

Dolphin Sands Re-Vegetation

The Understorey Network joined with the Catchments to Coast team and the Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Association to get almost 600 plants in the ground this June.

Some of the trees planted had been grown from seed by Swansea Primary students in April 2010 at a joint working bee.

The trees, shrubs and grasses planted will assist with dune stabilisation and re-vegetation of fire affected areas.

Earlier in the year the Understorey Network worked with Dolphin Sands residents showing them how to propagate local plants as well as grow them from seed.

They also held a propagation working bee with Orford Community Group and one with the Earth & Ocean Network at Bicheno Primary School.



Gorse Under ATTACK

A joint project has enabled our on-ground works officers to work alongside landowners administering effective gorse control. From Little Swanport to Bicheno, weed control was undertaken in 16 conservation covenants (protected area on private land), covering approximately 47 hectares of land.

Partners in the project were landowners and Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), along with NRM South & Glamorgan Spring Bay Council via their 'Catchments To Coast' Program.

IN THIS PHOTO: Amanda & Murdo along with Dean Vincent from DPIPWE prepare for the afternoons attack.



Contact the 'Catchments to Coast' team:

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Issue 4



Catchments to Coast

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



Volunteer Support

NRM South recognises that volunteer groups are crucial to better natural resource management in Southern Tasmania. A priority for the organisation is to support volunteers to be successful through information, training and links to resources.

A focus group for natural resource management volunteers in Glamorgan Spring Bay followed by an informal networking session was held at the Bark Mill Tavern in Swansea on July 6 to link groups to each other and with local agencies.

Those able to attend this session included: Earth and Ocean Network Bicheno, Swansea Community Garden, Friends of Rocky Hills, Swansea Tidy Towns, Friends of Freycinet Wildcare, Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society and Orford Community Group.



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To raise awareness of the threats facing our shorebirds and to encourage people to help them survive for the long term, a shorebird awareness project has been established under the *Catchments to Coast* program.

What we can do to help shorebirds

Be aware of the shorebird breeding season – September to March – and that disturbance at other times can disrupt their feeding.

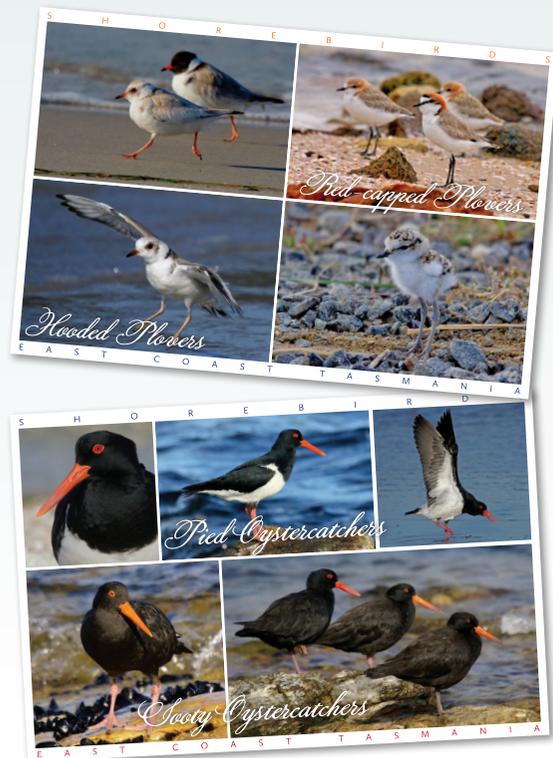
Stay off dunes and upper parts of the beach as this is where shorebirds nest.

Remain near the water's edge when you walk or jog on the beach.

Keep dogs on a leash, particularly in spring and summer. Please observe signs indicating dog prohibited areas.

Read the signs and respect temporary fences that indicate where shorebirds are nesting and stay well away from nest sites. If you ride your horse or bicycle on the beach, visit at low tide and stay close to the water's edge, and please do not take vehicles on the beach.

Photos below are postcards prepared as part of this project, soon to be available from Visitor Information Centres and Council Offices.



Farmers trialing grazing management techniques



Farmers in Glamorgan Spring Bay have been benefiting from the expertise of mainland grazing and pasture cropping specialists Graeme Hand and Colin Seis.

Graeme and Colin have visited farms in southern Tasmania over the past two years to trial the application of these pasture improvement techniques in Tasmanian conditions.

As well as improvements in pasture and soil health farmers who have used these techniques throughout the world have reduced the need for external inputs, improved water quality and retention on their land and aided tree regeneration in areas of dieback.

Dr Kerry Bridle (Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, University of Tasmania) has collected baseline data for each of the trial sites and will continue data collection over the life of the projects.

Call Mary Whitaker on 6256 5051 for more information.



Have you heard of the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania?

The Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania Inc (SCAT) is an umbrella organisation for over 40 Coastcare groups in southern Tasmania, from Recherche Bay in the south through to Bicheno in the north. SCAT supports Coastcare groups and individual volunteers by providing opportunities and resources to help them participate in coastal management.

SCAT IS WORKING TO:

- create linkages between Coastcare groups, government and others,
- foster regional coastal management outcomes, and
- promote Coastcare and coastal issues to the community.

SCAT invites you to get involved in caring for our coast.

Contact us to find your local Coastcare group, for help starting a new group, or to receive our monthly newsletter.

SCAT contact details:

Phone - Stuart Pengelly on 6221 6160
- Tessa McDonald on 6221 6115

Website - www.scat.org.au

SCAT is proudly working in partnership with NRM South, supported through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

SCAT participated in the NRM focus group held on July 6 at the Bark Mill Tavern.



Stuart Pengelly & Tessa McDonald



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY