



# Gippy AGchat

June 28, 2010 – Issue 29

## Our supporters:



<b>Now we're all Gippsland!</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>State Government blueprint: Gippsland summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Victorian apple grower awarded</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Food farming and health – back for a second bite</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Opening price prediction 33c/litre: ABARE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Gippy gals speak out</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MPs call to protect peri-urban farms</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Agribusiness scholarships on offer</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Keep this date free!</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Dairy Business of the Year – Gippy winners</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Agribusiness forum shifts to the Yarra Valley</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Minimising the risk, maximising the profit</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Find your way with PeopleGPS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>What farmers want</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Starting your business</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4 teats – learn to grow proves a success</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Tanya's vegetarian lasagna ... with meat</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Growing to protect the future</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Biochar – hear the research</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Eat breakfast with women who make it work</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Wanted: local grain growers' success stories</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Whether the weather? BoM has answers</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Making mincemeat of mouse problems</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Do you have an event planned for Landcare Week?</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Recycled organic fertiliser factsheet available</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Come and get the dirt on East Gippsland</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Plant tissue testing – factsheet now available</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Help for tree planting</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>What pasture is that?</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>BFA wants more scrutiny for food imports</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>More crop per drop</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Farmers a force in food marketing</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Want to express an interest in property planning?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Take a day out at Lardner Park Market</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Become a citizen scientist</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Laughing all the way to the bank!</b>	<b>10</b>

Getting kids into the garden	11
Be inspired over breakfast	11
Farmers protect Corner Inlet	11
Getting on your goat	11
Livestock identification system put to new use	11
Listening to messages from outer space	11
Facing an AgFuture	12
Making milk in a magazine	12
Reward for water savers	12
Grants available for young Landcarers	12
Forecast Explorer aids farm decision making	12
Weaner sheep face early worm attack	12
Organic women find their VOICE	13
She'll be apples	13
Directory assistance for Landcare groups	13
Rabobank managers course closing soon	13
Coastcare Victoria community small grants available	13
Tigers roar support for Landcare	13
Future proofing food manufacturing	13
Farm Improvement Grants closing soon	14
Access to superannuation clearing house	14
Grants offered to Landcare group registrants	14
Join the family night prowl	14
Plan for the whole farm	14
Grow it. Hold it. Sell it!	15
Galvanising Gippsland communities	15
Stallholders sought for farmers' market at Coal Creek	15
Opening the gates on farmer health	15
Clunies Ross Awards now open	15
Stored grain technology sought	16
Take the watercolour challenge	16
Into ag? Under 35? There's \$10K up for grabs	16
Nuffield scholarship a life-changing opportunity	17
Get warm and fuzzy at Wool Week 2010	17
Pull up a chair and recycle	17
Export awards open	17
Scholarship for construction workers	18
Gippsland farmers' markets given accreditation	18
Make your business green and lean	19
JOBS: A free feature in GippyAGchat	19
Gippy Diary	20

*Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>  
Or blog us at [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)*

## **Now we're all Gippsland!**

East Gippsland Shire has joined the supporters of Agribusiness Gippsland – creating a complete regional body. Their inclusion, along with that of West Gippsland CMA last week, makes our efforts more cohesive regionally. And it strengthens the growing importance of the agribusiness sector both within and beyond Gippsland. Thank you to Mayor Cr Michael Freshwater, CEO Steve Kozlowski and their team.

## State Government blueprint: Gippsland summary

The Victorian Government recently released the State's new blueprint for regional development programs, 'Ready for Tomorrow', worth \$ 630.7m.

Agribusiness Gippsland chair Alex Arbuthnot makes this summary report: "I note that the Premier values regional Victoria's contribution to the Victorian economy as \$62.6bn, with agribusiness contributing \$26.4bn, this is welcome recognition of the economic and social powerhouse of the sector.

The blueprint has five strategies and is reasonably strong in its support for agriculture and agribusiness. Here is my summary:

- \$205 m Future Farming Strategy has \$4.89m to increase GPSnet Global Network Satellite System (GNSS) bases from 30-102.
- \$50k grants for Climate Communities program (previously announced)
- \$9m for TAFEs and universities to work together – I note Gippsland TAFEs already enjoy partnerships with a range of universities.
- Young Agribusiness Professionals (YAPs) \$200k has been allocated to the VFF for leadership and sharing information – exactly what we're doing with GippyAgchat!! I note this grant will support mentoring and agribusiness service providers.
- \$3.3m regional Victorian leadership program.
- \$99.4m for jobs and industry including agriculture, biotechnology and renewable energy.
- \$28m to expand exports.
- Young farmer first farm grants.
- \$1.2 m to double the amount of genotyping information on dairy herds.
- \$500k to develop food strategies to grow Victoria's food industry.
- \$2m for RDAs (Alex Arbuthnot is a member of the Gippsland RDA).
- \$25m for regional tourism/agritourism
- \$1m for new tourism
- \$5m for clusters – could this incorporate food clusters?
- \$10m for innovation – this offers opportunities in the areas of Gippsland newly serviced by broadband, gas, power and transport upgrades.
- \$4.5 m for more events in regional Victoria – we're especially working towards that, with events booked in for August 2 at Warragul; Foster on September 6, Cardinia on October 13 and other events in discussion.
- \$4m for Bush Tender.
- \$3.9m to re-vitalise regional towns such as Lakes Entrance and to support growth in regional towns - Bairnsdale and Sale were named.
- New growth areas nominated – Moe/Morwell/Traralgon.
- Planning initiatives \$37.1m – to cover land use plans.
- \$ 7.8m to support for local skills partnership program.
- One body to manage the Gippsland Lakes.
- A very welcome \$9.9m for Landcare.

## Victorian apple grower awarded

Warragul apple grower Helene Armour was awarded an Order of Australia medal for her service to fruit growing and local government.

## Wanted: local grain growers' success stories

GRDC wants to hear from Australian grain-growers about the improvements they've made in farming practices, grain varieties, products and services.

[More?](#)

[http://www.grdc.com.au//director/events/mediareleases?item\\_id=B2CC5A7C0ED1398285A3B7667C389265](http://www.grdc.com.au//director/events/mediareleases?item_id=B2CC5A7C0ED1398285A3B7667C389265)

## **Food farming and health – back for a second bite**

Discover new insights into how we produce food – and the food that we produce – at this fascinating one-day forum being held near Warragul on August 2.

The Agribusiness Gippsland forum will explore what it takes to build and maintain healthy communities and sustainable food systems.

Baw Baw mayor Cr Adam Tyson ... a food industry participant ... has kindly agreed to open proceedings.

Confirmed keynote speakers to challenge boundaries include Prof Mark Lawrence, from Deakin University who will examine how authorities are reshaping food recommendations by taking into account the sustainability of farming.

Last year's inaugural Food, Farming and Health was a unique mix of minds, with input from farmers, farm consultants, health professionals, land use planners, natural resources experts and leading policy-makers. This year, large and small-scale farmers will discuss what it takes to produce food sustainably and profitably. Share your tales with other attendees, enjoy networking opportunities and a delicious locally-sourced lunch and forum notes, for only \$40.

Registrations are already coming in and there's already a lot of media interest in this event. Book early please.

The event will be held on August 2 from 9.30am to 4pm at Lardner Park.

Click here for full registration details ... [nurturenourish regojune10 final](#)

[More? Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386 or Sue Webster 0402 267 802](#)

## **Opening price prediction 33c/litre: ABARE**

The Australian farmgate price is forecast to rise by more than 4% to around 37.5c/litre, according to ABARE's latest commodity report.

Opening prices for manufacturing milk for 2010/11 are expected to average around 33c/litre, up around 22% on previous opening prices.

In 2010/11, the value of dairy product exports is forecast to rise by 1.3% to \$2.09 bn.

Australian milk production is forecast to increase by nearly 2.1% to 9150m litres.

In 2009/10, Australian milk production is estimated to fall by around 5% to 8960m litres. In the irrigation areas of northern Victoria, milk production is estimated to decline by 14% in 2009/10, because of low water availability. Water allocations could increase for the first half of 2010/11, compared with the same period a year earlier, according to ABARE.

Forecast lower feed grain prices, together with improved supplies of supplementary fodder, are expected to allow producers to raise the feed intake of dairy cows, lifting milk yields increasing to average 5596 litres/cow in 2010/11.

## **Gippy gals speak out**

Surviving bushfire, coping with family tragedy and how to bake sourdough bread ... those were some of the experiences shared between East Gippsland farming women at a recent two-day workshop held at Sale.

A two-day workshop in early June saw 16 women from agricultural backgrounds share the stories of their lives, their farms and their visions for sustainable agriculture.

From Buchan to Neerim South, the women gathered to learn how to explain their farming enterprises.

They attended the second workshop of a five-month project organised by

Agribusiness Gippsland and funded by DAFF's Recognising Women Farmers grant.

The gathering attracted beef and sheep farmers, women breeding and rearing goats, meat rabbits, alpacas, blueberries, a cropper, an organic potato grower, an NRM specialist and an agronomist.

## MPs call to protect peri-urban farms

A Victorian Parliamentary committee is calling on the State Government to protect Melbourne's fringe agriculture, noting that around 16% of Victoria's agricultural profit is generated from the outer suburbs, which incorporates 4% of the state's farmland. Agribusiness Gippsland made a submission to the committee seeking retention of existing farm use in the south-east peri-urban area.

Agribusiness Gippsland chair Alex Arbuthnot AM praised the findings of the Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee and said another \$700m of agricultural gain was waiting to be unlocked in the region.

He said: "I note that \$1.4bn of Victoria's \$8.7bn agricultural wealth comes from this area and I would expect we can add another 8% (\$700m) to the value of agriculture in the Gippsland Local Government Network area."

"The report identifies agriculture as the best use of green wedge land and contains many recommendations supporting farming, including a recommendation supporting agribusiness forums – and Agribusiness Gippsland is one of those working to fortify sustainable farming and farm service industries."

**More?** <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201006/s2935768.htm>

## Agribusiness scholarships on offer

Applications are sought for three AgriFood Skills Australia Fellowships. Valued at \$10,000 each, these will be offered in conjunction with the International Specialised Skills (ISS) Institute and offer the opportunity to travel overseas and research a topic of value to the agrifood industry.

Applications are open to people Australia-wide involved in the following industries:

- food processing, including beverages, wine and pharmaceuticals
- rural and related
- meat processing and retailing
- seafood
- racing, including thoroughbred, greyhound and harness

Applicants are advised to read AgriFood Skills Australia's 2010 Environmental Scan, *A perfect storm of shortages...are we ready?*

The [application form](#) is available online.

Applications close 4pm on Monday, August 30, and winners will be awarded their fellowship at the 2010 National AgriFood Conference dinner, at The Langham in Melbourne on September 22.

## Keep this date free!

October 13. If you are a young person (40 and below) involved in any aspect of agriculture and agribusiness you are a YAP... a Young Agribusiness Professional. Farmers, farm consultants, engineers, ag-bankers, R&D personnel, food processing employees, logistics staff, educators... you name it... DAFF is helping Agribusiness Gippsland to run a special day-long-forum at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. The free day will feature mind-stretching speakers, lunch and a brilliant chance to network with YAPs from across Victoria.

We're organising for students from Geelong's Marcus Oldham College to attend, alongside some from LaTrobe University's agriculture faculty and hoping to see some NCDEA students as well. And then there are the YAPs who attended last year's summit we held at Cowes, we'll be sending their invitations soon, too.

More information next edition, but you might like to email your details to [ptarmigan2@internode.on.net](mailto:ptarmigan2@internode.on.net) to stay in the loop for more news. Just type 'YAPday' in the subject line. You can also keep an eye on our website and blogsite. (<http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or [aginc.wordpress.com](http://aginc.wordpress.com).)

## **Dairy Business of the Year – Gippy winners**

Kevin and Helen Jones of Foster narrowly trumped the Coster family of Ripplebrook to be declared the Gippsland winners of the Dairy Business of the Year winners this week. They also took out the national cow efficiency award.

## **Agribusiness forum shifts to the Yarra Valley**

The Victorian Agribusiness Summit shifts to the Yarra Valley for 2010. This year's event on August 19-20 has the theme "New decade in agribusiness – how to survive".

Day one will look at the challenges and realities and day two looks at some of the opportunities. The sessions being covered range from climate change to labour, food security, products for the future and exploiting technologies.

Senator Bill Heffernan will be keynote speaker discussing food security: Can we grow enough? What about land and water supply and urban encroachment on farming land?

The forum will be held August 19-20 at York on Lilydale at Mt Evelyn.

A full two day registration with dinner and drinks costs for \$240 early bird (pre-Jul 15) or \$270 afterwards. Schools/colleges booking at least 10 students enjoy a substantial discount, at only \$75 per registration.

Agribusiness Gippsland hosted the peak forum at Cowes last year.

**More? Emma Amos 5962 9423 or [cab@agribusiness-yarravalley.com](mailto:cab@agribusiness-yarravalley.com) or [www.agribusiness-yarravalley.com](http://www.agribusiness-yarravalley.com)**

## **Minimising the risk, maximising the profit**

A two-day grazing and pasture cropping workshop, presented by Southern Farming Systems and Bengworden Landcare group will help farmer minimise the risk while maximising the profits.

Day one commences at 8.30am on Thursday, July 1 at Meerlieu Hall with Norm Tozer outlining some of the work undertaken by Bestwool/Bestlamb farmers in the North East including:

- Making the most of the inputs that are free
- More efficient fertiliser use
- Improving pasture persistence and perenniality
- The role of groundcover
- Creating farming systems that add value to each other

Lunch is followed by an afternoon bus tour, led by Colin Seis, visiting pasture cropping trial sites to monitor progress and discuss management.

Day two is optional. Participants will meet at the SFS trial sites on Bengworden Road at 8.30 am to continue the bus tour of district trial sites.

**More? Rose Maher 5149 8379**

## **Find your way with PeopleGPS**

Dairy farmers now have an easy way to navigate their way through the maze of employment requirements, regulations and recommended practices, with the roll out of PeopleGPS, a four-day course from the People in Dairy Program.

The course uses a case study farm to explore issues around recruitment, safety procedures and protocols, compliance with industrial relations laws and awards, performance appraisals, termination, working with others and future planning.

The PeopleGPS course will be held in:

- Maffra: July 8. Ph Frank Tyndall 0409 940 782 or [ftyndall@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ftyndall@ozemail.com.au)
- Warragul: August 4 Ph Gavin McClay 0425 825 288 or [gavin@gavinmccclay.com.au](mailto:gavin@gavinmccclay.com.au)

**More? The People in Dairy 9620 7283 or [www.thepeopleindairy.org.au](http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au)**

## What farmers want

VFF president Andrew Broad listed the 2010/11 action items for the federation at its annual conference last week. They were:

- reducing the burden of municipal rating on farmers;
- implementation of a new fire services funding model;
- property rights for farmers.

[More?](#)

[http://www.vff.org.au/main/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=911&Itemid=49](http://www.vff.org.au/main/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=911&Itemid=49)

## Starting your business

Learn the trade secrets at the South Gippsland Shire workshop on starting a business. The workshop is ideal for new businesses and covers writing business plans, identifying what structure best fits your business' needs, and the requirement for licences, registrations and permits. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, July 13 from 9-12:30am in the Leongatha RSL Gold Room. Cost is \$30.

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

## 4 teats – learn to grow proves a success

The second annual “4 teats – learn to grow” business expo drew a crowd of 126 people to Traralgon in early June. The day featured presentations ranging from choosing the best farm consultants and farm safety to career paths and farm purchases. The event was co-ordinated by the Young Dairy Development Program.

[More? Kylie Barry 03 5624 3900 or \[yddp@dcsi.net.au\]\(mailto:yddp@dcsi.net.au\)](#)

## Tanya's vegetarian lasagna ... with meat

A participant at our women farmers' training session at Cowes recently was Tanya Privitera who shared her signature recipe of vegetarian lasagna ... with meat. The Mardan dairy farmer and Jersey breeder has provided a copy of the recipe. It's quite long, so it's uploaded onto our website: <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>.

PS: While you're there, visit the amazing recipe for smoked rabbit supplied by Kristine Hunter of Buchan. She was a participant in our Sale conference.

PPS: Try the mudcake recipe by the kids of Leongatha Secondary College.

Agribusiness Gippsland helped judge it the best in a recent event for Dairy Australia.

## Growing to protect the future

The Hydroponic Farmers Federation conference “Growing to Protect our Future” is being held at Chisholm Institute of TAFE, Cranbourne from June 30-July 2.

The conference focuses on water recycling, energy, productivity and marketing and includes trade displays, presentations by industry experts and practical workshops.

The trade show is open to the general public on Wednesday, June 30 from 3-6pm.

[More? Krista Byrne \[kb@asnevents.net.au\]\(mailto:kb@asnevents.net.au\) or visit](#)

<http://www.hff2010conference.org>

## Biochar - the research

CSIRO is undertaking two major research projects analysing the carbon sequestering potential and nutrient delivery potential of a range of different source materials when converted to biochar and how they interact with major Australian agricultural soils.

[More? Listen at <http://www.grdc.com.au/uploads/documents/krull.mp3>](#)

## **Eat breakfast with women who make it work**

Women Making It Work present a networking business offering the opportunity to meet and network with other business people in the Casey-Cardinia area. The breakfast will be held at Blue Hills Rise, Berwick-Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne in July 15 from 7-8.30am. The cost is \$20 members, \$30 non-members and includes breakfast. Bookings are essential by July 8 at [www.wmiw.com.au](http://www.wmiw.com.au)  
**More? Michelle 0407 009 656 or [admin@wmiw.com.au](mailto:admin@wmiw.com.au)**

## **Whether the weather? BoM has answers**

The Bureau of Meteorology has released its summary of the prevailing dairying conditions across the state ... and Gippsland appears to be faring best of all milk-producing regions.

Here's what's reported in Milking the Weather – the BoM's dairy newsletter:

“Good autumn rainfall across most of west and south Gippsland and good pasture growth. There is adequate moisture for pasture growth to continue into winter. The days have cooled down and there have been a couple of light frosts.

“Autumn conditions have been variable across the east coast region. Some districts are experiencing a tougher season while others report a reasonable autumn with around average rainfall and mild conditions.

“Drier than average conditions prevail in the Macalister Irrigation District, with dryland areas struggling for growth. Irrigation water was plentiful and late irrigations occurred on a lot of farms which has carried them through to the winter. A few early frosts have slowed pasture growth around the district.”

**More? [zita.ritchie@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:zita.ritchie@dpi.vic.gov.au)**

## **Making mincemeat of mouse problems**

Mouse numbers can build rapidly in the right conditions, leading to crop damage throughout the growing season. Early detection of an increasing mouse population is essential if effective control is to be implemented.

**More? [Click for mouse management fact sheet](#)**

## **Do you have an event planned for Landcare Week?**

Landcare, Coastcare, Friends of Rivercare, Bushcare or Junior Landcare groups (including schools, scouts and youth groups) can register Landcare Week (September 6 -13) activities on the [new National Landcare Directory](#).

## **Recycled organic fertiliser factsheet available**

Understanding the chemical make-up of recycled organics is an essential first step in evaluating the potential soil and crop benefits they may provide. Rising fertiliser prices and a desire to improve soil health have increased grower interest in the use of alternative inputs.

**More?**

**[http://www.grdc.com.au/director/events/factsheets?item\\_id=A4D4AFE8E2C2C0E0DAD5E3C82BA981FD](http://www.grdc.com.au/director/events/factsheets?item_id=A4D4AFE8E2C2C0E0DAD5E3C82BA981FD)**

## **Come and get the dirt on East Gippsland**

A new series of soil resources for East Gippsland will be launched by Professor Barry Hart, Chair of the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce. The event, from 10 -11am on July 12 at the DPI, 574 Main St Bairnsdale, is open to all interested. RSVP by July 2.

**More? Heather Adams 5152 0640 or [heather.adams@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:heather.adams@dpi.vic.gov.au)**

## **Plant tissue testing – factsheet now available**

Plant tissue testing is a relatively new opportunity for growers to assess the health and well-being of a crop during various growth stages. What's the advantage of doing a tissue test if you've already done a soil test?

**More? Listen at <http://www.grdc.com.au/uploads/documents/lester.mp3>**

## **Signs help fence out weeds and pests**

Victoria's cropping and fodder groups are supporting free signs warning visitors to seek advice before entering farms. Also, a free Farm Biosecurity Manual containing a self-assessment checklist for industry best-practice procedures is available from DPI.

**More? DPI Customer Service 136 186 or [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds) or [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au)**

## **Help for tree planting**

The Mirboo North Secondary Cadets are available to help landholders with tree planting and other environmental activities. They are available between 9am and 1.30pm each Friday in terms 3 and 4 from July 16. They will travel to local sites to plant trees or any other working bee activities. There are 20 students in the group.

**More? Allen Riseley 0418 108 599**

## **What pasture is that?**

A field day with John Gallienne will be held on Saturday July 3 from 10am to 1pm to help with better pasture management. The field day will be held at 580 Monomeith Road, Bayles. Please RSVP for catering purposes.

**More? Bridgette McCallum 5941 8446 or [bmccallum\\_cec@dcsi.net.au](mailto:bmccallum_cec@dcsi.net.au)**

## **Foreign labels undergo scrutiny**

Labelling for imported products, processing aids, GM foods and food colouring were highlighted by the Biological Farmers of Australia Ltd (BFA) in its recent submission to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

BFA standards convenor Dr Andrew Monk said current arrangement for imported products remains lax and confusing for consumers. "A front-of-label 'imported product' or 'imported ingredients' label is required," he said.

**More? [www.bfa.com.au](http://www.bfa.com.au)**

## **Farmers a force in food marketing**

Farmers are back in fashion and food retailers are using images of farmers to woo consumers seeking integrity.

According to David Hughes, emeritus professor of food marketing at Imperial College, London, farmers used to be seen as components of the industrial food production system, but now they're a real person.

He was addressing the Our Farming Future session run by the DPI at Lardner Park last week. He noted that projections of unbridled demand for food as world population grows might not be strictly accurate. Global population growth in last decades has not inflated farm gate prices, he claimed.

Prof Hughes suggested focussing products for end-users, and to get into their minds and think what they buy, what they value and what will they pay a premium. Even selling into established markets needs reform, he said. Product integrity and sustainability were also major factors in securing future overseas markets – including traceability, water and carbon accounting and recyclable packaging.

## More crop per drop

Getting more crop per drop is how scientists funded by GRDC describe efforts to develop cereals that perform better in a range of conditions from extra dry to extra wet. Research is underway across Australia at three managed environment facilities where for the first time scientists are able to come together and compare the results.

**More? Listen at** <http://www.grdc.com.au/uploads/documents/rebetzke.mp3>

## Want to express an interest in property planning?

Kelly Albornoz, Landcare Groups Facilitator, has requested expressions of interest for a property planning workshop. The workshop uses a sophisticated yet simple mapping tool designed specifically for Australian agriculture. The workshop will:

- Outline the objectives behind GIS mapping
- Identify and map how your property currently fits into the landscape
- Create property plans taking into account the natural landscape
- Monitor and evaluate the condition of natural assets
- Utilise GPS and internet technologies

More information about the software can be found at:

<http://www.agdata.com.au/index-tess1.php?ItemNo=3010&site=248>

The course is \$900 including software, catering, use of laptops and internet, etc and is fully covered by FarmReady Reimbursement Grants.

**More? Kelly 5152 0602 or** [kelly.asmus-albornoz@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:kelly.asmus-albornoz@dpi.vic.gov.au)

## Take a day out at Lardner Park Market

Lardner Park Market offers more than 250 stalls offering Australian-made products on Sunday July 18 from 9-2pm.

**More? Louise Gamon 5974 4710 or** [lgamon@craftmarkets.com.au](mailto:lgamon@craftmarkets.com.au)

## Become a citizen scientist

Landcare Australia is encouraging everyone to become a citizen scientist during Landcare Week September 6 -13. Every child can participate in this Landcare Week activity. Register to monitor, collect and record data that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change. To participate [click here](#)

## Laughing all the way to the bank!

An all-day Women Making it Work business conference to lift your business and motivate you! Presenters will cover topics on sales, marketing, attitude and finance as well as a comedian and laughter coach to lighten up the day.

The conference will be held at the Blue Hills Rise Country Club, 240 Berwick-Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne on Saturday July 25 from 9am to 4.30pm. The cost for members is \$120 and non-members, \$150. Book at [www.wmiw.com.au](http://www.wmiw.com.au)

**More? Michelle 0407 009 656 or** [admin@wmiw.com.au](mailto:admin@wmiw.com.au)

## Getting kids into the garden

McCain Foods has launched the \$500,000 McCain School Veggie Patches program, which aims to teach primary school children about the origin and benefits of vegetables by planting and growing vegetables in their own schoolyard.

After registering for the program, points can be donated to the school by collecting barcodes from McCain frozen vegetable packs, and McCain Purely Potato products. Participating schools can redeem points for seeds, tools and equipment; such as gardening gloves, wheelbarrows, water tanks and compost bins.

**More? [www.mccainveggiepatches.com](http://www.mccainveggiepatches.com)**

## Be inspired over breakfast

Join local businesses for networking over breakfast and to hear an inspiring story of leadership, taking risks and the lessons learnt from Mark Bouris, founder of Wizard Home Loans and chairman of Yellow Brick Road. The breakfast will be held on Friday July 23 from 7-9am at Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Blvd, Pakenham and costs \$35. To book by credit card go to: [www.trybooking.com/3796](http://www.trybooking.com/3796)

**More? Frances Grigoriou 5945 0402 or [f.grigoriou@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:f.grigoriou@cardinia.vic.gov.au)**

## Farmers protect Corner Inlet

A partnership between local farmers, West Gippsland CMA and the Department of Primary Industries in South Gippsland has introduced land management practices to protect one of Victoria's most important sheltered inlets.

Corner Inlet, located near the wilderness coast of Wilson's Promontory, is the most southerly marine embayment and tidal mudflat system on mainland Australia and home to a diverse range of plants and animals.

The collaborative project, called Corner Inlet Connections, promotes the need to protect the health and spread of seagrass within the wetland area and to improve its water quality. The project has enabled activities such as soil sampling, nutrient management planning, free effluent sampling, effluent and water management plans.

**More? Daniel Watts 5624 2236**

## Getting on your goat

West Gippsland YDDP is hosting a visit to Cibus Goats, Rowells Road, Trafalgar East on Thursday July 1 from 11am – 2pm. John, owner of Cibus Goats, will discuss breeding challenges, production costs, feeding cows versus goats, milk price, production components, suppliers, market, etc.

The day includes a BBQ lunch. RSVP by June 30.

**More? Kylie Barry 5624 3900 or [yddpgipps@gippsdairy.com.au](mailto:yddpgipps@gippsdairy.com.au)**

## Facing an AgFuture

The AgFutures Forum on July 19 offers the opportunity to discuss issues driving landscape change, trade and commodity outlooks.

The forum will explore the challenges and opportunities these changes present to your farming community and contribute towards better long term decision making.

Speakers include:

- Neil Barr (DPI Social Researcher) discussing social landscape change in the district
- Tony Berrisford (DPI Farm Economist) discussing global and local influences on farm operating costs, the economic outlook for meat, wool and cropping and the influences of international trade on agriculture.

The event will be held on Monday, July 19 from 8.30am-1pm at Giffard West Hall. South Gippsland Hwy, Giffard West.

Please register your intention to attend by July 15.

**More? Karen Thomas 9785 0103 or [karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au)**

## Making milk in a magazine

*milk* is a new monthly Gippsland events and lifestyle magazine. It offers free event calendar listings. Email [events@themilkmag.com](mailto:events@themilkmag.com) at least two months in advance. The magazine is also seeking to profile innovative Gippsland farmers.

**More? Bec Manjra 5194 2381 or [bec@themilkmag.com](mailto:bec@themilkmag.com)**

## Livestock identification system put to new use

Australian authorities are investigating using the National Livestock Identification System to plot the spread of any future major exotic disease outbreak. CSIRO will use the NLIS database for predicting livestock and disease travelling patterns.

## Listening to messages from outer space

The colour of grass as seen from space could hold the clue to future pasture management, according to Canadian scientists. Researchers using satellite imagery convert the colour of paddocks into herbage values. Pictures of a farm or field can be used to know when animals should be rotated in to or out of a particular paddock.

**More?** <http://www.universitynews.org/>

## Reward for water savers

Australian water savers are set to be rewarded with entries now open for the Savewater! Awards 2010. The Australian Achiever award recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to water conservation through initiative and leadership, highlighting their long term commitment to efficient water use. Entries close 5pm on Monday August 9.

**More? Visit** [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)

## Grants available for young landcarers

Junior Landcare Round 3 of the Yates and Coles Junior Landcare grants close 5pm EST Friday August 6. [Get your application forms here](#)

## Forecast Explorer aids farm decision making

Have you wondered if the wind is going to change and whether to spray a paddock? Or if it is going to rain and whether to hold off on cutting a paddock for hay or silage? The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) new website page called Forecast Explorer at <http://www.bom.gov.au/forecasts/graphical/> provides a detailed seven-day forecast using easy to use clickable maps down to a district level. Rainfall, temperature, fog, frost and wind speed can be stepped out for three days in three-hour time blocks, with six hour time steps for up to seven days.

**More? Zita Ritchie 5624 2222 or** [zita.ritchie@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:zita.ritchie@dpi.vic.gov.au)

## Organic women find their VOICe

The Victorian Organic Industry Committee (VOICe) has secured funding from the Federal Government to develop leadership skills for women in organic agriculture. The program will be designed around adult learning principles and include workshops and networking dinners. Topics include:

- Who's who in the organic zoo
- Marketing yourself and your business
- Developing confidence and skills in networking
- Developing a strategic plan and business goals
- Achieving a balance between business, family and life
- Case Studies – tips and strategies for running an organic business
- Making the money work in your business

The program will be run at the Central Springs Inn, Daylesford from July 18 to 21. Attendance is based on submission of an expression of interest form.

**More? Karen 5728 1924 or** [contact@mybeechworthsecretary.com.au](mailto:contact@mybeechworthsecretary.com.au)

## **Weaner sheep face early worm attack**

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is warning sheep farmers that they are likely to face worm problems sooner than usual after this year's early autumn break.

**More? Your local veterinarian or DPI Animal Health Officer at Ellinbank 5624 2222, Leongatha 5662 9900, Maffra 5147 0800 or Bairnsdale 5152 0400**

## **She'll be apples**

Australia and NZ have forged a \$12m, five-year research partnership aimed at improving orchard production by helping growers curb use of water and chemicals.

**More? Nicola Raymond 9696 5899 or [anada@curriecom.com.au](mailto:anada@curriecom.com.au)**

## **Directory assistance for Landcare groups**

A new Landcare directory has been purpose built and captures the various project types that groups are working on all over Australia. Find a local landcare group [here](#)

## **Rabobank managers course closing soon**

Applications close at the end of this month for young farmers to join this year's Rabobank Farm Managers Program. The residential course will be held at Clear Mountain Lodge in Brisbane from 18 to 22 October. Course limited to 36 people.

**More? Skye Ward 02 8115 4139 or email [bmp@rabobank.com](mailto:bmp@rabobank.com), or visit: [www.rabobank.com.au/bmp](http://www.rabobank.com.au/bmp)**

## **Coastcare Victoria community small grants available**

Grants are available for coastal protection proposals of up to \$5000. The grants are available until the end of the year.

**More? [www.dse.vic.gov.au/coasts](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/coasts)**

## **Tigers roar support for Landcare**

The Richmond Football Club with the West Gippsland CMA, is branding the Round 14 clash on July 4 at the MCG between Richmond and Sydney to support Landcare.

**More?**

**<http://westgippsland.landcarevic.net.au/gippslandcare/projects/landcare-branded-afl-game/tigers-roar-support-for-landcare>**

## **Future proofing food manufacturing**

AgriFood Skills Australia in conjunction with Cardinia Shire Council invites CEOs, owners and food processing companies to a breakfast seminar on sustainability.

RSVP for the 7am seminar at Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham on August 25.

**More? Angela Petty 02 6163 7208 or [angela.petty@agrifoodskills.net.au](mailto:angela.petty@agrifoodskills.net.au)**

## **Farm Improvement Grants closing soon**

Victorian farmers affected by drought are reminded that the Farm Improvement Grants (FIG) program closes on June 30. The FIG program can be used for improvements such as fixed fodder storages, stock water systems, irrigation system upgrades and to fix infrastructure. Grants are available to farmers who have received Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Relief Payments from Centrelink between October 22, 2009 and June 30, 2010. FIG applications must be received by June 30.

**More? [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au) or 5448 2600**

## Access to superannuation clearing house

From 1 July, small businesses with less than 20 employees will be able to access the Australian Government's free superannuation clearing house service.

The service is optional and is designed to reduce red tape and compliance costs for small businesses when meeting their superannuation guarantee obligations.

The Small Business Superannuation Clearing House is administered by Medicare Australia and lets employers pay superannuation contributions to a single location.

**More? Visit [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/super](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/super)**

## Going for gold

Agribusiness Gippsland was a finalist last year... we'll try to crack it this year in the Victoria Regional and Community Awards which celebrate individuals, businesses, and community groups that are making a difference in their local regional or rural Victoria through their hard work, dedication, innovation and community contribution.

Nominations are now open in the following categories:

- Regional Development Victoria Business Achievement Award
- Parks Victoria Environment and Sustainability Award
- BlueScope Distribution Leadership and Innovation Award
- RACV free2go Youth Community Involvement Award
- Parks Victoria Regional Achiever Award
- Regional Development Victoria Trade and Career Achievement Award
- Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award
- Fonterra Dairy Leadership Award

Great prizes are on offer, including a share in \$12,000 in bank accounts from the Commonwealth Bank and airtime packages on Prime. Nominations close Wednesday, July 14 and winners will be announced on October 16 at Ballarat.

**More? Awards office 9720 2277 or [vic@awardsaustralia.com](mailto:vic@awardsaustralia.com) or visit [www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA\\_vic.html](http://www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA_vic.html)**

## Grants offered to Landcare group registrants

Landcare Australia will offer 20 x \$1000 grants to groups registering by September 6 – the first day of Landcare Week. The winning grant recipients will be selected at random from the database and announced on [landcareonline.com.au](http://landcareonline.com.au) To register your group click [here](#) Already registered? [Log in here](#)

## Join the family night prow!l

Explore the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Cranbourne bushland at night. Meet at the front entrance on July 6 at 7 for a two-hour torchlight ramble. Cost: \$15.95 adult, \$13.60 child. Bookings essential. BYO torch.

**More? RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245**

## Plan for the whole farm

The sustainable agriculture section of Education Centre Gippsland (ECG) is running whole farm planning course commencing in Warragul on Monday, July 14.

The course gives land managers an opportunity to look at the farm from a broader planning viewpoint and establish a series of strategies for improving the layout, pasture management, irrigation, biodiversity and more. The course is part of the broader sustainable agriculture course but can be taken as a single subject.

**More? Dan Spencer 0415 445 146**

## Grow it. Hold it. Sell it!

A series of soil carbon workshops “Grow it – Hold it – Sell it!” are being held in:

- Foster on Wednesday June 30 at a cost of \$450
- Leongatha on Thursday and Friday July 1-2 at a cost of \$550

All courses are FarmReady-approved, meaning they are fully reimbursed to farmers. The price includes GST, lunch and tea/coffee. All participants will receive a copy of the 170pg Carbon Farming Handbook.

**More? Brett Whittle 0419 356 321 or visit [www.bioplanning.com.au](http://www.bioplanning.com.au)**

## Galvanising Gippsland communities

The Gippsland Education for Sustainability Network invites anyone interested in furthering education for sustainability in Gippsland to a forum on Wednesday June 16, 4-6.30pm, Monash University, Churchill.

**More? Scott Ferraro or [scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au)**

## Stallholders sought for farmers' market at Coal Creek

Applications are now open for prospective stallholders at a new authentic Farmers' Market at Coal Creek in October. The Farmers' Market will be held in the main car park on the second Saturday of each month from 8am-1pm, starting on Saturday October 9, and will bring together accredited farmers and specialist food makers.

**More? 5655 1811 or [farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au](mailto:farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au) or visit [www.coalcreekvillage.com.au](http://www.coalcreekvillage.com.au)**

## Opening the gates on farmer health

A charter for farmer health will be developed at the inaugural conference of the National Centre for Farmer Health from October 11-13. 'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health' will highlight the health, well-being and safety issues of farm men and women, farm workers and their families.

**More? Sally Stevenson 5551 8587 or [www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/conference](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/conference)**

## Clunies Ross Awards now open

Nominations close July 26 for the 2011 ATSE Clunies Ross Awards for excellence in the application of science and technology. The awards recognise Australia's pre-eminent scientists and technologists who have bridged the gap between research and the marketplace, people who have persisted with ideas, often against the odds, to produce innovations that bring economic, social or environmental benefits.

**More? Rebecca Bone 9864 0908 or download [Registration form](#)**

## Stored grain technology sought

The GRDC is calling for expressions of interest for the development of technologies aimed at protecting stored grain. The loss of several grain protectants in recent years has left the grain industry relying mostly on the fumigant phosphine.

**More? You can view the document [here](#)**

## Take the watercolour challenge

The Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Cranbourne is seeking watercolours inspired by the RBG Cranbourne bushland or Australian Garden. All entries will be displayed in the Australian Garden gallery and judged by a member of the Friends of the RBG Cranbourne botanic illustrators. Entries open from June 1 to July 31.

**More? RBG Cranbourne 5990 2245**



## CLASSIC COUNTRY CLOTHING THAT MEANS BUSINESS

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

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

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



## 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 \$28,000, 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 2011 scholarships close on June 30.

... AND Dairy Australia and the ADC have sponsored a position for a dairy farmer to pursue a Nuffield Scholarship, valued at \$28k. Eligible farmers are aged between 28-40; hold Australian citizenship and are a dairy farmer (owner, manager or working on a farm). Applications are due on June 30.

... AND an opportunity to develop industry knowledge and skills is being offered to southern region grain growers through the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars program with the support of the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

**More? Nuffield Australia 03 5480 0755 or [enquiries@nuffield.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nuffield.com.au) or visit [www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au)**

## Get warm and fuzzy at Wool Week 2010

Wool Week 2010 starts September 6 and includes industry association AGMs on September 9-10 and the Wool Week lunch and dinner on September 9

**More? Visit AWI website <http://www.wool.com>**

## Export awards open

The Governor of Victoria Export Awards are open until Friday, 9 July. Visit [www.exportawards.gov.au](http://www.exportawards.gov.au)

**More? Nicole Andrews 9651 9545**

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

The George Alexander Foundation, administered by the ISS Institute Fellowship, is inviting fellowship applications in environment and sustainability or alternative energy. Applications close 4pm Monday June 28. Other areas eligible are:

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

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

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

**Look at Lardner Park, near Warragul.**

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

**We also have flexibility for smaller meetings, conferences and workshops. The Lardner Park board room and pavilions are ideal for equipment and product launches. Our location is convenient for Melbourne and Gippsland attendees.**



For further information email

[mark@lardnerpark.com.au](mailto:mark@lardnerpark.com.au), visit [www.lardnerpark.com.au](http://www.lardnerpark.com.au) or phone 5626 1373

## Pull up a chair and recycle

Primary schools can enter to win outdoor furniture made of recycled shopping bags by emailing [everybagcounts@coles.com.au](mailto:everybagcounts@coles.com.au) and describing what the school is doing to help the environment. The best 100 examples of recycling and reuse will receive outdoor furniture made from reusable bags. Entries close Wednesday June 30.

## Scholarship for construction workers

Incolink and the Australian Overseas Foundation Inc are offering a scholarship for a young worker in the building and construction industry to work in a country of their choice, working in the construction industry and undergo further study. The winner will receive funding to cover the costs of a return airfare, visa as required, settling-in costs and some study costs. Support services will also be available for gaining employment and accommodation while overseas. Applications close August 2.

**More? [www.incolink.org.au/AOFScholarship.aspx](http://www.incolink.org.au/AOFScholarship.aspx) or Stefanie Failla 9668 3049 or [stefanief@incolink.org.au](mailto:stefanief@incolink.org.au)**

## Hunting in AGInc hyperspace

Recent top searches on our blogsite ([www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)) have been: "rick lacey", victoria, bc, Canada, "ben white" dse, agribusiness logo, aginc, victorian agribusiness summit, nikki hellyer, "ben white" dse, [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)

## **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](mailto:susanw@ptarmigan.com.au) or via [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)

## **Country racing is off and ... well ... racing**

Meetings next month are:

- July 1: Sale
- July 13: Sale
- July 17: Moe
- July 27: Sale
- July 31: Bairnsdale

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

## **Gippsland farmers' markets given accreditation**

The Victorian Farmers' Markets Association has named accredited farmers' markets in Gippsland. They are:

- Prom Country Farmers' Market
- Inverloch Farmers' Market
- Traralgon Farmers' Market
- South Gippsland Farmers' Market
- East Gippsland Farmers' Market
- Metung Farmers' Markets
- Pakenham Rotary Farmers' Market

The accreditation program is ongoing. Visit [www.vicfarmersmarkets.org.au](http://www.vicfarmersmarkets.org.au)

**More? Sarah Robins 0410 668 667 or [website@vicfarmersmarkets.org.au](mailto:website@vicfarmersmarkets.org.au)**

## **Make your business green and lean**

South Gippsland Shire's Green Business, Lean Business seminar offers ways your business can money and the environment. The seminar explains energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction and more. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, August 10 from 9-11:30am in the Leongatha RSL Gold Room. Cost is \$20.

**More? Alycia Stivic 5662 9271 or [alycias@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:alycias@southgippsland.vic.gov.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](mailto: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.

### **RECRUITING:**

#### **Want hands-on experience in real-life farming?**

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

**More? Tanya or Mike at Oasis Organic Food Gardens 5157 5183 or [tancode77@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tancode77@yahoo.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](mailto:h.bull@bigpond.com)

**Need staff?**

Try 12 or six months of cost-effective undergraduate recruits from accounting, sciences, marketing, HR and PR/comms/media. Candidates available from early December for paid full-time or half-time 2010 placements.

**More? Annette: [Issibl@swin.edu.au](mailto:Issibl@swin.edu.au) or ph: 9214 8753 or Karen: [kpomeranz@swin.edu.au](mailto:kpomeranz@swin.edu.au) or ph: 9215 7136**

**Positions wanted**

**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 tertiary qualifications in business studies, taxation and financial planning and am looking for work in these areas.

**More? Greg Lewis on 0439 523 871 or [gippswealthadvice@bigpond.com](mailto:gippswealthadvice@bigpond.com)**



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**Consultant available to undertake:**

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

Please ask me for a quote! Cassie Wright [cassiewright@alphalink.com.au](mailto:cassiewright@alphalink.com.au)  
Ph: 5674 8242/ Mob: 0429 061 161/ 35 Sail Street, Cape Paterson, VIC 3995.

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## Filling in the Gippy-gaps

The rapid growth of GippyAGchat has left us with a data gap ... we don't know who you all are! Could you please underline which of the following best describes you, and forward this message to [madfuj@yahoo.com.au](mailto:madfuj@yahoo.com.au).

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

## 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](mailto:94569791), <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or [www.aginc.wordpress.com](http://www.aginc.wordpress.com)

## 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](mailto:ptarmigan2@internode.on.net).

## Gippy Diary

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
June 30	Grow it – Hold it – Sell it! Soil carbon workshop	Foster	Brett Whittle 0419 356 321
June 30- July 2	Hydroponic Farmers Federation Bi-annual Conference	Cranbourne	5983 2400
July 1	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
July 1	YDDP Cibus Goats Visit	Trafalgar East	Kylie Barry 5624 3900
July 1-2	Grow it – Hold it – Sell it! Soil carbon workshop	Leongatha	Brett Whittle 0419 356 321
July 1-2	Grazing and pasture cropping workshop	Meerlieu	Rose Maher 5149 8379
July 3	What pasture is that?- field day	Bayles	Bridgette McCallum 5941 8446
July 4	Support for Landcare Richmond football match	Melbourne	
July 6	RBG Cranbourne family night prowl	Cranbourne	
July 12	East Gippsland Soil Resources launch	Bairnsdale	Heather Adams 5152 0640
July 13	Starting you business seminar	Leongatha	Alycia Stivic 5662 9271
July 13	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
July 15	Women Making It Work breakfast	Cranbourne	Michelle 0407 009 656
July 17	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402

July 18	Lardner Park Market	Warragul	Michelle 0407 009 656
July 19	AgFutures Forum	Giffard West	Karen Thomas 9785 0103
July 18-21	VOICe Women's development workshop	Daylesford	Karen Nankervis 5728 1924
Jul 21-23,	6th biennial Enviro Conference and Exhibition	Melbourne	Veronica Dullens 02 8746 5055
Jul 22	Food Challenge Awards	Sydney	
July 23	Business Breakfast	Pakenham	Frances Grigoriou 5945 0402
July 25	Women Making It Work Conference	Cranbourne	Michelle 0407 009 656
July 27	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
July 31	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
July 31- Aug 1	Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT)– National Tree Planting Day activities		
Aug 2	Food, Farming and Health Forum	Warragul	Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386
Aug 1-6, 2010	19th World Congress of Soil Science	Brisbane	<a href="http://www.19wcss.org.au">www.19wcss.org.au</a>
Aug 10	Green Business, Lean Business seminar	Leongatha	Alycia Stivic 5662 9271
Aug 19-20	2010 Victorian agribusiness forum	Mt Evelyn	
Aug 25	Sustainability seminar	Pakenham	Angela Petty 02 6163 7208
Sep 6-13	Wool Week 2010		
Sep 9	Wool Week lunch and dinner		
Sep 29-30	South Gippsland Dairy Expo	Poowong	Deanne Kennedy 0419 878 055

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