

President's Report

In this Issue:

- * President's Report
- * Saltwater Wedge
- * Macleods Morass FoGL Spring Planting
- * Silt Jetties National Tree Day
- * Metung Rainforest Track (proposed)
- * Burnt Bridge Night Walk
- * Raymond Island Koalas

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Members have received details regarding the Annual General Meeting and election. While it is accepted that some members do not live locally we usually get a very small attendance from the general membership. This, no doubt, is a common occurrence across not only volunteer groups but the AGMs of many organisations. This year past has witnessed a high level of commitment of key people in the development of special projects. This includes our guest speaker at the AGM, Bruce Macpherson, who will speak on plant regeneration and the threats to this process. This should be a subject of interest to all. Please come along to the new venue, the Terminus Hotel, with dinner in the dining room at 6.00 p.m. followed by the presentation and meeting upstairs.

Although we still await a response with regards to funding for the exclosure plots required for the Hog Deer project preparatory work continues. The last visit to Boole Poole in late May included inspection of previously selected sites, photographing of these sites and species, recording of species of interest and placement of cameras to record animal presence in the area and at specific sites. These observations made in regard to plant regeneration, of themselves provide insights into the processes and vulnerability of the vegetation in the Coastal Park.

The work of those involved in this project has been commendable and to some extent an act of faith especially considering the protracted negotiations and assurances regarding funding.



Maurice Burns, Margaret Regan, Nancy McMurray and newly recruited James Turner who have continued the good work.

Notwithstanding, this has been a great co-operative effort including the DSE, Parks Victoria, FOGL and Forestech (TAFE). Thanks are due to our members

Recently the committee has raised concerns that many see our group as friends of the lakes rather than the parks and reserves which of course is our focus. This is not surprising given that our abbreviated acronym is FOGL rather than FOGLPR. The special projects which have become a feature of FOGL's work and the support of other groups over the last few years have directly related to the Parks and Reserves of the Gippsland lakes. The links between the dirt and the water are obvious and most of our activities have a direct relationship to the lakes (Macleod Morass, the Silt Jetties) while other activities are less direct (support for Metung Bush Reserve, Landcare groups at Raymond Island). Irrespective we have a need to promote our real purpose so members are encouraged to make the distinction, emphasising that we are in fact the Friends of the Parks and Reserves.

All members should recognise that the projects in which we are involved grow and are sustained through the interest of individual members. Our current projects are happening because people who have a passion for the environment can develop their special interests through FOGL. At this stage this group of committed people are all members of the committee of management so almost all of the work is initiated and implemented through this small hardworking group with the help of just a few others. As well as the actual projects, committee people also involve themselves as representatives in other organisations, conferences etc. of interest to us all. Individual members are encouraged to suggest any new project that would fit within FOGL's purposes. The executive & committee of management would be pleased to provide direction and support for its initiation and implementation.

One final comment - to the people who say "FOGL should do something about" my response is always "you are FOGL so what would you like to do about it?"

David Ellard

Saltwater Wedge – A Marine and Coastal Interactive Forum

The Gippsland Coastal Board, with sponsorship from the Gippsland Lakes and Catchment Taskforce, Gippsland Ports, DSE, the Victorian Coastal Council and East Gippsland Shire, presented this inaugural event for the Region on July 19-20. It was designed to present and discuss information about our marine and coastal environments.

Some of the topics covered included coastal subsidence, social and institutional challenges in adapting to sea level rise, implementing coastal policies, measuring the state of the environment and critical coastal and marine habitats.

The two keynote speakers were Professor Kate Auty, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability and Dr. Neville Rosengren, a geomorphologist who is Senior Lecturer at Latrobe University.

Kate talked about Victorian State of the Environment reporting and community contributions to coastal issues. She felt that planning and the environment should be 'twinning' and one should not be considered in isolation from the other. The State of the Environment Report will be published at the end of 2013, but will be preceded by three Foundation papers on the topics of climate change, biodiversity and water.

Neville's topic was "Marine embayment, estuaries and coastal lagoons of Gippsland". He described the nature and evolution of a variety of coastal water bodies including the emerged marine embayment which is the Gippsland Lakes. I was interested to learn that the 90 Mile Beach is actually an

embayment ie it is a bedrock-lined coastal indentation.

Neville uses the term 'environmental processes' to describe change in the landscape and believes the term 'pristine' is a complete misnomer.

Other Speakers

Dr Monica Campi, a sedimentary geologist, described work, which is still continuing, into fluid extraction in the aquifer systems of the Gippsland basin. There is no evidence at this stage that any measurable subsidence has begun in the coastal areas of the Gippsland basin due to water extraction by the offshore petroleum and gas industries, agriculture or coal mining. Her group is building a dynamic aquifer model to look at the effect changing inputs may have on the system as a whole.

Professor Paul Boon from the Institute for Sustainability & Innovation at Victoria University has been involved with a number of projects on the ecology and rehabilitation of Swamp Paperbark wetlands of the Gippsland Lakes and is leading a team to prepare the first State-wide inventory of coastal saltmarsh and mangroves, which includes a comprehensive analysis of intertidal wetlands in the Gippsland region. He felt that climate change would cause mangroves to 'go troppo'.

Dr John Tilleard, an environmental engineer and the principal of Moroka Pty Ltd, was the principal consultant for a study carried out for the East and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities, to develop a better understanding of the environmental water requirements of the Gippsland Lakes system. This report forms an input to the Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy which is currently being

finalised. His presentation was fascinating and he reminded us at the start that environmental water requirements were a trade-off as they were political decisions informed by science. Inflows into the Lakes lead to a temporal variability in salinity and locate the freshwater/saltwater interface. This interface or halocline is an important area for bream spawning, the young fish and zooplankton, which are their food source. Most of the time haloclines are in the estuarine reaches of the rivers which flow into the Lakes. It would seem in the past that these areas were more often further out in the lakes system.

Dr Nick Osbaldiston, University of Melbourne, is working on a project examining the social and equity dimensions of climate change adaptation to sea-level rise in Gippsland. He has conducted community meetings at Lakes Entrance, Port Albert, Seaspray, McLoughlin's Beach and Mann's Beach. The key concerns of those he has spoken to include: lack of regional leadership; RAMSAR issues related to the salinity of the Gippsland Lakes and policies inequitably applied to Gippsland.

There were many other interesting presentations and hopefully the Forum's proceedings will be made available through the Gippsland Coastal Board website.

I end with two thoughts which came out of the Q&A session at the end of Day 2:

The coast is a great place to visit and enjoy, but I would never live there – a geological comment,

We should be taking an ignorance based world view and not think we have the answers,

Change is a constant.

Wendy Parker

News

FoGL Mcleod's Morass
Planting Spring 2011

1500 mixed species at McLeod's Morass alongside Saleyards Rd.

Sat 27th August prep day.

Sat 8 October (week after Grand Final) planting day.

New Members
James Turner

Silt Jetties Tree Day Site Details

Sunday, 14 August 2011 9:30am to 12:00pm

Aims of the project: Help revegetate the iconic Mitchell River siltjetties.

Snaking eight kilometers to the mouth of the mighty Mitchell River at Eagle Point, it is a geographical rarity of world renown.

This will be the 6th major planting at this site. Prior to the program, there were 2 trees on the 8 hectares. Since then approximately 12,000 trees have been planted. A great community effort.

Organisation: Eagle Point-Paynesville Landcare Coastcare Group

Site Address: 220 Rivermouth Rd

Eagle Point Vic 3878

Nearest Cross Street: Forge Creek Rd

Directions: When on Paynesville Rd, take the Forge Creek Rd turn off into Eagle Point. Then turn left into Rivermouth Rd. Travel past the boat ramp. The site is 2.2kms along Rivermouth Rd. just after (20m) the road becomes gravel.

Suitable for Children: Yes

Accessible for disabled: No

Notes about the day for Volunteers:

Please wear appropriate clothing (hat, covered shoes, long sleeved shirt and long pants recommended). Mozzie repellent.

The following will be provided: Tools and equipment for planting

Activities that will take place on the day:

Tree Planting

Categories

Rivers, wetlands & waterways

RSVP and see map by going to

<http://treeday.planetark.org/site/49854>

Friends of Metung proposed walking track

As you enter Metung along Metung Rd you may have noticed the rainforest gully just before Chinaman's Creek. Dark, mysterious and cool. FoM would like to create a walking track along the gully to allow nature lovers a close encounter of the Littoral Rainforest kind.

At the moment there are some issues - clouded Land Management assignment and no funding but hey you've got to dream. If the plan comes together FoM will call on the Friends of the Parks and Reserves of the Gippsland Lakes to assist in whatever ever way members are able.

Guided Night Walk ~ Burnt Bridge Thu 14 Apr

What we saw

On a beautiful moonlit night;
Sugar Gliders brawling,
Several Yellow-bellied Gliders,
Several microbats and the Large-footed Myotis (a bat that flies just above the Lake surface and skims the water for



insects and small fish).

We heard the Boobook Owl but didn't see it, but still just hearing the calls of various animals and birds was magical enough.

Thanks to Jim Reside of Wildlife Unlimited for his knowledgeable and entertaining guidance.

Koala Count Raymond Island 2011

Koala counts have been taking place on Raymond Island since 1992.

The purpose of these has been to ensure a healthy sustainable population for the local community and visitors to enjoy, with a minimal impact on the Island's vegetation. In the past, increases in koala numbers have resulted in extreme damage to vegetation, with many eucalypts being killed.



The 2011 koala count was attended by 5 FOGL members, along with about 75 other

volunteers from the local community, including Year 11 Nagle College Biology students. A total of 251 adults and three back young were recorded.

Information obtained from the recent count will be used to assist in DSE's planning on the further need to translocate koalas or to try and manage numbers on the Island through fertility control.

Wendy Parker

Date	Apr-92	Oct-95	Jun-03	Mar-04	Apr-05	May-08	Mar-10	Jun-11
BLOCK	Peter Mitchell	Mitchell, C.	DSE/PV	DSE/PV	DSE/PV	DSE/PV	DSE/PV	DSE/PV
1	16	nc	10	15	4	12	7	11
2	11	nc	54	56	19	26	31	21
3	4	nc	12	11	4	5	8	10
4	11	nc	36	40	22	16	26	37
5	8	nc	19	31	1	6	10	15
6	7	nc	34	9	7	1	9	6
8	4	4	11	18	4	12	8	15
9	65	58	127	75	52	46	63	68
10	55	48	105	63	9	16	15	13
11	26	24	9	22	1	0	0	0
12	2	13	8	13	1	3	5	0
13	18	15	31	12	2	4	2	0
14	7	7	10	7	2	3	2	1
15	6	nc	2	24	6	5	15	7
16	3	nc	3	6	2	1	1	3
17	1	nc	0	0	1	nc	0	1
18	15	nc	24	21	1	2	1	0
19	3	nc	8	6	3	12	7	5
20	nc	nc	1	1	0	1	4	0
21	nc	nc	1	2	0	0	0	1
22	7	4	1	1	0	1	2	0
23	5	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
24	4	nc	0	0	1	0	0	0
25	nc	nc	0	0	0	nc	0	0
26	nc	nc	2	1	1	4	3	0
27	nc	nc	3	5	0	1	5	1
28	nc	nc	0	2	0	3	2	0
29	nc	nc	2	0	0	1	3	1
30	nc	nc	3	4	4	13	9	14
31	4	nc	0	0	0	0	0	0
22N	2	nc	0	0	0	0	0	0
22S	2	nc	0	0	0	0	0	0
7E	12	nc	25	44	13	15	28	14
7W	15	nc	40	26	14	6	19	11
Total	315	178	589	615	175	215	285	251
BY	44		16	15		4	9	3
PY	3						3	

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