

# Gippsland Natural Connection

Newsletter of Gippsland integrated natural resources forum

Issue 1/04, January 2004



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## DATES DATES DATES...

### GINRF Meeting Dates

#### Reference Group meeting dates for 2004:

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February GINRF Conference – Churchill

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2004

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2004

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004

#### Natural Resources Report Card release:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004 – to be confirmed.

**PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!!!**

## From the office ...

### Natural Resources Report Card 2004

Work has started on the structure and content of the 2004 Natural Resources Report Card. A small working party will be guiding the report card from now until its release on World Environment Day, 5th June 2004. Any input is welcome, contact Carol Jeffs 51757844 or [Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au](mailto:Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au).

### Welcome to Adam Miller

Adam is a business administration trainee, working at West Gippsland CMA in an Executive Assistant role, supporting Carol Jeffs in her roles with GINRF, Project MERGe and Gippsland Research Co-ordination Group. Adam started work on 5th January 2004, the beginning of an 18 month traineeship. Thanks to Adam for already putting some pizzazz into the GINRF newsletter.

Contact Details: Adam Miller, 51757800, [Adamm@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:Adamm@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

### Document arrived:

Central Coastal Board: "Coastal Priorities for the Central Region: A framework for implementing the Victorian Coastal Strategy" – find it on [www.ccb.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccb.vic.gov.au)

Contact: Steve Blackley, Executive Officer 8627 4724

**Catchment health, Gippsland's wealth**

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## WATER FORUM Presented by...



**CRC FOR CLEAN POWER FROM LIGNITE**

&

**CRC FOR CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY**

Cooperative Research Centre for  
**CLEAN POWER FROM LIGNITE**



On Wednesday 28 January 2004, 1.30 – 5.00 pm,

At Green Inc., 50 Northways Road, Churchill

### Speakers...

Shahbaz Khan, CSIRO Land and Water

Jurgen Schaeffer, GHD Pty Ltd

Craig Butler, Monash University

Dr Robert Argent, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Rodger Grayson, University of Melbourne

RSVP Ms Rosslyn Ball by 21 January 2004

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In response to the draft *Guidelines for Setting Resource Condition Targets within Victoria*, and the subsequent requirements of the Victorian NAP/NHT Office regarding detailed appraisals of the status of our Resource Condition Targets, the West and East Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities are proposing to hold a joint Information Session and Workshop for Targets on **Tuesday 24 February**. The participants will be those people involved with developing targets through various action planning processes that are underway, or who have a working knowledge of the targets within existing action plans. We will be inviting State and Commonwealth representatives to talk about the *National Natural Resource Management Standards and Targets Framework*, the draft State Guidelines and the processes for developing targets and indicators that sit within the Framework.

## Targets Information Session & Workshop – Advance Notice.

After the information session we will be workshopping status of our Resource Condition Targets across Gippsland as a lead in to the detailed appraisal process. As regions subject to the *Victorian-Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement*, both East and West Gippsland regions are required to develop Resource Condition Targets for the 10 National Matters for Targets agreed to in the *National NRM Standards and Targets Framework* by December 2005.

**If you are interested in the information session or workshop, please contact Carol Jeffs.**

# Gippsland Natural Connection



## East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy

Feedback has been received on the draft East Gippsland RCS from the joint Commonwealth-State Accreditation Co-ordinating Committee. This feedback will be incorporated into the second draft during January and early February 2004.

The RCS will go to public exhibition during March 2004, with final editing and printing during April and May for a final version by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2004. The second round of accreditation will be based on the Exhibition Draft and will run concurrently with public exhibition.

## West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy

Feedback from the public exhibition period has now been addressed and a final draft of the *West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy* is being submitted to the State-Federal Accreditation Coordinating Group (ACG) for final technical review by expert panels in mid January.

Once the ACG is satisfied with the Strategy, it will be submitted to an Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) who will look at our stakeholder engagement throughout the development of the Strategy. Recommendations of the ACG and IAP are then considered by the Joint Victorian-Commonwealth Steering Committee who then seek endorsement from the relevant State and Federal Ministers.

Once the four Ministers have signed off, the West Gippsland Region has an accredited Regional Catchment Strategy to help guide our collective efforts in the better use and management of our natural resources into the future, and target our investments to those areas that matter the most.

These processes take time, so we anticipate a launch of the accredited *West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy* in late April or early May. In the meantime, the current final draft document will be available to those developing detailed projects for the *2004-07 Regional Catchment Investment Plan* over the coming weeks.

Thankyou to all those who have participated in the development of the *West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy*, your interest, support and input has been appreciated and has made the Strategy much stronger and better than it otherwise would have been.

## WGCMA RCIP Update

As reported in the last newsletter the WGCMA received over 60 Expressions of Interest for the 2004/2005 Regional Catchment Investment Plan.

The WGCMA has collated these ideas and will now be discussing their merit with both State and Federal investors during January. They will also be processed against the Regional Catchment Strategy and will be reviewed through the CMA's Implementation Committees to ensure there is community input into the process.

The results of these three levels of input will then allow us to identify the 'best bet' projects which we will be asking stakeholders to develop full RCIP bids. We envisage this will take place during February.

# Gippsland Natural Connection



## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 please contact Carol Jeffs:

Phone: (03) 51 757800

Email: [Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au](mailto:Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au)

# Gippsland Natural Connection



## Traralgon Creek Partnership

Work has commenced on developing a major partnership project in the Traralgon Creek catchment. The partnership involves West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Loy Yang Power, Edison Mission Energy, Latrobe Shire and the EPA. The project

will help address a range of issues in the catchment including water quality, river health, biodiversity and improving recreational opportunities. This project will build on range of environmental activities that have taken place within the Traralgon Creek catchment.

An excellent partnership between Loy Yang Power and the WGCMA has seen a number of projects along the creek. These have focused on willow control and revegetation activities. At times these have involved the broader community including schools and Landcare groups. Latrobe Shire and WGCMA have also undertaken similar river improvement activities in and around the town. In addition, Edison Mission Energy has an excellent history of participating in community projects such as the Powlett Project, Phillip Island Wildlife Corridor and Wellington Green Print. These projects embrace community partnerships and involve revegetation and environmental improvement activities.

The Traralgon Creek project seeks to build on existing achievements and partnerships with a view to improved coordination and catchment outcomes. It will also provide a framework to extend and integrate activities throughout the entire catchment and broker new partnerships for environmental restoration work. To forward this project a Working Group was formed and has developed a draft action plan, which will allow further integrated on-ground work to take place into the future. Membership of this Working Group includes: Loy Yang Power, Edison Mission energy, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Latrobe City Shire and the EPA.

Contact:: Martin Fuller, Partnership Development Manager, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Ph: 03 5662 4555

