



Gippy AGchat January 31, 2011 – Issue 38

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 3533 recipients (*that's 233 sign-ups over the Christmas break.*)

Our partners (and we thank them):



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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.
- Email us at ptarmigan1@internode.on.net or ptarmigan2@internode.on.net
- Phone us 9456 9791 or 0402 267 802
- Fax us at 9459 9699

The 'must-see' conference ... if future energy matters to you

Bioenergy, methane digesters, nuclear, wind and geothermal power are on the program of the Agribusiness Gippsland conference at Morwell next month addressing the impacts of a low-carbon economy on agribusiness.

The programme includes speakers who will present on alternative sources of energy as well as emerging trends that can be adopted by individual enterprises.

A booking form is attached to this email as a Word document or you can download a version from our web or blog sites.

Among the expert speakers will be:

- Dr Steve Schuck, Manager, Bio-Energy Australia on national/international bio-energy trends and how they could work locally
- Mike Angwin, Executive Director, Australian Uranium Association on the nuclear alternative.
- Liz Hamilton, Senior Bioenergy Industry Officer, DPI on energy through wood pellets on farm
- Tony St Clair, MBD Energy Ltd on understanding sequestration
- Ed Gibson, MD Sundermann Water Power on the power of water
- Dr Donald Payne, Direct Energy on geothermal
- Chris Davidson, MD, Bellwether Agriculture on progress with a methane digesting project
- Matthew Percival, Corporate Engineer-Energy with Murray Goulburn on the bio-gas development at Leongatha
- Martin May, director, Hepburn Wind on the establishment of the wind farm and the community response
- Charlie Spiers, director, Clean Coal Victoria on clean coal
- Mark Millar, MD, Greenearth Energy Ltd on the Latrobe Valley geothermal exploration. PLUS: Field trips to local alternative energy projects

The conference will be held at the Italian Australian Club, Morwell, on March 2-3 with the conference dinner on Wednesday 2.

Energy: Agribusiness in a low-carbon economy

WHERE? Italian Australian Club, 499 – 501 Princes Drive, Morwell

WHEN? March 2-3, 2011

CONFERENCE COST: \$250 for two days/ \$75 for conference dinner

More? Christine Holland at t.cholland@bigpond.com or 0418 574 446. Bookings through Lardner Park Events pam@lardnerpark.com.au

Fodder help sought for flood-hit farms

Agribusiness Gippsland was asked to seek hay donations for flood-hit northern Victoria from agencies such as Gippsland water corporations and local shires. We secured promises of hay sufficient for about seven semi-loads, destined for Rochester. Donations of haulage – or donations to help pay for the fuel – are the next items on the must-do list. Any ideas? Ph Sue 0402 278 802

Food help sought for flood victims

VicRelief Foodbank (VRFB) is providing urgent food and aid relief to some 1500-plus people living in the worst of regional Victoria's flood-affected isolated communities. VRFB deliveries include bread, water, margarine, mineral water, apricots, jam, vegemite, muesli bars and cheese and water. Items such as UHT milk and canned meals are now sought.

More? Food donations - Mike Cannon 9362 8377; logistics - Dave McNamara 9362 8313; Marketing/Media/cash donations - Fran Poisson 0402 42 6789 or Rowena Booker 9362 8314

Casey cares for flood victims

Entertainers are donating their time in a special Casey Mayoral charity event for Victorian and Queensland flood victims on Saturday, February 12 from 7-10pm at River Gum Performing

Arts Centre, Hampton Park Secondary College, Fordholm Road. Profits will be distributed by the City of Casey's Mayoral Charity Fund to victims of the Victorian and Queensland floods. All tickets are \$12, only available online at www.trybooking.com/LCD.

More? Wayne Smith 0417 389 039

Young dairy farmers go out for a gas!

Members of the Gippsland Young Dairy Development Program (YDDP) will travel to south west Victoria to see some of the innovative research projects being undertaken at Terang's DemoDAIRY that aim to reduce greenhouse gases caused by dairy farm production. The event is open to YDDP members and other young dairy farmers and dairy farm employees interested in learning more about dairy farm greenhouse gas emissions. The greenhouse gas emissions seminar will be held on February 2 from 11.30am-2.30pm at DemoDAIRY, 7161 Princes Highway, Terang.

More? Louise Sheba 5592 2199 or louise@demodairy.org.au

New directions from DPI at Farm World

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

More? Lardner Park 5626 1373

Developing an online business strategy

Find out how Small Business Victoria workshops enabled the Mornington Peninsula's Nazaaray Estate Winery to grow its customer base and double sales with an online strategy.

More? http://www.business.vic.gov.au/BUSVIC/STANDARD/PC_63769.html

Baw Baw planning for emergencies

Baw Baw Shire Council is gathering feedback from community members which will assist in developing Community Emergency Plans. From these plans, individuals will be able to make their own personal plans to follow in emergency situations.

To assist complete a short survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YYDT77C>

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:

- 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

Please contact Mornington Peninsula Shire to RSVP and to find out the walk and talk meeting point for each reserve.

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

Festival features fine food

The 'Glade' on the Inverloch foreshore is the backdrop for a day of fine local food, wine and entertainment at the Inverloch Food and Wine Festival on Saturday, March 5 from 10.30am-

5pm. Entry is \$10, no charge for children and a tastings glass to sample South Gippsland's finest wine is only \$5.

More? Visitors' centre 1300 762 433 or visit www.visitinverloch.com

Public meeting to discuss recycled water use for food belt

The Casey Cardinia growers' forum for the Bunyip food belt is holding a meeting to discuss establishing an intensive food production area supplied with Class A recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant (ETP) for farms in the Cardinia-Casey corridor. The meeting will be held on February 10 from 3-5pm at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham.

More? Frances Grigoriou 5945 0402 or f.grigoriou@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Summer crops on show with winter results

Southern Farming Systems Gippsland branch will show off its summer crop trials (maize, sunflowers, millet, grain and grazing sorghum) and present the winter trial results in the one session in late February, at the SFS trial site, Bengworden Road, Bengworden.

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

Go green and save

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

More? Karen Meyers 5624 2622 or karen.meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

What makes it rain in Victoria?

Dale Grey from the DPI will explain weather and the cause of many of the strange weather events that have occurred in the last few of months in an Agfutures Future Farming event. The event will be held on Thursday March 3 from 9am-12:30pm (catering provided) at the Giffard West Hall, South Gippsland Highway Giffard West. RSVP by February 24.

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

SFS Gippsland announces Best Crop Competition 2011

Southern Farming Systems Gippsland has announced that a 'Best Crop Competition' for the Gippsland cropper's will be held in 2011! More details will be announced soon.

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

Manufacturers get out and about

Manufacturers in Baw Baw Shire invited to attend a networking function on February 10 from 4.30-7.30pm at Lay Flat Trailers, 6 Endeavour St, Warragul. This is a free event with refreshments provided. RSVP for catering purposes.

More? Karen Meyers 5624 2522 or karen.meyers@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.

Women make it work over breakfast

The next Women Making It Work networking breakfast will be on February 10 from 7-8.30am at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham. The cost is \$25 (members and non-members). Bookings can be made online at www.wmiw.com.au before February 3.

More? Women Making It Work 0407 009 656

Red Gut samples wanted

Simon Falkiner, a SFS Grain and Graze Officer, is seeking samples for a study on Red Gut. He needs golfball-size sections of warm liver from lambs that have died from Red Gut. The samples need to be collected and frozen while still warm. Simon will collect samples.

[More? Simon Falkiner 0407 319 967](#)

Raingardens program improves stormwater quality

Under Melbourne Water's "Healthy Waterways Raingardens Program" 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 rivers and creeks. Deadline is February 11.

[More? Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/melbourne-water-raingarden-grant](http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/melbourne-water-raingarden-grant)

Get into the great Gippy outdoors

Get into the great Gippy outdoors at the Outdoor Adventure Leisure Home Xpo at Kernot Hall in Morwell from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 February. Agribusiness Gippsland will be there, too!

[More? Jeffrey Leech 1300 665 059 or email info@homeshowexpos.com.au](mailto:info@homeshowexpos.com.au)

Climate examined at Cann Valley

Alistair Christie, DPI Project Officer – Sustainable Agriculture Services at Orbost will be addressing Landcare groups across far-east Gippsland from next month, discussing Victoria's climate systems. The first session will be held at Cann Valley Landcare meeting on February 1 at Cann Community Centre, from 7pm.

[More? Phone DPI Orbost 5161 1365](tel:51611365)

Fancy a cockroach and chips for dinner?

Dutch researchers have found that insects create up to half the greenhouse gases of livestock, suggesting insects be used for human consumption. Scientists from Wageningen University studied emissions raising crickets, mealworms, locusts, sun beetles and cockroaches, and found that some produce half the emissions/kg of cattle or swine.

[More? Visit www.plosone.org/](http://www.plosone.org/)

Humidity warning on stockfeed

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is advising livestock producers that while recent rain could provide valuable green feed, producers needed to keep close watch on stock to avoid possible health problems. Livestock can be affected by humid conditions and an increase in toxic weeds, mould and fungi, and parasites. Sheep producers in particular needed to check their stock more regularly than normal in order to prevent health problems such as fly strike and internal parasites.

Gippsland YDDP to tour south-west Victoria

The Gippsland Young Dairy Development Program is organising a three-day tour of the south-west from February 1-3 with sites from Heywood to Birregurra on the agenda.

The program covers electronic ID systems, alternative feeding methods, summer crops, automatic milking systems, biodiversity, and feeding pastures for profit.

[More? Contact WestVic Dairy 5592 2477 or info@westvicdairy.com.au](mailto:info@westvicdairy.com.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 in one or more of the following project areas is March 31:

- Fisheries' sustainability and habitat improvement
- Fishing access and facilities
- Fisheries-related education, information and training

- Recreational fisheries-related research.

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

Make networking effective

The art of effective networking will be discussed in a fun, friendly and interactive session on February 15 from 6-8.30pm in Suite 7/61 Smith Street, Warragul. This seminar discusses how to create a 30-second 'elevator' pitch, instant rapport with anyone, how to use networking events strategically, and more. The cost is \$20 per person and refreshments are provided. For bookings visit: www.business.vic.gov.au/workshops (ID: 5426)

More? Karen Meyers on 5624 2622 or karen.meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Farmers market carries fresh food

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

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

Calling all Phillip Island and San Remo households!

Sustainability Starter Kits are free for attendees at an introductory sessions and sign up for the Sustaining Local Communities Landcare project. For a time commitment of two information sessions, free sustainability assessment of your home and recording of billing information to check savings, this is a great opportunity for households.

The introductory session will be held in meeting room 1 at Cowes Cultural Centre, Thompson Avenue on Thursday, February 3 from 2-4.30pm (bookings essential).

More? Lisa Wangman 0409 366 914 or l.wangman@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Have your say on the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan

Latrobe City Council is seeking public comment on the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan draft Key Directions Report that will underpin the town centre plan and urban design framework. Written submissions must be received by close of business on Tuesday, February 15.

More? Gail Gatt 1300 367 700 or visit

<http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Projects/TraralgonActivityCentrePlan>

GRDC's regional panels open for applications

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

More? Visit www.grdc.com.au

Belgium –it is more than chocolate and beer

Michael Spencer and his mob at FSC Australia, the group seeking certification of responsible forestry, sent us a short, funny video produced by Belgian counterparts. [YouTube here](#). (NB: You might like to watch it away from the kids.) The last line reads "Luckily there are other ways to show your love".

Grants to fight soil erosion

DPI in East Gippsland has small grants available to landholders to prevent and/or repair soil erosion on their properties. The grants can be used for fencing, laneway and stock watering works to enable rotational grazing or to take the pressure off erosion prone areas. Grants are available on a dollar for dollar cost-sharing arrangement with land-holders able to make cash, labour and/or in-kind contributions.

More? Alistair Christie 0428 519 297

What's on show?

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

More? Amanda Mason 9707 0399 or berwickshow@bigpond.com or visit www.berwickshow.org.au

Pasture cropping trial commencing

The Southern Farming Systems Gippsland branch has announced funding has come through for their pasture cropping trial. The current funding is for East Gippsland only but work is continuing to obtain funds for the West Gippsland region.

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

Meet and greet in the peninsula

Peninsula Business Networking invites all interested people to welcome the New Year with members and guests. This breakfast networking event gives you the opportunity to meet new contacts, let the network know what you would like to see and hear for your business in 2011. The breakfast, followed by the Annual General Meeting, will be held on from 7-8.30am on February 8 at the Mornington Golf Club, Tallis Drive, Mornington. The cost is \$30 members/\$40 non members and includes a full breakfast.

More? Kathryn 0419 925 516 or info@penbusnetwork.com or www.penbusnetwork.com

Increased reports of myxomatosis

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has had an increase in the number of reports of outbreaks of myxomatosis recently. Myxomatosis persists in the environment and reoccurs when conditions are favourable and is spread by biting insects such as fleas, mosquitoes, mites, lice and flies. Effective rabbit control uses an integrated approach involving ripping, fumigation, baiting and harbour removal.

More? DPI 136186 visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Take a walk though time

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

More? Gill Heal 0427 511 507 or Gilheal@internode.on.net

Booklet helps Casey become resilient

The City of Casey has published 'A Resilient Casey', an easy-to-read booklet which provides residents with a guide on how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies – from local issues such as house fire, through to whole-of-community issues such as flooding, severe storms, explosions and hazardous material spills.

More? City of Casey 9705 5200 or visit <http://www.casey.vic.gov.au>

Hot new potatoes from DPI

Agriculture Victoria Services (AVS), the commercial arm of the DPI, has released two new potato varieties. The first cultivar exhibits a superior yield to Sebago and Coliban varieties, has a mid-season maturity and is suitable for both brushed and washed markets. The other has a reasonable yield for a mid-early season maturity. With a short dormancy, it could be suitable for double cropping, and brushed and washed markets.

More? DPI customer service 13 61 86 or customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au

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 PM and Australia’s chief scientist on February 4.

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

A view across farm dams

Sinclair Knight Merz has recently prepared a report for Engineers Australia. It recommends metering farm dams like water allocations.

It concludes: “It is essential that the impact of farm dams be accounted for in the same manner that regulated diversions are currently managed.” Here is the report:

http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/shadomx/apps/fms/fmsdownload.cfm?file_uuid=A064D81F-C1E8-895C-6749-6691DA715D12&siteName=ieaust

Finalist honour for alpaca farmer

Darnum alpaca grower and agri-tourism business operator Angela Betheras has been named a finalist in the prestigious Victorian 2011 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women’s Award.

Field day features future ready farm

A Future Ready field day at Stuart and Jenny Bland's Alberton farm on February 9 takes a close look at how Stuart and Jenny are adjusting their farm to the drier seasons. The changes to their calving pattern and feedbase will be the focus of discussions.

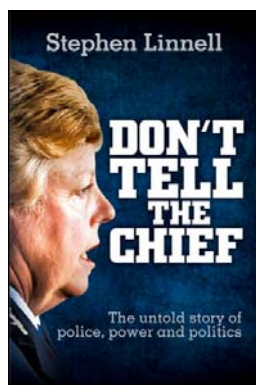
Contact Gillian Hayman 0428 345 493

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>

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](#)

SE Water uses new drilling technique

South East Water has used a unique engineering technique for the construction of sewer pump stations. It is currently being applied to the upgrade of a sewer pump station on Thornhill St in Hastings as part of the Somers Recycled Water Project.

The technique replaces traditional open cut methods generally used by drilling a pump shaft to the exact size required. This means the excavation site was a mere five metres in diameter, rather than the 24 metres that is generally required for open cut methods.

Heritage grants announced

Cardinia Shire Council is now taking applications for the 2011 Heritage Grants Program. Community groups and individuals are able to apply up to \$5000 to support projects conserving historical local buildings and objects. It is possible for large scale projects to be awarded funding for separate stages of restorations works. Applications close February 25. [More? Cardinia Shire Council 1300 787 624 or mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

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

Meetings next month are:

- Feb 5: Buchan
- Feb 6: Sale
- Feb 12: Woolamai
- Feb 13: Moe
- Feb 18: Sale
- Feb 20: Bairnsdale
- Feb 25: Sale
- Feb 26: Woolamai

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

Give replacement sheep the shot

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is reminding sheep producers of the benefits of buying replacement sheep that have been vaccinated against Ovine Johne's disease (OJD). The Assurance Based Credit (ABC) scheme provides credit points for sheep vaccinated against OJD with a higher the ABC score (1-10) indicating a lower the risk of OJD. DPI also recommends that producers ask for a Sheep Health Statement (SHS) with any purchase of sheep to gain information about health status, including the mob's ABC score, ovine brucellosis accreditation, virulent footrot, lice treatments and vaccinations.

[More? DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or www.dpi.vic.gov.au/farming/ojd](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/farming/ojd)

Opera Viventi performing in Bass Coast

High-profile vocal quartet Opera Viventi will be performing on February 12 at Grantville. Tickets 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](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au)

Inventive farmer required

Equestrian clients keep requesting small hay bales – while most contractors' machinery nowadays spits out big rounds. Tony Ferres, who runs the farms for Westernport Water, said: "What we need is someone to invent a roof to fit over a typical cattle feed ring, something that would keep the hay dry. It would need a straight edge, not angled, that the horses could fit their heads under because horses tend to be taller than cows. And if it were a cone shape, it would make it easy to roll away when not in use..."

There's a challenge for all you shed-men (and shed-women) out there.

Supporting skills recognition

Rural Skills Australia is inviting expressions of interest from up to 60 farmers to take part in a trial to make skills recognition more affordable and achievable in regional Australia. Participants will be guided through an on-line supported process, where the assessment of skills, knowledge and experience can lead to formal recognition of agricultural competencies. This will take the form of qualifications at Diploma or Certificate IV level. Each selected individual will be asked to contribute \$200 towards the cost of the initiative. The trial will be conducted in the first half of 2011.

More? Email admin@ruralskills.com.au or call 1800 647 798.

Economic outlook delivers market information

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

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

Book a SELECTABULL session

Learn how to use a web-based tool to assist in bull selection for your dairy breeding program. SELECTABULL workshops can be delivered to groups at locations across Gippsland. Dates can be arranged for any time, depending on demand.

More? Ashleigh Michael 5662 9901 or ash.michael@dpi.vic.gov.au

New CORE 4 program to help dairy farms

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

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

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

- Wednesday, February 9 for the Nilma and Buln Buln district at the Buln Buln Football Club, Old Sale Rd, Buln Buln
- Friday, February 11 for the Trafalgar/Yarragon area at the Trafalgar Business Centre, Princes Hwy, Trafalgar
- Monday, February 14 for Yinnar/Driffield/Boolarra areas at the Yinnar Memorial Hall, Main St, Yinnar
- Wednesday, February 16 for Tyers/Glengarry areas at the WGCMA office, 16 Hotham St, Traralgon
- Friday, February 18 for the Neerim district at the Kings Arms Hotel, Main Neerim Rd, Neerim South
- Wednesday, February 23 for Willow Grove/Hill End at the Willow Grove Football Club, corner Main Rd and Blue Rock Rd, Willow Grove
- Friday, February 25 for Darnum/Ellinbank areas at the Darnum Hall, Main St, Darnum.

More? John Gallienne 0407 863 493

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

More small grants to improve fishing

Revenue from the sale of recreational fishing licences continues to fund projects that improve angling opportunities throughout Victoria, with a further 14 grants provided through the Small Grants Program.

Among the 14 new projects are:

- \$4,960 to conduct a 'Junior Fishing Day' event at Corinella Jetty
- \$4,560 to evaluate pipi stocks in the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park
- \$2,500 to co-fund 2,000 pipi buckets to promote the reduced bag limit at Cape Liptrap Coastal Park
- \$4,500 to conduct a 'Learn to Fish' convention at Lakes Entrance
- \$3,664 to conduct six 'fishing for diversity' events at Barwon Heads
- \$1,425 to conduct a Family Surf Fishing tuition day at Venus Bay.

More? Visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing/feesatwork

Loch gets crafty

The Loch Village Craft and Quilt festival features a range of crafts on display and for sale with quality artisans and suppliers present in the Loch streets and halls. The festival will be held on Sunday February 6 from 10am-4pm.

More? Carol 5659 4310 or visit www.loch.org.au

JOBS: A free feature in GippyAGchat

Times being what they are, we are running free job ads. If you're seeking work, or workers, please flick an email to susanw@ptarmigan.com.au and we'll give you a free plug. No large files, no photos, no sales pitches and full contact details, please.

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. 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 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

Hello Fiona

Fiona Weigall has been newly appointed Manager Major Projects and Economic Development at East Gippsland Shire.

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: logo ideas, clean coal victoria, dpi jane burton, heather robbins rouin, jenny o'sullivan farmer, people of east Gippsland photos.

Praise comes from afar

We have friends in far-flung places. This comment was posted on our blogsite <http://aginc.wordpress.com> from Norbert, a German reader.

“Magnificent site, pls continue your work and keep us updated with new entries”

Other comments posted on our blog mid-January read:

“Great blog! I truly love how it's easy on my eyes and the details are well written.”

And:“Maintain the great work mate. This website article shows how well you comprehend and know this subject.”

...And hopefully the food was marginally better...

A Boeing 747-400 passenger jet can hold 416 passengers. Our blog (www.aginc.wordpress.com) was viewed about 1,400 times in 2010. That's about 3 full 747s.

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
Feb 1	Fire walk and talk	Station Street Roadside Reserve	Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
Feb 1	Climate Systems discussion	Cann River	DPI Orbost 5161 1365

Feb 1-3	Gippsland YDDP to tour south-west Victoria		WestVic Dairy 5592 2477
Feb 2	Fire walk and talk	Warringine Park Bushland Reserve	Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
Feb 2	YDDP greenhouse gas seminar	Terang	Louise Sheba 5592 2199
Feb 3	Sustaining Local Communities Landcare project introductory session	Cowes	Lisa Wangman 0409 366 914
Feb 5	Fire walk and talk	Waterfall Gully Bushland Reserve	Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
Feb 5	Country Race Meet	Buchan	1300 139 402
Feb 6	Loch Village Craft and Quilt festival	Loch	Carol 03 5659 4310
Feb 6	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Feb 8	Fire walk and talk	Tootgarook Wetland Reserve	Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
Feb 9	Fire walk and talk	Jackson Way Bushland Reserve	Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
Feb 9	Core 4 cluster meeting	Buln Buln	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 9	Future Ready field day	Alberton	Gillian Hayman 0428 345 493
Feb 10	Baw Baw Manufacturers Networking Function	Warragul	Karen Meyers 5624 2522
Feb 10	Fire walk and talk	Moorooduc Quarry Bushland Reserve	Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
Feb 10	Women Making It Work – Networking Breakfast	Pakenham	0407 009 656
Feb 11	Core 4 cluster meeting	Trafalgar	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 12	Casey Mayoral charity event in support of the Victorian and Queensland flood victims	Hampton Park	Wayne Smith 0417 389 039
Feb 12	Serenade at Sunset	Grantville	5671 2222
Feb 12	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Feb 12	Coal Creek Farmers' Market	Korumburra	0459 629 000
Feb 13	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
Feb 14	Core 4 cluster meeting	Yinnar	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 15	Fire walk and talk	Ferguson Drive Bushland Reserve	Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
Feb 15	Effective networking seminar	Warragul	Karen Meyers 5624 2622
Feb 16	Core 4 cluster meeting	Traralgon	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 18	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Feb 18	Core 4 cluster meeting	Neerim South	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 20	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
Feb 23	Core 4 cluster meeting	Willow Grove	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 25	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Feb 25	Core 4 cluster meeting	Darnum	John Gallienne 0407 863 493
Feb 26	Country Race Meet	Woolamai	1300 139 402
Feb 26-27	Berwick Agricultural and Horticultural Show	Berwick	Amanda Mason 9707 0399
Mar 1-2	ABARES Outlook Conference	Canberra	Angela Ellerman 02 6272 2303
Mar 3	Explaining the weather	Giffard West	Karen Thomas 9785 0103
Mar 5	Inverloch Food and Wine Festival	Inverloch	Inverloch Information Centre

			1300 762 433
Mar 6	A Walk through Time: Stories of Loch 1876–2011	Loch	Gill Heal 0427 511 507
Mar 8	Farmers Go Green and Save Money seminar	Warragul	Karen Meyers 5624 2622
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 24-27	Farm World	Warragul	Lardner Park 5626 1373
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