

GIPPSLAND FOREST DIALOGUE

WHO ARE WE?



Engage • Explore • Change

What is a forest dialogue?

A dialogue is a tried and trusted method used in many countries to engage, explore and change how forests are managed, It brings people together to share ideas and to listen to each other. It is not aligned to a particular view or designed to advocate a particular position, its about building trust and relationships across stakeholders and the community. The outcome is better connected and informed people who can then find ways to work together. Action is a by product, relationships the primary goal.

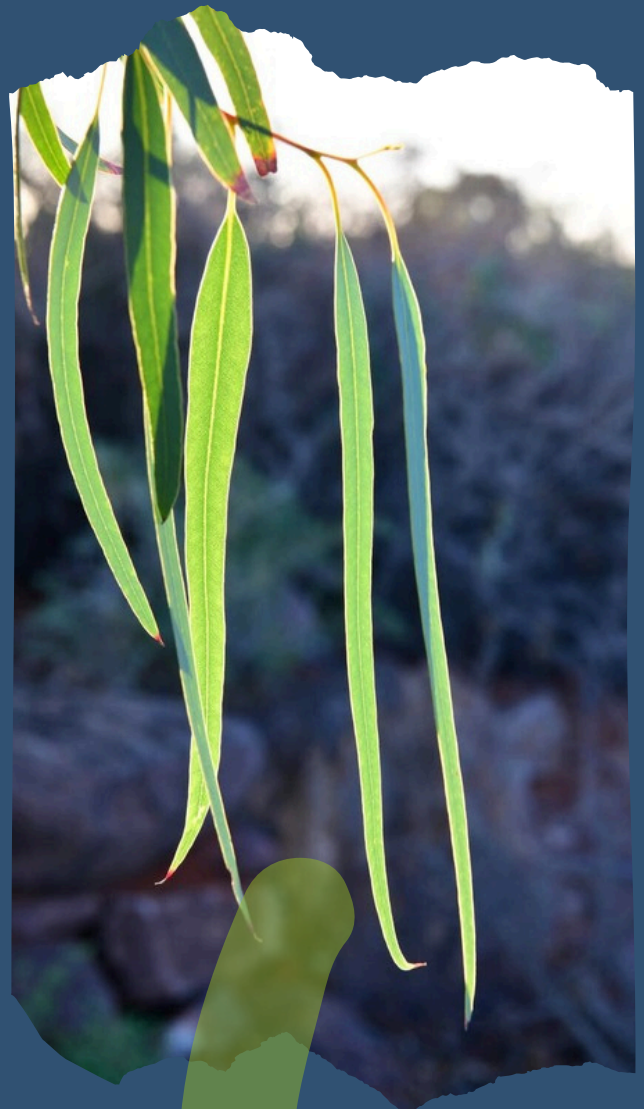


Who are GFD?

GFD is a diverse group of people who came together to try this approach in our forests. It has run for 3 years and has 150 members and associates and run 6 separate dialogues across Gippsland on a range of topics important for our forests future. Over 200 people have attended these dialogues from all walks of life, including academics, land managers, forest users, recreationalists, environmental workers and most importantly locals who live amongst these forests.

Who can come to a dialogue?

Anyone, as long as they understand that this is all about creating a safe and respectful place for the sharing of all viewpoints. It is proudly a 'talkfest', we don't look to force consensus, we equally explore opportunities to collaborate and identify fracture points (where we do not all agree)



Gippsland Forest Dialogue
www.gippslandforestdialogue.org.au

GFD - reflections on the journey, from our President

GFD is now in its fourth year, and I along with a core of people, have been along from the start, whilst many new people have joined along the journey. I've learnt that bringing people together from backgrounds and viewpoints in a safe, inclusive environment is fantastic, it builds trust and helps develop ideas. Everyone learns from each other.

Through the dialogue I have met people and learnt things I never would have otherwise.

Before I got involved in this I had been to lots of 'talk shops' but I didn't realise how there's a science to good dialogue. The international model we use has evolved over 25 years, so they know what works and what doesn't.

Why do we need a dialogue?

Our forests need a lot of help, their health is important.

You can sit back and get frustrated at Government or listen only to people who share your views, or you can open up, find ways to collaborate and participate.

And we do all have something in common, we love the bush. So whilst there might be differences of opinion we are here for the same reason, we want a better future for our forests



GFD President Chris McEvoy



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