



Ros and Tim Monitoring the water quality in Parkkalac Creek Estuary



School Kids learning about their local estuary



Apollo Bay Landcare Group rehabilitating Wild Dog Creek Estuary

What is EstuaryWatch?

We know that estuaries here in the Corangamite Region are interesting and unique, but there is also a lot we don't know about them. EstuaryWatch is an initiative of the Corangamite CMA and the Western Coastal Board aiming to help local communities learn more about their estuary - how it functions and how healthy it is and use this information to help conserve their estuaries into the future! EstuaryWatch will do this by:

Step One - EstuaryWatch Monitoring

Helping you and other locals gather information about your estuaries through an EstuaryWatch Monitoring Program. EstuaryWatch monitoring will be a means of scientifically measuring the condition or 'health' of your estuary and to understand changes that occur. Getting involved in EstuaryWatch monitoring can be as simple as taking a photo when you see something unusual in the estuary and sending it to the Corangamite CMA; or as fun as getting involved in monitoring bird life, the vegetation surrounding your estuary or the physical and chemical properties of the water within your estuary.



GET INVOLVED

Become involved in EstuaryWatch today. Contact the Corangamite CMA's EstuaryWatch Coordinator at estuarywatch@ccma.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 5232-9100 or see the EstuaryWatch section of the Corangamite CMA website www.ccma.vic.gov.au/programs/EstuaryWatchOne.htm

Step Two - EstuaryWatch Education

Providing fun opportunities to learn amazing information about your local estuary. EstuaryWatch Education activities will be run in estuaries right along the coast on all sorts of interesting topics such as the plants and animals you find living there, how you can help conserve your local estuary and how an estuary changes throughout the seasons of the year. Anyone and everyone is most welcome to join in and activities will be run for school groups, local community members and visitors to the region

Step Three - Decision Making

Using the information collected through the EstuaryWatch Monitoring Program and valuable community knowledge and skills developed through EstuaryWatch Education in decision making on estuary management.



Get involved! We are all estuary managers!
Keep abreast of anything happening in and around your estuary.



Question

What do you get when you mix freshwater and saltwater?

Answer: An estuary!

"It is not a river"

"It is something in-between that is completely unique"

"It is not the ocean"

WHAT IS AN ESTUARY?



Wild Dog Creek Estuary where it meets the Southern Ocean

Wild Dog Creek Estuary where it meets the Southern Ocean

An estuary is the place where freshwater from a river mixes with saltwater from the sea

Estuaries are a great spot to spend time swimming, walking, canoeing or having a picnic. Importantly they also act as buffers to protect shorelines from erosion and flooding and provide essential food and habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife.

Estuaries are unique environments that include some of the most complex ecosystems on earth - how amazing that we are so lucky to live right next door to these ecosystems in the Corangamite region.

Within the Corangamite region, which covers Victoria's central west coast from just east of Avalon on Port Phillip Bay to Peterborough along the Great Ocean Road, there are 40 estuaries (see map overleaf). These estuaries come in a wide variety of shapes, varying from long narrow river-like estuaries such as Wild Dog Creek at Apollo Bay and Spring Creek, Torquay to broad open water estuaries such as the Barwon River at Barwon Heads and Painkalac Creek, Aireys Inlet. Whatever the type of estuary, its health is dependent on being linked to both the land and the sea.



Nick fishing in the Barwon River Estuary

Estuary Perch



Fish for today and fish for tomorrow

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is currently undertaking the Great Ocean Road Estuary Restoration project funded by the Victorian Government's *Our Water Our Future Action Plan* which is working to improve the condition of key estuaries in the Corangamite region through such works as rehabilitation of floodplain wetlands, provision of fish passage, fencing and revegetation of streams in estuary catchments and the new EstuaryWatch Program.

A catchment is the area of land from which rainwater drains into a reservoir, river, lake, estuary or ocean. All the towns along the coast in the Corangamite Region we live and holiday in are within catchments which drain into an estuary.

This is a catchment

