

Women Who Mean Business

... Selling Gippsland's Finest



Project Newsletter :: Spring Edition 2004

Fabulous Community Projects take shape!

Following a series of engaging workshops in communities across Gippsland attended by 289 women to date, some terrific new projects have emerged. Leadership, planning and media have been the focus of skills development for groups who are now moving on to develop their community projects. Projects identified range from arts to a business focus. All projects will shape the skills of women as they work together to enhance their local communities.

The project funding (\$10,000 per project) is available for groups who have participated in the skills development workshops, including the leadership, media and business planning.

Some project criteria guidelines need to be followed:

1. The funding depends on having at least 20 women registered
2. The project concept is identified before the end of the leadership workshop and is a consensus decision, facilitated by the workshop facilitator, Jill Gael
3. The project must deliver an enduring benefit to the community
4. The project concept needs to be developed as a business plan.

There may be some adjustments required to projects as they develop. For example complying with legal and safety requirements. It is also likely minor adjustments to projects may occur as plans are implemented.

"Off shoot" projects are likely to emerge as participant skill's and confidence levels are developed. Opportunities to explore personal needs and passions along with other community will exist. These extensions compliment the original project and at other times incite completely new ideas. Past projects have witnessed project "off shoots" which have been taken up by some or the entire original group of

participants. Though not funded by WwMB, other funding opportunities can be sought out and pursued.

YARRAM

Spring into Art (Spring Festival)
29th October-1st November 2005

The Yarram network has set an ambitious project. Their aim is to run a four-day festival in 2005 to celebrate the arts in various locations around the district. An official opening and celebratory dinner are envisaged as part of the event. A small steering group attended the business planning workshop and started to identify the strategies to put into place.

At present there is concern about the enormity of the task and how the project involves and skills a number of other women to work on sub committees to make the event happen. A further meeting on October 12, 2004, will formerly decide the next steps in the business plan. In the meantime Tina Hambleton will contact anyone who has expressed an interest in the project.

From the leadership workshop people identified the following key benefits:

- New connections
- Energy to be involved with others in the community
- Confidence to try new things
- Good business ideas
- Marketing knowledge.

Further information can be obtained from Tina Hambleton at home on 5184-1258 or at work on Tuesdays and Wednesday on 5183-9123.

STRATFORD/MAFFRA

Learning, Linkages & Lifestyle

The women who attended the leadership and business planning workshops came from as far afield as Bairnsdale, Seaton, Briagolong, Sale, Heyfield, Stratford, Airly and Bengwarden . They brought a wide range of skills, needs and expectations to the workshops. One key factor all had in common was a desire to play a part in their communities. The leadership workshop provided participants with useful, transferable skills to take back into their communities and put to immediate use whether it is in their work in community groups, business or personal life. They were also provided with a great manual containing much of the ground covered in the workshop.

The Stratford Maffra group through consensus decided on a rolling series of women's workshops that will develop a product and enhance networks and creative and entrepreneurial skills. After the Business Planing workshop held on the 21 September 2004, it was still not clear how the group's project would meet the

— Continued over page



Left, above: Tina Hambleton, Yarram project officer.

Right, above: Belinda Brennan, Business and Planning workshop facilitator.



Yarram

Fabulous Community Projects take shape!



Stratford/Maffra

necessary project guidelines including economic outcomes and consequently more work will be required before moving on to the next stage. Further discussions are to take place with the Project Management Committee regarding the next step.

What people said they found really useful in the leadership workshop includes:

- Affirmation of skills and knowledge
- How to turn goals to achievements and develop a project
- Being aware of ones own behaviours
- It matters to be open to ideas
- Creative problem solving
- What leadership really is
- Reflecting matters too!
- Jill drew our disparate ideas together to make it something that you felt you could still contribute to and gain something from.

For further information contact Deb Milligan, phone 5145-5240 or email littlemilligan@ozemail.com.au



Buchan

BUCHAN Exhibition Outlet for Arts and Craft

Buchan held its skills development seminar 18 to 19 September 2004. Women from around the district including several from Buchan

attended the day ensuring a great opportunity for networking and exploring common issues.

Key benefits identified from the skills development seminar at Buchan include:

- new ideas about business
- different ways to resolve conflict
- problem solving techniques
- more confidence

The Buchan group worked out some "Project Criteria", to assist them to decide on the final project. Their criteria were:

- Enduring benefit;
- Be fun for us to do;
- Bring people together;
- Stop tourists;
- Be a good foundation for other enterprises.

Twenty participants are committed to the initial establishment and ongoing development of an outlet for exhibition of art and craft as the project in Buchan.

The group hopes to lease the old Post Office building in town and will have explored a range of options before the Business Planning workshop, including a visit to the Swifts Creek collective art gallery. Business planning will be on Saturday 16 October 2004 at the Buchan Neighbourhood Resource Centre. The group expects to forge ahead once detailed planning is in place.

Further information contact Kate Earle, phone 5154-8419, mobile 0408-178179 or email Katedoc2@hotmail.com

WARRAGUL

Baw Baw Live Compass – a Community Information Interactive Track

Following the two day Leadership Skills Development workshop seminar, a business planning workshop was

held in Warragul to establish the ground rules and format of the Warragul project.

The Warragul leadership workshop was one of



Warragul



the biggest and reaching consensus on their project provided some challenges. However, combining the many passions of group members — history, community information, town beautification and more — was the way to go and the result is stunning.

Key areas from participant's feedback included such comments as: • "Terrific to meet so many new people." • "Understanding better about groups and committees was great." • "Now we can get our meetings on track." • "Learned heaps." The women quickly organised a "field trip" to check out the proposed site of the recreational walking/running track depicting linkages to tourism and information including art and culture. All women are very excited about the upcoming community project.

For further information contact Mary Salce, email masal@netspace.net.au or phone 5149-8366.

LEONGATHA (MEENIYAN)

Stepping Out in South Gippsland

This project is the proposal from a small, but committed and eager group who attended the leadership workshop. Many participants are newcomers to the district and are finding it hard to "get connected" to what is available in their region.

Stepping out is a package of up to date community, arts, sporting and tourism information specifically targeted at people who are new to the area, looking for a change, interested in what is about and who want to get involved.

The package aims to SHOWCASE the wonders of South Gippsland, Encourage people to STEP OUT into the community, to CONNECT people across the region and to work together for the community. Pilot distribution is planned for 3 – 4 towns in the South Gippsland region initially to newcomers and then the next round will be for anyone who wants to learn more about the region and how to get involved.



The group recognises written information, for example, directories are OK but face-to-face contact is more effective. So, the second stage of the project would be an EXPO event that would showcase the information available in the pack, as well as the opportunities for people to get involved — in a fun, community atmosphere.

The business planning workshop was held in Leongatha 18 September 2004.

Attendance was minimal and concerns were raised about the ability and

Hot to Trot ...

Maree Wallace, Warragul project participant, describes the business planning process.

A dynamic group of Gippsland Women who Mean Business recently conducted their Business Plan workshop with Belinda Brennan in Warragul.

Belinda Brennan is a great facilitator who tightly reined us in to put together our plan, to formalise all the ideas we have floating around in our heads and to advise us on what is actually involved in such a project. We went from envisioning the project through rose coloured glasses to what is probably more achievable.

The outcomes of this meeting were very constructive:

- Formalisation of the vision for our project.
- Exploration of funding opportunities.
- Setting a date for a PERT (Periodic Evaluation & Review Technique) workshop to help plan our budget. This will be facilitated by Catherine Wallace-Wilkinson, a participant in our group.
- Organised workshops in Working with the Media, Marketing and Fundraising.
- Explored community involvement & ownership of our project - wanting to involve all generations from pre-schoolers to retirees.
- Identified the need to work closely with the Baw Baw Shire, tourism groups, service clubs and community groups to avoid any duplication.
- Agreed to utilise the skills of group members and the wider community.
- Decided to tackle this project in stages, working to a time-line.
- Discussed ways to make the public aware of our project and the importance of keeping everyone informed of our progress.
- Confirmation of flexibility within the project. We invite everyone to participate, coming in and stepping out of the project as time and interest and/or skills permit.

The other good positive thing about the meeting was that every participant went home with a job to do with enthusiasm running high.

commitment of a few people to undertake such a project. Further consultation is being planned to find if more people can be committed to the project. Consultation will also take place between the South Gippsland Shire and the Community Support Fund, before any decision is made.

For further information contact Mary Salce, phone 5149-8366 or email masal@netspace.net.au

From the leadership workshop, participants identified the following:

- Liked meeting others who have made similar changes
- Enjoyed connecting with great women
- Appreciated the practical information on planning and problem solving.

The Meeniyan quilt project, an adjunct to the WwMB has been funded by the South Gippsland Shire. The Quiltmaking aims to connect women in the region, to encourage confidence and trust, and to create an outcome that is evidence of the networking that occurs. The different stages of the project include the following skills development — creative writing, bookbinding, photography and quilt making.

For further information contact Meg Viney on email megsie@meeniyan-gallery.com.au or phone 5674-2551 (BH)

MORWELL/MOE

Walk, Work, Weekend for Women

This project is at concept stage only at this writing, but it will get "more meat on the bones" in the Business Planning process. In essence, it provides an opportunity for the women to learn and share skills and to spend time collaborating on ideas. Working this way is very different from the structured and hierarchical processes of many committees and groups and the participants want to explore and develop their skills of collaboration for community development. It is likely that the group will build a community project from this initial concept.

Ground rules set by the participants for the project are typical of the norms that each group has adopted: •We have shared goals. •We make decisions by consensus. •We respect and value each other's opinions. •We communicate really well. •We have fun.

As with other workshop groups, the Morwell/Moe women enjoyed the opportunity to connect with new faces, renew old acquaintances and share thoughts and ideas about working together, developing and strengthening community and exploring options for their project focus. The leadership workshop also provided insights into Looking After No 1, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, project and strategic planning and working to reach



Meeniyan

consensus through 100 percent of participants are 70 percent satisfied with the outcome. It was discovered this process actually works very well with group dynamics!

The Business and Planning workshop held in Morwell on Saturday, 2 October articulated the goals for the group. The Morwell project entitled, "The Valley Over Time – the Past, Present and Visions of Tomorrow, Latrobe Valley, Mountain Rivers"; is a recipe, storybook with accompanying video that highlights the unique and diverse personalities and stories from the Valley's past. This project hopes to:

- Link to the new and exciting foods of the region;
- Highlight the natural wonders of the Valley and celebrating the bright and positive future for all;
- Celebrate the wonder of our children with their recipe and art.

A date was set for the 13 November 2004 for two workshops to be held in one full day comprising of a morning Media Workshop, facilitated by Deb Bye. This workshop will relate to the proposed project and how to enhance and explore the skills of the participants with regard to interviewing techniques for the contributors featured in the book, compilation of their history, the inclusion of diversity of cultures, the region's future and importantly contributor's cooking recipes.

The workshops will also give them the skills on how to sell the project to the media, to capture more stories and recipes for the book as well as focussing on project progress.

The afternoon will be taken up with a Writing Skills workshop to give participants skills on gathering and writing the stories associated with the theme and also skills in writing funding submissions. Venue and times yet to be confirmed.



Morwell/Moe

Fabulous Community Projects take shape!



SWIFT'S CREEK/OMEQ

A Weekend Celebration of the High Country Communities

The women Benambra, Ensay, Swift's Creek and Omeo brought a wide range of skills, needs and expectations to the 2 day workshops. One thing they had in common though was a desire to play a role in uniting their communities and put to immediate use. Their ground rules were agreed: •We have fun; •We start and finish with a 'round' (the table); •We value different inputs and skills and needs; •We communicate openly and honestly; •We keep discussions within the group confidential; •We reach decisions by consensus; •We have and keep a timed meeting agenda.

Many great ideas were discussed by the energetic group before they ultimately came up with a community energiser involving workshops on a wide range of

creative themes; music; a concert; campfires at night; exhibits. It will be accessible for the whole family — free for children. It will involve local community groups and local goods, will encourage creativity and, very importantly, will be a community 'pick-me-up'.

A number of the women had been involved in the Uniting Our Rural Communities project when it was held in 1997 and discussed the lessons learnt from that time. These included: a recognition that people contribute in different ways; that it is normal and acceptable for people to come in and out of the project according to their needs and expectations; that they wanted to keep it to a manageable size and that they wanted it to be enjoyable.

The group decided that the project must be fun to do and limited (not enough energy or time for a really long one). The group agreed their criteria for this project would:

- Involve learning;
- Have an enduring benefit for the region;
- Be unifying;
- Be manageable, able to be broken down into smaller parts;
- Be realistic;
- Will be for the entire region.

Benambra October 25th 2004.
For further information contact Deb Milligan, 5145-5240 or email: littlemilligan@ozemail.com.au

ORBOST

Magical Garden Community Walkway

The last of the eight leadership workshops was in Orbost, set against the back drop of many community enhancements that have been achieved since the first women's project, the mosaic path (done in the Uniting Our Rural Communities project in 1997-8.) As in other communities which have been drawn together to engage in community development, Orbost is proud of the many individual and group achievements including employment gained, small businesses established, grants successfully found and applied and of course the Orbost Exhibition Centre which opens shortly.

The group canvassed many ideas from an organic community garden to farmers market and other produce related outlets. They were keen to find a project that would be fun to do for women (and others) who live in Marlo and elsewhere out of Orbost. An exciting community walkway (hopefully linking tourist attractions) was the consensus reached by the group. This secret magical garden will also incorporate native plants, sculpture that the community will make and rest stops for weary walkers. The women want to create a magical experience as people walk through — surprising, half-hidden features that will enchant and engage. And this project is seen as a start-up garden walkway the will be replicated in other centres.

The group will use the skills learnt from the Business and Planning workshop to be held on 17th October, 2004 at the ADASS Rooms, Orbost. Contact Kate Earle, Katedoc2@hotmail.com or phone 5154-8419 or mobile 0408-178179.



A Letter to All from Jill Gael ...

FACILITATOR 2-DAY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

To all the participants and organisers
of the WwMB Leadership Skill
Development Workshops —

I have just returned from my 8th
workshop in glorious Gippsland and
this time I took a week to travel about
and really see some of the wonderful
landscapes you have at your doorsteps.
What a beautiful and diverse part of
the world it is!

When I started the WwMB project, I
expected to find some old friends and
make some new ones. Not being one
who pays attention to detail, I did not
figure just how many that would be!
Needless to say I have had a ball
working with nearly 200 women over
the past three months.

I have also had a chance to see what
has happened in communities where
women have previously joined hands
to leap high. I remain convinced that
this process of bringing women
together to learn, share and apply their
energy together is really powerful. And
the projects you are planning are
exciting. There will be workshops,
events, information and a range of
other tangibles that will have enduring
benefits in eight or more places — that's
awesome!

I know that you each take different
things from my workshops. For some it
came at just "the right time" — you
were at a crossroad or looking for
direction or a change. For others it is a
renewal of interest in community
involvement; still others are looking for
business skills. For many it is the
connection and networking that
matters. Whether the content was new
or refreshing your skills, I'd be sure that
many of the models and ideas we
shared will be useful moving forward.

And lucky me, I have been doing what
I love to do — sharing what I know and
learning from you. Thank you for all
the stories and ideas, the invitations
home for meals, the soft bed or two,
drives, renewed interest in knitting
and the great warmth of friendship.

Regards, **JILL GAEL**

WwMB Website launched — www.wwmb.org

The WwMB website will provide a hands on focus and conduit for news, coming events, women's stories, community project outcomes and will keep track of the Women who Mean Business — Selling Gippsland's Finest Project through its development over the next two years.

Some special features of the website include detailed information and photographs from each of the project areas and a summary progress report of the entire project.

There will be profiles on project officers and committee members and most importantly the participants themselves who come from many varied and diverse backgrounds.

The history of the Gippsland Women's Network, made up of a dynamic group of community focussed women, who instigated the WwMB project, will also be identified on the WwMB website.

Current and backcopies of the WwMB newsletter will be available for downloading along with other interesting media articles and radio interviews highlight specific off shoot projects associated with the master WwMB project.

Sponsors and supporters of the WwMB project will also be featured.

Importantly, feedback and input from website browsers will be invited through the feedback pages on the site.

We invite interested persons to visit the WwMB website and bookmark the site so regular accesses to the latest information on the project is readily available. The Project Management Committee invites participants to let them know what you think by leaving your thoughts in the feedback section.

Beth Harris, from Anchor Web Design is the WwMB Webmaster.

See profile of Beth Harris, on page 6.

MEDIA WORKSHOPS — getting your message out there!

Deb Bye, Manager LIFEfm Community Radio, is facilitating Media workshops across Gippsland to assist participants in dealing with the media in an effective and professional manner when they are trying to get "the message heard or read".

The Media Workshops primarily focus on managing the media, rather than letting the media manage the news story contributor. The sessions are fun in both the theory and practice and give participants some real skills to implement throughout the WwMB project.

The media workshops provide a plethora of invaluable sources of information on how to get the most from working with the media. The workshops have all been well received, with insightful and practical advice presented in an engaging and humorous way.

The workshops include, amongst other topics, useful suggestions on: preparing for

interviews; utilising the media to help get your message across; how best to promote events; and preparing media releases.

There is also a great opportunity for participants to hone their communication skills when they recorded and then played back interviews with Deb. The participants had a common desire to play a part in their communities. This workshop, while being part of the Women who Mean Business Project, also provided the participants with practical, useful tools which they were able to take back into their communities and put to immediate use.

Media workshops have so far been held in Warragul, Yarram, Leongatha, Orbost, Swifts Creek and Buchan. Future workshops will be held in Leongatha and Morwell.

See profile of Deb Bye, Media Facilitator on page 7.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS COMING TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU

YARRAM: 12 October 2004: Media Workshop — how to handle the media. Yarram DSE office. Contact: Tina Hambleton at home on 5184-1258 or at work on Tuesdays and Wednesday on 5183-9123.

SALE: 14-15 October 2004: Victorian Women on Water Conference. Princeton Motor Lodge, Sale. Contact: Mary Salce on 5149-8366 or email masal@netpace.net.au

ORBOST: 17 October 2004: WwMB Business Planning Workshop. ADASS room, Orbost Regional Health. 9:45-3:00pm. Contact: Kate Earle on 5154-8419, mobile 0408-178179 or email Katedoc2@hotmail.com

BUCHAN: 16 October 2004: WwMB Business Planning Workshop. Buchan Neighbourhood House. 9:45-3:00pm. Contact: Kate Earle on 5154-8419, mobile 0408-178179 or email Katedoc2@hotmail.com

MAFFRA: 19 October 2004: Media Workshop — how to handle the media. Maffra DSE, 1 Stratford St. Contact: Deb Milligan on 5145-5240 or email littlemilligan@ozemail.com.au

BENAMBRA: 25 October 2004: For further information contact Deb Milligan on 5145-5240 or email littlemilligan@ozemail.com.au

Community News

ORBOST

Grand Opening of the Orbost Exhibition Centre on the Snowy River.

18th December 2004 at Forest Park, Orbost starting at 8:00pm. Further enquiries 5154-2634.

BRIAGOLONG

Family Music Camp

Foothills music camp is on **November 20 and 21**. Contact Ro Gooch on 5145-5416 or at goochandrew@netspace.net.au for more info.

MEENIYAN EXHIBITION

"Soul Bags" by Sophisticated Kitsch

Lynne Deacon and Julie Brandsma invite you to take a look at their fascinatingly creative handbags at the Meeniyon Gallery from **September 25 to October 8**. South Gippsland Highway, Meeniyon, Victoria.

SITUATIONS VACANT – EXECUTIVE OFFICER GIPPSLAND WOMEN'S HEALTH

Position description available on request from GWHS (03 5143 1600 or admin@gwhealth.asn.au) and can also be downloaded from our website www.gwhealth.asn.au

STATEWIDE:

MEDIA KNOW HOW FOR ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL ACTION

Get the inside story from seasoned media experts on how to package your message for maximum newsworthiness – without compromising your cause.

Saturday, 16th October – 9:30am-4:30pm. RMIT City Campus. For more information phone Gillian 9925 2910 website <http://advocacy.tee.rmit.edu.au>

CELEBRATION OF HATS

The hat is back! A Celebration of the Hat will include demonstrations on making hats, silk flowers and felt, choosing the right hat for your face and wearing a hat. As well, there will be opportunity to buy or order a hat. **October 8, 9 and 10**. 10:00am-6:00pm at the St Kilda Town Hall, Melbourne. Cost \$10.00. Contact June Alexander by email jalex@bigpond.net.au or phone 0419-502111 or Penny Udnerwood mediawise@vicnet.net.au or phone 9818-8540. Check out the website at www.hatextravaganza.com

Somebody doing something worthwhile for someone

MOE ST VINCENT DE PAUL — FREDERIC OZANAM SOUP KITCHEN

The Moe Soup Kitchen has been in operation since September 1997. Through the work of a small but dedicated team of volunteers soup, sandwiches and sweets are delivered to the needy in the Moe district.

Annette O'Dowd, Soup Van coordinator says, "this project has been a huge undertaking. For example from the 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, the Soup Van visited approximately 10,280 people delivering 21,000 sandwiches, 11,000 cakes, 2,400 litres of soup and 1,000 litres of cordial. We are always seeking out new volunteers to keep this vital service operating in our community."

Background to Getting it Happening

In August 1997 invitations sent to stakeholders by the Moe Conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Society looking for interested parties to attend a meeting to set up a Soup Kitchen for the local area. From this meeting a working party was established in September 1997 their aim was to find a suitable location, how often was a meal to be provided and importantly, who would provide the meals.

A moving van (kitchen) to minister to those in need for example to boarding houses, low-income areas, elderly shut ins etc was considered the most appropriate means of transport.

Latrobe City offered the use of the Moe Town Hall kitchen for the preparation of



food until a proper kitchen at the S.V.D.P. centre was set up. Sponsorship was sought to help purchase the necessary equipment required to provide this service. Sponsorship from several local businesses, individuals, service clubs, Mission Energy (\$5000) and from our own dioceses provided good start up funding. Many willing people within our community saw the need and offered their volunteering services.

The preparation of food has moved to the to the SVDP Centre in recent times and a 'soup van' has been provided by the SVDP Society to carry on this essential service.

As all volunteer groups they often struggle for helpers but thanks to the regular band of 20 daytime volunteers (12:30pm to 4:00pm) and 30 evening volunteers (4:00pm to 7:00pm) made up of people from 16 to 70 years of age from local churches (all denominations), school principals, teachers, youth groups and some teachers and students from Warragul we are able to continue to assist people.

The volunteers of the Moe Frederic Ozanam Soup Van maintain they not only offer food but friendship and support empowering our clients to retain a positive outlook for the future and are grateful to all sponsors who continue to make this needy ministry possible.

PROFILES Women Who Mean Business

Deb Bye and Beth Harris

Beth Harris, WwMB Webmaster and founder and director of Anchor Web Design, established her own web design business in 2000. The WwMB project website is a typical Anchor Web Design format packaged into a neat, professional and effective websites to suit local business, community groups and events. Beth believes in old fashioned customer service and sees the need for a quality local web design service to rival the expensive city companies. She doesn't think local businesses should have to pay a fortune to have an impressive website.

Beth has lived in Sale for more than 30 years since her family emigrated from England when she was six months old.

When she's not designing websites, Beth volunteers for the Life FM Gippsland radio station as the IT supervisor and production assistant. Her other interests include her love of cats, watching Star Trek, playing the piano and has keen interest in photography.

ANCHOR WEB DESIGN "Giving Your Business the Professional Look it Deserves" – www.anchorweb.com.au



PROFILES

Women Who Mean Business

MEDIA WORKSHOPS PRESENTER — Deb Bye

After 17 years with ABC Radio, Debbie left in June 2003 to take up a full-time volunteer position as Station Manager of Gippsland's Community Radio Station - Life FM. The station received its permanent license in August 2004 after commencing broadcasting in Oct 2003 on a temporary license.

Debbie joined the ABC in 1986 after working in Christian Community Radio for 4 years. Debbie made a strong impression in Gippsland in her role as broadcaster/Manager at the ABC's Gippsland regional office in Sale, where she encouraged a clear focus on regional issues.

Debbie played a key role in establishing a radio studio on campus at the University of Central Queensland, where she tutored electronic journalism, and was also studying journalism, communication and psychology.

Her work has been publicly recognised by the conferring of several prizes for journalism. Two University Prizes from UQC, High Commendation in the Order of Australia Media Awards in 1995 for a radio series on the Sale RSL's 75th Anniversary, a 1999 Victorian Community and Local History Award for a radio series on the Omeo Oriental Goldfields and in 2003 Debbie shared Overall Winner of the Victorian Community and History Awards with author Ann Synan for their work on the West Sale Migrants History which resulted in a book "We Came With Nothing" and Debbie's radio series "Footprints In The Tar".

Since leaving the ABC, Debbie has started her own company - Manna Media - through which she conducts media workshops, facilitates meetings, records audio histories and general voiceover work.

Debbie studied voice for seven years and sings with her Church choir and at other Church functions and services. Apart from singing, Debbie enjoys spending quality time with her cats, and bringing people in Gippsland together via the medium of radio.

Copyright ©Debbie Bye 2003 deb@mannamedia.com.au

Some of the feedback about our workshop facilitators includes:

•What a girl! (Jill) •Excellent and inspiring (Jill) •What can I say? (Jill) gave me the best personal help ever and this happened in a group environment in a short time and few words. •Very warm and caring. (Deb) •Very accessible and helpful. (Deb) •Quiet efficiency. (Deb) •Very supportive and easy to communicate with. (Deb) •Great facilitator. (Belinda) •Kept it tight to put together our plan. (Belinda)



"Facts, Fallacies, Future"

Comfort Inn Princeton – Sale

Forum Dinner — 14th October, 2004 • Forum Day — 15th October, 2004

An opportunity for all Victorians to obtain information about the water debate at International, National, State and Regional levels. The Forum Dinner commences at 6:00pm on Thursday, 14th October, 2004 with a Keynote Speaker speaking about the National Water Initiative. Enjoy a three-course meal and the opportunity to network. The Forum Day commences at 9:00am on Friday, 15th October, 2004. Morning sessions include a presentation on the Victorian White Paper, followed by panel presentations on Mapping of the Victorian Water Industry, International Impacts and Environmental Impacts relating to the Water Debate. **The afternoon features a choice of three workshops, with guest speakers and experienced facilitators:**

Workshop 1: The Nation; The Law & Water

Panel presentation assisting understanding of the National Resource Management delivery, Financial Industry and Policy and Regulation process.

Workshop 2: Social Impacts of the White Paper on Water

A facilitated discussion looking at the social impacts of water reform. Participants will be asked to contribute their ideas on how changes in the way we manage water resources may affect their families and their communities.

Workshop 3: Regional Focus; Gippsland Case Studies

Panel presentations detailing innovative water projects in Gippsland with representatives from our urban and rural water Authorities as well as a leading groundwater specialist.

All workshops will have a facilitated question time. The plenary session will include a summary of the workshops from facilitators. There will be a question box at the Forum Dinner and Day to assist forum delegates to ask the questions they are not comfortable asking in public.

For conference information, contact:

•Website: wow.org.au •Gippsland Women's Network: Mary Salce (03) 5149-8366
•Wellington Shire Council: Sharon Fowler (03) 5142-3327

Celebrating World Rural Women's Day — October 15

Registration Details:

Forum Dinner = \$49.50 (inc GST) per person • Forum Day = \$33.00 (inc GST) per person

I wish to register for the "Victorian Women On Water" Forum

(please tick appropriate box)

Dinner (14th October, 2004) Forum Day (Friday, 15th October, 2004) Both

at the Comfort Inn Princeton, 25-41 Princes Highway, Sale.

Title First Name Surname

Job Title

Company/Employer/Organisation

Postal Address

Phone (____) Fax (____)

Email

Special requirements (dietary, disability etc)

Afternoon Concurrent Workshops: Workshop 1 Workshop 2 or Workshop 3

PAYMENT DETAILS: Payment must be enclosed with Forum registration and returned to Comfort Inn Princeton, PO Box 1010, Sale 3850 no later than Monday, 11th October, 2004. Cheques should be made payable to Comfort Inn Princeton.

I am paying by: (please tick appropriate boxes) Total enclosed \$ _____

Cheque Credit Card Bankcard Visa Mastercard

Name on Card (please print)

Card Number: Expiry Date

Signature

To register for the forum and/or book your accommodation contact the Comfort Inn Princeton on (03) 5144 6599

Accommodation: The Comfort Inn Princeton are offering special rates for forum delegates.

Visitor Information: For other accommodation options contact the Central Gippsland Visitor Information Centre via website www.gippslandinfo.com.au or toll free 1800 677 520

Women Who Mean Business

... Selling Gippsland's Finest



Project Newsletter :: Spring Edition 2004

- Fabulous Community Projects take shape!
- A Letter to All from Jill Gael
- WwMB Website Launched — www.wwmb.org
- Media Workshops — Getting your message out there!
- Community News
- Someone doing something worthwhile for someone
- Profiles ... Women who Mean Business
- Application Details = "Victorian Women on Water" Forum – October 14 & 15

If undeliverable, please return to:

WwMB
C/o RMB 7395
CLYDEBANK
VICTORIA 3851

PP300038\0020

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Your input!

We look forward to hearing YOUR stories and events that are happening in your community. Please forward all stories, community events and letters to:

WwMB
Email: info@wwmb.org.au

Email is preferable, but if you don't have access to email, please forward by post to:

WwMB
RMB 7395, CLYDEBANK VIC 3851

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR DETAILS IN THE PANEL AT RIGHT AND RETURN AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

If you have a friend or colleague who would be interested in receiving a copy of this newsletter and becoming involved in the project please let us know.

YOUR NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS (GWN preferable for newsletter due to costs, etc.)

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PHONE — HOME:

PHONE — BUSINESS:

Would you prefer to receive newsletter by (please tick one) email: post:

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SECTION. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

WwMB, C/o RMB 7395, CLYDEBANK VIC 3851
Email: info@wwmb.org.au — Phone: 5149 8366