

**PAGE 2**

GipRip River Forum

Gipps.Plan Forum

**PAGE 3**

Gippsland Water Factory  
Information Expo's

**PAGE 4**

Agriculture & Greenhouse  
Forum

Shed Shake Up 2006

**PAGE 5**

Working Together,  
Working Better

National Service

Improvement Framework

**PAGE 6**

Moondarra Alliance

Fox Control Program

**PAGE 7**

Coastal Sea Eagle

NAP/NHT Seminar

**PAGE 8**

Banksia Awards Update

Australian NRM  
Knowledge System

**PAGE 9**

Feature Websites

Gippsland Estuaries  
Coastal Action Plan

## From the Office ...

Some interesting events coming up. Adam is doing a great job at keeping the web site up to date with events and news, including a full calendar of all the events we are aware of in the region ..... Check it out at [www.ginrf.org.au](http://www.ginrf.org.au) We are happy to have any feedback about the usefulness of the website and add things that you think need to be there.

The launch of the 2006 Report Card will be in Traralgon this year, in the morning, prior to the start of the Student Conference. Expect an invitation in the next few weeks. We are still in the process of matching up schools with agencies in the lead up to the student conference. Contact us if you are interested in working with a school during term 2.

Back to work on the Report Card. It is not too late to include any further information about environmental condition or stewardship in the 2006 Card.

Did I mention the web site?? [www.ginrf.org.au](http://www.ginrf.org.au)

**Carol Jeffs**

**Executive Officer**

## DATES

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## DATES...

### Events Calendar

March - Gippsland Water Factory Information Expo's - see page 3

Wednesday April 12th - Gipps.Plan Forum - see page 2

Thursday April 27th - GipRip River Forum - see page 2

Thursday April 27th - Agriculture & Greenhouse Forum - see page 4

April - Shed Shake Up 2006 - see page 4

Thursday 4th & Friday 5th May - Working Together, Working Better - see page 5

Monday June 5th - World Environment Day

October 8th - 11th - International Landcare Conference

### GINRF Dates

Monday June 5th - 4th Annual Report Card Launch



## GipRip River Forum

Experts on River Health from around Victoria will be presenting at the fourth GipRip River Forum being held on **Thursday 27th April 2006** at the Hill End Football Clubrooms (Blue Rock Road opposite Willow Grove Primary School) from **10am till 2.45pm**.

The theme for the day is “working together to improve the environment” with key speakers discussing:

- **Impact of dairying on river health - findings from Willow Grove** - Dr Sharon Aarons, DSE
- **Restoring River Health** - David Balfour, Farmer Balfours Rd
- **Erosion, nutrient and soil loss - how to keep it on the farm** - Dr Ian Rutherford, Melbourne University & Sam Marwood, DSE
- **Managing stock in waterways** - Dr Siwan Lovett, Land and Water Aust & Dr Phil Price

The morning will consist of short, sharp presentations from the speakers mentioned above followed by a complementary lunch. The afternoon session will be spent on the river with guest speakers, local farmers and representatives from the West Gippsland CMA exploring issues and opportunities.

For more information on the field day or the GipRip project please contact :

**Jenny O’Sullivan (03) 5663 2386**

## Gipps.Plan Forum

On **Wednesday April 12 2006** DSE in partnership with Bass Coast Shire, VPELA Gippsland and the Planning Institute of Australia Victoria will be running a Gipps.Plan Forum for planning professionals, environmental practitioners and other key stakeholders from **9.45am till 3pm** at the Cowes Cultural Centre Hall, Thompson Ave, Cowes.

The forum, which is entitled “Enhancing Planning” will feature special guest Elaine Carbines, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment who will discuss Streamlining Planning Processes review – Cutting Red Tape in Planning.

By attending “enhancing planning”, participants will gain:

- An understanding of the status of ‘Streamlining Planning Processes
- An understanding of native Vegetation Controls
- An appreciation of funding opportunities for planning projects
- An appreciation of Bass Coast Planning

To RSVP or get more information, please contact Rhonda Gatt on (03) 5172 2533 or

[gipps.plan@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:gipps.plan@dse.vic.gov.au) by **5th April 2006**

**About the Regional Forums 2006:** As part of a range of enhanced communication styles, the DSE

Planning and Development team bring together planning professionals and practitioners across Gippsland and afford the opportunity to engage, network and influence future planning directions within the region.



## Gippsland Water Factory

### Information Expo's

People from across Gippsland are invited to attend a series of free expos to learn more about the Gippsland Water Factory that will be built in Maryvale, near Morwell.

The expos will feature a range of information and displays including:

- project information including its purpose, the components of the project, the alliance, location and timeframes;
- displays including schematics and maps;
- information on the works approval process and application; and
- information about how stakeholders and the community can participate.

People will also have the opportunity to speak directly to Gippsland Water Factory representatives and ask questions.

A total of six sessions will be held in three locations across Gippsland -

#### **MORWELL - Monday March 27th**

**Location:** The Waratah Restaurant, Princes Highway (near McDonalds), Morwell.

**Open times:** 12:00pm - 3:00pm and 5:00pm - 8:00pm

#### **SALE - Tuesday March 28th**

**Location:** The Esso BHP Billiton Wellington Entertainment Centre, Foster Street Sale.

**Open times:** 12:00pm - 3:00pm and 5:00pm - 8:00pm

#### **TRARALGON - Wednesday March 29th**

**Location:** Premiere Function Centre, Grey St Traralgon

**Open times:** 12:00pm - 3:00pm and 5:00pm - 8:00pm

For further information please contact the Gippsland Water Factory on 1800 066 401 or visit

[www.gippslandwaterfactory.com.au](http://www.gippslandwaterfactory.com.au)



"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is to try to please everyone."

Bill Cosby

## Agriculture & Greenhouse Forum

Western Port Greenhouse Alliance in association with partners all over Victoria are inviting people from the Gippsland region to the “Improving Farm Efficiencies & Responding to Climate Change: Agriculture & Greenhouse Forum.” The forum will be held on **Thursday April 27 2006** from **10am till 3pm** at DPI Ellinbank.

Participants in the forum will hear about:

- Climate Change scenarios for the Western Port Region
- The latest research information on how to improve farm efficiencies and respond to climate change
- Tour of latest Greenhouse in Agriculture research facilities at Ellinbank
- Landholder experiences of reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Complimentary Morning, Lunch and Afternoon tea will be provided to participants. Bookings are essential, so please contact Dan Garlick on (03) 9705 5129 or [dgarlick@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:dgarlick@casey.vic.gov.au) by Wednesday April 19.

NOTE: An information booklet on climate change impacts in the Western Port region is available from the DSE website at: [www.greenhouse.vic.gov.au/impacts/media/pot\\_phillip\\_westernport.pdf](http://www.greenhouse.vic.gov.au/impacts/media/pot_phillip_westernport.pdf)

## Shed Shake Up 2006:

### Watts ‘n’ Your Dairy

Find out how to save energy and reduce running costs in your dairy. Participants will see how to review water heating and milk cooling systems and find ways to save money without compromising milk quality.

CowTime’s Shed Shakeup is a field day with a difference, combining ideas from technical experts, a farm visit and the opportunity to talk to local dairy service suppliers. Lunch will be provided and there will also be a lucky door prize.

The program will feature ideas from CowTime’s technical experts Bill Morgan and Darold Klindworth, a simple checklist to get the best energy efficiency from your equipment and much more.

There will be a number of field days around Gippsland during April which will start at the location below and then visit a nearby dairy farm. All sessions run from **10.15am till 2.30pm**:

- Willow Grove - **Tuesday April 11** - Hill End Football Club Rooms
- Foster - **Thursday April 13** - Foster Football Club Rooms
- Dumbalk - **Tuesday April 18** - Dumbalk Hall
- Heyfield - **Wednesday April 19** - Heyfield Wetlands Centre
- Drouin - **Thursday April 20** - Drouin Bowling Club Rooms



### Working Together, Working Better

A seminar for office professionals working within water authorities and agencies is being held **May 4th & 5th** at the **Mecure Hotel, 13 Spring Street Melbourne**. Sponsored by Southern Rural Water, Gippsland Water, EPA, West Gippsland CMA, DSE and DPI the seminar will commence at **6.30pm on May 4th** with dinner and a keynote address by Cheryl Batagol, chair of Melbourne Water on “Change Management - Managing Change.”

Cheryl has 30 years of operational and management experience in the waste management industry and is currently Deputy Chair of Sustainability Victoria, a member of the State Government Sustainability Advisory Council, panel member of the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund in addition to being chair of Melbourne Water.

The following day will commence at **8.30am** and will include presentations from Directors, CEO's and Chairpersons from all over Gippsland with an interactive workshop in the afternoon.

**Registration costs for the seminar are \$220** which includes dinner on the 4th and the seminar on the 5th (which includes MT, Lunch & AT), however it does not cover accommodation, therefore your own arrangements will need to be made.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ann McCurley, Gippsland Water on (03) 5174 4635 or [ann.mccurley@gippswater.com.au](mailto:ann.mccurley@gippswater.com.au)

### National Service Improvement Framework

The National Service Improvement Framework has recently been launched. It is a suite of documents and tools designed to enhance collaborative service delivery arrangements across government departments and agencies. It is part of the National Service Improvement Program being run by the Australian Government Information Management Office (Department of Finance and Administration) to improve service delivery where services require action by more than one government agency, in one or more jurisdictions and could be presented to users in such a way that they appear to be a single transaction. The key objectives of the NSIF are to:

- increase satisfaction in dealing with Government
- improve efficiency and effectiveness of government and
- build the capacity for cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

Although the NSIF has been developed by the Australian Government, it does have broader applicability.

You may wish to review the details available at [http://www.nsif.gov.au/index.php?node=209\\_206](http://www.nsif.gov.au/index.php?node=209_206)

( Principles, Statements of Intent, Collaborative Head Agreement, Project Specific Agreement and the Collaborative Resource Kit) with respect to your individual activities.



## Moondarra Alliance

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Parks Victoria, Gippsland Water and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority have formed an alliance to work on the environmental recovery of the Moondarra fire area.

The Natural Resources Recovery Group will work together to ensure the most effective response to environmental damage caused by the fire and recovery of the affected catchment.

The group will meet fortnightly to address the progress and issues of rehabilitating the catchment, ensuring a coordinated approach and the best use of resources.

DSE's Acting Regional Director, David Tainsh said that the timely rehabilitation of water catchments was a priority for the group.

"According to expertise, the member agencies will be looking at any potential changes to water quality, along with the management of fire-affected vegetation and the management of injured wildlife," Mr Tainsh said.

"In each case we will explore the options to address the risks we may face with the impact of heavy rain on the catchment and plan for and mitigate those risks as far as possible."

"The shared knowledge and expertise in this group will mean that we can pool our resources, work more efficiently and get the job done better together."

## Fox Control Program

A major fox control program is under way in the Victorian high country to help re-establish two nationally endangered native animals.

The joint project between the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria (PV), with assistance from Mount Hotham Resort Management Board, will benefit the long-term survival of the Mountain Pygmy Possum and Long-footed Potoroo.

"Foxes have been identified as one of the key threats to the survival of the Long-footed Potoroo and the Mountain Pygmy Possum," Mr Pascoe said.



The project is being funded through the State Government's \$7.5 million "The Alps – A new start, a healthy future" program.

The project will build on the work carried out in the Alpine National Park and State Forest as part of the 2003 Bushfire Recovery Program.

The Mountain Pygmy Possum, which can fit easily into the palm of a hand, was once thought extinct. It lives in alpine rock screes and boulderfields in both north east Victoria and the Kosciuszko National Park in New South Wales.



For further information about the program contact the DSE Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or Parks Victoria Information Centre on 131 963.

## Coastal Sea Eagle

The future is looking a little brighter for one of the most spectacular birds that can be seen along our coastline, thanks to some eagle-eyed Victorians.

The White-bellied Sea Eagle is often viewed as the ultimate example of our birds of prey. Unfortunately, recent records show that numbers of White-bellied Sea Eagles have decreased in Victoria and as a result the bird is currently listed as a threatened species.

The reason for its decline can mainly be attributed to the clearing of eagle habitat for residential and agricultural developments and general human disturbance to nest sites during breeding time.

To build on the current knowledge of Sea Eagle numbers and breeding success in Gippsland, the Little Tern Taskforce in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) recently conducted aerial surveys of eagle nests from Mallacoota through to Wilsons Promontory.

These surveys were made possible through funding support from Coast Action/Coastcare.

The results of the Coastcare surveys of the White-bellied Sea Eagle have shown that the bird is capable of reproducing itself adequately in the wild if left undisturbed during its breeding period.

"The greatest challenge facing the White-bellied Sea Eagle will be in its ability to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. There are only so many large trees left that are suitable for eagles to nest in. It is critical that the large trees we currently have, we keep."

For further information on the White-bellied Sea Eagle monitoring program or to apply for a Coast Action/Coastcare grant contact the Bairnsdale DSE office on (03) 5152 0400.



## NAP/NHT Seminar

Co-operative research ventures involving the West Gippsland CMA were among the leading environmental projects showcased at a recent seminar in Melbourne.

More than 100 natural resource management professionals attended the event, to hear the latest on projects ranging from the use of bacteria to help native trees to grow, to the use of aircraft-mounted lasers to produce an accurate contour map of the state.

The multi-regional projects, run by CMAs, universities and other research bodies, are funded by the Victorian and Australian Governments, through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust. Multi-regional's are improving the monitoring and evaluation of CMA projects, mapping the state's wetlands and native vegetation, and helping farmers to keep dairy effluent out of local waters, so that it becomes a fertiliser, instead of a pollutant.

The Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment's NAP/NHT Programs Office ran the multi-regional seminar, in co-operation with the Australian Government's NAP/NHT office.

Summaries of many of the projects are now available on the Victorian NAP/NHT website, which is at: [www.dse.vic.gov.au/nap-nht](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/nap-nht)

## Banksia Awards Update



In conjunction with DaimlerChrysler, Banksia is introducing the Daimler Chrysler Australian Environmental Award in 2006, to be presented in Melbourne at the Banksia Awards Gala Presentation Dinner In July.

Almost nine-out-of-ten Australians (89%) agree that 'If we don't act now we'll never control our environmental problems' (Roy Morgan January 2006)

Banksia agrees that a key to addressing environmental issues is through research. We know that one of the best ways to act now is to support those individuals and organisations that are researching ways to address environmental issues today and in the future.

The Banksia Environmental Foundation is very proud to be working with DaimlerChrysler in the creation of this new award.

By awarding \$30,000 to the most outstanding example of research in products and production, this research will be honoured for outstanding achievements in environmental protection and sustainability.

### Key Dates:

**Wednesday 19th April** - Early Bird Fee Closing Date

**Wednesday 10th May** - Entries Close

**Monday 5th June** - Finalists Announced

## Australian NRM Knowledge System

The new occasional paper *The Australian Natural Resource Management Knowledge System* by Land & Water Australia executive director Andrew Campbell describes and analyses the knowledge "system" related to natural resource management in Australia.

The paper highlights the complexity of knowledge networks and the fragmented nature of knowledge generation impeding the efficiency through which we learn about sustainable land, water and vegetation management.

Set within the context that: "While we did not set out to design an NRM knowledge system, there is value in thinking about the current aggregation of players, organisations, institutions and activities as a system, in order to identify ways to make the whole work better - more appropriately, effectively and more efficiently." (Campbell, 2006 p.4),

the report presents ideologies for establishing a more purposeful, cohesive and functional knowledge system which would better serve the knowledge needs for the sustainable use and management of Australia's natural resources.

See the document at [http://www.lwa.gov.au/downloads/publications\\_pdf/PR061081.pdf](http://www.lwa.gov.au/downloads/publications_pdf/PR061081.pdf)



## Feature Websites

...prepared by Jo Caminiti

There are a number of elements to the community based Landcare movement and the government funded Landcare programs, and each have their own purpose and own websites.

**Australian Landcare Council (ALC)** [www.auslandcarecouncil.org](http://www.auslandcarecouncil.org)

ALC is a statutory policy advisory body to the Australian Government on Landcare and natural resource management. It includes community representatives from each State and Territory and representatives from a range of peak bodies and government departments. Stephen Mills, the Chair of Goulbourn-Broken Catchment Management Authority, is the Victorian community representative. The website includes information on projects, papers, media releases, publications and ALC activities.

**Landcare Australia Limited (LAL)** [www.landcareaustralia.com.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au)

LAL employs 16 staff across Australia to raise awareness, increase participation, and develop corporate partnerships for Landcare. The website includes information on Landcare groups, Landcare awards, funding opportunities, corporate partners, Landcare farming and general Landcare activities.

**Victorian Landcare Gateway** [www.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.landcarevic.net.au)

This website includes general Victorian Landcare information, Landcare groups, discussion forums, resources, events, funding opportunities.

**National Landcare Facilitator Project** [www.landcarefacilitator.com.au](http://www.landcarefacilitator.com.au)

Information, projects, newsletters, industry links, contacts & reports for Landcare coordinators, facilitators and the general Landcare community.

**National Landcare Program (NLP)** [www.daff.gov.au/landcare](http://www.daff.gov.au/landcare)

Information on the Australian Government NLP including Community Support Grants, Natural Resource Innovations Grants, and past projects and case studies

## Gippsland Estuaries Coastal Action Plan

Gippsland estuaries are under the spotlight with the release of the draft Gippsland Estuaries Coastal Action Plan for public review and comment. The Coastal Action Plan (CAP) has been developed by the Gippsland Coastal Board and defines a strategic framework for planning and management of estuaries across Gippsland to ensure their sustainable management and use into the future.

The draft Gippsland Estuaries CAP is available for review and comment during the month of April. To obtain a copy please visit [www.gcb.vic.gov.au](http://www.gcb.vic.gov.au) or phone the Board on (03) 5152 0451 for further information.

