



Media Release

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NEW BOOK SHOWCASES BEAUTY BENEATH THE WAVES

Australian Maritime College lecturers David Maynard and Troy Gaston have added another feather to their caps with the release of their first book.

Beneath the Tamar – More than Silt is a photographic essay that showcases the rich diversity of animal and plant life that exists within the Tamar estuary.

It follows the successful photographic exhibition of the same title held earlier this year at Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

Mr Maynard said the book was designed to be used as an educational tool to highlight the fascinating world that lies beneath the waves of the Tamar.

The photos were taken within 15 metres water depth and depict giant kelp forests, vibrant coral and patterned sea stars, among other captivating scenes.

"Silt is the main issue the community associates with the Tamar, but it is only one of the six main habitat types within the estuary." Mr Maynard said.

"What we're looking to do is show people the other types of habitats and their inhabitants, and to get them to appreciate that it's not a dead system.

"If we can improve the health of the estuary we might be able to improve biodiversity closer to Launceston."

NRM North has provided funding to publish and distribute the book, together with a series of five educational posters for northern Tasmanian schools. It is hoped the project will then be rolled out state-wide.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said the organisation was keen to be involved in development of the book because it introduced people to a different side of our iconic river.

"Many people wouldn't realise the Tamar is home to so many amazing underwater creatures and landscapes including sea stars, sea sponges, seahorses and giant kelp.

"If more people become aware of this, then perhaps we can really make a difference in looking after the Tamar estuary so future generations can also enjoy its beauty." Mr McKee said.

Meanwhile, Mr Maynard and Dr Gaston have been recognised for their work, receiving the prestigious UTAS Vice Chancellor's award for Creative Partnerships with the Community.

They plan to use their \$10,000 prize money to further their research activities.

The pair wished to thank NRM North, University of Tasmania, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Foot & Playstead and West Tamar Council for their generous support in making the book a reality.

Beneath the Tamar – More than Silt will be available to purchase through local book shops for \$49.95.

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