

integrated natural

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Welcome to 2006 with GINRF

I hope that those who had leave over the Christmas period are suitably refreshed and those that have been working on the fire effort can now relax (a little).

The calendar is already filling up for 2006. In addition to all the meetings, activities & events that you will be running, GINRF will host some key events.

World Environment Day is set to be big in Gippsland this year - keep Monday 5th June free in your diary - including the launch of the 4th Natural Resources Report Card, a schools event, a conference and the launch of Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting tools that we have been working on.

Speaking of the Report Card, I will shortly be requesting information about all the great work that was done for Gippsland's natural assets in the last 12 months. I hope to have draft evidence summaries for you to review by mid February.

A new look GINRF web site is soon to be released — watch this space !!!!

We will continue to publish the newsletter monthly. Send any articles through to myself or Adam for inclusion in the newsletter. We also appreciate any feedback about the newsletter—always looking to improve!!!!

The GINRF Executive Team meets 8 times per year. To raise issues for discussion at the Executive, contact your representative or contact me!!!

Carol Jeffs

Executive Officer

DATES

DATES

DATES...

Events Calendar

Sunday February 5th - Festival of the Seadragon - See page 3

October 8th - 11th - International Landcare Conference - see page 3

Monday June 5th - World Environment Day

GINRF Dates

Friday February 3rd - Coastal Spaces Project - see page 2

Friday February 3rd - Executive Meeting - Wonthaggi

Friday March 10th - Executive Meeting



Coastal Spaces Workshop

You are invited to attend an information session on Coastal Development in Gippsland on **Friday 3rd February, 10am – 12pm** (with lunch) At Council Chambers, Bass Coast Shire Council 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi.

John Ginivan (DSE) will present the findings and recommendations of the Coastal Spaces Initiative, an important Victorian Government Project. There will be time to explore the implications for the Gippsland region and ask questions.

In addition we will hear about Bass Coast Shire Council's Strategic Framework for Coastal Towns and the implementation of Urban Design Frameworks for coastal towns in the Bass Coast Shire.

Program

10.00am	Coastal Spaces Initiative	John Ginivan DSE
11.00am	Urban Design Frameworks	Bass Coast Shire Council
12.00pm	Lunch	

About the Coastal Spaces Initiative

In 2004, the Victorian Government established the Coastal Spaces Initiative to consider issues relating to planning for and managing pressures associated with increasing urban development in coastal regions and to help local governments implement the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002.

The Coastal Spaces Initiative aims to:

- Improve and clarify strategic planning for sustainable development in coastal Victoria
- Improve the application of planning and environment tools in coastal areas and develop new tools as appropriate
- Build the capacity of local government and others to apply Government policy for the coast.

Australia's coastal regions are experiencing growth and pressure for development. Causes vary, but in Victoria it generally reflects overall increases in population, changes in household types which increases demand in housing stock, and a general trend to retire to coastal centres. Also, a buoyant property market reflects increasing levels of investment in coastal property for lifestyle choice or simply as an investment.

As a result, many coastal settlements, particularly outside of metropolitan Melbourne, have experienced unprecedented levels of development activity in relation to uptake of existing land in settlements, a rapid transformation in the form of building stock through redevelopment, and increasing use of rural allotments for residential living.

To Register, please contact Adam Miller on adam.miller@ginrf.org.au or (03) 5175 7800 by Thursday 2nd February.



International Landcare Conference

The International Landcare Conference for 2006 being held on October 8 - 11 in Melbourne is calling for abstracts to be submitted by the 31st January via the conference website.

The evolution of Landcare from its Victorian beginnings in 1986 to an influential international movement is a development that warrants sharing in an international forum.



The conference focuses on people and the environment, creating future landscapes, lifestyles and livelihoods.

Although just 20 years old, Landcare is being adopted internationally, with landholders across the world dedicated to the sustainable management of our precious rural landscapes.

The expansion of Landcare from Australia to countries including Germany, China, the Philippines, South Africa, the USA and Canada shows there is a wealth of experience and insight that can be shared across the nations, and adopted locally.

Please visit the conference website for more information:

www.internationallandcareconference2006.com.au

Festival of the Sea Dragon

Sunday February 5th 2006 - 10am onwards, with the Festival Hub at the Clean Oceans Office Cook Street, Flinders, Mornington Peninsula

Promoting the conservation of the Weedy Seadragon and celebrating the spectacular creature from the depth of our local oceans. The festival is funded by Coastcare and Coastaction, supported by the Clean Oceans Foundation, Parks Victoria and Bay Play Adventure Tours, with all activities free.



Weedy Seadragon

Highlights of the program include:

- **Snorkelling at Flinders Pier with Bay Play Adventure Tours** - 2 sessions: 10.30am & 1.30pm - places are limited so booking are essential on 0437 457 061
- **Drawing and computer illustration workshop** - with Maree Coote, writer and illustrator - suitable for older children and teenagers. On the decking of the Clean Oceans Office
- **Treasures of the Seadragon** - Flinders Town Hall, Cook St from 7 - 10.30pm. An evening of fantastic footage and images featuring presentations by Dr Keith Martin-Smith of Project Seahorse from the University of Tasmania, John Ariens & Don Love - east Gippsland Underwater Naturalists and Harry Bridie from Nautilus Education. The evening also includes live instrumental music by Guns of Saint Sebastian.

Free Water Fountain Available

Gippsland Water is encouraging local organisations and community groups to take advantage of its free mobile water fountain available for community events across the region.

The portable fountain has eight drinking taps and bottle fill-up points that provide a cool, refreshing water source at indoor or outdoor events including sporting carnivals, outdoor shows, beach events and festivals. It also has its own built-in lighting system for night-time use.

Gippsland Water will deliver the mobile water fountain straight to the event site and connect it to a nearby potable water supply - usually a connection to a water main.

Any local group or organisation can apply to have the mobile water fountain at its event by completing an application and terms of use form available from Gippsland Water.

More information about Gippsland Water's free mobile water fountain is available by visiting the website at www.gippswater.com.au and going to the 'our services to you' section, or by telephoning our service centre on 1800 066 401.



Coast Action/Coastcare Grants

Following the recent announcement of further funding for Coast Action/Coastcare in east Gippsland we are very pleased to advise that applications for small projects funding is now being sought. The process is very similar to last year with a simple application form to be completed IN FULL and returned to Coast Action/Coastcare. The initial deadline is the 31st of January for the initial assessment of projects. This means that on the 31st of January all projects will be assessed on their merits and applicants advised of their success or otherwise. Any funds not distributed after this point will be allocated as suitable projects/requests are received.

Projects that achieve results in the key target areas will be given priority with projects that have a significant on-ground outcome being highly desirable. If you have any questions or would like to obtain an application form, please contact Glen Forster, Coast Action/Coastcare Facilitator on (03) 5152 0439 or glen.forster@dse.vic.gov.au



**"Live as if you were going to die tomorrow,
Learn as if you were going to live forever."**

Mahatma Gandhi

Call for Community Projects

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is seeking submission of small project ideas across Gippsland. EPA Gippsland officers are developing a list of community environment projects which could be considered as alternative sentence following a prosecution in accordance with the Environment Protection Act (Section 67AC). Section 67AC of the Act allows a court to impose upon the Defendant, in addition to or instead of any other penalty, an order requiring the Defendant to undertake any or all of the following:

- publicise the offence, for example, in newspapers or on the Defendant's web site;
- inform specific persons or classes of persons (eg. shareholders of a Defendant company via its Annual Report);
- complete a project for the restoration or enhancement of the environment in a public place or for the public benefit (even if the project is unrelated to the offence); and
- engage an appointed Auditor to carry out an environmental audit of the activities carried on by the Defendant.

The fines imposed as alternative sentences are relatively small (usually ranging between \$1000 -\$5000) so community project ideas will reflect that expenditure and be an incorporated entity and not already fully funded. There isn't any timeline linked to the alternative sentencing funding and we don't know when a judge will nominate an alternative sentence, so some flexibility and probably patience will be required.

Please contact Susan Lloyd for more information or with any ideas on (03) 5173 9800 or susan.lloyd@epa.vic.gov.au.

GPF's Waste Wise Progress

Since joining the Waste Wise Program in 2005, Gippsland Private Forestry (GPF) have implemented the following practices in an effort to reduce, reuse and recycle:

- Organized a paper and cardboards recycling bin
- Introduced other occupants of their building to the program
- Trialing office paper with recycled content
- Recycling used ink cartridges via the Planet Ark bin at Australia Post

Future goals include installing a double sided printer, installing timers on the AC, Creating a Waste Wise building.

Waste Wise is a initiative of Sustainability Victoria, for more information please visit www.sea.vic.gov.au



Grad. Cert. in Regional Community Development

The Graduate Certificate in Regional Community Development is an innovative one year part-time program offered by the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences in collaboration with the Centre for Rural Communities Inc.

The Graduate Certificate is designed for regionally based workers from diverse sectors with responsibility to engage with community groups. This encompasses local government, health, agriculture, tourism, economic development, adult education, housing, enterprise development, Indigenous programs, neighbourhood houses, recreation, arts and culture, resource management, church and community organisations, women's groups and environmental programs.

Benefits

The Graduate Certificate in Regional Community Development provides students with:

- the opportunity to participate in a regional network of peers and professionals;
- access to resources on regional development, collaborative learning and community development.

The course introduces a systematic approach to engage, skill and resource community groups. The skills learnt by the group enable them to plan for sustainable futures.

Participants begin as learners and during the course make the transition to become educators within their community or workplace.

Applying

Apply directly to the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences. For further information and an application form contact the Gippsland campus on telephone - (03) 5122 6339. A brief statement of interest for enrolling in this course is required (200-300 words).

Sustainability Fund

Applications are open for Round Two funding until 5pm on Friday 17 March 2006.

- Are you a business, community group, council or non-government organisation?
- Do you have an idea for a project that is practical and innovative and will help make Victoria more environmentally sustainable?
- Does your project aim to help Victorians do more with less (use fewer resources, produce less waste)?

If you answered 'yes' to the above questions, you may be eligible for funding from the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund.

More details: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

Feature Websites ...prepared by Jo Caminiti

Land and Water News is Australia's only independent, comprehensive digest of news and developments in the land and water field. Published fortnightly as an e-Newsletter, it is an essential information tool for natural resource managers and professionals.

EnviroInfo is an email-based newsletter which is distributed fortnightly to more than 9,000 managers, scientists, engineers and other professionals in the natural resources management and environmental fields. Each issue of EnviroInfo contains succinct news items about developments in the environmental sector which are edited from Hallmark's Environment Business and Land & Water News publications. EnviroInfo also contains information and advice about upcoming conferences, courses and other diary dates, new environmental technologies and relevant new products. It is free to receive, and may be viewed online.

You can check both of these out at <http://www.halledit.com.au/onlineservices/>

The **Environmental Resources Information Network (ERIN)** is a unit within the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Heritage specialising in online data and information management, and spatial data integration and analysis. ERIN aims to improve environmental outcomes by developing and managing a comprehensive, accurate and accessible information base for environmental decisions.

Currently, there are hotlinks to around 50 databases, data and photo libraries, inventories and directories.

ERIN contains so much information you may need to take a packed lunch when you check it out at <http://www.deh.gov.au/erin/>

Exchange - National Vegetation Knowledge Service

An Australian Government initiative, supported by the Natural Heritage Trust, Exchange uses Greening Australia's extensive networks and expertise to link natural resource managers, scientists, policy makers, advisors and educators to information, organisations, people and research.

Since its inception in 2004, Exchange has worked across Australia to foster knowledge sharing and learning in vegetation management through: cross regional events to encourage information sharing and the two way flow of knowledge; and delivering key resources for vegetation practitioners.

The launch of a telephone enquiry service and online resources in 2005 marks a new direction for Exchange that is set to transform the way natural resource managers resolve native vegetation challenges.

To view practical examples of how the Exchange enquiry service has helped to resolve native vegetation challenges, click on the Exchange logo on the Greening Australia Website:

www.greeningaustralia.org.au

