



Media Release

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UNCOVERING THE TIDAL TREASURES OF THE TAMAR

Community members and groups have the opportunity to get outside this summer, discover a whole new side of the Tamar estuary and help monitor and protect a threatened ecological community.

NRM North, the University of Tasmania and Conservation Volunteers Australia have come together to coordinate the second year of the Tamar saltmarsh monitoring program. This program will see community citizen scientists record valuable data on the biodiversity values of Tamar saltmarshes this summer.

NRM North Facilitator, Megan Dykman, said saltmarshes played several vital ecological roles.

“Not only do saltmarshes buffer coastlines against flooding and improve water quality, but they also shelter diverse communities of flora and fauna and act as nurseries for several fish species which have high commercial value.”

Despite this, saltmarshes are under threat from a range of human impacts, including coastal development, nutrient enrichment, invasive species and rubbish dumping. As a result, temperate coastal saltmarshes are considered a threatened ecological community, with more than half of Tasmanian saltmarsh habitat already having been lost or degraded.

The goal of the monitoring program is to collect important baseline information for the Tamar saltmarshes, including natural values and human impacts. This information will then be used to better manage and protect saltmarsh habitat into the future. Another goal is to connect local communities with their environment.

“The surveys are a great opportunity for people to explore and learn more about saltmarshes, contribute to our knowledge of them and of course get out into the environment and meet new people,” Miss Dykman said.

Volunteers are invited to join Vishnu Prahald, the UTAS researcher leading the saltmarsh conservation program, for a training day on Friday 10th February at George Town to learn about the program background and survey techniques.

This training day will be followed by ten surveys across six Tamar saltmarshes throughout February and March. All events are free to attend and survey materials are provided. No experience required but a moderate level of fitness and mobility is necessary. Budding nature photographers are also encouraged to participate to help capture and communicate the unique beauty of saltmarsh habitats to the wider public.

Those interested in participating are invited to contact NRM North Facilitator, Megan Dykman, on 6333 7775 or at mdykman@nrmnorth.org.au to find out more and register.

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For more information, contact: Melissa Lewarn, Manager –Engagement & Communications, NRM North, 6333 7776 or 0427 354 058