



Gippy AGchat August 30, 2010 – Issue 32

Ten years and growing ... Agribusiness Gippsland Inc is a non-profit group that helps support regional agribusiness and works in partnership with other organisations. This edition is going to 2582 recipients (*that's 150 sign-ups in three weeks!*)

Our partners (and we thank them):



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- Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>
- Or blog us at www.aginc.wordpress.com
- Our postal address is PO Box 1312 Warragul 3280.
- Email us at ptarmigan1@internode.on.net or ptarmigan2@internode.on.net
- Phone us 9456 9791 or 0402 267 802
- Fax us at 9459 9699

Agribusiness rises to the summit

Food marketing and branding is about relationships and values and needs a vision, image and story, in addition to positioning and supply, a leading Victorian vintner told this year's state agribusiness summit.

Ross Brown of Brown Brothers was among the experts addressing the summit.

Agribusiness Gippsland chair Alex Arbuthnot, director Courtney Ferguson and four young Gippsland agribusiness professionals attended the Lilydale summit.

Michael Buxton, Assoc Professor at RMIT University said that, across Victoria, land fragmentation will threaten future farm production.

Nick Raleigh of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project pointed out that 40% of the world's annual food production comes from irrigated land. He said that irrigators should aim at doubling production while reducing water use by half.

To achieve these goals a significant research investment is required however, VFF President Andrew Broad, noted research funding is at 70% of 1970 levels.

Peter Arnold of Regional Farmers Markets said farmers markets are bridging gaps between country and city. He said the community "owns" the market in their region.

Check to see if you need a licence

Southern Rural Water reminds landowners they need a licence or private right to take water from local rivers or creeks.

The reminder follows reports of people taking water illegally from the Bunyip River.

For landowners accessing domestic and or stock water, a private right exists if the water is on land they occupy but taking river or creek water for commercial use such as irrigation needs a licence. Unlicensed pumping water into trucks for commercial use, including the sale of water to others for domestic use, is illegal.

The public is asked to report possible breaches of these rules.

[More? Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510](#)

Climate vs food = our biggest challenge

The State Government's White Paper on Climate Change details a target of 80% of 2000 emissions levels by 2020 ... a tough call, according to Agribusiness Gippsland chair Alex Arbuthnot.

Adding a growing population and market demands for more food production could stretch systems too far, he warned.

"Futurists are warning that our farmers need to double food production by 2050.

There's scarcely the land, water, human capability and technology to achieve that, even without the extra task of arresting greenhouse gas emissions," he said.

He warned: "Imposing too-strict limits could have dire consequences for Victoria's economy: farmers curbing their outputs, industry moving to other states or even other countries and rolling power blackouts."

Only two of the report's 30 pages dealt with agriculture, he noted. Yet the sector held some of the greatest promise in greenhouse gas reduction.

"We recognise our farms need to undergo significant transformation, more than the changes currently underway. But we need recognition of the sustainable farming initiatives already in place," Alex said. "We need is all the technology and government back-up possible to put a lid on emissions.

"Farmers are used to thinking in terms inputs and outputs when it comes to production. It's vital the policymakers recognise the same formula and help us all achieve the desired result."

Field day focuses on fertiliser efficiency

Nitrogen fertiliser use efficiency will be discussed at Macalister Demonstration Farm (MDF) on Tuesday, August 31 from 10.30am. The field day, recommended for agronomists, consultants and farmers, explores results from the nitrogen fertiliser and gibberellic acid trial at MDF.

More? Matt Mahoney 5279 4175 or matthew.mahoney@incitecpivot.com.au

Gippsdairy AGM is open to all

The keynote speaker at GippsDairy 2009-10 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is Fish Creek dairy farmer Graeme Nicoll recently returned from his Nuffield Scholarship travels which took him to the UK, North and South America, Europe and NZ.

Graeme will discuss his gained understanding of agriculture on a global scale and explain how different dairy farming systems have dealt with recent volatility.

The AGM will be held at the Exchange Hotel, 43 Main Street, Foster on September 14 from 7pm. Meal provided but drinks at own cost. RSVP by September 9.

More? Melanie 5624 3900 or executiveassistant@gippsdairy.com.au

Families are sustainable, too!

Maffra farmers are invited to a free Sustainable Farm Families workshop on October 14-15 at the Macalister Demonstration Farm. Sustainable Farm Families is the prize-winning program backed by the DPI and the Western District Health Services that sees farmers tracked over three years as they are offered one-on-one assistance with health issues and stress management. Participants are helped to map out a personalised healthy lifestyle plan. Registration closes September 17.

More? Neil Baker 5141 1712 or neilbaker@aapt.net.au or visit www.sustainablefarmfamilies.org.au

Learn to find funding

Free roadshows offering 'how-to' information on applying for grants will be held at:

- Rosedale Multipurpose Centre, September 7, 7-9pm
- Heyfield Resource Centre, October 5, 7-9pm
- Stratford Hall Supper Room, November 3, 7-9pm

Presenters include: Regional Arts Victoria, Gippsport, Department of Planning and Community Development, Regional Development Victoria, Kilmany Uniting Care, Westpac Bank and Wellington Shire Council.

More? Wellington Shire Council Community Wellbeing Unit 1300 366 244

Keeping the dairy green clean

The trial of a 'Green Cleaning' prototype unit on a commercial dairy farm in Gippsland to determine if a low temperature, re-use system could be used successfully to clean the milking plant has shown:

- more than 75% reduction in electricity used for heating water for cleaning the milking machine
- more than 65% reduction in electricity costs associated with heating water for cleaning the milking machine
- 63% reduction in water used in cleaning the milking machine
- between 10-30% reduction in chemical use.

The full report of the trial is available from AgVet Projects upon request.

More? AgVet Projects 5611 1020 or admin@agvetprojects.com.au or visit www.agvetprojects.com.au

Just Released

THE EASY 'DO IT' GUIDE FOR EVERYMAN
Most men hate seeing a doctor or talking about their health. This is the Doctor's guide that comes with a good laugh and covers every aspect of men's health, from young boys to men hitting the century mark.

Dr Bernie Crimmins knows and explains the latest in preventative care and good health. Bernie's brother, Peter, was the star Hawthorn rover who died tragically of cancer at too young an age. Bernie devoted years to being a doctor at the Hawthorn Football Club and today continues to work as a GP.

Bernie's message to the men of Australia is, 'Boys, we've got to do it ourselves!'

With cartoons by Paul Harvey, *Blokes Health* is an informative and entertaining read at a bargain price of only \$9.95! You can order online at www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au Every order is backed with a 100 per cent money back guarantee.

Learn more about business

Places are still available in the following Business Victoria's low-cost regional workshops/seminars:

- Access to Finance: Leongatha (October 12)
- Managing Stock, Suppliers and Debtors: Leongatha (September 14)

More? Business Victoria 132215 or <http://services.business.vic.gov.au/ems/default.do>

Wheat rust alert

Agribusiness Gippsland treasurer Chris Shearer has been touring Europe and reports that Russia is severely drought-gripped and the grain crop devastated by rust. His report coincides with a warning that the risk of wheat rust is particularly high in southern grain regions of eastern Australia this season.

Professor Robert Park, from the Plant Breeding Institute at the University of Sydney said: "The above-average rainfall experienced in parts of eastern Australia throughout winter in 2010 means that the current situation is of some concern."

The GRDC is urging growers to report rust outbreaks, especially in the initial stages. Mail plant samples in paper envelopes to the Australian Cereal Rust Survey, Plant Breeding Institute, Private Bag 4011, Narellan, NSW 2567.

Market rising in the livestock exchange

The East Gippsland Livestock Exchange has been awarded European Union (EU) Accreditation by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

Black-tie ball for young farmers at Buffalo

A black-tie ball will be held at Buffalo, September 11, \$30 prepaid or \$45 at the door, for finger food, entertainment and a stubby holder.

More? southgippslandyoungfarmers@hotmail.com or 0407 476 368

Gippsland Wiki-working on sustainability

The Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) and South Gippsland Shire are developing the content plan for a full version of the Gippsland Sustainability Wiki and GCCN website. Expressions of interest to join the working group are welcome.

More? Scott Ferraro scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au

Dairy preparing for the future

Two locations in Gippsland have been selected for the Future Ready Dairy Systems project, a national project to showcase the actions of dairy farmers to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change on farm. There will be five extension activities in each location over two years. The project will be managed by a regional reference group and the Gippsland Dairying for Tomorrow Coordinator.

More? Gillian Hayman 5683 2663 or www.dairyingfortomorrow.com

Bridging the gaps between talking and doing

AgriFood Skills Australia held a challenging and informative seminar into Food Processing – Sustainability at Cardinia Cultural Centre on August 25. Alex Arbuthnot chair of Agribusiness Gippsland reports: “The morning included four outstanding case study presentations and I continue to reflect – how do we communicate this information to the people that need it ... the ones ‘flat out’ running their enterprises.”

Mayor of Cardinia, Cr Graeme Legge in his excellent welcome noted three challenges in Cardinia – water, energy and skills.

A viable food industry will be needed to support Melbourne and its extra million people. The nine regional councils are supporting the Bunyip Food Belt Project - protecting the farm land and using the water from the Eastern Treatment Plant. Arthur Blewett – CEO AgriFood Skills notes that 17% of all exports are food based and the industry employs 900K people in regional Australia.

Alex reported: “The industry people all made reference to the importance of communicating to their workers and especially using language or tools that they understand. This is an important point and we should give real thought to avoiding acronyms and government speak.”

SFS study tour departing soon

The 2010 Gippsland Branch Study Tour will visit the south-east of South Australia from Monday, September 6 to Thursday September 9.

The bus will depart from Bairnsdale and Sale and the 2010 tour includes:

- Precision agricultural techniques such as controlled traffic and no-till
- Canola production and agronomy research and development
- Nuffield Scholars and Churchill Fellows presenting their experiences in producing lucerne seed and clay spreading techniques for Australian soils
- Innovation, passion and enthusiasm for agriculture from some of South Australia’s finest mixed primary producers.

RSVP by Wednesday, September 1.

More? Nikki Hellyer 0418 528 715 or n.hellyer@hotmail.com

Grants offered to Landcare group registrants

Landcare Australia will offer 20 x \$1000 grants to groups registering by September 6 – the first day of Landcare Week. The winning grant recipients will be selected at random from the database and announced on landcareonline.com.au. To register your group visit www.landcareonline.com.au.

Learn to be lord of the flies

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Sheep Industry Innovation has a web site to assist sheep breeders and wool growers looking for information to assist in reducing the risk to flystrike and to assist in the phasing out of mulesing.

More? www.flyboss.org.au

Government committee discuss farmers' markets

The issue of farmers markets was discussed as part of the hearings of the State Government's Outer Suburban/Interface Services Development Committee.

The transcript of the hearing is now available online at:

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/osisdv/Farmers_Markets/Transcripts/CorrectedOSISDC_Farmers_Markets_7_July_2010.pdf

Farmers' market tours celebrate local spring produce

Warragul-based potato grower Gordon Jones will talk about spud varieties at the Collingwood Children's Farm Farmers' Market on September 11 in the Victorian Farmers' Market Association (VFMA) September campaign: the Spring Graze, Put Victoria on Your Table. Each of the VFMA-accredited farmers' markets is offering tours in September to introduce the public to local food producers. Tickets are \$5 each but places are limited and bookings essential. Participating markets include:

- Saturday, September 11 Collingwood Children's Farm
- Saturday, September 25 Casey-Berwick, Lancefield, Slow Food Melbourne (Abbotsford Convent)

More? Sarah Robins 0410 668 667 or website@vicfarmersmarkets.org.au

Workshop tackle climate change

The Organic Federation of Australia is presenting a full-day workshop for primary producers interested in understanding and managing the effects of climate change. The workshop starts 9am on August 31 at the ECG 71 Korumburra Road, Warragul.

More? 08 83391250 or contactus@tmorganics.com

Keeping the town tidy

Baw Baw Shire Council has been announced as a finalist in both the 'Towards Zero Waste' and 'Water Conservation' categories in the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards, for efforts in water conservation and waste recycling. Winners will be announced October 9.

More? www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

Prepare for food-driven growth: Cardinia CEO

The proposed Bunyip Food Belt could create up to 2000 jobs in the next 20 years, according to Cardinia Shire CEO Garry McQuillan. Addressing 120 people in his annual presentation to the local business community on August 11, the project represented a potential \$280m boost to the local economy, with the rural sector especially likely to benefit.

Record population growth is continuing in the growth corridor area of Pakenham, Beaconsfield and Officer, where more than five families are moving in each day.

More? Cardinia Shire Council 1300 787 624

It's all in the breeding!

Peter Thurn from Genetics Australia and Dave Morris, vet from Bass Valley Embryo Service will address the South Gippsland YDDP invites night at Fishy Pub, Fish Creek, at 7.30pm on Thursday, September 23

More? Kylie Barry 5624 3900 or yddpgipps@gippsdairy.com.au

Support for community projects available

The 2010/11 Community Action Grants round will provide funding for a broad range of activities that will contribute to Caring for our Country national priorities.

Grants are up to \$20,000. Deadline 5pm, August 31.

More? <http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/index.html#guide>

Make it work over breakfast

Women Making It Work are holding a breakfast for Casey-Cardinia area women to network with other business people. The breakfast will be held on September 9 at Ambrosia, Shop 13, 84 Bemersyde Drive, Berwick. Cost \$20 members/\$30 non-members includes breakfast. Bookings are essential and close September 3.

More? Michelle 0407 009 656 or admin@wmiw.com.au or visit <http://www.wmiw.com.au>

Austrade travels to India

Austrade will be participating in India's biggest agribusiness exhibition, Agro Tech 2010 in Chandigarh from December 3-6. The cost is \$4000 for a 9sqm booth with Austrade services. Apply pre-September 15 at www.austrade.gov.au/Agrotech2010.

More? www.austrade.gov.au/Agrotech2010

Manage to make better soil

Training in profitable and regenerative soil management is available at a Vital Soils training course in Korumburra.

The four-day training teaches an integrated, regenerative approach to soil management. The course will be held in Korumburra on September 9, 16, 23, 30 and is Farm Ready accredited with an opportunity for full fee reimbursement \$1200.

More? Vital Farms 5674 1543 or enquiries@vitalfarms.com.au

Keep this date free!

October 13. If you are a young person (40 and below) involved in any aspect of agriculture and agribusiness you are a YAP... a Young Agribusiness Professional. Farmers, farm consultants, engineers, ag-bankers, R&D personnel, food processing employees, logistics staff or educators. DAFF is helping Agribusiness Gippsland to run a special day-long-forum at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. The free day will feature mind-stretching speakers, lunch and a brilliant chance to network with YAPs from across Victoria. We're organising for students from Geelong's Marcus Oldham College to attend, alongside some from LaTrobe University's agriculture faculty and hope to see some YDDP and NCDEA students as well. Email your details to ptarmigan2@internode.on.net to stay in the loop for more news. Just type 'YAPday' in the subject line. You can also keep an eye on our website and blogsite.

(<http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or aginc.wordpress.com)

Swap weeds for trees

Free advice on the identification and management of weeds on your property is available at the Weedbusters "Trees for weeds" swap. Bring along a bag of weeds to Emerald Library on September 11 from 10am-2pm and receive a free native plant.

More? [Marianne Sawyer 5945 4272](mailto:m.sawyer@cardinia.vic.gov.au) or m.sawyer@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Rewarding agribusiness excellence

The 2010 NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence recognise corporate and individual achievement within the agribusiness, food, fibre and beverage sectors. Entries must be received by August 31. Awards are in the following categories:

- Agribusiness Leader of the Year Award
- Primary Producer of the Year Award
- Export Award
- Innovation in New and Emerging Industries Award
- Technology and Innovation Award
- Environment and Energy Management Award
- Rural Enterprise Award
- Agribusiness Employer of Choice Award
- Risk Management Award
- Governance Award

More? [Lawrie Dooley 9903 2757](mailto:lawrence.dooley@buseco.monash.edu.au) or lawrence.dooley@buseco.monash.edu.au

Bass Coast signs up to climate change network

The Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) has announced that Bass Coast Shire Council has recently joined as their newest member.

More? [Scott Ferraro scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au)

A cow gets out among the horses

Dairy Australia's 2010 AGM will be on November 26 at Flemington Racecourse.

More? [Dairy Australia 9694 3777](http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au) or visit www.dairyaustralia.com.au

Rural journos score gongs

Gippsland-born Tim Lee of ABC Landline was named the 2010 Journalist of the Year at the annual Victorian rural and regional journalism photography awards dinner on Friday night. Another Gippsland-based rural journo, Sarah Hudson of the Weekly Times, received a special judges' award. Keynote speaker for the night was Age deputy editor and former Sale journo – Buchan-born Andrew Rule.

Water supply protected

Kooweerup has been officially a declared Water Supply Protection Area.

A plan, initialled this week by Water Minister Tim Holding outlines local hydrogeology, groundwater levels, salinity and usage along with potential risks. It includes establishing zones and rules for permanent trading. It also seeks to protect water quality by managing use near the coast, reducing the likelihood of seawater intrusion. Local farmer Ron Chatfield chaired a consultative committee producing the plan, which saw submissions from Cardinia Shire Council, South East Water and the DSE.

More? [Elissa McNamara 1300 139 510](http://www.srw.com.au) or visit www.srw.com.au

Gippslanders learning from north-easterners

A fully-funded, three-day tour of NE Victoria and Southern NSW to explore their approach to soil acidity, soil health and animal production provides a unique opportunity for Gippsland farmers and service providers.

Costs for the tour are covered by West Gippsland CMA Soil acidification project funded by DAFF. Applications close September 5 and places are limited.

Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386 or osulliva@dcsi.net.au

It runs in the family

The heritability of traits will be discussed over dinner at the East Gippsland Young Dairy Development Program (YDDP) 'Pot and Parma' night.

Guest speaker Peter Thurn from Genetics Australia will lead discussion on:

- Breeding goals.
- How long does it take to improve undesirable traits?
- Gene marking
- How does GA select their bulls?
- How do we select the bulls we use?

The event will be held at the Newry Hotel, Main Street, Newry on Wednesday September 22 from 7pm. The cost of the event is \$10 per person and includes a pot and a parmigiana (the meal has been subsidised by YDDP).

RSVP is essential for catering purposes to by Monday September 20.

More? [Kylie Barry 5624 3900 or yddpgipps@gippsdairy.com.au](mailto:yddpgipps@gippsdairy.com.au)

Dubai organics trade mission set for November

The Victorian Government is putting together an organics trade mission to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha in November 2010. The Victorian Government Business Office in Dubai will provide on-ground support and arrange meetings with buyers, importers and distributors.

More? [Mark Morley 9651 9213 or visit http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/2010-trade-mission-to-middle-east](http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/2010-trade-mission-to-middle-east)

Run like the wind

Congratulations to Kaila McKnight, daughter of Buffalo dairy, beef and sheep farmers Don and Cathy, who has made selection for the Australian team competing in the Commonwealth Games in India. She will be competing in the 1500m.

Busting weeds in Emerald

Friends of Emerald Lake Park will be removing weeds on September 12 from 9am-12pm with BBQ lunch. Bring your own tools and gloves.

Meet, eat and talk koalas

The South Gippsland Landcare Network AGM will be on September 11 at Leongatha RSL. Dinner from 6pm, followed by the AGM and guest speaker Richard Appleton from HVP talking about Strzelecki Koalas and the Victorian Koala atlas. RSVP.

More? [Belinda Brennan 5662 5759 or belindab@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:belindab@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

Want to buy solar panels?

The Energy Innovation Co-operative is investigating a bulk order for solar panels and installation, to ensure access to panels, accredited installers and subsidies.

More? [Susan Davies 5657 3108 or susand@eico-op.com.au](mailto:susand@eico-op.com.au)

Tour to visit sustainable houses

The Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group is welcoming participants in a guided tour of two homes built with sustainability and efficiency in mind. The tour visits a straw bale house in Briagalong and an earth-covered house in Metung. The owner has also made his own electric car! The tour departs Traralgon at 10am on September 5.

More? Dan 5174 1635 or Denise 0439 387 663

Get a gum in the garden

A community workshop on incorporating native plants in traditional gardens, presented by Elaine Cuthbertson, will be held on September 4 from 10:30am-12.30pm at the Community Gardens, George Street, Warragul

More? Vicky Keane 5625 0229

Setting a new direction for GCCN

The Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) is currently working on a Directions Statement for the network, looking to identify key projects to address some of the climate change and sustainability challenges faced by the region.

Expressions of interest to join the working group are welcome.

More? Scott Ferraro scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au

Booklet promotes Bass Coast arts

Arts Round the Shire (ARTS) is a booklet aimed at promoting the many aspects of the arts in Bass Coast for residents and visitors.

Bass Coast Shire is now seeking entries for the 2011 edition

More? Ros Jenzen r.jenzen@basscoast.vic.gov.au or visit <http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au>

Get on your bike!

Leave the car at home and use peddle-power to visit the Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Cranbourne in 'Ride-to-the-gardens Day' on Sunday October 17. Cyclists will receive concession entry (\$8.50) to the Australian Garden and a free glass of wine or tea/coffee with any chalk-board menu item purchased in the Boonerwurrung Café.

More? Cranbourne RBG 5990 2247

Green film nights introduce environmental issues

The current series of 'green' film nights are being held in Casey and Cardinia. The next movie is 'Who Killed the Electric Car?' about the release of the EV-1 electric car, its sudden removal from the market, and subsequent destruction, screening on September 22 from 7pm at Emerald Library. Organic popcorn provided!

More? Ella Boyen 1300 787 624 or e.boyen@cardinia.vic.gov.au or Abbie Lane alane@casey.vic.gov.au or 9705 5200

Monthly meeting discusses climate change

The Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) is holding its monthly general meeting on September 6 from 10am-1pm in the DSE Meeting Room, 71 Hotham St, Traralgon. A guest speaker will be followed by standard updates and networking. All are welcome, lunch provided.

More? Scott Ferraro 5173 9800 or scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au



“Wool, a relationship for life”

A CASE FOR BUYING AUSTRALIAN

Few fibres are as wonderful to wear as Australian merino wool. Soft, comfortable and breathable, Australian merino is a highly efficient insulator, cool and fresh in hot temperatures and warm in colder weather. Wool has the innate ability to absorb excess moisture and repel large quantities of liquid, which means it can resist soiling.

[Visit the website for more wool facts.](#)

Australian merino translates into luxurious, resilient textiles with low wrinkle and superior drape, hence the fibre is highly sought after by many of the world’s leading manufacturers designers and retailers.

www.portphillipshop.com.au, as an enthusiastic marketer of Australian-made products, (e.g. R M Williams and Akubra) is now actively promoting Merino Gold and Geccu – two outstanding brands of pure merino wool knitwear. There are not many left. We are promoting our Port Phillip label of merino wool socks made by Rizzi.

Special offer

To introduce you to these quality Australian knitwear manufacturers we are making a special offer. Merino Gold and Geccu knitwear will be delivered freight free anywhere in Australia. (a \$2 handling charge applies) With each order a free pair of merino wool socks will be supplied.

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www.portphillipshop.com.au

<http://www.portphillipshop.com.au/winterwarm.html>

Port Phillip Shop
1a Barkly Street
Corner Smith St
Warragul VIC 3820
Australia
Ph (03) 56234575

Berwick Store
73 High St
Berwick 3806
Ph (03) 97699935



Kind regards,
Ian Wenzel

Seeking great water innovators

Southern Rural Water (SRW) is inviting nominations for its inaugural Waterwise Awards from savvy Gippsland farmers. The awards are open to all SRW licence holders, and seek to recognise good work in water savings and water use efficiency. Four awards of \$2000 each will be presented, covering the areas of groundwater, rivers/creeks, and irrigation districts. A separate award, also \$2000, will recognise research in ground or surface water management. Nominations close August 30.
More? Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510 or visit www.srw.com.au

Forum works for low carbon growth

The Gippsland Climate Change Network has partnered with the EPA's Carbon Innovators Network to bring Anna Skarbek and John Thwaites to Gippsland to present on Climate Works Low Carbon Growth Plan for Australia. The event, at Monash University, Churchill on October 12 from 9.30-1pm, includes lunch.
More? Scott Ferraro scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au or 5173 9800

Become a citizen scientist

Landcare Australia is seeking children citizen scientists in Landcare Week September 6 -13. Register to monitor, collect and record data that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change.
More? Visit <http://landcareonline.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c874938162801405204f0d115&id=f82037b29e>

Stallholders sought for farmers' market at Coal Creek

Applications are now open for prospective stallholders at a new authentic Farmers' Market at Coal Creek in October. The Farmers' Market will be held in the main car park on the second Saturday of each month from 8am-1pm, starting on Saturday October 9, and will bring together accredited farmers and specialist food makers.
More? 5655 1811 or farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au or visit www.coalcreekvillage.com.au

Coastcare Victoria community small grants available

Grants are available for coastal protection proposals of up to \$5000. The grants are available until the end of the year.
More? www.dse.vic.gov.au/coasts

Opening the gates on farmer health

A charter for farmer health will be developed at the inaugural conference of the National Centre for Farmer Health from October 11-13. 'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health' will highlight the health, well-being and safety issues of farm men and women, farm workers and their families.
More? Sally Stevenson 5551 8587 or www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/conference

Get warm and fuzzy at Wool Week 2010

Wool Week 2010 starts September 6 and includes industry association AGMs on September 9-10 and the Wool Week lunch and dinner on September 9.
More? Visit AWI website <http://www.wool.com>

Looking for a venue for 20 people? Or 20,000?

Look at Lardner Park, near Warragul.

We have a reputation for large-scale events, such as Farm World, Trucks In Action and the Civil Works Expo.

We also have flexibility for smaller meetings, conferences and workshops. The Lardner Park board room and pavilions are ideal for equipment and product launches. Our location is convenient for Melbourne and Gippsland attendees.



For further information email

mark@lardnerpark.com.au, visit www.lardnerpark.com.au or phone 5626 1373

Korumburra establishes local food network

A local food network has been established in Korumburra to:

- coordinate the distribution of local food including expansion of the “Grow Lightly” box system, food swaps and farmers/town markets
- create a database of local food supply and distribution points, and capture seasonal backyard surplus
- Educate the community on food production and transport
- Advocate for support and funding access for local produce systems.

New members are welcome.

More? Meredith Freeman 5659 8238 or Christine Hamilton 5662 9314

Music to our ears

The Tudor Choristers will perform in the Poowong public hall from 2pm on September 19, the first time the Melbourne-based choristers will have performed in South Gippsland. Tickets \$25/20 from Stephen Halliday PO Box 72. Poowong Vic 3988. Cheques to ‘Poowong Historical Group’ with a 60c SSAE please.

More? lauriegregg@dcsi.net.au or 5627 5576 or 5659 2379

Enjoy a day out at Lardner Park

Lardner Park market on September 19 features more than 250 stalls offering top quality, Australian-made products, gourmet foods, fashion and plants.

More? Louise Gamon 5974 4710 or lgamon@craftmarkets.com.au

Agribusiness scholarships on offer

Applications are sought for three AgriFood Skills Australia Fellowships. Valued at \$10,000 each, these are offered in conjunction with the International Specialised Skills (ISS) Institute and provide the opportunity to travel overseas and research a topic of value to the agrifood industry. Applications are open in these industries:

- food processing, including beverages, wine and pharmaceuticals
- rural and related
- meat processing and retailing
- seafood
- racing, including thoroughbred, greyhound and harness

Applications close 4pm on Monday, August 30.

More? www.agrifoodskills.net.au/

Sun to shine on solar hubs projects

The Solar Photovoltaic Community Hubs (Solar Hubs) program is now open. The GCCN and Energy Innovation Coop are currently evaluating the potential for a Gippsland-based application under this program. Deadline is 5pm on September 29.

More? Scott Ferraro scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au or 5173 9800 or visit http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_businesses/rebates_and_grants_4670.html

Do you have an event planned for Landcare Week?

Landcare, Coastcare, Friends of Rivercare, Bushcare or Junior Landcare groups (including schools, scouts and youth groups) can register Landcare Week (September 6 -13) activities on the [new National Landcare Directory](#).

More? Visit www.landcareonline.com.au

East Gippsland seeks Australia Day nominations

East Gippsland Shire is seeking nominations for its annual Australia Day Awards. Nominations are sought in three categories: Deadline, October 20.

- Australia Day Citizen for those 27 or older by January 26, 2011.
- Australia Day Young Citizen those younger than 27 at January 26, 2011.
- Community Event of the Year for the person or group that has staged the most outstanding community event during the year.

More? Mike Quist 5153 9500 or visit www.egipps.vic.gov.au

YDDP offers no bull#!*t successful joining

West Gippsland YDDP is hosting 'No Bull#!*t Successful Joining!' on Thursday September 9 at the Warragul Country Club, from 7.30pm. Grant Nelson, a vet from the West Gippsland Veterinary Centre, will discuss topics including synchronisation, heifer health and bull power. This event was developed by YDDP but all are welcome. The night includes a subsidised dinner at \$5/head. RSVP by September 3.

More? Kylie Barry 5624 3900 or yddpgipps@gippsdairy.com.au

Country racing is off and ... well ... racing

Meetings this month are:

- August 31: Moe

Meetings next month are:

- September 2: Sale
- September 12: Sale
- September 23: Sale
- September 27: Moe

More? Call 1300 139 402 or visit www.countryracing.com.au

The farmer, the soil ecologists and the cook

The 2008 NSW Farmer of the year will rub shoulders with soil ecologists and an organic cook at the Organic Food and Farming conference at Bairnsdale on November 8-9 at the Riviera Christian Centre, 103 Bairnsdale/Dargo Rd, Bairnsdale. Register by November 3; early bird deadline October 15.

More? Stephen Cross scross@wideband.net.au 5153 2204 0447 368 312 or www.organicagriculture.asn.au

Come and have fun at the other show

The Doveton Show will be held at Myuna Farm, 182 Kidds Road, Doveton on September 19 from 10am-4pm. Admission by gold coin donation.

More? Rhonda Birthisel 9706 9944 or info@dovetonshow.org.au

Agritourism dossier available

What are the common factors that determine a successful agritourism venture? What do the failures always do wrong? Agribusiness Gippsland has completed a literature review as part of last year's study of Gippsland's agritourism sector. We have compiled the findings into a fascinating, easy-to-read dossier. Drawing on local, Australian and overseas studies, it presents the financials of agritourism, the trends in Gippsland, the challenges, and some early data on regional agritourism operations, along with ideas from existing successful operators. The cost is \$30 plus GST. Email orders at susanw@ptarmigan.com.au or via www.aginc.wordpress.com

JOBS: A free feature in GippyAGchat

Times being what they are, we are running free job ads. If you're seeking work, or workers, please flick an email to susanw@ptarmigan.com.au and we'll give you a free plug. No large files, no photos, no sales pitches and full contact details, please.

WORK SOUGHT:

Fire management planning

Consultant available to prepare sustainable fire management plans for your property or small reserve. Contact Helen Bull 0400 310 188 or h.bull@bigpond.com

Need staff?

Try 12 or six months of cost-effective undergraduate recruits from accounting, sciences, marketing, HR and PR/comms/media. Candidates available for paid full-time or half-time placements.

More? Annette: Issibl@swin.edu.au or ph: 9214 8753 or Karen: kpomeranz@swin.edu.au or ph: 9215 7136

Positions wanted

Seeking admin/clerical work

For any type of administrative/clerical type work (consulting, part time or job share – even if it is only a few hours per week). I have tertiary qualifications in business studies, taxation and financial planning and am looking for work in these areas.

More? Greg Lewis on 0439 523 871 or gippswealthadvice@bigpond.com



Want to reach the right audience? More than 2500 'yes-please' subscribers read GippyAGchat. Farmers, farm consultants, agronomists, stock agents, catchment management and DPI staffers, local councils, regional and federal politicians... everyone who makes agribusiness grow across Gippsland. And you don't get lost in the display advertising crowd. GippyAGchat offers a good-value, targeted ad medium with a stand-out factor. Corporate membership is only \$200 plus GST and that gives you a free ad in the readership that matters to your business. Phone 0402 267 802 or 9456 9791

Consultant available to undertake:

- vegetation assessments, net gain assessments or offset reports
- whole farm plans
- environmental management plans
- facilitation of meetings, planning sessions, or any group process
- education and training sessions

Please ask me for a quote! Cassie Wright cassiewright@alphalink.com.au
Ph: 5674 8242/ Mob: 0429 061 161/ 35 Sail Street, Cape Paterson, VIC 3995.

Classifieds

With more than 2400 ag readers, we've been asked if we could run some ads. So, here we go! If you have something to sell or seeking something to buy, place an ad for \$20, plus GST for up to 30 words. (Jobs ads are still free). Email to ptarmigan2@internode.on.net Deadline a fortnight from this edition.

Information published is intended to provide general information only. Agribusiness Gippsland Inc (AGInc) does not endorse or recommend any of the listings, nor does it guarantee every job advertisement represents an actual job vacancy. AGInc reserves the right to refuse an item. In no event will AGInc be liable for any decision made or action taken as a response to information contained on or omitted.

Filling in the Gippy-gaps

The rapid growth of GippyAGchat has left us with a data gap ... we don't know who you all are! Could you please underline which of the following best describes you, and forward this message to madfuj@yahoo.com.au.

1. Farmer/landowner/agri-tourism operator
2. Consultant/service provider
3. Government employee or agency
4. Food processor/manufacturer
5. Other

The most important item in this entire e-newsletter

Annual subscriptions to Agribusiness Gippsland Inc are only \$50 plus \$5 GST individual/or a farm business and \$200 plus \$20 GST corporate. And we are always keen to talk sponsorship deals. Our postal address is PO Box 1312 Warragul 3280. [More? 9456 9791, http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au](http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au) or www.aginc.wordpress.com

Hunting in AGInc hyperspace

Recent top searches on our blogsite (www.aginc.wordpress.com) are: "prue mcnaughton", bill Gippsland regional development victoria, agribusiness, 'nurturing the land nourishing the people, Gippsland women finding their voice, agribusiness Gippsland, hunter rabbits, women group 2010, best wool, best lamb.

Anyone we've forgotten?

Gippy Agchat is prepared by Sue Webster (0402 267 802 or 9456 9791) and Madeline Toner for Agribusiness Gippsland Inc and circulated in Word format to subscribers and supporters. Please circulate this newsletter by email or printout/fax to your colleagues. GOT NEWS? Ph/email news to ptarmigan2@internode.on.net.

Gippy Diary

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Aug 30	Workshop: Planning for Financial Success	Warragul	Karen Meyers 5624 2422
Aug 31	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Aug 31	MDF Field Day	Maffra	Matthew Mahoney 5279 4175
Aug 31	Climate Change workshop	Warragul	08 83391250
Sep 1	Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group AGM	Morwell	
Sep 2	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Sep 3	Women Making it Work breakfast	Berwick	Michelle 0407 009 656
Sep 3	Poowong Produce Swap	Poowong	Tammy Logan. 5659 2308
Sep 4	Incorporating native plants in traditional gardens workshop	Warragul	Vicky Keane 5625 0229
Sep 4-5	Education Centre Gippsland subject trial	Traralgon	Malcolm Brown 0403 997 831
Sep 5	LaTrobe Valley Sustainability Group house tour	Briagalong	Dan 5174 1635
Sep 6	Gippsland Climate Change Network general meeting	Traralgon	Scott Ferraro 5173 9800
Sep 6-13	Landcare Week		
Sep 6-13	Wool Week 2010		
Sep 7	Finding Funding Roadshow	Rosedale	Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244
Sep 7	Eco-Buy Green Purchasing Expo	Melbourne	http://www.ecobuy.org.au
Sep 7	Leading Edge Sustainability in Business conference	Melbourne	
Sep 9	Wool Week lunch and dinner		Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386
Sep 9	No Bull#!*t Successful Joining!	Warragul	Kylie Barry 5624 3900
Sep 9, 16, 23, 30	Vital Soils Workshop	Korumburra	Vital Farms 5674 1543
Sep 11	SGLN AGM	Leongatha	Belinda Brennan 5662 5759
Sep 11	Collingwood Children's Farm market	Collingwood	Sarah Robins 0410 668 667
Sep 11	Trees for weeds swap	Emerald	Marianne Sawyer 5945 4272
Sep 12	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Sep 12	Sustainable House Day		http://sustainablehouseday.com/
Sep 12	Emerald Lake Park weed bust	Emerald	
Sep 13-15	Soils Tour	NE Victoria	
Sep 14	Managing Stock, Suppliers and Debtors seminar	Leongatha	13 22 15
Sep 14	GippsDairy AGM	Foster	Melanie 5624 3900
Sep 17	Continuous Colour Native Gardens	Mt Eliza and Cranbourne	Lintons Nursery 9215 1500
Sep 17-19	Australian University Crops Competition	Temora, NSW	GGA 1800 620 519
Sep 19	Lardner Park Market	Warragul	Louise Gamon 5974 4710
Sep 19	Tudor Choristers performance	Poowong	5627 5576
Sep 19	Doveton Show	Doveton	Rhonda Birthisel 9706 9944
Sep 21	Bioenergy Australia quarterly meeting	Canberra	
Sep 22	Heritability of Traits dinner discussion	Newry	Kylie Barry 5624 3900
Sep 22	Green film night	Emerald	Ella Boyen 1300 787 624
Sep 21-22	Farming Ahead 2010 Conference	Sydney, NSW	
Sep 23	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402

Sep 23	It's all in the Breeding	Fish Creek	Kylie Barry 5624 3900
Sep 25	Casey-Berwick Farmers' Market		
Sep 26	Botanical Illustrators display	Cranbourne	RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Sep 26	The secret life of orchids -talk	Cranbourne	RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Sep 27	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Sep 29-30	South Gippsland Dairy Expo	Poowong	Deanne Kennedy 0419 878 055
Oct 3	Botanical Illustrators display	Cranbourne	RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Oct 3	The secret life of orchids -talk	Cranbourne	RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Oct 5	Finding Funding Roadshow	Heyfield	Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244
Oct 9	Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Award Night	Beechworth	
Oct 12	Access to Finance seminar	Leongatha	13 22 15
Oct 12	Climate Works Low Carbon Growth Plan for Australia	Churchill	Scott Ferraro 5173 9800
Oct 13	Young Agribusiness Professional Forum	Pakenham	Sue Webster 0402 267 802
Oct 14-15	Sustainable Farm Families workshop	Maffra	Neil Baker 5141 1712
Oct 16-17	'Growing Friends' spring plant	Cranbourne	RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Oct 17	Ride-to-the-gardens Day	Cranbourne	RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Nov 3	Finding Funding Roadshow	Stratford	Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244
Nov 8-9	Organic Food and Farming	Bairnsdale	0447 368 312
Nov 13	Frogs Frolic		RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Nov 26	Dairy Australia AGM	Flemington	Dairy Australia 9694 3777

This regular news digest comes from **Agribusiness Gippsland Inc** which works with farmers, local councils, state and federal government, catchment management authorities, community groups and others to support regional agribusiness and work in partnership with existing regional organisations. Visit <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or www.aginc.wordpress.com.au