

GippsLeader Post



Growing Gippsland 's Leaders

Launching 10th year of Leadership Program

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 worst 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.

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program is entering its 10th year with a diverse group of 26 people from a wide range of backgrounds and from all areas of Gippsland.

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. (see page 3.)

Gippsland Community Leadership Program 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. (see *GCLP modelled for SA leadership*, page 3)

GCLP participants 2005



Back row, from left: David Wilbraham-Gippsland Water, Rob Vesty-International Power Hazelwood, Kylie Debono-West Gippsland Catchment Authority, Michelle Weatherall-Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network, Helen Dixon-Parks Victoria; **third row,** Jason Potts-Latrobe Community Health Service, Peter Middleton-VLine Passenger, Chris Griffin-dairy farmer, Westbury, Adam Tyson-Bonlac Foods, Di van der Merwe-Australian Paper—Maryvale, Maree Davidson-Community Housing Ltd, Kath Ritzer-Alexander-PowerWorks Pty Ltd; **second row,** Helen Falls-Burra Foods, Liz Collins-Latrobe City Council, Leah Watson-Victorian Assistance Dog Association and Training Organisation Inc., Lois Pratt-Baw Baw Shire, Carole MacMillan-Department of Sustainability and Environment, Raj Rajakumar-East Gippsland Water, Nikki Drummond-Kilmany UnitingCare; **front row,** Christine Waring-Department of Human Services, Debbie Brown-Supersteel Pty Ltd, Kerrie Warren-Artist, Crossover, Cheryl Cook-Gippsland Monash International, Nigel Browne-Loy Yang Power Management Pty Ltd, Kerry Timmins-Latrobe Valley Jobs Pathway Program . **Absent:** Leisha Barnes-community worker, Grantville.

Coming soon—your invitation to mark Leadership Week 2005 with the Gippsland

Community Leadership Program.

GCLP will host a lunch in the last week of July to acknowledge our valued sponsors.

A sponsor's view of GCLP

Recent major research undertaken for Wellington Shire Council by the National Institute of Economic & Industry Research (National Economics) has shown that many parts of Gippsland and particularly Wellington are facing a "triple whammy" effect through the ageing of its existing population, the outward migration of many of its young people and the inward migration of older people retiring to the area. This means that there is a need for leadership across the region to strengthen our response to this challenge.

In the case of Wellington Shire Council we have adopted a set of principles known as "The Wellington Way" with an overriding vision of "We have pride in ourselves and the community is proud of us." Under this vision are five key principles:

1. We are creative and will stimulate the organisation.
2. We are easy to deal with and can assist you.

3. Expectations are clear.
4. Staff are skilled and effective.
5. People give leadership at all levels.

Within our organisation there is a huge range of skills and leadership capacities and these need to be passed on to people joining our organisation and to others in the community.

These principles show our recognition of the need for capable leaders, both at Wellington Shire Council and within Wellington Shire, and across Gippsland generally. Whilst there are leadership development programs available in other parts of the nation, a strong leadership program based in Gippsland is seen by Wellington Shire Council as a key to maintaining a healthy, developing and progressive society in our region with the Gippsland Community Leadership Program bringing together a good "cross fertilisation" of potential

leaders from all walks of life in the area.

Gippsland and its leaders are fortunate to have such a comprehensive leadership program so readily available across the region. With the GCLP program we look forward to being able to retain well skilled leaders within the area to help us all work on the enormous challenges facing us in the next few years.

-Lyndon Webb, CEO of Wellington Shire Council

GCLP on the web

GCLP has a strong presence on the internet at www.gclp.asn.au

The "Current Program" and "Events" section give an insight into Program days for this year, while the "News" and "Newsletter" sections include reports of GCLP activities. "Photo Galleries" is also a popular section with many images from Program Days.

Role of i-GAIN Quality Learning Inc.

i-GAIN Quality Learning has played a vital role in the establishment and on-going success of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program.

i-GAIN was the auspicing body for GCLP,

is a sponsor and has hosted the Program staff in its Morwell building from day one.

In fact, the three GCLP team members, Executive Officer, Ian Gibson, Program Manager, Nicola Epps, and Project

Officer, Tracey Matthies, are employed or contracted to i-GAIN. Furthermore, the GCLP committee of management acts as a sub-committee of i-GAIN's own committee of management.

GCLP modeled for SA leadership

A LEADERSHIP program developed locally will be used as the basis for a similar initiative in South Australia's Spencer Gulf region.

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program (GCLP) is in its 10th year of bringing together community leaders from across the various sectors and areas of Gippsland to network and learn from each other.

The program involves community leaders from Phillip Island to East Gippsland and has included school principals, dairyfarmers, local government workers and newspaper editors.

Leaders participate in themed sessions such as the environment, social justice, agriculture and tourism over the program, which runs for 15 separate days throughout the year.

GCLP executive officer Ian Gibson said leaders in the program were selected to get a good mix.

"They tend to be people who are heading towards leadership positions," Mr Gibson said.

"It doesn't just mean leadership in

business or community organisations and they're not necessarily chief executives, they're people with leadership skills in almost any part of an organisation that are already contributing significantly to the community.

"They're people with ambition," he added.

Such is the program's reputation, representatives from the Whyalla Economic Development Board in South Australia, visited the Latrobe Valley last week to learn more about it.

They hope to use the program as a basis for a similar initiative in the area that takes in Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie.

It is a similar region to Gippsland, hit hard by job losses and a hugely declining population in recent decades.

The three main cities are also competitive.

Whyalla Economic Development Board will drive the new program on behalf of the three cities.

Board chief executive Ron Wilson said Whyalla had lost its shipping yards in the late 1970s and was still trying to pick up

the pieces.

"It's our job to try and attract investment and new companies to the region and turn that population up," Mr Wilson said.

"We've heard so much about the success of the GCLP and we want to emulate that across the upper Spencer Gulf."

Mr Wilson and economic development officer Steven Arndt met with leaders who had previously been involved in the program.

"Everyone has sung its praises in terms of the networking it has developed for them," Mr Arndt said.

"It's raised their awareness of issues they've never been aware of previously and shown them how as a group they can get together and influence policy changes for the future."

The board will now develop a draft program and source funding before rolling out the program next year.

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SkillsBank serving Gippsland

Graduates of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program are making a tangible return to the community by participating in SkillsBank Gippsland projects.

SkillsBank Gippsland is a community-practice arm of GCLP which links graduates with not-for-profit community organisations who need help with specific projects. Graduates are

encouraged to share their skills so that community organisations are able to learn from their involvement with SkillsBank Gippsland and resolve similar situations on their own in the future.

Recent projects have included facilitating strategic planning workshops for the Rotary Centenary House Committee of Management

(Michael Laird, 2003), and for the Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault Board (Frankie MacLennan, 2004) and training for Latrobe City Youth Council members. GCASA Manager, Marg Uebergang, said working with SkillsBank Gippsland was extremely successful. Graduates have also joined school councils, boards of community organisations and participated in mentoring programs.

Scenes of GCLP 2005



Legend: 1. Gardiner Foundation Support; 2. Participant presentation; 3. Guest speaker signing autographs at launch; 4. Small group work; 5. Thanking a guest speaker on a site visit; 6. Guest speaker; 7. Syndicate group taking its duties seriously (with a smile) on Education Day.



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