



GippsLeader

GCLP news, notes & events

7 July, 2005

Leadership lunch and forum launches for July

July is shaping up as a month of significant events for the Gippsland Community Leadership Program.

Next Wednesday, July 13 will see the first launch event for the new on-line GCLP discussion forum created by 2005 participant, Jason Potts. The launch will be held in the internet café at the Warragul TAFE campus at 114 Queen St, Warragul. The event will run from 7 until 8.30pm. As well as an opportunity for trying out the discussion forum, graduates and participants will be able to network over a light supper.

The same format is set for the central Gippsland launch event to be held the following Wednesday, July 20 at the Lowanna Secondary College in Newark Ave, Moe, also from 7 – 8.30pm.

Invitations for both events are being distributed with this newsletter. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend either event so that we can ensure sufficient catering is provided.

The discussion forum, at www.gclp.asn.au/forum, is already a valuable communications tool for the current year group, committee members and GCLP team members. In fact, the GCLP held a productive team meeting just this week with Executive Officer, Ian Gibson, in an internet café in Vietnam, and Program Manager, Nicola Epps, and Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, in the program office! The only downside of the meeting was that Ian was then heading off to the swimming pool while Nicola and Tracey had to keep working!

The third major GCLP event for July is the Gippsland Leadership Lunch (previously known as the sponsors' lunch). This event, generously hosted by the Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE in their Waratah Training Restaurant, is an opportunity for GCLP to say a sincere thank you to the sponsors who make it possible to deliver the program each year.

Program News

The 2005 group is about to move into its mid-year review and reflection. This gives the participants an opportunity to consider their expectations and learnings from participating in the program, and to continue to build the bonds of their year group. The mid-year reflection will be held in Sale.

Items of interest

Networking 1998-style! A report by Irene Baxter

An excited group of 1998 GCLP'ers met on Friday 17th June at Ilimi's restaurant in Traralgon. The area designated was a back corner of course, with the

hope that this vibrant bunch wouldn't be too distracting for the other patrons. Stella, the Cyprian waitress, unfortunately showed no signs of being impressed with the greatness by which she was surrounded.

There are always some who can't attend and they are greatly missed. There is always the question "and what's up to, does anyone know?" and if someone does, we get filled in on their news too. For those who haven't attended a gathering for some time, we encourage you to seriously consider taking time to attend.

The most sensational news of the evening was Peter Kingwill's fantastic write up in the Qantas in-house magazine. A tremendous full page shot of Peter with the Loy Yang cooling towers in the background and great blurb to go with it. Through this feature article Peter has gained some worthwhile business contacts too, so well done Peter. Of the course the message to us all now isgive up the Virgin and Jetstar cheap flights, fly Qantas and we could all be megastars!

Like any gathering of like minds, and as the evening progressed, the conversations did sink into the depths of politics, sex and religion and then we were asked to gather our handbags and leave around 10pm, but a great time was had by all.

Nigel Browne (2005) has coached the Gippsland girls U11 soccer team to success at the recent Victorian Country Championships in Swan Hill. The team, which includes Nigel's daughter as well as the daughter of Monique De Zwartz (2004), won the title of Girls Victorian U11 Country Champions. Congratulations!

If you've ever wondered just how deeply the GCLP network runs in Gippsland, consider this – a graduate who recently moved to another Gippsland town was allocated the same phone number previously allocated to another graduate who has left that town!

Career updates: Craig Moon (2003) has resigned from Hazelwood and is taking a bit of break to enjoy life before looking for something similar in the future. And Dale Richardson (2001) has joined Fluor Australia as Maintenance Engineering Leader at Hazelwood Power Station. Dale has spent the last year working for VicRoads in Traralgon.

GCLP received a great plug on ABC Gippsland's morning show in late June when presenter, Gerard Callaghan, interviewed John Hutchison about Sustainability Gippsland. In response to a question about the role of leadership in Gippsland's future, John described the program and its achievements in glowing terms. It's champions like John who draw sponsors and applicants to GCLP.

Congratulations to Donna Faulkner (2001) whose business, Work Solutions Gippsland, was praised by the Minister for Workplace Participation, Peter Dutton. The following report appeared on the ABC website:

Employers still coming to grips with workplace disability

The Minister for Workplace Participation says Gippsland employers still have a way to go towards accepting people with disabilities into the work force.

Minister Peter Dutton visited job providers and seekers in the Latrobe Valley yesterday.

Mr Dutton says he is impressed with Work Solutions Gippsland, one of only five private providers of disability employment in Australia.

He says it is still coming across employers who view people with disabilities as a burden to the workplace.

But he says it is looking to advertise its services more widely.

"One of the things that they did share was a good relationship with employers, but they obviously also see that as a challenge because they want to expand their contact with businesses in a way in which they can work with employers to help place people who are seeking work and who have a disability," he said.

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