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Summer newsletter

November 2014

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## Mix of old and new for FOGL



The new FoGL Committee;  
Andrew Brown President,  
Trevor Caldwell Vice President  
Marian Matcham Treasurer  
Bridget Potts Secretary

Anne Schmidlii committee  
Don Ripper committee  
Nancy McMurray committee  
Adele Rosmalen committee  
Bill Cotter committee

Friends of Gippsland Lakes Parks & Reserves is now on Facebook, keep up to date regularly with events and activities online.

In the first 24 hours our Facebook page got 125 likes, we have now hit 147 likes. This is a great tool to get information out there quickly .

If Any member or other organisation would like to post something on our page to get members involved please contact Bridget or Adele or inbox us at <https://www.facebook.com/FoGLPP?ref=hl>



## For discussion & comment;

At the Committee Meeting, December 12, 2014 discussions were held on a number of topics, two of these need further mention to members;

achieved this recognition, but this is not reflected in our current rules or vision and the meeting thought it should be. What are the memberships' views?

without Parks Vic being informed or only on Parks approved outings, working bees, etc? It would be quite possible for the Group to become self reliant, still carry out the same project work with Parks but be able to participate as a Group in other activities anywhere.

Topic 1: Due to the level of interest and commitment of the previous executive and committee members our Group is viewed as the "public face" of the Gippsland Lakes. Very well done by the people whose efforts

Topic 2: Currently the Group comes under Parks Victoria insurance. Does this cover us for all activities the Group wants/wishes to undertake? Can the Group carry out Field Trips, Site visits, meetings, etc.

**To comment please feel free to contact any committee member or attend at the next meeting.**

White-bellied Sea Eagle on Carcass  
See page 2



# Metung Bush-land Reserve



Walking track through Metung bush-land reserve

The Metung Bushland Reserve is a 3.95ha example of Limestone Box Forest that lies within the country of the Tatungolong Clan of the Gunai Kurnai people. It and was originally annexed as a proposed site for a cemetery but was never used as such. By 2007 it was becoming badly degraded, having suffered many years of neglect. FoGL and Friends of Metung collaborated with Parks Victoria to tackle the weeds and secure funding. Monitoring of weeds, path clearing and additional planting is ongoing with the FoM recently removing two trailer loads of

Polygala and African Daisy. The main tree species are large coastal Grey Box and Blue Box, some of which are believed to be hundreds of years old. The sheltered gullies have affinities with Warm Temperate Rainforest but due to disturbance and light penetration, few species remain. The understorey contains numerous Boobialla, Sweet Pittosporum and Austral Indigo as well as less prolific species. There are a number of orchids including Nodding Greenhoods and the Forest Sun Orchid. The bird species include Rainbow Lorikeets, Crimson Rosellas, Boobook, Tawny Frog-

mouth, Grey Thrush, Eastern Whipbird, Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalotes, Superb Blue Wrens and more.

Story by; Adele van Rosemalen

“Through strategic management we can address issues and risks to better support our native plants and animals.”

# Gippsland Lakes RAMSAR site management plan review

The Gippsland Lakes RAMSAR Site Management Plan (2003) is currently undergoing review, to affirm actions and meet our international obligations in protecting the wetlands system. A series of workshops aim to (i) review a wide range of threats to the environment and the birds, animals and fish it

supports and assess the impact of those threats (ii) identify the highest priority values for each mega-habitat, and (iii) review the monitoring of the identified risks. You can be involved through a new approach to community consultation:

[glee.gippslandlakes.net.au](http://glee.gippslandlakes.net.au)  
Story by;  
Adele van Rosemalen



# DEPI- Calling eagle-eyed Landholders

Farmers and landholders with properties next to the Gippsland Lakes are being asked to look out for White-bellied Sea-eagle or Wedge-tailed Eagle nests on their land. Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Biodiversity Officer, Faye Bedford said: "The nests of either of these eagle species are quite unmistakable and can measure over one metre or more in both

diameter and depth." "They can be a massive construction, built from small, medium and large sticks and branches which sits in one of the main upper forks of a large tree." "The birds will add to the nest year after year and freshen it with new twigs, branches and sprigs of green gum leaves." "We're working with Birdlife Australia, Wildlife Unlimited and Birdlife East Gippsland on this project, which builds on work done over a number of years to monitor and

protect Sea-eagles in the Gippsland Lakes area." If you know the whereabouts of an eagle nest or have a pair on your property, please contact Faye Bedford at DEPI Bairnsdale on 5152 0400 or email

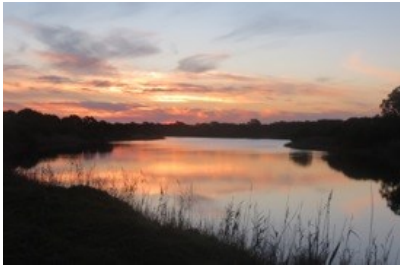
[faye.bedford@depi.vic.gov.au](mailto:faye.bedford@depi.vic.gov.au)  
All information provided will be confidential.

Full story available on DEPI website.

## White Bel- lied Sea Eagles Nest

Pic by Duncan  
Fraser  
[http://  
bencrua-  
chan.org/blog/](http://bencruachan.org/blog/)





## Mitchell River Silt Jetties Management Plan Consultation

Mitchell River Silt jetties  
Pic by Trevor Caldwell

Two day-long sessions run by consultants with representatives from groups with an interest in the Silt Jetties have been held recently. The first session's focus was on threats to the future of this finger delta that runs 6kms into the lakes. Threats included consistent misuse from human activity including fishing, littering, fires and motor vehicles on a road that terminates within 100 metres of their end point. The consensus was to maintain this 'relic' that over the years has been 'rock walled' to offer protection from erosion that would otherwise

have resulted by now in their break up into a number of islands.

The second session focussed on where to now. Sean from Ethos NRM provided detailed input on the Silt Jetties' current condition, the ineffectiveness of much of the rock walling and in particular their vulnerability to on going erosion. Scientific modelling of the impact of wind, waves, and water flows down the river were presented as well as options for their future management.

Of most interest right now were three options presented for motor vehicle access - closing the last 2kms of road, the last 4kms or leaving the road open to the end.

The majority present supported the option that FoGL has been lobbying for, the closing the last 2kms of road and developing a walking/cycling path with interpretive signage. A final report is expected in the New Year.  
Trevor & Nancy"



Aerial of Silt jetties  
Pic by 'Love our Lakes'.

### What's coming up

#### November

- 12 Committee meeting
- 21 World Fisheries Day

#### January

Committee meeting date TBA

Interested in any of the events mentioned?  
Please email or contact FoGL committee for further info

#### December

- 2 Wetland Project field trip
- 5 International Volunteers Day
- 9 RAMSAR M'gnt plan review
- 10 Parks Victoria meeting

#### February

2 World Wetlands Day

**Duncan Fraser**  
**Will be presenting at Lake Wellington Wetland Project Field Trip**  
**2nd December**

## Museum of Victoria—East Gippsland Bio-scan

Here are just a few points that were given at the Meeting Monday October 13, in Bairnsdale. To take place in early 2015 To be organized and carried out by Museum Victoria They wish to obtain assistance and past information from "Local Knowledge"

The final product will be presented in various forms e.g. an "APP" relevant to the area, a public forum where the results and items of interest will be displayed. Museum Victoria "Advance Party" should be here on an initial inspection tour near the end of November.

If you would like to volunteer or have data to contribute please contact FOGL committee.



Black-winged Stilts at Marlay Point.  
Pic by Duncan Fraser  
<http://bencruachan.org/blog/>



Address:  
 PO Box 128  
 Bairnsdale Victoria, Australia 3875

[www.fogl.org.au](http://www.fogl.org.au)



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<https://www.facebook.com/FoGLPP?ref=hl>

Phone, E-mail  
**President:** Andrew Brown 0427 929 113  
[president@fogl.org.au](mailto:president@fogl.org.au)  
**Secretary :** Bridget Potts 0439 024 262  
[secretary@fogl.org.au](mailto:secretary@fogl.org.au)  
**Treasurer :** Marian Matchan 0448 523 287  
[treasurer@fogl.org.au](mailto:treasurer@fogl.org.au)



The Friends of the Gippsland Lakes provides an avenue for interested persons to participate in projects and activities to enhance the environment, amenity and facilities within the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, Lakes National Park, Blond Bay Reserve, Gippsland Lakes Reserve and crown land frontages abutting the Gippsland Lakes, Victoria, Australia.

We are very keen to collaborate with other groups, agencies and people with similar interests to our Friends' group and we are also committed to promoting the values and assets of the Lakes, Parks and Reserves, initially in the area between Loch Sport in the west and Lakes Entrance in the east.

## Membership Application

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

Name of Applicant (s).....

Address.....Town .....

Postcode..... Ph. (.....)..... Mb. ....

E-mail(s) .....

Membership type (please tick option)

Adult \$20,  Family \$35,  Organisation \$100,  Concession \$10 (Healthcare, Pension, Student)

I/ we agree to abide by the rules of the Friends of Gippsland Lakes, Parks & Reserve as stated in the rules for the association, (can be viewed at <http://fogl.org.au/forms/rules.pdf>).

Signature of Applicant .....Date ...../...../.....

Please complete Membership Form and enclose membership fee (cheque or money order, for direct deposit contact Treasurer) then post to:

**The Secretary,**  
**Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parks and Reserves Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 128**  
**Bairnsdale VIC 3875**