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President's Report

Summer 2013/2014

As summer arrives, we all look forward to putting our feet up and having a break from our normal routines. For FoGL, this means a break from the activities of planting and weeding, but not from the planning and execution of current and future projects.

We are still working on the content and layout of signage for our projects on the Silt Jetties. This has proved more of a challenge than was originally anticipated, but it seems that we are now reaching a stage where all the parties involved will be happy with the outcome.



We have been informed by Parks Victoria (PV) that they have been successful in obtaining funding from the Gippsland Ministerial Advisory Committee (GLMAC) for a number of projects which will involve FoGL participation.

One of these will be the development and implementation of an Invasive Pest Plant and Animal Strategy for the public land managed by PV within the Gippsland Lakes. Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias* is one of the invasive plant species identified and, as has been previously reported, FoGL have already been working with PV to remove. One of the aims of this project will be to eradicate this species from the inland shoreline of the lake system.

Collaboration with Lakes Entrance Community LandCare members to remove

Sea Spurge from Rigby Island at sites which little terns and fairy terns normally attempt to nest, was successfully carried out on October 10. Weeding was also carried out on other areas where efforts had been made in the past. It was encouraging to see that sites had shown signs of improvement since last year's work. Further weeding will once again take place in Bunga Arm, and members will be invited to participate.

Parks Victoria have also received GLMAC funding for a 2 year project targeting shoreline protection and enhancement of key areas of the Mitchell River Silt Jetties. Given FoGL's work in this area over many years, we are one of the community groups which will be part of the consultation on future management objectives.

The HPHP funding for monitoring and protection of plants threatened by grazing in the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park has been acquitted. We are now awaiting the images of browsing animals which the cameras in situ will generate.

Our end of year BBQ at Log Crossing was a very pleasant affair for those attending. It would have been nice to welcome a few more members along. If members have any suggestions for future activities in which they would like to see FoGL involved, please contact any of the Committee members so that it can be discussed at our next meeting in February.

I hope you all have a very pleasant and safe festive season and I look forward to your support and participation in 2014.

Wendy Parker

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Coastcare Summer Programme



Lake Tyers:

Jan 8th and 15th 8.30-10.00pm: Spotlight Walk: Join the Lake Tyers Coast Action group for an easy walk to discover what comes out at night. Bookings essential

Jan 11th and 18th 10.00am-12.00pm: Environmental Walk: Join the Lake Tyers Coast Action group to discover more about our coastal environment. Bookings essential

Jan 16th 2.00-4.00pm: Geology Walk: Roll back the years and explore the mysterious geology of the Lake Tyers outcrops with our visiting palaeontologist. Bookings essential

Jan 16th 7.30-9.00pm: Friends of Beware Reef Photo and video night: Discover a whole new world under the waves, without getting wet! Spectacular underwater photos and video and the experiences of regular visitors to the treacherous Beware Reef. Bookings advised

Lakes Entrance:

Jan 8th, 15th and 22nd 10.00-12.30pm: Lakes Environment Boat Tour. Join us for a morning on the Gippsland Lakes: learn a little about the Lakes environment - monitor seabirds, test the water and take a couple of short nature walks in remote areas. Bookings essential

Jan 9th 10.00am-12.00pm: Fish Right with Fishcare: Learn the basics of fishing, the rules and handling fish with care. Join in the casting clinic. Bookings advised. Meet at Apex Park. Bookings advised

Raymond Island

Jan 8th 10.00am-12.00pm: Fish Right with Fishcare: Learn the basics of fishing, the rules and handling fish with care. Join in the casting clinic. Bookings advised. Meet opposite the Ferry ramp. Bookings advised

Metung

Jan 8th 10.00am-12.00pm: Fish Right with Fishcare: Learn the basics of fishing, the rules and handling fish with care. Join in the casting clinic. Bookings advised. Meet at Paterson Park. Bookings advised

Bookings can be made by visiting the DEPI or Parks Victoria websites:

depi.vic.gov.au OR parks.vic.gov.au

and following the links to Summer by the Sea

Enquiries to Coastcare facilitator Bruce Atkin on 5183 9116

Enquiries for the Fishcare activities should go to Jenni Allitt on 5152 0456

Bruce Atkin
Coastcare facilitator
Gippsland

Fox control - Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park

Friday 22 November, 2013

Parks Victoria's conservation management includes the control of introduced plant and animal species. As part of an ongoing strategy, notice is hereby given that Parks Victoria will be laying buried baits containing Sodium Monofluoroacetate (1080 poison) on public land for the control of foxes. Baits containing 1080 poison will be laid from Friday 29 November 2013 until Friday 23 December 2013.



Baits will be laid at strategic sites and other known areas of fox habitat within the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park.

1080 poison signs will be posted throughout the baited area and members of the public who are living, visiting or working in the above named area are advised to take particular care not to disturb or interfere with bait stations.

Domestic dogs and cats are particularly susceptible to 1080 poison and should be under effective control, muzzled or kept away from the poisoned areas.

Parks Victoria

Love Our Lakes Forum

In November, secretary Maurice Burns attended the Love Our Lakes Forum and Dinner on behalf of FoGL in November. A summary of the event follows.

In Welcome to Country Uncle Wayne Thorpe urged Forum attendees to genuinely take to the heart the notion of 'Loving' the Lakes, because he has noticed that at times there is not a lot of love shown by some users.

Dr Peter Venkeer welcomed attendees to the Forum on behalf of the Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee, acknowledged all the dignitaries and expressed excitement at the opportunity to share knowledge and develop friendships and partnerships to help improve the health of the Lakes.

Tim Bull announced a \$100,000 project for the EPA to monitor water quality and another project to research the Gippsland Lakes endemic Burruran dolphin. He also spoke of the commercial importance of the Lakes to the region, stressing that the Lakes must be in a healthy state in order to do so.

Dr Karl Kruzelnicki talked about Climate Change and proposed a solution of very large solar power stations that store heat in salt to create steam to drive turbines, 24 hours a day. These would be supplemented by wind powered electricity generation and all excess power generated to be used to create hydrogen to further drive turbines, freight and transport. The cost would be about the same as building Australia's railways and could be completed within eight years. Spin-offs in technology research and construction could help make Australia leaders in the field.

Darren Chester congratulated GLMAC and claimed he was constantly attempting to persuade his Federal parliamentary colleagues to consider the Gippsland Lakes as the Great Barrier Reef of the south and to fund the Lakes comparatively.

Michelle Joy of Earthwatch spoke about citizen science and the way the public and science communities can work together to better monitor and improve the environment. She pointed out an interesting app for environment buffs called ClimateWatch.

Anthony Boxshall from the EPA spoke on a similar subject and talked mainly to his fellow bureaucrats on how and why they should more openly engage with the public and how the possibilities for increased data help better devise and implement programs.

The afternoon was broken into two streams and Maurice attended the Environmental Education stream. Martin Potts of Greening Australia provided interesting

information about working with the Gunai Kurnai on how some potential landscape-scale revegetation at Marlay Point helps create the cultural stories linking current Gunai Kurnai peoples with their past.

Andrea Savage, a teacher at Nagle College spoke on revegetating degraded warm temperate rainforest lining the Mitchell River on the College grounds and the challenges of reinstating rainforest in a safe, child-friendly way!

Jim Reside of Wildlife Unlimited created 'awe, wonder and respect' when delivering his environmental message.

Most of the presentations can be downloaded from the loveourlakes.net.au website

Thanks Maurice!

Improved coordination and collaboration
 Suggestions included the need for greater collaboration and collective action. Specific suggestions included encouraging organisations to work more closely towards a common goal and for community groups to work collaboratively on projects.

What's On

Coastcare Summer Programme

Autumn Planting is planned at the following locations. Exact dates will be announced via email.

At The Cut, Silt Jetties.

At Mathieson's Paddock.

The next Committee meeting will be on 5th Feb when Ranger Yasmin Aly will speak about the partnership between Parks Vic and FoGL and about grants planned for the Silt Jetties and the problem of invasive weeds.



Climate Action Day

A pleasant BBQ lunch was held at the Nungurner Jetty on Sunday as part of more than 200 Get Up Climate Action Day events held around Australia. The crowd of more than 150 (including a number of FoGL members) were addressed by Tom Crook of East Gippsland Rainforest Conservation Management Network who spoke briefly on how climate change affected East Gippsland rainforest areas.

Peter Gardner, long time Ensay resident now retired to Bairnsdale, spoke in detail about climate change, that we should trust the scientists rather than the politicians and that we should adopt the precautionary principle by planning for the worst case. He outlined how the fossil fuel lobby spread confusion and doubt to protect their interests and suggested many actions that can be taken to counter them.

Of the local surrounds Gardner said that "The land here at the Jetty was last the ocean front between 10 and 20 thousand years ago. It is a sobering thought that this may be the ocean front again in as little as one to two hundred years. When the carbon dioxide concentrations were last at 400 ppm - about 3 million years ago in the Pliocene age - earth's average temperature was 2 to 3 degrees warmer and sea levels were about 25m higher.

Heather Oke

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 2013):

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