

**Presidents Report.**  
**AGM 13 November 2022 at Aurora Beach Cottage**

We have had an interesting time since our last AGM on the 7th Aug 21 with the Pandemic and more La Nina rain there has been some ups and downs. Kez gained four new Grandchildren.

On the upside, we have two new members Rob and Samantha Kelman and a healthy bank balance, having received Grants from EON, the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, Landcare and a donation from Richard Cook. We have missed out on funding from TasNetworks, The Queens Jubilee Tree Planting and DPIPWE. We have a Grant pending from Landcare and the possibility of one from the Bendigo Bank.

**Wet Land Restoration Project:**

The Group received the Landcare Community Group Award sponsored by Australian Community Media [https://347ebe48-2fd7-402a-8061-c61f4dfea28c.filesusr.com/ugd/ebbc25\\_a8859f347cef4fa2872e366ab9cfef50.pdf](https://347ebe48-2fd7-402a-8061-c61f4dfea28c.filesusr.com/ugd/ebbc25_a8859f347cef4fa2872e366ab9cfef50.pdf)

We were nominated for the National Landcare Award. Dani and Melissa represented us at the National Awards in Sydney, & while we weren't winners on the night, recognition on the national stage was an honour.

Our mentor Todd Dudley received the Australian Government Individual Landcare award, the Tasmanian Premiers Award and an International award for land scape restoration. Congratulations Todd on this formal recognition of the tireless & outstanding work you do each day in preserving and restoring natural environments.

The Project area was reclassified as part of the Seymour Conservation Area on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 22. The Minister for Parks had planned to visit the site but had to cancel due to contracting Covid. Her assistant has asked to be kept informed of an opportunity to attend a celebration of the reclassification.

We started regular fortnightly working bees after our last AGM.

While the fortnightly schedule was abandoned due to weather and people being away, we have managed 26 working bees with attendance numbers ranging from 1-13 with the UTAS group visiting twice and Friends of Freycinet once.

Luckily, we organised three days of slashing and three days of contract spraying in the wetlands before the big rains.

Unfortunately, due the excessive rain, the most in 67 years, we have not been able to do more spraying and the follow up work needed.

We have had 4 site inspections by, Evie Drinnan from Landcare, Todd Dudley NE Bioregional Network, Fiona Everts PWS and Amanda Brooks from GSBC to advise on how best to proceed with the restoration work.

There has been a lot of work done, mainly by Dani and Fiona Everts of PWS, on the new Volunteer Project Plan and the Stage 2 of Weed Management Plan. The VPP is now finalised and we have till December to complete the WMP.

Ben Wall has offered to undertake a Chemical Handling Course on behalf of SCAGI, with the cost to be covered by SCAGI. Thank you, Ben.

Paul Williams volunteered to propagate locally acquired seeds. The seed collection working bee, to be run concurrently with the Restoration workshop presented by Todd and hosted by Paul and Linda, was cancelled due to the weather.

There is a seed collection and propagation work shop to be run by Ruth Mollinson <http://www.islandseedtasmania.com> at the Winifred Curtis Reserve on the 10 of December. There will be a follow up workshop run locally at a later date.

We have a hundred plants growing from locally sourced seed at Habitat Plants that will be ready to plant out in April.

### **Bird In Hand Vineyard:**

SCAGI made submissions to DPIPWE opposing the Bird In Hand dam and Doctors Creek water rights.

Todd visited with three water experts for site inspection and advice.

[Simon Roberts, Chris Bobbi and John advised us on a site visit.](#)

When the Dam was approved Dani and I, and again later with Simon Roberts, met with Andrew Nugent the owner of BIH. He was very cooperative and wanted to ensure the Vineyard does not have a detrimental effect on the Templestowe lagoon area.

He has retained Sam Ibbott from Marine Solutions to monitor the Lagoon and Doctors Creek. Sam visited the site and met with us at Dave and Cheryl's to discuss the mitigation of the effects of the dam and has kept us updated of BIH progress and water quality results. Marine Solutions also gave us some drone photos of the area.

The dam construction is planned to continue in February 23.

Todd Dudley organised a Saltmarsh and Shorebird Walk. Eric Woehler from Birdlife Tasmania and Vishnu Prahalad from UTAS were speaking about values and threats.

### **Wombats:**

A mange affected wombat was discovered at Seymour along the Highway towards Piccaninny Point. They can roam up to three kilometres and the mange is very infectious to other wombats. Kez and Quentin got in touch with Steve from Wombat Rescue. If you come across any wombats in trouble please ring 0419 585 001 - the wombat rescue help line.

### **Shore Birds:**

We have been invited to join the NE Coast Shore Bird working Group by Linda Overend of PWS. Graeme Beech has given us some shore bird signs from the Group to display for the breeding season.

Eric Woehler from Bird Life Tasmania sent us recent reports on Shorebird threats and populations. Sadly, the news is not good.

Below from Eric:

We're losing our Fairy Terns in Tasmania. The ever-increasing presence of vehicles and dogs on beaches exacerbates natural pressures. The shorebirds and terns can deal with high tides and storms, but the double-hit of natural processes (these are processes not threats) AND human-sourced threats (4WDs, dogs, disturbance - these ARE threats) is too much for them and as we have seen over the last 30-40 years, their numbers decrease. Councils and PWS are unable to halt the increase in dogs and vehicles on beaches, so the populations decrease. Sadly, I can't see it improving, ever. Recreational pursuits are prioritised over protection of threatened species. Utterly indefensible but that's the paradigm.

[Woehler 2021 Shorebirds threats TBR 41](#)  
[Woehler 2021 Shorebird populations](#)

**Deer:**

Quentin, Melissa and Daniel attended a deer meeting at St Marys. The Draft Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan was discussed and we wrote a submission.

Dave Frelek, Wildlife Management Officer - Game Services Tasmania. sent us deer sighting [brochures](#), explaining how to identify and report the Wild Fallow Deer with the FeralScan App; see [Deerscan.org.au](http://Deerscan.org.au) for more information.

Dani and Melissa have given permission for deer to be culled on their property and neighbouring property owners have been informed.

**Frogs:**

It is Frog ID week, from the 11-20 Nov, is Australia's Biggest Frog Count, held annually for everyone to help record frog calls through the free FrogID app, and to better understand frog distributions and frog population health across the continent. It aims to monitor Australia's frogs over time, helping us to understand how frogs and their ecosystems are responding to threats such as climate change, habitat loss and disease.

Keep an ear out for any new frog sounds after the big rains.

Down load the App:

<https://www.frogid.net.au/get-involved/#3d45b2b6-c3a2-532a-b00b-4124c646adb9>

**Planning:**

Daniel and I attended Break O' Day draft Local Provisions Schedule presentation by Todd Dudley. We wrote a submission to the Council and are in general supportive of the changes for our part of the shire with some exceptions.

SCAGI wrote a letter of support for the NE Bioregional Network planning submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission. ([link](#))

**Coastal Protection:**

Quentin collaborated with Erin Campbell-Hooper, Research Assistant National Centre for Coasts and Climate, School of BioSciences, Faculty of Science - The University of Melbourne.

The nature-based coastal protection project Erin is researching now includes Long Point, it's published on the [Living Shoreline Australia website](#)

**Tas Veg Mapping:**

Daniel and Quentin assisted Felicity Hargraves, with information re Vegetation Mapping on Long Point requested by Dr. Anne Kitchener Coordinator, Tasmanian Vegetation Monitoring and Mapping Program

Natural Assets Spatial Intelligence Section, Natural Values Science Services Environment, Heritage and Land Tasmania.

**Wreck of the Jacana:**

The yacht "Jacana" went aground on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 22, 100 m north of Templestowe Lagoon mouth. We spent time over a couple of days collecting flotsam and jetsam from the wreckage, alerted Parks and MAST and communicated with the owner to organise a salvage. Thankfully & many months later, the yacht was finally dragged off the beach by a backhoe, lifted onto a low loader and was headed to the tip.

**Roads:**

In May 2022 David wrote to Council re the lack of speed limit signs at Seymour and the dangerous road conditions for the pedestrians and cyclists. After a follow-up enquiry in November by David, Meredith Churchill from BODC replied with apologies for the oversight and promised to make arrangements for the signs to be installed.

Quentin contacted BODC's Kristina Freshney and Parks's Jason Jacobi re the state of the southern beach car park. Both are not able to remedy the situation with the land being on private property and Parks having more pressing priorities due to recent weather events.

Adam Smith PWS Parks and Reserve Manager is planning a site visit to the new conservation area to discuss the future management of the area.

**Vale Kim Patterson:**

Sadly, we lost our dear friend & SCAGI member, Kim Patterson. His keen legal mind and discerning perception was a great asset to the Group and was always much appreciated. As was his enjoyment of fine red wine and good humour. Both he and Helen have been stalwarts for the environment here on the coast for many years and been a valued mentor and inspiration for us. Helen our condolences for your loss which we share.

For more information regarding the above matters please refer to the website:

<https://scagi7215.wixsite.com/scagi/blank-1>