

Gippsland natural connection

Newsletter 7/2003



From the Hart Ho Ho Ho

2003 has been a very productive year for the Forum, which is emerging as a very powerful integrating body for natural resource management in Gippsland.

I was particularly impressed with the work done by Forum members in drawing together a very sensible coordinated Gippsland response to the Governments Green Paper on water.

Congratulations on this excellent effort.

I trust you will all be back as enthusiastic as ever in 2004 to continue our work toward improving the protection and management of Gippsland's natural resources. Our main focus for 2004 will be to start the Gippsland community on a journey towards discussing what we want Gippsland to look like in 30 years time.

Have a restful and happy Christmas.



Barry Hart
Chair
Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum

From the office (Carol Jeffs, Executive Officer)

What an amazing year!!! For me, a lot of learning about the region, relationships and how we work together. I have changed from saying "we are working towards integrating natural resource management" to saying "**we are doing it in Gippsland.**"

Thank you to Barry and the Executive team who have made time in their busy schedules to give integrated natural resource management priority in this region. Thank you to other Forum members and supporters in the region who have encouraged and inspired me to keep the faith.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas. I will be back on 5th January to harry, hustle and organise you for another action packed year.

Carol



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GINRF Regional Conference 2004

"Integrated Information, supporting Catchment Health for Gippsland's Wealth"

The 2004 conference will explore ways to integrate the latest information tools, providing shared, accessible information to support Gippsland's sustainable future.

Date: Friday 6th February

Location: Monash University
Gippsland Campus
Churchill

Who is invited: All Forum members (that's you) plus other people in the Gippsland region working with or interested in information systems for natural resource management.

Guest Speakers:

- Dr. Michael Batty – Professor of Spatial Analysis and Planning, and Director of the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) at University College London (UCL).
- Peter Woodgate – CRC for Spatial Information (RMIT)
- Bruce Thompson - Director Land Information, Land Victoria
- Dr Gary Richards – National Carbon Accounting System, Australian Greenhouse Office
- Associate Professor Al Rainnie, Insitute for Regional Studies
- John Fascio WBM - Regional Information System
- Glenn Waterhouse – GREEN Inc.– Gippsland Portal
- Hayley Rokahr – Regional Data Net
- Tina Durbano – Gippsland Research Information Service
- Mick Harding – Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit

For more information contact Carol Jeffs

Phone: (03) 51 757800

Email: Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au

Please pass on this invitation to other interested people. Attendance at the conference is free of charge, but preference will be given to those who are Forum members.

Dates Dates Dates for 2004

GINRF Meeting Dates

Reference Group meeting dates for 2004:

- Friday 6th February GINRF Conference – Churchill
- Thursday 13th May 2004
- Thursday 5th August 2004
- Thursday 28th October 2004

Natural Resources Report Card release:

Thursday 3rd June 2004 – to be confirmed.

PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!!!



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Regional Catchment Investment Plan (RCIP)



The RCIP is a new concept developed to ensure that there is one process for natural resources investment in regions. It integrates NHT and some State funding processes. RCIP uses the Regional Catchment Strategy and Action Plans to build business case for investment in the region. An advantage of RCIP is that it reduces the traditional bidding process at local level. West Gippsland CMA is taking a strategic approach to RCIP by moving to an Expression of Interest process and commissioning projects that have high potential for funding.

The 2004/2005 Expression of Interest process resulted in approximately 60 registered projects which will now be reviewed in line with both regional and investor priorities. We will seek to work with you to fully develop projects that have a high potential for funding for 2004/2005.

Contact: Martin Fuller
Partnership Development Manager

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Ph: 03 5662 4555

West Gippsland Native Vegetation Plan

After a three year development process the draft West Gippsland Native Vegetation Plan is currently awaiting Ministerial signoff. To prevent the plan from becoming dormant, the Steering Group is progressing plan development and implementation. Recently, the draft plan was sent to all stakeholders, seeking commitment and support. If you wish obtain a copy of the draft plan please contact the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority on 51757800 or download the document on www.wgcm.vic.gov.au.

Terri Rodaughan is leaving our region to take up work and residence in Geelong. Best wishes to Terri; she will be sadly missed in Gippsland.

Catchment health, Gippsland's wealth

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BANKSIA ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2004

Innovation In the Year of the Built Environment



Driving positive change comes about by finding novel ideas, applying tried and true methods in new ways or building on synergies between diverse groups to create something that is unique.

The Year of the Built Environment will explore buildings and the way we use them, how we travel between them and how every aspect of our urban lifestyle impacts on our natural environment. It will highlight how, through managing industrial or household waste, air pollution or the production of greenhouse gases Australians can make a contribution towards a more sustainable future.

The quest for environmental excellence requires innovative approaches in all our interactions with the environment. The 2004 Banksia Environmental Awards are open to all entries that meet the criteria for each category – embracing and going beyond the built environment.

Closing date: Friday 20th February 2004

More details: <http://banksiafdn.com/>

In the news:

GINRF has featured in an article in the Spring issue of "Water Matters" for the Victorian Water Industry. The article presents the Natural Resources Report Card and some general information about the Forum.



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Project MERGe - update

Monitoring Evaluation & Reporting for Gippsland's natural resources

The steering committee is working hard to define the project and the MER framework requirements. Consultants will be appointed early in the new year.

Steering committee is comprised of:

- Chris Barry (GLTF)
- Jo Caminiti (WGCMA)
- Russell Broomhall (EGCMA)
- Neville Penrose (DPI)
- Peter McHugh (DSE)
- Rebecca McGuigan (EPA)

Contact: Project Manager, Carol Jeffs - 5175 7844 or email cjeffs@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Gippsland Lakes Task Force



EAST GIPPSLAND
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AUTHORITY

