

Derwent Estuary Program e-bulletin



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Welcome

This is the sixteenth newsletter from the Derwent Estuary Program. The newsletter is designed to keep partners and stakeholders informed of the DEP's activities on a quarterly basis. If you are happy to keep receiving the newsletter, great, if you would like to be removed from the mailing list please reply via the link at the bottom of this page.

Upcoming event

Caring for injured Little Penguins forum – 1 October 2010

Local and interstate speakers will share their knowledge of rescuing and rehabilitating injured Little Penguins. If you are a wildlife carer or have a strong interest and experience in caring for wildlife contact [Ursula Taylor](#) for further information.

Conservation Action Planning



To determine research and management priorities in coming years the Derwent Estuary Program has undertaken Conservation Action Planning, a system devised by the Nature Conservancy, one of America's most respected conservation organisations. CAP has been successfully used by organisations across the globe to guide planning to maximise resources and conservation outcomes. A series of three workshops have assessed key habitats in the Derwent estuary e.g. wetlands, salt marshes foreshore vegetation, rocky reefs to determine the viability of these systems, what's threatening them and how we might address these threats to protect the estuary's biodiversity.

The final stage in the process will be a synthesis workshop to present the results to our stakeholders including high priority management actions. The end result will a robust plan for action for the DEP that can be adapted as things change or as more information becomes available. The CAP process was facilitated by Greening Australia through a grant from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country.

Working with the Tasmanian ICT Centre



For the past three years, researchers from the Tasmanian ICT Centre have been looking at novel approaches to monitoring of Australia's coasts and estuaries. Recently, they have developed a "low-cost" node, based on the Fleck technology developed by CSIRO and Tasmanian company, Datacall. Costing less than \$1800, the node is a solar-powered buoy that can measure temperature, salinity, pH and dissolved oxygen and send the data back in near real-time via mobile phone.

A prototype of the node has been successfully tested on the Derwent River and at a fish farm in southern Tasmania and the team are working on a ruggedized version for future deployments. Where possible they would like to deploy the nodes on or attached to existing infrastructure in the river and would be happy to hear from anyone interested in assisting with trials or deployments. Please contact Dr Paulo de Souza paulo.desouza@csiro.au

The Tasmanian ICT Centre is working in collaboration with the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP), and the real-time data collected will be used to supplement the sampling undertaken by the DEP. For more information about the Tasmanian ICT Centre please visit their [website](#)

Photo: A prototype of the low-cost node during testing on the Derwent River

Article by Dr Greg Timms, Tasmanian ICT Centre.

Out and about at the Tread Lightly EnviroFest

The 6th of June was a cold and clear winter's day, perfect for talking about the Derwent Estuary Program to the many people who came to the Tread Lightly EnviroFest at the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens. Litter, its impacts and how to reduce it was the focus with many people amazed at the huge quantities reaching the Derwent via stormwater – estimated at 300 to 500 tonnes per year. That's about 300 to 500 ute loads! The DEP combined resources with the EPA Division's sustainability section and Coastal Marine Branch to show the 'litter trail' – how litter reaches our waterways, the problems it causes to marine life and how we can all help prevent it.

Background

The Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) is a regional partnership between the Tasmanian State Government, local governments, commercial and industrial enterprises, and community-based groups to restore and promote our estuary.

The DEP was established in 1999 and has been nationally recognised for excellence in coordinating initiatives to reduce water pollution, conserve habitats and species, monitor river health and promote greater use and enjoyment of the foreshore.

The major sponsors include: the Tasmanian State Government, Brighton, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils, Southern Water, TasPorts, Norske Skog Boyer, Hydro Tasmania and Nyrstar Hobart.

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