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ANNUAL REPORT



nrm
SOUTH
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

nrmsouth.org.au

NRM SOUTH IS ONE OF THREE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BODIES IN TASMANIA AND FORMS PART OF A NATIONAL NETWORK OF 56 SIMILAR BODIES. AS A NON-GOVERNMENT LEADER IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NRM SOUTH ACTS AS A 'HUB' ENGAGING AND WORKING WITH THE OTHER REGIONAL BODIES ON ISSUES OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE. WE ALSO WORK WITH MANY PARTNERS INCLUDING 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.

MISSION

WE WILL LEAD AND SUPPORT IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA.

VISION

THE SOUTHERN REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCES WILL BE PROTECTED, SUSTAINABLY MANAGED AND IMPROVED FOR THE SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF OUR REGION BY A WELL-INFORMED, WELL-RESOURCED AND ACTIVELY COMMITTED COMMUNITY.

VALUES

INNOVATION
EXCELLENCE
COLLABORATION
PASSION
IMPACT &
ACHIEVEMENT

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



ONE DEVELOP AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF THE REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCE CONDITION, VALUES AND THREATS.



FOUR OPTIMISE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND SECURE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR NRM.



TWO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN POSITIVE ACTION.



FIVE GOVERN AND MANAGE THE NRM SOUTH BUSINESS WELL.



THREE DELIVER ONGROUND AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE PROGRAMS IN PRIORITY AREAS (GEOGRAPHIC AND SECTOR).



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*Hobart and surrounds from Kunanyi/Mt Wellington.
Front cover: Aerial surveys of saltmarsh, Vishnu Prahalad.*

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

Every time I travel from my home in the Huon Valley to the NRM South office in Hobart I am reminded of just how important a role our natural resources play in the life of the region's community. I drive along the Huon River past anglers trying their luck in the tannin-stained water, past the Australian rowing team who use the river for training and past the salmon pens that comprise part of the half-billion dollar Tasmanian aquaculture industry. On the other side of the road are the apple and cherry orchards, the vineyards and the grazing lands that are based on some highly productive soils. Across the river are the southern forests from which much of Tasmania's high quality timbers are produced and heading south down the highway in the opposite direction to me are the tourists traveling to the Hartz Mountains, the World Heritage Area beyond and the wild beaches of the far south.

All of these enterprises are reliant either wholly or in part on the region's natural resources. And so it is for the rest of southern Tasmania. We are truly a region defined by our natural resources.

The sustainable management of our rich endowment of natural resources is a fundamental State priority.

It is fundamental to the protection of the internationally significant environmental assets the region contains, it is fundamental to the industries that utilise the natural resources and it is fundamental to the way of life of those of us who live here.

This serves to point up the significance of the work that NRM South does because it is our mission to ensure that these natural resources are managed in a way that sustains all the environmental, social and economic

benefits they currently provide now and into the future. This annual report provides a snapshot of our endeavours over the last 12 months towards that mission and I am pleased to say that real progress has been made.

Our environment and sustainable agriculture programs continue to be well received and to make a demonstrable change for the better in the way our natural resources are managed. The range of partnerships we have forged continue to make for more effective and efficient use of the limited NRM resources available to us. And we have continued to provide technical and financial support to a large number of community groups focused on landscape repair.

Financially NRM South is in a stable position principally due to the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to us through the National Landcare Programme. We are enormously thankful to both the Australian and Tasmanian Governments for their continued investment in NRM South and the trust and confidence that demonstrates they have in our ability to deliver good natural resource management outcomes.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, let me thank and congratulate our CEO, Donald Coventry, and his terrific staff for an outstanding year's work. Thanks also go to my colleague directors who have made a substantial contribution to the good governance of the organisation.

Max Kitchell
NRM South Chair



Property Management Planning event at Oyster Cove, May 2015.



Landcare Tasmania Executive Officer Mark Ritchie (left) joins NRM South CEO Donald Coventry.

CEO REPORT

Writing this brief report, eighteen months into my role as CEO, brings the following reflections on NRM South, and some of the achievements we have made over the last busy, challenging and exciting year.

Firstly, we are about connection. As a small NRM organisation we can achieve success on our own, but we achieve greater results by collaborating with others. I continue to see evidence of this in the many partnerships we have been able to develop, and the results these deliver across the region.

We are efficient. Our commitment is to gain the most for our environment and its community despite the situation of decreased funding. In 2014/15, we are able to report a 98% expenditure rate for our project budgets, during a year of transition to the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. This performance, is an exceptional result and a real credit to our team.

We are innovative. We actively seek to find new ways of sharing our knowledge and experience, of demonstrating that good NRM practice is essential to Tasmania's clean and green brand and that it is fundamental to our island's future. Our work in biosecurity and threatened species management is testament to our commitment to these values.

Good NRM adds value and as Southern Tasmania's NRM organisation we enjoy taking industry, agriculture and community on that journey. We are interested in knowledge and learning and I have witnessed the work done to build, coordinate and share that knowledge through our team of facilitators, publications and through the development of the Regional NRM Strategy.

But most importantly, we are about people. I have been witness to the development of partnerships that contribute to the realisation of our vision. This work with individuals and groups, with our farmers and field workers, scientists and academics, government staff and politicians, business leaders and industry employees, organisations like Landcare and other NGOs, the hard working "care" groups and others in the community is based on the shared understanding that sound NRM practice and a healthy environment is fundamental to our future.

Finally, I would like to thank those directly who make up NRM South. We have a cohesive, passionate and knowledgeable Chair and Board delivering good governance to my team of talented, highly motivated and professional staff. We look forward to the next year.

Donald Coventry
NRM South CEO

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

FUNDING

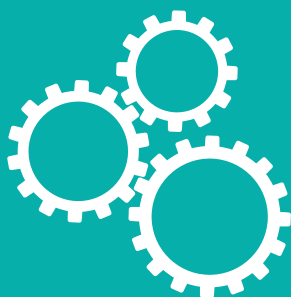
\$5.03M
FUNDING SECURED
OVER THREE YEARS
FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOUTHERN TASMANIA.



NRM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
AND INPUT INTO THE**  **DEVELOPMENT OF THE
DRAFT NRM STRATEGY
FOR SOUTHERN
TASMANIA.**

PARTNERSHIPS




ACCELERATED
THE WORK OF OUR
PARTNERSHIPS
ACROSS THE BUSINESS
INCLUDING ACTIVITY IN THE
SHOREBIRD, BIOSECURITY,
THREATENED SPECIES AND
NRM FACILITATION AREAS.

NRM FACILITATORS

SUPPORTING THE DELIVERY OF

79
EVENTS
ENGAGING
OVER
3,200
PEOPLE  **ACHIEVING ONGROUND SUCCESS IN THREATENED
SPECIES RECOVERY, COASTAL ACTIVITIES, AND THE
REDUCTION OF WEED THREATS.**

NATURALLY INSPIRED GRANTS

\$154,793 AWARDED TO
12 COMMUNITY GROUPS **+** **20** LANDHOLDERS
TO UNDERTAKE PROJECTS THAT DELIVER POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE. 

BIOSECURITY COMMUNICATIONS

ENGAGING OVER
3,000
PEOPLE  **CONSOLIDATING
THE PARTNERSHIP
AND PROVIDING
COMMUNICATION
INTO NEW SECTORS**

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE

**SUCCESSFUL TRIALS
AND PROGRAMS**



THAT DEMONSTRATE
**THE VALUE OF A
WHOLE-FARM APPROACH
IN PROPERTY PLANNING.**

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN SOUTHERN TASMANIA RELIES ON INVESTMENT BASED ON SOUND PRIORITIES AND EFFECTIVE GUIDELINES FOR DELIVERY. THIS OFTEN INCLUDES BOTH MONETARY INVESTMENT ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS THE TIME, RESOURCES AND IN-KIND SUPPORT OF PARTNERS.

NRM South seeks out investment for the protection, management and improvement of our natural resources from a number of sources, but primarily receives income through the Australian and Tasmanian Governments. We also partner with and support other organisations to attain funding through different sources to leverage investment and outcomes.

During 2014/15, NRM South achieved 98% of planned and budgeted program and service delivery against Strategic Priorities, and we continued to seek co-investment and in-kind support to leverage investment in activities.

2014/15 was a year of adjustment for NRM South as the Australian Government's Caring for our Country funding program ended and National Landcare Programme (NLP) funding began its rollout late in May 2015. This commitment to regional delivery and the community by the Australian Government through to June 2018 prompted NRM South to allocate the time and resources to realign programs with the NLP.

The new funding program has also prompted the adjustment of delivery mechanisms for our programs, to ensure a continued focus on areas of importance for the region and community, while accounting for the reduced funding from July 2015.

Looking forward, increasingly constrained funding and with only 6% of our income currently from non-government sources, NRM South has taken steps to simplify and improve systems, and develop and grow the business through activity aimed at increasing investment and diversifying income streams for the long-term.

SOURCES OF FUNDING TO NRM SOUTH 2014/15



64%

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Regional allocation to NRM South – 2013/14 and 2014/15
Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Environment

13%

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME

Regional allocation to NRM South

10%

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Funding from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)

13%

OTHER

Project fund contributions including Regional Planning for Climate Change and corporate income.

The following diagram indicates funding received to NRM South over the past five years, and illustrates the result in changes to funding for 2014/15.

2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
2,851,302	2,905,331	3,715,457	3,388,393	2,370,006

AGAINST STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The following section outlines key achievements against each of NRM South's Strategic Priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ACHIEVEMENT
 ONE DEVELOP AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF THE REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCE CONDITION, VALUES AND THREATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Regional NRM Strategy draft development progressed • Frog Conservation Project report completed • Knowledge and Information Forum delivered • 40,000 people engaged via online communications
 TWO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN POSITIVE ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Agriculture Reference Group established • 220 events with participation of over 10,500 people • Shorebirds (SERSA) partnership established • Biosecurity Network progressed
 THREE DELIVER ONGROUND AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE PROGRAMS IN PRIORITY AREAS (GEOGRAPHIC AND SECTOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable practices trials undertaken • Coastal and urban waterways activity coordinated • 183 site visits undertaken to engage landholders
 FOUR OPTIMISE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND SECURE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR NRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5.03M National Landcare Programme funding secured • Business development activities initiated • pakana services land management celebrates one year of trading
 FIVE GOVERN AND MANAGE THE NRM SOUTH BUSINESS WELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low staff turnover in 2014/15 • Stakeholders engaged via survey • Systems and processes audit undertaken • Systems re-aligned to National Landcare Programme requirements • Expenditures brought in on budget • Financial accounts provided with an unqualified audit



Participants taking part in a Vegetation Condition Assessment event at Hobart Domain, March 2015.



Rich soil ready for sowing, Tasman, June 2015

NRM AND THE REGION

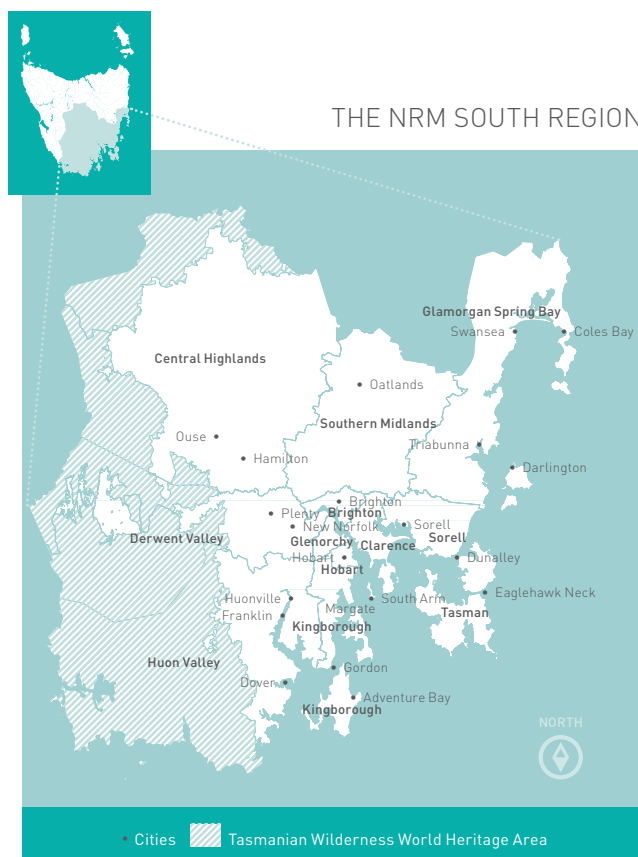
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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 onground action, and share resources and knowledge about our region.

NRM South is focused on natural resource management that delivers economic benefit to the community and the State demonstrating the value of managing our natural assets. It is established under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* and aims to demonstrate the value of managing our natural assets and the difference that every person can play a part in managing our environment.

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



OUR REGION

The Southern Tasmanian NRM Region covers 2.5 million hectares, including Hobart, its urban fringes and towns, and supports almost half of Tasmania's 515,000 population. It spans the twelve municipalities of Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman as well as the state and federal electoral divisions of Franklin, Denison and roughly one third of Lyons.

Its people cover a broad social and demographic spectrum, and are employed in a variety of industries from aquaculture to government administration, renewable energy to food production. Exports of Tasmania's food and beverage products in 2013-14 were valued at \$576,500,000* indicating the value that our productive land has in supporting our economy. Industries such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism rely on the region's natural resources for current and future growth.

Southern Tasmanians are energetic volunteers and research states that volunteers provide nearly \$5 billion benefit to the community and that volunteers provide an average return of \$4 for every \$1 spent, making our

environmental volunteers arguably our most valuable asset. In Southern Tasmania, there are over one hundred community groups as well as landholder and farmer groups caring for bushland, coastal areas and cultural heritage in the region.

The region features near pristine river systems and lakes, rich flora and fauna, including many species endemic to Tasmania, a range of complex landscapes, internationally recognised natural icons and a long and intricate coastline.

It encompasses the World Heritage Areas of the South West Wilderness and Macquarie Island, four internationally recognised Ramsar-listed wetlands, seven national parks and twenty-two marine reserves, and an array of varying ecosystems with high terrestrial, estuarine and marine biodiversity.

Southern Tasmania's wealth of natural resources underpins its economic, social and environmental well-being. Managing these valuable assets underpins the success of the key industries on which we rely and the lifestyle we associate with living on the Island State.

* Tasmania's International Exports: 2013 – 2014, Department of State Growth, Tas.



GENERATING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

NRM STRATEGY

THREATENED SPECIES

FROG MONITORING

MANAGING AND PROTECTING SOUTHERN TASMANIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES RELIES ON GOOD INFORMATION AND RESEARCH, AND THE CAPACITY TO USE AND SHARE THIS INFORMATION IN A WAY THAT AIDS EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING AND ACTION WITHIN THE REGION.

NRM South works with partners to improve NRM outcomes by gathering this information, generating new knowledge, and by disseminating it throughout the NRM sector. As a hub of NRM activity we bring together, analyse and share information relevant to the region.

In 2014/15, we have been involved in some significant projects which have allowed us to develop valuable knowledge within our staff group, and gain access to research, reports, forums and working groups that provide a basis for good NRM management within the region.

Key projects have included:

- **Natural Resource Management Strategy development**
- **Threatened species recovery including the statewide Threatened Flora Link project**
- **Tasmanian Frog Conservation project**
- **NRM South's digital communications**

These projects are largely delivered in partnership with agencies, volunteer groups, landholders and organisations. NRM South often takes the role of co-ordinator but we also engage the community and deliver information directly through our other key project areas such as NRM facilitation, engagement and sustainable practices. We collect and collate NRM data, and contribute to the production of technical reports, fact sheets and manuals at a local, state and national level.

Threatened Plants Tasmania field trip, Snug Tiers, January 2015.

NRM STRATEGY



During 2014/15 consultation and development has occurred to build the draft *NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania for 2015-2020*.

Activities have focused on collating community issues in relation to natural resource management; working with government, business and industry, research organisations and NRM organisations; and pairing this information with what science has indicated are key issues and influences for NRM in our region.

The development of the NRM Strategy has occurred in consultation with Cradle Coast NRM and NRM North to ensure strategic alignment during development. This has included initiation of a series of structural principles and a policy map that aligned relevant guidelines, legislations and policies that impact NRM.

The early part of the year focused on seeking community and expert input into the development of the Strategy including;

- A survey that measured community views regarding the importance of natural resource management and specific landscapes or assets important to the community.
- Interviews to identify what government, business and industry and other natural resources managers saw as priorities for the region.
- A series of engagement events with the broader community.
- A regional workshop that gained specific detailed input from key organisations and businesses.
- A forum that enabled discussion about statewide issues and identified alignment opportunities with the other Tasmanian NRM organisations.

The following table shows the type of consultation and number of participants for each.

METHOD OF CONSULTATION	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
Quantitative telephone survey	408
Online survey	120
Regional workshop	30
Regional engagement – written surveys and consultation sessions	50
Statewide workshop	26
Targeted stakeholder interviews	42

Subsequent work has included an Environmental, Strategic and Institutional Scan during March 2015, and commencement of Strategy drafting in April 2015. It is expected that further community consultation will occur in September 2015 with the final Strategy predicted for release in late 2015.

CREATING THE STRATEGY



GENERATING STATEWIDE PRINCIPLES

'Structural Principles' agreed by all three NRM organisations to support alignment of the NRM Strategies. The development of the policy map catalogued the various policies, guidelines, legislation and strategies that impact NRM.



WORKING WITH CLIMATE EXPERTS

NRM South's work with CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology and the Southern Slopes Climate Change Adaptation Research Partnership (SCARP) ensures that the new NRM Strategy is informed by solid evidence and considers the full range of climate, biophysical, social and economic factors around climate change projections, potential impacts and adaptation principles.



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Consultation has been a two-way exchange of information, knowledge and experience and included briefing regional stakeholders about the new Strategy including national and Tasmanian professionals and experts associated with the project.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Statewide and regional approaches to community engagement will ensure the NRM Strategy directs investment effectively and provides a robust framework for local action. This includes an online engagement platform and survey to capture community desires relating to NRM.



DRAFTING

Drafting commenced in April 2015. Further consultation and feedback will be sought before launch in late 2015.

OVERVIEW OF SURVEY INFORMATION

NRM South undertook a series of consultations in 2014, to gauge the awareness of environmental and natural resource management issues within the Southern Tasmanian community. The following snapshot provides an overview from various pieces of social research that have informed the development of the *NRM Strategy of Southern Tasmania 2015-2020*.

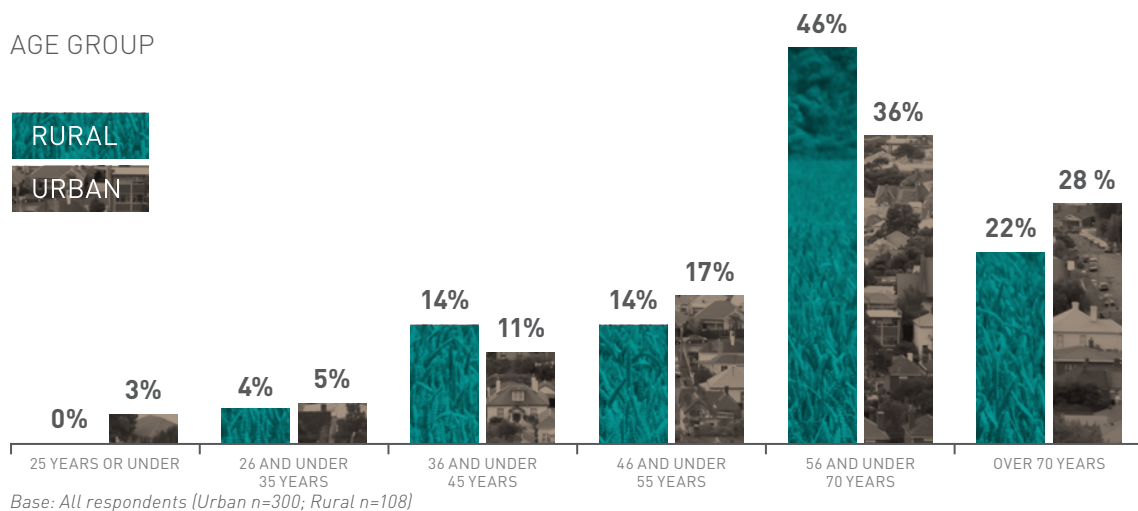
In this instance, information has been sourced from NRM South Social Research survey and the

Environmental, Strategic and Institutional Scans Report. This research sought to understand the perceptions of the urban and rural communities environmental concerns, in relation to social and economic pressures and other information about the management of natural resources. The following snapshot provides an interesting sample of views relating to the management of natural resources in the Southern Tasmanian region.

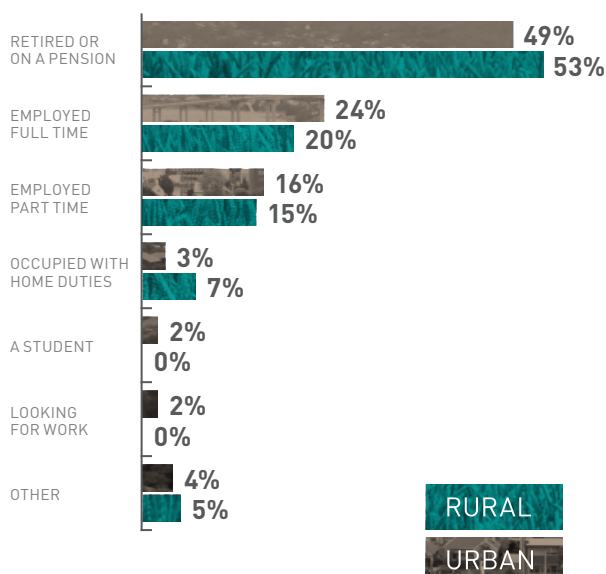
WHO TOOK PART IN THE SURVEY?

These graphs show key demographics including age, employment status and education/qualifications of rural and urban respondents.

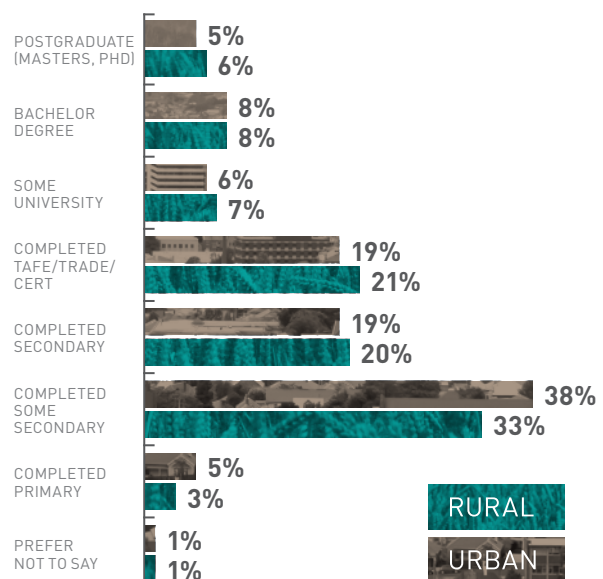
AGE GROUP



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS



WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN TASMANIA?

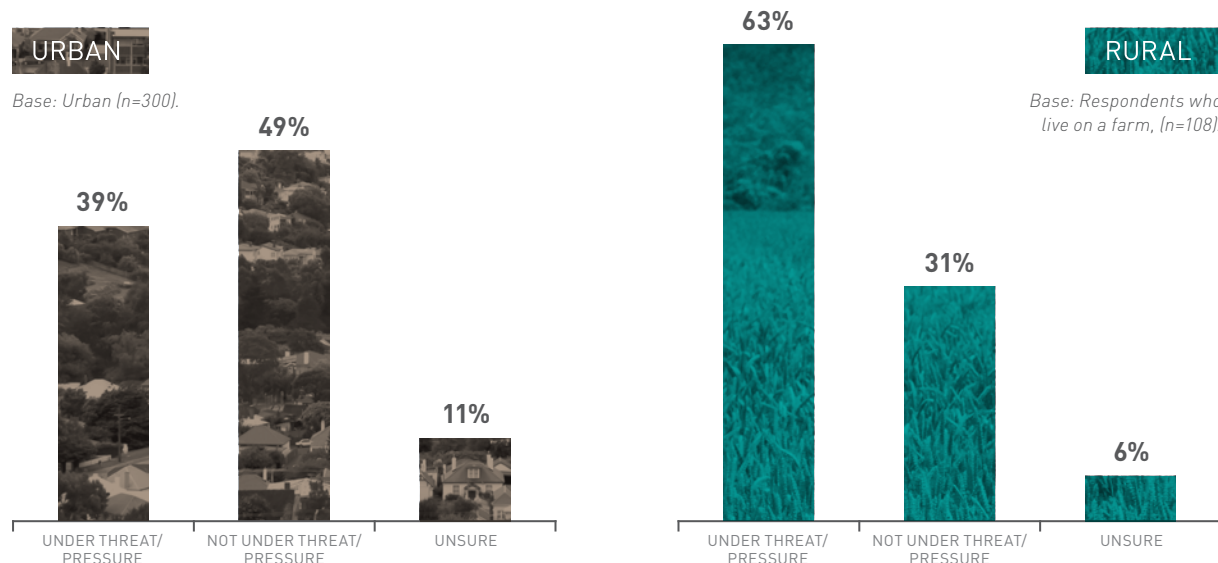
The following section looks at the key issues for people in Southern Tasmania and explores their thoughts and actions in relation to the management and enjoyment of our natural resources.

ISSUES OF INTEREST TO TASMANIANS	URBAN	RURAL	AVERAGE RATING
Ensuring quality healthcare and hospitals	9.5	9.5	9.5
Providing a quality education system for our children	9.3	9.1	9.3
Ensuring we have quality water for our towns and cities	9.3	9.3	9.3
Ensuring our soils and farming land remain productive in the future	9.0	9.4	9.0
Providing job security and tackling unemployment	9.1	8.6	8.9
Ensuring we have quality water resources for agriculture	8.8	8.7	8.8
Ensuring our rivers and estuaries are appropriately managed	8.8	8.7	8.8
Ensuring our coastlines are appropriately managed	8.6	8.6	8.6
Ensuring our native flora and fauna are able to survive into the future.	8.5	8.8	8.5
Ensuring the future availability of timber and timber products from native forests	7.5	8.0	7.5
Ensuring Aboriginal values in Tasmania's landscapes are protected	6.9	6.7	6.8

Base: All respondents (n=408).

HOW DO VIEWS ABOUT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES DIFFER BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTS?

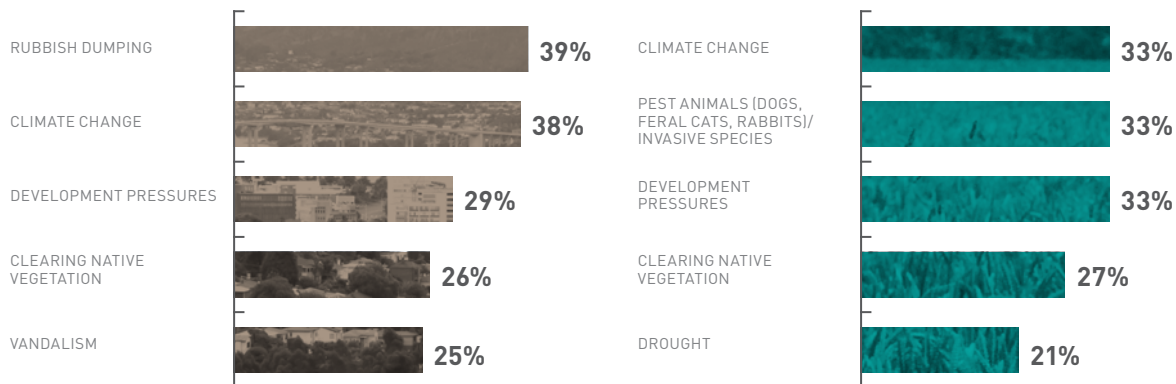
DO YOU BELIEVE OUR NATURAL LANDSCAPES ARE UNDER THREAT OR PRESSURE?



URBAN

RURAL

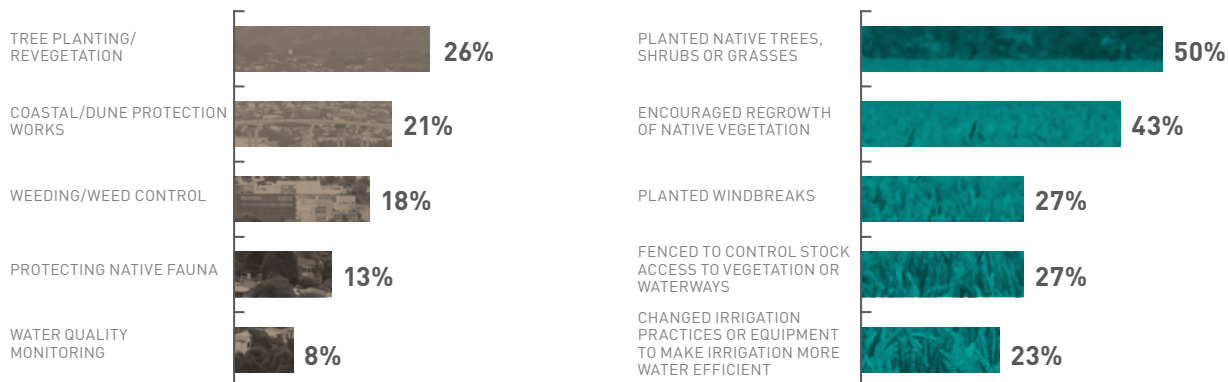
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST THREATS TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?



Drought, weeds pest animals, logging, contamination, housing development and mining were also listed.

Rubbish dumping, housing development, weeds, vandalism, logging and mining were also listed.

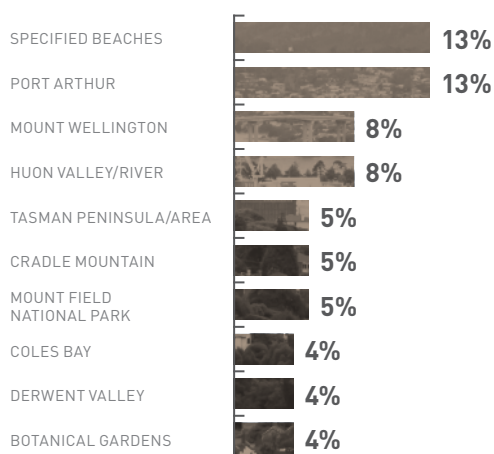
WHAT SORT OF ACTIONS OR ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN?



Stream bank protection, attendance at events, and fencing were also listed.

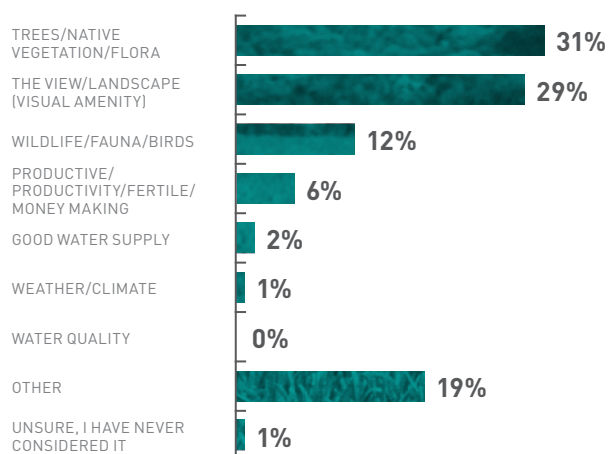
No or reduced tillage, recycled effluents, attendance at events, soil testing and other sustainable practices were listed.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC PLACES OR LANDSCAPES THAT URBAN PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA ENJOY VISITING AND SPENDING TIME IN?



Other places included Botanical Gardens, Bruny Island, Eaglehawk Neck and all of Tasmania as noted destinations. Landscapes as a group included beaches, national parks, bushland and coastal areas.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE YOU LIVE IN?



A SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

During the consultation process for the development of the new *NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania*, members of the community provided observations about the work of NRM South within the region. The following is a precis of some of this feedback.



THE ROLE OF NRM FACILITATORS

NRM Facilitators embedded with councils are achieving good results with willing people and are influencing how some people in council think about NRM. Feedback indicated however, that the shared employment arrangement has proven to be confusing for some people and these roles could be clearer when working with the community.



NRM INFORMATION PRODUCTS

Generally NRM South information products are well respected and used, such as weeds guides and property planning fact sheets. Feedback suggested that for successful adoption these must be underpinned by quality support to assist with implementation.



WORKSHOPS AND FIELD DAYS

Workshops and field days are well received and demonstrate an effective way of engaging people in NRM. Suggestions provided indicate that field day venues need to try and represent the interests of all participants and that workshops need to use local content and presenters.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Support provided by NRM South to various parts of the community is well received, and people would like to see more of this. Feedback has also suggested that there is a need for greater transparency of where this support is going and who is gaining from this.

KEY THEMES

A few key themes have emerged during the research and surveys undertaken by NRM South in the past year. Following is a summary of these themes:

- 1 The Southern Tasmanian community values its environment.¹
- 2 The threat of weeds and pests are of concern to the community.^{1,2}
- 3 Development pressures are recognised as a significant threat to both productive and natural landscapes.²
- 4 Most people surveyed understood the difference between climate change mitigation and adaptation but stated they would still need assistance to plan for climate change.
- 5 Most people surveyed stated an important personal connection to Southern Tasmania's landscapes, with both natural and productive landscapes coming out as the two most important, followed by coastal, lifestyle and urban landscapes.³

This information is a snapshot of the feedback received through the various surveys and research undertaken by NRM South in 2014/15. It has informed the development of the *NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania* and is valuable for organisational planning. Further information about the findings from this research will be available on the NRM South website in 2015/16.

1 NRM South Social research – final report, December 2014

2 Regional Strategy local community survey, November 2014

3 Environmental, Strategic and Institutional Scans Report

THREATENED SPECIES PROTECTION AND RECOVERY



Our work this year has focused threatened species conservation in Southern Tasmania. The High Value, Places, Species and Communities project includes: Threatened Flora Link; White Gum regeneration trials; Alpine Bog Recovery; Miena Cider Gum recovery; TWWHA Interlaken weed control, and support to groups who undertake this work.

In each case, these project components were undertaken in partnership with members of the community, volunteers, private and public land managers, councils, Tasmanian Government agencies, Aboriginal organisations and groups such as Threatened Plants Tasmania and the Understorey Network.

PROJECT AREA	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES
Threatened Flora Link	This partnership project with Threatened Plants Tasmania has enabled positive outcomes for threatened species and a coordinated approach both within the region and statewide.	32 species monitored or surveyed 20.9 hectares of habitat weed control Ex situ recovery actions for 6 orchid species 485 volunteer hours contributed Achievements statewide
White Gum regeneration field trials	Trials run on Bruny Island investigated methodologies to enhance threatened species habitat, specifically for Forty-spotted Pardalote.	Landholder engagement Successful demonstration of approaches for habitat conservation Community and partner engagement Strong initial trial results
Alpine Sphagnum Bog mapping	Project to understand the condition and threats to this important vegetation community.	49 bogs surveyed Validation via desktop assessment of 110,000 hectares 6 land managers engaged
TWWHA and Interlaken Weed Control	Coordination for weed control in the region, specifically addressing Gorse control and treatment of Orange Hawkweed as a threat to Alpine areas.	Coordination with Central Highlands Council Tracts of Gorse and Orange Hawkweed treated and re-surveyed
Community support	Providing support to groups and land managers.	Conservation Landholders Forum Seedling trial with landholders Promotion of volunteer work through media



Revisiting White Gum regeneration trials on Bruny Island, June 2015.



NRM South's Magali Wright undertaking Alipine sphagnum bog mapping, February 2015.

OTHER KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACTIVITIES

NRM South has undertaken other activities to engage discrete parts of the community through the development of research, or through sharing knowledge and information. These include:

THE TASMANIAN FROG CONSERVATION PROJECT REPORT. Sharing findings of work undertaken during the 2014 frog monitoring season. This work was led by Wildlife Biologist David Sinn and DPIPWE's Annie Philips in partnership with NRM South.

COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS. Development of new digital media to increase visitation to the website, and initiation of Facebook, Twitter and other social media which has engaged an estimated 40,000 people online.

EVENTS AND SPONSORSHIPS. NRM South has been involved in a number of knowledge sharing events including the NRM Knowledge Forum and the Volunteer Collaboration training as well as sponsoring a number of events in the region.

VEGETATION HEALTH CHECK. Providing knowledge and training to the community and councils about Vegetation Condition Assessment, including successful application of the methodology by Kingborough Council.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT. Providing input and feedback to key strategies and papers including: The Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper; the draft Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan; various regional strategies and plans, and other strategic input.



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

EVENTS

COMMUNITY GRANTS

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

NRM FACILITATOR NETWORK

NRM SOUTH ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY IN ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THAT HELP DELIVER POSITIVE OUTCOMES. THESE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PROMOTE PRACTICE CHANGE, ENABLE KNOWLEDGE SHARING, PROVIDE ACCESS TO GRANTS, ENGAGE WITH DISCRETE AUDIENCES AND PROVIDE LINKS TO THE NRM FACILITATOR NETWORK AND HELP FORM PARTNERSHIPS CENTRAL TO THE DELIVERY OF ONGROUND WORK.

NRM South engages the community through other mechanisms including: distribution of media releases and publications; consultation and collaboration on projects and strategies; presentations; our staff; and through representation on various groups and committees.

Importantly, our project and facilitation staff engage various parts of the community to research, plan and undertake work that makes a positive difference to our region's natural resources. NRM Facilitators are central to successful engagement across the region and their efforts help the community to achieve powerful results.

NRM South's Lyndel Wilson representing our coastal partnerships at a field event.

ENGAGING COMMUNITY THROUGH EVENTS

In 2014/15, NRM South has led or contributed to more than 220 events with direct participation of over 10,500 people. These included events, field days, participation at conferences, workshops and engagement around the National Landcare Programme and development of the new NRM Strategy. Significant engagement has occurred in biosecurity awareness; threatened species; sustainable practices; and strategy development.

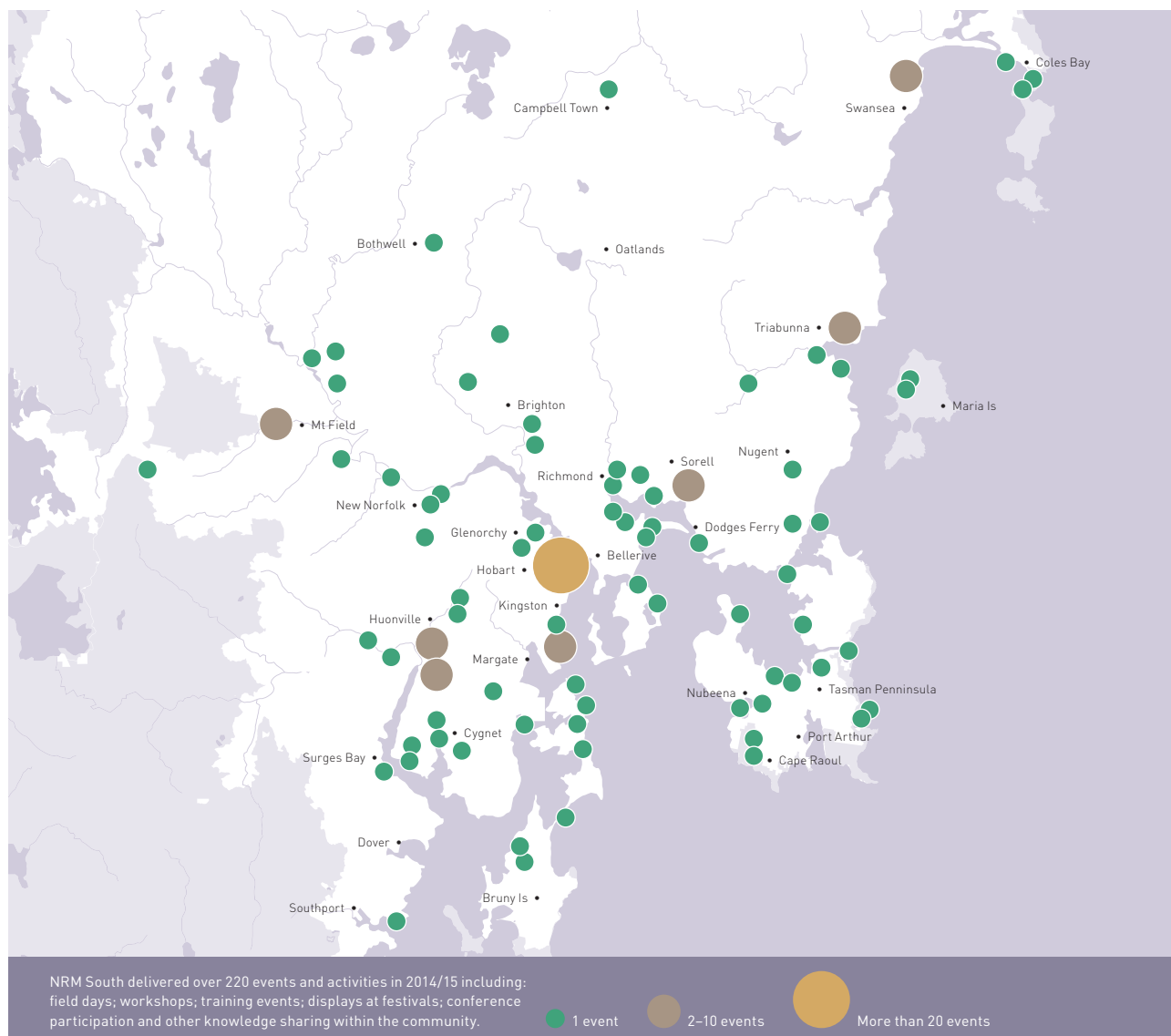
NRM South has also supported the community by providing sponsorship funding to 14 events and other support to media activities, public events and conferences that helped promote or increase community participation.

The table below summarises key program areas and activity.

PROGRAM	OVERVIEW	OUTCOME
Sustainable practices including work by NRM Facilitators and Regional Landcare Facilitator	Workshops, events and field days. Topics including: farm and soil management; biodiversity; weed management; shorebirds; waste management; feral animal control; revegetation activities; threatened species (EPBC) and Ramsar; bushfire management; capacity training.	75+ events 240+ individuals or entities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 190 landholders • 25 community groups • 12 public land managers or professionals • 16 organisations
Biosecurity	Sharing messages about broader biosecurity, shorebird protection and reducing impacts on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). Training, activities and information to tourism, 4WD and mountain-bike groups.	50 events or activities 5,300 people engaged Promotion of messages in partnership with Discovery Rangers during Summer events Promotion at Hellfire Cup Mountain bike race
Threatened species	Working with volunteers and organisations, focusing on threatened species conservations. Includes field trips, working bees, training events and conference attendance.	21 events or activities 360 people engaged Volunteer involvement through field trips Involvement at Australian Network for Plant Conservation Conference
NRM Strategy	Valuable opportunity to engage with the broader community on the value of NRM. These events have measured community interest and thoughts about NRM.	100 people engaged directly via workshops and consultations People engaged at public events Over 550 engaged via surveys
Other	Media events Training Attending and presenting at conferences Displays and festivals	6 major media events Over 400 people at training events Key conferences attended Presence at festivals, shows, and community events

The following map shows the geographic spread of NRM South events and activities across the southern region.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE NRM SOUTH REGION DURING 2014/15



From left: Threatened species: Potting up threatened orchids at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens nursery; Biosecurity awareness: Hellfire Cup Mountain bike race, November 2014

COMMUNITY GRANTS

NRM South provides funding support to community through its Naturally Inspired Grants, Bite-sized Grants and via other discreet grants linked to projects.

This year, 32 entities received a share of the \$154,793 available for Round 8 of the Naturally Inspired Grants. This round amalgamated the previous Public Benefit Grants with the Naturally Inspired Grants, providing funding to 12 groups and 20 landholders to undertake projects that deliver positive environmental and agricultural change in the region. This year, Bite-sized Grants (of between \$200–500 each) totalling \$5,028 were awarded to 11 groups and schools.

During 2014/15, many of the projects funded under Round 7 of the Naturally Inspired Grants were successfully

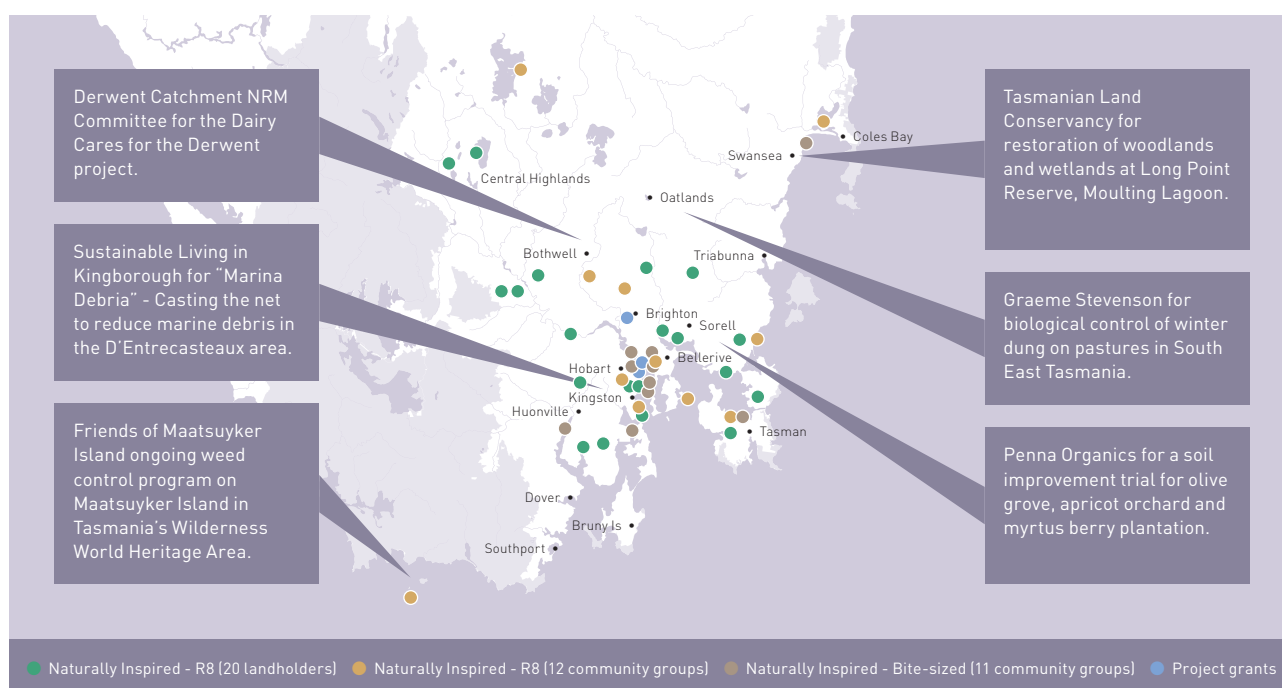
completed, with noteworthy activity including weed control, monitoring of shearwater populations on Maatsuyker Island and Orange-bellied Parrot at Melaleuca, reducing marine waste and various other projects focused on protecting species and places.

Additional grant support was provided to project-related activity, namely \$3,800 to support threatened flora surveys and onground works and \$5,000 to support the orchid conservation program at the Royal Botanical Gardens both as part of the Threatened Flora Link project; and \$10,000 to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary for research into captive breeding of the Tasmanian Tree Frog as part of the Tasmanian Frog Conservation project.

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2014/15

The following shows the location of all NRM South awarded grants in 2014/15. These include 43 Naturally Inspired Grants supporting both agricultural and environmental practice, and 3 project grants.

GRANTS AWARDED TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH NRM SOUTH



Naturally Inspired Grants – Round 8	Landholder Grants	7 undertaking agricultural practice 13 undertaking environmental practice
	Community groups Grants	12 undertaking onground environmental and skills raising activity
Naturally Inspired Grants Bite-sized	11 Grants	11 community groups and schools undertaking activity
Project grants	3 groups	1 threatened flora 1 orchid conservation 1 frog conservation

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

During 2014/15 emphasis for Aboriginal engagement focused on further building our relationships with Aboriginal community organisations in the region, development of an Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework for NRM South to improve integration across the business, and projects that incorporate Aboriginal natural resource management as an intrinsic element of their delivery.

NRM South has also engaged the community in NRM planning during the development of the new *Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania*.

NRM South has supported the participation of Aboriginal people in NRM through our work at Murrayfield Station on Bruny Island and through our continued support of pakana services as it grows its capacity as a social enterprise.

This work has formed a solid foundation for our future activity, which will include the employment of a part-time person to increase our own knowledge and capacity in relation to Aboriginal engagement and facilitate further connections between Aboriginal community organisations and broader stakeholders to incorporate the environmental cultural and economic perspectives of Aboriginal people in NRM in Southern Tasmania.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ABORIGINAL LAND MANAGEMENT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

NRM South has played a lead role in the development, hosting and transition of Aboriginal enterprise pakana services. Support for Aboriginal business development aligns with Australian Government objectives and provides a unique and valuable way to engage the Aboriginal community, increase participation and multiply the benefits that accrue to the community and the landscape.

pakana services celebrated one year of trading this year and is moving strongly toward self-sufficiency. Support for this social enterprise aligns with corporate, regional and national outcomes and contributes to regional NRM outcomes.

The benefits have included:

- **BUILDING LONG-TERM CAPACITY** in the Aboriginal community to improve the management of land through training and skill development.

- **SHARING KNOWLEDGE** for better results. It's a two way street and businesses working with pakana services have learnt new ways of doing things for improved NRM outcomes.
- **IMPROVED LAND MANAGEMENT** identified via testimonials from customers such as the Tasmanian Department of State Growth.
- **INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT** as pakana services and NRM South were acknowledged for professionalism and high quality delivery of land management services.
- **ONGROUND RESULTS** demonstrating great NRM outcomes, including tree planting results on projects such as the North Bruny Biodiversity Fund Project.
- **INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENTS** providing a legacy for the pakana team, NRM South staff, those who work with pakana services and other members of the Aboriginal community.



The pakana services team celebrating their first anniversary with Senator Eric Abetz

CASE STUDY

REDLANDS TRIALS

When NRM South discovered the Redlands Estate whisky distillery and farm in 2014, we couldn't have predicted what a tremendous opportunity being involved in Tasmania's growing whisky industry would provide.

The idea of demonstrating how using sustainable practices could improve the quality of the product that goes into the whisky bottle got us hooked, what we didn't expect was the amount of knowledge and interest this project would generate.

In 2014, our Regional Landcare Facilitator Ken Moore formed an agreement with owners Peter and Elizabeth Hope. The Redlands Estate includes a working whisky distillery and farm, which grows and malts the barley used to make the whisky onsite.

The land itself has a long agricultural history which started in 1840 with Count Strzelecki and it linked to the history evident on the farm, including functional convict build aqueducts used for irrigation. It is these 175 or so years that immediately presented challenges for growing barley sustainably.

Ken Moore says that the right approach for the farm was to go back to basics and look at the farm holistically in order to make sound decisions that would set the foundation for long term productive outcomes.

The landowner also recognised the value in being able to create a growing system that would, after some years, potentially produce a whisky that could be labelled 'sustainably produced' and see the pathway from paddock to bottle.

"Our approach at Redlands was to understand what the property owner wanted to achieve, and then develop a sustainable farming plan that would guide production while also reducing impact on the farm's natural resources and the surrounding environment," Ken explained.

"Our first step was to design and implement a plan for sustainable cropping and grazing. We identified a number of sustainable cropping practices to trial including minimum till, soil testing for nutrients and biology, a Soilife Australia soil builder trial, soil moisture and in-crop weather monitoring and drone UAV imaging. We also designed a planned grazing trial as part of the broader plan and enabled a biodiversity assessment and rehabilitation plan for the Redlands Estate Farm and Plenty River Catchment."

In the first year, inputs were reduced, an approach established for the property and the process generated significant data about the effects of applying a sustainable approach to crops designated for commercial use. The barley crop itself was successfully harvested in February 2015 and a portion of the harvest required by the Distillery this year is in storage ready for malting and use in this year's whisky. The barley was of a very high quality for malting, as indicated by analysis conducted after harvest. This data will improve future management and understanding of growth conditions, potential yield and crop vigour.

This work has also cultivated partnerships including the University of Tasmania through Sense-T (sensing and data) and the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science who are interested to identify how the flavour compounds of whisky are linked to the barley, DroneAg and the Tasmanian Whisky Producers Association. The project also created very high visibility within the media and provided a platform for conversations with other landholders interested in a range of sustainable on farm practices.

It's fair to say that the sustainable agriculture seed has only just been planted in relation to our work in this industry and with other barley growers. This research and knowledge has clear application to other distilling industries and we hope to explore the application of sustainable practices to these industries further in the future.



Regional Landcare Facilitator Ken Moore overseeing the Redlands trials



SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANNING
LANDHOLDER GRANTS
TRIALS
SOIL AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

2014/15 HAS FOCUSED ON BUILDING CAPACITY, READINESS AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF LANDHOLDERS AND PRODUCERS IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA TO UNDERTAKE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT WILL PROTECT THE LONG TERM VIABILITY AND HEALTH OF THEIR FARMS, AND THE REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

NRM South has worked with landholders through a range of programs including the Regional Landcare Facilitator, the Small Landholders Property Management Program, the Naturally Inspired Grants, agricultural trials and the soil and pasture management project.

The combined programs engaged more than 550 people via events, field days, workshops and grants and a significant audience via media activity around these activities. Media interest was significant for the Redlands Trials due to the link to the distilling industry, but equally so for the Naturally Inspired Grants and in the Small Landholders Property Management Program.

Ken Moore and CEO Donald Coventry amongst the barley trial crop, Derwent Valley, January 2015.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



PROJECT AREA	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES
Regional Landcare Facilitator (in partnership with NRM Facilitators)	<p>The aim this year was the promotion of landcare ethic and encourage uptake of sustainable practice by landholders, with support from NRM Facilitators.</p> <p>Focus has been on extending reach into regional areas via events, workshops, communications materials, funding and through specific support to groups or events that communicated or trialled sustainable land management practices.</p>	<p>Sustainable Agriculture Reference Group formed and met 4 times</p> <p>20 events supported</p> <p>More than 300 people engaged through NRM activities</p> <p>10 young farmers supported to attend the 2014 Nuffield Australia Conference</p> <p>Successful community engagement at soil microbiology event and Huon Small Farm Expo</p> <p>Continued support for Huon and Channel Farming Discussion Group events</p> <p>\$10,000 of funding to support to groups via the Naturally Inspired Grants</p>
Small Landholders Property Management Program	<p>This project again ran in the Huon and Channel region and included workshops, knowledge sharing and resources to help landholders manage their properties holistically.</p> <p>Topics included property management planning, soils and pasture management, planned grazing, weed management, other sustainable management information and resources as well as broader business and marketing.</p>	<p>28 people from 15 properties took part</p> <p>4 workshops delivered</p> <p>Continued partner support to run the program</p> <p>Landholder intention to apply practices</p> <p>Development and distribution of Healthy Farming and Healthy Environment publications</p> <p>Program oversubscribed</p> <p>Positive testimonials from participants</p>
Naturally Inspired Grants Round 8	<p>This year the Naturally Inspired Grants also included eligibility for landholders to undertake works that made a positive difference to the environment. The grants encompassed the previous Public Benefit Grants for landholders.</p>	<p>32 successful recipients</p> <p>20 landholders received grants</p> <p>Assistance provided to applicants to complete submissions</p>
Redlands trials	<p>The trials were run to demonstrate how sustainable practices can be applied to commercial farms for productivity returns, while also generating broader ecosystem and natural resource management improvement. This occurred on a high-profile whisky distillery in Tasmania's Derwent Valley in partnership with the landholder.</p>	<p>Whole farm management plan developed</p> <p>Sustainable barley cropping and cattle grazing system developed</p> <p>Data sensor and drone technology trialled</p> <p>Crop inputs reduced</p> <p>Various management strategies trialled and knowledge gathered</p> <p>Baseline data established</p> <p>Results and knowledge from trials shared publicly via online site</p> <p>Significant community and media interest</p>

PROJECT AREA	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES
Soil and pasture management	<p>This included a suite of activities that supported land managers in the region to adopt innovative practices to manage soil and pasture.</p> <p>This included Dairy Cares for the Derwent program, the Healthy Horse and Land Expo, grazing trials, a biogas seminar, seedling trials and support through the NRM Facilitators.</p>	<p>144 people engaged via activities</p> <p>2 new farmers undertook pasture grazing trials (joining 18 other farms running trials)</p> <p>4 dairy farmers engaged to undertake NRM farm plans via Derwent Catchment NRM's Dairy Cares for the Derwent program</p> <p>1 landholder undertook a seedling trial using Mycorrhiza to promote growth</p> <p>92 people attended the Healthy Horse and Land Expo</p> <p>20 planned-grazing trials continued showing positive returns</p> <p>25 people attended the Biogas Basics Seminar focused on water for energy generation</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES

This has included support and engagement by NRM Facilitators through sustainable practice programs, events and activities that engage and build the skills of farmers and producers, knowledge and information shared and other support provided to this part of the community.

Activities include:

NRM Facilitator advice and support to community members; continuation of various trials; support to landholders to apply for grants; Woody Weeds workshop; training events and field days.



Attendees visiting a participant's farm during the Small Landholders Property Management Program.

CASE STUDY

STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT DOWN THE HUON

Driving south from Hobart it doesn't take long before you hit the rolling green hills of Southern Tasmania's Huon and Channel country.

Small farms, tucked away in beautiful forested valleys fly past the window, and before you know it you're wishing yourself onto the land. It's the sort of dream that some manage to turn into reality. Pulling up stumps from mainland Australia and buying a small acreage in Southern Tasmania to build their own version of paradise.

It's a story NRM South's Tim Ackroyd knows well. Tim has been working closely with hobby farmers, bush blockers and 'life-stylers' for more than three years, running a program that gives them the skills they need to turn their vision into reality.

"Probably 90 per cent of people taking the course have moved here from the mainland," says Tim. "They are drawn to the region because it has plenty of lifestyle properties - nice blocks of land with panoramic views, peace and quiet and a bit of bush. For them the main attraction is the notion that this is a good place to grow things and to own a nice plot of land."

It's a notion that's true when it comes to the tranquillity and natural beauty of the region, but not always the case when it comes to its agricultural possibilities.

"There's a natural inclination to think that land in the Huon is always lush and fertile, but in some cases the soils can be pretty poor and may need to be carefully managed, so it's important that as new landowners people are realistic about what can be achieved on their property, and that's where our program comes in," says Tim.

Called 'Small Landholders Property Management Program' the program was this year divided into four workshops run in April and May. It introduces small property owners to a range of technical experts that can help answer basic questions such as 'how many animals can I have' and 'how do I manage my weed problem'.

Participants get personalised maps and aerial photos of their property showing soil and, land capability, natural values and infrastructure. They also get ongoing support from NRM South and, perhaps most importantly, the chance to get to know others in the same boat.

"Our program starts with the idea that every property and every property owner is different, and that the best person to make decisions about how that property should be run is the owner," says Tim, "We try and give them the tools to make those decisions."

Based on a model developed elsewhere, Tim has made a number of small adjustments to suit local conditions, including conducting one of the four workshops on a working farm, the remainder of the workshops are then hosted by participants of the program on their own properties. This provides a platform where participants get the opportunity to look at real life scenarios and to share challenges and ideas relating to their own properties.

THE PROGRAM STARTS PEOPLE ON A JOURNEY, PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES ON HOW PEOPLE CAN MANAGE THEIR LAND EFFECTIVELY - WHETHER THEIR FOCUS IS ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OR PRODUCTION CONCERNS - OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH.

It provides access to information, resources and experts and enables people to be able to do their own research and make their own decisions about what is right for their property.

Now in its third year, local landowners can't get enough of the program, and it's been warmly received and backed by both the Kingborough and Huon Valley councils, as well as state government departments and other organisations such as the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and Private Forests Tasmania who have provided some of the expertise during the sessions.

"A real sense of community has been created through the networks we've created down here," says Tim. "Some 60 landowners have now been through the course and keep in regular contact via local networks. There's a real sense that we're in this together."



PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATED ACTION

NRM FACILITATION

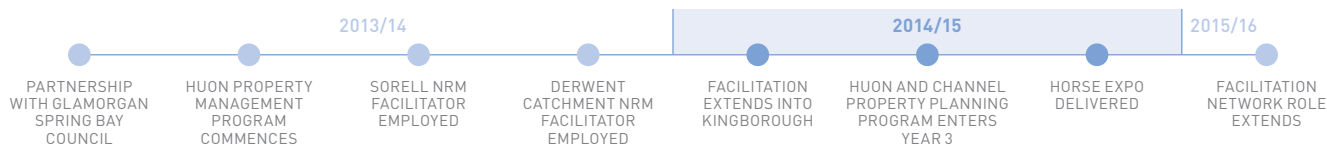
BIOSECURITY COMMUNICATIONS AND AWARENESS

COASTAL, WETLAND AND SHOREBIRD PROTECTION

THE SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COMMUNITY PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN MANAGING THE REGION'S NATURAL ASSETS AND VALUES, AS WELL AS ENJOYING THE REWARDS AND ADVANTAGES THEY BRING. PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTING COORDINATED ACTION CAN DELIVER BETTER LONG-TERM OUTCOMES FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. AS SUCH, OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTNERS PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN HELPING TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE REGION.

Our continued focus on facilitation and coordinated action, aims to bring people and organisations together for shared outcome. This underpinning principle is seen clearly in our NRM facilitation program, the Biosecurity Communications and Awareness project and the Shorebirds and Coastal Projects featured herein, as well as projects such as our grants and NRM Strategy featured earlier.

NRM FACILITATION



NRM South supports the employment of six NRM Facilitators in partnership with councils within the Glamorgan Spring Bay, Tasman and Sorell, Derwent Valley and Central Highlands, Huon, Kingborough and Hobart areas. 2014/15 has been a year of building on partnerships, coordinated region-wide planning and effective delivery of programs through the NRM Facilitator Network.

NRM Facilitators have been instrumental in delivery of onground work in nationally significant areas including: Ramsar wetlands; the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) buffer; threatened species (EPBC) recovery and habitat enhancement; coastal condition activities; and in land-management activities including weed management and reduction of threats.

Activities have included the delivery of 79 events or field days that engaged or trained over 3,000 individuals; and onground works in high profile or nationally significant areas including Ramsar wetlands, TWWHA buffer, EPBC species recovery or habitat enhancement, coastal condition activities, farm planning and soil health, and weed management.

This year, NRM Facilitators supported 35 grant applications and attracted over \$84,000 from external funding sources into the region, additional to investment provided by industry partners including \$10,000 to the Derwent Catchment NRM-led Dairy Cares for the Derwent and \$7,550 to the Sorell Council for Ramsar activity.

Other key achievements include:

- Networking between NRM Facilitators across boundaries to share resources and project scope.
- Tasman and Sorell working together to job share roles and delivery within their community.
- Whale trail funding for an ecotourism venture
- Shorebird monitoring
- Green Army activities
- Bushfire recovery

BIOSECURITY COMMUNICATIONS AND AWARENESS PROJECT



NRM South has continued its support for the Biosecurity Network building on an approach that has been progressing since 2010. The Network includes NRM South, Hydro Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, DPIWWE (Biosecurity Tasmania, RMC and Parks and Wildlife Service), Ecological Society of Australia, NRM North, Cradle Coast NRM, Department of State Growth, the Livestock Biosecurity Network and support from other organisations.

The focus of this year's activities has been the extension of biosecurity messages to new audiences. These include delivery into tourism, and recreation industries with a focus on people who bushwalk, mountain-bike, sail, four-wheel drive and with other groups whose activities may impact natural spaces.

NRM South has directly engaged over 3,000 community members in biosecurity messages through a range of mechanisms including; events, communication on the website, targeted articles in magazines and social media, training activities, a biosecurity survey, updated videos and the dissemination of biosecurity kits to groups.

The project has successfully spread the messages and protocols outlined in the Keeping It Clean freshwater hygiene manual produced by NRM South, Hydro Tasmania which encourages people to Check, Clean, Disinfect and Dry all their field equipment to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and diseases.

REJOICING IN MUD: JUST CLEAN IT OFF BEFORE THE NEXT ADVENTURE

Getting covered in mud, water and bits of plant can be part of a great day out in the bush.

Whether you are into kayaking, trout fishing, four wheel driving, orienteering, mountain biking or digging holes for fence posts, getting really dirty can be a badge of honour.

We like the idea of getting dirty but it's not all innocent fun. Tasmania's Biosecurity Network, coordinated by NRM South, envisages a world where everyone gets a bit dirty, then checks, cleans and dries their gear each time they visit the bush and before their next adventure.

Why do we do this? Well, one of the reasons Tasmania is a wonderful place to spend time in the bush, grow amazing produce and earn a living in outdoor based jobs is it's relatively pest, weed and disease-free status.

Our isolation and a history of careful management have kept our environment in a near-pristine condition, free from many of the pests and pathogens that have devastated other parts of the world.

Of course we have our share of problems – gorse infestations can cost millions, feral animals harm our landscapes and wildlife, and some of our fresh waterways contain European carp – although generally speaking Tasmania is one of the 'least weedy' places in the world.

The Biosecurity Network is one of the first lines of defence. The group is made up of representatives from Biosecurity Tasmania, Inland Fisheries, DPIPW, the Biodiversity Monitoring Branch, State Growth, Hydro Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, the three Tasmanian NRM organisations, the Ecological Society of Australia, and the Livestock Biosecurity Network. We work together to deliver consistent, layered messages to people that spend time in Tasmania's wild and productive places to build a culture of good biosecurity practice.

This work is important because there are pressing threats to our environment. There's a fungus called Chytrid, already present in eastern and northern Tasmania and on the margins of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area that threatens to wipe out some of our native frogs, a key link in our

ecological food chain. A frog monitoring program undertaken this year, resulted in the development of the Frog Conservation Report providing information about the status of frogs in relation to this issue.

Also, knocking at our door from New Zealand is an algae, commonly called rock snot, which chokes rivers so badly that waterway systems can effectively die. These are some of the threats we know of, but the game changer could be a weed, pest or disease we are still to learn about.

SO WHAT'S THE BIG RISK? THE THREATS WE KNOW, OR THE ONES WE ARE YET TO ENCOUNTER ARE A SIGNIFICANT RISK TO THE TASMANIAN WAY OF LIFE THAT WE HOLD DEAR.

This includes the wilderness area and the natural places that underpin our tourism economy, and the security of the food and agricultural systems in the state.

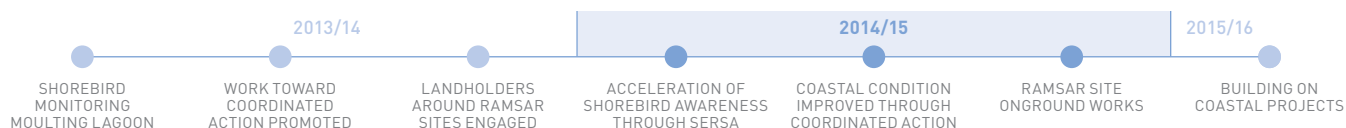
This year, the Biosecurity Network has focused on both of these areas, sharing information, undertaking training and producing materials to bushwalkers, tourists by air and sea, four wheel drive enthusiasts and fishers and boaters, while also providing information to farmers about managing threats to agricultural systems and farms at events such as Agfest.

The message is simple. We can all do our bit to ensure that Tassie continues to be a wondrous place to visit, live and work. We do this by remembering to check, clean and dry (and if we can't dry then disinfect) our gear, vehicles and equipment before and after we spend time in Tassie's wild and productive places.

Luckily this doesn't mean we need to forgo the enjoyment of getting covered in mud, it just means we need to be mindful about the risks, and make sure we're sparkling clean before we do it all again.

More information and a great series of videos produced with the help of Bookend Trust can be found on the NRM South website: www.nrmsouth.org.au/biosecurity

COASTAL, WETLAND AND SHOREBIRD PROTECTION



This activity included key projects focused on coordinated action between many partners for the protection and conservation of important coastal places and species within the region. This included the South East Regional Shorebird Alliance (SERSA) engagement, Ramsar sites and values, coastal condition and D'entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration projects.

These projects continue to raise awareness around the issues facing our coastal assets, coordinated management and action of these, and undertake effective onground to activity to improve condition or protect these assets.

SHOREBIRDS PARTNERSHIP

This project focused on raising awareness of the human impacts to resident and migratory shorebirds, and seabirds and penguins, in beach environments. The long term goal of the project is a steady increase in resident and migratory shorebirds, seabirds, and Little Penguin in beach nesting environments, and to overcome declining populations linked to human impacts.

The partnership, branded the South East Regional Shorebird Alliance (SERSA) engaged schools, community groups, land managers, tourists and the general community in coastal regions through communications and activities.

PROJECT AREA	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES
Coastal Community - shorebirds	Various activities to engage the community and reduce human impacts.	2,870 people engaged through activities during shorebird breeding season 9 community groups engaged Shorebird fencing installed Surveys conducted throughout region 2,500 specific communications distributed 10,000+ engaged through social media Messages promoted at 12 events Support to Little Penguin Conference, World Wetlands Day and other events



Baby Hooded plover, October 2014 by Paul Gray.

IMPROVING COASTAL CONDITION

This project supported groups and organisations throughout the region to undertake effective onground work focused on priority areas including estuary, saltmarsh and top of catchment works, with the objective of improving coastal condition.

The work focused reducing pests in coastal and marine environments by building on existing activities including

control of Boneseed (post fire) and Feral Oysters and managing riparian weeds Karamu in upper-catchment to reduce downstream threats.

Other activity has included saltmarsh monitoring, marine debris research, Swift-parrot recovery habitat support, Kingborough Coastal Incentives Program and work with landholders at Sorell Rivulet.

PROJECT AREA	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES
Waterways to Coasts	Various activities to improve coastal condition including: Bicheno boneseed control Feral oyster control Karamu control	28 hectares of Boneseed removed Community engaged Boneseed weed monitoring and notification 6 oyster sites monitored and records updated 50 participants at oyster fun day event Awareness through Discovery Rangers program Karamu control activity in Derwent Valley
	Saltmarsh monitoring Marine debris research Swift-parrot recovery habitat Kingborough Coastal Incentives Program Landholder support at Sorell Rivulet	Saltmarsh aerial surveys over Moulting Lagoon and Coal River Catchment Improved understanding of marine debris movement Saltmarsh training with schools Revegetation of Swift-parrot habitat 50 landholders engaged and activity commenced in Coastal Incentives project Follow up weed control - Channel region

COASTAL RAMSAR

This project focused on improving the management of significant coastal Ramsar sites through management plans, engagement with landholders and onground action. It included 40.5 hectares of weed control over two Ramsar sites, engagement with the community and condition mapping of significant values within the sites.

This year's work built on previous investment and management of Moulting Lagoon by the Glamorgan

Spring Bay Council team and included continued engagement with landholders, weed control assessment and the development of an action plan to inform activity.

Activity within the Pittwater Orielson Lagoon (PWOL) Ramsar wetland focused on engaging land managers to undertake revegetation, weed control and stormwater management.

PROJECT AREA	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES
Coastal Ramsar	Improving the management of significant coastal Ramsar sites.	2 Ramsar sites addressed 40.5 hectares of WONS* weed control 241km coastline aerial surveyed 100 people at World Wetlands Day event Moulting Lagoon Report to Community published Moulting Lagoon Strategic Action plan developed PWOL stormwater project designed

*WONS - Weeds of National Significance

THE PREMISE OF PARTNERSHIPS

The reality of much of the work that NRM South undertakes is that it is based on the premise of partnerships. The recognition that together we can achieve more, in a coordinated way, than if we were to undertake work on our own.

The projects listed in this section are three very visible examples but our other work incorporates these same principles. Other projects that NRM South plays a partnership role in include: the Volunteer Training Collaboration; the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration; the Moulting Lagoon Project; and most projects listed within this report.

NRM South also worked closely with Landcare Tasmania to celebrate, support and build momentum

for the volunteer movement in Southern Tasmania.

Partnership activities include support and promotion of Landcare, volunteer training, support to volunteers to attend the 2014 National Landcare Conference in Melbourne, collaborative project submissions including the successful Green Army- Southern Team joint project, Volunteer Week celebrations and support to the 2015 State Landcare Conference and Awards.

NRM South recognises the many partners, groups, councils, government agencies, organisations, businesses and volunteers that play a role in contributing to NRM South's vision and the delivery of projects and activities that work to achieve it.

IN 2014/15 WE'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS.

Birdlife Tasmania
Bureau of Meteorology Partnership (SCARP)
Clarence City Council
Community groups
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Cradle Coast NRM
Crown Land Services
CSIRO
D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration
Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and the Environment
Department of State Growth
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
GoodLife Permaculture
Hobart City Council
Huon Valley Council
Inghams Enterprises P/L
Kingborough Council
Landcare Tasmania
Members of the community
NRM North
Partners in the Volunteer Coordinators Network
Primary Schools
Private land managers
Producers

Redlands Estate
RM Consulting Group
Sense-T
SERSA
Sorell Council
Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania
Southern Slopes Climate Change Adaptation Research
Sprout Tasmania
Tasman Council
Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife
The Australian Government
The Biosecurity Network
The Tasmanian Government
The Understorey Network
Threatened Plants Tasmania
University of Tasmania (UTAS)
weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation

And the many businesses, people, groups and organisations invested in our Southern Tasmanian NRM region.



BUSINESS & GOVERNANCE

OUR TEAM IS A HIGHLY SKILLED GROUP THAT DELIVERS QUALITY WORK ALIGNED WITH OUR MISSION OF LEADING AND SUPPORTING THE IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA. OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE A WORKPLACE THAT CELEBRATES INNOVATION AND BECOMES A WORKPLACE OF CHOICE. OUR PHILOSOPHY IS TO ENSURE OUR PEOPLE ARE ADEQUATELY TRAINED AND SUPPORTED AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, SHARE THOSE OPPORTUNITIES WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY.

This year our workforce consisted of: 10 full-time, five part-time and one casual staff members for a total of 13.3FTE or full time equivalent. NRM South also hosted the employment of one full-time and up to five casuals at any one time on behalf of pakana services and a project contract position. Staff turnover in 2014/15 was low, with the Business Services Coordinator role filled internally and a new Finance Manager joining the team.

2014/15 was a year of consolidation for the NRM South team with effort spent on ensuring our people were supported to maintain the momentum of their work during the transition to the Australian Government's new National Landcare Programme.

This support included a number of shared training activities and workshops with all staff, workshops within the engagement team to share and learn from each other and training support where required. It also included participation in a statewide NRM conference with Tasmania's two other NRM regions and individual professional development in areas such as management, communications, leadership and finance.

OUR SYSTEMS

NRM South works to continually improve all internal systems to maximise the focus of available resources to onground activity and engagement with the community. The start of the National Landcare Programme represented an opportunity for improvement.

Throughout this year resources have been invested into refining our spatial and information data capture, planning and reporting systems to realign with the national Monitoring Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Tool (MERIT). Developed in collaboration

with the Atlas of Living Australia, it will allow for better connection of activity with outcomes, consistency and increase sharing of information within and outside the NRM communities Australia wide.

This will allow us to better position ourselves for service delivery, diversify our income and take advantage of opportunities and the skills within our business to enable effective natural resource management outcomes within the region.

THE NRM ACT AND PRINCIPLES OF NRM

Our role under the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002 is the promotion of NRM principles and the preparation of an NRM Strategy that enables an integrated focus for natural resource management within Southern Tasmania.

NRM South is further guided by seven principles for natural resource management as defined in the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework.

- Ecosystem Approach
- Balanced Decisions
- Integrated Management
- Priority Based
- Prevention is Better than Cure
- Partnerships
- We are all Responsible

These help focus decisions and action and ensure we achieve the greatest benefit from the time, energy, skills and money that we and our partners invest in fostering our natural resources. For more information about the Framework or these principles, visit www.nrmsouth.org.au/about-us



BOARD

NRM South is a not-for-profit, member-based Incorporated Association. Declared a Regional Committee under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, it includes a representative of the Tasmanian Government as Deputy Chair.

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 - as Chair of the Tasmanian NRM Chairs group and of NRM Regions Australia.

NRM South has two sub-committees; a remuneration committee and an audit and risk committee, which is independently chaired by Tracy Matthews with other subcommittees established as required.

During 2014/15, the term of a number of Board members finished and in September at the 2014 NRM South AGM, three new Board members were appointed and the term of an existing Board member renewed. New Board members included Matthew Pitt, Michael Bidwell and Peter Tucker and renewing member was Christine Crawford. In early 2015, Board member Graeme Bradfield left the Board and new member Jennie Whinam joined.

BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE

MAX KITCHELL **CHAIR**

Max brings over 20 years experience in senior management roles within the Tasmanian, Victorian and Australian Governments to his role of Chair.

DR HOWEL WILLIAMS **DEPUTY CHAIR**

Howel brings experience as a senior practitioner in the public policy aspects of natural resource management to the Board.

MICHAEL BIDWELL

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

HEATHER CHONG

Heather brings her experience as an apricot grower, interest in NRM, her role as an Alderman on Clarence City Council and professional experience as a Chartered Accountant to the Board.

DR CHRISTINE CRAWFORD

Christine brings her extensive experience at a state, national and international level in research and management of natural resources, especially estuarine, coastal and marine environments to the Board.

GREG LEHMAN

Greg Lehman brings 25 years experience in Aboriginal heritage management, training, cultural interpretation and education to his role on the Board.

MATTHEW PITT

Matthew brings experience and insight in catchment management, farming experience and his 30 plus years involvement in the Landcare movement to the Board.

PETER TUCKER

Peter, who is Chief of Staff to Andrew Wilkie, brings experience within State Government, and business, management and marketing expertise to the Board.

DR JENNIE WHINAM

Jennie, who is a plant ecologist brings research and conservation management experience in Tasmania's World Heritage Areas and experience with national and international peatland projects.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

ORGANISATIONS

Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc
 Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
 Foreshore Association Inc
 Birdlife Tasmania
 Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group Inc
 Conservation Volunteers Australia
 Southern Midlands Council
 Forestry Tasmania
 Tasman Council
 Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
 GHD Pty Ltd
 Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House Inc
 Derwent Catchment NRM Committee
 Midlands Tree Committee
 Greening Australia
 Friends of Peter Murell Reserves
 Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc
 DPIPWE
 Clarence City Council
 Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania Inc
 Pipshy Consulting/Pipshy Building Services

INDIVIDUALS

Sue Chapple
 Louise O'Bryan
 Heather Chong
 Fiona Brine
 Frances Maxwell
 Michael Eastman
 Peter Holland
 Susan Dahlberg
 Dr Christine Mucha
 Patricia Wang
 Corey Peterson
 Graham Flower
 Margaret Neilsen
 Carl Bennett
 Bob Holderness-Roddam
 Corey Docking
 Tim Pepperell
 David Gudde
 Ashton Keene
 Anni McCuaig
 Judy Micklewright
 Geordie Wright
 Frieda Henskens



World Wetlands day activity, Lauderdale, January 2015.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

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

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTES	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue			
Revenue	2	2,261,650	3,290,384
Other Income	2	108,356	98,009
Total Revenue		2,370,006	3,388,393
Expenses			
Project Expenses		926,519	1,895,281
Employee Benefits Expenses		997,728	985,551
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	6	50,729	58,395
Administrative and Other Expenses		318,418	318,594
Total Expenses		2,293,394	3,257,821
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		76,612	130,572
Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Projects Reserve	10	(279,601)	69,352
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(202,989)	199,924

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTES	2015	2014
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		2,521,852	2,787,342
Trade and Other Receivables	3	47,698	189,589
Prepayments	4	21,429	33,847
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5	2,590,979	3,010,778
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and Equipment	6	85,088	135,058
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		85,088	135,058
TOTAL ASSETS		2,676,067	3,145,836
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	7	163,688	449,079
Employee Benefits	8	62,283	58,852
Support for pakana services	13	15,297	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		241,268	507,931
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits	8	11,884	12,000
Provisions	9	80	80
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		11,964	12,080
TOTAL LIABILITIES		253,232	520,011
NET ASSETS		2,422,835	2,625,825
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		1,328,231	1,251,620
Committed Projects Reserve	10	1,094,604	1,374,205
TOTAL EQUITY		2,422,835	2,625,825

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

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	RETAINED EARNINGS	COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2013	1,121,047	1,304,853	2,425,900
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	130,572	-	130,572
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	69,352	69,352
Balance at 30 June 2014	1,251,619	1,374,205	2,625,824
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	76,612	-	76,612
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	(279,601)	(279,601)
Balance at 30 June 2015	1,328,231	1,094,604	2,422,835

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTES	2015	2014
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from Grants/Members		2,210,769	3,355,448
Interest Received		88,366	89,613
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(2,589,593)	(3,157,758)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities	12(a)	(290,458)	287,303
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from Sale of Plant and Equipment		16,455	-
Purchase of Plant and Equipment		(11,377)	(72,919)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities		5,078	(72,919)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Financial Support for pakana services		19,890	-
Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities		19,890	-
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		(265,490)	214,384
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year		2,787,342	2,572,958
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	12(b)	2,521,852	2,787,342

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

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

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania)*. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards and the Board has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity.

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

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

a) Revenue

Grants revenue is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when the Association obtains control of the grant and when it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the organisation and the amount of the grant can be reliably measured. If conditions are attached to the specific grant which must be satisfied, the amount is recognised as a liability until those conditions are met.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

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

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

b) Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

c) Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and Other Receivables include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables are expected to be collected within

12 months of the end of the reporting period and are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

d) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment is measured at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the useful lives of the assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets in the 2015 financial year were:

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

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Items of plant and equipment are derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the Association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

e) Impairment

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

f) Trade and Other Payables

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

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

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

h) Employee Benefits

Short-Term Employee Benefits

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

Long-Term Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employees' long service leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Defined Contribution Superannuation Expense

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

i) Income Tax

As the Association is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

j) Economic Dependence

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

k) Comparative Figures

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

l) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

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

Key Estimates

a. Impairment

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

b. Estimation of Useful Lives of Assets

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

Key Judgements

a. Employee Benefits

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

m) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

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

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

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

2. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<i>Revenue</i>		
Grants and Subsidies – Government and Other Organisations	2,261,650	3,207,301
Total Grant Revenue	2,261,650	3,207,301
<i>Other Income</i>		
Interest Received	89,947	98,009
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Plant and Equipment	10,430	-
Other Income	7,979	83,083
Total Other Income	108,356	181,092
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME	2,370,006	3,388,393

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash on Hand	352	350
Cash at Bank	530,093	532,374
Cash on Deposit	1,991,407	2,254,618
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,521,852	2,787,342

4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Trade Debtors	-	123,272
Other Debtors	11,561	9,981
GST Receivable	36,137	56,336
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	47,698	189,589

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

5. PREPAYMENTS

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Prepaid Insurance	15,192	27,778
Prepaid Rent	6,237	6,069
TOTAL PREPAYMENTS	21,429	33,847

6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Plant and Equipment	189,878	185,658
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(168,130)	(149,077)
	21,748	36,581
Furniture and Fittings	41,099	33,943
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(22,834)	(20,058)
	18,265	13,885
Website Development	50,490	50,490
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(50,490)	(50,123)
	-	367
Leasehold Improvements	8,078	8,078
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,287)	(1,085)
	6,791	6,993
Project Related Assets	105,218	113,587
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(104,941)	(98,157)
	277	15,430
Motor Vehicles	82,878	109,028
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(44,871)	(47,226)
	38,007	61,802
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	85,088	135,058

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

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

6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT CONTINUED

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

	PLANT & EQUIPMENT \$	FURNITURE & FITTINGS \$	WEBSITE \$	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS \$	PROJECT RELATED ASSETS \$	MOTOR VEHICLES \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2013	34,203	14,780	5,413	7,195	25,633	33,310	120,534
Additions	20,956	1,661	-	-	5,457	44,845	72,919
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	18,578	2,556	5,046	202	15,660	16,353	58,395
Balance at 30 June 2014	36,581	13,885	367	6,993	15,430	61,802	135,058
Additions	4,221	7,156	-	-	-	-	11,377
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	6,025	6,025
Transfer to pakana services	-	-	-	-	4,593	-	4,593
Depreciation	19,054	2,776	367	202	10,560	17,770	50,729
Balance at 30 June 2015	21,748	18,265	-	6,791	277	38,007	85,088

7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Trade Creditors	107,757	362,603
Other Current Liabilities	38,597	65,152
PAYG Withholding Payable	17,334	21,324
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	163,688	449,079

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

8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<i>Current</i>		
Provision For Annual Leave	62,283	58,852
Total Current Employee Benefits	62,283	58,852
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	11,884	12,000
Total Non-Current Employee Benefits	11,884	12,000
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	74,167	70,852

9. PROVISIONS

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Member's Guarantee Contribution to pakana services	80	80
TOTAL PROVISIONS	80	80

10. RESERVES

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Committed Projects Reserve		
Caring for Our Country – Sustainable Environment	-	265,036
Caring for Our Country – Sustainable Agriculture	-	7,047
NRM Planning for Climate Change (Stream 1)	25,363	169,696
Carbon Farming Initiative (RMCG)	-	32,590
National Landcare Programme	311,558	-
NRM Support Funding	-	61,667
Climate Connect	-	7,488
Tasmanian Frog Conservation	-	26,193
Derwent Estuary Program Partnership	-	7,714
Volunteer Training Collaboration	4,304	3,021
Rapid Eye Imagery Contribution	75,000	75,000
Essential Projects and Administration	650,383	637,840
pakana services	-	80,913
D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration	28,386	-
Green Army	(390)	-
Total Committed Projects Reserve	1,094,604	1,374,205
TOTAL RESERVES	1,094,604	1,374,205

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

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

11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

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

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Amounts paid or due and payable to BDO Audit (TAS) for the current year: Audit of Financial Reports and Grant Acquittals	11,200	11,100
	11,200	11,100

12. CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
a) Reconciliation of Surplus to Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Surplus from Ordinary Activities	76,612	130,572
<i>Non-Cash Flows</i>		
Depreciation and Amortisation	50,729	58,395
Profit on Sale of Plant and Equipment	(10,430)	-
Movement in Committed Projects Reserve	(279,601)	69,352
<i>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	121,691	(120,208)
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	12,418	(12,408)
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	(265,192)	173,258
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	3,315	(10,166)
Cash Flows Provided by/(Used in) Operating Activities	(290,458)	288,795
b) Reconciliation of Cash		
<i>Cash Balance Comprises:</i>		
Cash at Bank	530,144	533,866
Cash on Hand	352	350
Term Deposits Held	1,991,407	2,254,618
TOTAL CASH	2,521,903	2,788,834

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

13. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. hosted the development of a social enterprise employing aboriginal people working in land management, maintenance and conservation in the 2014 and previous financial year. The enterprise's transactions were included in Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. figures for the 2014 financial year. That entity was registered as pakana services Ltd on 27 June 2014 and, as such, Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. figures for the 2015 year do not include pakana services Ltd transactions. Therefore, the 2015 results are not directly comparable to the 2014 results.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. has agreed to provide a diminishing level of financial support to pakana services Ltd in the form of cash flow assistance as required until a commercial arrangement is in place. The Association had net assets at 30 June 2015 of \$2,422,835 and is in a position to continue providing cash flow assistance to cover all of pakana services Ltd's reasonable operating and capital debts until a commercial arrangement is in place.

14. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

15. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

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

16. ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:

313 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania.

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

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

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

1. The Financial Statements and notes thereto present a true and fair view of the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Chair **Max Kitchell**

Dated this 27th day of August 2015



Deputy Chair **Howel Williams**

Dated this 27th day of August 2015

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 2015, 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 2015, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania).

Basis of Accounting

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

BDO Audit (TAS)

BDO Audit (TAS)

A large, stylized blue ink signature of David E Palmer, which extends across the page.

DAVID E PALMER

Partner

Signed at Hobart, dated this 8th day of September 2015



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NRM South acknowledges the efforts of its staff, Board, partners, stakeholders and the community in undertaking the activities and initiatives highlighted in this report, and the support of its investors including Councils, and the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

Design: Thanks to Before Creative.

Images: Thanks to the following people for the generous use of their fantastic photos of our region. Anne Gigney, Paul Gray, Dan Panek, Vishnu Prahalad, Bruce Ransley, Lyndel Wilson, Magali Wright, and community members who provided great stories and/or photos of their work.



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