



## Gippy AGchat October 11, 2010 – Issue 34

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 2996 recipients (*that's 309 sign-ups in the last three weeks. Yes! We're astonished too! People seem to be recommending us to their friends.*) Thank you.

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- Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>
- Or blog us at [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)
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## **A YAP comes with a bark ... and maybe some bite!**

The inaugural Agribusiness Gippsland YAP day next Wednesday, October 13 is drawing young agribusiness professionals from across the state. A busload of students from Geelong's Marcus Oldham College is coming and the East Gippslanders' bus is also full. There's a full program too. We start off with Tim Lee, from ABC Landline. The 2010 Rural Journalist of the Year will discuss the three most impressive people he's ever met. Peter Corvino will explain vertical expansion and integration of his family's horticultural business. If you've bought carrots in a supermarket lately, there's a fair chance he grew them. Ben White used to command frigates in the Gulf. Now he heads Yarra Gum Agrifoods, having been head-hunted by a major Asian trading house to establish its Australian food trading division. He will discuss leadership in an international arena. Buying an extra dairy farm every four years ... Meeniyan's Doug Hanks and Twila Cecil will talk about their dairy business.

Trendster Roger Wilkinson will make some predictions about social change in rural Victoria. South East Trawl Fishery Industry Association executive officer, Simon Boag will share his experiences in agripolitical lobbying (Anyone who attended our Cowes agribusiness summit will remember his wry style.)

Dr Peter Sale from La Trobe University will introduce us to the fascinating advances in deep manuring.

The action-packed day finishes with a forum of Marcus Oldham students sharing their experiences from a recent Chinese study tour, alongside the mirror-image perceptions from a Chinese-born ag-researcher from the University of Melbourne.

What a mind-blowing day ahead of us! And it's all free for students. \$45 for others.

Supported by DAFF and NABagribusiness. The program is attached to this email.

The day will be held at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Boulevard Pakenham from 10am to 4pm. At about 70 attendees we're pretty chokka, but if you simply can't stay away, email ASAP and we'll bump up the catering. There's a rego form attached to this email.

**More? Email [ptarmigan2@internode.on.net](mailto:ptarmigan2@internode.on.net) or phone 9456 9791 or visit <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com).**

## Gippsland grain co-operative under discussion

Gippsland grain growers are discussing the possibility of developing a marketing co-op and grain pool for the region to help stabilise price and demand in the region and to build relationships with local clients.

**More? Nikki Hellyer 0418 528 715**

## Agriculture or asphalt?

The Big Question gets the Big Airing over two lunches in October, each with a speaker to really stir your thoughts on the way we plan to house, feed and water our future population. Agribusiness Gippsland is launching its lunchtime forums, and we're hugely proud to offer these first two speakers – one on Friday, October 22 and the other on Monday October 25, both 12.30pm for 1pm start, and aiming to be out the door by 2pm (ish).

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, Leongatha: Ian Wills** is Honorary Associate Professor at Monash University's department of economics. He holds a PhD (Agricultural Economics) from the University of Illinois and a MAgSc (Hons) University of Melbourne. In early 2008 he was elected Distinguished Fellow of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society. He argues it makes better economic sense to mass-transport food than create a mass-commute from far-flung residential developments.

The venue is Hard Loch Café at 10 Smith St Loch. Lunch starts with platters of local cheeses/meats with local sourdough breads and then moves to smoked chicken fillet with marinated asparagus, top-garnished with sweet potato crisps and served with glazed potatoes and greens. And did we mention they sell seriously good Gippsland wines?

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, Cowes: George Seitz MP** is Chair of the Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee. He led the State Government Inquiry into Sustainable Peri-Urban Agri-Business which held a hearing in Gippsland. Now he returns to the region to detail what his panel recommended and why. He will be talking at the unique hideaway eatery, the Silverleaves General Store, 1 Honeysuckle Court, Cowes. Tucked away in a leafy residential enclave, this is a gourmet provender disguised as the corner milk bar. They're hoping to serve us the first of the season's snapper caught by local fishermen. And you can buy some knockout local wines there, too.

Tickets cost \$45 (includes GST) each for a two-course lunch. Numbers are very limited to encourage interaction. BOOKINGS: Email [ptarmigan2@internode.on.net](mailto:ptarmigan2@internode.on.net), phone 9456 9791 visit [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com) or <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>

## Gippsland leadership program open for applications

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program 2011 provides a great opportunity to build networks across the region and outside your own industry. The program runs over the course of a year, and includes 10 full-day seminars, held throughout Gippsland each two or three weeks.

The ultimate goal of the program is to build leadership resources within the Gippsland Community. It encourages participants' entrance into a wider community system of interest to them and provides a new and broader understanding of various community systems.

**More? Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386 or visit <http://www.gclp.asn.au/>**

## Farming expo goes country!

One of Australia's most unique farming and outdoor expos, Go Country! will take place at Pakenham Racecourse on October 23-24. More than 200 exhibitors will attend and visitors will be able to see the latest in farm machinery, products and equipment for farmers and fishing, boating, caravanning, camping, 4x4s and other equipment for outdoor enthusiasts.

**More? Tim Ahern 1300 557 884**

## Water discussion in pub

How will state government draft water strategies affect your farm? Will dams be possible? What will it cost? For answers, attend the VFF/UDV water forum and dinner at Otago Hotel, Bair St, Leongatha on October 12. 7pm for 7.30, cost \$25 per person. The speaker will be Richard Anderson, chair of the VFF water council.

**More? Meg Parkinson 0408 514048 or [jamoney@bigpond.com](mailto:jamoney@bigpond.com)**

## Hopes for biochar might go up in smoke

High hopes for biochar to revitalise soils and sequester carbon could turn sour, with an Australian/Chinese scientific team warning of a potential soil health time bomb. They reported that adding biochar to soil could add harmful contaminant residues and make applied pesticide ineffective - requiring much higher application rates.

**More?** <http://www.iuss.org/19th%20WCSS/symposium/pdf/0482.pdf>

## Turning ideas into action

Inverloch residents will have the chance to review the Inverloch Community Plan with the focus will be turning ideas into actions. The public session will be held at the Inverloch Community Hub at 7pm on October 21 to review the Inverloch Community Plan by looking at priority projects and scope out what these projects hope to achieve in the next 12 months.

**More?** [Cathy Gilliam 1300 226 278](tel:1300226278)

## Blocked pipe causes paddock overflow

A Moe abattoir has received a fine of almost \$6000 from EPA Victoria for an unlawful discharge of waste water at its Tanjil South site in April this year. Moe Meat Packers Pty Ltd, an EPA licensed facility, was inspected as part of a state-wide compliance program for licensed abattoirs, knackeries and renderers. The EPA inspection revealed a blocked pipe that had caused waste water from undercover cattle holding yards, to overflow into a paddock. The company has 28 days to pay the fine or have the matter dealt with in court.

## Phonebooks want local facial features

Sensis is seeking a noteworthy local face to feature on the cover of next year's phone books. The theme is 'Australians Creating a Better Future' and judges want "to recognise people who are thinking beyond themselves and making positive contributions from an economic, social and environmental standpoint." Nominations up to 200 words must be lodged by October 15.

**More?** [www.whitepagescommunity.com.au/nominate](http://www.whitepagescommunity.com.au/nominate) or [coversprogram@sensis.com.au](mailto:coversprogram@sensis.com.au)

## What makes places and communities great?

The first Community Conversation event hosted by Baw Baw Shire Council will be held on Thursday October 28 from 7-8.30pm at Theatre 2, West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul. David Engwicht, a renowned social inventor, artist, street philosopher, storyteller, and author is guest speaker. RSVP for catering purposes to this free event.

**More?** [5624 2533](tel:56242533)

## Moving meal time means more milk

Changing the way farmers offer supplements to cows can increase daily milk output by as much as two litres, according to new research from DPI Ellinbank. DPI scientists have increased milk yields, simply by changing the way cows are fed.

Milk yields from cows fed partial mixed rations (PMR) on a feedpad were compared with cows fed a more traditional diet of grain in the bail at milking time. Both groups had the same energy intake, but the cows fed PMR gave up to two litres of milk more. Senior researcher Dr Bill Wales said the "very exciting" finding could help curb feed bills while optimising milk output. "It could also help make a cow's digestion more efficient – possibly offering benefits in greenhouse gas emissions," he said. The DPI research is supported by Dairy Australia and the Geoffrey Gardiner Foundation.

## Register now for the DPI climate webinar series

A free webinar series looking at the latest climate and emissions information for Victorian farm businesses starts on the Department of Primary Industries' website. The series focuses on the Victorian Government's Climate Change White Paper. The next webinar will be held on November 9, 2-3 pm and titled Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change and Variability.

To register for a webinar, go to [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/climaterisk](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/climaterisk).

## **Opera Viventi performing in Bass Coast**

High-profile vocal quartet Opera Viventi will be performing at a new event to be held in Bass Coast Shire on February 12, 2011. Serenade at Sunset, is being organised by a group of volunteers from in and around Grantville. Tickets go on sale on November 15 and are available from Bass Coast Shire Council Customer Service Centres and Information Centres, Corinella and District Community Centre and Stockdale and Leggo, Grantville.

**More? Bass Coast Shire Council 5671 2222**

## **Bunyip producing more than myths**

Runner up in the Rural Ambassador of the Year award at the Royal Melbourne Show was Maida Anderson representing the Bunyip Agricultural and Pastoral Society, who received a \$2000 prize to further her career.

## **Cardinia shire-wide fire inspection program to begin**

Cardinia Shire Council's property inspection program for the fire season starts Wednesday November 3 and land owners are reminded to keep their properties tidy.

Vacant lots and unimproved land from last fire season will be checked. These properties and bushfire-prone areas are high on the inspection list for Council's Fire Prevention Officers.

Residents can prepare their properties before and during and fire danger period by taking simple steps like:

- clearing unnecessary rubbish
- removing garden waste and fine fuels
- keeping grass below 10cm

**More? Cardinia Council 1300 787 624 or mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au**

## **SGLN soil workshop for beginners**

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is going to go back to basics in a workshop for beginners including for landholders without a farming background and students just beginning their career in agriculture.

The workshop in the Meeniyan district on November 6 from 9am – 4pm covers:

- soil structure, how to interpret soil test results and what to do about them
- what lives beneath the surface and how what's in the soil affects what can grow
- how soils capture and store carbon.

**More? Jill 5662 5759**

## **Prepare your masks for the Mayoral masquerade ball**

Baw Baw Shire Council is holding a Mayoral charity masquerade ball on October 23 at Lardner Park to support the Blackwood Centre for Adolescent Development.

Tickets are \$95 per person or \$900 for a table of 10, including a three-course meal and drinks, live performances and entertainment.

**More? 5624 2497 or visit [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)**

## **Networking for future farm leaders**

A free networking day for young farm leaders of the future is being held at the Summit in Trafalgar on Saturday, November 6. The day, open to those between 17 and 25, includes workshops, social activities and is sponsored by the Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice and facilitated by Beyond Blue and The Summit. Places are limited.

**More? Karen 0418 135 176 or [kmowat@egtafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:kmowat@egtafe.vic.edu.au)**

## **Local praised for locust lobbying**

National Organic Week has come, and is nearly gone but it saw Neerim South potato grower and chair of West Gippsland CMA, Liz Clay, in the spotlight. She helped host the industry awards last Thursday night, where she was applauded for her work securing Government-funded supplies of organic-friendly locust spray.

## Valley jobs growth discussion

Sustainable growth for jobs will be the focus of the fourth annual Transitions forum being staged by the Gippsland Trades & Labour Council and RMIT's Centre for Governance, Work and Technologies on October 13 at Morwell. The Just Transitions: Jobs at Risk: Strategies for Sustainable Growth Forum aims to bring researchers, trade unions, employers and policy makers together to discuss practical ways to stimulate jobs growth as the region moves towards a carbon-constrained economy.

**More? John Parker 0419 747 756**

## Discussing natural disasters over dinner

The Warragul Rotary business dinner will be held in Wednesday, October 20 from 6:30 -10pm at Danny's The Venue, Logan Park, Warragul. Mary Barry, CEO of Victoria State Emergency Service will discuss storms, floods, fires, tsunamis, and earthquakes - are we ready?

**More? Russell Monson 5623 6722 or [rmonson@dcsi.net.au](mailto:rmonson@dcsi.net.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.

**More? Neil Baker 5141 1712 or [neilbaker@aapt.net.au](mailto:neilbaker@aapt.net.au) or visit [www.sustainablefarmfamilies.org.au](http://www.sustainablefarmfamilies.org.au)**

## Healthy soils produce healthy vegies

A free information session on healthy soils will provide vegetable growers with the latest information on farming and maintaining healthy productive soils. The session, on October 22 from 3-5.30pm at the Amstel Golf Club Cranbourne, 1000 Frankston-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne, will be chaired by Luis Gazzola, President VGA Victoria. Speakers include:

- Darcy Boyd, AUSVEG Environment Coordinator, discussing the EnviroVeg Program
- Theo Jacometti, co-owner and director of Boomaroo Nurseries, discussing the future direction of integrated crop management technologies
- Dr Ian Porter, Principal Research Scientist in Plant Pathology with DPI Victoria and leader of the temperate soil health vegetable program
- Hugh Tobin, AUSVEG Communication and Public Affairs Manager
- Rohan Davies, who is responsible for overseeing Incitec Pivot Fertilisers' research and development activities and managing new product development
- David Richards, Market Development Manager with Du Pont.

**More? Darcy Boyd 9822 0388 or [darcy.boyd@ausveg.com.au](mailto:darcy.boyd@ausveg.com.au)**

## Salt not favouring foreigners

Increasing the salinity of soils doesn't threaten native flora and fauna, according to new Australian research. Canberra-based scientists compared animal and plant life in salinised and non-salinised sites over three years in box/gum grassy woodlands of south-east Australia. "Contrary to previous reports, no direct evidence was found linking increased salinity levels with flora or fauna mortality and no evidence was found indicating that increased salinity levels favour exotic species," they reported.

**More? <http://www.iuss.org/19th%20WCSS/symposium/pdf/1368.pdf>**

## Learn to find funding

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

- 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**

## SGLN grants now open

Applications are now open for the 2010/11 round of South Gippsland Landcare Network grants for small works on Landcare members properties. Applications for grants will be assessed based on the information submitted on the Expression of Interest forms.

Grants are available for:

- New Landholder Program Grant - \$500 maximum grant.
- One Million Trees for South Gippsland Grant - \$500 maximum grant
- One Million Trees for South Gippsland Propagation Kit
- One Million Trees for South Gippsland Seed Pack

Expressions of Interest in various training courses are also sought.

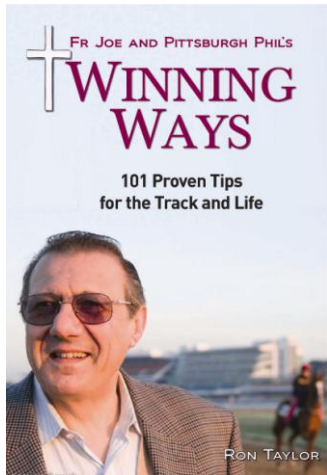
[More? www.sgln.net.au](http://www.sgln.net.au)

## MDF celebrates 50th anniversary

The Macalister Demonstration Farm Field Day and AGM will be held on October 28 from 10.30am. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the MDF and all are welcome to come and visit and celebrate the history and achievements. Lunch provided.

[More? Neil Baker 0400 806 246](tel:0400806246)

## Just released



### 101 PROVEN TIPS FOR THE TRACK AND LIFE

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[www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au](http://www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au) – Click [here](#) Each order backed with a 100 per cent money-back guarantee.

## Victorian tourism industry held back by red tape

VTIC's Survey of Tourism Performance and Outlook for the August quarter shows 31% of respondents identified State Government regulation as a 'significant' or 'critical' constraint on business performance. State Government regulation was followed by wage costs, which 28% of respondents identified as a significant constraint. Local Government regulation was named by 25% of respondents as a 'significant' or 'critical' constraint and 24% saw business taxes and government charges as a 'significant' or 'critical' constraint.

## Take the lead... influence change

Under-18s with leadership potential or are already leaders who live within Latrobe City are sought for the 2011 Latrobe Youth Council and Latrobe Youth Leadership Program comprising:

- Youth Council Program - for local young people to meet regularly and express their views on issues that affect them and their peers.
- Youth Leadership Program - aims to empower and build the capacity of local young people through a nine-month leadership program.

A brief interview will be part of the selection process. Brochures and application forms are available from [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/youth](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/youth). Applications close November 5.

[More? Andrew Legge 1300 367 700 or email youth@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

## **Project protects Tarwin catchment area**

The Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project aims to protect quality remnant vegetation and improve water quality by targeting landholders in the upper reaches of the Tarwin Catchment with very high quality areas of remnant vegetation requiring protection on their property. Fencing assistance and herbicides will be made available to protect these areas and to control weeds. There is also assistance to fence and revegetate waterways.

Public meetings will be held to discuss the project on:

- October 14 at 7.30pm, Hallston Hall
- October 18 at 10.30am, Meeniyah Hall.

**More? Jill Vella 5662 5759**

## **Youth grants on offer**

National Youth Week grants are available to fund events that celebrate and recognise the contribution of young Victorians to their community. Applicants can apply for one of two types of grants: either \$2000 for young people working with an organisation to deliver a local community-based project or \$2000 for young people working with an organisation to deliver an event that raises awareness of depression and anxiety. Applications close on 15 October.

**More? Visit [www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au](http://www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au)**

## **Phosphate warning on future availability**

Sydney researchers investigating a coming peak in world phosphorous production have urged that new estimates made in the World Phosphate Reserves and Resources report should be interpreted with caution. The report, by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), estimates the availability of more mega tonnes of phosphate rock in the ground than previously thought. However, University of Technology, Sydney, Prof. Stuart White said: "The new figure represents an estimate of phosphate in the ground that is of markedly lower quality, more difficult to access and more costly."

## **What customers are buying and from where?**

This workshop gives participants an overview on current trends on what people are buying, giving businesses better customer service leading to more sales and profit. The workshop will be held in the Pelican Room, Wellington Shire offices, 156 Grant Street, Yarram on Wednesday, October 13 from 6-8:30pm.

**More? Ian Campbell 5142 3602 or [ian.campbell@wellington.vic.gov.au](mailto:ian.campbell@wellington.vic.gov.au)**

## **New incentives for irrigation efficiency**

A funding round has been announced for the Macalister Irrigation District (MID) Irrigation Efficiency Incentives Program. The program targets improvements to farm irrigation systems to reduce run-off, deep drainage and ensure efficient use of the water resource.

**More? WGCMA 1300 094 262 or visit <http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au>**

## **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>**

## **Forum works for low carbon growth**

The Gippsland Climate Change Network and the EPA's Carbon Innovators Network will bring Anna Skarbek and John Thwaites to present on Climate Works Low Carbon Growth Plan for Australia at Monash University, Churchill on October 12 from 9.30-1pm, includes lunch.

**More? Scott Ferraro [scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au) or 5173 9800**



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[www.portphillipshop.com.au](http://www.portphillipshop.com.au), as an enthusiastic marketer of Australian-made products, (e.g. R M Williams and Akubra) is promoting Merino Gold and Geccu, outstanding brands of pure merino wool knitwear. We are promoting our Port Phillip label of merino wool socks made by Rizzi. Special offer: Merino Gold and Geccu knitwear will be delivered freight-free across Australia. (\$2 handling charge) and includes a free pair of merino socks. For a short time all knitwear is reduced by up to 20% (RRP). <http://www.portphillipshop.com.au/winterwarm.html>

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Kind regards,  
Ian Wenzel



## Do organic consumers have lower toxin levels?

RMIT University's School of Health Sciences is researching whether organic consumers have lower toxin levels. The research will investigate behaviours and beliefs of people who eat organic food. Complete the online survey at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/OCS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OCS)  
**More? Liza Oates 0412 310 390 or [liza.oates@rmit.edu.au](mailto:liza.oates@rmit.edu.au) or visit [www.rmit.edu.au/wellness/organicresearch](http://www.rmit.edu.au/wellness/organicresearch)**

## 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.  
**More? Sally Stevenson 5551 8587 or [www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/conference](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/conference)**

## Dairy business on display

Gippsland regional prize winners in the Australia Dairy Business of the Year competition, Kevin and Helen Jones open their farm at 45 Cargeegs Road, Foster, in a field day on October 26 from 10.30am-1.30pm. Kevin and Helen excelled in the areas of milk production, pasture harvest and labour efficiency and, combined with a low overall cost of production, they managed to perform in the top 10% in overall profitability. Facilitator for the day will be David Beca, Red Sky Agricultural, developing the theme of "Key Drivers of Profitability" and "Lowering your Cost of Production".

**More? Fiona Smith 0418 535 716 or [fiona@redskyagri.com](mailto:fiona@redskyagri.com)**

## **Baw Baw is a tidy town finalist**

Baw Baw Shire Council has been announced as a finalist in the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria's the 2010 Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards. Baw Baw Shire is a finalist in two categories: Towards Zero Waste and Water Conservation.

**More?** [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv)

## **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](http://www.egipps.vic.gov.au)

## **There's still time to nominate a South Gippy citizen or event!**

If you haven't started yet, it's time to get cracking to nominate people or events for the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards. The closing date for nominations is October 31.

The categories are:

- 2011 South Gippsland Citizen of the Year
- 2011 South Gippsland Young Citizen of the Year
- 2011 South Gippsland Community Event of the Year

Nomination forms can be downloaded from [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

**More?** Jeannie Hicks 5662 9221

## **It's all in the wrist action**

Wellington Shire Council presents a workshop on communicating with customers - verbally and via body language – with staff and customers. The workshop will be held on October 20, 6-8pm in the Pelican Room, Wellington Shire offices, 156 Grant Street, Yarram.

**More?** Ian Campbell 5142 3602 or [ian.campbell@wellington.vic.gov.au](mailto:ian.campbell@wellington.vic.gov.au)

## **Country racing is off and ... well ... racing**

Meetings this month are:

- October 14: Moe
- October 23: Sale
- October 30: La Trobe Valley

And next month:

- Nov 2: Moe
- Nov 2: Bairnsdale
- Nov 5: Sale
- Nov 9: Moe
- Nov 23: Moe
- Nov 27: Woolamai

**More?** Call 1300 139 402 or visit [www.countryracing.com.au](http://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](mailto:scross@wideband.net.au) 5153 2204 or [www.organicagriculture.asn.au](http://www.organicagriculture.asn.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 or visit [www.dairyaustralia.com.au](http://www.dairyaustralia.com.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](mailto:susanw@ptarmigan.com.au) or via [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.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/Gippsland attendees.**



For further information email [mark@lardnerpark.com.au](mailto:mark@lardnerpark.com.au), visit [www.lardnerpark.com.au](http://www.lardnerpark.com.au) or phone 5626 1373

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Issibl@swin.edu.au) or ph: 9214 8753 or Karen: [kpomeranz@swin.edu.au](mailto:kpomeranz@swin.edu.au) or ph: 9215 7136**



**Want to reach the right audience? Nearly 3000 '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.**

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**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**

## **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 a current ABN and 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 [gregorynlewis@southernphone.com.au](mailto:gregorynlewis@southernphone.com.au)**

### **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](mailto:cassiewright@alphalink.com.au)

Ph: 5674 8242/ Mob: 0429 061 161/ 35 Sail Street, Cape Paterson, VIC 3995.

## **Classifieds**

With nearly 3000 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](mailto: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](mailto:madfuj@yahoo.com.au).

1. Farmer/landowner/agri-tourism operator
2. Consultant/service provider
3. Government employee or agency
4. Food processor/manufacture
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> or [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)**

## **Hunting in AGInc hyperspace**

Recent top searches on our blogsite ([www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)) are: nab logo, speaker in Pakenham on full day learning, agribusiness, agritourism ideas, cassie wright Latrobe, owen stickels, darren williams, warragul wife.

## **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](mailto:ptarmigan2@internode.on.net).

## Gippy Diary

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
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 13	What people are buying and from where	Yarram	Ian Campbell 5142 3602
Oct 14	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Oct 14	Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project public meeting	Hallston	Jill Vella 5662 5759
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
Oct 18	Tarwin Catchment Enhancement Project public meeting	Meeniyan	Jill Vella 5662 5759
Oct 20	Warragul Rotary business dinner	Warragul	Russell Monson 5623 6722
Oct 20	Communicating with customers-workshop	Yarram	Ian Campbell 5142 3602
Oct 21	Inverloch Community Plan public session	Inverloch	Cathy Gilliam 1300 226 278
Oct 23	Baw Baw Mayoral charity masquerade ball	Warragul	Baw Baw Shire Council 5624 2497
Oct 23-24	Go Country Farming and Outdoors Expo	Pakenham	Tim Ahern 1300 557 884
Oct 24	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Oct 26	Dairy Business of the year field day	Foster	Fiona Smith 0418 535 716
Oct 28	Baw Baw Community Conversation	Warragul	5624 2533
Oct 30	Country Race Meet	LaTrobe	1300 139 402
Nov 2	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Nov 2	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
Nov 3	Finding Funding Roadshow	Stratford	Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244
Nov 5	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Nov 6	SGLN soil workshop for beginners	Meeniyan	Jill 5662 5759
Nov 8-9	Organic Food and Farming	Bairnsdale	0447 368 312
Nov 9	Webinar – Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change and Variability		www.dpi.vic.gov.au/climaterisk
Nov 9	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Nov 13	Frogs Frolic		RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245
Nov 23	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Nov 27	Country Race Meet	Woolamai	1300 139 402
Nov 26	Dairy Australia AGM	Flemington	Dairy Australia 9694 3777
Feb 12	Serenade at Sunset	Grantville	5671 2222

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](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com.au)