



Gippy AGchat December 13, 2010 – Issue 37

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 3300 recipients

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- Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>
- Or blog us at www.aginc.wordpress.com
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Mornington Peninsula Shire welcomed as new partner

Gippsland Agribusiness welcomes the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council on board as a new partner. The partnership expands and strengthens agribusiness across Gippsland and we look forward to building our relationship with the Council. Special thanks to Gillian Stewart and congratulations on her reappointment as the Council's rural business officer.

Locusts and lifestyle properties

Small-acreage landholders must report and treat locusts on their properties. DPI suggests that small property owners work with neighbours or ask surrounding farmers to assist.

More? [DPI Locust Hotline on 1300 135 559](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts) or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts

Waterwise farmers recognised

Gippsland farmers featured strongly in Southern Rural Water's inaugural Waterwise Awards. John and Chris Hooper of Winnindoo took first place in the irrigation districts award for work on catching run-off water through a recycling system.

Runners up were Gary and Michelle Hendrikse from Denison who modernised their irrigation system, including installing centre pivots, bringing a 25% water saving.

Jeff Paterson, Peter O'Keeffe and Ken Eckersey of the Nicholson Winery won first prize in the award for groundwater users for their work in installing a new generation of drip irrigation. Ken, Lyn and Peter Treasure from Gassvale Farms, Wuk Wuk, were runners up in the award for research and development for their entry focusing on their adaption of new technology, the new RPM Preferred Touch Screen model centre pivot irrigator control panel.

More? [Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510](http://www.southernruralwater.com.au)

CORE 4 program improves on-farm management.

A new program aimed at improving the quality of water entering the Gippsland Lakes catchments by retaining phosphorous, nitrogen and sediment on dairy farms will be introduced in Gippsland. Dairy farmers from Warragul and Glengarry and Boolarra to Neerim East will be invited to participate in the CORE 4 program. The program aims to invest in farm improvements to reduce nutrients lost through run-off and help boost farm production.

More? [John Gallienne 0407 863 493](http://www.core4.com.au)

Monitor your mob for flystrike

Sheep producers are reminded to regularly monitor their sheep for conditions which might lead to flystrike as temperatures become warmer. Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) District Veterinary Officer Leanne Horstman said the timely use of preventive treatments is essential to limit the severity of flies and flystrike. Producers should also consider the relevant withholding periods for different chemicals.

More? [DPI 5624 2282](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au) or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Latrobe to establish committee for low-carbon emissions

Latrobe City Council is establishing a low-carbon emissions future transition committee to oversee the delivery of 30 key actions highlighted in council policy. This is the first policy of its kind to be developed by any council in Australia. Expressions of interest close December 15.

More? Visit www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Options for powerline safety to be examined

Energy Safe Victoria has established a Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce to examine options to minimise the risk of bushfires started by the electricity network.

It will establish a stakeholder reference group and is conducting trials with volunteer households and businesses to test changes to the operation of automatic circuit reclosers on single wire earth return powerlines.

More? [Kerri Easton keastongippsland@gmail.com](mailto:kerri.easton@gippsland.vic.gov.au) or visit <http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/ForConsumers/BushfireTrials/tabid/446/Default.aspx>.

Vic coalition will back food and fibre marketing co-operatives

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will increase the marketing power of local food and fibre producers by supporting the establishment of marketing co-operatives, according to a pre-election announcement by Nationals leader Peter Ryan.

Before the election, Mr Ryan said the Coalition would provide \$5 million in seed funding in its first term to assist groups of food and fibre producers wanting to start marketing cooperatives. Mr Ryan said food and fibre producers would be given support from specialist teams within the Department of Primary Industries to help producers improve their skills and opportunities.

More? Sonia Heath 0413 485 526 or visit www.peterryan.com.au

Business award winners announced

Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort named business of the year at the fourth annual SP Ausnet Baw Baw business awards dinner.

Other winners were:

- Dream-time Wholesale Nursery – Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness Award
- Lillico Glass / Clearly Delicious – West Gippsland Regional Tourism Association Tourism Award
- Longwarry Food Park – Regional Development Victoria Manufacturing Award
- Mangowood Gluten Free Fine Foods – VECCI Business Assistance Package

More? Baw Baw Shire Council 5624 2411 or visit <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au>

Tis the season for change

Changes to the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme will see approved employers able to choose to employ Pacific seasonal workers for four to six months. New cost-sharing arrangements allow approved employers to match workers' return airfares irrespective of their country of origin and enable them to recover some land-based transport costs. The changes will take effect immediately.

More? www.deewr.gov.au/PSWPS

2050 Baw Baw draft community vision launched

The community is being asked to review and comment on the Baw Baw 2050 community vision document, the result of the work of more than 670 community members who participated in one of many community events and workshops. Copies of the draft community vision are available from www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au, council customer services centres and Baw Baw libraries. Send comments to stf@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au by December 23.

More? Baw Baw Shire Council 5624 2411 or www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.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.

Revised 2010/2011 Bass Coast budget proposed

Members of the public are invited to review and make written submissions on the **revised Bass Coast Council Budget (PDF 280kb)**. Deadline 5pm Tuesday, December 21

More? Bass Coast Council 1300 226 278 or <http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au>

Moving forward to a 'Big Australia'

A new paper on population growth and sustainability by Dr Bob Birrell, Monash University concludes that should Australia's population reach the 'Big Australia' projection of 35.9m by 2050. Dr Birell said that this will not put serious pressure on Australia's non-renewable resource stock or capacity to feed the nation, "however such population growth will make the task of reducing greenhouse emissions very difficult." The document is available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/Library/pubs/PEPU/PopulationGrowthSustainability.pdf>

Young leader flies above the crowd

Mornington Peninsula vegetable grower Richard Hawkes was awarded the Young Leader Award on November 24 at the Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) Awards in Sydney. Mr Hawkes grew up working alongside his father, who has been growing vegetables for nearly 50 years, and his youngest sister in their family business, E.R. Hawkes and Son. He also currently works as a technical manager at Apple and Pear Australia Limited.

Raingardens program improves stormwater quality

Junior Landcare has the opportunity to participate in a special raingardens project as part of Melbourne Water's "Healthy Waterways Raingardens Program" in 2010. Schools and youth groups in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment area can apply for up to \$5000 to build a raingarden, which will contribute to cleaner, healthier rivers and creeks. Applications must be received before Friday, February 11, 2011.

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

Awards offered to young scientists

Young Australians aged 18 to 35 years, with ideas to help shape the future of rural industries through emerging scientific projects, can now apply for the 2011 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Nine winners will each receive up to \$22,000 to undertake a project exploring an emerging scientific issue or innovative activity, with one winner receiving an additional \$33,000 as recipient of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Award.

Winners can use their funding for a range of activities including research projects, industry visits or to attend conferences and workshops. Applications close on Friday January 7.

More? Visit www.daff.gov.au/abare-brs/conferences-events/scienceawards

Save water, save money, have a say

Cardinia Shire Council is reviewing the 2006 Sustainable Water Use Plan for the shire and inviting community feedback on the draft plan. The draft plan includes council-operated facilities, residential use and for the first time includes water use targets for the industrial and commercial sector. The plan commits to achieve a further 15% reduction in water consumption in Council-operated facilities. The draft plan is available for viewing at libraries in Cardinia Shire, Council offices in Henty Way, Pakenham or www.cardinia.vic.gov.au. All comments must be submitted in writing by Friday, December 17.

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

Hook a grant for fishing projects

Organisations wanting to improve their local fishing are encouraged to submit project proposals for the 2010/11 Recreational Fishing Grants Program. Money from recreational fishing licence fees paid by Victorian fishers is available to fund projects of up to \$5000 available year-round. Large grants are available for projects up to \$100,000. The deadline for these applications is March 31, 2011 in one or more of the following project areas:

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

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

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

Need help commercialising an idea or product?

The Regional Technology Commercialisation Program funded by the Victorian Government and is seeking up to 250 innovative businesses to participate in a one-day diagnostic workshop. Of these, 70 businesses will be selected to participate in a 12-week program to assist them to formalise their business cases and test these against an expert panel.

More? Mervyn Moon mervyn.moon@rdv.vic.gov.au

Walk the walk and talk the talk about fire

Mornington Peninsula Shire will hold a series of 'Fire Walk and Talk' community information sessions at selected reserves around the Mornington Peninsula.

The 'Walk and Talk' sessions inform residents about the fire management works that are carried out in bushland reserves by the Shire, and facilitate discussion about what residents can do on their properties to prepare for the periods of high fire danger.

Fire 'Walk and Talks' will be held at the following locations:

- Peninsula Sands on Wednesday, December 15 at 5pm
- Earimil Creek Bushland Reserve on Thursday, December 16 at 5pm
- Weeroona Street Bushland Reserve on Wednesday, December 22 at 5pm
- Hearn Creek /Hove road Bushland Reserve on Tuesday, January 18 at 5pm
- Unthanks Bushland Reserve on Wednesday, January 19 Wednesday at 5pm
- Mathis Avenue Bushland Reserve on Thursday, January 20 Thursday at 5pm
- Gunyong Creek Bushland Reserve on Thursday, January 27 at 5pm
- Station Street Roadside Reserve on Tuesday, February 1 at 5pm
- Warringine Park Bushland Reserve: on Wednesday, February 2 at 5pm
- Waterfall Gully Bushland Reserve on Saturday, February 5 at 9:30am
- Tootgarook Wetland Reserve on Tuesday, February 8 Tuesday at 5pm
- Jackson Way Bushland Reserve on Wednesday, February 9 at 5pm
- Moorooduc Quarry Bushland Reserve on Thursday, February 10 at 5pm
- Ferguson Drive Bushland Reserve on Tuesday, February 15 at 5pm

More? Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 or visit www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

Revegetation project receives funding

The SGLN have been successful in obtaining a \$10,000 grant from SPAusnet for revegetation activities in the upper Tarwin as part of the Friends of Strzelecki Koala project. The project is aimed at the upper Tarwin East branch and is focused on revegetation and weed control work to compliment remnant protection work. The project will involve identification of key remnant patches and identification of revegetation area to create biolinks.

Scientist runs rule over low-methane milk

A joint project between the Victoria Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Victoria University is investigating whether reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cows affects the amount and composition of milk. Scientists are researching curbing emissions without reducing milk production or altering the milk composition. The four-year project is funded by DPI, Dairy Australia, the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation and Victoria University.

More? [DPI Ellinbank 5624 2222](http://DPI.Ellinbank)

Prepare a summer water budget

Irrigation, stock and shed water should be included in summer water budgets advises the DPI. November usually sees an estimated daily evaporation rate in Gippsland of 6-9mm/day without rainfall. Rapidly growing pasture needs adequate soil moisture to support growth into summer. The best method of monitoring soil moisture is to install a tensiometer.

More? [DPI Maffra 5147 0800](http://DPI.Maffra)

Gift cards bring benefits to koalas

The South Gippsland Landcare Network has release donation gift cards. Tax deductible donations of \$20 or more to the Friends of Strzelecki Koala project will receive a gifting card.

More? Visit www.sgl.n.org.au

Stock agent sign new saleyard agreement

The Bairnsdale Stock Agents Association has endorsed a new agreement governing operations at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange. The agreement is designed to guarantee health and safety standards for agents' use of the facility and compliance with National Livestock Identification Standards and EU accreditation requirements.

More? [Mike Quist 5153 9500](http://Mike.Quist)

Report recommends investment in food R&D

A new Federal Government food security report recommends “urgent new investment in food science and technology”. The matter will be discussed with the Prime Minister and Australia’s chief scientist on February 4.

More? Visit http://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/FoodSecurity_web.pdf

ATO running tax seminars for businesses

The ATO is offering a number of seminars for businesses on December 15 at the Civic Centre 1 Magid Drive, Narre Warren.

The ATO Business Deductions Essentials Seminar, from 10am-12pm, covers common business income tax deductions, with worked examples to illustrate the calculations.

The ATO Activity Statements Essentials Seminar, from 1.30-3.30pm, provides a detailed look at the role of the activity statement, and details of specific activity statement labels.

These are free events but bookings are essential.

More? 1300 661 104 or vic.taxbasics@ato.gov.au or visit www.ato.gov.au/seminars

Grants available to flood victims

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. Applications close March 31.

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

Apiarists warned over locust threat

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has again reminded beekeepers to move their hives away from sites where chemical treatment of locusts is being undertaken. Monitor spraying at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts.

More? DPI Locust Hotline 1300 135 559

Sharp-eyed farmers urged to hunt ‘bullet-hole’ grub

Silage contractors in Gippsland are reporting grub attacks on stretch-wrapped silage bales. Farmers should be on the hunt for Oxycanus Grass Grub. The burrowing grub make holes in the stretch-wrapped plastic where the plastic touched the soil beneath, and are generally not noticed till the bales are moved or tipped over, but move quickly and disappear into tunnels when disturbed. Move bales to a storage area, preferably a bare area.

More? Frank Mickan 5624 2259 or frank.mickan@dpi.vic.gov.au

Firies will be out in force

The Maffra Fire Brigade will host the 79th Annual Eastern Districts Competition on the January 29-30. The competition will open with a discipline contest at the Maffra Recreation Reserve from 9.30am, beginning with an official march. Highlights include the hydrant race, ladder race, and marshall, pumper and reel events. Saturday evening will feature a torch light procession through the streets of Maffra. Spectators are welcome at no cost.

More? Justin Carrolan 5141 1865 or webmaster@maffrafirebrigade.org.au

Dairy farmers urged to fine-tune feed needs in big wet

Cash in on the conditions and fine-tune your feed needs, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is advising Gippsland dairy farmers.

The three-month outlook from December to February was favouring warmer day time and night time temperatures, which could curb growth for most crops and pastures but would help increase growth rates in millet, sorghum and maize crops.

The main decision for farmers will be the quality of the purchased feed. Average to poor-quality fodder is likely to be readily available at fairly low prices compared to recent years.

More? DPI Ellinbank 5624 2222

Donate on line

Donations to Friends of Strzelecki Koalas or other Landcare projects can now be made on line. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

More? Visit www.givenow.com.au/southgippslandlandcare or www.sgln.org.au

Fish management plan launched

The Draft East Gippsland Fishery Management Plan has been released for public comment. The draft management plan includes proposals to improve recreational fishing activities in inland waters of East Gippsland including the Mitchell, Wonnangatta, Dargo, Nicholson, Tambo, Snowy, Brodribb, Delegate, Bemm, Cann and Genoa rivers as well as Sydenham, Tamboon and Wingan inlets and the Snowy River estuary.

The estuarine fisheries of Lake Tyers and Mallacoota Inlet are addressed in separate plans and the estuarine fisheries of the Gippsland Lakes will be addressed in a future plan.

The draft management plan outlines strategies for sustainably managing the East Gippsland fishery including assessing the sustainability of the recreational harvest popular species in the region including black bream, dusky flathead, estuary perch, Australian bass and trout.

Another important focus is for Fisheries Victoria to work with East Gippsland traditional owners on local fisheries management.

Fisheries Victoria encourages public contribution regarding this draft management plan.

Visit <http://www.new.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/Managing-Fisheries/east-gippsland-fishery-management-plan/draft-east-gippsland-fishery-management-plan>

All comments should be sent to Fisheries Victoria by January 11.

More? DPI Customer Service Centre 136 186

Landcare network launches new website

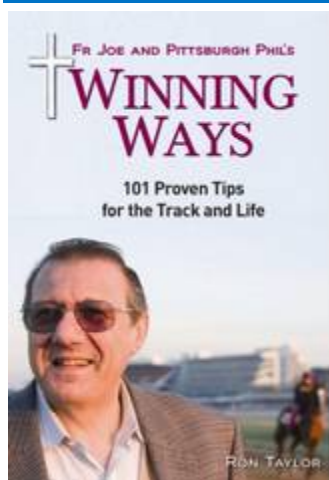
The South Gippsland Landcare Network has launched its new website at: www.sgln.org.au

Local community goes on show

The 2011 Neerim District Country Show offers various competitions, entertainment and displays of local produce, art and craft and garden presentations prepared by the local community on January 22-23 from 7.30am- 4pm at the Neerim Recreation Reserve.

More? Leon Fewster 5628 1615 or lfewster@iprimus.com.au

Just released



101 Proven tips for the track and life

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

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

The ABC of running a B and B

A new addition to our website is a highly practical guide to establishing and running a bed and breakfast. Prepared as part of the smallholder session Agribusiness Gippsland ran at Latrobe City Council, it offers insights, tips and clever techniques to running an accommodation business. Stephanie Hume kindly shared her thoughts and we thank her for her efforts.
More? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>

South Gippsland Shire seeks public feedback on plans

South Gippsland Shire Council is currently seeking public feedback on a number of plans and proposals for the region including:

- [Loch, Nyora, Poowong and Meeniyan Development plans](#)
- [Waste Strategy Survey](#)
- [Rezoning the Korumburra Saleyards](#)
- [Community consultation on Council Plans](#)
- [Council Services](#)

More? South Gippsland Shire Council 5662 9200 or visit http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=848

Bushfire book launch at Lardner Park

More than 160 people, many of them bushfire affected, attended the 'Out of the Ashes' book launch at Lardner Park on November 21. The book, funded by a grant from the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, commemorates the spirit of the community and the incredible efforts to date to rebuild from out of the ashes.

Copies of the book are available to the Baw Baw Shire Community.

More? Baw Baw Shire Council 5624 2411 or visit <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au>

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

Meetings this month are:

- Dec 17: Moe
- Dec 20: Bairnsdale
- Dec 26: Drouin
- Dec 28: Stony Creek

Meetings next month are:

- Jan 2: Bairnsdale
- Jan 4: Stony Creek
- Jan 9: Woolamai
- Jan 15: Bairnsdale
- Jan 22: Moe
- Jan 22: Woolamai
- Jan 26: Sale

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

East Gippsland Shire seeking audit committee member

The primary role of the East Gippsland Shire audit committee is to assist council fulfil its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems, ethical accountability and the internal and external audits. Nominations are sought for one external independent member.

More? Mike Quist 5153 9500

Project to enhance Cape Liptrap

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is delivering a component of the Enhancing the Cape Liptrap to Bunarong Biolink Project in conjunction with the WGCMA and Greening Australia. The project targets high-quality remnant vegetation and the creation of biolinks.

More? Visit www.sgin.org.au

Beefing up the network with 'BetterBeef'

The BetterBeef Network has been established to provide Victorian beef producers the opportunity to access the latest beef research results and participate in courses that will increase skills and knowledge.

BetterBeef Network groups will be established during autumn 2011. Each group will involve 10–15 producers plus a group co-ordinator from the private sector or Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Groups will meet on-farm up to six times per year, with their activities aligned to Meat and Livestock Australia's More Beef from Pastures program.

More? Dougal Purcell 5336 6794 or dougal.purcell@dpi.vic.gov.au

Understand biodynamic systems

The Biodynamic Education Centre presents a unique opportunity to participate in a competency-based program for biodynamic agriculture in the Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening.

Participants in the course 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 for the course 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

Opera Viventi performing in Bass Coast

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

More? Bass Coast Shire Council 1300 226 278

Gippsland gets dam safe

More than 50 people gathered in Traralgon in early December to test emergency responses to different dam safety scenarios for Southern Rural Water's dams in Gippsland. The event was the first ever multi-agency desktop exercise held in the region and included representatives from across Southern Rural Water, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria Police, the Department of Human Services, Victoria SES, Wellington, Latrobe and Baw Baw Shires, the West Gippsland CMA, Gippsland Water, TruEnergy, Loy Yang A and Loy Yang B. Participants studied earthquake damage and water quality issues at Blue Rock Dam, and major floods at Glenmaggie.

More? Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510

Climate variability discussed from the ground up

Climate variability will be discussed at an adaptive forages field day at Flynn and Yarram on Thursday, December 16. There are morning and afternoon field days: 9-10.30am at Rathjen's farm, Flynn Creek Rd, Flynn, or 1pm-2.30pm at Bowden's farm, Greenmount Rd, Yarram.

[More? Frank Mickan 5624 2259](#)

Moonlight Sanctuary moves into the spotlight

Pearcedale's Moonlit Sanctuary shone at the Victorian Tourism Awards recently. The sanctuary was named as the best eco-tourism business in the state. It is now in the running for the national award held in Perth on March 11, 2010.

Pulling in the crowds by the tractor-load

The Tooradin Tractor Pull and Truck Show is a non-profit event that will be held Saturday, January 15 from 10am at Rutter Reserve, South Gippsland Highway. Entry before 12pm is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children or \$40 for a family. Entry after 12pm is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children and \$60 for a family. Children under 10 are free.

[More? Peter McGrath 9555 7922 or peter.mcgrath@rydell.com.au](#)

Dairy feed switch prompts milk taste research

Researchers from Victoria's Department of Primary Industries (DPI) at Ellinbank in Gippsland are working with PhD student Ghazal Akbaridoost to compare milk produced by cows fed different supplements.

The milk from the different feed types will be analysed for fat and protein composition, as well as fatty acids, organic acids and high-value lipids. The milk samples will then be used to make yogurts to test for their flavour, functionality and health-giving components. The work is to ensure that proposed feeding systems do not compromise milk and product quality.

Scientists turn detective and dig dirt

Gippsland agronomist Leo Hamilton along with seed industry specialists have been investigating why sub clover has been performing poorly on several East Gippsland farms. A trial in one of the affected paddocks showed that the sub clover varieties failed to establish and grow effectively compared to other legumes, such as vetch.

Examination of problem paddocks revealed that the farmer had fed cattle with cereal silage and hay two years previously and that the cereals had been treated with a herbicide, which subsequently affected the growth of clover.

[More? DPI Ellinbank 5624 2222](#)

Government announces changes to rural youth allowance

From January 2011 there will be further changes to the independence criteria for Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY for students who live in outer regional, rural or remote areas. For young people living in these areas, the earnings and part-time work criteria for independence will be available to them if:

- they need leave home to study because their family is located in an area designated as 'outer regional', 'remote' or 'very remote' by the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- they earn at least 75% of **Wage Level A** in an 18 month period or work at least 15 hours per week for two years since leaving secondary school
- their parent/s or guardian/s earn less than \$150,000 a year
- they are studying full-time.

Maps of the remote areas in each state and territory are available from <http://youth.gov.au>
If a student has already qualified for Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY as an independent, these changes will not affect them.

[More? Visit](#)

www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/individuals/changes_youth_allowance.htm

Know your legal obligations

A series of booklets outlining the legal and regulatory obligations relevant to the conduct of a farming business in Victoria has been released by the Department of Primary Industries. The booklets are designed for use by land managers and primary producers and provide a list of the relevant legislation and explain their purpose.

The free booklets are titled Biodiversity, Chemical Management, Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety, Livestock Management, Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management, Soil Management, Waste Management, and Water Management.

Copies are available at <http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/about-agriculture/streamlining-property-management>.

Discover strawberries and beyond!

The Dromana Lions and Lioness Strawberry Festival brings the community together to discover products produced on the Peninsula with the main theme being strawberries on Saturday, January 8 from 8am-1pm at the Dromana Recreation Reserve.

More? Graeme Wilson 5981 8970

Rejuvenating by revegetating

The Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group has received a \$20,000 grant for 'rejuvenating by revegetating' the bare hills and gullies in and around Mardan. The project targets six properties and involves 8.3ha revegetation, 2.5m fencing, 10,000 tubestock and 1kg indigenous seed.

Agritourism dossier available

What are the common factors that determine a successful agritourism venture? What do the failures always do wrong? Agribusiness Gippsland has completed a literature review as part of last year's study of Gippsland's agritourism sector. We have compiled the findings into a fascinating, easy-to-read dossier. Drawing on local, Australian and overseas studies, it presents the financials of agritourism, the trends in Gippsland, the challenges, and some early data on regional agritourism operations, along with ideas from existing successful operators. The cost is \$30 plus GST. Email orders at susanw@ptarmigan.com.au or via www.aginc.wordpress.com

Looking for a venue for 20 people? Or 20,000? Look at Lardner Park, near Warragul. We have a reputation for large-scale events, such as Farm World, Trucks In Action and the Civil Works Expo. We also have flexibility for smaller meetings, conferences and workshops. The Lardner Park board room and pavilions are ideal for equipment and product launches. Our location is convenient for Melbourne/Gippsland attendees.



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

Enjoy the fun of the fair

The 2011 Bass Coast Summer Agricultural Show will be held on January 8-9 at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve. Horse events are run and judged on Saturday and Sunday. Livestock events are judged on Saturday only. Pavilion exhibits such as cookery and crafts are judged from Wednesday to Friday, and are on display to the public on Saturday.

More? www.basscoastagshow.org.au/

Market focuses on fresh and local produce

The Coal Creek Farmers Market puts seasonal produce, local producers and artisan makers in the spotlight; accessible and affordable to the South Gippsland community. This is planned to be an authentic farmers' market, allowing only genuine growers with no re-sellers. The market is held at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.

More? 0459 629 000 or farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au

Alert over Gippsland's watery invader

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is urging all land owners to keep a sharp eye out for infestations of a fast-growing water weed that poses a threat to water quality and native plants and animals.

Over the past winter, DPI has been monitoring and treating a salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) infestation across five dams at Dawson, near Heyfield.

Salvinia is declared as a State prohibited weed and poses a serious threat to Victoria's waterways and biodiversity due to its fast growing and invasive nature. Salvinia floats on the water surface and prefers still or slow-moving water. Its leaves can measure up to six centimetres wide, are bright green, oval shaped and covered in waxy hairs that repel water from the leaf surface. Leaves are arranged in pairs on a 'string' and fold together when bunched up.

Land owners are urged not to attempt to control or dispose of any suspect salvinia plants themselves, but to call DPI immediately to arrange for the safe removal of the plants.

More? DPI 136 186

Support given to enhance koala habitat

HVP Plantations has signed as a supporter of the SGLN Friends of the Strzelecki Koala project.

Farewell and welcome

Tony Gardner has left SGLN on to take up a role with the WGCMA as Healthy Soils Sustainable Farms Project Coordinator.

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.

WORK AVAILABLE:

Communications Officer

An opportunity exists for a public relations/communications professional with relevant experience to work for one of Australia's most innovative local government authorities. Reporting to the Manager Communications, you will be responsible for developing and delivering communication strategies; coordinating a range of community information activities, providing media and communications advice to senior management and writing and editing publications. Visit www.casey.vic.gov.au or call 9705 5200 to obtain the position description. Applications close Monday 20 December 2010.

ADHIS Extension Officer

The Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme is seeking an Extension Officer to support the implementation of tools and activities designed to improve the understanding and use of ABVs. This role suits a person who is:

- is passionate about maximising opportunities for farmers to benefit from genetics
- is an effective verbal and written communicator
- enjoys building effective professional relationships

Applications including detailed resume should be submitted by COB Tuesday December 21.

More? Michelle Axford 0427 573 330 or maxford@adhis.com.au or visit www.adhis.com.au

WORK SOUGHT:

Fire management planning

Consultant available to prepare sustainable fire management plans for your property or small reserve. Contact Helen Bull 0400 310 188 or h.bull@bigpond.com

Need staff?

Try 12 or six months of cost-effective undergraduate recruits from accounting, sciences, marketing, HR and PR/comms/media. Candidates available for paid full-time or half-time placements.

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



Want to reach the right audience? More than 3000

'yes-please' subscribers read GippyAGchat.

Farmers, farm consultants, agronomists, stock agents, catchment management and DPI staffers, local councils, regional and federal politicians... everyone who makes agribusiness grow across Gippsland. 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: high pr hotham blog comments sites, agribusiness logo, Marcus Oldham college, owen stickles, presentation techniques; keith hamilton, Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum, cheire smirl, haty gippy, jamiesons, olive grove fish creek, natalie collard, title: deputy ceo at australian dairy farmers, womens group 2010, mark lawrence naturopath, nab small business logo, haty gippy.

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 |
|--------|--|--------------|------------------|
| Dec 15 | ATO Business Deductions Essentials Seminar | Narre Warren | ATO 1300 661 104 |
| Dec 15 | ATO Activity Statements Essentials Seminar | Narre Warren | ATO 1300 661 104 |

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|-----------|---|---|--|
| Dec 15 | Fire walk and talk | Peninsula Sands | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Dec 16 | Adaptive forages field day | Flynn | Frank Mickan 5624 2259 |
| Dec 16 | Adaptive forages field day | Yarram | Frank Mickan 5624 2259 |
| Dec 16 | Fire walk and talk | Earimil Creek Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Dec 17 | Country Race Meet | Moe | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 20 | Country Race Meet | Bairnsdale | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 22 | Fire walk and talk | Weeroona Street Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Dec 26 | Country Race Meet | Drouin | 1300 139 402 |
| Dec 28 | Country Race Meet | Stony Creek | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 2 | Country Race Meet | Bairnsdale | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 4 | Country Race Meet | Stony Creek | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 8 | Coal Creek Farmers Market | Coal Creek | |
| January 8 | Dromana Lions and Lioness Strawberry Festival | Dromana | Graeme Wilson 5981 8970 |
| Jan 8-9 | Bass Coast Summer Agricultural Show | Wonthaggi | |
| Jan 9 | Country Race Meet | Woolamai | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 15 | Country Race Meet | Bairnsdale | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 15 | Tooradin Tractor Pull and Truck Show | Tooradin | Peter McGrath 9555 7922 |
| Jan 18 | Fire walk and talk | Hearn Creek /Hove road Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Jan 19 | Fire walk and talk | Unthanks Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Jan 20 | Fire walk and talk | Mathis Avenue Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Jan 22-23 | Neerim District Country Show | Neerim | Leon Fewster 5628 1615 |
| Jan 22 | Country Race Meet | Moe | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 22 | Country Race Meet | Woolamai | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 26 | Country Race Meet | Sale | 1300 139 402 |
| Jan 27 | Fire walk and talk | Gunyong Creek Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Jan 29-30 | Annual Eastern Districts Fire Brigade Competition | Maffra | Justin Carrolan 5141 1865 |
| Feb 1 | Fire walk and talk | Station Street Roadside Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Feb 2 | Fire walk and talk | Warringine Park Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Feb 5 | Fire walk and talk | Waterfall Gully Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Feb 8 | Fire walk and talk | Tootgarook Wetland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Feb 9 | Fire walk and talk | Jackson Way | Mornington Peninsula Shire |

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|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | Bushland Reserve | 1300 850 600 |
| Feb 10 | Fire walk and talk | Moorooduc Quarry Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Feb 12 | Serenade at Sunset | Grantville | 5671 2222 |
| Feb 15 | Fire walk and talk | Ferguson Drive Bushland Reserve | Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600 |
| Mar 18,19,20 | Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening- Level 1 | Mirboo North | Walter 02 4474 3971 |
| Mar 23, 25 | Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening- Level 2 | Mirboo North | Walter 02 4474 3971 |
| Mar 27, 28 | Foundation Course for Biodynamic Farming and Gardening – Level 3 | Mirboo North | Walter 02 4474 3971 |

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