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President's Report

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at Bairnsdale Bowls Club Wednesday 11 August with dinner at 6.00 p.m. followed by a guest speaker and then the meeting at 7.45 p.m. This year's speaker will be Peter Veenker, Chairperson of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. With the changes occurring in the structure and responsibility of Catchment Management Authorities, Peter's presentation should be of interest to us all as all.

Annual Elections

The elections for the new executive and general committee will be held as part of the AGM on 11 August. The committee has worked together to successfully plan and implement the FOGL program over the past 12 months.

Current Committee

President David Ellard
 Vice-President Nancy McMurray
 Secretary Maurice Burns
 Treasurer Unfilled (Maurice acting)
 Committee Members: Anne Schmidli, Jenny Dalgleish, Peter Johnstone, Bill Cotter, Wendy Parker (Minute Secretary).

While retiring members are eligible for re-election all FOGL members are encouraged to consider this level of involvement.

The work associated with the sub committees and specific interest projects is generally facilitated by committee members so the efforts of this small group provide the driving force for many FOGL successes.

Note that nominations for positions close on the 4th August, a week prior to the Annual General Meeting with only unfilled positions being open for nomination at the meeting.

Formal notices regarding the AGM and elections will be forwarded directly to all members.

Member Survey

A survey is planned for July to gain input from members on a range of topics in relation to the group's organization and direction. Committee members will be contacting members to discuss their views.

Successful Projects

Around the Edge with FOGL and the Metung Bushland Reserve have been described fully in previous Newsletters. They are both excellent examples of how successful the process of encouraging and supporting individual members to take the leadership on specific projects can be.



Around the Edge with FOGL has had its opening and follow up activities in May and the whole venture has been a total success. Wendy Parker is to be congratulated for her untiring effort, thorough organisation and great people skills in managing FOGL's contribution to this amazing initiative.



The Metung Bushland Reserve was an initiative of Jenny Dalgleish's to support the Friends of Metung to transform a

degraded reserve in the centre of Metung into a natural bush setting. This will no doubt always be a work in progress but most of the major tasks and initial planting have been completed. Jenny's determination has changed not only the Reserve but also the perspective both authorities and local residents held for the site. Jenny facilitated the project and gained funding to restrict vehicle access, landscape the area and provide signage for visitor information.

David Ellard

Phone, E-mail

President:

David Ellard

ph: 03 5156 2175

president@fogl.org.au

Secretary:

Maurice Burns

ph: 03 5156 2008

secretary@fogl.org.au

Address:

PO Box 354,

Metung, Victoria,

Australia 3904

North Arm Landcare Group

This edition we are again looking at the important work that is happening on private and public land around the Gippsland Lakes by focusing on a Landcare Group. Peter Murrell, secretary, provided the following information on the North Arm Landcare Group.

The group was formed in 1996 with an initial focus on weed control in the area. A spray trailer was purchased to assist with this activity in 1998. Target species were blackberry, ragwort and thistles. We then became interested in revegetation of native rainforest and remnant bushland, mostly on private land. More recently the group has commenced some weed control and restoration activities on public land. A number of workshops have been conducted this year on plant and weed identification. The group works closely with the East Gippsland Rainforest Conservation Management Network, as well as other Landcare and community groups.

The area it covers is approximately 4,150 hectares, bound by the Gippsland Lakes and the

Colquhoun State Forest.

The area is significant because many activities are conducted within the Gippsland Lakes catchment. Weed management and vegetation restoration contribute to improved water quality through nutrient capture and sediment entrapment. Activities also contribute to conservation of threatened flora and fauna species, (eg Yellow-wood, limestone blue wattle, grey headed flying fox, swift parrot, powerful owl, etc), as well as improved habitat. The area contains a number of threatened rainforest EVC's on both private and public land. Also, many activities are conducted adjacent to Colquhoun State Forest.

Membership is approximately 18 family memberships, includes members from urban area of Lakes Entrance.

Our main aim is a shared vision "working to promote the health of the waterways



by protecting and improving the biodiversity of the catchment. Improving ourselves through improving the environment."

Achievements include:

- * the group meets monthly on a Sunday morning to conduct activities in accordance with an annual program.
- * reduction in weeds across the area.
- * the group has conducted or been involved with a number of rainforest site restorations.
- * vegetation restoration at a number of sites.

Current and future projects

- * ongoing pest weed and animal management
- * ongoing vegetation restoration projects
- * training in plant identification, native grass identification, frog, reptile and bird identification
- * fauna assessment of restored sites
- * rainforest restoration at Kalimna Gully, Jemmys Point, North Arm Escarpment and Club Spit (opposite Esplanade Resort).

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>

AGM

Where: Bairnsdale Bowls Club

When: Wednesday 11 August

Dinner at 6.00 p.m. followed by a guest speaker and then the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Peter Veenker, Chairperson of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

Next issue

Did You Know? series
The Paynesville Maritime Museum

Can you contribute an article you think might be of interest to other members?
You are most welcome, contact editor@fogl.org.au

Hog Deer Research Proposal

Eighteen months ago FOGL submitted a response to the draft hog deer management strategy (HDMS). Seven FOGL members also made their own individual submissions.

At the end of 2009 the new strategy was released. Although much of the final document detailed matters in relation to hunters and managing the hog deer for their benefit, two revisions to the strategy were welcome inclusions. Firstly, there is now a section on research and data collection acknowledging that little has been done regarding the environmental impacts and habitat of hog deer. Secondly, there is a wider recognition of the groups that can contribute to the understanding of hog deer management such as conservation organisations, science research bodies and non government groups. While the strategy will be in place for the next 5 years it is understood its implementation and review will be ongoing over that period.

Many people are surprised when informed of the status of hog deer in Victoria. As described in the HDMS, they are listed as wildlife under the Wildlife Act and as game can only be hunted as prescribed under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations. In addition hog deer in Victoria appear to be the only population considered viable outside the native range. The strategy intends to maintain numbers and areas at present levels and action could be taken under damage mitigation permits "should the deer be negatively effectingnative biodiversity or as part of a wildlife management plan" HDMS p.7.

One form of action which may lead to changes in how and where deer management is undertaken is to seek sound empirical evidence of negative impacts, increasing numbers or broadening of the range of deer.

FOGL has met with Andrea Brumley who, as the senior game management officer has as a major project the implementation of the HDMS. The need for research and the opportunity for groups such as ours to become involved led to the organisation of a meeting for FOGL members to explore what could be done. It was clear from that meeting that the two issues which were of most concern were actual numbers (including male/female ratio) and impact on the natural environment. Many assumptions are made about these issues but, as mentioned, with 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 except for records of deer that are shot (usually males).

During April a regeneration burn was conducted by the DSE on Boole Poole on the eastern boundary of the Coastal Park. This is fortuitous, as it provides an opportunity to examine regrowth and with appropriate exclusion fencing and cameras possibly identify plants that are lost due to grazing.

In relation to this, a species lists from an extensive survey of 1978 has been uncovered. This list and other past recorded observations will be of assistance in recognising changes that may have occurred. FOGL in cooperation with Parks Victoria is also exploring what may need to be done to capitalise on these opportunities prior to the spring growth period.

Discussions are being finalised to link interested groups, possibly gaining other support to undertake appropriate research. When the role of our group is more clearly identified, members will be informed and if interested given the opportunity to become involved.



In the meantime, try to let people know about the HDMS (available on DSE website <http://dse.vic.gov.au>). You can also report any sightings of hog deer (outside known extent) to DSE (and let FOGL know as well). Any sightings that can be verified (photographic evidence, scats, etc) can be entered into the Wildlife Atlas (a DSE database that records the historic and current extent of native and introduced wildlife).

David Ellard

Update Metung Bushland Reserve

On Saturday 22nd May a working bee was held at the Reserve with about 23 volunteers (including FOGL members) involved in tree planting, installation of a second wilderness gate and 2 minor entry signs. Despite hard ground, between 3 and 4 hundred seedlings were planted, guarded and well watered, with subsequent rains providing ongoing moisture for their establishment. Parks Vic have also positioned several huge boulders for track blockage and a turning circle and parking area have been graded and gravelled near the water tank.

The grant we received is all but spent, with the completion of interpretive signage and picnic table being imminent. A further 2 to 3 hundred seedlings are to be planted soon.

Sincere thanks go to PV ranger, Matt Holland who has been a tremendous support throughout this project and is about to move for 18 months, to coordinate the extensions to the Snowy and Errinundra National Parks.

On Sunday 20th June 10 members of the Australian Native Plant Society (Bairnsdale branch) joined with about 15 Field Naturalists for a walk around the Reserve. Though the weather was damp and dreary, it was a most enjoyable and informative visit, led by local botanist James Turner.

Several orchid species were in flower, (Spurred Helmet Orchid, *Corybas acontitiflorus*, the Blunt greenhood, *Pterostylis curta* and the small Mosquito Orchid, *acianthus pusillus*), and others such as the Forest Sun Orchid, (*Thelymitra arenaria*) will bloom in the coming weeks. James also alerted us to 2 rare species within the area; one is *Vittadenia dissecta*, var. *dissecta* and the other, a dogwood, *Cassinia nivalis*. We saw examples of each.

There is still much to be done, with ongoing weed control being a considerable task, but it is well worth a visit if you have not been there recently, especially during this orchid season.

For more information and contact details got to the Metung Bushland reserve Community Portal at <http://metungbushlandreserve.org.au/>

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