

Welcome to the Natural State Newsletter - 2018

NATURAL STATE



Natural State is a small family owned business based near Ulverstone in NW Tasmania.

We deliver a wide range of environmental services throughout Tasmania to protect and restore natural areas, reverse land degradation, encourage biodiversity and promote sustainability.

Thank you for taking the time to read about a selection of projects Natural State has delivered recently.

Feel free to make contact to discuss how we can support you with your project, Matt Rose – Manager.



Photo 1: An area of Buttongrass moorland near King William Creek within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area being managed through our natural area restoration service for the Department of State Growth.

Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Development - Warrawee Reserve

With the boom in mountain bike activity in Tasmania the Latrobe & Kentish Councils are aiming to tap into the potential economic development opportunities through the Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Development.

Part of this project will link Latrobe and Railton through a 60 Km network of mountain bike trails throughout public reserves, including our local platypus viewing hotspot the "Warrawee Reserve" near Latrobe.

Matt surveyed the 60 Km's of proposed mountain bike trail alignment by traversing several vegetation communities of varying condition, from dense wet forest, fire disturbed dry forest, & flood affected riparian areas.

The field observations were compiled into a natural values report with detailed strategies to avoid, offset and mitigate environmental impacts.

To date this project has received \$4.1 Million in state & federal government funding.

Stage 1 of the track construction has recently been completed at Warrawee and is open to the public. For more information visit : www.ridewildmersey.com.au.

Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Development

Natural Values Report

Warrawee Conservation Area through to Railton



Prepared for :
Kentish Council and Latrobe Council

Report prepared by:
Matt Rose

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Figure 1: Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Development natural values report.



Photo 2: An example of cool temperate rainforest in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area near Queenstown.

Strategic Weed Management Plan for the West Coast Region

In early 2018 we completed a Strategic Weed Management Plan covering the West Coast Region for the Parks & Wildlife Service. The 5 year action plan specifies the annual allocation of resources required to manage the threats posed by invasive weeds at many sites within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

The 23 management zones include some of the West Coast's most iconic natural areas such as the Andrews, Franklin & Gordon Rivers, Andrews River Nature Trail / Frenchman's Cap, Nelson Falls, Sarah Island, Macquarie Harbour & Pieman Heads.

Organic dairies shelterbelt project

During September 2017 Natural State planted native shelterbelt buffers for Moon Lake Investment's Pty Ltd based in Smithton. Over 5,300 local native seedlings were planted at 3 dairy farms currently undergoing conversion to certified organic status.

The dairies are located at Woolnorth (Robbins Dairy), Trowutta (Talawa) and Edith Creek (Poilinna), North West Tasmania.

As part of our day to day customer service we're able to adapt our project management to navigate logistical challenges, often at very short notice, to assist our clients. Some examples from this project include:

- Establishing a workforce with 2 weeks' notice,
- Living away from home for several weeks to avoid driving long distances after each big day,
- Accessing planting sites during very wet conditions,
- Coordinating works with each farm manager to minimise the loss of production during calving and to maximise pasture grazing before planting,
- Ensuring seedlings, mats, guards and stakes were delivered to each site in advance of planting crews,
- Matching species selection to soil types and site conditions,
- Planting during very wet and cold conditions to make the most of the available rainfall,
- Juggling a busy pre-existing workload.

Thank you to the crew of people who helped complete this project which totalled the equivalent of 54 days for 1 person. The success rate after 12 months is > 96%.



Photo 3: The shelterbelt planting at Robbins Dairy, Woolnorth. Typical black soil associated with the swamp forests of this area.



Photo 4: The shelterbelt planting in the red volcanic soil at Talawa Dairy, Trowutta.



Photo 5: Disturbance niches created with an excavator to encourage natural regeneration at one of the sites.

Rocky Cape National Park quarry site rehabilitation

In 2018 we developed a 5 year Rehabilitation Plan for Mineral Resources Tasmania for the Sisters Hills Quarry Pits located near the Rocky Cape National Park.

So far the Year 1 weed management activities have been implemented to prevent further spread of invasive weed species such as Blackberry, Blue Butterfly Bush, Gorse, Pampas Grass, Spanish Heath & Radiata Pine into the reserve.

Over the coming years we aim to revegetate the more 'difficult' sites through hand direct seeding & planting.

The Nut State Reserve

If you visit The Nut at Stanley you will now notice the site has an active weed management program in place. As with most conservation projects, there are many other considerations which need to be factored into the planning process before any on ground work commences.

Part of our work over the past 6 years has involved weed control to buffer and protect the populations of the threatened Grassland Paperdaisy - *Leucochrysum albicans*.

Apart from managing the reserve for conservation outcomes, another important aspect of this very physical work is to improve the aesthetics at one of the iconic tourism assets in North West Tasmania and create a positive experience for the 80,000+ people who visit the site each year.

Overall, the results are starting to speak for themselves, a lot less Gorse in your face, literally, and we've been able to encourage the *Poa labillardieri* – Silver Tussock grassland regeneration to compete with the weeds for ground cover.

We enjoy being able to contribute in a positive way to some of Tasmania's most popular tourism attractions.



Photos 6 & 7: Before and after photos showing the Gorse control progress around the chairlift station within 4 years.

Environmental education sessions

We are always looking for opportunities to share our broad natural resource management experience with local schools and to develop meaningful programs exploring sustainability, nature studies and environmental education.

Over 10,000 students have participated in specially tailored activities with Natural State throughout TAS, SA, VIC & NSW since 2002.

Recent examples over the past 12 months include:

- A Tasmanian Bats program presented during the school holidays for the Devonport City Council.
- A Tasmanian Frogs program developed for the East Devonport Primary School Grade 5's and Latrobe Primary School Grade 4's, with an introduction to sustainability & examples of practical conservation work.
- An interpretive walk around The Nut with the King Island Primary School Grade 5's.



Photo 8: Year 5 students from East Devonport Primary School being introduced to a Brown Tree Frog.

Did you know? Matt holds a Herpetology permit & has caught and kept venomous snakes and reptiles for many years. This usually provides for interesting discussions with students on native fauna habitat requirements and conservation measures.



Photo 9: The Natural State team with the SA Water Science & Sustainability Award for small business in the Murraylands / Riverlands region in 2007. The mighty Murray River from the Taillem Bend clifftop.

Natural State to turn 17 years' old

Back in June 2002 whilst living in a caravan overlooking the Murray River near Wellington, South Australia, I decided to start my business Natural State.

Prior to this I had worked in the conservation & horticulture industries in private and public sector roles, and volunteered my time with several community groups and committees for 6 years.

To be successful as a small business owner, it takes a lot of hard work, discipline, sacrifice and determination, with a bit of resilience and patience thrown in too, attributes that I've learned in this time.

In recent years I've shown persistence through adversity and found a way to contribute positively to the North West region through a range of conservation projects delivered through Natural State.

Final word for 2018. Thank you for reading this newsletter and for taking an interest in my small business. Although the old-fashioned way of running a business is to focus 100% on making profit, since starting Natural State I have made a commitment to give back to the community where I live. Apart from working hard to make a living in this industry I choose to donate between \$5,000 - \$10,000 worth of my time, every year, to help a range of stakeholders achieve great outcomes with their projects. All the best for 2019, Matt.