

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

ORGANISATION: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE (W): _____ MOBILE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SPECIAL AND/OR DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: _____

COMMUNITY GROUP (if appropriate) _____

To book your place for the conference please tear off this slip and send it to:

Catherine Enriquez
Institute for Sustainability and Innovation (Werribee campus)
Victoria University
PO Box 14428
Melbourne VIC 8001

with a cheque for \$200 (if your employer is paying) or \$50
(for individuals, members of community groups, etc). Be honest!

Make cheques payable to **Victoria University** or provide credit card details below:

Please circle: Visa Mastercard

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____ Expiry date: _____

Amount Authorised: \$ _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Brochure also available online: <http://isi.vu.edu.au/events>

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS TO INCLUDE

Professor John Beardall (Monash University, Clayton)
Professor Eric Bird (University of Melbourne, Parkville)
Professor Paul Boon (Victoria University, Footscray Park)
Associate Professor Justin Brooks (University of Adelaide)
Dr Paul Close (University of Western Australia, Albany)
Dr Perran Cook (Monash University, Clayton)
Dr Coral Dow (Parliamentary Services, Canberra)
Professor Barry Hart (Monash University, Clayton)
Dr Peter Gell (University of Ballarat, Ballarat)
Dr Jeremy Hindell (Arthur Rylah Institute, Heidelberg)
Dr Roger Jones (Victoria University, City Campus)
Eleisha Keogh (East & West Gippsland CMAs)
Duncan Malcolm (past CEO, Gippsland Coastal Board)
Russell Mullett (Aboriginal Affairs Victoria)
Neville Penrose (Nevola Consulting, Traralgon)
Dr Neville Rosengren (Environmental Geosurveys, NZ)
Dr Neil Saintilan (DWECC, Sydney)

For registration information contact:

Catherine Enriquez
Phone: (03) 9919 8248
Email: catherine.enriquez@vu.edu.au

For general information about the conference contact:

Professor Paul I Boon
Email: paul.boon@vu.edu.au

Please register by:

Monday 4 October 2010

Note that places are limited and, within the caveat below, registrations will be handled on a 'first come: first registered' basis. A ratio for registrations from agency staff etc and the general public will be maintained initially to cover costs.

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BREAMING WITH KNOWLEDGE:

The ecology and management of the Gippsland Lakes and other coastal lagoons in south-eastern Australia

SPONSORS:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- East Gippsland Water
- Gippsland Lakes and Catchment Taskforce
- Parks Victoria
- VU - Institute for Sustainability and Innovation
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

VENUE: Bellevue on the Lakes
201 The Esplanade
Lakes Entrance VIC 3909

COST: \$200 per person (employer-paid) OR
\$50 per person for the general public or
members of community groups etc

DATES: 27 and 28 October 2010

CONFERENCE THEMES AND CONTENTS

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2010

MORNING SESSION – SETTING THE PICTURE

- 8.30 am Arrival and registration with coffee and tea
- 9.00 – 9.15 Welcome and introduction
Prof Paul Boon
- 9.15 – 10.00 Geomorphology of the Gippsland Lakes
Prof Eric Bird
- 10.00 – 10.45 Indigenous perspectives on the Gippsland Lakes
Russell Mullett

10.45 – 11.15 MORNING TEA

- 11.15 – 12.00 European interactions with the Gippsland Lakes
Dr Coral Dow
- 12.00 – 12.45 Management responses to resource utilization
Neville Penrose

LUNCH

- 12.45 – 1.45 Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION – THE MAIN THREATS: PART 1

- 1.45 – 2.30 Estuaries and freshwater flows: WA experience
Dr Paul Close
- 2.30 – 3.15 Salinity histories from Gippsland estuaries
Prof Peter Gell
- 3.15 – 3.45 AFTERNOON TEA**
- 3.45 – 4.30 Freshwater flows and fish populations
Dr Jeremy Hindell
- 4.30 – 5.15 Freshwater inflows and the Gippsland Lakes
Elisha Keogh
- 5.15 – 5.30 Summing up
Duncan Malcolm

DAY 1 MIXER AND REFRESHMENTS

- 6.00 – 7.00 Conference mixer and refreshments

DAY 2: THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER 2010

MORNING SESSION – THE MAIN THREATS: PART 2

- 8.30 am Coffee and tea
- 9.00 – 9.15 Welcome and introduction
Prof Paul Boon
- 9.15 – 10.00 Climate change and the Victorian coast
Dr Roger Jones
- 10.00 – 10.45 Geomorphological implications of climate change
Dr Neville Rosengren

10.45 – 11.15 MORNING TEA

- 11.15 – 12.00 Biogeochemistry and algal blooms
Dr Perran Cook and Prof John Beardall
- 12.00 – 12.45 Legacy of the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce
Prof Barry Hart

LUNCH

- 12.45 – 1.46 Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION – THE FUTURE

- 1.45 – 2.30 Lessons from NSW coastal systems
Dr Neil Saintilan
- 2.30 – 3.15 Lessons from the Coorong, SA
Prof Justin Brookes
- 3.15 – 3.30 Summing up
Duncan Malcolm
- 3.30 – 4.00 AFTERNOON TEA AND CONFERENCE CLOSE**

WHY HOLD A CONFERENCE ON THE GIPPSLAND LAKES?

The Gippsland Lakes is Australia's largest navigable inland waterway. It consists of three large coastal lagoons (Lakes Wellington, Victoria and King), fed by seven rivers, and is surrounded by a wonderful mosaic of freshwater, brackish-water and hypersaline wetlands. The lakes are linked to the Southern Ocean via a channel at Lakes Entrance, which was artificially opened in 1889 and has been maintained ever since for navigation. The catchment of the Gippsland Lakes covers about one-tenth the area of Victoria and includes some of its most pristine natural environments. The Gippsland Lakes is of National, State and regional importance for recreation and tourism, as well as having outstanding biodiversity significance. The Ramsar-listed component, for example, covers >61,000 ha and six of its large wetland complexes are listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia.

The ecological integrity of the Gippsland Lakes is threatened by a large number of factors: over-extraction of fresh water (especially from the Latrobe-Thomson-Macalister Rivers), recurrent and long-lasting algal blooms in the main lakes, loss of riparian vegetation and of vertebrate biodiversity (especially of fish and waterbirds), and secondary salinization, eutrophication and acidification of the fringing wetlands. Extensive bushfires have affected much of the catchment of the eastern rivers, and climate change hovers as a potential threat to all aspects of the Lakes' ecological, social and economic values. Climate-change impacts are likely to be exacerbated by sea-level rises via the artificial entrance, which provides an open conduit with the ocean, and by further reductions in river discharge.

The last exhaustive conference on the ecology and management of the Gippsland Lakes was held in nearly 15 years ago, in April 1995, in Lakes Entrance. In the years that have passed, significant progress has been made in understanding many aspects of the ecology and management of the Gippsland Lakes. Environmental-flow studies, for example, have been undertaken for most of the rivers, the Ecological Character Description for the Ramsar site has been updated (in 2007 and 2009), and Natural Resources Report Cards have been prepared for the entire catchment (the most recent in 2009). Bolstering these undertakings, a large amount of targeted research has been undertaken on diverse aspects of the flora, fauna and biogeochemistry of the Lakes environment.

The conference will provide a fascinating summary of the current condition of the Gippsland Lakes, its social, economic and ecological significance, and progress being made to better manage this jewel-in-the-crown of south-eastern Australia.