



Media Release

Wednesday, 13th May, 2009

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR WATERWAY?

Landholders can learn how to assess river health at a free public field day this week.

The session is being held on Saturday, 17th May, between 10:30am and 12:30pm at the South Esk River at Corra Linn.

It is being organised by Northern Waterway Assessment which is a partnership between NRM North and the Launceston Environment Centre.

Debbie Searle from Northern Waterway Assessment said participants would learn how to collect and identify macro invertebrate (waterbug) life in the river and use it to assess river health.

"Healthy rivers have a wide range of stream life including beetles, dragonfly larvae (mudeyes), caddis fly larvae (stick caddis) and mayfly larvae through to worms and snails.

"Degraded rivers may only have a few types of tolerant stream life. Invertebrate stream life provide food for fish, platypus and freshwater lobsters." Ms Searle said.

The session will also cover the assessment of riverbank vegetation and the testing of water quality as well as storing, using and interpreting data.

The field day is targeted at property owners, anglers, current and prospective Waterwatch volunteers and anyone with an interest in the environment and natural resource management.

Anyone wanting more information should contact NRM North or the Launceston Environment Centre.

Ends

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