

Presidents Annual Report 21st July 2024 AGM Meeting 17

We have made good progress this year:

Old Highway has been sealed to Champ St.

Spoke with John Brown BODC General Managers yesterday and he assured me that there would be no more sealing of roads.

The new fence and boom gate on Champ Street have been erected.
Problem with cowl for lock so gate remains open.

We have our own web domain and a greater presence on social media.

We have managed to control the gorse with help from PWS, Melissa and William Ferguson from Grindstone Bay Pastoral and Tim Reid spraying and Adam Cruse slashing.
We have an agreement with Grindstone Bay Pastoral for future spraying.

We have planted the first 75 seedlings from local seeds that were propagated here at Seymour.

We have a further 200 odd trees being propagated and a follow up propagation work shop with Ruth Mollison in October.

We have \$16,777.93 in the Bank and there is an EOI with Landcare for \$10,000-20,000 future funding.

Commenced water testing in Doctors Creek after work shop run by Landcare.
Have permission to test BIH dam and Doctors Creek and access to online meter to monitor pumped amounts.

Challenges:

Deer populations are increasing causing damage to trees and tree guards.
Little progress on patch burning in the wetlands.
Heavy gorse infestation around trees needing weeding.
Reduced volunteer participation for gorse control.

Wetland Restoration:

Spraying:

Tim Reid 2 days
PWS 2 days
Grindstone 3 days gifted to SCAGI
Numerous days of back pack spraying.

Future Spray Plan with Grindstone received and to be confirmed.

Slashing:

Adam Cruise slashed all open area.

Propose to re-slash eastern area near site for Michelle Mentz Memorial prior to Field Day.
Boom spray open areas regrowth prior to slashing.

Planting:

Thanks to Alison Peacock for propagating the local seeds.

Seeds with Understory Network and Mark Lawrence for propagation.

Recommend future plantings from locally propagated seedlings and spread seeds.

Many trees are being damaged or killed by deer.

Ongoing replacement of damaged tree guards necessary.

New version of "Understory Network Guide to Growing Native Plants in Tasmania"
available:

understorey@landcaretas.org.au

<https://shop.fullersbookshop.com.au/p/guide-to-growing-native-plants-in-tasmania>

Grants:

Acquitted: \$10,500

2 x Landcare Grants

1 x Highways and Byways

Successful Grant Applications:

FRRR \$10000 Grant received and extended for a year till October 2025.

Keep Tassie Wild donation

Earth Ocean Network donation

EOI Registered on Landcare Project Bank \$20,000

Christine Hosking helped format a brochure for SCAGI at Quentin's request which was sent to Landcare Chairman of the Board at his request.

Unsuccessful:

Tas Community Fund

Volunteer Grants Lyons Dept of Justice

Working Bees:

World Expedition Schools working bee

Numerous small working bees

Work Shops etc:

Water Sampling workshop with Simon Roberts organised through Waterwatch and Waterbug Blitz. We submitted to him test sites and results from Doctors Creek.

Lily Frazer from Landcare TAS has set up an online forum to store testing data:

<https://form.123formbuilder.com/6505955/waterwatch-physico-chemical-monitoring-data>

Select "East Coast Pilot Project" as the project title.

Invited to join Shore Bird Working Group: Attended a meeting and they assisted in lobbying for the boom gate.

North East Land Trust: Presentation about Wetland Restoration Project.

Thanks to Chris Hosking for assistance with Power Point.

Later converted to Brochure in response to request from Bill Harvey, Chairman of the Landcare Board, to assist Landcare sourcing future funds.

Red Hot Tips Program: Contacted Sam Tacey @ Fire TAS October 2023 in regards to establishing a fire plan for the surrounding area.

Sent PWS map of proposed patch burn sites in the Conservation area and on Warren Bretag's land.

Still awaiting input from PWS and Red-Hot Tips.

Recommend contacting Sam Tacey for assistance with burn plans.

Sam.Tacey@fire.tas.gov.au

Schouten Island caretaking role and gorse control.

PWS suggested we cooperate with Friends of Freycinet.

Possibility of visit over Christmas for any interested.

Leeaberra Track Bob Graham requested help with clearing.

Contacted PWS and offered to assist work with Friends of Freycinet.

Deer: Resulting from reports on the Feral Deer Ap Joe Dowde Peri Urban Deer Control Officer visited for site inspection. Resulting in increased effort by Ant Singline.

Both Chain of Lagoons and Bird In Hand responded favourably to allowing access for shooters.

Joe Dowde said there maybe funding available to cull the deer in the area.

Recommend lobbying:

Joe Dowde

Peri-Urban Deer Control Officer

Pest Control Unit/Landscape Programs

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service

A Division of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Mobile 0438 368 908

Joe.Dowde@parks.tas.gov.au

165 Westbury Road, Launceston

Eric Schwarz | Deer Control Project Officer, Peri-Urban

Peri-urban Deer Program | Landscapes Program

Parks and Wildlife Service

134 Macquarie St Hobart

M: 0417 754 590

E: Eric.Schwarz@parks.tas.gov.au

W: www.nre.tas.gov.au

All are encouraged to report deer sightings, foot prints, damage on the ap to enhance to chance of a cull.

Link to information about Feral Deer.

https://347ebe48-2fd7-402a-8061-c61f4dfea28c.filesusr.com/ugd/ebbc25_928d170bdb87491c8fe3831ff2922289.pdf

Memorial Plaque for Michelle Mentz.

Thanks to Cheryl for getting quotes for Plaque and to Kez for organising plaque.

Propose a reunion of all involved with the Project over the years and Memorial second weekend in October.

Have reached out to main people involved in Michelle's efforts to eradicate the gorse.

Appreciate any help in tracking down people involved in first attempt.

Landcare Conference attended by Kerryn and Quentin Smith sponsored by NRM and BODC. Resulting in networking with Red Hot Tips and Amanda Brooks now with Grindstone Bay Pastoral.

Bird In Hand:

We had a meeting with Bird in Hand owner Andrew Nugent and he showed the community the finished construction of the 15 ha 200 Megalitre dam and the weir upstream in Doctors Creek to monitor the water flow of the main tributary to Templestowe Lagoon and wetland areas.

Andrew kindly answered our questions and proposed a subsequent meeting with the technical contractors to explain the workings of the weir in more detail. ([link to photos](#))

The NRE Water Compliance Officer Stephen Pryor visited Doctors Creek and reported that BIH are complying with their Licence requirements after concerns were raised by the community.

He did raise the possibility of stopping pumping when others needed to pump if there is not sufficient flow to sustain simultaneous pumps.

Andrew from BIH offered SCAGI access to the water flow data of Doctors Creek. Daniel accepted the offer to receive the login details for the web-based flow meter. It was passed on by David Thorp - Pinion Advisory via Alistair Brooks - Pinion Advisory.

Sam Ibbot from Marine Solutions sent an encouraging reply to Quentin, re the community water quality monitoring. He tasked Dr Carryn Manicom to assist with data storage and analysis also recommending sampling points etc so that we can keep building a long-term data set.

BODC:

Rates increase. In my case 200-fold in 40 years, from \$13 to \$2597.

If it continues to increase at this rate, I'm looking at \$129,850/annum as I approach 80 years old!

See "Your Rates Explained" flyer with Rate Notice and note where your Rates are being spent. No projects in our area and very little services.

Sealing of Old Highway was paid for by State Grant

Spraying and slashing road verges only after lobbying from SCAGI

Dog Management Plan Review submission.

BODC Dog Plan released awaiting approval by PWS.

Changes for Seymour Dogs Prohibited on Templestowe Beach and Seymour Conservation Area. See information available from Birds Tas on the plight of shore birds.

Admin:

Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Thanks to Dani SCAGI is successfully registered as a charity with ACNC. Considered a small charity organisation we don't have to submit yearly financial reporting, but will need to submit an 'Annual Information Statement' prior to the 31st Jan following the last financial year.

SCAGI was also granted the tax-free status by ATO as a not for profits association.

Volunteering Tas: Neridah has registered us with Volunteering Tas

Neridah attended a Volunteering Tasmania online Workshop for National Standards for Volunteer Involvement. A practical application of the refreshed national standards.

Neridah attended a Tasmanian Community Benefit Fund session - The role of the Secretary.

Media:

Daniel arranged SCAGI's own web domain and was able to register www.SCAGI.org for our website.

Neridah has started an Instagram account

Neridah submitted an article to Bicheno Forward about SCAGI

Operation Manual: Thanks to Neridah and Daniel we now have a google drive and Operations Manual, enabling a seamless succession and continued longevity of the Group.

There is no better time to take up the reins of SCAGI if anyone is interested?