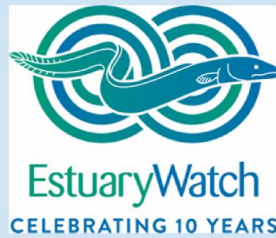


## 2017 Program Status

**Active volunteers:** 132

**Active groups:** 17

**Observations:** 6335



### Regional Coordinators:

- **Corangamite CMA** Rose Herben & Jason Burgoyne
- **Glenelg Hopkins CMA** Debbie Dailzel
- **West Gippsland CMA** Matt Khoury
- **Melbourne Water** James Frazer



## Program Achievements

- Gathering and sharing data
- Fostering stewardship
- Connecting people

There have been a number of milestones and achievements in the EstuaryWatch program including winning a number of awards but there are three achievements that stand out for me.

- Successfully gathered and shared data
- Fostering stewardship
- Connecting people



The EstuaryWatch program has been incredibly successful in gathering accurate and credible estuary condition data that is used to inform estuary management.

EstuaryWatchers should be very proud of the reputation they have within government and the scientific community for collecting data of a high standard.

Over the years EstuaryWatch data has been used in response to fish deaths, algal blooms, storm surges, estuary openings and low pH events.



One of the reasons the data is readily used is the fact that the data is available to the public. EstuaryWatch data is in demand.

Here are some examples

In the last week we've had a phone call from an eco-tourism business in Anglesea who regularly check the EstuaryWatch data portal wanting to know when the next EstuaryWatch monitoring data would be available so they could convey to their clients the condition of the estuary.

Last week I also received an email from an Environmental Researcher from Northwest Florida State College wanting to access EstuaryWatch data because he was told the program had been collecting large amounts of data that could be used to better understand the intermittently connected brackish lakes in Florida.

Coastal geomorphology researchers from the University of Melbourne recently described EstuaryWatch as a world class dataset for estuary condition, water level and water quality, being the only known record of its kind globally with data spanning more than 10 years.



The program is fostering environmental stewardship. With increased knowledge and confidence in their ability to apply what they have learnt through EstuaryWatch, monitors are becoming champions for their local estuary and the EstuaryWatch program. Some great examples include

EstuaryWatch groups are starting to become active in not only monitoring activities but awareness raising activities such as the Gellibrand River EstuaryWatch a part of Princetown Landcare have hosted awareness raising activities on the Gellibrand River estuary and have become strong advocates for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the Gellibrand River estuary.

Roslyn Gibson, from Barwon River EstuaryWatch was critical in the delivery of an estuary based education activity for school students in Barwon Heads this year.

EstuaryWatch monitors are being active in providing feedback on projects relevant to their estuary. Jacqui Arnott, Team Leader of the Painkalac Creek EstuaryWatch group joined the Painkalac Creek environmental flows community and agency group last year.



10 years of EstuaryWatch> Program Achievements



Over the years the EstuaryWatch program has successfully connected people within in coastal communities. Not only are we a group of scientists who monitor estuary condition but many of us are also good friends.

Many of the EstuaryWatch volunteers form strong friendships. As many of you may now, a short stroll down the beach or standing on top of a bridge dangling a water quality meter into an estuary can be the perfect location to have a deep and meaningful conversation, tell a yarn or just enjoy comfortable silence with good friends.

10 years of EstuaryWatch> Program Achievements



I'm sure Kate and Jason would agree that the EstuaryWatch program gives people a sense of community and contributes to peoples health and well-being. I think this is an achievement that should be celebrated.



## Program Achievements

- Gathering and sharing data
- Fostering stewardship
- Connecting people



To celebrate 10 years of EstuaryWatch we've had a video created that captures these three program achievements.