



Gippy AGchat June 27, 2011 – Issue 45

Since 1997, non-profit group Agribusiness Gippsland Inc has helped support regional agribusiness by working in partnership with other organisations.
 This edition of our newsletter is going to 4089 recipients.

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

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

Bigger, better, with less bloodshed ... and a world-first ...

Bigger than *Ben Hur* and with marginally less bloodshed than your average gladiatorial gig, the ABARES/ Victorian Agribusiness Summit dinner is at Lardner Park, Warragul next Thursday, June 30. We're expecting about 80. The main speaker is VFF boss Andrew Broad, and there will be all sorts of prizes and giveaways featuring wonderful Gippsland produce including honey, olive oil, wines and preserves donated by a range of local businesses (*you'll be hearing about them next edition*). The magnificent folk at Meeniyan (*is that the friendliest town in Gippsland?*) have offered a meals and spa accommodation deal at Moo's and the Meeniyan Motel. AND in case you haven't heard ... the dinner will be the venue for the world's first REVERSE rain dance. We want to turn off the tap a little, or at least redirect the rain clouds to parts that need them. We've already had requests from farmers at Finley and Cohuna. Don't believe us? Click here...

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2011/06/23/349341_latest-news.html

Meanwhile, the registration lists are swelling for the two-day conference each side of the dinner. Speakers on June 30 include some of ABARES' sharpest brains offering insights on farm performance and outlooks for individual commodity groups, as well as national and international issues that are going to affect agriculture in the all-too-soon future.

The program is strong on first-person farmer stories on how they have handled the changes brought about by climate, market demand and individual success.

The next day brings another feast of knowhow – leading with the Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, The Hon Peter Walsh. Other speakers include Ian Halliday, the MD of Dairy Australia, Dr Bruce Kefford, DPI deputy secretary and Michael Taylor chairman of the Gardiner Foundation. And the attendee list is even more impressive.

Download the program and registration form at www.abares.gov.au/regional

Registration inquiries: Michelle Burke, events assistant, 02 6272 3051 or 02 6272 2303 or email conferences@abares.gov.au

More? Bronwyn Debenham mktstrat@sympac.com.au or 0439 337 597

Learn more = earn more? Post-grads do the figures

Four students from the University of Melbourne school of business and management will be conducting a survey during the next fortnight. They will be seeking to measure earning rates and job satisfaction in the agribusiness sector and seeing if there's any links with levels of learning, especially post-secondary learning. They are being sponsored by Agribusiness Gippsland and will be preparing a report that will be presented publicly on July 14. We thank the ECG Macmillan for offering the four young women accommodation, along with the marvellous Anna Langley, the young beef farmer from Inverloch, who suggested the topic.

Useful GLGN chat session

We had a useful session with the Gippsland Local Government Network earlier this month, including discussions on farmland rating models and valuing farmland in a food-constrained future. Agribusiness Gippsland chair Alex Arbuthnot and executive officer Sue Webster also outlined the proposed food plan for Gippsland – which could become the first of its kind in the country. We thank the GLGN and SOCOM for the opportunity for the chat.

Major dam warning for Gippsland

The region has seen 26 dams collapse this year – more than the total for the previous six years, and Southern Rural Water (SRW) has issued its third warning in a year for landowners to check their dams. Causes include vegetation growing on the dam bank, stock trampling the bank, wombat tunnelling and undersized or blocked spillways. Check dams weekly and visit the SRW website. Any problems? Phone SRW or a qualified farm dam engineer immediately.

More? Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510 or visit www.srw.com.au

Mulvany does the maths on beef

South Gippsland dairy and beef farmers could find mutual financial benefits this wet season by agisting dry and young dairy stock, according to regional farm consultant John Mulvany. Dairy farmers could protect pastures while beef farmers might make more money than running beef herds, he told a free AgFutures session supported by Agribusiness Gippsland, the DPI and the shires of Bass Coast and South Gippsland. eve

He showed the yield for a regional beef enterprise raising to 400kg liveweight/ha was 1.05% and 7.5% for an average regional dairy business running two cows/ha. He suggested beef farmers could possibly make greater returns agisting dairy stock at \$6 to \$8/head/week or \$1.50-\$2kg liveweight gain. "Agistment will be a growth area in Gippsland," he predicted.

Other speakers included David Pearson from Country Fresh Herbs, a business of about 7500sq m, on 14 acres at Cowes that employs 30 people and supplies fresh herbs through supermarkets across Victoria and Tasmania. Also addressing the session was the DPI's spatial imagery team explaining the new interactive tool that will soon be available for Gippsland showing where we will be growing what in the future.

The final joint AgFutures session will be held at Inverloch on July 7. Speakers will include a small farm-meat business that has grown to employ two people in two years, an expert on farmers' markets and the local Rural Woman of the Year, Angela Betheras. All welcome.

More? Ros Jenzen 5951 3317

Cheesemaker has nothing to be blue about

Berrys Creek Koorooman Blue won a gold medal and trophy for the highest-scoring blue mould cheese at the Dairy Industry Association of Australia competition last month. The boutique cheesery's Bellingham Blue also won a gold medal at the recent Royal Queensland Show. In the two shows, Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese took out 10 awards. Cheesemaker Barry Charlton will soon release another blue, Charltons Choice, a mild blue, soft creamy cheese, at the Loch Food and Wine Festival.

Sustainability Victoria comes under review

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, has announced a strategic review of Sustainability Victoria (SV). Sustainability Victoria is calling for community input through public forums, written submissions and online survey. A forum will be held at the Traralgon Winery on Tuesday, June 28 from 9.30am. Visit <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/2945-sustainability-victoria-review.asp?intSiteID=4>

Agri-politics for future farm leaders

Agribusiness Gippsland is looking for young future farming leaders for a day seeing the business of government first-hand. The Speaker of the Victorian Parliament Ken Smith has offered to host a visit and, if timing allows, will seek to include a session with the Victorian Agriculture Minister Peter Walsh. We are organising a free bus and lunch for attendees and are now accepting names of young people (aged up to 40) involved in agriculture and agribusiness who would like get into the corridors of power.

More? Email your contact details to susanw@ptarmigan.com.au

East Gippsland GSI Business Awards open

The GSI East Gippsland Business Awards 2011 are open to all East Gippsland businesses and recognise businesses and business people and their contribution to the region. Winners will be announced on the October 7 at a gala presentation and dinner. Nominate now as entries close August 1.

More? Visit www.eastgippslandbusinessawards.com.au

Make it Meeniyan ...

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



Meeniyan Motel is a sponsor of Agribusiness Gippsland

Awards dinner for Bass Coast

The Bass Coast Business Awards night will be held on Friday, July 8 at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club where the 2011 SuperPages Bass Coast Business and People's Choice Awards will be presented. Tickets are \$40 per person and include canapés followed by a two course dinner and entertainment from 'Big Al'.

More? Margaret Murray 1300 226 278 or email m.murray@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Are you proud of your agribusiness?

It's Business of the Year time across some Gippsland municipalities – offering farms, agritourism enterprises, farm service companies and other agribusiness firms a chance to strut their stuff. If you are proud of your farm, your business, your community involvement, your commitment to environmental sustainability why not boast about it? Some awards even have prize money. Agribusiness Gippsland can help you prepare your nomination for free. We've done it for folk in the past and yes...one of them was a winner! If you need a hand, contact Sue on 0402 267 802 or susanw@ptarmigan.com.au

- Casey: <http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/caseybusinessawards/article.asp?Item=20921>
- Mornington Peninsula: nominations open July
- Baw Baw: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
- East Gippsland Business Award: www.eastgippslandbusinessawards.com.au
- Bendigo Bank Gippsland Business Awards, supported by the South Gippsland, Wellington, Latrobe and East Gippsland Shire Councils: www.gba.org.au/

Opportunity for tasters and tipplers

The organisers of the Melbourne Food and Wine festival will visit Eastern Gippsland on Monday, July 11 to discuss opportunities to promote Eastern Gippsland food and wine as part of next year's festival. The meeting is open to tourism associations, event managers, individuals and businesses. The meeting will be held on Monday, July 11 from 10-11.30am, Oak Tree Restaurant, Bairnsdale. Please RSVP to indicate your attendance by July 6.

More ? Karly McCaskill karly@egmi.com.au

Welcome Gippsland's newest Landcare group

The Tarwin Valley Landcare Group held its inaugural meeting recently and with a number of landholders already actively involved as SGLN members, the group is up and rearing to go. Tarwin Valley Landcare Group covers the areas of the Jindanook and Stony Creek Landcare groups. SGLN has received a small grant from the Victorian Landcare Program to help establish the group including a small grants program. Congratulations to President: Jeanette Hill, Secretary; Russell Swan and Treasurer: Jenni Swan.

More? Belinda Brennan 0409 004 901

Calf care guide coming soon

Dairy Australia is releasing a new guide for farmers that provides clear, practical advice on all aspects of caring for calves from pre-calving through to weaning. 'Healthy Calves –how to rear calves that thrive' will be distributed to all dairy farmers and industry advisors, and will also be available online through the Dairy Australia website from late June.

More? Kathryn Davis 9694 3723

Council urges flood affected to apply for disaster relief

Baw Baw Shire Council is reminding residents of the Damage to House and Contents Gift available to households affected in the January and February floods. The Victorian Floods Disaster Relief Fund is offering assistance to residents in two stages. Stage one is an initial payment of \$1000 to assist with immediate costs facing households with significant damage. Stage two is a further payment as a contribution to assist with the replacement of household contents and the repair and restoration of homes that have been more severely damaged. Applications close July 1.

More? [Disaster Relief Fund 1800 180 213](tel:1800180213) or visit www.dhs.vic.gov.au/floodsappeal

DPI site helps do the maths

Dairy farmers can use a free online tool from the Department of Primary Industries to judge their herd's pasture utilisation and overall business performance. The site also allows users to create a plan to reach targets for pasture consumption and per cow production.

More? Visit www.new.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/dairy/pastures-hay-silage/calculator

Cows create careers as colleges create cheese

Gippsland schools were the winners in Dairy Australia's Cows Create Careers – Camembert in the Classroom project which concluded in Sale last week. The winning cheese, and \$500 prize, went to Traralgon College-Senior Campus and the winning commercial and \$250 prize went to Gippsland Grammar School. The project involved student teams' making camembert cheese in the classroom and then designing a multimedia advertisement as to 'Why Dairy is an Important Part of Our Diet'. [More? Dee 5659 4219 or jaydeeevents@dcsi.net.au](#)

Strategy goes out for comment

Wellington Shire Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy is open for public comment. It details how council will approach investment attraction, infrastructure development and providing opportunities for residents and businesses for the next five years. [More? Will Oakley 5142 3615](#)

Make a map and plan

An electronic iFarm farm mapping course ideal for those with a good grasp of what they want to achieve on their property run by the DPI over three consecutive Mondays commencing on July 25 will be held in Bunyip. The cost of the course is \$150.

[More? Kathleen Bartlett 0400 141 929 or kathleenb@wgcm.vic.gov.au or click here for more information](#)

East Gippsland farmers should claim locust rebate

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is urging eligible landholders in East Gippsland to claim the locust insecticide rebate before this month's deadline. DPI response manager Rob Walker said landholders who had sprayed hoppers on their properties over recent months should submit a claim to DPI before the deadline of June 30. Rebate claim forms are available at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts.

[More? Locust Hotline 1300 135 559](#)

Improved sustainability practices supported with new award

The Australia Fodder Industry Association has announced a new annual sustainability award for rural businesses that demonstrate leadership and innovation. The Plasback Sustainability Award offers \$5000 in prizes and rewards business showing improved management practices in areas such as farm production, harvesting and distribution of agricultural products (including retail). Entries close June 30.

[More? Visit www.afia.org.au or www.plasback.com.au](#)

Cardinia course cover business issues

Cardinia Shire Council is encouraging business operators encouraged to book for its business courses as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Upcoming business events are:

- Your business online – optimising your potential seminar on July 19 from 6-8.30pm. This seminar is ideal for business owners wanting to increase online presence and understand search engine optimisation. The cost of the seminar is \$20 per person.
- Improving cash flow and profitability- on August 4 from 6-8.30pm. The seminar provides practical tips on improving the way you manage stock, customers and suppliers. It is ideal for people with limited financial knowledge. The cost of the seminar is \$20 per person.
- Become a 'sales cat' – Presented by Mike Boyle. On August 10 from 8.45am-5pm. This one-day program is designed to increase sales and incorporates real business issues in workshop activities. The cost is \$250 per person.

These workshops will be held at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Bvd, Pakenham.

[More? Cardinia Council's Business Development Officer 1300 787 624](#)

Special deal for vineyard promotion

The RACV website is extending its coverage of cellar door vineyards and is looking to Gippsland. Sara Schwarz is the person organising the project, part of the RACV's 'Show your card' scheme enticing visitors to visit and buy. A listing on the site, which attracts 35,000 visitors a month, costs \$480/year but, as a special deal for GippyAgchat readers that deal will be for 15 months. Mention GippyAgchat when you speak to Sara.

More? Sara 0424 379 996 or sara@visitvineyards.com

Casey Business awards closing soon

Casey businesses interested in applying for the 2011 Casey Business Awards are encouraged to start considering their application now in order to apply by the closing date of July 8. Additional information and the application form are available on the council's website.

More? www.casey.vic.gov.au/caseybusinessawards

GCCN meeting open to all

The Gippsland Climate Change July General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 6 from 10am-1pm in the Ian McFarlane Burnet Room, Traralgon Service Centre, Kay St, Traralgon.

More? Scott Ferraro 5173 9800 or scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au

Country cook claims CWA crown

The new CWA president is former South Gippsland resident Carol Clay, who ran Carol Clay's Country Cooking for 10 years on the Mornington Peninsula.

Find funding

Wellington Shire Council is running workshops to assist people in finding funding at:

- Wednesday, June 29 at Sale, Wellington Room, 7-8.30pm
- Tuesday, July 5 at Yarram, Pelican Room, 1-2.30pm
- Tuesday, July 5 at Yarram, Pelican Room, 7-8.30pm
- Wednesday, September 28 at Maffra Hall, 7-8.30pm

More? Darren Randle 1300 366 244 or cwadmin@wellington.vic.gov.au

Have your say on environment and climate change strategy

Baw Baw Shire Council is seeking comment on the council's draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Copies of the draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy are available at the Baw Baw Shire Customer Service Centres, libraries and on the Council's website at www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au. The draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy is available for public comment until 5pm on Friday, August 5.

More? Raj Manihar 5624 2411 or raj.manihar@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Forum is on the edge

A forum on food and sustainability in peri-urban areas around Australian cities is being held on Tuesday, October 25 at the Hume Global Learning Centre, Broadmeadows. The forum will

- generate fresh ideas about agriculture and food production in peri-urban settings
- bring together stakeholders to share ideas and consider partnerships and projects
- canvass the formation of a national network or information exchange
- investigate new opportunities for planning

More? Amadis Lacheta 0421 545 167 or amadis@vilagewell.org or www.villagewell.org

Vote and you could win!

RACV members are invited to vote for Landcare projects in the vicinity of three RACV Club and resort properties which they believe are the most deserving. Six worthwhile projects are being considered for funding from Landcare Australia through a community partnership with RACV. Voting ends in July.

More? Visit www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=4695

You won't die laughing

Hosted by South Gippsland Landcare Network in partnership with GPA, an hilarious evening of laughs is being held for \$15/head.

More? [Belinda Brennan 5662 5759](#)

Keep your soil vital

A four-day Vital Soils workshop is being held in Poowong on Mondays July 18, 25, August 1, 8. The course delivered by Sonia Lee from Vital Farms Pty Ltd. teaches an integrated, regenerative approach to soil management. The cost is \$350.

More? [Kathleen Bartlett 0400 141 929](#) or kathleenb@wgcm.vic.gov.au or [Download the brochure here](#)

Change the dream

Phillip Island residents can participate in an event aimed at reconnecting with the natural world, highlighting the importance of community and harnessing power to make a difference to the environment at the Changing the Dream Symposium in Cowes from 1-6pm on July 3 at the Cowes Cultural Centre, 91-97 Thompson Ave. Gold coin entry but bookings are required.

More? [Liza Price 1300 226 278](#) or visit www.changingthedream.org.au

Our Courtney gets a twinkle in her toes

Agribusiness Gippsland director Courtney Ferguson's will hit the dance floor for the Dancing with Our Stars fundraiser at Sale on August 20. All proceeds will go towards the 5 Star Project, providing independent living for young people with disabilities. Tickets are \$60, available from WorkHire Australia and Leo O'Brien Property. Finger food and BYO drinks.

More? [WorkHire Australia 5144 7488](#)

Nuffield scholarship a life-changing opportunity

Primary producers with a passion for the future of their industry can apply for a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship. Scholarships are for primary producers aged 28 to 40 years, although applications outside this range may be considered.

Each scholarship is valued at \$29,000, sponsored by major agribusiness and industry groups across Australia. All scholars take part in a six-week global focus program, with up to 10 weeks of individual travel to investigate a topic of their choice.

The aim is to improve Australian primary producers' skills, provide a global perspective of agriculture and bring back new ideas and strategies to benefit scholars and their industries. Applications for 2012 scholarships close on June 30.

More? [Jim Geltch 5480 0755](#) or enquiries@nuffield.com.au or visit www.nuffield.com.au

Enjoy a business breakfast with bite

Business operators and the wider community are invited to join former Victorian Premier and president of Hawthorn Football Club Jeff Kennett for breakfast in Pakenham on July 27.

Mr Kennett will present on 'Leadership: thinking outside the square'.

Bookings made before June 30 go into the draw for a seat at the head table with Jeff Kennett.

The breakfast will be held on July 27 at the Cardinia Cultural Centre at a cost of \$35pp.

RSVP by Monday July 25. To book go to www.trybooking.com/10880

More? [Cardinia Shire Council 1300 787 624](#)

It's time to share!

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

More? [Tammy Logan 5659 2308](#) or tammylogan@bigpond.com

UDP sets opening price

United Dairy Power (UDP) has announced its opening price for the 2011/2012 milk supply season at \$5.30/kg milk solids.

[More? Darryl Cardona 9685 1800](#)

Start your own business

A workshop on starting a business covering how to assess the viability of your idea, identifying the best business structure, financial considerations, preparing a business plan, resources are available to assist and support new business operators and more. Business Victoria will provide participants a voucher for a free mentoring session.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, July 19 from 9am-12.30pm in Leongatha.

[More? Alycia 5662 9271 or \[alycias@southgippsland.vic.gov.au\]\(mailto:alycias@southgippsland.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Look after your soil during wet years

A free field day looking at reducing the effect of heavy rain on agricultural soil and farm production will be held in Friday, July 29 at Tetoora Road Hall. Topics include preventing and restoring landslips, good drainage and lane design and drainage in waterlogged pastures. Bring a small container of soil (from 40-60cm deep) to test for surface and mole drainage. Please RSVP to indicate your attendance.

[More? Kathleen Bartlett 0400 141 929 or \[kathleenb@wgcm.vic.gov.au\]\(mailto:kathleenb@wgcm.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Save this date

A Healthy Soils Forum focusing on carbon and how it relates to productivity will be held on October 12. The forum includes:

- guest speaker – Jeff Baldock, CSIRO lead researcher into soil carbon.
- findings of trial data across Gippsland released
- future gazing and the big picture – discussion panel.

[More? Tony Gardner 1300 094 262 or \[tonyg@wgcm.vic.gov.au\]\(mailto:tonyg@wgcm.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Energy seminar postponed

The seminar on refrigeration heat recovery and energy savings at the Macalister Demonstration Farm has been postponed to July 5.

[More? Neil Baker 0488 175 366 or \[neilbaker@aapt.net.au\]\(mailto:neilbaker@aapt.net.au\)](#)

BawBaw Business Awards open

The SP AusNet Baw Baw Business Excellence Awards 2011 are now open.

The Awards celebrate local business excellence, innovation, development and success. The Awards are open to all businesses currently based in Baw Baw Shire, other than clubs, co-operatives, not-for-profit organisations, government supported businesses and agencies.

Entries close on July 27. The awards include an agribusiness category. An information session will be held 7pm, June 28 at the West Gippsland Arts Centre to help entrants.

[More? Karen Meyers 5624 2422 or \[Karen.Meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au\]\(mailto:Karen.Meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au\) or visit \[www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au\]\(http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au\)](#)

What workshop do you want in Wellington?

Wellington Shire Council is a host organisation for Business Victoria and can facilitate workshops if there is sufficient interest. Topics include: 'Starting Your Business', marketing, business planning, 'Green Your Business', getting and keeping the right staff, finance and how to exit a business.

[More? Will Oakley 5142 3615](#)

Swap your excess produce in Yarragon

The Yarragon Produce Swap is at 2.30pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Loch Street. The next swaps will be held on July 6 and July 20.

[More? Tom Nevell 5633 3245 or \[tomn_123@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:tomn_123@hotmail.com\)](#)

Work continues on Gippsland's observation bores

Nine new bores have been installed in Gippsland's new observation bore network project. The \$1 million project, located between Bairnsdale, Port Welshpool and Maffra, is designed to expand the Department of Sustainability and Environment's State Observation Bore Network (SOBN), which helps to improve knowledge of the location and movement of groundwater.
[More? Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510](#)

Farming zone planning approvals made easier

Planning approvals in farming zones are to be made easier with the Minister for Planning approving Amendment C77 to the Baw Baw Shire Planning Scheme. Amendment C77 modifies the schedule to the Farming Zone to negate the need for a planning permit for works less than 100m² when extending a house or constructing a domestic outbuilding, such as a shed.
[More? Baw Baw Shire Council's Strategic planning department 5624 2411](#)

Landcare Week 2011 is approaching fast

Landcare Week is from September 5-11. A Landcare Week Event Kit will be available on the Landcare Australia website for groups to use from July 14.
[More? Visit www.landcareaustralia.com.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au)

Master skills in day-long sessions

GippsTAFE's Professional Development Series is designed to provide Gippsland business, government and not-for-profit organisations with effective single-day master classes for high need skill areas. Classes include:

- Project Management Fundamentals – July 6
- Manage Operational Plans – July 20
- Make Conflict Productive – August 3
- Leading Teams – August 17
- Creating High Performance People – August 31
- Recruitment, Selection and Induction – September 14
- IT for non-IT Managers – September 28
- Manage Budgets and Financial Plans – October 12
- Ensure a Safe Workplace – October 26
- Finance for non-Finance Managers – November 9
- Creating High Performance People – November 23
- Strategic Planning and Foresight – December 7

[More? Kelvin Slade 5622 or kelvins@gippstafe.edu.au](#)

Soil sodic layer holds interest for large crowd

SFS and DPI held a "Soil Health and Nutrition for Cropping Farm Walk" on Tuesday, June 12 at Bairnsdale. Tim Johnston (DPI) and Lee Menhenett (IPL) presented to a large crowd. As part of the paddock walk, a soil pit had been dug and attendees investigated the subsoil layers, with the sodic layer being of particular interest.

Healthy soil means sustainable farms

Building soil carbon and managing pH in West Gippsland is an ambitious project involving five Landcare networks that is breaking new ground in Gippsland.

The Bass Coast, La Trobe, Maffra, South Gippsland and Yarram Landcare Networks are key players in the Healthy Soils, Sustainable Farms project, which aims to build knowledge about managing soils for productive and sustainable agriculture.

The project is looking at as many different soil management strategies as possible, including high-input, N-P-K, biological, organic and biodynamic approaches.

[More? West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority 5175 7899 or www.wgcm.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/Gippsland attendees.



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

Plant a tree for National Tree Day

Join Cardinia Shire Council on Sunday, July 31, National Tree Planting Day, to plant local plants. Bring along gardening gloves, water bottle, umbrella or coat, and suitable footwear. The planting be at Toomuc Creek Reserve, Pakenham. Meet at the Rotary BBQ area.

More? Sarah Binks 1300 787 624 or Enviro_admin@cardinia.vic.gov.au or visit: <http://www.treeday.planetark.org/site/48632>

Get the good oil on difficult soil

The DPI, through its Victorian Resources Online website, provides information about sodic soils and associated management issues, often the result of soil dispersion. An animated display and accompanying notes detail what causes soil dispersion, what it looks like, and the problems associated with sodic soils.

More? Visit http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/soilhealth_dispersion-animation

Community markets open to all

The Yarragon community craft and produce market is held on the fourth Saturday of the month from 9am-2pm at the Yarragon Public Hall. The next market is on Saturday, July 23.

More? Allison Butterworth 5634 2209

The Gippsland Heritage Park Market is held on the last Saturday of the month from 10am-2pm at Gippsland Heritage Park, Moe. The next market is on Saturday, July 30.

More? 5127 3082

The Drouin Craft and Produce Market is held on the third Saturday of month from 8am-12.30pm at Drouin Civic Park. The next market is on Saturday, July 16.

More? Bill Petschack 5625 3360

The Emerald Community Craft and Produce Market is held on the third Sunday of the month from 9am-3pm. The next market is on Sunday, July 17.

More? Non Blair 0419 345 750 or blairnd@bigpond.com

The Heyfield community market is held on the first Saturday of each month from 8am-12.30pm at the Dr John Graves Memorial Park in Temple Street. The next market is July 2.

More? Heather Cahill 5148 2780 or hjcahill@bigpond.net.au

Sale Farmer's Market is held on the third Saturday of each month from 8am-12pm at Skate Park lawns, Foster St, Sale. The next market is Saturday, July 16.

More? Mark Watson 0408 057 772 or squirtmark@bigpond.com

Lardner Park Market features CMA regional arts, craft and fresh produce. Entry to the market is free. Parking is \$3. The next market is on Sunday, July 17.

More? <http://www.craftmarkets.com.au/lardnerpark.asp>

The Lucknow Market is held at Howitt Park, Bairnsdale on the fourth Sunday of the month from 8am to 2pm, weather permitting. The next market is Sunday, July 24.

More? Belinda Riddler 5152 4662 or lucknow.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

The Maffra Variety and Farmer's Market is held in Johnson St, Maffra from 9am-1pm. The next market is Sunday, July 3.

More? Mark Watson 0408 057 772 or squirtmark@bigpond.com

Trout and salmon closed season has begun

The annual closed season for trout and salmon fishing runs until September 2. During this period anglers are not permitted to take or possess trout or salmon in rivers and streams throughout Victoria, with the exception of waters classed as sea-run trout rivers. Anglers who target fish in these waters risk prosecution and significant fines. If you suspect illegal fishing activity, call the fisheries offence reporting line on 133 474.

More? DPI Customer Service Centre 136186 or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing

Get greener, save money and tap into new markets

A seminar offering an alternative mode of viewing business, saving money and the environment will be held on August 16 from 9.30-11.30am at the RSL Gold Room, Leongatha.

More? Alycia Stivic 5662 9271 or alycias@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

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

Meetings next month are:

- July 16: Moe
- July 17: Sale
- July 23: Bairnsdale
- July 31: Sale

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

Swap your excess produce in Trafalgar

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

More? Phoebe Hicks 5633 2304

Plant a tree for Baw Baw

Baw Baw Council is hosting a series of Sunday morning tree plantings.

The plantings will be held from 10am-12pm on:

- July 3 at Longwarry Recreation Reserve
- July 10 at Downton Park, Yarragon
- July 17 at Buln Buln Recreation Reserve
- July 24 at Robin Hood Reserve
- July 31 at Two Towns Trail, Downton Park and Longwarry Recreation Reserve

More? Baw Baw Council 5624 2411

Care for our country

Community groups can apply for small grants to help fund local environmental and sustainable agriculture projects through the 2011-12 Community Action Grants round. Funding allows volunteers and local community groups to contribute to the Caring for our Country priority areas of protecting biodiversity and natural icons, coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats, and using sustainable farm practices. Applications close August 1.

More? 1800 552 008 or www.nrm.gov.au

Agricultural studies offered support through scholarships

Scholarships are available for prospective students planning to study the farm business management or agribusiness programs at Marcus Oldham College in 2012. The scholarships range from \$5000 to \$35,000 in a variety of different fields. The college – a long-time supporter of Agribusiness Gippsland – will hold its open day on Sunday, August 14 from 10am to 3pm at Pigdons Road, Waurin Ponds, Geelong.

More? Student Services Officer 1800 623 500 or courses@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au or visit www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au

Tackle wet soils with on/off grazing

Farmers facing wet soil damage should consider using on-off grazing. Frank Mickan, Pasture and Fodder Conservation Specialist at DPI, Ellinbank said: "Many of our soils are now saturated with water and are susceptible to severe pugging damage.

There are several management options that farmers can use to minimise pugging damage:

- leave animals on the paddocks but use different grazing management techniques.
- try on/off grazing – which involves the cows grazing pastures for two to four hours and then removing them before severe pugging damage starts to occur.

More? DPI Customer Service Centre 136 186

Agritourism dossier available

What are the common factors that determine a successful agritourism venture? What do the failures always do wrong? Agribusiness Gippsland has completed a literature review as part of last year's study of Gippsland's agritourism sector. We have compiled the findings into a fascinating, easy-to-read dossier. Drawing on local, Australian and overseas studies, it presents the financials of agritourism, the trends in Gippsland, the challenges, and some early data on regional agritourism operations, along with ideas from existing successful operators.

The cost is \$30 plus GST. Email orders at susanw@ptarmigan.com.au or via www.aginc.wordpress.com

Do you grow, raise, catch, forage or make food?

The Victorian Farmers Market Association (VFMA) is holding a free workshop for producers interested in becoming stallholders at farmers' markets on Friday, July 8 from 10am – 2.30pm in Leongatha Memorial Hall, Meeting Room 1, Leongatha.

More? VFMA 9416 2090

Tree damage warning

Southern Rural Water is warning that cutting down or damaging trees in its recreational areas without written approval could incur a fines up to \$2000. Apply and pay a small fee to the DSE for a permit to cut and take wood in designated coupes. Visit www.dse.vic.gov.au.

More? Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510

Agricultural census coming soon

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.



Want to reach the right audience? More than 4000 '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

Young professionals meet again

The South Gippsland Agribusiness Professionals will hold its next meeting on July 13 at Manna Gum Restaurant, Inverloch. All welcome.

More? James Clark 0427 344 356 or sgap@live.com.au

VFF horticulture president elected

Yarra Valley orchardist and Gippy Agchat reader Susan Finger is the Victorian Farmers Federation's new Horticulture Group president.

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 OFFERED:

Dairy Farm Manager sought

A position is open for a dairy farm manager in Leongatha South. The position offers a \$100k package comprising salary, super, a three bedroom house and bonus. Couples will be considered. In conjunction with the owner, the primary responsibilities include management of the modern 750 cow farm, organising staff and maintaining OHS. The farm comprises a 50 unit rotary dairy, computerised feed and herd management systems and computerised calf feeding. The suitable applicant must have staff management experience. Applicant must be highly skilled with a minimum of two years' experience in farm management.

More? Paul Ebbels 0400 083 549 or paul@tbtmentor.com.au

WORK SOUGHT:

Need the skills of an IT or accounting graduate?

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

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

More? Leo Slattery 9214 8080 or Itsattery@swin.edu.au or visit

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

Fire management planning

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

More? 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

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: www.aginc.com, agribusiness, aginc, abares conference Gippsland, renee bourke Maffra, Melbourne agriculture, madeline toner (*Huh?*), victorian agribusiness summit 2011

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
Jun 27	Whole-farm planning course	Orbost	Stu Clarke 0458 202 567
Jun 28	SP AusNet Baw Baw Business Excellence Awards Information night	Warragul	Karen Meyers 5624 2422
Jun 29	Finding Funding Workshop	Wellington	Darren Randle 1300 366 244
Jun 30	Lean to Green Program- Session Three	Dandenong	Angela Petty 02 6163 7208
Jul 2	Heyfield Community Market	Heyfield	Heather Cahill 5148 2780
Jul 3	Poowong Produce Swap	Poowong	Tammy Logan 5659 2308
Jul 3	Changing the Dream Symposium	Cowes	Liza Price 1300 226 278
Jul 3	Longwarry Recreation Reserve Tree planting		Baw Baw Council 5624 2411
Jul 3	Maffra Variety and Farmer's Market	Maffra	Mark Watson 0408 057 772
Jul 5	Finding Funding Workshop	Yarram	Darren Randle 1300 366 244
Jul 5	Refrigeration heat recovery and energy savings seminar	Maffra	Neil Baker 0488 175 366
Jul 6	Professional Development Series – Project Management Fundamentals	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Jul 6	Gippsland Climate Change General Meeting	Traralgon	Scott Ferraro 5173 9800
Jul 6	Yarragon Produce Swap	Yarragon	Tom Nevell 5633 3245
Jul 7	Agfutures- value adding and marketing	Inverloch	Roslyn Jenzen 5951 3317
Jul 8	Bass Coast Business Awards night	Wonthaggi	Margaret Murray 1300 226 278
Jul 8	Victorian Farmers Market Association	Leongatha	VFMA 9416 2090
Jul 9	Trafalgar Produce Swap	Trafalgar	Phoebe Hicks 5633 2304
Jul 10	Downton Park Tree planting	Yarragon	Baw Baw Council 5624 2411
Jul 11	Melbourne Food and Wine festival meeting	Bairnsdale	Karly McCaskill karly@egmi.com.au
Jul 12	New Business Seminar	Leongatha	Alycia Stivic 5662 9271
Jul 13	South Gippsland Agribusiness Professionals meeting	Inverloch	James Clark 0427 344 356
Jul 16	Drouin Community Market	Drouin	Bill Petschack 5625 3360
Jul 16	Sale Variety and Farmer's Market	Sale	Mark Watson 0408 057 772
Jul 16	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Jul 17	Emerald Community Market	Emerald	Non Blair 0419 345 750
Jul 17	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Jul 17	Lardner Park Market	Warragul	
Jul 17	Buln Buln Recreation Reserve tree	Buln Buln	Baw Baw Council 5624 2411

	planting		
Jul 18, 25, Aug 1,8	Vital Soils workshop	Poowong	Kathleen Bartlett 0400 141 929
Jul 19	Your business online – Optimising your potential seminar	Pakenham	Cardinia Council 1300 787 624
Jul 19	Start your own business seminar	Leongatha	Alycia 5662 9271
Jul 20	Professional Development Series – Manage Operational Plans	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Jul 22	Yarragon Produce Swap	Yarragon	Tom Nevell 5633 3245
Jul 23	Gippsland Heritage Park Market	Moe	5127 3082
Jul 23	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
Jul 23	Yarragon Community Craft and Produce Market	Yarragon	Allison Butterworth 5634 2209
Jul 24	Robin Hood Reserve tree planting	Drouin West	Baw Baw Council 5624 2411
Jul 24	Lucknow Market	Bairnsdale	Belinda Riddler 5152 4662
Jul 27	Cardinia Business breakfast with Jeff Kennett	Pakenham	Cardinia Shire Council 1300 787 624
June 28	Sustainability Victoria Strategic Review Forum	Traralgon	http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/2945-sustainability-victoria-review.asp?intSiteID=4
July 29	Effect of heavy rain on agricultural soil and farm production field day	Tetoora	Kathleen Bartlett 0400 141 929
Jul 30	Gippsland Heritage Park Market	Moe	5127 3082
Jul 31	Planet Ark's National Tree Day		Tree Day Hotline 1300 88 5000
Jul 31	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Jul 31	Downton Park Tree planting	Yarragon	Baw Baw Council 5624 2411
Jul 31	Longwarry Recreation Reserve tree planting	Longwarry	Baw Baw Council 5624 2411
Jul 31	Toomuc Creek Reserve tree planting	Pakenham	Sarah Binks 1300 787 624
Aug 1-2	Australia-New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference	Wellington, NZ	Elizabeth Edmonds 0413 439 573
Aug 3	Professional Development Series – Make Conflict Productive	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Aug 3	Yarragon Produce Swap	Yarragon	Tom Nevell 5633 3245
Aug 4	Improving cash flow and profitability	Pakenham	Cardinia Council 1300 787 624
Aug 6	Heyfield Community Market	Heyfield	Heather Cahill 5148 2780
Aug 7	Poowong Produce Swap	Poowong	Tammy Logan 5659 2308
Aug 10	Become a 'sales cat'	Pakenham	Cardinia Council 1300 787 624
Aug 14	Marcus Oldham College Open Day	Geelong	1800 623 500
Aug 16	Environmental business seminar	Leongatha	Alycia Stivic 5662 9271
Aug 20	Dancing with Our Stars	Sale	WorkHire Australia 5144 7488
Aug 20	Drouin Community Market	Drouin	Bill Petschack 5625 3360
Aug 20	Sale Variety and Farmer's Market	Sale	Mark Watson 0408 057 772
Aug 21	Emerald Community Market	Emerald	Non Blair 0419 345 750
Aug 27	Yarragon Community Craft and Produce Market	Yarragon	Allison Butterworth 5634 2209
Aug 27	Gippsland Heritage Park Market	Moe	5127 3082
Aug 28	Lucknow Market	Bairnsdale	Belinda Riddler 5152 4662
Sep 5-11	Landcare Week		www.landcareaustralia.com.au
Sep 14	Professional Development Series – Recruitment, Selection and Induction	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Sep 28	Professional Development Series – IT for non-IT Managers	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526

Sept 28	Finding Funding Workshop	Maffra	Darren Randle 1300 366 244
Oct 7	GSI East Gippsland Business Awards 2011		
Oct 12	Manage Budgets and Financial Plans	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Oct 12	Healthy Soils Forum		Tony Gardner 1300 094 262
Oct 25	Food and sustainability in peri-urban areas forum	Broadmeadows	Amadis Lacheta 0421 545 167
Oct 26	Ensure a Safe Workplace	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Nov 9	Finance for non-Finance Managers	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Nov 23	Creating High Performance People	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526
Dec 7	Strategic Planning and Foresight	Warragul	Kelvin Slade 5622 8526

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

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