

# NATURAL STATE NEWSLETTER

Consultancy, project management and native vegetation management services. We understand the client's needs, and deliver high quality results; on time and on budget.

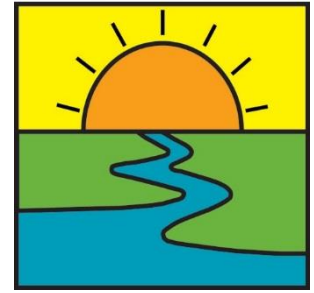
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NATURAL STATE



## Welcome to the Natural State Newsletter for 2014



**Photo:** Members of the Central North Field Naturalists visited our property in March. Matt discussed the various techniques used to stabilise the river bank since the major Leven River flood in January 2011.

### Circular Head Christian School Sustainable Living Program

Early in 2014, we were engaged to assist Circular Head Christian School with grant applications to develop the Sustainable Living Program for the junior school K-6. Karina also delivered a professional development session in Smithton for the junior school teachers with examples of how to integrate Sustainability into the existing curriculum activities.

In recent years the Australian Curriculum has included Sustainability as a cross-curriculum priority, along with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia.

In late December 2014, Circular Head Christian School confirmed that Natural State will develop the Sustainable Living Program for K-6, to be trialled at the school in the coming years.

If you know of a school that may be interested in a similar service, please contact Matt.

### Natural State Business Update

Firstly, I would like to thank our customers for allowing us to continue to develop markets for environmental services in North West Tasmania.

It takes time to establish a 'new' brand and we greatly appreciate the support from our customers and friends who have referred Natural State to other like-minded people.

There have been a few changes to how we operate Natural State. Karina Rose was recently awarded the Performing Arts Coordinator position with the Burnie City Council and will no longer deliver project management through Natural State.

Starting in 2015 I'll be taking the next step in my professional development by studying Environmental Management part time by distance mode at UNSW. I am looking forward to this opportunity.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the great projects that we have delivered during 2014 as well my 'flashback' to the Young Citizen of the Year Award 15 years ago.

Happy New Year for 2015

- Matt Rose.



**Photo:** Some of the great agriculture / horticulture facilities at the Circular Head Christian School, Smithton.





## The Nut State Reserve Weed Management Plan

The Nut, or Circular Head as it is also known, is the major landform (143 metres high) of the beautiful coastal town of Stanley. The Nut State Reserve was proclaimed in 1980 to protect and restore the natural and cultural values, and to provide for a range of tourism and recreational opportunities.

Matt was approached by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a 5 year Weed Management Plan for The Nut State Reserve.

As part of the planning process the site was surveyed to document the native and introduced flora species and vegetation communities present. The weed management zones were defined and mapped. Control options for the target weeds were provided (physical, mechanical and chemical), the appropriate timing, registered herbicides and application rates for use in Tasmania were also recommended. Included in the plan is an estimation of the budgets required to achieve effective control in all of the 9 weed management zones.

Apart from providing practical solutions to enhance the natural values, there were many logistical challenges to consider including OHS requirements, access, extreme wind, and restricted availability of water.

If you have been to The Nut you would have noticed the major weed infestations present. The site has endured generations of clearing and grazing. Despite the previous pasture management regime the threatened *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor* - Straw Daisy has persisted on the rocky perimeter of the summit.



**Photos:** Top – Gorse growing on The Nut summit.  
Bottom – We planted 600 seedlings on the summit in 2013.

## Bushfoods for Ulverstone Primary School 'Culture Club' students

During November and December Matt presented a combination of in class and in the field bushfood sessions for the 'Culture Club' students of Ulverstone Primary School.

The classroom was filled with samples of a large variety of local native plant species traditionally used by Indigenous Australians. Students sat in a circle and passed around each plant to gain a tactile appreciation of each species whilst points of interest were discussed.

An informative brochure was developed to assist with plant identification whilst in the field, and for future reference. After a quick bus trip to a local reserve, the students were encouraged to use the brochure to find each species and with assistance from Matt, taught each other what can be eaten or used for making baskets / tools.

The highlight, and in some cases the lowlight, was tasting the edible berries, leaves, tubers and roots.



**Photo:** Matt delivering an environmental education session tailored to primary school students, 2003. We aim to educate and inspire students to gain a better understanding and appreciation of nature.



## Bushcare work enhances native forest condition near Forth

A few years ago we were asked to develop, and then implement, a 5 year weed management plan to enhance the condition of 25 hectares of native forest on private property near Forth.

A proactive approach was taken by the new landowners to manage the established infestation of Montpellier Broom. Other weeds targeted include Pampas Grass, Spanish Heath, Spear Thistle, Pines, Holly, and mature Blackberry along the riparian areas.

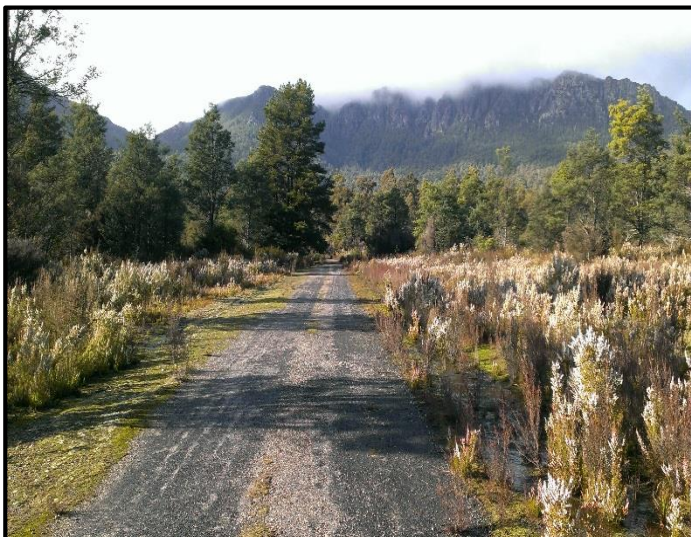
The bushcare work initially focussed on preventing any further weed seed set, and then reducing the density of seedlings. Working amongst the more sensitive areas involved hand weeding, cut and paint and careful spot spraying. The weed density has reduced significantly after the second season.

Revegetation work commenced in some of the bare areas of riparian forest during winter 2014, with the aim of enhancing the biodiversity values. Over 600 tubestock seedlings were planted, plastic mesh tree guards were also installed. Seed collection started in October in preparation for hand seeding trials in the coming years.

Habitat Plants and Forth Valley Bush Nursery have supplied the seedlings this year. SureGro has supplied tree guard materials. Gavin O'Callaghan of West Star Services has assisted with bushcare and revegetation support for this project.



**Photos:** Top – Karina managing the established Montpellier Broom. Bottom – new growth on the Myrtle Beech seedling.



**Photo:** *Kunzea ericoides* and Spanish Heath growing in high density around the old Hydro township of Gowrie Park, near Mt Roland. Recent mapping suggests that the *Kunzea* has been in the area for many years.

## *Kunzea ericoides* containment works buffer Mt Roland Regional Reserve

*Kunzea ericoides* is an example of a native plant which has become an 'environmental weed'. It grows naturally on the East coast of Australia (Queensland, NSW and Victoria) and in New Zealand. A few years ago, *Kunzea ericoides*, also known as Burgan or White Tea Tree was found growing on tracks and roadsides near the Mt Roland Regional Reserve.

Crown Land Services contracted Natural State to work with local stakeholders and form containment lines to prevent further spread into the Reserve from Gowrie Park.

In February 2014, Matt attended a field day at Gowrie Park to discuss management options for *Kunzea ericoides* in the surrounding area. The Mount Roland Rivercare Catchment Inc. Group organised the field day and further containment work through a Landcare Tasmania Landcare Biodiversity Grant.





**Photo:** The edge effect, mature Gorse growing on the edge of Wet *Eucalyptus brookeriana* Forest. Gorse is a very hardy and invasive weed, the seed can still be viable after 50 years. Effective treatment requires an integrated pest management approach with a commitment to ongoing monitoring and follow up control.

## Flashback to the Young Citizen of the Year Award 2000

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2000, I was lucky enough to receive the Young Citizen of the Year Award from the Coorong District Council. The award acknowledged volunteer work which I'd carried out around Tailem Bend (Lower Murray River, SA) and the surrounding areas in the previous years.

I joined the Tailem Bend Revegetation Group after attending a tree planting day one weekend in 1998. The main objectives of the group were to beautify the town through revegetation, as well as to share our appreciation of indigenous plants and ecology with the local community. We collected, processed and stored many kilograms of seed, propagated and planted thousands of plants, organised excursions and tree planting days with the Tailem Bend Primary School. We also researched, designed and planted a community bushfood and wildflower garden.

Volunteering had a positive effect on my life. A few years later I started Natural State with the aim to deliver similar activities but with the added challenge of putting a price or value on environmental services, thereby creating a market.

Being recognised for this award 15 years ago was a real honour, it is a great feeling to give something back to your local community.

If you know someone who gives their time and energy to benefit the local community, nominate them for the Australia Day Awards in your council area <http://www.australiaday.org.au/>.

## Protecting high conservation value forests at Black River

For the past few years we have been engaged to manage large areas of Gorse growing on a private property at Black River, near Stanley.

The site was originally part of the Van Diemen's Land Company property granted in Circular Head back in the early 1830's.

A recent Landcare Tasmania Landcare Biodiversity Grant has focused on enhancing the Wet *Eucalyptus brookeriana* Forest and *Melaleuca ericifolia* Swamp Forest. These forest communities are both listed as threatened in Tasmania under the Nature Conservation Act 2002.

In the coming seasons, we hope to integrate revegetation trials on the lower dunes to encourage native *Poa* species to compete with the Gorse regrowth and reduce herbicide applications.



**Photos:** Top – Tailem Bend Primary School students get a guided tour of the Natural State nursery / depot in 2006. Bottom – The community garden highlighting local native bushtucker and wildflower species, 2000.