

Presidents Annual Report 27th July 2025 AGM Meeting 18

Thanks to all for another successful year.

Successes:

The Field Day was a success thanks to the many Group Members who helped to organise and run the weekend. 37 people attended and we received good feedback from Warren Bretag on behalf of his family, friends of Michelle Mentz, Landcare and the Tasmania Student Landcare Association (formerly UTAS Landcare Society) which are available on the website for those interested.

Short movie posted by the Tasmania Student Landcare Association (TSLA)

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/XC1xwftpT4ccxrzQ/?mibextid=UalRPS>

Working Bees:

I have really appreciated the assistance given by Dani and Melissa, Neridah and Ben in running many of the working bees this year.

Thanks to Neridah for organising the KTW Funding of the years planting and all the publicity she generated.

Neridah and Ben organised the propagation of the seeds by the Understory Network and Mark Lawrence, tree guards and stakes and subsequent planting.

Thanks to Paul and Allison Peacock who facilitated the post planting watering of the seedlings.

Gorse Control:

We have again controlled the gorse with help from Amanda Brooks and the support of Melissa and William Ferguson from Grindstone Bay Pastoral with spraying, Adam Cruse slashing and the ongoing commitment of all those members and supporters who turn up to the monthly working bees and cut and paste the gorse.

We have an agreement with Grindstone Bay Pastoral for future spraying and Adam Cruse for future slashing.

Cultural Burns:

My efforts to implement cultural mosaic spot burns were progressing well.

They were then met with some resistance from PWS Management due to funding restraints. After four years of requesting permission and assistance from PWS Fire Management Officer Sam Bouwman informed us that burns in the Conservation Area at Seymour would be at the bottom of a long list of priorities!

Shore Birds:

The Boom Gate and fence on the wetland has been a great success.

We have had the best breeding season for Hooded Plovers in many years, with regular sightings of up to 20 Hooded Plovers on Templestowe Beach, many of them chicks. Pied Oyster Catchers have also had a good breeding season, over many months, 2 chicks flourished just in front of Aurora Beach Cottage.

The Templestowe Beach access track had some pot holing done, paid for by Richard Cook and PWS.

Water Quality Monitoring:

BODC Environmental Health Officer Ron Anderson has agreed to include Templestowe Lagoon in the annual water monitoring or recreational water quality. Cheryl and David kindly offered him access via their property.

Water testing of Doctors Creek was undertaken by Group Members using the Landcare Testing equipment. Thanks to Allison Peacock for taking the lead in this. The Water testing equipment then went to Mark Lawrence and has now been returned to Landcare.

Deer Control:

After much correspondence ([the background](#)) with the NRE Peri Urban Deer Department, Feral Deer App, Rob Buck the PWS Manager of Pest Control, various Members of Parliament including the Minister for PWS, the Invasive Species Council, Roderick O'Connor who has organised the cull of 5000 deer, landowners interested in deer cull in the area, and two media interviews organised by The Invasive Species Council [The interview was published and run on ABC radio](#) we were contacted by Jason Jacobi the Secretary for NRE offering his support.

Jason has requested funding from the Minister to facility a deer cull on the East Coast.

The issue was raised in the State Parliament by Greens Tabatha Badger.

Government priorities around deer will become clear once the new government has had time to assess the situation.

Thanks to those who took the time to send the letter prepared by the Invasive Species Council to lobby for funding to control the deer on the east coast.

PWS:

Marty Wells has been promoted to Head Ranger at Spring Bay/Maria Island Area.

Marty was very helpful and his input into the area has been greatly appreciated.

Nick Graham is now the part time Ranger responsible for volunteers in the area.

Nicholas.Graham@parks.tas.gov.au

The VPP which was due to be renewed in June and has been extended till 29th March 2026.

Grants:

We secured Tas Landcare Fund 25-26 Grant for \$3000 to be acquitted October 2026

We received a \$1000 Grant from Keep Tassie Wild

We have acquitted the \$10,000 2023 FRRR Grant

We received an invitation to apply for a Grant from Wild Island Tasmania.

Thanks to Dani and Melissa who went along to their recent exhibition opening and presented SCAGI brochure and Melissa delivered a talk about our activities.

All profits from their current exhibition supporting endangered species will be donated to SCAGI.

If you are looking for a lovely gift, please take time to check out their exhibition which is on display till the end of August.

You can also buy online: <https://wildislandtas.com.au/collections/threatened-species-project-2025?page=1>

Future Actions:

Shore Birds:

There are still dogs off lead in the dog prohibited areas of Templestowe Beach and PWS have not yet ratified the BODC Dog Policy banning dogs on Templestowe Beach.

PWS advise this will be done prior to the next Bird breeding season.

PWS streamlined the Shore Bird Working Group.

We are now represented by Graeme Beech and Todd Dudley.

Templestowe Monitoring:

Henry Maxwell at the Water Management and Assessment Branch replied to our request for monitoring of nutrient levels in the Lagoon with advice on how best to proceed.

If anyone is interest to pursue this matter let me know and I'll forward the email.

Deer Control:

Ant Singline is not permitted to shoot in the Conservation Area.

Only people who can prove the majority of their income is from animal population control qualify for a permit to shoot in Conservation Areas.

Rob Buck the PWS Manager of Pest Control has offered to make introduction to trained NRE volunteer shooters, if any land owners would like to access them.

If anyone is interested, please let me know and I'll pass on his details.

The Invasive Species Council recommend writing to the Minister and local Members of Parliament to lobby for funding for an East Coast Deer Cull.

Mosaic Patch Burns:

Warren Bretag is planning a fuel reduction burn of gorse on his property bordering the Conservation to the west in August.

We continue to lobby PWS and NRE to initiate annual cultural mosaic patch burns at the same time cooperating with the Red-Hot Tips Project.

Still awaiting reply from Sam Bouwman Fire Management Officer Northern Region PWS.

It was recommended we lobby NRE Secretary to get some progress on this issue.

Planting:

We have received an invitation to apply for Tasmanian Landcare Fund Plant Grant 2025-26.

Applications have to be in by the end of the month if anyone is prepared to take on the responsibility to organise another round of planting.

Habitat Plants are again propagating seeds and charging \$1.90 - \$2.40 per plant.

Unfortunately, the Ruth Mollison Understory Network Seed Propagation workshop planned for the Field Day weekend was cancelled. Is there interest to reschedule this workshop?

There are more Grants available from Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

Tasmanian Student Landcare Association planned visit 6-7 September.

Any offers of help to cater for them, and a possible alternative camping area (if I am away at the time so Kez isn't left to host on her own) would be appreciated.