

Tasman Ecovillage Newsletter

February 2022

Village News

This month in the village has been relatively quiet, we had an SGM (Special General Meeting), our water pump by the creek broke down! Luckily that was fixed with haste and we will have a back up pump as a “safety net”. A new maintenance person has been officially appointed, congratulations Jason!

Stephen Cole hosted his 3rd water workshop and oversaw a walk around the village grounds.



THANK YOU!

- Thank you to Brigid for writing an article for the newsletter!
- Thank you to Alan Marshall for writing another article for the newsletter!
- Thank you to Dave F and Ilan for organising repair for the broken creek pump!
- Thank you to Jen for looking after the ecovillage info email!
- Thank you to Hannah F for collecting the mail!
- Thank you to Dave F and Jason for fixing the burst pipe near the pool pump shed!
- Thank you to Jason for filling in as maintenance person before his official instatement!
- Thank you to Sarah R for beautifying the common ground with a false creek bed in the fernery between lots 108 and 109!
- Thank you to Stephen Cole for his continued work in hosting water workshops within the village!

COMPOSTING WASTE PAPER AND CARDBOARD

Resident Alan Marshall has very kindly offered to do an article series based around our natural resources and ways of using them to enhance our lives without causing damage to the surrounding environment, in this month's article Alan will be covering composting waste paper and cardboard.

We see a large amount of paper and cardboard “wasted.” By that I mean discarded out-of-site-out-of-mind, with no further usefulness envisaged. On the other hand, this is one more valuable resource we can tap into.

Large, clean, flattened cardboard boxes can be sent for recycling. This supports industry and the jobs that it creates. Here in the Village, some cardboard is used for mulching gardens, for weed control. Smaller cartons, pizza trays, egg cartons are not seen as valuable. They can be contaminated by grease, tomato sauce, food left-overs, etc. This is messy stuff and hardly worth recycling. This is where composting comes in.

Paper and cardboard comes from wood pulp. Left in the forest to “rot,” fungi, bacteria and other organisms, over extended time, reduce dead wood down to humus and enrich the soil. So, for the past few years I have been experimenting with a compost process which can utilise that natural process. Soiled paper and cardboard has been torn up, then layered lasagne-like into trenches with tree mulch and Azolla. It was then covered with soil. Provided there was sufficient moisture, worms moved in and reduce it down over a period of 9-12 months, helping soil to retain water.

Currently, I am using one of the large composting bins for this process. By digging down into the heap, I have noticed it's quite moist there and worms seem to be happily doing their work. Fungi and mould are also at work. These are very important. They excrete certain enzymes which are the very first chemicals to help in the breakdown of lignin – that's the fibrous part of a tree which gives it such great strength. Without these organisms, nothing would ever start in the compost heap! Tree mulch contains those fungi and moulds which naturally occur in the forest.

I need to do some preparations before adding to the heap. Plastic tape, staples, any metals and plastic which have been hidden in boxes, do not compost and must be removed. Then I tear up everything into fist-sized pieces. Each additional layer is wetted thoroughly before applying a layer of tree mulch. In practice, it's taking a long time to fill the bin, since the pile settles down considerably as decomposition takes place. The process is not a quick one: probably a year or two before we have results. Meanwhile it's creating some great soil additive while, at the same time, limiting what we send to the tip as “garbage.”

Next month I will talk more about Azolla.

“We have around us numerous natural resources. Used wisely and with care, they can enhance our lives, at little or zero cost to the environment. My interest and focus is on integrating just a few of those resources for domestic use.”

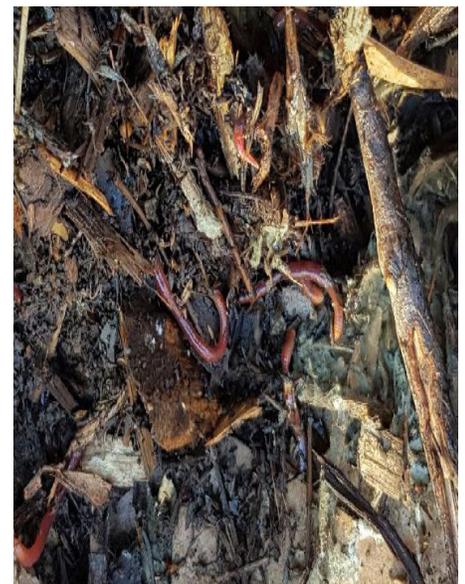
- Alan Marshall



Paper and cardboard torn up to size and spread.



Paper layer is then covered with tree mulch.



Worms feeding happily below the surface.

Walking on Thursdays

By Brigid

The hand holding my cheese sandwich paused halfway to my mouth as I glanced down along the fallen tree branch I was sitting on and saw a leech, perched on its tail with head waving in my direction. We had trudged up the path from Fortesque Bay in drizzling rain, which highlighted an abundance of flowering shrubs and tiny plants, and I had already been introduced to jack jumper ants during our morning tea stop. The leech convinced me a standing lunch break might be better.

When I saw the reddish coloured round spot on my jeans I decided to ignore it, but it increased in size and another walker noticed. The already bloated leech fell out easily but when I got home five hours later blood was still flowing. I sent a photo of the carnage to friends and got a response 'Looks like you stepped in a bear trap.'

This was my introduction to walking with the Tasman Forestier Walking Group. Sara West had introduced me when I arrived at Tasman Ecovillage and my Thursday adventures have continued since. During our Christmas lunch I declared 'I'm so glad I found this group.' Another member replied, 'that's what I said fifteen years ago' and a third chimed in with 'that's what I said twenty years ago.' Their varied stories about the peninsula, their walking adventures, and the ups and downs of their lives, helps me forget my aching feet as we trudge back to our cars after a five-hour walk. Sometimes I hear stories more than once and enjoy them all over again.

Sitting precariously on a cliff top at Cape Seville, with the unique geological feature of dolerite, granite and sandstone stacked underneath me, I moved carefully as I retrieved my lunch from my backpack and noted which little bushes I might be able to grab if I started sliding down the slippery sandy slope. The blue ocean below looked inviting but I did not think I would survive the 470m drop. We had walked the long way in along an old forestry road, scrambling over and under fallen trees on the last part of the overgrown track as we searched for the next trail marker ribbons tied to branches. On the way back I struggled to keep within sight of the eighty-year-old woman who was the leader of the walk that day. As she kept me company up the final hill I told her 'I'm puff just puff not puff hill puff fit puff,' and she said, 'hills never get easier.' But I noticed she wasn't puffing. She told me that when she came to Tasmania and watched the older women marching ahead of her on walks, she couldn't imagine being that fit.

Every week is a different adventure. On my Thursday walks I am sometimes taken to my limit but make it back to the car with sore feet and an exhilarated spirit. Sometimes it's a relatively easy few hours stroll (and swim) in perfect sunshine, like our trip to Maria Island this week. I learn about plants, animals, geology and history and the group allows space for the mix of solitude and camaraderie that I need.

Maybe one day I will get up a hill without puffing..



Giving & Receiving at The Tasman Ecovillage

Would you like a regular opportunity at TEV to pass on things you no longer want and to find that item which will finally make your life complete?

At the TEV Discussion Forum on the 2nd of February this was considered as a solution to the issue of people discarding things, they no longer want, in common areas.

Once a month was proposed for an event where people could meet to exchange or sell items. This would provide an opportunity to meet and chat with others, maybe even share the provenance of the beloved object they are now setting free.

The event could be opened to include the wider community.

I will try to coordinate suggestions for the timing of the event to suit people who want to participate if you let me know what day and time would work for you.

Perhaps it could be organised to coincide with the Fat Beets Community Lunch.

At the end of the event people would take responsibility for disposal of their items which did not find a new home.

There is not going to be a time that will work for everyone of course, so an additional suggestion at the Discussion Forum was for a section of the newsletter to publish what people might have to give away and what others are seeking.

Let me know what you think – preferably only about this proposal!

Brigid Donohoe

Facebook Pages & Groups

- Tasman Notice-board (Tasmania, Australia)
- Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House Inc
- Country Women's Association in Tasmania (Inc)
- Roaring Beach Wildlife Rescue
- Waterfalls of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Fungi
- Aurora Australis Tasmania
- Whale Spotting Tasmania
- Field Naturalists of Tasmania
- Bioluminescence Tasmania
- Tasmania Photography Group



Local Information & Resources

We have so much information on the local area and many local resources and attractions available to us here on the Tasman Peninsula or Turrakana. Beauty and natural diversity surround us including waterfalls, deep sea caves, rugged coastlines, 300 metre high sea cliffs, blowholes, caves, tessalated rock formations and heritage listed convict sites.

Turrakana is also home to many animals including brush tail possums, wallabies, wombats, bandicoots, sea eagles, Australian fur seals, penguins, dolphins, migrating whales, endangered swift parrots and endangered wedge-tailed eagles.



IN MARCH PLANT...

Asian Leaf Vegetables, Asian Root Vegetables, Beetroot, Broadbeans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Chives, Garlic, Green Manure Crops, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Silverbeet, Spinach, Spring Onion, Turnip, Winter Lettuce.

Tasman Ecovillage Events MARCH 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
00	01	02 Discussion Forum 10am-12pm	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 TEV Monthly Meeting 10am - 12pm
28	29	30	31	00	00	00

Businesses in the Village



Webilicious
Websites that work well on all
devices and browsers.



Baking by Hannah
Sweets and baked goods made
with love (and sugar!) to order.



Advertise your business here...