



GippsLeader

GCLP news, notes & events

8 September, 2005

Discussion forum launches completed

Just a few hardy souls turned out for the final sub-regional launch of the discussion forum on a very cold, wet evening in Leongatha.

Launches have now been held at Newborough, Warragul, Bairnsdale and to the GCLP committee of management. The discussion forum will also be showcased to other community leadership programs from across Australia, New Zealand and Fiji next week at the first AGM of the newly-incorporated Community Leadership Australia.

The launches have been a lot of fun as graduates have mixed with current year participants to learn how to use the various features of the forum, how to post messages to their individual year group or to the whole GCLP family.

At 9 am today, there were 959 posts in 205 topics in 54 forums, demonstrating the high level of acceptance and use of the discussion forum.

Graduates who have not yet joined the forum can choose to do so at any time by contacting the GCLP office via email gclp@igain.vic.edu.au or by phoning 5135 4304.

The creation of the forum has been the community project of 2005 participant, Jason Potts. As well as creating a valuable communication tool for everyone associated with GCLP, Jason has shown great commitment in leading the five forum launch events.

Yearbook Update

Keep those yearbook bio notes coming in! There has been a great response so far to the request for a review of bio notes by graduates of 1996-2004. It's heartening to read about the career changes and the huge level of community involvement that graduates are involved in.

The 2005 yearbook will be a commemoration of this year's program and a celebration of a decade of GCLP. Carole MacMillan (2005) has volunteered to work on the yearbook, but it would be valuable to have input from other years as well. Any graduates who would like to be involved should contact the GCLP office ASAP via email gclp@igain.vic.edu.au or phone 51354304.

The yearbook will be distributed at this year's graduation event on Friday, November 18, so we really need to get working on it immediately.

Program News



Tourism Day was held in East Gippsland and featured a tour of Buchan Caves as the site visit. Speakers included the Manager of Business and Industry Development at Tourism Alliance Victoria, Bindi Gove and vice-chairman of the East Gippsland Tourism Association, Adrian Bromage. Kath Ritter-

Alexander (2005) gave an overview of branding tourism in Gippsland during her participant presentation.

Most of the day was spent at DSE in Bairnsdale. Sponsors for the day were Kilmany Uniting Care, Parks Victoria, East Gippsland TAFE, Department of Sustainability and Environment, and OneHarvest.

Many of the participants stayed on in Bairnsdale for the discussion forum launch and dinner with East Gippsland graduates.

Research Project

Participants and graduates will be invited to participate in focus groups to be run by PhD candidate, Carolyn Theodore, of Monash University Gippsland (supervised by Professor Len Cairns.) Carolyn is conducting her PhD research into social capital of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program and will be keen to hear from graduates and participants from all areas of Gippsland and from all years of the program.

An invitation to participate in the focus groups will be sent out shortly.

SkillsBank Gippsland

There are currently several opportunities for graduates to participate in SkillsBank Gippsland projects.

Lifeline Gippsland are seeking two new board members. There are already several graduates serving on the board of Lifeline and all speak highly of their experience.

A Morwell primary school has asked for assistance to run a day-long leadership workshop for a group of grade five and six children. Allan Williams (2003) has already volunteered for this project and another one or two graduates are sought to complete the project team.

Small group facilitators are sought for a "Celebrating Community Engagement" conference to be held at Lakes Entrance on October 11 and 12. The conference will be hosted by Monash University Institute for Regional Studies with sponsorship from DHS, DVC and the GACC.

Details of the conference can be found at www.gippsland.monash.edu.au/irs/communityengagement

To find out more about any of these projects, or to volunteer your skills, contact GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, on 5135 4304 Wednesdays or Thursdays, or email tracey.matthies@igain.vic.edu.au any time.

Networking Opportunities

Initial planning is underway for the 2005 graduation and 10th anniversary celebration. Invitations will be sent out when details are finalised, but make sure that you put Friday, November 18 in your diary now to avoid double-booking yourself and missing out on this important event on the GCLP calendar.

The 1999 group is having a get together at Neilsons Restaurant in Seymour St, Traralgon on Friday, October 7 from 7pm onwards. Contact Chris Buckingham or Linda Tanian to RSVP. Partners are also welcome to attend.

News from the GCLP office

GCLP Project Officer, Tracey Matthies, will represent GCLP at the Community Leadership Australia meeting to be held in Melbourne next week. Features of the meeting will include the first AGM of the recently-incorporated CLA, as well as news of community leadership programs from around Australia and overseas. Tracey will chair a session of the meeting, leading a discussion about the use of databases, websites and our exciting new discussion forum.

Items of interest

It seems that the 2005 participants have somewhat advanced computer hacking skills! It was current year participants who cracked the passwords for the computers used in two of the discussion forum launches.

Keeping track of the achievements and activities of about 250 participants and graduates is a major task, but it was great to see so many GCLP people featured in a recent single edition of the Warragul Gazette.

- Adam Tyson (2005) showed great leadership in handling a difficult situation involving junior football;
- Andrew Redston (2003) was pictured at the Quantum Support Services Access for All Abilities Debutante/Presentation Ball, which he played a key role in organising;
- Mick Murphy (2002) and Doug Mullen (2003) were featured in an article about GippsTAFE being recognised as a finalist in the VET in Schools Excellence Awards. The same article and photo also featured GCLP committee member, Peter Whitley, in his role as GippsTAFE CEO.

Diane Blackwood (1998) has retained her position on the board of management of the Gippsland Sports Academy. Di is excited to be involved with the board which has at least one swimmer, Lichelle Clare, working towards success at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Information sessions on the innovative one year, part-time Graduate Certificate in Regional Community Development will be held at the Gippsland

Campus of Monash Gippsland on Thursday, September 15 from 10am – 12pm and at the Bruthen Market on Saturday, September 24 from 11.30am – 1pm. Offered through the Gippsland campus, the Graduate Certificate is designed for regionally-based workers with responsibility to engage with community groups and features a systematic approach to engage, skill and resource community groups. For further information contact angela.mazou@arts.monash.edu.au



The 2004 group planned a get together at PJs in Traralgon recently but organisers were disappointed with the limited turnout. Those who didn't attend had their excuses (real or otherwise) noted for future reference! (Chatham House rules prevent the publication of said excuses.) Pictured letting their imaginations run riot about their absent friends are, from left, Michelle Toppin,

Michael Laird, Katherine Heinemann and Vicki Miles.

Graduates and participants are invited to attend the Adult Community and Further Education ACE Partnerships: Strengthening Communities conference to be held at the Bellevue at Lakes Entrance in the first week of October. For further information and registration forms contact Jeanette Teague at the Gippsland Regional Council of ACFE on 5127 6000.

Gippsland Community Leadership Program
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