



The Gippsland Environmental Agencies Women in Leadership team Julie Logan, Jodie Simpson, Graeme Dear (GEA chair), Sue Cutlack, Jessica Bandiera, Amie Twentymen, Yalana Milne and Bec Hemming. (PS)

## Women taking the lead

**'We're all in this together, let's build connections' was the key message from the Gippsland Women in Leadership forum held in Sale last week.**

Organised by the Gippsland Environmental Agencies Women in Leadership team, the forum encourages women to be great leaders, no matter their position, through a culture of growth and empowerment.

The Gippsland Environmental Agencies includes the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Southern Rural Water, Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation, EPA, Sustainability Victoria and East and West Gippsland catchment management authorities.

GEA Women in Leadership team chair, Jodie Simpson, said there was a lot of opportunity to

share insights and learnings.

"Participants strengthened their networks and walked away from the forum inspired and encouraged to be great leaders," she said.

A mentoring program was launched to help build connections and promote finding, making and taking opportunities. Guest speaker, Vanessa Medling, from Inspiring Success, posed questions about

how to be brave, take personal responsibility and become an empowered networker.

Promoting leadership among women within the water sector is a key priority of the State Government.

"The forum was a great opportunity to build connections and hear how leadership opportunities and experiences for women continue to grow and evolve in our region," Jodie said.