

# Derwent Estuary Program e-bulletin



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### Welcome

This is the 19th newsletter from the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP). 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.

### Derwent Estuary Foreshore Walking Tracks Guide

The DEP has produced a brochure that provides details of 26 walking opportunities along the estuary covering 90 kilometres of track. These foreshore walking tracks can be found between New Norfolk along both the eastern and western shore to Tinderbox and to South Arm.

Follow the tracks to explore Hobart's waterfront to see wetlands, bushland, sea cliffs, beaches, parks and stunning views and keep an eye on the estuary for dolphins, seals, penguins and the occasional whale. The tracks offer something for everyone and many can be enjoyed by the whole family including the dog! Many tracks also allow for bike, pram and wheelchair access.



See the Iron Pot lighthouse from tracks at South Arm

To keep the map up-to-date with track upgrades and newly constructed routes by local councils, a southern region tracks website is being developed. This cooperative project between the DEP and our partners will provide a one-stop-shop for track maps, including a brief snapshot of each walk (length, difficulty, access points, facilities). The website will be online by mid 2012.

For a copy of the Walking Tracks Guide go to the [DEP website](#) or contact your local council for a hard copy.

The Walking Tracks Guide was funded through a grant from the Tasmanian Government Department of Sport and Recreation and sponsored by Clarence City Council.

### Derwent Seagrass Mapped for Long-Term Monitoring



Black swans feeding on seagrass

The seagrass in the upper Derwent estuary was recently mapped using cutting edge technology which has provided detailed maps of the extent of its distribution. This information provides an excellent baseline for on-going monitoring and surveillance.

Seagrass is a good indicator of the health of the estuary and provides shelter and breeding areas for fish (e.g. whitebait, black bream, brown trout and short-finned eels) and waterbirds (e.g. black swans and ducks). It also has a role in using nutrients which is important for maintaining good water quality throughout the estuary.

The seagrass was mapped using a combination of aerial photographs taken from a light plane together with kayak-based field measurements. Small-format digital cameras were used, including infrared imagery which had an accuracy of about 1 m. Satellite imagery was also used and the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) supported the project by providing contour maps, seagrass sample grabs and video imagery. Seagrass is found in the upper estuary in shallow water (about 1 m) so the main area of focus was the area between the Jordan River and Murphys Flats near New Norfolk.

New aerial imagery continues to be collected to complement baseline monitoring. There are also a vast number of historic aerial photos from the past 60 years that could be assessed to provide a better understanding of long-term trends.

This project was undertaken by Dr Richard Mount of the Blue Wren Group at the University of Tasmania on behalf of the Derwent Estuary Program. Funding was provided by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.

## 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.

We also work collaboratively on projects with CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, University of Tasmania, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, NRM South, Veolia Environmental Services and Greenseas (Heinz Australia).

INTERNATIONAL RIVERFOUNDATION RIVERPRIZE



2010 NATIONAL RIVERPRIZE WINNER

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