

# Land Management Update

March 2018



# Hummocky



In February 2018, Justin Kneebone and Chris Daly from Tas Reptilia came to Chappell Island to run a snake safety workshop with the islands Land management workers. The hands-on workshop covered the safe catching and handling of snakes as well as first aid techniques.



# Hummocky




Workers on the islands are frequently exposed to snakes in their work areas – especially on Chappell and Babel islands. It is important that they can deal with them safely and without causing them harm.




Michael Cermak also assisted and got photos and information for a future article in iHerp Australia Magazine (free [online](#))

# Big Dog

A person with grey hair, wearing a dark jacket, is seen from the back, looking out over a landscape where a large fire is burning on a hill. Thick white and grey smoke rises from the fire, filling the sky. The foreground shows some greenery and a body of water.

In July 2017, the TAC's Land Management team conducted a trial burn on Big Dog Island. This was the outcome of a series of cultural fire knowledge activities over the past few years which aim to increase community understanding of good fire management practices on Aboriginal Land.

An aerial photograph of a coastal island. A large, intense fire is burning in the center of the island, sending a massive plume of white smoke high into the air. The island is surrounded by water, and there are some buildings and vehicles visible on the lower right coast.

After discussions with shed owners, several bosses showed an interest in trialing some burns on their rookeries. Fire on Big Dog has been controversial for many years and there is some evidence in support and some against the application of fire, yet fire is not just fire. There are different types of fire and right and wrong times to burn.

# Big Dog



Many birders have long believed that fire is necessary to maintain healthy rookeries and enable good birding. There are, however, issues with fire weed emergence and killing tussocks when fires are too hot.

Through careful application we are aiming to determine what type of burn is needed and when it should be undertaken on the mutton bird rookeries.

The initial results were positive and will be monitored throughout the up and coming mutton bird season.



In the latter part of 2017, the islands land management workers made improvements to infrastructure like fixing water problems on the large house, cleaning up old sheds and slashing the network of tracks around the island that were overgrown.



# lungtalanana



A group of scientists came to the island to continue research using sediment cores from lagoons and analysing them in a lab. The results indicate what vegetation communities and fire frequencies existed on the island across millennia.



In the lab, the core from the lake is sliced to study fossil indicators of past landscapes (pollen and charcoal)



samples



$^{14}\text{C}$  – Radiocarbon dating

Pollen shapes





# lungtalanana



A TAC youth group came to lungtalanana to learn about the scientists work and to spend some quality time on the island. The islands land management workers took them swimming, diving, fishing and exploring parts of the island.





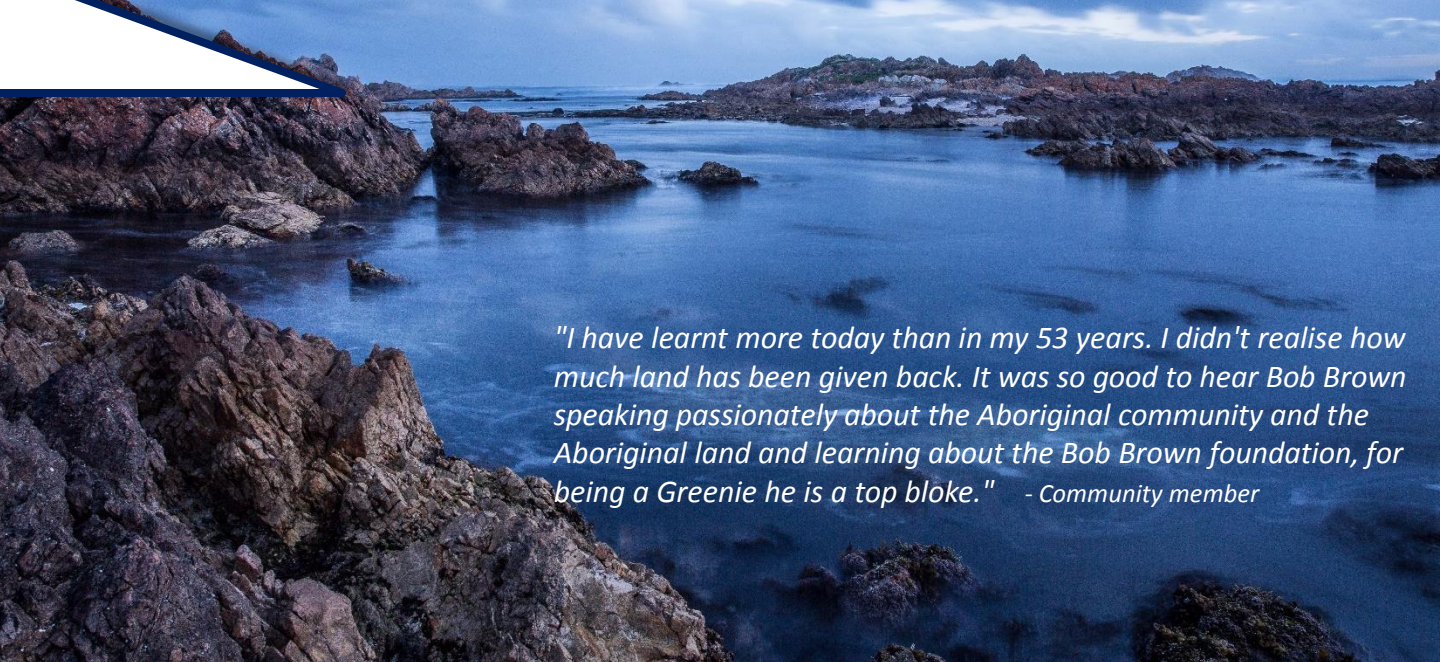
# Kings Run

## Handover Ceremony October 9 2017



Photos by Jillian Mundy

# Kings Run



*"I have learnt more today than in my 53 years. I didn't realise how much land has been given back. It was so good to hear Bob Brown speaking passionately about the Aboriginal community and the Aboriginal land and learning about the Bob Brown foundation, for being a Greenie he is a top bloke."* - Community member





# Handover Ceremony

## October 9 2017



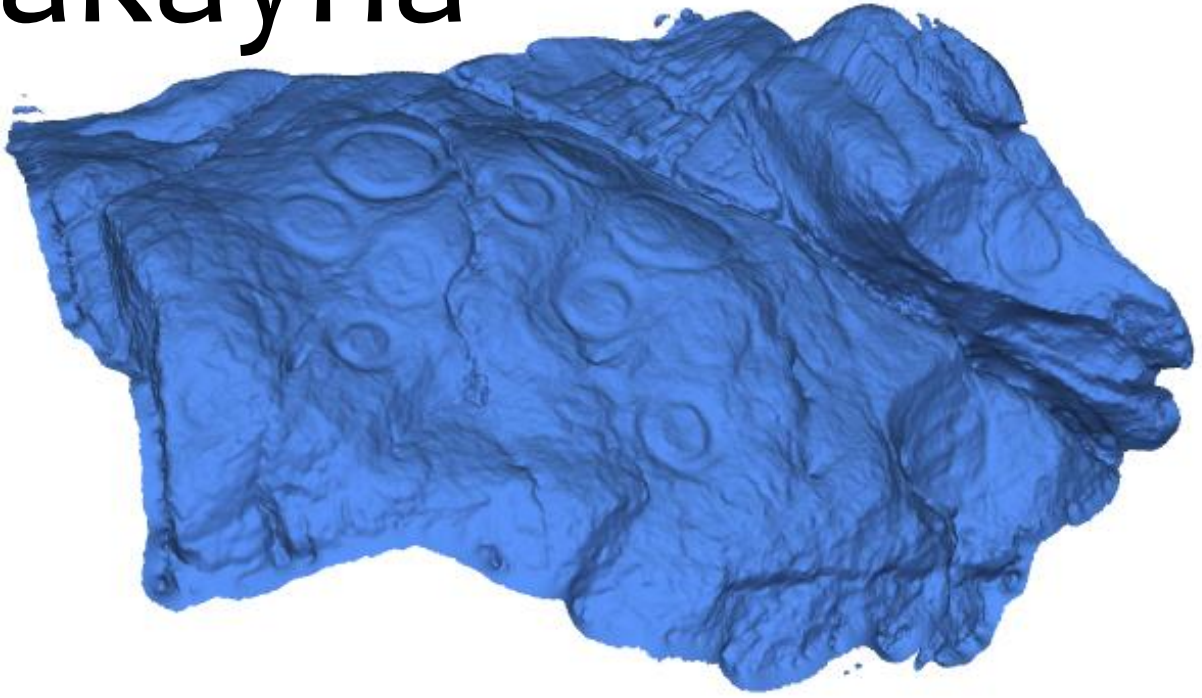


# Kings Run



Photos by Jillian Mundy

# takayna



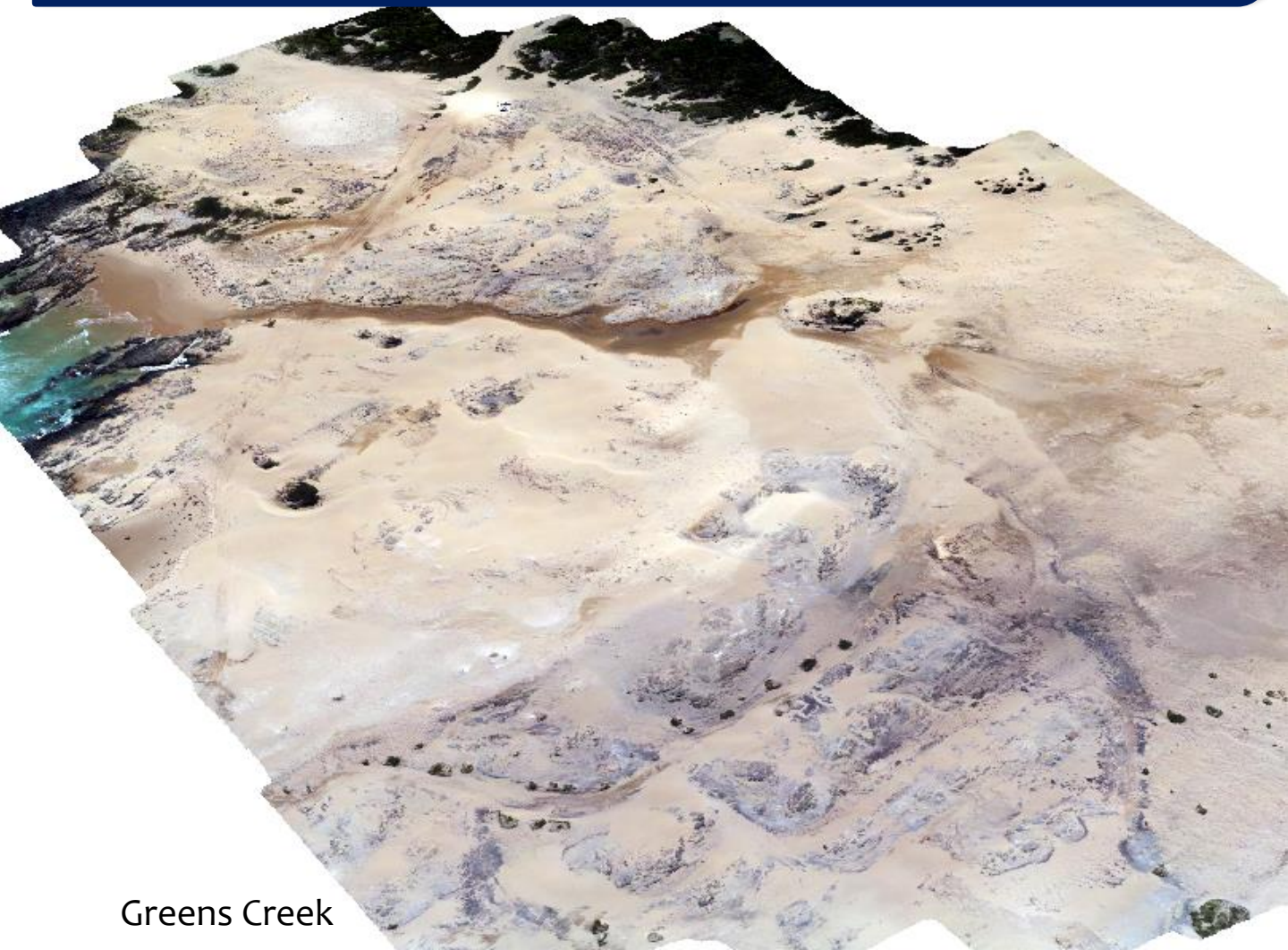
With assistance from Cradle Coast NRM, we engaged a consultant to document our ancient heritage in digital 3D full colour models. This method of 3D photogrammetry, using drones, allows ultra-precise recording of artwork and cultural landscapes.



Ordnance Point



We aim to acquire the technology and skills in-house to record our land and heritage across lutruwita, in order to record it and the damage and destruction from ignorant behaviour.



Greens Creek

# trawtha makuminya



With funds from Indigenous Land Corporation and a sterling effort from neighbouring farm manager, David Hean, seven kilometres of fencing were completed in January 2018. This ensures that livestock stay off our property, helping the preservation of the outstanding cultural and natural values now protected under a conservation covenant.



Billy and Cody help keep roads open on the highlands property and are making good progress with ragwort. The amount we need to treat gets less and less each year.

# Preminghana



With funds from Cradle Coast NRM, we employed a contractor to attack some challenging areas with an Eco-mulcher while we continued with our spraying program.



The contractor successfully removed over 2ha of GORSE from extremely challenging terrain which has saved the on-ground crew years of hard work and removed the bulk of the remaining infestation, putting us well ahead of our planned schedule.

We are super excited about the prospect of reaching our goals of controlling the GORSE well in advance of what we anticipated.

# Preminghana

We have reached the last stages of the GORSE infestation control program having treated and **removed approximately 85-90% of the initial infestation!!**



# Preminghana

Our crew have done some amazing work spraying the remaining larger areas and as a result have very little left to treat. We hope to have the remainder controlled by June this year through burning, some hand removal and some additional spraying. Preminghana is beginning to look very different as much of the area previously infested with GORSE has returned to native grasses. We encourage everyone to come up, spend some time here and check out the progress for yourselves.

We welcome a new member to our crew: **Fox Ransom** joining us on a casual basis. Fox's involvement in the on-ground works has been valuable and much appreciated, with generous sharing of plant knowledge and qualifications benefiting our crew  
*Welcome aboard Fox!*



*Well done Brenton!*

In 2017 **Brenton Brown** successfully completed his Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management. His sterling commitment to personal and professional development was recognized with the **2017 NAIDOC Student of the Year** award.

The crew at Preminghana are very proud of his achievements, he is a very valuable asset to our crew. We look forward to him continuing his studies and becoming a great future leader.

# Preminghana



We have undertaken some much needed repairs to the campground and finally replaced the old leaky roof on the cooking hut, which should keep the camp kitchen crews dry, well into the future.



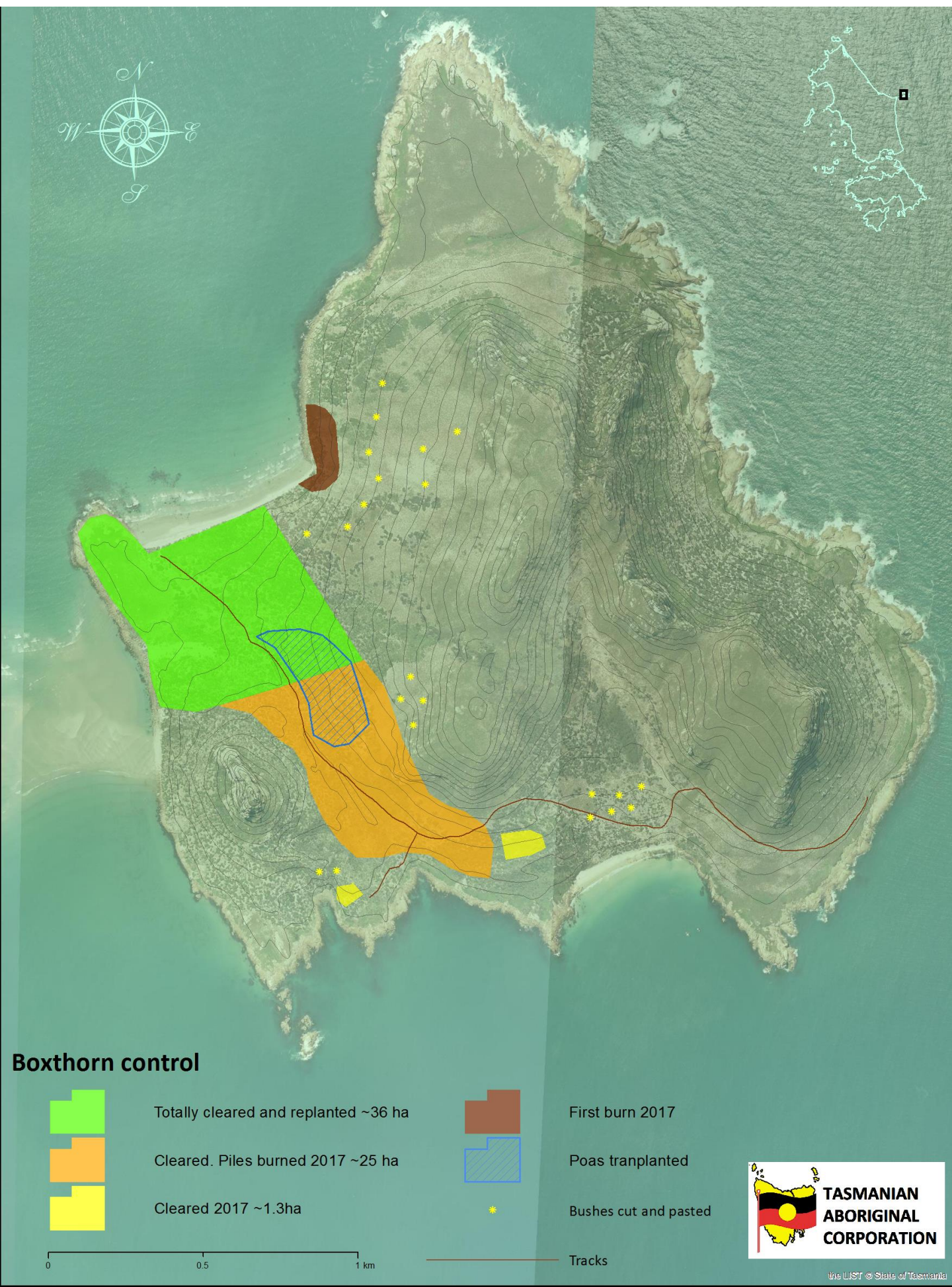
# Preminghana

While we had access to the contractor, we also undertook some much needed firebreak clearing along our eastern boundary which has opened up access into other parts of the property not previously available.



We have also re-opened walking tracks around the major wetland and to the top of the property which we hope the community will enjoy as people can now walk most of the coast, through the property and along the boundary again.

# Islands weed work

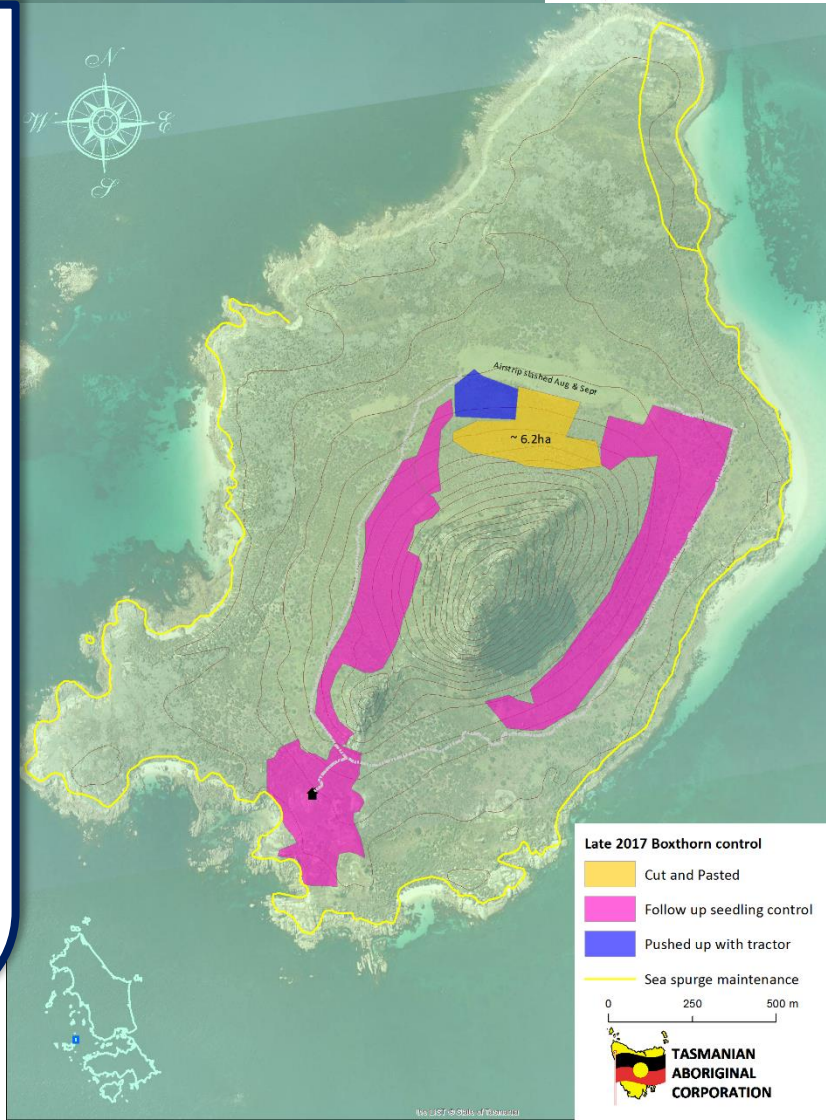




Our island crews continue to make progress in controlling the weeds that threaten the ecosystems and cultural resources of our islands.

Babel Island has been transformed from a boxthorn stronghold to a thriving yula rockery.

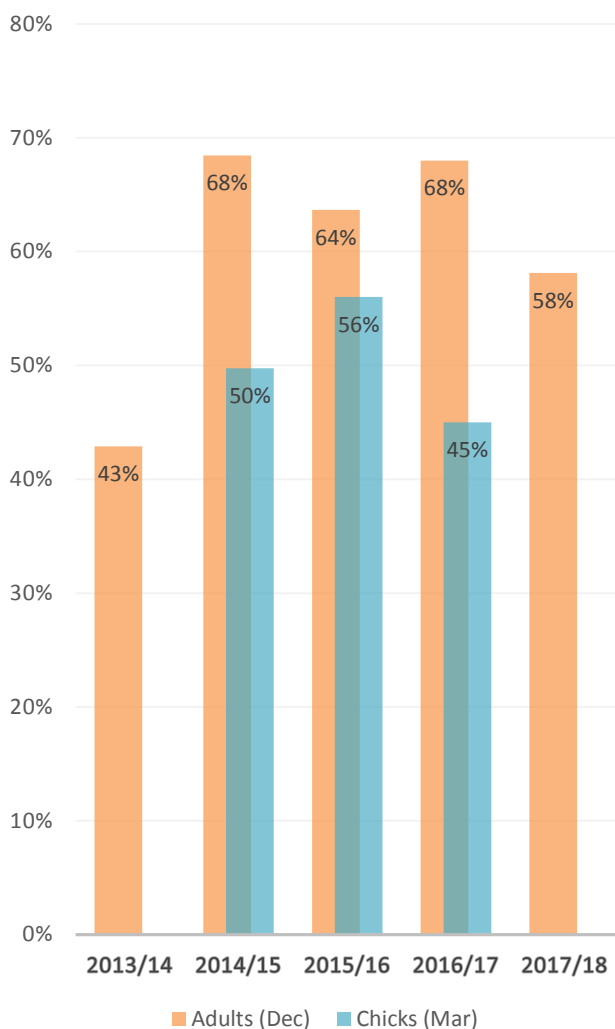
Infestations on Hummocky continue to be dented, while Badger Island benefits from constant vigilance of outbreaks before they get out of hand.



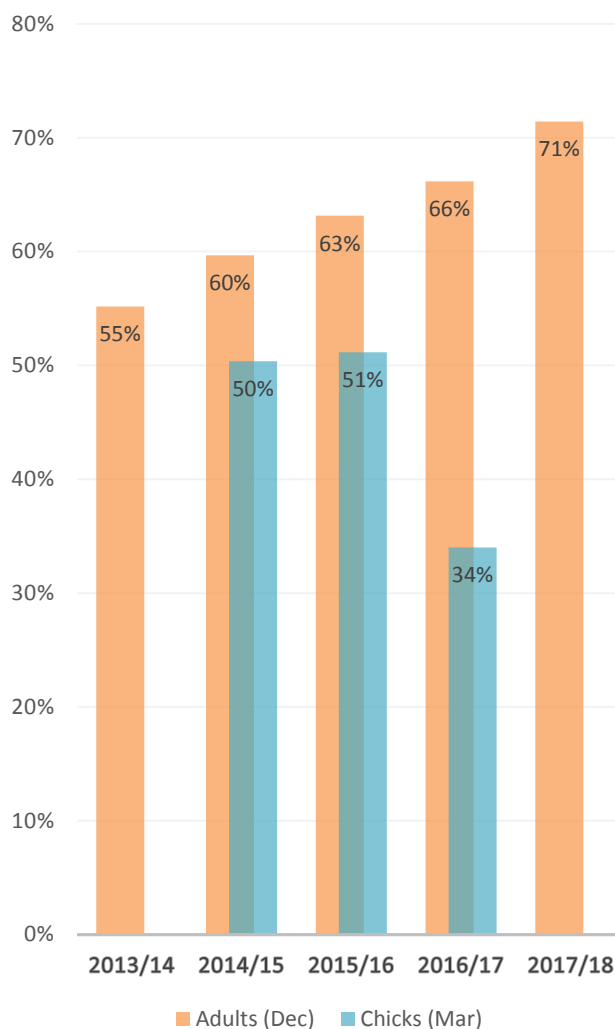


# yula monitoring

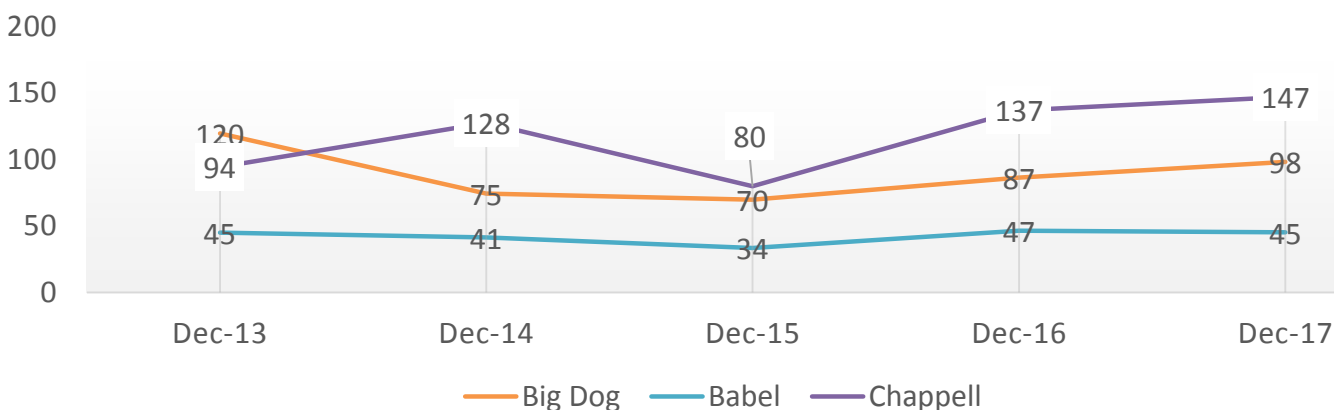
## Big Dog Island Occupancy rates (adj)



## Babel Island Occupancy rates (adj)



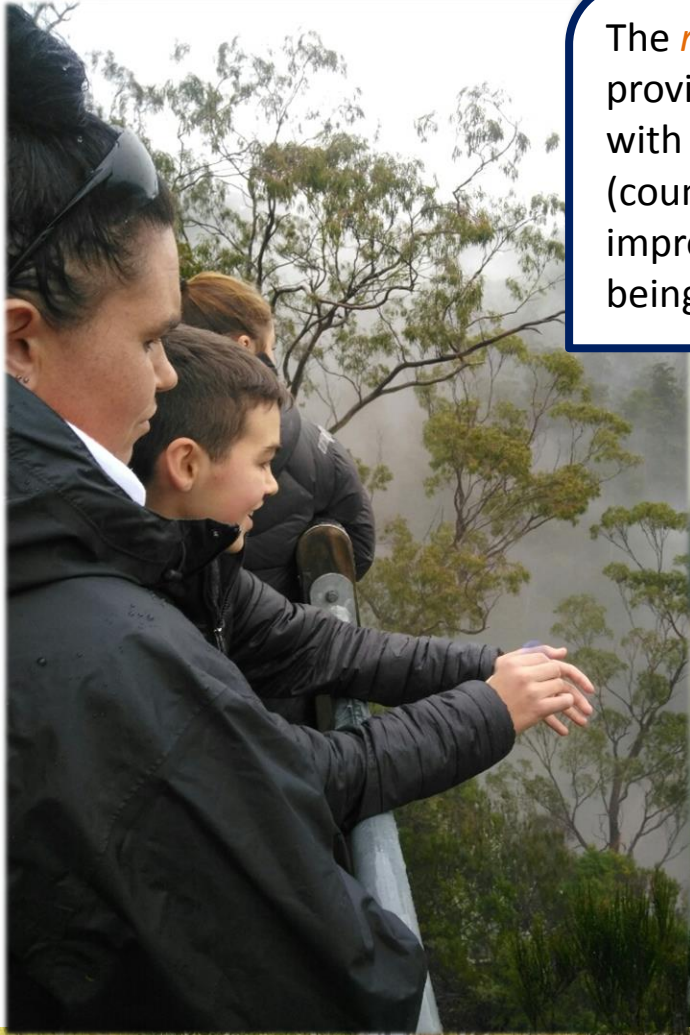
## Average No. of burrows per 100m transect



# rrala milaythina – ti

## Strong in Country Project

The *rrala milaythina-ti* project aims to provide Aboriginal community members with opportunities to access milaythina (country), assisting community members to improve health and wellbeing by simply being on country.



toolumbunna



Trowunna Wildlife Park

The project has run a number of successful trips to various locations around the state. Day trips include Chauncey Vale, Saltwater River and Greens Beach while longer trips have ranged from three to seven nights, including: Lake Mackenzie, Three Capes Track, two trips to the takayna, South Cape Rivulet, Louisa Bay and Preminghana.



"Thank you for taking my children on this wonderful trip, they've been talking about it all evening!"



Cape Deslacs



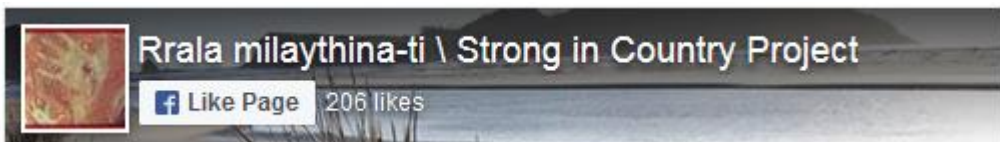
Chauncey Vale



"We made small kelp carriers, filling them with sand and stones. "

tarkayna

Ph: 1800 132 260 or check us out on facebook:



Supported by Primary Health Tasmania under the Australian Government's Primary Health Networks Program

# piyura kitina

Treatment 1- Sprayed, then hoed

Treatment 2 – Hoed, then sprayed

Treatment 3- Just hoed

We set up a trial to test four methods of ground preparation before planting native species, in order to assess the best way to out-compete the pastoral Phalaris grass.

Treatment 4- Just sprayed

Planted grasses, amongst weeds, but phalaris grass successfully eliminated.



# nayri patrula

## 2018 National Indigenous Fire Workshop

Hosted by Mudjingaalbaraga Firesticks  
and Bundanon Trust

"Bringing the good fire to the South Coast"

July 12th-15th

Register now at [www.capeyorkfire.com.au](http://www.capeyorkfire.com.au)

BUNDANON TRUST



UTS

firesticks

### 2018 National Indigenous Fire Workshop

The National Fire workshop will be held on the South Coast of NSW this year. The annual workshop aims to bring communities together to share and learn Aboriginal fire methods. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community has attended this workshop since 2014.

Through funding provided by Cradle Coast NRM, we are inviting Aboriginal community members to express their interest in attending this workshop with members of the Land Management crews. If you are interested in learning about cultural fire practices and would like to contribute to your community with further development of this knowledge into the future, then this could be for you!

Please contact Andry Sculthorpe: 0410237404, [andry.s@tacinc.com.au](mailto:andry.s@tacinc.com.au) or visit: [www.capeyorkfire.com.au](http://www.capeyorkfire.com.au) for more information.

# Midlands Fire Project

The TAC, in collaboration with The University of Tasmania and a private landholder, is undertaking a fire project in the Midlands, near Ross. The project involves community access to some important cultural sites such as a large stone tool quarry and several rockshelters, as well as an opportunity to undertake fire management of native grasslands.

**We are seeking interest from members of the Aboriginal community** to become part of this project. We are looking for volunteers to help out and be part of the activity and people with some fire management experience to work with the land management fire team. A community overnight camp will be facilitated as well as day to day activity of the project. Camp dates to be confirmed closer to time.

The project will commence mid April. Please contact Andry Sculthorpe (0410237404, [andry.s@tacinc.com.au](mailto:andry.s@tacinc.com.au)) to find out more.

Chappell Island solar system

At the end of 2017, the TAC was successful in getting a grant to install solar power systems on Badger and Babel islands, Preminghana and trawtha makuminya. The purpose of this is to provide a clean, environmentally friendly power solution with reduced power and fuel costs, as was achieved with the system installed on Chappell Island in 2016.

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