



Membership Policy

Gippsland Forest Dialogue



Engage • Explore • Change

www.gippslandforestdialogue.org.au
Facebook: GippslandForestDialogue

Foreword

The Gippsland Forest Dialogue is a locally based, not-for-profit incorporated association of community members who seek to facilitate informed conversations about Gippsland's forests during an era of rapid change. We have operated since 2022. The group uses an approach developed over 20 years by the international "Forest Dialogue" and Yale University to provide safe spaces for respectful dialogue on controversial and challenging topics in environmental conservation and management.

The forest dialogue approach allows diverse voices to come together to discuss, share information and perspectives, and consider solutions to complex problems in a way that is safe and constructive for all participants.

Our key outcome is to connect people and build trust and productive relationships amongst those who love our forests.

Chris McEvoy, President Dec 2025

Our aim: to increase and diversify our membership to best represent the people of Gippsland

Our goal: to grow our membership to 150

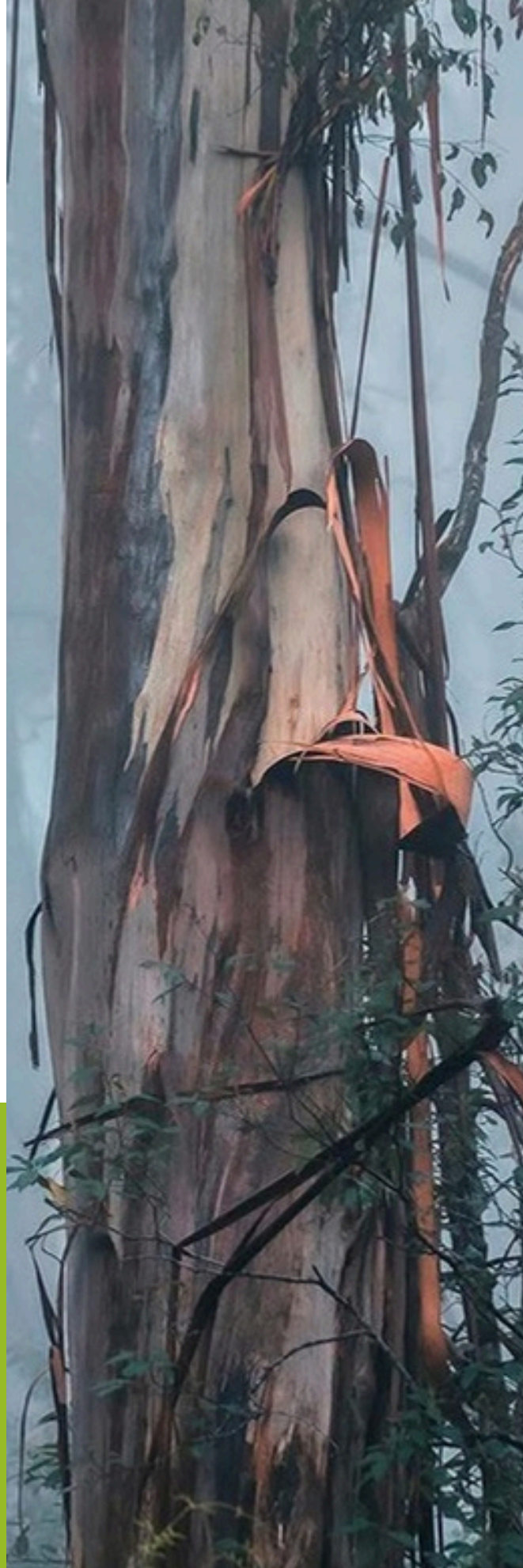




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Introduction



Forests are for everyone and GFD is for anyone who wants to participate and share their views and listen respectfully to others.

Successful dialogue cannot occur without a diverse group of people and views and similarly our organisation cannot exist without a strong and diverse membership.

With strong membership we can ensure a sustainable organisation with succession and regular renewal of our committee.

Strong membership will foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, ensure all voices are heard in our conversations, build trust and connection, ensure transparency and good governance and help GFD meet its legal obligations as a registered charity and incorporated body.

We appreciate the many time pressures on people, and that your level of involvement is dependant on your many commitments, we value you as members and are grateful for your support.

Who are our members?

Anyone who is interested in the future of our forests is welcome to join GFD. Two of our core values are: to be inclusive of all people and all viewpoints and to be respectful and listen to others and encourage their participation.

People can register on line to become a full member or to be kept informed as an associate. Individuals from organisations are welcome but are requested to disclose their association, and represent themselves not their organisation at dialogues, when you come to one of our events, you leave your "coat" at the door.



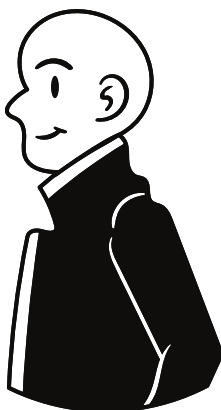
Full members

Active participants in the groups management and activities. Members have the right to attend AGMs and seek nomination to committees and will be consulted on relevant matters by the Steering committee.



Associates

Individuals wishing to be kept informed of the groups activities without full membership. Observers not active participants. Receive newsletters and notification of dialogues, but have not voting rights.



Honorary

Persons or groups recognised for their support of Gippsland Forest Dialogue, it includes sponsors and others making significant contribution to the group. Note: as per our funding policy GFD maintains its independence from any donor or sponsor.

Rights and responsibilities of members



Rights

To participate in dialogues, workshops and decision making processes
Access reports, minutes and research produced by the dialogue
Propose agenda items at AGMs and raise concerns at AGMs (full members only)
Seek election to the steering committee (full members only)
Contribute to the conduct and planning of dialogues
Advocate and promote GFD in their networks
Participate on working groups

Responsibilities

Uphold respectful, constructive dialogue
Commit to transparency and honesty in contributions
Respect cultural protocols, especially wrt Traditional owners
Avoid conflicts of interest and declare affiliations when relevant
Contribute time, expertise or resources where practical and within your means
Promote GFD within Gippsland and your networks

Administration

Anyone who is interested in the future of our forests is welcome to join GFD. Two of our core values are: to be inclusive of all people and all viewpoints and to be respectful and listen to others and encourage their participation.

People can register on line to become a full member or to be kept informed as an associate. Individuals from organisations are welcome but are requested to disclose their association, and represent themselves not their organisation at dialogues, when you come to one of our events, you leave your "coat" at the door.

Applying to join

Online registration as a member or associate via GFD website or direct email to eo@gippslandforestdialogue.org.au

Annual confirmation of membership prior to AGM

Termination: A member may advise at any time via email if they wish to resign, they will be removed from the member register.

Governance

GFD is required to maintain an up to date register of members and make this available as requested.

The committee will undertake an annual review of membership

The committee, may suspend or remove any member for breaches of GFD behavioural standards (e.g. disrespect, misinformation, harassment etc)

Fees

GFD is a registered charity, voluntary contributions or sponsorships may be accepted to support the running of GFD, with transparency in reporting all donations

No membership fees apply

A dialogue registration fee may be applied for events to assist in coverage of event costs



Implementation

GFD draws on the approach of the Forests Dialogue (TFD) which emphasises multi stakeholder dialogue, independence of process and diverse representation. GFD commits to uphold those same principles in its activities.

GFD's Executive will develop membership recruitment actions consistent with this policy

The executive will maintain an up to date register of members and review this annually

GFD will administer and implement membership consistent with its constitutional rules.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years to ensure relevance and inclusivity

Members are invited to provide feedback during review

Amendments to be approved by the Executive and reported back to the membership

Appendices

GFD Constitutional rules

GFD Funding policy

Gippsland Foest Dialogue



Conflict of interest and Influence mitigation

GFD will monitor for and guard against real or perceived conflict of interest of members, and influence over agenda setting, funding, workshop design or reporting.

Members are encouraged to share their background and associations openly but participate as an individual not a representative of an organisation in dialogues or GFD business. Any conflict of interest of a committee member, must be declared and managed under GFD's standard conflict of interest procedure (i.e. disclosure at meeting, facilitation ensuring balanced voices)



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Contact

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