

# Boosting the Lakes

**Grants worth \$463,000 have been awarded to 11 community projects to protect and improve the health of the iconic Gippsland Lakes.**

Funding is from the \$10 million Gippsland Lakes initiative announced by Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, in October 2016 and builds on the \$3.15 million already delivered for 16 projects in January this year.

"I'm pleased to be able to support these communities who are caring for the Gippsland Lakes. It is only through working together that agencies and communities can protect the Lakes," Ms Shing, said.

"It is fantastic to see the high calibre of projects in the latest round of grants, which will make a real difference to the health of the Gippsland Lakes and the native plants and animals here.

"I encourage all eligible applicants to take ad-

vantage of the next round of community grants."

The successful East Gippsland projects from this round of funding include:

- \* Perry River protection project - Maffra and District Landcare Network.

- \* Heart Morass Swamp scrub and woodland restoration - Wetlands Environmental Taskforce Trust.

- \* Birds as indicators of healthy wetlands - Birdlife Australia / Birdlife East Gippsland.

- \* Harper's Bight Inlet preservation and restoration - Nungurner Landcare Group.

- \* Reducing human disturbance on migratory and resident shorebird hotspots in the Gippsland Lakes - Birdlife Australia / Birdlife East Gippsland.

- \* Forge Creek erosion - Romawi Landcare Group.

- \* Waterbird Breeding Index to monitor management success of focal species in the Gippsland Lakes - Birdlife Australia / Birdlife East Gippsland.

- \* Marine Life in the Gippsland Lakes - Friends of Beware Reef.

- \* Nagle College rainforest project - Nagle College Landcare Group.

- \* Expansion of Heyfield Wetlands (Stage II) - Heyfield Wetlands Committee.

The Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee – the body appointed by Minister for Water, Lisa Neville, in January 2016 – assessed applications against the Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan and allocated funding to the successful applicants.