

# Gippsland Natural Connection

Newsletter of Gippsland integrated natural resources forum

Issue 2/04, February 2004

## From the Office ...

Wow, what a start to 2004!!! Great attendance at GINRF's first regional conference from all corners of Gippsland and all different sectors of GINRF's membership. See some pickies and commentary on page 2.

As you can see by the packed newsletter, there is plenty of action in natural resource management around the region in the next few weeks. In particular, get yourself along to the **FREE** events happening in the region: Ecological Footprints hosted by EPA, and "A Sustainable Future for Gippsland" search conference hosted by Gippsland Capacity Building and Development Project.

There will also be a number of different workshops to consult with GINRF members and others about Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting in the region, and research activity in the Gippsland Lakes.

The next big event is the release of the 2004 Natural Resources Report Card in June. We are working to improve the Report Card, using feedback from the 2003 edition. Three new assets have been added to the list – see page 5 for details.

The Executive group is also planning a big year of Reference Group meetings, with our 30 year planning/futuring/visioning exercise high on the agenda.

Don't forget to contact Carol or Adam if you would like your event advertised in the March 04 edition of Gippsland Natural Connection.

## DATES DATES DATES...

### GINRF Meeting Dates

#### Reference Group meeting dates for 2004:

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:

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2004

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Catchment health, Gippsland's wealth

# Gippsland Natural Connection

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## Regional Conference 2004

**Integrated Information, Supporting Catchment Health for Gippsland's Wealth.**



Around 70 delegates from all parts of Gippsland (and some from Melbourne) attended the first GINRF Regional Conference, at Monash University Gippsland Campus on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

The first session for the day was presented by three experts in the Spatial Information field. Peter Woodgate from CRC for Spatial Information outlined the structure and role of the CRC and its vision for a "Virtual Australia": To make spatial information available and useful to all - at any time and in any place in our Nation.

Professor Michael Batty is from the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, University College London and is visiting Victoria as part of Department of Primary Industries Visiting Fellows program. Professor Batty spoke about Integrating Spatial Data Over Large Distances and Diverse Communities, citing the UK's experience with urban planning, in particular integrating information from academic (science), to government (policy) to community.

Bruce Thompson gave an overview of Land Victoria's Land Information Services and the various products such as Vicnet, GPSnet and the GEIN system.



The second session for the day began with Tricia Kaye illustrating the National Carbon Accounting System's approach to modelling of natural systems and land use change. Australian Greenhouse Office announced its intention to run a regional pilot of the NCAS system in Gippsland. Regional Data Net's development and operation was demonstrated by Hayley Rokhar and John Fascio described the genesis of the Regional Information System in Gippsland.



The third and final session stretched the minds of most natural resource managers as Al Rainnie presented on the 'Knowledge Economy' and the regional development implications of this perspective. Glen Waterhouse and Tina D'Urbano also presented different perspectives on information for Gippsland. Discussion from this final session indicated a need for GINRF members to place more emphasis on integrating social and economic issues with the more traditional biophysical aspects of natural resource management.

Proceedings from the day will be distributed to those who were in attendance, with a few extra copies for those who were unable to attend.

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## EG Capacity Building Network

EG Capacity Building Network

which has been in existence for nearly 12 months. It aims to bring together people from a variety of agencies to develop our skills etc in community engagement and capacity building.

The network is an example of a joined up government approach in a specific area of work, complementing GINRF's role.

### Objectives of the Network:

- To be a bridge between government departments and other agencies in the area of community engagement, to know each others objectives, what we are doing and how we are operating.
- To develop and provide advice to regional management about community issues, after listening to the community.
- To develop our own understanding and capacity by sharing stories, ideas and concepts.
- To quantify social benefits and social capital [including social indicators].

Contact Frankie MacLennan 5183 9130, [Frankie.Maclennan@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:Frankie.Maclennan@dse.vic.gov.au)

## Gippsland Lakes Email Forum

is a new e-mail forum to air views/ideas/questions about improving the health of the Gippsland Lakes. If you want to be involved, e-mail Andrew Harrison at [aharrison@skm.com.au](mailto:aharrison@skm.com.au) and he will add you to the list. To avoid unwanted e-mails, you will only be included in the list if you actively request it and you can opt out at any time. The forum will work in the same way as existing forums such as "Saltlist" where sending a message to the e-mail address will automatically send to all on the list (and the same goes for replying of messages). Once established, the e-mail address will be: [Gipps\\_Lakes@skm.com.au](mailto:Gipps_Lakes@skm.com.au) but I will send more specific details for those who register. Looking forward to a deluge of reply e-mails!

Andrew Harrison  
e-mail: [aharrison@skm.com.au](mailto:aharrison@skm.com.au)

## East Gippsland RCIP Update

The East Gippsland Regional Catchment Investment Plan is currently under development at the East Gippsland CMA. Projects covering Land, Water, Biodiversity, Coasts, Community, and Whole of Catchment are being developed to their full potential. Please contact Russell Broomhall at the EG CMA for further information on 5153 0462

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## Indigenous Partnership Policy and Procedures

A group of 16 staff from East and West Gippsland CMAs met with Christine Wrench, Patrick Fricker and Colin Leigh from Parks Victoria on Wednesday 11 February 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarise CMA staff with Parks Victoria's procedures and policies in indigenous partnerships and to foster networking opportunities. The presentations and discussions included Indigenous Partnerships, Native Title, Cultural Awareness and Indigenous Groups in Gippsland.

The afternoon certainly raised awareness and is a great starting point for indigenous partnership action between CMAs, Parks Vic, DSE and other regional agencies.

The group identified a need for both Cultural Awareness and Native Title Future Acts training for CMA and other agency staff in the Gippsland region. Contact Carol Jeffs (GINRF) or John Durrant (WGCMA) on 51757800 if you are interested.

Welcome to Robert Andy – Indigenous Liaison Officer for East Gippsland CMA. Robert can be contacted at the CMA on 51530462.

## Bunurong Marine National Park Management Plan Advisory Group

Parks Victoria is seeking participation from a broad range of interest groups and individuals to provide input to the development of a management plan for Bunurong Marine National Park and Bunurong Marine Park.

As a first step in the formal engagement of the community, Parks Victoria is calling for members to serve on the Bunurong Marine National Park Management Plan Advisory Group. The Management Plan Advisory Group will provide input into a range of strategic issues relating to the management plan for Bunurong Marine National Park and the adjacent Bunurong Marine Park.

A maximum of 12 Advisory Group Members will be appointed for the planning period of approximately 2 years. The Advisory Group will meet 5 times throughout the planning period. Applicants with appropriate skills and a strong interest in the Bunurong Marine National Park are encouraged to apply.

Further information about the Bunurong Marine National Park Management Plan Advisory Group can be obtained by calling Brian Martin on (03) 5672 1066. Applications close Friday 12th March 2004.

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## East Gippsland RCS Update

The public draft version of the East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy will be released in early March. Comments in writing will be welcomed by the East Gippsland CMA during the four-week public comment period. .

## Natural Resource Report Card 2004

The 2004 Report Card is under development and will be ready for World Environment Day, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2004. The theme for World Environment Day in 2004 is "Coasts and Oceans".

Three new natural assets in Gippsland will be added to the Report Card:

- 90 Mile Beach
- Bataluk Cultural Trail
- Latrobe River

In addition to the existing twelve assets identified in 2003:

- Gippsland Lakes
- Snowy River
- Mitchell River
- Thomson River
- Macalister Irrigation District
- Corner Inlet/Wilson's Promontory
- Forests of East Gippsland
- Alpine National Park
- Coastal Parks of Far East Gippsland
- Dryland Dairy farming of West and South Gippsland
- Coastal Living - Bass Coast and Phillip Island
- Brown Coal based energy Industry

Any information that can contribute to assessing the condition and stewardship of these assets is welcome. Reports, strategies, plans, assessments or partnerships that were missed in 2003 or have occurred since July 2003 are required.

A list is also being developed for the distribution of the Report Card. We would appreciate your assistance to ensure that all appropriate organisations and individuals receive the 2004 Natural Resources Report Card. Please register names, addresses and number of copies required with Carol Jeffs.

Contact Carol Jeffs, ph: 51 757844 or email: [Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au](mailto:Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au)

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## A Sustainable Future For Gippsland

### TURNING CONCEPT INTO REALITY

#### Invitation to a search conference

What is a sustainable future for Gippsland? What does it mean for Gippsland's future energy and water production and use; for business development; for our communities?

Over the last half of 2003, many people in Gippsland participated in the *Gippsland Capacity Building and Development Project*, examining how to build a sustainable future for Gippsland. Working Groups are looking at ways to address key issues. A start's been made. Now we need to build on it.

The next step is to hold a search conference which will consider how to put proposed strategies into action. A key focus will be on sustainable water and energy issues.

Help build Gippsland's future. Be part of the action.

**Where:** Quality Inn Latrobe Convention Centre  
Princes Highway Traralgon, next to Golf Course

**When:** 4pm March 19 - 5pm March 20 2004

No conference or accommodation fees

The workshop is a joint initiative of Melbourne University's Foundation for Sustainable Development, the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, Latrobe City Council and the Gippsland Capacity Building and Development Project. See draft program attached.

RSVP: Friday 20 February Fill in the attached form  
Return it to Geoff Pryor, *Regional Knowledge Works*  
email [gefpryor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gefpryor@ozemail.com.au) or fax 02 6231 6423

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EPA Victoria and Delynda Pty Ltd invite you to attend a

## Ecological Footprint Workshop for Business

Featuring Dr Mathis Wackernagel

Co-inventor of the Ecological Footprint



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2004

1.00pm – 3.30pm

at

Room 1N 206-207

(access through main reception)

Monash University, Gippsland Campus

Churchill Campus

*a light lunch will be served*



Sustainability is an invaluable tool for achieving competitive advantage and greater efficiency in companies. The Ecological Footprint makes sustainability real and measurable, turning environmental challenges into business opportunities. Ecological Footprinting can also help you communicate sustainability progress to skeptical stakeholders.

Please join us for a business forum to find out about the opportunities that are available for organisations in using the Ecological Footprint.

### The forum will feature:

**Dr. Mathis Wackernagel**, co-inventor of the Ecological Footprint and **Susan Burns**, Managing Director of the Global Footprint Network and co-founder of the pioneering sustainability consulting firm, Natural Strategies.

### What is the Ecological Footprint?

The Ecological Footprint measures ecological impact—the amount of bio-productive space required to produce all the resources consumed and absorb all the wastes produced by a particular organisation or activity. The Ecological Footprint methodology is recognised internationally as the most comprehensive measure of the impact of human activity on the Earth's ecological capacity. Unlike traditional impact analysis, Ecological Footprint Analysis links impacts to global limits.

An extension of life cycle analysis, Ecological Footprint Analysis (EFA) offers a quantifiable way to make choices about different products by translating ecological impacts into a common unit.

Please Register by 18th February 2004 to Jessica Bakker, Email: [epa.gippsland@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:epa.gippsland@epa.vic.gov.au)  
Ph: 5176 1744



*Sustainable Gippsland Search Conference*  
presented by

 Regional Knowledge Works  
an initiative of  
Piper Knowledge (ACT) Pty Ltd

 DELYNDA

Quality Inn Latrobe Convention Centre, Traralgon  
4pm Friday to 6pm Saturday 18-19 March

After learning from & meeting Dr Wackernagel, register for this next **FREE** event  
For information about limited **free** accommodation or to register now, contact:  
Barry Huguenin: 03 9887 3297 or [delynda@bigpond.net.au](mailto:delynda@bigpond.net.au)

Search Conference Key Sponsors: Department of Sustainability & Environment & Latrobe City



*because this is our home*

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## Project MERGe

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for Gippsland's Natural Resources

Project MERGe is a regional partnership project between East Gippsland CMA, West Gippsland CMA and the Gippsland Lakes Task Force.

We are working together to develop and test a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for natural resource managers in the whole of the Gippsland region.

During the next month, we will begin asking the GINRF Reference Group and other people involved in MER, what they would like to see an MER framework do for them and for the region. Consultation will continue as several drafts are developed, until the completion of this project in October 2004.

For further information, contact MERGe Project Manager, Carol Jeffs ph: 51 757844 or email: [Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au](mailto:Carol.Jeffs@ginrf.org.au)



Gippsland Lakes  
Task Force

EAST GIPPSLAND  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY



## Gippsland Research Coordination Group

Gippsland Research Coordination Group began 2004 in its new form, with plans to run two workshops to facilitate research outcomes for the Gippsland Lakes.

Workshop 1 will take research priorities for biophysical (scientific) aspects of the Gippsland Lakes and discuss ways to co-ordinate research activity to advance our knowledge during the 2004-2005 year.

Workshop 2 will focus on social and economic aspects of the Gippsland Lakes.

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The ABS Statistics Online (ASO) tool is **ABS Statistics Online (ASO)** a web application designed to enable authorised users to query ABS Agricultural and Population statistics for Victoria, viewing the results as either tables or as thematically shaded maps.

ASO users are able to select an area of interest (AOI) for the reporting of agricultural and population statistics. These are state, Local Government Area (LGA) or Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region. The tabular and map reports available are summarised in the following tables.

ASO is a component of the Regional Data Net (RDN). For further information about ASO or to register as a user, please contact the RDN administrator by email: [rdn.cams@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:rdn.cams@dse.vic.gov.au) or download the access form from the documentation link to the ASO web page.

## Environmental Flow Options for the Thomson and Macalister Rivers

The Environmental Flow Options for the Thomson and Macalister Rivers Summary of Technical Information and Final Report are now completed. Copies are available from the WGCMA. Written submissions will be accepted until March 12 2004. Please contact Penny Neumann on 5175 7800 or at [pennyn@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:pennyn@wgcm.vic.gov.au) for further information.

### It's a GIRL!



Those who attended the Green Paper Reference Group meeting in Leongatha would remember that facilitator Fiona Smolenaars was pregnant.

Fiona, husband Marcus and son Joe are proud to announce the arrival of Bridget Magdalena O'Dwyer, born Friday 30th Jan 6.15 am . Weighing in at 8 lb. Congratulations to Fiona and her family.

# Gippsland Natural Connection

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## Regional Catchment Investment Plan Update West Gippsland CMA region

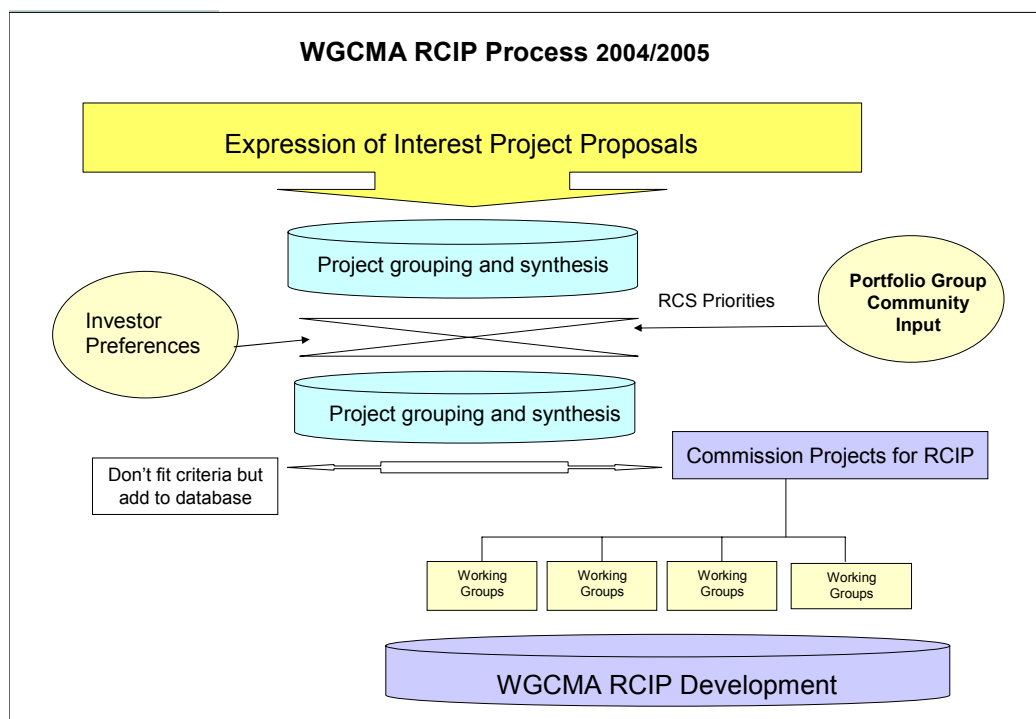
The West Gippsland CMA Portfolio Groups met for a day long workshop to provide community input into the RCIP process on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

A delegation from the West Gippsland CMA region has also had some preliminary discussions with investors who are supportive of the Eol process and have given some indication of the types of projects that have a better chance of being funded.

The West Gippsland CMA will now provide advice to the Expression of Interest proponents about how to proceed, given the information gathered to date.

Full RCIP bids will be developed between now and 20<sup>th</sup> March. To facilitate this process, WGCMA staff and members of the RCIP Working Group will be available at the CMA office each Friday to assist applicants.

For more information contact Martin Fuller or Kaye Fox on 5175 7800



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## Australian Natural Resources Atlas User Survey

The Australian Natural Resources Atlas and Data Library are online information systems developed by the National Land and Water Resources Audit to provide ready access to national and regional scale data and information products.

The needs and expectations of people involved in Natural Resources Management for access to data and information is of particular interest to the Audit. To this end the Audit is currently conducting a user review to determine if the Atlas and Data Library tools are meeting the needs of users, and to guide future developments that may enhance their use.

The methodology being employed in the review involves meetings (phone and in person) with selected target audience and focus user groups, plus an on-line questionnaire.

This distribution list is based on contact details provided during the Natural Resource Information Toolkit training sessions held late last year. As discussed during those sessions, in order that the review obtains the opinions from those closely involved in NRM activities it would be very much appreciated if you could find a few spare minutes to complete the on-line questionnaire. The survey is available via a link on the Audit's web site at [www.nlwra.gov.au](http://www.nlwra.gov.au) or alternatively you can link direct to the survey using the following URL <http://203.87.108.161/>

It is anticipated that the results of the survey will be available by April 2004.

Should you have any queries or issues you wish to follow up please feel free to contact Peter Wilson at the Audit (Phone 2 6257 3024 email: [peter.wilson@nlwra.gov.au](mailto:peter.wilson@nlwra.gov.au)) or myself. (Christopher Auricht, Consultant engaged to undertake the User Survey)

