



MEDIA RELEASE

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Leongatha Leads the Way for GCLP Kick Off

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program's first program day was held at Leongatha's Federation Training campus on Thursday with participants from across Gippsland attending. Committee for Gippsland CEO, Mary Aldred said the program day was an important day in the leadership program reminding participants of the vast history of the Gippsland region that helps shape and influence the Gippsland of today. The first program day follows the GCLP 2016's launch in February at Inverloch, which marked the 20th program year since it began in 1996.

"Today participants gained a greater appreciation for the history of Gippsland, how the current population made its way to Gippsland and how the different industries helped build Gippsland communities," said Ms Aldred.

"From learning about Aboriginal history and communities around the Gippsland region through to the modern day population changes, the first program day focusses on understanding who we are as Gippslanders and how we have evolved.

"Gippsland has an incredible history and the Gippsland Community Leadership Program is fortunate to have passionate and expert local presenters from around the region provide participants with an interesting and in-depth understanding of Gippsland," Ms Aldred said.

Local Boolarra historian Patrick Morgan gave a thorough presentation on the history of Gippsland and the obstacles and challenges Gippsland has overcome throughout settlement.

"Gippsland is different to the many other parts of Victoria with a dispersed population of over 250,000 people across the region and its greatest asset being the reliable rainfall," Mr Morgan said. Mr Morgan's presentation also discussed the successive historical migration waves in Gippsland from the Indigenous population through to explorers, squatters, miners, selectors to modern day sea-changers to the cultural, economic and historical influences on the Gippsland communities.

Mandy Leggett, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer at West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority also presented on the history of Gippsland's Indigenous population providing participants with a greater awareness of the presence and traditional customs of the Gunai Kurnai people of Gippsland.

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program will guide participants through a 12 month in-depth understanding about the Gippsland region, including its history, communities and industries while looking at the challenges and opportunities ahead for the region.

While participants will gain a greater understanding of Gippsland they will also undertake several leadership theory components, where participants hear from a range of leaders from Gippsland and around Australia, as they build on their own development and understanding of leadership qualities.



Gippsland Community Leadership Program

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The Gippsland Community Leadership Program celebrates its twentieth year in 2016, and with over 500 graduates, is proudly managed by the Committee for Gippsland based in Warragul.

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program will next head to the School of Student Leadership in Marlo in East Gippsland for a two-day residential session with the theme being Education in Gippsland and guest speakers including Mark Reeves and Robyn Francis from the School of Student Leadership, Snowy River Campus.