

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Friday, 4 March 2016

Huge haul expected at dive club clean-up

Shopping trolleys, bottles, mobile phones and tyres are among the masses of rubbish expected to be hauled from below the surface by University of Tasmania divers tomorrow (**Saturday, 5 March**) at Hobart's Constitution Dock.

Run by the Tas Uni Dive Club (TUDC), the Marine Debris Clean-Up and Dive is one of a series of marine clean-ups carried out by TUDC volunteers each year.

For the first time, this year's debris will also be classified and recorded for state and national databases and international records.

The event also aims to raise public awareness about the type and amount of debris entering Tasmania's waterways.

Dive coordinator Dave Page said the clean-up always attracted strong interest both in the water and on shore.

"Our clean-up dives at the docks have always been a big hit with our members and the public, with many folks stopping to have a chat with us," he said.

"We are hoping this year to attract folks to see us do our stuff and the impact rubbish has on the marine environment."

Mr Page said while the Derwent River was rich in marine life, it was also plentiful in rubbish, making regular dive clean ups conducted by the club essential.

"The TUDC marine debris clean-ups to date have pulled several tonnes of debris out of Tasmania's waterfront and foreshore areas," he said.

The morning will also include a public display of data on local marine debris, as well as a film preview on a new marine debris bin, which the TUDC is hoping to see installed in ports.

What: TUDC Marine Debris Clean-Up and Dive.

When: Saturday 5 March, 10am until 2pm.

Where: Constitution Dock, Hobart.

Information released by:

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