



# Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc. Land Management Update September 2016



2016 has already been a busy year for Land Management with impressive progress on Aboriginal Land including rehabilitation, several community events, learning new approaches and putting ancient knowledge into practice.



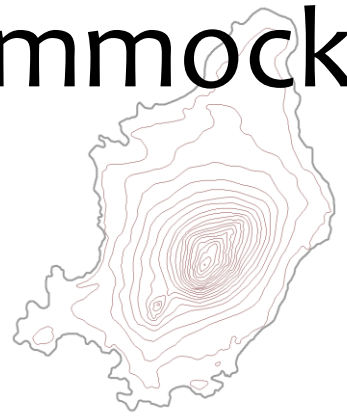
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or questions please  
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piyura kitina/ Risdon  
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# Hummocky



Ambrose's crew continue their stewardship of Ol' Hummocky, including control of seaspurge around the coastline.

The tussocks on the saddle have thickened well, after planting 3 years ago, and there is less mirrorbush growing back than ever known.



A new generator shed takes shape



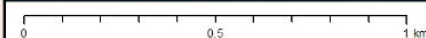
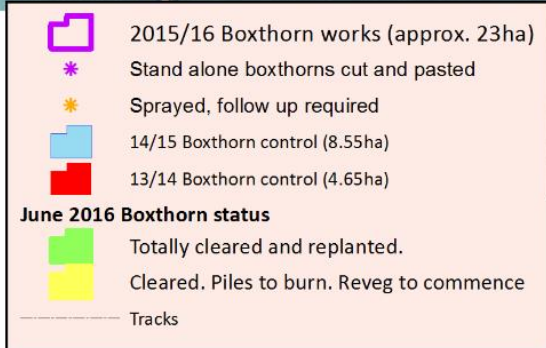
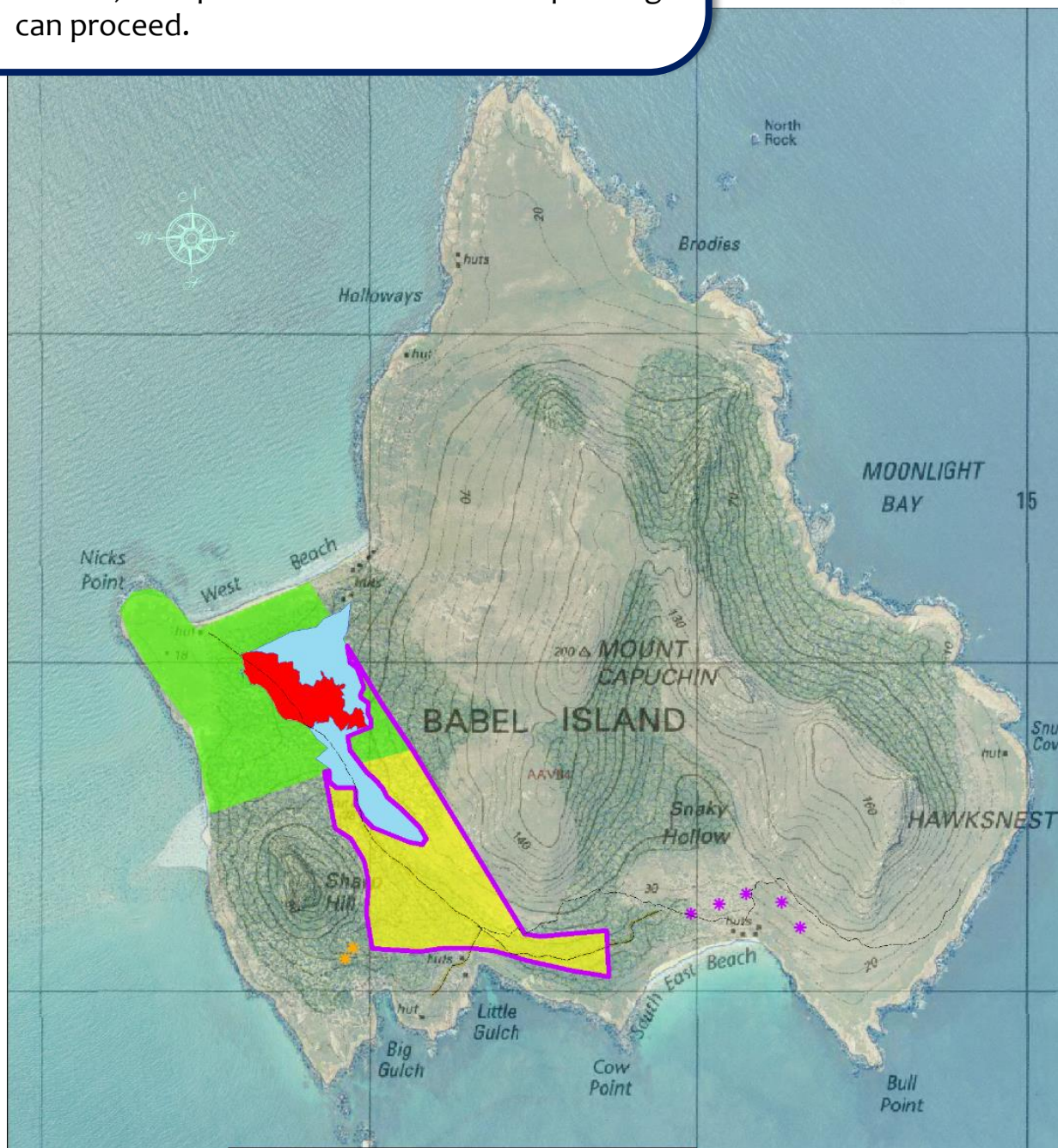
And the new workhorse works well!



Drummer's crew have stepped up the progress on returning boxthorn infestations into healthy muttonbird rookery. Large areas that were previously boxthorn are now either:

- completely clear of boxthorn and replanted with tussock grasses, (for rockeries), or
- cleared, with piles to be burnt before replanting can proceed.

# Babel



Tasmanian  
Aboriginal  
Centre





Burning the boxies after cutting and dragging into piles, in the large eradication area.





# Babel

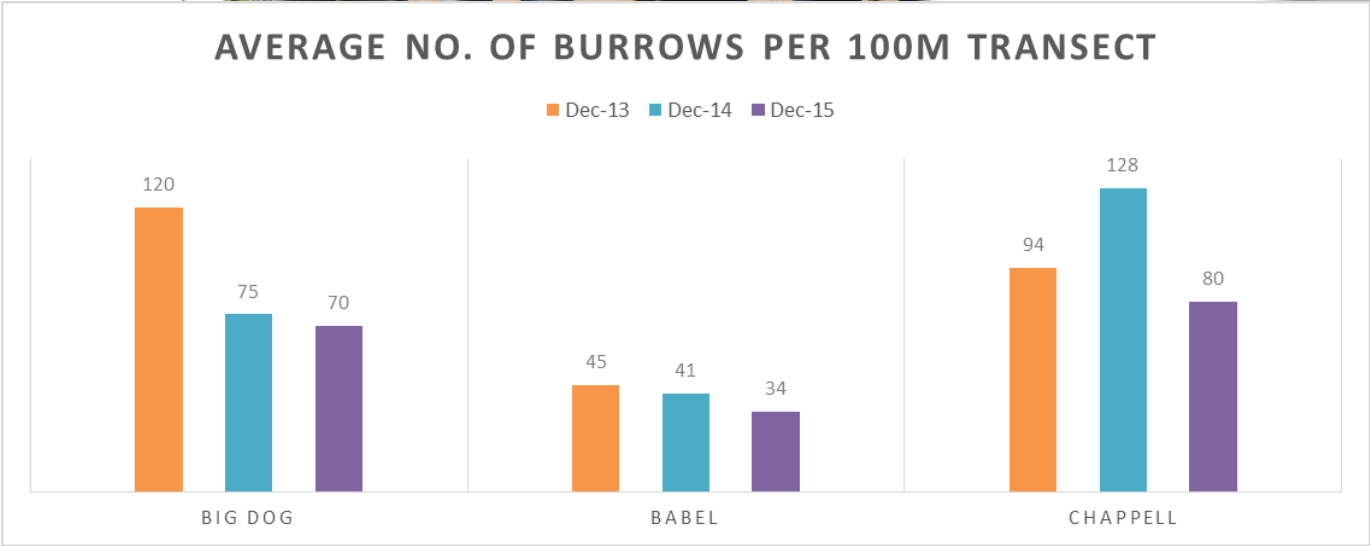
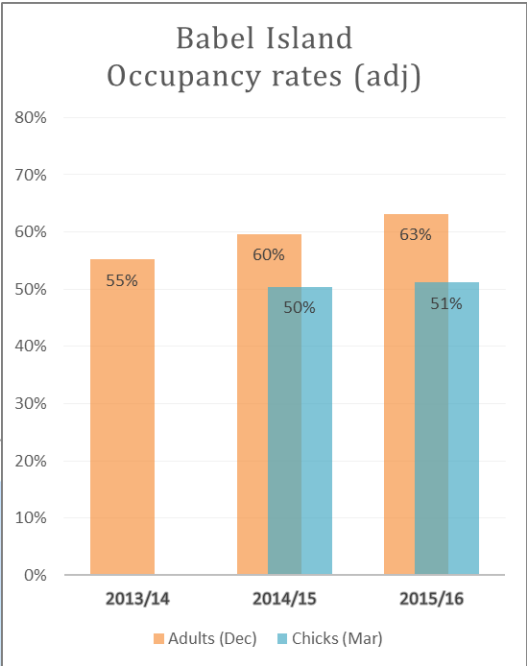
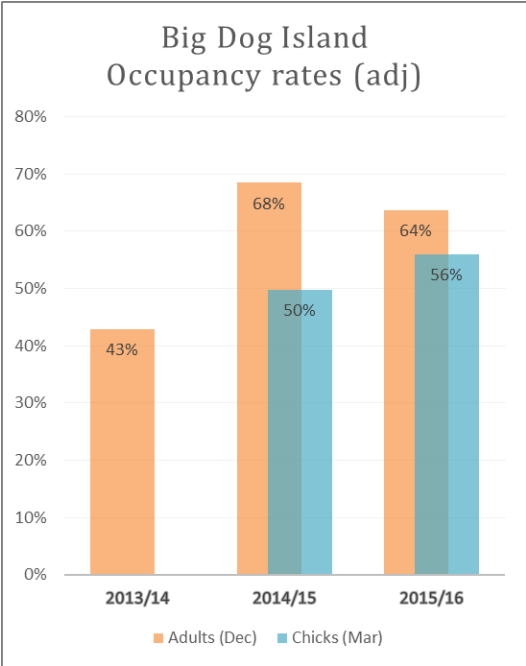
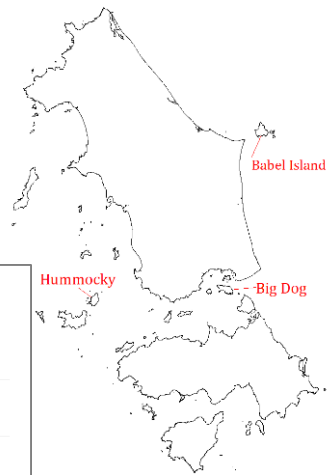


Resurrecting rookeries  
Replanting *Poa* tussocks,  
split from local stock.



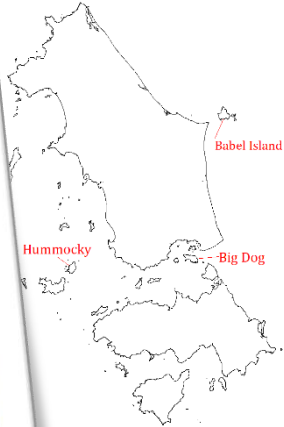


# Muttonbird monitoring

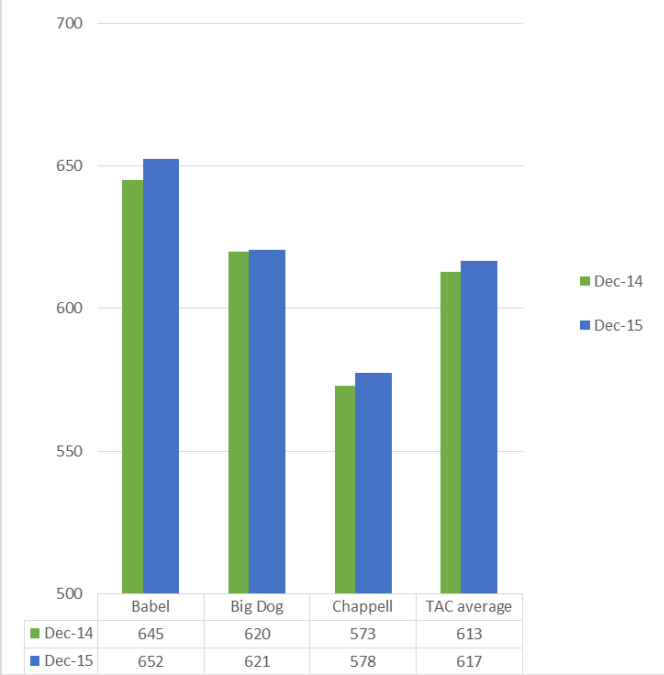




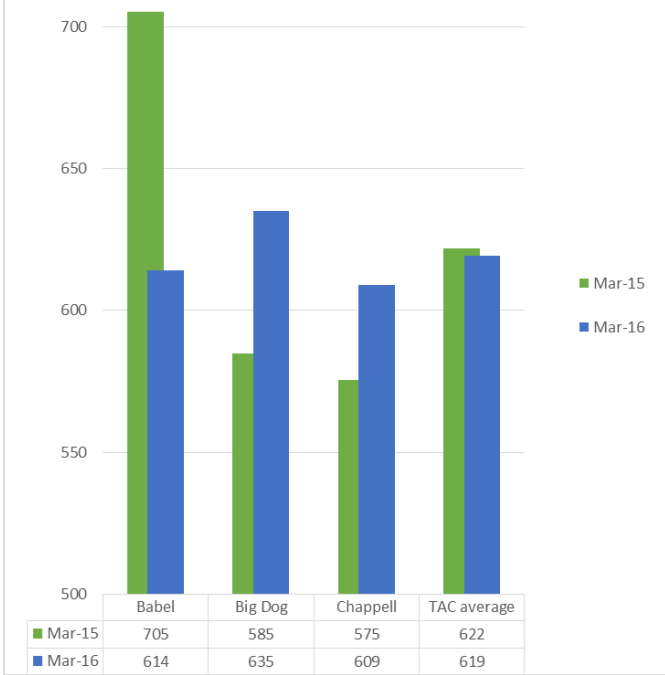
# Muttonbird monitoring



Average **ADULT** weights (g)  
Dec 2014 and 2015



Average **CHICK** weights (g)  
Mar 2015 and 2016





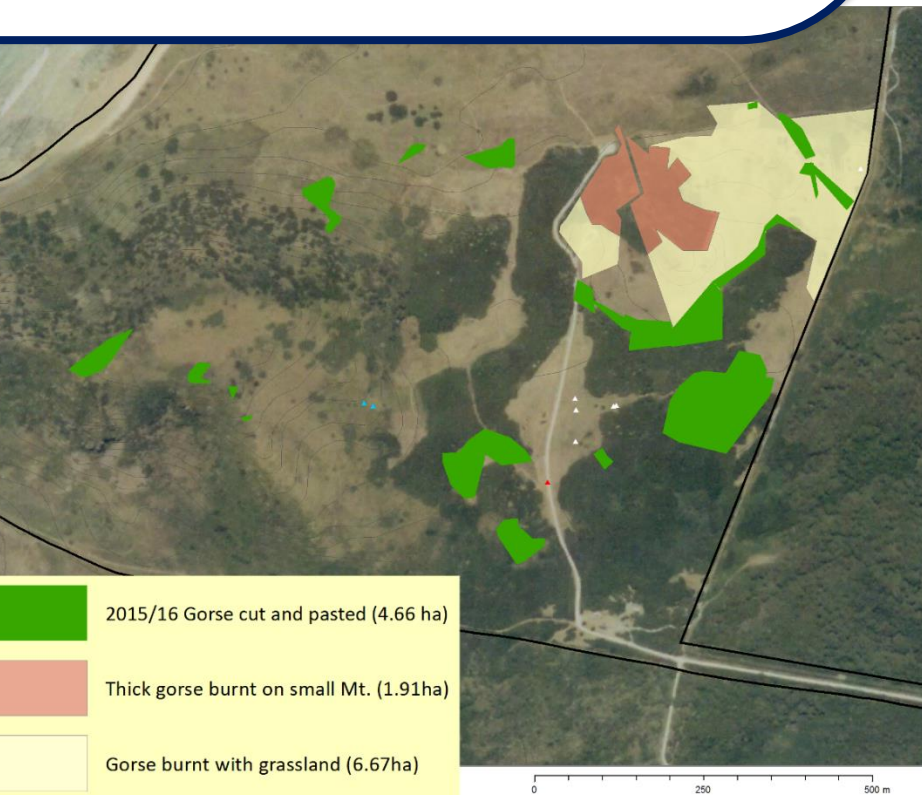


### Gorse control

Serious progress has been made into the gorse infestations at Preminghana.

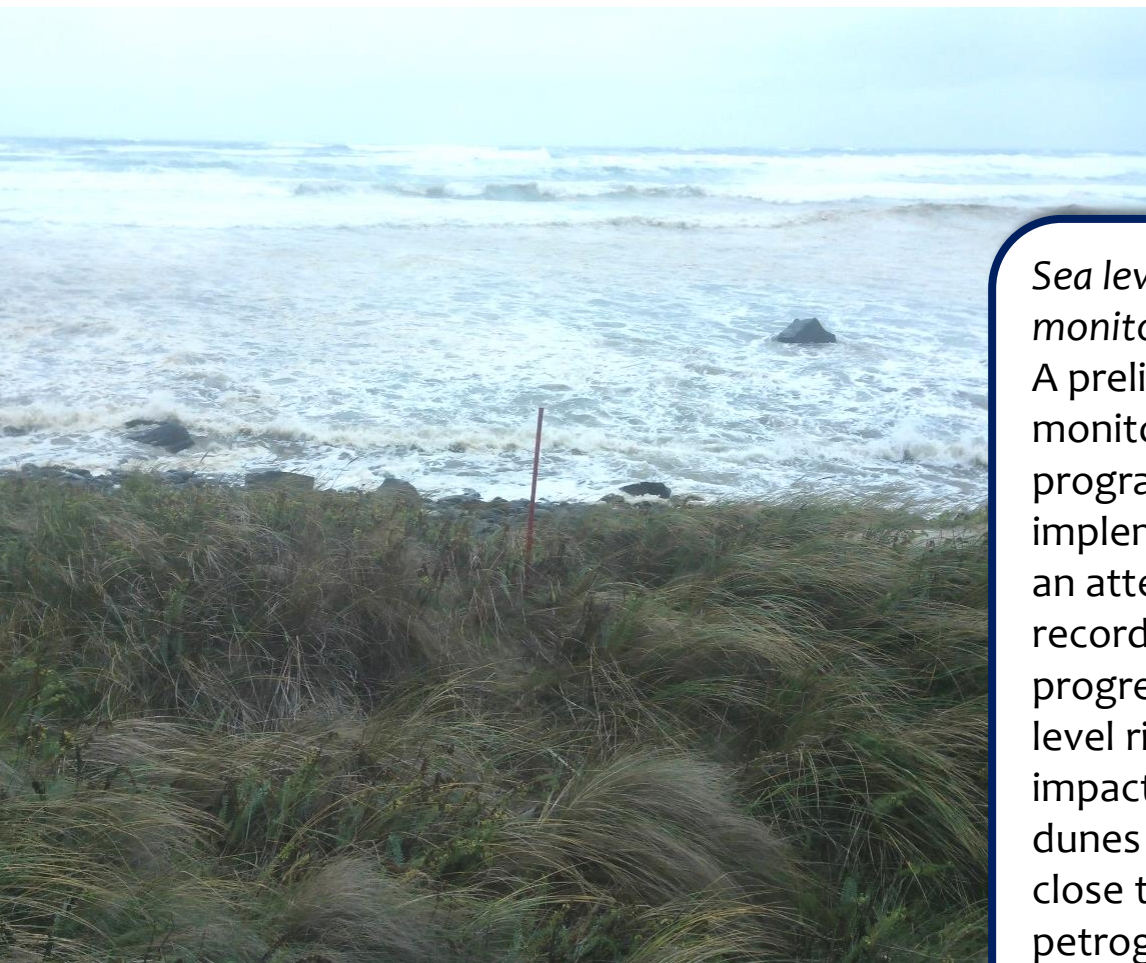
As well as the intensive cutting and pasting, we started using burning around the small mountain. This was our first foray into burning as part of our integrated pest management planning. It has proven very successful in that the biomass has been eradicated and native species such as *Poa* and *Lomandra* have been able to gain a good foothold within this site and will hopefully continue to out compete the gorse regrowth.

Fires were also set in grassy areas, where the gorse was small and struggling to compete. All burnt areas will require some follow up.

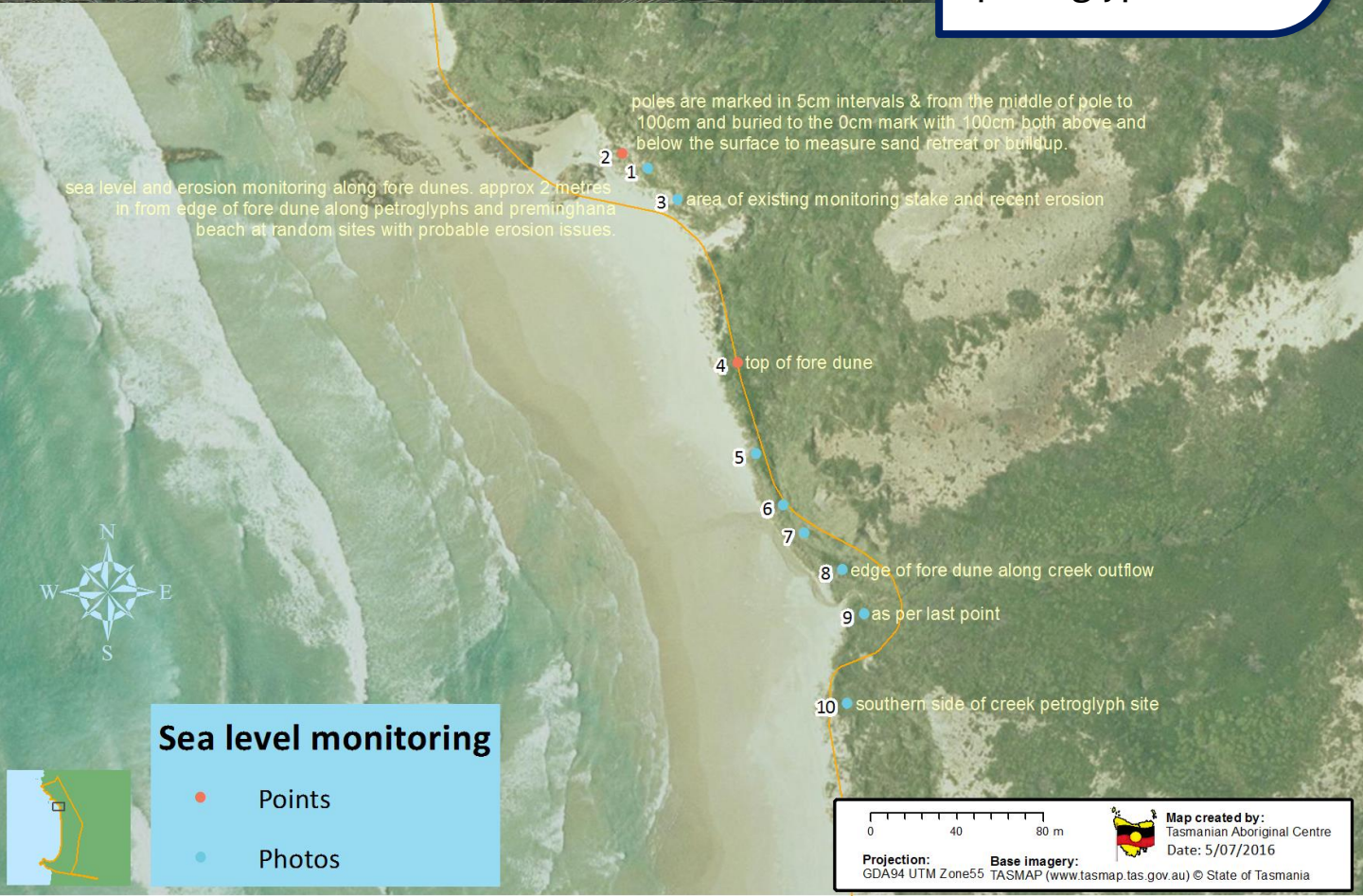




# Preminghana



**Sea level monitoring**  
A preliminary monitoring program has been implemented, in an attempt to record the progress of sea level rise impacting the dunes and coming close to petroglyph sites.





# takayna

## Heritage



Following the summer wildfires, the Preminghana crew were joined by Drummer's island crew and Grahame Stonehouse from the Hummocky crew to inspect damaged and intact heritage sites.



# takayna

laraturunawn/ Sundown Pt.





# larapuna



Drummer's crew also  
helped out at larapuna





We have been using video more and more to record the activities of crews and cultural activities. This medium allows for richer pictures of connections to country and the more subtle results from work and life on country.

# Film making



Our connection with Kickstart Arts has also allowed the sharing of knowledge and skills, helping the community produce professional videos of our own stories.







### *Cider gums*

This gum tree is a cultural resource, with the sap providing an intoxicating drink for those living in trawtha (big river country) over the millennia.

Along with scattered trees, we have rediscovered a healthy patch with a wide range of ages.

Several of them have evidence of being ‘tapped’, to collect the sap.



....and it does taste like cider!

pakana rangers are fascinated by the value of this resource to our old people, in particular the high-sugar content in the harsh alpine environment.





# trawtha makuminya



## *Cider gums (continued)*

Note the black sooty mould on the bark. This is part of a complex ecosystem that is reliant on the sap being available.

## *European Wasps*

These introduced pests may have only recently reached the high altitude of trawtha makuminya, following a warming climate (which fuelled summer fires in nearby ancient rainforests).

In February, wasps were noticed in large numbers gorging on the sap, getting very drunk and unable to fly! In April, only one or two were present. We are looking into how this pest has been dealt with in NZ as we consider the best options for control.



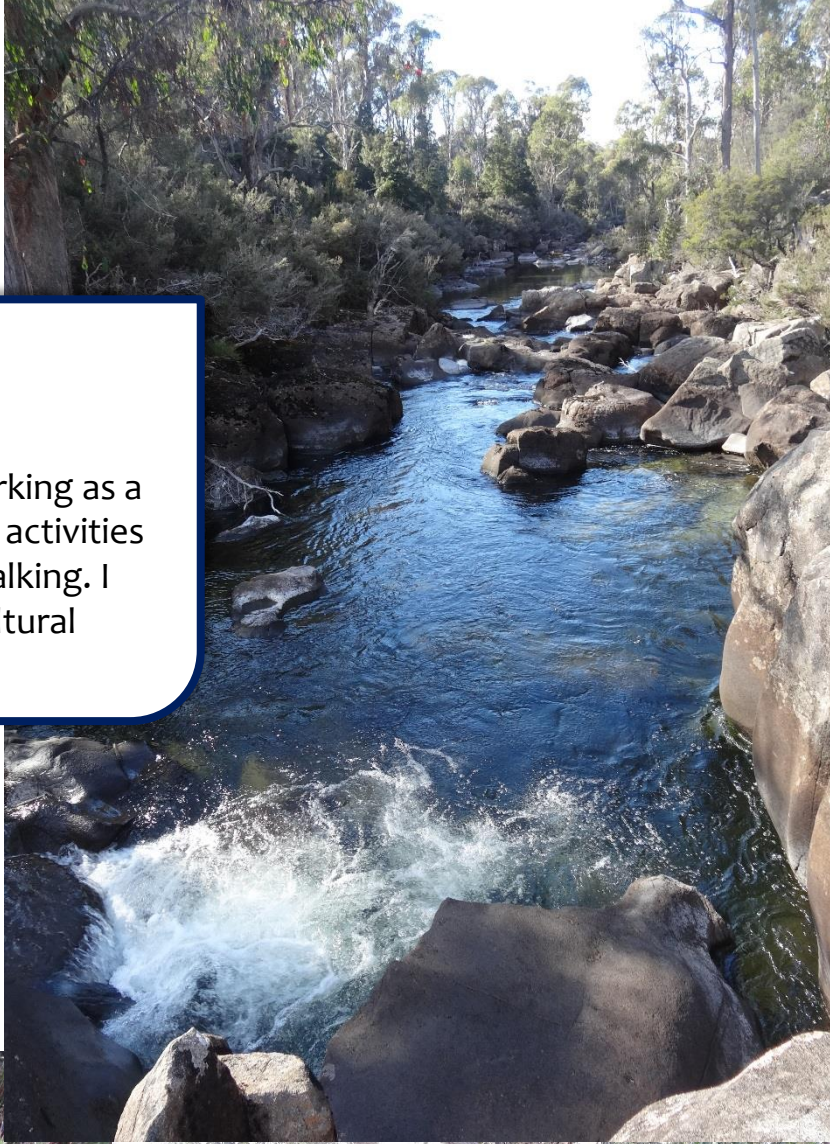


# trawtha makuminya

Exploring and protecting

Youth Canoe camp

“...I had so much fun kayaking working as a team. I really enjoyed the kayaking activities and sitting around the camp fire, talking. I also enjoyed learning about the cultural burns.”







## Exploring and protecting

### *Pakana rangers*

Crews from around lutruwita always enjoy time at trawtha makuminya, there is so much to discover and it is a privilege to help keep this place in top-nick. It is an important place where we can gather from all corners and even get a palawa kani workshop with Tessa!





# patrula nayri A revival of traditional burning



trawtha makuminya, 2016

The revival of using fire for nurturing country has sprung from linking up with mainland mobs and attending workshops on the approaches used for eons, supplemented with smart phone technology to access information (e.g. humidity), and modern fire-fighting or suppression equipment.

The approach involves:

- 🔥 assessing the local conditions,
- 🔥 only burning when able to keep fires small and slow,
- 🔥 night burns, using the onset of dew to end burns,
- 🔥 Small cool burns, sometimes of individual bushes, and typically just on ground level, not in the tree canopy.



putalina, 2015



The small-scale approach leads to:

- 🔥 a mosaic of different aged vegetation,
- 🔥 a reduction of fuel left for wildfires
- 🔥 the retention of trees and pockets of unburnt patches which provide refuges for
  - 🔥 tina (animals) and
  - 🔥 seed stock for future regrowth.



piyura kitina/ Risdon Cove



There is already some interest from other landholders for this approach to be implemented on their land. They recognise the extensive benefits:

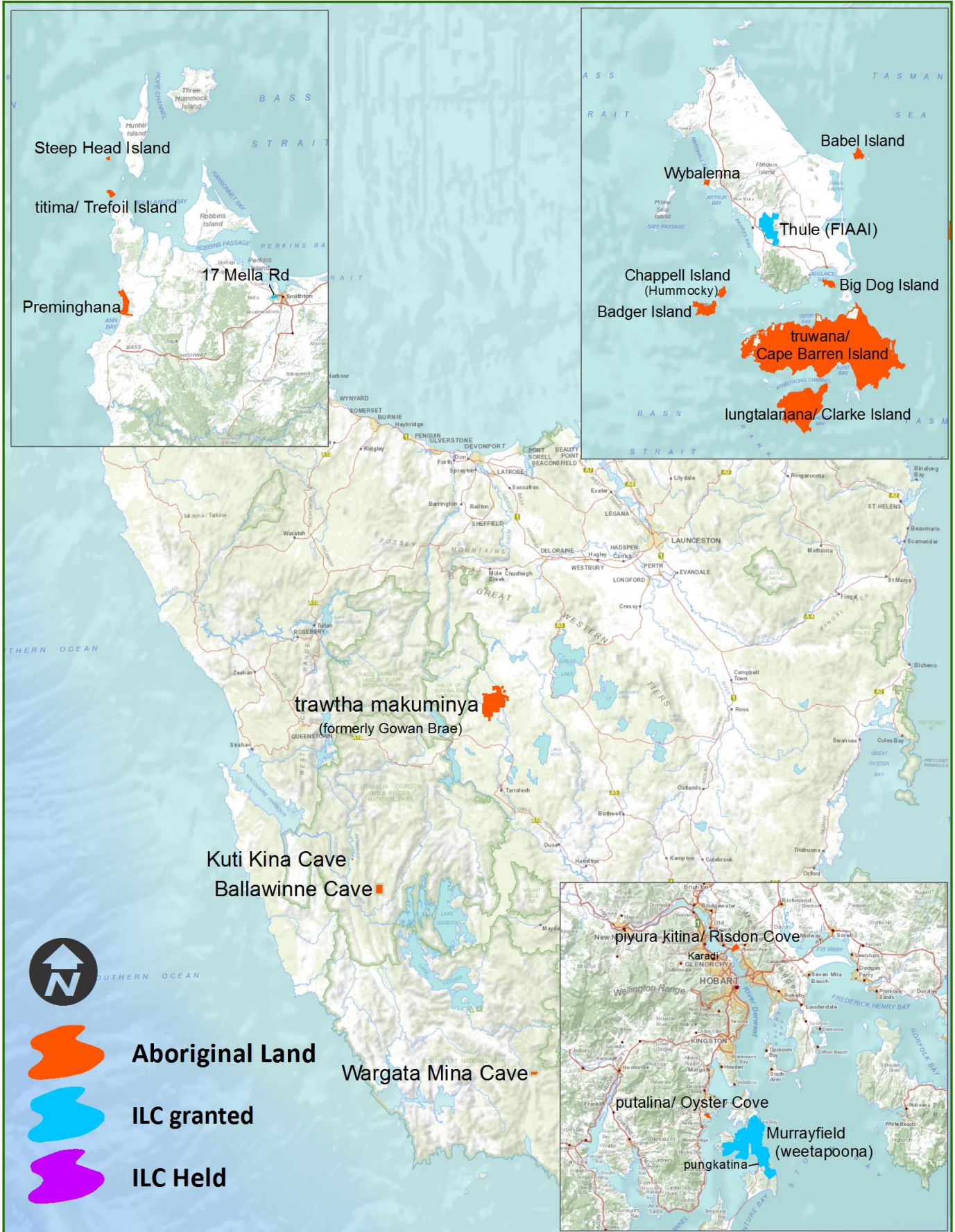
- 🔥 increased productivity,
- 🔥 biodiversity and
- 🔥 resilience to drought and pests

Collaboration with government agencies will hopefully encourage a more holistic approach to fuel reduction burning, with planning for desirable resultant vegetation and mosaicked landscapes.



# Aboriginal Land

Dec 2015



**Data Sources**  
 TheLIST\_parcel\_gda94 31Jan2011  
 TAS\_ILCHeldGrantedPropertyParcelCentroids  
**Base imagery:**  
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