

Earth Ocean Network Inc
c/o 70 Tasman Hwy
Bicheno Tasmania 7215

18th May 2023

Letter of Support to the Tasmanian Community Fund for

An application by the Seymour Community Action Group Inc. for funding for 'Capacity infrastructure for Gorse eradication on the Seymour Conservation Area'

Earth Ocean Network Inc (EON Inc) wishes to support the application being submitted by the Seymour Community Action Group Inc. (SCAGI) for funding for 'Capacity infrastructure for Gorse eradication on the Seymour Conservation Area.'

In 2016, it was wonderful to see the Seymour Community Action Group Inc. take on this very challenging coastal restoration project which had defeated a previous initiative by Michelle Menz and the Seymour Coast Care Group in 2004. The area had been infested with gorse for many years; some of the growth was higher than a single-story dwelling. Gorse is a 'ferocious' shrub and can easily defy less courageous and determined people. The further degradation of the area by 4WD vehicles through to the coast and onto the beach was urgently needing to be addressed also.

Now 7 years later, although so much will need to still be done to maintain and care for this place, the gorse has been replaced by shrubs and trees, and the health of the land is showing remarkable signs of recovery. New signage is celebrating the new protected status of this beautiful area.

An extraordinary achievement by a small group of people. And such an inspiration, source of knowledge and support for EON and small groups working voluntarily along the coast.

EON, a small Landcare group in Bicheno since 2010, has supported SCAGI in the years since. The relationship between our groups has been a close and very cooperative one, enhancing each group's efforts in coastal restoration projects, community education and having fun!

We have enjoyed participating in field and planting days, beginning in 2018 – always beautifully organised - and from funds raised at our summer market bookstalls, often staffed by SCAGI members, we were able to donate \$4700.

Kym Achilles, then Treasurer of EON, assisted with the preparation of the nomination of SCAGI for the Tasmanian Landcare Community Group Award, in 2021, which the group received on the 2nd October 2021.

As with all voluntary Landcare projects and teams in our small rural areas, funding and time have again been challenged demanding continual tenacity and skills of SCAGI's members.

This grant would not only facilitate the implementation of the excellent management plans recently executed: “Gorse Eradication Strategy for Seymour Wetlands Restoration for the 5-year period December 2022 through to December 2027”, but give recognition to the value and contribution of the work achieved by a small rural group who work together inspired by their passion for place, their appreciation of the natural beauty and wonder of this landscape leading to the creation of a unique sanctuary rich in wild flora and fauna.

We earnestly endorse this application.

Sincerely

Helen Preston
Public Officer
Earth Ocean Network Inc