

Watermark competition

The Gippsland Lakes in 2030

Introduction

The Gippsland Lakes system with its vast array of waterways is the largest inland waterway in Australia. Covering an area of 60,000 ha and spread over a distance of 60 km, the system is dominated by three magnificent lakes - at the western end is Lake Wellington which is connected via McLennan's Strait to Lake Victoria then onto Lake King. The Gippsland Lakes system empties into Bass Strait through a constructed entrance at the popular tourist resort of Lakes Entrance.

The indigenous people used the lakes as a valuable source of food. From the earliest days of European settlement the lakes have been used for transport, fishing, water supplies and recreation. The Gippsland Lakes system has been declared a Ramsar site (a worldwide recognition of their environmental value) which puts them on a par with Kakadu and The Great Barrier Reef.

The Lakes have been affected by human activities. For example, a permanent entrance to the sea was opened at Lakes Entrance in 1889. In more recent times water from the feeder rivers has been harvested for industrial and agricultural purposes. Also, residential and industrial areas adjoin the lakes and their catchments. These (and other) activities are affecting the ecology and health of the Lakes system.

The competition – what to do

Imagine a local Gippsland newspaper has a headline "The Gippsland Lakes in 2030".

You are to write an article for publication under this heading.

Entering the competition – information and the rules

Students from Bairnsdale, Maffra, Lakes Entrance and Sale Secondary Schools are invited to enter the competition.

In this inaugural year, there are 2 categories –

(1) students from years 7 & 8 and (2) students from years 9 & 10

The article:

- has a limit of 400 words (excluding any captions)
- may be accompanied by photographs and/or artwork which must be clearly captioned
- may take an historical, cultural, industrial, environmental or imaginary approach
- must be the students own work
- must recognise (in an appropriate manner) any references that are used
- can be submitted in hard copy or by email using a word (.doc) document only

The entrant will hold the copyright of the article but unconditionally permits Watermark to use and/or reproduce the work in promotion or advertising including all media types.

Articles produced by students are to be **submitted via their teacher representative(s)** in each school. The teacher representative(s) will then forward the **top three (3) articles ONLY** for **each category** (ie a maximum of 6 articles/school) to:

Wally Evans, Watermark, PO Box 596 Sale 3850.

Tel: 51 432 017 Email: watermark@netspace.net.au

by 5 pm on 12 September 2010

Winners

The winners will be determined by a judging panel set up by Watermark Inc.

There are prizes for each of the two categories –

- (1) cash of \$150 for the winner, \$60 for second and \$40 for third plus
- (2) publication of the winning article in a local Gippsland newspaper

The winners will be notified by 12 October 2010

The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Watermark – what they are on about

Watermark Inc is responsible for the conduct of this competition.

Watermark's mission is "to foster community action to conserve and enhance the catchment, shores and waters of the Gippsland Lakes."

Watermark's principle vision is that "individuals and community groups together with the various government authorities, trusts and agencies throughout the Gippsland Lakes catchment will work co-operatively towards improving and contributing to the health of the Lakes."

Students and teachers may have come across Watermark through BugBlitz™ activities.

If you are interested in knowing more about Watermark activities and/or would like to become a member please contact

Wally Evans, Secretary Watermark, PO Box 596 Sale 3850.

Tel: 51 432 017 Email: watermark@netspace.net.au