

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY A 'WEED FREE' MUNICIPALITY

How time flies! Back in 1998 the Glamorgan Spring Bay Landcare Committee, a special committee of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, decided that a strategic approach to weed management across the municipality was necessary if the 'war against weeds' was ever to be won.

A few years later, the first cut of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan was launched by the Mayor of the day at a small coastal reserve called Pelican Park in the township of Triabunna. Thanks to many years of education, communication, hard yakka and an ongoing 'carrot' and 'stick' approach there is now much change, in both attitude and behaviour when it comes to weeds.

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, guided by their Natural Resource Management (NRM) team and NRM Committee (that replaced the Landcare Committee) work closely with many different stakeholders in undertaking a broad and varied program of strategic weed management across land tenure. We get funding from wherever we can, build partnerships

Glamorgan Spring Bay NRM Committee Chair David Tucker and Mayor Cadart examine serrated tussock



and provide support. We are focused in our vision, with a plan that enables us to be simultaneously systematic and opportunistic in the work we do.

As we come close to finishing our final draft of the third incarnation of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan we can look back with pride on what we have achieved. We look forward to our famous French Mayor Bertrand Cadart – a new convert and strong supporter of the 'war on weeds' – launching our new look Weed Management Plan later in 2014.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of the many different ways we tackle complex weed issues. Today our vision remains the same: Glamorgan Spring Bay - a 'Weed Free' Municipality!



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WHAT ARE ZONE A AND B WEEDS IN TASMANIA?

In Tasmania many weed species are 'declared' under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999* ('the Act'). In each municipality 'declared weeds' are classed under two categories - Zone A and Zone B.

The principle aim for Zone A weeds is eradication. Any landholder with a Zone A weed on their property is required under the 'the Act' to be making all efforts to *eradicate* the infestation. Achieving and maintaining a total absence of Zone A weeds within the municipal boundaries is the ultimate goal.

The principle aim for Zone B weeds is containment. Any properties containing a Zone B weed are required under 'the Act' to be making efforts to *contain* these weeds and undertake *boundary protection* so that the weeds do not spread beyond their property.

Zone A weeds of concern in Glamorgan Spring Bay include **bridal creeper, boneseed, pampas grass, English and Montpellier broom, Paterson's curse, Spanish heath, fennel, serrated tussock, willows and ragwort.**

Zone B weeds include **gorse, blackberry and African boxthorn.**



Pampas grass

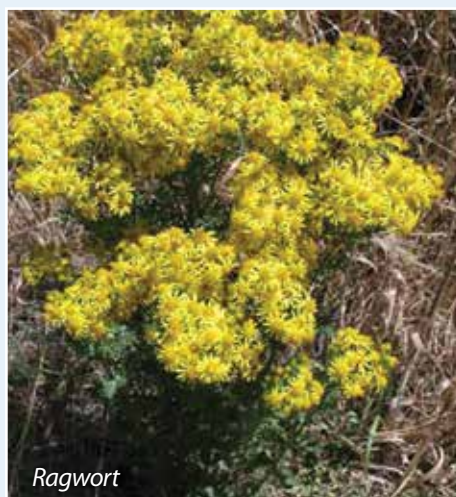


Spanish heath



Boneseed

A weed inspector can serve a requirement notice on any property in Glamorgan Spring Bay containing a Zone A weed. A requirement notice means that the property owner/manager is required to remove the weed or restrict the weed to a particular area. It is an offence against section 13 (3) of 'the Act' to fail to comply with a requirement notice. For more information refer to the DPIPWE website www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au. Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and the Catchments to Coast team have been supporting landholders in undertaking weed control measures for many years.



Ragwort



Serrated Tussock



Willows



Bridal Creeper



Broom



Paterson's Curse

BICHENO BONESEED BLITZ

Glamorgan Spring Bay's Catchments to Coast team, individual volunteers and the Bicheno Earth & Ocean Network have been working to control a boneseed infestation in the Crown Land Reserve behind the coastal township of Bicheno. In early 2013 bushfires threatened the town. Although not directly affected by the fires a fuel reduction burn covering 90 per cent of the Reserve was undertaken in October 2013. Most of the boneseed plants were killed during the controlled burn but a mass germination occurred in the following weeks.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council was successful in obtaining a NRM South Bushfire Recovery Grant and some funding

from Crown Land Services to control this Weed of National Significance. This current work on the boneseed infestation is building on many years work undertaken in the Reserve by Council, Parks & Wildlife Service, the Bicheno Community Development Association, the Bicheno Earth & Ocean Network, and individual volunteers.

Boneseed is one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its ability to grow and spread quickly and out-compete native plants. A single plant can produce up to 50,000 seeds per year.



Hand pulling boneseed seedlings in Bicheno. Photo by Deb Gardner

GORSE AND FIRE AT DOLPHIN SANDS

Thanks to funding from Landcare Tasmania, through the federally funded Biodiversity Grants program, Catchments to Coast will be controlling gorse near the rural residential community of Dolphin Sands which adjoins the Moulting Lagoon Ramsar Wetland.

This control work will reduce what is considered a significant threat to the biodiversity and conservation values at this location as not only is gorse a Declared Weed under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999* and a Weed of National Significance but also poses a major fire risk to this rural residential community.

Fire will be used as a tool in these strategic weed control activities in conjunction with chemical spraying and cut and pasting. The Tasmania Fire Service is supporting this project both in planning and delivery. The Tasmania Fire Service and Catchments to Coast will also develop a community communications plan as part of this project.

Activities will be delivered in line with the Moulting Lagoon

Weed Management Plan, the Swan Apsley Catchment Plan, the Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan, the Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve Management Plan and the Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan and will complement other community bushfire programs currently being developed by the Tasmania Fire Service.



Planning the Dolphin Sands fire and weed project. Photo by Pete Stronach

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Funding from NRM South enabled Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to partner with DPIPW's Invasive Species Branch to hold a community workshop in Bicheno to learn more about ways to manage invasive animals and weeds that affect us on the east coast. Feral cats, rabbits, foxes, Indian myna birds, weeds such as gorse, boneseed, African boxthorn, blackberries, pampas grass, Spanish heath and serrated tussock were all discussed at the workshop attended by 26 people.

A collaborative community approach is the best option to tackle invasive species that impact upon our agriculture, environment and community. All stakeholders need to work together. After all, weeds and feral animals don't care about the property boundaries they cross.

Currently in Glamorgan Spring Bay, Council, DPIPW, private land holders, community groups, individual volunteers, Landcare, the Glamorgan Spring Bay NRM Committee and NRM South are working together to address our invasive species issues.



Talking about machinery hygiene at Invasive Species Day

WEEDING AND REVEGETATING RASPINS BEACH AT ORFORD

The Raspins Beach refurbishment project has been a partnership between Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) and the Orford Community Group.

After consultation with stakeholders a plan to upgrade and rehabilitate the area was adopted and funds were allocated by Council and PWS. An Australian Government Caring for Our Country grant was also obtained by the Orford Community Group. Extensive work by Council and volunteers has resulted in:

- a clean well maintained inviting beach and reserve with recreational facilities and interpretive signage
- a weed free reserve which has been re-vegetated
- planting to help control erosion and fencing to control access through the dunes to beach
- an increased level of community use of the area in general
- a sense of pride in the entry to our town

The area is now leased by Council and maintained by Council and the Orford Community Group.

Raspins Beach is a Conservation Reserve of 4.7ha which provides the spectacular first vista of Tasmania's east coast with Maria Island National Park as the backdrop. Many years as a popular camping location, combined with ongoing coastal erosion processes had left the area in need of significant rehabilitation. Orford Community Group have revegetated the reserve with over 1000 local native plants and grasses which initially were all hand watered.

Weed control was also undertaken. The Community Group

have removed gorse, blackberries, gazania, agapanthus, boneseed, tree lucerne, cotoneaster and mirror bush. Temporary fencing has been installed by Orford Community Group to protect the dunes from foot traffic and allow native grasses to establish. The new viewing and access deck made from recycled materials was designed in part to encourage people to use the one access point to the beach. Native grasses & trees are now beginning to revegetate naturally.

In November 2013 Raspins Beach won the Keep Australia Beautiful award for the best beach in Tasmania. Recently the national judge visited Raspins Beach as part of the national judging. The winner will be announced in July 2014.



Planting native grasses at Raspins Beach. Photo by Jane Wing

WEEDS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE THREATEN THE EUCALYPTUS OVATA/CALLITRIS OBLONGA FOREST COMMUNITY



The *Eucalyptus ovata* (black gum) / *Callitris oblonga* (South Esk pine) forest community is listed as a threatened forest community under national legislation. In 2010 the Catchments to Coast team began working to improve and protect this forest community from the threat that Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) pose.

Work to protect the community has continued this year with strategic primary and secondary control of two WoNS, gorse and blackberry, being undertaken across 35 hectares on two properties in the Swan Apsley Catchment, thanks to funding from NRM South.



Callitris oblonga is named for the oblong shape of its seed pods

This South Esk pine is now safe from the threat of weeds

WEEDS IMPACT LITTLE PENGUIN HABITAT

Council, NRM South, BirdLife Tasmania and the Bicheno Earth & Ocean Network have partnered together to begin the *Bicheno Little Penguin Project*. The aim is to find out how many Little Penguins there are in Bicheno and where they nest and breed. Information was gathered from questionnaires completed by Bicheno residents and ratepayers, and a baseline survey undertaken by BirdLife Tasmania.

BirdLife Tasmania will provide guidance on future actions to ensure that the Little Penguin colony in Bicheno remains healthy and viable into the future. The Bicheno Little Penguins are an integral part of the town's character as well as attracting visitors and thereby benefiting the local economy.

The Little Penguin habitat along the foreshore in Bicheno has been invaded by weeds which need to be controlled without exposing Little Penguins to an increased risk of disturbance or predation. Weeds will be replaced with native species that offer shelter and

protection to Little Penguins from predators. Weed control will be undertaken in a staged process over a number of years to allow the continued use of the surrounding areas by Little Penguins.

All vegetation works (removal and replacement) must be undertaken during the non-breeding season between April and August. Artificial nest boxes and igloos may be introduced to the foreshore as Little Penguin nesting sites.

A Little Penguin in Bicheno amongst the weed, mirror bush ©Eric Woehler & Vali Ruoppolo, BirdLife Tasmania



DUMPING GARDEN WASTE CAUSES SERIOUS PROBLEMS

No one likes to clean up rubbish that other people have illegally dumped. But on Clean Up Australia Day thousands of volunteers across the country do exactly that.

In 2014 Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Glamorgan Spring Bay NRM/Bush Watch Committee and the Orford Community Group held a Clean Up Australia Day event at an illegal rubbish dumping hotspot in bushland off Wielangta Road, Orford. 25 volunteers removed a huge volume of rubbish, 6 trailer loads and 3 ute loads including lots of garden waste and over 40 tyres.

Dumping garden waste poses another serious problem in addition to being unsightly. Garden waste can introduce invasive weeds from your garden into bushland, parks,

reserves and roadsides. It prevents natural regeneration of native plants and dry garden waste is a fire hazard. It costs ratepayers and the government money to clean up and dispose of the dumped material appropriately.

In Glamorgan Spring Bay, garden waste can be taken to your nearest Waste Transfer Station. Stations are located in Orford, Swansea, Bicheno and Coles Bay. For further information visit www.gsbc.tas.gov.au

Please dispose of your rubbish thoughtfully. Rubbish dumping is illegal.



Volunteers at Clean Up Australia Day



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Unless otherwise attributed, all photographs taken by the Catchments to Coast team



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