



GippsLeader

GCLP news, notes & events

23 February, 2004

Teamwork & preparation key launch messages

The importance of teamwork and preparation to achieve goals was highlighted at the launch of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program, held in Sale on Wednesday, February 9.

Guest speaker, Helimed One paramedic and author, Peter Davidson, enthralled the crowd with the story of his involvement in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race rescue when he was repeatedly winched into massive seas to help rescue eight injured sailors from a stricken vessel.

He said the experience exposed him and his fellow crew members to the worse fears of their lives.

"We always work as a close team to achieve our goal of getting the patient out to safety," Peter said, "But in this instance, the importance of working as a team was paramount."

He added that the team had to call on all their experience and training to overcome the extreme conditions.

GCLP chairman, Barry Rogers, said the Program had made significant contributions to both the Gippsland and wider communities since it was the first regional community leadership program established in Victoria in 1996.

As well as having 224 graduates with enhanced leadership skills, GCLP has a community service arm, SkillsBank Gippsland, which matches graduates with community groups needing assistance with specific projects.

GCLP is a member of the national association of community leadership programs and is also seen as a model for organisations intending to establish similar programs.

Attendees at the launch were so motivated by Peter's presentation that he sold 30 copies of his book, 'On the End of a Wire – The Peter Davidson Story.'

And at least one graduate has already taken up Peter's invitation to visit Helimed One and take a look inside the ambulance helicopter. The helicopter and crew are based at the Latrobe Valley Airfield between Traralgon and Morwell. It is not possible to schedule visits because the crew could be called to attend a job at any time, but people are welcome to drop in on the off chance that the helicopter is on site.

Photographs from the launch night are now available at www.gclp.asn.au

Program News

The 2005 group has enjoyed a hectic start to their year with just two days between the program launch and the opening residential!

Historian and author, Paddy Morgan's session on 'The Significance of Settlement Patterns in Gippsland' was of great interest to the group.

Participant comments about Paddy's session included:

- Hugely insightful – very enjoyable, could have been given a little more time.
- Well presented history, informative and a strong knowledge.
- An engaging speaker who generated an interesting and stimulating discussion.
- I took a lot of information away from this session which has given me a better understanding/increased interest in Gippsland.
- Excellent and very informative on settlement patterns and psych of Gippsland.

Another highlight of the opening residential was the session led by 2004 graduates, Jahna Pulford and Roland Davies, who not only shared their experiences with the group, but also offered valuable practical tips of working in syndicates effectively. Carolyn Theodore also described the PhD work she is doing on the social capital effect of GCLP on the Gippsland community.

Participants showed some interesting thought processes in selecting their syndicate names for the year:

- B & B
- Raj and the Four Divas
- The Mob
- Connect Five
- The Indecisives

SkillsBank Gippsland

SkillsBank Gippsland continues to work with the Latrobe City Youth Council. Following on from last week's training sessions by Dave Cann (2004) and Tracey Matthies (2003), two more training sessions will be held tomorrow, Thursday, February 24.

Mick Murphy (2002) will run some team building exercises to help the youth council work together effectively, and Lisa McDonald (2004) will deliver training in public speaking to help the youth councillors become confident speakers.

GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, is keen to expand the area covered by SkillsBank Gippsland projects.

'GCLP has graduates right across Gippsland, which gives us the opportunity to make an identifiable return to the community through SkillsBank Gippsland,' Tracey said. She invited anyone with potential projects to contact her in the GCLP office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, or via email skillsbank@igain.vic.edu.au

Networking Opportunities

Wanted: People to take on a leadership role in organising sub-regional networking functions. Networking is a valuable outcome of GCLP and with 224 graduates and 26 participants, we have a great pool of people to work with.

Two graduates from different years caught up at the launch earlier this month and realised they have been attending the same aerobics' class! Other graduates discussed career opportunities and tackled common issues, while some graduates simply enjoyed the social opportunities of catching up with fellow graduates and meeting this year's participants.

If you wish to organise a sub-regional networking event, formal or informal, be sure to let Tracey know of your arrangements so that it can be promoted to other graduates via the GippsLeader and website.

News from the GCLP office

Have you seen a report about GCLP in your local newspaper? We regularly send articles and photographs through to newspapers throughout Gippsland but it is difficult for us to keep track of publications. If you see a report about GCLP in your local paper, please send a copy through to the office for our records.

GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, has taken on an additional role as Communications' Officer with Sage Technology in Morwell. Both positions are casual so Tracey is becoming quite adept at juggling her commitments!

Items of interest



Congratulations to Martin Fuller (2003) and his wife, Kate, on the arrival of their first child (pic).

"It is with much pride and joy that I can confirm the safe arrival of Mia Grace Fuller into the world on Friday February 4, 2005 at 2.00pm.," Martin reported, "She weighed in at 6lb 13 oz. She is absolutely beautiful and quite clearly takes after her mother who can't get the smile of her face!"

The opening residential was interrupted for Deborah Brown (2005) with more baby news - the arrival of a new grandchild. Deborah's husband, Rob, is a graduate of the 2004 group.



GCLP was well-represented at the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation reception at Queen's Hall Parliament House on Tuesday, 15 February (pic).

More than 100 dairy industry leaders attended the event, which recognised recipients of Gardiner Foundation research and development and community development funding, as well as acknowledging Gardiner Foundation scholars involved in leadership programs around Victoria.

The three Gardiner Foundation scholars in the 2005 GCLP group – Helen Falls from Moyarra (second from left), Chris Griffin from Westbury, (centre), and Adam Tyson from Drouin (3rd from right) – all attended along with Executive Officer Ian Gibson and Adam's wife Debbie. Rasa Bennett (1996) was also at the reception. Agriculture Minister, Bob Cameron is second from the right.

The Gardiner Foundation is providing significant sponsorship to GCLP this year.

This opportunity may interest some younger graduates, while the rest of us may know of appropriate people who may wish to pursue it. (*Applications close Thursday 10 March 2005*).

The Australian Government's Young People in Rural Industries Program invites young rural people (18-35 years) to apply for the Young Rural Leaders' Course, being held in Canberra from 29 May - 2 June 2005.

This fully funded course is available to 40 young rural people who wish to:

- **Gain a greater understanding of the complexities of Rural Australia;**
- **Build their skills and confidence, allowing them to contribute positively to the future of their industry and/or community.**
- **Improve their capacity to contribute to policy and program development; and**
- **Have an opportunity to meet many key stakeholders in rural industries policy development.**

The Young Rural Leaders' Course aims to provide participants the essential skills and knowledge that will allow them to effectively and influentially engage with industry and government at the national level.

You can download the application form as a PDF by visiting www.daff.gov.au/youngleaders.

For further information please visit; www.daff.gov.au/youngleaders ,email youngleaders@daff.gov.au or call 02 6272 5836 during business hours.

Gippsland Lifeline is seeking the support of the region's leaders for its annual fundraising sleep out. See the second attachment for further information and contact Lifeline directly for further details. Tracey, who has other commitments on the night of the sleep out, will sponsor \$10 to the first GCLP graduate or participant who contacts her by email tmatties@igain.vic.edu.au AFTER registering with Lifeline.

Graduates or participants who register to participate should also let Tracey know and she will try to drum up sponsorship support for you via the GippsLeader.

Susan Killeen (2004) is drumming up support for this International Women's Day event:

'Once again the Victorian Women's Trust is gearing up for our annual International Women's Day celebration, held in conjunction with three other women's organisations, absolutely women's health, the International Women's Development Agency and the YWCA. The theme for 2005 is Women of Words. Considered Melbourne's premier IWD celebration, this year's event is to be held at the Melbourne Town Hall on Thursday, March 3.

'Join us from 5pm for our community expo Food and drink will be available, as will music, massage and more. The expo showcases the services of community and women's groups in Victoria with show-bags a plenty.

'7:30pm for Speakers and Performers Our speakers kick off with the impressive line-up of poet and author Lisa Bellear, East Timor literacy activist Rosa Xavier, singer songwriter Monique Brumby, and journalist and author Margo Kingston.

'Lynne Haultain is once again our Mistress of Ceremonies, with Maurice Blackburn and Cashman our proud sponsors. To top the night off, a special appearance will be made by a woman of rarely few words, the always-entertaining Tracy Bartram.

'For bookings please contact TicketMaster7 ph 13 600 or www.ticketmaster7.com \$20full / \$10conc/ \$5 school groups of 10 or more. Plus once off \$6 booking fee. Tickets purchased at the door on the night will not incur this fee. For enquires call VWT (03) 9642 0422 email women@vwt.org.au '

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