

Derwent Estuary Program e-bulletin



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Welcome

This is the 22nd 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.

State of the Derwent 2012 - Report Card Now Available

The recently released 2012 State of the Derwent Report Card summarises monitoring data collected by the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) and partners in the area between New Norfolk and the Iron Pot Light. The report provides a watching brief on the State of the Derwent estuary. As in previous years, this includes trends in industrial, sewage and stormwater discharges, monitoring results for swimming beaches and heavy metals in seafood, as well as actions taken to clean-up the Derwent. The condition of the estuary declined in several areas during 2011-12 due in part to higher than average rainfall causing an increase in stormwater and catchment runoff.

Some of the key management actions and initiatives carried out by the DEP partnership in 2011-12 include:



- Further investment in groundwater management and treatment at Nyrstar, with a record 130 tonnes/year of zinc extracted from groundwater.
- Several major stormwater treatment projects are underway, including the \$20 million Derwent Park stormwater harvesting project.
- Annual weed surveys and treatment continue in an effort to eradicate rice grass and prevent the spread of 'karamu' into high value wetlands.
- Population surveys and recovery actions to improve the breeding success of the Derwent's critically endangered spotted handfish.
- Development of educational materials and guided walks for local schools.

For more details see the report on our [website](#) or contact [Ursula Taylor](#) for a free printed copy.

Online Now - Activities and Resources for Teachers and Students



The DEP have developed new [online resources](#) with support from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country. The resources include a range of locally developed classroom and outdoor activities for grades K – 10 on sustainability and biodiversity issues with a focus on [habitats](#) and animals of the Derwent estuary. The material focusing on saltmarsh, wetlands and rocky reefs is most suitable for primary school students. A single classroom activity or an interpretive walk can be presented alone. However, the material has been designed to complement the interpretive walks, and if delivered together will enable students to gain a good understanding of the ecology and importance of saltmarsh and tidal flats to the broader estuary. These online resources will be presented to teachers in late January.

Launch of D'Entrecasteaux Channel Project



The Marine Discovery Centre at Woodbridge was the perfect setting to launch the D'Entrecasteaux Channel Project during Coastcare Week in December 2012. Kingborough Council Mayor Dr Graham Bury launched the project which is a collaboration between Kingborough Council, Derwent Estuary Program, NRM South, Southern Water, Tassal, CSIRO, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, Huon Aquaculture, Huon Valley Council, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council.

A highlight of the launch was the presentation of a cheque for the \$50,000 prize money awarded to the Derwent Estuary Program as the winner of the 2010 Australian Riverprize. The money will go towards the project as part of a Twinning Program, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise between river basin organisations facing similar challenges.

The Australian Riverprize is awarded annually by the International RiverFoundation, and is funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative, through the Water Smart Australia program.

Activities to be undertaken during the next 12 months include: a compilation of scientific information on the Channel and the preparation of a new State of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and lower Huon Estuary report and ongoing stakeholder consultation around reviewing the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and North West Bay Strategic Management Plan and Strategic Action Plan.

The D'Entrecasteaux Channel Project will develop and share information about the Channel with stakeholders and the general public. The community is being encouraged to participate in upcoming local forums to be run by Kingborough Council and the project partners.

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.

Our 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, Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania, Veolia Environmental Services and Greenseas (Heinz Australia).



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