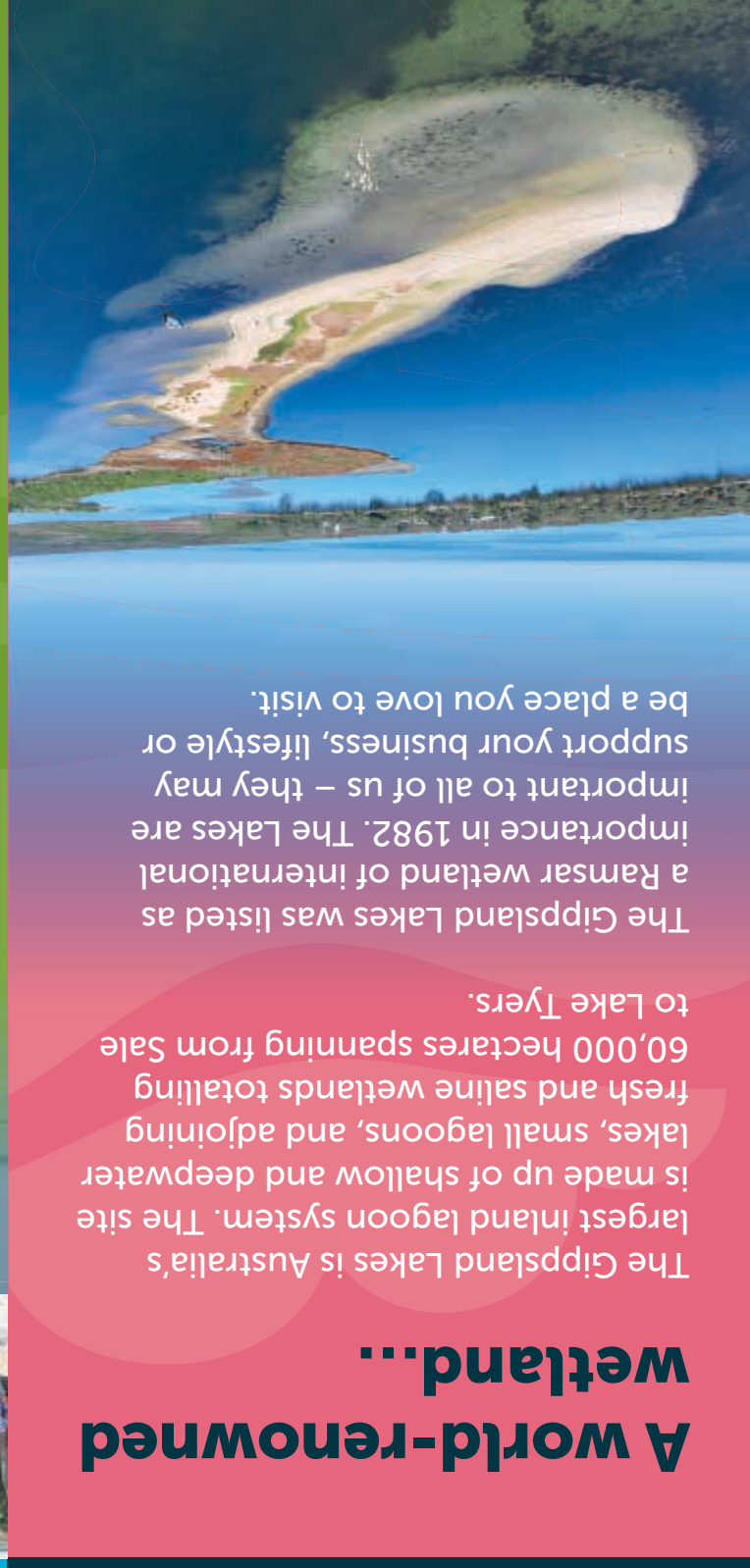

The Gippsland Lakes was listed as a Ramsar wetland of international importance in 1982. The Lakes are important to all of us – they may support your business, lifestyle or be a place you love to visit.

A world-renowned wetland...

The Gippsland Lakes is Australia's largest inland lagoon system. The site is made up of shallow and deepwater lakes, small lagoons, and adjoining fresh and saline wetlands totalling 60,000 hectares spanning from Sale to Lake Tyers.

Love Our Lakes

For over a decade Traditional Owners, partner organisations and community have worked together on a program to understand, protect and restore the Lakes environment.

These collaborative projects under the banner of Love Our Lakes are grounded in a strong understanding of the Lakes and a commitment to making a difference as we work together for a healthy Lakes today and into the future.

Bringing endangered frogs back to the wetlands, building sand islands for birds to breed, getting rid of weeds and pest animals and giving wetlands room to move are just some of the initiatives across the program.

Love Our Lakes project principles:

- To maintain or improve the health of the Gippsland Lakes now and for the future.
- To foster cooperation and coordination between agencies and organisations with an interest in the health of the Gippsland Lakes.
- To promote awareness of and participation by communities in the management of the Gippsland Lakes.
- To maximise outcomes for the Gippsland Lakes through leveraging investments.
- To empower Traditional Owners through joint management and self-determination, supporting capacity building and involvement in management of the Gippsland Lakes.

Did you know?

- The Lakes are part the planet's largest network of protected wetlands.
- The Lakes supports over 400 species of native plant and 300 wildlife species.
- Migratory birds fly thousands of kilometres each year along highways in the sky to feed here.- see below.



Our project partners

BirdLife Australia | East Gippsland Shire Council
Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
Greening Australia | Marine Mammal Foundation | Parks Victoria
Trust for Nature | West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Wellington Shire Council



Working together to protect the Gippsland Lakes

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, Traditional Owners of the land and waters of the Gippsland Lakes and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

The Gippsland Lakes have always been an important cultural landscape for Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners. Ancestors travelled across the Bassian Plain – the land bridge to Tasmania now under Bass Strait – for thousands of generations and when the lake system formed after the last Ice Age, the Tatungalung and Krauatungalung clans utilised the abundance of resources provided.

In recent times, stronger involvement in the management of Sea Country is creating opportunities to improve economic outcomes for Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners, whose relationship with these cultural landscapes continues, even when the evidence of their previous occupation now lies beneath the ocean.

The Gunaikurnai Community welcomes visitors to Country on a journey of learning and respecting. Whether passing through, travelling the Batuluk Trail or visiting one of their 14 jointly managed parks and reserves, you will be introduced to many aspects of Gunaikurnai life while visiting. The more time you spend, and the more places you visit, the greater understanding and appreciation of Gunaikurnai Country and culture you will gain.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

Scan to learn more about Gunaikurnai Country



Care for the Gippsland Lakes and become a *'Lakes Lover'*

It's easy to help care for the Lakes and the wildlife that call it home:

- Read and follow signage when you enter an area either on foot, by car or vessel.
- Keep your dog on a lead when asked.
- Plan your pump out points before you launch.
- Join your local Landcare group.
- Keep up to date on our website and socials by using the links below.

Visit our website

Sign up to our email newsletter

Report marine pests and any unusual wildlife sightings

loveourlakes.net.au

loveourlakes

VICTORIA State Government

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
T 03 5152 0600 | E egcma@egcma.com.au
Main Office 75 Macleod Street Bairnsdale VIC 3875
PO Box 1012, Bairnsdale VIC 3875

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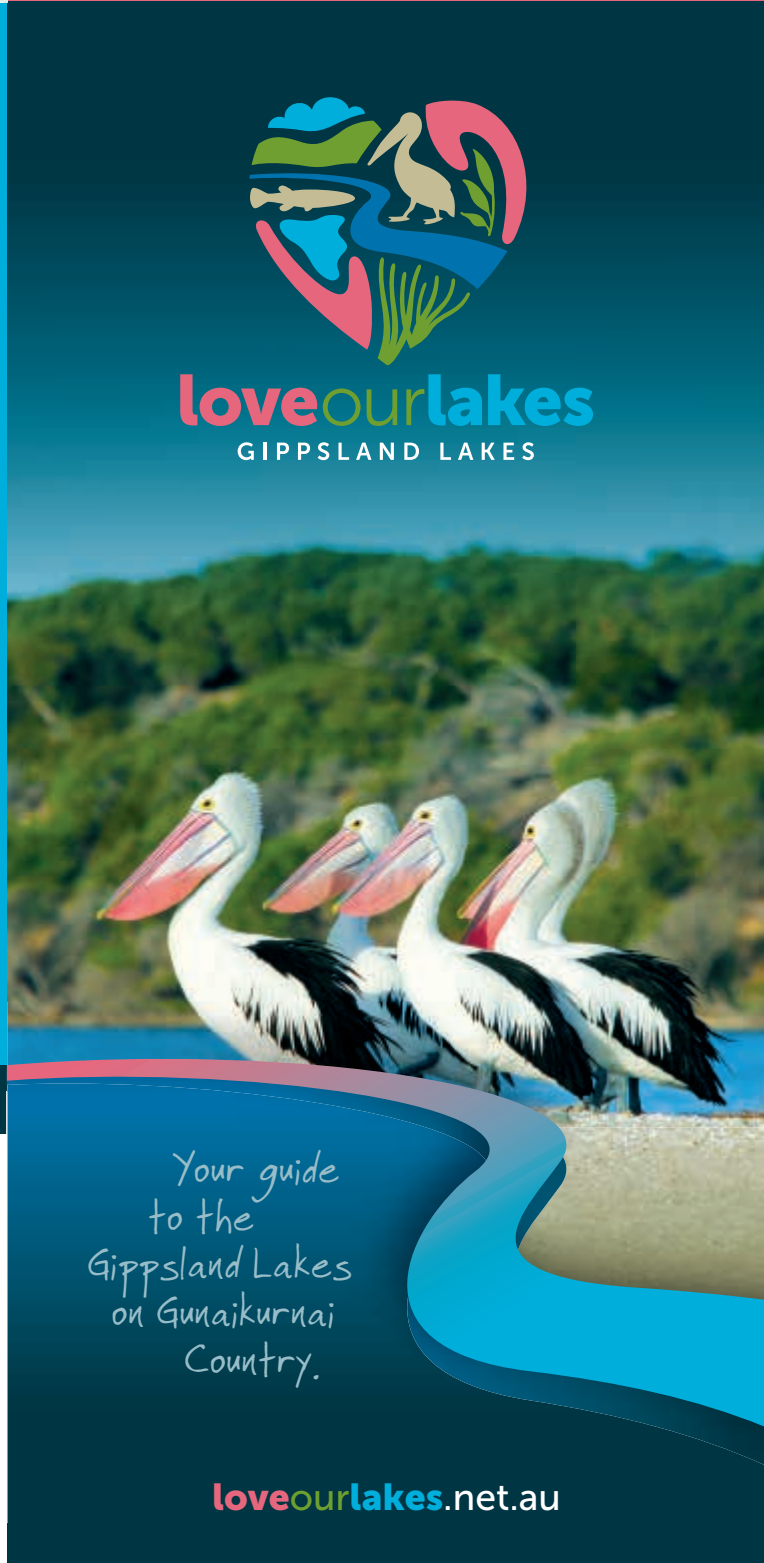
GIPPSLAND LAKES



Your guide to the Gippsland Lakes on Gunaikurnai Country.

loveourlakes.net.au

Your guide to the **Gippsland Lakes catchment on Gunaikurnai Country**

Explore Australia's largest estuarine lagoon system and the connecting catchment landscape.



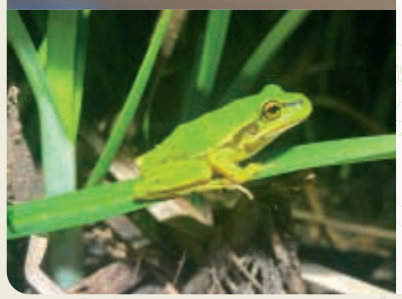
Monitoring important habitats and species

Annual bird and frog monitoring of threatened species.

Satellite and on ground monitoring of seagrass and saltmarsh communities.

Monitoring and assessing water quality by installing permanent stations.





Protecting threatened species and their habitat

Removing weeds, installing fencing and planting natives to improve river and catchment health.

Controlling invasive species like foxes, goats and deer.

Building and improving wetland habitat for Growling Grass and Green and Golden Bell Frogs.

Improving habitat for beach nesting birds like the Fairy Tern.

Installing native fish habitat in estuarine reaches.



Giving the Lakes room to move

Future proofing through creating freshwater refuge areas for plants and wildlife.



Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners

Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners are leading the design and delivery of projects through joint management and self-determination, supporting capacity building and involvement in management of the Gippsland Lakes.



This map is a visual representation of the Gippsland Lakes catchment. Scale and details are not accurate and should not be relied upon for directions.