

Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group Inc.

NEWSLETTER --JUNE 2025



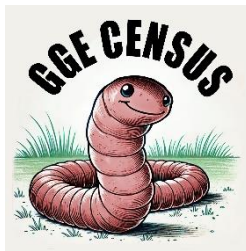
Hello GTSAG Members,

Well, it has been a very busy year to date and apologies for not getting out a newsletter to members earlier. We do have a website (www.gtsag.org.au) where we post GTSAG events such as biodiversity walks and planting days. Also, we are on Facebook where we will post any upcoming GTSAG and Landcare activities.

Project updates

The last few months have seen us writing more grant funding applications and continuing with our current projects. We are extremely grateful to Rendere for having supported our Biolinks and Threatened Species Officer over the past 18 months.

Our two Giant Gippsland Earthworm projects, funded by the Federal Government's Saving Native Species program, are in progress with the soil hydrology project due to finish towards the end of this year. If you would like to know more about these projects, please visit the GTSAG website. A community information day on preliminary results from the soil probes installed at an Arawata property will be held at the Arawata hall on Monday June 23, followed by a walk at our member, Dave Sutton's, property and at an adjacent South Gippsland Water site to listen out for the GGE gurgles! Please see attached flyer for further information and booking for this event.



The GGE census project is well underway with 2700 questionnaires being sent out within the next couple of weeks to landholders in south-west Gippsland with potential GGE habitat. A GGE App has also been developed for landholders to record GGE locations, send in GGE habitat photographs and record GGE gurgles. If you think that you have the Giant Gippsland Earthworm on your property, download the app: 'Giant Gippsland Earthworm' in the Apple or Android app store (select

the image of a cartoon worm). Complete the survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GGECensusSurvey. To learn more about this project, visit www.giantearthworm.org.au for habitat maps and more details.

GTSAG, in partnership with Friends of Ritchie Reserve, held a successful community open day at Ritchie Reserve recently with a biodiversity walk and talk, plant giveaways and information stalls. Friends of Ritchie Reserve also held a planting session with the local Korumburra Secondary School students. This is part of a Landcare grant that GTSAG received for Ritchie Reserve.



Our group was successful in receiving a DEECA Coastcare grant to control Boxthorn and hand pull Sea Spurge in the Kilcunda-Powlett River area to enhance habitat for threatened birds such as the Hooded Plover and Blue-winged Parrot. GTSAG has also received a VicTrack grant to carry out weed control and supplementary planting along the disused railway line to enhance the biolink between

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Adams Creek Nature Conservation Reserve and the township of Lang Lang. If you would like to assist with the planting please book online at the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/DCOIU>

We have an extremely busy couple of months coming up with a number of community planting days associated with our projects (see below). Due to the dry conditions, plantings have been postponed until July. Our planting schedule will be on our GTSAG website shortly if anyone would like to assist and learn more about the biodiversity of our special areas in this part of Gippsland.

GTSAG 2025 Upcoming planting events		
Event	Date	
VicTrack disused railway line, Lang Lang	7/07/2025	See attached flyer
Giant Gippsland Earthworm planting at Ranceby	12/07/2025	Details to be advised
Screw Creek, Inverloch	19/07/2025	Details to be advised
Ritchie Reserve, Korumburra community planting day	14/09/2025	Details to be advised

An educational and interactive event to mark Threatened Species Day is being planned in September at Turtons Creek to mark National Threatened Species Day, in partnership with the Gippsland Forest Guardians. The day will bring the community together to learn about, discuss, and engage in the protection of the EPBC listed Endangered and much-loved Gang-gang Cockatoo. This event will feature Stacey Taylor, ANU Fenner School PhD candidate, whose research aims to fill critical knowledge gaps about the Gang-gang Cockatoo to improve conservation efforts. A big thank you to the Mary McKillop Today Highways and Byways Small Grants Program for funding this event.



Some of our GTSAG members recently attended an event held by Gippsland Forest Guardians to launch a bold new grassroots proposal: the Tarwin River Rainforest Refuge. The proposed refuge aims to protect the rainforest-lined creeks in Fellas coupe, a section of crown land, currently licensed to Hancock Victoria Plantations (HVP), that conservationists hope will be reserved as a Slender Tree-fern sanctuary and ecological biolink. We have found it very inspiring the way that the Gippsland Forest Guardians have been able to involve and inspire the local Turtons Creek community to preserve the highly significant Cool Temperate Rainforest and associated threatened species such as the Slender Tree-fern.

Slender Tree-fern
(*Cyathea cunninghamii*)

Critically endangered in Victoria

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