

Women Who Mean Business ... Selling Gippsland's Finest



Project Newsletter :: Winter Edition 2004



WwMB Project moves into Stage Two

The WwMB Project moves into phase two which includes the appointment of three project coordinators across the eight identified locations in Gippsland. Due to a high standard of applicants for position as Project Coordinator, the WwMB Project Management Committee have appointed three women to the position according to their geographic locations.

Meg Viney, from Inverloch, is project coordinator for South and West Gippsland. Her appointed areas include Warragul, Moe/Morwell, Meeniyan and Yarram. Kate Earle, from Marlo, has been appointed to Bemm River and Buchan and Deb Milligan, from Briagolong, has been appointed as project coordinator for Stratford and Swifts Creek. All three women come to the project with a wealth of experience and expertise in

community administration both professionally and as volunteers. They are all equipped to assisting women reach their full potential for themselves, their community and region. The WwMB Project Management Committee welcome this excellent team of leaders to the project look forward to their efforts in building good working and personal relationships within each of the locations.

Contact details for each location and Project Coordinator's profiles on page

Information sessions have been delivered in seven of the eight locations across Gippsland to advise them of what the **Women who Mean Business – Selling Gippsland's Finest Project** has planned for Stage Two and the next two years. Stratford will be hosting its information session on ????

The expression of interest to date has been overwhelming. Over 220 women have

shown their interest in this exciting project. The first edition of **WwMB – Selling Gippsland Finest** newsletter was circulated to 1200 persons across Gippsland and to local and state government agencies.

The next phase of Stage two is the delivery of eight 2-day skills workshop being held in each of the eight locations. *The cost of the workshops is \$10 which includes registration fee and catering. See inside zip out brochure for full details.*

A web site is currently being established by Anchor Web Designs. Beth Harris, owner/operator of Anchor Web Designs is currently working with the WwMB Project in establishing a user friendly, informative and interactive website. In particular, this website will enable project participants to easily access data, project updates and opportunity for personal input.

Mary Salce, Project Management Committee volunteer says "the first edition of the WwMB newsletter, was sent out to over 1000 persons across Gippsland which has already attracted extensive media, local government and community attention.

Water Management Affects Us All

A national Water Forum conference held in Armidale recently was an outcome from the very successful conference; "Women on the Move" held 19 November, 2003 in Sale. This Conference was attended by 200 women and was facilitated by the Regional Women's Advisory Council and organised by the Wellington Shire.

In early May 2004, at the invitation of the Regional Women's Advisory Council appointed by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon John Anderson MP, a group of

prominent women from across Australia attended a Water Forum. The Forum engaged the women on one of the most important issues facing both urban and regional Australia today – the way that our nation's precious water resources are managed and used. The Forum also helped to build the capacity for women and communities to continue to be engaged on water issues over time.

The Forum issued a communiqué highlighting the importance of Governments agreeing on a National Water Initiative at the COAG meeting of 25 June 2004, to ensure Australia's future through the sustainable use of water. The group also committed to ongoing advocacy for change within their own communities and to lobby governments to resolve this most critical national issue.

Why does this diverse group of women, lawyers, irrigators, bankers, leaders of women's networks, farming and industry bodies and community groups, believe all Australians need to commit to a new way of thinking about water management?

Current water management arrangements are insufficient on a number of fronts. Water users have voiced concerns over lack of security and certainty surrounding their access to water resources. This fundamental lack of certainty in water rights has impacted on their capacity to borrow

"WwMB - Selling Gippsland's Finest project aims to empower participants, their communities and regions."

The WwMB project presents an exciting opportunity for Gippsland communities and women of all ages, economic and cultural backgrounds. During the next two years the project will bring women together across Gippsland to participate in skill development training workshops and developing a community project in each of the eight nominated locations. The eight working groups will each chose their own community project.

Join in a 2-day energiser guaranteed to boost both your skills and energy!

See Zip Out Brochure inside for full details and registration!

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

If you haven't already indicated whether you would prefer to receive WwMB newsletter by email or post please complete details on back of this newsletter and return to given address ASAP.

It is most important for administration purposes as to evaluate how this newsletter will be distributed to you in the future. Thank you.

— Continued on page 2

Water Management Affects Us All

— Continued from page 1

and invest. The banking sector is affected by this uncertainty and there are impacts on local development. A recent study of **Investment Trends in the Lower Murray-Darling Basin** published by the Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics identified investment as a “key component in the economic health of regions – in particular, in developing and sustaining the industries that support regional economies” and reported that “high investment levels are found within those areas where there are highly secure, reliable water supplies”.

Environmentalists have pointed to large areas of over-use of the nation’s water resources, over-allocation of irrigation licenses and the lack of secure water to protect critical environmental assets and attributes.

Communities and farmers have strongly questioned the level of transparency, accountability and quality of water planning and consultative processes. Often, the quality and accuracy of the science underpinning decisions to increase water for the environment has been questioned or rejected.

In August 2003, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to develop a new National Water Initiative (NWI) – to set out a national coordinated way forward in managing Australia’s precious water resources.

The main thrust of the NWI will be to provide for:

- Investment certainty through secure, certain and nationally compatible water access entitlements;
- Water sharing plans that set out how water will be allocated between different uses, to be developed on a catchment basis, based on best available science and involving clear and transparent processes including stakeholder consultation;
- Fair and firm processes for returning over-allocated surface and groundwater systems to environmental sustainability;
- The development of an efficient national model for water markets to facilitate the movement of water to its highest value use;
- Accurate water accounting, including metering, monitoring and reporting; and
- Specific measures to address the issues confronting urban water users.

Decisions about the details of a National Water Initiative will be made by Governments on 25 June 2004. A best result National Water Initiative will put in place an effective national approach to provide security for water users and the environment, increase the productivity and efficiency of water use, sustain rural and urban communities and ensure the health of river and groundwater systems.

A critical ongoing step is for all urban, rural and regional communities to work in partnership with governments and industry to ensure the sustainable future of our water resources. The Women and Water Forum called upon State governments to follow up the Forum with water workshops

for women in each State. This would provide an important opportunity for further engagement by women and communities on this critical issue.

A State Conference for women to discuss current water issues is planned to be held in Central Gippsland on World Rural Women’s Day – 15 October, 2004 (more details in next edition of WwMB).

The Women and Water communiqué and list of participants are available at <http://www.dotars.gov.au/regional/rwac/media/communique.htm>.

A CELEBRATION OF FLYNN OF THE INLAND – BUCHAN

- His contribution to Gippsland

The work of Rev John Flynn who became known as Flynn of the Inland is usually associated with his work in setting up the Flying Doctor Service in the outback desert country of Australia. However a little known but significant contribution to this great Australian will be celebrated this weekend in the township of Buchan in the foothills of Snowy River country in East Gippsland.

On Sunday, 16 May, a plaque and memorial park was dedicated to John Flynn who in 1905 commenced as a student home missionary in the Buchan district.

Although only resident for one year John Flynn had a significant impact on the life of the community. He was 25 years old at the time and traveled on horseback bush tracks between the lonely settlements not only to preach the gospel but bring his first aid kit and gentle sense of humour.

Life was harsh in those days as the many unmarked graves across the mountains bear testament. Women often struggled alone in the absence of their men; children died of diseases not suffered today. John Flynn brought comfort and practical help and the book he wrote “The Bushman’s Guide” was especially valued – it contained instructions from first aid to the Burial Service.

On his horse the young John Flynn carried a bible, his first aid kit and sometimes a collapsible pulpit. He also carried a camera recording valuable images of that time.

With a local, Frank Moon, by candlelight he explored the Buchan Caves and it was his photographs which convinced the government to open the caves as an important tourist destination.

John Flynn’s vision came to encompass the Outback of Australia but people in Buchan, East Gippsland know that it was here during his time with their forebears that his dream of “a mantle of safety” was born.

This historical account was submitted to WwMB project by East Gippsland Shire Councillor, Linette Treasure

Project



Kate Earle

Kate was born in England of Irish parents who were married in Edinburgh and settled in the Midlands in England. Kate is an identical twin and has an older brother and a younger brother and sister.

Kate emigrated to Australia in 1987 with her husband and three children to teach at Nagle College in Bairnsdale. The family settled in Bairnsdale and bought a property near Marlo in Far East Gippsland where they farmed ostriches and a number of goats.

Kate said, “while farming full time I saw Peter McGauran, MLA for Gippsland, on television talking about the 1998/99 leadership project – Uniting Our Rural Communities – for rural women. Kate became involved in helping the Orbest and district women create the mosaic path at Forest Park in Orbest and was involved in the formation of the “Women of the Snowy River” movement.

Kate teaches one day a week at Orbest North Primary School and is a Regional Councilor for Adult Community and Further Education in the Gippsland Region.

Kate says she is excited about being involved in this new project knowing that it has the potential to unite Rural Women and develop their leadership skills and equip them with the means to network and grow both as individuals and as a group.

Thank you to all those people who have submitted articles for the Winter Edition of **Women who Mean Business – Selling Gippsland’s Finest** Project and for all those who have assisted in producing this magazine. Thank you also to those who continue to provide in-kind support. Your contribution is appreciated. Thanks also to Jim and Val Byth with their assistance as proof readers and the staff at Drouin Commercial Printers.

Coordinators' Profiles



Deb Milligan

Deb ran her own business for a few years in Stratford and worked as a freelance designer and muralist until the birth of her second child. She is also a practising artist and has a firm belief in everyone's innate creativity and a commitment to encouraging its growth.

Deb traveled extensively before settling in Briagolong 10 years ago and now revels in

the strong and exciting community spirit found throughout the whole region.

She is inspired by the vision for this project and sees it as extremely valuable. She was involved in one of the early focus groups and has watched its development with interest. Deb has a strong belief in the benefit of projects such as the WwMB in that it empowers individuals and it builds in strength and spirit of whole communities.

Meg Viney

Meg Viney was born and educated in Melbourne. She trained as a secretary, then as a nurse. Subsequently Meg married and went to live in San Francisco, but her Australian heart yearned for home, and it was thus that Meg ventured into art, for it was with art where Meg says she "found gentleness and strength." Whilst raising her two boys, Meg studied part-time, and completed a Bachelor of Fine Art, majoring in Fibre Sculpture.

On returning to Australia, Meg completed a Graduate Diploma of Education and taught both Art and Food at VCE level. Moving to Gippsland in 1993. She again taught Art, and in 2001 was given the opportunity to become a Gallery Director. She is concurrently doing a Master of Visual Arts at Monash, and now adds South and West



Gippsland WwMB Project Coordinator to her rich and varied life.

An excited Meg says, "I feel truly honoured to accept the position of Project Coordinator in WwMB South and West Gippsland. The women I have met thus far have inspired me with the belief that this will be a dynamic experience and an unforgettable part of our growth as women."

Project Timeframes

Stage One: Project Establishment January 2004 – June 2004

The main components of this stage are:

1. Project Management Team established
 2. Employment of Project co-ordinator
 3. Establishment of Database and Networks and email list – information sharing.
 4. Development and Production of Quarterly Newsletter – paper and email versions.
 5. Development of Gippsland website – business, arts, craft & fibre
- Establishment of 8 Local Working Groups

Stage Two: Skills Development Workshops July 2004 to March 2005

- Leadership, Organisational, Business and Information Technology Workshops.
- Local working groups to select a community development project.
- Working Groups to identify further skills development workshops as required by the group.

Stage Three: Putting Theory into Practice April 2005 to December 2005

- Allocation of eight \$10,000 grants to eight local steering committees for the development and implementation of a business project – not confined to one based on arts or fibre.
- A detailed project plan including budget, timelines, stakeholders, strategies and actions will be prepared by each local Working Group.
- The project will be implemented by the local community, overseen by the project officer and local steering committee.

- The skills developed in Stage two will be used in the project development and implementation.

It is envisaged that the total cost of the individual projects will be in excess of \$20,000 each, with the additional funds coming from the community or via private sponsorship.

Stage Four: Showcasing and Celebration January 2006 to June 2006

- The final stage of the project will be to showcase all the project outcomes.
- These outcomes may include;
 - Art, craft, fibre local community markets to show case the high quality products from the local area. Location of these markets will be determined during the second and third stages of the project, in conjunction with the Project officer and Local Working Groups.
 - Exhibitions for project products – this will incorporate opportunity for local artists to showcase their work in a formal exhibition. These will be held in conjunction with local art galleries.
 - Business outcomes – new businesses established, linkages built, — Tourism opportunities and linkages to existing businesses – collaborative efforts with business and the arts.
- Development and implementation of exhibitions will further enhance the skills developed in stage two of the project.
- The exhibitions, markets and other showcasing opportunities will be held in conjunction with the food, wine and tourism industry to ensure maximum exposure and to create further marketing opportunities for Gippsland's finest products.
- Project Evaluation.



Community News

AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The ARLP is a two-year, part-time course that helps rural women and men who are leaders in their industries or communities to improve their professional and personal skills. The participants examine national and international issues as well as getting to meet and talk with industry, government and community leaders here and overseas. For further information visit www.rural-leaders.com.au/arl.htm

REALISE YOUR DREAM

This year, British Council Australia will help three outstanding young Australians aged between 18 and 24 realise their dreams through a short trip to the UK, worth \$10,000. This opportunity of a lifetime focuses on the creative industries: For further information visit: www.britishcouncil.org.au.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

2006 Women on Farms Gathering in East Gippsland

If you are interested in being part of a committee to host the 2006 Women on Farms Gathering please contact Debbie Gray, Lakes Entrance, by telephone: 5155 4714

ORBOST: COMMUNITY SINGING FESTIVAL

Snowy River Arts Network (Orbost) have received a grant from Regional Arts Victoria of \$5000 to host a Community Singing Festival in Orbost on the weekend of 23 to 24 October 2004. Enquires please contact Mary McDonald at Orbost Community House 5154 6616 or after hours 5154 1773.

WARRAGUL: GIPPSLAND WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Financial Independence for Women Dinner

Tuesday, 6th July, 2004 at 6:30pm at Stage Door Restaurant, West Gippsland Arts Centre, Albert Street, Warragul.

Cost \$25 per head (Cash only please) for a 2-course dinner with drinks at bar prices.

The theme of the dinner is "**Financial Independence for Women**" and a number of guest speakers will be present to provide information on Financial Planning, Property Investment, Conveyancing and Finance Mortgage Broking.

Guests are requested to wear a name badge and a 'Trading Table' will operate, providing the opportunity to display business brochures and promotional material.

Payment can be made on the night but all bookings must be made and confirmed no later than Thursday, 1st July, 2004. All enquiries: Lois Pratt, Secretary to the CEO

& Mayor, Baw Baw Shire Council on 5624 2411, or email: lois.pratt@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au (emails preferred).

WARRAGUL: DREAMING BAW BAW:

Event title:
Dreaming Baw Baw: Writers' and Story Tellers' Festival

Date: Saturday 28 August

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: West Gippsland Arts Centre, Civic Place, Warragul

Enquiries and Workshop Registration:

Phone: Michael 03 5624 2407 or email: michael.henson@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Free entry to all activities, including free registration for workshop sessions, bring your own pen and paper.

Web: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Program details: A fun day of story telling for big and little kids; creative writing workshops; poetry and short story readings in the evening with a little folk music thrown in for good luck. Showcasing West Gippsland authors, writers, and story tellers through writing and reading workshops with performance opportunities at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

Poetry, Short Stories, Spoken Word Groups or solo performances, minimalist play readings welcome to register for the Open Stage session. Books for sale.

This event is part of the **2004 Age Melbourne Writers' Festival umbrella event program.**

Somebody doing something worthwhile for someone

MARGARETA OSBORN AND JUDY TRAILL

"Girls Day Out" - Drought Relief Bus Trips

Over 100 women from as far as Alberton in the south, Glenmaggie in the north, Munro in the East to Glengarry in the west, all congregated in Maffra recently to experience one of two day's drought relief bus trips organised by the Maffra & Districts Landcare Network.

Targeting women in farming areas of the Wellington Shire along with women operating small businesses which were directly and indirectly affected by current agricultural economics, the Maffra & Districts Landcare Network were responding to a cry for help from their community. The current difficult conditions being experienced due to the ongoing drought conditions, poor milk prices, high feed prices, loan re-financing problems and



water shortages, were all taking their toll on our women and their families. With women bearing much of the emotional load such conditions generate, could we do something to help?

Taking a lead from a similar, highly successful bus trip organised in 2003, the Landcare network approached the Department of Primary Industries, Wellington Shire Council, West Gippsland CMA, Southern Rural Water, National Australia Bank and GippsDairy, for funding to run two more. The answer was a resounding Yes! And so the "Girls Day out to the Mountains or the Sea" drought relief bus trips were born.

Wednesday, 26 May, 2004 dawned bright and sunny in Maffra. The looming grey clouds on the horizon spoke of a promise of rain later in the day – what more could 48 women heading off on a drought relief bus trip expect? Heaps more! A gourmet morning tea complimented by the scent of David Austin roses, a drive through Stringers Creek gorge followed by a home cooked lunch eaten whilst cozily tucked inside a gorgeous turn of century cottage in downtown Walhalla, listening to rain on the tin roof. Fabulous food and beverages along with great company caused the farm, cows, family commitments and financial drudgery of drought to fade into insignificance at least for a few hours.

Friday, 28 May, 2004 and more of the same. Fifty six women this time headed for a decadent Devonshire morning tea beside the water at Paynesville, followed by a luscious three-course lunch lakeside at Metung. Local businesses from Maffra, Heyfield and Sale were also extremely generous, providing 'lucky spot' prizes for organisers of both bus-trips to give out along the way. Every woman went home with a gift, to ensure the special feelings created by the day lasted for a long time to come.



PROFILES

Women Who Mean Business

... Women who have made work an Artform



ROBYN MOORE **MEENIYAN, SOUTH GIPPSLAND** **MAKE UP ARTIST, THEATRE SET** **DESIGNER AND RESTAURER**

Robyn Moore prefers to work "backstage". Without backstage work, the show just doesn't happen – and Robyn knows how to make things happen.

Her artistic skills were discovered forty years ago, when the newly launched Leongatha Lyric Theatre invited Robyn to be the "make-up-lady". So successful was that debut that she was engaged by the theatre company each year. After several years of this work, Robyn tried her hand at set painting, which led to set design, and, in 1992 she received an award for the Most Outstanding Design in Amateur Theatre, Gippsland. Robyn is now a life member of Leongatha Lyric Theatre.

Robyn's highly developed aesthetic sensibility has permeated across many

genres – everything from clothes, to garden, to the beautiful interior of her home. Robyn also owned and operated a clothing store in Leongatha for several years.

Robyn's artistic culinary delights began when Meeniyann Art Gallery opened in 2002. She was asked to prepare the food for the exhibition openings each month. In 2003, Robyn and Lindsay (her husband) opened a stylish restaurant/cafe in Meeniyann called "Watsons on Whitelaw" (Watson being Robyn's birth name). Robyn's artistic flair has rubbed off on to her children – Lachie is a graphic artist/photographer and Andrea is a visual merchandiser, now studying architectural interior design – both of them were involved in the design of Watsons.

Editors note: A co-worker added this during our interview. "Wherever Robyn goes she adds a touch of beauty – her food appearing on plates are often mistakenly taken for sculptures. One of the things we all love about Robyn is her ringing laughter, the product of her gorgeous sense of humour."

... Women who have made work an Artform



**REBECCA
GAMBIIRRA
ILLUME**

**CABBAGE TREE,
FAR EAST GIPPSLAND**
VISUAL ARTIST/ SINGER/
SONG WRITER

Rebecca Gambirra Illume was born in Nhullunbuy, NT. She was raised in the Northern Territory in an outback environment. Gambirra is of Yolngu Aborigines, North East Arnhemland (Gove Peninsula), NT.

Gambirra is from a long lineage of well-documented and internationally recognized traditional ceremonial Yolngu painters.

Gambirra is an educator, sharing and exploring aboriginal art, traditions and culture whilst working with various age groups creating murals and paintings.

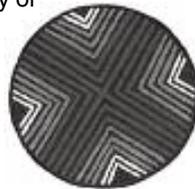
She is a highly original painter. Her paintings are traditionally based contemporaries. Gambirra draws inspiration not only from her own country and traditions but also from other areas she has visited. Consequently she has developed an interesting style.

She toured Australia for many years with her husband and two daughters, a pilgrimage of many Indigenous communities. Gambirra now takes great delight in meeting people from all over the world in her Home Studio Gallery in Cabbage Tree Creek, East Gippsland, Victoria where she exhibits her paintings along side works by many other Indigenous artists.

Gambirra's art gallery also houses her music-recording studio. She is a highly inspired and passionate singer, songwriter and composer of her own music. Her compositions reflect on the human condition; trials, tribulations and triumphs.

Gambirra started to develop musically at a very early age. Mostly self-taught, she has a unique style of smooth soul. In 1996, Gambirra toured in a leading role for a national musical theatre production, "Corrugation Road" by Jimmy Chi. Recently she released her first and self-produced album, titled "Kiss of Peace".

"My work is influenced by a tribal and modern environment, emphasising the underlying spirit and unity of life ... I feel I am a product of our predicament ..." says Gambirra.



JULIE BRANDSMA-MARK

YARRAM, GIPPSLAND

CO OWNER OPERATOR "SOPHISTICATED KITCH", TEXTILE ARTIST AND AUTHOR OF CHILDREN'S STORIES

Julie tells her personal story ...

After completing year 11 I had no idea of what I wanted to do vocationally.

At the time a friend of mine decided she wanted to be a dress designer and enrolled at Emily MacPherson College in Melbourne.

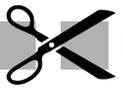
I couldn't bear the thought of returning to high school so I decided to do the same. Although I had absolutely no experience with textiles, (I failed needlework in Year 8). I was very

interested in fashion (my own that is!) as were most of my peers. I thought that catching the train into the city each morning would be a bit of fun. No longer would I have to wear that horrible grey pleated tunic and blazer, not to mention the disgusting hat and those uncomfortable black lace-up shoes. Now I could be very grown up and travel in style.

The daily walk in high heels to the station and the overcrowded train trip soon lost its glamour but I found my niche at Emily Mac. It was there that I developed a love of textiles that remains a passion still (my friend left the course after two weeks!)



— Continued on page 7



Clip the Enrolment Form, Complete your Details, and post it with your cheque to your nearest Project Coordinator ...

DATES, LOCATIONS & CONTACTS

YARRAM:

Pelican Room, Wellington Shire Offices, YARRAM
9:00am to 4:00pm – Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th July 2004

MEENIYAN:

Uniting Church Hall, Geale St, MEENIYAN
9:00am to 4:00pm – Friday 16th and Saturday 17th July 2004

WARRAGUL:

Education Centre, Smith Street, WARRAGUL
9:00am to 4:00pm – Tuesday 17th and Wed 18th August 2004

MORWELL/MOE:

Airly Bank Gallery, 33 The Boulevard, MORWELL
9:00am to 4:00pm – Friday 20th and Saturday 21st August 2004

CONTACT: MEG VINEY

Email: megsie@meeniyangallery.com.au

Phone: 5674 2551 BH

Postal address: 35 Lohr Ave, Inverloch 3996

STRATFORD/MAFFRA:

DPI Building, 1 Stratford St, MAFFRA
9:00am to 4:00pm – Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th August 2004

SWIFTS CREEK/OMEQ:

Golden Age Hotel, Omeo
9:00am to 4:00pm – Wed 15th and Thursday 16th September 2004

CONTACT: DEB MILLIGAN

Email: littlemilligan@ozemail.com.au

Phone: 5145 5240

Postal address: C/o Post Office, Briagolong 3860

BUCHAN:

Buchan Resource Centre
9:00am to 4:00pm – Sat 18th and Sunday 19th September 2004

BEMM RIVER:

Bemm River Community Centre
9:00am to 4:00pm – Sat 25th and Sunday 26th September 2004

CONTACT: KATE EARLE

Email: Katedoc2@hotmail.com

Phone: 5154 8419

Mobile: 0408 178 179

Postal address: Marlo Cabbage Tree Rd, Marlo 3888

Women Who Mean Business *... Selling Gippsland's Finest*

THE PROJECT

The WwMB project presents an exciting opportunity for Gippsland communities and women of all ages and economic and cultural backgrounds. During the next two years the project will bring together women across Gippsland to participate in skills development training workshops and develop a community project in each of the eight areas.

The eight working groups will chose their own community project and learn how to market their product, their community and their region while meeting new and interesting people.

All this – and having fun at the same time!



Supported by the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund



Arts Network East Gippsland Inc.

*Administered by Arts Network East Gippsland (ANEG)
ABN: 55 709 825 266*

*With in-kind support from the
Gippsland Women's Network
C/ RMB 9055, Willow Grove 3825
email: noyview@vic.australis.com.au*



Women Who Mean Business *... Selling Gippsland's Finest*

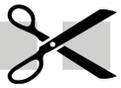
Aims to work with women and communities across Gippsland to develop talents in leadership, business and the arts

Invites you to participate in a 2-day Skills Development Seminar

**Coming to a location near you
July – September 2004**

\$10.00 Registration includes catering

“Ever wished you could find a leadership course that fits into a few days instead of a year or more while enjoying it at the same time”



Clip the Enrolment Form, Complete your Details, and post it with your cheque to your nearest Project Coordinator ...

For your nearest location ...

REGISTRATION FORM

Please tick a box

YARRAM:

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th July 2004

MEENIYAN:

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th July 2004

WARRAGUL:

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th August 2004

MORWELL/MOE:

Friday 20th and Saturday 21st August 2004

Return to: Meg Viney, 35 Lohr Ave, INVERLOCH 3996

STRATFORD/MAFFRA:

Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th August 2004

SWIFTS CREEK/OMEQ:

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th September 2004

Return to: Deb Milligan, Briagalong PO, BRIAGALONG 3860

BUCHAN:

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September 2004

BEMM RIVER:

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September 2004

Return to: Kate Earle, Marlo Cabbage Tree Rd, MARLO 3888

YOUR DETAILS:

Name:

Postal Address:

..... P/code:

Phone (BH)

Phone (AH)

Email:

Any special dietary requirements?

.....

I enclose cheque/money order for \$10

Payable to ANEG and forward to your nearest location

What's in it for me?

- Want to spend two days with a bunch of interesting people who are keen to go for their goals?
- Want to share what you know and learn from others' life experience?
- Reluctant to travel for development programs? We have one for you right here, right now.
- Women who have participated in these programs in the past rave about them.
- Feeling ground down, overloaded, blue or just plain tired?
- Join in a 2-day energiser guaranteed to boost both your skills and energy.

FACILITATOR:

Jill Gael

Jill Gael is a motivating, funny, engrossing presenter who loves working with people. She uses her life stories to punctuate the input sessions, draws on the skills and knowledge of participants and empowers people to set their expectations high then to just "go for it!"

— Content —

Women Who Mean Business

Skill Development Workshops

July - September 2004

There will be a number of local workshops over 2 days for women who want to develop or extend their skills.

Presented by Jill Gael, these workshops will include:

- Running Productive Meetings
- Developing Leadership Skills
- Project Management
- Conflict Resolution
- Reaching Consensus
- Making Decisions, Setting Priorities, Problem Solving
- Using the plan, Deploy, Review Cycle to Get Things Done
- Developing your Own Development/Career Plan
- Communicating and Working in Committees
- Self-Care

In addition to workshops sessions an extensive resource kit is included. Following the workshop, participants will manage an exciting community project (already funded) which provides a great opportunity to put the learned skills into practice.

... Women who have made work an Artform

Halfway through the course I realised that I was pregnant and left to marry. Six months later I was the mother of a beautiful baby girl at the tender age of eighteen. Four years later my son Jamie was born. During my years at home with my children I made their clothes and decorated my home as I felt a great desire to surround myself with colour and texture.

The kids grew and began to become less dependent and I started working part-time as a swimming instructor as I had a strong swimming background as a kid. I enjoyed teaching and enrolled to do my Matriculation at night school with the thought that if successful I would apply to do primary teacher training. I was successful and commenced three years of study at the then Burwood State College. I taught at several schools in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, the most enjoyable as an art teacher for three years.

In 1989 my second husband and I made a conscious decision to move to the Yarram area. Jodie and Jamie were well established as young adults, Jodie as a secondary art and craft teacher and Jamie undertaking a music degree at VCA.

We bought a property in the foothills of the Strezleckis, both finding permanent jobs, everything fell into place – it was perfect. Then in 1993 tragedy struck. My beautiful and talented daughter died without warning. She was just twenty-eight and her cause of death was Atypical Pneumonia, possibly due to a virus. Even now I cannot find the words to describe the pain of the grief that overwhelmed me and threatened to destroy me.

However, Jodie left behind a wonderful legacy — her artwork, her diaries of twenty years, her dream journals of many years, film scripts, short stories and videos that she had made. I suppose her death enabled me to make changes in my life.

I left teaching. In 1996 I decided that I would exhibit Jodie's work and I contacted The Meat Market Craft Centre in North Melbourne. As part of this Exhibition I planned to print Jodie's fabric designs so I enrolled in a fabric-printing course at East Gippsland TAFE. It was at TAFE I met Lynne Deacon who is now my business partner.

Lynne and I developed a wonderful friendship. We had much in common creatively. Lynne, who had also trained at Emily Mac, offered her emotional and practical support throughout the process of preparing the exhibition, which was a great success.

Lynne and I continued to meet regularly and decided that we should do something together involving textiles. **Sophisticated Kitsch** was born!

We make handbags out of vintage fabrics, hand-dyed laces, and costume jewelry often found in Op-shops and second-hand stores.

Lynne lives in Newry and I live near Yarram so we meet as often as we can to exchange fabrics and spend time dyeing laces in the vat room of the old dairy on at my place. We have created a web site and sell our bags through. We plan to hold an exhibition of our work in the near future.

We have a lot of fun creating our handbags and achieve great satisfaction with each

completed bag Our web site is – www.soki.com for anyone who would care to take a look!

I also run a self-contained holiday cottage on our property and enjoy writing stories for children. Since Jodie's death I have given myself permission to pursue activities that I enjoy.

I have come "full-circle."

ANYA HENKINSON

**NEWBOROUGH,
CENTRAL GIPPSLAND**
CRAFT SCULPTOR/TEXTILE AND
VISUAL ARTIST

Anya's Story ...

Ever since I can remember I have always been interested in Arts and Craft. I believe my artistic desire goes as far back to when I was a small child in kindergarten. It seems kindergarten must be where my heart belongs as for the last few years I have been working as an assistant at Willow Grove Kindergarten assisting the director in working with the artistic pursuits of young children. I enjoy preparing the art program and have painted murals on the walls with an Australiana theme.

From a more mature perspective I have been fortunate to learn several artistic skills; my favourite being craft sculpturing. I have worked with needle sculpture, clay sculpture, bread dough and several other mediums but most of my work has been sculpting porcelain dolls. I like creating dolls best of all because of the intricate detail required which encompasses many other craft skills. After the initial task of sculpturing the doll it needs to be painted several times.

The dressing up of these dolls is quite detailed – the dresses, hats, shoes etc are all handmade in the finest and minute detail. It also involves utilising other craft skills including embroidery, sewing individual design for each doll, knitting, crocheting and ribbon embroidery. The skills I apply to doll design are mostly self taught. I have been fortunate to win prizes with my unique porcelain sculptured designs and have retailed these dolls for specialised city outlets.

I also make fabric teddy bears utilising my sculpturing skills to give each bear an individual face. These teddy bears are all "one of a kind". Their faces are made from a particular medium that gives soft lines to the sculpture and can be baked in a normal kitchen oven. Making their precious faces fulfills my "creative hunger" and is not as time-consuming as creating the porcelain dolls.



... Women who have made work an Artform

**SAMANTHA
ABBOTT**

**STRATFORD
EAST GIPPSLAND
GLASS ARTIST**

Sam's Story ...

I have been working with glass now for about ten years.

Eighteen months ago I established my own business where I operate from a factory in Stratford. I also run classes three times per week for women and men who are interested in using glass as an art medium. At the front of the factory I have a gallery where some of my glasswork and that of the students is on display for sale. I have had tremendous support from my students and people in the area. My business is going well and expanding – a real plus considering it is still early days.

Much of my craft involves jewellery making. I handcraft chunky type kiln formed glass pendants, bead making and other jewellery. I have been fortunate to have my jewelry sold in outlets in shops and galleries across Australia.

Another one of my specialties is designing and making creative stained glass – incorporating these pieces into mirrors, bowls, plate frames in a head free solder. I also do glass on glass mosaic table tops which go on wrought iron bases that are made up by another local artist.

One of my passions is selling my work at local markets. I have been doing this for many years. In the early days I was doing markets with my youngest child, Jack, who was six months at the time sitting in a backpack. Abby my daughter of one year would sit with me in the car to be fed and Landa who was three at the time would happily sit under the trestle playing with toys. It was sheer madness, but heaps of fun for all of us!

Many of my weekends are still taken up with markets – local Gippsland markets, Foster, Red Hill, Ballarat and soon to be St Kilda. All these markets offer opportunity for new clientele and attract many buyers with individual preferences for glass art.

I also involve my children in art. Abby, Jack and Landa love to get involved. They all love creating mosaics; in fact, anything they can get their hand on. It is sheer delight to see their faces waiting with anticipation as we take the priceless glass items out of the kiln post-drying. I believe creativity is a wonderful gift we can share with our children.

I love what I do and I love my little business. Most of all I enjoy the change in people who have come believing they don't have a

creative bone in their body and then watching their sense of pride, joy and achievement when they have created something extraordinary and beautiful. Some of my friends think I am "nuts" starting work from 4:00 and 5:00am most days and working until late into the evening,

sometimes until 10:00pm at night. "Why do you do it they ask?" The time spent is irrelevant to my passion, as there is nothing I enjoy more.

I encourage everyone to "just believe in yourself and have a go!".



**DEIRDRE
JACK**

**LANDSCAPE
ARTIST**
ALPINE REGION
EAST GIPPSLAND

Deirdre Jack grew up in Mt. Martha. As one of three children, creativity was an important element in the family and extended family. At school Deirdre enjoyed art in particular for which it followed a natural progression to undertake a diploma of painting at the Caulfield Technical College (as it was known then).

... Women who have made work an Artform

It was at College where Deidre met Tom, her future husband who was an engineering student. After teaching in High Schools for some years and travelling Kombi style up north for a few more they settled in Swifts Creek in the Cassilis Valley in 1974 on 16 acres of river flats and land dredged for gold, mullock heaps wonderful rhythms on which to base a garden.

Tom built a house over many years which sits mellow and woody in its space in the undulations of the garden. Deidre says, "the creation of this space to live and work in harmony has been an important aspect of for working at home."

In the mid-'80s after the last of their three children, (all of whom are strongly linked to creative paths) started school, the Victorian Arts Council sponsored Merv Moriarty an artist and art educator to travel to remote areas. This was her catalyst to return to painting with greater commitment. She has continued this association attending annual workshops and considers Merv to be a mentor in her development.

Deidre's subject is that of the land particularly the high country where she is working towards a position of strength in talking about the beauty of nature which has a rightness in all its components. She is drawn to finding patterns in her subjects, to extract the intervals in nature that repeat themselves. Through subtle variations of tone and mark making she forms harmonious patterns on the canvas. Deidre says, "art is about discovery – and seeking to define aspects of her world and aims to express a statement in paint that becomes an increasingly satisfying and poetic visual experience."

Deidre says she has always felt that she as an artist working in isolation but increasingly she is feeling linked and identifying with the large number of artists in Gippsland.

MAREE WALLACE

**DROUIN, WEST GIPPSLAND
FREELANCE JOURNALIST**

A hidden dream to be a writer led Maree Wallace to undergo a correspondence course for a Diploma in Freelance Writing.

At this stage in Maree's life, her third son was playing elite basketball with the Dandenong Rangers and every Sunday morning while he trained for two hours, she would sit in the car and write.

Maree was thrilled to have her first two articles published in the Country Living section in the Weekly Times. She soon

became a regular contributor, writing about country people and their many wonderful accomplishments, their tribulations and their hopes.

Her next challenge was to produce a visitor's guide to the West Gippsland region. Recognizing a niche, Maree set about compiling a list of tourism attractions, obtaining and designing advertisements, writing editorial and organising printing.

With endorsement and support from the Baw Baw Shire, Maree published a 16 page magazine titled "What's On In Baw Baw," featuring accommodation, wineries, gardens and nurseries, the arts and crafts, Gourmet Deli products, dining out establishments and natural attractions. The 'What's On' was so popular with tourism operators, visitors and the local community that the very next edition was 24 pages with 110 advertisers. The magazine has gone from strength to strength and now features 40 pages. It covers all the small towns from Noojee to Yarragon Village to Walhalla and Mountain Rivers. The magazine's "Calendar of Events" and free advertising service for the community is very well received.

Maree says she is regularly on the road, either obtaining advertisements or distributing some of the 10,000 copies personally. Maree jokingly refers to her car as "a mobile information centre", as part of her service involves distributing everyone's brochures, flyers etc on her rounds.

Maree has been involved with the Gourmet Deli Country Tourism Association for nine years now, fulfilling the roles of Secretary, Chairperson, Public Relations Officer and Membership Secretary. Her most important role is the publishing of a monthly newsletter, keeping all operators informed of what is happening out there at ground level. Maree states, "many people feel very isolated in their daily business and the newsletter and my regular visits serve to unite everyone."

For Maree, one opportunity has led to another and she is now a member of the Shire Tourism Advisory Board, the Experience Gippsland Joint Tourism Board and the Gippsland Women in Business group. She has won a Baw Baw Shire Tourism Encouragement Award and her guide won the media prize at the Regional Tourism Awards. Another big challenge for her arose when Maree was asked to conduct tourism classes at the Gippsland Business College, Warragul and Morwell campuses. Because of her tourism contacts, this was a very practical, hands-on course.

Maree said that a big help along her journey was a weekend leadership course conducted by the Women in Agriculture. She said, "the support and encouragement from other women who are out there, feeling the fear and doing it anyway, was wonderful."



Women Who Mean Business

... Selling Gippsland's Finest



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- WwMB Project moves into Stage Two
- Water Management Affects Us All
- A Celebration of Flynn of the Inland – Buchan
- Project Coordinators' Profiles
- Project Timeframes
- Community News
- Somebody doing something worthwhile for someone
- Profiles ... Women who have made work an Artform
- Invitation to participate in a 2-Day Skills Development Seminar

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