

# NATURAL STATE

Consultancy, project management and native vegetation management services. We understand the client's needs, and deliver high quality results; on time and on budget.

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## NATURAL STATE



## Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Natural State Newsletter – 2013

This newsletter is intended for screen viewing, with links for email and web addresses, helping to reduce paper waste.



**Photo:** The Leven River flows from the snowy mountain peaks near Cradle Mountain down through the Leven Valley and out into Bass Strait in Ulverstone.

### The Tasmania Shift

In September 2009, we moved from South Australia, with our son (who was 4 months old at the time), to start a new chapter in North West Tasmania.

We bought 50 acres of wet Eucalyptus forest on the Leven River, 15 kilometres inland from Ulverstone. We quickly set about installing a stand-alone solar power system, rainwater tanks and implementing a vegetation management regime around our house.

We both worked for Cradle Coast Authority within the Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM) unit for 3 years each, before deciding it was time to move on to the next challenge in 2013.

### Natural State Business Update

Natural State has been up and running full time in Tasmania since January 2013. We aim to continue to offer our unique combination of skills, experience, consultancy and native vegetation management services, throughout Tasmania. In 2014, it will be 12 years since Matt started Natural State.

At this stage the Natural State Newsletter will now be produced annually. We are currently in the process of updating the Natural State website. In the meantime please check out, and feel free to 'like', our Natural State facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/NaturalStateAU](http://www.facebook.com/NaturalStateAU).

We look forward to developing new opportunities for our business, learning as we go, and building the Natural State brand. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the great projects that we have delivered this year. Thank you for your support.

- Matt and Karina Rose.



**Photo:** (taken during winter 2009) Broadacre revegetation using a machine planter in the SA Mallee region < 350mm annual rainfall. 7,000 oil mallee seedlings planted in one.....long.....day.





**Photo:** Large pipe work 1m diameter, laid out in the pipeline corridor before being connected and buried.

## Revegetation Services

We can assist your project with species selection, technical support, seedling, native seed, tree guard and wetting agent supply, site preparation, tree planting, ongoing maintenance and evaluation. For larger projects we can manage the logistics for you. We have developed and managed several revegetation schemes in SA and TAS, from small blocks to the landscape scale.

Natural State has extensive experience with revegetating degraded sites and agricultural land with a variety of soil types, rainfall zones and species. We can utilise a variety of techniques and machinery suited to each site, including machine direct seeding (best suited to the NRM North and NRM South regions).

Several private landowners and the Parks & Wildlife Service supported us this winter and spring, with just over 4,500 seedlings hand planted this year.



**Photo:** Gorse management at Preminghana amongst the *Poa poiformis* – Coastal Tussock lowland grasslands.

The nearby Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape was added to the National Heritage List on 8 February 2013.

## Midlands Water Scheme

The Midlands Water Scheme is a Tasmanian Irrigation project within the Central Highlands. The Scheme aims to provide landowners with a reliable irrigation supply for agricultural / horticultural crops near Campbell Town, Ross, Oatlands and the surrounding area. Water is sourced from Hydro Tasmania's Arthurs Lake via a newly constructed 40 km long pipeline. Water is expected to be available for the 2014-2015 financial year.

In early 2013, Natural State was commissioned by the construction company Fulton Hogan to assist with environmental compliance on the construction site, particularly weed monitoring, mapping and management.



**Photo:** Direct seeding machine used for cost effective broad acre native vegetation establishment. Please contact Natural State to arrange a quote.

## Preminghana

Preminghana is an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) of environmental and cultural significance to Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The site also known as Mt Cameron West, is situated near Marrawah, on the West Coast of Tasmania.

Natural State was engaged by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) to assist with implementing the Preminghana Works Plan for 2012-2013.

The project included training and technical support for the TALSC crew in GPS mapping, seed collection, revegetation and weed management works.

Natural State also developed a Five Year Weed Management Action Plan for Preminghana 2013-2018 to provide further recommendations for the ongoing management of the 500 hectare site.





**Photo:** Seed collection activity for the Motton Preston Scouts camp.

## Environmental Education Services

Over the past 15 years, we have delivered environmental education activities to youth in South Australia and Tasmania.

We enjoy teaching kids about nature. Some examples of hands on activities now include seed collection, propagation, planting, seeding, plant identification, and learning about bush foods in an outdoor, community or classroom setting.

We take safety seriously, and conduct Risk Assessments, have undertaken OHS & Mandatory Reporting training, have relevant insurances, and Police Checks.

Educational sessions can be tailored to address the Australian Curriculum (Sustainability, Science, and Geography) or to meet specific needs of your group.

Karina has tertiary qualifications in Science (Bachelor) and Environmental Education (Masters). Please contact Karina to arrange a quote to visit a school or organisation, or to discuss your project further.

## Consultancy & Project Management

As well as undertaking on-ground works, we have produced technical advice in many forms; including weed management and revegetation plans for private landholders; and horticultural advice.

In addition, Natural State has provided technical advice for recent revegetation schemes (Cradle Coast NRM Farm Shelterbelt Project), vegetation condition assessments, plant identification, on ground works planning, GPS mapping, GIS analysis using ArcGIS 10.1, and conservation land management / horticulture training.

For a copy of the Natural State Capability Statement please contact Matt or Karina.



**Map example:** GIS mapping used to assist with planning on ground works.

## Relief Teaching at TasTAFE

Matt filled in as a relief TasTAFE (Certificate III, Horticulture) lecturer during August-September 2013, at the Burnie Campus.

Some of the units covered during this time included plant propagation, plant identification, environmental weed management, planting, and dry stone wall construction.

A field trip highlighted garden escapees that are now major environmental weeds and Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), as well as some hands on weed eradication works.

We wish all of the students the best for the future, now as budding Horticulturists.



**Photo:** TasTAFE Certificate 3 Horticulture students monitoring, mapping and pulling out Boneseed seedlings near Heybridge, Tasmania. The national [Bitou Bush and Boneseed strategic plan 2012-17](#) prioritizes Boneseed to be eradicated from Tasmania.





**Photo:** African Boxthorn growing near the coastal town of Cape Jervis, Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia.

## African Boxthorn Best Practice Manual

African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is now officially on the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) list. At present there are now 32 weed species on this list in Australia. Each of the WoNS species have a national Strategic Plan for prioritising management, as well as National Best Practice Management Manuals to assist with planning and implementing management work.

Earlier this year, Matt assisted Mike Noble from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to co-author the *Weeds of National Significance African Boxthorn National Best Practice Manual*. This document will soon be available from the DPIPWE website and the Natural State website. The Manual provides advice and case studies for best practice management of this invasive species.

## Safety and Remote Area Projects

This year several of our projects have been delivered in remote areas of Tasmania. We have implemented our own Occupational Health and Safety Policy, which includes a practical approach to minimising risk in our 'workplace'. Some of the measures taken include using technology to assist in communication and GPS location. We use a Spot Tracker system for real time location tracking, communication and emergency assistance as well as VHF & UHF radios.

Over the years we have worked with many clients who also value safety in the workplace, we comply with construction & forestry industry site induction and OHS procedures.

Matt recently passed the ACMA Amateur Radio Foundation Licence and holds the registered call sign of VK7FMCR.



**Photo:** Matt working on the West Coast carrying a phone, GPS, UHF radio & Spot Tracker. Food, water, wet weather gear and more supplies, in the backpack.

## Lowland Grasslands

The lowland *Poa labillardierei* - Silver Tussock Grass grasslands of the Surrey Hills area are listed as an endangered ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. Several threatened species are also present such as *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *tricolor* (Hoary Sunray) and *Prasophyllum crebriflorum* (Crowded-Leek Orchid).

Natural State was contracted to locate, map and manage introduced weeds, including Gorse and Thistle; to enhance the condition of the grasslands.

Data collected during this project will be used to assist Forestry Tasmania and Gunns Limited to manage the grasslands into the future.

These grasslands, surrounded by Eucalyptus forest and rainforest, have developed as a consequence of Aboriginal landscape burning and fire management.



**Photo:** Knole Plain grassland, situated near Waratah.

For more information read *Austral Ecology* (2013) **38**, 627-638, *Contracting Tasmanian montane grasslands within a forest matrix is consistent with cessation of Aboriginal fire management*. D.M.J.S. Bowman, S.W. Wood, D. Neyland, G.J. Sanders and L.D. Prior.