



Gippy AGchat

April 5, 2010 – Issue 25

Our supporters:



Fancy South America in June?	2
Boosting rural women's sustainability record	2
And while we're at it ...	3
Diversify your income from your landholding	3
Reservoir reconnection recommended	3
And the winner is ...	4
Valley seeks farm support for sunrise industry	4
Water strategy timeline lengthened	4
Dairy shed water licensing made easier for farmers	4
Organic certification for smallholdings	5
Waterlogged crops are history in drier times	5
Who does what with water?	5
Inquiry into soil sequestration in Victoria	6
Check weak grapevines for phylloxera	6
Meet the water-wise abattoir	6
Calling for expressions of interest	6
Learn about leadership	7
Call for wool projects announced	7
Register for FarmDay 2010	7
Conservation land management courses starting soon	7
Sheep benefit from early seasonal break	7
Dairy industry structure and pricing explained	7
Australia's future grain leaders want you	8
Bushwalk to create your own urban habitat	8
Research explains benefits of deep-ripping	8
Bus trip travels to the bulls	8
Open for business	9
Science prizes offered by PM	9
Landcare welcomes new project officer	9
Keep Australia Beautiful 2010 Awards closing soon	9
Taking aim at blackberries	9
Opening doors for Landcare	9
Eating is an agricultural act	10
Get paid to improve the environment	10
Revitalisation grants available	10

WorkSafe Victoria award nominations open soon	10
Rabobank opens executive development program	10
Into ag? Under 35? There's \$10K up for grabs	11
Baw Baw community development grants available	11
Enjoying the eucalypt	11
Agritourism dossier available	11
2010 National Landcare Awards	11
Get out for a day at Lardner Park	12
Paydirt!	12
Food awards on again	12
Snapshot of what the community values	12
Country racing is off and ... well ... racing	13
Sheep blameless in wheat streak mosaic virus spread	13
JOBS: A free feature in GippyAGchat	13
Filling in the Gippy-gaps	14
The most important item in this entire e-newsletter	14
Gippy Diary	16

Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>
Or blog us at www.aginc@wordpress.com

Fancy South America in June?

Could your agribusiness find an export market in South America?

Agribusiness Gippsland has been asked to find firms for a Chilean Government aid package to explore marketing food, know-how or agricultural engineering into Chile. Selected companies will travel to Chile in June for an agri-food investment forum.

The government there will cover accommodation, meals and transfers and organise meetings with potential partners or customers. Participants must cover the airfare.

The invitation follows a successful forum for the Australian mining industry last year and, like that initiative, is co-ordinated by regional business advisors, SED

Consulting. SED director Scott Williams said: "Meat and dairy industries are two of the target industries, as well as wine, grapes, olives and processed foods. We would be looking for companies that are ready to export, or are already exporting, and could benefit from a leg-up into South America. They might supply processors, or growers, or anyone else in the value chain. It is not a bad deal. Chile provides a good jumping-off point to the rest of South America."

More? Scott 0413 059 190 or scottw@sedconsulting.com.au

Boosting rural women's sustainability record

Agribusiness Gippsland (AGInc) will soon be seeking female primary producers with a commitment to sustainable farming, following funding of an innovative ambassadorial program.

'Nurturing the land nourishing the people: Gippsland women finding their voice', will see 24 Gippsland women from various sectors trained to explain sustainable farming motives and methodologies to audiences within and beyond the agricultural sector.

We have secured a Recognising Women Farmers grant from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to run a series of workshops providing women with speaking opportunities and encouraging them to articulate their vision.

The project will be run by AGInc in conjunction with Tarwin farmer and Enviromeat founder Jenny O'Sullivan. The program involves two initial workshops of 12-15 participants. One workshop will be in South/West Gippsland and the peri-urban area of the Port Phillip region, and the other in East Gippsland. The women will later be involved in a larger workshop for 100 people. More details in later GippyAgchats.

And while we're at it ...

Congrats to Jenny O'Sullivan appointed the new facilitator for the Gippsland Community Leaders Program. The GCLP recently launched its 15th year with an event at Yarram and a guest appearance by Ken Lay (GCLP 1999), Deputy Commissioner of Victoria Police.

[More? nicola.epps@igain.vic.edu.au](mailto:nicola.epps@igain.vic.edu.au)

Diversify your income from your landholding

Want to make more from your landholding, whatever its size? If you want to diversify your income, a series of five free forums will offer insights from people with hands-on experience.

Whether it's high-value/small-scale horticulture, maybe agisting stock or leasing out your land, making commercial compost or setting up a growers' co-op ... come and hear what's working. The municipalities of Casey and Cardinia, together with the DPI's AgFutures and Agribusiness Gippsland Inc are staging the workshops from next month. Two of the forums are specifically for potato growers, one is for larger-holding owners, one for smallholders and – to finish the series – an overview by Neil Barr discussing the future for small farms.

All sessions include refreshments. Please RSVP for catering.

Thursday May 13, 11am- 2:30pm: Koo Wee Rup, for larger farms.

- THEMES - Sectioning down farm management and outsourcing operations to decrease workload.
- Or increasing workload for those who want to add value to their business.
- Diversification case studies (stories presented by farmers) relevant to broadacre farming.

Thursday May 20, 11am- 2:30pm: Pearcedale, for smallholdings.

- THEMES - Small farm diversification opportunities.
- Diversification case studies (stories presented by farmers) relevant small-acre farming.
- Co-ops.

Thursday June 3, 11am-2:30pm: Gembrook

- THEMES - Co-ops and diversification opportunities for potato growers
- Exploration of export markets for potatoes.

Thursday June 17 11am-3pm: Gembrook

- THEMES- Opportunities and strategies for agribusiness diversification for potato growers

Friday June 25, noon- 2pm: Lunch with keynote speaker Neil Barr discussing the future for small farms. Venue: Koo Wee Rup Community Centre. All welcome.

[More? Karen Thomas 0488 372 411 or karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Reservoir reconnection recommended

A state government report has supported reconnecting Tarago Reservoir. The audit, tabled mid-March, found there were "few community concerns" over the works. Reconnecting the reservoir to Melbourne's water supply was announced as a possible water augmentation project in the 2004 white paper Securing Our Water Future Together. It was deemed "a most appropriate option to pursue on environmental and cost grounds" and "proceeded based on sound technical advice", the auditor-general reported.

[More?](#)

http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_publications/reports_by_year/2009-10/20101003_water_storage.aspx

And the winner is...

Barbara Johnson wins the parcel of books from Wilkinson Publishing for signing up for annual AGInc membership. It only costs \$50 plus GST for individual/farm membership (see page 14). Congrats Barbara, we'll get the prize dropped in to your farm. Thank you for the donation of books, Michael. Next month's prize? A hamper of Gippsland produce: asparagus, honey and *hmmm...* anyone want to donate anything in return for a GippyAgchat mention? Ph Sue (0402 267 802) email or blog.

Valley seeks farm support for sunrise industry

The LaTrobe Valley CFMEU Mining and Energy is seeking to establish a solar-hot-water enterprise in the region – and believes it could offer opportunities for agricultural sectors – especially dairying.

Dave Kerin, organiser CFMEU Mining and Energy, says the social enterprise could keep jobs in the region by moving manufacturing into renewable energy-producing goods.

Assistance to establish the first factory has come from two established manufacturing companies, Everlast and Douglas Solar.

The Victorian Government has funded a feasibility study, the DSE, the DPI and Environment Victoria helped fund a business plan.

Dave writes: "Communities are supporting the project through the Gippsland Climate Change Network because the solutions involve green-collar jobs; local businesses support the project because the steady manufacturing jobs will result in customers for them; state and local governments are supporting the project ..."

The organisers are hoping soon for news of funding from Canberra. "And given we are successful in getting that, we will move to set up the first social enterprise, Eureka's Future, by May-June 2010," Dave says. "Leases, recruitment, training, purchase of equipment, factory fit-out, and start production by January 2011."

They are seeking expressions of support from regional farmers and agribusiness.

More? Dave Kerin, organiser CFMEU Mining and Energy, 51343311, 0412 484 094 or dk_cfmeu@tpg.com.au

Water strategy timeline lengthened

Preparation time for the Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy (GSWS) has been extended. A letter from Llew Vale, chair of the GSWS consultative committee, said the GSWS discussion paper attracted more than 70 written responses, requiring more time for committee consideration. A draft strategy is expected to be released in the first half of this year.

Dairy shed water licensing made easier for farmers

Amendments to the Dairy Shed Water Licence Transition Program will ensure that all dairy farmers are correctly licensed for the water they use in the dairy shed.

The amnesty has been extended another four weeks, to April 23, to give all dairy farmers opportunity to be advised of the changes and lodge licence applications. Under the changes, licensing for farm dams used for washing dairy sheds has been simplified, and fees aligned more closely between northern and southern Victoria. Farmers who either miss the deadline, or decide in future to convert a conditional farm dam licence will be required to apply for a full licence, with all associated application and ongoing fees. In capped regions, they may also be required to purchase the entitlement.

More? DSE customer service centre 136 186 or www.ourwater.vic.gov.au

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

Look at Lardner Park, near Warragul.

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

We also have flexibility for smaller meetings, conferences and workshops. The Lardner Park board room and pavilions are ideal for equipment and product launches.

Our location is convenient for Melbourne and Gippsland attendees.



For further information

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

Organic certification for smallholdings

An organic certification workshop in Meeniyan on April 19 will kick-off a national series of 22 events staged by the Biological Farmers of Australia.

The free workshop provides information on the organic certification process, with a focus on supporting small-scale growers. Growers certified under this program have reduced costs and simplified certification.

The 2010 program also includes workshops in value-adding for organic food and cosmetics processors, manufacturers, retailers and marketers. Visit www.bfa.com.au

More? 07 3350 5716 ext 232 or events@bfa.com.au

Waterlogged crops are history in drier times

Uncertainty over future climate suggests waterlogging might no longer be a constraint to cropping in high-rainfall zones, according to new Australian research. Richard MacEwan led a DPI team investigating the barriers to cropping in south-east Australia's high rainfall areas.

Using available information and unpublished data, they found high clay content and high bulk density were the major subsoil constraints to crop growth. "Sodicity and acidity are also significant constraints," they reported.

Their research reviewed management options and results of past research and intervention in soil loosening, drainage, raised beds, liming, and gypsum.

More? [Australian Journal of Soil Research](http://www.australianjournalofsoilresearch.com.au) 48(2) 150–166 doi:10.1071/SR09076

Who does what with water?

A special water management seminar will be held at Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Ellinbank on Wednesday, April 28.

The Gippsland-focused seminar will discuss the key areas of farm water use and planning with speakers from DPI and Southern Rural Water.

It will also explain the roles of various government agencies responsible for water policy and strategy development, cover how surface and ground water resources are managed, and licensing of water use and compliance.

The free seminar will be held at DPI Ellinbank, 1301 Hazeldean Road, Ellinbank on Wednesday, April 28 from 12:30 -1:30 pm.

More? [Julie Williams 5624 2285](tel:56242285)

Inquiry into soil sequestration in Victoria

The Victorian Parliamentary Environment and Natural Resources Committee launched an inquiry into soil carbon sequestration and will report its findings by August 31. The committee will:

- explore possible benefits to the agricultural industry
- explore possible environmental benefits of soil sequestration
- consider methods for measurement of the effects of carbon sequestration
- identify any possible harms or detriments
- identify linkages with the proposed carbon pollution reduction scheme and other relevant Federal Government policies
- identify linkages with existing Victorian Government policies
- explore options for the Victorian Government to support the benefits, if any, of soil sequestration

More? Committee Secretariat 03 8682 2803 or

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/enrc/inquiries/soil_sequestration/default.htm

Check weak grapevines for phylloxera

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has advised grape growers to thoroughly check the causes of any poor vine growth in their vineyards, to ensure it has not been caused by grape phylloxera.

Phylloxera has a distinctive effect on vine root growth, causing the fine feeder roots to swell up and form a gall near the tip of the root. On thicker storage roots, the surface takes on a rough, warty appearance and the yellow insects may be seen in the crevices along the roots.

It is an offence not to report vines having symptoms of phylloxera to DPI.

More? DPI Customer Service Centre 136 186 or www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb

Meet the water-wise abattoir

Warragul's Radford Meats used a \$203,800 Re-tooling for Climate Change grant to replace an old water supply system with ultrafiltration technology, a red meat industry first. The AusIndustry program provides grants of \$50,000 to \$500,000 to small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses to improve energy and/or water efficiency.

More? Visit <http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/InnovationandRandD/Re-ToolingforClimateChange/Pages/Re-toolingforClimateChange.aspx>

Calling for expressions of interest

The Victorian Organic Industry Committee (VOICe) was successful in receiving a Recognising Women Farmers Grant from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to conduct a VOICe for Organic Women Leadership program.

The project will deliver an innovative workshop for organic women to:

- Build leaderships skills
- Increase awareness of the industry organisational systems
- Develop strong networks
- Provide business management and marketing training
- Provide mentoring to support learnings
- Train the trainer

The project team will be led by well know rural woman leader Cathy McGowan, OA. While this project caters for all women, young women and women with culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged to participate.

The workshop will be conducted on May 2- 4 in Daylesford

More? Liz Clay 5628 9557 or liz-clay@sympac.com.au

Learn about leadership

The Regional Leadership Series has been designed for new and emerging leaders from any industry and organisation within the Gippsland region.

The series is a joint initiative between GippsTAFE, Leadership Psychology Australia and the Australian Human Resources Institute. It aims to explore and grow leadership skills in an interactive setting.

The program involves a series of either breakfast or lunch sessions exploring 'What is leadership?' and 'Leadership in action', respectively. Both programs cost \$1,695 incl. GST per participant and include either lunch or breakfast.

More? Visit www.regionalleadership.ahri.com.au

Call for wool projects announced

Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI) has announced its annual 'Call for Proposals' for R&D and product development projects. AWI is seeking to invest in projects that support its integrated R&D and marketing strategy along the global wool pipeline, from farm to fashion. Applicants must submit full proposals by 12pm April 12.

More? www.wool.com/projects

Register for FarmDay 2010

FarmDay on May 29 and 30 sees a farm family hosts a city family for a day of "fun, friendship and understanding". A city family travels to your farm for a hands-on day to learn about the how food and fibre is produced in Australia. It is a unique opportunity for farmers to showcase their farm and their profession. Now in its fifth year, FarmDay has given now more than 1000 city families a greater appreciation of the importance of farming. FarmDay staff ensure families are well matched.

More? 1300 367 036 or visit www.farmday.com.au

Conservation land management courses starting soon

The Diploma in Conservation Land Management at the Education Centre Gippsland, (ECG) is getting ready for the next units to be delivered in April:

- Conduct biological surveys in Warragul April 24 – 25
- Manage fauna populations in Leongatha April 17 – 18

More? Malcolm Brown 0403 997 831

Sheep benefit from early seasonal break

Fatter ewes at lambing will have a greater chance of being in good condition at their next mating and conceive more lambs. DPI sheep disease project leader Robert Suter said the Sentinel Flock Project found ewes were too light throughout pregnancy last year due to the poor autumn and failed spring in 2008. However, good grass growth in autumn holds the flock in good stead this year, he said.

Dairy industry structure and pricing explained

Free workshops for dairy farmers are being held to provide up-to-date information about dairy industry structure and the different organisations, companies and roles within it. It will also explore the dairy markets, how milk pricing works, and what influences price – including global, national, local, and on-farm factors.

The workshop is on Tuesday April 27 Gippsland at Kernot Hall – Princess Drive, Morwell and runs from 10am to 3pm, with lunch provided. RSVP for catering.

More? Kate 1300 882 833 or krandall@vff.org.au



Just released

READ SUSAN BOYLE'S AMAZING STORY

Susan Boyle has become a worldwide sensation. Not even one year ago she was a complete unknown, she would never have expected that an appearance on Britain's Got Talent would catapult her to global fame. Susan Boyle: Living the Dream is the biography of this incredible singing sensation. John McShane chronicles her amazing journey from the moment she appeared on British television to her world tours on the back of having released a record-breaking debut album.

This is a title that is not-to-be-missed. Susan Boyle's story inspires others to believe that even at later ages it is still possible to harness one's talent and enthusiasm and wow the world.

You can order online at www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au – Click [here](#)

Every order is backed with a 100 per cent money back guarantee.

Australia's future grain leaders want you

The Grain Growers Association is looking for established leaders in Australian agriculture to mentor participants in its Australian Future Grain Leaders Program.

[More? Jo Eady 0419 912 879 or \[jo@ruralscope.com\]\(mailto:jo@ruralscope.com\) or visit](#)

www.grainleaders.com.au

Bushwalk to create your own urban habitat

Join an experienced guide to explore the bushland at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, discovering the relationships between Australian native plants and the animals that call them home on Sunday May 2 from 11am–12pm. Cost: \$6.50 adult/ \$5.20 concession. Bookings required.

[More? Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne 5990 2245](#)

Research explains benefits of deep-ripping

Deep-ripping soil and adding nutrients increases crop productivity in hostile, alkaline subsoils, possibly because the plants gain better access to stored soil water and deep-placed nutrients, according to Australian research.

SA scientists found the residual effects from deep-ripping were minimal after four growing seasons. "Therefore, ripping will need to be practiced at regular intervals to maintain treatment effects," they noted.

The ripping and nutrient amendments had no significant effect on exchangeable sodium percentage, electrical conductivity, and readily extractable phosphorus and nitrate-nitrogen, they added.

[More? Australian Journal of Soil Research 48\(2\) 140–149 doi:10.1071/SR08254](#)

Bus trip travels to the bulls

West Gippsland YDDP invites all interested parties on a bus trip to Genetics Australia on Wednesday April 14.

The day trip will visit Genetics Australia's head office in Bacchus Marsh, with a tour looking at semen collection, semen testing, housing of the bulls, and more.

Buses will leave from Warragul, and possibly Leongatha, 7:30am and return at about 4:30pm. The event includes the bus ride and lunch. RSVP by Monday April 12.

[More? Kylie Barry 5624 3900 or \[yddpgipps@dcsi.net.au\]\(mailto:yddpgipps@dcsi.net.au\)](#)

Open for business

Applications are open for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Minister's Award, rewarding organisations and individuals who make an outstanding contribution to apprentice training.

[More?](#)

http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/awards/2010/ministers_awards_2010.asp

Science prizes offered by PM

The Prime Minister's Prizes for Science are Australia's pre-eminent annual awards for excellence in science and science teaching. The prize offers \$300,000 for the main award and \$50,000 in five other categories.

Nominations close on Friday May 21.

[More? https://grants.innovation.gov.au/SciencePrize/Pages/Home.aspx](https://grants.innovation.gov.au/SciencePrize/Pages/Home.aspx)

Landcare welcomes new project officer

Kate Williams has commenced work with Landcare as the Project Officer working on pest, plant and animal projects including fox control at Cape Liptrap, willow extension as part of the Weeds of National Significance project, rabbit control in the coastal trip and executive support to the Community Weeds Taskforce.

[More? Kate Williams 5662 5759 or katew@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:katew@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

Keep Australia Beautiful 2010 Awards closing soon

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria is asking local government, community groups, schools and individuals to celebrate and recognise the actions taken by communities to respond to climate change.

The awards reward activities such as reducing waste, preserving heritage, saving energy, conserving water and lots more. Entries for the Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards close on April 9.

[More? Joanna Meyer 8626 8750 or visit](#)

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/enterkabvawards

Taking aim at blackberries

Blackberry is the target for South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce which is hosting two information sessions to learn how to tackle this weed, including rust and chemical usage, on Friday April 16 at Poowong and Tuesday April 26 at Foster.

[More? Kate Williams 5662 5759 or katew@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:katew@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

Opening doors for land care

The SGLN Landcare Open Day on Saturday May 1 showcases the diversity of great work being undertaken by Landcare members. Three Landcare Award winning properties will be open – Rob and Linda Whitaker (Arawata), Graeme and Rosemary Trease (Mardan Mirboo North) and Stuart and Veronica Greaves (Nerrena) as well as display at the office about SGLN in general and urban Landcare. There will be displays at each property from organisations that work with and support Landcare.

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

Eating is an agricultural act

Join the second Growers and Eaters forum at the Masonic Hall, Korumburra, to discuss the connection between farming and eating and vital communities.

On Monday, April 19, from 9am-5pm, participants will:

- hear about community-supported agriculture and other alternative models for food production and distribution that not only feed people good food, but strengthen and enliven local communities.
- explore projects such as community kitchens, farmers' markets, community gardens and school gardens.
- learn about why our lives and livelihoods depend on healthy, living soils and hear from people who are changing how we grow, cook and distribute food.
- delve into some big questions about food – Are we legislating against a diverse agricultural future? What does it mean to eat locally? How can we create food systems that are good, clean and fair?

The event costs \$25 full/\$15 concession and includes lunch and refreshments.

More? Peta Christensen 0411 899 618 peta@cultivatingcommunity.org.au or Kelly Donati 0402 081 832 kdonati@internode.on.net

Get paid to improve the environment

Landholders living in West, Central or South Gippsland are now able to bid for a share of up to \$2m to improve the environment on their own properties. The Victorian Government's new EcoTender program opened on March 1 and is available to landholders within the West Gippsland CMA from Korumburra to Sale, and from the Alpine National Park to the coast. The work carried out by landholders can include restoring wetlands, fencing, planting native vegetation and removing grazing stock from part of their property. Landholders competitively bid for funds, and successful bids are those that offer the best environmental value for money.

More? DSE 136 186 or customer.service@dse.vic.gov.au

Revitalisation grants available

Grants of up to \$500 for land protection work are available from the South Gippsland Landcare Network for landholders joining their local Landcare group before May 14. Funding can be used for remnant protection, revegetation, waterway protection and weed control.

More? Jill jillv@wgcm.vic.gov.au

WorkSafe Victoria award nominations open soon

It's time to register for this year's WorkSafe Victoria Awards which open next month. WorkSafe is looking for companies and individuals that go the extra distance and whose innovation and leadership raise the standard of health and safety for all. Information packs at worksafe.vic.gov.au/awards. Applications close May 7.

More? WorkSafe Awards Coordinator 8663 5033 or awards@worksafe.vic.gov.au

Rabobank opens executive development program

Applications for Rabobank's 2010 Executive Development Program are open until May 28 and only 36 applicants will be accepted from across a range of commodities and geographical locations in Australia and New Zealand. The first module runs from August 22-27 in Sydney, with the second module taking place in July 2011.

More? Skye Ward 02 8115 4139, bmp@rabobank.com or www.rabobank.com.au/bmp

Into ag? Under 35? There's \$10K up for grabs

The George Alexander Foundation, administered by the ISS Institute Fellowship, is offering fellowships to help talented young people. Applications are invited for fellowships in the areas of environment and sustainability or alternative energy.

Submissions in other areas will be considered including:

- Manufacturing
- Food
- Automotive
- Engineering Trades
- Building and Construction
- Marine
- Furniture
- Heritage
- Primary Industries
- Specialist Trades

Applications to be received at the ISS Institute office by 4pm on Monday June 28.

More?

<http://www.agrifoodskills.net.au/uploads/file/10%20GEORGE%20ALEXANDER%20FELLOWSHIP%20APP%20FORM.pdf>

Baw Baw community development grants available

Groups and clubs interested in applying for community development grants from Baw Baw Shire Council are urged to attend one of three information sessions to be held at the West Gippsland Arts Centre Fountain Room in Warragul on April 28 and May 25.

Applications close on June 30. Application forms can be downloaded at www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au.

More? Community Development Grants Coordinator 5624 2483 or grants@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Enjoying the eucalypt

Celebrate the beauty of Australia's most iconic tree, the eucalypt, as the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne stages a eucalypt-themed festival from March 27 to May 9 with a family day on Sunday April 11.

More? Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne 5990 2245

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

2010 National Landcare Awards

The 2010 National Landcare Awards will be held in Canberra on Thursday June 24. The Awards ceremony will be a dinner at Parliament House.



CLASSIC COUNTRY CLOTHING THAT MEANS BUSINESS

For the past 20 years, Gippsland-based Port Phillip Shop has supplied smart casual, eye-catching corporate clothing embroidered with the customer's logo.

No customer is too small and our service is friendly and helpful. Our family-owned business offers a prompt and free sampling service. Wherever possible we supply Australian-made products: Clothing, footwear and gifts sourced from R M Williams, hats from Akubra and Barmah, knitwear from Merino Gold, Toorallie and Geccu.

Our customers include rural supply houses, stock agents, industry groups,

breed associations, wineries, tourist organisations, local government, family companies and individuals. Even if it's not on our website, we'll hunt it up for you because, like you... we mean business.

CONTACT US: Ph (03) 5623 4369 Fax (03) 5623 4575 Visit our shop ... 1a Barkly Street, Corner Smith St, Warragul 3820 [see map](#) Or browse <http://www.portphillipshop.com.au> ...



Get out for a day at Lardner Park

Regional arts and fresh produce feature at A Day Out at Lardner Park on April 25.

More? 5974 4710 or visit www.craftmarkets.com.au

Paydirt!

Are you a soil scientist? There could be some money waiting for you. Read on...

The International Union of Soil Scientists has been awarded 2.1m Euros from the International Scientific Institute for the Advancement of the Natural Sciences. The IUSS Bureau has decided that these funds belong to the global soil science community. Criteria have been developed and all eligible IUSS members can apply.

Food awards on again

The annual Food Challenge Awards competition allows companies to showcase their innovative products. Categories include: baked goods; confectionary; alcoholic beverages; dairy; health and wellness; meat and small goods; non-alcoholic beverages; pet food; ready meals; snack foods; soups and prepared foods and sustainable manufacturing. Applications close May 1.

More? Visit: <http://www.foodmag.com.au/awards.aspx>

Snapshot of what the community values

Baw Baw Shire Council is asking residents and visitors to take a photograph and explain what it is they most value about the shire, with an exhibition of photos at Farm World. Deadline April 9. Email image with caption to

stf@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au.

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

Meetings this month are:

- Apr 3: Bairnsdale
- Apr 4: Stony Creek
- Apr 15: Sale
- Apr 25: Moe
- Apr 29: Sale

Meetings next month are:

- May 9: Sale
- May 17: Moe
- May 29: Bairnsdale

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

Sheep blameless in wheat streak mosaic virus spread

No evidence has been found to suggest that grazing sheep spread the wheat streak mosaic virus between plants in a grazed wheat crop due to the grazing process.

CSIRO research on the grazing of early sown, dual-purpose wheat for winter forage found no increase in the spread of wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV) in experiments with housed sheep.

More? [Crop and Pasture Science 61\(3\) 247–254](#)

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 to our 1800-plus readers. No large files, no photos, no sales pitches and full contact details, please.

RECRUITING:

Want hands-on experience in real-life farming?

Volunteers are wanted to gain practical experience in harvesting, mulching, watering, feeding animals and helping train horses on a Bruthen organic smallholding.

Accommodation is available.

More? [Tanya or Mike at Oasis Organic Food Gardens 51575183 or \[tancode77@yahoo.com.au\]\(mailto:tancode77@yahoo.com.au\)](#)

WORK SOUGHT:

International student seeking a six-week internship

Gregor Heinrich is studying renewable resources and bioenergy for a Bachelor of Science with a focus on plant cultivation and engineering at the University of Hohenheim in south-west Germany. He needs to undertake a six-week internship during the European summer which he is keen to do in Australia on a farm that grows and processes renewable resources. Contact Gregor.heinrich@uni-hohenheim.de

Fire management planning

Consultant available to prepare sustainable fire management plans for your property or small reserve.

For a quote please 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 from early December for paid full-time or half-time 2010 placements.

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

Positions wanted

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

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

Consultant available to undertake:

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

Please ask me for a quote! Cassie Wright cassiewright@alphalink.com.au

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

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

Hunting in AGInc hyperspace

Recent top searches on our blogsite (www.aginc.wordpress.com) have been: roger gaudion nab, nceda, aginc Gippsland, ros jenzen.



Want to reach the right audience? More than 2000 '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

The most important item in this entire e-newsletter

Annual subscriptions to Agribusiness Gippsland Inc are due, only \$50 plus \$5 GST individual/or a farm business and \$200 plus \$20 GST corporate. Our postal address is PO Box 1312 Warragul 3280.

More? 9456 9791 or visit www.aginc.wordpress.com

Filling in the Gippy-gaps

The rapid growth of GippyAGchat has left us with a data gap ... we don't know who you all are! Could you please underline which of the following best describes you, and forward this message to madfuj@yahoo.com.au. No prizes, no steak knives, just our thanks...

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

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
Apr 11	Eucalypt Festival – family day	Cranbourne	5990 2245
Apr 11	Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne bike tour	Cranbourne	5990 2245
Apr 14	Bus Tour to Genetics Australia	Departing Warragul	Kylie Barry 5624 3900
Apr 15	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Apr 16	Blackberry Information session	Poowong	
Apr 19	Growers and Eaters forum	Korumburra	Peta Christensen 0411 899 618
Apr 19	Organic Certification Workshop	Meeniyah	07 3350 5716
Apr 20	Your dairy industry workshop	Terang	Kate 1300 882 833
Apr 25	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Apr 25	A Day Out at Lardner Park – market	Warragul	5974 4710
Apr 26	Blackberry Information session	Foster	
Apr 27	Your dairy industry workshop	Morwell	Kate 1300 882 833
Apr 28	Baw Baw Community Development Grant information session	Warragul	5624 2483
Apr 28	Water management seminar	Ellinbank	Julie Williams 5624 2285
Apr 29	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Apr 30- May 1	East Gippsland Field Days	Bairnsdale	Ian Rees 03 5153 1398
May 1	SGLN Landcare Open Day	South Gippsland	

May 1-31	Gippsland Festival of the Arts		Josephine Kent 1300 226 278
May 2	Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne –Urban habitat walk	Cranbourne	5990 2245
May 2-4	VOICe for Organic Women Leadership program	Daylesford	Liz Clay 5628 9557
May 9	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
May 9	Mother's day at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne	Cranbourne	5990 2245
Moe 17	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
May 25	Baw Baw Community Development Grant information session	Warragul	5624 2483
May 29	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
May 29,30	FarmDay 2010		1300 367 036
Jun 9-12	Fresh Event 2010	Melbourne	www.freshevent.com.au
Jun 24	2010 National Landcare Awards	Canberra	www.landcareonline.com
Jul 21-23,	6 th biennial Enviro Conference and Exhibition	Melbourne	Veronica Dullens 02 8746 5055
Jul 22	Food Challenge Awards	Sydney	
Aug 1-6, 2010	19 th World Congress of Soil Science	Brisbane	www.19wcoss.org.au
Sep 29-30	South Gippsland Dairy Expo	Poowong	Deanne Kennedy 0419 878 055

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