

Green Army NRM South and Landcare Tasmania partnership



The project was run as a collaborative effort between NRM South and Landcare Tasmania from May 2015-September 2016 with the aim to:

- Support 27 Green Army participants(3 project teams) with a diversity of skills, networks and professional development through working with multiple partners across southern Tasmania as measured by the number of partners, project activities and training activities for members affiliated with the project
- Support NRM activities through 3 ha of weed control, 9 surveys/ monitoring programs, support to 3 community events, 3 Ha revegetation, provide support to community groups and landholders through existing grant programs and projects on EPBC, biodiversity, Ramsar and reserve management projects.

NRM South partnered with Landcare Tasmania to submit a project to the Australian Governments Green Army Programme- Round 2, with the aim to support a regionally focussed Green Army team, aligned with regional delivery of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme that would enable and support community projects as well as provide extensive on the job training for Green Army participants.

The project "Working in Southern Tasmania to protect and conserve species and places" was successful through the program, and was initiated in May 2015. The project supported three Green Army teams of 10 participants aged between 17-24 (1 supervisor and 9 youth). These teams were coordinated through NRM South, and supported by a steering committee comprised of NRM South, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Landcare Tasmania.

An important element of the Green Army programme is also the provision of funding, with up to \$10,000 allocated per team, to support on ground activities. These funds and the teams labour provided much needed support to an array of regional projects for community and professional NRM organisations.

Green Army teams supported existing NRM South Naturally Inspired Grants programs (Community Group and Landholders) and Tas Landcare Fund grant program. The team also supported regional planned activity through the NRM Facilitator Network, and local government and Parks and Wildlife Service project sites.



This project is supported by NRM South and Landcare Tasmania through the Australian Government's Green Army Programme. The project has also been supported by the Tasmanian Government, former Australian Government funding programmes and a range of dedicated partners.

Landcare Tasmania, Acting EO Mathew Pitt said,

"Local groups welcomed the teams to their individual patches, and were very appreciative to have such great support for their volunteer activities."



NRM South, Donald Coventry CEO said,

"The teams are highly spirited, dedicated and hard-working, and have received accolades from many community groups, staff and landholders."





The Green Army teams also provided support to the North Bruny Biodiversity Fund project, run through NRM South from 2012-14 conducting monitoring and assessment of planting survival rates, replacement planting and weed control. The team also worked on several sites with regional staff, NRM Facilitators including Pitt Water Orielton weed control, mammal monitoring activities, support to feral Oyster control in the Tasman, karamu weed control in the Derwent river, support to Understorey Network after break in and damage to their nurser, involvement in Saltmarsh Matters monitoring activities, Landcare Tasmania State Conference in Huon Valley and Volunteer Week celebrations, as well as a range of community events such as National Tree Day-Schools.



Conservation Volunteers Australia(CVA), as project host, were responsible for day to day management of Green Army participants. NRM South conducted Biosecurity training, and teams made up hygiene kits for distribution.

NRM Facilitators coordinated local project activities within the Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring bay, Sorell, Tasman and Huon Valley Councils through existing NRM South regional delivery. Southern Midlands, Hobart City, Kingborough, Clarence City Councils and Parks and Wildlife Service, and Landcare Tasmania also coordinated site specific projects with their local community groups.

Community groups and landholders who accessed the team, also coordinated the teams on site.

The main highlight for Green Army participants was their work experience across a diverse range of project sites and activities, and working with a broad range of dedicated and passionate NRM people in Southern Tasmania.

When Green Army teams worked with community, landholders or professionals, as part of the site induction the recipient of the teams were required to give an overview of the environmental aims of each project site, and the role Green Army teams were playing in supporting the long term goals. This provided valuable context for Green Army teams, as well as environmental learning of the scope of NRM activities across Southern Tasmania.



The Green Army program has successfully provided a foundation and stepping stone for youth in Southern Tasmania into the environmental field, and given them valuable work experience, skills and networks to start their careers on the right foot. A testament to CVA and the regional partnership project in Southern Tasmania.

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The project has supported **27 Green Army participants** with a diversity of skills, networks and work experience across a diversity of sites across southern Tasmania. **The participants worked with 26 community groups on 74 project sites, 14 organisations (Council, PWS etc) on 19 project sites and worked with 19 landholders on their properties.**

The teams conducted 10 monitoring/surveying events in EPBC species and fauna recovery projects, propagated 1710 plants, conducted weed treatment across 25 ha, installed 400 metres of fencing and revegetated 1.7 ha with over 3000 plants and supported pest control activities. The teams conducted these within rural areas, coastal zones, in urban parks and reserves and in high biodiversity zones such as Bruny Island, Pitt Water Orielton Ramsar site and Saltmarsh areas.

The success of the Green Army partnership project has been a result of great leadership by CVA and good coordination of teams through NRM South and Landcare to provide a broad range of support to Community Group projects, landholder initiatives and public land managers. The teams have gained valuable NRM and on the job experience, and have received positive feedback from those they worked with and supported.

It was great to see that so many of the Green Army participants were enthusiastic about continuing their career in the environmental field, or continue their studies in Conservation and Land Management beyond the program. CVA team leader Sophia Newman also reported that the team members also **learnt valuable workplace skills, including professionalism on the job, communication, team work and self-management skills such as regular work attendance, taking responsibility on the job and simple things like getting to work on time.**

Beyond this project partnership, NRM South has already secured another urban/peri-urban based Green Army team with partners, due to start in July 2016, and has also submitted round 5 to another 3 team project, aiming to provide direct linkage to grant projects, NRM Facilitator activities and working to a more localised geographic coverage to support more regional employment opportunities for participants (in the New Norfolk, Kingston and Sorell/Clarence regions)



Green Army participants supported multiple partners with their projects.



- 26 Community groups supported
- 14 Organisations (Local Government, Landcare Tasmania, PWS, UTAS, pakana Services, BirdLife Tasmania, NRM South) supported
- 19 landholders were supported
- 27 Green Army participants
- 1 Green Army supervisor





Steve Bailey CVA,

“One of the most pleasing aspects of this partnership is the way in which Green Army has been embraced by all partners, and an understanding of the program has developed that complements the team of young participants, the project partners they assist, and ultimately the benefits attained for our local environment.



The teams have, and are fortunate to be undertaking a range of conservation activities throughout many wonderfully diverse locations in southern Tasmania. With this comes the opportunity to be working alongside a range of committed people, with particular emphasis on our Community Care Groups where there is often a blending of our youth together with senior community members, working together for a common cause”.

Social outcomes: Green Army teams worked on (at minimum) 108 project sites across the 3 teams. Through this they also networked with 26 community groups, 14 organisations and 19 individual landholders. This networking was an important part of the participant’s professional development and social networking opportunities.

Environmental outcomes: While team 3 is still ongoing at the time of this report, project teams 1 and 2 have supported restoration activities in over 54 regional projects supporting habitat protection, enhancement and restoration in a range of environments supporting EBPC fauna recovery actions, including weed control, weed surveys and monitoring, propagation, fencing and revegetation activities. The teams also supported EPBC Saltmarsh monitoring, mammal monitoring and track-work and interpretive sign installation supporting community projects.

Economic outcomes: Green Army teams worked on ground 216 days over 3 teams of 20 weeks each team (the first 2 weeks of each team was dedicated to training), equivalent to \$529,200 hours of labour per 9 member team plus supervisor. Landcare Tasmania, local community groups, landholders and local government also contributed to the team activity with on ground resources through Grant funds, on-site training/inductions by professionals and community, NRM South coordination and Green Army training.

Total project support \$148,705*

Total regional project value (minimum) \$677,905

**In kind on the job training, coordination and cash from partners and Green Army project funds.*

Does not include CVA coordination.

Some of the positive learnings of the partnership project were:

- Integrating grants with Green Army labour support worked well.
- The collaborative approach with Landcare Tasmania, to provide vital support to community/Landcare efforts in the region.
- Collaborating with NRM Facilitators, other Local Councils and PWS Wildcare proved an effective approach to allocating teams.
- Green Army teams were well received, and this model proved a successful one, as the regional collaborative approach reduced responsibility/risk for individual organisations, landholders and volunteer groups to coordinate the whole of team activities and provided much needed access to labour support on their projects.

