



King Island Natural Resource Management Group Inc

Chair Report: 2014 – 2015

King Island Natural Resource Management Group (KINRM) has had a very successful year, progressing a wide range of projects with great support from volunteers and various organisations, under the competent management of our staff. As ever KINRM are at the mercy of available funds, but we are well-placed in terms of people and planning to maximise opportunities as they arise.

General Highlights for the Year:

- Three projects from previous years completed were:
 - Protecting and Improving Native Vegetation on Porky Creek with Tasmanian Landcare funding- on-going weed management is allowed for, and there is some interest in developing a creek-side walk;
 - Australian Government Biodiversity Project is restoring 150 Ha of native vegetation on 16 different sites;
 - And the very successful Soil Biology project funded by the Community Landcare grants- which provided landholders information on soil microbiology principals and management, macro-organisms, legume nodulation and fertiliser requirements.
- KINRM information contributed to the Historical Society 100 year time capsule placed at Naracoopa.
- BBQ and information night with two palaeontologists from London Natural History Museum studying the extinct King Island pygmy emu was attended by 50 people.
- Victorian Wader Study Group community engagement BBQ and information night on avian influenza – 28 people attending.
- Boggy Creek sea spurge project, funded by Community Environment funding, completed within timeframe and budget, which involved weed crew, community and KIDHS.
- Engagement with KIDHS and Victorian Wader Study Group tagging Ruddy Turnstones.
- Currie Wharf Historical Walking Track funding from Tasmanian Community Fund and Cradle Coast NRM received and work has begun. This is stage 5 of a long running project with wonderful community support and great results.
- Wings on King, a bird tourism project with monitoring and sustainability focus, has begun. KINRM and Birdlife Australia are offering support under a Memorandum of Understanding. Around 45 monitoring sites will be set up and monitored at least annually and hopefully seasonally. There is considerable support from a network of ornithologists for the methodology development and for on-going monitoring.
- Bird Surveys on King Island subspecies the green rosella and black currawong completed with wide community engagement, including Ballarat & Clarendon College.

- Information night on KI scrubtit and swift parrot with Mark Holdsworth and Matt Webb – 23 people attending.
- Sightings of the King Island Scrubtit, listed as Critically Endangered and King Island Brown Thornbill, listed as endangered and last seen in 2002. Both sightings were in the Naracoopa Forest area.
- Boneseed weeding with community and BCC working bees.
- GIS overview and support from Mark Wisniewski, Cradle Coast NRM.

Highlights of the Regional Landcare Facilitator Program:

Funded by the Australian Government, through Cradle Coast NRM, this program has allowed Rod to:

- Research funding sources and further encourage farmers to protect shelter belts, riparian habitat and pockets of native bush on their properties.
- Present that theme at the King Island show, but with disappointing interest.
- Carry out soil and limesand testing, on various farms using Albretch and conventional test methods, to encourage debate and expand farmers' knowledge.
- Organise MLA program –“Soil Tests-Deciphering and decision making” delivered by Luke Taylor- 43 people attended-thanks to Liz and Target120 for assistance.
- Attend the annual Landcare Facilitator Conference in Canberra, where the message was for Regional Landcare Facilitators to have a role as communicators of relevant R & D as the old integrated systems have broken down.
- Design and manage Soil Nutrient Balance Trials project funded through Australian Government 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants.
- Liaise with Cradle Coast re. funding opportunities and programs relevant to King Island.
- Attend a 2 day workshop on “Facilitation” in Burnie, which was educational and useful.
- Liaise with Liz from Target 120 regarding her program, and where we can assist each other.

Thanks to our project officers Eve Woolmore, Ana Pimenta, Rod Graham and Ondrea Richards for their professionalism and enthusiasm. Ana continues to support us when called upon. The part-time nature of all our employees means they often work without peer support and communication can be difficult. Despite the challenges they have been an effective team-planning and implementing a diverse range of successful projects across our asset areas: Land, Biodiversity, Coast, and Water. The on-ground works crew have continued to support our projects and those of various landholders, including King Island Ports and King Island Council. Particular thanks to Michelle Mauric, who has taken on the administration of the organisation with great composure and efficiency.

We continue to work closely with Shelley Graham and Dwayne Denby, Parks and Wildlife Service. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Shane Keeler as Wallaby Control Coordinator and Liz Bond, Target 120 project. These two DPIPW initiatives are improving both productivity and biodiversity outcomes on the island.

Helen Strickland was accepted to the Cradle Coast NRM Committee. She attends their meetings regularly, ensuring we are well informed on regional issues and there is input relevant to King Island circumstances.

The strong relationship with King Island Council continues, with mutual benefits. Our activities support many Council responsibilities and Council's financial support and provision of office space are a great assistance to our organisation. We welcome Jim Benn as King Island Council representative on the Committee.

Thank you to the committee for their wonderful support in the direction and development of strategy for the organisation. In particular, thank you for your willingness to actively participate in different projects. This core group of volunteers has been the catalyst for attracting considerable funding to the island and has inspired thousands of volunteer hours from a wide cross-section of the community. The programs we implement provide positive activities and opportunities to work together with benefits to individuals, business and the island environment.

Jennifer Thorn
Chairperson
King Island Natural Resource Management Group

21 September 2015
