



# GippsLeader

*GCLP news, notes & events*

4 August 2005

## ***Leadership Lunch celebrates decade of GCLP***

A decade of growing Gippsland's leaders was celebrated at the annual Gippsland Community Leadership Program's Leadership Lunch.

More than 70 sponsors, graduates and committee members attended the lunch hosted and sponsored by the Central Gippsland Institute of Tafe's Waratah Restaurant.

Tafe CEO, Peter Whitley, welcomed the group and students from the Tafe's music department provided background music throughout the event.

Speakers included Gippsland Water CEO, John Mitchell, GCLP chairman, Barry Rogers, and 2005 participants, Lois Pratt and Chris Griffin.

John Mitchell said there was a clear distinction between leadership and management, and one of the strengths of a good leader was being able to change other people's minds and also have their mind changed when necessary. He said leadership was about creating a culture in the workplace that led to stimulating ideas and effective networking.

He said Gippsland Water was committed to GCLP and has had seven staff members participate in GCLP and recently employed a GCLP graduate. Gippsland Water believes that if it develops its people, they will develop the organisation. Mr Mitchell said GCLP was good for organisations, the community and Gippsland generally.

Barry Rogers spoke about the development of GCLP and the impact that graduates have had on the region at all levels of their communities. He noted that at least one graduate from each of the 10 years of the program was present at the Leadership Lunch, and all were representing their organisations in leadership roles.

Lois Pratt and Chris Griffin shared their feelings about GCLP 2005, the issues they had learned about, their experiences and the strong bond that has developed between program participants.

The Leadership Lunch (formerly the Sponsors' Lunch) is an opportunity for GCLP to express its appreciation of the invaluable support given by sponsors and other supporters of the program.



**Scenes from the Leadership Lunch**

### **Program News**

Power complexities, leadership reflections and Latrobe Valley's place in industry were topics covered by the participants on Industry and Sustainability Day Loy Yang Power and Powerworks.

Insights into how and why the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland are integral to Victoria's sustainable power future were provided by Loy Yang's General Manager of Station and Environment, Richard Elkington.

"Tradition, history and culture are barriers to sustainability", Mr Elkington said. "This needs to be understood before change can occur." He went on to say that even the current economic climate should not interfere with looking at a sustainable future.

Sustainability was a concept highlighted throughout the day with engagement and commitment being required of Gippsland's leaders and industries.

Cheryl Cook, 2005 participant said that "the message that needs to be remembered is to be effective, we need to live, work and behave in a sustainable way and not just expound the rhetoric."

Alistair Tompkin, Director Power Generation at Hazelwood Power, shared a practical but realistic approach to leadership encouraging participants to visualize the future, develop flexible strategies and plan to achieve. Alistair extended his experiences into the broader context of leadership but used his personal stories to illustrate his points.

A different perspective of leadership was also shared by small business operator, Donna Faulkner of Work Solutions Gippsland, and AusIndustry's Gippsland Manager Marlene Battista, who spoke of their leadership heroes and their own approaches.

"Never compromise on your real values," was Marlene's essential advice.

The day, which received sponsorship support from International Power Hazelwood, Loy Yang Power and PowerWorks, began with an insightful tour of PowerWorks and concluded with a tour of both Loy Yang Power Station and mine.

### **Networking Events**

The East Gippsland launch of the Discussion Forum will be held at Bairnsdale on Thursday, August 25 following the Tourism program day. It will be at the East Gippsland Tafe, Bairnsdale campus, from 6 til 7.30pm and will followed by an opportunity to go out for dinner with 2005 participants and

other graduates. An invitation to all East Gippslanders will be distributed shortly but mark the date in your diary now.

The South Gippsland launch of the discussion forum is scheduled to take place at Leongatha on Wednesday, August 31. Details of time and venue are still being confirmed and, as for East Gippsland, an invitation will be sent out shortly.

The 2003 group is getting together for dinner in Traralgon on Friday, August 19, at PJs in Church St, Traralgon from 7pm.

2002 group are having a get together this Sunday at 12.30pm at the Grand Junction Traralagon. It's purely social for all who attend to catch up and see what's been going on in our lives.

### 2006 Applications

It's time to start thinking about next year's program and to identify potential applicants. Many people are aware of GCLP and think about applying for several years but only make the decision to do so when a graduate or participant asks them to do so.

Talk to people about GCLP, tell them how it has benefited you and other people, and ask them to apply.

Both the GCLP and i-GAIN websites have been edited to announce the opening of applications for next year's program. Visit [www.gclp.asn.au](http://www.gclp.asn.au) or [www.igain.vic.edu.au/GCLP/](http://www.igain.vic.edu.au/GCLP/)

### News from the GCLP office

There's a large selection of new photos now available on [www.gclp.asn.au](http://www.gclp.asn.au) Go to the website and follow the links to Photo Galleries to have a look. Latest additions are in the Mid Year Reflection and Leadership Lunch Galleries.

GCLP is working with Leadership Victoria to plan a two day field trip by their program participants to the Gippsland region in October. Many facets of their trip are being drawn from actual GCLP agendas, including speakers and site visits. It is hoped there will be an opportunity for participants and graduates of both programs to network socially.

### Website and discussion forum

What's the difference between the GCLP website and Discussion Forum and why do you need separate log in details for each?

For a start, although the forum is linked to the website for ease of access, they perform different functions and are aimed at differing markets.

The website at [www.gclp.asn.au](http://www.gclp.asn.au) is the public internet face of GCLP. It can be viewed by anyone with internet access from anywhere in the world, and even though it contains a huge amount of information, it is only one-way communication.

Participants and graduates are provided with log in details to the GCLP website to enable them to maintain their personal contact details and bio notes.

The Discussion Forum at [www.gclp.asn.au/forum](http://www.gclp.asn.au/forum) is a two-way communication tool which can only be viewed and used by registered users.

The only way to become a registered user of the forum is to be a graduate, participant, team member or committee member of GCLP. This protection is provided by having unique log in details, and allows the discussion forum to operate under Chatham House rules.

All users of the discussion forum can view and use the general area but there are also separate, private areas for each year group and for the committee.

Although the forum is primarily used as a noticeboard for posting a message which others can read when they next log in, the forum also has a live chat room. This works like MSN Messenger and users can go to the chat room and type message which is instantly viewable by anyone else who is in the chat room at the same time.

### Items of interest

GCLP was strongly represented at a business breakfast held in Morwell today, Thursday, 4 August. As well as Executive Officer, Ian Gibson, and a number of current year participants, as many as 20 of the 50 people present had some link with GCLP! Glenn Manton (former AFL premiership player) Tim Matthews (4x gold medal winning Paralympian) Jo Fox (Olympic gold medal winner, Sydney 2000) spoke about the work of Whitelion, an organisation that works with disadvantaged young people. To find out more about the work of Whitelion, visit [www.whitelion.asn.au](http://www.whitelion.asn.au)

Chris Buckingham (1999) went to the recent Leadership Victoria Forum and said it was really interesting particularly the banter between John Faine and Michael Kroger.

“Bill Scales from Telstra was the most impressive - he was passionate, articulate and showed great commitment to his company. He talked about being prepared to make mistakes and get over them.

“Jane Fenton AO (Fenton Communications) talked about how important it was to engage effectively with people. People's values were located in the 'heads, hearts and hip pockets'. The skill in leadership is to identify what motivates people and be prepared to work with them.

“Evan Thornley also spoke well and was quite passionate about creating a culture of opportunity in the work place. He founded Looksmart with his partner in 1995. It is now capitalised at \$200 - 300 million!

“The format of the sessions was interesting, each panellist had three minutes to say their thing and then John Faine fired a few questions at them. There was a brief break for discussion on the tables and then the panel took questions from the floor.

“Michael Kroger had a lot to say about how luck influences one's fortunes and that for all the hard work and ability, you have to be in the right place at the right time. He cited John Howard as a good example of his theory. Both Evan and Bill countered that luck was more likely if you are persistent. I am sure there are a number of retired young AFL footballers who might have something to say on the matter and would probably side with Michael Kroger.

“The panellists all seemed to do better with the Q&A format than the formal presentations, though Evan Thornley and Bill Scales's passion shined throughout the two hour session.”

The AppointWomen Register is seeking women interested in making a difference to be included on the AppointWomen register.

Australian Government boards and bodies look for candidates whose areas of knowledge and expertise complement the existing profile and responsibilities of each board. All board appointments are made on merit.

For Further details about AppointWomen register and how to be included follow the link provided below:

[http://ofw.facs.gov.au/appointwomen/join\\_appointwomen.html#Register](http://ofw.facs.gov.au/appointwomen/join_appointwomen.html#Register)

Michael Laird (2003) will be presenting at a conference on Performance Management for Maintenance Contracts in Melbourne in October. Find out more about the conference and Michael's presentation at <http://www.iqpc.com.au/cgi-bin/templates/document.html?topic=515&event=7919&document=58566&slaulD=1&#LoyYang>

Kath McEntee (1996) is seeking assistance via the GCLP network to help a woman who has just completed her dogman's and intermediate riggers course, has these 'tickets' and is looking for a job locally or any where in Australia. She is finding it hard to break into an area which is very male dominated and needs a start.

Anyone who can help can contact Kath at DVC Gippsland on 5174 7308 or email [kath.mcentee@dvc.vic.gov.au](mailto:kath.mcentee@dvc.vic.gov.au)

Another event with plenty of GCLP support was the final match and medal presentation for the Access All Abilities football league last Sunday. Andrew Redston (2003) organises the league, Donna Faulkner (2001) and husband, Bob, of Work Solutions Gippsland, sponsor the Neville Matthies Participation Medal presented to all players, and Tracey Matthies (2003) attended with other members of Neville's family. Also attending was Grant McNeill (2004) in his role at Quantum Support Services.

### With this issue

Two attachments are included with this issue:

1. A paper by Ian Gibson and Carolyn Theodore on GCLP and Social Capital as presented at the Small Towns Conference by Carolyn and Nicola Epps (in Ian's absence)
2. Invitation to attend Home Based Business seminars in Gippsland

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