

Gippsland Natural Connection

Newsletter of Gippsland integrated natural resources forum

Issue 5/04, July 2004

From the Office ...

A quick note to say that the Agribusiness Forum's conference is on Wednesday of this week. Do yourself a favour The West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy launch has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Stay tuned for the new date. We need to celebrate events like this to appreciate all the hard work and regional involvement. A new feature in the newsletter - to highlight each of the report card assets - the Ninety-Mile-Beach is the first candidate. There are still some copies of the Report Card, companion document and the poster available if you need extra copies.

The GINRF Reference Group will be discussing White paper issues at the August meeting and possibly Report Card issues at the October meeting.

Carol Jeffs
GINRF Executive Officer

DATES DATES DATES...

Events Calender

Tuesday 27th July - West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy Launch - **POSTPONED**

Wednesday 28th July - Regional Agribusiness Outlook Conference

Tuesday 7th September - Research at Dowd Morass/Gippsland Lakes information session

GINRF Meeting Dates

Reference Group meeting dates for 2004:

Thursday 5th August 2004 - DSE Office, Traralgon (71 Hotham Street)

Thursday 28th October 2004

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ASIRC Display

The Australian Sustainable Industry Research Centre (ASIRC) is currently displaying its activities at the Centre for Innovation and Technology Commercialisation on Level 1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne, from June 28 to July 31, 2004. The Centre is open between 9 am and 4 pm weekdays.



Research at Dowd Morass/Gippsland Lakes

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE RECENT RESEARCH IN THE GIPPSLAND LAKES WETLANDS?

Associate Professor Paul Boon from Victoria University will be presenting information about this research on **TUESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER** at WGCMA, 16 Hotham Street, Traralgon, starting at 10 am.

The program for the day includes three presentations:

10:00 Rehabilitating wetlands by restoring water regimes

10:30 Community attitudes to wetlands of the Gippsland Lakes

11:00 Morning tea

11:15 Nutrient enrichment, stable states and the loss of biodiversity in wetlands and shallow lakes

A light lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the presentations. For catering purposes please RSVP to Penny Neumann on 5175 7800 or pennyn@wgcm.vic.gov.au by Monday 30th August.

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Field Day - Farm Forestry & High Value Timber Products

Friday, 30th of July 2004

Commencing 9:30 am at Terra Timbers, Princes Highway, Bairnsdale

9:30am – 11:00am – Tour of Terra Timbers with Paul Harris, Manager.

11:15am – 12:00pm – Indigenous Species Demonstration Plantation, Ashley Goldstraw and John Davenport, Gippsland Private Forestry.

12:30pm – 1:15pm – BBQ lunch at Strathfieldsaye

1:15pm – 3:30pm – Strathfieldsaye farm forestry, John Davenport and Ashley Goldstraw, Gippsland Private Forestry and Vince Andreana, Greening Australia.

Paul Harris is the manager of Terra Timbers. This modern timber processing plant adds value to green sawn timber for the domestic and export markets by utilising technology in kiln drying and processing of timber.

Gippsland Private Forestry provides technical assistance to potential and current tree growers. The Indigenous Species Demonstration Plantations are established in conjunction with the landowner and provide a range of future benefits including timber and stock shelter from local species.

At Strathfieldsaye, you can be involved in a practical exercise looking at plantation management of a 10-15 year old plantation including forest measurement, thinning and pruning.

Please bring sturdy footwear, waterproof coat, warm clothing.

BBQ lunch will be provided at Strathfieldsaye.

For further information please contact Ashley Goldstraw 03 5153 2947, John Davenport 03 5175 7837 or Vince Andreana 03 5152-3099.



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Ninety Mile Beach

In this new section of the newsletter, we will be taking a more detailed look at the Natural Assets that are featured in the GINRF Report Card. This month's feature is Ninety Mile Beach. Ninety Mile Beach lies on the edge of a long slender sand dune, thrown up from the sea by the easterly waves and stretches from Seaspray to Lakes Entrance. Offshore, beneath the water, vast plains of sand stretch in every direction.

There are no rocky headlands or platforms along this coast. Offshore, the sandy plains are only occasionally broken by low ribbons of reef, which formed as shorelines or sand dunes during ice-ages when the sea-level was lower than today. Even these reefs are periodically covered by sand, shifted around by the strong tidal currents. These reefs do not support the large brown seaweeds characteristic of many Victorian reefs, but instead are covered by resilient red seaweeds and encrusting animals that can survive the sandy environment. Despite their small size and transient nature, these reefs almost certainly play an important role connecting populations of reef animals from rocky areas around Wilsons Promontory to those of Victoria's far east.

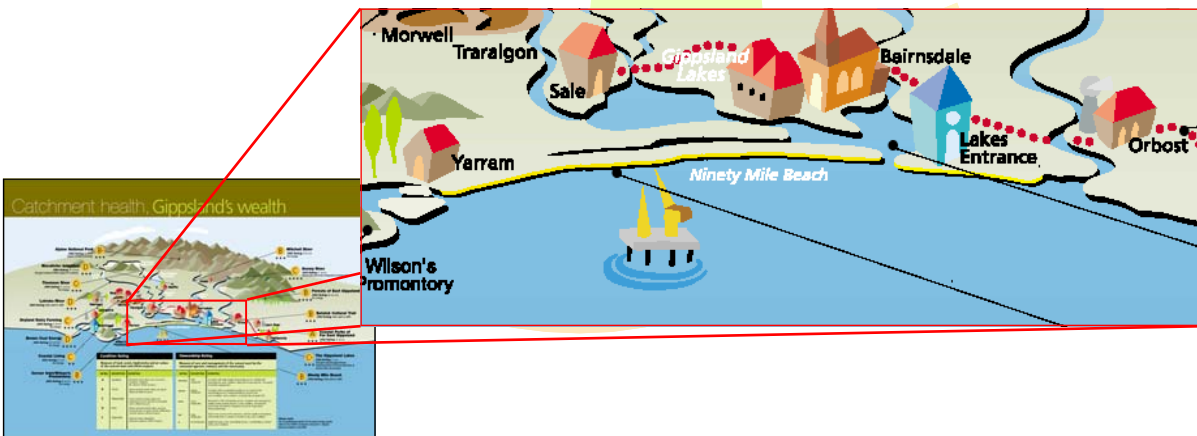
In the latest White Paper, it is indicated that the regional outfall sewer may be closed in the long term due to a new recycling facility.



To find out more about 90 Mile Beach, visit the links on the next page.

REPORT CARD RATING: Condition Rating - B

Stewardship Rating - 3 Stars (***)



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Project MERGe

The MERGe steering committee and project team have been working very hard during the past 6 months to develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework for the whole Gippsland region. The Framework itself is almost complete after several drafts and is about to go into an early implementation phase (some serious testing!) during the next three months, using the Gippsland Lakes as the testing ground. The other components of MERGe will continue on until the end of the year (or maybe a bit longer).

The valuable input that many of you have provided to the MERGe project has been incorporated into the drafts so far. We will be in contact during the next three months to seek your feedback on the Framework and ask how we might improve it.

For more information on Project MERGe, contact Carol Jeffs 51757844

90 Mile Beach Links

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/lpark_display.cfm?park=263 -

This site goes into more detail about the beach, with sections on common fauna, looking after the asset and also has a list of publications, maps and boating information.

www.fishvictoria.com/pyoursay/reports/90mile_beach_040606.php - Visit this site to look at what fish are biting in the 90 Mile Beach area and much, much more.

Other Links

www.wgcma.vic.gov.au - Take a look at the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority web site to find out about the Regional Catchment Strategy, and after the Launch (Date to be announced) you can obtain a PDF version of the RCS.

www.catchment.crc.org.au Their mission - To deliver to resource managers the capability to assess the hydrologic impact of land-use and water-management decisions at whole-of-catchment scale. Find out more, visit the site.

The HotSpot

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Regional Agribusiness

Outlook Conference

Program	
8.30am	Registration
Session 1	Overview Chair: Gippsland Agribusiness Forum
9.00 am	Opening address The Hon. Warren Truss MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
9.30 am	Vivek Tulpulé ABARE Regional overview
9.50 am	Mark Williams Bureau of Meteorology <i>Regional climate outlook</i>
10.10 am	Panel discussion
10.30 am	Morning tea Sponsored by the Gippsland Area Consultative Committee
Session 2	Future directions for agribusiness Chair: Gippsland Agribusiness Forum
11.00 am	Dale Ashton ABARE <i>Outlook for livestock</i>
11.20 am	Ross Hepburn South East Manufacturers' Alliance Inc <i>Collaboration and Export</i>
11.40 am	John Auer Snowy River Seeds <i>Competing globally from regional Australia – issues</i>
12.00 pm	Panel discussion
12.30 pm	Lunch

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Session 3	Land use management Chair: Gippsland Agribusiness Forum
1.30 pm	Gippsland Agribusiness Forum – Innovative Projects <i>Showcasing the achievements of innovation in the Gippsland agribusiness sector</i>
1.40pm	Neil Byron Productivity Commission <i>Impacts of native vegetation regulations on landholders</i>
2.00 pm	Rob Willersdorf Gippsland Private Forestry <i>The socioeconomic influences of the timber industry in Gippsland</i>
2.20pm	Barry Steggall Victorian Water Trust <i>What will the Gippsland irrigation industry look like in 20 years?</i>
2.40 pm	Panel discussion
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea Sponsored by Bendigo Bank
Session 4	Regional development Chair: Gippsland Agribusiness Forum
3.30 pm	Peter Martin ABARE <i>Farm performance in the Australian and New Zealand dairy industry</i>
3.50 pm	Liz Clay International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement <i>Organic agriculture – sustaining the business</i>
4.10 pm	Richard Rijs Patties Foods <i>The challenge of operating a major food processing plant in a regional area</i>
4.30 pm	Panel discussion
5.00 pm	Regional product tasting

A registration fee of \$77 (GST inc) applies (student admission \$38.50 (GST inc))

For more information about this conference, please contact:

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ABARE

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OR

Bronwyn Debenham

Gippsland Agribusiness Forum

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