





MISSION

To lead and support improved management of natural resources in Southern Tasmania.

VISION

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

VALUES

Innovation
Excellence
Collaboration
Passion
Outcome Focused

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ABOUT US

Our region's natural resources underpin both its economic prosperity and social wellbeing, and NRM South's role is to help manage our resources wisely and sustainably and keep our natural and productive landscapes healthy over the long term.

NRM South is one of three natural resource management bodies in Tasmania, and forms part of a national network of 56 similar bodies. We act as a 'hub', working on issues of statewide significance with partners that include government, research, industry, other non-government organisations, regional bodies, and the community. We build partnerships, secure and direct investment, connect knowledge and expertise to action, and increase the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities.

The southern Tasmanian region is renowned for its diversity of natural habitats as well as being a prime production area that is highly regarded on local, national and international stages. It has become a popular tourism and lifestyle destination, and now more than ever, it is vital that we have the foundations in place that will sustain our resources in the face of increasing pressures and a changing climate. NRM South addresses these needs via an evolving regional NRM strategy that identifies priorities and issues, and works with the community to implement strategic actions that can keep pace with a changing world.

We work to ensure that land, water and coastal management in the region is sustainable, improving productivity and long-term viability, contributing to the economy, the community and the health of the broader environmental landscape. While we are primarily based in Hobart, our team is represented across the region through the NRM Facilitator Network, a team of dedicated co-funded people who work within their local community through partnerships with local government and local NRM groups. Ultimately, our mission is to lead and support improved management of natural resources in Southern Tasmania so that all Tasmanians can continue to benefit from our environment.

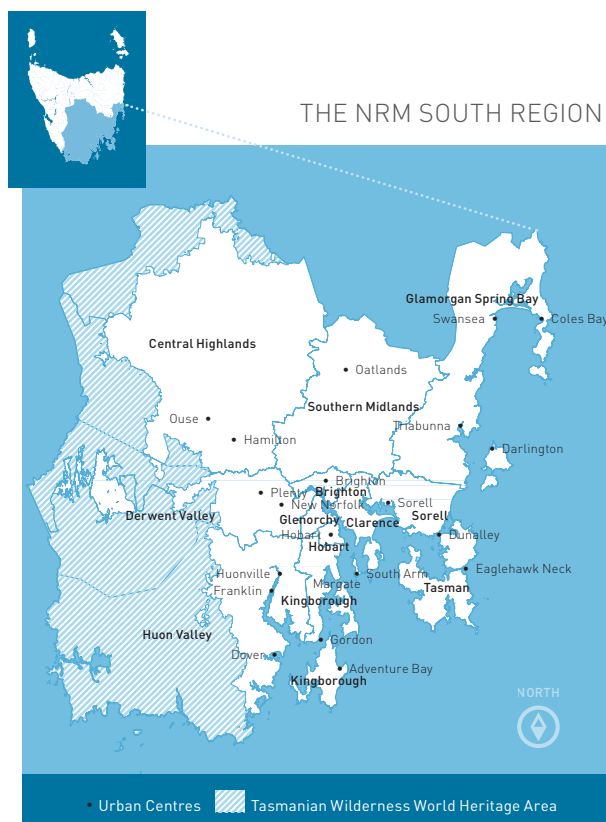
NRM South was established in 2003 under the Natural Resource Management Act 2002.

OUR REGION

Covering 2.5 million hectares, the Southern Tasmanian NRM region incorporates almost half of Tasmania's population of 513,000 and spans the 12 municipalities of Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman as well as the state and federal electoral divisions of Franklin, Denison and roughly one-third of Lyons.

Its people cover a broad social and demographic spectrum, and are employed in a variety of industries from aquaculture to government administration, renewable energy to food production. The region's natural features include near-pristine river systems and lakes, rich flora and fauna (including many species endemic to Tasmania), a range of complex and diverse landscapes, Aboriginal heritage sites with important cultural values, 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 ecosystems with high terrestrial, estuarine and marine biodiversity values.

Southern Tasmania's wealth of natural resources supports its economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Its richness of natural assets and diversity present both opportunities and complex management challenges. Effectively managing these valuable assets underpins the success of the key industries on which we rely and the lifestyle we associate with living in the Island State. Industries such as tourism, agriculture and fisheries rely on the region's natural resources in order to prosper, and they contribute significantly to the region's economy and identity. Exports of Tasmania's food and beverage products in 2016–17 were valued at over \$700 million¹, and tourism generates a consistently increasing revenue for the State – currently estimated at over \$2 billion per year, demonstrating the value that our productive land and natural assets have in supporting our economy.



¹ Value of Tasmania's International Exports by Region and Product 2012-13 to 2015-16, Department of State Growth, Tas.

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

NRM South has had another strong year, successfully facilitating and providing sustainability services to a wide range of community stakeholders.

I was appointed as Chair in November 2016 and would like to acknowledge the excellent work of my predecessor, Max Kitchell, who led the organisation for six years. Max set a strong and positive agenda for NRM South and made significant contributions in natural resource management at a national level. It is fitting that Max's contribution is being recognised through the Max Kitchell – NRM South Tasmanian Leaders Scholarship.

I also want to thank all our other Board members for their work during the year. Jennie Whinam and Alistair Scott were appointed as full Board members (moving from casual) and Tom Dunbabin joined following the departure of Matthew Pitt. I want to thank Matthew for his long and dedicated service to NRM South. I also want to thank Louise Wilson for her contribution to the Board.

This year has been a busy and productive one for facilitation via partnerships with Huon, Sorell/Tasman, Glamorgan and Spring Bay councils. Our work focused on biodiversity, biosecurity and sustainable agriculture. We worked with many small landholders and undertook large projects such as our partnership with industry and local government in the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration.

Implementation of the NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania 2015–2020 is underway, and has been well received. NRM South has been directly aligning its activities to the Priority Actions identified in the Strategy and is collaboratively supporting other key contributors to do likewise. NRM South will continue to promote the implementation of the Strategy as well as continuing our work on building strong regional and statewide partnerships.

NRM South has continued its strong management track record. Our performance has been independently assessed twice – by the national NRM Groups and the Australian Government. These reviews demonstrated performance improvements across six of the seven categories in the Organisational Performance Excellence framework. We also had an unqualified financial audit and have regularly delivered above our set targets.

I want to make special mention of our work in Aboriginal engagement. We have built strong links with the southern Tasmanian Aboriginal community and are setting a solid pathway forward for further collaborative engagement and participation in NRM-based land management.



It is also important to recognise the support that we give to the Landcare community via our Naturally Inspired Grants program. Running since 2009, these grants have delivered financial support totalling \$882,000 to 182 community groups, schools, farms and landholders for environmental, sustainable agriculture and engagement activities. In the 2016–17 financial year, \$242,000 was devolved through the grants program to 37 recipients. This resulted in matching community in-kind contributions of \$563,000. In addition, the Bite-sized Grants program for community groups and schools invested \$8,200 to support 18 small projects, resulting in an in-kind volunteer contribution of \$77,000 – representing a \$9 community contribution for every \$1 invested by NRM South.

We are in the final year of the National Landcare Programme (NLP1) and are working with other Tasmanian NRMs, and at a national level, to prepare for NLP2. While there are uncertainties in future funding, we are working hard to maximise our opportunities – by strengthening our partnerships and looking at ways to broaden our financial base. Our Corporate Plan has a business development component and we are working hard to identify and implement new business directions. One exciting initiative is with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). We are hosting a CAAS visit in November and a joint Forum next year. We are hopeful these events will strengthen partnerships with stakeholders in Tasmania and provide new opportunities to deliver sustainable agricultural services.

I would like to thank the Australian Government and the State Government for their continuing support.

Finally, I would also like to thank our CEO, Donald Coventry, and all our staff for their hard work and the outstanding results they deliver. Our organisation is lucky to have such dedicated and talented people. We look forward to another exciting and productive year.

Andrew Scanlon
Chair for NRM South

CEO REPORT

On writing this, I have just returned from our Tasmanian NRM bodies cross-regional annual get-together. It was heartening to hear about the work being done by our fellow regions, and for them to hear from us.

Even more heartening was to see staff from the three regions working collaboratively to develop aligned statewide thinking and potential projects; it has demonstrated for me the integration of NRM in Tasmania. Across our regions, our small and leanly-run organisations accomplish a great deal – both in ourselves and through partnerships. This effort is showcased in this annual report, which sets out the multiple activities and outcomes we have achieved over the past year.

A recent example of a successful partnership came in the form of a Threatened Species Recovery Fund grant to help protect *Eucalyptus morrisbyi*, a species that is on the brink of extinction. An important part of securing that bid was NRM South's ability, at very short notice, to pull together and coordinate a range of partners willing and able to both commit to and deliver on actions that the grant would fund. It is in the practice of NRM that we find an ability to add value – essential not only for building resilience and capacity in our community, but also in being able to broker new initiatives and activities. That is not to say we alone will save Morrisby's gum, but that we were the catalyst that saw this important step in its recovery take place.

Moving forward into the NLP2, the next iteration of the Australian Government's funding round, will present both challenges and opportunities. Although we have yet to hear much detail of the program, I believe we will see significant changes in how we deliver NRM in Tasmania. This will mean having to rethink how we go about what we do. We will need to clearly define the services we deliver on our value proposition, to broaden how we fund our activities, and look into ways that we can get those activities to fund us. To this end, we have been exploring wider business development activities and partnerships, including with international partners. Natural resource management is maturing; it is a well-developed practice and it has value in the social and economic spheres as well as the environmental.



A constant refrain in Tasmania is about our 'Clean and Green' image. I often hear it said, but the key to this State's brand reputation will be in the real-world demonstration of principles and practices in the activities that drive our economy and daily lives. Increasingly, consumers expect that the goods and services they purchase meet expected standards of environmental and social benefit and are willing to check it that expectation is being truly met. Whether it is environmental practice, biosecurity or animal ethics, Tasmania risks losing brand reputation quickly and often irrevocably, if we do not put in place systems to meet these standards. The knowledge, skills and practice that NRM delivers provides much that can assist Tasmania to adequately meet this challenge. We have the skills and technologies that are essential not only to safeguarding our brand but also to the development and maintenance of the structures that sit behind it. Without them, our clean and green brand is merely a hollow shell.

As always, I would like to thank all those partners we have worked with and who assist us to achieve what we do, as well as another successful year working with the NRM South Board and the Audit and Risk Committee whose input, advice and knowledge is important to ensuring we demonstrate both good planning and good governance. It has been a pleasure to work with my new Chair, Andrew Scanlon, his wide experience has been very valuable for us as we move forward.

I would also like to thank my staff. Each year I say I am fortunate to have such a dedicated, talented and hardworking team, this year is no exception.

Donald Coventry
CEO, NRM South

HIGHLIGHTS 2016–2017

PARTNERS AND PROJECTS*

169
PROJECTS

180+
PARTNERS

SUPPORTING ON-GROUND WORKS

WEED CONTROL ACTIVITIES ACROSS 187 HA



PROJECT ACTIVITIES BRING BENEFITS
TO 21 EPBCA-LISTED SPECIES

2.07 HA REVEGETATED WITH 680 NATIVE PLANTS



100% OF DAIRY FARMERS IN THE DERWENT
ARE RUNNING A FERT\$MART PROGRAM

ENGAGEMENT

213 EVENTS
ENGAGED
WITH OVER

8,200
PEOPLE

PROJECT DELIVERY

NRM FACILITATORS DELIVERED 40%
OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY THROUGH OUR
REGIONAL DELIVERY PROGRAM.

GRANTS

\$258,457
FUNDING AWARDED TO

55
PROJECTS

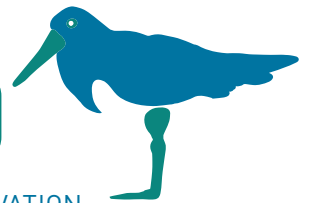


INCLUDING NATURALLY INSPIRED,
BITE SIZED AND BIOSECURITY
INFRASTRUCTURE – COMMUNITY
PROJECTS GRANTS

FUNDRAISING

RAISED NEARLY

\$9,000



FOR SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION
VIA OUR FIRST CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

LEVERAGE

FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED BY NRM SOUTH:

\$3.4

IN CO-INVESTMENT
AND IN-KIND
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
NATURALLY INSPIRED
GRANTS PROJECT
ACTIVITIES AND
PUBLICATIONS

\$9

IN-KIND
CONTRIBUTIONS
BY COMMUNITY
GROUPS FOR
BITE-SIZED
GRANTS

\$6.1

IN INVESTMENT
FOR OUR HIGH
VALUE SPECIES
PROGRAM

\$1

IN CO-INVESTMENT
AND EXTERNAL
FUNDING FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION
OF WATERWAYS-
RELATED
BIOSECURITY
PROJECTS

\$6

IN CO-INVESTMENT
FROM EXTERNAL
PROJECT
PARTNERS FOR THE
D'ENTRECASTEAUX
AND HUON
COLLABORATION

EXPANSION



REGISTERED 'NRM SERVICES TASMANIA', A TRADING ARM PROVIDING
PROFESSIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND NRM SERVICES
FOR FARM BUSINESSES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.



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

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

The management of natural resources within Southern Tasmania relies on investment based on sound priorities and effective guidelines for delivery. This often includes both monetary investment across a wide range of activities as well as the time, resources and in-kind support of partners. NRM South seeks out investment for the protection, management and improvement of our natural resources from a number of sources, but primarily receives income through the Australian and Tasmanian governments. We also partner with and support other organisations to obtain funding through different sources to leverage investment and outcomes.

The National Landcare Programme saw a reduction in Australian Government funding from the previous program and the commitment of a minimum allocation of 36% to on-ground community-based projects. We have drawn on internal funding sources to facilitate effective delivery of the program.

During 2016–17, NRM South achieved 94% of planned and budgeted NRM program and service delivery against strategic priorities, and we continued to seek co-investment and in-kind support to leverage investment in activities. The chart below tracks funding received by NRM South over the past five years, and illustrates the result in changes to funding for 2016–17.

SOURCES OF FUNDING TO NRM SOUTH 2016–17

67%

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME

Regional funding from the Department of the Environment & Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

11%

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Funding from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

14%

FINANCIAL RESERVE

In response to the decrease in Australian Government funding, we have invested reserve funds to develop methods for securing alternative funding to maintain our capacity for delivery.

8%

OTHER

Partner project contributions including contributions to the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration and NRM South's Local Area Facilitation Program, and corporate income.

2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
3,715,457	3,388,393	2,370,006	2,438,291	2,252,763

STRATEGIC GOALS



ONE

**Program and service delivery:
Delivering NRM outcomes for
the region**

Priority 1 Build data and share knowledge

Priority 2 Support improved sustainable management practices

Priority 3 Build community capacity and engagement

Priority 4 Work on country with Aboriginal communities

Priority 5 Conservation practice enhancement

Priority 6 Biosecurity practice enhancement



TWO

**Develop and oversee
the 2015–2020
NRM Strategy for
Southern Tasmania**



THREE

**Business
sustainability,
growth and
development**



FOUR

**Govern and
manage our
business well**

THE 2015–2020 REGIONAL STRATEGY – FROM DEVELOPMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION

NRM South is responsible through the *Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002* (the Act) both for overseeing the development and review process for the Strategy, as well as facilitating the implementation of priority actions. The role and importance of a formal Strategy is to serve as a framework for guiding activities that will help manage and improve natural resource health in Southern Tasmania.

The Strategy provides a vision for the natural resources and community of the southern Tasmanian region. It consolidates the views and priorities of all sectors of our community: business and industry, environmental organisations, peak bodies, volunteer groups, research and education bodies, Aboriginal groups and government departments. It takes into consideration the future potential impacts of a changing climate on the region's assets and landscapes and how to prepare for and respond to this. Outlining Southern Tasmania's landscapes and biophysical assets, the Strategy sheds light on possible futures and maps out both long-term landscape goals and short-term targets and priority actions.

The Strategy takes both a landscape and assets approach to managing Southern Tasmania's natural resources. The landscape approach categorises the region's land and seascapes by predominant use (natural, production,

lifestyle, urban) and identifies their natural, social and economic values, and how to best manage them. The assets approach details the region's land, water, coastal, marine, biodiversity and community assets and articulates specific threats, opportunities and actions to protect these assets. These two complementary approaches allow for how different people in the community view, work, recreate and reside within the region.

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

The Strategy was finalised in early 2016, accredited under the Act, then officially launched by the State Government in November 2016. This launch was completed alongside the other Tasmanian NRM regional bodies, NRM North and Cradle Coast NRM, demonstrating the alignment and cross regional collaborative nature of the organisations.

“The Regional Strategies take into account contemporary State priorities and act as guidelines to ensure sustainable development and prevent environmental degradation. We are proud to work with grassroots organisations such as NRM to ensure our mutual natural resource management priorities are progressed.”

Roger Jaensch MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business, Trade, and Red Tape Reduction.



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



Image: Representatives from Tasmania's three NRM bodies, joined by Parliamentary Secretary Roger Jaensch, met at Jim Lucas' farm near Kimberley in the State's north to officially launch the three regional strategies.

During 2016–17, NRM South has aligned all its activities to the priority actions identified in the Strategy. Additionally, a strategic planning process has commenced in anticipation of Phase 2 of the National Landcare Programme. This process is being developed with the Strategy as its foundation to ensure that the priority actions identified by science and our community are at the forefront of future regional investment.

NRM South distributed the Strategy, and those of the other regions, to all stakeholders – demonstrating the collaborative nature of its development and implementation. We also distributed the Strategy to key stakeholders in our region and have been working closely with our partners, particularly through our facilitation network, to ensure that this guiding document is well understood and implemented.

The Strategy recognises and clearly articulates that its implementation is a collaborative responsibility and NRM South's role over the coming years will be to monitor this implementation and to develop a framework to engage with the community. This will include ongoing consultation and direct work with key contributors identified for priority actions. The framework will form the basis for tracking our community's progress towards the Strategy's goals. It will identify and celebrate activity that is being undertaken towards achieving targets, but it will also identify activities that are not being undertaken so that areas for improvement can be prioritised. NRM South is firmly committed to the facilitation of the Strategy implementation in accordance with our responsibilities under the Act.



Land Assets: include topography, soils, vegetation and cultural heritage



Water Assets: include surface and groundwater resources and freshwater ecosystems



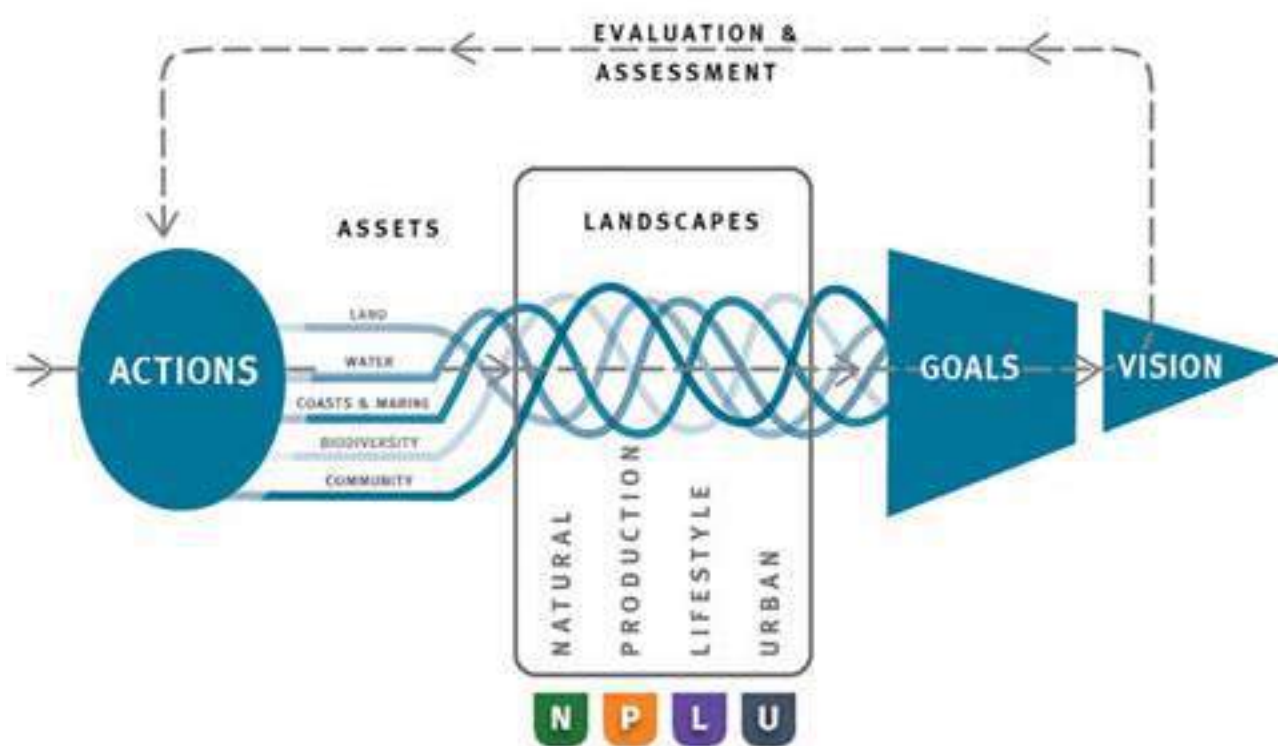
Coasts and Marine Assets: includes all areas influenced by the seas or potentially affected by coastal flooding/sea level rise



Biodiversity Assets: include terrestrial native species and ecological communities



Community Assets: include the people and organisations that represent the regional community





HIGH VALUE SPECIES, PLACES AND COMMUNITIES

Around 650 of Tasmania's species are listed as rare or threatened, and many are found nowhere else in the world. For its size and location, Tasmania is a highly biodiverse island and contains a myriad of unique, fragile and internationally significant ecosystems – some of which have roots stretching all the way back to Gondwanaland. It is also a refuge for many species that are threatened on the mainland.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Surveys, threat assessments and population monitoring for priority threatened species

Trials to investigate practical methods for restoring threatened species habitat

Weed control to protect threatened species habitat and the TWWHA

Supporting tailored training activities for volunteers involved in threatened species recovery

Propagation of threatened plants for revegetation and *ex situ* collections to protect against extinction

2016–17 HIGHLIGHTS

Weed control work to protect 58.7 ha of nationally significant natural assets

Boosted the chances of survival for two endangered eucalypt species

Investigated methods to restore habitat for the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote

Ecological burning across 0.9 ha at a reserve site to improve habitat for Eastern-barred bandicoots

Engaged with the community on domestic cat management strategies

Implemented the Huon TWWHA Buffer weed control plan and the Central Highlands weed strategy

1,200 plants propagated for future revegetation projects in Glamorgan Spring Bay

Engaged 571 community members in activities to increase knowledge of threatened species and communities

Reduced threats to 10 EPBCA-listed species

Image credit: Malcolm Wells

‘Actions implemented by partners have improved protection for 12 cider gum saplings and 11 adult Morrisby’s gum. Assessment and survey results for Miena cider gums will help prioritise recovery actions.’

The focus of this program area is the preservation and protection of the species and communities that characterise our beautiful region. We carry out this work in partnership with numerous community groups, agencies, organisations and industries, helping to improve knowledge about our unique and vulnerable species and environments to protect them against the threats of pests, disease and mismanagement.

Over 2016–17, the program has continued to overachieve on targets including conservation actions and threat abatement for nationally significant sites, threatened species and communities. We have achieved this with considerable community group and landholder participation alongside partner co-contribution. Close to 600 people were engaged (with 30% newly engaged) through targeted training courses, forums, field days, workshops and site visits focused on improving habitat for or knowledge of the distribution and threats to threatened species and communities.

Activities within this program area include work on the Threatened Flora Link (TFL) project, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) Buffer weed control programs (Central Highland and South), conservation actions to protect 10 EPBCA-listed species* (see overleaf), and support for groups who undertake this work. With support from NRM South, teams of volunteers and researchers dedicate hundreds of hours per year to monitoring sites, controlling weeds and protecting threatened species – often in remote locations and on difficult terrain.

Applying the outcomes of some longer-standing projects, there has been a focus on implementing the findings from long-term monitoring of tree decline and its impact on threatened species and their habitat. We have supported monitoring, site assessment and exclusion caging across priority sites for threatened Miena cider gum and Morrisby’s gum, both of which are in decline, and under significant threat from browsing. Actions implemented by partners have improved protection for 12 cider gum saplings and 11 adult Morrisby’s gum. Assessment and survey results for Miena cider gums will help prioritise recovery actions.

The TFL partnership, which engages volunteers in strategic recovery activities for threatened flora species across the State, has shown a consistent increase in the ratio of partner and philanthropic contribution to NRM funding. This has increased from 5:1 in 2014–15 to 10:1 in 2016–17 and, in the current year, the project has





Image: Addressing the impacts of domestic and feral cats on our native wildlife has been an increasing priority over the last year.

undertaken conservation activities for over 5% of the State's nationally threatened flora species. It represents a cost-effective model for increasing the knowledge base for and undertaking threat abatement for high priority threatened flora species.

Decline in another species of eucalypt – the white gum – has serious implications for the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote, that depend on healthy, adult trees for food and shelter. A 2010 conservation assessment showed that numbers of this threatened bird had plummeted by at least 60% in 17 years. Work is still ongoing on a collaborative trial project (launched in 2012) with the Understorey Network (Conservation Volunteers Australia), Kingborough Council, Threatened Plants Tasmania and private landholders to investigate white gum restoration methods in agricultural landscapes – some of which have already been implemented by landholders. The trials are also boosting white gum recruitment, providing future (in 5–10 years) forage habitat and improved landscape resilience.

Led by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, NRM South is supporting a newly-created community wildlife monitoring project, a promising model for community-driven habitat improvement and pest animal control. To date, over 150 landholders and multiple community groups have engaged with the project and, once analysed, the data will aid landholders in looking after the wildlife on their properties.

Our support for work across the Central Highlands to control priority weeds in the buffer zone of the TWWHA has continued, with over 30 hectares of weed control undertaken. 2016–17 saw the application of this model, developed by Derwent Catchment Project, to the southern Huon region. In its first year of on-ground works, the Huon TWWHA buffer partnership has already managed high threat weed infestations across 2.9 hectares with significant participation by local volunteers and the Aboriginal community.

The subject of domestic and feral cat management has had a high profile in the last year as the impact of cats on our native wildlife becomes a more pressing issue. NRM South has been supporting work in the neighbourhood surrounding Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve to increase the awareness of the environmental impact of domestic, stray and feral cats and encourage responsible cat ownership principles.

Project activities attracted \$392,890 in co-investment, external funding and in-kind contributions. This represents a 6.1:1 ratio of partner contribution to expended investment for the financial year, a substantial increase on the 4.7:1 ratio in 2015–16. The strong partnerships and, co-investment, as well as the range of community-driven projects all focused on the same goal are some of the main reasons behind the success of this program.

BOTANY BOX

While it was only the seed of an idea a year ago, a new piece of botanical art sprouted out the front of NRM South's office over the 2016 summer. As part of Australia's 'Urban Smart' project that aims to brighten city landscapes through original artworks painted on signal boxes, NRM South commissioned local botanical illustrator Deborah Wace to create a piece of art celebrating Tasmania's rarest and most celebrated plants. The completed signal box was officially 'launched' on 22 May, the International Day of Biological Diversity.





Threat abatement activities aimed at protecting the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) from the impacts of weeds, pests and pathogens are among the priority actions included within our 'High Value Places, Species and Communities' program.

The TWWHA covers nearly 1.6 million hectares of natural wilderness - nearly a quarter of Tasmania's landmass. This internationally significant reserve is home to diverse environmental and cultural values but with an extensive boundary that sits alongside many different land use types, there is an increased risk of incursion by weeds, pests and diseases. NRM South, working with numerous land managers and agencies, promotes biosecurity measures as well as providing ongoing support for the TWWHA buffer weed control programs in the Central Highlands and Huon regions.

Over the last six years, the Derwent Catchment Project (formerly the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee) has developed an effective model for collaborative planning and weed management in the Central Highland's TWWHA buffer zone. The lessons learned in creating this model are partly responsible for the rapid progress that has been made by the newly created Huon TWWHA buffer partnership. While only in its first year of weed control activity, this new program has already opened a constructive dialogue to improve weed hygiene practices and has had significant participation by local volunteers and the Aboriginal community in managing high threat weeds.

Weed control and hygiene issues along TWWHA's extensive southern boundary can seem cost prohibitive when considered by an individual land manager. However, this well-supported collaborative planning model has

attracted significant activity and investment from multiple land managers - working jointly to tackle priority threats in complex and varied landscapes. The benefits of this approach should not be understated. For example, where efforts are concentrated on isolated patches of emerging weeds in vulnerable areas of a vast reserve, the net result is a cost-efficient investment that maximises the efficiency of on-ground work of volunteers, partners and highly committed contractors, who often reduce costs to help achieve these outcomes.

Over the years that we have been involved with this project, NRM South's role in this partnership has evolved. From supporting planning and investing a larger proportion of total funding to encourage collaboration, NRM South's role is now that of a minor investor (with over 1:14 NRM to partner investment in the last financial year) advocating for increased biosecurity and weed hygiene across these areas. Moving forward, the TWWHA buffer weed control projects will be incorporated into NRM South's Biosecurity Practices program to better reflect these changes. There will also be additional support for increasing the capacity of volunteers and weed contractors to collect consistent data that will better demonstrate the positive environmental outcomes arising from these weed control efforts.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Supporting the development of weed management plans for the Southport area and Interlaken Ramsar site

18 ha of orange hawkweed controlled (Central Highlands)

10 ha of Californian thistle and ragwort controlled (isolated patches across 11,000 ha of the Central Highlands)

2.9 ha of high threat weed control at key sites adjacent to and within the TWWHA (Huon)

Collaborative weed management planning has attracted \$135,000 in investment across both projects

Image: Dense gorse infestations are foliar sprayed to reduce infestation, followed by slashing and/or burning to remove bulk. Follow-up spraying of germinated seedlings is required. - Sourced from: The Derwent Catchment Project's Weed Management Plan For Dago Point, Interlaken.

*WHAT'S AT STAKE?

NRM South's High Value Species program benefits a multitude of native species – both rare and common – that depend on healthy habitat. EPBCA-listed species have a high conservation priority due to an increased threat of extinction – and our HVS program activities are protecting the following listed species:

MORRISBY'S GUM

(Eucalyptus morrisbyi)



BASALT GUINEA FLOWER

(Hibbertia basaltica)

Image credit:
Greg Jordan



GRASSLAND FLAX-LILY

(Dianella amoena)

Image credit:
John Englart



GRASSLAND GREENHOOD

(Pterostylis ziegeleri)

Image credit:
James Wood



MIDLANDS GREENHOOD

(Pterostylis commutata)

Image credit:
Malcolm Wells



TUNBRIDGE LEEK-ORCHID

(Prasophyllum tunbridgense)

Image credit:
Malcolm Wells



GRASSLAND PAPER DAISY

(Leucochrysum albicans subsp. albicans)

Image credit:
Russell Cumming



EASTERN-BARRED BANDICOOT

(Perameles gunnii)

Image credit:
JJ Harrison



FORTY-SPOTTED PARDALOTE

(Pardalotus quadragintus)

Image credit:
Francesco Veronesi



MIENA CIDER GUM

(Eucalyptus gunnii subsp. divaricata)





Tasmania is relatively free of pests, weeds and diseases – which benefits both our environment and economy. This relative lack of biosecurity threats is due both to our geographic isolation as an island State and a long history of strong biosecurity measures.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Supporting Discovery Ranger activities

Promoting the CCDD message through signage and washdown facilities

Providing hygiene kits to community groups working in remote and/or sensitive areas

Surveys

Awareness-raising about biosecurity issues

Training delivery

Site visits

2016–17 HIGHLIGHTS

Co-investment, external funding and in-kind support worth \$43,579 received from delivery partners for biosecurity activities

Engaged 1,152 individuals (56% new), 13 community groups, four landholders and four NRM organisations in biosecurity awareness activities, providing hygiene kits and tailored biosecurity advice

Developed a new series of three biosecurity videos

Community Biosecurity Infrastructure projects resulted in improved biosecurity practices for three community groups and two oyster farmers

Installed 27 signs

Developed four biosecurity activity specific processes/guidelines

Outfitted three mobile clean down set ups

Over 25,000 individuals reached across multiple events with CCDD message



Anyone arriving in Tasmania will be familiar with the strict protocols about what can't be brought in – even from mainland Australia. While these measures are designed to prevent the entry of pests, weeds and disease not yet in Tasmania, biosecurity measures when moving around Tasmania are also important as we already have some high threat issues that we are trying to contain.

NRM South facilitates a multi-organisation collaboration known as the Biosecurity Network*, but there has been a long history of promoting hygiene as an integrated action in Tasmania. Terrestrial weed, pest and disease hygiene has been a priority for a range of land management organisations for decades, but as new freshwater threats emerged (e.g. chytrid and didymo) it became apparent that hygiene guidelines needed to incorporate protocols for freshwater systems.

NRM South worked closely with Hydro Tasmania on the Keeping It Clean manual (a Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens) which launched a set of simple hygiene protocols - 'Clean, Check, Disinfect, Dry' (CCDD) – that are now championed by Tasmania's Biosecurity Network.

To help spread the message, NRM South is working with Biosecurity Network partners to develop information resources, provide funding for washdown stations and signage, promote the biosecurity message at a range of community events and supply hygiene kits to community groups working in sensitive areas.

“I think the great leap forward was the introduction of the Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry message to promote good hygiene which is just so broadly applicable and can be routine.”

Tim Rudman, Biodiversity Monitoring section, DPIPWE

The Biosecurity Practices project is working with the Biosecurity Network to promote the CCDD protocol. This project is continuing to build on a successful, collaborative, cost-effective model of community awareness and education by promoting simple biosecurity practices that are helping to reduce the spread of both environmental and agricultural pests, weeds and diseases.

The Biosecurity Network's communications plan directly engages key user groups, including tourism, recreation industries and the agricultural industry. The focus is on activities that may impact natural and productive landscapes – such as bushwalking, mountain-biking, fishing, earthworks and vehicle movements. Engaging



NEW BIOSECURITY VIDEO RESOURCES

In early 2017, NRM South and the Biosecurity Network completed a new series of “Arrive Clean, Leave Clean” biosecurity video resources to help people working with vehicles and heavy machinery in natural and productive landscapes to plan and implement biosecurity controls including the CCDD protocols. These videos have significantly expanded the target audience of Tasmania’s important biosecurity message – addressing farmers, contractors and site supervisors who may be planning or undertaking on-ground works.

This project involved the support and input of multiple partners, including the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Department of State Growth, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Tasmanian Fire Service, Kingborough Council, Glenorchy City Council and Biosecurity Tasmania.



new audiences is an important part of getting the CCDD message out into the community. Over the 2016–17 period, the Biosecurity Network has developed and released three new information videos specifically targeting farmers, site planners and on-ground works teams, engaged with over 25,000 individuals (25% newly engaged), and multiple community groups and organisations in biosecurity awareness activities, and developed four biosecurity activity-specific guidelines.

Another important aspect of communicating the CCDD message is gauging community understanding of biosecurity threats and use of CCDD protocols. Since 2015, NRM South has been running an annual survey to get an idea of what messages are getting out to different groups, and to identify areas in need of improvement. Responses from the 2016 survey highlighted a need for targeted communications with relation to agricultural biosecurity threats as well as chytrid frog fungus, which is not well known among locals and high risk groups (those involved most often in freshwater-based activities, and people visiting the State’s national parks in the peak of the tourist season).

Over the last year, there has been a substantial increase in the reach and breath of exposure of the CCDD messages to high risk user groups – including those indicated by 2015

survey results. Engaged individuals have an increased awareness of biosecurity risks in relation to their activities, and information on and access to resources for simple biosecurity practices are helping to protect properties, livestock, crops and environmental assets.

BIOSECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In April 2016, NRM South provided grant funding of \$5,269 to three projects targeting improved biosecurity practices in relation to environmental and agricultural assets. Projects were completed in 2016–17 (a mobile washdown and biosecurity signage for the Huon Agricultural Show, kits and volunteer training for seed collection activities for the Friends of Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and mobile washdown and signage for Endorfun trail running events in National Parks). In May 2017, an additional \$8,000 was assigned to eight community groups and landowners for biosecurity measures and improvements such as installation of wash down stations and signage. These projects will be completed over the 2017–18 financial year.

*Tasmania’s Biosecurity Network is a working collaboration comprising 17 organisations; Hydro Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, DPIPWE (Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Biosecurity Tasmania, Natural Values Conservation Branch), Ecological Society of Australia, NRM South, NRM North, Cradle Coast NRM, Department of State Growth, the Livestock Biosecurity Network, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Inland Fisheries Service, Department of Defence, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Kingborough Council and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (newly joined in 2016–17) – with support from other organisations.



Whether it's a home for migratory birds, the backbone of our fisheries industry or a secret spot for a summer swim, we depend on healthy waterways for a productive, thriving environment. With most of our population living near coastal areas and waterways, managing impacts to these environments is an essential, but challenging, activity.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration

Marine debris clean-ups

Shorebird protection

Waterway health

Protecting and restoring Ramsar sites

Education

Threatened species and communities

Weed control

2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS

Approximately 2,000 participants engaged (80% new) through the delivery of 53 events

29 ha of priority weed treatment work completed across six sites

2.7 ha of nesting shorebird habitat protected via fencing of important breeding areas

\$8,800 raised for shorebird conservation as part of a trial fundraising campaign

1 ha of feral pacific oysters controlled

Over 36 m³ of marine debris collected through a program hosted and coordinated by NRM South, in partnership with multiple businesses and agencies

Four signs installed at strategic locations to promote awareness and protection of EPBCA listed species

Implemented priority recovery actions for nine EPBCA listed species and one EPBCA-listed community

Supported conservation activities in two Ramsar sites (Moulting and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon)

'Our Waterway' mini-conference



Our Waterways to Coasts program is addressing many of the harmful impacts that affect marine, coastal, estuarine and riparian environments and protecting the species – particularly shorebirds – that rely on them. By educating and engaging the community about common issues and threats, and what they can do about it, NRM South is helping people to care for our waterways and coasts. Importantly, we are working collaboratively to deliver positive outcomes for this vital shared-use asset: including with state and local governments, community groups, public and private land managers, the scientific community and researchers, Aboriginal communities, business and industries.

In addition to working on multiple small projects, NRM South is involved with two larger, landscape-scale programs: the Derwent Water Quality Improvement Program and the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration.



Image: D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration Coordinator, Nepelle Crane, explains procedures for marine debris collection to a group of volunteers at Charlotte's Cove.

Over 2016–17, actions to protect threatened species have included supporting community education and awareness programs as well as the installation of additional fencing and signage at important breeding areas for beach-nesting birds to improve breeding success. Recent public surveys have shown a 10% increase in awareness over the last year regarding beach-nesting shorebirds, as a direct result of increased signage, PWS Discovery Ranger programs and fencing. Another boost for beach-nesting shorebirds over the last year was in NRM South's first targeted fundraising campaign [see p43], which raised \$8,800 for conservation activities to be implemented via the South-Eastern Regional Shorebirds Alliance (of which NRM South is a founding member) during future breeding seasons.

Other threatened species that rely on coastal habitats and waterways have also been targeted for conservation activities. In 2016–17, NRM South supported weed control and revegetation activities for the restoration of Swift Parrot habitat as well as surveys undertaken across 25 hectares as part of the recovery plan for Forty-spotted Pardalote. We have also been working with researchers and the community to implement recovery plan actions for three species of handfish through supporting actions to improve breeding habitat (eco-mooring installations) and ecological surveys.

High-value habitat areas that have been targeted for on-ground actions include ongoing projects within the Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon and Moulting Lagoon – where NRM South has supported weed control and revegetation works. NRM South provided support and ran stalls at each of these sites for World Wetlands Day events, as well as at the Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart, in early 2017. Direct engagement is an important tool and NRM South presence at key events such as these is helping to spread the waterways and coasts conservation message.

‘These efforts have a positive flow-on effect for changing practices and behaviour at the individual, community and industry level as well as reducing threats to local species and improving waterway health.’

Working collaboratively with other organisations has been a key component in broadening the reach and effectiveness of activities – especially with regard to landscape-scale initiatives. NRM South has brought together key stakeholders and the community to progress the first ever Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the Derwent catchment that has now produced a prospectus and summary report. NRM South will continue to seek co-investment from partners for the development of the River Derwent WQIP which has the potential to be applied in other Tasmanian catchment areas.

For the second year running, NRM South (through participation in the D’Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration) coordinated community marine debris clean-ups in the Huon Estuary and D’Entrecasteaux Channel. This was a great opportunity to engage with industry and the community and resulted in 36m³ of debris removed from the region thanks to the efforts of over 150 participants. These efforts have a positive flow-on effect for changing practices and behaviour at the individual, community and industry level as well as reducing threats to local species and improving waterway health. Through the Collaboration, NRM South also organised a mini-conference in August 2016, which attracted a full house of attendees who came to listen to talks on waterway condition, biodiversity and marine protection, seaweed, gulls, marine mammals and coastal hazards.

There have been many social and economic benefits of NRM South’s work in this area. NRM South has supported local business via suppliers and contractors, improved resource condition via water quality programs and marine debris management, reduced risks to important aquaculture industries through the implementation of biosecurity projects and generated greater than 1:1 in co-investment and external funding. The D’Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration represented a 1:6 co-investment from NLP (\$10,000) and external project partners (\$60,000) for 2016–17.

AUGUST 2016

On 30 August 2016, the first collaborative conference on Southern Tasmania’s principal waterways was held at the Sustainability Learning Centre. The D’Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration’s ‘Our Waterway’ Mini-Conference was a great success, with a full house of attendees coming to listen to a series of talks on waterway condition, biodiversity and marine protection, seaweeds, gulls, marine mammals and coastal hazards.



JANUARY 2017

A Hooded Plover chick successfully fledged from within a fenced area at Spring Beach over the 2016–17 summer breeding season. Hooded Plovers feed, breed and roost on Tasmania’s sandy beaches. They are vulnerable to human disturbance, particularly during their breeding season between September and March. There has been a decrease in the distribution and abundance of Hooded Plovers throughout Australia, including Tasmania. Temporary fencing, funded in part by NRM South, is just one strategy being used to try and improve breeding success for this and other beach-nesting shorebird species.



MARCH 2017

In early March 2016, \$25,160 (with an in-kind contribution of \$26,985) in funding went towards six community projects. These included installing environmentally responsible moorings in sensitive anchorages in the Derwent River, conserving and protecting shorebird habitat at the Orford Bird Sanctuary; Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome biosecurity projects; and installing signage about Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh. These projects were completed in 2016–17, with five eco-moorings installed across two sites, fences and signage put in place at the Orford Bird Sanctuary, improved biosecurity protocols implemented in two aquaculture businesses and a sign installed at Impression Bay, Premaydena.





The issue of marine debris has been making waves more and more frequently in recent times as the scale of the issue - and the threat it poses to waterway health, wildlife and the economy - becomes increasingly apparent. In a bid to address this growing problem, NRM South (through participation in the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration) has coordinated a series of marine debris clean-up events across multiple sites in the Huon Estuary and D'Entrecasteaux Channel since 2015.

These events have been a great opportunity to engage with community and industry, and provide a snapshot of the health of these waterways - collecting valuable data about the type and volume of debris collected year on year. In 2016, five cubic meters of debris was removed from the coastline at Alonnah, Bruny Island. Efforts were expanded by working more closely with industry partners and community, and by tackling new areas.

In total, over 36 m³ of marine debris was collected from sites that included Alonnah to Simpsons Point on Bruny Island, Garden Island, and Randalls Bay to Nine Pin Point in the Huon Estuary. Over 150 people in the Huon and Channel community were involved in a month-long clean-up effort. This included staff from Huon Aquaculture, Tassal, TasWater and school students from Sacred Heart Primary School, Glen Huon Primary School - with support from the Coast Watchers program (Bookend Trust), Conservation Volunteers Australia, Bruny Island Boat Club, Port Cygnet Landcare and Watercare Group, Friends of Randalls Bay Coastcare Group and the Huon Valley Roamers Landcare Group.

Image: Volunteers collect marine debris washed up at Verona Sands.

These clean-up events have been gaining in popularity with many people showing a keen interest in participating. While the amount of plastic debris being collected is still a cause for concern, at sites on Bruny Island that were cleaned in the previous year, less than half the volume of debris was collected during the most recent clean-up. These events were also a fantastic opportunity to engage with local aquaculture businesses, which we anticipate will lead to improved industry practices in the future.

In addition to the clean-up activities, NRM South (through participation in the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration) has been working with Huon Aquaculture, Tassal, the Bruny Island Shellfish Growers Association, and the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council to increase the length of coastline "adopted" by industry for marine debris clean ups, and to establish a new hotline for people to report marine debris in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and the Huon Estuary.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

72 participants across two community events

Two school events (80+ participants)

Two "adopt a shoreline" clean ups
(Tassal and Huon Aquaculture)

36 m³ of marine debris collected

Media coverage across four local papers,
reaching 20,000+ households

An increasing interest from members
of the public to participate in future events



This program area is supporting farmers, landholders and producers to carry out activities that contribute to the sustainable management of our agricultural landscapes. The agricultural industry plays a key role in driving the Tasmanian economy.

Boosting the capacity and skills of farmers, productive groups and networks – including the Aboriginal community – to implement sustainable practices on their land brings both economic and environmental benefits to an industry whose products are increasing in demand on the global stage. This program area is managed by one of NRM South's Regional Landcare Facilitators (RLF).

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Soil, water, vegetation and grazing management

Workshops, including Property Management Planning workshops

Naturally Inspired Grants

2016–17 HIGHLIGHTS

23,000 ha of improved land management through nutrient mapping across 11 properties

Trials involving six landholders supported improved soil health, resilience and productivity over 50ha

Reduced agricultural run-off through on-ground activities on dairy farms in southern Tasmania

33 workshops and training events involving 513 participants

20 Naturally Inspired Grants successfully contracted

14 property management plans developed for properties in the Huon via a series of workshops

64 on-site direct engagements with 67 individuals through NRM South's facilitation network

The growth of Tasmania's agricultural industry is reflected in the increasing popularity of our world-class quality produce on a local, national and global stage. In Tasmania's south-east, the appeal of the 'tree-change' lifestyle has seen a spike in the number of people acquiring smaller farms and turning their hands to small-scale and boutique production ventures. However, our agricultural industry is also faced with increasing pressures on our natural resources – from climate change, changes to land use and multiple environmental issues.

Over the last year, a total of 33 workshops and training events have involved over 500 attendees (with 62% newly engaged) in learning more about a range of topics relating to land management. Participant feedback reflects an improved understanding of the topics covered – particularly in relation to soil management, pasture management and farming and the law – and attendees have been influenced by the program to trial and/or apply learnings on their own properties.

Key events include the fifth annual small farm planning workshop (24 participants), an organic weed management workshop (40 participants), a Farming and the Law workshop (31 participants), a Healthy Horse and Land Field Day (30 participants) and a Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods pop up café (45 participants). NRM South's Regional Landcare Facilitator (Agriculture) worked with partner organisations including Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, Dairy Tasmania, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Tasman Landcare, Huon Valley Council, Tasman Council, the Derwent Catchment Project and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to deliver activities across the region.

'Over the last year, a total of 33 workshops and training events has involved over 500 attendees (with 62% newly engaged) in learning more about a range of topics relating to land management.'

NRM South has instigated the launch of two trials that will yield useful land management information for farmers in Southern Tasmania. The first of these is a study on winter-active dung beetles, which, if they establish successfully, will add to the diversity of species available for farmers. The second trial, being carried out in partnership with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, is researching the viability of perennial legume (sandy soil) pastures. Once results from this trial are known, farmers will have access to a broader range of options for pasture species that are better adapted to the unique conditions of the East Coast of Tasmania. This will help local farmers to build resilience on their farms.

Twenty land holders received funding for sustainable agricultural practices and conservation projects in Round 10 of NRM South's annual Naturally Inspired Grants, which provide assistance to landholders in implementing a range of on-ground activities and trials to improve productivity and resilience on farms. Activities include riparian restoration, weed management, shelter belt planting, biodiversity protection, pasture trials and planned grazing trials.

NRM South's investment in nutrient mapping and workshops has kick-started commercial investment in on-going nutrient mapping and soil testing across Southern Tasmania.

Eleven farms across 23,000 hectares were provided with nutrient maps and workshops were delivered to assist in interpreting results. This project has seen a significant increase in the number of farmers regularly testing soils before applying fertiliser. Farmers who have participated in these activities have reported a greater understanding of soil testing and drainage patterns on their farms and have quoted savings of around \$30,000 per farm in reduced inputs. Routine soil testing now appears to be standard practice across the majority of large commercial farmers in the southern region.

Since 2012, NRM South has offered an annual Small Farm Planning program in the Huon and Channel region. Small farms have different needs to larger properties and this program has been designed specifically for small properties typically ranging in size from 5 – 100 hectares. Run by NRM South with the support of Huon Valley Council, this series of five 'hands-on' workshops covered a range of land management topics. Participants came away with the confidence to implement new ideas on their properties and gained a much better knowledge of farm planning and natural assets management. This series of workshops has been delivered under a cost recovery model for the past two years. While not all costs are covered, the contribution from farmers helps to keep the budget down.



Image: The NRM South stall at the 2017 Small Farms Expo in Ranelagh.

Our changing climate will continue to present producers with additional pressures on an increasing scale. The unseasonably dry summer of 2015–16 followed by abnormally high rainfall and flooding over the 2016 winter impacted on revegetation and fencing sites and caused erosion issues on some properties.

NRM South is continuing to facilitate and support farmers in innovation and improved practices for soil and water health and the protection of our biodiversity assets in the face of increasing pressures from a changing climate. We provide links to information, advice and ideas that can help landholders manage or improve their properties, build resilience and save money. By sharing knowledge and information, and connecting with land managers through workshops, events and one-on-one engagement, NRM South is helping to protect and improve landscapes so that they can continue to support farmers and rural communities in the long term.

Image: Attendees of the 2016–17 Small Farm Planning workshops learning about pasture management.

CASE STUDY DAIRY CARES



NRM regions play a vital role in helping farmers to develop landscapes that are more resilient to the impacts of climate change as well as addressing sustainability, productivity and profitability. These issues are being addressed at both a regional level as well as part of a collaborative statewide effort. A successful example is "Dairy Cares" a project that is delivering economic, social and environmental outcomes in partnership with the dairy industry.

With the largest average herd size in Australia, dairy farming is now one of our most intensive industries, contributing over \$1 billion annually to the economy. Over the last 10 years, there has been a 42% growth in milk production. While this is bringing economic benefits across our regions, there is also the potential for negative consequences for soil, water and landscape health - vital to the future of the industry in terms of productivity, profitability, social license and natural resource sustainability. Tasmania's peak dairy representative, DairyTas, has partnered with the State's three NRM bodies to work on tackling the challenging issues facing the industry - particularly water quality.

Dairying in the southern region accounts for 10% of the State's milk production and is mostly concentrated in the Derwent Valley. NRM South, the Derwent Catchment Project (formerly Derwent Catchment NRM), and DairyTas have been working with farmers to deliver Fert\$mart, Clean Rivers and whole farm planning projects to all of our region's dairy businesses. Fert\$mart uses best-available science to improve the efficiency and profitability of fertiliser use, decrease effluent runoff and to improve soil health.

By 2020, the goal is to have all stock excluded from waterways and riparian buffers for all farms alongside the Derwent River, as well as its tributaries. Through the Dairy Cares for the Derwent program, engagement with the region's dairy farmers has gone from zero to 100% over the last five years. NRM South, the Derwent Catchment Project and DairyTas have engaged all (14) southern region

'Support from the NRM regions has allowed us to achieve so much more than we anticipated. The Clean Rivers funding incentives are the catalysts for farmers to make significant time, labour and financial commitments. Statewide, we are tracking at around a 5:1 return on cash investment...and that doesn't account for any labour costs for the farming business, which are usually the largest components of projects because farmers are physically getting out there and doing something to protect and improve water quality.'

MARK SMITH, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DAIRYTAS.

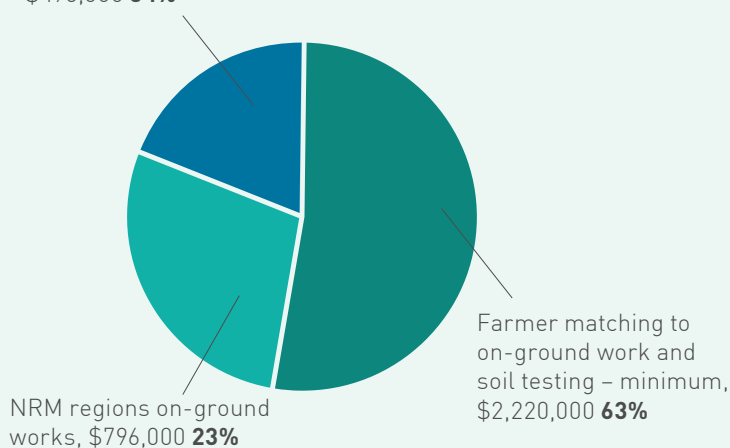
dairy farmers to deliver Fert\$mart, Clean Rivers and whole farm planning projects, representing an area of 6,067 hectares. Over the last year work has been done across 76 hectares of property in the Derwent including fencing of riparian habitat, installing off-stream watering points and altering pivots to support effluent irrigation.

Tasmania's NRM dairy projects are helping farmers be sustainable with People, Planet and Profit outcomes. Reducing inputs and improving profitability bring benefits to the farmers, the community and the environment, and our projects are helping local economies to flourish. Within five years, Tasmania's NRM regions have gone from little engagement with the dairy industry, to the current situation where there is good ongoing engagement across all three regions and planning for specific projects. This is a significant outcome for NLP investment in Tasmanian dairying.

ON-GROUND WORKS - \$3.5M OVER LAST FIVE YEARS

Minimum 63% of on-ground works cash contribution funded by farmers, plus time and labour costs

DairyTas externally funded on-ground works (Clean Rivers, King Island renewables), \$495,000 **34%**





BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND DATA

In order to properly manage and protect Southern Tasmania's natural assets, it is important to have good data about our region, including its predominant features, pressing issues and future trends. It is also essential to be able to share this information with relevant groups - to facilitate effective decision making, on-ground activities and planning.

The Building Knowledge and Data program aims to support individuals in industry, government and community groups, including the Aboriginal community, to build their capacity to support technical skills development through knowledge-sharing and training events. We work with partners to improve NRM outcomes by gathering this information, generating new knowledge, and by disseminating it throughout the NRM sector.

Another component of the project is working with key industry groups, research bodies and organisations to develop data and knowledge-building activities such as trials, research, monitoring and policy/planning development that will fill knowledge gaps. As a hub of NRM activity, we bring together, analyse and share information relevant to the region, and act as an impartial knowledge broker.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Environmental monitoring and mapping

Developing management plans

Knowledge and information-sharing

Providing training

Sponsorship

Climate change modelling

Landscape-scale planning

2016–17 HIGHLIGHTS

Successfully applied to have the AdaptNRM climate change modelling work included into the Tasmanian Conservation Information System

Contributed to a statewide report on the NRM improvements in the dairy industry

Worked with industry and government to build knowledge of water quality across the Derwent Catchment

Engaged 260 participants in work building knowledge and data to support improved long-term NRM outcomes

Over 2016–17, the Building Knowledge and Data program area continued to build on previous investments in sharing knowledge and information to 260 individuals, developing a statewide report on the NRM improvements in the dairy industry, working with industry and government to build knowledge of water quality across the Derwent Catchment, and successfully applying to have the AdaptNRM climate change modelling work included into the Tasmanian Conservation Information system.

A highlight for the period was the sponsorship of the National Mangroves and Saltmarsh Network Conference held in Hobart in March 2017. This event attracted a great deal of media exposure and provided an excellent opportunity to promote a saltmarsh monitoring mobile application (the development of which was supported by NRM South in 2015–16) to a national audience, and to share knowledge about the conservation importance of these listed communities.

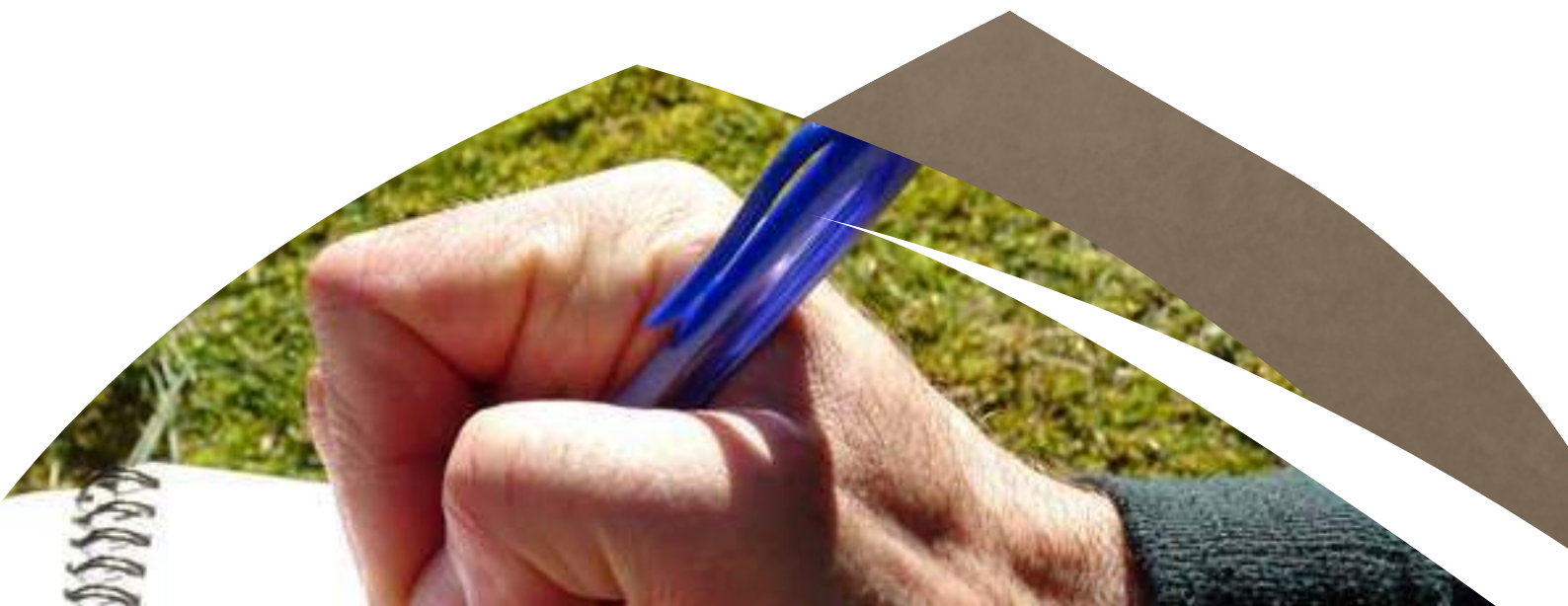
Another stand-out accomplishment was the progress made through meetings and interactions with the Healthy Landscapes Group (a network of key statewide biodiversity conservation and landscape management stakeholders). This work has significantly built on AdaptNRM climate change modelling work, the results of which are now informing the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service's 'General Plan' process (which identifies key values of the reserves system in Tasmania and highlights the projected impacts of climate change). Additionally, the Healthy Landscapes Group has requested a review of statewide uptake and universal usage of the report, maps and data to inform collaborative biodiversity planning. NRM South and NRM North have successfully applied for this work to be included in the Tasmanian Government's Conservation Information System. This System contains data that assists with conservation planning at the landscape scale and is used by planners and managers to prioritise activities and investment and to inform development assessments.

NRM South joined forces with the other Tasmanian NRM regions to collaborate, celebrate and share knowledge of the dairy industry in Tasmania – with specific case studies for each region. Collating the information and telling these success stories supports dairy farmers, and other primary industry sectors, to demonstrate the benefits of moving to best practice approaches. It also

The Derwent Catchment Water Quality Monitoring project, now in its second year, was used to support development of a scoping study towards a Derwent Water Quality Improvement Plan process within the Waterways and Coastal Areas sub-project. The information gathered under this two-year investment is helping to fill a gap of over 20 years in the information from the catchment.

enables better communication of the positive economic, social and environmental outcomes that can be achieved. Dairy Tasmania was directly engaged to support the development of the story and report on the outcomes of the investment. As most dairy farms in Southern Tasmania are based within the Derwent Catchment, this work also links in and adds value to the Derwent Catchment Water Quality Monitoring Project. By monitoring water quality, we can better ascertain impacts from various land uses and recognise beneficial outcomes based on improved practices. With improved monitoring information and effective planning investment priorities and the most cost-effective interventions can be identified and acted upon.

This monitoring program has delivered significant economic outcomes by leveraging a 9:1 investment across various industry bodies, the Tasmanian Government the not-for-profit Derwent Estuary Program and NRM South. This project was only made possible by the contributions and in-kind support received from all parties and demonstrates the benefits of collaborative, leverage-based investment in natural resource management.





WORKING ON COUNTRY WITH THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

NRM South supports Tasmania's Aboriginal people to build capacity in natural resource management for their communities. We provide opportunities for individuals to connect with broader networks, and work on activities that will improve social and economic outcomes alongside benefits for biodiversity, coastal health and conservation targets for our land and sea-scapes.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Raising awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge within our community

Building and connecting Aboriginal communities to NRM networks

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

Implementing the Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework

2016–17 HIGHLIGHTS

Contracted four Indigenous businesses in NRM South events

Engaged with 30 organisations and 279 individuals

Four pakana services employees trained to conduct wild Pacific oyster monitoring in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Derwent Estuary

14 Aboriginal Discovery Ranger activities at 13 sites were delivered to a total of 832 people

Three engagement forums

Development of three videos showcasing Aboriginal training, knowledge transfer, cultural values and the Kingborough Reconciliation Event



NRM South is continuing to work with numerous Aboriginal community groups – strengthening collaboration in NRM and engaging in a range of issues; from empowering local Aboriginal businesses to develop new networks and employment opportunities, to addressing the impact of climate change on the integrity of cultural resources.

Over the last year, the program has engaged with 30 organisations and over 250 (35% newly engaged/20% Indigenous) individuals on various levels, including direct one-on-one engagement, via eight events and through specific project activities. These activities have engaged 12 Aboriginal organisations and businesses in total, developing NRM and business skills that support protecting and advocating cultural values and knowledge.

NRM South has strengthened and expanded our relationships with the Tasmanian Aboriginal communities in NRM activities and we are progressing with ongoing and new projects to address cultural and NRM priorities; including coastal management, building youth capacity, fire management planning, cultural heritage auditing and protection, bushfood garden design and food production, re-vegetation at culturally important sites and knowledge transfer. Funding these projects will lead to improvements in natural resources and greater Aboriginal participation in NRM across multiple sites.

A survey and follow up meeting is planned with all the current established relationships to review the impact NRM South's support has had and to discuss future directions and NRM activities. Suggestions to date to further the impact of our support include focussing funding on larger scale projects that align to strategic plans of Aboriginal corporations, and establishment of partnership agreements and MOUs.

In June 2016, we finalised our Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework – a guiding document to support and increase the involvement of Aboriginal people in NRM. This Framework was designed to improve how NRM South works with and supports Tasmanian Aboriginal people and create pathways to build enduring relationships with Aboriginal people and organisations in Southern Tasmania. Over the last year, we have also developed a draft Good Practice Guide to add further detail and value.

As part of our obligations under this Framework, NRM South has been working hard to facilitate safe spaces for the NRM sector, local government and research institute staff to meet with Aboriginal community and business representatives. A successful series of three forums held over 2016–17 enabled discussions to raise cultural competency and to forge new partnerships. The process of breaking down barriers and establishing a dialogue between these sectors has had many positive benefits for all involved.

As a result, Aboriginal social enterprise pakana services has secured four contracts for land management and ground maintenance services, valued at over \$100,000, while Kris Schaffer from Bushfoods has gained contracts for her bushfoods and garden expertise. Trish Hodge

and Dwayne Everett-Smith from mina-nina Tourism and Events have been contracted to deliver education and entertainment activities and were involved in a highly successful Discovery Ranger Cultural Awareness program with the Parks and Wildlife Service over the 2016–17 summer. This is a newly developing area of activity for NRM South and the lessons learned from these collaborations is that the key to success includes good will, good food and providing an opportunity for partnerships to grow with a diverse group of local Aboriginal organisations and businesses.

Image: Aboriginal fire management expert Victor Steffensen (R) leading a traditional fire management workshop in Sorell.





Image: Kris Schaffer (L) and Trish Hodge (R) at an Aboriginal engagement workshop.

CULTURALLY INSPIRED GRANTS

In April 2016, a one-off round of funding targeted towards Aboriginal people and organisations was launched. Many of our natural resource assets have both environmental and cultural importance and these 'Culturally Inspired' grants aimed to increase the engagement, participation, employment opportunities and capacity of Aboriginal communities to further activities and projects for natural resource management, cultural heritage protection and knowledge-sharing for the benefit of Tasmania's biodiversity, cultural heritage, land and seascapes.

The following projects were funded in 2016–17:

Supporting on-country visits for youth to engage in Aboriginal culture

(palawa Aboriginal Corporation, Louisa Bay – Huon Valley).

This project supported a camp to engage youth in the cultural landscape and concluded a program that the youth had been involved with for three years. The camp facilitated learning opportunities that assisted seven Aboriginal youth to gain knowledge and experience of cultural and sacred places at Louisa Bay. Attendees collected traditional foods and resources, contributed to cultural art and visited several culturally significant sites. The camp also provided an opportunity for the youth to learn about rehabilitation and NRM and ongoing needs for protecting Aboriginal heritage sites.

Developing fire management skills to protect threatened species habitat, and important habitat values

(weetapoonna Aboriginal Corporation, Bruny Island)

NRM South supported weetapoonna Aboriginal Corporation directors to discuss and design a fire sticks program for critical habitat and biodiversity on Murrayfield. Improving environmental outcomes is inextricably linked to gaining fire knowledge and experience by Aboriginal custodians. The ongoing support from NRM South to build capacity among Aboriginal communities in fire stick regimes and practices will improve environmental condition in Southern Tasmania and help regenerate Aboriginal fire custodianship.

Building skills in the monitoring of wild Pacific oysters

(pakana Services, Kingborough)

Four pakana services employees conducted wild Pacific oyster monitoring at 17 sites in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Derwent Estuary, adding to knowledge of coastal conditions for the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Derwent Estuary project. Monitoring activities also added to the skill set and employment opportunities for pakana employees as well as strengthening their Sea and Country connections.

Creating an Aboriginal Culturally Inspired community gathering area at Park Beach Park

(Park Beach Board Riders, Sorell) – not yet completed

These grants were just some of the many activities that are underpinned by the Framework – guiding the organisation and supporting others to better work with Aboriginal communities in Southern Tasmania. The program is empowering Aboriginal people with new skills and providing opportunities to address a wide range of NRM outcomes within a cultural context.

USING FILM TO SHOWCASE ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION IN NRM

This visual tool of engagement allows a diversity of Aboriginal voices to express their views on cultural issues to both local and wider audiences. Videos discussing Aboriginal fire management values in Southern Tasmania, and the monitoring of wild



Pacific oysters by pakana Services have been produced, with a "reconciliation next steps" video completed for Kingborough Council. These videos provide viewers with a deeper understanding of the aspirations of Aboriginal communities and land and sea custodians. Key messages conveyed also highlight the value to the NRM sector of collaboration and cooperation with Aboriginal community groups and businesses.

CASE STUDY A SUMMER OF CULTURAL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



In late 2016, a partnership between NRM South and the Parks and Wildlife Service's 'Discovery Rangers' program was formed with the aim of increasing awareness of Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage and culture in Southern Tasmania. While these types of activities have been run on an ad-hoc basis by the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) in the past, this partnership allowed for a formal contractual arrangement to be made with the educational consultancy business, mini-nina Tourism and Events. NRM South funded the part time employment of three Aboriginal presenters through mina-nina.

Over the 2016–17 summer period, 14 cultural awareness activities were delivered to 832 people at 13 sites across southern and south-eastern parts of Tasmania, both inside and out of reserves via the PWS summer Discovery Ranger program. Activity sessions ranged from short "roves" delivered by a single presenter to half-day "Discovery Day" cultural events that were co-delivered by two Aboriginal presenters. The sessions received strong positive feedback from PWS Discovery Rangers and NRM South is planning to run them again in the 2017–18 summer season.

Images: Tasmanian Aboriginal educator Trish Hodge talking with participants during the 2016–17 Discovery Ranger Program.



'The "Bush tucker and Cultural Stories" session run in partnership with Trish Hodge had a marked effect on many participants with several people remarking that it had opened their eyes to understanding the complex and rich history and contemporary issues around this subject. A huge thank you to Trish Hodge for her enthusiasm, knowledge, passion and willingness to help and give her all.'

PWS DISCOVERY RANGER FEEDBACK.

PAKANA SERVICES

Our working relationship with the not-for-profit, social enterprise 'pakana Services' has now entered its fifth year. Over the years, the hosting arrangement with NRM South has transitioned from that of a supporting agency to the present-day situation where pakana services is a fully independent stand-alone business, which has always been the final goal.

pakana Services' primary focus is on-ground land management activities (including brush cutting, weed control, fencing, tree planting, track work, protecting Aboriginal cultural sites, and property maintenance) and providing work and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in the NRM and agricultural sectors.

pakana services is overseen by a full-time manager and recruits Aboriginal employees on a casual basis. Employees gain accreditation and technical skills in a wide range of land management activities and, since its inception, several have transitioned into other employment positions. In the 2016–17 period, a total of 11 employees worked with pakana and three have since gone on to gain further employment. Today, pakana Services is being promoted as a successful social enterprise through NRM networks and, as a result of these successes, is being assessed by other Traditional Owner groups as a model for the implementation of land management contracting teams across Australia.

Now a competitive self-funding business, pakana services continues to hold its own in an environment where there are many other contractors offering similar services. In the last year, pakana services has worked on several projects across Tasmania in collaboration with NRM South including weed management in the southern TWWHA, oyster monitoring in the D'Entrecasteaux and pakana manager John Easton providing weed control training at a number of NRM South workshops. pakana services now also has a garden maintenance contract at the Australian Antarctic Division.

"pakana Services have been engaged by the Australian Antarctic Division to undertake landscaping services at the AAD Head Office in Kingston since mid-February 2017. Since joining AAD as a contracted service provider, John and his team have brought a high level of customer service, knowledge and enthusiasm to their activities. The Division has been very pleased with the work pakana has undertaken to date, with a great deal of effort going into landscaping, weed control and general maintenance across the 10 hectare site. Further, John has been a valuable sounding board for indigenous activities undertaken across the Division as part of NAIDOC week. The Australian Antarctic Division is looking forward to continuing what has been a very positive relationship for both parties to date."

CHARLTON CLARK, AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION GENERAL MANAGER STRATEGIES.



NRM South's support role predominantly takes the form of mentoring the pakana services manager who leases office space in the NRM South building, and fee for service administrative support. As pakana services is now a stand-alone business, it has been able to apply for grants funding and was successful in getting a NRM South Culturally Inspired grant ('Building skills in the monitoring of Pacific oyster beds'). As part of this project, pakana services received training in coastal survey methods, and used this training to collect data. pakana employees were trained in assessing oyster density, abundance and general health, while learning a new set of skills, managing country and natural resources, and exploring new career paths. The project not only provided valuable experience and a chance to share knowledge, but it will also yield useful data and build on research conducted 17 years ago in the same survey locations, contributing to a long-standing wild Pacific oyster monitoring project for the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration and Derwent Estuary Program.

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



BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Building capacity and engagement within the community provides the necessary skills and resources to better look after our region's natural assets and an opportunity to be involved with solutions. NRM South provides the support and resources that are building a foundation for participatory action at a local level.

NRM South has continued to work on involving community groups and schools in caring for their natural resources and on improving the sharing and delivery of knowledge and information to the broader community. Valuing and using all forms of community skills and knowledge is a direct way of empowering communities and engaging them more actively. This is being achieved through actions such as forums, displays at community events, resources and promotional activities, delivering targeted funding grants and providing access to skills development.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Providing grants funding for community and landholder projects

Developing and distributing information resources

Presence at and support for community events

Facilitating the Volunteers Coordinators Network

School/youth engagement

2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS

Engaged 1,192 participants across 26 events

36 projects (16 community groups and 20 landowners) were funded for a total of \$257,000 under Naturally Inspired Grants (Round 10)

Eight community groups and landowners received \$8,000 in funding for biosecurity measures and improvements

Supported seven volunteers to attend the Australasian Mangrove and Saltmarsh Network Conference (Hobart)

Supported the planting of 400 native trees and shrubs on Bruny Island to improve habitat for two endangered species, with student volunteers from UTAS CARES.

Engaged 125 individuals through a total of 57 direct engagements/site visits and support activities

Involved 514 participants through the delivery of 18 on-ground works activities

Activities that facilitate community engagement and networking amongst community members and land managers in our region form a core component of NRM South's approach to improving natural resource management. These activities have included support for local events like the Koonya Garlic Festival, World Wetlands Day and National Volunteer Week, alongside field days and workshops run by NRM South's Regional Landcare Facilitators and the NRM Facilitator network. They provide significant opportunities for community members to come together, connect and establish relationships that become the foundation of invaluable support networks which foster knowledge and skill sharing and develops essential resilience for responding to future NRM challenges such as those related to climate change events. Over 2016–17, NRM South was involved in 26 events across the south-east with a reach of 1,192 participants (70% newly engaged), carried out 57 site visits/ direct engagements involving 125 individuals and 32 organisations, and involved 514 participants through the delivery of 18 on-ground works activities.

The professional development opportunities we provide to volunteers is helping to support local community groups. Over the last year, we have financially supported; seven volunteers to attend the Australasian Mangrove and Saltmarsh Network Conference, 17 volunteers to attend training in Safe Use of Chemicals for weed control, and 15 volunteers to receive accreditation in First Aid. We have also aided community groups to open up new funding avenues through the provision of grant writing workshops. The successful recipients of these capacity building opportunities are often members of multiple groups, volunteer in remote locations, or are group convenors – providing critical skills and knowledge to help sustain our Landcare groups. Volunteer recruitment and retention is a common problem in Landcare groups, especially as our population ages, and providing this professional development support is extremely valuable in helping volunteers stay motivated.

One of our largest and most successful events was our National Volunteer Week photography competition, run in collaboration with City of Hobart Bushcare. Following the success of last year's inaugural event, NRM South ran the competition for a second year. Calling on the community's creative talents as an alternative way of getting across the conservation and sustainability message is a powerful tool to boost engagement. By using social media to run a People's Choice voting category for the most popular image, we significantly increased traffic to and interest in our social media channels, reaching a new audience and showcasing the importance of volunteers in protecting our natural resources.

Funding support for on-ground works via a targeted grants round is another of our main areas of activity. Our Naturally Inspired Grants have been offered annually for many years and provide an opportunity for community groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools, farmers and farming groups to undertake projects that deliver positive environmental and sustainable agriculture change

AUSTRALASIAN MANGROVE AND SALTMARSH NETWORK CONFERENCE



A highlight of the conference was a field trip to Lutragala Marsh on Bruny Island, one of Tasmania's threatened coastal saltmarsh communities.

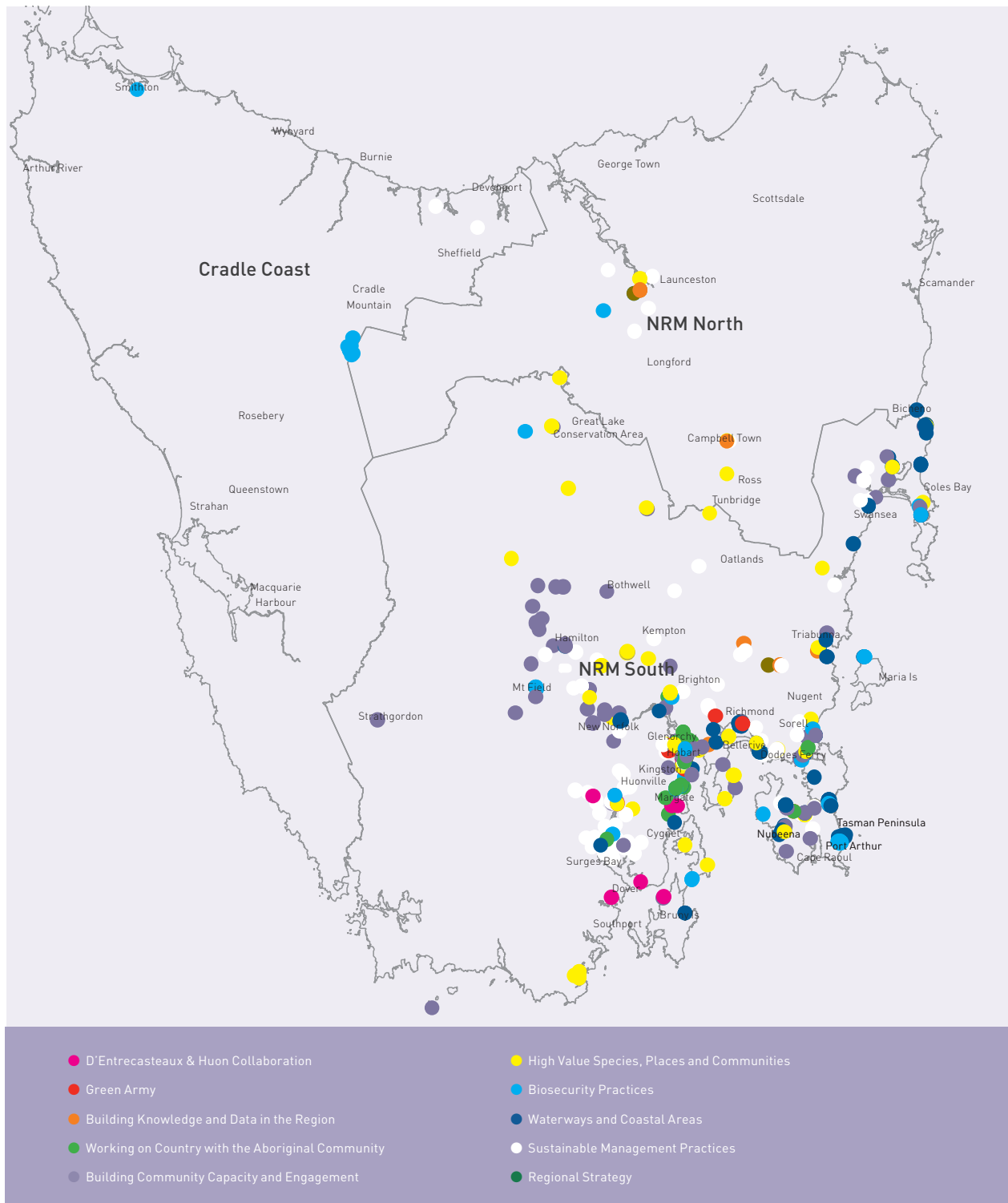
From 21-24 March 2017, CSIRO and UTas hosted the third Australasian Mangrove and Saltmarsh Network Conference – an event first for Tasmania that brought together researchers, industry and community leaders, volunteers and NRM professionals to discuss the latest science and management strategies for saltmarsh and mangrove ecosystems. NRM South was one of the event sponsors and supported seven environmental volunteers to attend. The event attracted nearly 100 delegates that included representatives from around the world.

in the southern Tasmanian region. With the wrap-up of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (NLP1) at the end of the 2018 financial year, this is the last year of Naturally Inspired Grants funding under this stream.

We also provided support to the development and distribution of important NRM resources and over 2016–17 our funding support enabled the reprinting of several popular publications including an Edible Plants of Tasmania brochure, Growing Respect Garden booklets and a community report on the Pittwater Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site. NRM South also worked with multiple organisations to develop information resources regarding firewood collection and its impact on the environment, and revised and reprinted our highly popular *Environmental and Agricultural Weeds of Southern Tasmania* booklet of which half were purchased at cost by local councils for distribution throughout their communities.

Project activities of Naturally Inspired Grants and publications alone attracted co-investment and in-kind contributions totalling \$356,280. This represents a return on investment of \$3.4 for every \$1 invested by NRM South.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE NRM SOUTH REGION DURING 2016-17





TARGETED FUNDING

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

Naturally Inspired Grants

We facilitate community groups and landholders to implement activities through our 'Naturally Inspired' Grants Program by providing funding and support for projects that improve habitat, protect our threatened species and/or improve sustainability practices. Round 10 of our Naturally Inspired Grants was launched in April 2017 and was the final round available under National Landcare Programme (NLP1) funding.

36 projects (comprising 16 community groups and 20 landowners) received a total of \$257,000 in funding (with up to \$10,000 awarded per project). This round also offered additional funding of \$8,000 to eight community groups and landowners for biosecurity measures and improvements such as installation of wash down stations and signage. Community groups received support for projects including native species protection, weed management, native revegetation, wildlife monitoring, cultural burning, and community engagement projects. Landholders received funds to carry out works such as managing environmental weeds, improving water quality, creating wildlife corridors and riparian rehabilitation (see Appendices for a full list of projects).

Several projects from Round 8 and 9 project grants wrapped up during the last year. Round 8 projects that were completed in the latter half of 2016 achieved 280 native trees/shrubs planted over 0.17 ha; 76 ha treated for weeds; 7.5 m³ of debris removed from along 9 km of coastline; feral cat engagement event and management over 2 ha; the design and installation of seven interpretation panels; conservation actions undertaken to benefit seven threatened species; and 47 community participation and engagement events. Round 9 projects planted 3,000 native trees and shrubs, with another 1km in direct seeding trials; surveyed 11,185 ha for weed threats; held six community engagement events; removed 500kg of marine debris from 16 coastal sites; produced a wildlife monitoring manual and installed a coastal interpretative trail.

Bite-sized Grants

In the 2016–17 financial year, 18 schools and community groups received Bite-sized Grants of up to \$500 and turned a total funding amount of \$8,244 into some tremendous environmental projects with estimated in-kind contributions totalling \$77,000. Volunteers dedicated 1,857 hours (representing a value of \$64,995) across the projects. The total in-kind contributions continue a pattern of year-on-year increase since 2014. Taking an average from outcomes across the years, for every \$1 invested by NRM South there is a \$7 in-kind contribution from the community. For more information on our Bite-sized Grants program, refer to the case study on page 38.

A CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS

Now in its second year, NRM South – in collaboration with City of Hobart Bushcare and the Volunteer Coordinators Network – once again ran a highly popular photography competition as part of National Volunteer Week. The aim of this competition is to encourage photo submissions from the community that showcase the work being done by volunteers in caring for the environment.

There were 62 entries in total – up from 47 last year – that were all in the running to receive one of the many prizes on offer thanks to the generosity of a range of sponsors. All submissions were posted on NRM South's Facebook page as part of a 'People's Choice' voting process. For a full list of participating sponsors, please refer to the Appendices.



FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17



Weed Control at Five Rivers Reserve

Organisation: Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Project Name: Enhancing World Heritage Area values at Five Rivers Reserve through community participation in weed control activities.

Completed: May 2017

Funding: \$5,000

Major outcomes: 37 volunteers worked alongside TLC professionals to control invasive species including gorse and ragwort, over 11,000 ha of land managed for conservation, including 1,600 ha in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.



Revegetation of Apollo Bay Reserve

Organisation: Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group (KLAG)

Project Name: KLAG Apollo Bay Reserve revegetation

Completed: August 2016

Funding: \$3,533

Major outcomes: Revegetation of Apollo Bay reserve with 400 coastal woodland trees and shrubs, including important habitat species for Forty-spotted Pardalote and Swift Parrots. A wonderfully collaborative project with Kingborough Council, Kingborough Landcare, Green Army and UTAS CARES student volunteers.



Rubbish Removal on Bruny Island

Organisation: Conservation Volunteers Australia

Project Name: Bruny Island – A Tonne in Ten

Completed: April 2017

Funding: \$5,000

Major outcomes: Teams of local and international volunteers spent over 700 hours collecting marine debris on 16 different beaches around Bruny Island. In total, 500kg of rubbish was removed from the beaches, much of it fishing materials.



Wildlife Monitoring on Bruny Island

Organisation: Bruny Island Community Association

Project Name: Community-based wildlife and feral cat monitoring project on Bruny Island; a pilot program for Tasmania.

Completed: May 2017

Funding: \$4,708

Major outcomes: Two information days were held, resulting in 19 land owners signing up to install and monitor wildlife cameras. Over 5,000 images were captured, providing a better understanding of the local Bruny Island wildlife, and forming the basis for the development of a Community Wildlife Monitoring Manual as a resource for landowners wishing to monitor wildlife and habitat on their properties.

CASE STUDY EVERY LITTLE BITE HELPS



Launched in January 2014, the Naturally Inspired Bite-sized Grants program provides support for small, short-term projects ranging from \$200 – \$500. They are designed to give community groups and not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to apply for small amounts of funding when needed. A range of activities may be funded, including garden development, weed control, revegetation, development of educational materials, and running community awareness or training events.

Naturally Inspired Bite-sized Grant projects align with the NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania, which outlines the key goals to sustainably manage Tasmania's natural resources, and includes activities which (a) increase engagement, participation and capacity building in NRM and (b) include on-ground works to protect national and state listed species, communities and places. They also align with targets set out as part of National Landcare Programme funding including; communities involved in caring for their environment and communities protecting species and natural assets.

Our Bite-sized Grants program receives consistently positive feedback from groups who can make a small amount of funding go a long way. A few hundred dollars might mean years' worth of herbicide to support a landcare group's weeding working bees, tools for a bushcare group's revegetation project, contractor costs for a coastcare group's marine debris removal or a garden plot for a school group. These grants help the community in Tasmania's south-east to engage with our natural resources. The grants also relieve the burden on volunteers to fund environmental work out of their own pockets, which can be a struggle for volunteers who are often retirees and who already donate a lot of their time.

OVER FOUR YEARS:

58
PROJECTS
FUNDED

29
PROJECTS WITH
LANDCARE/WILDCARE/
COASTCARE/
BUSHCARE GROUPS

16
PROJECTS
with **SCHOOLS**

Eight projects with not for profit organisations

Five projects with other groups

Planted approximately 1,700 plants to date

\$26,267 invested by NRM South

3,925 volunteer hours (with a value of \$151,200)

Cash or other in-kind contributions totalling \$29,788

The Bite-sized grants investment in community projects has realised a ratio of \$7 in-kind contributions by community groups for every \$1 invested by NRM South

GREEN ARMY

With the termination of the Australian Government's Green Army program in 2016, the last financial year saw a winding-down of the final round of contracted projects across the region. These have been supported by NRM South through a collaborative effort with other organisations including Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Glenorchy, Hobart, Kingborough and Clarence Councils. The Green Army project model has assisted the community in on-ground actions, as well as helping Green Army team members to actively learn through hands-on experience.

In 2015, NRM South partnered with Landcare Tasmania on a project in Round 2 of the Australian Government's Green Army Programme. The "Working in Southern Tasmania to protect and conserve species and places" project aimed to support regionally focused Green Army teams that could contribute to community projects while receiving valuable on the job training. The successful project was initiated in May 2015, with a completion date of September 2016. Three consecutive teams, each made up of nine participants aged between 17 and 24 (and one supervisor) worked for blocks of 20 weeks across a range of projects. An important element of the Green Army Programme was the provision of funding from NRM South, of up to \$10,000 per team, to support on-ground activities. These funds and the teams' labour provided much-needed assistance to regional projects in the community and professional NRM sectors.

Two of these teams completed projects in the 2015–16 financial year while the final team wrapped up early in the 2016–17 financial year – with a graduation ceremony held in September. This final team worked with 16 community groups, six public land managers and nine landholders in total on a range of projects, including establishing a native garden at the Gagebrook Community Centre, helping to build nest boxes for Swift Parrots in Buckland and preparing the groundwork for native plantings on Bruny Island.

The Mountain to Marine- Green Army program was rolled out during the year to support landholders in improving the condition of natural assets and treat priority weeds for properties adjoining significant reserves in the Glenorchy, Hobart, Kingborough and Clarence Council areas. The Green Army Mountain to Marine Project team worked across nearly 20 sites to remove weeds and plant trees to improve habitat for woodland bird species. Work was completed in April 2017 and trainee participants attended a graduation ceremony on 19 April.

Support provided to volunteer groups, landholders and local government by Green Army teams has served to reduce costs associated with environmental management activities while also providing valuable employment, skills and work-experience to youth in the region. Over the last financial year, 12 community groups each received an average of two days of support from the Green Army teams – representing an in-kind labour contribution of \$67,200. In addition, 29 landholders received support for land management activities – including one-on-one weed control advice from NRM South's Regional Landcare Facilitator (Agriculture) for each of the 20 project sites included in the Mountain to Marine program.

SWIFT PARROT NEST BOXES

In July 2016, illegal wood harvesting at a site in Buckland saw the destruction of numerous nesting trees used by critically endangered Swift Parrots. To help remediate some of this damage, NRM South sent along one of the regional NRM South/Landcare Tasmania Green Army teams to help ANU researcher Dejan Stojanovic build and install a series of nest boxes throughout the area.

The Green Army team put their woodworking skills to good use creating dozens of nest boxes to install around the site. After collecting tree pulp to line the boxes, they were hoisted high in the tree tops with the help of professional tree climbers.



NRM FACILITATION

One important way that NRM South has been delivering improved regional NRM outcomes has been through community facilitation via the NRM (Local Area) Facilitation and Regional Landcare Facilitator programs. NRM Facilitation staff play a core role in direct engagement with land managers and supporting the roll out of localised events and capacity building activities with local communities across Southern Tasmania. Engagement events and training opportunities consistently attract good attendances indicating that the topics are relevant to and valued by the Southern Tasmanian NRM community.

NRM Local Area Facilitators work closely with NRM South project management staff (especially our two Regional Landcare Facilitators), and support each other on cross-boundary and collaborative projects. NRM South is the key driver of this program, which is a co-investment partnership model employing dedicated NRM Facilitation staff working locally in support of NRM activities, building community capacity and working with the community at all levels for regional and national outcomes. They also actively build the profile of and integrate NRM within their host organisations.

This year NRM South continued co-investment partnerships with Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell, and Tasman councils, and joint partnerships with the Central Highlands and Derwent Valley councils, and a local landholder network Derwent Catchment Project (formerly Derwent Catchment NRM). These co-investments supported the employment of four dedicated NRM Local Area Facilitators hosted in those partner organisations. NRM South also co-invested in the direct employment of an NRM Local Area Facilitator to work with the Huon Valley Council.

In 2016–17, NRM Local Area Facilitators supported their local communities in a wide variety of ways; including: delivering NRM training and local information events, providing support for seeking grant funds, applying for project funding to enable community actions and developing community partnerships – which unlocks both volunteer in-kind and financial contributions. They were also involved in building new knowledge, skills and resilience to strengthen NRM outcomes in their local areas.

NRM South's Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) roles are currently being shared across two dedicated positions; an RLF for Community and an RLF for Agriculture. NRM facilitation is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

THE REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR PROGRAM PRIORITIES ARE:

Fostering sustainable farm and land management practices across the region

Sustaining ecosystem-services and improving landscape-scale conservation outcomes

Connecting NRM organisations, community, Landcare and farmer production groups to build knowledge, skills and community capacity and resilience

Promoting various opportunities for community groups and farming networks to access funding, engage with research and participate in training

Supporting the hands-on application of sustainable land and natural resource management practices

Providing feedback to the Australian Government from the community on emerging natural resource management issues from around the southern Tasmanian region

This year, NRM Facilitators actively worked with their community delivering training and engagement on NRM issues through 63 NRM capacity-building events, and engaging 2,253 individuals across their local areas (62% of whom were newly engaged in NRM). They also worked with 185 individuals, community groups, and other land managers and organisations to provide professional support to land management issues, including one-on-one advice, property management plans, support with grant applications and project development, trials and demonstrations, and participation in landholder and farming networks.

NRM Facilitators deliver approximately 40% of regional activity through NRM South's National Landcare Programme Regional Delivery funded by the Australian Government. They are integrated into local NRM networks, and represent local government, NRM South and their community on local and regional NRM issues.



NRM FACILITATION HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17

Huon Valley

Running a stall at a Small Farms expo in the Huon Valley and engaging with 60 individuals via provision of information and advice on weeds, biosecurity and small farm management. A fencing Q&A formed part of the NRM South lead stall, which included demonstrating practical fencing tips.

Supported the Huon Valley Landcare Group to deliver a bat monitoring training event for surveys using ultrasound detection equipment. Project results will help guide local management priorities on public and private land.

Installation of an environmental interpretation panel for Shipwrights Point public camping site to provide information on Swift Parrots and details of the revegetation and weed control projects undertaken around the site, which is an important feeding area for this species.

Derwent Catchment

The Dairy Cares for the Derwent program has resulted in all dairy farms in the Derwent catchment now having nutrient management plans in place. New farms, under conversion, are also participating in the program.

An application for funding under the Tasmanian Government Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme for the Ouse River Flood Recovery project was successful in obtaining \$465,000 for river rehabilitation works.

Control of weeds in high value places has expanded, including 19 ha of karamu controlled.

Established the Pasture Information Hub program and website.

Tasman

The Impression Bay Saltmarsh interpretive signage was officially unveiled at Premaydena on 21 June, in conjunction with the Tasman Council Green Army team graduation ceremony.

Tasman Council and Local Area Facilitators have strengthened and maintained a meaningful relationship with Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation.

Sorell

Financially supported Bream Creek Agricultural Show.

Continued community monitoring programs on local public reserves with community cat management and post-ecological burn monitoring actions.

Glamorgan Spring Bay

Assisted Friends of Rocky Hills with their Clean Up Australia Day event and the Landcare Member Outreach BBQ following the Clean Up; 40 bags of rubbish collected and 24 people attended.

Assisted Bayview Bush Babies with construction of wombat enclosures as part of attempts to control mange in wombats (Naturally Inspired Grant).

Moulting Lagoon on-ground works Ramsar site gorse control collaboration with Crown Land Services and Brown Brothers Devils Corner Winery.



NRM Facilitators in 2016-17

(L to R) Paul Gray,
Jen Milne, Josie Kelman,
Terry Higgs, Tim Ackroyd,
Holly Hansen and
Amanda Blakney.

It is predicted that the coming years will see an intensification of agriculture, growth of urban areas and increased tourism in south-eastern Tasmania, and NRM South's role in managing our natural resources will become more important as pressures on Southern Tasmania's natural and production landscapes increase.

There has been a significant decrease in funding to NRM South over the last decade, coupled with a greater regional demand for services that can deliver assurances that producers are using sustainable and ethical practices. Business development has been included as a strategic priority for NRM South as we explore options to broaden our revenue base and increase our capacity to deliver more and improved services.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TRADING ARM

In 2016–17, NRM South registered the business name 'NRM Services Tasmania' as a trading arm of the organisation. The goal is to provide a professional sustainable agriculture and natural resource management services for farm businesses and agricultural industries. NRM Services Tasmania has evolved from the strong base of experience and expertise in NRM South in delivering sustainable agricultural and NRM services for the Tasmanian and Australian Governments in Southern Tasmania over 14 years.

Criteria that have been used in developing the business development strategy are those that: align with the mission, vision and values of NRM South; enhance our reputation for and ability to deliver high quality and increased NRM services to the southern Tasmanian community and help to build the knowledge and skills of staff; expand revenue sources, and/or build stronger relationships with stakeholders. Over the last year, NRM South – via NRM Services – has been developing a business offering for whole-farm planning, design and management based on a comprehensive sustainable agriculture model.

NRM SOUTH'S INITIATIVE WITH THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

China is Tasmania's largest export market for our agricultural produce, and is also our leading source of overseas tourists and students. Chinese consumers and investors will be increasingly important for the growth of Tasmanian agriculture and are predicted to contribute \$10 billion per annum to the Tasmanian economy by 2050 (Sustainable Agri-Food Plan 2016–18).

Since 2014, NRM South has been developing a working relationship with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) to progress knowledge and practice in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. China is seeking international expertise and support in developing its agricultural capacity as part of a long-term plan to



transition to more sustainable farming practices, better natural resource management, environmental improvement and increasing production of safe and healthy food.

Over the last year, significant progress has been made with several key activities being agreed to by CAAS, NRM South and the University of Tasmania – including plans to enter into a joint Memorandum of Understanding and the initiation of joint research, development and extension projects in Tasmania and China. The collaboration has received strong industry and government endorsement including from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, and the Tasmanian Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and the Minister for State Growth.

NRM South's goal is for cooperation with CAAS to lead to new revenue sources, knowledge and technology that will allow us to deliver high quality NRM services to the region's community into the foreseeable future. The collaboration has the potential to stimulate further trade between China, Tasmania and mainland Australia in high value agricultural products that can be marketed on the basis of sustainable production practices and evidence of provenance. It will also assist in our delivery of the Natural Resource Management Strategy 2015–2020 for Southern Tasmania and provide opportunities to deal with some of the global challenges of food security, conservation of the world's natural resources and the impact of climate change.

TRIALLING A NEW CROWDFUNDING MODEL



In 2016, NRM South applied for and was granted Deductible Gift Recipient status – opening up new channels for increasing revenue to carry out targeted on-ground works. One of the options that was trialled in early 2017 was fundraising via a crowdfunding campaign.

A pilot campaign focusing on beach-nesting birds was selected via a 'keep what you get' platform model. Shorebird conservation has become an increasingly important issue and is a subject that our online (social media) audience responds well to. As an organisation that does not have a history of campaigning for donations - and lacking an established relationship with a specific 'donor base' – it was an opportunity to test the waters and gauge the reach and support of our existing networks – as well as building new networks.

NRM South crowdfunded on behalf of the South East Regional Shorebirds Alliance (SERSA) for conservation activities to be implemented over the 2017–18 summer

breeding season. The campaign goal was set at \$60,000 and ran for 30 days over the month of May. It was well received within the local community and was shared at a national level by BirdLife Australia, the Threatened Species Commissioner and featured on the front page of the ABC online website. Locally, the story featured in the Mercury and on ABC Hobart radio and was promoted as a series of short advertisements by 7HO FM (an in-kind donation representing a value of approximately \$2,000).

While the campaign did not reach its final goal, it raised the profile of SERSA activities and shorebird conservation within the Tasmanian community. There were 124 supporters who donated a total of \$8,800 and 623 total campaign shares via the crowdfunding portal. The main pinned facebook story reached over 7,600 people and was shared 45 times. The funds received through this campaign represent a significant boost to SERSA's annual budget and the campaign itself served as a useful learning experience for planning future campaign projects.

Working with such a broad sector of the community – from government departments to private landholders, and volunteer community groups to research organisations – demands an in-depth understanding of how natural resource management issues apply in different contexts.

Small in size, yet delivering a consistently professional service, NRM South's skilled team and efficient systems enable programs, projects and grants to reach their intended targets and to deliver against priorities. NRM South's philosophy is to ensure that adequate training and support are provided to staff, so that they can both perform effectively in their roles, and share skills and knowledge with other organisations and individuals within the community.

Over 2016–17, the NRM South team comprised nine full-time, seven part-time and three casual staff members for a total of 13.9 full-time equivalent staff as at 30 June 2017 (up from 13 in 2015–16). Two staff members resigned during this period, while three new staff joined the team; filling the two outgoing positions (Corporate Services Coordinator and Operations and Community Engagement Manager), and a newly created position of Organisation Support Officer.

The focus of this year's activities has been maintaining established projects, most of which will be running until 2018, in anticipation of a new Australian Government funding round scheduled for the end of June 2017. The Business Development Manager position that was temporarily in place during 2015–16 was not reinstated during the last financial year and this role was instead transitioned to a Sustainable Agriculture Consultant position for NRM Services Tasmania via internal recruitment. A Business Development Subcommittee is in place to assist staff in the development of income development and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences linkage project.

In the past year, our organisation has been through two comprehensive audits: the NRM Regional Australia Organisational Excellence framework (OPE) and the Australian Government's Department of Environment Self-assessment Audit process, as well as an unqualified financial audit for the last financial year. The 2016 OPE review has seen NRM South significantly improve its performance in six of the seven categories since its first review in 2014, with the seventh not improving due to the perceived risk of not having a Chair in place at the time. The Australian Government Audit (May 2017) resulted in a clean bill of health, with a few minor recommendations around MERIT reporting, which have since been addressed. The Board met eight times and the Audit and Risk Committee four times.

BOARD

Declared a Regional Committee under the Natural Resource Management Act 2002, NRM South includes a representative of the Tasmanian Government, Louise Wilson. Max Kitchell, who has chaired the Board since September 2010, reached the end of the maximum two terms allowed and was replaced by Andrew Scanlon in November 2016. Deputy Chair Howel Williams resigned from the Board in October 2016 and was replaced by Dr. Christine Crawford. Matthew Pitt also moved on from the Board during 2016–17.

NRM South continued with the two standing sub-committees: a remuneration committee and an audit and risk committee, which is independently chaired by Tracy Matthews. To assist in governance for business-development related activities, two additional sub-committees were formed.

BOARD MEMBERS 2016–17

Andrew Scanlon – Chair (current)

Andrew is Principal Consultant, providing sustainability and environmental management services to industry. He has had a long career as a senior sustainability consultant and manager. Andrew is a Life Member of the International Hydropower Association and Chairman of the Tasmanian Racing Club.

Dr. Christine Crawford – Deputy Chair

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

Alistair Scott

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

Michael Bidwell

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

Dr. Peter Tucker

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

Dr. Jennie Whinam

Jennie has been a senior ecologist for Tasmania's World Heritage Areas at DPIPWE for 25 years. Her fields of expertise include vegetation conservation and management issues in alpine areas, peatlands, subantarctic islands, climate change, biosecurity and fire.

Dr. Claire Ellis

Dr. Claire Ellis currently runs her own tourism company, and has expertise in regional and experiential product development. Claire is a Board Member of Volunteering Tasmania, Deputy Chair of Ecotourism Australia and a Board Member of the Australian Wildlife Collection.

Louise Wilson

Louise Wilson is the General Manager of the Natural and Cultural Division of DPIPWE and has 19 years' experience working in the public sector. She is a member of the Wellington Park Management Trust and has been a Government Agency representative on the NRM Council and numerous inter and intra-governmental forums.

Tom Dunbabin

The most recent arrival to the Board, Tom was a farmer and land manager for 35 years running a grazing business. Tom is a founding member of the Tasman Landcare Group and has held executive positions since its inception.

Departing Board members in 2016–17

Max Kitchell (former Chair)

Dr. Howel Williams (former Deputy Chair)

Matthew Pitt



MEMBERSHIP

NRM South membership is open to organisations and individuals with an interest in natural resource management in Southern Tasmania. The member's association is an incorporated body and has a role in electing members of the Southern NRM Regional Committee – which in turn provides strategic guidance and direction to the CEO and Management Team of NRM South. The association meets formally each year for the Annual General Meeting to ratify the Annual Report and Auditor's Report. Members frequently get involved in other NRM South activities including reviewing and updating the Regional Strategy, attending conferences and events and in supporting on the ground programs.

We wish to thank the many organisational and individual members who make up NRM South's membership base, for their support and contribution over the last year.

NRM SOUTH STAFF 2016–17

Donald COVENTRY – CEO

Tim ACKROYD – NRM Facilitator (Huon Valley)

Nepelle CRANE – Catchments and Coastal Coordinator

Keith DAVIS – Operations and Community Engagement Manager [commenced 30/01/17]

Luke DIDDAMS – NRM Planning and Knowledge Manager

Kathie FLETCHER – Aboriginal NRM Support Coordinator

Holly HANSEN – Regional Landcare Facilitator (Agriculture)

Laura JOSS – Business Services Coordinator [departed 07/07/16]

Emma KACZMARSKI – Corporate Services Manager

Nathalie LAURENCE – Communications Officer

Ken MOORE – Sustainable Agriculture Business Development Coordinator

Ruth OSBORNE – Regional Landcare Facilitator (Community)

Daniel PANEK – Monitoring and Reporting Coordinator

Sandy PIUSELLI – Corporate Services Coordinator [commenced 02/08/16]

Kim STANSFIELD – Finance and Administration Support Officer

Helen WEBB – Organisational Support Officer [commenced 22/08/16]

Kim WILLING – Acting Community Engagement Manager [contract 26/10/16–26/01/17]

Lyndel WILSON – Community Engagement Manager [departed 04/11/16]

Dr. Magali WRIGHT – Biodiversity Coordinator

2016–17 NRM SOUTH SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAM AREA

Build Data and Share Knowledge

Small mammal monitoring research
Derwent Catchment Water Quality Monitoring
AdaptNRM workshops
Land cover mapping
Knowledge Forum – Regional Strategy Implementation
Vegetation Health Check manual development
GIS Support
Sponsorship (TasMARC, Australasian Mangrove and Saltmarsh Conference)
State Planning Scheme Contribution
Statewide review of dairy programs and outcomes

Working On Country with Aboriginal Communities

Aboriginal Values and Fire Management Workshop
Aboriginal Engagement Forum
Aboriginal Values and Bush Foods workshop
NRM South and Local Government Cultural Awareness training
Discovery Ranger Cultural Awareness program 2016–17
Training support in NRM
Aboriginal Women Leadership and Empowerment activities
Support to Culturally Inspired Grant projects
Video development
Cultural burning practices

Build Community Capacity and Engagement

Supporting track work and erosion control
Supporting weed control work (multiple target species) and revegetation
Supporting feral cat trapping activities
Supporting marine debris clean-ups
Supporting installation of interpretive signage
Threatened species protection
Support to, and reporting collation of Naturally Inspired Round 8 and 9 grants

Funding and support for community grants and landholder grounds (NI Round 10, Bite-Sized grants)

Supported community volunteers to attend National Landcare Conference

Stalls at community events

Assisting PWS with arrangements for Discovery Days

Supported National Tree Day event with Huon Valley Roamers Landcare Group

Supported (via sponsorship) Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to deliver Spring Ball

Volunteer Week and Photo Competition

Kids4Kids Conference Engagement

Support for printing/reprinting of publications (multiple)

Re-edit and reprint of Guide to Environmental Weeds of Southern Tasmania

Illegal Firewood Collection Workshop

Volunteer Coordinators – Chemical and Weeds Training

Volunteer Coordinators – First Aid Training

Support for Green Army program activities

Grant writing workshop

High Value Species, Places and Communities

Orchid conservation activities

Moulting Lagoon weed control

Tree Hollow project seed collection

TWWHA Buffer weed control (Central Highlands, Huon)

Community wildlife monitoring

Camera Trapping in the Central Highlands

Calltris oblonga recovery

Coles Bay Threatened Species Interpretation Signs and Community Celebrations

Threatened Flora Link activities

Miena cider gum protection

Weed control – pakana

Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve ecological burning and cat management

White gum regeneration trials

Eucalyptus morrisbyi conservation – Calverts Hill

Conservation Landholder Tasmania – Climate change knowledge forum

Interlaken Report Card

Indigenous NRM – capacity building

Biosecurity Practices

Discovery Ranger Program activities
Regional biosecurity displays (Agfest, Liawenee Trout weekend)
Signage and/or Washdown infrastructure (Friends of RTBG, Huon Agricultural society, Endorfun)
Wildcare Biosecurity Infrastructure partnership
Biosecurity community survey
Kit and resource distribution
Vehicle and heavy machinery biosecurity videos
Participation in national phytophthora threat abatement working group
Derwent Catchment NRM Weed Hygiene Induction Program
Training and support – pakana
Biosecurity Infrastructure community support
Implementation of communications plan
Collaboration with Biosecurity Network
Bioblitz (Tarkine, Extinction Matters)
Biosecurity training to Tasman Green Army team

Waterways and Coasts

Marine debris management (clean up days, reporting)
Friends of Rocky Hills clean up Australia Day
D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration
Discovery Rangers activities
Derwent Water Quality Improvement Program
Displays at events (Wooden Boat Festival, World Wetlands Day, Day on the Marsh)
East coast shorebird protection program
East coast Little Penguin survey
South East Regional Shorebirds Alliance (SERSA)
Crowdfunding campaign for SERSA
Weed control to protect Swift Parrot habitat
Weed control and revegetation works – PWOL
Coastal weed control activities
Waterway weed control activities
Handfish conservation project – surveys
Eco-mooring project (handfish conservation) – multiple
Monitoring and controlling pacific oysters
Saltmarsh survey

Installation of interpretation signs

Survey of the Forty-spotted Pardalote in the Coningham to Oyster Cove area 2017
BirdLife Tasmania sponsorship
POMS biosecurity projects – multiple
Saltmarsh app instruction manual
Ethical photography draft guidelines
Our Waterway Conference
Beneath the Surface exhibition
Report Card review
Sediment and Erosion control program

Sustainable Management Practices

Small Farm Planning (Huon and Tasman/Sorell)
Healthy Horse and Land Field Days
Huon Valley Roamers bat monitoring training
Women in Agriculture meetings
Weed control workshops
Farming and the law workshops
Soil in the face of change workshops
East Coast Producers – perennial pastures/sandy soils trial
NRM in the Huon Valley workshop
Weed control
Nutrient mapping property plans – Derwent
Support to, and reporting collation of Naturally Inspired Round 8 and 9 grants
Apps in Agriculture workshops
Nutrient Efficiency/Pasture principles workshops (Healthy Farms-Healthy Catchments program)
Revegetation work – Southern Midlands
Woody weed workshops (Huon)
Dung Beetles Trials
Dairy Cares for the Derwent
Huon Small Farm Expo stall
Bush foods garden project at Fat Pig Farm
Bushfire ready neighbourhoods pop up café
Stock management workshops (multiple)
Organic Weed Management workshops
Grant writing workshop (Landholders)

COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2016–17 (TOTAL \$250,213)

Naturally Inspired Grants (Community)
Round 10 recipients – total \$107,130

Project Name	
Bayview Bush Babies*	Development of a plant based remedy to control mange in the common wombat
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Saving the Swifty on the East Coast
Derwent Catchment NRM Committee*	Supporting community action on the Lachlan River
Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House	Native Interactive gardens – edible, firewise, waterwise
Fern Tree Bushcare	Conserving the forest ecology of kunanyi /Mt Wellington by controlling a highly invasive weed, daphne laurel
Friends of Maatsuyker Island*	Maatsuyker Island (Tasmania's World Heritage Area) ongoing weed control and shearwater monitoring program: 2017/18 season
Midlands Tree Committee	Midlands matters – building on past revegetation projects
pakana Services	Cockatoo Hill Miena cider gum protection and insurance population
Snug Primary School	Biolink corridor expansion
Sustainability Learning Centre/Hobart College	Unwanted – the Rainbow Lorikeet! Lend a Hand Citizen Science Project: managing Rainbow Lorikeets to protect Tasmania's endangered Swift Parrot population.
Tasmanian Conservation Trust*	Cat confinement education project
Tasmanian Land Conservancy	Enhancing important natural values across 8,000 ha at Interlaken through community participation in weed control activities
True Trails Community Programs Association	Stability, growth and education at True Trails
Upper Huon Wildlife Monitoring Group	Upper Huon wildlife monitoring project 2017/18
weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation*	Community capacity building to support the implementation of the weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation prescribed burn plan for Roberts Hill
Geeveston Community Centre	Education trail along a section of the Kermadie River, showcasing community grown native plants, stabilised river banks, bush foods and habitat for native fauna

Naturally Inspired Grants (Landholder) Round 10 recipients – total \$143,083

Region	
Sthn Midlands	Jerusalem Creek on-farm restoration and water quality improvements
Sorell	Controlled grazing Ragged Tier Cherry Garden
Central Highlands	Forage shrub species selection trial
Central Highlands	Implementing the recommendations of alpine sphagnum bog mapping validation and threat assessment report*
Huon Valley	North Huon Road woodland project
Huon Valley	Regeneration of public, food production and education areas
Central Highlands	Wetheron biodiversity corridor Stage 1

Naturally Inspired Grants (Landholder) cont.	Region
Pasture regeneration and planned grazing for organic sheep	Huon Valley
Iron Creek Estuary regeneration project	Sorell
Internal parasite management of a commercial goat trip by implementation of sustainable NRM activities	Huon Valley
Table Valley grazing trial	Central Highlands
Restoration of threatened blue gum forest and associated treeline	Huon Valley
Best practice shelter belt establishment for low rainfall climate of the Southern Midlands	Sthn Midlands
BAANYA Spanish heath reduction	Kingborough
Mimosa Park wildlife corridor and shelterbelt*	Huon Valley
Jo's paddock creek restoration Phase 1	Huon Valley
Ravensdale Rivulet rehabilitation	GSB
Californian thistle control in Cockatoo Hills Conservation Covenant Area and cultural landscape familiarisation	Central Highlands
Kellevie neighbours – gorse busters	Sorell

Projects marked with an * are included within our Biosecurity Infrastructure – Community Projects.

Naturally Inspired Bite-sized Grants (\$8,244)	Project Name
Bellerive Bluff Land and Coastcare	Working Safely with Heights training
Bridgewater/Gagebrook Clean Up Group	Clean up tools and equipment
Channel Christian School	Create and build a natural play space
Friends of Freycinet	Ongoing weed control in Freycinet NP and reserves
Friends of Maatsuyker Island	Creation of international signal flags to promote FOMI on-ground conservation projects at public events
Friends of Maria Island	Ongoing weed control on coastal foreshore
Friends of Mount Field	June Cave carpark revegetation project
Glebe Hill Bushland Reserve Landcare	Howrah Primary – Glebe Hill Bushland Education Excursions
Huon Valley Roamers	National Tree Day – awareness and tree planting
Howrah Beach Childcare Centre	Installation of a fixed rain water collection tank
Lauderdale Primary School	Garden Science
New Town Primary School	Building the Productive Heart and Wildlands of our Sensory Garden
Philippine Australian Community in Tasmania	PACT 40th Anniversary Commemorative Tree Planting
Resource Work Cooperative	Reuse Flower Field
Reveg The Ridge Landcare Group	Revegetate the gully leading up to the Russell Ridge Conservation Area
Sorell Primary School	Native garden creation
Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare	Southern Beaches Coastcare website development – engaging community in landcare and coastcare
Tasmanian Land Conservancy	Five Rivers Sphagnum Bog Restoration Project

COMMUNITY EVENTS DELIVERED IN 2016–17 (213 EVENTS)

PARTICIPANTS

Build Data and Share Knowledge

NRM – Guest lecture to second year Environmental Management	13
Mammal survey/monitoring (5 events)	32
Feral Cats	30
Healthy Landscapes Group	11
Prosser Catchment Plan 2002 – review workshop 1	18
Draft Prosser River Catchment Plan review (2 events)	47
Australian Mangroves and Saltmarsh Network Conference 2017	100

Working On Country with Aboriginal Communities

Aboriginal Fire Management workshop	11
Aboriginal Values and Fire Management	12
Aboriginal Values and Fire Management workshop	31
Aboriginal Values and Bushfoods	15
Aboriginal Engagement Forum	35
Aboriginal Heritage Training	24
Aboriginal Partnerships and Local Government Forum	25
Connecting Communities Through Cultural Conversations	50

Build Community Capacity and Engagement

Student Volunteering Week UTAS	50
Festival of Bright Ideas	230
Spring Celebration and AGM	85
CVA Green Army Careers Expo	50
Green Army Graduation (Program 1 Team 3)	21
SPROUT Conference - field day	20
Magra Bushfire Ready Forum	15
Maydena Bushfire Ready Forum	20
Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare AGM	12
Huon Show	60
Tasman Council Green Army team graduation	13
Bushfest 2016	120
Kids4Kids Sustainability Conference	90
Tasman Landcare Group AGM	20
Tree planting for Bite-sized Grant	20
General meeting and end of year function	25
Opening of the Bicheno Men's Shed	60
Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Association AGM	25
Roamers Mini Beast Hunt	24
Walk and Squawk for World Wetland Day	11
Koonya Garlic Festival	20
Small Farm Expo	60
Volunteer Week Celebration and Photo Exhibition launch	100
Safe Use of Chemicals for Weed Control training for volunteers	17
Provide First Aid training for volunteers	15

High Value Species, Places and Communities

Orchid conservation propagation activities	7
Central Highlands weed control planning meeting	8
Fuel reduction unit TFS meeting	8
Threatened Flora survey – Freycinet NP	7
Threatened Flora survey – Tolosa Park	11
Threatened Flora survey – Lauderdale	8
Threatened Flora Survey – Bagdad	24
Community wildlife monitoring workshop – Derwent Valley	48
Community wildlife monitoring workshop – Huon Valley	7
Threatened Flora Survey – Rookery Track	5
Orchid Conservation Data Analysis workshop	12
Technical workshop – bird acoustic monitoring	9
Threatened Flora Survey – Heathy Hills Nature Reserve	5
Field weekend on the management of dry sclerophyll forest	38
Fungi in our Environment presentation	40
Birddata meeting	4
Bird song planning workshop	12
Rita and Doris interpretation sign launch and celebration	30
Miena cider gum management workshop	6
Introduction to Property planning	6
Climate change adaptation: measures for biodiversity	40
Orchid conservation program volunteer induction	9
Orchid conservation program training	2
Conservation Landholders Tasmania knowledge forum: Climate Change Adaptation	59
Threatened fern ID training course	11
Huon wildlife monitoring workshop – results	24
GPS and Mapping course 1	9
GPS and Mapping course 2	5
Greening Australia restoration bus trip	9

Biosecurity Practices

Biosecurity training to Tasman Green Army team	9
Clarence Anglers AGM – freshwater biosecurity presentation	18
Biosecurity Network meeting	11
Plant Biosecurity Forum	45
Extinction Matters Bioblitz	100
Tarkine BioBlitz	140
Discovery Ranger induction – Biosecurity messages	20
Discovery Ranger Program – Biosecurity themed activities (38 events)	2,952
Agfest – Biosecurity display	44
Biosecurity Network meeting	11
Liawenee Trout Weekend	22

Sustainable Management Practices

Technology in Agriculture workshop	7
Technology and the Farm workshop	12
East Coast Pasture Principles workshop	20
Farming and the Law workshop	31
Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods pop up cafe	45
Soil in the Face of Change NLP funded project – Tasman Landcare Group (2 events)	32
Tas Women in Agriculture – farm gate tour	12
Sheep Nutrition Masterclass	22
Organic Weed Management workshop	40
Grant Writing workshop (Landholders)	7
Women in Agriculture meetings (3 events)	30
How Much Pasture, How Many Animals? workshop	13
The Woolly Questions on Sheep Husbandry workshop	17
Small Farm Plan Program (5 workshops)	24
Soil in the Face of Change committee meeting	5
Huon Valley Roamers bat monitoring training event	6
Tasmanian Organic Network inaugural meeting	10
Healthy Horse and Land Field Day	30
Soil in the Face of Change workshop 1 (2 events)	22
Farming and the Law workshop	3
Introduction to Property planning	6
Soil in the Face of Change workshop 2 (2 events)	21
Property planning for weed control	5
East Coast Producers – pasture trial	5
NRM in the Huon Valley workshop	16

Waterways and Coastal Areas

Launch of booklets (Forest Practices Authority) – Tasmanian Bats and their Habitat, and Tree Hollows in Tasmania	40
Day on the Marsh event	100
Weed control	10
River Derwent Plan: key stakeholder workshop	20
D’Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration communications advisory panel	4
D’Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration steering committee meeting	7
D’Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration Technical Advisory Group	14
Steering committee meeting: D’Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration	7
Marine debris clean ups	60
Discovery Rangers Shorebird Discovery Table (3 events)	157
Discovery Rangers Shorebird Roves (32 events)	793
Discovery Ranger Day	30
Dunalley Discovery Day	40
White Beach Tidal Discovery and BBQ	23
Penguin discovery activities – Eaglehawk Neck Family Fun Day	50
Derwent Water Quality Improvement Planning workshop (2 events)	30
World Wetlands Day	300
Saltmarsh, Shorebirds and Wetlands display at the Wooden Boat Festival	300
Derwent Catchment Water Quality working group	10
Coombend gorse control	2
SERSA post-season meeting	10
Friends of Rocky Hills Clean Up Australia Day with Landcare Tasmania	16
Outreach program	24
Handfish Conservation Priorities workshop	5
Total	7,949

APPENDIX 4

SPONSORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following sponsors who generously donated rewards for our crowdfunding campaign and photography competition.

Shutterbug Walkabouts: Photo competition, Shorebirds crowdfunding campaign
Pennicott Wilderness Journeys: Photo competition, Shorebirds crowdfunding campaign
Wild Island Tasmania: Photo competition, Shorebirds crowdfunding campaign
Tree Change Dolls: Photo competition
Plants of Tasmania Nursery: Photo competition
Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary: Photo competition
Sustainability Learning Centre: Photo competition
UTas UniGym: Photo competition
Roaring 40s Kayak Tours: Shorebirds crowdfunding campaign
Huon Bush Retreats: Shorebirds crowdfunding campaign
Imala Nature Tours: Shorebirds crowdfunding campaign

PARTNERS WE WORK WITH

1. ABC News
2. Aboriginal Education Services
3. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
4. Acton Park Landcare
5. Ag Assist
6. Aquenal
7. Australian Government (Department of Defence, Australian Antarctic Division, Bureau of Meteorology)
8. Australian National University
9. Australian Veterinary Association
10. Bayview Bush Babies Inc
11. Bellerive Howrah Coastcare Group
12. Biosecurity Network
13. Biosecurity Tasmania
14. BirdLife Tasmania
15. Bookend Trust
16. Brighton Council
17. Brown Brothers – Devils Corner Vineyard
18. Bruny Island Boat Club
19. Buckland Community Group
20. Bushfoods
21. Bushland Gardens Cooperative
22. Carlton Beach Surf Life Saving Club
23. Cat Association of Tasmania
24. City of Hobart Bushcare
25. Clarence City Council
26. Coal River Products Association
27. Coles Bay Community Group
28. Compass Agri-Business
29. Conservation Landholders Tasmania
30. Conservation Volunteers Australia

31. Cooe Communications
32. Corval Ingham Pty Ltd
33. Cradle Coast NRM
34. CSIRO
35. Cygnet Primary School Parents and Friends
36. Dairy Tas
37. D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration
38. Department of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment ((Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service/Threatened Species Section/Wildlife Management branch/Natural Values Conservation Branch/ Parks and Wildlife Discovery Rangers)
39. Derwent Catchment Project (formerly Derwent Catchment NRM Committee)
40. Derwent Estuary Program
41. Derwent Valley Council
42. Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Association
43. Dunalley Community Hall
44. Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House Inc.
45. Eaglehawk Neck Coastcare
46. Eaglehawk Neck Community Hall Association
47. Eaglehawk Neck History Group
48. Earth and Ocean Network
49. East Coast Primary Producers Association
50. East Coast Producers Group
51. East Coast Tourism
52. Eco Tours Tasmania
53. Ecological Society of Australia
54. EcoMarine Consulting
55. ELP services
56. ENACT
57. Endorfun
58. Enviro-dynamics

59. Environment Protection Authority
60. Environmental Defenders Office Tasmania
61. Falls Festival – One Bright Shining Moment Pty Ltd
62. Fishcare
63. Food In My Backyard (FIMBY)
64. Forest Practices Authority
65. Forestry Tasmania
66. Forico
67. Friends of Maatsuyker Island Wildcare Inc
68. Friends of Randalls Bay Coastcare
69. Friends of Rocky Hills
70. Friends of Tasman Island
71. Friends of the Lachlan
72. Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
73. Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
74. Glamorgan-Spring Bay NRM Committee
75. Glenorchy City Council
76. Green Army
77. Greening Australia
78. Hobart Cat Centre
79. Hobart City Council
80. Huon Agricultural Society
81. Huon Aquaculture
82. Huon NRM Advisory Committee
83. Huon Valley Council
84. Huon Valley Council NRM unit
85. Huon Valley Roamers Landcare Group
86. Huonville High School
87. Hydro Tasmania
88. Ingham's
89. Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies
90. Inland Fisheries Service

91. International Student Volunteers	122. Port Esperance Coastcare	152. Tasman Council
92. isNRM Consulting	123. Private Forests Tasmania	153. Tasman Landcare Group
93. Karadi Aboriginal Corporation	124. Productive Nutrition	154. Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
94. Karen Ziegler consultant	125. Riawunna Centre-UTAS	155. Tasmanian Acoustic Bird Monitoring Working Group
95. Kelty Farm	126. Roberts Huonville	156. Tasmanian Climate Change Office
96. Kingborough Council	127. Rose Bay Coastcare	157. Tasmanian Conservation Trust
97. Koonya Garlic Festival	128. Rosny and Montagu Bay Landcare and Coastcare Group Inc	158. Tasman Eco Village
98. Landcare Tasmania	129. RSPCA	159. Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
99. Levendale Community Hall Committee	130. Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens	160. Tasmanian Fire Service
100. Livestock Biosecurity Network	131. Sacred Heart Primary School	161. Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
101. Local Government Association of Tasmania	132. Salvation Army	162. Tasmanian Irrigation
102. Macquarie Franklin	133. SenseT	163. Tasmanian Land Conservancy
103. Marion Bay Coastcare	134. Serve Ag	164. Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance
104. Marleen Herbs of Tasmania	135. Shelly Beach Coastcare	165. Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
105. mina-nina Tourism and Events	136. Sorell Council	166. Tasmanian Women in Agriculture
106. Mulong Pty Ltd	137. South Australia State Government	167. TasNetworks
107. Natural Resource Planning Pty Ltd	138. South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation	168. Tassal
108. New Town Primary School	139. Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc	169. Threatened Plants Tasmania
109. Norske-Skog	140. South West Marine Debris Cleanup group	170. Tranmere-Clarence Plains Land & Coastcare Inc
110. North Barker – Ecosystem Services	141. Southern Beaches Land and Coastcare	171. True Trails
111. NRM North	142. Spring Bay Boat Club	172. Understorey Network
112. Oceanwatch	143. Spring Bay Mill	173. University of Sydney
113. Orford Quarries	144. St John Ambulance	174. University of Tasmania
114. pakana Services	145. St Pauls Catholic Church	175. UTAS CARES
115. palawa Community	146. State Government (Department of Education, Department of State Growth, State Emergency Service)	176. VicForests
116. palawa kani	147. State Fire Management Council	177. weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation
117. Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation	148. Taroona Environment Network Inc	178. Wellington Park Bushcare Group
118. Philippino Australian Community in Tasmania	149. Tamar NRM	179. Wildcare Deslacs
119. Poppy Growers Tasmania	150. Tarkine Trails	180. Wildcare Tasmania
120. Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority	151. TasWater	181. Wine Tasmania

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2017

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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 2017

	NOTES	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue			
Revenue	2	1,863,938	2,083,014
Other Income	2	388,825	355,277
Total Revenue		2,252,763	2,438,291
Expenses			
Project Expenses		1,299,454	1,253,276
Employee Benefits Expenses		674,024	749,436
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	6	20,363	22,271
Administrative and Other Expenses		249,552	326,339
Total Expenses		2,243,393	2,351,322
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period		9,370	86,969
Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Projects Reserve	9	(284,431)	(350,411)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(275,061)	(263,442)

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 FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	NOTES	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	2,003,168	2,396,520
Trade and Other Receivables	4	25,847	56,939
Prepayments	5	21,588	22,731
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,050,603	2,476,190
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and Equipment	6	52,629	63,467
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		52,629	63,467
TOTAL ASSETS		2,103,232	2,539,657
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	7	124,238	305,810
Employee Benefits	8	72,262	54,816
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		196,500	360,626
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits	8	22,400	19,638
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		22,400	19,638
TOTAL LIABILITIES		218,900	380,264
NET ASSETS		1,884,332	2,159,393
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		1,424,570	1,415,200
Committed Projects Reserve	9	459,762	744,193
TOTAL EQUITY		1,884,332	2,159,393

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 2017

	RETAINED EARNINGS \$	COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 30 June 2015	1,328,231	2,422,835	2,625,824
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	86,969	-	86,969
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	(350,411)	(350,411)
Balance at 30 June 2016	1,415,200	744,193	2,159,393
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	9,370	-	9,370
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	(284,431)	(284,431)
Balance at 30 June 2017	1,424,570	459,762	1,884,332

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 CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	NOTES	2017	2016
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from Grants/Members		1,965,485	2,024,905
Interest Received		50,028	80,182
Other Income		39,374	7,552
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(2,434,301)	(2,241,769)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities	3	(379,414)	(129,130)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from Sale of Plant and Equipment		100	24,564
Purchase of Plant and Equipment		(14,038)	(5,389)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities		(13,938)	19,175
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Financial Support for pakana services		-	(15,377)
Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities		-	(15,377)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		(393,352)	(125,332)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year		2,396,520	2,521,852
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	3	2,003,168	2,396,520

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 2017

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

This special purpose financial report has been prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)* and the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964*. 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.

Significant accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report have been included in the relevant notes to which the policies relate. The notes highlight information about accounting judgements made when applying accounting policies that have the most significant effects on reported amounts. Accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions in the preparation of this Financial Report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Whilst estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis, actual results may differ.

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

2. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

Accounting Policies

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.

Interest revenue is recognised progressively as it is earned.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in proportion to the stage of completion of the transaction at the balance sheet date.

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

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Financial Disclosure		
Grants and Subsidies – Government and Other Organisations	1,863,938	2,083,014
Total Grant and Subsidy Revenue	1,863,938	2,083,014
<i>Other Income</i>		
Interest Received	50,000	72,461
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Plant and Equipment	[4,413]	19,824
Financial Reserve Subsidisation of Activities	308,892	240,720
Other Income	34,346	22,272
Total Other Income	388,825	355,277
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME	2,252,763	2,438,291

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 2017

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Accounting Policies

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily converted to cash within three months and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Cash on Hand	545,320	554,548
Cash at Bank	142	190
Term Deposits Held	1,457,706	1,841,782
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,003,168	2,396,520

Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of Surplus to Cash Flows from Operating Activities

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Surplus from Ordinary Activities	9,370	86,969
<i>Non-Cash Flows</i>		
Depreciation	20,363	22,271
Profit on Sale of Plant and Equipment	4,413	(19,824)
Movement in Committed Projects Reserve	(284,431)	(350,411)
<i>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	10,757	(6,999)
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	1,143	(1,302)
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	(161,238)	139,879
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	20,209	287
Cash Flows Provided by/(Used in) Operating Activities	(379,414)	(129,130)

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 2017

4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Accounting Policies

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.

A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Association will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and its fair value, which is estimated as the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate where relevant. The amount of the provision is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Trade Debtors	3,990	14,720
Other Debtors	3,813	3,841
GST Receivable	18,044	38,378
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	25,847	56,939

5. PREPAYMENTS

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Prepaid Insurance	15,032	15,107
Prepaid Rent	6,556	6,385
Other Prepayments	-	1,239
TOTAL PREPAYMENTS	21,588	22,731

6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Accounting Policies

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 2017 financial year were:

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

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 2017

6. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT CONTINUED

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.

Impairment of Assets

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.

Financial Disclosure	2017 \$	2016 \$
Plant and Equipment	98,109	107,364
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(76,858)	(91,924)
	21,251	15,440
Furniture and Fittings	39,414	39,414
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(27,596)	(24,254)
	11,818	15,160
Website Development	50,490	50,490
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(50,490)	(50,490)
	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	8,078	8,078
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,691)	(1,489)
	6,387	6,589
Project Related Assets	7,781	6,178
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(6,410)	(6,178)
	1,371	-
Motor Vehicles	35,926	48,444
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(24,124)	(22,166)
	11,802	26,278
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	52,629	63,467

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 2017

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 2015	21,748	18,265	-	6,791	277	38,007	85,088
Additions	645	1,145	-	-	-	3,599	5,389
Disposals	(123)	(1,029)	-	-	-	(3,587)	(4,739)
Depreciation	(6,830)	(3,221)	-	(202)	(277)	(11,741)	(22,271)
Balance at 30 June 2016	15,440	15,160	-	6,589	-	26,278	63,467
Additions	12,435	-	-	-	1,603	-	14,038
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(4,513)	(4,513)
Depreciation	(6,624)	(3,342)	-	(202)	(232)	(9,963)	(20,363)
Balance at 30 June 2017	21,251	11,818	-	6,387	1,371	11,802	52,629

7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Accounting Policies

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.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Trade Creditors	72,904	241,501
Other Current Liabilities	32,438	32,122
PAYG Withholding Payable	18,896	32,187
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	124,238	305,810

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 2017

8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Accounting Policies

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.

Key Judgements

As the Association expects that all of its employees will 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.

Defined Contribution Superannuation Expense

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

Financial Disclosure

Current

Provision For Annual Leave

Provision for Long Service Leave

Total Current Employee Benefits

Non-Current

Provision for Long Service Leave

Total Non-Current Employee Benefits

TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Provision For Annual Leave	62,389	54,816
Provision for Long Service Leave	9,873	-
Total Current Employee Benefits	72,262	54,816
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	22,400	19,638
Total Non-Current Employee Benefits	22,400	19,638
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	94,662	74,454

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 2017

9. RESERVES

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<i>Committed Projects Reserve</i>		
National Landcare Programme	102,170	136,155
Department of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Forum	39,432	-
Volunteer Training Collaboration	-	2,936
Share Project Contributions	793	-
Essential Projects and Administration	287,929	579,160
D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration	24,409	29,369
Crowd Funding	7,070	-
Agricultural Extension Services	(2,041)	-
Green Army	-	(3,427)
Total Committed Projects Reserve	459,762	744,193
TOTAL RESERVES	459,762	744,193

10. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

In 2016/17, BDO Audit (TAS) were the Auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Amounts paid or due and payable to BDO Audit (TAS) for the current year:	12,500	12,500
	12,500	12,500

11. IMPACT OF NEW AND REVISED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

AASB 2015-2: *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101* was adopted for the first time on 2017. The adoption of the Standard required professional judgement to be exercised in determining what information to disclose in the financial statements, where and in what order information is presented in the financial disclosures. The adoption of this Standard has not had a material impact on the financial statements.

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 2017

12. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Economic Dependence

The Association is dependent on the ongoing receipt of Federal and State Government grants to ensure the ongoing continuance of its programs and operation of the organisation. At the date of this report, the Board of the Association has no reason to believe that this financial support will not continue.

b) 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. This status is endorsed by the ATO. The Association also holds Deductible Gift Recipient status.

c) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). 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. The net amount of GST payable to, or recoverable from, the ATO is included as a current asset or current liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

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.

13. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Since the 2014 financial year, Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. has hosted the developing social enterprise pakana services Ltd, which employs aboriginal people working in land management and conservation. This hosting arrangement included the provision of cash flow assistance to the enterprise. A new hosting arrangement was negotiated during the 2016 financial year which resulted in pakana services Ltd transitioning to an independent operation and no longer requiring cash flow assistance.

14. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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 2017

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

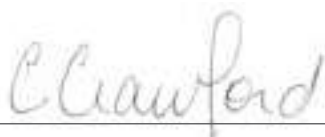
1. The Financial Statements and notes thereto present a true and fair view of the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Southern Regional Natural Management Association Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Chair: **Andrew Scanlon**

Dated this 24th day of August 2017



Deputy Chair: **Christine Crawford**

Dated this 24th day of August 2017

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the entity declaration.

Entity's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania)*. The entity's responsibility also includes such internal control as the entity determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and 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 of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 entity, 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 of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania) including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and 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 for the purpose of fulfilling the entity's financial reporting responsibilities under *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania)*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

BDO Audit (TAS)

BDO Audit (TAS)



DAVID E PALMER

Partner

Signed at Hobart, 30th August 2017



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2016–17 regional NRM delivery was jointly funded by NRM South, the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the Tasmanian State Government.