

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest. In the center, there is a large, open grassy clearing. To the left of the clearing, there is a small, single-story building with a light-colored roof. The forest is composed of many tall, thin trees with green foliage. In the background, there are rolling hills and more forest. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

putalina

Management Plan

2020



Tasmanian
Aboriginal
Centre Land
Management
Program

“Until we give back to the black man just a bit of the land that was his and give it back without provisos, without strings to snatch it back, without anything but complete generosity of spirit in concession for the evil we have done him – until we do that, we shall remain what we have always been so far, a people without integrity; not a nation but a **community of thieves.**” Xavier Herbert, author of *Poor Fellow My Country* (1970).

This quote was on the sign at the entry to putalina until it was vandalised beyond repair.

“In recent years Oyster Cove has been a focus for our community no matter where we live in Tasmania. From the days when Trukanini’s tribe, the Nunana, visited here on their trips away from Bruny Island, to when the Oyster Cove Aboriginal Reserve was operating and up to now, the Cove has been a meeting place for us. Today the Festival continues to unite Palawa people. Oyster Cove has always been a special place... putalina-mana-mapali – Our Oyster Cove”

Pugganna News Number 46, November 1998, p.58 .



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 History – How we got to here

The reclamation of putalina in 1984 by the Aboriginal community in Tasmania is an important milestone in the recent history of Aboriginal land rights in Tasmania. putalina is significant to the Aboriginal community for a range of reasons. It is a landscape rich in the evidence of occupation by Aboriginal people over thousands of years. This is demonstrated by the quarries where stone tools were created, the middens where people ate their meals, and the plant life that sustained the people and nurtured the birds and animals. putalina is also a symbol of survival, with the establishment of the Aboriginal station that was unfit for female and male convicts at the time in the mid-1800s. People were moved here from Wybalenna in another Government attempt at genocide against Aborigines in Tasmania. Beyond surviving this threat, and the theft of remains from the graves of ancestors at putalina (the Crowther Collection), the Aboriginal community successfully campaigned for the return of putalina and the repatriation of many ancestors' remains. putalina is a place of important ceremony. putalina is also the place where the Aboriginal community gathers every year to celebrate achievements, and commemorate the return of the land and the rights associated with that land through the putalina festival.

The land was formally returned to the Aboriginal community through the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*. The title is held by the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania and managed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre on behalf of the Aboriginal community. putalina was listed as an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in 1999. The Environmental Rehabilitation Plan for Oyster Cove 1999 has guided land management works to the present. putalina is also managed according to the IUCN protected area management category V: Protected Landscape/Seascape.



1.2 Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide direction for the Land Management Program to achieve goals for putalina determined by the Aboriginal community that also align with management principles required to manage Indigenous Protected Areas (IUCN Category V). This plan will outline strategies to ensure progress towards goals, and show how this progress will be measured and communicated. This plan is to be used as a communication tool, so Aboriginal people in Tasmania can contribute ideas to the vision and objectives of managing putalina, which is so important to Aboriginal people and Aboriginal culture and wellbeing in Tasmania.

1.3 Visions, Goals, Strategies and Actions

Visions: The Aboriginal community's connection with putalina is strengthened;
The land and its ecosystems are healthy;
The significance of putalina as a gathering and ceremonial place is maintained or enhanced.

Goal 1: Cultural heritage sites.

Goal 2: Community's access to and use of putalina for gatherings and ceremony is increased.

Goal 3: Populations of cultural resources and their habitats are maintained or improved.

Goal 4: The impact of weeds and pests is reduced through active management.

Strategy 1:

Review, develop and implement cultural site management plans for putalina.

Strategy 2:

Encourage and support increased community use of putalina through the Land Management program.

Strategy 3:

Develop appropriate infrastructure to improve and support the community's access to and use of putalina.

Strategy 4:

Monitor the populations of key species and cultural resources at putalina.

Strategy 5:

Active weed and pest management, habitat restoration and revegetation activities at putalina.

Actions

Implement the putalina Aboriginal Site Condition Report, Catch-up Maintenance Plan and Cyclical Maintenance Plan. Review in 2025.
Develop interpretations of putalina's story.

Actions

Support the annual putalina festival with infrastructure set up and hosting tours.
Set up and run community camps, workshops and events focusing on culture, heritage and land management.

Actions

Maintenance of: Huts and toilet block; bridges; driveways and tracks; gates and fences.
Development of: Walking track; facilities for camps; and interpretations.

Actions

Water quality investigations and shellfish population surveys.
Monitor key plant species distribution.
Threatened species monitoring.
Fauna monitoring.

Action

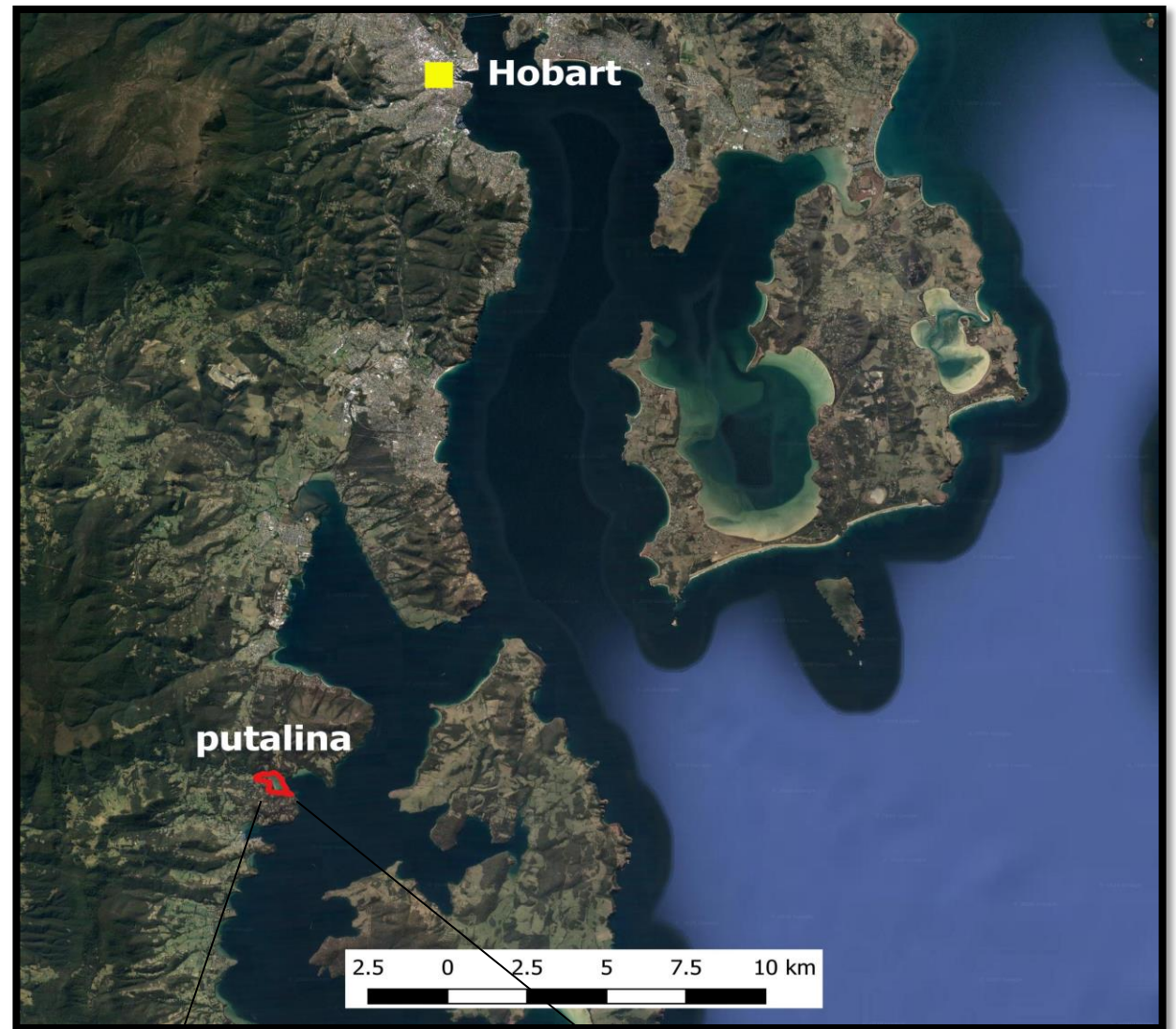
Follow up removal of pine seedlings.
Solarisation of periwinkle and revegetation with native species.
Blackberry removal and revegetation with native species.



2.0 The Land

2.1 Landscape description

putalina is a 30 hectare area located south of Hobart along the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The gentle undulating slopes of putalina consist of Permian mudstone and siltstone with sandy-loam topsoils above a silty clay base.





putalina location map.

2.2 Plants and animals

Plant communities at putalina

The bushland at putalina consists of dry Eucalypt forest, dominated by an upper canopy of: White Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Stringy-bark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) and Black peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*).

Mid-canopy plants include:

Silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Native Cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*), Prickly Box (*Bursaria spinosa*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*), Honeysuckle (*Banksia marginata*), Daisy-bush (*Olearia stellulata*), Dogwood (*Pomaderris elliptica*), and Blanket Bush (*Bedfordia salicina*).

Understorey plants include:

Sword Sedge (*Lepidosperma concavum*), Fireweed (*Senecio linearifolius*), Sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*), Native Gorse (*Daviesia ulicifolia*), Flax Lily (*Dianella revolute*), Bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*) and Pterostyllus greenhood orchids, Common Heath (*Epacris spp*) and Beard Heath (*Leucapogon spp*).

A threatened orchid, the Bearded midge-orchid (*Corunastylis morrisii*) has been observed at putalina.

Actions outlined in the Tasmanian Threatened Orchid Recovery Plan will guide the protection of putalina's population of this species.



Photos from left:

Example of dry Eucalypt forest;

Streamside vegetation community;

Threatened Bearded midge-orchid.

2.2 Plants and animals continued

Weeds

Radiata pine: Mature pine trees at putalina have been removed. Many were carefully felled in sections by an arborist so the surrounding bush was not impacted. Pine seedlings continue to germinate and grow from pine cones and seed stock from previous mature trees.

Blackberry: There is one main blackberry infestation in the area just to the north of the northern most extent of the quarry sites.

Periwinkle: The periwinkle infestation occurs across the cleared areas adjacent to neighbouring residents along the coast. These infestations are likely garden escapees and are infesting cultural heritage sites, which means management has to be careful not to impact the sites.

Briar Rose, Willows, Spanish heath and Broom have infested putalina in the past, but have been eradicated through the Land Management program over the last decade.



Photos from left:

Discussions on how fire can be used to keep country healthy;

Land Management Crew setting camera traps.

2.2 Plants and animals continued

Animals

The most common types of animals at putalina are:

Mammals

- Pademelons
- Eastern barred bandicoot
- Bennett's wallaby
- Brush-tailed possum
- Ring-tailed possum

Birds

- Plovers
- Yellow-throated honeyeater
- Black-faced cuckoo shrike
- Butcher bird
- Fan tails
- Blue wren
- White-faced heron

Reptiles

- Tiger snake
- Whip snake
- Skinks



Eastern barred bandicoot



White-breasted Sea Eagle

Animals continued

There are also threatened and introduced animals at putalina that have been observed, or whose presence is likely considering species range of distribution and habitat types.

Threatened animals

Observed within 500m of putalina:

- Swift parrot

Based on habitat mapping:

- Wedge-tailed eagle
- White-bellied sea-eagle
- Masked owl
- Grey goshawk
- Forty-spotted pardalote
- Eastern barred bandicoot
- Green and golden frog
- Chaostola skipper butterfly
- Mt. Mangana stag beetle
- Tasmanian Devils

Introduced animals

- Cats
- Rabbits
- People walk their dogs and ride horses at putalina



Photos from top:

Wedge-tailed Eagle;

Swift parrot.

3.0 The community connection

putalina's significance to the Aboriginal community in Tasmania is ongoing and longstanding. The community's connection to putalina has changed in response to historical events, but has always continued, to the point of being the place of some of the most important cultural and historical events in the last 170 + years. The 'Aboriginal Station', where people were taken from Wybalenna; the reoccupation in 1984, where the land was reclaimed for its historical connection to the Aboriginal community; the return of ancestral remains to be laid to rest in a dignified and culturally appropriate way by the Aboriginal community, and the struggle to ensure their resting place is protected; the festival, an annual gathering that symbolises the achievements of the Aboriginal community in the struggle for land and cultural rights; the return of the land through the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*; and the continued care and management of the land. All of these events and achievements are milestones in the recent Aboriginal history of Tasmania.



Clockwise from top: Community day at putalina, 1978; Artist interpretation of the station; Community coming together for putalina Festival; defending the cremation site in 1985.

3.1 Cultural places

There is a putalina Aboriginal Site Condition Report, Catch-up Maintenance Plan and Cyclical Maintenance Plan that was developed in 2006 for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. This plan has identified areas of cultural heritage significance that require monitoring and rehabilitation to ensure their protection. The key areas requiring monitoring and management include the quarries and middens that run for approximately half a kilometre along the south eastern boundary of putalina. This area has been recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Register. Other areas include the remnants of the 'Aboriginal Station' with associated artefacts and the area of reoccupation in the 1980's including buildings and the cremation site of repatriated remains. Following are maps of the approximate location of the 'Aboriginal Station' or 'penitentiary', and the stone tools quarries and middens.



Coastline rich in cultural sites

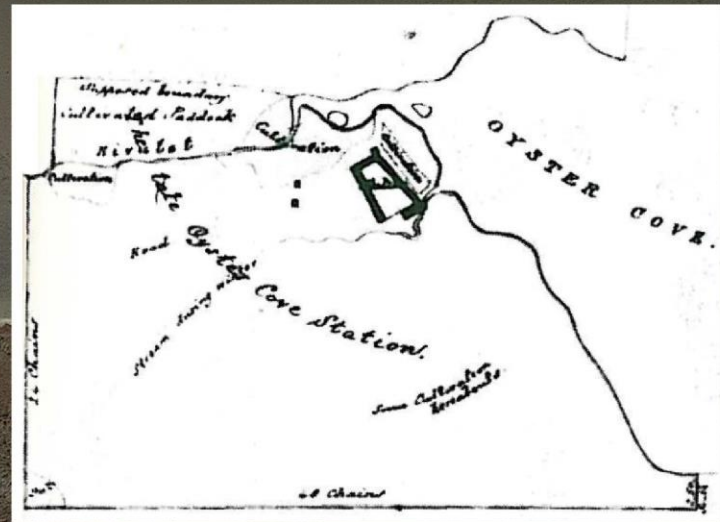
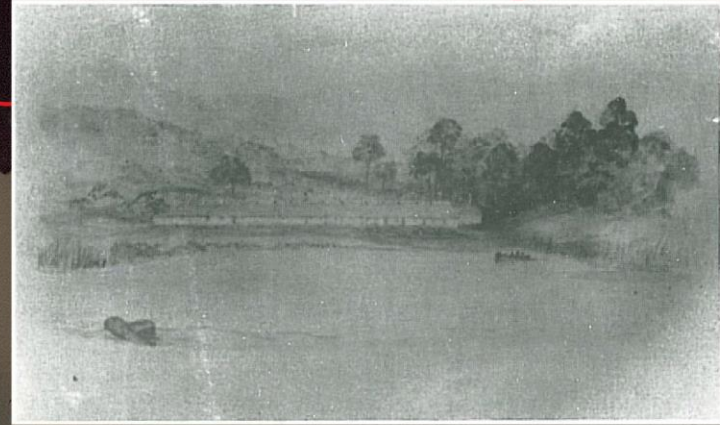


The re-occupation hut



Site Entry

Penitentiary



25 0 25 50 75 100 m



Quarries



- Quarry Rock Outcrops
- Middens
- Permian_Outcrop
- Ochre in pebble horizon
- putalina boundary

25 0 25 50 75 100 m

3.2 Infrastructure

The infrastructure at putalina focuses on accessibility and safety, for the enjoyment of putalina by the Aboriginal community. Some of the infrastructure is also part of the cultural heritage at putalina, and maintenance tasks are identified in the Aboriginal site plan for putalina. Other infrastructure has been established to provide safe access and shelter for community events and camps. This includes: vehicle tracks; walking tracks; gates; fences; foot-bridges; camping areas; toilet facilities; and the Morgan Mansell community camp hut.



Footbridge along walking trail



The Morgan Mansell hut and toilet/shower block

3.3 Cultural resources and their use

The following list include plants and shellfish found at putalina that are used for craft, food or medicinal purposes.

Resource

Use

Flax Lily (*Dianella revolute*)

Fibre for strings and baskets; the berries can be eaten

Sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*)

Fibre for strings and baskets and the leaf base can be eaten

Sword sedge (*Lepidosperma concavum*)

Fibre for baskets and the leaf base can be eaten

Tussock grass (*Poa labillarderie*)

Fibre for string

Cutting grass

Fibre for strings and baskets

Rush (*Juncus palidus*)

Fibre for baskets

Bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*)

Roots and shoots are edible and sap relieves stings

Native Cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformus*)

Produces edible fruits and timber is good for waddies and clap sticks

Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*)

The gum is edible

White gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*)

The gum is edible

Greenhood Orchid (*Pterostyllus* spp)

Tubers are edible

Wattles (*Acacia dealbata* and *mearnsii*)

Seeds are edible, and can be ground into a flour

Honeysuckle (*Banksia Marginata*)

Nectar is edible

Native currant (

Produces edible fruits

Bull Oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*)

New cones can be eaten raw or cooked and timber is good for clap sticks

Tea Tree (*Leptospermum* spp.)

Timber for spears and spits

Oysters, Mussels, Pipsis

Seafood

Scale fish

Seafood

Crabs

Seafood

4.0 The Plan: Visions, Goals, Threats, Strategies and Actions



4.1 Visions

The visions for the management of putalina have been summarised from community meetings and workshops dating back to 1998 through to discussions and meetings in 2006 and again in 2011 and are still relevant today. The Visions statement is broad and aspirational, proposing the ideal situation for putalina and the Aboriginal community in the future. The visions provide the 'bigger picture' context for what activities and projects the TAC Land Management Program undertakes. The Visions Statement for putalina is below.

- The Aboriginal community's connection with putalina is strengthened.
- The land and its ecosystems are healthy.
- The significance of putalina as a gathering and ceremonial place is maintained or enhanced.

4.2 Goals

Goals have been identified so we can tell that we are heading in the right direction for achieving the Visions for putalina.

Goal 1: Cultural heritage sites are protected.

Goal 2: Community's access to and use of putalina for gatherings and ceremony is increased.

Goal 3: Populations of cultural resources and their habitats are maintained or improved.

Goal 4: The impact of weeds and pests is reduced through active management.

4.3 Threats

Threats are the issues or obstacles that need to be actively managed to be able to achieve the Goals and ultimately the Visions for putalina. The threats are important to identify, as they inform what the strategies and actions are along with the Goals. The key threats to achieving the goals for putalina are:

1. Heritage sites become degraded through lack of management.
2. The stories of putalina and their sites are not shared and disappear over time.
3. There are too few opportunities for the Aboriginal community to use and connect with putalina.
4. The populations of cultural resources at putalina decline to a point where they cannot be used, and cultural practices are not continued and shared.
5. Weeds and pests overtake the habitats for key species, impacting the ecological balance and the health in populations of cultural resources.

4.4 Strategies and Actions

The strategies describe *how* the Land Management Program will deal with the threats to putalina to reach the identified goals. The actions are *what* the Land Management Program will do to manage threats and achieve goals.

Strategy 1: *Develop, review and implement cultural heritage site plans for putalina.*

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 1: *Implement the putalina Aboriginal Site Condition Report, Catch-up Maintenance Plan and Cyclical Maintenance Plan. Review in 2025.*

Action 2: *Develop and install interpretations of putalina's story.*

Strategy 2: *Encourage and support increased community utilisation of putalina through the land management program.*

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 3: *Support annual putalina festival with infrastructure set up and hosting tours.*

Action 4: *Set up and assist with community camps, workshops and events focusing on culture, heritage and land management.*

Strategy 3: Develop appropriate infrastructure to improve and support the community's access to and use of putalina.

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 5: Maintenance of:

Huts and toilet block;

Bridges, walking tracks and vehicle tracks;

Gates and fences.

Action 6: Development of:

Extension of walking track to quarry sites;

Facilities for camps;

Interpretation sign boards.

Strategy 4: Monitor the populations of key species and cultural resources at putalina.

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 7: Develop and implement methodology for water quality investigations and shellfish population surveys.

Action 8: Monitor populations of key cultural resources plant species including:

Fibre plants such as Flax Lilies, Saggs and Rushes

Food plants such as Native cherries, Greenhood Orchids, Wattles, Honeysuckles and Native currants.

Action 9: Monitor and record presence of threatened species such as Swift Parrot, Wedge-tailed eagle, Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Tasmanian Devils.

Strategy 5: Active weed and pest management, habitat restoration and revegetation activities at putalina.

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 10: Follow up removal of pine seedlings.

Action 11: Control of periwinkle and revegetation.

Action 12: Blackberry removal.

4.5 Making sure of success (Monitoring and Evaluation)

For the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) and the Aboriginal community to be confident that the Land Management Program is on the right track to achieving its goals for putalina, there are measurements that will be undertaken that will indicate how the Program is progressing. The Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan is used to monitor and evaluate activities at piyura kitina. The community will also be encouraged to give feedback on activities carried out at putalina.