

# Gippsland natural connection

## Newsletter 4/2003



### **Dates Dates Dates**

- Sept 2003 Marine National Park Management Plan development
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September Next Executive meeting
- October Feedback on the draft East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy
- 30<sup>th</sup> October Reference Group meeting, Leongatha, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> October Regional Information System Workshop– POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 6
- 28<sup>th</sup> November "Get out of the office bus tour from the top of the catchment to the Gippsland Lakes" Forum Event 2003.
- 6th February 2004 Regional Information System Workshop

### **From the Hart.... (Professor Barry Hart, Chair of GINRF)**

Since the first Newsletter earlier this year the Gippsland INR Forum has been quite active. In June we released a Report Card on the environmental condition and management of 12 key natural resource assets in the Gippsland region. This Report Card was very well received as a credible and independent assessment of the current status of the Gippsland environment. At the launch I challenged all the key natural resource managers to attend next years Report Card launch, where those with a less than satisfactory report could tell us what they have put in place to achieve necessary improvements, and those with a good report could tell what they are doing to maintain their assets in good condition. The Forum has also been actively assisting the West and East Gippsland CMAs in preparing their Regional Catchment Strategy. West Gippsland is now close to final State and Federal Government approval. East Gippsland almost ready to release a draft for comment.

I am particularly pleased that the Gippsland Research Co-ordination Group has agreed to take steps to align with the Forum. Chair of GRCCG, Professor John Lovering is heading up a research advisory panel, which is currently providing advice to the Gippsland Lakes Task Force on possible research projects aimed at improving knowledge on the Gippsland Lakes and its catchment.

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## From the Hart..... (cont.)

Over the next few months, the Forum will commence a new activity – *to produce a vision for Gippsland in 30 years time*. Such a vision will be essential in focusing planning and investment opportunities. I welcome your active involvement in this important activity

If you need and further information please contact Carol Jeffs ([Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au](mailto:Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au), Phone (03) 51 722132) or myself ([barry.hart@sci.monash.edu.au](mailto:barry.hart@sci.monash.edu.au), Phone: (03) 9905 5532)

## From the Executive .....

- MERG: A small committee will be formed to steer a project to develop an integrated Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework for the whole Gippsland region, including the development of the Report Card. The steering committee will be comprised of representatives from WGCMA, EGCSMA, DSE, DPI, GCB. A project officer will be appointed 2 days per week for a period of 12 months to develop the framework.
- Pilot regional application of the National Carbon Accounting System. Dr Gary Richards (Director and Principle Scientist, National Carbon Accounting System, at the Australian Greenhouse Office) presented an overview of the National Carbon Accounting System model to the last Executive meeting. The NCAS is an integration of mapping and real time measurements, incorporating all information management disciplines and data sources. The model features fine resolution (sub-hectare level, 25 m grid scale) from 1972 – 2002 and continues to be updated. The Executive is supporting a proposal to use the Gippsland region as a pilot for the regional application of the NCAS.
- Creating Gippsland's Future – all reference group members will shortly be receiving a draft copy of the Summary document for "Creating Gippsland's Future" – a partnered project with strong land suitability focus.

## RCS Update

- West Gippsland: first round accreditation completed. Public consultation phase about to commence.
- East Gippsland: preliminary draft submitted to accreditation committee
- Port Phillip: second Discussion Paper released in June.

EAST GIPPSLAND  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY



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## **Forum Event 2003**

A "Get out of the office bus tour" is being planned for November 28th 2003. Starting at the top of the catchment (Licola) and making our way to the Gippsland Lakes, we will experience the integration of our natural environment and those agencies/organisations managing and caring for it. It is planned to have lunch at a central venue with an interesting speaker to be joined by those who don't want to brave the bus. If you have ideas about great places to stop or wish to volunteer to demonstrate a particular feature of our catchment, please contact Carol Jeffs, [Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au](mailto:Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au)

Stay posted for more details.

## **GINRF Information**

Here is a brief overview of GINRF for those members who are new to the GINRF experience and for those who would like some brief information about the Forum.

The Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum (GINRF) is a whole-of-Gippsland approach to the management of the region's natural resources under the slogan Catchment Health – Gippsland's Wealth. The role of the Forum is to achieve a co-operative and strategic approach to natural resource management in the region.

The vision of the Forum is to: "Unify the efforts of Gippsland's natural resource managers, to ensure the cultural, economic and social activity of Gippsland is conducted in harmony with its environment."

The Forum has a membership of some sixty organisations including government departments, catchment management authorities, municipal councils, rural and urban water authorities, universities, private industry, regional development bodies, community based groups (such as Landcare), and cross agency groups (such as Gippsland Research Coordination Group). A Reference Group and Executive are drawn from the broader Forum membership, with an independent chair: Professor Barry Hart.



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## **GINRF Information (cont.)**

The Forum is independently chaired by Professor Barry Hart and administered by a ten member executive comprised of senior executive representatives from:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Department of Primary Industries
- East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit
- Gippsland Research Coordination Group
- Gippsland Local Government Network
- Gippsland Coastal Board
- Water Industry

A forty member Reference Group meets quarterly to collaborate on issues of regional importance. Most recently, this group has supported the development of the Regional Catchment Strategies, providing vital feedback and contributing to an integrated strategic direction.

The Reference Group has developed a set of principles to guide its strategy and activities, including: Sustainability; Best Practice; Knowledge; Communication and Engagement; Decision Making; Intergenerational Equity; Precautionary Principle; Cost Sharing; Partnership and Leadership.

In addition to a vision and slogan supported by principles, the reference group has developed six strategic goals to define and progress its activities:

1. **To become recognised as the lead strategic group for natural resource management in Gippsland** (Facilitate the development of an integrated natural resource management vision for Gippsland in 2022)
2. **To lead Gippsland in natural resource management by facilitating the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategies for East & West Gippsland Regions (and other strategies)**
3. **To agree on priorities and align action in natural resource management**
4. **To acquire and co-ordinate more financial, human and knowledge-based resources for integrated natural resource management in Gippsland.**
5. **Improve our ability to access, use and generate knowledge to make better decisions**
6. **To produce an annual report card on the condition and stewardship of Gippsland's natural resources**

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The Gippsland Capacity Building and Development Project is part of the Commonwealth's Sustainable Regions Programme. It is being managed by the Sustainable Gippsland Advisory Committee (SGAC), working closely with the Gippsland Area Consultative Committee (GACC).

The Gippsland Capacity Building and Development Project aims to involve people from across the whole of Gippsland to build on regional strengths. Working together, they will help identify sustainable regional development opportunities and set priorities.

<http://www.gippslandacc.com.au/gcbdp/>



## More on capacity building .....

The South Gippsland area has been used to road test the national Capacity Building Program Logic. Jenny O'Sullivan from Working With People has been interviewing community members about the West Gippsland CMA experience in target setting and the capacity of the community to achieve those targets. Case study results also provide feedback on the national program logic.

Contact: Martin Fuller, WGCMA, 51757800

## **CE CHAT**

### **capacity building through sharing knowledge and experience**

You are invited to join email discussion group for sharing experiences and improving knowledge of community

CE Chat is run under the Social Capacity Building Project, developed by the Strategic Engagement Team (DSE) in conjunction with Victoria's CMAs.

Jane Visser administers the list. Simply contact Jane to be added to the list.  
Phone (03) 9412 4235 or Email [Jane.Visser@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jane.Visser@dse.vic.gov.au)

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# Fire Recovery

## **Formation of New East Gippsland Bushfire Recovery Steering Committee**

The purpose of the East Gippsland Bushfire Steering Committee is to plan, enable and monitor recovery activities in East Gippsland Shire to ensure the process is coordinated, responsive, focused and completed in accordance with the East Gippsland Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

If you require further information, please contact Sally McKay on 5152 6244.

## **Welcome to Brian Blakeman – Community Development Officer**

The experience of the 1998 floods has seen Brian Blakeman land in the position of Community Development Officer with the East Gippsland Shire Council for the second time, on this occasion concentrating on the bushfire recovery. "The main assistance needed has been the three F's – fences, funds and fodder – and it will be some time before some of the families affected will be back to normal," Brian said.

One of Brian's main roles in recent weeks has been door knocking on bushfire-affected residents and finding out whether any assistance is needed. "Just sitting down and listening to some of the stories has been an eye-opener. But what has amazed me is that people have been very welcoming and friendly, despite the stress they've gone through. There's still a lot of damage visibly as well. There are hundreds of kilometers of fencing to be completed, although a lot has already been achieved through some assistance from clubs like Rotary," he said.

If you would like further information or help in accessing assistance please contact Brian Blakeman, Recovery Community Development Officer with East Gippsland Shire Council on **1300 555 886** (local call) or freecall **1800 668 066**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

The Department of Human Services is now primarily working with people who have lost their homes. Accessing applicants for the Re-establishment Grant, Temporary Living Grants, supporting some people to obtain mobile units, which will be placed on their properties, and assisting in the distribution of donated household goods and furniture.

### ***What has been paid so far in grants by DHS?***

Total number of Emergency Grants paid was 360 equalling \$144,763.

Total number of Temporary Living Grants completed or still being paid is 24 equalling paid to date \$ 22,173, with more payments to be made. Total number of Re-establishment Grants already paid is 3 equalling \$36,500. There are still 12 unpaid within the Re-establishment Grants - 9 have been issued with Acceptance letters with the remaining 3 applicants needing to provide further information.

If you require further information on any of the grants available please either contact Marlene Prior or Sally McKay on 5152 6244, or refer to the Departments Internet [www.dhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au) Front page prompts to bush fire assistance.



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### Feature Partnership

Creek rejuvenation at Gippsland Campus of Monash University, Churchill

A section of the degraded Eel Hole Creek on Gippsland campus is being transformed into a wetland and wildlife habitat, thanks to a joint project involving Monash and the Latrobe City Council. West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has also supported the project.

Stage one is almost completed, involved the excavation of ponds, construction of embankments, installation of a bulk litter trap and extensive landscaping.

For more information, contact Brian Stark at Monash University Gippsland Campus.



## Gippsland integrated **natural resources** forum

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