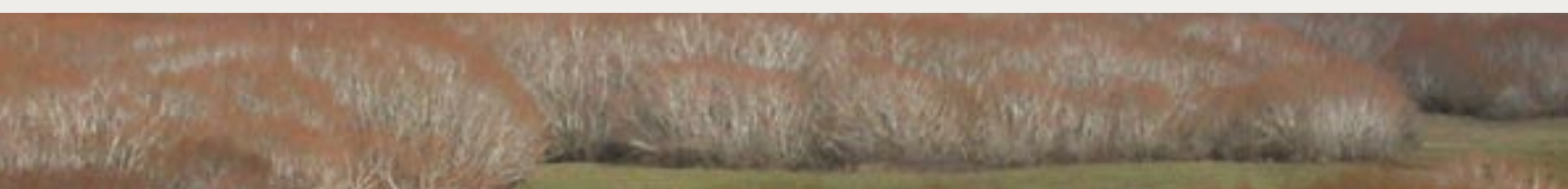




TASWEEDS



WINTER 2007 NUMBER 35

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Andrew Laird

A final message!

It's with a sense of regret that I have to inform all members and associates of TWS that due to family commitments I have had to resign as President and will be moving to Queensland. It's in many ways unfortunate for a senior executive position to be changed mid-term. However, I have every confidence in the current executive, and the membership, in ensuring that any disruption to operations of TWS caused by my resignation is minimised.

Leaving the position (and my wonderful home in Tasmania) allows me to reflect on our past achievements, of which I feel there have been many. I encourage everyone to forge ahead in our collective efforts to reduce the impacts of weeds throughout our island sanctuary. We have perhaps never been so well positioned in terms of understanding the problems, having resources to address them and a spirit of cooperation and coordination to ensure the maximum return for our weed busting efforts. It's essential that this momentum is maintained and we continue to build upon the gains of the past.

TWS members can play a unique role in influencing the direction and effectiveness of weed management throughout the state. Next year members can continue this tradition and make a major contribution to the financial viability and public profile of TWS by participating in the planning and hosting of the 2nd Tasmanian Weeds Conference. The current executive requires additional enthusiastic people to join the conference organising committee to ensure that this major event of the society proceeds and is successful. It is my final heartfelt plea for interested people to contact the society and make yourself and your talents known to the executive.

In closing I encourage everyone to enjoy the latest edition of TASWEEDS, still the best community based weed publication in Australia, and keep your contributions flowing to the editors. Thanks again to the wonderful and dedicated executive and newsletter production team who make everything possible, good bye and good luck.

A message to Andrew

The members of the Tasmanian Weed Society wish you all the very best in your move to be with your family in Queensland.

In your time as President you have contributed greatly to the development and running of the Society. Your dynamic, passionate and enthusiastic characteristics have allowed the Society to achieve some wonderful wins. Such wins include the newsletter and website upgrades.

But more so it has been your energy and enthusiasm towards weeds and the Tasmanian environment that has raised the profile of weed issues throughout the state, particularly so on the west coast where you have become a household name (Weedman).

Your willingness to jump aboard and help everyone that wants to do the right thing, from the Nursery Industry who desperately want to become weed free, right through to the individual landholders that want to get rid of the weeds but need a little assistance, is a wonderful trait.

All the best with your family commitments and future career moves. Thanks Andrew, it has been good fun!

Oh and how could we forget your motto 'Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up!'.

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Joining TWS

The benefits of joining the Tasmanian Weed Society include:

- An information packed quarterly news-letter TASWEEDS
- A forum to discuss weeds with people who actually understand
- Regional field days and work shops on topics of interest
- An opportunity to meet and make valuable contacts

It is easy to apply for/renew membership. Simply download and print the membership form from www.tasweeds.org/html/joiningform.htm, complete details as required, and forward with a cheque or money order to the address below.

Cost of Membership
 Student \$10.00
 Ordinary \$25.00
 Corporate \$55.00

Please forward form and remittance to:
 The Secretary
 Tasmanian Weed Society
 PO Box 4608
 Bathurst Street
 Hobart TAS 7000

Enquiries:
secretary@tasweeds.org

About TASWEEDS

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Readers are free to circulate and reproduce any material in Tasweeds. We ask that authors/sources of information are acknowledged.

All members of the weed community are encouraged to submit articles to Tasweeds.

Cover images (by Matthew Baker):
 • *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn)
 • *Salix fragilis* (crack willow) at Longford

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Tasmania's Most Weed Wise Nursery award

Two outstanding Tasmanian nurseries have recently been recognised for their contributions to ridding the nursery industry of weeds, promoting environmentally friendly plants and raising awareness of weeds in the community.

The award for Tasmania's Most Weed Wise Nursery was given to New Town Station Nursery, owned and operated by Greg Kerin. This award will launch New Town Station into the national competition which recognises Australia's most weed wise nursery.

A special commendation went to the runner-up, Westlands Nursery for removing the declared weed golden weeping willow from sale.

The Nursery Industry of Tasmania's Chief Executive Officer Wayne Cole was delighted that one of his member nurseries was awarded the title of Tasmania's Most Weed Wise Nursery. 'Historically many of Tasmania's weeds have arisen from the nursery trade. This is a trend that the nurseries as a group want to end' Wayne said. 'We can learn from the past mistakes and move into the fu-

ture as a united industry by removing potential and known weeds from the trade. We also have a big role to play in promoting safe alternatives.'

The weed wise nursery awards were presented by Andrew Laird, President of Tasmanian Weed Society at the NGIT State Conference held at Hobart in May this year. Prior to the awards delegates heard a spirited presentation from Andrew about weeds in the Tasmanian environment and how NGIT, TWS and DPIW are working together towards a unified goal of producing a list of plants that will not be traded by the industry. 'In a move not seen anywhere else in Australia the list will be comprised of Tasmanian declared weeds, alert list species and other recognised environmental and agricultural weeds.' Andrew said.



Wayne Cole (Chief Executive Officer, NGIT), Greg Kerin (New Town Nursery, Andrew Laird (President, TWS) and Mark van der Staay (Westlands Nursery) (Photo by Matthew Baker)

The TWS executive urge all members to support the Nursery Industry in their endeavours to clean up their businesses and the environment of weeds.

Matthew Baker

Tasmanian Weed Society receives community development grant

The Tasmanian Weed Society received a \$3223 grant through the Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grants program. The society applied for the grant to support the production of extra copies of the newsletter to send out to Tasmania's network of Landcare and other volunteer based care groups across the state.

The aim of the project is to increase the capacity of Tasmanian land managers, in particular the Landcare network and other volunteer based groups to communicate the outcomes of their on-ground activities and challenges related to weed management and, to provide Tasmanian Landcare



groups with up to date information concerning best practice weed management and land rehabilitation, models for ef-



fective co-ordination between stakeholders, funding opportunities, local weedy events, conferences and competitions

The Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grants differ from many other grants in that they help groups to make their 'wish lists' a reality. Groups have the option of putting the money towards any aspect of their important landcare work.

Communities can use the money to undertake a project, or they can buy much needed tools and equipment, participate in training or produce promotional material to raise awareness and encourage more community members to get involved in landcare.

Andrew Laird, President of the Tasmanian Weed Society said "we're

delighted that our application was successful. As we rely largely on the hard work of our volunteer members, this funding will give us a great boost and provide real benefits for our local community and the environment."

Landcare Australia Chief Executive Officer, Brian Scarsbrick, said "the aim of these grants is to help groups build on their community environmental efforts. Australia Post's support has enabled the Tasmanian Weed Society to spend the money where it is most needed," Mr Scarsbrick said.

Since the launch of the Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grants, 81 groups and communities have received funding towards vital environmental projects.

Other groups interested in applying for the Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grant should visit www.landcareonline.com or visit their local Australia Post outlet.

Natalie Holman

Herbarium updates key botanical resource

The latest edition of *A Census of the Vascular Plants of Tasmania* has been made available on the internet by the Tasmanian Herbarium.

An indispensable aid to students, plant enthusiasts and professionals alike, the Census lists all the currently known vascular plants that are native to, or naturalised in, the State. It also serves as an index to the five volumes of the widely-used Student's Flora of Tasmania. This edition replaces the 2005 version of the Census.

In all, the new Census lists 2,654 accepted names, 1,864 of which apply to native plants, and 790 to introduced plants. Tasmania's weed species now total 30% of our total flora in terms of the numbers of species present. Of the introduced species, 558 are dicotyledons, 230 are monocotyledons, one is a fern and the remaining one is a conifer. Thirty-eight are not known to be weeds anywhere else in Australia, and four have disappeared from Tasmania via eradication or natural means.

Since the last edition in 2005, 12 new weed species have been recorded as naturalised in Tasmania and several species have had name changes. Most of these changes are listed in the accompanying tables.

The Herbarium publishes an updated electronic version of the census annually, and a new, printed edition every four or so years. To download a copy, visit www.tmag.tas.gov.au/Herbarium/Herbarium2.htm.

For further information on the various products and services provided by the Tasmanian Herbarium contact Matthew Baker on 6226 1029, Matthew.Baker@tmag.tas.gov.au.

Weeds now assigned sub-specific rank

Hedypnois rhagadioloides subsp. *cretica* (ASTERACEAE)

Hedypnois rhagadioloides subsp. *rhagadioloides* (ASTERACEAE)

Hieracium aurantiacum subsp. *carpathicola* (ASTERACEAE)

Vicia sativa subsp. *sativa* (ASTERACEAE)

Cotoneaster glaucophyllus var. *serotinus* (ROSACEAE)



Cordyline australis naturalised in the Tamar wetlands
(Photo by Matthew Baker)

Existing weeds with new names

(names in bold are accepted)

Aloe maculata = *Aloe saponaria* (ALOEACEAE)

Amelichloa caudata = *Achnatherum caudatum* (POACEAE)

Hornungia procumbens = *Hymenolobus procumbens* (BRASSICACEAE)

Moraea flaccida = *Homeria flaccida* (IRIDACEAE)

Petrorhagia dubia = *Petrorhagia velutina* (CARYOPHYLLACEAE)

Lepidium draba = *Cardaria draba* (BRASSICACEAE)

Lepidium squamatum = *Coronopus squamatus* (BRASSICACEAE)

Lepidium didymum = *Coronopus didymus* (BRASSICACEAE)

Hesperantha coccinea = *Schizostylis coccinea* (IRIDACEAE)

Isolepis levynsiana = *Cyperus tenellus* (CYPERACEAE)

New weeds for Tasmania

Acacia floribunda (MIMOSACEAE)

Known from only a few locations in Tasmania

Acer pseudoplatanus (ACERACEAE)

Occasional on margins of damp forest etc., e.g. Cataract Gorge

Alisma lanceolatum (ALISMATACEAE)

Known from the Evandale – Tamar area only

Cordyline australis (AGAVACEAE)

Occasional, e.g. Bicheno and Tamar wetlands

Leonotis leonurus (LAMIACEAE)

Occasional, e.g. at South Arm and St Helens

Pelargonium capitatum (GERANIACEAE)

Occasional weed in coastal areas

Aquilegia vulgaris (RANUNCULACEAE)

Occasional garden escape

Disa bracteata (ORCHIDACEAE)

Known from one locality only (Bridport)

Matricaria recutita (ASTERACEAE)

Known from one locality only (Risdon Vale)

Griselinia littoralis (GRISELINIACEAE)

Known from one locality only (Strahan)

Elymus multiflorus (POACEAE)

Known from two localities (Maria Island, Bruny Island). Previously thought to be *E. scaber*, which it closely resembles

Soliva valdiviana (ASTERACEAE)

Occasional weed of turf in Hobart. Previously thought to be *S. sessilis*, which it closely resembles

Tasman and Dorset to take on gorse

Investment through the Australian Government's *Defeating the Weed Menace* programme and from regional stakeholders and land managers will enable strategic and coordinated management of gorse in the Tasman and Dorset Municipalities this season.

Local Government is leading the projects, which are managed by the NRM Officers employed by the councils.

All gorse infestations within the Tasman municipality will be treated this coming season along with the majority of sites within the Dorset municipality. All infestations will be mapped to the National Mapping Standard, as developed by the Bureau of Rural Sciences, and the data stored in a central database which will be managed by the Department of Primary Industries and Water. Many of the sites will be receiving their second or third treatment after previous investment through Greening Australia's Gorse Management Project and from the land managers themselves during the last few years.

Mel Fazackerley, who is the project manager for the Tasman project, says, 'The project is very exciting, it involves every gorse infestation and every land manager. The Council and a consultant will develop a map of the infesta-



*The only good gorse is dead gorse
(Photo by Dean Vincent)*

tions, ensure that all sites are treated in the best way to ensure eradication in the shortest possible time frame and are designing a system which will send annual reminder letters to the land managers, to ensure that the work is followed up.'

The National Gorse Coordinator, Mr Dean Vincent, who is funded through the *Weeds of National Significance* programme says that a 'shift in thinking from management to eradication of gorse is occurring in these municipalities. This is not only a regionally significant project but a project of national significance as both the Tasman and Dorset are considered as National Priority Eradication Areas by the National Gorse Task Force.'

At the end of the project in June 2008 Mr Vincent will be approaching organisations that have the capacity to take on the goal of permanent eradication of gorse from

these municipalities to ensure that there is a real outcome. Several organisations on mainland Australia have committed to 25-year gorse eradication programmes. The same could be achieved in Tasmania.

For more information contact Mel Fazackerley on 0418 354 919.

Dean Vincent

National Boneseed and Bitou Bush Forum to be held in Geelong

This national forum will bring together weed managers from across Australia and New Zealand to share ideas and information on boneseed and bitou bush management. It will be an opportunity for community volunteers and other land managers to provide input into developing priorities for the national boneseed and bitou bush program.

The Forum is being held in Geelong, Victoria on 27-29 August 2007, and several representatives from Tasmania will be attending. In addition, the success of the Cradle Coast Boneseed Incentive Program will be documented in a poster presentation. Papers and



*Ripening fruits of boneseed
(Photo by Matthew Baker)*

poster abstracts from the forum will be collated and published in the journal *Plant Protection Quarterly* (PPQ) in early 2008. If you are interested in receiving a copy of this publication, please provide your contact details to Hillary Cherry, the national coordinator, at hillary.cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au or on 02 9585 6587.

If you would like more information about the Forum please see the boneseed/bitou bush page on the Weeds Australia website www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bitoubush. Look out for another "Boneseed Blitz" coming this October!

Hillary Cherry

Kangaroo Island (South Australia) to eradicate gorse

Kangaroo Island Natural Resource Management Board and Private Landowners have committed to the permanent eradication of gorse from the island and NRM Region.

The project is a partnership between the Kangaroo Island NRM Board, Private Landowners and the National Gorse Task Force (NGT).

This project is a first in Australia, where all partners involved have formally committed to eradicating Gorse and the seed bank which can stay viable in the soil for up to 25 years.

Many weed eradication projects fail as treatments are carried out sporadically and don't manage the longevity of seed in the soil.

All gorse infestations will be destroyed this spring and an annual monitoring and control program established to ensure this Weed of National Significance (WoNS) is permanently eradicated from the island.

The Chair of the National Gorse Task Force, Ian Sauer and the Presiding Member of the Kangaroo Island NRM Board, Janice Kelly met during an Australian Landcare Council meeting on Kangaroo Island, in June, to jointly sign a twenty-five year Memorandum of Understanding, to secure the outcome of gorse eradication on Kangaroo Island.

The control program will continue for a period of twenty-five years to ensure that any seedlings or regrowth are destroyed. As part of the project landowners across this island will be contacted to ensure that there are no other gorse infestation present and an education and awareness campaign conducted. This ap-

proach has led to the discovery of two infestations that the NRM Board were not aware of. Both these sites have been included in the project and will be eradicated.

Key to the success of the program will be to ensure that seed from the infestation sites remains at the sites and no further gorse seed is bought onto the island.

The National Gorse Task Force has secured this agreement as part of its focus on the Eradication of Outlying Gorse Infestations Nation Wide.

'With good planning, adequate resources and commitment, this green cancer that is invading the landscape can be permanently eradicated,' Chairman of the NGT, Ian Sauer said.

Around Australia, gorse infests 23 million hectares of land and has the potential if not managed to invade 87 million hectares of land. Western Australia and the ACT approach gorse management with eradication as the primary goal.

The Executive Officer for the NGT is the National Gorse Co-ordinator who is funded by the Australian Government and employed by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water.

The National Gorse Strategic Plan is available at (<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse/>).

The National Priority Eradication Areas can be viewed at (http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse/docs/NGT_Priority_eradication_areas.pdf).

For further details, contact Dean Vincent, National Gorse Coordinator, on 0429 960 738.

Dean Vincent



A typical Kangaroo Island gorse infestation (Photo by Keith Hodder)



Ian Sauer and Janice Kelly at the signing of the 25 year MOU

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Welcome – DPIW's new Principal Weed Management Officer

Michael Askey-Doran has recently been appointed as Tasmania's Principal Weed Management officer within the Department of Primary Industries and Water. Michael replaces Christian Gonninon, who has taken over the management of the Chemical Management Branch.

Michael is trained in botany and has been with the Department for sixteen years, working principally in river management but also with extensive experience in general vegetation management. Over that time he has gained significant experience in the management and control of riparian and aquatic weeds. This experience was largely associated with landowner and community group activities that were being undertaken as part river rehabilitation activities. As team leader he was involved in the development and assessment of rivercare plans that involved woody weed control activities, the production of extension material on the management of woody weeds and the use of herbicides in aquatic environments

and the development of the State WoNS Strategy for Willow Management. Along with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Michael and members of his team were responsible for the development of the Strategic Planning for Willow Management in Tasmania guide.

Michael has strong links with each of the state NRM regions, providing technical support to the development of their strategies and investment proposals as well as support to a number of projects that have been funded over the past three years. This involvement will continue and should provide an opportunity to further strengthen the strong relationship the regional weed management officers have developed with regional NRM.

Michael is hoping to catch up with people involved in weed management in Tasmania over the coming months and with a great team

behind him, hopes he can continue the good work done by Christian Gonninon.



Michael Askey-Doran, DPIW's new Principal Weed Management Officer

Tasmania's first International Landcare Sister Partnership

Tamar Natural Resource Management, has signed the State's first international sister Landcare partnership, with the United States group, Grayson LandCare of Virginia.

The partnership will be built on an exchange of information that will allow two dynamic and community-focused groups to benefit from the experience and expertise of each other.

The concept for this partnership arose from a chance meeting of Jerry Moles of the New River Land Trust, the facilitator of Grayson LandCare and Ian Sauer, President of Tamar NRM and Don Defenderfer (State Landcare Co-ordinator), while they were all presenting papers at the International Landcare Conference in Melbourne last year.

Sister Landcare Partnerships are nothing new for Tamar NRM which formed its first National Sister Landcare Partnership with the Woody Yallock Landcare Group in Victoria last year, a partnership that has already produced significant benefits.

"This is an exciting time that puts a truly international flavour to Land-

care that will allow two diverse groups to learn from each other," Ian Sauer said.

Jerry Moles of Grayson LandCare commented that, "With Landcare being new to the United States, it is great that we can learn from and exchange ideas with another dynamic and recognised group in a formal setting such as a Sister Landcare Partnership. This is a forward-looking partnership that reflects the global nature of resource management. Both groups can learn a great deal from each other that will add value to the agricultural sector, in particular."

Mr Moles also noted that "Tamar NRM is at the leading edge of resource management and its achievements are impressive. While our environments are markedly different, the processes of organizing and assisting people in adapting to changing climatic conditions and recognizing new opportunities offer many avenues for co-operation."

As an early adopter of the LandCare model, the Grayson LandCare group is serving as a model for Landcare in

the United States. In addition, Virginia Technological University, a major agricultural and natural resource management university, and a number of agencies of the government of the Commonwealth of Virginia are actively assisting Grayson LandCare.

Mr Sauer reported that the two groups have already exchanged ideas and information that have revealed similarities in the issues both groups need to address.

"Exchange of information can save a great deal of time and therefore money. With the vegetation and climate challenges Australia faces, we'd be derelict in our duty not to pursue such partnerships and the benefits they promise the State," Mr Sauer said.

For more information contact:

- Ian Sauer, President Tamar NRM, 0407 046 347
- Kay Bailey, Executive Officer, Tamar NRM, 6323 3310
- Jerry Moles, Facilitator of Grayson Landcare, jmoles@igc.org

The National Weed Detection Project

The National Weed Detection Project (NWDP) has been piloted in Queensland since June 2004. Funded by the Weeds CRC and the National Heritage Trust (NHT), in collaboration with the Queensland Herbarium the project is to help build a better incursion detection capability in regional Australia. The major aim of the project has been to trial and prove that community-based weed detection networks can be effective in detecting and reporting new weed incursions.

The community-based weed detection network is not a new concept nationally or internationally. Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania have developed their own weed detection networks. Collaboration with these national networks has provided the Queensland project with significant direction for the development of the pilot. These networks include: the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Weed Alert and Rapid Response Project, the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Weed Alert Network and the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australian Herbarium's Weed Information Network.

Initially the project focused on three pilot regions in Queensland; Rockhampton, Townsville and Gladstone. Collaboration with partners was essential and two part-time Regional Coordinator positions were created, Townsville (with James Cook University) and Rockhampton (with the Fitzroy Basin Association). The third position operates on a volunteer basis in Gladstone (through Tondoon Botanical Gardens). These part-time staff coordinate local Weed Spotter groups and act as a first filter for the specimens collected. The project expanded into three new areas over the 2006-07 period, the

Mackay-Whitsunday, Wet Tropics and Desert Channels regions. In total, with five regions involved the project covers a substantial area of Queensland.

Training has been developed and delivered to Weed Spotters across Queensland in plant identification and collection techniques. This has provided a consistent level of skill in each region. The quarterly Weed Spotters newsletter keeps all Spotters in touch with the project, and alerts them and other interested parties to the more serious weeds discovered.

A total of 534 specimens of naturalised species have been submitted by Weed Spotters since December 2005 with 47% of these being incorporated into the Queensland Herbarium specimen collection. Official notifications arising from these identifications are issued to state and local government officers in the regions where the weeds were collected for future management.

The NWDP has delivered verified baseline regional data, raised awareness of new and emerging weeds and delivered processes and protocols for the early detection and notification of weed incursions to five regions in Queensland. All stakeholders in the existing network across Queensland have contributed substantial resources, skills, energy and time to support and deliver an effective low cost tool in invasive species management.

For a copy of the latest National Weed Detection Project newsletter go to http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/weed_spotters_winter07_newsletter.pdf.

Jane Morton
National Weed Detection
Project Officer



Collection techniques training with Weed Spotters at Greenvale



*Weed Spotters learning how to collect and press weed specimens at the TREAT nursery
(Photos by Jane Morton)*

Call for articles – Tasweeds needs you!

Articles are needed for the Spring edition of Tasweeds. We encourage you to write an article about an interesting weed topic.

Email (with photos) to: Matthew.Baker@tmag.tas.gov.au,
Natalie.Holman@utas.edu.au or gstewart@nrmnorth.org.au.

ON THE GROUND

Steven Joyce,
Bridget Jupe and
Anna Atherton-Griggs

Eradicating African feather grass in the Derwent Valley

Greening Australia Tasmania is currently conducting a NRM South funded project to eradicate African feather grass (*Pennisetum macrourum*) from the Derwent Catchment. The project is part of Greening Australia's River Recovery Project which focuses on the Derwent Catchment in Tasmania.

This project is following up on a mapping and control project that occurred in 2002. In this new project all known sites will be re-sprayed. Steven Joyce the Derwent Catchment NRM Officer, contacted each of the landowners where infestations were known, to let them know about the project. Other landowners at risk of infestation in the area were also contacted. This contact, as well as an article in the Derwent Valley Gazette, was able to raise awareness of the project, as a result some previously unknown infestations were identified.

Regnans envirocontracting spent a number of days walking up and down the Plenty River, Glenfern Creek and the lower Derwent River during March and April this year (not too many trout were caught) with backpack sprayers, spraying the grass. Several property owners wanted their properties to remain organic, a challenge considering the nature of African feather grass but one we hope to find a solution for. It is planned to follow up initial control in Autumn 2008 by spraying any regrowth. We have been very lucky with the season this year and kill rates have been very good.

The Derwent River Kayak Club were asked to be involved with the project to help access a number of the sites on the Derwent River that are inaccessible by vehicle or foot. The club has made available a club member and a raft to allow us the chance to get to these inaccessible patches. We will take advantage of the situation to check the river for any unknown sites at the same time.

If you think you have African feather grass on your property and would like to be involved in Greening Australia's eradication project, or would like to know more about the River Recovery project

in the Derwent Catchment, please contact NRM officer Steven Joyce on 6261 8520 or Bridget Jupe (BJ) at Greening Australia on 6223 6377.

It was fantastic to get support from NRM South to undertake this project and it will prove to be a worthy investment into the natural resources within the Derwent Catchment.

Steven Joyce, Derwent Catchment NRM
Bridget Jupe (BJ) and Anna Atherton-Griggs, Greening Australia



*African feather grass getting some well deserved treatment
(Photos by Rod Blaker)*

For a Weed Profile on African feather grass see page 12.



Local business supports Tasman Environmental Volunteers

As a way of recognising the great work done by environmental volunteers around the Tasman Municipality, Stewarts Bay Lodge has donated a fully equipped tool trailer for use by Landcare, Coastcare and Bushcare groups in the Tasman district. At present most volunteers bring their own tools from home, to work on reserve areas and private land around the Peninsula. The provision of tools will not only make their job easier, but safer as well.

“Stewarts Bay Lodge is delighted to be able to support the Tasman Peninsula’s volunteer land and coast care groups by providing this trailer”, said Rod West from Stewarts Bay Lodge. “The people in these groups do a fantastic job in working to protect and rehabilitate the extraordinary natural environment on the Peninsula. They deserve as much support as can be provided.”

“Over the years the local environment has been subject to considerable damage by human activity”, Rod said. “The work of the land and coast care volunteers is



*Rod West from Stewarts Bay Lodge and
Mel Fazackerley with the trailer*

making a really practical difference in trying to repair some of the damage of the past. Weed invasion is one of the biggest problems we face at Stewarts Bay Lodge. This is no different to elsewhere on the Peninsula. We are now working to try to eradicate these pests. In undertaking the development of the site, Stewarts Bay Lodge has tried to do all we can to protect this precious little bit of paradise by disturbing as little of the natural vegetation as possible. Endemic species are being replanted and we plan to enter a conservation covenant to protect the valuable remnant forest at the southern end of the property.”

According to Rod, “there is no doubt the Tasman’s economic future lies in protecting its natural environment. All tourism businesses can take a lead and become champions for the Peninsula’s natural environment.”

To celebrate the official handing over of the trailer, a work bee and BBQ was held at Stewarts Bay Lodge. Volunteers came together to check out the new trailer, meet the people from the Lodge and find out about the management plans for the area. A few lofty boneseed “trees” were also removed before everyone enjoyed a chat over a BBQ lunch.

The Tasman Community trailer was recently used by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council for their revegetation works at Dam Road, Saltwater River.

ON THE GROUND

Mel Fazackerley
NRM FACILITATOR,
TASMAN COUNCIL

Weed management and shorebird protection benefit from NHT funding

Planning is well under way for a range of works that will benefit coastal habitats, and in particular threatened shorebirds, in Tasmania’s south-east.

Southern Region planner Lynne Sparrow said the Australian Government’s Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) provided \$330,000 in September last year to NRM South to implement some of the recommendations of the Integrated South East Coastal Management Strategy (2002).

“The project aims to protect priority threatened species and improve vegetation condition through strategic weed removal and training in coastal areas across the Clarence, Sorell, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman municipalities in south-east Tasmania,” Lynne said.

“Activities are integrated across tenures and municipal boundaries to provide the best possible conservation outcomes and may well become the model for delivering NRM strategies elsewhere.”

The project is delivered through a steering committee with representation from the four councils, Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Northern and Southern regions and representatives of Birds Tasmania, the Threatened Species Network

and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

It has worked collaboratively to design, plan and implement the project while project officer Dave Moser, hosted by the Seven Mile Beach field centre, coordinates the project and provides executive support to the committee.

Lynne said the project is now at the operational planning stage with Aboriginal heritage assessment of all sites to be undertaken soon and a planner engaged recently by the PWS to undertake required assessments and approvals.

“We’re looking forward to the on-ground works starting later this year,” Lynne said.

The three sub-projects include: protection and rehabilitation of a shoreline of the Ramsar wetland at Orielton Lagoon; a trial weed control program to establish a framework for implementing weed management strategies and methods across the four councils; and a threatened species/shorebird protection program involving the development and placement of easily recognizable and consistent signage.

For further information, contact Lynne on 6233 5457 or Dave Moser on 6214 8101.

Lynne Sparrow

WEED PROFILE

Steven Joyce,
Bridget Jupe and
Anna Atherton-Griggs

African feather grass

Pennisetum macrourum Trin. (Poaceae)

What is it?

As the name suggests, African feather grass is a native of southern Africa. It was first discovered in Australia in 1904 and has since been recorded in all states, except Queensland. In Tasmania infestations have been found in the Derwent and Huon Valleys, particularly near New Norfolk. A small infestation was recently discovered and eradicated from a section of railway at Queenstown. The weed is thought to

have been introduced into Tasmania following the Boer War. Two plants appeared in a garden outside of the Glenfern School (Derwent Valley) after the war.

What does it look like?

African feather grass is a large tussock-forming, rhizomatous grass which can grow up to 2 m high. It produces long, thin flower heads in late spring to summer. The flower heads are generally a pale brown to straw colour, often with a purplish tinge. Prominent bristles, approximately 10 mm long, protrude out from the stem of the inflorescence. This distinctive long, thin inflorescence helps to differentiate African feather grass from the similar tussock-forming pampas grass.



Typical habit of African feather grass
(Photo by Matthew Baker)



*An infestation of African feather grass
on the banks of the Plenty River*
(Photo by Rod Blaker)

rhizome gives rise to many small plants along its length. Mature plants are capable of spreading quickly by this system. Infestations are dense and can completely eliminate other plants. African feather grass infestations become an ideal haven for rabbits and feral cats, they present a significant fire hazard, and are also capable of totally blocking waterways and channels by trapping silt and debris.

Some information for this article was sourced from the Department of Primary Industries and Water web site (www.dpiw.tas.gov.au).

Steven Joyce, Derwent Catchment NRM
Bridget Jupe (BJ) and Anna Atherton-Griggs, Greening Australia

Due to its actual and potential impacts on agricultural productivity, African feather grass is a declared weed in Tasmania. Landowners are obliged to eradicate it from their properties.

What is its weed potential?

In Tasmania, African feather grass is found on road sides, rivers banks and waste areas, especially where adequate moisture and full sunshine is available. It can also invade poorly maintained pasture. African feather grass is capable of spreading by seed, however infestations in Australia are mostly spread by vegetative means, where the



Distribution of African feather grass
Source: Australia's Virtual Herbarium

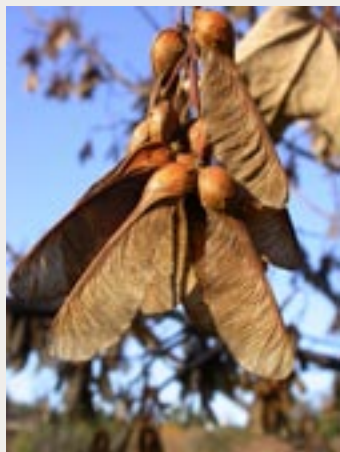
Sycamore maple

Acer pseudoplatanus L. (Aceraceae)

What is it?

Sycamore maple is native to central and southern Europe. It is cultivated widely throughout the world, especially in areas with cool climates. It is also very widely naturalised, and occurs as a weed in Britain, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, North America, New Zealand and Australia. It was first recorded as a weed in Tasmania in 1955, when it was described as an occasional garden escape in suburban habitats. However, it has only been since the last five years or so that this species has been

reported as a significant weed in Tasmania. It is now fully naturalised in the State and is an invasive and dominant weed in several locations. It is also a weed in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. Several other related species are common in cultivation in Australia, including box elder (*A. negundo*) and numerous cultivars of the highly ornamental, Japanese maple (*A. palmatum*). Neither of these are naturalised in Tasmania but they have been known, to varying degrees, to have escaped from cultivation in other parts of Australia.



Winged fruits of sycamore maple
(Photos by Matthew Baker)

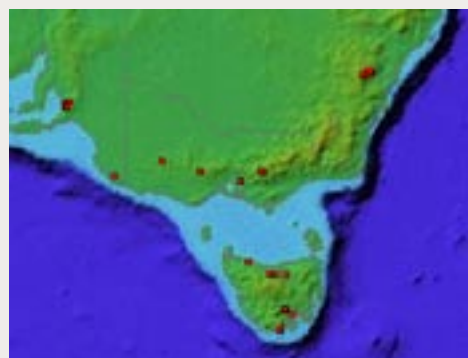
stream banks. It is most commonly associated with moist shady habitats, occurring singly or in very large populations in drainage lines on roadsides, on the banks of streams, and in damp, sheltered forest. In some situations, forests composed almost entirely of sycamore maple have been recorded. One example is parts of the Cataract Gorge, Launceston, where seedlings and small plants make up the understorey and large mature trees the canopy.

What is its weed potential?

The seed of the sycamore maple is dispersed by wind. The wings on the fruit cause it to spin allowing it to drop slowly and be blown significant distances from the parent plant. Distances of spread of up to 85 m from parent plants have been recorded. The seed germinates readily in both dense shade and open sites, allowing plants to invade shady habitats such as moist forests and wooded



Typical palmately lobed leaves of sycamore maple



Distribution of sycamore maple
Source: Australia's Virtual Herbarium

What does it look like?

Sycamore maple is a large deciduous tree that grows up to 30 m tall. It has oppositely arranged branches and leaves. The leaves (up to 20 cm long and 25 cm wide) are palmately lobed (not divided all the way to the midrib) with 3–5 lobes, and the margin irregularly and coarsely toothed. The flowers (each about 13 mm long) are clustered together in long drooping inflorescence and have small, greenish yellow petals and sepals. The fruit is comprised of two, fused, winged samaras. Each wing of the fruit is up to 5 cm long. The seeds are 5–10 mm long. In sheltered situations, the fruits may hang on the tree throughout winter. The box elder (*A. negundo*) is sometimes cultivated in Tasmania but differs by having leaves that are divided all the way to the midrib.

WEED PROFILE



Matthew Baker
WEED TAXONOMIST,
TASMANIAN HERBARIUM

Information from Baker, M.L. (in press). Contributions to a catalogue of alien plants in Tasmania II. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*.

RESEARCH

Exotic mosses in Tasmania

The potential hazards of introduced plants have been a growing concern with much of our efforts focused on vascular species. There has been little attention to the non-vascular land plants, mosses and liverworts, which are a significant component of our flora. The majority of these species are native (Dalton 1998), however there is a small number of mosses that are considered adventives, *Brachythecium albicans*, *Bryum unguiculata*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Eurhynchium praelongum* and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*. This report discusses a particular moss, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* that has established itself as an aggressive and effective weedy species.

Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus is a shiny green to yellowish-green robust dioicous plant. The red ascending stems are irregularly pinnately branched, usually up to 10 cm long and may reach up to 15 cm in favourable habitats. The main stem leaves are sheathing at the base, narrowed towards the apex in which the leaf tip is bent backwards at right angles to give the whole shoot a stellate (star-shaped) appearance when viewed from above.

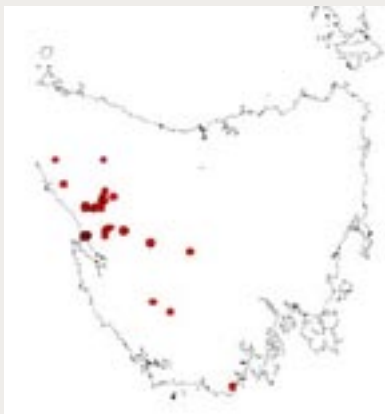
Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus is widely distributed and abundant in the United Kingdom, Europe and North America where it is commonly referred to as springy turf moss. The first published record in the southern hemisphere was a collection made from a damp clayey slope on the fairway of a golf course in Dunedin (Child & Allison 1975). According to specimens held by the Tasmanian Herbarium the earliest record in Tasmania was in 1974 amongst moist grasses at Dundas Creek, Lyell highway, west coast. Since these reports the species has rapidly spread and is expanding its range both in New Zealand and Tasmania (Dalton 1997).

An extensive survey by the authors, in addition to collections held at the Tasmanian Herbarium, indicate that *R. squarrosus* is widely distributed in the western half of Tasmania, from Catamaran in the south to Waratah in the northwest. Its habitat is characteristic for a weedy species. The moss favours disturbed moist grassy places such as roadsides, roughly mown areas such as picnic sites, camping grounds and golf course fairways where it often becomes the dominant ground cover. To date there is no evidence that it has effectively spread into native bush.

Current research is focused on determining the environmental parameters of its present distribution to evaluate the potential ecological range of the moss. As well, a detailed study of its reproductive biology is being undertaken to assess the propagation of *R. squarrosus*, while a molecular study is in progress to evaluate the relationships of populations in Tasmania and New Zealand.



The weedy moss, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, its stems may reach up to 15 cm long
(Photo by Paddy Dalton)



Distribution of *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* in Tasmania

References:

- Child, J. & Allison, K.W. 1975. *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* (Hedw.) Warnst.: an addition to the New Zealand moss flora. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* **13**: 321.
- Dalton, P.J. 1997. *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* – an adventive species in western Tasmania. *Australasian Bryological Newsletter* **36**: 4-6.
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Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association

Weed update

Weeds are invasive plants that degrade our natural areas, reduce the sustainability of our agricultural industries and affect the health of people and animals. Weeds have a severe impact on our natural environment and agricultural lands. It is conservatively estimated that weeds cost Tasmania more than \$58 million per annum for control activities and lost primary production. While the figure for Australia exceeds \$4 billion annually in lost production and cost of control.

The TFGA Weeds Standing Committee has identified these priorities for 2007:

1. Weeds on corridors
2. Priority list of agricultural weeds
3. Funding for weed programs
4. Weeds in hay - minimize the spread of weeds
5. Weeds awareness program

INDUSTRY

Phil Reader

CHAIRMAN, TFGA WEEDS
STANDING COMMITTEE

TFGA Priority List

Cradle Coast	North	South
1. Blackberry	Gorse	Gorse
2. Spear thistle	Spear thistle	Capeweed
3. Ragwort	Capeweed	Blackberry
4. Wild radish	Ragwort	Californian thistle
5. Capeweed	Slender thistle	Spear thistle
6. Slender thistle	Blackberry	Bracken
7. Californian thistle	Wild radish	Horehound
8. Dock	Bracken	Slender thistle
9. Gorse	Nightshade	Variegated thistle
10. Wild turnip	Fat hen	African boxthorn

From the above list the TFGA Weeds Standing Committee has lobbied the State Government regarding weeds on corridors; made a priority list of agricultural weeds; and started weeds awareness via a TFGA weeds flyer.

In June 2005, survey forms were sent to 5,093 rural landholders courtesy of the TFGA database and DairyTas. Each landholder was asked a series of questions on pasture and cropping weeds. From these results John Ireson (TIAR) published the publication on the 'Weeds of pastures and field crops in Tasmania: economic impacts and biological control'. The TFGA Weeds Standing Committee utilised this publication to list the TFGA Priority List by NRM Regions (see box).

The TFGA have been communicating with the State Government regarding the new state rail legislation

due to the government taking ownership of the majority of the state's rail network. TFGA have been pushing for the inclusion of a weed management plan to be included under the new act and through that process was successful in the inclusion of a Vegetation Management Plan.

The TFGA Weeds Standing Committee has also developed a brochure on "Highlighting the issue of weeds in Tasmania". This is the start to drawing the public's awareness to the serious problem of weeds in Tasmania and the affects to the environment and agriculture lands.

A final message to landowners is that the supplementary feeding of stock, especially with material brought in from outside the property, is a very common way of inadvertently introducing weeds into clean pastures. Hay and grain can both contain significant amounts of weed seed. Landowners need to be proactive in protecting their properties from animal and plant pests and diseases. Broad hygiene strategies will minimize the possibility of any weeds being brought onto their farm accidentally.

For further information on TFGA's weed priorities please contact Phil Reader on 6397 3199.



Contact Kerry Colgrave

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REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT

Jonah Gouldthorpe
PROJECT MANAGER
(SOUTHERN TASMANIAN
WEED STRATEGY),
SOUTHERN TASMANIAN
COUNCILS AUTHORITY

Priority weeds defined for Southern NRM Region

The Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy has claimed an Australian first by undertaking a bottom-up priority setting process using the National Post-border Weed Risk Management Protocol. This means that the region now has a list of priority weeds which can feed back into allocation of funding, council planning, and the Nursery and Garden Industry, to name a few of its uses.

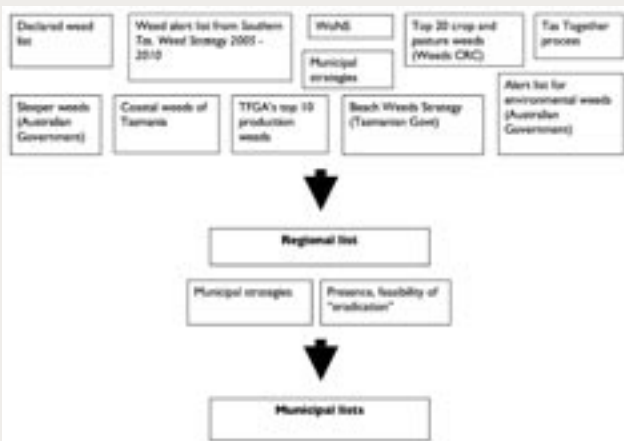
The Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy 2005-2010 identifies “Regional involvement in the development and implementation of a prioritisation process for weed species” as a high priority. The Strategy sourced species for the regional priority list using the declared weeds list, agriculturally significant weeds, known environmental weeds, beach weeds, Weeds of National Significance and species identified in municipal strategies. A simple regional priority list was developed from these sets, reflecting species which threaten economic, environmental and social values in southern Tasmania.

The next step in the prioritisation process was to give the list some meaning at municipal level. The regional list was modified on an individual basis for each of southern Tasmania’s twelve councils by assessing: priorities as defined in municipal weed strategies, species’ presence/absence in the municipality, municipal zone status under the *Weed Management Act 1999* and feasibility of species’ eradication from that council area. This process was undertaken in accordance with Standards Australia’s new National Post-border Weed Risk Management Protocol, which establishes a best practice for weed priority-setting. Products from the prioritisation are: a regional list of priority weeds and twelve municipal lists of priority weeds. Importantly, the lists don’t impose new priorities on councils which have already documented where they are going with weeds. Rather, the lists support councils with the weed-led priorities they have already defined.

Priorities have already found their way into the “real world”. Some councils have adopted municipal lists for priority-setting and the Strategy has identified the potential for the list to guide cooperative weed management by major regional land managers.

For more information, please contact Jonah Gouldthorpe on 0437 450 143.

Implementation of the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy 2005–2010 is funded by the Australian Government



The Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy’s weed prioritisation process

Progress update – Southern Weed Strategy 2005–2010

The Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority continues to win strong outcomes for the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy 2005–2010 across the south of the state. Achievements over the past few months have included:

- Securing significant Australian Government funding to target priority weeds across the state and predominantly in the south. This includes a major project against boneseed. The work will take place over a wide range of land tenures, including national parks, private land and council-managed land.
- Defining a weed-led priority list for the southern region. The list is an important tool for major land managers to identify target weeds for control and to improve cooperation and efficiency in weed management. Development of

the priority list is discussed in detail in the article above.

- Actively taking part in statewide planning, particularly against Weeds of National Significance. Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority has formed close links with the Cradle Coast and Northern regions and DPIW’s weed management section to plan programs against boneseed and asparagus weeds.
- Conducting weed management training as part of NRM South’s Property Management Planning courses.

- Providing ongoing technical advice to councils on weed management issues.

The Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority will also respond to strong stakeholder demand by preparing a register of qualified contractors able to perform weed control in the southern region. This register will allow councils, private land managers and recipients of Australian Government funding to source professional weed control operators to perform on-ground work.

For more information please contact Jonah Gouldthorpe, Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy on 0437 450 143.

Implementation of the Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy 2005–2010 is funded by the Australian Government through NRM South.



***Glyceria maxima* – a water weed of significance**

Last summer's drought has focussed our attention on water problems – acting to remove the threat of weeds to our waterways is one part of the solution.

Glyceria maxima (also known as *Poa aquatica*) is not a high profile weed, in fact most people have probably not even heard of it. But it is having significant impacts on the waterways across North West Tasmania, where it is thought to be widespread in farm dams and small streams. It vigorously outcompetes native vegetation, chokes water flow, restricts access to water, and can lead to stock losses. As water related issues become more important generally, the impacts of this weed have come under closer scrutiny.

Earlier this year, Cradle Coast NRM (CCNRM) worked with the community and local government to produce a Regional Strategy for *Glyceria maxima*. Also produced was a report on its control options – these documents are now available on the Cradle Coast NRM web page - <http://www.nrmtas.org/CradleCoastWeeds.htm>.

CCNRM is now starting to roll out an incentive program for the control of the weed. In the first year of this program, it is planned to implement control works on

a handful of strategically important sites. These might include top of catchment works, or areas where several landowners share a stream and a *Glyceria maxima* problem, and are willing to work cooperatively towards its control.

We have learnt much over the last year or so about controlling *Glyceria maxima*, but there are still some significant gaps in our knowledge. For example, we are still coming to understand the range of possible downstream impacts that may result from controlling it. For this reason we will build a downstream monitoring program into our projects this year, so that we can document results and learn from them. This extra knowledge, will be invaluable for planning future works. We also need to accumulate a more detailed distribution map of *Glyceria maxima* in the Cradle Coast Region, so that strategically important sites can be better identified.

For more information on controlling *Glyceria maxima* or on the weed management activities in the cradle coast region, contact Greg Taylor on 6431 6285.



Glyceria maxima choking a section of the Don River (Photo by Greg Taylor)

Weed update – NRM North

A 12 month project will commence during July to treat all known sites of bridal creeper and asparagus fern across the region. The sites will be controlled twice during the term of the project and all infestations mapped to National standards. Landowners will also be provided with information on best practice management of asparagus weeds and their impact on biodiversity.

A partnership agreement has been formalised with the Justice Department for work-order recipients to carry out weed control activities on public land. The works undertaken will control weeds in areas such as reserves, parks, roadsides, etc, where there is a community benefit. Another project will control weeds and revegetate riparian areas at Scout Island (south-east of Launceston), which is managed by Scouts Australia as a training and official function area.

Another partnership agreement enabling a 'Work for the Dole' team to implement a program to undertake

priority weed management projects, is underway. Participants are signed on for a nominal period of six months unless they find employment earlier. This program will provide training for participants on weed identification and management techniques along with considerable hands-on experience.

The Regional Weeds Coordinator continues to work with stakeholders, including Government and industry to identify issues and facilitate effective solutions. A recent collaborative project with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) has resulted in a major control program for Spanish heath along a 30 kilometre section of the Tasman Highway from Falmouth to Seymour. DIER funded the entire project, in an effort to stop the spread south along this transport corridor into areas currently free of the weed.

NRM North is currently developing a 'Weed Management – Resources Inventory'. This will include information about service providers (contractors,

consultants and advisors), suppliers of weed management equipment (hire and purchase) and sources of weed management information (including websites).

Planning is underway for a series of workshops to train community groups and weed management personnel across the northern region in weed mapping to National standards and GPS usage. NRM North has made weed mapping kits available through the network of NRM Facilitators and this is the next step in building the necessary skills to enable weed mapping to be incorporated into all on-ground weed management projects.

For more information on the weed management activities in the northern region, contact Greg Stewart on 6333 7778.

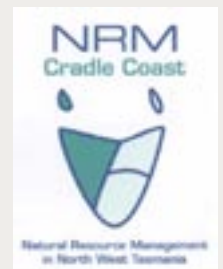
REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT

Greg Taylor

REGIONAL WEED STRATEGY OFFICER, CRADLE COAST NRM

Greg Stewart

WEEDS COORDINATOR, NRM NORTH



STRATEGIES & PLANNING



Andrew Crane
REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT OFFICER, DPIW

Weed Risk Assessment

Addressing plants before they become problems

An important part of protecting Tasmania's agricultural productivity and environmental values is the assessment of the risk that some plants pose. While a quick scan of the literature or the Internet might give some clue to the weediness of a plant, it can't give a complete picture, and it doesn't allow plants to be compared and managed accordingly.

A more formal process that examines the biology of a plant, and which compares plant species, can provide the basis for including a species on a quarantine list or for declaring it as a weed, and so prevent its sale. This process is known as Weed Risk Assessment (WRA), and it is now undertaken by every state in Australia. Whilst each jurisdiction has a slightly different approach, each uses a basic set of tools to answer fundamental questions about a plant.

Tasmania uses a system developed by Dr Paul Pheloung in Western Australia in 1994. When performing a WRA the assessor must answer a series of questions that relate to the plant's history and biology. These questions include such things as whether the plant has become naturalised elsewhere, how easily it spreads and what impacts it might have. The large number of questions (49 in total) helps reduce subjectivity. After all the questions have been answered an overall score is produced, this score helps determine what management action (if any) might need to be taken.

A further key component of WRA is to determine how far a plant could spread. Several modelling programs are used to look at the climatic preferences of the plant, as well as other factors such as soil type, and then match them with existing conditions in Australia. The output is a map of potential distribution.

Other tools used to assess weeds include Impact Assessments and Management Feasibility Assessments. Impact Assessments look at the possible effects a plant might have on a particular land use, such as cropping or conservation, while Management Feasibility Assessments evaluate the likelihood of the success of management programs for plants already established in the State. Both

of these systems require answering a series of questions, which results in a final score. These scores then indicate appropriate action.

It is now a matter of course that new weed incursions are subjected to a WRA. This allows land managers to have the best available information upon which to make their decisions. A good example of this is the recent assessment of *Disa bracteata*, a South African orchid detected recently near Bridport. The WRA for this species indicated it had the potential to impact on Tasmanian native grasslands and indigenous orchid communities (as it has done in several mainland states). The WRA identified the risks and a detailed management plan was developed and implemented as a result.

In addition, Tasmania is sharing its assessment information tools and results with all other states and territories. This is helping improve national and state biosecurity. It is estimated that a staggering 13,000 plant species are likely to be assessed within the next few years. Tasmania's commitment to this process is evident in the recent creation of permanent full-time weed planning position within the Department of Primary Industries and Water. This role includes performing WRA. It is certain that Tasmania will continue to benefit from the process of WRA.

Why use WRA's?

Weed assessment tools have a number of uses. They can be used to assess the risk a plant poses before it is introduced to Tasmania, and so can assist the nursery and horticultural industries in making "weed smart" choices. They can also be used to analyse plants present in small (or even large) numbers, and subsequently support management decisions. The use of these tools has underpinned Tasmania's declaration process under the Weed Management Act 1999, and ensures that plants are assessed as objectively and with the best use of available scientific information as possible.



Bruny Island Weed Strategy takes off

It has been recognised for some time that Bruny Island needed a weed management strategy to assist its land managers to better coordinate their weed management activities and to identify the key actions required to protect the values of Bruny Island from the impact of weeds. Following a meeting in September 2006 to discuss the on-going issues and challenges of managing weeds on the island across



Heather - the largest infestation in Australia occurs on Bruny Island

a number of land tenures, five stakeholders agreed to pool their resources to fund a consultant to develop a Bruny Island Weed Management Strategy. These stakeholders; the Bruny Island Community Association (BICA), Kingborough Council, Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and Forestry Tasmania, along with the Department of Primary Industries and Water and NRM South formed a committee to oversee the development of the strategy. Keith Bill, from BICA was instrumental in getting things off the ground.

On Sunday 8th July 2007 at a meeting of the Bruny Island Community Association, the Bruny Island Weed Management Strategy was officially launched by Geoff Byrne, the Chair of the association, Michele Higgins - Councillor from Kingborough Council and Beth Chamberlain, the consultant who put the document together. The multi stakeholder approach, level of cooperation and commitment of the committee was applauded by Alistair Kay, Programs Manager for NRM South.



Alistair Kay, Programs Manager of NRM South, and Beth Chamberlain, Private Consultant, taken at the launch of the strategy on Bruny

A submission for funding to NRM South for the Implementation of Priority Natural Resource Management works was successful. These funds will employ a weeds co-ordinator for six months to support the on-going removal of ragwort, which is a threat to primary producers on the island as well as the strategic removal of gorse and boxthorn, weeds which threaten both agricultural and environmental values. The project will include a mapping component to enable a better understanding of the location and spread of weed species on Bruny and support better coordination of weed management control through cross-stakeholder work planning. The project will also work towards protecting threatened species habitat on the island. For more information about this project, please contact Barry Hardwick at Kingborough Council on 6211 8299.

STRATEGIES & PLANNING

Natalie Holman
INDUSTRY & LANDCARE
COORDINATOR, NRM SOUTH



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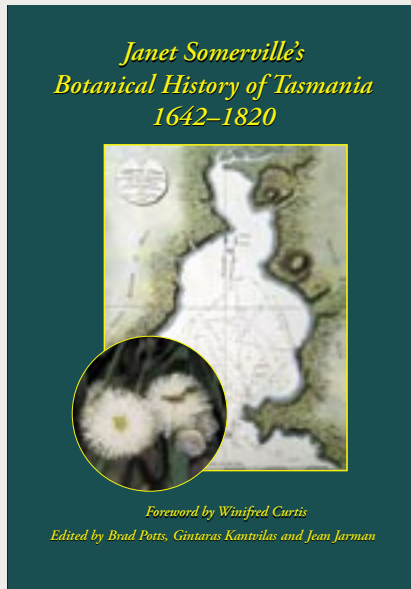
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Janet Somerville's Botanical History of Tasmania (1642–1820)

Edited by Brad Potts, Gintaras Kantvilas and Jean Jarman



Janet Somerville, a gifted Tasmanian botanist, commenced work on the manuscript of this book in 1958, but died before it could be published. Now, more than half a century later, *Janet Somerville's Botanical History of Tasmania* has been jointly published by the Tasmanian Herbarium and the University of Tasmania's (UTAS) School of Plant Science. The catalyst for publishing the book came three years ago when the unfinished manuscript was discovered among the papers of the late UTAS Professor of Botany, Bill Jackson.

This book provides a novel perspective on the discovery and early settlement of Tasmania as seen through the eyes of a botanist. It includes charts from expeditions visiting Tasmania from Abel Tasman to Bass and Flinders' circumnavigation, and it is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the discovery and natural history of our island.

For those interested in weeds, it discusses the chances of accidental and purposeful plant introductions by the early explorers starting with Tasman's expedition in 1642 through to Baudin's visit in 1802. Janet Somerville was particularly interested in the exotic species that may have arrived in Tasmania via animal fodder and other vectors.

Copies are available from the School of Plant Science (UTAS) and Fullers Bookshop at a cost of \$45.

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