



# Gippy AGchat February 21, 2011 – Issue 39

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 3544 recipients.

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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)
- Our postal address is PO Box 1312 Warragul 3280.
- Email us at [ptarmigan1@internode.on.net](mailto:ptarmigan1@internode.on.net) or [ptarmigan2@internode.on.net](mailto:ptarmigan2@internode.on.net)
- Phone us 9456 9791 or 0402 267 802
- Fax us at 9459 9699
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## First... some bad news...

Regretfully, we've had to cancel the March 2-3 conference.

Agribusiness Gippsland chair Alex Arbuthnot AM said: "The timing politically at both State and Canberra level was not good and we believe that community seems preoccupied with floods and other emergency issues. AGI apologises for any inconvenience. However, key speakers have offered to come to Gippsland for smaller events and we welcome working with our Gippsland partners to do this."

Registrations will be refunded. We especially thank the Italian Australian Club, Morwell and Lardner Park for their understanding responses.

## And now some good news

We're pleased to announce the first meeting of a 'spin-off' group, a group of South Gippsland young agribusiness professionals that will stage its inaugural meeting on March 3.

Anna Langley – a graduate of our Women Find Their Voice program – and James Clarke, who attended our events at Cardinia and Traralgon, are the force behind the new South Gippsland Agribusiness Professionals.

The meeting will be held on March 3, from 7 to 9pm at Riverview Hotel, Tarwin Lower. Cost: \$22.00 (including a two-course meal) with drinks at bar prices. RSVP: March 1. It will be used as an expression of interest for prospective members and will include a guest speaker, a talk outlining the aim of the group and planning for future meetings.

**More? James Clark – 0427 344 356 or [sgap@live.com.au](mailto:sgap@live.com.au)**

## And now even more good news

Long-time editor of Royal Auto, Jeremy Bourke, will come to Gippsland in mid-April for the next Agribusiness Gippsland 'Epicurious' lunch.

He will discuss trends in regional Victorian tourism – with particular emphasis on agritourism/food tourism (he's a wine buff). Not only will he offer insights into a major industry for Gippsland, it will be an occasion to press the flesh of a man who is possibly the most influential person responsible for Victoria's discretionary recreational travel spend. He's blocked in April 13 or 14 for us. Final details, and venue, to be announced.

## And now...the floods ...waiting for news

Thank you to all the folk who have contacted us with generous donations of hay. We are waiting to hear back from Murray Dairy (the northern Victorian equivalent of GippsDairy) about a potential drop-off site near Rochester, although we note reports from the VFF that fodder is no longer needed in the region. We've started making inquiries around the Cardinia/Casey region, asking if there's any fodder needs there. Hope to have news shortly.

...PLUS: The floods have prompted Cardinia Shire Council to alert owners of on-site septic tank systems and private water sources. If you suspect your septic system or private water source has been affected, do not flush toilets or use your water source for drinking, bathing or for pets before checking with a licensed plumber immediately to arrange an inspection. A number of government grants are available which might cover damaged septic tank systems.

**More? Cardinia Council's Environmental Health Unit 1300 787 624**

...MEANWHILE: A benefit concert to aid flood relief victims is being held on Sunday, March 13 from 1.30-7pm. Artists include Russell Morris, Wendy Stapleton, Paul Norton, Lisa Bade, Tony Byrne and more. Tickets are \$25 adults, \$10 teens, under 12 free and can be purchased from Sorrento Hotel, Rye Newsagency, Blairgowrie Newsagency.

**More? Alex Crawford 0417 594 299 or [alex@theportseacamp.com.au](mailto:alex@theportseacamp.com.au)**

... PLUS: Primary producers and small businesses affected by the September 2010 Victorian floods can 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. Deadline March 31.

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

## **Agritourism session gets 'em scribbling**

You know you've got a good session going when attendees are scribbling away like schoolkids. About 20 people were at the Wellington Shire free agritourism session the Agribusiness Gippsland ran last week.

Feedback was fulsome, Stratford's Janet Robertson who breeds Dohne sheep emailed straight after saying: "Great forum today. I came away with a lot of great information. I can't talk quickly enough to get it all out..."

The report that was the basis of the session was examined in some detail and all copies walked out with the visitors. You can read it online at

[http://adl.brs.gov.au/data/warehouse/pe\\_abarebrs99001744/Agritourism\\_2010\\_REPORT\\_11a.pdf](http://adl.brs.gov.au/data/warehouse/pe_abarebrs99001744/Agritourism_2010_REPORT_11a.pdf)

During the session, Wellington's tourism guru Frank Norden explained the shire's marketing campaign based on 'triangulation', suggesting visitors travel to three locations offering linked attractions, for example, the eateries of Maffra, Briagalong and Stratford.

Notes from the event were prepared by Agribusiness Gippsland's work experience student Narelle Savige from Westbury. You can read them at <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or the blog [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com).

## **Just an idle thought...**

When is Gippsland's birthday? It is on, or around, March 12, 1840? That was the day that explorer Paul Strzelecki clambered over the top of Mount Kosciusko, looked southward and proclaimed all the heavily-timbered country beyond be named in honour of the NSW Governor George Gipps. Was that the day when was the name Gippsland was first used? There's not too many parts of Victoria with a one-word official name. When was it officially recognised and gazetted? Local historians... your time starts now!

And if it is March 12 ... should we do something to celebrate? We note the Latrobe Long Lunch at Morwell is on that day. We hope they don't serve the raw koala that the explorer was forced to eat on the desperate slog from Moe to Western Port.

## **Longwarry set-up announced**

Gippsland-based Longwarry Food Park has announced its third step-up, up 10c/kg fat and 24c/kg protein, bringing the season's current yearly average to \$5.25/kgMS or 39.15c/litre. The step up is retrospective to February 1. MD Rakesh Aggarwal reported that testing the upgraded plant was underway, with new products due to hit the market in Autumn. Milk powder production is expected to be boosted with a drier upgrade due to be completed in time for the new season, he added.

## **Positions available on CMA boards**

Expressions of Interest are now open for appointments on each of Victoria's 10 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

CMA boards are responsible for delivering its statutory functions for land, biodiversity and water resources and (with the exception of the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA) waterway, floodplain, drainage and environmental water reserve management in its particular region.

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

## **Welcome to Gippsland**

Mary Aldred has been appointed the new EO appointed to the Committee for Gippsland, the apolitical body that plays a critical advocacy role by working closely with and lobbying governments at all levels on identified key opportunities for Gippsland.

...ALSO: Kate Heywood has been appointed agribusiness manager for the NAB at Sale.

Hailing from a cattle, sheep & cropping property near Dubbo she studied Commerce majoring in Accounting and Finance and also Computer Science.

...AND: Tim Wills starts as the new Austrade appointment for Gippsland.

## Grants to fight soil erosion

Small grants to prevent and/or repair soil erosion are available through the Department of Primary Industries in East Gippsland. The grants are only available this year and all funds/works should be completed by June 30, 2011.

The grants can be used for fencing, laneways and stock watering works to enable rotational grazing or to take pressure off erosion-prone areas and to build more resilient landscapes. Grants are available on a dollar to dollar cost-sharing arrangement with landholders able to make cash, labour and/or in kind contributions.

**More? Alistair Christie 0428 519 297**

## Jindi named best Australian cheese

Gippsland has regained national cheese supremacy – Australia's best cheese is Jindi's Old Telegraph Rd Fire Engine Red washed rind. The cheese created to honour fire teams that saved the factory on Black Saturday was named Grand Champion cheese at the recent Australian Grand Dairy Awards. Among the finalists in other sections were Dandenong's Bead Foods, with two products in the cream category, Maffra cloth-aged cheddar and Jindi's Old Telegraph Rd blue.

## Go green and save

The free Farmers Go Green and Save Money seminar discusses energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction and how to reduce operating costs and promote your green farm business. It will be held on March 8 from 11.30am-2.00pm at the West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul.

**More? Karen Meyers 5624 2622 or [karen.meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:karen.meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)**

## Moving our livelihood into the future

The East Gippsland Shire council presents the 'Our Livelihood' Forum on Wednesday, March 16 from 6-9pm at the Buchan Recreation Pavilion. Speakers will be Dale Calnin, from Parks Victoria discussing "Where the Caves are Headed"; and Agribusiness Gippsland's Sue Webster, discussing "Farming - Future Trends". Free BBQ. RSVP by March 11.

**More? Abbie Hughes 5153 9500**

## Latest hay and grain prices for Gippy

The latest hay and grain report from Dairy Australia has Gippsland prices as:

		Wheat		Barley		Trit		Oats	
<b>Gippsland</b>	Price Range	\$255	\$265	\$267	\$277	\$252	\$262	\$205	\$215
	Change	Up \$10		Up \$15		Down \$5		Down \$2	

Prices are estimates based on delivery to dairy farms with allowance for freight, storage, and marketing costs, but exclusive of GST. Wheat prices are for the relevant stockfeed wheat available in a region (ASW or AGP or 70-10) or FB1 for barley. Hay prices are based on shedded hay without weather damage, of good quality and colour.

## More than just horsing around

Mornington Peninsula Shire, in conjunction with Melbourne Water, will hold a free horse property management workshop on March 5 from 9.15am-3.30pm.

The workshop, facilitated by expert on horse property management, Jane Myers, provides horse property owners with information on developing sustainable properties, creating and renovating pasture, managing established pasture, managing manure water and vegetation, property planning and design, rate rebates and grant opportunities.

It will be held at Bentons Square Community Centre, 145 Bentons Road, Mornington.

Bookings are essential.

**More? Mornington Peninsula Shire 5950 1263**

## Open days discuss groundwater

Southern Rural Water is holding a number of open days on groundwater discussing aquifers, Southern Rural Water services and licences, Southern Groundwater Futures, and groundwater on the farm. The open days will be held in:

- Bairnsdale at the Mission Australia Building, 68a Macleod Street, on, March 2 anytime between 10am-2pm (lunch provided) with special presentations at 11am and 1pm on groundwater mapping and local management rules
- Maffra, at the Maffra Football Club Rooms, McLean Street on March 3, anytime between 10am-2pm (lunch provided). Special presentations at 11am and 1pm on groundwater and irrigation districts

**More? South Rural Water 1300 139 510**

## Strategy committee seeking expressions of interest

The Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) for membership on its strategy subcommittee. No prior experience needed, just a passion for the climate change cause and the ability to see change as a positive experience. Deadline COB February 25.

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

## Get to know your soil

Latrobe Catchment Landcare, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and Education Centre Gippsland (ECG) are hosting two soil health field days presented by John Gallienne and Nick Dudley.

The field days will discuss local soil types, soil profile (onsite pits), soil structure, effect of acidity on structure, interpreting soil test results, nutrient management, organic matter, and pasture species selection. The field days will be held on:

- February 24 at ECG McMillan Campus, 71 Korumburra Rd, Warragul
- March 2 at Ennisvale, Monash Way, Boolarra

Both days run from 10.30am-2.30pm and include a light lunch. Please RSVP.

**More? 0429 808 411 or [peter@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter@wgcm.vic.gov.au)**

## Buchan farm women gather

The Buchan Women on Farms Gathering Organising Committee are meeting at 11am on Monday, February 21 at the Buchan Neighbourhood House. All women who would like to be a part of this project or to learn more about the gathering are invited to attend the meeting. Please RSVP to the Buchan Neighbourhood House, 6 Centre Road, Buchan.

**More? Evelyn Schmidt 5155 9216 or [buchanbnh@bigpond.com](mailto:buchanbnh@bigpond.com)**

## New MD for Melbourne Water

South East Water MD Shaun Cox has been appointed the new MD of Melbourne Water and will start in the new role on March 9. He replaces Rob Skinner.

## Gippsland Signature Dish cook-off at Lardner Park

The Gippsland Signature Dish Grand Final Cook Off will be held at 2pm on March 6 at the Jindi Harvest. Three top Gippsland chefs have one hour to prepare signature dishes showcasing Gippsland's finest produce matched to a local Gippsland wine or beer. They will be vying for more than \$2000 of prizes.

## Land clearing earns court hearing

Baw Baw Shire Council has prosecuted a man who failed to obtain a planning permit before undertaking extensive earthworks and removing native vegetation at Coopers Creek, and then failed to stop work when requested. The court heard the earthworks were undertaken on a place of special heritage significance and some occurred on Crown Land. At a hearing at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court last week, the man was ordered to pay costs of \$27,000 and comply with a vegetation offset plan.

## **GippsDairy field days focus on farms**

A series of Focus Farm field days is being presented by GippsDairy in the coming weeks. The program includes a farm walk; discussion of pasture conditions and management strategies for the wet summer; and farm production, costs, and budgets.

The field days will be held on:

- Wednesday, February 23 at the Foster Focus Farm, Cargeegs Road of South Gippsland Highway, Foster, with Kevin and Helen Jones and facilitator John Mulvany.
- Thursday, March 3 at the Middle Tarwin Focus Farm, Stewart and Dunlops Road, Middle Tarwin, with Rod and Lyndell Cope and facilitator Matt Harms.
- Tuesday, March 8 at the Denison Focus Farm, Grimmes Road, Denison, with Ross, Kelly, Graeme and Chris Anderson and facilitator Craig McWhinney.

Come for a cuppa from 10.30am. Each day will run from 11am-2pm.

**More? John Gallienne 0407 863 493**

## **GRDC's regional panels open for applications**

Applications are now open for positions on the Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC's) Regional Panels, which provide a conduit between growers and the organisation and set investment priorities. The panels need a range of skills which could come from growers, researchers, consultants, bulk handlers, suppliers, processors, or those in financial or natural resource management. The closing date for applications is March 7.

**More? Visit [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au)**

## **Watch out for worms in weaners**

Sheep producers are urged to monitor weaner sheep four to five weeks after drenching to reduce the risk of worms. Unseasonable rainfall and cooler temperatures have permitted survival of worm larvae.

**More? DPI Customer Service Centre 136 186**

## **Water saved in wicking beds**

Wicking beds use 30-50% less water than conventional vegetable beds and are watered from below via a reservoir of water that percolates upwards. A wicking garden bed workshop is being held on Tuesday, February 22 from 9-10am at 1 Campbell Street, Yarragon.

**More? Malcolm 5637 0222 [bbsn@dcsi.net.au](mailto:bbsn@dcsi.net.au)**

## **Movie reveals secrets of American food industry**

The movie Food Inc, which gives an unflattering look inside America's corporate controlled food industry, will be screened at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 24 at St. Mary's Anglican Church, the corner of Contingent and Church Streets, Trafalgar.

**More? Malcolm 5637 0222 or [bbsn@dcsi.net.au](mailto:bbsn@dcsi.net.au)**

## **Community sector training on offer**

The Victorian Council of Social Service Clearinghouse **2011 Rural and Regional Training Program** is now open for registrations. The program delivers training sessions for staff and volunteers from the Victorian community sector.

**More? Visit <http://www.vcross.org.au/clearinghouse/resources/R&R2011.html>**

## **New directions from DPI at Farm World**

More than 50,000 visitors to the 2011 Lardner Park Farm World will see the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) display some of the latest industry innovations. DPI is the major sponsor of 2011's special new feature, New Directions in Agriculture, to be housed in the spectacular new \$5m Lardner Park Exhibition Centre. Farm World will be held at Lardner Park, Warragool on March 24-27.

**More? Lardner Park 5626 1373**

## **Festival features fine food**

Inverloch foreshore is the backdrop for a day of fine local food, wine and entertainment at the Inverloch Food and Wine Festival on Saturday, March 5 from 10.30am-5pm. Entry is \$10, no charge for children and a tastings glass to sample South Gippsland's finest wine is only \$5. [More? Visitors' centre 1300 762 433 or visit \[www.visitinverloch.com\]\(http://www.visitinverloch.com\)](#)

## **What makes it rain in Victoria?**

Dale Grey from the DPI will explain weather and the cause of many of the strange weather events that have occurred in the last few of months in an Agfutures Future Farming event. The event will be held on Thursday March 3 from 9am-12:30pm (catering provided) at the Giffard West Hall, South Gippsland Highway, Giffard West. RSVP by February 24. [More? Karen Thomas 9785 0103 or \[roui.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au\]\(mailto:roui.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au\)](#)

## **This will get you 'tweeting'!**

Wellington Shire Council and East Gippsland TAFE are running a workshop entitled Small Business Big Marketing, with social media guru Tim Reid. It will be held on Wednesday, March 2 from 6-9pm at the Wellington Room, Wellington Shire Council, Sale. The cost is \$20. [More? Julie Day 5150 4268](#)

## **Agricultural census coming soon**

Next June sees the Bureau of Statistics again collecting data for the agricultural census. A total of 170,000 agricultural businesses throughout Australia will have 14 days to fill in the form and get it back to ABS in a reply-paid envelope. Preliminary data are expected to be published before the end of 2011. All information is kept strictly confidential.

## **Carbon and nitrogen cycles get lively**

The soil carbon and nitrogen cycles have been animated and are available on the Victorian Resources Online (VRO) website at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/vro/soilhealth](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/vro/soilhealth).

## **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 in one or more of the following project areas is March 31:

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

[More? \[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing/fishinggrants\]\(http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing/fishinggrants\) or 9658 4779](#)

## **Farmers market carries fresh food**

The Coal Creek Farmers' Market is held the second Saturday of the month. This is an authentic farmers' market, allowing only genuine growers with no re-sellers. The next Coal Creek Farmers' Market is from 8am-1pm on March 12.

[More? 0459 629 000 or \[farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au\]\(mailto:farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au\)](#)

## **Take a walk though time**

The history of Loch village will be told in a guided walk and theatrical performance, "A Walk through Time: Stories of Loch 1876-2011" on March 6. The tour will take about 100 minutes. The audience will stop at six different sites to hear the stories of two women pioneers, an early school teacher and reluctant student, a dairy farming couple, a bank clerk, a football team on the brink of glory and the town's dogged pursuit of a park. The walk will take place at 11am and 2pm. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be bought from Loch post office.

[More? Gill Heal 0427 511 507 or \[Gilheal@internode.on.net\]\(mailto:Gilheal@internode.on.net\)](#)

## Horses off and racing

The Omeo District Race Club's Hinnomunjie Races' will be held on March 12 from 11am at the Hinnomunjie track. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$7 for teenagers, and kids under 12 are free.

**More? Visit** [www.hinnomunjieraces.com.au](http://www.hinnomunjieraces.com.au)

## Bigger, better, working horse and tractor rally

This year's Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor Rally is the 20<sup>th</sup> year since inception and is set to be one of the biggest. It has a harvest theme and will include a dairy display and vintage tractor pull at the Nyora site, March 19 and 20.

## Get ready for retirement

Centrelink is providing information on what services are available for primary producers moving towards retirement and examples of how this assistance can be used. Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria – Gippsland explain how they can assist with options, planning and utilising professional assistance.

The sessions will be held:

- February 21 at the DPI Offices, 1 Stratford Rd, Maffra
- February 22 at the Pelican Room, 156 Grant St, Yarram
- February 25 at the Football Club, Lochiel St, Orbost
- March 3 at the Football Club, 14 Waterloo Rd, Trafalgar
- March 8 at the Football Club, Roughead St, Leongatha
- March 10 at the Community Centre, Rossiter Rd, Koo Wee Rup

All sessions will be held from 10.30am–12.30pm (morning tea and lunch provided)

Sessions are free of charge but registration is required for catering purposes.

**More? 5147 0871**

## Dairy bus tour lessons reviewed

The lessons learned by Gippsland dairy farmers on their tour of north-east Victorian dairying will be examined at a three east Gippsland venues next month.

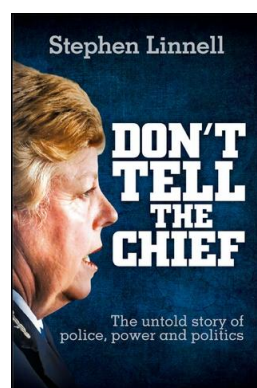
John Mulvany and north-east DPI Extension Officer Nathan Shannon will lead discussions on:

- Wednesday, March 16 at the Orbost Show Rovers Football shed, Lochiel Park, Lochiel St. Light evening meal from 6.15pm. Presentation starts 7.30pm.
- Thursday, March 17 at the Wy Yung Pub function room, 120 Bullumwaal Rd. Tea and coffee from 10am. Presentation begins at 10.30 am, followed by light lunch.
- Thursday, March 17 at the Conference room at the multi-purpose centre, Yarram District Health Centre, 85 Commercial Road. Light evening meal from 6.15pm. Presentation begins at 7.30pm.

RSVP to indicate your attendance.

**More? Maria Rose 5147 0843 or [maria.rose@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:maria.rose@dpi.vic.gov.au)**

## Just released



### The untold story of police, power and politics

Don't tell the Chief is a powerful foray into the world of police. It charts the rise and fall of the author, Stephen Linnell, whose 20-year journalism career came to an abrupt end after secretly recorded telephone conversations exposed lies, deceit and misguided loyalties. It takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the highly secretive world of police command and details, for the first time, the inner workings of government and police. It provides a first-hand account of the events leading up to the controversial Office of Police Integrity hearings that would abruptly end careers, friendships and reputations. Don't tell the Chief is a dramatic story of power, politics and public humiliation. And how a few bad decisions can change a life forever. You can order online at [www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au](http://www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au) – Click [here](#)

## Heritage grants announced

Cardinia Shire Council is now taking applications for the 2011 Heritage Grants Program. Community groups and individuals are able to apply up to \$5000 to support projects conserving historical local buildings and objects. It is possible for large scale projects to be awarded funding for separate stages of restorations works. Applications close February 25.

**More? Cardinia Shire Council 1300 787 624 or [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)**

## East Gippsland Regional Landcare Awards now open

Nominations for 2011 East Gippsland Landcare awards are now open. Celebrate outstanding Landcare activities in East Gippsland by nominating an individual or an organisation for one or more of the award categories:

- Individual Landcarer
- Primary Producer Award
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Community Group Award
- Education Award
- Young Landcare Leader Award

**More? Visit [www.gippsland.landcarevic.net.au/](http://www.gippsland.landcarevic.net.au/)**

## Mentoring available in the dairy industry

The DairySage program matches people with strong dairying experience to industry newcomers or those changing fields within dairying. The mentoring partnerships are developed through individual and joint training workshops. The session, open to all including the farming, manufacturing and service sectors, is in Traralgon on March 8-9.

**Contact Karen Baum 0417 398 978 or visit [www.westvicdairy.com.au](http://www.westvicdairy.com.au)**

## Sharing, empowering, connecting

The Women of Interest group aims to bring women together to share information and provide opportunities and encourage social inclusion. The group's inaugural event is a dinner with guest speaker June Alexander who was born and raised on a dairy farm in East Gippsland. June will speak about her latest book 'A Girl Called Tim' a memoir of her childhood and a heartfelt account of her battle with anorexia nervosa.

The dinner will be held on Wednesday, February 23 from 6pm at The Laurels, Sale Turf Club, Sale-Maffra Road, Sale. The cost of the dinner is \$25 (drinks available from the bar).

Bookings essential.

**More? Collins Booksellers Sale 5144 6262**

## Power bills explained

Bring your electricity and gas bills for the past 12 months to free, domestic energy workshops developed by the Baw Baw Sustainability Network. The workshops help save money on electricity and gas bills, which also helps the environment. Upcoming Workshops are:

- Wednesday, March 23 from 7-9pm at the Shire Office, 61 Smith Street, Warragul
- Wednesday, April 20 from 7-9pm at the Warragul Community House
- Wednesday, May 18 from 2.30pm at the Warragul Community House

**More? Steve Walsh 56523 2857 or [steve@dcsl.net.au](mailto:steve@dcsl.net.au)**

## Let's do lunch, ladies!

South Gippsland women are invited to an International Women's Day lunch at Carinos Caffe, Leongatha at noon, March 8. Local historian and South Gippsland Secondary College principal Cheryl Glowrey will speak on 'South Gippsland Women – famous and infamous!'

The lunch costs \$15 (main course and a soft drink on arrival). Bookings close March 3.

**More? Virginia Stacey 5662 9251 or [Virginia.Stacey@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:Virginia.Stacey@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)**

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

Meetings this month are:

- Feb 25: Sale
- Feb 26: Woolamai

Meetings next month are:

- Mar 3: Sale
- Mar 12: Omeo
- Mar 13: Stony Creek
- Mar 17: Sale
- Mar 26: Woolamai
- Mar 29: Moe

**More? Call 1300 139 402 or visit [www.countryracing.com.au](http://www.countryracing.com.au)**

## Swap your excess produce in Trafalgar

The Trafalgar Produce Swap meets second Saturday of each month from 9-11am at St Mary's Anglican Church, corner Contingent St and Church St, Trafalgar. Bring along any-thing you have on hand to share and or swap – flowers, seedlings, cuttings, vegies, fruit, preserves, jams, chutney or anything made from your garden.

**More? Phoebe Hicks 5633 2304**

## Swap your excess produce in Yarragon

The Yarragon Produce Swap now meets at 2.30pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Loch Street, Yarragon.

**More? Tom Nevell 5633 3245 [tomn\\_123@hotmail.com](mailto:tomn_123@hotmail.com)**

## Get on board with your roles and responsibilities

A back-to-basics workshop on the **roles, responsibilities, liabilities and protections of boards and committees** will be held on March 22 from 2-5pm at the Macfarlane Burnet Room, Latrobe City Traralgon Service Centre. The training is suitable for members of new and existing not-for-profit committees of management or boards.

**More? Hayley Peck 9654 5050 or [hayley.peck@vcoss.org.au](mailto:hayley.peck@vcoss.org.au)**

## Maize pest warning at Maffra

Farmers growing maize are warned of sightings of the pest Heliothis or corn earworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*). Farmers in the Macalister Irrigation District are warned that the pest can significantly reduce the quality and tonnage of crops.

For treatment and management options, contact your agronomist or chemical supplier.

## Festival celebrates sustainable living in Gippsland

The Gippsland Sustainability Festival will be held at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum on Sat, 9 April from 9am-2pm.

The event focuses on sustainable living options in South Gippsland including, alternative energy, local produce, self-sufficiency skills, sustainable products, local entertainment, educational activities, practical demonstrations and workshops.

**More? Christine Hamilton 5662 9314 or [christineh@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:christineh@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)**

## Feed pastures for profit

The DPI is inviting local farmers to attend its Feeding Pastures for Profit program at:

- Athlone: Wednesday, April 27 and May 4
- Leongatha: Thursdays, April 28 and May 5
- Maffra: Tuesdays May 3 and May 10

**More? Frank Mickan 5624 2259 or [frank.mickan@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:frank.mickan@dpi.vic.gov.au)**

## Understand biodynamic systems

The Biodynamic Education Centre offers a competency-based program for biodynamic agriculture in the Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening. Participants will gain a thorough understanding of the biodynamic system and develop skills and knowledge to work with biodynamic systems on their own properties. The course is designed as three learning modules; each module takes two days to complete. Dates are:

- Level One: Friday, March 18 (evening), Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20
- Level Two: Wednesday, March 23 and Friday, March 25
- Level Three: Sunday, March 27 and Monday, March 28

The course will be held in the Community Shed, 38 Burchell Lane, Mirboo North.

**More? Walter 02 4474 3971 or [info@biodynamiceducation.com](mailto:info@biodynamiceducation.com) or visit [www.biodynamiceducation.com](http://www.biodynamiceducation.com)**

## Economic outlook delivers market information

ABARES' annual national Outlook conference provides insight into Australia's economic outlook across the agriculture, natural resources, trade, commodity and climate sectors. Over two days, 20 sessions and more than 70 speakers, Outlook provides access to economic data, international and nationally recognised speakers, and is attended by industry decision makers. **Outlook 2011** is on March 1-2 in at the National Convention Centre, Canberra.

**More? Visit <http://www.abares.gov.au/outlook>**

## What makes it rain in Victoria?

What makes it rain in Victoria will be discussed at an AgFutures forum on Thursday, March 3 8.45am-1pm at the Giffard West Hall, South Gippsland Hwy, Giffard West.

Dale Grey (DPI) will speak on understanding climate variability and risk, including historical rainfall data for the Giffard area and making sense of what drives Victoria's rainfall.

The presentation will be followed by a farm walk Trent Anderson's property (walking distance from hall) and finish with lunch. RSVP by February 24.

**More? Karen Thomas 9785 0103 or [karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au)**

## New CORE 4 program to help dairy farms

Dairy farmers from selected areas between Warragul and Glengarry and Boolarra to Neerim East are invited to participate in the CORE 4 program which invests in on-farm improvements to reduce the amount of nutrients lost through run-off into local waterways and help boost farm production while improving the quality of water entering the Gippsland Lakes.

The CORE 4 program, which is Australian Government funded through the Caring for Our Country initiative, is part of the Gippsland Lakes Enhancement Program.

The inaugural meetings will be held on the dates and venues as follows, with all meetings to run from 10.15am-12.30pm:

- Wednesday, February 23 for Willow Grove/Hill End at the Willow Grove Football Club, corner Main Rd and Blue Rock Rd, Willow Grove
- Friday, February 25 for Darnum/Ellinbank areas at the Darnum Hall, Main St, Darnum.

**More? John Gallienne 0407 863 493**

## Adapting forage to suit climate shift

Dairy farmers, croppers and graziers are invited to a free day at Yarram on March 11 to discuss adapting forage management and to gain insights into coping with climate change. Department of Primary Industries (DPI) pasture specialists, Greg O'Brien and Frank Mickan, will examine results from two years of on-farm crop demonstrations and discuss strategies to meet feed requirements for increasingly variable seasons.

Service providers are also invited to the session, to be held at Yarram and District Health Service, 85 Commercial Rd, (south side of hospital) from 10am to 12.30pm. Lunch provided.

**More? Frank Mickan 5624 2259 or [frank.mickan@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:frank.mickan@dpi.vic.gov.au)**

## Don't we ALL hate flies?

Frank Tyndall of the Macalister Demonstration Farm near Maffra used AusDairy-L to share his insights into flies.

"Flies have been a problem, more in the dairy rather than in the paddock. The cows make a mess and kick the cups off. An automatic dispenser of fly repellent was set up, the fans run flat out, the shed was surface sprayed with fly repellent, and the cows treated with a fly control pour on. All this has reduced the problem markedly."

## Scholarships offer travel and community benefits

The Churchill Trust, established in 1965, honours the memory of Sir Winston Churchill by awarding overseas research fellowships known as 'Churchill Fellowships'. The Fellowships allow recipients to design their own research project, travel the world and further knowledge in a chosen field, before returning to make a real contribution to Australian society.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust provides an annual travelling scholarship (the Jack Green memorial fellowship) for those involved in the dairy industry to further their knowledge. Applications close on February 28.

**More? Visit <http://www.churchilltrust.com.au>**

## Free workshops to demystify new laws for volunteers

Recent changes in legislation covering volunteering will be examined in two free workshops at the City of Casey Civic Centre, Narre Warren, at 10am on February 24 and 7pm on Thursday, March 10. The workshops are presented by Volunteering Victoria with the City of Casey. Places are limited and bookings are essential.

**More? City of Casey Customer Service 9705 5200**

## 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

## Do something fun for 'lights out'

Earth Hour celebrates the planet we live on and demonstrates the collective power of individuals, communities, business and governments to make a difference.

Join the Baw Baw Sustainability Network for an evening of homemade wood-fired pizzas (oven built by BBSN members) at 81 Princes Hwy, Yarragon on Saturday March 26 from 6pm (lights out at 8.30pm). BYO chair, drinks and pizza toppings.

**More? Tammy 5634 2284 or [bbsn@dcsi.net.au](mailto:bbsn@dcsi.net.au)**

## What's on show?

The Berwick Agricultural and Horticultural Show is celebrating 163 years of Agricultural Competition and features the biggest cattle show in Victoria (outside the Royal Melbourne Show) and one of the biggest Victorian horse shows. It will be held on February 26-27 at Akoonah Park, Berwick.

**More? Amanda Mason 9707 0399 or [berwickshow@bigpond.com](mailto:berwickshow@bigpond.com) or visit [www.berwickshow.org.au](http://www.berwickshow.org.au)**

## 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:

#### Need the skills of an IT or accounting graduate?

Organisations are being sought to host international students for a 12-week internship as part of Swinburne College's Professional Year Programs in Accounting and Computer Science. The program is aimed at former international students who have a bachelor or master degree in accounting or information technology from a recognised Australian institution.

The Skilled Migration Internship Program: Accounting has been developed in conjunction with CPA Australia, the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the National Institute of Accountants. Internships are unpaid and there is no financial cost to the host organisation.

More? Leo Slattery 9214 8080 or [ltslattery@swin.edu.au](mailto:ltslattery@swin.edu.au) or visit

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/college/professional-year-programs/host-companies.html>

#### 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. Contact 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



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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 [gregorylewis@southernphone.com.au](mailto:gregorylewis@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](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)**

## Agribusiness across the world

Our recent efforts in agritourism have drawn a response from Nepalese reader Khagendra Bahadur Basnet ([basnet11\\_k@yahoo.com](mailto:basnet11_k@yahoo.com)). The email reads like this: "Im preapring a proposal for agritourism estblishing proposel, will start from small scale. please give me the feedback about agritourism proposal and plan for it. it will be the very helpfull for me. I want to create employment for young smart but poor people. My desire is to help poor people and make educated to poor chieldren. Your small help make big deal for us. Im a son of farmer. Still my parents are farmer, I have both knowledge and experience about tourism management and agriculture. hope to your positive response. If sombody is interested to do agritourism business in Nepal I really appreciate them and Im ready to do jointly."

## Hunting in AGInc hyperspace

Recent top searches on our blogsite ([www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)) are: agribusiness logo, gippy agchat, saan ecker, agritourism, gippypic

## 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
Feb 21	Buchan Women on Farms Gathering	Buchan	Evelyn Schmidt 5155 9216
Feb 21	Farmers retirement and succession planning presentation	Maffra	5147 0871
Feb 22	Wicking garden bed workshop	Yarragon	Malcolm 5637 0222
Feb 22	Farmers retirement and succession planning presentation	Yarram	5147 0871
Feb 23	Women of Interest group	Sale	Collins Booksellers Sale 5144 6262
Feb 23	What makes it rain in Victoria?	Giffard West	Karen Thomas 9785 0103
Feb 23	Core 4 cluster meeting	Willow Grove	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 23	Focus Farm field days	Foster	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 24	Soil health field day	Warragul	0429 808 411
Feb 24	Volunteer legislation update workshop	Narre Warren	City of Casey Customer Service 9705 5200
Feb 24	Food Inc Movie screening	Trafalgar	Malcolm 5637 0222
Feb 25	Farmers retirement and succession planning presentation	Orbost	5147 0871
Feb 25	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Feb 25	Core 4 cluster meeting	Darnum	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 26	Country Race Meet	Woolamai	1300 139 402
Feb 26-27	Berwick Agricultural and Horticultural Show	Berwick	Amanda Mason 9707 0399
Mar 1-2	ABARES Outlook Conference	Canberra	Angela Ellerman 02 6272 2303
Mar 2	Soil health field day	Boolarra	0429 808 411
Mar 2	Yarragon Produce Swap	Yarragon	Tom Nevell 5633 3245
Mar 2	Small Business Big Marketing	Sale	Julie Day 5150 4268
Mar 2	Southern Rural Water groundwater open day	Bairnsdale	1300 139 510
Mar 3		Middle Tarwin	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Mar 3	Explaining the weather	Giffard West	Karen Thomas 9785 0103
Mar 3	Southern Rural Water	Maffra	1300 139 510

	groundwater open day		
Mar 3	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Mar 3	Farmers retirement and succession planning presentation	Trafalgar	5147 0871
Mar 4	Southern Rural Water groundwater open day	Wandin	1300 139 510
Mar 5	Inverloch Food and Wine Festival	Inverloch	Inverloch Information Centre 1300 762 433
Mar 5	Horse Property Management Workshop	Mornington	Mornington Peninsula Shire 5950 1263
Mar 6	A Walk through Time: Stories of Loch 1876–2011	Loch	Gill Heal 0427 511 507
Mar 8	Focus Farm field days	Denison	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Mar 8	International Women's Day luncheon	Leongatha	Virginia Stacey 5662 9251
Mar 8	Farmers Go Green and Save Money seminar	Warragul	Karen Meyers 5624 2622
Mar 8	Farmers retirement and succession planning presentation	Leongatha	5147 0871
Mar 8-9	Dairy Sage Mentoring Program	Traralgon	Karen Baum 0417 398 978
Mar 10	Farmers retirement and succession planning presentation	Koo Wee Rup	5147 0871
Mar 10	Volunteer legislation update workshop	Narre Warren	City of Casey Customer Service 9705 5200
Mar 11	Adapting forage discussion	Yarram	Frank Mickan 5624 2259
Mar 12	Coal Creek Farmers Market	Coal Creek	0459 629 000
Mar 12	Country Race Meet	Omeo	1300 139 402
Mar 13	Country Race Meet	Stony Creek	1300 139 402
Mar 13	Trafalgar Produce Swap	Trafalgar	Phoebe Hicks 5633 2304
Mar 13	benefit concert to aid flood relief victims	Sorrento	Alex Crawford 0417 594 299
Mar 16	Yarragon Produce Swap	Yarragon	Tom Nevell 5633 3245
Mar 16	Farming in a variable climate discussion	Orbost	Maria Rose 5147 0843
Mar 17	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Mar 17	Farming in a variable climate discussion	Wy Yung	Maria Rose 5147 0843
Mar 17	Farming in a variable climate discussion	Yarram	Maria Rose 5147 0843
Mar 18,19,20	Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening- Level 1	Mirboo North	Walter 02 4474 3971
Mar 22	Roles, responsibilities, liabilities and protections of boards and committees	Traralgon	Hayley Peck 9654 5050
Mar 23, 25	Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening- Level 2	Mirboo North	Walter 02 4474 3971
Mar 23	Biggest Little Penguin burrow	Melbourne	<a href="http://www.penguins.org.au">www.penguins.org.au</a>
Mar 23	Domestic Energy Workshop	Warragul	Steve Walsh 5623 2857
Mar 24-27	Farm World	Warragul	Lardner Park 5626 1373
Mar 26	Country Race Meet	Woolamai	1300 139 402
Mar 26	Earth Hour Pizza Night	Yarragon	Tammy 5634 2284
Mar 27, 28	Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening – Level 3	Mirboo North	Walter 02 4474 3971
Mar 29	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Apr 9	Coal Creek Farmers Market	Coal Creek	0459 629 000
Apr 20	Domestic Energy Workshop	Warragul	Steve Walsh 5623 2857
Apr 27, May 4	Feeding Pastures For Profit program	Athlone	Frank Mickan 5624 2259

Apr 28, May 5	Feeding Pastures For Profit program	Leongatha	Frank Mickan 5624 2259
May 3, 10	Feeding Pastures For Profit program	Maffra	Bree Walshe 5147 0834
May 18	Domestic Energy Workshop	Warragul	Steve Walsh 5623 2857
Aug 1-2	Australia-New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference	Wellington, NZ	Elizabeth Edmonds 0413 439 573

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