

EAST COAST NATURE NEWS


Local voices for a living landscape

Our little round-up of what's happening in natural resource management across Glamorgan Spring Bay.

African Boxthorn Biocontrol Field Day

 **Mayfield Estate**

 **Wednesday May 13th 1.30 - 4 pm**

 **Bring water, sunscreen, and a hat**

National African Boxthorn Project

The African Boxthorn Biocontrol & Drought Resilience Project 2025-27 is a national initiative led by CSIRO and Landcare Tasmania to combat the invasive African boxthorn weed across Australia. African boxthorn forms dense, thorny thickets that reduce biodiversity, damage farmland, and threaten drought resilience.

The project introduces a safe biological control agent, the rust fungus *Puccinia rapipes*, which infects the weed and limits its growth and seed production. While the fungus will not completely eradicate the plant, it helps reduce its spread and supports existing control methods without impacting native flora. Farmers, First Nations communities, and local Landcare groups are encouraged to participate through training, workshops, and field demonstrations. The initiative aims to strengthen sustainable land management and improve resilience in Australian agricultural landscapes.

To find out more, please register for Landcare Tasmania's African Boxthorn Biocontrol Field Day which is being held at Mayfield Estate Winery on May 13 from 1:30 – 4pm using this link [Boxthorn Bio-control events - Landcare Tasmania](#)




African boxthorn berries are readily spread by birds.



Triabunna Native Plant Nursery Community Workshop

 **Triabunna Village, Melbourne St, Triabunna**

 **Wednesday May 27th 1 - 3pm**

 **Bring water, sunscreen, and a hat**

Following the success of the April workshop, the Triabunna Native Plant Nursery invites the community to another hands-on workshop and volunteer information session. The workshop will be held at Triabunna Village on Wednesday 27 May 2026.

The session will help establish the new Triabunna Native Plant Nursery — a partnership with Triabunna Village and Triabunna School, focused on growing local native plants for biodiversity, habitat restoration, climate resilience and community education.

Everyone is welcome, whether you are interested in native plants, gardening, revegetation, wildlife habitat, bush foods, or simply want to become involved in a local project.

Participants will help explore ideas for the nursery's future, learn about native seed collection and propagation, discuss growing plants for local restoration projects, and find out about volunteer opportunities. There will also be discussion about bush food plants and habitat species that support local wildlife and pollinators.

The nursery will support local biodiversity restoration, climate resilience projects, wildlife habitat creation, community learning and the growing of locally sourced East Coast native plants.

Community members, gardeners, landholders, young people, families, schools, educators, conservation volunteers and anyone interested in caring for Country are encouraged to attend.

Come along, meet others who care about the local environment, and help establish a nursery that will benefit the Triabunna community and East Coast landscapes for years to come.



WEED ALERT African lovegrass

Keeping an eye out for African lovegrass

African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is an invasive grass that can threaten pastures, roadsides and native grasslands. It is a declared weed in Tasmania, meaning its importation, sale and distribution are prohibited.

This long-lived, densely tufted grass can grow from 30 cm to 120 cm high. It has narrow dark green to blue-green leaves and loose grey-green flower heads that rise above the tussock. Seeds are produced in summer and can spread in mud on boots, vehicles, machinery, animal hooves and contaminated soil or gravel.

African lovegrass has previously been recorded in the Orford-Triabunna area. A 2022 delimiting survey found plants across two properties between the townships, with most recorded close to the Tasman Highway. This highlights the importance of early identification, careful hygiene and ongoing follow-up control.

African lovegrass can be hard to identify and Council recently met the Island Regen team on site at the Orford Waste Transfer Station to check out the grass firsthand and discuss the management and control of African lovegrass in Glamorgan Spring Bay. This is part of a broader Weed Action Fund Invasive Grasses project being delivered by Island Regen.

Community members can help by learning to recognise African lovegrass, avoiding the movement of soil or plant material from infested areas, and cleaning machinery, vehicles and footwear after working in weedy sites. If you think you have found African lovegrass, please report it to Biosecurity Tasmania on 03 6165 3777 or contact Council for advice.



African lovegrass seed head

PASSIONATE ABOUT THE EAST COAST ENVIRONMENT?

JOIN THE EAST COAST CATCHMENTS COMMITTEE

The ECCC, established by the Landscape Recovery Foundation in partnership with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, plays a key role in protecting our natural resources and implementing the NRM & Climate Resilience Strategy.



- ✓ Meet quarterly
- ✓ Share your skills and ideas
- ✓ Help guide local action on biodiversity, land management, climate resilience & more

We welcome people from all walks of life – from agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, tourism, business and conservation, to cultural heritage, communications, finance, and community voices.

Expressions of Interest are now open!

<https://landscaperecovery.com.au/east-coast-catchments-committee>



IN BRIEF

Flood project kicks off

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council is working to help Saltwater Creek in Swansea cope better with heavy rain and flooding. With support from the Australian Government’s Disaster Ready Fund, the project will improve drainage and creek-side vegetation to help slow and manage fast water flows. Council will also trial river monitoring devices at two other locations to give residents and visitors earlier warning when water levels rise.

By working with local partners and the community, the project aims to improve waterway health, reduce flood impacts and help people feel more prepared for future extreme weather.

