

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Gellibrand Photopoint Shot  
February 2009

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## NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS.....

### Welcome back Kate!!

On behalf of the Corangamite CMA (CCMA) and EstuaryWatch, I would like to welcome back Kate Wynn. Kate has recently returned to the CCMA after being on maternity leave throughout most of 2008 and the beginning of 2009. For those of you who may not be aware, Kate was the first EstuaryWatch Coordinator, establishing the program in 2006.

### Message from Kate

*Hi everyone! It's great to be back and involved with EstuaryWatch again, I have missed being kept up-to-date on the latest happenings in the Corangamite region's estuaries by the EstuaryWatch volunteers. From all reports you have had a great 12 months with some fabulous data collected under the watchful eyes of Rhys and Matt. I have had a wonderful year off spending time in my own bcal estuary with my son Henry. I will be taking a more strategic and administrative role for the program now (see item below), but will still be getting out and about to the estuaries and look forward to catching up with you all soon.*

### EstuaryWatch Coordinator position changes

As of May the 11<sup>th</sup> 2009, the EstuaryWatch Coordinator position will be shared between myself (Matthew Khoury) and Kate Wynn. Kate will be working Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and I will be covering Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Unfortunately neither of us will be available on Monday's, as we require a day of overlap (Wednesday) to more effectively manage the program.

Kate and I will have distinct responsibilities as regards to the EstuaryWatch Program (see Table 1 overleaf). It will assist us greatly if you could contact the relevant Coordinator to your area of concern. However, it is important to note that both of us will be more than happy to help you if you require more immediate assistance and the relevant Coordinator is unavailable. If you are unsure who to contact you can email [estuarywatch@ccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:estuarywatch@ccma.vic.gov.au) which will reach both of us.

**Table 1: EstuaryWatch Coordinators' roles**

Contact Kate if you have a query regarding:	Contact Matt if you have a query regarding:
General EstuaryWatch Enquiries	All EstuaryWatch Groups (except the Barwon & Thompson)
Barwon EstuaryWatch Group	Estuary Education & Awareness Events
Thompson Ck EstuaryWatch Group	
EstuaryWatch Database	

**Table 2: Contact Details**

<p><b>Kate's Contact Details:</b>            Kate Wynn            Work Days: Tuesday &amp; Wednesday            Phone: 03 5224 9407            Mobile: 0427 097 225            Fax: 03 5223 3035</p>	<p><b>Matt's Contact Details:</b>            Matt Khoury            Work Days: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday            Phone: 03 5224 9402            Mobile: 0427 097 225            Fax: 03 5223 3035</p>
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### Updates to depth gauges

Thiess Services have now finished updating the Corangamite regions depth gauges boards. I will supply each of the EstuaryWatch groups with the exact installation dates to ensure that any recent monitoring results can be checked for accuracy.

### Quality Assurance and Quality Control

The third round of bi annual QA/QC events will be held during the months of May and June. Dates and times need to be set with your team leader prior to this. Please also remember that additional database entry training is still available upon request.

### Database and mouth condition monitoring data sheet upgrades

The remaining upgrades are still being reviewed. If required, modifications will be made to improve the quality of these upgrades, which at this stage will be launched over the next few months. These upgrades include:

- New improvement to older graph style with a temporal x-axis (i.e. bottom scale bar now date divided not equally spaced for each monitoring event).

- Data points are no longer linked and appear as dots. This is because the monitoring events are not linked to each other.
- A critical limit placed on the DO graph to infer when oxygen has dropped below a safe limit for life.
- Totally new graph which a tricky combo of depth, salinity, open/closed, and DO all on one graph, and highlights the halocline so we can instantly see the ratio of fresh to saline water. Of course this is not always relevant or available to all sites.

### Clean Beaches Award

As I explained in last months update, In February this year I decided to enter our EstuaryWatchers into the 2009 Keep Australia Beautiful "Clean Beaches Awards". Previously, our EstuaryWatchers were in the running to receive the "Community Action Award", which recognises outstanding achievement in community organisation and pride expressed through its development and strong relationship within the local beach community. Thanks to Ros and Tim Gibson and their wonderful EstuaryWatch monitoring display, the regions EstuaryWatchers have now been nominated as finalists in the Awards.



# ESTUARYWATCH NEWS

*Plant indigenous plants*

## Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence

In December 2008, EstuaryWatch was entered into the Victorian Coastal Awards. In late March we received an invite to attend the 2009 Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence ceremony, as a finalist in the innovation category. Unfortunately we didn't win on the night, but making the finals was still quite an achievement for the program.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS.....

### Occupational Health and Safety

EstuaryWatchers, please remain safe. There are many risks to consider at this time of year, for example; slippery uneven surfaces, flood events, cold and wet conditions etc. So please consider these risks and where possible avoid them.

### Rubbish in our Estuaries

As I previously mentioned, over the summer period a number of EstuaryWatchers noticed a significant increase in the amount of rubbish present within our regions estuaries, particularly in popular tourist areas such as Torquay. Unfortunately, this also seemed to be a problem over the Easter period, as recently I discovered a significant amount of rubbish in Torquay's Spring Creek Estuary. This is a major problem that needs to be addressed. The presence of rubbish in an estuarine environment can have a detrimental effect on the fish and birds that live, feed, breed or pass through the estuary, by causing death, injury and upsetting breeding cycles. The presence of rubbish also decreases the aesthetic value of the estuary and its surrounding environment, which in turn lowers the areas tourism appeal.

Please keep an eye out for offenders, and if possible gather as much information as you can (i.e. car registration, type of litter dropped, a photo of the offender etc) prior to reporting them to your local council or the EPA.

## WRAPPING UP FROM LAST MONTH.....

### Social Event east and west

Unfortunately, due to the lack of interest received, the Spring Creek (east) social event which was scheduled to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March had to be called off. Though on the following Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> of April) the Kennett River social was held with high spirits in cold wintry conditions. This was a great day, with an excellent turnout of fantastic people, who came to enjoy some delicious food and great conversation. Thank you very much to those of you who attended this event, I really enjoyed catching up with you all, and in relation to the continuous development and improvement of the program I believe we also made a lot of progress.

### Estuary Openings

The estuaries of our region have experienced wild weather and strong rain in combination with big seas and high tidal ranges. This has produced natural estuary openings at the following locations:

- Anglesea River, April 26<sup>th</sup>,
- Barham River, April 26<sup>th</sup>,
- Gellibrand River, April 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.



Ros & Tim Gibson giving Clean Beaches Award Judge Terry O'Brien an EstuaryWatch Demonstration on April 2nd at Painkalac Creek.