

Land Management Update

lungtalanana, Babel, Hummocky, Badger, Big Dog,
Preminghana, trawtha makuminya, Risdon Cove & putalina



August 2015

This is a quick overview of some of the things the TAC land management team have been up to in the past 6 months. We have 4 crews based at Preminghana, Risdon Cove, Hummocky & Flinders Island working on 8 Indigenous Protected Areas and trawtha makuminya.



For more details, reports, maps, concerns or questions please call: Tim Brown in Hobart or Andry Sculthorpe at Risdon Cove.



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Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc.



Big Dog



Community Trip

This year we hope to make the old homestead liveable again so that it can be the base for a community camp.



Mirrorbush

Here is a picture of mirror bush in rookery, before and after it has been cut and pasted with herbicide (glyphosate). They are harder to kill even than boxthorn as they reshoot from cut vegetation & stumps and there are lots of seedlings. Its difficult to burn the cut vegetation without starting a rookery fire. This year we have trialled spraying the leaves with a different herbicide (tricopyr) that doesn't kill the tussocks, it is showing good results so far, but we'll have to wait until after spring to see if they reshoot. The plan is to remove all the mirrorbush in rookery near the tracks first.



Fireweed

Much of the fireweed has died naturally and the woody stems are slowly breaking down. In many areas the tussocks are growing back underneath as can be seen in this photo.

2013



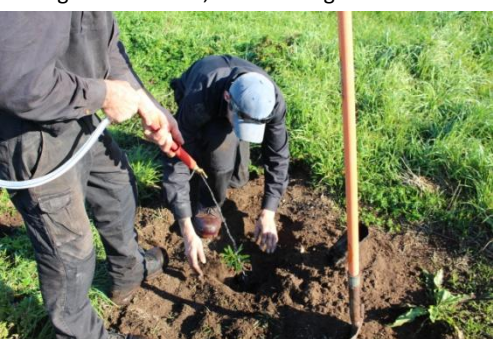
2015



Hummocky



Bougainville Skink, its not all tigers....



Look closely at 2 images above. They are taken at the same spot, 2 years apart. Notice in the 2013 image there are boxthorns scattered through the landscape, and in 2015 there are none. This is one example of an area that the Hummocky crew have removed boxthorn and then checked every couple of months for seedlings and regrowth. It takes a lot of monitoring on Hummocky to really make the difference – and these guys are onto it.

In rookery areas, after removing boxthorn the crew are spreading tussock seed (*poa poiformis*), in areas that aren't rookery they are planting native shrubs to replace the boxthorn before more weeds do. In some areas that aren't as weedy the island takes care of filling the gap itself – like in the top 2015 image.

Ambrose and the crew continue to find signs of the old people. Ambrose takes notes, photos and GPS points to ensure that the story is not lost and continues to grow.



Babel



Despite only a few trips to Babel this last 6 months due to the muttonbird season, around 8.5ha of boxthorn has been cleared this year, creating more suitable rookery habitat.

Much of the area is regenerating naturally with a healthy native soil seed bank. Some areas are more prone to reinvasion of weeds and erosion. In these areas we have focussed on planting tussocks from local stock. The crew has revegetated 3.5ha in this way.



The top photo shows an area cleared of boxthorn and recently replanted, the photo to the left shows a planting after a couple of months and the bottom shows Drummer in amongst 12 months growth.



trawtha makuminya



In April we took part in a flora survey of the property with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy as part of getting a conservation covenant over the land.

Some of the features found on the property include:

- Many Cider gums (*Eucalyptus gunnii*), some with sap runs (← see photo)
- Some of the largest sphagnum peat bogs on private land in Tasmania.
- Some of the largest joining patches of Gum-topped stringybark (*E. delegatensis*) forest in the state.

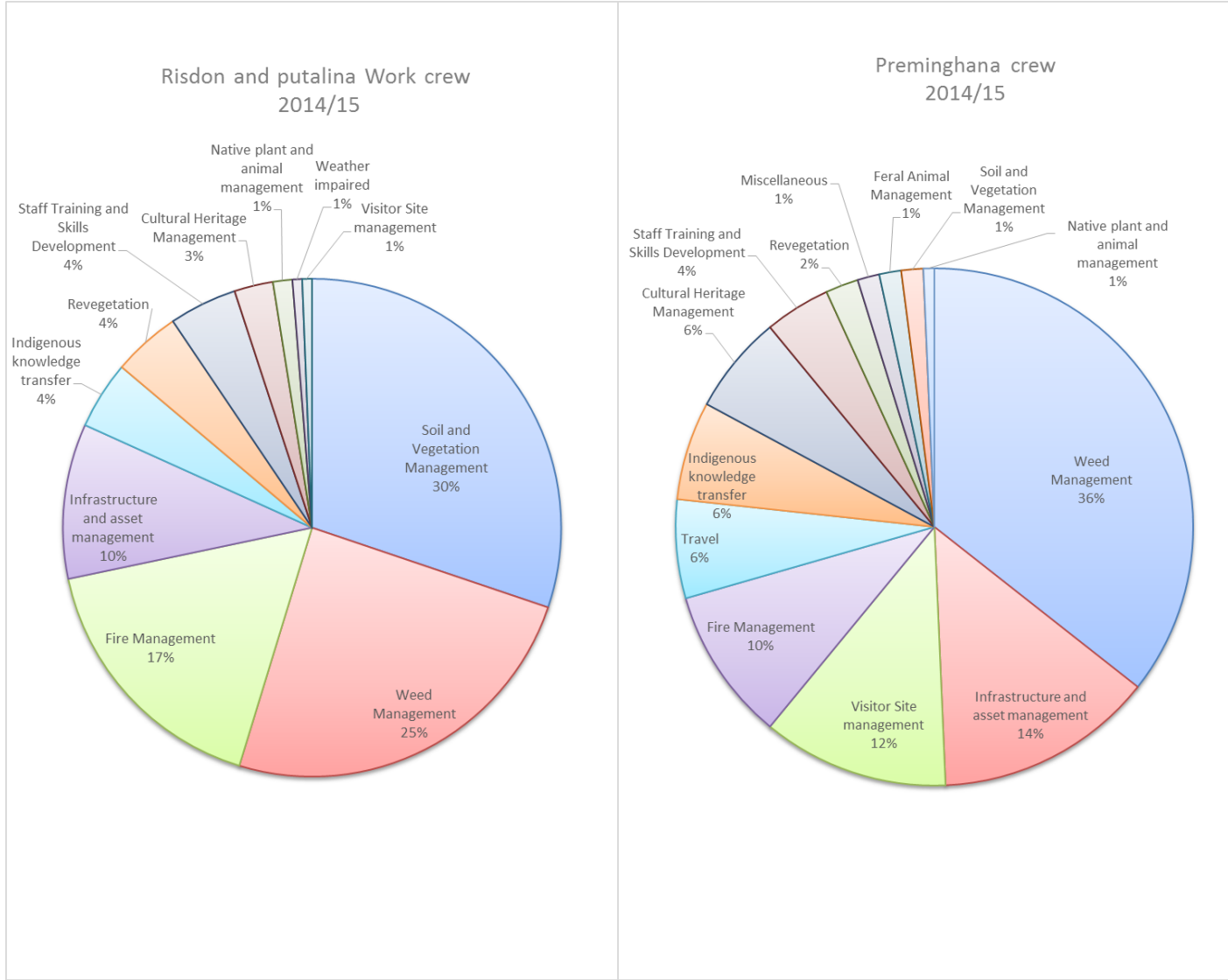
The property has had many visits this year from families and people learning about **patrula nayri milaythina-ta** (good fire on country).

Some ILC grant money has been secured for more fire and weed work, a second shack upgrade, two river crossings and kilometres of fence work to stop wandering stock.



In summer the main bridge over the Nive was rebuilt using parts of the old Bailey bridge found on the property. This bridge should last a very long time.

Here’s how the crews have spent their time in the past 12 months.



Preminghana crew: Jason Mansell, Victor Ralph, Kade Gehan, Matthew Murray, Nick Jones, Benjamin Purton, Jarrod Edwards

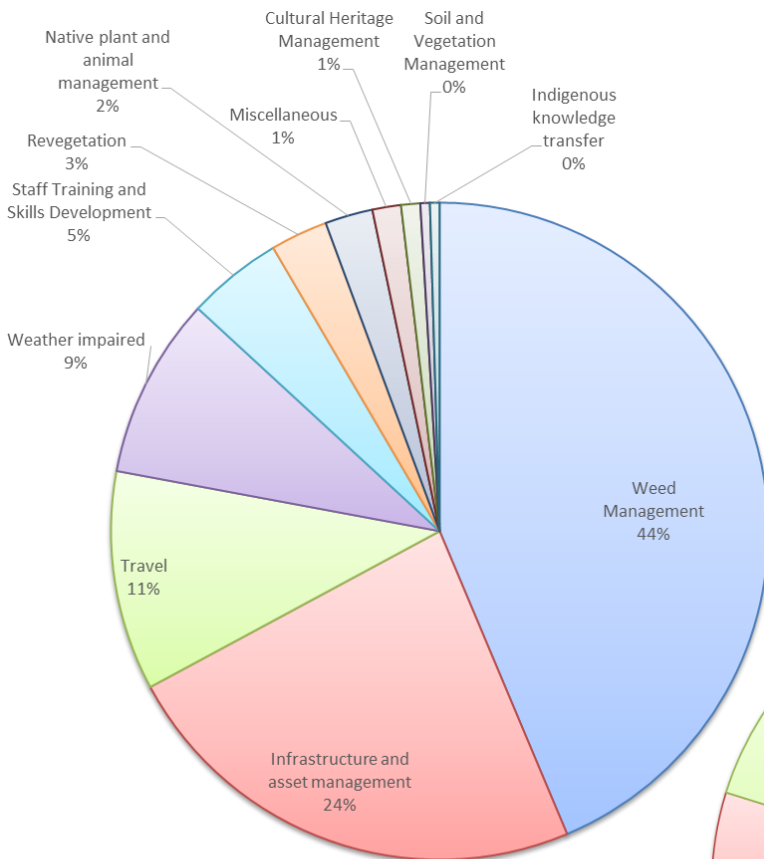
Risdon putalina crew: Cody Summers, Nathan Maynard, Jack McDonald, Jason Smith, Andrew Jones

Island Crews

Big Dog, Babel crew: Drummer, Brett Newall, Stuart Wheatley

Hummocky / lungtalanana crew: Ambrose McDonald, Jayde McDonald, Larni Everett, Billy Riley, Graeme Stonehouse, Craig Everett

Big Dog, Babel Work crew
2014/2015



lungtalanana and Chappell Is. Work crew
2014/ 2015

