



GippsLeader

GCLP news, notes & events

21 April, 2005

Leadership staff share experiences

Staff from 12 community leadership programs across Australia and Fiji shared their experiences, achievements and challenges at the 15th meeting of Community Leadership Australia held in Melbourne this month.

GCLP was represented by Executive Officer, Ian Gibson, Chair, Barry Rogers, and Project Officer, Tracey Matthies. The meetings, held twice yearly, are a valuable opportunity for program staff to come together and learn from each other.

Community Leadership Australia (CLA) is moving towards incorporation and will also apply to the Australian Tax Office for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. This will require political will and graduate support is needed.

DGR status is required by most philanthropic organisations who provide sponsorship to programs such as GCLP (NB GCLP already has DGR status through our relationship with i-GAIN Quality Learning.)

In particular, graduates with Liberal or National Party connections and policy knowledge are asked to identify areas where community leadership programs match Federal Government policy priorities. This information will be passed on to CLA and will help in the preparation of submissions to the ATO. Anyone who can offer any comments or direction should contact Tracey Matthies on 51354304 or tracey.matthies@igain.vic.edu.au

The CLA meeting also raised two opportunities for graduates:

- Programs agreed to share graduate addresses when graduates move to another program's area, and encourage graduates to get involved with another program's activities.
- Leadership Fiji is always interested in visiting speakers and would welcome contact from graduates who are visiting Fiji for business or pleasure.

These are exciting opportunities for graduates to expand on their networks and also to gain an entrée into new communities when you relocate. A 2003 graduate sought out contact with the Governor's Leadership Foundation in Adelaide during a secondment to that city last year and found it a most worthwhile experience.

In both instances, GCLP would only share your contact information with your permission. So if you are moving out of Gippsland, or travelling to Fiji, let us know in the office and we will help you to make contact with your peers in your destination.

Program News

Media Day proved to be a stimulating and thought-provoking day which gave participants useful insights into the role of the media in Gippsland and the driving forces behind the decision making processes used by editors.

Participants were challenged to balance ethics with the demands of the media, including newsworthiness, public interest and right to know, as well as deadlines. All commented that they had picked up valuable hints for using the media.

Speakers included the editor of the South Gippsland Times, Jason Beck (1997), Director of Needham Public Relations, Ian Needham (1996), and the editor of the Leongatha Star and Yarram Standard, Michael Giles.

The group also continued its review of the program and identified their learnings thus far and how they hope to progress throughout the rest of the year.

Media Day was sponsored by Parks Victoria and Bass Coast Shire Council.

Policies

GCLP is continuing the process of formalising the policies which drive the program. Thank you to everyone who offered comments and suggestions on the recent policies posted here. Two additional policy areas are open for discussion and, as before, your thoughts are most valuable.

The issue of recognising the traditional owners of land at the start of each program day was raised by the 2005 group at their opening residential. Views ranged from strongly supporting such recognition to only supporting it if others such as European pioneers were also recognised. Currently the decision on whether to recognise the traditional owners of the land is left up to duty syndicates.

The GCLP committee has agreed to investigate where such a policy of recognition should be adopted and encourages all participants and graduates to share their opinions on whether GCLP should have such a policy and if so, what form it should take.

The second policy issue for discussion with graduates and participants relates to bursaries. GCLP has always included a statement relating to the availability of bursaries on the program application form, but has not previously formalised a policy to guide the committee in determining whether to award a bursary.

The following draft policy is offered for comment:

Criteria used to determine the validity of applications for bursaries may be:

- *Financial hardship, such that a requirement to pay the Personal Contribution would preclude the applicant from the Program*
- *Perceived benefit to the Gippsland community of the applicant participating in GCLP*
- *Bursaries will be limited to self-funded applicants*

Bursaries will be limited to a maximum of the Personal Contribution only (for example, travel costs will not be paid), and may involve a percentage of the Personal Contribution if appropriate.

The Bursary Policy should be finalised prior to nominations for 2006.

To have your say on either or both of these policy matters, send your thoughts through to gclp@igain.vic.edu.au

Networking Opportunities

West Gippsland is setting the pace for sub-regional networking events in 2005. Jenny Ramage (1998) has organised a get together. Join Jenny and other West Gippslanders at 6.30 for a 7pm start at the Courthouse Café (owned by Dave Cann 2004) tonight, Thursday, April 21.

SkillsBank Gippsland

Tina Dent (1997) is seeking graduate assistance in her role as Regional Manager for Scope (Vic) Pty Ltd. Scope has two residential units in Warragul and Traralgon, which support people with physical and multiple difficulties. They are looking for two people, one to join the advisory committee of each residential unit to help with household accounts and supporting the independence of people with disabilities. Interested people should contact GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, via email at tracey.matthies@igain.vic.edu.au or the office on 5135 4304.

Gippsland FM, a community radio station based in Morwell, is seeking SkillsBank Gippsland support to redevelop its website at www.3gcrfm.org.au Interested graduates with appropriate skills can contact GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, for further details.

News from the GCLP office

The GCLP website was highly praised at the CLA meeting last week. Of particular interest to other programs were the bio notes of graduates. CLA members were impressed to learn that graduates maintain their own bio notes and contact information, and Leadership Victoria even asked for a demonstration of how this is done. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the website in this way, and keep up the good work.

If you need assistance logging in and/or using the website, please contact the GCLP office.

Have you noticed the change of email addresses for GCLP staff? i-GAIN Quality Learning has adopted a new format, firstname-dot-surname@igain.vic.edu.au This will make it easier for people to make an educated guess about the email address of any GCLP or i-GAIN staff member.

Please update your email address book to reflect the new addresses as follows:

- Ian Gibson – ian.gibson@igain.vic.edu.au
- Nicola Epps – nicola.epps@igain.vic.edu.au
- Tracey Matthies – tracey.matthies@igain.vic.edu.au

Items of interest

Red face over a green jacket for one 2005 participant. He reported it missing after Media Day, leading to an extensive search. The jacket's owner had even offered a reward for its recovery. The jacket in question was found – at home, in the participant's wardrobe!

Gippsland Integrated Natural Resource Management Forum and the Institute for Regional Studies at Monash University Gippsland Campus are pleased to present "Enabling Change", a seminar by Les Robinson, on the evening of Tuesday 3rd May. This is to be the first in a limited series of seminars relating to the theme of community participation in the management of natural resources. The author of "Enabling EcoAction" and "The Seven Doors of Program Design", Les will speak about engaging with and motivating local communities on issues including biodiversity/Landcare, sustainable living, waste, stormwater, energy and water conservation, crime prevention, health promotion and road safety.

When: Tuesday 3 May

Where: Green Inc. Corner of Northways Rd and MacDonald Way, Churchill

Time: 5.00pm - 6.30pm with drinks and nibbles to follow

RSVP: to Wendy Wright at Monash (wendy.wright@sci.monash.edu.au or 51226854) by 26 April (for catering purposes, please). There is no charge to attend.

Gippsland Community Leadership Program
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www.gclp.asn.au



GCLP is an initiative of [i-GAIN Quality Learning Inc.](http://www.igain.vic.edu.au)