

EstuaryWatch Update July-September 2008

This is a monthly email to let people know of recent achievements and upcoming events for EstuaryWatch. If you receive this and would like to be removed from the mailing list please reply to email requesting to be removed. Any person interested in adding something to the update, please send me an email with your written piece toward the end of the month.

Social Event east and west

An event will be arranged soon to encourage all EstuaryWatchers to gather, have fun, a good BBQ lunch and share some ideas about our monitoring program. This is a great chance to gather people from different groups together. Food and drinks will be supplied and there will be some **extra special random prizes** available.

All EstuaryWatchers (and families/friends) are invited to attend either or both. Dates and locations are as follows:

Moggs Creek Sunday 12th October 1pm, picnic ground

Apollo Bay Sunday 19th October 1pm, near playground on foreshore reserve

Numbers will need to be finalised prior to the event for catering purposes so contact your team leaders to let them know you're coming along.

Greening Australia- "All about Estuaries"

As part of the Greening Australia Environmental Workshops and Events Program for 2008, an estuary workshop day will be run during National Water Week between the 19th and 24th of October. The event is free to attend but you have to book. Contact Anna Carrucan for more details on 52316913 or ac.westernlakes@bigpond.com

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

The second biannual Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) session will be held for all locations during November. Dates are not yet set. Team Leaders are invited to discuss within their groups and select a suitable date between 10th and 23rd of November. I was really impressed with results of our first session and hope to have your results online from the last event soon.

Barwon Heads team are lining up for their first QA/QC event in September. They will then come in line with the other groups in April-May next year.

Data and Images

Further data entry training will be on offer during September.

Two documents will be loaded on the database under the HELP section accessible from the HOME page. These will be:

- Instructions on data entry for EstuaryWatchers. This will be a step by step process to assist EstuaryWatchers entering data.
- Instructions for image filing. Includes coding and image size requirements for photos and how to upload them. Images are either photopoints, or an event.

When the image filing system is explained, EstuaryWatchers are able then to upload archived images related to past events as desired. Contact Rhys if interested.

A reminder of recent results and our Database

Data is available for public viewing at www.ccma.geomatic.com.au
Search the "Results" section of then enter estuary of your choice.

Coast 2 Coast Conference

Rhys attended the recent coastal conference in Darwin, presenting to the delegates on behalf of the CCMA and EstuaryWatch. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase our program nationally and abroad. Many delegates had involvement or interest in community monitoring programs elsewhere. People liked the data we collect data and how the community are involved in the data management.

Night Seminar for Apollo Bay

The second in our series of night seminars for 2008 will be held soon. These are designed to provide our EstuaryWatchers with a deeper understanding of estuary processes and our also open to the public. Our first night seminar was held in Anglesea and many people expressed interest in attending but found the timing unsuitable. Those keen to make this one are invited to email (or phone) their team leaders with days of the week that aren't preferred, and dates that they are not able to make it due to holidays or other extended absences. Thoughts are at this stage 6.30-8.30pm on either Thursday November 13th or Friday 14th.

Team Leaders are requested to supply any information to Rhys by the end of September. Any suggestions for topics will also be considered. Once a date and venue are confirmed, a promotional flyer will be sent to all, including all details and information on topics and speakers.

Those interested but not part of the EstuaryWatch monitoring team can contact Rhys if interested by emailing rhys.collins@ccma.vic.gov.au

Current monitoring sites

Full depth profile monitoring takes place on the Barwon River, Spring Creek, Anglesea River, Painkalac Creek and Gellibrand River, and mouth condition monitoring is taking place at Wild Dog Creek, Skenes Creek, Barham River, Thompson Creek, Kennett River, Erskine River and St George River.

EstuaryWatch training

The next EstuaryWatch training sessions will take place in early December followed by further sessions in early 2009.

Estuary Management

The Anglesea, Aire, Curdies and Gellibrand River estuaries have all been artificially opened during the last two months. Low flows combined with extremely rough sea conditions have lead to the closure of the mouths.

That's all for now, more news at the start of October.

Feel free to contact me to clarify any points raised herein at the CCMA Geelong office on 0429192589, or via email, rhys.collins@ccma.vic.gov.au.

Rhys Collins,
EstuaryWatch Coordinator