

# Gippsland Natural Connection

Newsletter of Gippsland integrated natural resources forum

Issue 08/05,  
September 2005

## From the Office ...

Who does what in water? Come and spend a day with us on the 18th October to help celebrate National Water Week. This is the second Regional Conference that GINRF has hosted - set to be a day full of interesting information and fun.

Also, as part of the co-ordination role in the region, we are putting together a calendar of events for National Water Week and will be co-ordinating media to maximise impact. If you have any events that we should know about, send them through to me.

Communication is a big part of what GINRF does for the region. This newsletter and the National Water Week activities are part of the GINRF communication plan - good to see it in action. The re-development of the GINRF web site is also a part of the plan. It would be great if you could take a look at the current web site [www.ginrf.org.au](http://www.ginrf.org.au) (in your spare time) and provide feedback or ideas to me during the next couple of weeks.

Carol Jeffs  
Executive Officer

## DATES DATES DATES...

### Events Calendar

28th September - Environment & Communities Seminar - see page 6

September & October - Interpretation Training - see page 5

10-12 October 2005 - Asia Pacific Sustainability Roundtable

11th & 12th October - Celebrating Community Engagement - see page 7

13th - 20th November 2005 - WGCMA Catchment Week

4th December 2005 - Catch a Carp Day - see page 2

### GINRF Dates

October 14th 2005 - Executive Meeting

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

November 7th 2005 - Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for NRM - details soon

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natural resources  
forum

Catchment health, Gippsland's wealth

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## Who Does What in Water

...18th October 2005, ESSO BHP Billiton  
Wellington Entertainment Centre, Sale

What is an environmental reserve? How will environmental flows impact on the availability and cost of water for irrigation? What is the Gippsland Water Factory? How would the Eastern Treatment Plant proposal work? What impact will unbundling of water rights have on rural water allocation?

**Come and spend a day with us and find out "Who does what in water"**

**Tammy Van Wisse** will officially open the event and inspire us to celebrate National Water Week. Have some fun with Angela and Lina, The Signoras, who will help us to **improve the water industry**. Join the discussions and raise questions to uncover **"what we don't know** about water in Gippsland." Visit the **displays** and ask questions.

The day is free of charge, including lunch for those who register.

**To register** please contact Adam Miller or the West Gippsland CMA reception **by 11th October** on: (03) 5175 7800, or [adamm@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:adamm@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

## Program

### 9.00 am - Registration

### 9.15 am - Session 1

Introduction and Welcome

Keynote speaker and official opening

Tammy Van Wisse

Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum

Background, activities & regional partnerships

Who does what in water?

Overview, context and the future

### 10.25am - Morning Tea

### 10.45 am - Session 2

Gippsland Water Factory

David Evans, Gippsland Water

Environmental Reserves & River Health

Wayne Gilmour, West Gippsland CMA

Directions in Rural Water

Martin Kent, Southern Rural Water

Panel and Questions

What we don't know

### 12.30 - Lunch & Displays

### 1.30 pm - Session 3

Improving the Water Industry

The Signoras

### 2.00 pm - Session 4

Concurrent Presentation Groups

Communities in Water

Mountains to the Sea

Innovative Industry

### 4.15 pm - Closing and Where to next?

### 4.30pm - Finish



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## DVC Community Building Initiative

The Victorian Government's Community Building Initiative is a \$10 million, four year program that aims to strengthen small Victorian communities to take charge of their futures. The program will support up to 20 locations in regional, seachange, metropolitan fringe and growth corridor areas with a population of no more than 5,000 residents. A community facilitator will be employed to guide and support each successful community through a community building process.

The Initiative will operate at community and individual levels to:

- Build skills and knowledge
- Involve diverse groups and individuals
- Build relationships within and across communities and organisations
- Plan for the future
- Build on local strengths and assets
- Grow local economies and enhance employment opportunities.

Applications are open until **28 Oct 2005**. Further information on the various information sessions and Expressions of Interest visit: <http://www.communitybuilding.vic.gov.au>

Families and individuals of all ages and experience welcome. The aim of the day is to reduce carp numbers and raise awareness of carp as a major pest of our waterways.

## Catch a Carp

Bring your own bait and fishing gear. No license required to participate in this event.

Highlights include:

- Free entry
- Win great prizes: 4 categories for juniors & over 16s
- Try freshly cooked carp from K&C Fisheries
- Find information on carp and native fish
- Free BBQ lunch
- Learn carp recipes

Register on arrival at Broadwood Reserve:

Lake Narracan, Moe. VicRoads Ref.97 G4

**Contact person:** Tammy Dawson 5175 7800

**Date:** Sunday 4th December 2005

**Time:** 10am to 4pm



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## 2006 GippsLandcare Grants

Funding is now available to assist Gippsland's land managers undertake on-ground works.



The incentives support private landholders address land management issues at a farm scale. Benefits can include the increased stability and viability of soils, gains in the productivity of your property and increased land value through an improved landscape.

The grants also work to protect Gippsland's agricultural and natural resource assets vital to the future of the region.

Funding is being provided through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust and National Landcare Program. The Grants are administered by GippsLandcare on behalf of the region's 4 Landcare Networks: South Gippsland, Yarram Yarram, Lake Wellington and Bass Coast.

Local land managers are eligible for incentives including:

Fencing subsidy from \$1.50 per meter

- Native Plants
- Direct Seeding
- Earthworks subsidy\*
- Perennial Pasture subsidy\*
- On site technical advice

\* For erosion or salinity affected sites.

Landholders in West Gippsland are now invited to submit an Expression of Interest for 2006 projects.

For funding guidelines and an Expression of Interest Form contact your local Landcare office or the GippsLandcare Team on 5175 7800.



Don't forget to register for the  
**'Who Does What In Water'**  
conference on the **18th October** in Sale

To register, email [adamm@wgcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:adamm@wgcma.vic.gov.au)



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## Catchment Week



**NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

In celebration of 10 years of Catchment and Land Protection and Natural Resource Management activities, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) is hosting Catchment Week from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

Catchment Week will provide a series of “catchment awareness” activities highlighting the benefits to the environment of successful partnerships between community, landholders, local agencies and government. Great outcomes can be achieved when we work together for catchment health.

The events include:

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November:** **South Gippsland Rail Trail Bike Ride & Walk** which will involve cycling / travelling along the rail trail, viewing areas of interest with key speakers at various points.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November** (Schools' Day), **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November** (Family Day): **Water Walks in Latrobe** which will highlight the Traralgon Creek Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan and provide a series of walks and talks with key NRM agency staff to experience stream and vegetation restoration and enhancement works along the Traralgon Creek.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November:** **Wellington Wetland Walks** will tour wetlands at the eastern end of our region in conjunction with the *WaterWater Festival* to experience wetland restoration and enhancement works.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November:** **Gippsland Coasting** series of activities along the Port Albert catchment and estuary will be held to increase public awareness of NRM partnerships in coastal management.

***These activities will also increase public awareness of marine and aquatic biodiversity and general catchment health outcomes.***

*The range of activities will showcase NRM partnership within the region as well as increase public awareness of a variety of catchment health activities outcomes.*

For further information, contact John Durrant at the WGCMA office on (03) 5175 7800 or [johnd@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:johnd@wgcm.vic.gov.au)



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## Spotlighting Banksia Award Winners

The Banksia Awards recognise and reward individuals, community groups, businesses and government organisations for leadership and excellence in protecting Australia's environment and attaining a more sustainable future. The Awards represent a powerful means of motivating those who do well to continue to do so, and inspire others to follow. The winners of the 2005 awards have provided case studies to give you some insight into their achievements. In many cases the winners have provided contact details or web addresses which we encourage you to investigate and follow up. Winners are keen to share their knowledge and success with as many interested people as possible.



<http://www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=215> - web address for case studies

## Interpretation Training

Coast Action/Coastcare and Parks Victoria are pleased to offer a series of interpretation training programs across Victoria focusing on our rich and diverse marine and coastal environments. This training program is a practical introduction to the principles of effective message delivery through interpretation. The training session will be delivered by experienced interpretation staff from Coast Action / Coastcare and Parks Victoria using a successful model developed by Parks Victoria.

Included in the training will be

- What is interpretation?
- EROT principles for effective interpretation
- Themes and messages
- Designing an interpretation session
- Practical exercises

### Dates & Venues:

- |                                  |                |                             |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| • <u>Saturday 17th September</u> | Port Campbell  | Port Campbell SLS Club      |
| • <u>Friday 23rd September</u>   | Ricketts Point | Beaumaris SLS Club          |
| • <u>Friday 30th September</u>   | Lakes Entrance | Angling Club (TBC)          |
| • <u>Friday 7th October</u>      | Inverloch      | Bunurong Environment Centre |

To register your interest contact your local Coast Action / Coastcare facilitator, or call 9637 9776, and ask for an application form to be forwarded to you. Successful applicants will receive written confirmation and details of locations.

Please call Mark Rodrigue - State Program Coordinator Coast Action / Coastcare on 0411 258 318 or e-mail [mark.rodrigue@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:mark.rodrigue@dse.vic.gov.au)



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## ICs now CCCs

The recently updated WGCMA Implementation Committee Charter was endorsed by the Board at their meeting on Monday 22 August.

There were no major changes to the content or direction of the Charter, however, there was a timely tidy-up of its wording and more definition provided to the role of Portfolio Groups.

The main thing that will impact on us all is the change of name from Implementation Committees (ICs) to Community Consultative Committees (CCCs) or affectionately known as 'Triple Cs'.

During the review of the Charter it was emphasised by each of the three IC groups that their name more clearly represent their role. A number of suggestions were put forward with Community Consultative Committee being an amalgam of all of the good (and appropriate) suggestions.



## DSE Bairnsdale officially opened

Minister Thwaites officially opened

the new DSE building in Bairnsdale on Friday August 5.

The building brings together a number of agencies, including DSE, DPI, Parks Victoria, VicForests, East Gippsland CMA and the Gippsland Coastal Board, as well as other "friends of DSE" such as Southern Rural Water, Regional Development Victoria, Trust for Nature and Greening Australia.

The people of Bairnsdale and surrounding districts now have a onestop shop for all their environment-related needs, as part of the Bracks Government's pledge to provide enhanced service delivery to the community, improve access, better integrate services and take advantage of economies of scale.

## Environment & Communities Seminar

The annual Environment and Communities Seminar with the theme of "Sustainable Communities - Sustainable Mines," is being held on **Wednesday, 28th September 2005 at the GREEN Inc Building, Monash University in Churchill.** In this years program features 4 sessions including one about the Community, the Environment, Planning and the final session is a site tour including at visit to the Morwell river diversion. This session

also includes a light meal at Power Works and a tour of the Loy Yang Power Station.

For Further information, or to obtain a registration form, please contact Lyn Collins on:

(03) 9629 1851 or [lyn.collins@vic.minerals.org.au](mailto:lyn.collins@vic.minerals.org.au)



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## Celebrating Community Engagement

The Institute for Regional Studies  
(Monash University Gippsland)  
together with  
The Gippsland Area Consultative Committee  
and  
The Department of Human Services presents..

A forum for people, communities, agencies & government to further develop partnerships & strategies for community engagement

**Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October 2005**  
**Lakes Entrance, East Gippsland**

Gippslanders have had several years experience with the new wave of 'Community Engagement & Building' supported by community, local, State & Australian government. What have we learned? Can we use this knowledge to move forward? This will be an opportune time to learn from our experiences & create stronger partnerships & strategies through open & positive discussion.

This will be a chance for everyone to participate in discussions on their experiences of engaging the diverse views & values of community whilst having a real opportunity of engaging with government. Whilst one keynote speaker will stimulate our thinking, this will not be a conference of workshops & speeches. It will be a series of directed small group round table discussions where we can learn from each other's perspectives & experiences.

The forum will run from mid morning on October 11 to mid afternoon on October 12. Fully inclusive costs will range from \$80.00 for unpaid community workers to \$350.00 for government & large organisations (this covers the forum, meals & accommodation at the one venue).

To register your interest in receiving further information please reply to:

Community Engagement Conference  
Institute for Regional Studies  
Monash University Gippsland Campus  
Northways Road, Churchill 3842

Fax: (03) 512 27128 Email: [Institute.Regional.Studies@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:Institute.Regional.Studies@adm.monash.edu.au)



"I want to share something with you - the three sentences that will get you through life. Number one, 'cover for me,' Number two, 'oh, good idea, boss,' Number three, 'it was like that when I got here'"

**Homer Simpson**



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## EPBC Info Session

The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) is hosting an information session on the operation of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) presented by the EPBC Unit through a joint project with WWF Australia, the Australian Council of National Trusts, and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust.

### Workshop details

- When:** Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> 2005 at 4pm  
**Time:** 4pm – 5pm - with refreshments provided afterwards  
**Where:** WGCMA Office  
16 Hotham Street Traralgon

### What will the Workshop cover?

How the referral, assessment and approval process works.

An outline for those unfamiliar with the EPBC Act and a refresher for those with limited knowledge about it.

Free EPBC Unit Project publications will be available.

### What is the EPBC Act?

The EPBC Act is the Australian Government's principal piece of national environmental law that outlines the Australian Government's responsibility for the protection of nationally significant natural and cultural heritage. This includes threatened and migratory species and their habitat, threatened ecological communities, Ramsar wetlands, World Heritage and National Heritage places, and certain actions involving the Commonwealth.

### RSVP

To RSVP please contact WGCMA Reception on 51757800



## Field Day & Interactive Workshop

FARM and FORESTRY LANDSCAPES, BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT.

**WHERE:** The Madalya Landcare Catchment, where small & medium scale farms interface large tracts of plantation and native forests, 23 km NW of Yarram on the southern slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges .

Trust for Nature Covenant in Madalya Landcare Catchment; a Wet Forests EVC abutting McLellan's Creek eastern Strzelecki Ranges

**WHEN:** Sunday 23 October, 2005 (10.00 am – 2.30 pm)

**JOINT SPONSORS:** Madalya Landcare Group, Dept. Sustainability & Environment, Yarram Yarram Catchments Network & GippsLandcare



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Trust for Nature Covenant in Madalya Landcare Catchment; a Wet Forests EVC abutting McLellan's Creek eastern Strzelecki Ranges

**WHEN:** Sunday 23 October, 2005 (10.00 am – 2.30 pm)

**JOINT SPONSORS:** Madalya Landcare Group, Dept. Sustainability & Environment, Yarram Yarram Catchments Network & GippsLandcare

**KEY PRESENTERS:**

- Dr Wendy Wright
- Dr Ryan Incoll
- Anne Westwood
- The Team from Grand Ridge

This Field Day and Workshop will be in three parts:

1. Inspect the Madalya catchment area on the landscape scale at the Meeting Point , high vantage point on Turpin's Road.
2. A Workshop for landholders at 'Brookbend' (property of Ian & Denise Dench) featuring the key presenters. Landholders will be encouraged to participate enthusiastically in the Workshop proceedings.
3. A barbecue lunch at no charge sponsored by Yarram Yarram Catchments Landcare Network and GippsLandcare will follow the workshop.

No RSVP required. For more information contact Ian Dench on (03) 5185 1449

Remember to register...

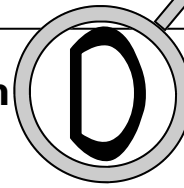
'Who Does What In Water'

18th October 2005

email [adam@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:adam@wgcm.vic.gov.au)



## Asset Watch: The Macalister Irrigation District



The Macalister Irrigation District (MID) is the largest irrigation area south of the Great Dividing Range. The MID is located in central Gippsland, and takes its name from the Macalister River, the main source of the district's irrigation water. The MID extends around the river for 53,000 Ha from Lake Glenmaggie to Sale. Approximately 33,500 ha is currently used for irrigation, and of this 90% is under pasture.

The Macalister Irrigation District Nutrient Reduction Plan (MID NRP) was developed to reduce the phosphorus load from the MID, (approximately 27 tonnes of the estimated 250 tonnes of phosphorus that flows into the Gippsland Lakes). The main target of the MID NRP is to reduce the phosphorus load by 40% by 2005.

The methods for achieving the targets set in the MID NRP are through the provision of financial incentives for on ground works and extension activities to support on farm practice change.

Farmers are encouraged to develop whole farm plans, install tail-water reuse systems, convert from flood to spray irrigation and to follow fertiliser & irrigation best management practices (BMP).

During 2004, the MID NRP was formally evaluated.

In the year 2004/05 the implementation of the MID NRP incentives project achieved:

- 23 Irrigation Management Plans completed
- 18 Re-use systems installed
- 6 conversions to spray irrigation infrastructure
- 200 landholders received extension advice to increase best management practice
- MID NRP Annual report 04/05 to be completed shortly

And for 2005/06:

- The budget for the MID NRP incentives project is \$704,000 through Victorian Government Gippsland Lakes funding. This includes extension and program co-ordination and incentives for landholders.
- A Land and Water Management Plan will be developed for the MID that will incorporate a five year management program for all aspects of NRM such as biodiversity, salinity, nutrient reduction and soil health. The budget for this is \$110,000.



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On farm works progress to date include:

## Flood irrigated land drained to Re-use systems.

Target: 8,500 hectares  
Achieved: 3,230 hectares drained to completed systems.

## Flood irrigated land converted to Spray systems

Target: 7,500 hectares  
Achieved: 1,352 hectares of spray systems installed.

## Prerequisite Farm "Irrigation" Planning

Target: 20% or ~ 9,000 hectares additional Whole Farm Plans. (Now prerequisite to all works so target is open ended)

Achievement: 18,105 hectares Whole Farm "Irrigation" Plans completed.

Estimated On-farm Water recycled: 4,580 ML

The long term outcomes for the MID NRP include:

- Total phosphorus exports from irrigated farms to MID drains and waterways that lead to Lake Wellington, will be reduced on average by between 4 to 8 tonnes/year each year of the project assuming fertiliser BMP is being followed.
- Substantial water savings achieved through greater on farm water use efficiency.
- Substantial reductions in accessions to the water table
- Monitored phosphorus levels in MID drains trending downward

The MID is managed by a number of different groups including:

- MID Farmers and Irrigators - On farm infrastructure and operation.
- Southern Rural Water - Water supply and drainage infrastructure operation, maintenance and finance.
- Environment Protection Authority - SEPP Monitoring and Compliance.
- Department of Primary Industries - on farm technical extension and education, incentives (grants) case management
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority - Coordination, Floodplains, Riparian zones, incentives administration.
- Wellington Shire - Planning & Development, Native vegetation, Roads and drainage



Operational Reuse system