



Gippy AGchat March 14, 2011 – Issue 40

Since 1997, non-profit group Agribusiness Gippsland Inc has helped support regional agribusiness by working in partnership with other organisations.
 This edition of our newsletter is going to 3576 recipients.

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- Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>
- Or blog us at www.aginc.wordpress.com
- Our postal address is PO Box 1312 Warragul 3280.
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- Fax us at 9459 9699

If you enjoy reading GippyAgchat, please mention it to your local councillor, or a board member of the West Gippsland CMA or Southern Rural Water. They're the ones who help fund it ... (And we'd love to find some more) ...

Flood restoration grants extended to Casey/Cardinia

The Victorian Government Rural Finance Clean-up and Restoration Grants have been extended to include the February flooding in Casey/Cardinia. Up to \$25,000 is available to primary producers who suffered direct physical damage as a result of the floods in Victoria. The funds can be used for clean-up, removal of debris and business restoration.

More? Rural Finance 5448 2600 or admin@ruralfinance.com.au or visit: www.ruralfinance.com.au

Gippy gateau for naming day anniversary

A cake was cut and shared to celebrate the naming of Gippsland last week, a few days ahead of March 12, the date that Agribusiness Gippsland believes might become the official anniversary of Gippsland's naming. Our chair, Alex Arbuthnot AM explained: "On March 12, 1840, explorer Paul Strzelecki scaled Mount Kosciusko. Sometime around then he proclaimed the country to the south be named in honour of the NSW Governor George Gipps. We'd like a more precise date but, until then, we should recognise Gippsland's naming." Ian Hollingsworth of the East Gippsland Historical Society said tracking down the date that Gipps' land became Gippsland may require referencing the NSW Gazettes as the state of Victoria didn't become official until the 1850's. "Checking through various reference books in our library, it may have not have been until the 1889 state elections," he said.

Moving our livelihood into the future

The East Gippsland Shire council presents the 'Our Livelihood' Forum for Buchan and the surrounding district on Wednesday, March 16 from 6-9pm at the Buchan Recreation Pavilion. Speakers are Parks Victoria's Dale Calnin discussing "Where the Caves are Headed"; and Agribusiness Gippsland's Sue Webster, discussing "Farming – Future Trends". Free BBQ. [More? Abbie Hughes 5153 9500](#)

Trends in regional tourism discussed over lunch

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 TBA.

Local honoured as Victorian Rural Woman of the Year

An alpaca producer and agritourism business operator, Angela Betheras, from Darnum in West Gippsland has been named winner of the 2011 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Rural Women's Award. Ms Betheras, who was selected from a field of five finalists, receives a \$10000 bursary to support her leadership development. [More? Stephanie Ryan 0488 441 820](#)

Max scores the max

Max's at Red Hill Estate on the Mornington Peninsula has been named Australia's best tourism restaurant at the 2010 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in Perth.

Hey, where the hay?

Very generous and patient folk are waiting with their big round bales to donate to the flood-hit north. It appears that transport subsidies are being used to bring in hay from closer to the needy areas. It's a case of making the money go further by making the hay not travel further. However, we've had contact with some dairy farmers in Cohuna who are very desperate for fodder. We've got a phone call in to their milk processor to see if a deal can be done.

Guidelines for South Gipps smallholders

Planning officers believe that some South Gippsland smallholders could benefit from the council's recent legal advice and the subsequent guidelines released by the planning department to clarify the C51 Planning Amendment. The [C51 guidelines are now available](#) from South Gippsland council. Meanwhile, the Rural Strategy will be debated at the April council meeting, and then go on display for public consultation before feedback is integrated into the strategy which will be re-presented to council. The strategy proposes large areas of Rural Activity Zone might allow some new tourism to complement ongoing farming operations. Additionally, it is proposed that that the C51 interim guidelines be implemented. [More? South Gippsland Shire Council 5662 3754](#)

Have your say for the EPA

EPA Victoria is holding a series of 'Have Your Say' open houses to give the community the opportunity share opinions on: environmental justice and the equitable distribution of pollution problems; reducing consumption of energy, water and material goods; management of land, air, water and noise pollution; and reducing impacts population growth on local environments. Participants can stay for ten minutes or the whole evening. The open houses will be held in:

- Sale on Wednesday, March 16, 5-8.30pm, Sale Entertainment Centre
- Traralgon on Thursday, March 17, 5-8.30pm, Century Inn
- Wonthaggi on Thursday, March 21, 5-8.30pm, Bass Coast Civic Centre

More? <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au>.

Rural Areas Forum

What should our rural areas look like in the future?

Don't miss the second **Community Conversation** event as we build on BawBaw2050 to explore the opportunities and threats facing our rural areas. Discussion will include trends in agriculture, demand for housing and subdivision, future food production, enhancing our natural environment and more.

This is an opportunity to hear guest speakers and contribute your thoughts about the biggest issues facing the future of our rural areas.

Date: Monday, April 4

Time: 9am- 3pm (for a 9.30am start)

Venue: Fountain Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul

Bookings: This is a free event, but as numbers are limited, you must book in advance by phoning West Gippsland Arts Centre on 5624 2456 by March 28.

For more information, go to www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
or contact the Baw Baw Shire Council on 5624 2411



Rural rate rebate under review

Bass Coast Shire Council is currently reviewing the Rural Rate Rebate scheme that offers a 20% rate rebate for farmers carrying out good land management practices. While council decided in February that a rebate will continue, whether the rebate is calculated on the capital improved value of property or a flat dollar rate per hectare will be examined. There will be no change to the programs that cover the incentive payment for covenant protected properties, the weed control programs on roadsides and the support to Bass Coast Landcare Network.

More? [Paul Smith 1300 226 278](mailto:Paul.Smith@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

MAKE IT MEENIYAN ...

Meeniyán Motel provides comfortable and affordable accommodation close to the Prom. It's a great place to stay for old-fashioned country hospitality. Recently refurbished, the motel has earned a reputation for friendliness and modern amenities. Meeniyán Motel is suitable for business and leisure travellers, with free wireless internet in all rooms. Choose from standard, twin, family and spa suites. All rooms feature ensuite and air-conditioning. The motel features saltwater swimming pool, BBQ and ample parking and is located at 119 Whitelaw St, Meeniyán. Phone 5664 0030 or visit

www.meeniyánmotel.com.au. Online booking is available. **Meeniyán Motel is a sponsor of Agribusiness Gippsland Inc. Please support them and you'll support us.**



Green cleaning saves energy and water in the cow shed

The Green Cleaning™ system to clean milking machines that saves energy, water and chemicals is on display at a field day on March 30 from 10:30am-1pm (including lunch) at 335 Main Jindivick Rd, Jindivick. The system operates at low temperatures, re-uses wash solutions and utilises energy efficient principles to deliver substantial operating cost savings. RSVP essential by Monday March 28.

More? Jen Williams 5611 1020 or admin@agvetprojects.com.au

Meetings to help protect Corner Inlet

DPI's Dairy Services Branch is organising mini field days with co-operating farmers in the Agnes and Albert River catchments to discuss the Protecting Corner Inlet Project approach to reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into Corner Inlet in South Gippsland.

Prior to the day, the host farmer has soil tests, from which a nutrient plan, including nutrient budget and aerial photographs, is developed and these are used as case studies at the information sessions.

This is the second year of the project which is funded by the federal government Caring for Our Country program through the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

More? DPI 136 186

SFS results on show

The Southern Farming Systems Gippsland branch results presentation and AGM will be held on Thursday, March 24 from 6.30pm at the Princeton Motor Lodge and Convention Centre (Macalister Room) 25-41 Princes Hwy, Sale. Supper provided and drinks available at the bar.

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

DIY paddock measure

If you need to measure your paddock sizes there is a nifty little tool at <http://www.daftlogic.com/projects-google-maps-area-calculator-tool.htm> ; zoom in on the Google earth map to find your paddock, mark the corners with the pointer tool, leaving channels, drains and laneways out, and the area is calculated below the map.

This tip came from Frank Tyndall and the clever team at Macalister Demo Farm.

Plan for the whole farm

Landcare members are being offered the opportunity to complete a whole farm planning course in Far East Gippsland if enough people are interested to make it cost effective. The course will be free of charge and participants will receive a large aerial photo of their property to work on and take home.

More? Penny Gray 5161 1365 or penny.gray@dpi.vic.gov.au

Get more bang for your fertiliser buck!

South Gippsland YDDP will stage a 'Get bang for your fertiliser buck in wet conditions' session on March 17 at Paul Hannigan's farm, 1000 Falls Road, Fish Creek from 10am-12pm, including a BBQ lunch. Speakers are: Susie Evans from Browns Fertiliser, talking about getting the most from your fertiliser in wet conditions, different fertilisers, what they do and how to get maximum grass from minimum fertiliser; and Daniel Watts from DPI at Ellinbank on soil health and how fertilisers affect soil nutrients. RSVP by March 15.

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

Financial support for promoting economic development

East Gippsland Shire Council is inviting applications from groups seeking financial support for projects that promote economic development within the region. The shire's Economic Development Discretionary Fund will be available for projects of economic significance in the areas of marketing and business development, as well as small infrastructure projects that impact positively on the economic development of the region. Application forms are available by contacting the Shire's Economic Development Unit. Deadline April 6.

More? Danny McDonald 5153 9500

Farmworld experts tackle the pests in the paddock

Experts from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will be on hand at Farm World later this month to help landowners tackle the problem of plant pests, identifying plants and offering advice on control of problem plants.

Farmers should bring a fresh, good-sized sample of the plant – ideally including flower or seeds as well as leaves and stem and stored in a sealed bag. Bags should be labelled with name and contact details so any plants not identified can be sent for a thorough investigation. The free service is limited to pasture plants only, not garden plants.

More than 50000 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, Warragul on March 24-27.

More? [Lardner Park 5626 1373](#)

UDV session examines power

Want to hear Neil Baker discuss reducing farm carbon emissions and Steve McKenzie - explaining energy and electricity savings? The Macalister UDV Branch will hold a session and free BBQ from 10am at the Geoff Webster Centre, Thomson St., Maffra. Come along and meet the new UDV Manager, the VFF Regional Manager and members.

More? [Dale Scott 0408 486 362](#)

Make better beef in the far East

The Better Beef in the Far East program is based on learnings from Meat and Livestock Australia's 'More Beef from Pastures' program, demonstrating how beef producers can achieve more profitable and sustainable outcomes. The program brings learning from group members, on-farm meetings, and use of a paid facilitator to guide the group.

More? [Stu Clarke stuclarke@y7mail.com](mailto:stuclarke@y7mail.com)

Land use change discussed at forum

The Department of Primary Industries AgFutures project is organising a forum to examine the causes and effects of land use change on farming in Baw Baw Shire on April 28 from 10am-3pm at Rokeby Hall, Brandy Creek Rd, Rokeby. Speakers include DPI social researcher Neil Barr, farmer Maria Armistead who redirected her business into direct-sale meat after the 2009 bushfires, and Miranda Sharp discussing the establishment of an accredited farmer's market in Baw Baw. Registrations close Tuesday April 26.

More? [Karen Thomas 9785 0103](tel:97850103) or email ipps.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au

Support for fencing and planting

The Far East Gippsland Landcare network is reminding members that opportunities still exist for landholders to access support for fencing and tree planting.

Fence subsidies are available for excluding stock from waterways as well as within paddocks based on land class or for protecting existing trees. There are also tree planting subsidies available. These grants may be particularly relevant to anyone affected by the recent fires.

More? [Stu Clarke stuclarke@y7mail.com](mailto:stuclarke@y7mail.com)

Get the best from your website

Discover easy-to-use strategies for increasing website traffic, how to use key words to improve your page rank, the art of blogging (and why you should use it), how to measure traffic and much more at the Your Business On-line seminar. The seminar suits those with existing websites. It will be held on May 10 from 6-9.30pm at Suite 7/61 Smith Street (Upstairs), Warragul. The cost is \$30.

More? Visit: www.business.vic.gov.au/workshops

Celebrating women in landcare

Having just celebrated International Women's Day (March 8), Landcare Australia acknowledges the vital contribution and role women play in Landcare, in rural and urban communities. To support projects that build the capacity of women, the Australian government is providing the [Recognising Women Farmers Grant](#). Applications close on March 28.

More? Visit http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future/community_networks_and_capacity_building

South Gippsland welcomes fund launch

The South Gippsland Public Fund will be launched at the South Gippsland Sustainability Festival, Coal Creek Historical Village on Saturday, April 9.

Learn to garden organically

Composting, worm farming and natural fertiliser will be taught at free organic gardening workshops at the Blind Bight Community Centre from 10.30am-12.30pm on March 19 and March 26. No previous gardening knowledge is necessary. The workshops include a free gift.

More? 5998 7014

Know your legal obligations

Free booklets outlining the legal and regulatory obligations in running a farm business have been released by the DPI. The booklets are designed for use by land managers and primary producers. They cover biodiversity, chemical management, occupational health and safety, livestock management, noxious weed and pest animal management, soil management, waste management, and water management.

More? <http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/about-agriculture/streamlining-property-management>

Single and ready to mingle?

Single dairy farmers looking to throw their hat in the ring for the next season of The Farmer Wants a Wife can contact producer Vicky Scott on 02 9434 0772 or visit

www.ninemsn.com.au/farmer. The producers are looking for men or women who are single and ideally over 25 and under 60 years of age and either own, live or work on a farm.

Awards honour work in landcare

The South Gippsland Landcare Network Landcare (SGLN) Awards are on Friday, May 13 at the Dumbalk hall. The award categories are: Dick Howarth Memorial award (Individual Landcarer Award); Bushcare Award; Rivercare Award; Primary Producer Award; Group Award; Young Landcarer Award and Education Award. A photography/poster competition is part of the award to promote the work being undertaken in SGLN. Deadline Friday, April 1.

More? Visit www.sgln.org.au

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.

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 is March 31:

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

Beef up your beef know how

The DPI Meat and Wool team has three free conferences for Gippsland beef farmers. The BetterBeef Network awareness conferences entitled 'Australian Beef Industry – A Changing Playing Field', cover what's driving current beef prices and what to expect in the future, making better trading decisions, building herd numbers and pestivirus. Guest speakers include John Webb Ware from the MacKinnon project and Trevor Caithness, the More Beef from Pastures producer advocate.

The sessions will be held on:

- March 31 at Warragul
- April 1 at Traralgon
- April 5 at Bairnsdale.

More? Claire Geri 0448 335 479 or claire.geri@dpi.vic.gov.au

Holistic management goes on display

Landcare members and associates are invited to attend a field/bus trip to Jenny and Rick Robertson's property at Bengworden on March 29. Rick and Jenny use holistic management techniques on their 900ha property to produce pasture and saltbush perennial pastures. Far East Victoria Landcare is organising a bus to the property departing the Orbost DSE Office at 9am and returning at Orbost around 2.30pm. The fieldtrip is free for Landcare members, \$15 for non members, and is strictly limited in numbers (for the bus). Participants should bring along a cut lunch and refreshments. Please RSVP by March 24 to indicate your attendance

More? Stu Clarke stuclarke@y7mail.com

What's new in the catchment?

Find out what is happening at the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) in their latest newsletter at <http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/>

Baw Baw community grants open soon

The Baw Baw Shire Council 2011 Community Development Grants program offers non-profit organisations, groups and associations assistance with projects, programs, equipment or events that contribute to the community. Information sessions will be held in the Fountain Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre, Civic Place, Warragul on:

- Wednesday, March 16 from 6-9pm
- Wednesday, April 20 from 6-9pm
- Monday, May 16 from 6-9pm

A separate training workshop for those interested in applying online will be held with the date to be confirmed. The closing date for submitting applications is at 5pm on Tuesday May 31. Application forms and guidelines available to download from: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au.

More? Joy Russell 5624 2483 or grants@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

It's time to share!

The Poowong Produce Swap occurs on the first Sunday of each month at Poowong Public Hall, Nyora Rd. The next swap is April 3. An annual registration fee of \$5 covers advertising and workshop costs.

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

Market better beef

Improving the profitability of the beef enterprise through better marketing skills is the focus of a practical beef marketing course in the Central Gippsland region commencing in April. The course, run by DPI and RIST, is run on farm over eight days, with one session held each month. In this very "hands on" course, a group of steers will be tracked throughout the year to assess weight gains, growth rates, fat and muscle score and suitability for different markets. The course provides two units towards a diploma of agriculture and the cost is approx \$400.

More? Claire Geri 0448 335 479 or claire.geri@dpi.vic.gov.au

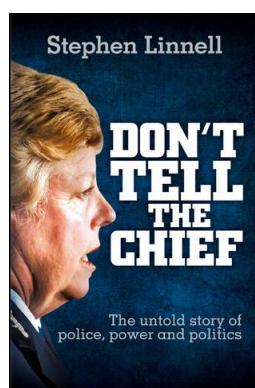
Dairy bus tour lessons reviewed

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

More? Maria Rose 5147 0843 or 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 – Click [here](#)

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 and Young Landcare Leader Award

More? Visit www.gippsland.landcarevic.net.au

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

School is in for ag scientists

The DPI Young Scientists program gives Year 10 students a real science experience to inspire them to consider science and agriculture as a future career. Students will work directly with local DPI staff for four days to investigate an aspect of current research.

Interested schools should email landlearn.program@dpi.vic.gov.au

Paddle down through protected lands

A canoe tour looking at works undertaken by landholders to protect vegetation and wetlands along the lower Agnes River will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 8.30am–12.30pm. The tour departs from Toora Park. RSVP essential: by March 21.

More? Marni Speed 1300 094 262 or marnis@wgcma.vic.gov.au or visit <http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/>

Mentoring service available for Latrobe city businesses

The Latrobe City Council small business mentoring service provides an experienced business mentor for a free, one-to-one, mentoring session for local small business. The initial 45-minute consultation with a representative of the Small Business Mentoring Service is free, and subsequent sessions are charged at a nominated fee.

More? Emilio Di Sisto 5128 55510 or emiliodi@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Drought assistance still available

Property owners may be entitled to \$5500 worth of free professional advice, through Professional Advice and Planning Grants, as a result of farming in a Drought Exceptional Circumstances-declared area. The Exceptional Circumstances provision has been extended to April 30 for Central and East Gippsland. Applications for the funding must be made before June 12. Eligibility is not affected by the level of farm income or off-farm income.

More? Drought Assistance Hotline 13 23 16 or visit http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculturefood/drought/ec/victoria/central_east_gippsland

Funds available for soil health trials

The West Gippsland CMA is looking to support trials that help build the body of evidence around management actions on farm that help improve pH and organic carbon levels in soil. Trials can be for one-three years and the budget range for each trial is \$5000-\$10000. Applications for Year 1 trials close on April 4.

More? Tony Gardner 1300 094262 or tonyg@wgcma.vic.gov.au

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

Bigger, better, working horse and tractor rally

This year's Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor Rally is the 20th 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 19-20.

Discover a tree change

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is working with members to deliver a Tree Change Discovery Day on Sunday, March 20. About 10 properties will open their doors and the committee is matching interested people with relevant hosts based on interests and needs. Open properties include a hobby farm with donkeys, bees and revegetation, an olive grove with cattle agistment, an owner-builder earth contrasted home and rural lifestyle blocks.

More? Jill Vella 5662 5759 or visit www.sgln.org.au

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

Festival celebrates sustainable living in Gippsland

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

Learn to make chutney

Transform seasonal produce into chutney and add your own unique twist using spices and other natural flavourings at a community workshop at the Eco Living Display Centre. Learn tricks from the experts and take a jar of your own hand-made chutney home to enjoy. The Chutney Workshop will be held at the Eco Living Display Centre, The Briars Park, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha on Saturday, March 26 from 10am-12pm. The cost is \$7.50. Bookings essential.

More? Peninsula Visitor Information Booking Service 5987 3078

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

Update your own Landcare website

Training is available to teach Landcare group members how to update their own group's websites. Free training will take place on Thursday, April 7 at either Forestech or Bairnsdale.

More? Penny 5161 1365 or penny.gray@dpi.vic.gov or visit www://eastgippsland.landcarevic.net.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 or visit www.biodynamiceducation.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

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

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

Apply now for Cardinia business awards

The seventh Cardinia Shire Business Awards are open with large and small local businesses encouraged to enter. With 13 categories, the annual awards celebrate the excellence, success and innovation of Cardinia Shire's business operators. Winners will share in over \$5000 in prizes to be presented at a gala dinner at the Cardinia Cultural Centre on Friday, May 20. Application forms are available [online](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au) at <http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au>.
More? Cardinia Shire Council Business Development Officer 1300 787 624

Peter Williams joins ADHIS

The Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS) has appointed Peter Williams as an extension officer, supporting dairy farmers and their advisors, primarily through Selectabull workshops, industry meetings and developing a range of support resources.
More? Michelle Axford 8621 4240 or maxford@adhis.com.au

Ag science pioneers move online

He won't admit it, but our deputy chair Dr Ras Lawson has been a driver behind an important online asset – <http://www.vicdofaghistory.org/index.html>. The site offers first-person accounts of the pioneers of agricultural science. If you ever thought the Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Victoria or the Department of Primary Industries contained more than its fair share of eccentrics ... you're right! Indulge yourself for a few minutes and have a read of centenarian Ken Sillcock's account... it's a history of Gippsland dairying.

Community markets open to all

The Yarragon community craft and produce market is held on the fourth Saturday of the month from 9am-2pm at the Yarragon Public Hall. The next market is on Saturday, March 26.
More? Allison Butterworth 5634 2209

The Gippsland Heritage Park Market is held on the last Saturday of the month from 10am-2pm at Gippsland Heritage Park, Moe. The next market is on Saturday, March 26
More? 5127 3082

The Rokeby Community Market meets at the Rokeby Reserve on the second Saturday of month from 8am-1pm from September to May. The next market is on Saturday, April 9.
More? Rhianna 5626 8523

The Drouin Craft and Produce Market is held on the third Saturday of month from 8am-12.30pm at Drouin Civic Park. The next market is on Saturday, April 16.
More? Bill Petschack 5625 3360

The Emerald Community Craft and Produce Market is held on the third Sunday of the month from 9am-3pm. The next market is on Sunday, April 17.
More? Non Blair 0419 345 750 or blairnd@bigpond.com

Dam algae warning post-rains

Farmers are being urged to check farm dams frequently for blue-green algal blooms following heavy rains over recent weeks.

High runoff from paddocks has increased the risk of nutrients from spring fertiliser applications finding their way into farm dams where they may contribute to algal blooms. Blue-green algae can be highly toxic to stock if consumed. Animals that have consumed blue-green algae will become ill very rapidly, typically developing tremors and a staggy gait, and usually dying within 24 hours.

Farmers should look for water that takes on a bright blue-green colour, as if aqua paint is floating on the surface (the colour of the blooms can vary from green through to blue).

More? [DPI 136 186](http://136.186) or customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au

Time is running out in Casey's volunteer awards

There is still time to nominate your favourite local volunteer in the 2011 City of Casey Volunteer Awards, which recognise and honour those individuals, groups, organisations and businesses that have contributed to the development of the Casey community, or have had a positive impact on the quality of life of Casey residents through their volunteering efforts.

Nominations must be submitted on the official nomination form by 5pm on Friday, March 25.

The nomination form, and information on eligibility criteria, is available from

www.casey.vic.gov.au/volunteerawards or from Customer Service 9705 5200.

Community sector training on offer

The Victorian Council of Social Service Clearinghouse [2011 Rural and Regional Training Program](http://www.vicross.org.au/clearinghouse/resources/R&R2011.html) is now open for registrations. The program delivers training sessions for staff and volunteers from the Victorian community sector.

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

Ride'em cowboy (and cowgirl!)

The Warragul Rodeo gives everyone a chance to cheer local cowboys and cowgirls on Saturday, March 26 from 6pm at Logan Park, Warragul. The rodeo features eight main events and three junior events, and fun and entertainment, including a mechanical bucking bull. This is a fully licensed event and costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for children and pensioners and children under five free. Strictly no byo, no glass and no dogs.

More? Barbara Walker 0408 528 530 or wbt@wideband.net.au

Market showcases indigenous culture

A market showcasing indigenous arts, crafts, music and performance will be held for the first time on the Mornington Peninsula when the Shire hosts the Koorie Night Market on April 2 from 4-8pm. The market will be held at the Peninsula Community Theatre, Wilsons Road, Mornington. All welcome, entry is free, but some activities require a gold coin donation.

More? 9982 1207 or visit www.koorienightmarket.com.au/

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

Meetings this month are:

- Mar 17: Sale
- Mar 26: Woolamai
- Mar 29: Moe

And next month are:

- Apr 7: Sale
- Apr 23: Bairnsdale
- Apr 24: Tambo
- Apr 24: Stony Creek
- Apr 25: Moe

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

Promoting innovating in energy

The 6th Annual SP AusNet Energy Innovation Festival in Wonthaggi focuses on sustainability, energy innovation, energy efficient design and construction, and water conservation. The festival is on Saturday, March 19 from 9am-5pm at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve, Korumburra Rd, Wonthaggi. The Human Powered Grand Prix takes place from midday on March 19 to midday March 20. Entry is free. Food and refreshments are available or BYO. [More? Michelle Evans 5672 1199 or meepromotions@bigpond.com](#)

Koalas' secrets exposed

A koala information evening is being held on Saturday, May 28 from 6.30pm at the Leongatha RSL. Information will be presented on koalas and related research, rehabilitation, and what can be done to help save this unique species. RSVP essential. [More? Courtney Lever 5662 5759 or courtneyl@wgcm.vic.gov.au](#)

Women thinking and acting as one

Exchange ideas, network, create business links and be part of a vibrant women's leadership group in Latrobe City on Thursday, March 24, from 11.30am-2pm at the Turfside Function Centre, Moe Race Course, Waterloo Road, Moe. The cost of the event, including lunch, is \$25 for VECCI members and \$30 for non-members. Register online by March 17 at www.vecci.org.au (credit card and direct debit available) [More? Michelle Anderson 03 5173 9200 or manderson@vecci.org.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](#)

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.

POSITION VACANT:

Positions available on business development team

Latrobe City is seeking two economic development professionals to join their Business Development team.

Key elements of the roles include providing assistance and support to Latrobe's 4000+ businesses and promotion of the economic and lifestyle advantages of Latrobe City. Both positions will work to expand the region's sustainable employment capacity through investment attraction, promotional activities and the facilitation of networks. One position will focus on business support and the other on promotion.

To be successful in these roles you will have a solid understanding of the economic development environment within Latrobe City; the ability to develop and maintain relationships with a range of stakeholders, and proven ability to manage multiple projects to completion. For more information or to obtain a copy of an application cover sheet and position descriptions, please refer to our website:

Applications must have a signed application cover sheet and address the key selection criteria. Applications should be forwarded to Human Resources Officer, Latrobe City Council, PO Box 264 Morwell VIC 3840 or emailed to careers@latrobe.vic.gov.au and will be accepted until 5pm Thursday, March 24.

[More? Donna Starkey 5128 5460 or visit \[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au\]\(http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au\)](#)

WORK SOUGHT:

Work experience sought for French farming students

Work experience students from the west of France are hoping to visit Australian farms from April for approximately six months through the Odysee Agri program. They include:

- Benoît Le Clezio (20) is studying for a diploma in farm management. His parents are dairy farmers. He works as a relief milker and is used to operating farm machinery.
- Guillaume Quéffelec (20) has a diploma in animal production. His parents are dairy farmers. He has experience on his family farm and as a relief milker.
- Quentin Sergent (20) has a diploma in crop production. His parents farm 100 dairy cows and 350 sows and finishing pigs. He is a casual worker on dairy and pig farms and does contract harvesting and can operate farm machinery.
- Alexis Bigot (18) is studying for a diploma in farm management. His parents are dairy farmers. He works as a relief milker. He has trained to milk ewes and can operate farm machinery.
- Kevin Recourcé (19) is studying for a diploma in farm management. His parents are dairy farmers. He has also worked with beef cattle, foie gras production and crops. He can operate a combine harvester and other farm machinery.
- François Joseph Lodé (20) is studying for a diploma in farm management. He has trained in dairy and organic dairying, sheep milk, pig production and cropping.
- Kevin Mazier (20) has an education in viticulture and oenology, doing pruning and cellar working a range of vineyards and wineries. His parents operate a winery.

More? Jean Marie Poirier jmpoirier@wanadoo.fr

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 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

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 or ph: 9214 8753 or Karen: kpomeranz@swin.edu.au or ph: 9215 7136



Want to reach the right audience? More than 3500

'yes-please' subscribers read GippyAGchat.

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

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: gippyagchat, agritourism, agribusiness logos, gippsland, pig farming, hobby farm making money, marcus oldham visit, potato farm Gippsland, **agrobusiness** (Editor's note: for very angry farmers!),

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
Mar 16	Yarragon Produce Swap	Yarragon	Tom Nevell 5633 3245
Mar 16	Farming in a variable climate discussion	Orbost	Maria Rose 5147 0843
Mar 16	Buchan Our Livelihood Forum	Buchan	Abbie Hughes 5153 9500
Mar 16	'EPA Have Your Say' open house	Sale	EPA 9695 2722
Mar 16	Baw Baw Shire Council Community Development Grants program information session	Warragul	Joy Russell 5624 2483
Mar 17	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Mar 17	Get bang for your fertiliser buck in wet conditions	Fish Creek	Kylie Barry 5624 3900
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 17	EPA Have Your Say open house	Traralgon	EPA 9695 2722
Mar 18,19,20	Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening- Level 1	Mirboo North	Walter 02 4474 3971
March 19	Organic gardening workshop	Blind Bight	5998 7014
Mar 19-20	6 th Annual SP AusNet Energy Innovation Festival	Wonthaggi	Michelle Evans 5672
Mar 19-20	Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor Rally	Korumburra	
Mar 20	Tree Change Discovery Day	South Gippsland	Jill Vella 5662 5759
Mar 21	EPA Have Your Say open house	Wonthaggi	EPA 9695 2722
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	www.penguins.org.au
Mar 23	Domestic Energy Workshop	Warragul	Steve Walsh 5623 2857
Mar 24	SFS Gippsland branch results presentation and AGM	Princeton	Nikki Hellyer 0418 528 715

Mar 24	Latrobe Women in Business lunch	Moe	Michelle Anderson 5173 9200
Mar 24-27	Farm World	Warragul	Lardner Park 5626 1373
March 26	Organic gardening workshop	Blind Bight	5998 7014
Mar 26	Canoe Tour	Toora	Marni Speed 1300 094 262
Mar 26	Country Race Meet	Woolamai	1300 139 402
Mar 26	Gippsland Heritage Park Market	Moe	5127 3082
Mar 26	Yarragon Community Craft and Produce Market	Yarragon	Allison Butterworth 5634 2209
Mar 26	Chutney Workshop	Mt Martha	Peninsula Visitor Information Booking Service 5987 3078
Mar 26	Warragul Rodeo	Warragul	Barbara Walker 0408 528 530
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
Mar 29	Holistic Management Field Trip	Bengworden	Stu Clarke stuclarke@y7mail.com
Mar 31	'Australian Beef Industry – A Changing Playing Field' Conference	Warragul	Claire Geri 0448 335 479
Apr 1	'Australian Beef Industry – A Changing Playing Field' Conference	Traralgon	Claire Geri 0448 335 479
Apr 2	Indigenous market	Mornington	9982 1207
Apr 3	Poowong Produce Swap	Poowong	Tammy Logan 5659 2308
Apr 4	Rural Areas Forum	Warragul	Jayne Cluning 5624 2594
Apr 5	'Australian Beef Industry – A Changing Playing Field' Conference	Bairnsdale	Claire Geri 0448 335 479
Apr 7	Landcare website training	Forestech or Bairnsdale	Penny 5161 1365
Apr 7	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Apr 9	Coal Creek Farmers Market	Coal Creek	0459 629 000
Apr 9	Rokeyby Community Market	Rokeyby	Rhianna 5626 8523
Apr 9	South Gippsland Public Fund Launch	Coal Creek	
Apr 16	Drouin Community Market	Drouin	Bill Petschack 5625 3360
Apr 17	Emerald Community Market	Emerald	Non Blair 0419 345 750
Apr 20	Domestic Energy Workshop	Warragul	Steve Walsh 5623 2857
Apr 20	Baw Baw Shire Council Community Development Grants program information session	Warragul	Joy Russell 5624 2483
Apr 23	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
Apr 23	Yarragon Community Craft and Produce Market	Yarragon	Allison Butterworth 5634 2209
Apr 24	Country Race Meet	Tambo	1300 139 402
Apr 24	Country Race Meet	Stony Creek	1300 139 402
Apr 25	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Apr 27, May 4	Feeding Pastures For Profit program	Athlone	Frank Mickan 5624 2259
Apr 28	Forum: Causes and effects of land use change on farming in Baw Baw Shire	Rokeyby	Karen Thomas 9785 0103
Apr 28, May 5	Feeding Pastures For Profit program	Leongatha	Frank Mickan 5624 2259
Apr 30	Gippsland Heritage Park Market	Moe	5127 3082
May 1	Poowong Produce Swap	Poowong	Tammy Logan 5659 2308

May 3, 10	Feeding Pastures For Profit program	Maffra	Bree Walshe 5147 0834
May 10	Your Business On-line seminar	Warragul	www.business.vic.gov.au/workshops
May 13	South Gippsland Landcare Network Landcare (SGLN) Awards	Dambulk	
May 16	Baw Baw Shire Council Community Development Grants program information session	Warragul	Joy Russell 5624 2483
May 18	Domestic Energy Workshop	Warragul	Steve Walsh 5623 2857
May 20	Cardinia Shire Business Awards Gala dinner	Cardinia	1300 787 624
May 28	Koala Information Night	Leongatha	Courtney Lever 5662 5759
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