UnderStories

Autumn 2011 No 53

*……promoting, preserving, protecting and rehabilitating native vegetation*

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| *Secretary:* | Mary Jolly |
| *Treasurer:* | Rupert Manners |
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| | Martin O'Bryan |
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Visit our website and Plant Propagation Database:
www.understorey-network.org.au

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**Co-ordinators' Report**

Summer has been seed collection time and the office is rapidly filling up with brown paper bags containing the seeds of your labour! Seed collection workshops have been taking place across the state with schools, community groups and the general public all getting involved. It is an exciting time as species after species comes into maturity, providing us with a bounty of material to restock our seed bank for the next growers scheme and various projects across the state. Any excess seed you have collected can be sent to the USN where it will be gratefully received and stored in the seed bank.

2010 Growers are reporting mixed results – some having spectacularly dismal germination, despite following the guidelines carefully, whilst others having had great success. It can be difficult to pinpoint why a particular batch of seed doesn't germinate – reasons could include timing of propagation, seed immature or too old, bugs or fungus attacking un-germinated or newly germinated seed, seeds getting too wet or too dry as well as temperature. However it is always worth giving it another go next season. Of course some things can just be very slow, so it may not be time to give up hope yet. It is probably also time to start hardening off your plants in preparation for planting out.

Autumn is also a great time of year for propagating from cuttings and we will be having several workshops on the topic. This is a great way to grow some of those plants that can be very difficult to propagate from seed, including a lot of coastal species and plants well-suited to a native garden.

Well this is the last co-ordinators' report to be signed off by both co-ordinators as there is another baby on the way, this time for Natalie, who will be heading off on maternity leave in the next month or so.

Happy planting!

***Oliver Strutt and Natalie Holman***

# PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Newsletter… and it really is only autumn, even though the weather seems to think that winter has arrived early. I hope that everyone has had a successful growing season and that we will soon have a large number of small plants being moved to new homes.
The USN has had a very productive summer season with many seed collecting and workshop events that have been well patronised. For this I need to thank our co-ordinators and those committee members who were able to participate.
Over the past few months we have been reviewing the Strategic Business Plan for the USN, which is now on the web at www.understorey-network.org.au. Those members who may prefer to receive a hard copy may request one from Oliver. The plan identifies the direction for the organisation for the next five year period and members are invited to read and respond to it. Anyone wishing to make specific comment could do so by email or by attending a committee meeting and I will take this opportunity to remind everyone that Committee meetings are open to all members, just let the co-ordinators know if you plan to attend so that we can ensure that there are sufficient seats available.
The past three months have been productive from a financial perspective and we have received a number of grants, including a community grant from Nyrstar to improve the facilities at the Tolosa nursery, partnerships with NRM South, NRM North, Cradle Coast NRM, and Glenorchy City Council, as well as the Aurora Energy sponsorship and Caring for Our Country projects—"Enhancing critical habitat of the endangered forty-spotted pardalote" and "Increasing skills and knowledge in protecting and rehabilitating Tasmania's native vegetation". You will hear more about these in coming newsletters.
As a result of the grant success we have experienced the USN is in a healthy financial position but your committee has decided that we need to consider ways to improve the situation to make us a little less dependent on external grant income. One suggestion is to hold an annual fundraising event and anyone with good ideas, or fund raising experience or just a desire to help on the fund raising committee is invited to put themselves forward by email or a phone call to the co-ordinators or myself, Joan.Rodrigues@utas.edu.au.
I have been referring to "our co-ordinators" but Natalie will soon be departing on maternity leave and her hours will be taken up by Oliver. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to wish Natalie all the best for the final months of her pregnancy and say a big "thankyou" for all the work that she has put into the Understorey Network. At the same time I wish Oliver luck as he takes on a not quite full-time role as the USN co-ordinator. On behalf of the committee we promise to try to not overwork him, which is always a danger when you only have one person in the role.
I hope that you enjoy the rest of the Newsletter. If you have any suggestions for improvements or content please do not hesitate to let us know.

***Joan Rodrigues***

# FAREWELL FROM ONE CO-ORDINATOR

**After just over a year as one of the Understorey Network co-ordinators, I am heading off to have another baby, due in a few short months. It has been wonderful working alongside Oliver and the very dedicated USN committee. The Understorey Network is founded on the passionate dedication of its volunteer committee and members, who have kept the organisation running even when cash flow has been minimal. Oliver has done a fantastic job securing grants and keeping us financially viable. Fortunately he is taking over as co-ordinator, increasing his hours to cover the extra workload. It's wonderful to have been a part of the history of such an iconic NGO and I feel proud to have made a contribution. All the best and I'll let you know if it's a boy or girl!**

***Natalie***

## Propagation Pointers

**Family Name** **CONVOLVUACAEA**

**Species Name** *Wilsonia humilis*

**Common Name** *Silky Wilsonia*

There are only three species of Wilsonia growing in Tasmania; *backhousei*, *humilis* and *rotundifolia*. *Wilsonia humilis* and *rotundifolia* are considered rare.
*Wilsonia humilis* is a low prostrate plant that grows in the upper edges of costal salt marshes on the east coast.

| | |
|---|---|
| Seed treatment | It has a rather hard coated seed that needs scarification before sowing such as rubbing it between sand paper or marking the edges of the seed with a sharp knife just to break the hard coat. Try giving them the dry heat treatment say, 70 degrees, for 30 minutes before sowing. |
| Propagation notes | I haven't much experience with this plant but from information I can get they should be able to be grown from cuttings taken during February through to April. All three species should be treated the same. |
| Seed sowing months | Sow them during March and keep them damp until germination. Germination may take some time, up to 12 months sometimes. |

*Growers, if you have propagated this species and can further add to the information provided we would very much appreciate hearing from you. Please email* understorey@gmail.com

***Warner Wait***

***Salt marsh at Sorell. The grey patch is a large mat of Silky Wilsonia***

**Flowers of Silky Wilsonia**

## GRANT NEWS

Tasmanian Landcaring Grants - Third and final round open 12 Feb - 29 Mar 2011
The Tasmanian Landcare Association, in partnership with Wildcare Inc., opened the third and final round of funding on the 12th of February 2011. This final round features grants (up to $15,000 per project) that are available for Care Groups (Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, "Friends of Groups", etc.) and property owners for projects that target specific Caring for Our Country priorities; participation in natural resource management; increasing native habitat targeting weeds of national significance and internationally significant wetlands as well as increasing coastal community engagement and improving knowledge and skills of land managers. The Tasmanian Landcare Association's project team is keen to hear from groups or individuals that are considering submitting an application so support and advice can be provided. For more information on the program or connecting with the individual projects contact the Project Manager, Alan Barton on 62347117 or projectmanager@taslandcare.org.au

# HOW DID YOUR SEEDS GROW?

I would thank very much all those growers who returned their growers' charts. From this information we can collate the germination and survival rates that we have from our Growers' Scheme which helps us try to work out why we sometimes have such spectacular failures. So much of it seems to be random, but the more information we have the better we can determine what the best plants are to grow in our back-yards for our revegetation projects, small and large.

The same message seems to come through all the time. Be patient! Some plants take much longer than others to germinate, some once germinated seem to stop growing for a while before getting going, and some just grow for some people and not for others! For information on growing native plants "Growing Australian Native Plants from Seed" by Murray Ralph is invaluable.

Without doubt the most satisfying plants to grow are the melaleucas, callistemons, leptospermums and dodoneas. Massive germination rates result from all of these. Bursarias and banksias can take some months, as can lomandras. The acacias took from between 1 and 10 weeks to germinate, and some seeds needed more than one hot water treatment. *Cassinia aculeata* mostly took from 3-4 weeks to germinate but one grower waited five months, then had 100 % germination! Blandfordia germinates well but is then extremely slow growing. Fresh seed from clematis germinates more quickly than older seed which grows well for a few weeks then slows right down for months before suddenly taking off again.

***Bursia spinosa***

***Leptospermum sp.***

Another factor to consider is slugs. I have had a box of seedlings disappear overnight to big fat slugs hiding under the pots, so now have resorted to putting out slug pellets. This may be an unseen cause of some of our growers' failures. It is worth checking under pots from time to time.

At the USN nursery it was noticed that with some plants germination was much better when the pots were put into polystyrene boxes with high sides, as opposed to the lower boxes. So this may well be a factor, but we need to do some controlled trials on this variable.

Please keep up the good work, we are still making a huge difference, in spite of those seeds which insist on being uncooperative!

***Lomandra longifolia***

***Anne Griffiths***

# SALT MARSHES -THEIR STORY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FUTURE

## Introduction

Surrounded by the Australian landscape with all its magnificent and alluring vegetation communities boasting multitudes of distinguished and celebrated species, grow the diminutive salt marsh communities and their little known halophytic (salt tolerant) species of herbaceous succulents, grasses and sedges. Being precariously positioned fringing the low energy estuarine and lagoonal shorelines they deliver vital ecosystem services, whilst contributing to Tasmanian's sense of place. Recently they have attracted a sudden burst of local community and research attention stimulated by the proposed Lauderdale canal estate development and the release of three enlightening reports regarding salt marshes. These reports resulted in a comprehensive characterisation of the Lauderdale's salt marsh biodiversity, an in depth awareness in variations to the salt marshes' condition over the last 30 years and a tell tale sea level rise (SLR) vulnerability risk assessment for the low lying salt marshes up to 2100. In the light of these recent reports and the fortunate opportunity to explore the salt marshes in their peak condition following rejuvenating rains in 2009, this article seeks to explore the intricate lifecycles of the salt marsh communities in general and the fascinating complexity of the vegetation mosaics in the Lauderdale region in particular, whilst exposing the climate change challenges they are confronting.

## Salt marshes deliver a multitude of ecosystem services.

Salt marshes occupy the zone from Mean High Water Mark MHWM to storm tide (or just above, where the wind borne salt spray extents the succulent's range) providing a crucial link between the estuarine and terrestrial ecosystems. This is visibly represented within Ralph's Bay at Lauderdale, where the sub-tidal zone in Ralphs Bay merges landward into expansive shorebird habitat of the intertidal sand flats that are linked via the extensive salt marshes to the coastal communities and their fresh water catchments.

Salt marshes such as those adjoining the sand flat shorelines of Pittwater, Lauderdale and Pipe Clay Lagoon's act as food factories and maintenance teams delivering a wide range of ecosystem services including protecting and buffering the coastal hinterland against storm surges; regulating hydrology via the succulent vegetation transpiration, water shading and sediment trapping, supplying organic materials for estuarine and marine food webs, filtering out and attenuating pollution in freshwater runoff, conserving biodiversity and shorebird habitat and providing many educational and recreational opportunities.

## Salt marshes drive the estuarine food webs

The key demands for the health of salt marshes are regular flows of fresh water from the surrounding catchments and the unimpeded tidal flushing from the sea. Salt marshes undergo an annual growth cycle, which is followed by shedding of their salt laden foliage and dying back. This process provides a bountiful supply of mulch and detritus, creating food and habitat for the rich diversity of invertebrates and detritus feeders. With availability of this abundant food supply migratory (and resident) shorebirds rapidly gain body fat to sustain their return journey to the northern hemisphere. These include the inimitable tiny 25 gram red necked stint which follows the East Asian-Australasian Flyway for a 13,000km migration flight each year.

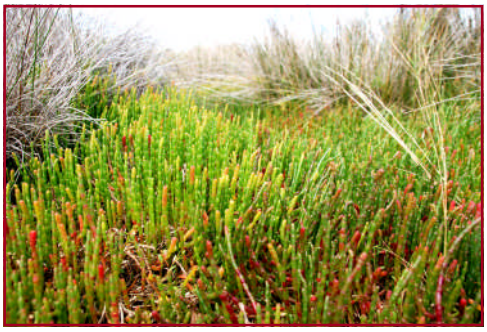
With the aid of bacterial breakdown much of this decomposed detritus is exported to the intertidal sand flats where filamentous green algae (microphytobenthos) as the primary producers, absorb the nutrients and grow prolifically. This alga sustains both the coastal bird food supplies made up of sediment dwellers such as bivalves, brachiopods, molluscs, gastropods, worms as well as the sub-tidal juvenile fish and crustacean nurseries. As an easily digestible and highly nutritious preferred food supply these alga are constantly being eaten and never build up to amounts that can be easily seen in healthy ecosystems. During the summer high growth period these invisible food factories also rely on atmospheric nitrogen fixation producing additional algal biomass per hectare (equivalent to the production of a commercial pea crop). Concerning is the appearance of visible blooms of nuisance alga as a response to excessive nutrient loads flushed into the salt marshes and sand flats from polluted runoff. These slimy green algae are indicative of deterioration in the condition of the salt marsh.

## Floristic mosaics characterise the Ralph Bay salt marshes

As a naturally restricted vegetation community, salt marshes occur on low energy estuarine regions generally in small patches around Tasmania with the largest areas occurring in the Derwent and Coal River Estuary, along the northern coast, Moulting Lagoon and Bass Straight Islands. From a botanical perspective this article is primarily focussed on the Ralph's Bay salt marshes although the floristic mosaics are often reflected in nearby salt marshes at South Arm, Pipe Clay Lagoon and Pittwater–Orielton. Ralph's Bay salt marshes at Lauderdale not only have the most alluring communities and habitats but also are by far the largest.

These complex mosaics are represented by rare floristic combinations of ground hugging succulent herbs dominated by goosefoot family *Chenopdiaceae* and pigface family *Aizoaceae* members, and an array of graceful grasses, sedges and rushes. From horticultural and landscape perspectives the species discussed below deserve exploring for coastal gardens suffering from dryness. Across large portions of salt marshes, mats of various shades of greens and reds which deepen with increasing levels of salt accumulation in the fleshy foliage are real attention grabbers. These mats are dominated by the sprawling beaded and thick headed glassworts *Sarcocornia quinqueflora* and *S. blackiana*, fleshy round leaf pig face *Disphyma crassifolium subsp. clavellatum* along with the more upright succulent austral seablite *Suaeda australis.* Like splashes of paint on this glasswort and pigface dominated canvas, strips a rare mosaic comprising trailing saltstars *Hemichroa pentandra* and the prostrate white tubular flowered, narrow leafed wilsonia *Wilsonia*

*backhousei,*(bindweed family *Convolulaceae*) add to the intricate floral and foliage patterns. Recorded as a parasite, golden dodder *Cuscuta tasmanica* is the rarest species in the salt marshes at Lauderdale, surviving as a leafless and rootless parasite twining its pale golden stems around its hosts *Wilsonia rotundifolia* and *W. backhousei*.
Spectacularly the round leaf pig face mats transform into blazes of pink during later spring when their daisy-like flowers burst into full bloom. The area immediately becomes alive with a myriad of pollinating insects such as endangered Tasmanian salt marsh moth and marauding insects such as mosquitoes, midges, March flies etc. Delicately competing for floral prominence and insect attention are the numerous bright yellow button flowers of the introduced water buttons *Cotula coronopifolia,* the sprawling white flowering lesser sea spurry *Spregularia marina* and the delicate many stemmed bluebell *Wahlenbergia multicaulis.*



**Beaded glasswort and round leaf pigface community at Lauderdale**
From a distance, particularly at higher tide the mats of low lying mosaics form a landscape with uncanny similarities to the alpine cushion plants, framed by the ancient (some 400 years old) bonsai-like shrubby glasswort *Tecticornia arbuscula* (syn.*Sclerostegia arbuscula)*. These glassworts somewhat imitate the ancient sentinels amongst the alpine cushion plant communities such as the drooping pine *Microstobus niphophilus* creeping pine *Microcachrys tetragona* and dwarf pine *Diselma arcturi.*

**Upper salt marsh species provide attractive coastal garden alternatives**
Just above normal diurnal tidal influences and into regions where only the spring tide penetrates, other vegetation mosaics take advantage of the lower levels of inundation and salinity. These include the shiny leaved fan-shaped flowers of shiny swampmat *Selleira radicans* (*Goodeniaceae*), the compact bushes of silvery grey leaved swamp saltbush *Atriplex paludosa* and the prostrate pink flowered creeping brookweed *Samolus repens,* (the only native Tasmanian member of the 20 species of *Primulaceae* in Australia)
Higher on the mounds of shell grit and sand are the grasses and sedges (TASVEG classified *saline rushland/ sedgeland* ARS) mosaics characterised by coastal tussock grass *Poa poiformis,* coastal spear grass *Stipa stipoides,* and coastal rush *Juncus krausii* and chaffy saw sedge *Gahnia filum.* These have the potential to feature more prominently as accent plants in water wise gardens and coastal landscapes.
Bordering the upper salt marsh are small patches dominated by the distinguished slender twine rush *Apodasmia brownii* (Restionaceae) which are easily recognised by their drooping flower heads ( Latin; *Apo* pointing, *dasmia* downward). Scattered through these sedges are aristocratic tall spikes of the rare salt mallow *Lawrencia spicata* (mallow family *Malvaceae*). Within this area, the slightly prickly clumps of Australian salt grass *Distichlis distichophylla* flourish. Their low creeping rhizomes act as an excellent sandy soil stabilizer and are easily propagated by sprigs to form a dryness tolerant coastal lawn (not so comfortable to laze on). Along narrow strips of Ralph's Bay foreshore abutting the road and growing in elevated mounds of coarse sand and shell grits are patches of coastal scrub (TASVEG classified as SCA). These shrublands consist of mostly grey saltbush *Atriplex cinerea* with occasional coastal saltbush *Rhagodia candolleana* and bower spinach *Tetragonia implexicoma* (all excellent coastal garden plants although they need regular cutting back to check their vigour).

**Salt marshes – deserve improved conservation and reservation status**
Readers may recall the Resource Planning Development Commission's recommendation not support the Walker Canal Estate development proposal. This decision was based in part on the fact that the Lauderdale salt marshes have the largest current extent and most floristically diverse salt marshes within SE Tasmania and are home for major breeding colonies of the red capped plover and an estimated 7% of world's population of the pied oyster catcher and the red necked stint. Importantly this decision was based on a comprehensive salt marsh vegetation survey and impact assessment which now provides vital detail on the flora and fauna along with an understanding on the impacts threatening their health and resilience.
Of major significance to the regional salt marshes was the release of the Clarence City Council's *Climate Change impacts on Clarence coastal areas* report (Jan 2009), which also pointed out that under 2100 projections, 2400 houses, a raft of infrastructure and roads meant salt marshes, sandy beaches, soft sediment and soft rock foreshores were at risk from coastal inundation and erosion. More specifically, the report's projections revealed that salt marshes would no longer be able to survive in their present locations.
Within a few months of this sobering prediction for salt marshes, Vishnu Prahalad's masters thesis (mid 2009) presented the most comprehensive SE Tasmanian salt marsh study ever undertaken. It compared the extent and condition of salt marshes surveyed by Kirkpatrick and Glasby (1981) relative to today. Vishnu's study revealed that salt marshes experience a range of human induced impacts including restrictions to tidal flushing and freshwater flow, extensive grazing of the threatened shrubby glasswort community by stock and rabbits, eutrophication by polluted flows, weed invasion, ongoing recreational pressures from 4WD, trail bikes, mountain bikes, walkers and horse riders as well as menacing climate change induced impacts.
In response to the projections that salt marshes would require retreat pathways to survive predicted inundation, Vishnu Prahalad was commissioned by the Derwent Estuary Program to identify retreat corridors for salt marsh communities under SLR. His report determined that most areas identified as future wetland refuges lay within private land. This would call for responses targeted at purchasing important areas for reservation or establishing conservation covenants with supportive private landowners.

### Salt marshes have a confusing conservation status and are poorly reserved

s part of 1.0 km2 of salt marshes within Ralph's Bay at Lauderdale, 0.7km2 is classed in TASVEG as principally *succulent saline herbland* ASS being 88% of the Derwent estuary's extent of ASS. The other prominent vegetation type (0.2 km2 being 15% of Derwent estuary's extent is *saline rushland/sedgeland* ARS.

It is complicated to resolve the conservation status of specific salt marsh communities in Tasmania as many of the important floristic communities are not clearly recognised by TASVEG. Their mapping is both incomplete and is mapped using a structural (as distinct from floristic) undifferentiated scale. Currently under TASVEG the extent and level of reservation of salt marsh is based on the mapped distribution of *undifferentiated salt marsh* AUS. This is actually made up of seven different floristic communities three of the most prominent being the beaded glasswort and round leaf pig face dominant community, the trailing salt stars and narrow leafed wilsonia dominant community and the shrubby glasswort dominated community.

### Shrubby Glasswort community at Lauderdale

This broad AUS classification has resulted in the low level of recognition and conservation status for the ancient miniature forests communities of shrubby glasswort. Consequently grazing, vegetation clearing and the construction of tidal barriers or restriction to fresh water flows continue to extract their toll. Given that these are not only crucial for both migratory and shorebird habitat, they are also the most exposed communities to "squeezing" against road barriers, lateral erosion by wind waves and gradual inundation under SLR. Additionally the shrubby glassworts will slowly be drowned and replaced by the more tolerant beaded and thick headed glassworts as SLR become evident. Recognition as threatened native vegetation community TNVC, under the *Nature Conservation Act* 2002 (Prahalad 2009) would be a major step towards raising the community's conservation and reservation status .

### Conclusion

Salt marshes are continuing to endure a range of human induced impacts, with these expected to be exacerbated by predictions of emerging climate change impacts and potential to be cleared due to low conservation status. Already shrubby glasswort patches on the seaward side of roads around Ralph's Bay and Pipe Clay Lagoon are being squeezed out against roads, whilst continuing dryness has altered the balance of fresh water–salt water flushing regimes to produce large white salt pans and scalds prominent amongst the salt marsh's vegetation.

Salt marshes fringing tidal re-entrant foreshores (quiet lagoonal and estuarine backwaters with no swell waves) are steadily responding to SLR and erosive wind waves by retreating inland as lateral erosion etches into their exposed shorelines. As the tidal flows penetrate higher and further inland with SLR even more subtle changes will become obvious as the gradual replacements of shrubby glassworts by more tolerant beaded glassworts accelerates.

In response, protection of retreat pathways and strengthening the shrubby glasswort community's reservation and conservation status would undoubtedly enhance their sustainability into the future.

As a final comment, curiosity will be aroused when the climate change effects have delivered to Bass Strait Islands and perhaps Northern Tasmanian salt marshes their first mangroves. Already in southern Victorian locations such as Wilson's promontory mangrove communities have begun to establish. These are a direct consequence of migrating seed capsules hitching extended rides in the warmer eastern Australia ocean current.

***Phil Watson***

## PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Establishing and maintaining relationships with organisations, such as local government and Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, corporate sponsors, other non-government organisations and the federal government is an essential part of the co-ordinators and committees role at the Understorey Network. These relationships open up opportunities and networks for the Understorey Network to do its work and support its members.

The Understorey Network is working in partnership with NRM South, the southern Natural Resource Management body to deliver a series of workshops in southern Tasmania, covering a range of topics from plant identification, grassland ecology, and coastal gardening, to seed collection and propagation. NRM South has provided the funding for these workshops and staff members have assisted in their organisation and delivery, along with other organisations such as Huon Valley, Hobart and Kingborough Councils.

The objective of these workshops is to increase the communities' knowledge and understanding of the management of Tasmania's unique natural resources as well as to increase participation in this management. Many USN members have come along to these workshops and are using the knowledge gained to better manage their own patch or are skilling up as volunteers to help improve the management of their local bushland.

Our recent trip to Cockle Creek was well attended, fun and very informative. Things are a bit different at Cockle Creek. Towering mountain peppers, *Tasmannia lanceolata* and cheesewoods, *Pittosporum bicolour* grow just a few meters from the ocean. Due to the unique environmental characteristics of the area, there is an amazing diversity of plant species and it's not surprising it took us over an hour to do the short walk to Whale Point. In fact, we did not make it to the end because we got hungry and turned back for lunch! Paulette Whitney from Provenance Growers led the

Cockle Creek plant identification walk, not only revealing botanical and common names, but going into detail about which plant species are good in a garden setting, or for revegetation, or bush tucker. Following lunch, Paulette explained how to propagate some of the species we identified from cuttings, e.g *Tasmannia lanceolata, Pomaderris apetala*, *Pultenana daphnoides* and *Pultenana juniperina,*. Some of us then explored the vegetation along the beautiful coastline while others sat on the beach and soaked up the sunshine - followed by a sleepy trip home. A big thanks to NRM South and Huon Valley Council for funding this fantastic day. Our next workshop in the Huon area will be in the Randalls Bay area on April 3rd. Check out the 'Whats Happening' guide for information on upcoming workshops on Coastal Gardening, Plant Propagation and Seed Collection.

Another significant relationship is with Aurora Energy, based on a sponsorship agreement signed late last year. This project encourages Aurora staff to assist community groups to revegetate three sites around the state. Staff involved in the project have been enthusiastic, hard working and well organised. The first field activity was a seed collection workshop at Seven Mile Beach, where Aurora is assisting the Seven Mile Beach Coastcare group to rehabilitate the coastal area. This successful day was followed by a seed collection workshop in the North, at Supply River, where Aurora is working with the West Tamar Landcare group to revegetate a significant tributary of the Tamar River. Another workshop at Buttons Creek, in the States North West will see Aurora staff preparing cuttings with the Buttons Creek Coastcare group, which will be used to re-establish coastal vegetation along the foredune.

Staff are utilising their community services leave to contribute to the project and the next steps involve propagating the seed collected and organising planting days. This three year project with Aurora will result in the significant improvement of natural values at three sites around the state, as well as introducing new people to growing and appreciating Tasmania's native plants

## COCKLE CREEK TRIP

***Natalie Holman***

## AURORA GROW WILD PROJECT

Today I was lucky enough to be part of the Aurora Grow Wild Project at Supply River.

It was an excellent day and everyone who attended really enjoyed it and most of us have learnt a thing or two which is great!

***Travis Holmquest***

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**The Understorey Network organises many of its workshops with partner organisations. Feel free to give us a call at the office or send an email for more information about any of the workshops below and also check the website for the latest Calendar of Events.**

**RSVP essential.**

**Coastal and Community Garden Workshop (South East)**
When: Sunday 27th March, 10am
Where: Dodges Ferry

**Seed Collecting (South)**
When: Monday 28th March, 2pm
Where: Opossum Bay

**Propagating Native Plants from Cuttings Workshop (South)**
When: Friday 1st April, 10am
Where: Tolosa Community Nursery, Glenorchy

**Seed Collecting and Propagation Workshop (South)**
When: Sunday 3rd April, 10am
Where: Randalls Bay, Huon

**Seed Collecting - White gum for forty-spotted pardalote habitat (South)**
When: Wednesday 6th April, 2pm
Where: Howden

**Coastal Gardening and Propagating Native Plants Workshop (East Coast)**
When: Wednesday 13th April, 10am
Where: Orford

**Coastal Gardening and Propagating Native Plants Workshop (East Coast)**
When: Sunday 17th April, 10am (TBC)
Where: Bicheno

**Gardening with Native Plants and Propagating from Cuttings Workshop (North East)**
When: Monday 18th April, 4pm
Where: North East Park, Scottsdale (TBC)

**Understorey Network Committee Meetings**
When: The second Monday of every month, 5:15pm
Where: USN office, Level 1, 148 Elizabeth Street Hobart
All members are welcome to come to our regular meetings