

# Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday 22 April 2010

## Jan Juc grassland to benefit from some burnin' love

Things were a little bit hot in a small section of Jan Juc's rare native grassland community this afternoon as a controlled ecological burn took place to help stimulate the regeneration of local indigenous grass species.

The burn was jointly organised by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC), Jan Juc Coast Action Group and Parks Victoria.

According to GORCC Chief Executive Officer David Clarke, this was the first time an ecological burn had been conducted on GORCC-managed land.

"The burn was undertaken as a trial and is expected to contribute to better outcomes in terms of regenerating our rare native grasses, which are constantly being threatened by invasive weeds," Mr Clarke explained.

"We believe the burn will prove critical to conserving Jan Juc's biodiversity and can't wait to see the results over the coming months and years.

"Jan Juc Coast Action was pivotal in making it happen and will play an important role in monitoring the effects of the burn as part of the group's ongoing custodianship of the coast in Jan Juc," he said.

The controlled ecological burn was conducted by Parks Victoria. It involved burning a small section (less than 0.1 hectare) of native grassland in the coastal reserve between Carnoustie Avenue and Ocean Boulevard. The burn lasted for about one hour.

Mr Clarke said the small size of the burn area would help to ensure any weed regrowth could be controlled while boosting native species regeneration.

"Our *Environment and Land Management Plan* identifies invasive weeds as the greatest threat to coastal biodiversity and the need to eradicate and control invasive weeds as a top priority. Today's trial represented another step forward in taking direct action against the serious threat posed by invasive weeds," he stated.

Mr Clarke also explained that GORCC had recently written to all residents in the area adjacent to the reserve to advise them of the trial and explain the rationale behind it.

[ENDS]

### For media enquiries please contact:

David Clarke  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Great Ocean Road Coast Committee  
Ph: 5220 5055; 0417 354 707  
Email: [david.c@gorcc.com.au](mailto:david.c@gorcc.com.au)  
Website: [www.gorcc.com.au](http://www.gorcc.com.au)

*Caring for the coast and community*

PO Box 53, Torquay, Vic 3228  
Phone: 03 5220 5055 Fax: 03 5264 7763  
Email: [info@gorcc.com.au](mailto:info@gorcc.com.au) Web: [www.gorcc.com.au](http://www.gorcc.com.au)