

# Gippsland Natural Connection

Newsletter of Gippsland integrated natural resources forum

Issue 07/05,  
August 2005

## From the Office ...

It must be silly season as far as workshops, conferences and other meetings goes. My diary is certainly full!!

It would be great, however, if you could see your way through the maze of events to attend the next two GINRF gatherings:

- On Friday 16th September, you are invited to interact with some eminent thinkers on Climate Change and its Impacts, as part of a partnership project that GINRF is supporting. This replaces what was one of our scheduled Reference Group meetings.
- The GINRF Regional Conference will be held during National Water Week on Tuesday 18th October. A small organising committee has been working hard and has come up with a great program that ..... wait for it ..... will be fun!!! The theme is "Who does what in Water?" - aimed at community, and staff of GINRF organisations. Please set this date aside in your diary - invitations and program out soon.

Yours in catchment health

Carol Jeffs, Executive Officer

## DATES DATES DATES...

### Events Calendar

26th August 2005 - Index of Wetland Condition - see page 5

31st August 2005 - Clearwater Workshop - see page 2

31st August/1st September 2005 - ABS Statistical Training

August 2005 - Estuaries Coastal Action Plan - see page 4

August - September - Cross Cultural Training - see page 3

15-16th September 2005 - The Great Greenhouse Gamble - see page 4

10-12 October 2005 - Asia Pacific Sustainability Roundtable

### GINRF Dates

September 5th 2005 - Executive Meeting

16th September 2005 - Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation workshop - see pg 8

October 14th 2005 - Executive Meeting

October 18th 2005 - GINRF Regional Conference "Who does what in water?"

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Gippsland integrated  
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## Launch of Thomson & Macalister Environmental Flows

A crowd of over 50 government, industry and community members attended the successful launch of the Thomson and Macalister Rivers Environmental Flows, held on Friday August 5 at Cowwarr Weir. The Hon. John Thwaites traveled to Cowwarr for the launch where it was announced that the Thomson River would receive 10,000 Megalitres a year to improve the river's environmental health. "These extra flows which are fundamental to the health of the rivers and the river environment are being by efficiency, not by taking the water from the farmers," Mr. Thwaites said. This allocation is part of the governments' promise from the Our Water, Our Future document to provide an extra 20,000 Megalitres in additional environmental flows to the Thomson and Macalister rivers over the next 10 years.



## Clearwater Workshop

**When:** 31 August 2005 (9.30am to 4:30pm)

**Where:** Jells Park Teahouse - Waverly Rd, Wheelers Hill

**Cost:** \$90 per head (inc.GST)

Limited to 40 participants, this interactive workshop aims to assist environmental educators design and deliver effective evaluation programs. Based on the Clearwater experience, participants will gain experience in developing an evaluation framework and a suite of evaluation tools applicable to a range of target audience and environmental education projects.

What's in it for you?

- copy of a model evaluation framework and six model evaluation tools used by Clearwater
- experience in developing an evaluation framework and evaluation tools
- experience in applying evaluation results to improve your project
- how to use evaluation as a marketing tool
- useful contacts in evaluation
- insight into the Clearwater evaluation program and more

For more information please contact Jacquie White on [jacquie@clearwater.asn.au](mailto:jacquie@clearwater.asn.au)



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## Cross Cultural Training

The Australian Government are hosting a series of 2-day cross-cultural awareness and Indigenous engagement training sessions across regional Victoria for Statewide and Regional NRM Facilitators and Coordinators, and other NRM managers and facilitators.

These sessions will provide an opportunity for people to build their skills, knowledge and relationships, with a focus on improving Indigenous peoples' engagement in NRM.

The training sessions will assist NRM practitioners:

- Develop a greater understanding of Indigenous cultural/land management issues in relation to NRM
- Develop skills in establishing networks and cross cultural links to help establish ongoing communication and information exchange with Indigenous communities
- Gain an insight into how Indigenous communities approach NRM and associated cultural issues, considering the historical context, and Indigenous peoples' aspirations for the future

The sessions will be held in:

- South western Victoria (Halls Gap) on **25-26 August**;
- Melbourne (in partnership with Greening Australia Victoria) on **8-9 September**;
- North-central Victoria (Bendigo) on **15-16 September** and;
- Eastern Victoria (Traralgon) on **6-7 October**

For further information on these sessions please contact:

Tim Allen, Australian Government NRM Facilitator (Vic) - Rivers and Water on (03)9637 8493 or [tim.allen@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:tim.allen@dse.vic.gov.au)

### RSVP's essential:

South Western Victoria: RSVP 12th August  
Melbourne & North-central Victoria: RSVP 26th August  
Eastern Victoria: RSVP 23rd September

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited.  
Imagination encircles the world."

Albert Einstein



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## Estuaries Coastal Action Plan

Do you use, holiday or enjoy the valuable estuarine environments along the Gippsland Coast then you may be interested in sharing your knowledge at one of the Estuaries Coastal Action Plan workshops being held during August. This is a project that is being managed by WGCMA on behalf of the Gippsland Coastal Board.

The Gippsland Coastal Board in partnership with the East and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities is developing a Gippsland Estuaries Coastal Action Plan. Interested members of the community are invited to participate in Estuaries CAP workshops across Gippsland during August. The purpose of the workshops is to provide information on the purpose, objectives and process for the development of the Estuaries CAP and to collect value and risk information from community and stakeholders relating to specific estuaries across Gippsland.

All workshops will be held between 7:00pm and 9:00pm on the following dates and at the venues listed:

- Mallacoota, Mud Brick Pavilion, 9 August 2005
- Cann River, at the Cann River Community Centre, 10 August 2005
- Orbost, at the DSE Office Orbost, 16 August 2005
- Lake Tyers, at the Lake Tyers Community Hall, 17 August 2005
- Inverloch, at the Inverloch Community Centre, 23 August 2005
- Foster, at the Foster Community Centre, 24 August 2005
- Yarram, at the Yarram Hospital, 31 August 2005

For further information contact Kylie Debono on [kylied@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:kylied@wgcm.vic.gov.au) or (03) 5662 4555

## The Great Greenhouse Gamble

Thursday & Friday 15th & 16th September 2005, POWERHOUSE MUSEUM, SYDNEY

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW is hosting a conference that addresses the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and natural resource management. The impacts of climate change are becoming quite apparent as we gamble with the very processes necessary to maintain the integrity of our planet. Preparing for climate change now and setting the associated management priorities will be vital to move toward healthy and resilient ecosystems better able to cope with our uncertain future. The Key note speaker for this conference is Professor Ian Lowe, President, Australian Conservation Foundation & author of Living in the Hothouse: how global warming affects Australia.

For more information contact: Melissa Cook, Nature conservation council, (02) 9279 2522, or [mcook@nccnsw.org.au](mailto:mcook@nccnsw.org.au)



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## ABS Statistical Training

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides a range of statistical training courses for developing the skills needed to undertake high quality statistical collections and statistical analysis.

The Victorian office will be running a two day training session titled 'Turning Data Into Information' on **August 31st and September 1st, 2005**.

This course develops skills in interpreting, displaying and communicating data clearly and effectively. Analytical thinking skills are developed to enable the transformation of data into meaningful written information.

At the completion of this course participants will:

1. understand how the collection and compilation of data affects its usefulness, quality and relevance;
2. Communicate results and write effective reports construct good tables and graphs; and recognise possible pitfalls in analysis. For further information regarding this training or your specific training requirements please contact Maxine McDermott on (03) 9615 7080 or email [vic.coordination@abs.gov.au](mailto:vic.coordination@abs.gov.au)

### Training venue:

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Level 5, CGU Tower  
485 LaTrobe Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000

(Located opposite Flagstaff Gardens, between King and William Streets)

DSE Biodiversity and Natural Resources

## Index of Wetland Condition

Division (BNR) is developing an index of wetland condition (IWC). The IWC has been developed and field tested. A draft report and manual have been developed. BNR is convening regional meetings in late August to brief agency staff on the IWC. We will also be inviting comments on the draft documents. The venue for the meeting in Traralgon is:

Promenade Room, Century Inn,  
Corner Princess Highway and Airfield Road,  
TRARALGON.

**26 August 2005**

10.30am -12.30pm followed by lunch.

RSVP: 12th August, 2005

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Janet Holmes on (03) 9637 9859 or

[Janet.Holmes@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:Janet.Holmes@dse.vic.gov.au)



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## Envirofund News

It has just been announced that there has been significant expansion of the Exceptional Circumstance areas across Victoria - encompassing additional areas in the North Central, Goulburn Broken, North East and West Gippsland catchments. These areas are eligible for Envirofund Drought Recovery Round funding.

Further information can be found on the Envirofund website: <http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/>

Please note that applications for **Round 7** close at 5pm on **Friday 26 August 2005**

## Snow Day!



On Wednesday August 10, 2005, during one of Victoria's coldest day's, bitter Antarctic weather blanketed the state in the most widespread snow fall for decades. Mirboo-North primary school was forced to close and 25 school bus services around the Gippsland were cancelled. About 80 excited pupils at Mirboo North prepared to bunk down for the night if road conditions prevented them from getting home. Principal Alastair Hillis requested blankets and food from the Red Cross to prepare for a sleepover, but was eventually able to send students home.

Snow fell at sea level for the first time since 1986, with falls at Apollo Bay, Ocean Grove and Torquay in the west, Phillip Island and Inverloch in the east and Seaford closer to Melbourne.

At Monash University's Gippsland campus in Churchill, snowball fights crept into the corridors. Lecturer Chris Galloway said there was a "celebratory air" on campus. "The student union is opening the bar at 4pm to celebrate snow day."

"And a colleague of mine came in and dropped a snowball on my head!"

The Bureau of Meteorology said an unusual combination of sufficiently low temperatures combined with the usual water vapour in the air had brought the snow which fell at sea level and on beaches right across southern Victoria.

Details sourced from: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/victorias-feeling-for-snow/2005/08/10/1123353386875.html>

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=5081>



"The aging process has you firmly in its grasp if you never get the urge to throw a snowball."

Doug Larson



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## Photo's from Snow Day 2005 ...supplied by Celia Donnellan from the WGCMA



ABOVE: snow covered back yard



ABOVE: frozen roses after the snow fall

RIGHT: snow flakes up to the size of 50c coins falling from the cold winters' sky



BELOW: snowed in cars on a Mirboo-North street



ABOVE: snow covering Mirboo-North



RIGHT: WGCMA employees wondering how they're going to get to work....



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## Climate Change Impacts

September 16th 2005 (9.15am – 5.00pm)

GREEN Inc., Churchill

You are invited to interact with some eminent thinkers on Climate Change and its Impacts:

- Dr. Barrie Pittock (editor of Climate Change - An Australian Guide to the Science and Potential Impacts) - <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/science/guide/pubs/science-guide.pdf>
- CSIRO Climate Impacts and Risk Group - Kevin Hennessy and Dr. Cassandra Brooke
- Mike Waller (Director, Heuris Partners. Previously - Chief Economist, BHP and, while in the Prime Minister's Department, was responsible for the development of National Strategies on Ecologically Sustainable Development and Climate Change)

and to explore some of the following questions for the Gippsland region:

- What will the impact of climate change be on the activities, livelihoods, communities and natural resources of Gippsland?
- What do we need to know about it?
- How do we adapt effectively – as a regional community?

“Problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.”

Albert Einstein

Further workshops in the series will involve more detailed analysis of impacts and identifying: gaps in knowledge, critical issues and areas of common interest to stakeholders.

THE PROJECT IS:

- Funded by the Department of Sustainability and Environment – Greenhouse Policy Unit
- Coordinated by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority on behalf of regional partners
- Delivered by the CSIRO and The Pathfinder Network
- Supported by the Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum

RSVP: Steb Fisher (Pathfinder Network), [steb@pathfindernetwork.com.au](mailto:steb@pathfindernetwork.com.au) 0438 16 07 53

For more information contact: Jo Caminiti (WGCMA) 5147 2302, Carol Jeffs (GINRF) 5175 7800



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## Savewater Efficiency Service ...a Gippsland Water Service



The savewater!™ efficiency service is part of Gippsland Water's water conservation program developed to implement actions outlined in the Victorian Government White paper "Securing our Water Future Together",.

The savewater!™ efficiency service is an innovative program that has been successfully implemented by many metropolitan water authorities. The program has been designed to assist medium sized commercial and industrial customers who consume considerable amounts of water. These customers will be provided with an opportunity to access expert advice on identifying and implementing strategies to reduce water consumption, whilst also maximising their economic and commercial opportunities.

The benefits include:

- **Guaranteed minimum 5% water savings**  
If we fail to identify the potential to save more than 5% of your water usage then we will not charge you for the initial assessment.
- **Expert advice from our trained assessors**  
Our assessors consist of engineers, plumbers and people with extensive backgrounds in the management of water systems.
- **Pay as you save**  
Don't wait for next year's budget!  
No need for up front payment. A regular payment arrangement will be agreed and charged on your water bill. Conditions apply.
- **A report identifying savings and implementation recommendations**  
Our report will outline the forecast savings, a quote on implementing the recommendations and a calculated pay back period.

If you feel that your business could benefit from the savewater!™ efficiency service, or you would like to know more about this exciting new service, please contact Gippsland Water on FREECALL 1800 066 401.

**savewater!**™ efficiency service



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...May - July 2005

## GippsLandcare News Flash

During the Past Moths...



We've hit that busy patch where the current year's projects are in full swing while we are also gearing up for the assessment and prioritisation of 2006 projects. After a dry start to the planting season the majority of fencing and planting is now underway in addition to the final site preparations for Spring's direct seeding projects. Also, the team will soon expand to four with the appointment of a part-time Education and Training Officer to deliver the Smarter Planning Smarter Action project!

Project Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site visits were conducted for over 28 new projects, 10 follow-up visits</li><li>• To date, over 322 projects have been assessed and 275 approved</li><li>• \$751,600 invested in local on-ground works</li><li>• Funding guidelines and Expression of Interest drafted for 2006</li><li>• Site visit, prioritisation pro-forma's and database updated for 2006</li></ul>
Landholder Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A reminder letter was sent to landholders across the region to return outstanding Management Agreements</li><li>• Follow-up phone call and advice on Direct Seeding projects</li></ul>
Project Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 75 720 tube stock planted</li><li>• 43 797 metres of fencing completed</li><li>• Follow-up site visits undertaken to inspect fencing</li><li>• Visits with all Nurseries to check plant stock and encourage feedback</li><li>• Review of CAMs and upload of data</li></ul>

Coming in the next few Months...

- Ongoing fencing and revegetation work on-ground
- Staff induction for Smarter Planning Smarter Action
- Advertisements and promotion calling for 2006 works projects
- And fingers crossed for the safe arrival of our Project Officer David's new baby

For more information, please contact Kerry Jack, Project Manager: (03) 5175 7800 or [kerryj@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:kerryj@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

