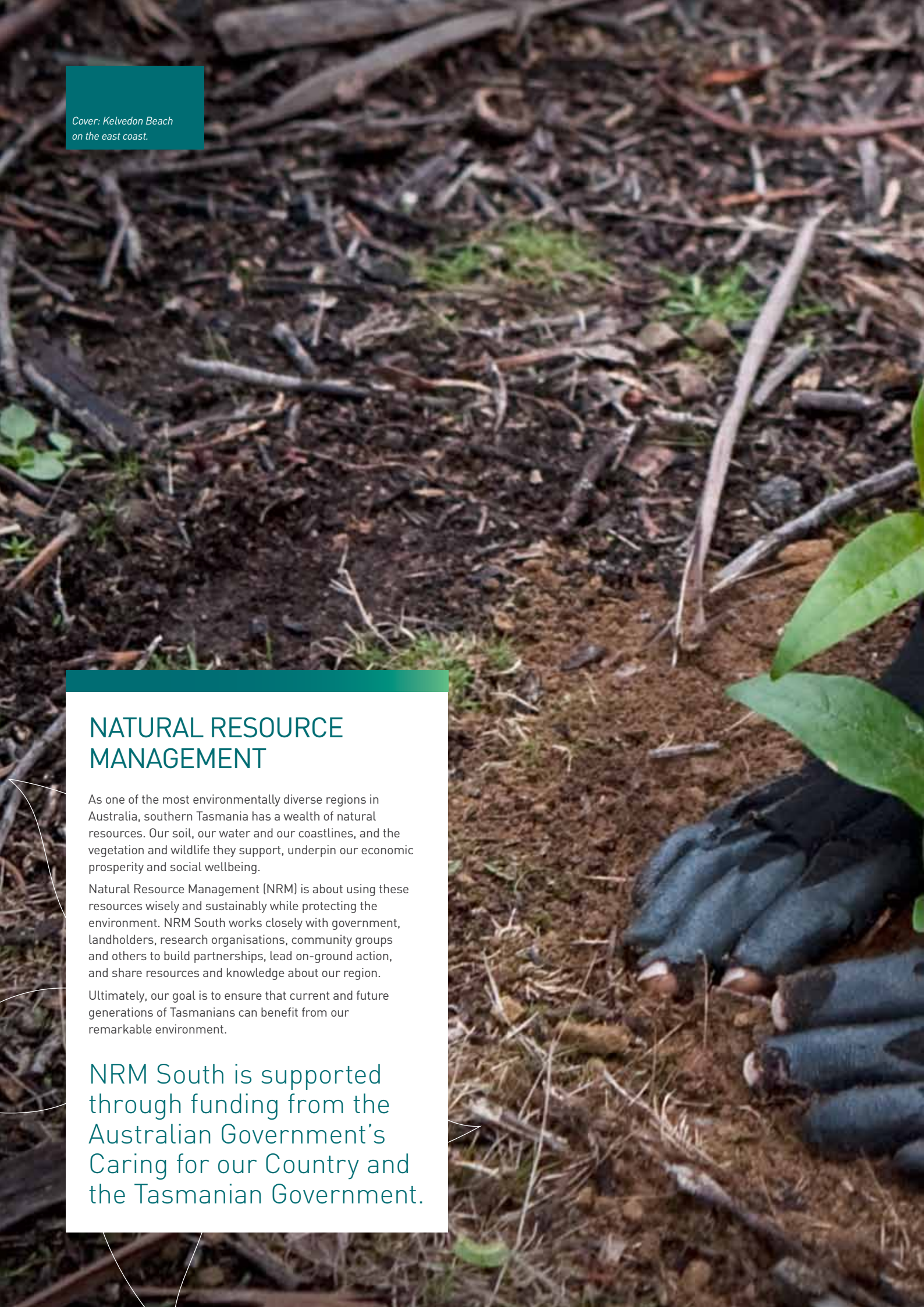


ANNUAL REPORT | 2011-12





Cover: Kelvedon Beach
on the east coast.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

As one of the most environmentally diverse regions in Australia, southern Tasmania has a wealth of natural resources. Our soil, our water and our coastlines, and the vegetation and wildlife they support, underpin our economic prosperity and social wellbeing.

Natural Resource Management (NRM) is about using these resources wisely and sustainably while protecting the environment. NRM South works closely with government, landholders, research organisations, community groups and others to build partnerships, lead on-ground action, and share resources and knowledge about our region.

Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that current and future generations of Tasmanians can benefit from our remarkable environment.

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

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FROM THE CHAIR



The past year has seen the further maturing of NRM South as an organisation effective in our mission to lead and support improved management of natural resources in southern Tasmania. We have consolidated and expanded on previous years' achievements. This report outlines many of those achievements, not just in quantitative statistics but in real-life case studies.

I am pleased to report that NRM South has acquitted its legislative responsibilities under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* efficiently and effectively. More than that, we have built a considerable reputation within the southern Tasmanian natural resource management community that has allowed us to be very influential in promoting improved natural resource management outcomes. We are now amongst the most trusted and respected contributors in this field.

During the year, the Board was keen to see improvements in the organisation's overall performance, in the way we deliver our programs and in the Board's own governance processes. To this end, external reviews were conducted in relation to each of these matters, the results of which were pleasing insofar as they recognised that current performance was good. Areas for improvement were, however, identified and are being worked on. NRM South is a good organisation getting better.

Our work in 2011–12 sets us up well for this next year. It will be a year of renewed challenges in a number of areas, not the least of which relate to the Australian Government's emerging carbon abatement programs that provide opportunities for

leveraging additional natural resource management outcomes as well as possible new revenue sources for NRM South.

During 2012–13, we will also be faced with a new Commonwealth funding model with the finalisation of details of Caring for our Country Mk2. Inevitably this will result in some changes from current operating procedures but I am confident that regional delivery of natural resource management programs will continue to be supported.

Of course, any successes that NRM South has enjoyed throughout 2011–12 have not been down to us alone. These successes have only been possible by working with our many partners – individual landholders, volunteer groups, non-government organisations, State Government agencies, academic institutions, industry bodies and others. I thank all of those partners for their contributions during the past year.

I want also to register my great appreciation for the Australian Government's continued and generous financial support, without which none of what we do would be possible. Congratulations and thanks to my fellow directors on the NRM South Board and to the NRM South staff for a year of hard work and substantial achievement.

We celebrate a successful 2011–12 and look forward with optimism to the year ahead.

MAX KITCHELL

... These successes have only been possible by working with our many partners – individual landholders, volunteer groups, non-government organisations, State Government agencies, academic institutions, industry bodies and others.



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



This last year has been one of consolidation for NRM South. We streamlined our delivery processes and further clarified our role in delivering natural resource management in accordance with the regional strategy. Delivery continued unabated on our core business, encouraging sustainable management practices, protecting biodiversity, engaging the community and sharing knowledge and information.

From the Financial Report, NRM South apparently maintained a steady income from 2010–11 to 2011–12 but that does not tell the full story.

Despite receiving less funding from the Tasmanian Government than in previous years (with less expected in the coming year) we made ground through other sources. New funds from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund were secured that we will use for important habitat management work on private land on the northern part of Bruny Island. Through our Regional Landcare Facilitator position we have adopted responsibility for communication of the Carbon Farming Initiative in the southern region; our forum for stakeholders and sessions specifically targeting farmers were well received. And co-investors have contributed strongly to local facilitator positions and several joint projects such as the *State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel* project, the *Derwent Catchment Review*, and a small but powerful project improving knowledge of wildlife-friendly gardens.

Successfully acquitted projects include *Protecting the values of the Pittwater Orielton Lagoon*, funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country, one of the outputs of which was a report to

the community that describes in layman's terms the values and threats to this important coastal hotspot and its resident and migratory bird population. The report was published in January 2012. NRM South hosted the feasibility study phase of the Aboriginal Green Team project development and we were successful in securing funding for the start-up phase of this business. This social enterprise will create jobs for a small team of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The business will provide contracting services in conservation, land management and maintenance (especially in areas of high cultural value), initially in southern Tasmania.

Guided by the *Natural resource management strategy for southern Tasmania 2010–2015*, NRM South explored opportunities to expand the natural resource management work in the region.

Much of what was achieved was through partnership arrangements with local and state government, the other natural resource management regions in Tasmania, community groups and business and industry. New understandings were reached with Regional Development Australia, Tasmania, Kingborough Council and the Derwent Estuary Program, to name a few. In highlighting our successes, we must also acknowledge that we were able to achieve some great outcomes, by leveraging investment and working successfully with others. I hope our partners feel that we have suitably acknowledged these arrangements and that they in turn acknowledge our role in providing critical seed funding, contributing information or planning expertise, hosting, facilitating and otherwise enabling the outcomes to be achieved.

With a focus on continuous improvement we reviewed many of our systems and processes. An external review of key programs, finalised in April 2011, led to changes in 2011–12 in program and organisation structure, stakeholder engagement and partnership development, and also led to business systems improvements. These improvements have been seen as really positive by our stakeholders, as evidenced by our most recent external review conducted in May 2012.

It has been my pleasure to work for the dedicated members of the NRM South Board, which has increasingly focused on its strategic role in guiding NRM South, and especially Chairman Max Kitchell and Deputy Chair Ian Whyte. NRM South staff have continued to work diligently this last year, and have seamlessly embedded changes into their daily work. They are living the Mission of the organisation, '... leading and supporting improved management of natural resources in southern Tasmania.'

We have been actively working to ensure that our natural resources are well managed into the future, making submissions and representing the region's interests into government programs, developing business proposals and investigating potential corporate partnerships. I am sure that this activity will bear fruit over this coming year and contribute to a strong base for the region in the years to come.

DR KATHLEEN BRODERICK

ABOUT NRM SOUTH

WHO IS NRM SOUTH?

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

As the non-government leader in natural resource management for the region, NRM South acts as a 'hub' in engaging and working with all three tiers of government, industry, other non-government organisations and the community to protect and enhance our region's land, freshwater, coastal and marine environments and the variety of life they support.

NRM South is one of three natural resource management bodies in Tasmania and forms part of a national network of 56 similar bodies. Our team members are located across the region, at our office in Hobart and in regional centres through our partnerships with local government.

One of our core roles is to facilitate the implementation of the *Natural resource management strategy for southern Tasmania 2010-15*, through building partnerships, securing funding and increasing the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

NRM South's Corporate Plan describes five strategic priorities.

1. Develop and share knowledge of the region's natural resource condition, values and threats.
2. Build partnerships and engage the community in positive action.
3. Deliver on-ground and sustainable practice programs in priority areas (geographic and sector).
4. Optimise the use of available resources for natural resource management, and secure additional resources.
5. Govern and manage the NRM South business effectively.

ORGANISATION PERFORMANCE

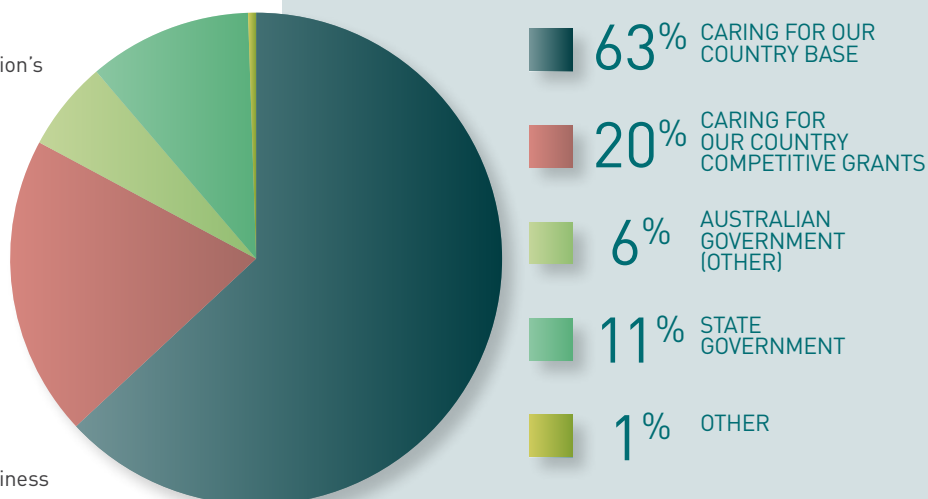
NRM South continued efforts to improve the management of our organisation over the past year through an independent review of our performance against the *Performance excellence guide for regional natural resource management organisations*.

The independent review involved internal documents and policies, as well as discussions with members of the Board, senior management team, staff and a cross-section of external stakeholders. It identified key strengths and opportunities for improvement and provided a baseline to monitor progress over time.

Among the findings were that stakeholders had noted substantial improvements in the performance of NRM South over the previous 18 months. In terms of management practices it was found that our performance is at or above the mid-point for the range of other regional NRM bodies across Australia.

Many of the opportunities for improvement outlined in the review have already been identified by NRM South. They include improving record management, monitoring and reporting capacity, and strengthening workplace health and safety awareness systems and practice.

FIG 1. SOURCES OF FUNDING 2011-12





OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

INVESTMENT DECISION MAKING

Further improvements were made to our annual investment planning process, consolidating our value/asset based approach to prioritisation, improving communication of our investment principles and increasing consultation with stakeholders to refine our programs and explore new opportunities for collaboration. An annual business plan consultation paper was well received by our many stakeholders and resulted in identification of opportunities for partnership and cross-promotion of activities.



GOVERNANCE

NRM South is a not-for-profit, member-based Incorporated Association. The Board was declared a Regional Committee under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* and includes a representative of the Tasmanian Government.

Since September 2010 the Board has been chaired by Max Kitchell. During 2011–12 the Board undertook a self-assessment process and performance training. Board member profiles are included in the Appendix.

MISSION & BOARD

After consultation with staff and board members we updated our organisation's Mission statement and Values in 2011–12 to better reflect the current role and organisational development of NRM South. The Vision was confirmed unchanged.

VISION

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

MISSION

We will lead and support improved management of natural resources in southern Tasmania.

VALUES

Our new organisational values drive our actions and behaviours internally and externally and underpin our relationships with all of our staff and stakeholders. They reflect how NRM South has evolved as an organisation.

1. Innovation - Innovation supports change and creativity, and creates opportunities.
2. Excellence - It drives us to be our best, and demonstrates respect for ourselves and our stakeholders.
3. Collaboration - Working with others enables time- and cost-effective use of resources, and helps to build stronger relationships and share successes.
4. Passion - Passion brings enthusiasm, commitment, motivation and energy.
5. Impact/Achievement - Our focus is on getting results and making a positive difference.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2011

- 'Keeping it clean', a field day to educate the trout fishing industry on field hygiene practices to protect the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area from pests and diseases.
- Research focus groups on supporting volunteers held at Swansea and Hobart.
- Regional Landcare Facilitator Reference Panel meets to discuss sustainable land management practices.
- Tree-planting workshop on Bruny Island.



SEPTEMBER 2011



- Workshop on Bruny Island on preventing tunnel erosion.
- Annual General Meeting held at Salamanca Inn, Hobart.
- Wildlife-friendly Gardens project commences, assisting peri-urban residents to remove weeds and plant local species.

NOVEMBER 2011



- 4 workshops held to promote sustainable land management practices.
- NRM South fields a stall at Sustainable Living Expo, featuring a presentation on the romance versus reality of rural living.
- Salinity workshop on the east coast.
- Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative art competition at UTAS.

AUGUST 2011



- NRM South Board tour to meet landholders and inspect trial sites.
- Steering group meets to identify priority sites for boot cleaning stations in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Nature Hub website goes live.

OCTOBER 2011

- *Guide to planned grazing* published.
- 2 landscape function workshops with David Tongway, training stakeholders in how to read the ability of landscapes to function as a biochemical system.
- Carbon forum held at Sandy Bay, co-hosted with Regional Development Australia.
- Biodiversity mapping training session at Kingborough.



DECEMBER 2011



- Coastal Conversations event at UTAS School of Art attracts 200 people.
- Native plant and seed collection walk at Coningham.
- Protecting vegetation from browsing mammals workshop, Bruny Island.



JANUARY 2012

- *Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon report to the community* published.
- *Derwent Catchment Review* published, a technical report into monitoring water quality in the Derwent.
- White gum rehabilitation trials commence on Bruny Island.
- Field day at a Huon trial site investigating new ways to control ragwort.



MARCH 2012



- NRM South stall at Bream Creek Show increases awareness of common backyard weeds.
- 3 planned grazing field days with Graeme Hand and Dr Kerry Bridle.
- Local government officers updated on climate change information at a Hobart forum.
- Resilient pasture species showcased at a field day in the upper Derwent Valley.

MAY 2012



- *Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon Foreshore Action Plan* published.
- NRM South organisational performance review conducted, assessing internal processes and management practices, sets performance baseline.
- Canoe education/biosecurity education weekend.

FEBRUARY 2012



- Photopoint monitoring workshop at Kingston to help volunteers monitor the progress of their revegetation projects.
- Two-day introductory pasture cropping course held at Kempton.
- Naturally Inspired Grants and on-farm action grants open.
- The 'keeping it clean' biosecurity message delivered at the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Expo.

APRIL 2012



- Fungi Festival attracts 150 farmers, foodies and researchers.
- Two-day grazing management workshop with Graeme Hand held at Brighton.
- NRM TV and print awareness campaign 'It's your backyard too' launched.
- Biosecurity for bushwalking highlighted at Treadlightly Envirofest 2012.

JUNE 2012

- 9 community groups receive funds from the Naturally Inspired Grants program.
- Carbon farming workshop at Brighton presented by Ben Keogh.



- A Derwent catchment stakeholder forum held at the Salmon Ponds explores opportunities to improve water monitoring.
- Grant-writing workshop for community groups.



ALLIANCES

OUR APPROACH TO BUSINESS

Partnerships are the cornerstone of the way we do business at NRM South; building relationships and working in collaboration with others to improve natural resource management is a key corporate value, and enables us to achieve far more than we could on our own.

By leveraging funding and expertise we are able to maximise efficiency and outcomes, and establish a robust platform from which to deliver the services that are the subject of much of this annual report.

We seek to invest where we can make the biggest difference and build capacity in local communities to deliver local solutions with organisations that have strong community networks. We seek to optimise value for money and we favour arrangements that enhance continuity of service.

Through partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding, in 2011–12 we continued to work closely with landowners and land managers, local government and communities, NRM professionals and others to protect and enhance the natural values of our region as well as improve the sustainable use of our natural resources.

WORKING ALONGSIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

To maximise on-ground effort in key areas we have formed partnerships with various local governments and catchment management groups throughout the southern NRM region, who host and in many cases co-fund our local area facilitators. Joint efforts such as these enable us to effectively integrate local and regional priorities.

Our local area facilitators are based at:

- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Swansea
- Kingborough Council, Kingston
- Huon Valley Council, Huonville
- Derwent Catchment NRM, Hamilton.

To further build NRM capacity across the region, in 2011–12 we developed agreements with Tasman and Sorell Councils to co-invest in facilitators in their municipalities in 2012–13. We also commenced the development of formal partnership agreements with Huon Valley Council and Sorell Council, and a memorandum of understanding with Derwent Catchment NRM Committee, Central Highlands Council and Derwent Valley Council. These agreements are expected to be finalised in early 2012–13.

In 2011–12 local area facilitators undertook a vast range of activities, ranging from supporting farmer networking groups, to organising workshops, coordinating on-ground works to protect threatened vegetation communities and encouraging practice change. This approach has delivered ongoing improvement in land management, weed control, wetland management and protection of biodiversity at both at a property and landscape scale.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE TOGETHER

As a hub of NRM activity we bring together, analyse and share information relevant to the region. In addition to our own projects, we contribute to the collective development of NRM knowledge by participating in steering committees and working groups, organising forums, workshops and field days with specialists and community groups. We maintain NRM data, and contribute to the production of technical reports, fact sheets, reports and manuals.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our partnership with the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania continued to boost the capacity of coastcare groups to address both local and national priorities. We provided support to Landcare Tasmania to assist community landcare groups and commenced the development of a memorandum of understanding to identify future strategic opportunities to work together. We also signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Landcare Network which establishes a sound pathway to continue to work closely with the national organisation.

Nature Hub, our new website for community volunteers, continues to develop and provide useful resources for natural resource management activity.

BOOSTING OUR BUSINESS

Natural resource management is a dynamic sector and NRM South is continuously exploring new opportunities to enhance investment, innovation and activities in southern Tasmania.

In 2011–12 we were successful in securing funding for two new collaborative projects, to commence in 2012–13: protecting white gum populations on North Bruny Island, and on-ground actions to enhance the ecological character of the Apsley Marshes.



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

1 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Strong progress was made in 2011–12 in increasing the knowledge and capacity of small and large landholders to improve their management practices and in many cases adopt innovative techniques.

Led by our Regional Landcare Facilitator and supported by our team of local area facilitators and other staff we held numerous workshops, forums and training courses throughout 2011–12. They featured invited experts explaining the latest techniques for improving pasture and soil health and reducing input costs.

The program was guided by input from the Regional Landcare Facilitator Reference Panel, which comprises representatives of the farming and conservation community.

Farmers and landholders throughout southern Tasmania continue to enthusiastically embrace sustainable agriculture techniques to improve the health of their land and the viability of their farming business. A key to the success of our approach lies in offering low-risk trials for farmers willing to try new land management practices. With support and guidance, willing participants learn new methods and obtain evidence to help them decide whether to adopt new practices on their land. With a focus on landscape health, NRM South is providing tools to help identify and support farming goals.

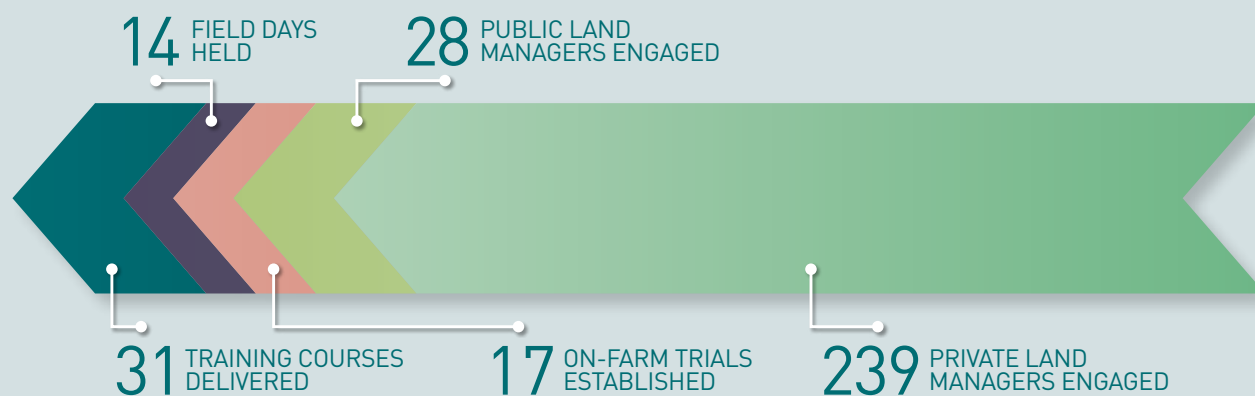
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011–12

LIVING SOILS

In its fourth phase, the popular Living Soils program continued to gather momentum in 2011–12. Pasture cropping, planned grazing and soil health workshops throughout the year were well attended, and there was an increase in the number of land managers exploring new techniques and implementing on-ground trials. Guest presenters Graeme Hand, Colin Seis and Joel Williams supported NRM South in delivering the program, which builds knowledge and understanding of innovative practices that reduce input costs, improve pasture diversity and soil structure, increase soil water-holding capacity and offers numerous other benefits. To support the workshop program the *Guide to planned grazing* was produced, a manual to help interested farmers run a simple trial in regenerating pasture health. This work will continue into 2012–13.

...With support and guidance,
willing participants learn new
methods and obtain evidence
to help them decide whether to
adopt new practices on their land.

**FIG 2. SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**



BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

The objective of this project is to continue to demonstrate the application of regenerative agricultural practices on southern Tasmanian farms. The evidence collected is used to support farmer uptake, adjust management practice and leverage interest in scientific research into the impacts of these techniques on production and biodiversity values and social and economic outcomes on farms. The project investigates changes in soil biology, chemistry and pasture diversity by the application of planned grazing, as well as landholders' expectations, drivers and barriers to uptake. There have been some positive changes, including increased soil carbon, increased water content and increased perennality at some of the sites, and we have baseline information for 10 sites.

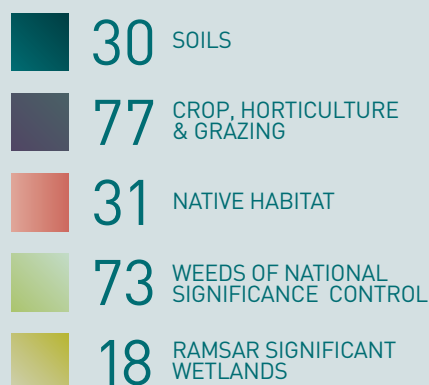
ON-FARM ACTION GRANTS

With funding provided by our grant program, 23 landholders in the Derwent Valley, Central Highlands and Kingborough were able to undertake sustainable land use and biodiversity protection projects. Activities ranged from improving pasture health through planned grazing activity, to strategic grazing on north-facing slopes, to clearing fence lines of weeds. The program augmented existing activity and boosted the efforts of our Regional Landcare Facilitator.

CARBON FARMING INITIATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

In June 2012 Ben Keogh from Australian Carbon Traders delivered a seminar on the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative to a group of farmers and other interested community members. We also supported the production of a DVD educational resource on the topic.

**FIG 3. NUMBER OF MANAGEMENT
AGREEMENTS AND ACTION
PLANS FOR IMPROVED LAND
MANAGEMENT**



CASE STUDY

BUILDING EVIDENCE
FOR NEW TECHNIQUES
IN LAND MANAGEMENT

Changing the way a property is managed is a big step, so it's reasonable to expect a certain amount of evidence to back up any decision you might make.

As part of NRM South's role in encouraging sustainable land management practices, our *Building evidence for sustainable regenerative agriculture* project is steadily accumulating data to support the effectiveness of new techniques in sustainable land management.

Dr Magali Wright, Biodiversity Coordinator at NRM South, says that because every region is different there is a need for solid evidence about the effectiveness of new techniques at a local scale.

"There's no doubt that practices such as planned grazing are gaining momentum in other parts of the country, but there simply can be no guarantee they will work here until we have some successful trials under our belt," she said.

With the help of landowners hosting trials, we've been trying to identify and then fill the gaps in our knowledge for the region. The *Building evidence* project has set up trial sites focused on the application of regenerative grazing practices, providing site-specific data on soil and pasture health to help track changes over time.

"Changing practices can be a big ask, so a small-scale trial is very appealing to some landholders as a low risk way of testing the techniques, learning how to use them in their situation and thinking about how it might fit into their business. Then they can judge for themselves if it's something they'd like to pursue.

A typical trial might involve a small plot (of between 0.5 to 3 hectares), with a control reference site nearby. The trials comprise a short grazing event with intense stock density followed by a recovery period of around 150 to 180 days; the duration depends on how quickly the perennial grasses recover.

"Some landholders are now extending planned grazing across larger areas, with some using it across their entire property, which shows that the idea is taking hold," said Magali.

Additional information is also being captured through a trial on landholder motivations, drivers and barriers to adopting new practices.

The project ultimately aims to bring landscape change across southern Tasmanian grazing land. In effect it addresses the causes of land management issues rather than the effects or symptoms, hopefully leading to a long-term sustainable improvement in soil health and landscape function. NRM South now has 15 trials underway.

To support this project NRM South has produced a comprehensive yet simple *Guide to planned grazing*, available for download at www.nrmsouth.org.au



TALKING ABOUT
A REVOLUTION

*Above: Tony Scherer
on his property near
Richmond. Photo:
Duncan Giblin, Storm Boy
Photography.*

For one landowner in our region, the concepts behind our Living Soils program validate decades of work trying to farm smarter and more naturally.

If Tony Scherer gets his way the next decade will see a mini-revolution taking place in how southern Tasmanian farmers work their land.

His farming philosophies are a great match for NRM South's approach to sustainable management practices, and Tony agreed to establish a trial on his property at Frogmore Creek near Richmond.

Tony's conversion from 'modern' farming techniques began almost four decades ago in Santa Cruz, California.

"In those days there were a lot of new fungicides on the market and you'd try them but they didn't seem to work that well," he said.

Tony started trialling different techniques and within a few years he had left commercial chemicals behind and was farming organically, focusing on improving soils by experimenting with crop rotation and making his own composts.

"NRM South is trying to achieve on a large scale what we are trying to do on a small scale," said Tony. "Our goals are very similar, and I like the way they approach things."

The time-controlled grazing trial on Tony's property is part of NRM South's sustainable management program. This system, in which larger groups of stock are moved frequently through paddocks with relatively long rest periods, aims to prevent erosion and allow pastures to recover and germinating grass seedlings to reach maturity before being grazed again. This removes the need for re-sowing pasture.

"Most people think that it's the soil that makes plants, but you really have to turn that on its head – plants actually make soils," said Tony. "You start with rock and clay and sand, but as plants grow they put humus and other things back into the soil."

Tony looks back at his early agricultural education with bemusement.

"I was educated in the sixties and nobody ever talked about soil biology. I took classes in soils and fertilisers, but it was all about what you could add to the soil; nobody ever said you can use a natural system to your advantage."

CASE STUDY

WE'RE ALL
CARBON FARMERS

*Above: Ben Keogh
explains the CFI.*

Raising awareness and sharing information about the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative is an increasingly important mission for NRM South.

It was while cutting firewood for his business in Victoria back in the 90s that Ben Keogh suddenly realised, 'if I keep this up there won't be any left'.

As revelations go, this was a game changer for Ben. He promptly enrolled in a natural resource management course and soon found that he had a natural understanding of forestry; it just made sense to him.

"Years of work as a forester, seeing for myself how these woodlands ticked and regenerated, gave me a good head start when people began talking about the importance of our private farmland in the carbon landscape," he said.

"So when the Australian Government began to build carbon farming into its policies through the Carbon Farming Initiative I was ready to get involved."

In June, NRM South invited Ben, who now manages a business called Australian Carbon Traders, to deliver a seminar on the opportunities that have arisen as a result of the CFI. Thirty-two people rolled up to the Pontville Hall to hear about how the CFI works, how carbon credits and trading will work, and what kinds of activities constitute carbon farming.

"The big realisation for all of us," said Ben, "is that as farmers we are already farming carbon."

"The CFI simply enables us to add an income stream to our existing business. It shouldn't be seen as a way to make money on its own, but as a supplementary source of income to an existing enterprise."

"The good news is that regardless of the financial incentives on offer, any activity that results in carbon stored on your property is good for your property," said Ben.

Ben demystified some of the more intricate details of the CFI and outlined the process by which a landholder might get involved in generating and selling carbon credits, the methodologies already approved and under consideration, and some of the projects that are eligible for carbon credits.

His plain-shooting style was a hit with those present, who certainly demonstrated a thirst for knowledge about the opportunities that carbon farming might bring.



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

*Above: Conservation
Volunteers Australia
establishing trial sites for
white gum regeneration.*

2. PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Our natural landscapes face threats from habitat destruction, invasive species and climate change. Those landscapes span wilderness, and publicly and privately owned land, and so maintaining corridors of habitat so vital to our flora and fauna is a challenge, to say the least.

The key to successful biodiversity protection involves enlisting the help of those responsible for managing valuable priority areas in our region, which is why our emphasis on partnerships and engaging with landowners is such an important part of NRM South's role.

During 2011–12 we were delighted by the willingness of landowners and managers to take part in our various biodiversity projects, whether through controlling weeds or assisting with habitat rejuvenation trials.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011–12



WHITE GUM REGENERATION TRIALS

This project was initiated to develop practical methodologies to encourage the regeneration of white gum in remnant bushland and around isolated paddock trees on farms on Bruny Island. Early in 2012 a series of trials was established, designed to assess the effectiveness of excluding grazing animals, and various methods for eliminating competition from other plants, including slashing, scalping and spraying. Preliminary results indicate that animal exclusion is crucial, and that scalping (removing the top layer of soil, grass and herb roots to reduce competition) is beneficial for white gum seedlings. The trials will continue throughout 2012–13.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011–12



FUNGI FESTIVAL

One-hundred-and-fifty fungi enthusiasts flocked to Hobart in April for the inaugural Tasmanian Fungi Festival jointly organised by NRM South and Fungimap. The four-day event comprised a symposium, fungi forays in the forests surrounding Mt Wellington, microscopy workshops and a dinner debate on the merits, or otherwise, of eating wild fungi. The festival highlighted the need for greater study of fungi, an essential component of our biodiversity, as very little is known about them. Widespread media coverage of the event also helped to raise broader community awareness of the value of fungi.

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA BIOSECURITY PROJECT

Throughout 2011–12 a major focus was the delivery of training in field hygiene practices through a partnership with Hydro Tasmania, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and the Environment, Parks and Wildlife and others. A variety of activities were undertaken to protect the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area from pests and diseases, including the installation of the first of the new boot cleaning stations and field monitoring of frog populations.

MIENA CIDER GUM PROTECTION

The Central Highland's Miena cider gum population is heavily prone to insect damage, and grazing pressure, which has compacted the soil, making it hard for seedlings to become established. In partnership with the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee, NRM South is now working on a world-first project that mimics nature by encouraging new cider gum seedlings to germinate in deeper soils downslope from the dryer rocky rises. Farmers and volunteers are fencing off corridors to protect new seedlings.

MOULTING LAGOON WEED CONTROL*

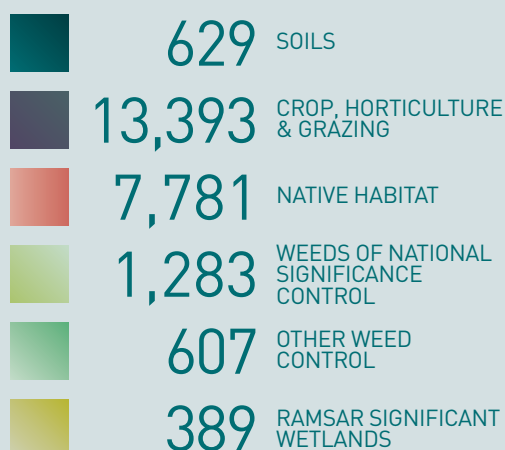
The project focused on one of the main threats to the natural values of the lagoon, namely weeds including gorse, a Weed of National Significance (WONS). Work was undertaken to map the extent of WONS fringing the Ramsar-listed site to identify priority areas for weed control, and working with landowners on control actions, either through funding support or the on-ground delivery of weed control.

SHOREBIRD PROTECTION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN*

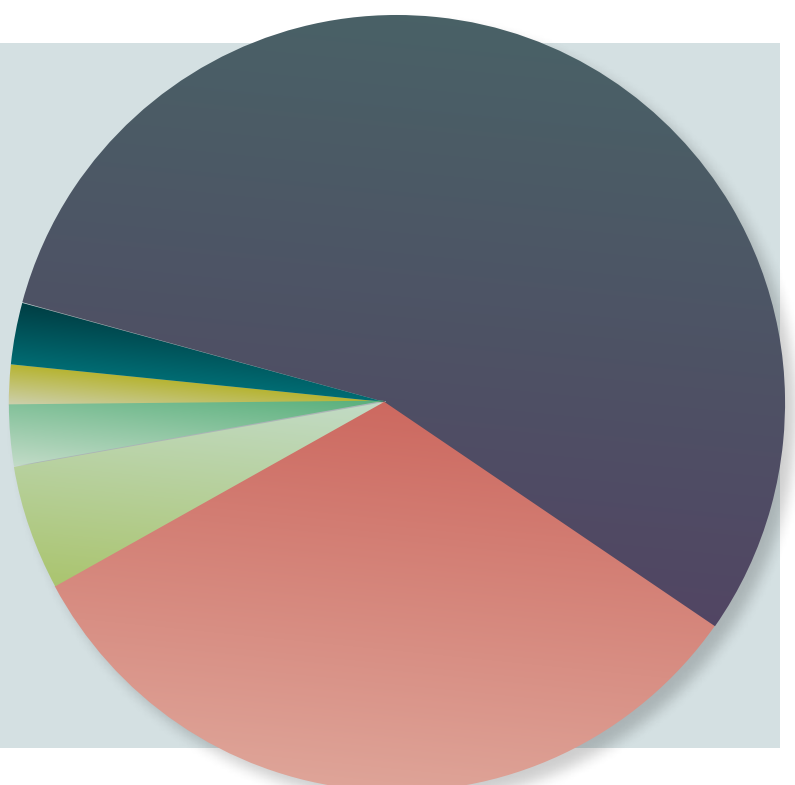
The local community, including schools and tourism operators, are now helping to spread the word about how we can protect resident and migratory shorebirds, for example by keeping dogs on lead and not walking near the upper reaches of the beach. Popular nesting areas were temporarily fenced in the hope that new bird families would flourish.

** These projects are managed by Catchments to Coasts, a partnership between NRM South, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and the GSB Natural Resource Management Committee.*

FIG 4. HECTARES UNDER IMPROVED MANAGEMENT



As at June 2012



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT

LEGEND

- UPPER DERWENT HIGHLAND LAKES
- MOUNTAIN TO MARINE
- HUON
- SWAN APSLEY LITTLE SWANPORT
- TASMAN SORELL

Indicative map only

COAXING BACK THE MIENA CIDER GUM

*Above: Monitoring for
cider gum seedlings.*

One of the challenges in protecting biodiversity lies in the fact that many of the important or valuable areas lie on private land. A key focus for NRM South, therefore, is engaging landowners to help; most are extremely keen to do so.

Steve Joyce often finds himself fielding phone calls from farmers who want to know why their big old Miena cider gums are dying.

“Farmers love these trees,” he said. “They are big and beautiful, and locals have formed an attachment to them because they are only found around Miena and the Great Lake region.”

As the Derwent Catchment NRM Coordinator, Steve has been working with NRM South, local farmers and volunteers as they protect new and old generations of these trees.

“Part of the reason these big old trees die is because they get hammered by insects and are in areas where grazing pressure has compacted the soil around them,” he said.

“They also struggle with changes in soil composition, which has become a lot richer through the use of fertilisers.”

The Miena cider gum is a globally significant threatened species. It is found only in the central highlands of Tasmania and has great cultural significance.

“They call them cider gums because they used to be tapped by the local indigenous people, who made an alcoholic drink out of the sap,” said Steve. “There are still some trees out there with axe marks where they would tap into the tree.”

Grazing pressure, from both stock and native animals, makes it hard for old cider gums to establish seed. They also struggle against fire.

To counter these threats NRM South has been helping farmers fence in old cider gums, keeping out stock and protecting them from other browsing animals.

However, a possibly greater threat is climate change and the accompanying changes in weather patterns around Miena and the lakes.

There is mounting evidence that drought periods over the past two decades have led to a severe decline in Miena cider gums across the eastern side of Tasmania’s central plateau, reflecting a shift in rainfall patterns over the plateau.

“These changes could be making it difficult for seedlings to grow in the frosty hollows on rocky rises they have traditionally favoured,” said Steve.

The only way to counter the pressures of a changing climate is to reduce other threats and monitor the outcomes, work we continue to pursue.



REGENERATING WHITE GUM HABITAT

Above: The forty-spotted pardalote. Photo: Chris Tzaros, BirdLife Australia.

Ecosystem protection and restoration is a key focus at NRM South. Trials underway on Bruny Island are a fine example of a collaborative effort in conservation, in this case to protect habitat for the critically endangered forty-spotted pardalote.

The tiny white gum seedlings scattered around trial sites on North Bruny Island are not much to look at now, but in 15 to 20 years' time they could turn out to be the saviour of the forty-spotted pardalote, one of Tasmania's most threatened bird species.

"These birds are very picky about where they feed," said Holly Hansen, NRM South's Mountain to Marine Coordinator.

"They rely heavily on white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), feeding on its sugary sap and protective coverings (lerps) made by little insects called psyllids that live on the tree."

In 17 years numbers more than halved, falling from 3840 to 1500 individual birds. On north Bruny Island the population plummeted by more than 70 per cent to just 300 birds.

The loss of widespread, healthy white gum habitat compounded by grazing pressures, land clearance, drought and increasing numbers of more aggressive native birds was to blame. It's hoped the north Bruny white gum trials will teach us how to reverse that habitat loss through natural regeneration of this tree species.

In collaboration with Kingborough Council and the Understorey Network, and with the support of Conservation Volunteers Australia and local land-owners, initial trial plots have been set up at Murrayfield, a premium lamb and fine wool sheep farm on Bruny Island operated by the Indigenous Land Corporation.

The sites have been designed to test the best methods local landholders can use to encourage natural regeneration of white gums on their property.

"The response to this project has been overwhelming," said Holly.

The trials are testing the effectiveness of several approaches, from excluding stock and native browsing animals from areas around established white gums, to simply keeping grass levels down, or removing the top layer of grasses and small flowering plants that compete with white gum seedlings.

It's still early days but Holly is encouraged by the goodwill of everyone involved in this project.

"There is a huge attachment on north Bruny to the Forty-spotted pardalote," she said.

"It's an iconic species for the island and it is inspiring to see an entire community trying to save it."

Thanks to significant funding from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund, in 2012–13 NRM South will continue work on restoring habitat for the forty-spotted pardalote with the help of 15 landowners.

PROTECTING OUR WORLD HERITAGE AREA FROM THE THREAT OF DISEASE



*Above: Scott Cashins,
wildlife biologist demonstrating
the boot cleaning station.*

The threat by pests and diseases to Tasmania's status as an unspoilt wilderness led to NRM South's involvement in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area project. It is another example of a collaborative attempt to protect the integrity of our invaluable natural resources.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is visited by nearly half a million people every year, including overnight hikers, rock climbers, day trippers, boaties and anglers. They come for adventure, sport and tranquillity. They also come to see one of the last true wilderness regions on earth. Unfortunately, anyone entering the area carries with them a risk of spreading pests and disease.

"Research shows that human activities are the main ways pests and diseases are moved from one area to another, with infected water, mud and vegetation being the main culprits for transmission," said Vani Welling, NRM South's Operations Manager.

"Once a pest or pathogen like phytophthora, chytrid fungus or didymo gets into soil or water it's almost impossible to eradicate. That makes prevention essential.

"The simple act of keeping gear clean and disinfecting between sites will stop the spread of all kinds of weeds, pests and diseases."

NRM South has been working with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, DPIPWE, Hydro Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania and others on monitoring, infrastructure and education programs that will eventually make it second nature for everyone entering the World Heritage Area to keep their gear clean.

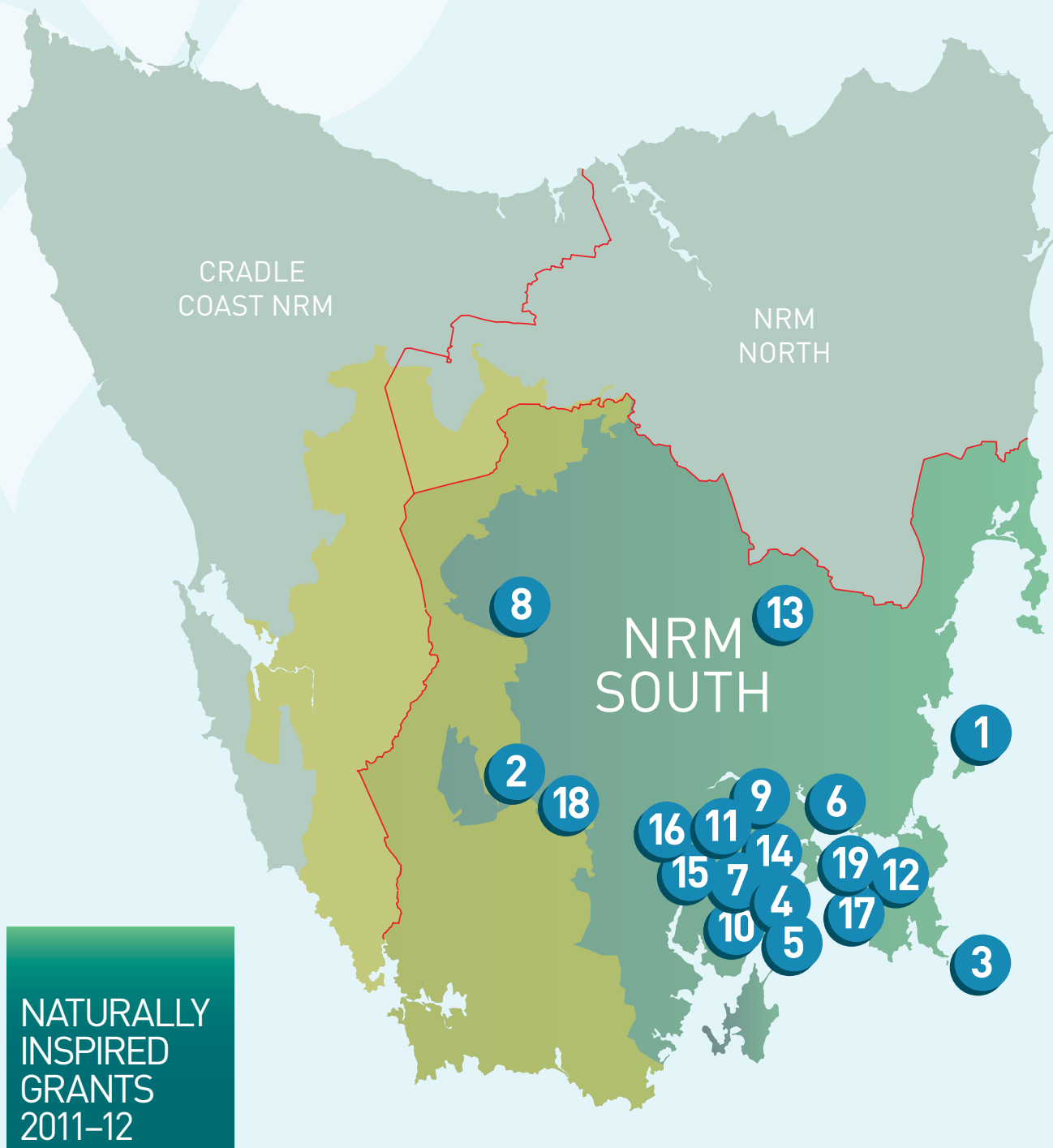
Phytophthora can spread through soil. Once it infects an area it can kill banksias, grasstrees and hakeas, completely changing the structure of an ecosystem.

Chytrid fungus grows in a frog's skin and creates a layer of matting that stops them from breathing. It's believed to have led to the loss of 70 frog species globally and could be behind the extinctions of eight Australian frog species. A key component of the project is monitoring the spread of the pathogen in the region and its effect on resident species.

NRM South is also helping to install 20 boot cleaning stations at key locations. The machines operate without power and use a hand pump to disinfect the underside of bushwalkers' boots, killing freshwater diseases.

The first was installed at Cradle Mountain and a second is being used by Par Avion in Hobart, which flies bushwalkers into Melaleuca, the jumping-off point for Tasmania's south coast track. Helicopter landing pads, car and boat washdown points are also in the construction and planning phases.

"The simple act of keeping gear clean and disinfecting between sites will stop the spread of all kinds of weeds, pests and diseases."



LEGEND

- 1 **Friends of Maria Island:** Revegetation and site remediation of two campsites and erosion gullies
- 2 **Friends of Mt Field:** Tyenna River riverbank rehabilitation
- 3 **Friends of Tasman Island:** Stage 2; rubbish removal and site remediation at quarters 1
- 4 **Illawarra Primary School:** Illawarra bushland
- 5 **Lower Browns River Action Group:** Rehabilitating Browns River riparian zone
- 6 **Pipe Clay Coast Care Group:** Follow-up control of serrated tussock, African boxthorn, Patterson's curse at Calvert's Hill
- 7 **Scout Association of Tasmania:** Protecting native habitat through partnerships
- 8 **Southern Highlands Progress Association:** Gorse control Dee Lagoon
- 9 **St Virgils College:** Hands-on environmental education for students
- 10 **Woodbridge High School:** Wild school conservation project
- 11 **South Hobart Sustainable Community Group (Inc):** Adopt a waterway
- 12 **Tasman Landcare Group - Parkers Beach Coastcare:** Foreshore restoration
- 13 **Midlands Tree Committee:** Assisting landholders with revegetation projects in the southern midlands
- 14 **Mt Nelson Bushcare Group:** Removal of WONS from endangered *E. ovata* forest and vulnerable *E. globulus* dry forest in the Hobart municipality
- 15 **Fern Tree Bushcare Group:** Awareness raising and on-ground WONS control
- 16 **Wellington Park Bushcare Group:** Inglewood gorse control
- 17 **Tasman District School:** Senses garden – early years playground
- 18 **Ellendale Residents:** Jones River revegetation (old school grounds park)
- 19 **Shelly Beach Coastcare:** Shelly Beach erosion control



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An active and committed volunteer community is a great asset for natural resource management in southern Tasmania.

Our August 2011 stakeholder survey revealed a relatively low, though growing, community awareness of the NRM activities in our region, so raising awareness of issues and projects was a key focus throughout 2011–12. To help spread the message we published 15 newsletters, and were the subject of around 100 media articles. During the year our websites were visited by around 3500 people.

We continued to work with community groups, partners and other stakeholders to build capacity and encourage increasing participation in natural resource management. We refined our Naturally Inspired Grants program and introduced a new small grant category with fewer administrative requirements. Our television and press campaign 'It's your backyard too' was launched, as was our website for volunteers, Nature Hub, which contains information to help community groups in their NRM activities.



Above: Naturally Inspired,
the NRM South newsletter.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011-12

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In April we launched our 'It's your backyard too' series of TV and print advertisements, which described a cross section of the natural resource management projects occurring throughout the region. The advertisements ran over seven weeks and featured a community group's efforts in removing weeds from a riverbank, a school working to rejuvenate the Derwent River foreshore, a farming family trying to balance income with conservation, and a successful shorebird awareness program on the east coast. The awareness campaign, including extended web interviews, generated a growth in interest in NRM and prompted a big increase in visitors seeking information on our website.

WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDENS

This project enlisted the help of local gardeners in the fight against problematic weed species including broom, gorse and blackberry. Our Mountain to Marine Coordinator visited gardens adjacent to bushland areas in Hobart, identifying weeds, advising landowners on how to treat them, and explaining how to build habitat for local wildlife. The project also involved strategic control of targeted weeds in priority areas.

NATURALLY INSPIRED GRANTS

In 2011-12, two rounds of the Naturally Inspired Grants program were conducted, with 19 community groups awarded just under \$60,000, for projects ranging from revegetating sites of severe erosion, to rehabilitating riparian zones, to removing rubbish. A grant-writing workshop was held in June to help community members to demystify the application process and encourage greater participation in future rounds.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY EVENTS

NRM South continued our community outreach activities at the Sustainable Living Festival and the Treadlightly Enviro Festival. The latter provided an opportunity for us to demonstrate to a large audience the new washdown stations that will be installed at trail heads throughout the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area to help prevent the spread of disease. We also had a presence at the Bream Creek Show where hundreds of people talked to us about common environmental weeds and were rewarded with free native plants.

ABORIGINAL LAND MANAGEMENT

This project was a partnership between NRM South, members of the Aboriginal community, the Australian Government's Indigenous Coordination Centre, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other NRM organisations. A coordinator was employed to engage the community, complete a business feasibility analysis and make plans to establish a social enterprise. The future will see *pakana services* established as an independent contracting business providing jobs for Tasmanian Aboriginal people in land conservation, management and maintenance.

COASTCARE SUPPORT

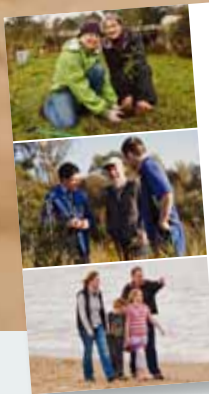
As part of our partnership with Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, NRM South continued to employ and host two project officers who are delivering on-ground projects and supporting community groups to protect our coastlines through events including Coastcare Week.

NATURE HUB WEBSITE

Launched in August 2011, Nature Hub is our website for volunteers and community groups. It lists events and working bees run by landcare and coastcare groups, links to other organisations and resources, and describes some of the great work being done by groups in our region. Activity on the site has steadily increased over the past 12 months.

FIG 5. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY





Working with the community to create a sustainable future for

Southern Tasmania has one of the most diverse and productive natural environments in the world – and it's in all our interests to keep it that way.

NRM South works with government, business, landholders, community groups and other organisations to help protect our valuable natural assets for future generations.

Get involved. It's your backyard



www.nrmsouth.org.au

To find out more, or to get involved, visit the website or use your smartphone QR code reader.



A survey conducted just over a year ago revealed that public awareness of activity in NRM was low, despite a great many inspiring community-based projects occurring throughout the region. To address the problem, in April NRM South launched the 'It's your backyard too' campaign.



Nicholls Rivulet



Working with locals to rejuvenate our rivers.

Southern Tasmania has one of the most diverse and productive natural environments in the world – and it's in all our interests to keep it that way.

NRM South works with government, business, landholders, community groups and other organisations to help protect our valuable natural assets for future generations.

Get involved. It's your backyard too.



www.nrmsouth.org.au

To find out more, or to get involved, visit the website or use your smartphone QR code reader.



HOBART RIVULET: A NATURAL PLAYGROUND?

Above: The Hobart Rivulet.

Land- and coastcare groups are the backbone of local natural resource management, and so we strive to support them in whatever way we can. Through grants programs, technical support and networking, engaging community groups to help them achieve their goals formed a significant part of our 2011–12 activities.

As a scientist and mother of two, Deborah Terry has a pretty simple view of what she wants for the future of the Hobart Rivulet.

"I want the rivulet to be healthy enough for kids to play in again," she said.

Funding from an NRM South Naturally Inspired Grant and an Australian Government Community Action Grant has enabled the South Hobart Sustainable Community Group and the South Hobart Primary School to kick off a project called Adopt a waterway, which is intended to rejuvenate the rivulet.

Just 9.5 kilometres long, the rivulet has always been an important part of local Aboriginal and European life. For thousands of years the Mouheneenner used it as a trail and source of fresh water, and it was critical to the early European settlement of Hobart.

Emerging from below The Springs on Mt Wellington, the rivulet flows naturally over Strickland Falls, down through South Hobart and into the city centre, where it runs underground before reaching the River Derwent near the Hobart Regatta grounds.

"The rivulet is something that joins and links us with the mountain," said Deborah. "It's also a physical entity that flows through and joins our community."

Deborah is busy preparing the first of four forums that will introduce a new project to South Hobart residents, demonstrating the need to monitor the rivulet's health.

The main focus of the project is on education and to monitor the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates found in the waterway as an indication of just how healthy the rivulet really is.

"Different waterbugs have different levels of sensitivity to pollution," said Deborah. "Some are intolerant to pollution."

"So if you find the sensitive macroinvertebrate species in your water system then you know it's in good health. If none of those sensitive species are present you know you're in a bit of trouble."

The project will encourage the community, local school children and families to help monitor the rivulet through workshops and eventually an outdoor classroom.



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

4. SHARING KNOWLEDGE & INFORMATION

NRM South works with partners to improve natural resource management outcomes by gathering together existing information, generating new knowledge, and disseminating information throughout our region. Our staff bring a regional perspective and expertise to other organisations in southern Tasmania.

We contribute to the development of policy and management plans, fact sheets and funding applications. We participate in a number of steering committees and working groups, and are committed to building networks of natural resource management expertise. We are also involved in a number of research projects in climate change adaptation and agricultural extension services.

We have made solid progress in developing more rigorous systems for monitoring and evaluation of our projects and have commenced work to report next year on the region's delivery of the *Natural resource management strategy for southern Tasmania 2010–2015*.

One of the focuses throughout 2011–12 was addressing the need for a database of our natural resource management activity in the region, filling gaps in knowledge and centralising data to increase its accessibility. Work on centralising and spatialising data will continue throughout 2012–13.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011–12

DERWENT CATCHMENT REVIEW

The project set out to analyse water quality data and to determine trends in the response by the river system to events such as algal bloom and drought. Currently, data is incomplete and disparate, and so there is a need to better coordinate monitoring practices and collate evidence to inform management. The review was compiled by a team of people from the Derwent Estuary Program, Hydro Tasmania, Greening Australia, Tassal, Norske Skog, Forestry Tasmania, Southern Water and Derwent Catchment NRM.

D'ENTRECASTEAUX CHANNEL PROJECT

In mid 2011 stakeholders representing state and local government agencies, industry and research institutes met and supported the notion of working together to develop common understanding and sustainable management practices of the Channel waterway. A working group has been formed to provide scientific and technical advice in order to update the 1999 *State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel* report. Working with Kingborough Council and other funders, NRM South employed a project officer to coordinate a range of activities. The key achievements of the project have been the completion of a data inventory which will be critical to informing decision-making, and building engagement with stakeholders to continue the project. This work will contribute to the development of an integrated management framework that could form the basis of a larger program. Other funding partners for 2011–12 were Kingborough Council, Derwent Estuary Program, Tassal and the Huon Valley Council.



PITT WATER-ORIELTON LAGOON REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon is a diverse system, internationally recognised for its populations of migratory and resident shore birds, as well as a number of threatened flora and fauna species. It has come under increasing pressure from human activity over recent decades, and is also at risk as a result of sea level rise. The report to the community highlights the values and condition of the estuary, improvement works being undertaken and further actions required to ensure that this amazing natural asset continues to be enjoyed by future generations. A technical report was also released, *The condition of the Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon*, which describes some of the indicators of the condition of the system.

COASTAL CONVERSATIONS

As part of Coastcare Week in December, NRM South, Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Coastal Alliance, Birds Tasmania, Australian Coastal Society and UTAS presented a forum on coastal issues that we will face as a result of sea level rise. A packed audience of around 200 people heard Professors Bruce Thom and Jan McDonald explain possible mitigation measures and legal liability issues.

DIGITAL EXTENSION TOOL

We supported the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture in developing the Useful Tool for Extension (UTE), which is intended to enable improved access by farmers to web-based information about health and safety, social and financial matters to help them to make better business decisions.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION DECISION MAKING

NRM South is contributing to the development of a project on the state of adaptation research in Tasmania, with representatives from UTAS, CSIRO, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and the Tasmanian Climate Change Office. The goal is to improve evidence-based adaptation decision making to address the unique challenges that Tasmania faces as a result of climate change.

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE

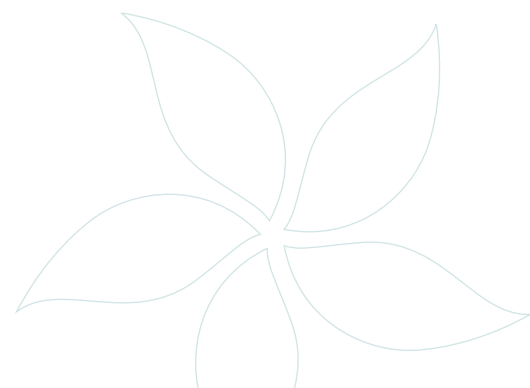
We supported work by UTAS in bringing together unconnected knowledge about the factors which are important to creating conditions for vector-borne disease as a result of climate change, for example Ross River Virus. As an extension of our saltmarsh work we are providing access to datasets and to our network of environmental managers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERIES

Coastal adaptation decision pathways, the effects of sea level rise on coastal fauna, and new tools for conservation planning were some of the topics covered through a Local Government Forum organised by NRM South. Speakers from local and state government, BirdLife Tasmania and Deakin University shared their knowledge about latest developments in climate change adaptation strategies.

GUIDE TO PLANNED GRAZING

The immense popularity of our workshops on grazing management led to the development of the *Guide to planned grazing*, a manual for farmers who wish to experiment with new grazing techniques. The guide explains the technique, where a small trial area is intensively grazed for a short period followed by a long recovery with the aim of pressing grass litter into contact with the soil, which in turn creates favourable conditions for soil biota and pasture regeneration. Instructions for how to set up a small-scale trial are included, intended to encourage farmers to try new techniques and, with the help of NRM South, establish a trial and improve the sustainability of their grazing practices.



CASE STUDY

FANS FLOCK TO
FOUR-DAY FUNGI
FESTIVAL

Above: *Mycena interrupta*,
commonly known as 'pixie's parasols'.
Photo: Beth Heap.

Fungi play an essential role in ecosystems yet we know so little about them, especially when it comes to conserving and managing these remarkable organisms.

NRM South and Fungimap jointly organised the inaugural Tasmanian Fungi Festival to raise awareness and build community capacity in appreciating the ecological roles that fungi play. The festival comprised a two-day symposium on the conservation and management of fungi, a debate on eating wild fungi, and a weekend of forays and workshops.

Striking a balance between the latest fungal science and practical information on the role of fungi in restoration and land management, the symposium boasted 21 speakers from 15 international research and land management organisations.

The first day featured overviews of the roles of fungi in ecosystems, covering different nutritional groups such as mycorrhizal fungi, lichens, saprotrophs and pathogens. There were also presentations on weedy fungi, managing fire for fungi and vegetation as a surrogate for fungi.

The second day focused on the roles of fungi in soil health, compost and food production as well as on the practical applications of fungi in areas such as mine site restoration, carbon sequestration, biocontrol and germination of rare orchids. Walter Jehne highlighted how a lack of fungi in agricultural systems can lead to a reduction in the nutritional value of food.

The serious topic of the dangers or otherwise of eating wild fungi was tackled in a light-hearted manner during a debate on eating wild fungi. The question 'eating wild fungi: fun or foolhardy?' was debated over the festival dinner and provided an entertaining and educational mix of opinions about the topic, with audience acclamation eventually supporting the 'fun' side.



From left, Fungi Festival participants Dr Tom May, Dr Teresa Lebel, Dr Genevieve Gates, MC Leon Compton, Alison Pouliot, Patrick Jones and Graham Phillips.

Forays and laboratory-based microscopy workshops covered topics including identification of different groups of fungi and techniques for documenting and surveying fungi. There was also a foray for children, with a search for smelly, slimy and tiny fungi. This type of fungal education and training is rarely available; participants had the opportunity to learn from leading Australian and international experts.

In total, around 150 people attended the festival. It sparked nine newspaper articles, five radio interviews and two local TV news programs, each raising public awareness of the importance of fungi in the environment.

MONITORING A COMPLEX RIVER SYSTEM

Above: The Styx River at Glenora.

As the Derwent system is a major part of our region we are especially keen to assist the various researchers in monitoring and caring for it.

The Derwent catchment covers nearly 9000 square kilometres of the southern midlands, and is one of the largest river basins in the state. Originating at Lake St Clair, the river flows through a series of dams, power stations and reservoirs until it joins the Derwent Estuary at New Norfolk 190 kilometres downstream. It runs through high-rainfall areas and some of Tasmania's driest regions, feeding agriculture and aquaculture on the way, and provides 60 per cent of Hobart's drinking water.

It's a big system and one of our most precious natural assets.

In June NRM South, working with the Derwent Estuary Program, brought together representatives from Hydro Tasmania, Greening Australia, Tassal, Norske Skog, Forestry Tasmania, Southern Water, Derwent Catchment NRM and the Australian Government to talk about the river system we all share.

Monitoring the quality of the water in the system has been the focus of numerous projects for many years, but to date most of the work has concerned small sections and particular sites on the waterway.

NRM South CEO Kathleen Broderick says that we spend a lot of time analysing flows within the Derwent River system when things go wrong.

"The last drought is a good example," she said. "Or when there's an algal bloom. Our monitoring ramps up, and we have lots of data about what happens in those situations.

"But the whole point of monitoring a large system like the Derwent is to develop a consistent, long-term, big-picture approach to managing the entire river system. And we're not doing that at the moment."

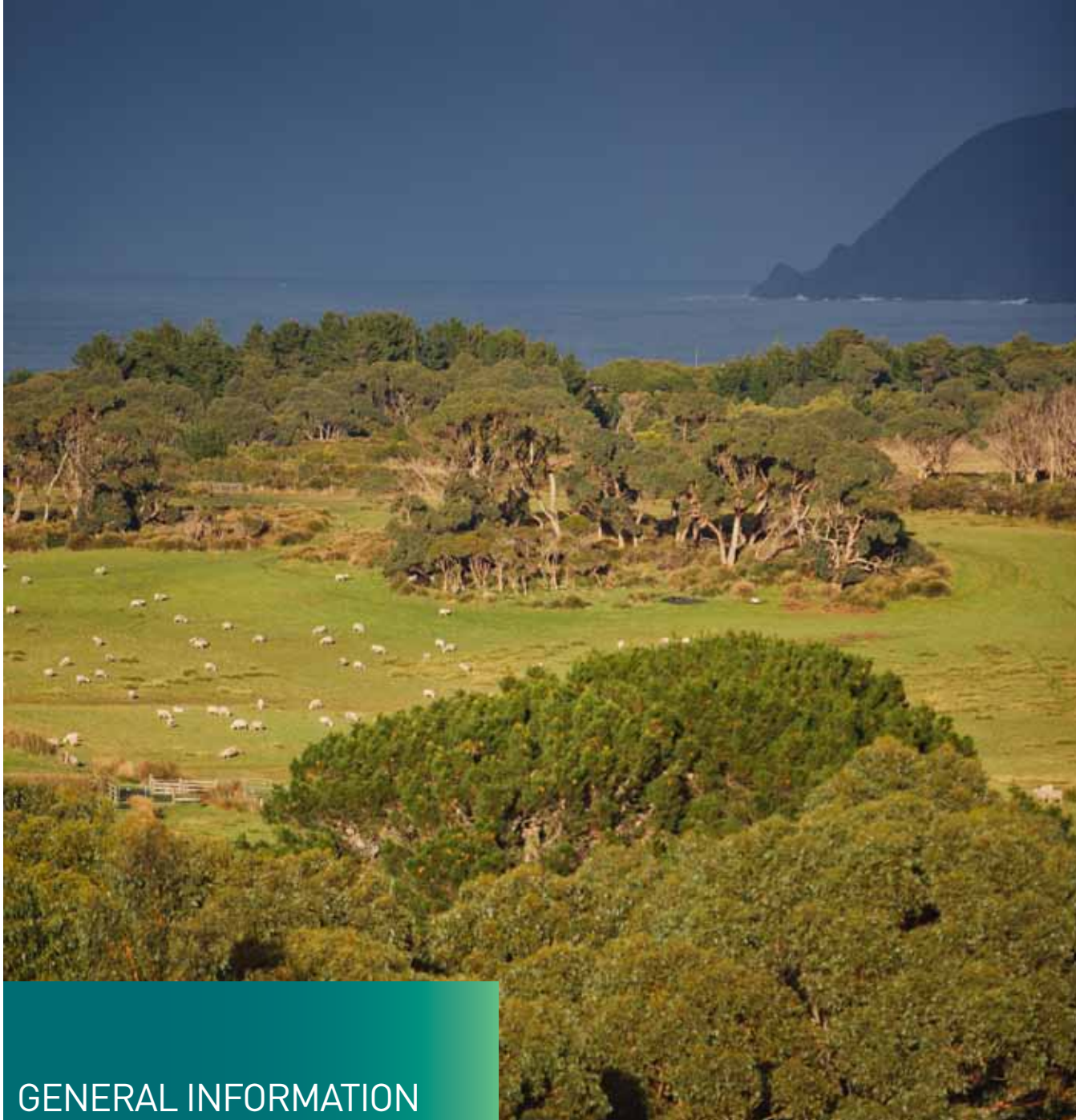
Two years ago NRM South and Derwent Estuary Program kickstarted the project by commissioning a review of water monitoring systems within the Derwent catchment, how good (or bad) we are at identifying emerging water quality issues, and to make recommendations for an integrated monitoring program that covers the entire system.

"We want to put any threats to the Derwent river system into context," said Kathleen. "By looking at long-term trends we can paint a much broader picture of what is happening with the river."

FINANCIALS

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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 Resource Management Act 2002* for Southern Tasmania.

Number of full time Employees – 17

Name of Auditor – BDO Audit (TAS) Pty Ltd

Comittee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are

Max Kitchell (Chair)

Ian Whyte (Deputy Chair)

Christine Crawford, Flora Fox

John Hickey, Melanie Kelly

Greg Lehman, Angus MacNeil

Howel Williams

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS 2010-2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$	2010 \$
Operating Profit	77,591	(4,755)	337,156
Professional Income	2,772,143	2,716,834	3,387,325
Cash at Bank	3,066,709	2,804,124	2,412,632
Trade Debtors	7,590	4,569	-
Current Assets	3,134,760	2,883,101	2,465,933
Non-Current Assets	159,496	213,612	172,318
Bank Overdraft	-	-	-
Trade Creditors	178,203	183,840	59,567
Current Liabilities	272,885	298,447	144,233
Non Current Liabilities	12,000	12,000	10,000

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	NOTE	2012 \$	2011 \$
Revenue	2	2,905,331	2,851,302
Employee Benefits Expense		1,258,578	1,136,898
Depreciation and Amortisation		78,193	70,895
Other Expenses		1,490,969	1,648,264
Profit from Operations		77,591	(4,755)
Reserves			
Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Projects Reserve	10	145,514	307,003
Total Movement in Equity of the Association		223,105	302,248

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

	NOTE	2012 \$	2011 \$
Equity			
Committed Project Reserve		2,013,271	1,867,757
Retained Profits		996,100	918,509
Total Equity		3,009,371	2,786,266
Represented by :			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	3,067,059	2,804,474
Trade and Other Receivables	5	41,979	44,271
Prepayments	6	25,722	34,356
		<u>3,134,760</u>	<u>2,883,101</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property Plant & Equipment	7	<u>159,496</u>	<u>213,612</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		3,294,256	3,096,713
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	8	246,408	82,515
Provisions	9	52,039	61,718
		<u>298,447</u>	<u>144,233</u>
Non Current Liabilities			
Provisions	9	12,000	10,000
Total Liabilities		<u>284,885</u>	<u>310,447</u>
Net Assets		3,009,371	2,786,266

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	NOTE	2012 \$	2011 \$
Income			
Funding and Member Receipts		2,772,143	2,716,834
Interest Received		133,188	134,468
		2,905,331	2,851,302
Expenditure			
Accountancy Fees		1,080	2,570
Advertising		2,558	5,654
Annual Leave – Provision		12,277	(7,437)
Auditor's Remuneration	11	14,200	13,200
Bank Charges		845	756
Committee Expenses		32,888	32,753
Computer Expenses		16,253	17,290
Cleaning Expenses		7,128	5,241
Consultancy Fees		31,244	46,119
Depreciation		78,193	70,895
Fringe Benefits Tax		3,931	2,903
Hosting Agreements		-	-
Insurance		16,783	18,173
Legal Costs		4,029	99
Long Service Leave – Provision		-	2,000
Meeting Expenses		10,791	6,150
Motor Vehicle Expenses		18,849	24,460
Other Office Running Costs		30,913	31,636
Postage		1,892	2,704
Membership, Subscriptions & Fees		181	2,428
Rent & Occupancy Expenses		74,019	71,253
Staff Employment Costs		2,998	3,313
Service Provider & Project Expense		1,576,438	1,614,355
Staff Training		36,813	13,677
Superannuation – SGC		68,350	70,335
Telephone & Internet		15,427	15,204
Travelling Expenses		10,220	8,822
Salaries & Wages		759,440	781,504
		2,827,740	2,856,057
Operating Profit		77,591	(4,755)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	NOTE	2012 \$	2011 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Grants/Members		2,890,668	3,007,806
Payment to Suppliers		(1,511,575)	(1,531,454)
Payments to employees		(1,258,578)	(1,136,897)
GST refunded/(remitted)		31,718	41,364
Interest received		130,926	122,861
Net Cash provided by operating activities	4	283,159	503,680
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of plant & equipment		(20,574)	(112,188)
Reimbursement of plant & equipment		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(20,574)	(112,188)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		262,585	391,492
Cash at beginning of financial year		2,804,474	2,412,982
Cash at end of financial year	3	3,067,059	2,804,474

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	RETAINED EARNINGS \$	COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2010	923,264	1,560,754	2,484,018
Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,755)	307,003	302,248
Balance at 30 June 2011	918,509	1,867,757	2,786,266
Surplus/(Deficit)	77,591	145,514	223,105
Revaluation Increment	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2012	996,100	2,013,271	3,009,371

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

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:

Motor Vehicles	20%
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 account 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 Federal and State 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)

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.

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 JUDGEMENTS

The committee evaluate estimates and judgements 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 NOTES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
2. REVENUE		
Operating Revenue		
Funding and Member receipts	2,772,143	2,716,834
	<u>2,772,143</u>	<u>2,716,834</u>
Non-Operating Revenue		
Interest Received	133,188	134,468
Other Revenue	-	-
	<u>133,188</u>	<u>134,468</u>
	<u>2,905,331</u>	<u>2,851,3023</u>
3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on Hand	350	350
Cash at Bank – CBA Cheque Account	23,853	19,086
Cash at Bank – CBA Business Online Saver	542,856	-
Deposit – CBA Cash Deposit Account	2,500,000	
Deposit – Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation	-	2,785,038
	<u>3,067,059</u>	<u>2,804,474</u>
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>3,067,059</u>	<u>2,804,474</u>
	<u>3,067,059</u>	<u>2,804,474</u>
4. CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Net Surplus		
Net Surplus for the period	223,105	287,248
Adjustment for Non-Cash Components in Profit		
Depreciation	78,193	70,895
Other Non Cash Items	(3,503)	-
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade and Other Receivables	10,926	(25,675)
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade and other Payables	(39,542)	163,892
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	13,980	7,320
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>283,159</u>	<u>503,680</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
5. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade Debtors	7,590	4,569
Other Debtors	2,895	11,608
Provision for GST	31,494	28,094
	<u>41,979</u>	<u>44,271</u>
Total Trade and Other Receivables	<u>41,979</u>	<u>44,271</u>
6. OTHER		
Current		
Prepayments	25,722	34,356
	<u>25,722</u>	<u>34,356</u>
7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment	13,261	13,261
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>9,331</u>	<u>8,660</u>
	3,930	4,601
Office Equipment	130,835	127,304
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>109,616</u>	<u>98,097</u>
	21,219	29,207
Furniture and Fittings	30,798	30,798
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>14,674</u>	<u>11,755</u>
	16,124	19,043
Website Development	50,490	47,137
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>36,625</u>	<u>18,265</u>
	13,865	28,872
Leasehold Improvements	8,078	8,078
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>681</u>	<u>479</u>
	7,397	7,599
Project Related Assets	105,218	105,218
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>54,404</u>	<u>25,167</u>
	50,814	80,051
Motor Vehicles	64,183	50,492
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>18,036</u>	<u>6,253</u>
	46,147	44,239
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>159,496</u>	<u>213,612</u>

FINANCIAL NOTES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
8. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
PAYG Withholding Payable	21,528	20,984
Trade Creditors	178,203	183,840
Other Creditors	7,135	41,584
Total Trade and Other Payables	206,866	246,408
9. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	66,019	52,039
	<u>66,019</u>	<u>52,039</u>
Non Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	12,000	12,000
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>
10. RESERVES		
Committed Projects Reserve	2,013,271	1,867,757
	<u>2,013,271</u>	<u>1,867,757</u>

Movements during the year in Committed Project Reserve

The movement in the Reserve includes Grant Funds received in advance for projects including our Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Biosecurity project.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION		
In 2010/11 BDO Audit (Tas) Pty Ltd were the Auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.		
Audit & review of financial reports	14,200	13,200
12. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS		
Being for rent of office		
Payable – minimum lease payments		
Not later than 12 months	71,126	65,886
Between 12 months and 5 years	29,636	93,334
Greater than 5 years	-	-
	<u>100,762</u>	<u>159,217</u>

The property lease is a lease with a five 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 as set out on pages 29 to 39

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as at 30 June 2012 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 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: Max Kitchell

Dated : 6 September 2012

Deputy Chair: Ian Whyte

Dated : 6 September 2012



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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 2012, 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.



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 2012 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.

Basis of Accounting

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

BDO Audit (TAS)

CRAIG J STEPHENS

Partner

Sign at Hobart, dated this 6th of September 2012

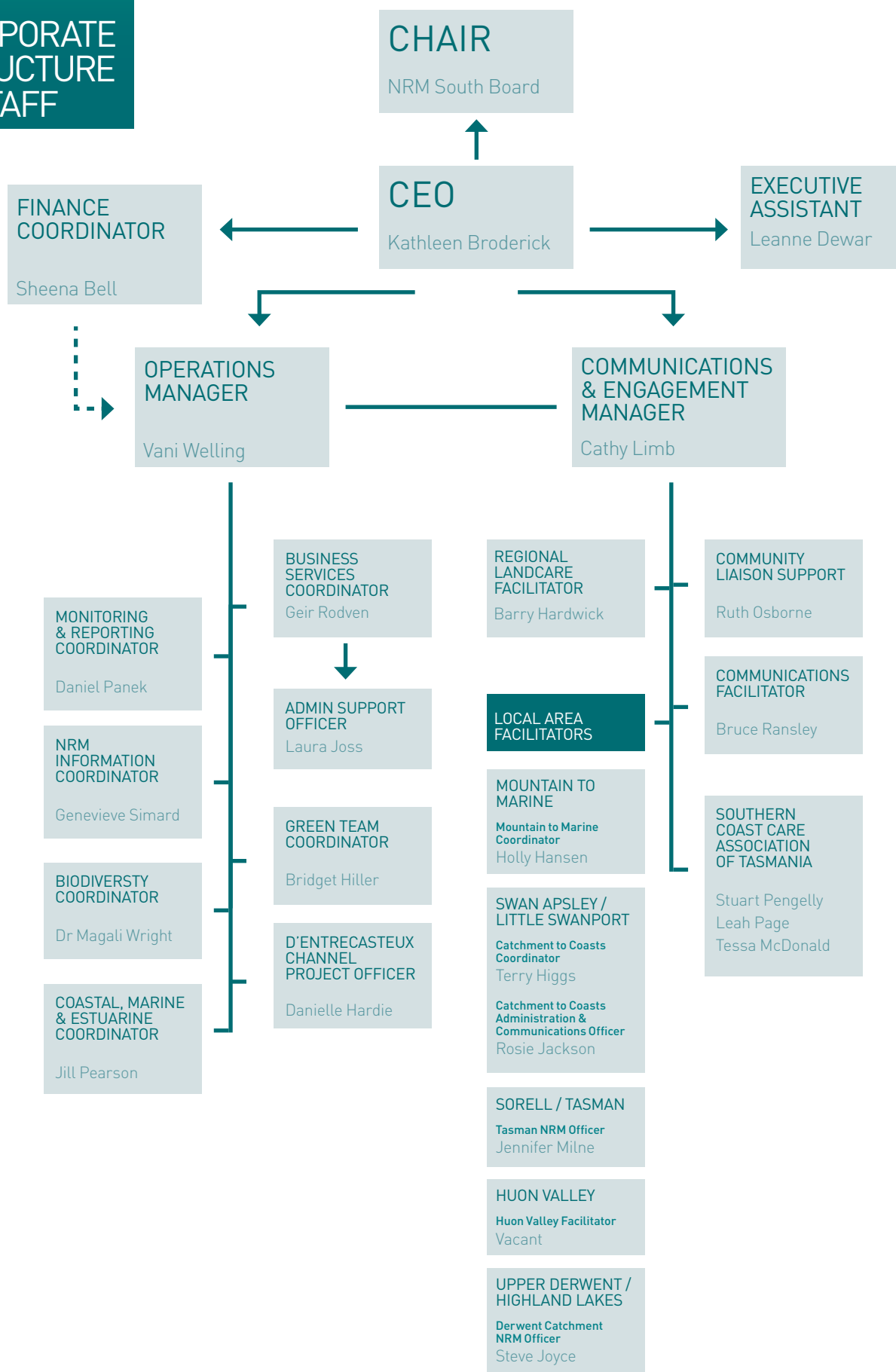


APPENDIX

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CORPORATE STRUCTURE & STAFF



Current July 2012



BOARD PROFILES

Above: The NRM South board (from left): Chair, Max Kitchell and directors, Flora Fox, Greg Lehman, John Hickey, Christine Crawford, Howel Williams and Angus MacNeil (absent: Ian Whyte and Melanie Kelly).

MAX KITCHELL [Chair]

SINCE 2009

Max Kitchell brings over 20 years' experience in senior management roles within the Tasmanian, Victorian and Australian governments. He was formerly Director of the National Oceans Office, First Assistant Secretary of the Natural Heritage Division of the Department of Environment and Heritage, General Manager of the Resource Management and Conservation Division of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, and Director of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. Max has represented Australia as head of delegation to three United Nations conventions - Biodiversity, Desertification and Oceans. He is currently a member of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council, the Tasmanian Legal Profession Disciplinary Tribunal and sits on the board of Greening Australia.

IAN WHYTE [Deputy Chair]

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 was, prior to his retirement from the role in 2008, a senior Policy Officer with the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association with responsibilities in the environmental and natural resource areas. Ian is currently a member of the Board of the Forest Practices Authority of Tasmania, a member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

CHRISTINE CRAWFORD

(2005-2009, 2010-)

Dr Christine Crawford is a research scientist at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania. She is an ecological researcher and consultant, and has practical, in-depth experience in the research, development and management of Tasmania's natural resources, especially coastal, estuarine and marine environments. She is also experienced in project management, community engagement and is keen for more effective communication of science to the general public.

FLORA FOX

SINCE 2009

Flora is a member of NRM South's Board and the Audit and Risk Committee. She applies rigorous business principles to environmental management. Flora has been a Company Director since 1974 and an elected Kingborough Councillor since 1988, including two years as Deputy Mayor. She chairs the Kingborough Council's Environment and Development Committee and other council and regional committees. She represented local government on the State Coastal Policy Advisory Committee, and represented the community on the Huon-Channel Bio-links project steering committee as well as the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and North West Bay steering committee. She has initiated and chaired community committees such as the Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group, the Boronia Hill Management Committee and the North West Bay River Catchment Management Committee. Flora brings wide managerial experience to the Board in the areas of governance, business administration, finance, NRM outcomes, education, communication and working with government.



BOARD PROFILES (CONT).

JOHN HICKEY

SINCE 2009

John Hickey is General Manager, Forest Management at Forestry Tasmania and brings a range of forest industry related experience to the Board, including forest policy, resource modelling, conservation planning, research and development, certification and environmental reporting. John has a strong interest in landscape level planning for multiple community benefits.

MELANIE KELLY

SINCE 2010

Melanie Kelly is the Natural Resource Manager for the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council. She has a professional background in forestry with many years of experience in NRM working both for and with community and local government. For ten years Melanie worked as a private consultant in the NRM field both in Victoria and Tasmania. She has a strong interest in the development of novel collaborative NRM partnerships, particular those involving local government as key NRM managers and leaders in community development.

GREG LEHMAN

SINCE 2011

Greg Lehman has worked in the area of Aboriginal heritage management, training, cultural interpretation and education for over 25 years. During that time, Greg has undertaken a range of major projects for the Tasmanian and Australian governments relating to the Register of the National Estate, National Heritage List, Aboriginal management and interpretation strategies for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, Aboriginal heritage protection legislation, cultural fire management and ranger training in Aboriginal heritage management. He is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Greg is also a member of the Board of Skills Tasmania, the National Gallery of Australia's Indigenous Advisory Council and Chair of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's Indigenous Advisory Council.

ANGUS MACNEIL

SINCE 2010

Angus MacNeil has been employed as Business Administration Manager for the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) for the last five years, and is also Executive Officer for the board of the FPA. He brings a wide range of natural resource management experience from the aquaculture and forestry sectors, including 20 years working in research and senior management roles in the salmon farming industry in Scotland and Tasmania. Prior to working for the FPA he spent four years as Business Manager for Forestry Tasmania's Division of Research and Development. Angus has an Honours Degree in Marine Biology, brings governance, business and systems expertise to the Board and is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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 DPIWPE, Howel is involved in a range of projects aimed at sustainable management and conservation including the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. He has worked extensively in Australia and overseas in natural resource management. He has managed marine research institutes in Tasmania and South Australia, and has a strong background in policy relevant research. 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.

MEMBERS

CORPORATE MEMBERS

BirdLife Tasmania	Midlands Tree Committee Inc.
Central Highlands Council	Mortimer Bay Coast Care Group
Clarence City Council	Onstream
Coal River Products Association	Port Cygnet Land and Watercare Group Inc.
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Private Forests Tasmania
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee Inc.	RegnansEnviro Contracting
DPIPWE	SFM Environmental Solutions
Forest Industries Association of Tasmania	Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc
Forestry Tasmania	Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT)
Friends of Peter Murell Reserves	Southern Midlands Council
GHD Pty Ltd	Sustainable Living Tasmania
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	Taroona Environment Network
Greening Australia	Tasman Council
Hobart City Council	Tasman Landcare Group
Howden Landcare Group	Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Huon Resource Development Group	Tasmanian Landcare Association Inc.
Huon Valley Council	Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
Hydro Tasmania	Tasmanian Water & Sewerage Corporation (Southern Region) Pty Ltd
Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group Inc.	Timber Communities Aust Inc. Huon Branch
Leaman Geophysics	White Beach Landcare Group Inc.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Graham Flower
Stephen Geard
Corey Peterson
James Wilson
Sue Chapple
Merlene Abbott
Susan Dahlberg
James Gourlay
Jennifer Rowallan
Michael Eastman



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NRM South acknowledges the efforts of its staff, partners, stakeholders and the community in undertaking the activities and initiatives highlighted in this report.

Design: onetonnegraphic





CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



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