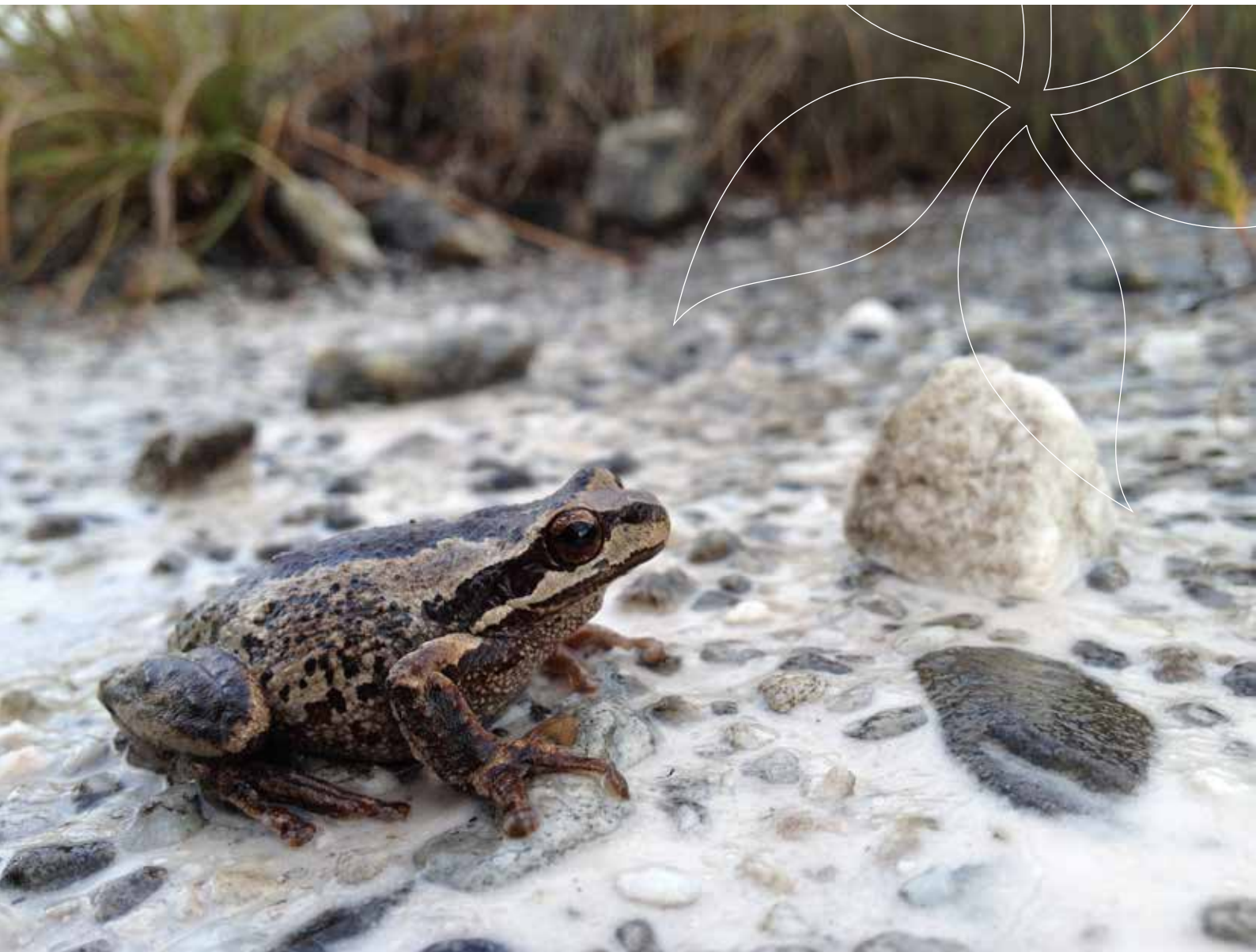




ANNUAL REPORT | 2012-13



Above: *Litoria ewingii* - Brown Tree Frog - Melaleuca

ANNUAL REPORT 2012–13

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NRM South is supported through funding from the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

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 our 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.

NRM South is focused on natural resource management that also delivers economic benefits to the community and the state and demonstrates the value of managing our natural assets. It aims to demonstrate that every person can play a part in managing our environment.

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

Natural Resource
Management (NRM) is
about using our resources
wisely and sustainably while
protecting the environment.



FROM THE CHAIR

I am happy to report that 2012-13 has been a year of considerable achievement for NRM South. Our evolution as a professional, widely-respected organisation in the natural resource management arena continues apace.

The demand for our services continues to grow. Our reputation within the NRM sector continues to improve. We continue to enjoy the support of our major investors. And, most importantly, we continue to make a significant contribution to improving the condition of the natural resources of the southern Tasmanian region.

During the course of the year many good things have been done to benefit individuals and groups within the region. This report outlines some of the activities of NRM South with a number of real-life examples that serve to demonstrate how we have pursued our mission. I want to highlight just one of these.

In June 2013, Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage Mt Brian Wightman MP launched a document entitled *A Collective Effort*.

The document represented the culmination of an enormous amount of work by NRM South and two dozen organisations involved in managing the region's natural resources to assess, for the first time in Tasmania, the implementation of a natural resource management strategy.

This project is emblematic of how NRM South goes about its business. We work always in partnership with others. We neither own, manage, or regulate the region's natural resources and so by necessity, and by inclination, we are enablers and facilitators.

A Collective Effort outlines a range of achievements where this partnership approach was critical to success. Indeed the collaborative manner by which the report was compiled demonstrates the value and importance of working together and the unique enabling role that NRM South can, and does, play.

Since its inception in 2003, to one degree or another, NRM South has operated on relatively short-term funding. This is now no longer the case as we have entered into long-term funding arrangements with our major investors, the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

While the total quantum of funding promised to us might not be all we would have hoped for, nonetheless the certainty that the long-term agreements provides is very welcome. This means that we enter the new year in a more financially secure position than we have ever enjoyed previously. On behalf of the Board, I thank both governments for providing this budget certainty and for the vote of confidence in us that it represents.

Our government relations will continue to be important to us into 2013-14, and the recent change in government in Canberra represents a significant change to our external operating environment. It will have implications for the programs under which we operate and potentially for our role within these programs.

The precise nature of these implications is not yet clear but initial indications are positive. The new government has stated its commitment to the regional delivery model and has promised to retain the total funding pool available to its natural resource management programs.

So the future for NRM South looks bright on a number of levels; all the elements for ongoing success are there. We have;

- The support of governments at all levels
- Talented and committed staff
- A stable funding base
- A clear mission
- Significant partnerships with all the main NRM players, and
- Widescale community support.

Finally, let me thank those who have played a major role in the successes we have achieved during 2012-13. As I have already indicated, we would achieve very little without our partners and I thank all of them, too numerous to mention individually, for their continued efforts. We enjoy a symbiotic relationship where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Let me also thank my fellow directors on the NRM South Board who have made an outstanding and little-recognised contribution to the success of the organisation. And finally, I want to congratulate and thank the staff without whom none of the good things that are contained within this report would have happened.

NRM South reached its tenth year in 2012-13, and has emerged with justifiable confidence and enthusiasm.

MAX KITCHELL



FROM THE CEO

There is a lot to be celebrated in 2013. NRM South has ended another fruitful year delivering projects, building partnerships, fostering knowledge and skill development, and laying the foundations for future programs. We also clocked up our 10th anniversary, providing pause for reflection on the significant progress that has been made in natural resource management in the southern region, and Tasmania as a whole, over that period.

In 2012–13, the final year of the first Caring for our Country funding arrangement, NRM South performed strongly across all our regional programs, in most cases exceeding our funders' expectations. We delivered on-ground projects and met the identified knowledge needs of the region through extension activities, expert forums, as well as supporting research projects and programs.

In addition, we delivered three major projects focussed on protecting the rich biodiversity in our region: one working with the Understorey Network and some terrific landholders on North Bruny Island; another working with landholders and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to protect the internationally recognised Apsley Marshes; and a partnership project with the Parks and Wildlife Service, and other key partners, which saw significant investment in infrastructure, research and education to prevent the spread of pests and pathogens in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

We have seen our partnerships continue to grow and mature. We formalised arrangements with a number of groups, co-invested in staff and projects, and developed joint bids for new funds. NRM South led, partnered and supported proposals for future funding and works. We are always thankful for the support of the many highly committed and knowledgeable individuals and organisations that we work with in the southern region and across Tasmania.

It has been particularly exciting to see the indigenous social enterprise, pakana services, take shape with the establishment of its own board and commencement of a manager. This landmark business has a solid foundation upon which to grow in coming years, providing Aboriginal Tasmanians with the opportunity to work on land and further contribute to land conservation efforts.

With great pride we showcased the natural resource management efforts of many organisations in the publication *A Collective Effort 2010-12*, the first progress report on the *Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2010-15*. *A Collective Effort 2010-12* outlines the achievements of the strategy in effectively managing Southern Tasmania's rich and diverse natural resources through a community of action, and identifies future challenges and opportunities.

An organisation is only as good as the collective efforts of its staff and I thank the NRM South staff for their efforts over the year. We continued to improve staff skills and organisational systems, including monitoring and reporting against our corporate priorities. Plans were set in place to restructure the organisation in July 2013 to ensure that we have the required skill sets for the Australian Government's new five year program.

Thank you to NRM South Chair Max Kitchell and our dedicated Board for their support, guidance and input over the past year, which has seen the organisation continue to develop and mature.

NRM South also thanks the Australian and Tasmanian Governments for continuing to show faith in and funding for regional NRM organisations. Difficult economic times has seen a significant reduction in state government funding in recent years and funding allocations for the next five years are also down. This makes maintaining delivery levels challenging and we will need to increase our focus on efficiencies and leveraging investment in coming years.

Despite these challenges, NRM South is well placed for its next phase of operations, and I am confident the positive outcomes of the work we undertake with our many partners will continue to grow.

DR KATHLEEN BRODERICK



Photo by Vishnu Prahalad

ABOUT NRM SOUTH

WHO IS NRM SOUTH?

NRM South is a non-government leader in natural resource management in the region. NRM South acts as a 'hub' engaging and working with all three tiers of government, research, 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 54 similar bodies. First established in 2003 under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, NRM South celebrates 10 years of operation in 2013. Increasingly NRM South contributes to national projects and works with other regions around Australia.

Our team members are located across the region, at our office in Hobart and in regional centres through our partnerships with local government and local NRM groups.

One of our core roles is to facilitate the implementation of the Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2010–2015, by building partnerships, securing funding and increasing the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities. We work to ensure that land management in the region is sustainable, improving productivity and long term viability, contributing to the economy and the community.

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.

Max Kitchell has chaired the Board since September 2010, supported by Howel Williams as Deputy Chair. Max Kitchell has also played a leading role in NRM Governance in 2012 as Chair of the Tasmanian NRM Chairs group, and Tasmanian representative and member of the National NRM Working Group.

This year, three new members joined the Board; Graeme Bradfield, Heather Chong and Ruth Hall. We thank outgoing Board members John Hickey and Flora Fox for their strong contribution over a number of years and former Deputy Chair Ian Whyte for his service.

NRM South has two sub-committees; a remuneration committee and an audit and risk committee, chaired by independent Chair, Tracy Matthews. Board member profiles are included in the Appendix.

OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

In 2012–13, the Board conducted a detailed review of NRM South's strategic direction and reconfirmed the strategic priorities in the corporate plan 2010–15. This followed updating the corporate mission and values in 2011–12.

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

The following organisational values drive our actions and behaviours internally and externally and underpin our relationships with all of our staff and stakeholders.

- 1. Innovation** - Innovation supports change, 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, helps 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.



The NRM South Board and staff during a recent field trip.

ORGANISATION PERFORMANCE

In 2012–13 projects funded under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country were finalised, and funding bids for new work in line with our corporate plan, and in partnership with other organisations, were developed.

This year we have improved our internal performance tracking and systems to support project reporting. The outcome of this work will be felt in the years to come with better data, improved monitoring and reporting of impacts of the work undertaken, and better communication of outcomes. This approach has been appreciated by partners and funders and in the future it will provide greater opportunity for all our partners to tell rich stories of their achievements.

In May 2013, planning commenced for a restructure of the organisation, to come into effect in July 2013. The restructure was timely as it coincided with the finalisation of the previous five-year funding cycle and has geared the organisation for the changes in programs and delivery for the next five years.

This year, we proudly hosted and incubated pakana services as a standalone business and played a significant role in its development and governance in partnership with a number of other stakeholders

During the year we provided staff the opportunity to develop their skills by providing training in the following areas: project management and facilitation; first aid; office-based training; and training focused on leadership and governance. Like many organisations, NRM South updated our policies and procedures in line with legislation changes, with particular attention to strengthening workplace health and safety awareness systems and practice.

At the end of 2012–13, 14 staff were directly employed by NRM South and a further six local NRM Facilitators supported by the organisation, in partnership with local councils or catchment management groups. (see page 44 for further details).

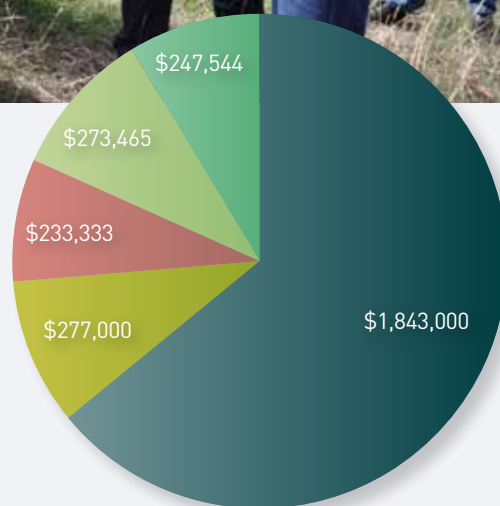


FIG 1. SOURCES OF FUNDING 2012–13

- 64% CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY BASE**
Regional allocation to NRM South
- 10% CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY COMPETITIVE GRANTS**
Apsley Marshes project
- 8% AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (OTHER)**
Clean Energy Futures Carbon Farming Initiative Communications, North Bruny Biodiversity Fund and Revegetation and Restoration, and the Regional Landcare Facilitator initiative, FaCSHIA-Indigenous Coordination Centre funding for the governance of pakana services
- 9% STATE GOVERNMENT**
Funding from Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Department of Economic Development Tourism and the Arts, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and the Tasmanian Community Fund
- 9% OTHER**
Co-contributions from project delivery partners and Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania and donations.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2012–SEPTEMBER 2012

- Naturally Inspired Grants funds 24 community projects
- Partnership with Threatened Species Tasmania for threatened species surveys and training
- Local Area Facilitator commences at Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
- North Bruny Biodiversity Fund Restoration and Revegetation project commences
- Carbon Farming Initiative communications activities
- New funds received for the Apsley Marshes project through a competitive Caring for our Country grant
- D'Entrecasteaux Channel project receives 12 months extra funding



Tarooma School Students preparing for a snorkel.

OCTOBER 2012–DECEMBER 2012

- Partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Discovery Rangers for biosecurity and hygiene awareness activity
- On-Farm Action grants opens
- The Miena Cider Gum scientific forum held
- Launch of Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Biosecurity infrastructure with Environment Minister
- Training delivered to community volunteers
- A grazing management consultant visited 19 properties to help develop action plans for landholders as part of the Living Soils project
- Helipad in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, Ryans Creek completed
- Launch of State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and lower Huon Estuary report
- Bushfire grants helps bushfire affected farmers



Willow removal on the banks of a property near Copping.

JANUARY 2013–MARCH 2013

- Community Action Program with Conservation Volunteers Australia commences
- Shorebirds and Seabirds of the Pitt Water Orielton Lagoon Nature Reserve and Ramsar site report completed
- Southern Tasmanian Coastal Saltmarsh Futures report completed
- Representation at events including World Wetlands Day, The Wooden Boat Festival, Bream Creek Show, Hamilton Show and Seafest
- On-Farm Action Grants delivered to 18 farmers
- Bushfire recovery grant applications opened to affected farmers



APRIL 2013–JUNE 2013

- Completion of the two year Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area project
- \$150,000 provided from Caring for our Country for Farm Bushfire Recovery
- State Government announces additional \$80,000 bushfire funds
- Completion of the Apsley Marshes project on-ground works
- Community Action Program project provides support to 22 community groups
- Development of Mountain to Marine strategic plan
- Launch of *A Collective Effort 2010-12*
- Completion of Southern Tasmanian Coastal Saltmarsh Futures report and online mapping
- Development of Apsley Marshes 10 year management plan
- Small Landholder Property Management Program delivered in the Huon
- Grazing management in vineyard field day with Prof Fred Provenza from US
- Completion of Caring for our Country funding 2010-13 program delivery



PARTNERSHIPS

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 (NRM) is a key corporate value and strategy, 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 invest where we can make the biggest difference, build capacity in local communities to deliver local solutions with organisations that have strong community networks, optimise value for money and favour arrangements that enhance continuity of service.

Our aim is to contribute to the creation of a favourable environment for our work, and the work of our many partners, and to ensure it has a long-lasting impact. This may include: providing funding to support initiatives, assisting with proposals, helping groups and organisations to establish themselves, providing training and capacity building to enable individuals and groups to prosper and be self-sustaining in the long term.

Through partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding, we continued to work closely with farmers and other land managers, landcare community groups, state and local government agencies, industry organisations, NRM professionals and volunteers to protect and enhance the natural values of our region as well as improving the sustainability of natural resource use in primary industries.

WORKING ALONGSIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

To maximise on-ground effort in key areas we have formed partnerships with local governments and landcare community groups throughout the southern NRM region, who host and in many cases co-fund our local 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, Triabunna and Swansea
- Kingborough Council, Kingston
- Huon Valley Council, Huonville
- Derwent Catchment NRM Committee, Hamilton
- Sorell Council, Sorell
- Tasman Council, Nubeena.



Interpretive signage
at the Ralph's Bay
saltmarsh

In 2012–13, local facilitators undertook activities within their sub-regions including supporting farmers and landcare community groups with advice, information and funding opportunities; organising extension activities such as field days and workshops, and assisting farmers and other land managers plan to implement on-ground works to protect and enhance biodiversity and improve agricultural productivity. Following the devastating January 2013 bushfires, our local facilitators in the Sorell, Tasman and Upper Derwent Valley and our Regional Landcare Facilitator worked together to provide much needed recovery support to affected farmers.

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 and manuals.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We believe that the future of natural resource management is highly dependent on having a committed, skilled and active community. Our role includes raising awareness of our natural values and threats, building community capacity to take action and providing enabling resources as well as helping to avoid duplication of services. We work directly with community groups, as well as assisting other organisations that work with the community, such as local government, the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania and Landcare Tasmania.

We worked with Landcare Tasmania, local government, Parks and Wildlife Service and other community support organisations to coordinate and enhance the delivery of capacity building training opportunities for volunteers. We also continued to provide resources to community groups to assist them to deliver on-ground projects through a partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia and through the Naturally Inspired Grants Program

GROWING OUR BUSINESS

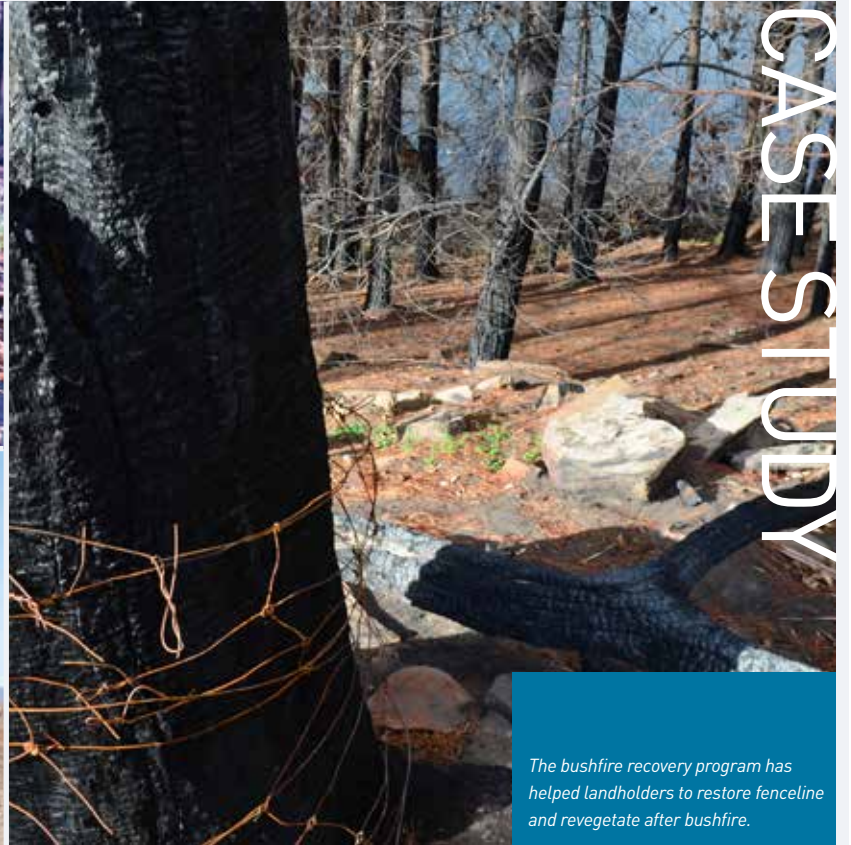
The natural resource management sector is dynamic and NRM South is continually exploring new opportunities to enhance investment, innovation and activities in southern Tasmania.

We commenced two new projects in 2012–13: protecting white gum populations on North Bruny Island, and on-ground actions to enhance the ecological character of the Apsley Marshes.

We increased cash and in-kind contributions on the previous year to ensure we maximise the delivery of project outcomes.

We applied for, and had confirmed, funding from Caring for our Country for another five years of operation. We also successfully partnered with others to bring additional resources to the region through the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Futures Extension and Outreach Program and the Biodiversity Fund, Round Two.

NRM South worked closely with other organisations in the region, across the state and nationally to develop projects and submit grant funding applications with a focus on larger, longer-term projects. We were lead proponents for six competitive applications, partnered another seven, and supported a large number of applications led by other organisations.



The bushfire recovery program has helped landholders to restore fenceline and revegetate after bushfire.

BUSHFIRE GRANTS A FRESH START FOR FARMERS

Recovering from bushfires of the scale and intensity we saw in southern Tasmania in 2013 is going to be a long, hard slog for farmers who lost fencing, stock, pasture, sheds, machinery and crops, particularly for people in regions that have suffered fire more than once in the past two years.

In 2012 the Meadowbank fire burnt an estimated 2,000 hectares, at times lighting up a firefront more than a kilometre wide and three kilometres deep. Then in January 2013, the Lake Repulse fire burnt 11,600 hectares in the Derwent Valley, while more than 25,000 hectares was lost in the fire on the Tasman Peninsula.

Just four months after Tom Clark, and his wife Sarah, bought their Derwent Valley farm, it was hit by the Meadowbank fire, a year after that the Lake Repulse fire tore through the area.

They are now one of 24 farmers and local Landcare groups making the most of funds from NRM South's Bushfire Recovery Program to get back up on their feet, turning adversity to their advantage.

In Tom's case he's working with NRM South to protect a patch of threatened Inland Silver Peppermint, *Eucalyptus tenuiramis*, at the bottom of his paddocks.

"It's nice to be able to fence off an area and protect it, if you don't you'll slowly lose the remaining patches of bush you have on your property," he says.

Inland Silver Peppermint forest is listed as a threatened community in Tasmania, and Tom's using the rebuilding process as a chance to fence it off and make the most of post-fire regrowth.

NRM South's Regional Landcare Facilitator Ken Moore has been responsible for getting the bushfire recovery program up and running. He says it was vitally important to get the funding to farmers quickly, and to make the application process clear, simple and transparent.

"Farms take a long time to recover from bushfire and need considerable re-investment from farmers themselves and their local communities," he says.

"Our farm recovery program has become part of that process by helping to get Tasmanian farms back into production and boosting farmers' morale at a time when they are under considerable pressure to restore income."

So far grants have been provided to farmers in Dunalley, Franklin, Connelly's Marsh, Carlton, Glenora, Glen Lusk, Ellendale, Westerway and Molesworth, all severely affected by the 2013 bushfires.

It has been used to help fund the restoration of burnt-out farmland and bushland, rebuild internal fencing, manage stock and replant shelter belts.

"It's nice to be able to fence off an area and protect it, if you don't you'll slowly lose the remaining patches of bush you have on your property..."

It's also being used to help control weeds that have taken advantage of the bare ground opened up by the fires, tackle ongoing soil erosion, replant creeklines and prepare better for future bushfires.

In addition to working directly with farmers, NRM South has provided grants to local community groups such as the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee, Tasman Landcare, the Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House and Weed Aid to support and coordinate action to help farmers.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

NRM South works with farmers in southern Tasmania to improve land management practices that deliver economic, social and environmental outcomes for farmers over the long term. This involves engaging with, and supporting, land managers and landcare community groups to provide knowledge and information for better land management practices and to improve production and reduce input costs.

In 2012-13, we built on the foundation of previous years to deliver these activities through our Regional Landcare Facilitator supported by a team of local facilitators who are located in priority areas throughout the region.

Activities included; establishing and monitoring trials to build evidence for the adoption of innovative practices that improve sustainable production, providing field days and workshops, assisting farmers in preparing grazing management action plans, providing grants to support on-farm projects, assisting farmers who were affected by the 2013 bushfires to recover, and communicating details of the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative to landholders and landcare community groups.

We also secured funding for the Regional Landcare Facilitator role for 2013-18 under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program. In January 2013, the Regional Landcare Facilitator began integrating a range of activities into a combined project 'Demonstrating regenerative practices' that will commence from 1 July 2013. This will be a five-year initiative to extend on the achievements of the past three years to support farmers to adopt improved soil, water, carbon and native vegetation management.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012-13

LIVING SOILS

The innovative Living Soils program continued in 2012-13 with a series of field days and workshops on building soil health through pasture cropping and planned grazing techniques. As well as engaging farmers, the program this year also introduced planned grazing techniques to horse and pony owners across the southern region.

Guest presenters included Graeme Hand, Colin Seis and Joel Williams and Professor Fred Provenza of Utah State University assisted with presentation of the field days and workshops.

A key part of our strategy has been to provide follow up to farmers to help implement what they have learnt at workshops and field days. During 2012-13, the Regional Landcare Facilitator and Graeme Hand, CEO of the Native Grasses Association Inc. (Stipa), visited 30 farms in southern Tasmania and helped a number of these farmers prepare and update planned grazing action plans to guide their future practices.

We will continue to address soil health as a priority in our delivery of sustainable agriculture activities in 2013-14.



ON-FARM ACTION GRANTS

NRM South provided on-farm action grants in 2012-13 to assist 18 farmers to implement projects on their land such as planting shelter belts and corridors with native vegetation fencing to protect remnant vegetation and riparian zones, planned grazing trials, managing Weeds of National Significance and combatting soil erosion.

A further 22 projects were also completed by farmers who received grants in 2011-12. These grants generated public benefits including improved biodiversity on farms and the production of ecosystem services (e.g. improved water quality for food production).

BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

The focus of this work has been on enabling farmers to restore the health and productive capacity of their agricultural land by gathering, interpreting and communicating the results from trial sites.

Five sites were established in 2010-11 and a further 10 in 2011-12. This year our focus has been to monitor changes resulting from the adoption of regenerative grazing management practices. Data was recorded on soil structure, chemistry and biology; the recruitment of perennial grasses and the degree and quality of groundcover; and farmer attitudes. Field days to communicate the findings of the trials attracted strong interest from local farmers.

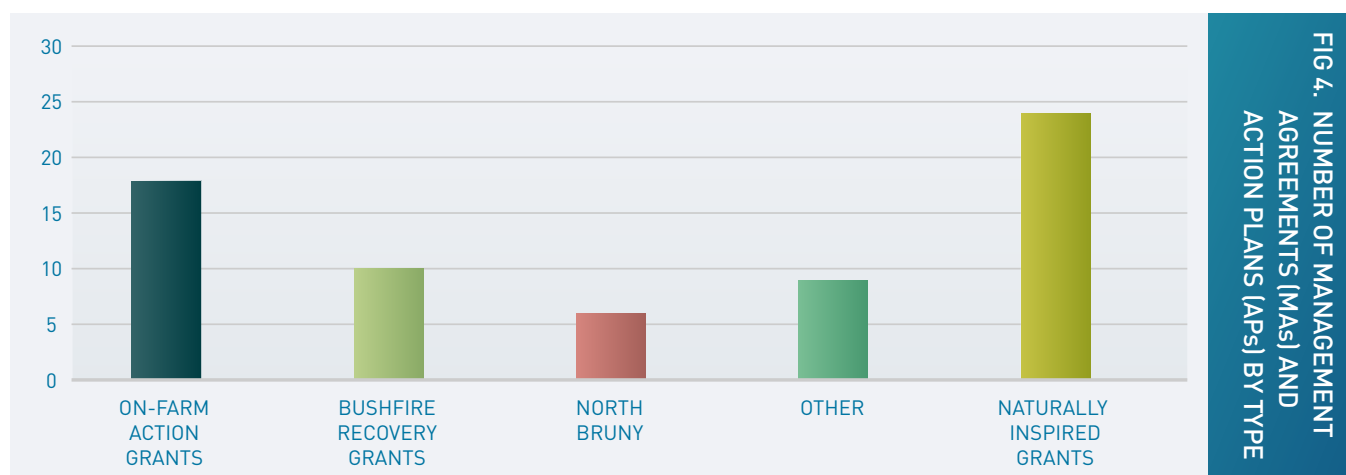
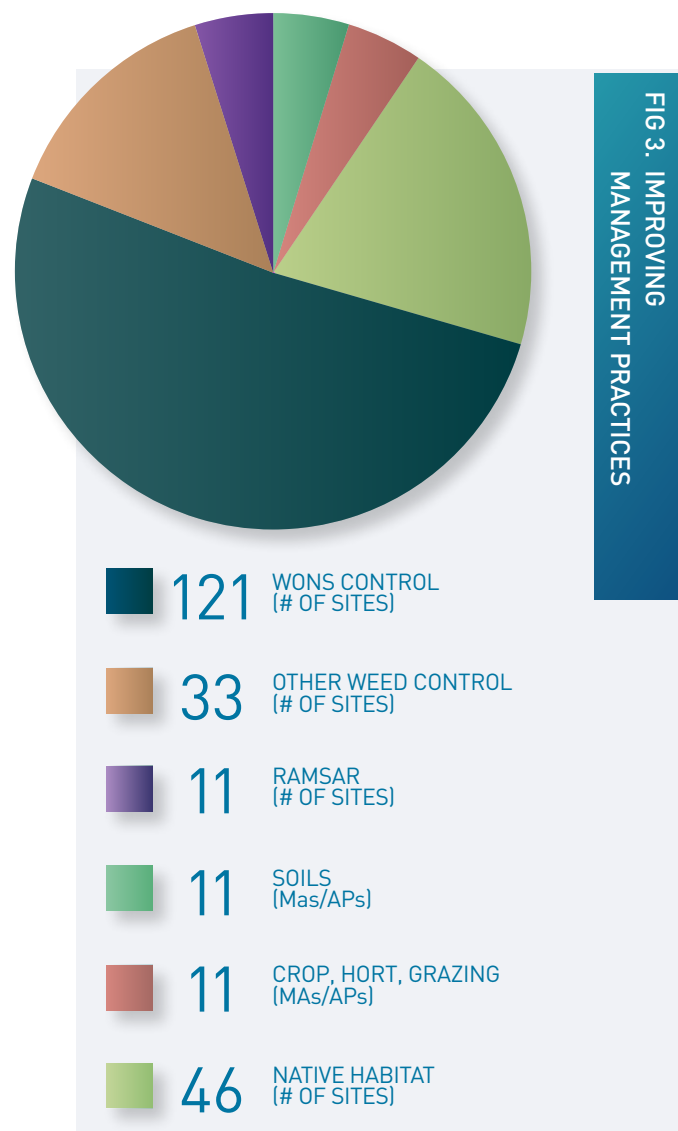
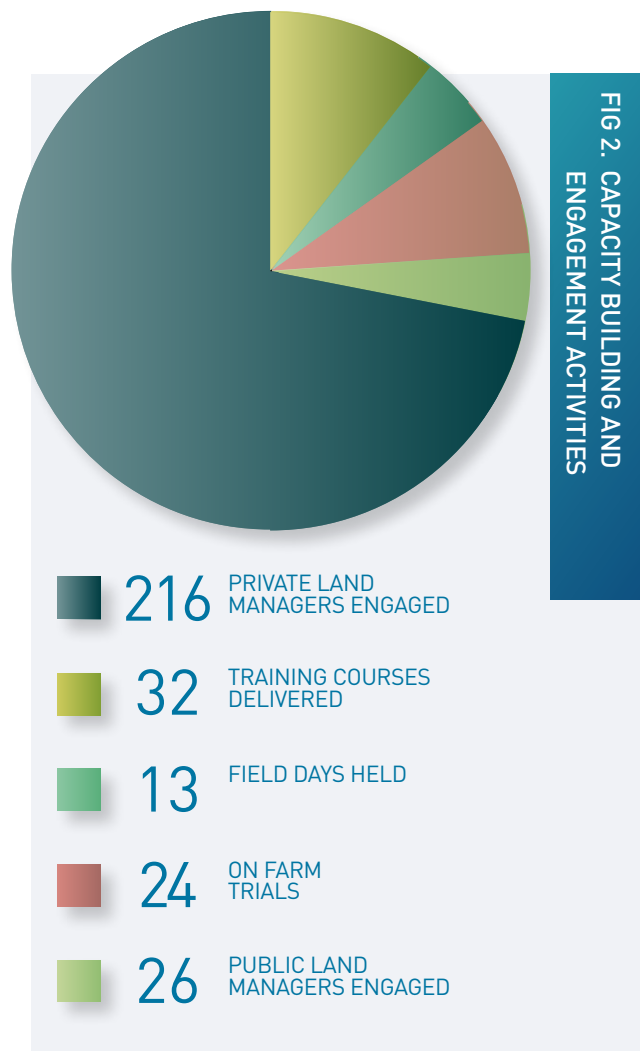
FARM BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS

NRM South introduced a Bushfire Recovery Program to provide support to farmers affected by bushfires in southern Tasmania, particularly in the Tasman, Huon, Sorell and Upper Derwent Valley regions. Grants of up to \$10,000, funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program, were made available for farm recovery planning, technical advice and on-ground actions that met their post-fire recovery priorities.

By 30 June 2013, 14 grants had been provided to affected farmers and a number of landcare community groups that are working with farmers to provide volunteer support. These grants have resulted in a range of projects on-farm and in the fire-affected areas including:

- Management of soil erosion in bare areas
- Weed management and hygiene to prevent weed spread post-fire
- Facilitating pasture recovery and re-seeding
- Remnant vegetation recovery
- Rehabilitating riparian zones and vegetation corridors
- Re-establishing internal fencing for stock management and the protection of recovering remnant vegetation
- Fire planning.

In June 2013, the Tasmanian Government provided \$80,000 to NRM South to continue to provide on-ground support to farmers into 2013-14.



CARBON FARMING INITIATIVE (CFI) COMMUNICATIONS

During 2012-13, NRM South provided four information sessions on the Carbon Farming Initiative for farmers and landcare community groups. These sessions involved 103 participants and were held in association with the Tasman Landcare Group, the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee, the Coal River Products Association and NRM South's Annual General Meeting.

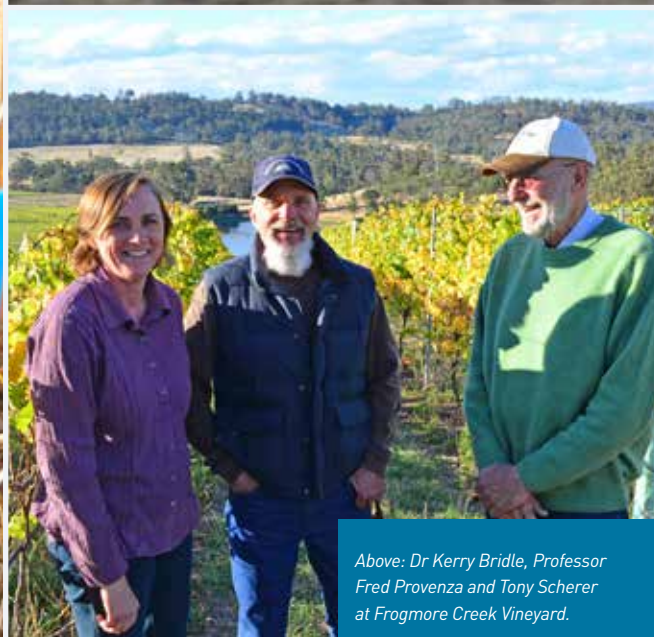
NRM South also supported the production of a DVD educational resource on the topic and produced a fact sheet, Carbon Farming in Southern Tasmania, for a Small Landholders Series of workshops held in the Huon Valley.

In 2013-14, NRM South will continue this work through extension services in the Carbon Farming Initiative.

SMALL LANDHOLDER SERIES

A pilot Small Landholdings Property Management Planning Program was delivered to help small landholders to manage their land sustainably. Participants attended four workshops featuring practical and locally relevant information on sustainable land management practices and guidance to develop management plans for their properties.

A DIY property management planning work book and twelve factsheets, featuring information such as business management to animal husbandry accompanied the program. The aim is to roll out the program more broadly in coming years.



Above: Dr Kerry Bridle, Professor Fred Provenza and Tony Scherer at Frogmore Creek Vineyard.

PUTTING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE INTO PRACTICE

Regenerative agriculture uses agricultural practices to restore the way a landscape functions, helping to build soil carbon, capture water, reduce erosion and access nutrients. Over the last four years NRM South has been working with farmers to develop skills and trial the application of regenerative agriculture practices such as planned grazing and pasture cropping in southern Tasmania.

"The focus has been how people can take this knowledge and apply these practices in different farming businesses," says NRM South Regional Landcare Facilitator Ken Moore.

"Through field days and seminars we have looked at how planned grazing can be applied by cattle and sheep farmers, horse owners and viticulturists.

"These methods can improve farm profitability and the environment," says Ken, "as they greatly reduce reliance on fertilisers, diesel and pesticides thus reducing costs."

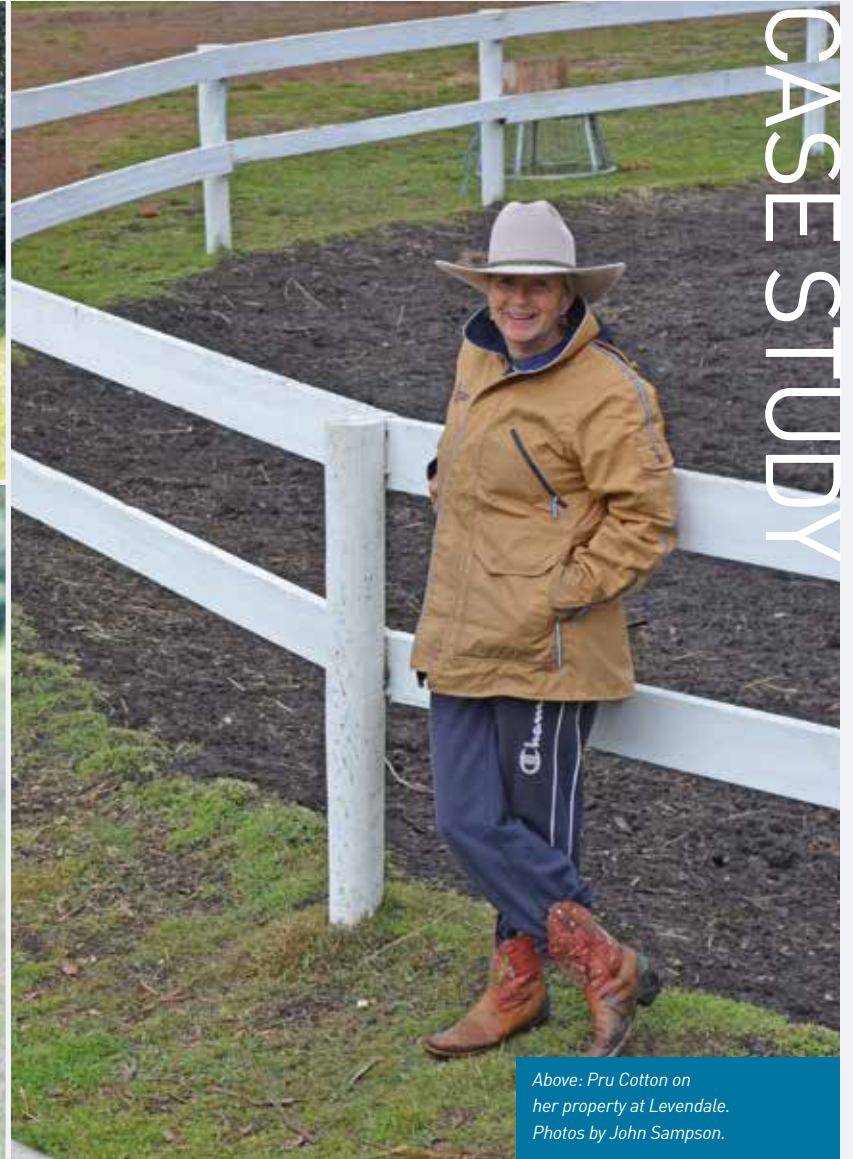
The national interest in regenerative agriculture is growing with Soils For Life, an organisation that encourages the adoption of these practices, championing farmers who are leading by example. NRM South co-delivered field days with the Soils for Life team, featuring NSW beef farmer Greg Chappell and soil microbiologist Walter Jehne explaining how innovative practices can repair degraded farming properties and improve our future wellbeing.

"These methods can improve farm profitability and the environment as they greatly reduce reliance on fertilisers, diesel and pesticides thus reducing costs."

"The field days really opened up a lot of space for farmers interested in regenerative practices to explore issues pertinent to southern Tasmania, and to meet other people interested in this way of farming," says NRM South's Biodiversity Coordinator Dr Magali Wright.

Among the speakers were Professor Fred Provenza from Utah State University, who spoke about how his work to understand behaviours of grazing animals can be used to manage weeds, enhance biodiversity, improve feeding systems and protect riparian areas.

"A lot of these techniques have environmental benefits," says Magali. "And they emphasise the fact that farming and good environmental management can go hand in hand."



Above: Pru Cotton on her property at Levendale.
Photos by John Sampson.

PLANNED GRAZING REAPS MULTIPLE BENEFITS

Pru Cotton's interest in planned grazing was first piqued during a soil health workshop run by NRM South and Stipa, a national body that promotes the use of native grasses to improve animal and soil health.

"Initially I was a bit sceptical," she says, "The workshops seemed to target large farming properties and focused on cattle and sheep production, not smaller properties like mine that just run ponies and horses."

Pru uses her 15 hectare property near Levendale in southern Tasmania to retrain former racehorses, calming them down after the frenetic pace of the racing circuit and preparing them for life with a new owner.

She says the best result has been watching the change in her horses.

"Most horse and pony owners would probably be surprised to learn that how you manage your pasture can have a huge impact on both the temperament and health of your animals," she says.

"It can also greatly improve your property by increasing soil health, the number of perennial grass species found in your pasture and reducing how much hay you buy in."

Pru rotates her horses and ponies through paddocks, using the action of their hooves to massage the soil, improve soil-to-seed contact, and press nutrient rich dung and plant litter deep into the soil.

More than 15 grass species, long dormant in the soil, have sprouted on her property, boosting the range of nutrients her animals get through natural grazing, and ensuring groundcover all year round.

She's also increased grazing time from six months a year to nearly nine.

Pru is now working with NRM South and Stipa to show other horse and pony owners how easy it is to manage their land through planned grazing.

"Most horse and pony owners would probably be surprised to learn that how you manage your pasture can have a huge impact on both the temperament and health of your animals."

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2. PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Our natural landscapes are under pressure from decline in vegetation condition, habitat destruction, invasive species incursions and climate change. Those landscapes span wilderness to productive farmland, publicly and privately owned land, and create numerous challenges to maintain a functioning, connected habitat that is so vital to our flora and fauna.

The key to successful biodiversity protection is in enlisting the help of those responsible for managing valuable areas in our region from public land managers to private landholders.

During 2012–13 we were again impressed by the commitment of land owners and managers to contribute to our various biodiversity projects, whether through controlling weeds or assisting with habitat rejuvenation trials.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012–13



WHITE GUM REGENERATION TRIALS

This project is focused on the development of practical methodologies to encourage the regeneration of white gum on Bruny Island farms to increase habitat for one of Australia's rarest birds, the forty-spotted pardalote.

Preliminary results indicate that animal exclusion, scalping (removing the top layer of plants and soil to reduce competition) and burning are beneficial activities. Trials in early 2013 investigated regeneration around isolated paddock trees, width of stock exclusion fences and the influence of cultivation and creation of microclimates on white gum establishment. The trials will be monitored over the next five years by NRM South staff and project partners the Understorey Network and Kingborough Council.

CONNECTING AND RESTORING THREATENED VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Funded by the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund, the project involves working with landholders from the North Bruny Farmers Network to buffer, connect and restore priority remnant vegetation to improve the habitat of a number of threatened species including the forty-spotted pardalote and swift parrot.

Project partners, including the Understorey Network, Kingborough Council and Conservation Volunteers, successfully achieved more than 170 hectares of restoration and 17 hectares of biodiverse planting during 2012–13, with plans in place to undertake on-ground works across a further 300 hectares in 2013–14.

ENHANCING THE ECOLOGICAL VALUES OF THE APSLEY MARSHES

Funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program, the Apsley Marshes project aimed to enhance and further understand the ecological values of this internationally significant site. On-ground activities were undertaken across 400 hectares and included weed control, revegetation and fencing to control stock access. The project controlled an infestation of willows that threatened water flow and quality in the marshes.

The results of flora and fauna surveys highlighted the importance of this site in our region's biodiversity. Sixty-six bird species and 12 fish species were identified. Six vegetation communities were mapped of which four are threatened, while flora surveys recorded 18 threatened plant species. The Glamorgan Spring Bay Catchments to Coast team worked closely with the landholder to achieve these outcomes and to develop a ten-year management plan to guide ongoing protection of this important site.



MIENA CIDER GUM PROTECTION

We continued work to protect the miena cider gum, an important species of conservation significance within the Central Plateau of Tasmania.

Monitoring to understand the long-term effectiveness of on-ground works was a key focus of efforts, involving project partners, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, volunteers from Threatened Plants Tasmania and local landowners.

Results of the monitoring showed that adult plant health and habitat type had the greatest influence on seedling recruitment and growth. A forum held in Bothwell in December 2012, set the scene for action planning with a range of researchers, ecologists, landholders and groups involved in the miena cider gum conservation. Both the action planning process and the monitoring revealed that browsing pressure is one of the most immediate and manageable threats to the viability of miena cider gum populations.



Above: Cleaning equipment is a key part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Biosecurity procedures. Inset: Frog Research Both photos by Niall Doran

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA BIOSECURITY

This multi-year project, focused on education, infrastructure and monitoring to reduce the impact of invasive species including Phytophthora and chytrid frog disease. Work this year involved installation of 17 boot wash stations for bushwalkers, three mobile wash down units for vehicles, field wash down kits and the helipads for helicopters visiting the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Site monitoring investigated the occurrence and spread of chytrid disease in natural frog populations and has helped inform management strategies control the spread of this and other pathogens to sensitive areas. Training in field hygiene practices continued in partnership with Hydro Tasmania, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and the Environment and others and will continue to be a focus in 2013-14.

Educational resources were developed and are available on YouTube and various websites to help raise awareness of the issues and provide guidance on how to undertake field hygiene practices.

WEED MANAGEMENT

Invasive plant species are a considerable threat to the condition of our native vegetation and can severely compromise its habitat value by limiting natural recruitment, replacing native understorey vegetation, damaging to native bird breeding and providing refuge for invasive pests.

In 2012-13 NRM South supported landholders and community groups to undertake weed control actions to protect biodiversity values on private and public land.

Specific projects included: coordinated targeted weed control in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area buffer with partners including Central Highland Council, Hydro Tasmania, Transend, Aurora Energy and the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee; biocontrol of ragwort in the Huon Valley; weed control advice to landholders effected by bushfires; protecting biodiversity of the Tasman and Forestier Peninsula through an eradication program for priority weed species; working with Cascade brewery to control weeds in their Hobart reserve land and weed removal within and adjacent to four Ramsar sites.

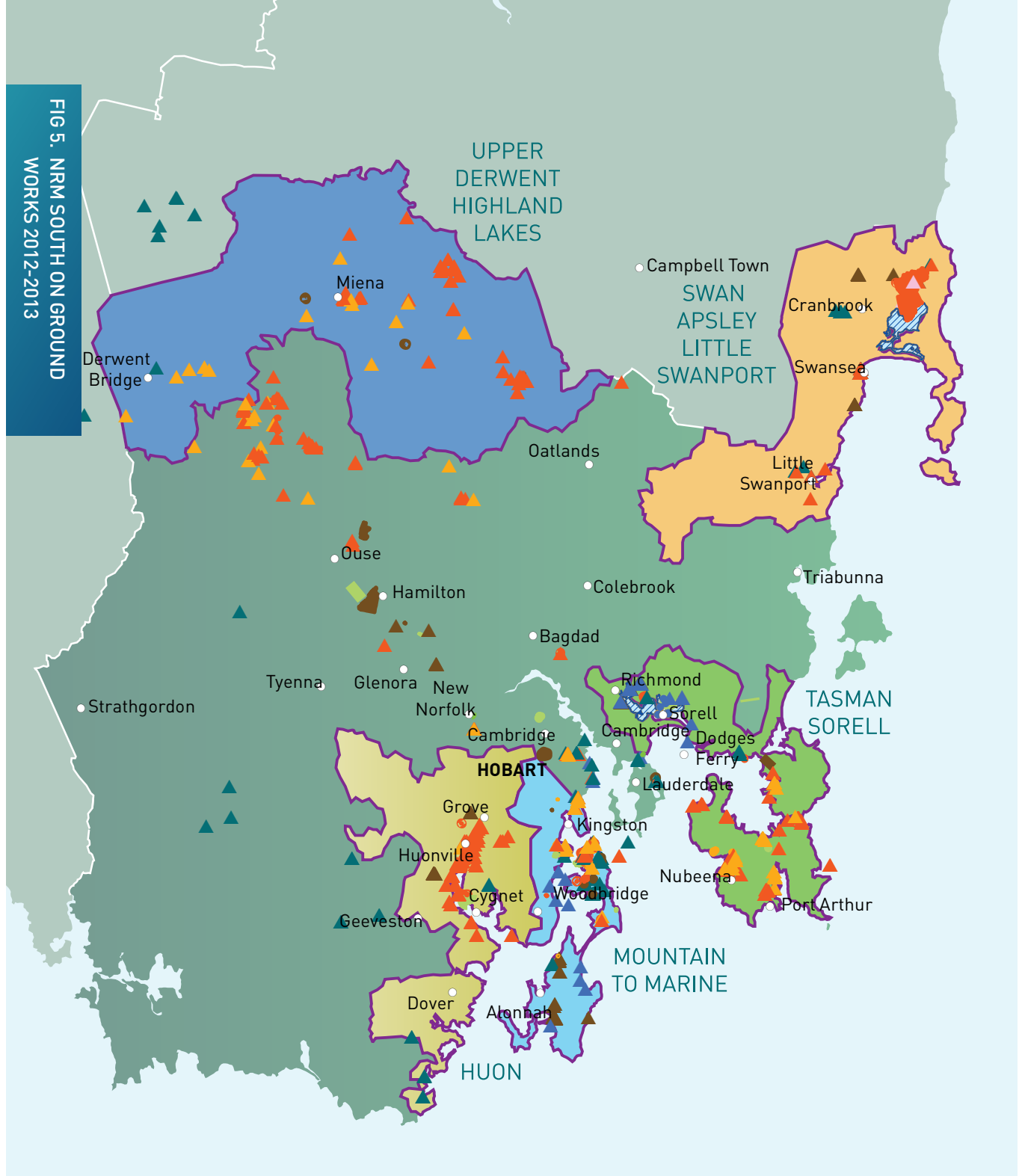
WORKING TO PROTECT THE EUCALYPTUS OVATA/CALLITRIS OBLONGA FOREST COMMUNITY

Eucalyptus ovata/Callitris oblonga (or black gum/south esk pine) forest is a threatened forest community and *Callitris oblonga subsp. oblonga* is also a threatened species endemic to Tasmania, meaning it's not found anywhere else in the world.

Through strategic weed control the Catchments to Coast team have been working to protect the *Eucalyptus ovata/Callitris oblonga* forest community in Glamorgan Spring Bay since 2010. 2012-13 was another successful year building on previous work. Landholders involved have really appreciated the assistance and expressed how impressed they are with the results.

Outcomes from this years project include; strategic control and treatment of 11 hectares containing Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) to protect the community, engagement with two landholders using Weed Action Plans and improved local knowledge and understanding of the distribution of *Eucalyptus ovata/Callitris oblonga* and involvement from two volunteers from Forestry Tasmania to help with weed control.

FIG 5. NRM SOUTH ON GROUND
WORKS 2012-2013



ACTION ON GROUND

- ▲ NATIVE HABITAT
- ▲ WONS
- ▲ OTHER WEEDS
- ▲ AQUATIC, COASTAL, RAMSAR
- ▲ ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

- ▨ RAMSAR WETLANDS
- ▭ PRIORITY AREAS

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- ▲ SOILS/CROPPING/HORTICULTURE POINT AREAS



Above: Dr Magali Wright NRM South Biodiversity coordinator, Viv Muller, Dr Nigel Swarts examine orchids.

VOLUNTEER WORK VITAL IN PROTECTING SPECIES

One of Dr Nigel Swarts great hopes is that a project to build a living collection of some of Tasmania's most threatened native orchids at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens with the help of volunteers, will one day help restock numbers in the wild.

The orchid research scientist says Tasmania is home to more than 200 orchid species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

"More than a third are either critically endangered or vulnerable, and many of these are found only in a small number of populations in Tasmania," he says.

The project is training volunteers at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in plant conservation, and helping to create a seed and fungal bank for some of our most threatened orchid species.

NRM South biodiversity co-ordinator Dr Magali Wright is making the most of her expertise in using mycorrhiza fungi to propagate the orchids and has both a passionate interest in the rare flowers and a readiness to share her expertise.

"Plants grown under this program will become a living part of the gardens, acting as an insurance policy for species extinction and a seed orchard for conservation efforts," she says. "They will also provide an important source of native orchids that can be reintroduced back into the wild. It takes around 2-3 years to grow orchids for reintroduction and this will be undertaken for species that are only known from a few unreserved sites."

Outside the laboratory another group of volunteers have made a discovery that is yet another positive step for threatened species management in Tasmania.

During one of their many field trips volunteers from Threatened Plants Tasmania found 180 previously unknown dainty leek orchids (*Prasophyllum amoenum*) on Mount Wellington.

The find could mean the dainty leek orchid has its conservation status down-listed, freeing up resources for other species at greater risk of extinction.

Threatened Plants Tasmania president Viv Muller said the work had been extremely rewarding.

"We work very closely with senior botanists from the Threatened Species and Marine Section of the Tasmanian Government who ensure our efforts are directed to the plants most in need of help and who identified the survey areas and organised permission for the activity from the Wellington Park Management Trust."

The Threatened Plants Tasmania field trip schedule for 2013-14 will be just as busy and NRM South will continue to work with volunteers and the Threatened Species and Marine Section to coordinate field trips in the southern region and provide specialised training opportunities. Through this work project partners aim to improve the conservation status of a wide range of threatened flora, many only found in the southern region of Tasmania.

"...Tasmania is home to more than 200 orchid species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world."



Apsley Marshes.
Photo by Nicky Meeson.

APSLEY MARSHES

The nearly \$300,000 invested in Tasmania's Apsley Marshes over the past year will go a long way towards protecting these globally significant wetlands, listed under the Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the "wise use" concept. The wise use of wetlands is defined as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development".

"Wise use" therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of humankind. Apsley Marshes, like many Ramsar wetlands, is a 'working' wetland, managed both for conservation and production.

A partnership project involving NRM South, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and the landholder is helping to progress this philosophy and protect the wetland. Funding was used for species surveys, weed control, revegetation and fencing.

The work has also helped rid Apsley Marshes of invasive willow trees and is part of a ten year management plan for the Ramsar-listed wetlands. The marshes provide habitat for threatened species such as the Australasian bittern, and are a migratory route for fish including the threatened Australian grayling.

SURVEY RESULTS

- Three bird surveys recorded 66 species.
- Six native vegetation communities, including four threatened communities, were recorded.
- Threatened flora species recorded for the Apsley Marshes now numbers 18.
- Nine fish species were caught during the survey and a further three are known to occur in the Apsley Marshes. This total of 12 species includes the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBCA) listed Australian grayling.

The work will help better understand the importance of these wetlands as a refuge for stock during drought, breeding grounds for water birds, and as a haven for many wetland dependent plants, including several threatened species.

The \$277,000 in funding came from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative and was also used to carry out a number of ecological surveys.

"At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the "wise use" concept. The wise use of wetlands is defined as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development."



Above: Gwen Egg with community members.
Inset: New signage at Park Beach funded by an NRM Naturally Inspired Grant.

TRANSLATING PASSION INTO PROJECTS

Grant programs provide funds for community groups and organisations to translate passion into projects that make a real difference to the local environment.

Gwen Egg, a volunteer with Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare, is an example of why long-term commitment and community spirit is so important to making natural resource management projects happen on the ground.

She has been a member of the group for the past 22 years and has been recognised for her commitment with a 'Local Hero' award. This year the Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare group were successful in securing a Naturally Inspired Grant to continue their good work. Gwen says the group tries to engage the local community in their work and the effort pays off.

"It might seem an odd way to measure the success of a community project, but we are very proud of the fact that our sign at Park Beach in southern Tasmania has never been vandalised, not once," she says.

"The sign tells the story of the area, Aboriginal and natural heritage, and how important it is to the local community.

"Ten years after our group first put up the sign, the sun and rain have taken their toll, and now, thanks to an NRM South Naturally Inspired Grant, we can replace it."

The group also used their Naturally Inspired Grant to improve access to the creek at Jacks Flat, where they are tackling blackberry, one of Australia's worst invasive weeds.

Getting rid of Weeds of National Significance such as blackberry, as well as boneseed and boxthorn, is creating space for native grasses and other indigenous plants to grow, providing food and shelter for bandicoots and other wildlife.

The project was one of 24 funded through round six of NRM South's Naturally Inspired Grants Program, which delivered more than \$85,000 to community conservation and conservation and school groups in southern Tasmania in 2012–13.

NRM South's Naturally Inspired Grants Program was developed in 2009 to support community organisations undertaking natural resource management initiatives. Over the course of six grant rounds it has provided over \$290,000 in funding to enable 76 community groups to deliver 91 projects improving community skills, knowledge and engagement around environmental themes and issues. In line with Caring for our Country targets, the Naturally Inspired Grants program also focuses on delivering on-ground outcomes which reduce the impact of weeds, increase native habitat, protect Ramsar wetlands and critical aquatic ecosystems.

"...Ten years after our group first put up the sign, the sun and rain have taken their toll, and now, thanks to an NRM South Naturally Inspired Grant, we can replace it."

FIG 6. NATURALLY INSPIRED GRANTS AND COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM MAP



NATURALLY INSPIRED GRANTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Bothwell District Lions Club | 13 Kingston Primary School |
| 2 Southern Highlands Progress Association | 14 Cygnet Primary School Parents and Friends |
| 3 South Hobart Primary School | 15 Woodbridge School and Marine Discovery Centre |
| 4 Wildcare Southern Wildlife Rescue & Care | 16 The Understorey Network - Calverts Hill |
| 5 Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (FOG) | 17 Bruny Island District School |
| 6 The Understorey Network - capacity building | 18 Bruny Island Environment Network Inc. |
| 7 Fahan School | 19 Friends of Coningham NRA |
| 8 Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet | 20 Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc |
| 9 Catholic Parish of Sandy Bay and Tarooona | 21 Launching into Learning @ Lauderdale Primary School |
| 10 Tarooona Primary School | 22 Equestrian Tasmania |
| 11 Tarooona Environment Network | 23 Tasman Landcare Group Inc. |
| 12 Sustainable Living in Kingborough (SLiK) | 24 Surfrider Foundation Tasmania |

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 Wellington Park Bushcare | 14 Snug Land and Coastcare |
| 2 Tunapi Wildcare | 15 Tinderbox West Coastcare |
| 3 Understorey Network | 16 Tramway Hill Landcare |
| 4 Feral Oyster Control Community Group | 17 Seven Mile Beach Coastcare |
| 5 Friends of Knocklofty | 18 Earth Ocean Network |
| 6 Friends of Mt Nelson Bushcare | 19 Orford Community Group |
| 7 Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet | 20 Parkers Beach Coastcare |
| 8 New Town Rivulet Catchment Care | 21 New Norfolk Community Garden |
| 9 Tas Equestrian Centre Landcare | 22 Westerway Bushwatch |
| 10 Bellerive Bluff Land and Coastcare | |
| 11 Tranmere Clarence Plains Land and Coastcare | |
| 12 Port Esperance Coastcare | |
| 13 Friends of Huon Island | |



Above: Enthusiastic volunteers at National Volunteer Week Celebrations hosted at the Lea Scout Campsite in Kingston.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year NRM South has continued our focus on sharing knowledge, growing partnerships and collaboration to build our relationships with organisations, community groups and the general public.

This has included raising awareness of NRM through our involvement and sponsorship of community events, production and dissemination of communication materials such as our Naturally Inspired newsletter and NRM Snapshot e-newsletter and capacity building activities through grants, workshops and forums.

Our collaborative approach has been key to the success of the engagement program, working with local government, other community support organisations, community groups and individuals to improve access to training, resources and support to enable community action. We are fortunate to have many committed and skilled volunteers that continue to make a positive contribution to the environment and their local communities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012-13

COASTCARE SUPPORT

In partnership with the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, and supported with funding from the Australian Government, we continued to employ two project officers to work with coastcare groups. A range of on-ground works were completed and management plans developed to rehabilitate and protect our coastlines. Staff also worked with the community to update the *Coastcare Handbook*, a practical how-to guide for volunteers.

The *Filling the Gaps in Coastcare in southern Tasmania* project concluded in June 2013.

PAKANA SERVICES

This year saw the completion of a business model for an indigenous land conservation business, finalisation of the governance arrangements and employment of a manager to run the business.

Called pakana services, the social enterprise aims to provide employment to aboriginal people to work on the land. The business provides services such as weed control, brush cutting, fencing, tree planting and other land management activities.

NRM South is hosting pakana services in its establishment phase, until it can run independently. A team made up of representatives of the Australian and Tasmania Governments; the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; consulting group, GHD; and members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community have been instrumental in developing the venture.

LOCAL AREA FACILITATION 2012-13

Our network of local area facilitators, delivered in conjunction with partners, continues to be an effective strategy to engage local communities. This program delivered landscape-scale planning, capacity building activities and on-ground works in partnership with local Government and NRM committees in five target areas. The shared investment provided local area facilitators to work with community, agencies, landholders and community groups in each region to focus on local target priorities.

The local area facilitators coordinated and delivered community and volunteer based events consisting of training, field days, displays and volunteer days.



NATURALLY INSPIRED GRANTS

In 2012–13, 24 community groups were awarded funding through the Naturally Inspired Grants Program, a significant increase compared with previous rounds. The diverse range of projects involved eight schools, a catholic parish, an equestrian centre and a district Lions club along with many environmental care groups.

Activities included design and establishment of native gardens, capacity building for volunteers, and installation of interpretative signage and production of awareness-raising leaflets. During the 2012/13 year, three rounds of grants also came to a close including the reporting requirements for 45 different projects. As part of a cross regional evaluation process, a review of Naturally Inspired Grants was undertaken as we look to improve and refine the next phase of the program.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

The Community Action Program was led by Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and took place from February through May 2013. It attracted interest from 24 community groups and delivered the equivalent of 40 days work over more than 20 locations.

The level of interest in the program was very high considering recruitment occurred over Christmas and in the context of the bushfires in the southern region. Community groups worked alongside CVA volunteers for the duration of the program that saw work on sites reaching from New Norfolk, to Sandy Bay, New Town, Bellerive Bluff and new Town and included both weed control and revegetation of various sites.

WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDENS

The Wildlife Friendly Gardens Program this year focussed its attention in Kingborough. The program, delivered in partnership with Kingborough Council, engaged residents on urban blocks that neighboured areas of significant environmental value such as the Coningham and Peter Murrell Reserves.

The program included weed identification and removal, education of property owners and offering free native alternative plantings to “fill the gaps” once weeds had been removed. Twenty-four properties were assessed and 18 of these had either weeds removed or natives planted, or a combination of both.

COMMUNITY TRAINING AND COLLABORATION

NRM South has been actively seeking opportunities to strengthen collaboration between organisations providing support for community volunteer activity in natural resource management. One outcome has been the initiation of a volunteer training consortium which aims to foster a flourishing volunteer community that is informed, safe, inspired and effective. In the 2012-13, 85 individual volunteers benefitted from the coordinated provision of free training such as first aid, how to use brushcutters, safe use of chemicals, and native seed collection and propagation.

We also hosted a community network forum which discussed youth engagement and shared information on issues and opportunities for community group participation in NRM.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Participation in community events allows us to communicate with a broader audience and focus public attention on key issues related to natural resource management.

Community activities included; a stall at the Spring Festival and the Sustainability Festival focusing on native gardens; participation in World Wetlands Day, The Wooden Boat Festival, Bream Creek Show, Seafest and the Hamilton Show; a stall at the Huon Show focusing on farming and soil health as well as a series of field days and workshops run throughout the year.

NATIVE GARDENS GUIDE

The Native Gardens guide was published and promoted at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden's Spring Community Festival and at the Sustainable Living Festival to encourage people to create environmentally sensitive native gardens. The booklet, also available online, provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for residents of southern Tasmania including water-wise local native plants suitable for gardens or as alternatives to introduced plants that can be harmful to our local natural landscapes.

DISCOVERY RANGERS

The Discovery Ranger Program was focused on encouraging people who visited Tasmania's parks and reserves to take care of the natural environment. The program ran from the end of December 2012 to end of January 2013 and encompassed a range of activities including greeting visitors at Hobart airport and providing information and highlighting biosecurity practices for bushwalkers and fishers in parks and reserves, particularly how to check, clean and disinfect equipment and gear.

The Discovery Ranger Program was made possible through partnership with Wildcare Inc, NRM North, The Bay of Fires Walk, Glenorchy City Council, Cradle Mountain Water and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment's Invasive Species Branch.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Community Groups Engaged	122
Volunteer Activities	27
Community Events & Festivals	44
Networking Events	12



Top: Community engagement and training activities undertaken by the volunteer network.

CASE STUDY



Above: pakana services manager John Easton.



Some of the pakana services team undertaking works on Seven Mile Beach.

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS BENEFITS CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY

pakana services has a shed and tools, strong workplace health and safety systems in place, and an enthusiastic team ready for work. It is, without doubt, open for business.

The name 'pakana' means Aboriginal Tasmanian, and uses a lowercase 'p' to respect the tradition of always using Aboriginal words without capitalisation.

Initially hosted by NRM South, the goal of the service is to give Aboriginal Tasmanians the chance to work on land while gaining valuable skills in conservation management.

"This is more than a challenge," says pakana services manager John Easton, who has trained young people at TAFE and through Conservation Volunteers. "It's a chance to make a difference to other people's lives."

The services offered by the business include brush cutting, weed control, fencing, tree planting, seed collection, track construction and maintenance, animal surveys and the protection of Aboriginal cultural sites.

Importantly, the project has demonstrated the power of great partnerships to grow great ideas. The Australian and Tasmania Governments, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, consultants GHD and members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community have been instrumental in developing the venture.

The aim is for pakana services to become a fully independent, self-funding not-for-profit business that uses commerce as a way of maximising the wellbeing of people and the environment.

The NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2010–15 highlights that the Aboriginal community sees a need to develop skills and capacity to manage land. They also want jobs and pakana services addresses both these needs.

NRM South CEO, Dr Kathleen Broderick, says a key aspect of NRM South's role is to work with the Aboriginal community in the management of Tasmania's environment, including sustainable environmental management and sustainable agriculture.

"Our role in pakana services is not just about helping to kick-start a new activity," she says. "It's about creating a new social enterprise and giving people the chance to take control of their own destinies while delivering good natural resource management outcomes."

**"This is more than a challenge,
It's a chance to make a difference
to other people's lives."**



*Fish farming in the
D'Entrecasteaux Channel.
Photo by Stuart Pengelly.*

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

4. KNOWLEDGE & INFORMATION

NRM South works with partners to improve NRM outcomes by gathering existing information, generating new knowledge, and disseminating information throughout the NRM sector.

Our staff brings a regional perspective and expertise to other NRM 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 across the NRM sector. We were also involved in a number of research projects in climate change adaptation and agricultural extension services.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012–13

D'ENTRECASTEAUX CHANNEL PROJECT

The State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Lower Huon Estuary report was finalised, identifying the challenges, knowledge gaps and localised impacts on the Channel. The project brought together a range of stakeholders including Kingborough Council, NRM South, the Derwent Estuary Program, Southern Water, Tassal and Huon Valley Council and built on previous scientific work in the area.

The key achievements this year have been the official launch of the project to stakeholders, the establishment of the project web page (on the Kingborough Council website), the release of the State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and lower Huon Estuary Report 2012 and consolidating commitment from project partners to continue the project.



Participants at the launch
of a Collective Effort

POLICY RESPONSE AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

At the heart of our business is capacity for NRM South to build and exchange knowledge to improve NRM outcomes in the region. In many cases this involves sharing ideas with our partners including the Federal and State Governments, NRM organisations and individual, community groups and the broader public.

This year, we have exchanged ideas and been involved in a range of knowledge building initiatives. CEO Kathleen Broderick has been the lead for a number of these exchanges including: Carbon Planning with Clean Energy Futures; the Caring for our Country review; comments on - the Natural Heritage Strategy, the Tasmanian Framework for Community engagement, the draft Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy 2013-17, the State of the Environment review, the State Climate Change Policy – Low Carbon Tasmania; as well as consultation within the primary industry, forestry and agricultural sectors.

COASTAL SALTMARSHES

The Southern Tasmanian Coastal Saltmarsh Futures Report and GIS mapping layers were released in March 2013, closely followed by the e-book mapping summary published online in June. They provide the results of an assessment into the vulnerability of southern Tasmania's coastal saltmarshes to sea level rise out to 2100. The report outlines the importance of an ecosystem based management approach to improve the future outcomes for this important vegetation type.

The work of the Southern Tasmanian Coastal Saltmarsh Futures project also informed the development of a strategic on-ground works project to implement management action across a range of priority saltmarsh sites in partnership with the Derwent Estuary Program, and the development of the draft Waterway and Coastal Protection planning overlay as part of the Southern Tasmanian Regional Planning Project.

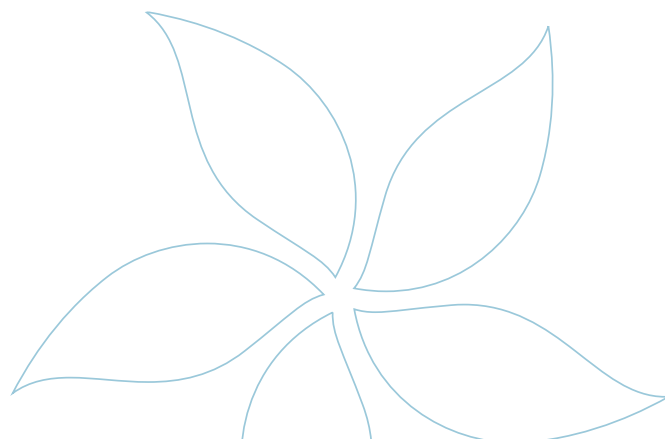
REPORTING ON THE REGIONAL STRATEGY

NRM South produced the first progress report on the Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2010-15, highlighting the collective contributions of organisations and community groups across the region. The report, *A Collective Effort 2010-12*, brought together information from 25 organisations which undertake natural resource management activity in southern Tasmania. The report was officially launched in June 2013, at an event attended by 60 stakeholders.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

The local government forum was held in November 2012 and focused on building stronger partnerships with local government, and in particular NRM officers, to better enable the effective and coordinated delivery of NRM services within the region.

Attended by 14 people, the day was focused on: facilitating conversation and knowledge exchange; helping to reduce professional isolation by providing networking opportunities; providing an opportunity to raise the profile of NRM within local councils and to reinforce NRM South's role and how we can support council officers





*D'Entrecasteaux Channel
near Woodbridge.
Photo by Danielle Hardie.*

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT THE CHANNEL

The waters of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and lower Huon Estuary are rich not just in marine and coastal wildlife, but also in human activity.

Their sheltered bays are perfect for sailing and kayaking, their fishing hotspots sought after by recreational anglers and divers. They also support industries such as aquaculture, commercial fishing and tourism.

It's a complex system, one that requires a collaborative approach to ensure effective management.

Danielle Hardie has been coordinating the D'Entrecasteaux Channel Project for the past few years. Initiated by the Kingborough Council, the project brought together a range of stakeholders including NRM South, the Derwent Estuary Program, Southern Water, Tassal and Huon Valley Council.

"The Channel is at the heart of the municipality," says Danielle.

"So much of the lives of the people living here are connected to the health of the Channel, socially and economically, that we saw a real importance in working together to manage it sustainably into the future."

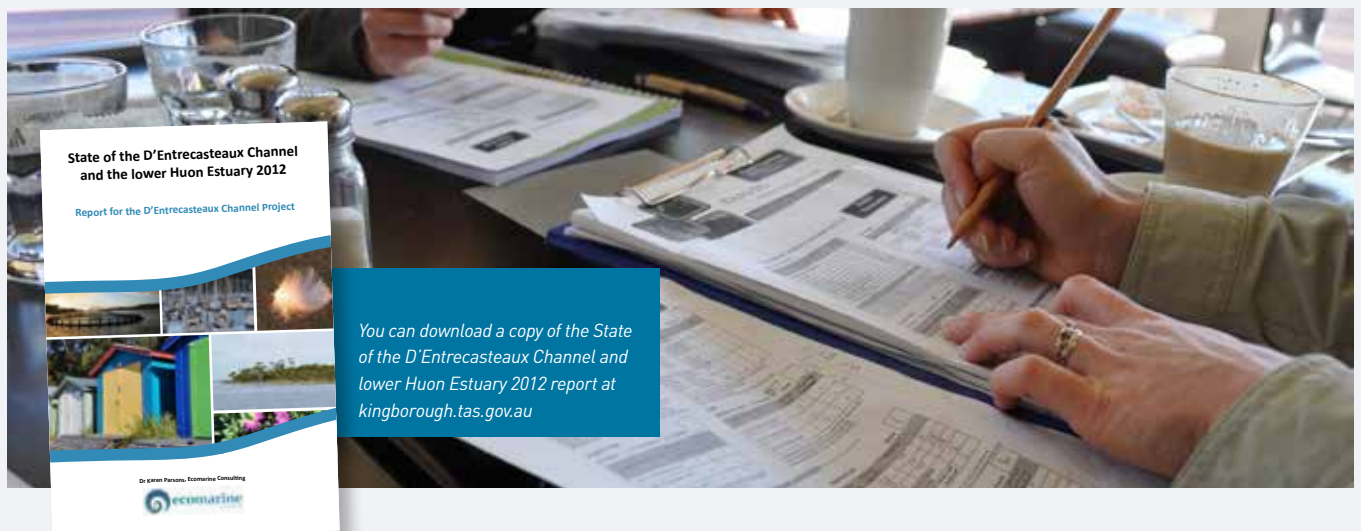
The project's most important step this year has been the release of the State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Lower Huon Estuary Report, which covers aspects of water and sediment quality, seafood safety, human impacts, risks associated with climate change, and the natural values and biodiversity of the area.

"The report identified a number of challenges, including knowledge gaps and localised impacts, but overall reflected a Channel that is in reasonably good condition," says Danielle.

The most significant data gap identified by the report was the absence of a 'catchment to waterway' monitoring strategy, which could effectively measure the major sources of human inputs to the waterways, and provide for long-term monitoring of environmental status.

"The report has been an important stepping stone in that it allows us to communicate scientific information about these waterways, and start developing community trust so that we can move forward with good management decisions in relation to activities that occur in the Channel," says Danielle.

"So much of the lives of the people living here are connected to the health of the Channel, socially and economically, that we saw a real importance in working together to manage it sustainably into the future."



State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel
and the lower Huon Estuary 2012

Report for the D'Entrecasteaux Channel Project

You can download a copy of the State
of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and
lower Huon Estuary 2012 report at
kingborough.tas.gov.au

Dr Karen Parsons, Ecotourism Consulting
ecotourism



From Left: Dr Kathleen Broderick, Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage Brian Wightman and Max Kitchell launch A Collective Effort 2010-2012.

COLLECTIVE EFFORT CELEBRATES REGION'S PARTNERSHIPS

The first progress report on the Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2010-15, published this year, broke new ground by reporting across the entire NRM sector in the southern region.

When Tasmania's Environment Minister Brian Wightman launched A Collective Effort 2010-12, he noted the contribution of the many people and organisations who had come together to make a difference to the region's environment.

"The report illustrates just how much great work is being done – often with little acknowledgement – and how many people are actually involved in natural resource management in this state," he said.

NRM South CEO Dr Kathleen Broderick says the report's significance cannot be underestimated.

"The process of writing the report – building relationships, sourcing data, interviewing so many people and groups involved in natural resource management in southern Tasmania – has resulted in an incredibly important foundation we can build on," she says.

One of the report's key findings is that the availability, accessibility and comprehensiveness of baseline and monitoring data continue to be issues for effective natural resource management, emphasising the need to address this issue across the entire sector.

On the positive side, it found that direct investment in the region's natural resource management over the past two years was in advance of \$100 million per year.

It also clearly highlights the importance of volunteers, who contribute up to seven times the value of funds they receive.

"In short, if there has been more than \$200 million worth of direct investment in the past two years, it's amazing to think that only 10 per cent of the NRM activity in the region actually came from federal government funds, the rest came from business, industry, the State Government and others," says Kathleen. "To me that's really exciting, it allows us to say to the Australian Government your funding leverages ten times your initial investment."

"The report illustrates just how much great work is being done – often with little acknowledgement – and how many people are actually involved in natural resource management in this state"

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FINANCIALS

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 Management Strategy, as required under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* for Southern Tasmania.

Number of full time Employees – 14

Name of Auditor – BDO Audit (TAS) Pty Ltd

Board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Max Kitchell (Chair)

Ian Whyte (Deputy Chair to November 2012)*

Howel Williams (Deputy Chair from November 2012)

Flora Fox (to September 2012)*

John Hickey (to September 2012)*

Christine Crawford

Melanie Kelly

Greg Lehman

Angus MacNeil

Heather Chong (from September 2012)

Ruth Hall (from September 2012)

Graeme Bradfield (from November 2012)

*Outgoing Board members for the 2012/13 year

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2011-2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$	2011 \$
Operating Profit	124,947	77,591	(4,755)
Professional Income	3,582,403	2,772,143	2,716,834
Cash at Bank	2,572,608	3,066,709	2,804,124
Trade Debtors	2,741	7,590	4,569
Current Assets	2,663,777	3,134,760	2,883,101
Non-Current Assets	120,534	159,496	213,612
Bank Overdraft	-	-	-
Trade Creditors	220,093	178,203	183,840
Current Liabilities	346,331	272,885	298,447
Non Current Liabilities	12,080	12,000	12,000

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	NOTE	2013 \$	2012 \$
Revenue	2	3,715,457	2,905,331
Employee Benefits Expense		1,302,335	1,258,578
Depreciation and Amortisation		63,964	78,193
Other Expenses		2,224,211	1,490,969
Profit from Operations		124,947	77,591
Reserves			
Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Projects Reserve	10	(708,419)	145,514
Total Movement in Equity of the Association		(583,472)	223,105

FINANCIALS

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	NOTE	2013 \$	2012 \$
Equity			
Committed Project Reserve		1,304,853	2,013,271
Retained Profits		1,121,047	996,100
Total Equity		2,425,900	3,009,371
Represented by :			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	2,572,958	3,067,059
Trade and Other Receivables	5	69,381	41,979
Prepayments	6	21,438	25,722
		<u>2,663,777</u>	<u>3,134,760</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property Plant & Equipment	7	<u>120,534</u>	<u>159,496</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		2,784,311	3,294,256
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	8	277,313	206,866
Provisions	9	69,018	66,019
		<u>346,331</u>	<u>272,885</u>
Non Current Liabilities			
Provisions	9	12,080	12,000
Total Liabilities		<u>358,411</u>	<u>284,885</u>
Net Assets		2,425,900	3,009,371

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	NOTE	2013 \$	2012 \$
Income			
Funding and Member Receipts		3,582,403	2,772,143
Interest Received		133,054	133,188
		3,715,457	2,905,331
Expenditure			
Accountancy Fees		2,580	1,080
Advertising		4,081	2,558
Annual Leave – Provision		1,597	12,277
Auditor's Remuneration	11	18,200	14,200
Bank Charges		865	845
Board Expenses		43,389	32,888
Computer Expenses		12,606	16,253
Cleaning Expenses		7,322	7,128
Consultancy Fees		19,790	31,244
Depreciation		63,032	78,193
Fringe Benefits Tax		2,984	3,931
Hosting Agreements		-	-
Insurance		17,103	16,783
Legal Costs		432	4,029
Long Service Leave – Provision		-	-
Meeting Expenses		12,678	10,791
Motor Vehicle Expenses		17,211	18,849
Other Office Running Costs		31,835	30,913
Postage		1,773	1,892
Membership, Subscriptions & Fees		3,789	181
Rent & Occupancy Expenses		76,069	74,019
Staff Employment Costs		1,648	2,998
Service Provider & Project Expense		2,334,001	1,576,438
Staff Training		34,717	36,813
Superannuation – SGC		70,695	68,350
Telephone & Internet		13,665	15,427
Travelling Expenses		12,625	10,220
Salaries & Wages		785,823	759,440
		3,590,510	2,827,740
Operating Profit		124,947	77,591

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	NOTE	2013 \$	2012 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Grants/Members		2,825,425	2,890,668
Payment to Suppliers		(2,222,581)	(1,511,575)
Payments to employees		(1,302,334)	(1,258,578)
GST refunded/(remitted)		98,528	31,718
Interest received		131,862	130,926
Net Cash provided by operating activities	4	(469,100)	283,159
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of plant & equipment		(25,001)	(20,574)
Reimbursement of plant & equipment		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(25,001)	(20,574)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(494,101)	262,585
Cash at beginning of financial year		3,067,059	2,804,474
Cash at end of financial year	3	2,572,958	3,067,059

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	RETAINED EARNINGS \$	COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2011	918,509	1,867,757	2,786,266
Surplus/(Deficit)	77,591	145,514	223,105
Balance at 30 June 2012	996,100	2,013,271	3,009,371
Surplus/(Deficit)	124,947	(708,419)	(583,472)
Revaluation Increment	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2013	1,121,047	1,304,853	2,425,900

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%
Plant and Equipment	10-40%
Office Equipment	10-50%
Furniture & Fittings	10-40%
Website Development	40%
Project Related Assets	20-40%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at 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

AA 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)

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

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

(F) COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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

(G) CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The Board 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 Board 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.

ESTIMATION OF USEFUL LIVES OF ASSETS

The incorporated association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete on non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

(H) TAXATION

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

FINANCIALS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
2. REVENUE		
Operating Revenue		
Funding and Member receipts	3,582,403	2,772,143
	<u>3,582,403</u>	<u>2,772,143</u>
Non-Operating Revenue		
Interest Received	133,054	133,188
Other Revenue	-	-
	<u>133,054</u>	<u>133,188</u>
	<u>3,715,457</u>	<u>2,905,331</u>
3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on Hand	350	350
Cash at Bank – CBA Cheque Account	17,719	23,853
Cash at Bank – CBA Business Online Saver	278,012	542,856
Deposit – CBA Cash Deposit Account	2,276,877	2,500,000
Deposit – Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation	-	-
	<u>2,572,958</u>	<u>3,067,059</u>
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>2,572,958</u>	<u>3,067,059</u>
	<u>2,572,958</u>	<u>3,067,059</u>
4. CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Net Surplus		
Net Surplus for the period	(583,472)	223,105
Adjustment for Non-Cash Components in Profit		
Depreciation	63,964	78,193
Other Non Cash Items	-	(3,503)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade and Other Receivables	(23,119)	10,926
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade and other Payables	70,447	(39,542)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	3,080	13,980
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(469,100)</u>	<u>283,159</u>

INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
5. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade Debtors	2,741	7,590
Other Debtors	1,586	2,895
Provision for GST	65,054	31,494
	<u>69,381</u>	<u>41,979</u>
Total Trade and Other Receivables	<u>69,381</u>	<u>41,979</u>
6. OTHER		
Current		
Prepayments	21,438	25,722
	<u>21,438</u>	<u>25,722</u>
7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment	13,575	13,261
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>10,007</u>	<u>9,331</u>
	3,568	3,930
Office Equipment	151,127	130,835
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>120,492</u>	<u>109,616</u>
	30,635	21,219
Furniture and Fittings	32,282	30,798
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>17,502</u>	<u>14,674</u>
	14,780	16,124
Website Development	50,490	50,490
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>45,077</u>	<u>36,625</u>
	5,413	13,865
Leasehold Improvements	8,078	8,078
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>883</u>	<u>681</u>
	7,195	7,397
Project Related Assets	105,218	105,218
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>81,562</u>	<u>54,404</u>
	23,656	50,814
Motor Vehicles	64,183	64,183
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>30,873</u>	<u>18,036</u>
	33,310	46,147
pakana services	2,912	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>935</u>	<u>-</u>
	1,977	-
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>120,534</u>	<u>159,496</u>

FINANCIALS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
8. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
PAYG Withholding Payable	23,940	21,528
Paid Parental Leave Liability	4,327	-
Trade Creditors	220,093	178,203
Other Creditors	28,953	7,135
Total Trade and Other Payables	277,313	206,866
9. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	69,018	66,019
	69,018	66,019
Non Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	12,000	12,000
pakana services – Members Guarantee Contribution	80	-
	12,080	12,000
10. RESERVES		
Committed Projects Reserve	1,304,853	2,013,271
	1,304,853	2,013,271

Movements during the year in Committed Project Reserve

The movement in the Reserve includes Grant Funds received in advance for projects.

INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

In 2012/13 BDO Audit (Tas) Pty Ltd were the Auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

Audit & review of financial reports and grant acquittal's – for 11/12 year

Audit & review of financial reports and grant acquittal's – for 12/13 year

2013	2012
\$	\$
15,200	14,200
3,000	-
<u>18,200</u>	<u>14,200</u>
<u><u>18,200</u></u>	<u><u>14,200</u></u>
28,659	71,126
-	29,636
-	-
<u>28,659</u>	<u>100,762</u>
<u><u>28,659</u></u>	<u><u>100,762</u></u>

12. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Being for rent of office

Payable – minimum lease payments

Not later than 12 months

Between 12 months and 5 years

Greater than 5 years

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. The five year term finishes on 30th November 2013.

13. ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The principal place of business is :

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

313 Macquarie Street, Hobart.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

The Board 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 2013 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 Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Chair: Max Kitchell

Dated : 21 August 2013



Deputy Chair: Howell Williams

Dated : 21 August 2013

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2013, the income statement, profit and loss statement with appropriation statement, statement of cash flows and statement of recognised income and expense for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and statement by members of the board.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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



Opinion

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc as at 30 June 2013, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania).

Basis of Accounting

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

Handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'BDO Tas'.

BDO Audit (TAS)

Handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'CJ Stephens'.

CRAIG J STEPHENS

Partner

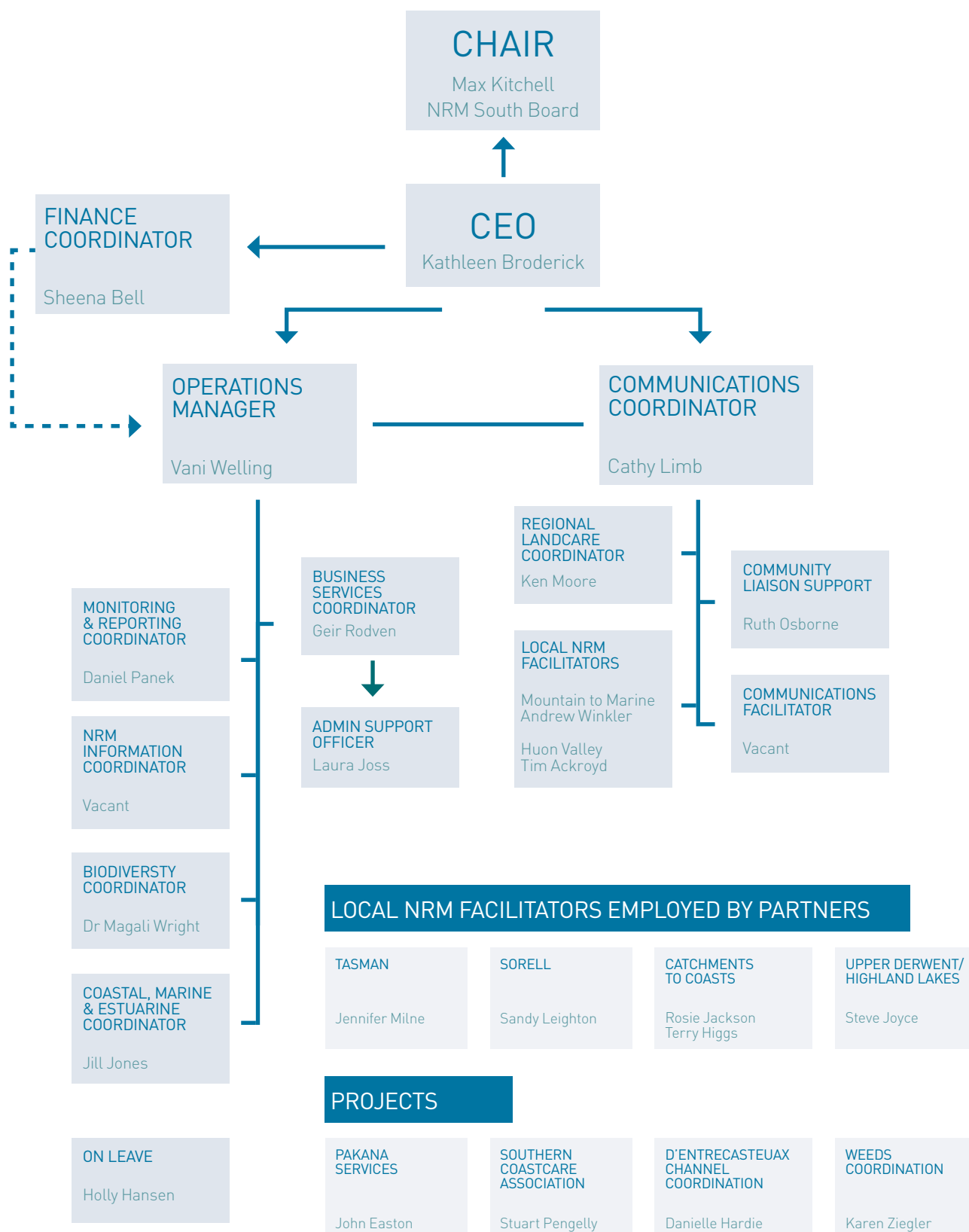
Signed at Hobart, dated this 21st day of August 2013

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APPENDIX

CORPORATE STRUCTURE & STAFF





From Left: Howel Williams, Ruth Hall, Christine Crawford, Graeme Bradfield, Heather Chong, Melanie Kelly and Max Kitchell.
(Absent: Greg Lehman and Angus McNeil)

BOARD PROFILES

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, sits on the board of Greening Australia and is Chair of the National Blue Fin Tuna Management Committee.

DR HOWEL WILLIAMS (Deputy Chair)

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 DPIWE, 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.

CHRISTINE CRAWFORD

(2005-2009, 2010-CURRENT)

Dr Christine Crawford has extensive experience at a state, national and international level in research and management of natural resources, especially estuarine, coastal and marine environments. She has represented Tasmania on national committees and presented on the Tasmanian marine environment, especially related to aquaculture and estuarine health, at numerous international conferences. Christine is currently a part-time consultant and part-time Senior Research Fellow at the University of Tasmania. She has been a member of Tasmanian Scientific Advisory Committee Threatened Species, University of Tasmania Science, Engineering & Technology Faculty Executive Committee, is on the Editorial Advisory Board of the international journal: Aquaculture, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Chair of the External Policy and Advisory Panel for Aquafish Co-operative Research (a USAID funded program), and a member of NRM South's Audit and Risk Committee. Christine has a strong interest in governance, science communication and community engagement.

RUTH HALL

SINCE 2012

Ruth Hall brings an agricultural perspective to the NRM South Board. For the last five years she has worked as a private consultant on Farm Business Management, Land Capability and Agricultural Reports, and Irrigation Development. Prior to this she worked in various NRM positions with Local Government and Greening Australia. She has an Agricultural Science Degree from the University of Tasmania and is currently studying an MBA in Agricultural Innovation. Ruth and her husband, Brett own a sheep and beef farming operation located in the Southern Midlands and the Central Highlands. Ruth is passionate about the integration of NRM values and sustainable, profitable agriculture.

APPENDIX

BOARD PROFILES (CONT).

HEATHER CHONG

SINCE 2012

Heather is an apricot grower from the Coal River Valley and an Alderman on Clarence City Council. With over 190 kilometres of coastline in Clarence, Heather has a strong interest in NRM, particularly around our shore line and wetlands areas. Heather is a chartered accountant, holds an MBA and is a Fellow of the Australia Institute of Company Directors. She brings a range of governance and accounting experience and expertise to the NRM South Board.

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.

GRAEME BRADFIELD

SINCE 2012

Graeme Bradfield is a Solicitor, practicing in Hobart since 1983 and in private practice on his own account since 1990. He also owns and is directly involved in several agricultural businesses including Musselroe Beef in North East Tasmania, Grove Blueberries in Huonville and Brador Investments (commercial rental) properties and the refinery of Shark Liver Oil. He has a keen interest in sustainable agricultural enterprises and the use of modern technology, together with scientific data to ensure that agricultural practices are carried out in a positive way for the environment. He is currently trying to scale back his legal practice so that he can dedicate more time to his business pursuits and, in line with this, he has a keen interest in the development in NRM South and the positive development of the Tasmanian environment.

NRM SOUTH MEMBERS

CORPORATE MEMBERS

BirdLife Tasmania	Leaman Geophysics
Central Highlands Council	Midlands Tree Committee Inc
Clarence City Council	Mortimer Bay Coast Care Group
Coal River Products Association	Port Cygnet land and Watercare Group Inc
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Private Forests Tasmania
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee Inc	Regnans Enviro Contracting Pty Ltd
DPIPWE	SFM Environmental Solutions Plc
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 Seafood Industry Council (TSFIC)
Huon Valley Council	Tasmanian Water & Sewerage Corporation (Southern Region) Pty Ltd
Hydro Tasmania	Timber Communities Aust Inc Huon Branch
Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group Inc.	White Beach Landcare Group Inc
Landcare Tasmania	

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Daniel Lester
Graham Flower
Stephen Geard
Corey Peterson
James Wilson
Sue Chapple
Merlene Abbott
Susan Dahlberg
James Gourlay
Jennifer Rowallan
Michael Eastman
Tammy Price
Alistair Kay
Heather Chong
Christine Mucha
Jane Vaughan
Dagga France
Sarah Lackey

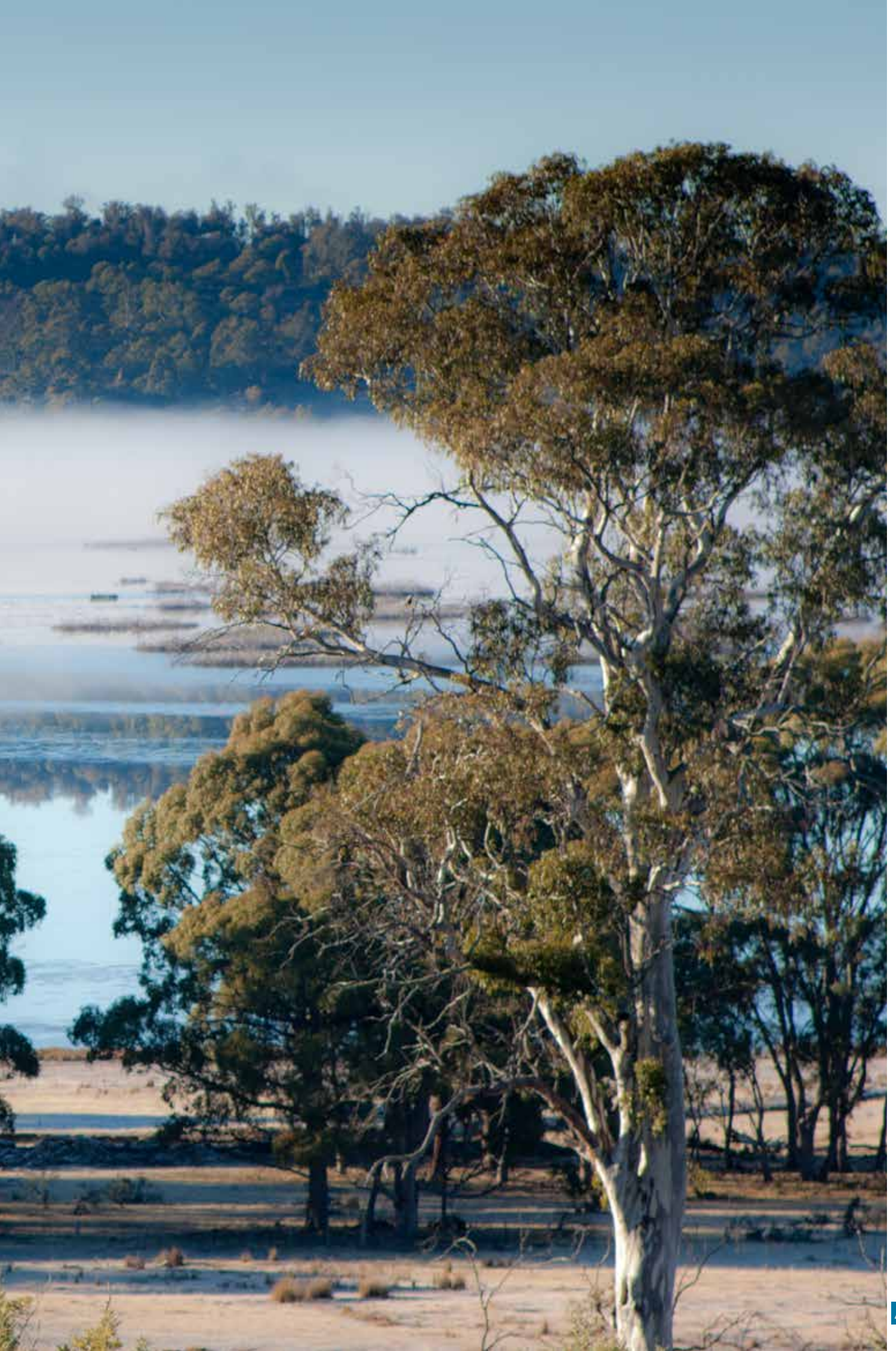


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Images: Thanks to the following people for the generous use of their photos of our region. Vishnu Prahalad, Danielle Hardie, Jen Milne, Nicky Meeson, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Niall Doran, Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, Stuart Pengelly, John Sampson, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmania, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Nick Fitzgerald, Bookend Trust and to all those who feature in the report.





Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hosted by Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association
for the South region



CARING
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