

Public Administration Committee

From: Lawrinson, Julia
Sent: Tuesday, 13 January 2015 8:58 AM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: FW: Query re Heart Morass
Attachments: Heart Morass - Project Flyer.pdf

From: rachel.berry [mailto:rachel.berry@fga.net.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 January 2015 8:46 AM
To: Lawrinson, Julia
Subject: FW: Query re Heart Morass

Hello Julie,

Rod asked me to send on a few things about the Heart which should hopefully suit your needs.

There is a WET website with a Heart Morass page, here: <http://wet.org.au/heart.html> (you are welcome to use text from that page)

And though a little dated, there was a flyer produced to encourage contribution to the project, the text of which I've attached as a PDF.

I hope this is what you were after.

Regards,

Rachel Berry | Communications Officer
Field & Game Australia Inc.

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From: Rod Drew
Sent: Tuesday, 13 January 2015 11:29 AM
To: rachel.berry
Subject: FW: Query re Heart Morass

Rachel

Rod Drew | Director Policy & External Relations
Field & Game Australia Inc.

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HEART MORASS RESTORATION PROJECT

An Iconic Wetland

The Heart Morass is a significant wetland system in the West Gippsland region. Located at the mouth of the Latrobe River, the Heart Morass is part of a wetland complex forming the western part of the Gippsland Lakes.

The Heart Morass area was settled in about 1841, and over time, has been drained, cleared and managed for beef and dairy production. As a result, and with the impacts of salinisation, the health of the wetland has declined. Approximately 1,000 acres of the Heart Morass is currently in public ownership with the remaining area in private ownership.

A Unique Partnership with a Common Vision

In 2006, Field and Game Australia's Wetland Environmental Taskforce Public Fund purchased 1,930 acres of the morass. The rehabilitation of the morass is a joint initiative of a stakeholder group including Field and Game Australia Inc, Watermark Inc. and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

The \$1.1 million purchase and rehabilitation will ultimately restore the wetland to a place of national significance for waterbirds and other wetland dependant flora and fauna. Funding for the land purchase has come from the members and branches of Field and Game Australia and the Hugh Williamson Foundation.

The partners formalised their relationship with a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines a shared vision for the wetland.

A Wetland of International Importance and Local Significance

VISION - To develop the Heart Morass Wetland as an icon within Australia and internationally. Iconic status will be achieved through the enhancement of biodiversity, water quality and recreational and social values within the Heart Morass, and through its contribution towards the health of the Gippsland Lakes.

A Living, Working and Biologically Diverse Component of the Catchment

The partners recognise the importance of the Heart Morass and its association with the broader Gippsland Lakes wetland system and are committed to achieving a balance between enhanced environmental, cultural, social and economic values.

Management decisions will be made within the context of contributing towards improving the health of the broader Gippsland Lakes wetland system and achievement of icon status for the Heart Morass Wetland.