



Gippy AGchat November 1, 2010 – Issue 35

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 3205 recipients (*that's 209 sign-ups in the last three weeks.*)

Our partners (and we thank them):



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- Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>
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'If I was PM I'd make every kid work in a wool shed. You don't stand there and lean on your broom, you get a kick up your bum if you don't pull your weight....'

-Tim Lee, ABC Landline, at the Agribusiness Gippsland YAP forum (full report below)

Don't protect farm land on urban fringe: professor

Loss of farm land to urban expansion makes sense from an economic angle, an expert told the inaugural Agribusiness Gippsland lunch on October 22.

Prof Ian Wills said: "It is cheaper to move food than people. And, honestly, do you or I really care if our carrots come from Queensland or Cranbourne? In the extreme, we can rely on exports from New Zealand. The Kiwis would only be too happy to ship us their kiwi fruit, apples and vegetables."

Honorary Associate Professor at Monash University, and a weekend resident of Inverloch, he argued against agricultural land protection at the Asphalt vs Agriculture lunch held at Loch.

"Moving farms out as the city expands is normal," he said, citing first-hand accounts of vegetable growers who moved from Moorabbin, to Dingley, to Devon Meadows.

"Farming circumstances change and farms need to get bigger in all dimensions. Substitute land is available further out and a series of subdivisions can facilitate efficient farming," he said. "Prohibiting the conversion of agricultural land can impede efficient farm expansion."

... What do you think about the asphalt v ag argument? You can comment at our blogsite www.aginc.wordpress.com...

Prof Wills, who is both an economist and agricultural scientist, said planners need to rethink how they value agricultural areas, and what is considered prime arable land.

"They don't look at the ecological function of land, especially wetlands, nor the value of public open space, which are not valued in markets. They don't consider preserving the culture of previous farming communities. These are not the reasons that planners have come up with to preserve land. They've tended to emphasise land's agricultural values."

It is difficult to define prime agricultural land, he added.

"Since poorer-quality land can be improved with modern technologies, and product and input prices change, what is 'prime' land is a shifting target," he said. "Planning rules are unlikely to be this flexible, so applying planning rules to farm land is likely to do more harm than good."

Hobby farms and large residential lots could be converted back into commercial production, he said. "If we had a world food shortage, that is perfectly feasible. The land areas involved in these holdings are generally larger than many commercial farms in Japan and Europe."

Land prices determine land use, he added. "In the cases of farming, housing and industry, the market does a pretty good job of allocating land for the uses that are the most profitable and beneficial from the community's point of view."

Professor Wills argued that a serious attack on urban sprawl and associated losses of farm land would involve some changes to current government policies.

For example, negative gearing fuels residential development, and the capital gains tax exemption on family homes encourages people over-invest in urban fringe houses.

Excessive development on the urban fringe also results where authorities undercharge developers for infrastructure needs in new suburbs. And the save-our-suburbs movement in inner Melbourne results in more development pressure in the outer suburbs, he said.

The lunch, a celebration of great regional food, was held at Hard Loch Café and featured cheeses from the Berry Creek, Maffra, Faudel and Tarago cheeseries as well as local vegetables, olives, nuts and wine. Guests tucked away smoked chicken filet, asparagus and Hope Bakery breads.

Agribusiness performance varies across Gippsland

Australian agribusiness performance has surged with Eastern states posting their highest performance on record in the September quarter, reports the sixteenth Westpac and Charles Sturt University Agribusiness Index released in September.

The Economic Performance Indicator (EPI) in Victoria is 0.13, an identical result to the previous quarter and the equal best performance on record.

East Gippsland was the worst-performed region in Victoria, giving the only negative EPI result of -0.03. Business performance was low at -0.07, capital expenditure at -0.09 however, the employment index was positive at 0.08

The EPI in West Gippsland is reasonably high at 0.10, with positive business performance, capital expenditure and employment levels of 0.09, 0.11 and 0.10, respectively.

Agribusiness lunch offers taste of peri-urban think-tank

No reticulated gas extension for vegetable-growing, but special consideration for Gippsland potato growers ... the Victorian Government's response to its urban-fringe agribusiness inquiry was given its first public outing in Gippsland last Monday.

Inquiry chair George Seitz MP addressed the second Agribusiness Gippsland Monday lunch at Cowes, and urged guests to take up the issue with Spring Street of extended gas supply for horticulture.

"They said no, but there are openings. Make an economic case for natural gas supply, because that would certainly help horticultural production," he said.

From a total of 84 recommendations, the gas extension was one of only eight rejected by the Agriculture Minister Joe Helper, he noted.

However, a recommendation that received full support concerned the future of potato growers in Cardinia Shire. The inquiry had urged the government and shire to help the Gembrook farmers with land-use options in nematode and dieldrin-affected areas. In its response, the government said it would consider agricultural extension services in this and other areas "on a cost-benefit basis, seeking co-investment from industry where possible."

Other issues and responses affecting Gippsland landholders were:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove or extend annual council permits for road-droving livestock into five to 10-year permits: "The Victorian Government will encourage local councils to consider streamlining processes where appropriate." |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow direct-farm food sales: "Changes to enable the reasonable sale of value added produce in rural and green wedge areas will be considered." |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government/shire pressure absentee landowners to curb weeds and cut fire risk: "The Victorian Government will consider measures for reduction of fuel loads on private land." |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for more lenient crop netting: "The Victorian Government ... supports the removal of unnecessary limitations. Where unreasonable restrictions exist the government will work with local governments to remove those restrictions." |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transferring the successful Grow West weed control program to Gippsland: "Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authorities are well-placed to progress this recommendation." |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using retired farmers to mentor lifestyle landholders: "This model is currently being trialled as part of a pilot to test the national drought reform measures in Western Australia. The Victorian Government is observing the progress of the Western Australia drought pilot with a view that aspects of the trial will be rolled out nationally." |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More investment in soil health: "The DPI is currently considering expanding its capabilities in this space, recognising the likely benefits to agricultural productivity." |

Mr Seitz revealed that he had unsuccessfully argued against the recent proposal extending the urban growth boundary.

The peri-urban inquiry panel was cross-party, and this independence meant it would be unaffected by the November state election poll result, he added.

The lunch, held at Silverleaves Cafe, saw guests sampling local fare such as Koo Wee Rup asparagus and free-range eggs from Grantville, locally-caught snapper and beef cooked in Phillip Island-brewed beer. Guests were encouraged to question and challenge the politician. Inverloch estate agent Lewis Stone asked: "Is there enough flexibility in the 40ha planning limit? I believe the current limits are very inflexible."

Mr Seitz replied: "I don't believe in chopping everything up. Certain areas should never go under bitumen. Fertile soils should be kept close to Melbourne for food and where you have clay soils or poor rainfall, that's where you should put your houses."

AGI chair, Alex Arbutnot AM said: "This was an important lunch because it gave attendees an early heads-up on the way the government is thinking in relation to agribusiness in the urban fringe region. We also note the Minister's support for agribusiness groups such as ours. Agribusiness Gippsland is mentioned by name in the Minister's response."

The report (3.5Mb file size) and the government response (1.76Kb) are available via: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/osisd/inquiries/article/980

More? Sean Coley 8682 2825 or osisd@parliament.vic.gov.au

YAP forum: We got stuck into it!

The largest gathering of Young Agribusiness Professionals (YAPs) in years saw 69 people attend the Agribusiness Gippsland YAP forum on October 3 at Pakenham.

The event was notable not only for the size of the audience – which completely filled the room at the Cardinia Cultural Centre – but for the distance covered by attendees.

The day drew young people from across Victoria, NSW, South Australia and even from overseas. A group of 20 young farmers even booked themselves a bus from East Gippsland to attend.

The day achieved an average 80% approval rating among attendees.

A highlight among the speakers was the first-ever presentation on Latrobe University research into a soil conditioning method that shows early promise for increased production, soil water retention and carbon sequestration.

Gippsland-based speakers included vegetable giant Peter Corvino, Stony Creek dairy farmers Doug Hanks and Twila Cecil (although Twila had another time commitment ... we'd love to have her on the podium at a future forum, if she'll agree to it) and Simon Boag executive officer, South East Trawl Fishery Industry Association.

Students themselves formed part of the day's proceedings, giving them valuable experience in public speaking. Additionally, a YAP was the day's compere.

Three journalists attended the event, one of them was Tim Lee from ABC Landline – who opened the day's events.

And, of course, there was active networking among young future farming leaders from Frances in SA to Molong in NSW.

Getting horsey in Casey

Casey City Council is preparing an equestrian strategy for future provision of facilities and trails across the municipality over the next 10 years. Responses deadline November 3.

More? Visit

<http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/currentconsultations/article.asp?Item=19821&nav=highlights>

All plants must go!

A huge native plant sale will be held at the Make Moe Green Day on November 6 from 10am-1pm with *Gardening Australia's* Melissa King on hand to answer any gardening questions.

Due to imminent relocation, all plants must go from the Gippsland Employment Skills Training Inc (GEST) retail nursery at Old Gippstown Heritage Park, Lloyd St, Moe. Bring along the kids to enjoy jumping castle, face painting, live music and market stalls.

More? Rhonda Crooks 5127 4544 rhonda@gest.com.au

Leadership and vision rewarded

The farmer-owned and operated Macalister Demonstration Farm, near Maffra in Gippsland has been awarded the Fonterra Dairy Leadership Award for its leadership and vision in the dairy community in the 2010 Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

Rural environment fencing grants now open

Baw Baw Shire is offering funding to assist farmers to undertake Landcare fencing projects, including fencing to exclude stock from waterways, protection of existing remnant vegetation and wildlife corridors, and fencing of erosion sites and steep areas. Council will provide grants at a rate of \$3/m of fencing, limited to a maximum payment of \$2000 per property. Additional funding to support projects may be available through the Landcare Networks.

Applications will be assessed on a first in basis, with funding limited.

More? Lucas Paull 5624 2554

Trial site goes on display

A field day is being held at the Southern Farming Systems (SFS) Trial Site – Bairnsdale on Thursday, November 4.

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

Sustainable gardening booklet to be launched

A book launch for the Sustainable Gardening booklet will be followed by a short walk and afternoon tea at the Sale Botanical Gardens on Friday, November 5 from 3-4.30 pm. The Sustainable Gardening Booklet is a joint project between Wellington Shire Council and East Gippsland Shire Council.

More? Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244

Sub-clover in focus at Ellinbank

New trends in pasture research are the theme of a conference to be held at DPI Ellinbank on November 9 by the Grassland Society of Southern Australia.

Leo Hamilton will examine a two-year extension program which has generated some interesting results in its first year, indicating that the reasons for poor sub-clover performance on four trial farms can be attributed to a number of issues including low sub-clover seed reserves, plant nutrition, herbicide residues and rhizobia effectiveness.

Dr Paul Umina from CESAR Consultants will speak on insect management and Phil Jobling on herbicides for new cultivars and new pasture herbicides. Lee Menhenett from Incitec Pivot will outline fertilisers needed for legume performance and survival, and Ross Ballard, of SARDI and Allen Newman from Heritage Seeds will discuss N fixation and rhizobia.

The conference will be held from 9.30am-3.30pm RSVP by November 5

More? www.grasslands.org.au, office@grasslands.org.au, or 5483 7764

Women find their voice

The final session of the innovative Agribusiness Gippsland *Women Find Their Voice* project took place late October at Giffard. Hosted by goat meat producer Heather Osborne, the day ran through some of the gains already achieved by this DAFF-funded course that has seen women from East and West Gippsland undertake public speaking and media training. The effects have been obvious, many of them have now achieved a media footprint, and most have undertaken public speaking gigs. (Four of them are in this edition of GippyAgchat!) Since undertaking the course the East Gippsland women have branched out into a number of new ventures, one has started diversifying income, seeking off-farm work while doing the weekend markets, another has taken up a Landcare position and helping her community group in Meerlieu, while another is working at developing direct-sell from her beef enterprise. Agribusiness Gippsland director Courtney Ferguson was the compere for the Young Agribusiness Professional day (report elsewhere in this edition) and undertook a Southern Farming Systems visit to South Australia. Other women attended and/or secured talking gigs at the Tinamba Hotel slow food event, the national blackberry conference and at Landcare. One, a natural health professional and beef farmer, has been asked to address groups of drug and alcohol counsellors about natural health.

Several of the women are now seeking assistance to run workshops on establishing and developing home-based businesses. Agribusiness Gippsland hopes to help them secure some funds for this initiative.

Facilitator Jenny O'Sullivan led the wrap-up day and made the terrific pumpkin and apple soup. (*Jen, I still have your stockpot in the back of my car... Sue W*)

Women make it work over breakfast

A networking breakfast for working women, hosted by Women Making It Work will be held on November 4 from 7-8:30am. The breakfast, at the Chifley Hotel, Eumemmerring gives women the chance to meet and network with other business people in the Casey-Cardinia area. Bring your business cards. Cost is \$20/members and \$30/non-members. Bookings essential.

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

Know your local traders

Businesses in Yarram and the surrounding area are encouraged to attend a networking evening to better-know fellow traders. The event will be held in the Pelican Room, Wellington Shire offices, 156 Grant Street, Yarram on Wednesday, November 3 from 6-7.30pm.

More? Ian Campbell 5142 3602 or ian.campbell@wellington.vic.gov.au

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. Applications close November 5.

More? Andrew Legge 1300 367 700 or email youth@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Gippsland leadership program open for applications

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program 2011 is seeking participants. The year-long program includes 10 full-day seminars, held across Gippsland each two or three weeks.

The ultimate goal of the program is to build regional leadership resources.

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

Turn your organisation into a volunteer magnet!

This forum is a 'must do' for managers/coordinators of volunteers and committees/boards of Management. The forum covers:

- Session 1: Recruitment and retention of volunteers, delivered by Hennie Watts from People First – Total Solutions
- Session 2: Recruit volunteers on-line, delivered by City of Casey officers.

The free forum will be held on Friday, November 5 from 11am – 4pm at Council Chamber 1, City of Casey Civic Centre, Magid Drive, Narre Warren. Bookings are essential.

More? City of Casey 9705 5200 or visit

<http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/ctdcalendar/article.asp?Item=19308&nav=highlights>

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

Business winners announced this week

The SP Ausnet 2010 Baw Baw Business Excellence Awards winners will be announced on November 5 at the Gala Dinner Presentation to be held at the new Lardner Park Exhibition Centre near Warragul.

More? Karen Meyers 5624 2422 or karen.meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Top farmer at Wairewa field day

Nigel Kerrin, the 2008 Australian farmer of the year, will be joining Bengworden woolgrowers Rick and Jenny Richardson at the Wairewa Landcare field day, on November 10 from 9.30 to 3.30. A free BBQ lunch will be provided. RSVP for catering by November 3.

More? 5161 1222

West Gippsland going solar

Energy Innovation Co-op (West Gippsland) will receive \$250,000 under the Victorian Government's \$5m Community Solar Hubs program. The funding will be used in West Gippsland to install at least 650kW of solar power across 170 homes, 20 farms and 20 community buildings. The co-op is investigating a bulk order for solar panels and installation to ensure access to quality panels, accredited installers and potential additional subsidies.

More? Susan Davies 5657 3108 or susand@eico-op.com.au

Gardiner/South Gippsland \$1.65m funding program

The Gardiner Foundation will invest \$1.65m over four years in a Strengthening Small Dairy Communities program, starting as a pilot in partnership with the South Gippsland Shire Council from December 2010. It will focus on the communities of Meeniyan, Dumbalk, Tarwin Lower, Fish Creek, Buffalo, Venus Bay, Stony Creek and Koonwarra. Afterwards, the program will be implemented in north and west Victorian dairy regions in 2012/2014.

More? Kate Randall 9606 1900 or info@gardinerfoundation.com.au

Organics conference at Bairnsdale

Four Gippsland farmers are among the speakers at the Organic Food and Farming – Application of Sustainability conference on November 8-9 at the Riviera Christian Centre, 103 Bairnsdale/Dargo Rd, Bairnsdale. Speakers include:

- Shane Blundy from Cherry Tree Organics, a fully sustainable organic beef and lamb producer in South Gippsland.
- Maurie Cafra from Cafresco Organics, organic vegetables growers on 69ha at Koo Wee Rup. Maurice discusses: soil fertility; weed and pest and disease management; compost making and utilisation; and quality control, efficiency and innovation.
- Wendy Wallace, dairy farmer and ODFA co-op director, running a 116ha organic dairy farm in West Gippsland.
- Alan Broughton – organic agriculture educator and researcher.

Register by November 3.

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

Gippsland's best on show

The 122nd Annual Traralgon and District Agricultural Show will be held from November 26-27 at the Traralgon Showgrounds. Experience the very best Gippsland has to offer in agricultural competitions and displays, rural lifestyle, leisure activities, entertainment, food, horticulture, show bags and rides. There is a fireworks display after 9pm on Friday night.

More? Wayne van Dorssen 0428 594 299 or dawizard@vic.chariot.net.au

Forum works for low carbon growth

The Gippsland Climate Change Network and the EPA's Carbon Innovators Network have re-scheduled Anna Skarbek and John Thwaites to present on the Climate Works Low Carbon Growth Plan for Australia at Century Inn, Traralgon on November 3 from 9.30am -1pm, includes lunch.

More? Scott Ferraro scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au or 5173 9800 or visit <http://www.carboninnovators.net.au/events/climateworks-gippsland>

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

Race on down to the Hard Loch Cafe

Hard Loch Café is again hosting its Melbourne Cup Day Gala on November 2 to benefit Loch Primary School. Book now for \$25 per person (\$5 to the school) for a glass of Lyrebird Hill sparkling, a high tea-style lunch, fashions from Pomegranate clothing Leongatha, elegantly paraded by grade 6 lovelies from Loch Primary, accompanied by glamorous Kate and Ruth, large-screen race coverage and a tiny flutter on each race – proceeds returned to Loch PS.

More? Cherie Smirl 5659 4466

Evergraze/Landcare pasture day at Marlo

Geoff Saul of Profitable Sustainable Agricultural Services and Anita Morant, DPI Hamilton extension officer, will attend a pasture establishment day at Marlo on November 16. The event, at 264 Marlo Plains Rd, goes from 9.30 to 1pm. Among the topics to be covered are:

- Does it pay? Economics of pasture establishment featuring the EverGraze Pasture Establishment Calculator.
- Benefits to cattle production from diverse pasture systems incorporating tonic plantain, perennial ryegrass, summer and winter-active tall fescue and chicory.
- Rotational grazing: Determining the optimum stocking rate.
- What's been happening at the supporting site? - Presentation and discussion of latest results from the pasture monitoring supporting site.

...THEN: after that session, comes CloverCheque. This is a new program set up by the Orbest Landcare Group to enable producers to better monitor the clover performance. It has been established with the help of local agronomist Leo Hamilton and with funding from Woolworths Sustainable Farming Program. It will run at the same venue from 1-4pm. The program is based on the need for a profitable dryland grazing business to monitor rainfall, the and nitrogen input from clovers. Sites have been set up near Marlo, Brodrigg and Wairewa
RSVP for catering by Friday November 13

More? Darren Hickey 5152 0496 / 0457 609 140

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. Applications close November 4.

More? Sarah Killury 5147 0800

The future in agriculture

The impact of declining terms of trade, population and land use change and new market opportunities will be discussed at a series of AgFutures events in the Tarago catchment.

- Event 1: Declining terms of trade, population and land use change and impacts on farmer decision making on November 11. Speakers include:
 - Neil Barr (DPI Social Researcher): Terms of trade and population and land use change
 - John Mulvany (ONFARM Consulting) and Karen Thomas (DPI): Change and decision making.
- Event 2: New market opportunities and diversification on Thursday, December 2 with speakers:
 - Victorian Farmers Market Association: Setting up a farmers' market.
 - Roger Wilkinson (DPI Social Researcher): Victorian consumers' attitudes to food and farming.
 - Maria Gray - (local farmer): Bushfires and a new approach to our business through biological farming, diversification and market opportunities direct selling to consumers
- Event 3: A third event will be held in early 2011.

All events will be facilitated by John Mulvany and held at the Rokeby Hall, Brandy Creek Rd, Rokeby from 10:30am-3pm. Catering provided. Please register your intention to attend by November 9.

More? Karen Thomas 9785 0103 or karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au

There is something seedy in this collection

West Gippsland Seedbank Association will hold two free training sessions about seed collection, at the Old Crossover School, School Road, Crossover, on:

- Plant ID field day, 10am-noon, November 16
- Collection methods and protocols, 10am-noon, November 23

More? Merrin 0425 775 786 or info@wgseedbank.org.au

Raingardens program improves stormwater quality

Junior Landcare has the opportunity to participate in a special raingardens project as part of Melbourne Water's "Healthy Waterways Raingardens Program" in 2010. The program aims to raise awareness of how good management of stormwater contributes to healthy waterways. Schools and youth groups in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment area can apply for up to \$5000 to build a raingarden, which will contribute to cleaner, healthier rivers and creeks. They will also be helping Melbourne Water to reach the target of 10,000 raingardens.

Applications must be received before Friday, February 11, 2011.

More? Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/melbourne-water-raingarden-grant

Train up for ACUP

Landholders applying for an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) must complete a Chemical Users' Course. AgTrain will be delivering the last AgVET Chemical Users Course for 2010 on November 10-11 at DPI Knoxfield.

On completion of this course, participants will receive two units of competency: RTC3704A Prepare and apply chemicals and RTC3705A Transport, handle and store chemicals from the RTE40103 Certificate IV in Agriculture. Participants will also be registered with ChemCert Victoria as having been trained in AgVet Chemical Use.

Topics covered include legislation and farm chemical use, pests and pest control, reading labels, transport and storage, applying chemicals, equipment calibration, clean up and disposal and a practical calibration exercise.

The cost is \$280 which includes ChemCert manuals, lunch and ChemCert registration.

More? Lisa Shakes 9210 9229 or Lisa.shakes@dpi.vic.gov.au

How now, cow chow?

Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) research has found that as a cow eats more grain its ability to digest fibre is reduced.

In the study, researchers found that adding one kilo of crushed wheat produced just under a litre of extra milk. "Adding crushed wheat increased the acidity of the cow's digestive system. This could have implications for animal health and, if not managed, reduce profit for farms," DPI scientist Clare Leddin said. The study compared the milk yields of 16 cows fed different amounts of crushed wheat alongside clover-dominant pasture offered at 3.7% of live weight. The research was undertaken at Kyabram as part of Future Farming Systems Research by scientists from DPI and the University of Melbourne's School of Land and Environment.

Preparing for the fire season

About 60 representatives from regional fire, forestry and emergency agencies met at DPI Ellinbank recently to update preparations for the pending fire season. The session, led by DSE State Fire Training Co-ordinator Les Vearing, discussed changes to procedures following findings from the Bushfire Royal Commission. The meeting discussed advanced training in planned burn techniques with fuel-reduction burning already started in some areas of Gippsland and continuing over the coming months.

To discover when and where planned burns will be occurring in your area, visit the DSE website (www.dse.vic.gov.au) daily, or phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667. For useful tips about clearing up your land, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Soils are soils!

A comparison between soils used for conventional and organic agriculture found no significant differences between soil chemical and physical properties, but some difference in water-absorption. The UK study, drawn from 32 farms, looked at arable and grassland soils. The only difference it suggested were higher infiltration rates on organically managed grassland which reduced peak runoff from a catchment by 29%. Researchers from Cranfield University, the Organic Research Centre and Rothamsted Research compared chemical, physical soil and hydraulic properties over four main soil textures.

More? <http://www.iuss.org/19th%20WCSS/symposium/pdf/0581.pdf>

(And yet) soils ain't soils!

Meanwhile, work in NZ suggests that soil quality differences between conventional and organic farming methods increase with land-use intensity.

More? <http://www.iuss.org/19th%20WCSS/symposium/pdf/2468.pdf>

Become a bush guardian

Expressions of Interest for Bush Guardians grants are sought from community groups to assist in managing and undertaking on-ground works for the protection of threatened flora and fauna as well as natural vegetation communities on specified public land allotments across Victoria.

More? [Bruce Atkin 5183 9116](tel:51839116) or Bruce.Atkin@dse.vic.gov.au

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.

Phosphorus effectiveness reconsidered

Scientists are rethinking phosphorus (P) use on farmland, with some suggesting we have been over-calculating our need for the nutrient. Research presented at an Australian international soil conference found that P effectiveness in soils could actually be more than 80%, instead of the 10-25% usually claimed. Research from NZ, UK and Thai scientists suggested that residual P and optimised management could boost "efficiency of use at or close to 100%." They warned that P supplies are finite and non-renewable and that the P-rich run-off harms water quality.

More? <http://www.iuss.org/19th%20WCSS/symposium/pdf/0088.pdf>

What Gippsland women want

Would you like to see more leadership, business and networking events for women in Gippsland? Complete a quick survey by clicking on the link below before December 1 and go in the running for a hamper of Gippsland delights. The survey has been developed collaboratively by a number of agencies including Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI), Education Centre Gippsland, Linda Rowley and the Rural Women Leading Change program.

To take the survey visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WhatGippslandWomenWant>

More? [Linda Rowley 0427 760 637](tel:0427760637) or visit <http://www.lindarowley.com.au>

Dairy Australia targets cream of graduate crop

Dairy Australia is giving six young graduates the opportunity to fast-track their careers through the 2011 Australian Grand Dairy Awards Manufacturing and Cheese Scholarships.

The scholarships aim to attract young university graduates and diploma holders into the dairy industry to train them in relevant aspects of dairy and cheese manufacture and retail.

Three young people will be selected to complete industry placement at companies such as Murray Goulburn, Fonterra, Parmalat, and Warrnambool Cheese and Butter. The scholarship also involves a comprehensive training program at the National Centre for Dairy Education Australia (NCDEA) in Werribee.

In addition, for the fourth year running Dairy Australia will choose three people to complete a cheese scholarship, giving budding cheesemakers the opportunity to spend two to three months learning the technical skills while being exposed to the latest commercial aspects of cheese production. Training for this scholarship will also take place at the NCDEA.

Both scholarships are open to 18-30 year olds who have a university degree or TAFE diploma in science, engineering, nutrition, agriculture or related disciplines. Applications for both scholarships close November 30.

More? Visit www.dairyaustralia.com.au/scholarships

Share your excess produce

If your garden produces more food than you can use, it's time to share! Gather excess produce to swap and share fruit, vegetables, herbs, gardening tips and stories.

An annual registration fee of \$5 applies to cover advertising and workshop costs. Registered members work on an honesty and self-regulating system whereby you may bring more than you take home some weeks and vice versa.

The Poowong Produce Swap occurs on the first Sunday of each month at the Poowong Public Hall, Nyora Road, Poowong. The next swap is November 5.

More? Tammy Logan 5659 2308 or tammylogan@bigpond.com

Get dirty and fertile

The Cardinia Environmental Coalition, WPLCN, Bass Coast Landcare Network and South Gippsland LCN, present a Soil Health and Soil Fertility Management course for non-primary producers with Chris Alenson. The three-day course runs over two weekends in November.

More? Peter Ronalds 5941 8446

New veterinary bioscience degree offered in Gippsland

A science degree focussing on animal health is offered for the first time in Gippsland in 2011. The Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) offered at Monash University, Gippsland, will prepare students wishing to pursue further studies in veterinary science.

Laboratory studies will be complemented by fieldwork and case studies conducted in the Gippsland region at local farming enterprises, animal health practices and in natural habitats. Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) graduates may work in a wide range of areas including; animal nutrition, agricultural consulting, quarantine and inspection, livestock production, animal reproduction and genetics, and wildlife conservation.

More? Monash University 9902 6453 or visit

www.monash.edu/study/coursefinder/course/3541/

Gippsland's award-winning cheeses do Christmas

Cheese and wines from Gippsland are featured at the Australian Specialist Cheesemakers' Association (ASCA) Specialty Cheese Forum of 2010 Christmas Selection cheeses.

Wild Dog wines and cheeses from Berry Creek and Jindi Cheese are among the offerings.

Frank Beurain from Jindi Cheese is the new ASCA president who will welcome guests to the forum at Ormond Hall, 557 St Kilda Road, Melbourne on Wednesday, November 24 from 6-9pm. The cost of the event is \$25 for DIAA/ASCA members and \$45 for non-members. RSVP by November 22.

More? Janos Kaldy 9329 3532 or janos.kaldy@diaa.asn.au

You can learn people skills

If you're looking to improve your People Skills; understand how to build a strong people business; and be aware of the people resources available online, then the People GPS course is a must for you and your business.

This four-day course has been developed by Dairy Australia's The People in Dairy Program to assist dairy farmers with recruiting, retaining and developing people on their farm.

The course will be run in South Gippsland on November 10, 17, 24 and December 1. The course is run through the NCDEA and is Farm Ready approved.

More? Gavin McClay 0425 825 288 gavin@gavinmcclay.com.au

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 1300 226 278

Hook a grant for fishing projects

Organisations wanting to improve their local fishing are encouraged to submit project proposals for the 2010/11 Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

Money from recreational fishing licence fees paid by Victorian fishers is available to fund projects of up to \$5000 available year-round. Large grants are available for projects up to \$100,000. The deadline for these applications is March 31, 2011 in one or more of the following project areas:

- Fisheries' sustainability and habitat improvement.
- Fishing access and facilities.
- Fisheries-related education, information and training.
- Recreational fisheries-related research.

The 2010-11 Recreational Fishing Grants Program is open to fishing clubs, community groups, incorporated bodies, registered companies and government and statutory bodies.

More? www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing/fishinggrants or 9658 4779

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](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au) 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. 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](http://www.sgln.net.au)

Grants available to flood victims

The Victorian government has announced that primary producers and small businesses affected by the September 2010 Victorian floods can now apply for a Clean-up and Restoration Grant of up to \$15,000. The grant provides for clean-up, removal of debris, animal welfare and business restoration. All claims for assistance will be assessed on an individual basis and must be accompanied by documentation to support the claim.

Applications close 31 March 2011

More? Visit <http://www.ruralfinance.com.au/pages/Default.aspx?PageID=141&id=1>

Enjoying soil over tea

Two Soil Foodweb International (SFI) courses are being held at ECG McMillan and St Pauls AGS, Warragul in November.

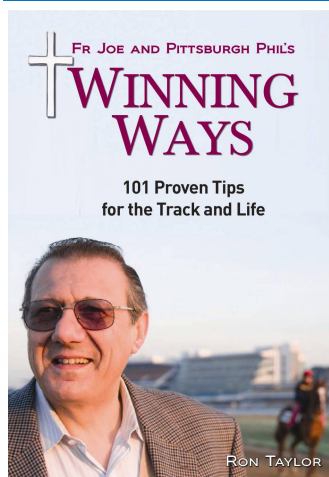
- "An Introduction to SFI, their methodology and biological approach to soil health" – a one-day course scheduled for Wednesday, November 24.
- "Applying SFI methodology to create compost, actively aerated compost tea and analysing the tea created"- a three-day program running November 25-27. The first course is a prerequisite for the second.

More? [Carol Olsen 5627 8663](http://www.dcsi.net.au) or agrisolutions@dcsl.net.au

Get smart about irrigation

A course for anyone thinking of purchasing or improving the management of centre pivot and Linear Move irrigators will be held on the November 10-11. The course will be run by the DPI and Industry NSW and costs \$545/person which can be fully reimbursed through FarmReady for primary producers. The course will be held at DPI Maffra, 1 Stratford Road, Maffra
More? DPI Maffra 5147 0800

Just released



101 PROVEN TIPS FOR THE TRACK AND LIFE

Just in time for the Spring Racing Carnival!

Fr Joe Giacobbe and Pittsburgh Phil know it's not only luck that causes you to win at the race track or in life. Times and technology might change but there are ways to increase your chances of a win and to keep on winning. Fr Joe and Pittsburgh Phil explain these in clear and concise and inspiring terms in this little book. Fr Joe's thoughts and experiences are provocative as well as entertaining. This is a book you can read for pleasure and benefit as well. Proceeds from *Winning Ways* go to Fr Joe's Doxa Foundation, to assist underprivileged families. You can order online at www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au – Click [here](#) Each order backed with a 100 per cent money-back guarantee.

Weather the weather ... with toast

The Gippsland Community Network Breakfast features Rob Gell discussing “Examining the current trends in weather patterns and how could those existing trends change the face of Gippsland and what impact could they play on business and agriculture in Gippsland”. It will be held on Wednesday November 11 from 7-9am at GippsTAFE Waratah Restaurant Corner Monash Way and Princes Drive, Morwell. Cost \$30. RSVP by November 5.

More? Gippsland Community Network Breakfast 0428 746 207 or pacoles@bigpond.com

Roundup the climate dogs

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Climate Team has developed an animation series about Victoria's climate drivers. It is available for free online at:

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/climate/understandingweather-and-climate/climatedogs>

Latest climate science projections suggest Victoria will become hotter and drier. These animations help explain how our weather patterns are changing. The animated series was made possible through support from the Farm Services Victoria Innovation Fund.

Corner Inlet's indigenous heritage explored

South Gippsland Landcare Network and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority host an evening about the indigenous heritage of the Corner Inlet area with presenter Robert Andy, Indigenous Facilitator, WGCMA at 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 10 at Foster Memorial Hall. Supper provided.

Enjoy the fun of the fair

The Omeo District Agricultural Show is back again on November 13-14. The show features show jumping and other horse events, a shearing competition, animal nursery, pet competition, best ute competition, wood chop, pavilion competitions, and fun day for all the family. The show is held at the Omeo Recreation Reserve

More? Peter Whittington 51591209 or visit <http://www.omeoregion.com.au>



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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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Warragul VIC 3820
Australia
Ph (03) 56234575

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

Kind regards,
Ian Wenzel



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

Meetings this month are:

- Nov 2: Moe
- Nov 2: Bairnsdale
- Nov 5: Sale
- Nov 9: Moe
- Nov 17: Sale
- Nov 23: Moe
- Nov 27: Woolamai

And next month:

- Dec 4: Stony Creek
- Dec 8: Sale
- Dec 12: LaTrobe Valley
- Dec 17: Moe
- Dec 20: Bairnsdale
- Dec 26: Drouin
- Dec 28: Stony Creek

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

Student Landcare grants on offer

The Westpac Student Sustainability Leadership grants of \$1500 will be awarded at the beginning of 2011 to help Year 5 and 6 students plan and implement environmental sustainability initiatives.

Funds will help students improve their school or local community environment and encourage life-long learning for sustainability. Students will receive mentoring from a local secondary-level student and Landcare Group. Projects may address a range of areas including reducing energy and water consumption, reducing waste and greenhouse gas production, and improving water harvesting and quality, through to increased biodiversity and restoration. Applications must be received before Friday, December 10.

More? Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/westpac-grant

Farmers market offers fresh local produce

The next Coal Creek Farmers' Market is on Saturday, November 13 from 8am-1pm in the main Coal Creek carpark, Korumburra. The market aims to put seasonal produce, local producers and artisan makers in the spotlight and be accessible and affordable to the South Gippsland community. This is planned to be an authentic farmers' market, allowing only genuine growers with no re-sellers.

More? 0459 629 000 or farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au or visit http://www.coalcreekvillage.com.au/events/CCFM_poster2_A4_portrait.pdf

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

Scram scammers!

Scammers are offering fake grants from a fake government department, then requesting a fee of \$199 to release the funds. They may also request \$4000 to 'contribute to charities to pay off government debt'. The scammers claim to be representing the fictitious "Australian Government Grants Department".

More? 1300 795 995 or visit

www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/tag/reportascam

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

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, visit 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 and we'll give you a free plug. No large files, no photos, no sales pitches and full contact details, please.

POSITIONS VACANT:

NAB Agribusiness – Agribusiness Analyst

- Exceptional opportunity for a recent graduate
- Multiple positions available across regional Victoria
- Excellent remuneration and conditions

NAB is offering recent graduates the opportunity to kick start their career with an employer of choice. Our Agribusiness analysts provide customer service support to our agribusiness clients and assist our agribankers with the maintenance and management of customer relationships.

In return for your efforts we will support and provide the tools to assist to develop the skills, confidence and start up experience to be successful in fulfilling future career aspirations.

Opportunities are available throughout rural Victoria.

More? Trevor Walder 0429 565 944 or Trevor.J.Walder@nab.com.au

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



Want to reach the right audience? Nearly 3000 'yes-please' subscribers read GippyAGchat.

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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

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

Hunting in AGInc hyperspace

Recent top searches on our blogsite (www.aginc.wordpress.com) are:
nab agri business, "university agriculture" blog, yarram landcare board, asparagus farm gate sales in samantha, samantha monks, barbe jelbart leongatha south, phd agricultural economics, debbie marziarz melbourne, agribusiness logo, maria gray, allambee reserve

There's posts... and then there's posts

Our blogsite www.aginc.wordpress.com gets all sorts of responses, most overwhelmingly positive and some positively overwhelming. But one arrived this week and ... well.. to be honest, we don't know what to make of it.

It's from someone in the UK, so maybe that explains it.

"Thanks a lot for the informative post guys, have been following your blog for the past several months while trying to lose weight for my wedding ... and your site has really inspired me to keep going. Fantastic job." Agribusiness Gippsland, better than jogging!

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 |
|-----------|---|--------------|--|
| Nov 2 | Country Race Meet | Moe | 1300 139 402 |
| Nov 2 | Country Race Meet | Bairnsdale | 1300 139 402 |
| Nov 2 | Hard Loch Café Melbourne Cup Day Gala | Loch | Cherie Smirl 5659 4466 |
| Nov 3 | Finding Funding Roadshow | Stratford | Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244 |
| Nov 3 | Climate Works Low Carbon Growth Plan for Australia | Traralgon | Scott Ferraro 5173 9800 |
| Nov 3 | Know your Local Traders Networking Evening | Yarram | Ian Campbell 5142 3602 |
| Nov 4 | Southern Farming Systems (SFS) Field Day | Bairnsdale | Nikki Hellyer 0418 528 715 |
| Nov 4 | Women Making It Work breakfast | Eumemmerring | Michelle 0407 009 656 |
| Nov 5 | Country Race Meet | Sale | 1300 139 402 |
| Nov 5 | Sustainable gardening booklet launch | Sale | Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244 |
| Nov 5 | Turn your organisation into a volunteer magnet! Forum | Narre Warren | City of Casey 9705 5200 |
| Nov 5 | SP Ausnet 2010 Baw Baw Business Excellence Awards presentation Dinner | Maffra | Karen Meyers 5624 2422 |
| Nov 6 | SGLN soil workshop for beginners | Meeniyan | Jill 5662 5759 |
| Nov 6 | GEST Make Moe Green Day | Moe | Rhonda Crooks 5127 4544 |
| Nov 6 | Networking for future farm leaders | Trafalgar | Karen 0418 135 176 |
| Nov 7 | Poowong Produce Swap | Poowong | Tammy Logan 5659 2308 |
| 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 9-10 | Centre Pivot and Linear Move irrigators course | Maffra | DPI Maffra 5147 0800 |
| Nov 10 | Indigenous Heritage Presentation | Foster | |
| Nov 10-11 | AgVET Chemical Users Course | Knoxfield | Lisa Shakes 9210 9229 |

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| Nov 11 | Agfutures: Declining terms of trade, population and land use change and impacts on farmer decision making | Rokeby | Karen Thomas 9785 0103 |
| Nov 11 | Gippsland Community Network Breakfast | Morwell | 0428 746 207 |
| Nov 13 | Frogs Frolic | | RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245 |
| Nov 13 | Coal Creek Farmers' Market | Coal Creek | 0459 629 000 |
| Nov 16 | Plant Identification Field Day | Crossover | Merrin 0425 775 786 |
| Nov 23 | Seed collection methods and protocols | Crossover | Merrin 0425 775 786 |
| Nov 23 | Country Race Meet | Moe | 1300 139 402 |
| Nov 24 | An Introduction to SFI, their methodology and biological approach to soil health | Warragul | Carol Olsen 5627 8663 |
| Nov 24 | Australian Specialist Cheesemakers' Association (ASCA) Specialty Cheese Forum | Melbourne | Janos Kaldy 9329 3532 |
| Nov 25-27 | Applying SFI methodology to create compost, actively aerated compost tea and analysing the tea | Warragul | Carol Olsen 5627 8663 |
| Nov 27 | Country Race Meet | Woolamai | 1300 139 402 |
| Nov 26 | Dairy Australia AGM | Flemington | Dairy Australia 9694 3777 |
| Dec 2 | Agfutures: New market opportunities and diversification | Rokeby | Karen Thomas 9785 0103 |
| Dec 4 | Country Race Meet | Stony Creek | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 5 | Poowong Produce Swap | Poowong | Tammy Logan 5659 2308 |
| Dec 8 | Country Race Meet | Sale | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 12 | Country Race Meet | LaTrobe Valley | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 17 | Country Race Meet | Moe | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 20 | Country Race Meet | Bairnsdale | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 26 | Country Race Meet | Drouin | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 28 | Country Race Meet | Stony Creek | 1300 139 402 |
| 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