



GippsLeader

8 September 2006

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2007 Applications Now Open!

Do you know someone suitable to apply for GCLP? It's time to start thinking about next year's program and to identify potential applicants – someone in your workplace or community with ideas, who likes being involved and has an interest in the development of Gippsland.

Applications are now open and will be accepted through to the beginning of November.

Many people are aware of GCLP and think about applying for several years – with your encouragement, they might now take the next step! Talk to people about GCLP, tell them how it has benefited you and other people, and ask them to apply.

Information sessions are being held around the region in October and will be advertised over the next few weeks. These sessions will provide the opportunity for interested people to speak with both graduates and staff about the program.

Further information and application forms can also be obtained by contacting the GCLP office or visiting the website at www.gclp.asn.au

2006 Leadership Lunch with GippsTAFE

The annual GCLP Leadership Lunch was held at the Waratah Restaurant at GippsTAFE on Thursday, 3 August. The lunch was fully-sponsored by GippsTAFE, as its contribution to GCLP for 2006.

Around 60 attended the lunch, including representatives from almost all our significant financial sponsors, and a number of potential sponsors.

The attendees were addressed by Dr Peter Whitley (GippsTAFE), Barry Rogers, David McMahon (2006 participant) and Julie Hayes (Blackwood Centre for Adolescent Development). David McMahon presented a cheque for \$1,500 to Blackwood for a raffle run by GCLP 2006 participants to support Blackwood, and a cheque for \$500 from St Paul's Student Representative Council.

Instead of the usual guest speaker, we conducted an "Analyzing Grouputer" session on Gippsland's challenges and solutions. This was an interactive small group session conducted by Gerry Pierce and Ian Gibson, who facilitated a similar session at the Mid-Year Reflection. The session received a very enthusiastic response.

Sincere thanks to GippsTAFE for their generous support of this event, which is becoming a "*must attend*" in the calendar of Gippsland's leaders!

Tracey Matthies GCLP Departure – but it's not Goodbye!

This is the first issue of *GippsLeader* for some time, following the departure of Tracey Matthies from the GCLP office. Tracey is now working full-time with Sage Technology – just around the corner!

We wish Tracey well, and thank her for her wonderful contributions to supporting our graduates for the last two years. Amongst her many contributions were preparation of *GippsLeader*, management of the GCLP website and co-ordination of the Yearbook, as well as implementation of SkillsBank Gippsland and the Board Orientation Program in 2004.

We look forward to Tracey's continued association with the program as a graduate of the 2003 year - speaking of which, the group met for dinner recently and have provided *GippsLeader* with an update of news – read on!

Visit from Whyalla Representatives

Last year two members of the Whyalla Economic Development Committee visited GCLP with a view to establishing a similar program in their region. That visit was followed up last week by a visit from Mark Whitfield, (CEO, Flinders Region ACC), Russel Bambridge (Chair, Advance Whyalla) and Joanne McGrath (Executive Officer, Advance Whyalla).

The Whyalla visitors heard from GCLP committee and staff, former organisers, current participants and graduates about the establishment, organisation, funding and operation of GCLP.

The group departed with an understanding of the program and of the passion of our graduates, and a strong desire to establish a similar program on the Eyre Peninsula. They have since written:

' We all thoroughly enjoyed our trip to your region and are now hard at work putting all our notes into some sort of format ready to approach people for some money to get this program off the ground.'

Many thanks to Barry Rogers (1996), Jenny Hammett (2000), Lois Pratt (2005), Dave Cann (2004), Adam Tyson (2005), Pete Middleton (2005), Carole Macmillan (2005), Mike Timpano (2000), Justin Kohlman (2003) and Alan Scarlett (2002), and Heather Farley, for spending time with our guests.

Numberplates News

Have you seen? The Gippsland number plates are finally on our streets!

Many of the first 80 have now been delivered and are to be seen driving around Gippsland (and elsewhere), while orders for the remaining 20 in the first batch, and the beginning of the second batch, are now rolling in to i-GAIN.

Planning is now underway for auctioning the premier numbers of 000 GIP and 001 GIP.

Purchase enquiries are welcomed. Please contact Steve Kearney, Corporate Services Manager at i-GAIN on Ph (03) 5135 4305

Governance Working Party Finalising Proposals

The joint working party considering GCLP governance and strategy matters have continued to meet. The working party comprises representatives of i-GAIN's committee of management and the GCLP subcommittee. Representing i-GAIN are Ron Boskma (chair), Graeme Sennett and Jenny Hammett, while GCLP is represented by Barry Rogers, Lindsay Fawcett and Ian Gibson.

The working party is drafting recommendations relating to the role, composition and structure of the GCLP committee, and reporting arrangements between the GCLP committee to the i-GAIN committee. It is also reviewing models for strategic planning for GCLP, in order to ensure our long-term sustainability.

Any ideas on future directions for GCLP are welcome. Please feel free to email any ideas to the office at gclp@igain.vic.edu.au

2006 Program News

The 2006 group is continuing its journey around the region, from the mountains to the sea! Over the last couple of months we have visited Cowes, the power industry in the Latrobe Valley, Sale and Melbourne. It doesn't stop there - next week we will be in Heyfield for Water Day and the *final two* program days for 2006 will be at Fulham and Yarram.

Most recently the group attended **TELECOMMUNICATIONS & TOURISM DAY**, generously hosted by the Bass Coast Shire Council and the Phillip Island Nature Park. Lively presentations were provided by guest speakers Chris Buckingham (Manager

Gippsland Tourism), Christy Ditchburn (Acting Area Manager Gippsland, Telstra Countrywide) and Nick Hunt (CEO, Tourism Alliance Victoria), who all contributed their ideas to the greater picture of Gippsland and a vision for the future. There was also an opportunity for participant groups to share their knowledge of small towns and hidden treasures within Gippsland, in a ' *Signposting Gippsland*' workshop led by Laurie Jeremiah, Diane Robinson and Peter Courtney. The day ended on an ecological note at the Phillip Island Nature Park where Sally O'Neill (Communications Manager) discussed balancing ecology and tourism. A small group stayed to see the penguins "come home" and looked very closely for any badged GCLP!



PARLIAMENT DAY was held at the beginning of August this year - earlier than usual, in anticipation of the November election. Participants met in Elsternwick the night before for an enjoyable GCLP participant presentation – "Backyard Blitz" - from Peter Courtney. This was followed by a dinner in the city at *Longrain* Thai restaurant.

Guest speakers for the day included Peter Ryan (National Party), John Brumby (ALP), Ted Bailleu (Liberal Party), Phillip Davis (Liberal Party) and Jenny Hammett (i-GAIN CEO). A panel of Gippsland MPs addressed the group, including Peter Hall, Ian Maxfield, Brendan Jenkins and Craig Ingram. Participants also attended part of Question Time in the House – and didn't fail to hear "those BELLS" summoning our state politicians to business throughout the day!

GCLP is most grateful to AusIndustry who generously hosted lunch at their offices in Collins Street. This provided further opportunity to the group to understand the range of funding opportunities available to industry in our region, and to also meet with the friendly AusIndustry staff including Marlene Battista, Jayne Facey (State Manager) and Tom O'Lincoln (Deputy State Manager)

Graduate News

A number of graduates of the 2003 group (including Tracey!) plus several partners, gathered for dinner at the Morwell RSL Club in late July. Amongst the news gleaned from all of the chatter and laughter was the following:

- **Justin Kohlman** is returning permanently to Canada on October 1. He has two job offers to select from and sought advice from his GCLP mates in choosing between the oil and education industries. We are waiting to see whether he took our advice!
- **Chris Notman** has welcomed the news that he is to be transferred from the police at Wonthaggi to Pakenham. It will save him about 90 minutes travel time each day!
- **Craig Moon** is enjoying his overseas backpacking holiday and his occasional newsy emails are eagerly read.
- **Michelle Toppin** is travelling far and wide in her role as Gippsland Manager, selling Yellow Pages advertising.
- **Hanna Wardell** has become a grandmother and is enjoying temporary retirement.

Tracey joked that those who weren't present were talked about but will have the chance to redeem their good characters at the next gathering of 2003!

**DO YOU HAVE NEWS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST
TO SHARE
WITH THE GCLP NETWORK?**

We hope so! Please contact Nicola or Ian at the Program office by way of phone or email.

Gippsland Community Leadership Program
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