



GippsLeader

GCLP news, notes & events

12 January, 2005

Welcome to the 10th anniversary year of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program. In this time 224 graduates have passed through the program and returned to their communities with a greater understanding of regional issues, enhanced skills and greater enthusiasm. A number of graduates have moved away from Gippsland but are, no doubt, still using their GCLP skills to benefit in their new communities. A further 26 emerging leaders have been identified and selected to participate in this year's program.

GippsLeader will continue to be published fortnightly to keep you up to date on program highlights, events, and news from graduates and participants.

This issue has a lot of information and asks for your feedback on two policy matters. Please take the time to read this issue and get your GCLP year off to a good start.

2005 Program Launch & Annual Graduate Address

The 2005 Program Launch and Annual Graduate Address will be held at **Sale on Wednesday, February 9.** Helimed One Paramedic and author, Peter Davidson, will deliver the annual graduate address and promises to be an inspirational speaker. Peter was heavily involved in the major rescue operations of the disastrous 1998 Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race.

Invitations for the launch and address will be in the mail later this week. The GCLP team strongly encourages all graduates to make a special effort to support this event and welcome the 2005 group.

2005 Participants

Introducing the 2005 GCLP group:

- Leisha Barnes, Grantville
- Deborah Brown, Labertouche
- Nigel Browne, Churchill
- Liz Collins, Sale
- Cheryl Cook, Tanjil East
- Maree Davidson, Traralgon
- Kylie Debono, Inverloch
- Helen Dixon, Yarram
- Nikki Drummond, Swan Reach
- Chris Griffin, Westbury
- Carole MacMillan, Yarram
- Peter Middleton, Traralgon

- Jason Potts, Newborough
- Lois Pratt, Warragul
- Raj Rajakumar, Bairnsdale
- Kathryn Ritzer-Alexander, Hazelwood Nth
- Ella Ross, Orbost
- Kerry Timmins, Traralgon
- Adam Tyson, Drouin
- Di van der Merwe, Traralgon
- Rob Vesty, Moe
- Kerrie Watson, Crossover
- Leah Watson, Jack River
- Michelle Weatherall, Hazelwood Sth
- David Wilbraham, Churchill

SkillsBank Gippsland

SkillsBank Gippsland is moving into its second year with many opportunities coming up for graduates to give back to the Gippsland community.

- **The Central Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault is seeking two board members with expertise in legal matters and industrial relations**
- Latrobe City is expanding its youth leadership program and will be seeking graduates to act as buddies for participants – more details to come
- **Latrobe City Junior Council is seeking graduate support for training in a number of areas. On February 17, they are seeking training on consultation and information procedures, and on meeting and chairmanship procedures. On February 24, they are seeking training on public speaking and team development. Please let GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, know immediately if you can help out with any of these four topics.**
- Warragul Theatre Organ Pipe Society is seeking guidance on fundraising and marketing issues.

Graduates interested in any of these opportunities should contact Tracey Matthies, but Tracey will also actively seek out graduates with appropriate skills and invite them to consider specific projects.

Thanks to graduates who have supported recent SkillsBank Gippsland projects, including:

June Owen (1999) is pursuing a board appointment opportunity with the Latrobe Community Health Service.

Stephen Bell (2002) has agreed to facilitate a strategic/business planning workshop for GARDS, the support group for people affected by asbestos and related diseases.

Michael Laird (2003) conducted a strategic planning workshop for the Rotary Centenary House Planning Committee and is in discussions with the group about the possibility of a follow up session.

News from the GCLP office

Two important policy documents are being sent out with this GippsLeader. Please read these draft policies carefully and provide feedback to the GCLP office ASAP. These draft policies relate to attendance by participants during their GCLP year, and the expectations of ongoing involvement in GCLP by graduates. Both documents were reviewed at a recent GCLP committee meeting where it was decided that the opinions of participants and graduates should be sought.

Questions that may help your considerations could include:

- Do these draft policies accurately reflect my understanding of GCLP?
- Are they fair to all involved?
- Is there any part of these draft policies which needs further explanation?

GCLP Program Manager, Nicola Epps, has returned to her native New Zealand for an extended Christmas holiday and will be back on deck on Monday, January 24. As in the past, the office continues to be maintained on a part time basis, so you may need to leave a message on the voicemail. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to update their details on the website. All graduates and participants have been provided with an individual username and password to enable you to log in and edit your own details. Maintaining the database of 224 graduates plus 26 new participants is a major undertaking, so keeping your own details up to date is greatly valued by the GCLP team! It also means that you are kept informed of GCLP activities and can join in launch and graduation celebrations.

Please contact GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, if you need assistance with usernames and passwords. Tracey can assign new passwords if you happen to forget yours.

Items of interest

Kath McEntee (1996) enjoyed a special Christmas with her 85 yo mother arriving from San Diego, USA for the holidays.

Congratulations to **Donna Faulkner (2001)** and her husband, Bob, who, through their business, Work Solutions Gippsland, have sponsored a participation medal for people with disabilities who participate in Access All Abilities activities. They have just renamed the medal to the Neville Matthies

Participation Medal, in honor of the late Neville Matthies, in recognition of his involvement in a wide variety of community activities.

And congratulations to **Karen Taylor (2001)**, who now goes by the name of Karen Whitaker-Taylor, having taken the plunge and marrying Darryl Whitaker.

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