

28 January 2015

It's #SoNotCrap and you're invited

Everyone is invited to get involved with #SoNotCrap events in February, for a thought-provoking exploration of how East Gippsland is safeguarding its beautiful, natural environment through the smart use of recycled water.

The #SoNotCrap exhibition will run from 7 to 28 February, showcasing some fantastic images and short films submitted over recent weeks by East Gippslanders and visitors to the region, which will be displayed on the projection wall at Bairnsdale Library and at other key locations. There will be a People's Choice Award of a GoPro for the best entry, so the public are encouraged to vote for their favourite.

Bairnsdale's Water Tower in Main Street will be the backdrop for the public launch of #SoNotCrap on Saturday 7 February, with the inside of the tower providing the canvas for a captivating audio and visual experience to stimulate the senses. This is the work of artist Sue O'Connor, who conceived the #SoNotCrap initiative, with starring roles going to East Gippsland Water's Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant and the adjacent, internationally significant Macleod Morass. She set out to capture the interdependence of both sites, with the flora and fauna of the morass thriving on recycled fresh water produced by the treatment plant.

Complementing this, there will also be tours of the plant and morass running on the Saturday. Find out how the plant is treating wastewater and turning it into high quality recycled water suitable for reuse in the morass. In addition, learn more about the cultural, historical and environmental significance of the morass with rangers from Parks Victoria and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GlaWAC) as your guides.



Two of Sue O'Connor's images of the Macleod Morass - looking out towards a bird hide (left) and from the nearby wastewater treatment plant

All the events are free and there is no need to pre-book. Simply turn up, and in the case of the tours, ensure you have sensible footwear and a hat.

Sue O'Connor said of the initiative "East Gippsland has a wonderful and beautiful environment where it is great place to live and work. #SoNotCrap gives everyone the opportunity to look with fresh eyes at our towns and the environment and to think about how we manage water and wastewater.

More follows.../

“We don’t like to think about sewerage, but East Gippsland is showing that if you manage it well, you make your towns more liveable and you protect and enrich endangered habitats such as the Macleod Morass in Bairnsdale.

“The response from the public to the exhibition has been terrific, with some fantastic photos and videos submitted. We now invite the community to further embrace #SoNotCrap by casting their vote for the best and popping along to the other events organised for the month, such as the water tower experience and the tours. I also encourage you to post your photos and stories on social media – using #SoNotCrap hashtag of course!”

#SoNotCrap is sponsored by East Gippsland Water and East Gippsland Shire Council. It is also supported by Parks Victoria and GLAWAC.

#SoNotCrap dates for the diary

Date	Event	Location	Time
Sat 7 Feb	Public launch (including a Welcome to Country ceremony by GLaWAC) and meet the artist Sue O’Connor	The Water Tower, Main St, Bairnsdale (near McDonalds)	10am – 10.30am
Sat 7 Feb and Sun 8 Feb	#SoNotCrap audio and visual experience	The Water Tower, Main St, Bairnsdale	10.30am – 5pm (Sat) 10am – 5pm (Sun)
Sat 7 Feb – Sat 28 Feb	Photo and video exhibition	- Bairnsdale Library (22 Service St) - East Gippsland Shire service centres in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bairnsdale (273 Main St) • Lakes Entrance (18 Mechanics St) • Omeo (179 Day Ave) • Orbost (1 Ruskin St) • Paynesville (55 the Esplanade) • Mallacoota (70 Maurice Ave) - Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance Visitor Information Centres	Business hours
Sat 7 Feb	Tours of Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant	Bairnsdale Wastewater Treatment Plant, 143 Holloway St	11am - 2pm (regular tours – approx. 35 mins duration)
Sat 7 Feb	Tours of Macleod Morass	Meet in the morass car park at the bottom on Bosworth Rd, Bairnsdale (access via Forge Creek Rd)	11am and 12 noon

For more information contact East Gippsland Water on 1800 671 841 and ask for the communications team.

Ends

NOTE TO EDITORS: You are invited to send a reporter/photographer/camera crew to cover any of the events. For more information please contact East Gippsland Water’s Communications Manager Ronan Carroll in the first instance on 5150 4434 / 0428 539 303.