

EstuaryWatch Update March-April 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.

Upcoming training

There is an EstuaryWatch training sessions coming up on Saturday 19th of April in Apollo Bay. This is aimed at people interested in becoming involved in existing EstuaryWatch groups and establishing new groups in the Apollo Bay area. Potential new sites include Parker, Elliott, Barham, Wild Dog, Grey, Aire and Skenes all close to Apollo Bay, and the Curdies near Peterborough. At these sites establishing estuary mouth monitoring will be the focus with the aim of extending the monitoring coverage throughout the region.

New Award? Lets hope so....

EstuaryWatch has been short listed as a finalist in the 2008 Victorian Coastal Awards for the Innovation category. Rhys will represent the CMA at the awards ceremony at the Port Melbourne Yacht Club on the 29th of April. Congratulations to Kate for developing such a wonderful program.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

The first of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control QA/QC training sessions has been held. This will add credibility to our online database. Further sessions will take place in April and will occur bi-annually.

Currently monitored sites

Full monitoring programs are in place on the Barwon River, Spring Creek, Anglesea River, Painkalac Creek and Gellibrand River, and mouth condition monitoring is taking place at Kennett River, Erskine River and St George River

New site established

Following the training day at Anglesea on the 19th of March, a group of EstuaryWatchers will soon commence monitoring of Thompsons Creek. This makes our coverage of this region extremely thorough and gives exceptionally good data coverage of the estuaries from Barwon to Aireys Inlet. All groups within this area are to commended for their hard work.

Recent results and our Database

New data has been uploaded by the Coordinator to cover the unusual developments at the Gellibrand River over the past 3 weeks. The Gellibrand Group have worked tirelessly to bring you an amazing insight into estuary processes. Search the "Results" section of "Gellibrand River" for recent data. The oxygen levels are pretty amazing. Data is available for public viewing at www.ccma.geomatic.com.au The Gellibrand

Group are breaking new ground for us all in supplying decision makers with accurate data on estuary conditions. They must be commended for this.

Even though most monitoring groups have participated in basic database training to allow them to enter their own data, there is an obvious need for further training, which will be focused upon after the QA/QC sessions are completed. This importance of EstuaryWatchers entering their own data can not be stressed strongly enough, as if all people are doing this the Coordinator will have more time to arrange more activities for you all to benefit from.

Estuary Openings

Two estuaries have been opened in the last 3 weeks. The Anglesea River was opened on the Thursday the 27th and the Gellibrand River on 26th. The Aire was also opened back on the 12th of March and is scheduled for another artificial opening on Monday the 7th of April. It should be a priority for EstuaryWatch to be informed of these openings so that we can aid and assist in data recording and management in relation to these events. The Coordinator is working toward establishing this forum with waterway managers.

Assurance of methodology

Recent collaboration with EPA staff has confirmed that our monitoring methods are first class and meets requirements of the guidelines currently being formulated for Victorian estuary management. Thanks to Kate for developing a great structure for our EstuaryWatch program.

That's all for this month. More news at the start of May.

Rhys