

Workshop: Estuarine Management - how do we get people involved?

**Tuesday, 18th September
4.25pm – 4.55pm
Main Hall, Anglican Church**

Facilitator: Jan-Olaf Meynecke, Griffith University, Australian Rivers Institute

Background

Estuaries are places of great interaction between land and sea providing resources for many life forms. It is therefore not surprising that more and more people are moving towards the coast, often near estuaries. However, this requires developing new ways for estuarine management to cope with the ever increasing demand for resources.

- 🌱 Increasing concern from different stakeholders: boat activity, water skiing, fishing, water supply, agriculture.
- 🌱 “An estuary can become surprisingly small, when trying to fit every one into it.”
- 🌱 Studies are undertaken to look at various aspects of estuarine resources and how best to manage them.
- 🌱 Most studies never make their way from the paper into the real world.
- 🌱 Science can be a catalyst for catching people’s interest and they can become a part of the research project.

I will give a short example from my own research and the difficulties I faced.

Discussion

Estuarine resources are depleting. We are running out of time and it is important to identify those who are willing to get involved to make a difference.

(1) How can future management of estuaries be best organised to involve people?

(2) How do we achieve better integration of local communities?

- 👤 Identify stakeholder e.g. residents, tourists, visitors, commercial and recreational fishers
- 👤 Educate people
- 👤 Delegate responsibilities
- 👤 Filter out interest groups and use their abilities to maintain, monitor and control the system

(3) What other opportunities exist to foster a shared management approach for estuaries?

<p>What was discussed (please list the main dot points such as identified issues or threats)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has same interests • Burrum River group • Conflict within groups needs to be managed • Avoidance of conflict is necessary as it can end up in court. Particularly estuary are going to become an issue in future due to various uses. • Fish habitat monitoring used as initiative for community to diversify into other activities that give them expertise and tools to then advise on future development of assets. • Burrum Heads – red spot information day – many people attended – core group of people • People/volunteers want to know that what they do (monitoring) is beneficial eg seagrass watch • People want to know that contributing • Volunteers need feedback from the science community • Need to keep volunteers engaged • People who have a sense of connection with area and more likely to be involved • Confined space of estuary provides adequate size for people’s interest 	
Suggested follow-up actions	Action	Who will undertake this action?
1.		
2.		
3.		