



Serrated Tussock on the East Coast

Tuesday 12th May saw a group of conscientious land owners meet at Ravensdale Hall to progress plans to control an invasive introduced grass with the ability to survive under dry conditions – Serrated Tussock. NSW agronomist, Luke Pope, with significant experience in controlling Serrated Tussock on the mainland, discussed management practices.

Here in Glamorgan Spring Bay we have only four main areas where it has been found and control is well underway.

These control plans include prevention, spot spraying small patches, cultivating or boom spraying large infestations and replacing dead tussock with improved perennial pasture.

The 'Catchments to Coasts' Team from Council will hold a field day later this year that will provide information to help owners of smaller areas of land recognise and treat Serrated Tussock.

Further information on this weed is available from the Department of Primary Industries & Water on 1300 368 550.

Boneseed Blitz

Through community efforts Boneseed has been removed from most locations in Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipality. A major effort to inform residents and undertake Boneseed control will be commencing in Bicheno soon. This will be a partnership approach so stay tuned.

A member of the daisy family, Boneseed is an erect, woody, evergreen shrub growing to 2-3m (sometimes taller). The leaves are fleshy and oval shaped with toothed edges. Boneseed flowers from spring to early summer with yellow daisy flowers of 4-8 petals. The fleshy fruits turn from green to black when mature and contain a single hard, seed that is bone coloured when dry. Approximately 50,000 seeds can be produced from one mature plant.

Report sightings of Boneseed to Project Officer, Margie Jenkin on 6270 2242 or 0419 514935, or e-mail mjenkin@stca.tas.gov.au



CATCHMENT KIDS

Hey Kids!

Play Catchment Detox to see if you can successfully manage a river catchment and create a thriving and sustainable economy.

It's an online game where you're in charge of the whole catchment. You get to decide which activities you undertake – whether to plant crops, log forests, build factories or set up national parks. The aim is to avoid environmental problems and provide food and wealth for the population.



www.catchmentdetox.net.au

Maybe you could get your teachers to take a look and to include this activity in National Science Week 15 - 23 August 2009.



Were you lucky enough to meet the Easter Bilby at Our Park at Orford? This larger than life Eastern Barred Bandicoot was in fact a member of the 'Catchments to Coasts' team. And isn't he cool!

East Coast Crusaders PCYC will be assisted by 'Catchments to Coasts' in their National Tree Day activity on Friday 7th August.

And for kids of all ages.....

Arm yourself with knowledge about catchment management. For two weeks ABC Local Radio is broadcasting a special radio series about real life issues modeled in "Catchment Detox". Listen in from:

Tuesday 25th August, 11am on Radio National's Bush Telegraph with Michael Mackenzie.

Contact the 'Catchments to Coasts' team:

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Catchments to Coasts

"Working Together to look after Our Rivers & Our Community"



Why are Catchments Important?

Soil, plants, animals and water all function together in a catchment – anything that affects one of these will also have an impact on the others. The health of our catchments is vital for human existence because they are where all food is grown. The water you drink comes from a catchment near you. The oxygen you breathe comes ultimately from a growing plant. Catchments are part of our life support systems, and support the lives of all animals and plants.

What is a catchment?

The area that feeds water into a river is known as its catchment. Rain falls on the land and runs off into the river or drains through the ground towards the river.

All of us who live, work and play in the Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipality depend upon and enjoy the many natural resources of either, the Prosser Catchment, the Little Swanport Catchment or the Swan Apsley Catchment.

We rely on healthy rivers and catchments for our clean water, fresh air and to support our agriculture and industry.

Catchments are like people. Each has its own unique qualities and traits, and so each one needs to be understood and managed according to its soil types, vegetation and climate, including rainfall.



What swims up rivers and climbs ladders? Fish!

Fish require a ladder to assist them to move up streams wherever there is a structure in the stream that could interrupt their migration. Most Tasmanian fresh water fish have a fresh and salt-water component in their life cycle.

Local farmer, John Cotton, noticed that in times of low flow the fish in the Swan River were collecting in pools below the weir in their effort to find their way up stream. John contacted the Council / NRM South Catchments To Coasts Coordinator, Mary Whitaker and together with the assistance of DPIW and Inland Fisheries they designed and constructed a fish ladder.



The 'fish ladder' – essentially a set of pond like steps – enabled the fish to move upstream and continue the circle of life.

Electrofishing:

Electrofishing is a common method used to stun fish before they are caught, identified, measured and then released. It does not harm the fish.

Inland Fisheries used this method to help us better understand the fish populations at the weir. Eels, jollytails, Tasmanian smelt, sandys, native mountain trout, lampreys and a couple of brown trout were found on the day. They discovered the Australian Grayling which is listed as 'vulnerable'. Inland Fisheries have accepted responsibility for future monitoring in spring and autumn.



"Where to now with Catchment Management in our Municipality?"

In our last newsletter the question was raised, "Where to now with Catchment Management in our Municipality?"*

Sandy Dunbabin, as the Catchment Extension Officer, progressed works in the Little Swanport Catchment. Now Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and NRM South are continuing their partnership to extend support for catchment management across the municipality, with a present focus on the Swan Apsley catchment.



Mary Whitaker

Making up the 'Catchments to Coasts' team is **Mary Whitaker**, formerly with TFGA, in the role of Co-Ordinator, **Eloise Woolnough** providing the communication and administrative support with **Murdo Dan Smith** continuing the on-ground works.

We are fortunate to be able to build on the many decades of work members of our community have put in to Natural Resource Management in its many shapes and forms.

Some of what is happening now:

Workshops and field days. For example 'Adapting to a variable climate' (July & August).

Property based weed action plans.

Community Working Bees – weeding and planting.

A review of the draft Swan Apsley Catchment Management Plan 2002 has commenced involving key stakeholders in the catchment. The draft revised plan will be available for comment in early 2010.

The Little Swanport Catchment Management Plan 2003 has been reviewed by the committee with much support from others with an interest and expertise in the catchment. A public consultation is currently underway until 21st August. A copy of the draft reviewed plan is available from the front page of Council's website www.gsbctas.gov.au or from Southern Midlands Council and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council offices by request.

*Foot Note: *The Catchments to Coasts newsletter follows on from the Little Swanport Catchment newsletter. Copies can be requested from elle@freycinet.tas.gov.au*



Eloise Woolnough

SWANSEA WILL HOST THIS YEARS STATE LANDCARE CONFERENCE ON SUNDAY 8TH AND MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

Wash Down Trailer

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council is committed to preventing the spread of weeds throughout the Municipality.

Contaminated machinery, equipment and vehicles are a primary method of spreading weeds from one site to another, therefore Council have purchased a purpose built Weed Hygiene (Wash Down) Trailer.

The trailer is fitted with a high pressure water pump and compressed air facilities to make it as quick, easy and practical as possible to clean contaminated machines, equipment and vehicles.

The focus on machinery and equipment hygiene is only one of a number of programs Council will be promoting to reduce the impact of weeds on the community.

Check out the Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan at www.gsbctas.gov.au



Postcards Available to You – Unique East Coast Plants

Due to the uniqueness of the landscape on the East Coast of Tasmania we have a large number of plants that grow only here and nowhere else in the world. They can often be referred to as 'threatened species', because they are limited to the area in which they can grow.

A set of 9 postcards showcasing some of our special plants is available for free from Council Offices and Visitor Information Centres.

They have been produced to heighten our awareness and appreciation of these little gems and the photography is amazing.

Further information on 'threatened species' can be accessed from Department of Primary Industries & Water.

www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists

