

Derwent Estuary Program e-bulletin



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Welcome

This is the 23rd 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.

What's New? Greater Hobart Trails Website!

Keen for a walk, bike or horse ride around Hobart? Not sure where to go, or would like to try something new? The new Greater Hobart Trails website, which is smart phone and ipad friendly, lists 77 trails in the Hobart region to help you do just that.

The website, containing content generously provided by Hobart, Kingborough, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glenorchy and Clarence City Councils can be used in a number of ways. There is an interactive map if you're interested in finding a walk in your local area, or if you have limited time, you can choose a walk based on its duration. Search options also cater for people looking for walks with dogs, prams, wheelchairs, or trails for bicycles, mountain bikes or horses.



There are a range of walking, cycling and horse riding opportunities in the Greater Hobart region to suit everyone, from easy walks for the whole family to more challenging tracks for the experienced bushwalker or mountain bike rider.

Each trail listed on the website includes a map, description, photo gallery, difficulty rating, potential hazards, suitability and duration. Another key feature is weather information, as each track has real time weather from the closest weather station – directly provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

A PDF map can also be downloaded from the site and when updates are made to the trail details, they are also reflected in the PDF brochure, which saves on hard copy print runs.

The website, launched earlier this month, by the Chair of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Association and Lord Mayor of Hobart Alderman Damon Thomas and Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage Brian Wightman, has been funded by the Derwent Estuary Program partnership with additional funding provided by Hobart City Council, Kingborough Council and Derwent Valley Council.

[Start exploring today!](#)

New Seafood Safety Signs for the Derwent



New signs being installed around the Derwent reiterate health advice about eating fish and shellfish from the Derwent estuary. The signs in 32 locations from New Norfolk to South Arm and Tinderbox will remind members of the public not to eat bream or shellfish from the Derwent, and to limit consumption of other Derwent caught fish.

Current public health advice on Derwent caught fish and shellfish:

- Do not eat bream.
- Limit consumption of flathead and other fish to twice a week.
- Some people should further limit consumption to once a week, including:
 - pregnant and breastfeeding women
 - women planning to become pregnant
 - children aged six years and younger.
- If you eat fish from the Derwent it is best to avoid eating fish from other sources in the same week.
- Do not collect and eat wild shellfish.

For further information about the shellfish and fish monitoring program please view our [website](#).

Derwent Wetland Protected on Private Land



The wetlands near Boyer have been given a boost with the protection of 17.5 hectares on private land. The owner John Fitzgerald has a strong connection with the area which was his playground as a child. When the opportunity came up to purchase this land he jumped at the chance as he always kept an eye on it as he travelled to and from New Norfolk where he ran his business. The marsh, as it is known, is a special place, one that in John's own words he says 'he'd do anything to protect'.

The Derwent Estuary Program identified the significance of Mr Fitzgerald's property as a place worth of conservation and through the assistance of Dean Vincent (Private Areas on Private Land Conservation Program (PAPL)) and James Hattam (Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC)), John was able to place a covenant on his land and realise his dream of protecting this special place for future generations. Further information about the PAPL can be viewed on their [website](#) as can information about the [TLC](#).

Story adapted from Dean Vincent's article in the PLPC's newsletter The Running Postman. Photo: Vishnu Prahalad

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).



For further information please contact
Christine Coughanowr p: 03 6233 6547 or
Ursula Taylor e: Ursula.Taylor@environment.tas.gov.au
www.derwentestuary.org.au

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