



Tasmanian  
Aboriginal  
Centre Inc.

**Land  
Management  
Update**  
March 2017





# Preminghana

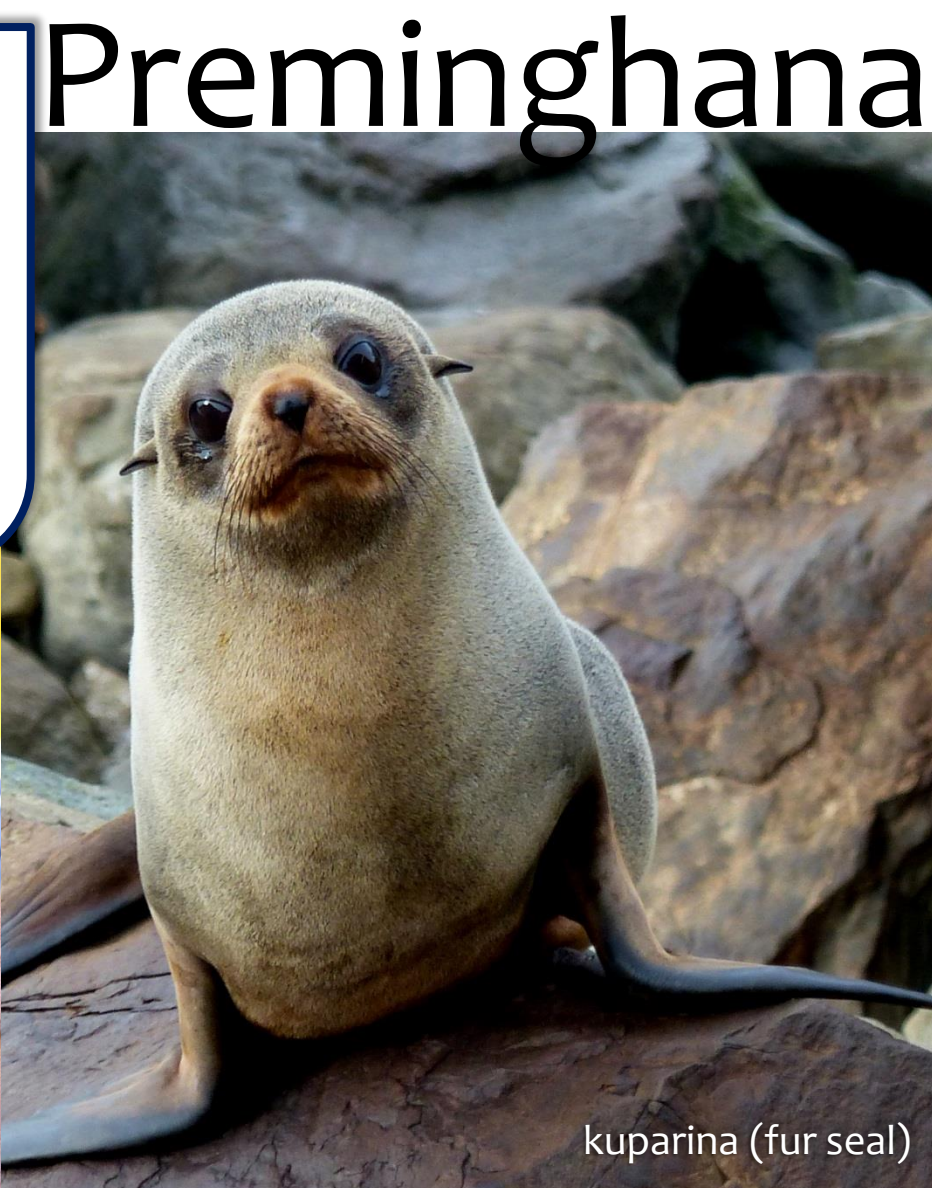
## Healthy country

Having rangers on our land ensures

Preminghana is a healthy home to many special tina (animals) and plants, with recent sightings of these species:



(Striped Marsh Frog)



kuparina (fur seal)



luwayina  
(Spotted-tailed quoll)



# Preminghana



purinina  
(Tasmanian Devil)

## Icon stronghold

Preminghana is in a region that is a facial tumour disease-free stronghold for purinina (Tasmanian Devils)

## Returned to Country

A kurina (Wedge-tailed Eagle) was released on Preminghana after four months of rehabilitation of an injured lapa (wing). Pakana Rangers Jarrod and Victor helped Androo Kelly from Trowunna Wildlife park send the feisty kurina towards the malana (nest) they believe is hers.

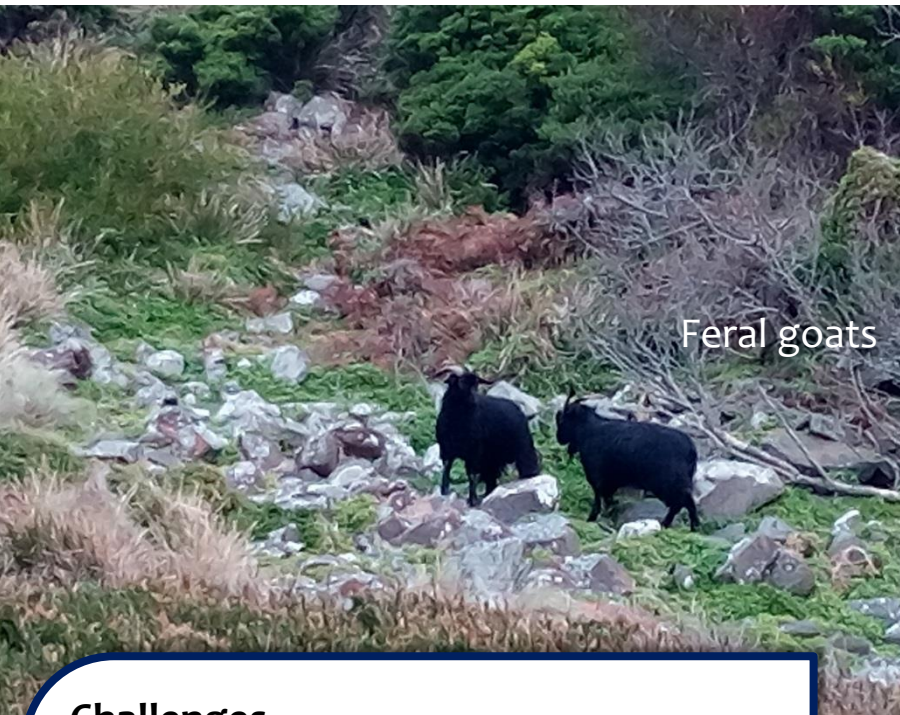
Source: J. Mundy, Koori Times.  
Image: M. Davey



kurina  
(Wedge-tailed Eagle)



# Preminghana



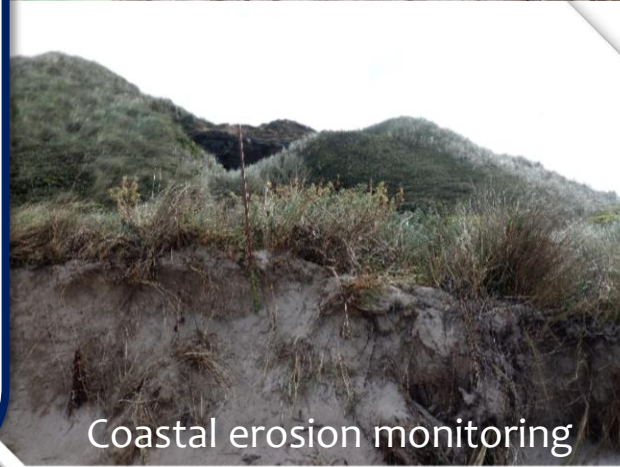
Feral goats



Cat trapping

## Challenges

Feral animals, wildfire, sea level rise and weeds challenge our country. Our rangers monitor and provide strong resistance to many threats, through trapping, joining the local fire brigade and tackling gorse through a range of methods, including spider-mites and a rotary axe.



Coastal erosion monitoring



Rotary axe



# Preminghana



Banksia  
seedlings



## Rejuvenation

Following the eradication of gorse from areas, we set natives to get re-established, further nurturing healthy country.



Poa grasses planted near lookout



# King's Run

The Aboriginal community is now the proud owner of the west coast property formerly owned by Geoff King who, before his death, wished it to be returned to our community.



The late Geoff King showed off this landscape to heritage diploma students in 2012.



Thanks to the generous donations brokered by Bob Brown and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, we were successful in our bid to have the Indigenous Land Corporation grant the balance of the funds to ALCT for the purchase.



# King's Run



The TAC's land management crew at Preminghana will continue to look after the land.

We have already held several events on the land which abounds in cultural heritage including hut depressions, seal hides and middens.





## Kicking goals on Babel.

The thick masses of boxthorn on Babel Is. seemed to be insurmountable when control work started (7 years ago) with a single back sprayer.

# Babel



*“To get down to the spit (towards Flinders Is.), you would have to walk right around these huge masses of thick boxthorn”*  
- Rodney ‘Drummer’ Newall.

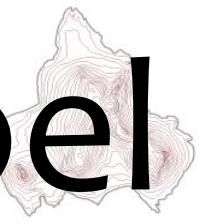
2011



2014



# Babel



*“We started just having a go, knowing it was going to be a huge job and not knowing how long it would take to make a significant dent”*

*- Stuart ‘Roo Dog’ Wheatley*





The annual tally of area cleared has increased exponentially as the crew have adapted their approach, increasingly using brain over Braun.

# Babel



The addition of a new tractor and the use of fire has reduced the need for chemical sprays and allowing an industrial scale transformation





# Babel



Revegetation was actively carried out through splitting and planting of the local tussock grasses



This last spring, however, good rainfall has helped native species quickly grow into the newly opened ground.





*"You know what?...  
This is doable"*

# Babel

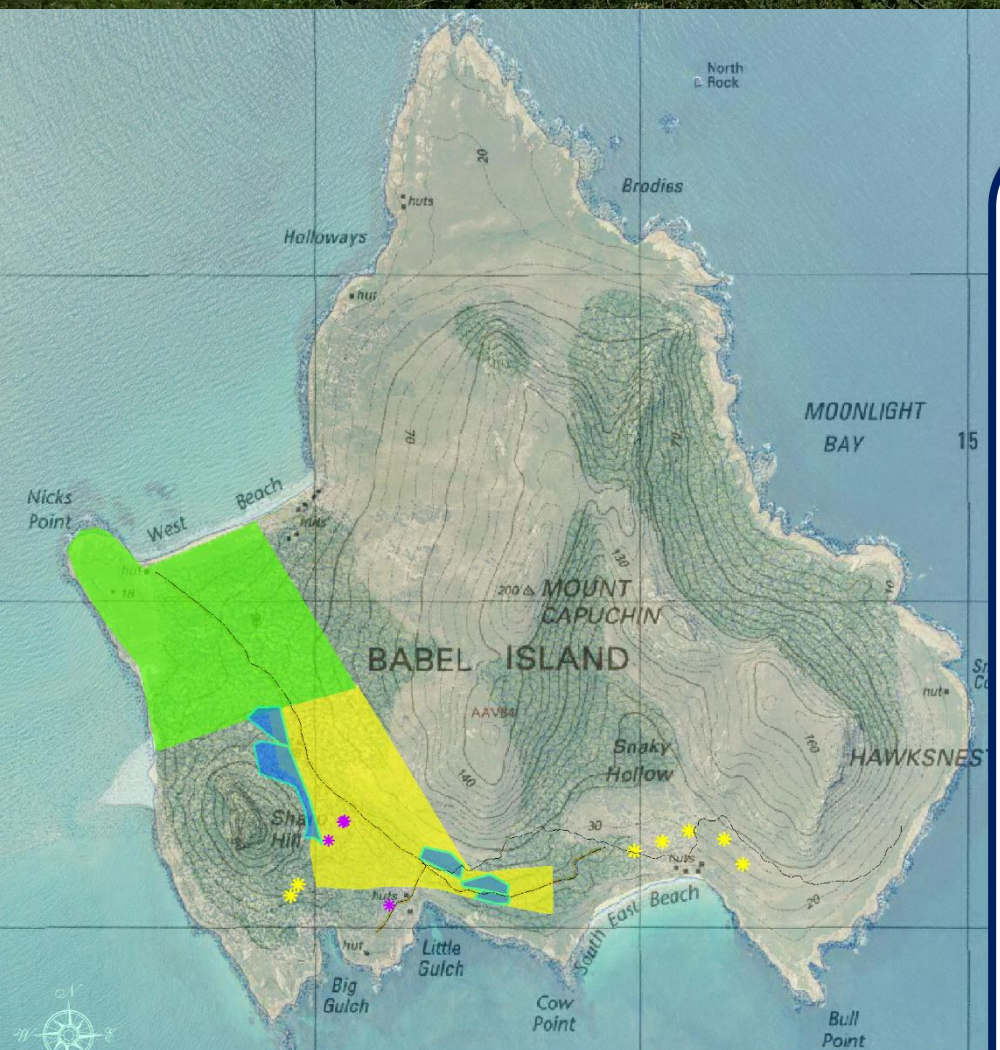


Recently, Drummer relayed this dramatic realisation to HQ supervisor #6 (Steve Cronin, now replaced by Adam Thompson).





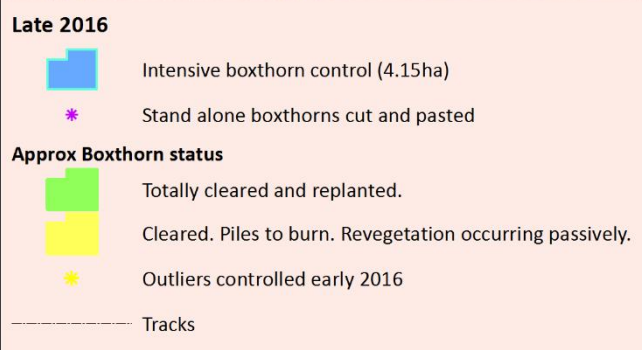
# Babel



The crew have cleared over 35 hectares of the weed in the main gully area of the island.

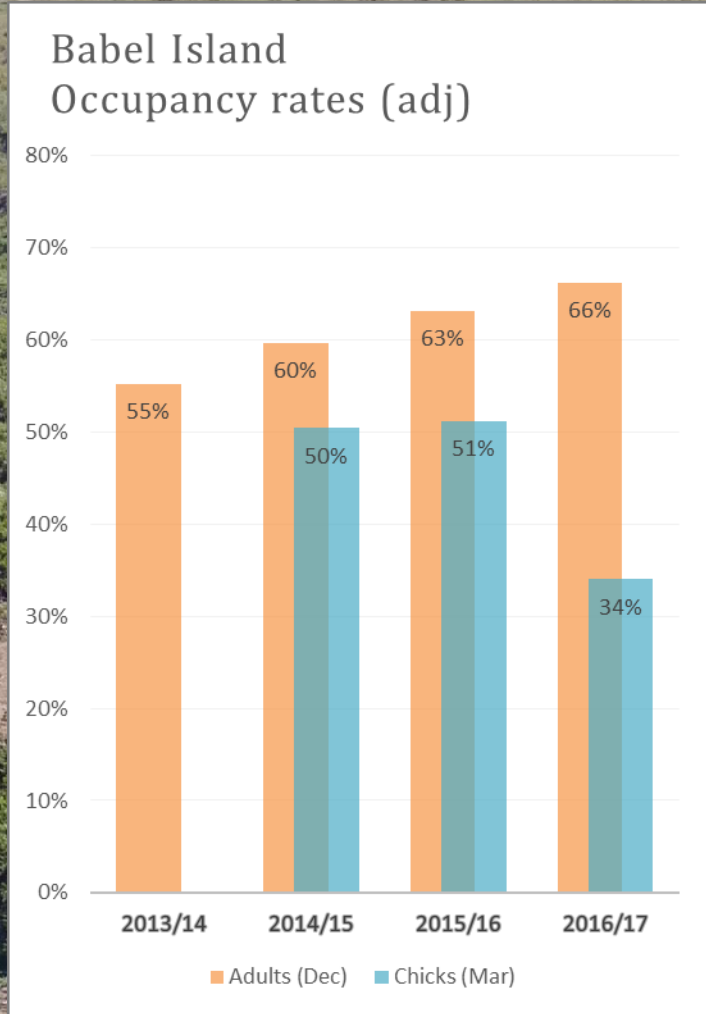
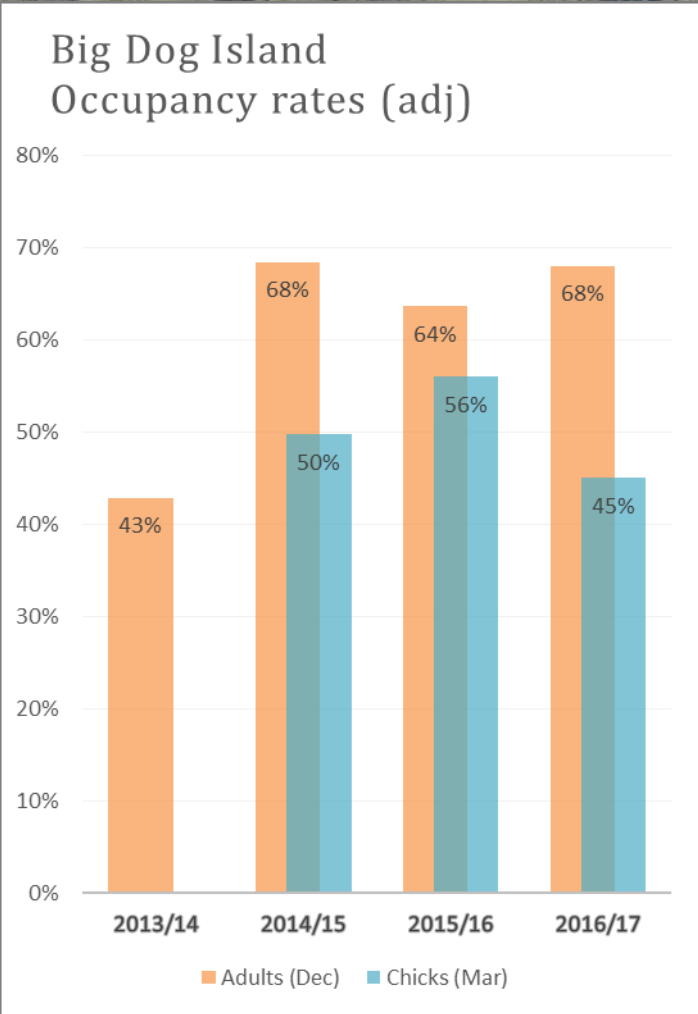
These newly colonised areas are being used as rookery by hundreds of yula (muttonbirds).

*“To be able to see that we can get on top of this, and to have made this much progress gives me immense pride” - Drummer*

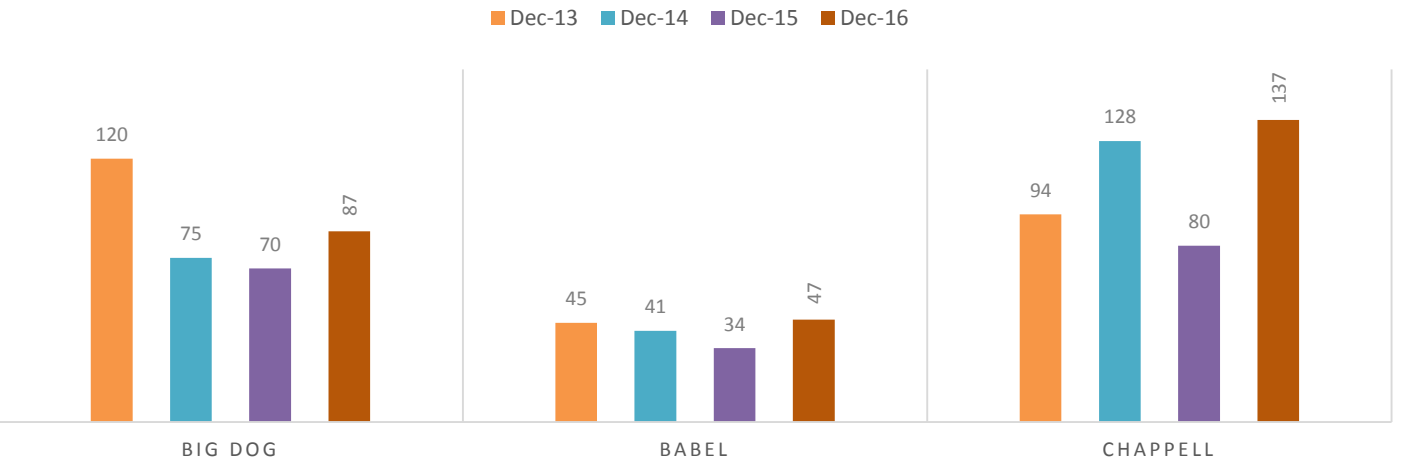




# yula monitoring



## AVERAGE NO. OF BURROWS PER 100M TRANSECT

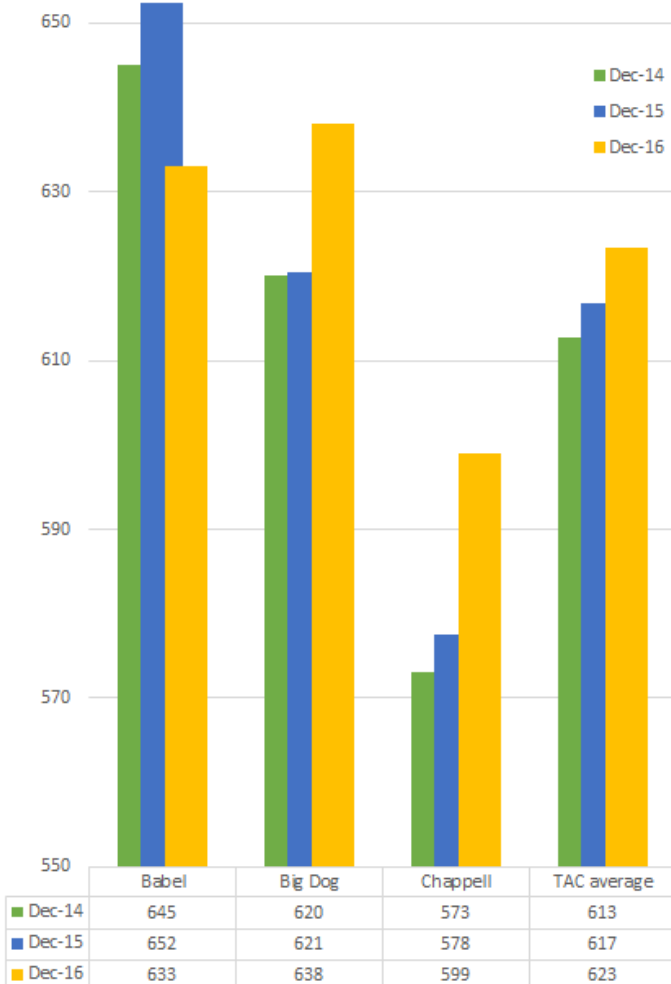




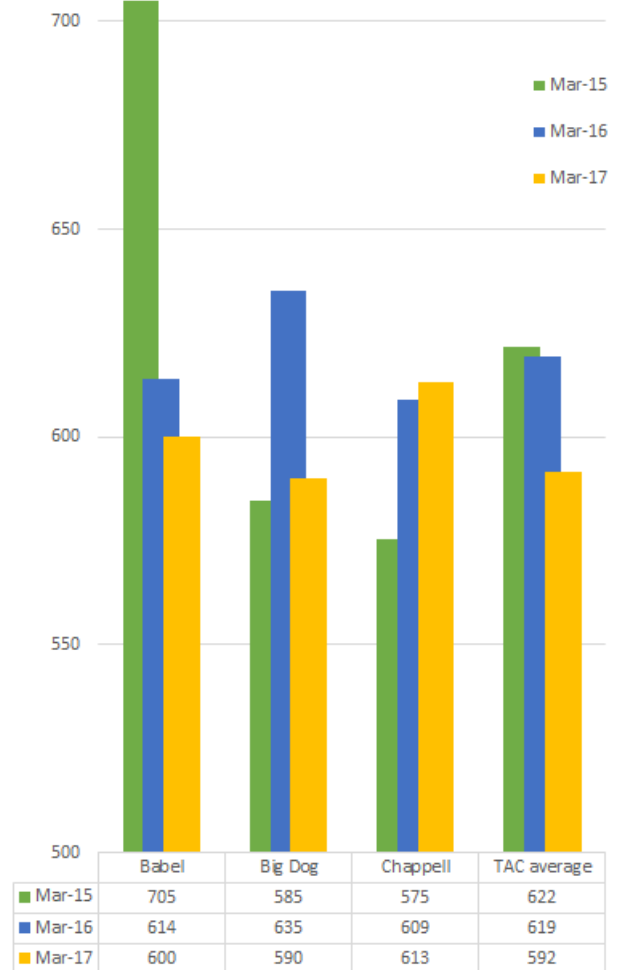
# yula monitoring



Average ADULT weights (g)



Average CHICK weights (g)





## Perisistence pays.

Years of hard work are paying off on Hummocky. Several areas of mirror bush and seaspurge have been attacked so many times that, now, there is no regrowth found.

Revegetation continues, with new seed broadcast and seedlings from 2014 getting well-established.

# Hummocky





# lungtalanana



## Feasibility of cat eradication on lungtalanana.

The TAC commissioned a study into the feasibility of cat eradication or control options for lungtalanana (Clarke Island), supporting by NRM North and Landcare. The historical impact of cats on the island is complicated. Many of the native tina (animals) were driven to extinction before cats were introduced to control rabbits in the 1920s (see table) and they didn’t kill all the rabbits until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is hard to say what impact they now have on the island, but are likely to be preying on priyamina (lizards) and ground nesting muta (birds), such as titara (hooded plovers) and introduced rodents. Eradication is a potential first-step towards re-introducing native species.

The report concluded that eradication is feasible, but is not worth doing unless implementing a full commitment, with a multi stage- approach of particular methods in a certain order (e.g. poisoning, trapping, shooting). The estimate of the required effort, based on successful cat eradication on other islands (81 globally and 14 in Australia), is 4329 person days (about 17 person years).

**Table 1.** Native fauna once present on lungtalanana                      Source: Kurahaupo Consulting 2016/015

Species (extinct on lungtalanana)	Likely prey of cats?	Notes
Dunnart ( <i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i> )	Yes	Gone by late 1800s
Antechinus ( <i>Antechinus minimus</i> )	Yes	Gone by late 1800s
Long-nosed potoroo ( <i>Potorous tridactylus</i> )	Yes	Gone by late 1800s
Echidna ( <i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i> )	No?	Gone by late 1800s
Bennett’s wallaby ( <i>Macropus rufogriseus</i> )	No?	Gone by 1910
Wombat ( <i>Vombatus ursinus</i> )	No	Gone by 1910
Species (extant on lungtalanana):		
Painted button quail ( <i>Turnix varius</i> )	Yes	-
Bassian thrush ( <i>Zoothera lunulata</i> )	Yes	-
Little penguin ( <i>Eudyptula minor</i> )	Yes	Now only on islets



# piyura kitina (Risdon Cove)



Traditional burning continues to encourage a mosaic of healthy vegetation, with lomandra and understorey species flourishing. We are learning lots of lessons such as:

- 🔥 Burning too hot encourages weeds to germinate,
- 🔥 a little wind is ideal for our small scale burns to help fires to move at a useful speed.



An area behind the old school was burnt in small patches, between October and December 2016, including some in collaboration with the Parks and wildlife fire unit. This allowed some good two-way transfer of knowledge and techniques.

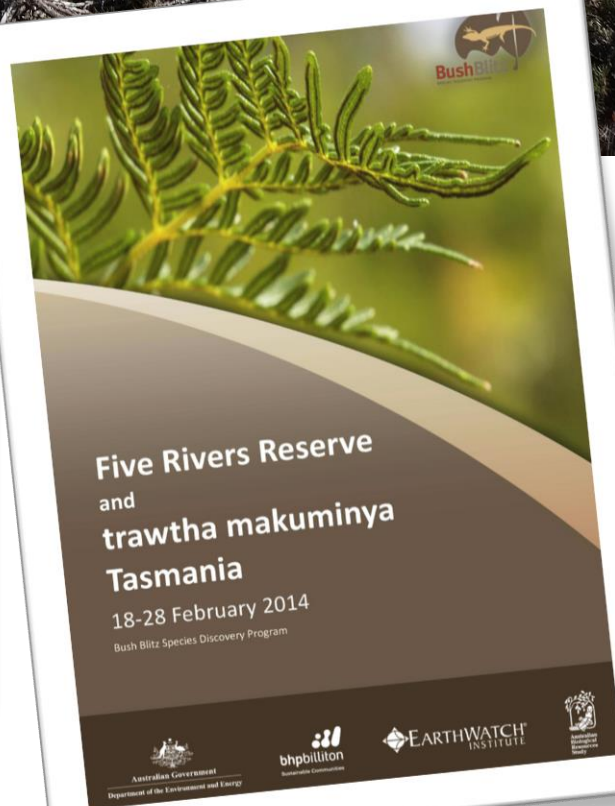


# trawtha makuminya

This property holds many beautiful landscapes, which are now protected under a conservation covenant. This agreement allows for cultural practices including traditional burning but also sensitive development, such as tourism and extra community camping. Livestock is now prohibited though, and fencing this year will ensure they stay out (thanks to ILC funding). Shooting is also banned as per a Feb 2017 state committee decision.

The 2014 Bush blitz report is out.  
See the results at:

<http://bushblitz.org.au/five-rivers-reserve-trawtha-makuminya-tasmania-2014/>





October snow



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and swollen rivers