



Goulburn Valley Environment Group
Inc.



The Goulburn Valley Environment Group Inc.

protecting the environment for generations to come

May 2013 President's report

President's Piece

Presidents May 2013 Report

It has been suggested that any President “worth their salt” should be able to report monthly to our membership. I accept this challenge and intend explore a couple of formats I think may be suitable. This first attempt will briefly list issues attracting our attention, and then concentrate on a single issue in more detail.

March –April has been a busy couple of months mainly on the political front with committee members meeting with local State representatives and Minister Peter Walsh. Topics discussed included Iron Ore mining proposal for Caniambo, Red Gum thinning in the Barmah National Park, introduction of gold prospecting in Victorian National Parks, environmental water back to our rivers and the evergreen issue of consultation and decision making transparency with our communities.

Challenges being faced by remnant vegetation, in particular paddock trees in our irrigation areas.

The rate of clearing of these trees appears to have increased dramatically since the widespread take-up of Federal Government on-farm efficiency grants designed to maintain and increase irrigation production and return water to the environment.

This has been caused by the increasing use of travelling irrigators replacing our more traditional flood irrigation. To the Federal Government this program is simply a means of purchasing water for the environment and they appear unconcerned with any perverse impacts on the broader environment and biodiversity.

We are concerned that the Farm planning and approval processes do not sufficiently protect these trees, take into account the ongoing energy to power this type of irrigation and overlooks the value of gravity as a low cost, efficient means of irrigating many of our crops.

The vegetation being removed includes communities that are listed as endangered ecological vegetation classes in the Goulburn -Broken and are critical habitat for a number of threatened species listed on the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. We question the wisdom of energy intense irrigation methods for broad hectare farming, the value for money of Federal funding, and processes that fail to protect vital habitat and biodiversity.

Please note our GVEG website is also being reinvigorated and will be regularly updated with press releases, submissions and topical information.

This will give GVEG the opportunity to better articulate the many issues that have the capacity to affect the natural environment we all depend on.

John Pettigrew, President of GVEG 58269557 or 0428367791

New E- Newsletter is here!

We have been a bit slack lately with our once-regular newsletter. all that will change. We are now going completely electronic in order to give our members a better service. we will of course continue to mail out paper copies to those people who still prefer it. But we would like to try and communicate with the vast majority of our members and supporters via this method if possible. Please let us know how you would like to receive your updates and we always need stories to share with others. So if you have a local story or picture featuring our local environment, or an

issue you would like to be published, simply let us know and we will try and include it in the next newsletter.

Tell us your stories

Have you got a story to tell or a picture to share?

Would you like to be a guest writer or have a regular column in the new GVEG newsletter?

Here is your chance

We are offering a free 5 year membership for the best articles, pictures or stories for the newsletter. All stories will get printed and a winner will be notified in the next newsletter.

Simply email a word document by clicking on this link: gveg@mcmedia.com.au

Happy writing!

Calls for more members

GVEG needs you, our environment needs you!

Become a member today or renew your existing or old membership. It's really easy and being a member keeps you updated on local environmental and sustainability news and events. You also get access to our regular newsletters.

Individuals \$25, Concession \$15, Family \$35

Special Offer 5 years for \$100

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible (not memberships).

Payment also welcome by cheque or direct deposit to the Goulburn Valley Environment Group

BSB 083 894 Account Number 048 131 763

Simply [email us](#) and we will send you a membership form.

Your committee

GVEG 2012-13 Committee Members

President John Pettigrew

Vice President Terry Court

Secretary Peter Jerie

Treasurer Barb Gray

Doug Robinson

Nick Roberts

Helen Reynolds

Sue Hunt

Danielle Beischer

Wayne Steward

John Laing



Your support is vital

We rely on your memberships and donations to keep operating. Your ongoing support for GVEG is vital.

Our memberships remain unchanged again this year:

Individuals \$25

Concession \$15

Family \$35

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