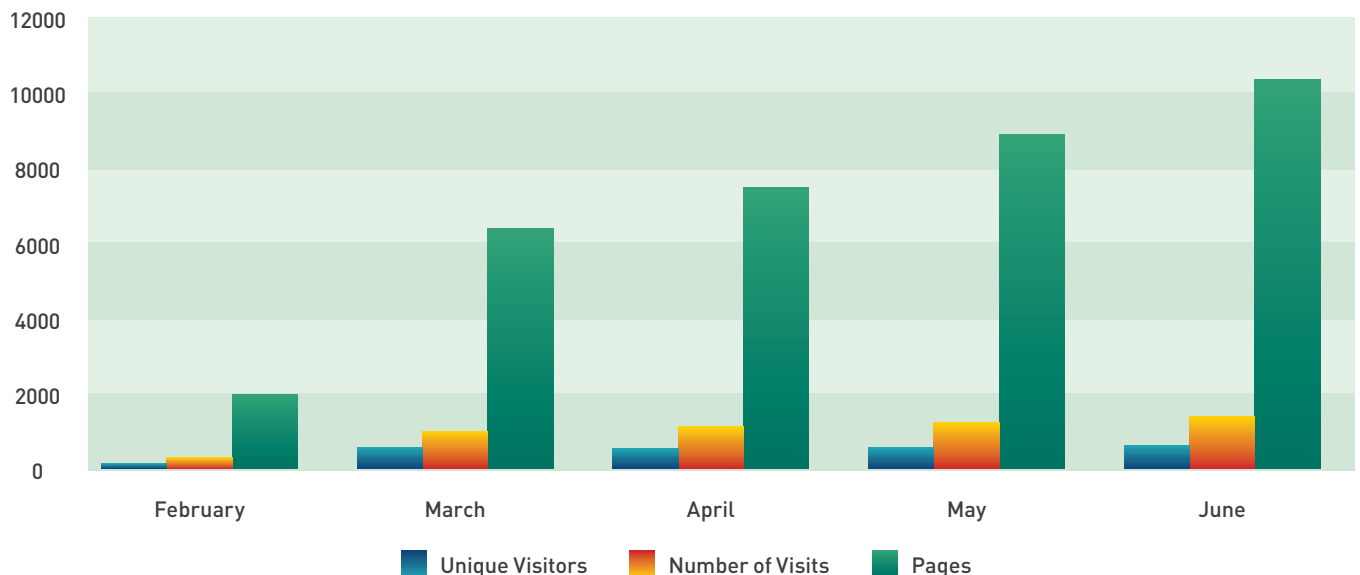
Summary of Community Engagement Activities



Summary of Key Achievements

- Launching a new, interactive website designed to support our region. It will continue to evolve and improve as a tool for the whole community
- Increasing use of the new site, with monthly visits growing from 150 unique visitors in February to over 570 in June 2010, and number of pages served rising from 1,953 to 10,387 over the same period
- Issuing monthly e-newsletters to a database of 400 NRM practitioners, sharing up to date information on opportunities to 'get involved', 'get funded' and 'get informed'
- Commissioning the 'We work for NRM' communication campaign, comprising an innovative series of advertisements on bus-backs, billboards and in newspapers over summer and the Christmas period to raise community awareness and encourage changes in attitude and behaviour
- Developing a rolling program of media stories and editorial for the region and delivering healthy media exposure for activities ranging from the summer weed blitz to the Living Soils sustainable agriculture initiatives
- Consulting widely with the community in reviewing the Regional Strategy, including holding four major participative forums at Buckland, Eaglehawk Neck and two in Hobart
- Holding over 55 training workshops, field days and forums involving more than 700 people from across our stakeholder spectrum
- Instigating and running a Knowledge Sharing forum that brought together a wide range of organisations and individuals who support community volunteers
- Initiating a Coastal Erosion and Recession Forum in partnership with Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania to raise understanding about monitoring and addressing challenges including sea level rise and coastal processes
- Publishing over 30 reports, articles, fact sheets and reference documents to inform and equip NRM practitioners and members of the public with knowledge and skills to take positive action. Specific examples include;
 - In depth reports on Assessment of Surface Water Quality Monitoring in the NRM South Region and Tasmanian River Condition Index
 - *Keeping it Clean* Reference manuals and flyers for freshwater hygiene, and *Soil and Water Management on Building and Construction Sites* factsheets for building site management
 - *Weeds of Southern Tasmania* information booklets and flyers for the five Healthy Catchments & Coasts Priority Areas
 - Signs highlighting 'Environmental Work in Progress' in the Huon Valley.

Website Traffic Since Launch



RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

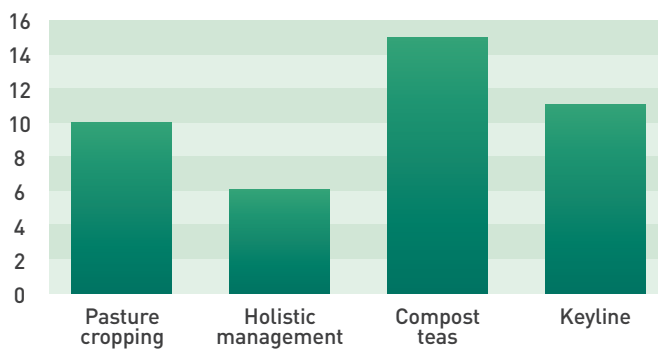
COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Success from the Rural Landholder Engagement Strategy

The aim of the Rural Landholder Engagement Strategy is to identify and share sustainable practices for land managers to consider, provide opportunities to learn about them and to increase uptake of practices that will have long-term NRM benefit. The strategy is underpinned by ABS Data and surveys with our landholders.

NRM South has continued to build strong relationships across the farming sector and foster links with research institutions and government departments while also providing support to a range of landcare and farming groups.

Farming Trials Planned Following the Living Soils Forum



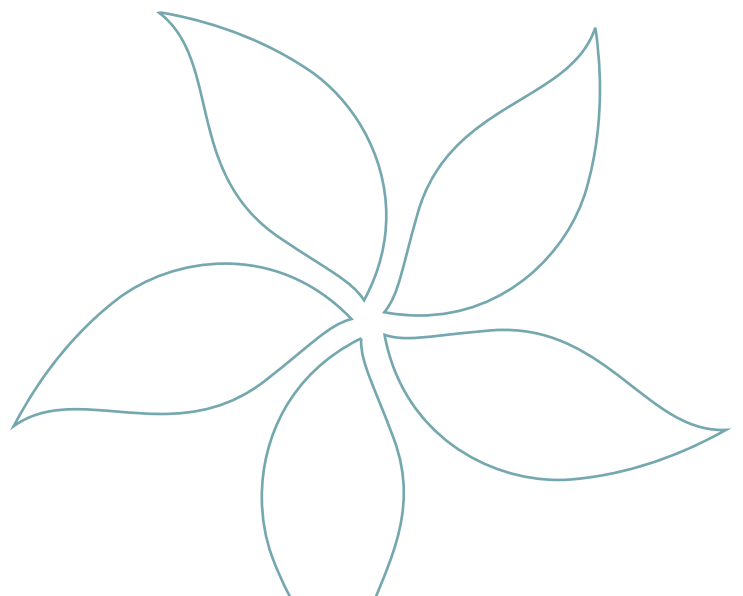
Summary of Key Achievements

- Delivering the Landcare Facilitator project as a key mechanism for achieving our aims, with more than 300 participants attending 13 events and workshops held throughout the region
- Providing farming incentives to aid drought recovery and trialing new techniques and methods
- Presenting a 'farmer to farmer' Living Soils forum, bringing together southern Tasmanian farmers to share their knowledge, skills and practical experience in regenerative agricultural techniques. The forum generated significant interest in further trials and workshops and encouraged adoption of sustainable practices.
- Partnering with Cradle Coast NRM and NRM North in the delivery of key programs across the state, including Salinity Management Planning and Drought Adaptation for Farmers
- Piloting a 'small block' practical management workshop in the Mountain to Marine priority area to help those with properties of 2-10ha support landscape scale activity.

In 2010-11 NRM South will deploy a dedicated Regional Landcare Facilitator to work closely with in-house staff, locally-based coordinators and a regional reference panel to build on the momentum we've established. Through encouraging better management practices and increased participation across our region we expect to see direct benefits for our region's land, water, coasts, flora and fauna.



Above: Farmers at the Living Soils Forum learn about Keyline ploughing.



PROJECT IN FOCUS

Farmers talking to Farmers: NRM South's Living Soils Forum

ISSUE:

Agriculture in Southern Tasmania is at a crossroads, with climatic changes and increasing input costs jeopardising many farm-based enterprises and their financial, social and environmental viability. Whereas before 1970 Southern Tasmania experienced occasional drought, drier conditions have since become the norm. Several years of sustained drought have had a severe impact on the health of the region's agricultural lands and this, coupled with high fuel and fertiliser costs, is driving farmers to seek new ideas and approaches.

APPROACH:

To respond to this need NRM South conceived the Living Soils Program, combining on-farm trials, practical workshops, forums and intensive training courses. Each element explores the relationship between soil biology and soil carbon as well as demonstrating how to improve soil health through low input land management techniques. The cornerstone of the program is the Living Soils Forum, a two-day combination of discussion and hands-on demonstration. Targeting large rural landholders, the Forum aimed to help them build and maintain healthy soils and soil ecosystems to deliver triple bottom line benefits. Living Soils also provided an invaluable opportunity for Southern Tasmanian farmers to talk with their NSW and Victorian counterparts and exchange farmer perspectives on shared problems and potential solutions.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

With the earlier introductory sessions on pasture cropping striking a chord with sheep farmers, graziers in particular flocked to the Forum to meet pasture cropping inventor Colin Seis, fellow farmers Graham Hand, Ben Falloon and Graeme Iles and key-note speaker Dr Christine Jones.

Nearly 100 farmers converged on Oatlands to attend the Forum, from the Midlands and Derwent Valley to the Huon and Tasman Peninsula, each representing a wide array of farming enterprises.

Over two days the forum speakers presented a series of inspirational addresses and discussions examining soil biology and its fundamental role in maintaining healthy, productive landscapes. Accompanying practical demonstrations showed that Southern Tasmania's farmers can draw on a range of effective options to help improve agricultural soil health.

After a day devoted to presentations and lively discussion, the second day focused on field demonstrations of Keyline ploughing, compost teas, holistic grazing, and pasture cropping on Graeme Iles' 1200ha property, Spring Valley, across the Midland Highway. Participants were able to see first-hand how improved soil biodiversity can improve ground cover and retain more water in the landscape, and hear how at Spring Valley improved soil health has increased farm viability and profitability.

NRM South is building on the interest generated by the Living Soils Forum through workshops and trials and by encouraging adaptive management practices on farms across the region.



Nearly 100 farmers converged on Oatlands to attend the Forum, from the Midlands and Derwent Valley to the Huon and Tasman Peninsula, each representing a wide array of farming enterprises.

Above from top: Colin Seis explains the finer detail of pasture cropping (top), Identifying the elements of healthy, holistically managed pasture (bottom).



PROJECT IN FOCUS

Working together to Support Coastlines and Communities

ISSUE:

Our region's coastline is one of the largest stretches of coast in any of Australia's 56 NRM regions. With numerous bays and estuaries and hundreds of offshore islands and stacks it stretches to 3429km – longer than the coastlines of both Victoria (2500km) and NSW (2100km). Addressing coastal issues and protecting our extensive coastline is therefore high on NRM South's agenda. Significant and increasing issues include those related to climate change, such as erosion and recession, saltmarsh and wetland inundation, as well as shorebird protection, weed control and poorly planned coastal development.

With such a large and often isolated coastline, protecting coastal areas and reducing threats is beyond the ability of any single coastal NRM stakeholder: close and effective partnerships are essential to achieve real results.

APPROACH:

Southern Tasmania has many active and highly effective volunteer coastcare groups already working with their communities to protect coastal areas and manage threats. To reach all of these groups NRM South worked closely with coastal stakeholders, developing joint activities, awareness materials and working together to raise awareness of coastal issues.

We also partnered with coastcare umbrella group the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT) by creating a new Community Support Officer role. Based within NRM South this role provides direct assistance to the NRM care community and during 2009-2010 increased SCAT's capacity to assist coastcare groups and coastal communities by dedicating two days a week to SCAT administration and coordination.

... issues include those related to climate change, such as erosion and recession, saltmarsh and wetland inundation, as well as shorebird protection, weed control and poorly planned coastal development.



Previous page: Community members on a field trip learn about coastal values.

Above: The Stop Creeping Backyards posters and flyers.

Inset: Making short work of mature boneseed plants at Dodges Ferry.

Each of these initiatives has significantly raised awareness of coastal environmental issues and strengthened the collective efforts of coastal stakeholders ...

ACHIEVEMENTS:

NRM South's coastal community support activities have delivered a range of awareness-raising activities and products, both directly through project-based partnerships with coastal stakeholders and through the NRM South/SCAT partnership. Each of these initiatives has significantly raised awareness of coastal environmental issues and strengthened the collective efforts of coastal stakeholders, especially those working in community coastal natural resource management.

The 'Stop Creeping Backyard' brochures and posters, developed in partnership with SCAT, the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Tasmanian Government, successfully targeted coastal communities with information about the threats posed by private coastal properties, explaining the direct impact on the coastal environment.

We continue to work with SCAT to increase understanding of the natural environmental processes that drive coastal erosion and recession, highlighting management issues and the tools and approaches available to coastal managers. Over 60 people attended a community forum that brought together experts in coastal geomorphology, coastal vegetation, coastal policy and management.

We also increased coastal community awareness and opportunity through an active involvement in Coastcare Week 2009, joining stakeholders to present two events promoting the 'care for your coast' message. The first was a regional showcase bringing together community members, volunteers, NGOs and local and state government agencies and researchers to highlight coastal, estuarine and marine activity in Southern Tasmania.

Second was a field tour along the D'Entrecasteaux Channel to Bruny Island, where a bus-full of community members learned about coastal birds, plants and gardens, cultural values and the many pressures that threaten them. Many were inspired to view the coast in a different way, and to become involved in protecting Southern Tasmania's beautiful and fragile coast.

In 2009-2010 we demonstrated our commitment to Coastcare and community involvement in coastal land management across Southern Tasmania through our successful partnership with SCAT through our Community Support Officer. Through this support role for both SCAT and the community NRM South was able to increase the range of support available to the coastcare network and to maintain momentum for SCAT between Australian Government funding cycles.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

PARTNERSHIPS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships are Integral to the Way We Work

Given that funding from both State and Australian Governments has reduced significantly, we continue to work on broadening and increasing the range of investors in NRM in Southern Tasmania. With the continued strong support of, and engagement with, our stakeholders we aim to increase the investment available and make best use of our resources in addressing the most significant NRM issues in our region.

The dedication and shared vision of NRM South's many stakeholders is central to achieving real and lasting natural resource management outcomes. By working together and combining our skills, knowledge, resources and energy we are changing attitudes and building capacity so that our natural resources are healthy, resilient and sustainably managed for future generations.



Above: The Weeds of Southern Tasmania booklet was a partnership between NRM South and the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority.

Summary of Key Achievements

- Gaining ongoing commitment from Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council to the Swan-Apsley/Little Swanport priority area through the Catchments to Coasts Program
- Establishing collaborative partnerships, including in-kind support, with several councils including Huon Valley, Kingborough, Central Highlands, Tasman and Hobart
- Receiving support from Sorell Council in providing office accommodation for the Tasman/Sorell coordinator and help from Central Highlands Council in engaging and hosting a local coordinator for the Upper Derwent/Highland Lakes with the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee
- Giving direct support to the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania through a shared Community Support Officer position based at NRM South, and increasing the capacity and effectiveness of both organisations through activities such as management of the Naturally Inspired Grants, participation at the Tread Lightly festival, Coastcare Week events, and providing assistance to other project activity
- Supporting the Southern Tasmanian Councils' Authority in implementing the Southern Regional Weeds Strategy through delivering best practice on-ground weed management, hygiene, knowledge and information and providing expert advice, workshop delivery, community engagement and publishing key information material
- Sponsoring five community members to attend the National Landcare Forum in Adelaide and preparing Community Action Grant submissions for five community groups
- Sponsoring, and participating in, events such as the biennial Tasmanian Landcare Conference and the Sustainable Living Expo
- Supporting competitive Caring for our Country proposals from across the region and helping other NRM stakeholders develop proposals that complement activity already being undertaken by NRM South. Proposals include managing World Heritage Area Biosecurity and tackling Weeds of National Significance.
- Delivering presentations to the wider community including the School of Geography at the University of Tasmania, Australian Water Association (Tasmania), National River Symposium and National Boneseed and Bitou Bush Committee
- Membership of over 10 committees and reference groups ranging from local steering or working groups through to National Advisory boards to ensure quality delivery and positive NRM outcomes for our region
- Providing letters of support to a range of stakeholders for grant and funding applications.

Committee/Reference group Memberships in 2009-2010

South East Coastal Strategy Management Committee
Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania
Landscape Logic Advisory Board
Coastal Works Manual Steering Committee
State-wide Property Management Systems Framework
Natural Resource Management Council (Tas)
National NRM Chairs Working Group

Stormwater Taskforce
Didymo Working Group
(subgroup of Biosecurity Tasmania Technical Group)
Data Access Working Group (DAWG), a partnership of local and state government, NRM regions and key stakeholders
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee
Clarence Coastal and Bushland Strategy Stakeholder Group

PROJECT IN FOCUS

From Small Grants Mighty Outcomes Grow – the Naturally Inspired Grants program

ISSUE:

The people of Southern Tasmania are energetic volunteers, with over one hundred local community groups across the region caring for bushland, coastal areas and cultural heritage. These groups play a vital role in bringing their communities together to develop a shared vision for their local environment and to undertake the time-consuming and difficult work to realise it. But while they have an abundance of energy and enthusiasm they often lack the relatively small financial resources required to achieve their goals.

APPROACH:

Responding to a clear need for modest financial support for the NRM care community, we developed the Naturally Inspired Grants, a new program of devolved grants for community-based NRM. Forty-three submissions were received for the opening round (requesting more than three times the available funds), with twenty projects successful in sharing over \$50,000 from Caring for Our Country funding. The projects encompassed a wide range of on-ground activity, including storm-water and erosion control work, weeding and revegetation, survey work, purchasing tools and equipment, commissioning and installing interpretive signs, a native tree planting day, wetland rehabilitation, a permaculture garden and even a permanent outdoor classroom.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Projects funded in round one have been tremendously successful, garnering additional in-kind support from local government and businesses and delivering far in excess of their grant value in improved condition and increased awareness. In all more than 900 people have been engaged, including students, teachers and parents at five schools. Monitoring has taken place at nine sites and work has helped to protect nine threatened species. Some 23,550 native plants were propagated and used to revegetate 11.7ha of land, with 24 species of weeds controlled on a further 10.96ha. Activities to restrict access have also increased protection of over 200ha of native vegetation.

Kettering's Conservation of Oxleys Road Environment (CORE), a landowner landcare group, received a grant towards ongoing restoration work along Oxleys Road, which runs up a sheltered valley with high conservation values. Its 16 members are the owners and children of seven adjoining properties covering 70ha of bushland.

CORE has previously enjoyed considerable success, removing rubbish, installing interpretive signage, and controlling Canary broom and blackberry along nearly 700m of creek front. However primary control of 8ha of mature Spanish heath was beyond their capacity. Using grant funds, weed contractors removed the Spanish heath before CORE members swiftly revegetated the steep bank with natives grown from local provenance seed. Nearly twelve months later in June 2010 the results are striking. Where once Spanish heath dominated the hillside, blue gum seedlings now grow proudly between a carpet of native senecio grown from scattered seed.

And thanks to the Naturally Inspired Grants the limited Spanish heath regrowth is well within CORE's ability to control and eradicate.

Some 23,550 native plants were propagated and used to revegetate 11.7ha of land, with 24 species of weeds controlled on a further 10.96ha.



Above from top: Blue gums grow where Spanish heath once dominated (top), CORE members show NRM South CEO Kathleen Broderick their longer term plans (bottom).

REVIEW OF SOUTHERN REGIONAL NRM STRATEGY

NRM South began the review of the Regional Strategy, as required under the *NRM Act 2002*, in August 2009.

We have since reviewed achievements under the Strategy, conducted an environmental scan through consultation with key stakeholders, reviewed the structure of the strategy and its intent, and conducted extensive stakeholder engagement including four community forums and an online survey to confirm the priorities for the region. The new draft strategy was released for public comment in June 2010, with the period for public comment concluding on 30 July 2010.

NRM South has responded to the strategy by identifying our own actions to deliver the objectives of the Regional Strategy. Our proposed actions are also captured in the NRM South Corporate Plan.

While the new strategy reflects appropriate evolution, the community's shared vision for natural resource management in Southern Tasmania is unchanged and reconfirmed as:

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

The new Regional Strategy identifies five areas for primary focus. It is these that have driven planning for future NRM South programs and activity, and many stakeholders have also identified how the actions they have planned for the next five years will sit alongside them.

- Strategy 1:** Maximise return for natural resource management investment
- Strategy 2:** Increase community awareness of the Region's natural resources
- Strategy 3:** Manage current and emerging threats to the Region's natural assets
- Strategy 4:** Measure and report changes in natural resource condition
- Strategy 5:** Increase stakeholders' capacity to use the Region's natural resources wisely.

Progress will be measured against headline indicators every two years and reported to the southern region community. Organisations, groups and businesses have also aligned their activities with the strategy and these will be covered in a regional implementation plan.

NRM South will support and facilitate implementation of the Strategy by;

1. Developing a detailed implementation plan by working with stakeholders to agree and define the key actions
2. Updating the plan regularly and reporting on progress against agreed headline indicators
3. Undertaking our own actions under the strategy including facilitating and coordinating sub-regional (catchment) planning, identifying and promoting sustainable practices and directly supporting community level activity.



Above from top: Looking across Moulting Lagoon to the Hazards (top),
Southern Tasmania has many native orchids (middle),
Pied oyster catchers call many coastal areas home (bottom).

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE



The Board of the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc., sitting as the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Committee, was declared a Regional Committee under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* in 2003.

With effect from the Annual General Meeting in September 2010, the NRM South Board will comprise nine members including a representative of the Aboriginal Community and a representative of the Tasmanian Government.

During 2009-2010 the NRM South Board delegated certain responsibilities to two standing committees, the Audit Committee and the Remunerations Committee. The Audit Committee oversees NRM South's finances including internal auditing, preparing for and assisting with external auditing, and assessing and mitigating risk. The Remunerations Committee sets and adjusts sitting fees for Regional Committee members and staff remuneration.

The NRM South Board has continued to refine and develop its processes and skills, and undertook training in 'Foundations of Directorship' in 2009-2010. Some key outcomes of the training included developing a Board Charter and improving strategic reporting to the Board.

Several members of the audit committee also attended a session on 'How to obtain a quality audit'. This session provided an opportunity to understand the implications of changes to audit regulations as well as clarifying expectations of a sound audit process.

The Board's major projects for the year included the review and redevelopment of the regional NRM strategy. Members made themselves available to workshop information and provided advice on strategy content and direction. The Audit Committee and Board were also active in reviewing and redeveloping the organisation's policies and procedures, which have been recognised as being of a high standard.

During 2009-2010 the NRM South Board held seven ordinary meetings, the Audit Committee met five times and the Remunerations Committee twice.

There were three resignations from the board during 2009-2010. The board accepted the Aboriginal Community's nomination of Fiona Newson to replace longstanding board member Rodney Gibbins, with the remaining two positions remaining vacant until the 2010 Annual General Meeting.

Above: NRM South Board members prepare for a meeting.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

NRM South Board from September 2009

Dr Christine Mucha	<i>(Chair)</i>
Tony Ferrier	<i>(Deputy Chair)</i>
Cam Crawford	<i>(October 2006 – July 2010)</i>
Flora Fox	
Rodney Gibbins	<i>(Aboriginal Community representative, October 2006 – February 2010)</i>
John Hickey	
Max Kitchell	
Fiona Newson	<i>(Aboriginal Community representative, June 2010 –)</i>
Helen Pryor	
Dr Rosemary Sandford	<i>(October 2006 – June 2010)</i>
Maria Weeding	
Ian Whyte	
Dr Howel Williams	<i>(Tasmanian Government representative)</i>

Board members who retired at the September 2009 AGM

Michael Bidwell	<i>(June 2006 – September 2009)</i>
Dr Christine Crawford	<i>(February 2005 – September 2009)</i>
Dr Hans Drielsma	<i>(January 2003 – September 2009)</i>
Stephen Godfrey	<i>(Tasmanian Government representative, August 2008 – September 2009)</i>
Roger Howlett	<i>(January 2003 – September 2009)</i>
Alice Johnson	<i>(February 2005 – September 2009)</i>

Audit Committee Members

Tracy Matthews	<i>(Chair – Independent Member and NRM South Financial Adviser)</i>
Dr Christine Mucha	
Ian Whyte	
Howel Williams	

Remunerations Committee Members

Dr Christine Mucha	<i>(Chair)</i>
Max Kitchell	
Maria Weeding	



**CHRISTINE
MUCHA**

Since 2003

Chair

Corporate Leader of the Year in the 2006 Tasmanian Business Leaders Awards, Dr Christine Mucha brings extensive experience in business leadership to her position as NRM South Chair. She is CEO of Onstream, Chair of the Wellington Park Management Trust, Deputy Chair of the Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority, a Director of the University of Tasmania Foundation and has previously been CEO of Hobart Water. Christine is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, an INSEAD alumnus and a Companion of Engineers Australia. She holds tertiary qualifications in agricultural science and agricultural economics and has professional experience in agriculture and in the management of natural resources.



**TONY
FERRIER**

Since 2003

Deputy Chair

Tony Ferrier brings a local government perspective to the Board through his current role as Deputy General Manager at Kingborough Council, and from 14 years working in local government in Tasmania. He has been on the NRM South Board since its inception and is NRM South's representative on the State NRM Council. Tony has tertiary qualifications in urban and regional planning, natural resource management and surveying. He combines his more recent strategic and statutory planning experience with previous roles in catchment and public land management in NSW state agencies.



FLORA FOX

Since 2009

Flora Fox has been a Kingborough Councillor for 22 years, including two as Deputy Mayor. She is currently Chair of Council's Environment and Development Committee, has previously chaired numerous council committees, and has been a member of regional and state committees including the Coastal Advisory Committee, the Huon-Channel Bio-links project, and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and North West Bay Steering Committee. Flora initiated and chaired community committees including Boronia Hill and North West Bay Catchment Management Committees and now the Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group. She brings experience in governance, business administration, finance, NRM outcomes, education, communication and working with government to the Board.



JOHN HICKEY

Since 2009

John Hickey is Manager of Forestry Tasmania's Planning Branch and brings a range of forest industry related experience to the Board, including strategic conservation planning, estate modelling for wood production, forest policy development, and certification, auditing and environmental reporting. John has a strong interest in landscape level planning for multiple community benefits. Prior to his appointment at Forestry Tasmania John worked for over two decades researching forest ecology and native forest silviculture.



MAX KITCHELL

Since 2009

Max Kitchell brings over 20 years' experience in senior management roles within the Tasmanian, Victorian and Australia governments. He is a former Director of the National Oceans Office, former First Assistant Secretary of the Natural Heritage Division of the Department of Environment and Heritage, former General Manager of the Resource Management and Conservation Division of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, and a former Director of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Max has been a member of numerous government committees and various Australian delegations to the United Nations, including the Australian delegation to the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and head of the delegation to the Convention to Combat Desertification. He has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.



FIONA NEWSON

Since 2010

As the Board's Aboriginal Community representative, Fiona Newson ensures that the Aboriginal community's concerns and aspirations are reflected in NRM South's work. She is currently Manager of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, and has an extensive background in working with the Aboriginal community including with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Tasmanian Education Department. A previous Chair of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, she has also sat on the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre state committee and the Aboriginal Housing Board.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE



**HELEN
PRYOR**

Since 2003

Helen Pryor is a Project Manager for Sustainable Living Tasmania, where she coordinates a range of projects and initiatives aimed at improving energy use and energy efficiency within the community. In 2010 Helen is also working with the Department of Health and Human Services in Huonville on a program to identify and address the negative impacts of poor housing and energy efficiency on health. She currently coordinates Friends of Port Cygnet, a community group with stewardship over significant coastal and estuarine habitat. Helen has a Bachelor of Education and has had extensive involvement with program management.



**MARIA
WEEDING**

Since 2003

The 2001 Landcarer of the Year and a 2010 National Landcarer of the Year finalist, Maria Weeding is a Southern Midlands farmer. Maria is also the Landcare Program Manager for Southern Midlands Council and a founding member and Treasurer of the Midlands Tree Committee. As a Member of the Midlands Water Group she represents and coordinates the interests of Southern Midlands landholders in the Midlands Water Project being undertaken by the Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board. In 1999 Maria was a member of the State Biodiversity Committee, assisting in the development of the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Strategy, and in 2002 was Chair of the Interim Southern Technical Reference Group. She has previously sat on the board of Greening Australia (Tasmania) and been a member of the State Threatened Species Community Review Committee.



**HOWEL
WILLIAMS**

Since 2009

Dr Howel Williams brings experience as a senior practitioner in the public policy aspects of natural resource management to the Committee. Currently Director (Policy and Projects) in the Resource Management and Conservation Division of DPIPW, Howel is involved in a range of statewide projects aimed at facilitating sustainable management and conservation as well as work on several national bodies involved in natural resource management policy. He has worked extensively in Australia and overseas in natural resource management. Previously the head of marine research laboratories in Tasmania and South Australia, he has a background in policy relevant research and research management, and led the establishment of the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute. Howel has been Chair of several state and national committees advising on natural resource management and a board member of a Cooperative Research Centre. Howel is the Tasmanian Government representative on the Board.



**IAN
WHYTE**

Since 2006

Ian Whyte brings experience in the forestry and farming sectors to the Board. Ian is a former CEO of the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania and, prior to his retirement from the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association in 2008, was Senior Project Officer (Policy) with responsibilities in the environmental and natural resource areas. Ian is currently a Board member of the Forest Practices Authority, a member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, President of South Eastern Nursing and Home Care Association Inc. and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

OUR PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION



NRM South recognises that the quality of our people and of our operations underpins successful NRM outcomes for our region.

We promote a professional, safe, collaborative and productive workplace that values and fosters personal learning and growth, high standards and positive leadership, and we encourage all staff to maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Our Staff Consultative Committee ensures our existing office policies are up-to-date and appropriate, and recommends additions or improvements as required.

Our people stay connected with 'place' and members of the community by working alongside volunteers and organisations in activities that benefit our natural values. Examples of our practical involvement over the last year include:

Activity	Number of Staff
Campsite clean-up with Parks & Wildlife Service at Cockle Creek	7
Boneseed removal with Southern Beaches Land & Coastcare and Sorell Council at Lewisham	5
Working with the Bruny Island Environment Network and Kingborough Council at Dennes Point	3
Clean up Australia Day on Domain foreshore and at South Hobart rivulet	9

During the year our staff have undertaken professional development in disciplines that improve our capacity to deliver high quality programs. Examples include Communications, Project Management and Map Info as well as Weed Movement and Machinery Inspection. Other training activities such as First Aid and Safe Driver training have focused on improved Occupational Health & Safety.

Many staff have also taken the opportunity to share their knowledge with, and learn from, other practitioners in the sector by attending relevant conferences and workshops, and sharing experiences with other NRM regions inside and outside Tasmania. These include the National Knowledge Forum, the Cross-regional Innovation Event, Foundations of Directorship Course and Communications and Program Development workshops.

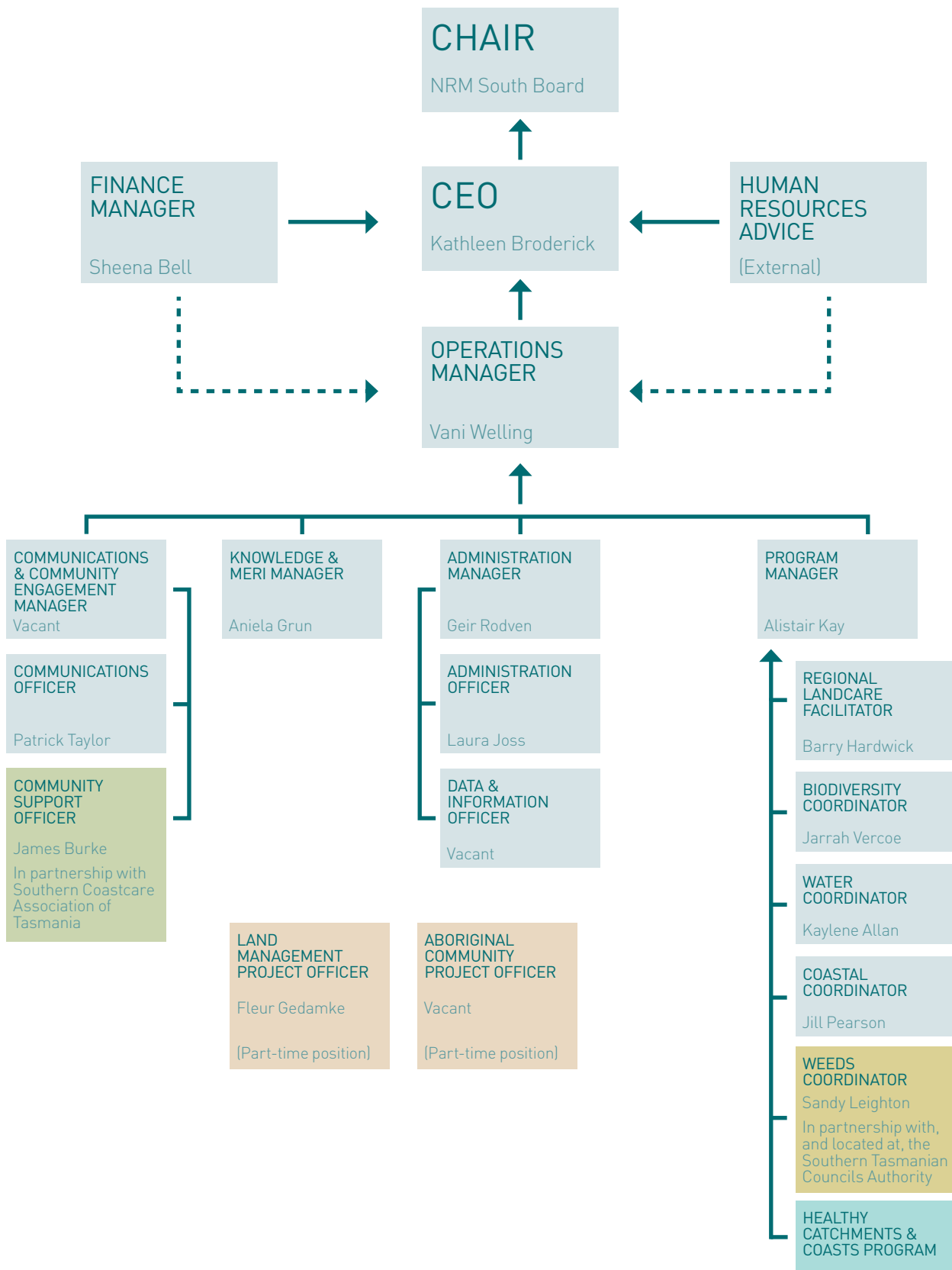
To ensure we continue to deliver high quality, targeted programs and services to the region and build our capacity to be a 'hub' of knowledge and information across the region, NRM South has reviewed and updated our project, finance, data and information and administrative management procedures, developed a project tracking system and trained staff in the use of these systems.

Benefits such as minimising internal administration and freeing up staff to focus on practical NRM activity and capturing information consistently and accurately are already clear. NRM South's management team will monitor these systems and processes regularly and review them annually.

In 'living our values' NRM South has undertaken a number of 'green office' initiatives including an emissions review and travel-offsetting, and conducting an energy audit. Smaller changes include introducing a worm farm, increased use of curbside and other recycling programs, updating our purchasing policy to reduce packaging, participating in Clean Up Australia Day and increasing the use of recycled or sustainably managed resources and local suppliers. We also consciously choose sustainable and accredited materials and suppliers for our printed publications.

Above: NRM South staff joined Parks and Wildlife Service staff to clean up the Cockle Creek recreation area.

OUR PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION



FAREWELL

NRM South farewelled the following staff during 2009-2010:
Alan Barton, Ben Bailey, Janelle Dennis, Joel Winter, Nikki den Exter, Paul Dawson.



FINANCIALS

2009-2010



INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT & OVERVIEW

Our activities this year were funded primarily by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments through the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, and through Caring for our Country. Caring for our Country covered NRM South's base operations, the Pittwater - Orielton Lagoon project and the regional landcare facilitator role.

In completing work from previous years, NRM South finalised 33 projects with a value of \$14m under Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality programs. The Australian Government approved our audits of 15 grant deeds, encompassing more than 100 projects from across the Southern Region.

The Australian Government also approved NRM South's March 2010 submission to allocate the remaining Caring for our Country Base Funding of \$1.8m per annum for the period of July 2011-June 2013 to underpin national priorities and targets.

The full financial accounts demonstrate that NRM South finished the 2009-2010 financial year in a sound financial position.

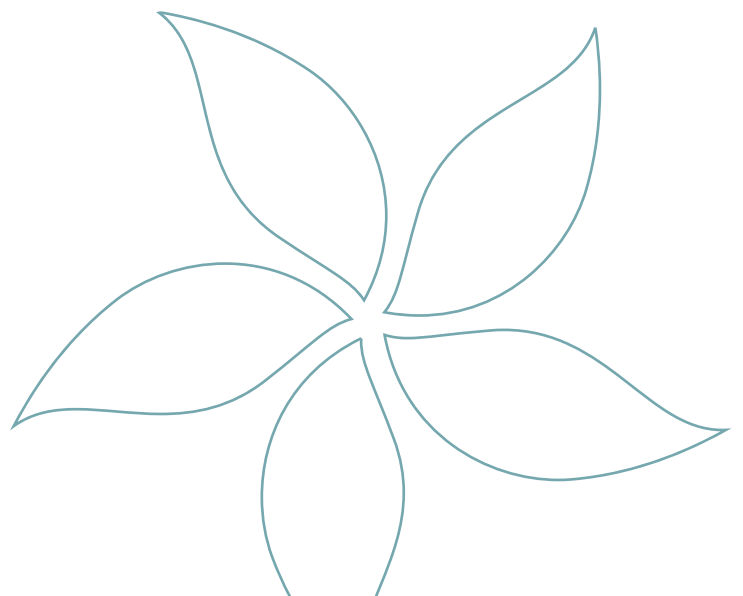
General Information

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.
Principal Address – 313 Macquarie Street, Hobart
Registered Office – 313 Macquarie Street, Hobart

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

Number of full time Employees - 14.4

Name of Auditor – BDO Audit (TAS)



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Key financial indicators 2008-2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$	2008 \$
Operating Profit	398,904	513,692	262,244
Professional Income	3,464,072	4,631,502	5,381,045
Cash at Bank	2,412,632	2,883,998	3,907,342
Trade Debtors	-	24,369	2,617
Current Assets	2,465,933	2,980,134	3,982,719
Non-Current Assets	172,318	105,599	14,595
Bank Overdraft	-	-	-
Trade Creditors	59,567	111,555	103,240
Current Liabilities	144,233	186,029	183,092
Non-Current Liabilities	25,000	10,000	-

Income Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
Revenue	2	3,564,194	4,800,852
Employee Benefits Expense		1,050,598	1,080,149
Depreciation and Amortisation		49,976	25,941
Other Expenses		2,064,716	3,181,070
Profit before Income Tax		398,904	513,692
Income Tax Expense		-	-
Profit from Operations		398,904	513,692
Reserves			
Decrease in Committed Projects Reserve	10	(819,590)	(1,438,209)
Total Movement in Equity of the Association		(420,686)	(924,517)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
Equity			
Committed Projects Reserve		1,064,679	1,884,269
Retained Profits		1,404,339	1,005,435
Total Equity		2,469,018	2,889,704
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	2,412,982	2,884,348
Trade and Other Receivables	5	30,007	71,551
Prepayments	6	22,944	24,235
		2,465,933	2,980,134
Non-Current Assets			
Property Plant & Equipment	7	172,318	105,599
		172,318	105,599
Total Assets		2,638,251	3,085,733
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	8	82,515	147,955
Provisions	9	61,718	38,074
		144,233	186,029
Non Current Liabilities			
Provisions	9	25,000	10,000
Total Liabilities		169,233	196,029
Net Assets		2,469,018	2,889,704

Profit and Loss Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Income		
Funding and Member receipts	3,464,072	4,631,187
Interest Received	100,122	169,665
Other Revenue	-	-
	<u>3,564,194</u>	<u>4,800,852</u>
Expenditure		
Accountancy Fees	3,270	16,860
Advertising	4,454	8,561
Annual Leave - Provision	23,644	(8,092)
Auditor's Remuneration	15,950	8,540
Bank Charges	615	800
Committee Expenses	33,961	25,531
Computer Expenses	11,589	6,508
Cleaning Expenses	4,568	2,834
Consultancy Fees	11,776	2,997
Depreciation	49,976	25,941
Fringe Benefits Tax	2,646	10,144
Hosting Agreements	8,000	14,033
Insurance	19,484	21,543
Legal Costs	8,592	9,600
Long Service Leave - Provision	-	-
Meeting Expenses	5,404	8,591
Motor Vehicle Expenses	28,006	45,332
Other Office Running Costs	26,773	26,920
Postage	2,568	1,218
Printing	-	-
Membership, Subscriptions & Fees	1,773	1,347
Rent & Occupancy Expenses	68,991	41,546
Staff Employment Costs	601	11,084
Service Provider & Project Payments	1,772,311	2,883,576
Sponsorship	-	3,455
Staff Training	24,747	16,166
Superannuation - SGC	83,277	88,193
Telephone & Internet	15,467	18,434
Travelling Expenses	11,554	15,578
Salaries & Wages	925,293	979,920
	<u>3,165,290</u>	<u>4,287,160</u>
Operating Profit before Income Tax	<u><u>398,904</u></u>	<u><u>513,692</u></u>

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Statement of Cash Flow for the Year ended 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Grants/Members		2,633,883	3,166,676
Payments to suppliers		(1,986,797)	(3,180,942)
Payments to employees		(1,050,598)	(1,080,149)
GST refunded/(remitted)		(42,255)	25,899
Interest received		91,096	162,118
Net cash provided by operating activities	4	(354,671)	(906,398)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of plant and equipment		(116,695)	(116,946)
Reimbursement of plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(116,695)	(116,946)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(471,366)	(1,023,344)
Cash at beginning of financial year		2,884,348	3,907,692
Cash at end of financial year	3	2,412,982	2,884,348

Statement of Recognised Income and Expense for the Year ended 30 June 2010

	Retained Earnings \$	Committed Projects Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2008	491,743	3,322,478	3,814,221
Surplus/ (Deficit)	513,692	(1,438,209)	(924,517)
Balance at 30 June 2009	1,005,435	1,884,269	2,889,704
Surplus/ (Deficit)	398,904	(819,590)	(420,686)
Revaluation Increment	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2010	1,404,339	1,064,679	2,469,018

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2010

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act (Tasmania)*.

The financial report covers Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as an individual entity. Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. is an association incorporated in Tasmania under the *Associations Incorporation Act*.

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

REPORTING BASIS AND CONVENTIONS

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

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

(b) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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

Superannuation contributions are made by the association to various complying superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(c) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

DEPRECIATION

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

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

Leasehold Improvements	2.5%
Leased Plant and Equipment	20%
Office Equipment	10-40%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

(d) REVENUE

A significant proportion of the NRM South programs are supported by grants received from both the State and Federal Government. Grants are initially recognised as forming part of the Committed Projects Reserve and revenue is recognised as services are performed and conditions fulfilled.

The unutilised amount of grants received is disclosed as the Committed Projects Reserve.

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

All revenue is stated net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

(e) GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

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

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

(f) COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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

(g) CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS

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

KEY ESTIMATES - IMPAIRMENT

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

(i) TAXATION

The association is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
2. Revenue		
Funding and Member receipts	3,464,072	4,631,187
	<u>3,464,072</u>	<u>4,631,187</u>
Non-Operating Revenue		
Interest Received	100,122	169,665
Other Revenue	-	-
	<u>100,122</u>	<u>169,665</u>
	<u><u>3,564,194</u></u>	<u><u>4,800,852</u></u>
3. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on Hand	350	350
Cash at Bank	101,725	83,503
Deposit – Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation	2,310,907	2,800,495
	<u>2,412,982</u>	<u>2,884,348</u>
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>2,412,982</u>	<u>2,884,348</u>
	<u><u>2,412,982</u></u>	<u><u>2,884,348</u></u>
4. Cash Flow Information		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Net Surplus		
Net Surplus for the period	(420,686)	(924,517)
Adjustments for Non-Cash Components in Profit:		
Depreciation	49,976	25,941
Other Non Cash Items	-	-
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade and Other Receivables	42,835	(20,759)
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade and Other Payables	(65,440)	21,029
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	38,644	(8,092)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>(354,671)</u></u>	<u><u>(906,398)</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
5. Trade and Other Receivables		
Current		
Trade Debtors	-	24,369
Other Debtors	9,442	7,547
Provision for GST	20,565	39,635
	<u>30,007</u>	<u>71,551</u>
Total Trade and Other Receivables	<u>30,007</u>	<u>71,551</u>
6. Other		
Current		
Prepayments	22,944	24,235
	<u>22,944</u>	<u>24,235</u>
7. Property, Plant & Equipment		
Plant & Equipment	13,261	13,261
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>7,989</u>	<u>7,318</u>
	5,272	5,943
Office Equipment	105,582	101,279
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>72,304</u>	<u>35,426</u>
	33,278	65,853
Furniture & Fittings	29,528	28,282
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>8,639</u>	<u>4,938</u>
	20,889	23,344
Website Development	32,607	3,636
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>5,222</u>	<u>-</u>
	27,385	3,636
Leasehold Improvements	6,946	6,946
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>297</u>	<u>123</u>
	6,649	6,823
Data & Info Management Assets	82,175	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>3,330</u>	<u>-</u>
	78,845	-
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>172,318</u>	<u>105,599</u>
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>172,318</u>	<u>105,599</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
8. Trade and Other Payables		
Current		
PAYG Withholding Payable	16,994	19,155
Trade Creditors	59,567	111,555
Other Creditors	5,954	17,245
Total Trade and Other Payables	<u>82,515</u>	<u>147,955</u>
9. Provisions		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	61,718	38,074
	<u>61,718</u>	<u>38,074</u>
Non Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	10,000	10,000
Provision for Rapid Eye Imagery	15,000	-
	<u>25,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
10. Reserves		
Committed Projects Reserve	1,064,679	1,884,269
	<u>1,064,679</u>	<u>1,884,269</u>
Movements during the year		
In Committed Projects Reserve		
Inflows	1,064,679	1,884,269
Outflows	(1,884,269)	(3,322,478)
	<u>(819,590)</u>	<u>(1,438,209)</u>
11. Auditors Remuneration		
In 2008/09 BDO Kendalls Audit & Assurance (Tas) were the auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.		
Audit & review of financial reports	15,950	8,540
	<u>15,950</u>	<u>8,540</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2010

12. Operating Lease Commitments

Being for rent of office

Payable – minimum lease payments

	2010 \$	2009 \$
- Not later than 12 months	56,002	55,000
- Between 12 months and 5 years	135,337	187,917
- Greater than 5 years	-	-
	<u>191,339</u>	<u>242,917</u>

The property lease is a lease with a 5 year term, with rent payable monthly in advance.

The lease states that the rent be increased each year from the rent review date of 1st December in accordance with the Consumer Price index.

An option exists to renew the lease at the end of the five year term for an additional term of five years.

13. Association Details

The principal place of business is:

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

313 Macquarie Street, Hobart

Statement by Members of the Committee

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as at 30 June 2010 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Chair: Christine Mucha

Dated : 10 September 2010



Deputy Chair: Tony Ferrier

Dated : 10 September 2010

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 1681 Hobart TAS 7001
Australia

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (the 'Association'), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, and the income statement, statement of recognised income and expense, statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the Committee.

The Responsibility of the Committee 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 accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's 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.

BDO Audit (Tas) ABN 69 993 209 343

BDO is the brand name for the BDO International network and for each of the BDO Member Firms. BDO in Australia is a national association of separate entities.



The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

Independence

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

Auditor's 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 of 30 June 2010 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

BDO Tas

BDO Audit (TAS)

CRAIG J STEPHENS

Partner

Location and Date

Hobart
13th September 2010

NRM SOUTH

NRM South was declared a Regional Committee under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* in May 2003.

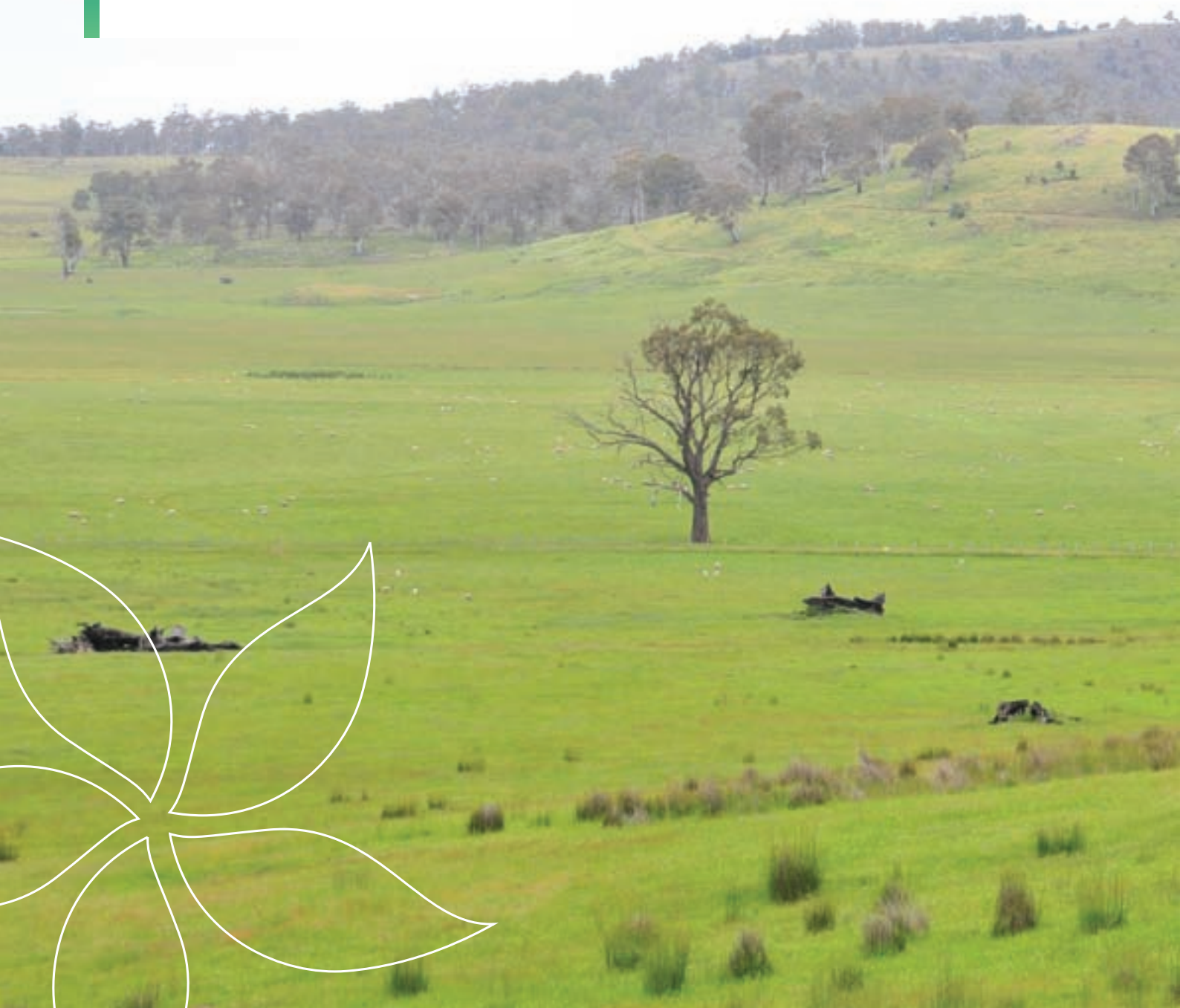
This Annual Report has been prepared to meet statutory requirements under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* and to inform stakeholders of NRM South's activities and achievements during 2009-2010.

Since April 2010 the Minister responsible for administering the Act is the Hon. David O'Byrne MHA, Minister for the Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts. The Minister responsible for administering the Act for the reporting period to April 2010 was the Hon. David Llewellyn MHA, Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

NRM South is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country and the Tasmanian Government.

Further information regarding NRM South and our activities is available from our website at www.nrmsouth.org.au

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NRM South acknowledges the efforts of its staff, stakeholders and the community in undertaking the activities and initiatives highlighted in this report, and the work of all involved in preparing this Annual Report.

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CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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Web: www.nrmsouth.org.au