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## President's Report

### Follow Up to Annual Meeting and Elections

All retiring members were re-elected unopposed, the only internal change being Wendy Parker is now Vice President.

### Committee of Management

President: David Ellard

Vice-President: Wendy Parker

Secretary/Treasurer: Maurice Burns

Committee Members: Trevor Caldwell, Bill Cotter, Jenny Dalgleish, Peter Johnstone, Nancy McMurray and Ann Schmidli.

The Annual Report highlighted the continued success of FOGL. The practice of having members initiate and manage individual projects has continued to provide outstanding results. Along with the continuation of the work on the Silt Jetties, Macleod Morass and No Butts, Around the Edge with FOGL and FOGL's role in the progress of the Metung Bushland Reserve were highlights. This approach is planned to continue as an effective way of having a direct and shared impact on the parks and reserves of the lakes.

Since the AGM the committee has met to plan for the coming year. The contribution of all members was acknowledged, however, concern was expressed at the level of participation.

The committee formed the view the present direction is sound and those committed to direct involvement would continue to do so. Individuals define their level of involvement and ongoing membership support from being a financial member through to more hands

on involvement, they are all part of what FOGL is about.

Notwithstanding, an emphasis in coming year will be to raise the organisation's profile and encourage increased membership.

The committee has decided that FOGL's continued work must be measured and prioritised to ensure the effectiveness of ongoing projects.

As an example the thousands of trees planted on the Silt Jetties has been a magnificent effort on the part of many groups. But that work needs follow-up maintenance, weeding and replacement of losses to achieve the desired final outcome. Similarly the efforts to reduce or remove introduced species which are established in the Coastal Park needs to continue if reestablishment of native flora and fauna is to become a reality. Our involvement with the Hog Deer Management Strategy which began nearly three years ago when FOGL and members provided responses to the draft has led to direct participation in much needed research (See separate report).

Finally I would like to encourage members to provide feedback on any matter in relation to FOGL's operation. I draw your attention to the article on the road closure on the Silt Jetties about which FOGL has put forward a position. Your support for this action and even an individual response could contribute to a more equitable access arrangement for all users.

David Ellard

## Hog Deer Research Project Underway

It was clear from the meeting held between FoGL members and Andrea Brumley (DSE senior game management officer) that the two issues which were of most concern to FoGL were actual numbers (including male/female ratio) and impact on the natural environment. Many assumptions are made about these issues but there is little reliable data collection or analysis. The suggestion was made that a study could be undertaken in the Coastal Park on Boole Poole as it provides a self-contained area where little is known about numbers or management. The autumn controlled burn in the east of the Coastal Park provided a unique opportunity to examine plant regeneration.

The project will investigate:

- impacts of browsing on flora
- recovery of flora after burn ( without browsing)
- impacts attributed to Hog Deer

This is a joint venture which includes the involvement of the following personnel:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment: Andrea Brumley, Clare Coulson
- Parks Victoria: Jeremy Tucharke
- Forestech: Bruce McPherson Roger Bilney
- FOGL: David Ellard, Maurice Burns, Nancy McMurray, Lynne Ellard and Margaret Reagan

Bruce McPherson has agreed to not only involve students but also to provide advice on the siting and management of enclosure plots.

Representatives from the group have visited the burn area in mid-August and again five weeks later. While on the first visit it was noted that plants including wattles and orchids were already beginning to grow. The extent of regeneration on the second visit was quite impressive with seedlings of several species observed. Plots have been identified to provide a representation of

burn (cool, hot), aspect and vegetation coverage. Control areas are included. GPS locations have been recorded, each site marked for fencing and an overall site map produced.

Focus has been on establishing suitability and erection of enclosure plots. The proposal and design has been thoroughly reviewed by Naomi Davis, Zoology Department, and Melbourne University. This report will guide the erection and location of plots - the actual number to be determined by the level of funding. FOGL involvement will possibly be in relation to animal survey work and assistance with enclosure plot maintenance. It is likely that some form of scat counting will be undertaken, this involves the setting up of random survey areas which are monitored periodically to identify the presence of and abundance of faecal pellets. FOGL members could make scheduled visit to sites (perhaps six monthly) to record observations.

David Ellard

## News

### Breaming with Knowledge Ecology and Management of the Gippsland Lakes.

Conference to be held at Lakes Entrance on 27 & 28 October 2010.

Community representatives are \$50 for two days.

More information: <http://isi.vu.edu.au/events>

\*FoGL can offer tickets to two members who can attend and write follow-up reports. Call

Maurice on 51562008 if interested.

### Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy

This is one of 4 regional strategies being developed by the Victorian Government to secure water resources for the next 50 years. The draft document has just been released for public comment and can be viewed on the website

[www.ourwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au)

FoGL will be making a submission and members are invited to contribute their ideas to this or make their

own submissions which must be in by 5pm Friday 3rd Dec 2010. Details of how to do this are also on the website.

Like our new t-shirt?



Model one for yourself at our next working bee!

## AGM Guest Speaker

Peter Veenker is Chairperson of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. He gave an informative talk about the structure, projects and future of the Authority.

The EGCMA is one of 10 CMAs across Victoria. They are not government departments, but Statutory Authorities, giving a high degree of independence. They answer to the Ministers of Water and of the Environment, Tim Holding and Gavin Jennings (at the time of going to press). As the name suggests, their role in East Gippsland is to manage the catchment (2.2million hectares of land, lakes and coastal waters) with an overriding responsibility as caretaker of the rivers; planning and delivering on-ground works which maintain and improve the health of our rivers. The enabling aspect of the Authority is the funding which comes from the State through DSE and from the Federal Government. The Board consists of 9 members who are local people with a common goal.

As an example of their work, they were instrumental in informing the Government at the time of the last floods and undertaking restoration work. But as well, there is ongoing work in a variety of projects, one significant one being willow and poplar removal.

Infestations are a key threat to East Gippsland river systems affecting stability, flow, water quality and the condition of riparian vegetation. They have a major impact on reducing biodiversity values both in stream and riparian. Upstream treatment prevents transportation to downstream locations.

Over the 729 kms of Mitchell River from the NSW border to the Gippsland Lakes the CMA has implemented 3 treatments and removed 92% of the willows. Ongoing maintenance includes much work in the

upper reaches.

In the Tambo, the 201 kms have also had 3 treatments with 84% removal. The Nicholson with 104 kms of river has had 2 treatments with 82% removal.

Revegetation and re-fencing are other key projects of the EGCMA. Fencing targets, to restrict stock access to waterways, are:

50 kms on the Mitchell, 23 kms already completed (46%)

22 kms on the Nicholson, 22 kms already completed (31%)

Community engagement, education and enthusiasm prove to be a continuing challenge. Decisions made by the EGCMA are scientifically based, using the best possible knowledge, but the Board also needs to be sure that local people are aware of what is happening and the projects are ones to which they can relate. Therefore there is a strong emphasis on partnerships, both with individuals and more formally, with Landcare and Friends Of Groups. They also work with the Shire, Parks Victoria, DSE and DPI.

As far as the future is concerned it is proposed that a more holistic approach is taken with a merging of groups attached to the catchment (CMAs), the coast, (Coastal Boards) and the Lakes (The Lakes Taskforce).

Despite these structural changes, Peter has made a commitment to FoGL for more conversations and a growing relationship.



Jenny Dalglish

MBR working bee  
sat 2 oct

## Mitchell River Silt Jetties Road Closure

The FOGL committee have recently written to Parks Victoria requesting that the Department consider a permanent closure of at least the last 1 km of road leading to the end of the Silt Jetties. The road was closed temporarily some time ago due to road subsidence and the ensuing danger to vehicular traffic.

Some of the reasons for this request are as follows: -

- The provision of a track exclusively for walking and/or cycling that exclude motor vehicles would meet the need of a wider range of interest groups. It is noted that this closure would still enable all people access to the area including those in wheelchairs or pushing prams. It is also noted that one does not have to drive to the very end of the silt jetties to get a real feel for what they are and how they formed.

- Permanent closure of a section of the road to motor vehicles would provide a quieter and safer environment for our native fauna.

- We have been appalled at the amount of rubbish left along the silt jetties - mainly (but not only) by fisher-people. We believe that if a section is restricted to walkers and cyclists the rubbish volume would diminish significantly.

- Banks all along the edge of the silt jetties are being significantly degraded by heavy use from fisher-people. Closing the eastern section of the silt jetties to motor vehicles would enable the degraded areas in that section to recover.

- Over the years we have noticed that many fisher-people light fires on the bank while fishing. Firewood collection and fire lighting is both unsightly and a cause of bank and vegetation degradation. Banning fires, at least in this section would help alleviate this problem.

Trevor Caldwell

## Membership Application

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP of FRIENDS OF GIPPSLAND LAKES PARKS & RESERVES INC.

.....(name of Applicant(s))

of .....(address)

Ph. .... Mb. .... E-mail(s).....

desire to become a (state category of membership - see below).....

member of the Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parks and Reserves Inc.

In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force (can be viewed at <http://fogl.org.au/forms/rules.pdf>).

.....Signature of Applicant

Date .....

Membership fees (to 30 June 2011):

Adult \$20, Family \$35, Organisation \$10, Concession \$10 (Healthcare, Pension, Student)

Please complete Membership Form and enclose membership fee (cheque or money order only) then post to:

The Secretary,

Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parks and Reserves Inc.

P.O. Box 354

Metung VIC 3904