

Top state gong for Beware Reef friends

Volunteer group, Friends of Beware Reef, received a prestigious award at the Victorian Landcare Awards at Government House last Friday.

Represented by Don Love, John Ariens and Parks Victoria ranger, Mike Irvine, they were awarded the Coastcare Award.

Over the past 15 years this small band of dedicated divers has made hundreds of boat trips offshore to conduct underwater surveys of marine life at Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary near Cape Conran, and many other sites. Their learnings play an important role in assisting Parks Victoria understand and protect the marine environments.

They also work closely with Coastcare Victoria staff who have assisted with funding for field work and publications. In return they are generous with their knowledge, producing identification books and posters and freely giving their time for presentations at Coastcare events.

Their commitment to the marine environment and the volume and scope of the work they have

undertaken is truly outstanding. Another amazing demonstration of volunteer contributions to science and the environment.

The group is now automatically entered in the National Landcare Awards.

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has sent a big congratulations to all of the nominees in this year's Victorian Landcare Awards.

East Gippsland was well represented in the awards with five nominees; including Eastwood Landcare Group, Friends of Beware Reef, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Mick and Cindy Robinson, and Ann Robson.

CMA chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said "it's fantastic that we are able to celebrate the achievements of our Landcare and community groups like this, particularly during National Landcare Week".

"We acknowledge the level of commitment shown by all those working to improve both our environment and agricultural productivity."



East Gippsland, and in particular Orbost and district, was well represented at this year's State Landcare Awards at Government House in Melbourne last Friday. (PS)