



Gippy AGchat August 9, 2010 – Issue 31

Ten years and growing ... Agribusiness Gippsland Inc is a non-profit group that helps support regional agribusiness and works in partnership with other organisations. This edition is going to 2432 recipients (*that's 77 sign-ups in three weeks!*)

Our partners (and we thank them):



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- Have you visited our website? <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au>
- Or blog us at www.aginc.wordpress.com
- Our postal address is PO Box 1312 Warragul 3280.
- Email us at ptarmigan1@internode.on.net or ptarmigan2@internode.on.net
- Phone us 9456 9791 or 0402 267 802
- Fax us at 9459 9699

Agribusiness Gippsland welcomes new sponsor

Welcome to Southern Rural Water as a major sponsor of Agribusiness Gippsland Inc. We look forward to working with Southern Rural Water on important water and natural resource management projects to maintain and boost Gippsland agriculture's water use sustainability.

More? <http://www.srw.com.au/>

Speakers with something to say

We had some absorbing presentations at our recent Nurture the Land, Nourish the People session.

CSIRO's Dr Brad Ridoutt explained that less water used in growing food is not necessarily better for the environment.

Monash University's Professor Margaret Alston OAM discussed the different ways that men and women respond to food scarcity.

Deakin University's Associate Professor Mark Lawrence detailed the difficulties of reconciling nutrition with sustainability when rewriting the healthy diet guidelines.

More than 80 people participated in the second annual Farming, Food and Health forum. It was brainfood. Read about it at <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au/news>

Need a speaker 'with dirt under the nails'?

The Gippsland farmers who trained through the Gippsland Women Find Their Voice project were a knockout success at the Lardner Park forum on August 2.

Read their stories at http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au/past_presentations

These are girls with grit in their spirit and dirt under their nails. They are available to present their stories to Landcare groups, school groups, service clubs, food and agriculture groups – any organisation seeking a speaker with a fascinating tale to tell. From a dairy farmer to a rabbit meat producer, olive grower, free-range egg farmer, wine-maker goat breeder, writer, even a circus manager! They detail their life stories and their efforts to make their farming enterprises sustainable.

The project organised by Agribusiness Gippsland was co-ordinated by Jenny O'Sullivan and funded through the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Alex Arbuthnot AM, chair of Agribusiness Gippsland said: "These stories were from the heart. They were open, candid and superb."

To organise a speaker, phone 0402 267 802 or email susanw@ptarmigan.com.au

Fishermen pleased with market news

Gippsland fishermen have welcomed news of a new fish market in Melbourne, following the sale of the existing wholesale market. The Melbourne Seafood Centre is planned for a site about 1.5km from the current site, and is due to open in the first half of 2011. Dale Sumner, general manager of the Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-operative, was pleased by the move. Of the 4.2m kg of fish that come ashore at Lakes Entrance each year, about 75% is sold through the Melbourne fish market.

Gippy winners in national awards

Winner of the dairy section in the recent 2010 Food Challenge awards was Jindi Deluxe Blue, while another Gippsland product, Burra Food's Trampoline Orange and Poppypeed Gelato was highly commended. The awards, made by Food Magazine, were announced in Sydney.

Annual state agribusiness forum in Yarra Valley

The Victorian Agribusiness Summit, "New decade in agribusiness – how to survive", will be held in the Yarra Valley on August 19-20. Two-day registration with dinner and drinks is \$270. Schools/colleges booking at least 10 students pay \$75/registration.

The summit features sessions on:

Food Security: Keynote address: Can we grow enough? Senator Bill Heffernan

Land water supply, Wentworth Group TBC

Urban encroachment on farming land, Assoc Prof Michael Buxton, RMIT University

Climate Change: What are the latest views? Andrew Broad, VFF President

Changing land suitability, Steve Crimp and Alison Laing, CSIRO

Adaption for Primary Industries, Prof. Snow Barlow, University of Melbourne

How to take advantage of it, Allen Hart, Dog Rock Wines

Labour: Being an employer of choice, Simon Naphine, TarraWarra Estate

Industrial relations, Ben Davies, Freehills

People management, Arkom Rimthong, Thai Employment Agency

Training, Greg Hallihan, Primary Skills Victoria

More? Emma Amos 5962 9423 or cab@agribusiness-yarravalley.com or www.agribusiness-yarravalley.com

Support for community projects available

The 2010/11 Community Action Grants round will provide funding for a broad range of activities that will contribute to Caring for our Country national priorities.

Grants are up to \$20,000. Deadline 5pm, August 31.

More? <http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/index.html#guide>

Focus on the future of local food

The future of local food production and distribution will be discussed at a public meeting supported by Grow Lightly, Landcare, Sustainable Development Alliance (South Gippsland) and South Gippsland Shire Council on August 14 from 10am-noon at Coal Creek, Gippsland Highway, Korumburra. RSVP by August 11.

More? Chris Hamilton 5665 9314 or christineh@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Manage to make better soil

Training in profitable and regenerative soil management is available at a Vital Soils training course in Korumburra.

The four-day training teaches an integrated, regenerative approach to soil management. The approach builds soil carbon and well structured biologically – healthy soil, increases water-holding capacity, enhances availability of nutrients, increases drought tolerance, improves animal health and reduces fertiliser, chemical and veterinary inputs over time whilst maintaining or increasing production.

The course will be held in Korumburra on September 9, 16, 23, 30 and is Farm

Ready accredited with an opportunity for full fee reimbursement \$1200.

More? Vital Farms 5674 1543 or enquiries@vitalfarms.com.au

Seeder use in revegetation explained

A training day on how to use the Burford direct seeder for revegetation works or sowing shelter belts will be held on August 25 at Stradbroke. RSVP.

More? Yarram Yarram Landcare Network 5182 5073 or paulm@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Meet, eat and talk koalas

The South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) will hold their Annual General meeting on Saturday, September 11 at Leongatha RSL. Dinner will commence at 6pm followed by the AGM and a guest speaker Richard Appleton from HVP talking about Strzelecki Koalas, and the Victorian Koala atlas. RSVP.

More? Belinda Brennan 5662 5759 or belindab@wgcm.vic.gov.au

Plan to be adaptive with forage

All dairy farmers and industry service providers are invited to attend the Adaptive Forage Planning Days field days. Demonstration crop results, management and crop suitability for increasingly variable seasons will be discussed.

The field days will be held on:

- Thursday, August 19, from 10.15 am – 12.30pm at Lynton and Marc Rathjen's farm, Rosedale-Flynn Road, Flynn.
- Friday, August 20, from 10.15 am – 12.30pm at Wayne Bowden's farm, Grenmount Road (8kms east of Yarram on South Gippsland Hwy).

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

Grants available for ICT skills

Community Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Skills grants of up to \$25,000 are available to community organisations and local government for projects that develop and retain ICT community skills, are innovative and flexible, promote partnerships and involve community consultation. A high priority will be given to projects delivering services to Community Building Initiative (CBI) locations in Gippsland. Applications close 5pm August 27.

More? Laurie Paton 5174 7308 or

<http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au/web18/dvcgrants.nsf/AllDocs/16A66826A969A7F4CA257761001503B6>

Koori artists to get in to the black

Indigenous artists' rights and business skills will be discussed at Artists in the Black in Bairnsdale on August 23. The seminar, hosted by the Koori Business Network will cover copyright, contracts and key issues to build a sustainable arts practice.

More? Business Victoria 13 22 15 or visit

<http://services.business.vic.gov.au/ems/search.do?searchModeType=search&type=search>

Farm water resources flood the web

The DPI Farm Water Solutions project team have designed user-friendly, web-based information for unregulated farm water at: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/farmwatersolutions.

The team have also updated a series of farm water information notes which are linked to from the farm water solutions website or the DPI external web at:

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/notes/soil-and-water2>

Celebrating the biosecure farmer

The Biosecurity Farmer of the Year honours farmers who have demonstrated initiative and motivation to address the potential risks to their businesses and their livelihood from diseases, pests and weeds.

The award has categories for plant and livestock producers. Nominations close on August 18, and winners will be announced at a gala dinner in Sydney on September 21 as part of the [Farming Ahead 2010 Conference](#) (September 21-22).

More? www2.kondinin.com.au/awards/

Just Released

THE EASY 'DO IT' GUIDE FOR EVERYMAN

Most men hate seeing a doctor or talking about their health. This is the Doctor's guide that comes with a good laugh and covers every aspect of men's health, from young boys to men hitting the century mark.

Dr Bernie Crimmins knows and explains the latest in preventative care and good health.

Bernie's brother, Peter, was the star Hawthorn rover who died tragically of cancer at too young an age. Bernie devoted years to being a doctor at the Hawthorn Football Club and today continues to work as a GP.

Bernie's message to the men of Australia is, 'Boys, we've got to do it ourselves!'

With cartoons by Paul Harvey Blokes Health is an informative and entertaining read at a bargain price of only \$9.95!

You can order online at www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au

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

Learn more about business

Places are still available in the following Business Victoria's low-cost regional workshops/seminars:

- Access to Finance: Leongatha (October 12)
- Managing Stock, Suppliers and Debtors: Leongatha (September 14)

More? [Business Victoria 13 22 15](#) or visit

<http://services.business.vic.gov.au/ems/default.do>

Women make it work over dinner

Women Making It Work is hosting a networking dinner to give women the chance to meet and network with other business people in the Casey-Cardinia area.

Bookings essential at www.wmiw.com.au bookings close August 18 on August 25 from 6-9pm at Switch Restaurant, Fountain Gate Shopping Centre, Narre Warren.

More? [Michelle 0407 009 656](tel:0407009656) or admin@wmiw.com.au or

[visit:http://www.wmiw.com.au](http://www.wmiw.com.au)

Black-tie ball for young farmers at Buffalo

A black-tie ball will be held at Buffalo, September 11, \$30 prepaid or \$45 at the door, for finger food, entertainment and a stubby holder.

More? southgippslandyoungfarmers@hotmail.com or [0407 476 368](tel:0407476368)

Can your innovation help shape farming's future?

The 2010 DPI Science Awards recognise and reward excellence in science and innovation related to farming and primary industries in Victoria.

The two awards open for nominations are:

- Hugh McKay Future Farming Award for Rural Innovators \$10,000 cash prize to a Victorian primary producer or rural resident who can demonstrate an innovative solution to an environmental, social or economic problem.
- Nancy Millis Postgraduate Award \$21,000 scholarship over three years for the most talented science graduate to undertake their PhD.

Nominations close August 23.

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

Council to spend \$18 million on capital works

Bass Coast Shire Council adopted the 2010/11 budget which includes a capital works program worth nearly \$18 million, the second largest in the Shire's history. In 2010/11, Council will spend nearly \$11 million on environmental services, almost \$7 million on leisure and recreation and over \$6 million on community services.

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

Your tax questions answered

CPA Accountant Jason Cunningham is available to answer tax questions on the Small Business Victoria Facebook networking site until August 19. Jason is a partner in accounting firm The Practice and author of 'Where's My Money?'. Jason will post answers to questions posted on the Business Victoria facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/topic.php?topic=15314&uid=114352295710

Green cleaning on dairy farms

A low temperature re-use system can be used successfully to clean milking machines, according to a year-long Gippsland-based trial.

GippsDairy's Green Cleaning trial unit delivered:

- More than 75% reduction in electricity used for heating water for cleaning milking machines;
- More than 65% reduction in electricity costs associated with heating water for cleaning milking machines;
- 63% reduction in water used in cleaning milking machines
- 10-30% reduction in chemical use.

The project is now in the commercialisation phase with industry partners designing prototype systems for installing and trialling over the next six to eight months.

More? Robert Greenall robertgreenall@agvetprojects.com.au

Putting 'us' back into sewerage

South East Water and its 'us' – Utility Services Alliance received the International Water Association's Project Innovation Award in the small projects category at the Asia Pacific Regional awards, held in Singapore recently, for its \$33m Flinders and Shoreham Pressure Sewerage Project.

Neerim South foodbank launch

The Neerim South Foodbank will be launched on 19 August 10am-noon at Neerim South Algie Memorial Hall, sponsored by Christian Family Church.

More? Anne 0419 375 813

East Gippsland seeks Australia Day nominations

East Gippsland Shire is seeking nominations for its annual Australia Day Awards. Nominations are sought in three categories: Deadline, October 20.

- Australia Day Citizen for those 27 or older by January 26, 2011.
- Australia Day Young Citizen those younger than 27 at January 26, 2011.
- Community Event of the Year for the person or group that has staged the most outstanding community event during the year.

More? Mike Quist 5153 9500 or visit www.egipps.vic.gov.au

Corn coming out of your ears?

Swamped with swedes? Corn coming out of your ears? Here's a way to get rid of your excess veggie garden produce and help needy Gippslanders. Tamworth McGhee, regional co-ordinator for Victorian Foodbank is launching a new project. 'Street Harvest' shares excess fruit and vegetables from backyard gardens. People with gardens, or orchards are asked to grow an extra row and donate to a charity emergency relief organisation, community café/kitchen, or school breakfast and healthy eating program. Volunteers to help map possible gardens with excess produce, to help pick and tend gardens and fruit trees for the elderly.

"My colleague in Wodonga has been the driving force behind this project where it is working very successfully," Tammy said.

More? tammymcg@vrfb.com.au or 0437001815.

Council supports buy Australian

The City of Casey has thrown its weight behind the popular Australian Made, Australian Grown Campaign encouraging consumers to look for the distinctive green and gold trademark when making purchasing decisions. There are 15 Casey firms signed on as supporters of the Australian Made Australian Grown campaign.

More? City of Casey 9705 5200 or caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au

Irrigation upgrades feed environment flows

Environmental flows have been increased for the Macalister River and Gippsland Lakes. The Macalister River will receive an average 8.1bn litres/year, saved from irrigation upgrade works completed so far. More savings will be added to the entitlement as the project is completed.

This \$28m project, jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Victorian Government's Victorian Water Trust, is being managed by Southern Rural Water. Water will be released by the West Gippsland CMA.

More? West Gippsland CMA 1300 094 262 or visit www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/

Infrastructure preferred means of water security

Australians might be committed to reducing household water use, but there is widespread preference for more infrastructure to satisfy growing demand.

According to research, 91% of people are concerned that Australia's current water supply will not support a significant population increase in the next five years.

Asked to choose between more dams or desalination plants or water restrictions, 76% preferred the former.

A survey by marketing firm MWH found Baby Boomers (81%) were the biggest supporter of future infrastructure measures to ensure water security (compared to 75% of Gen X and 67% of Gen Y).

More? marketing@mwhglobal.com

Mitchell River bulk entitlement transfer proposal

A proposed transfer of bulk entitlements from the Nicholson and Tambo rivers to the Mitchell River will assure supply for 24,000 East Gippsland Water customers in Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Lakes Entrance and Lindenow and provide environmental benefits to the Nicholson River. East Gippsland Water seeks to transfer 3306ML as 'winter fill' to the Mitchell River to ensure supply for the next 50 years for an area between Lindenow and Nowa Nowa. EGW is also looking to use the Latrobe Aquifer as an underground storage for drinking water sourced from the Mitchell.

Insights into U-pick

A US website on agritourism is offering these tips on pick-your-own farms:

- As well as occasional drive-by visitors, try establishing a club, signing up members who can prepay for the right to pick fruit or vegetables on an honour system. This allows a safe, unstaffed, off-season and mid-week pick-your-own operation when the farm is not open to the public.
- Post messages to members on a Google group, sending them all an email notice (a Google group rather than regular email dodges spam folders).
- When production peaks, put up big signs and start staffing the farm stand. Twitter and Facebook could help.
- Tell the customers to let the kids eat what they want, and don't worry about it. This keeps kids interested and parents picking longer.
- Plastic buckets of a set capacity e.g. one litre means no weighing is needed and no scales need to be certified.
- Think about a marketing plan for produce that ripens midweek, while most pick-your-own demand is on the weekends.
- Don't even think about using ladders for pick-your-own fruit. Everything must be picked with feet on the ground.
- Plant so something's always ready to pick, but not everything ready at once. You don't need the earliest varieties.
- Pick-your-own is a great way to promote other activities.

More? <http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/agritourism/emails/>

Seeking out great water innovators

Southern Rural Water is inviting nominations for its inaugural Waterwise Awards from savvy Gippsland farmers.

The awards are open to all Southern Rural Water licence holders, and seek to recognise good work in water savings and efficiency on properties.

Four awards of \$2000 each will be presented, covering the areas of groundwater, rivers/creeks, and irrigation districts. A separate award, also \$2000, will recognise research in ground or surface water management benefitting licence holders.

Nominations close on Monday, August 30.

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

Manage your money

Independent, practical and plain language money management information will be provided at a free money management seminar for women.

The seminar includes tools for busy women to plan and stick to a budget and achieve financial goals. It will be held at the Quality Inn – Latrobe Convention Centre, 5601 Princes Highway, Traralgon on Saturday, August 14 from 10:30am- 12pm.

More? [Lyn Hall 1300 550 692](http://www.lynhall.com.au)

Fresh farm produce for sale

Traralgon Farmers Market will be held from 8am-1pm on August 28 at Kay Street Gardens, Traralgon. The market features fresh farm produce and more than 40 stalls.
More? Allan L Vickery 0409 232 715 or info@traralgonfarmersmarket.com.au

Horse properties to register with State Government

Every property with horses in Victoria has to now be registered with the State Government so horses can be tracked if there's another disease outbreak like the equine flu in 2007.

More? 1800 678 779

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 or educators. 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 hope to see some YDDP and NCDEA students as well. Email your details to 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)

Rewarding agribusiness excellence

The 2010 NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence recognise corporate and individual achievement within the agribusiness, food, fibre and beverage sectors. Entries must be received by August 31. Awards are in the following categories:

- Agribusiness Leader of the Year Award
- Primary Producer of the Year Award
- Export Award
- Innovation in New and Emerging Industries Award
- Technology and Innovation Award
- Environment and Energy Management Award
- Rural Enterprise Award
- Agribusiness Employer of Choice Award
- Risk Management Award
- Governance Award

More? Lawrie Dooley 9903 2757 or lawrence.dooley@buseco.monash.edu.au

How ready is your business for the future?

Steve Tighe, strategic foresight specialist, will discuss emerging trends influencing consumer behaviour at the Cardinia Business Breakfast to be held on Thursday, August 19 from 7- 9am. Join other local businesses at Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Blvd, Pakenham for a morning of networking and inspiring dialogue. The cost of participation is \$35.

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

Wine, dine, dance and support charity

The inaugural East Gippsland mayoral charity dinner dance will be held at the Bairnsdale Sporting and Convention Centre August 27 from 7.30pm to fund an all-abilities playground. Tickets are \$60 for a three-course meal, drinks and music.

More? [1800 637 060](tel:1800637060)

Learn to find funding

Free roadshows offering 'how-to' information on applying for grants will be held at:

- Rosedale Multipurpose Centre, September 7, 7-9pm
- Heyfield Resource Centre, October 5, 7-9pm
- Stratford Hall Supper Room, November 3, 7-9pm

Presenters include: Regional Arts Victoria, Gippsport, Department of Planning and Community Development, Regional Development Victoria, Kilmany Uniting Care, Westpac Bank and Wellington Shire Council.

More? [Wellington Shire Council Community Wellbeing Unit 1300 366 244](tel:1300366244)

Try it. You might like it.

The Education Centre Gippsland is inviting land managers in the Pakenham and Traralgon areas to try a subject in the Diploma of Conservation and Land Management – either: “Collect and classify plants” or “Natural area restoration program”. The Pakenham dates are August 28-29 and Traralgon, September 4-5.

More? [Malcolm Brown 0403 997 831](tel:0403997831)

A cow gets out among the horses

Dairy Australia's 2010 AGM will be on November 26 at Flemington Racecourse.

More? [Dairy Australia 9694 3777](tel:96943777) or visit www.dairyaustralia.com.au

Free business and sustainability training on offer

Baw Baw Shire Council and Regional Development Victoria are offering the business and farming community free business sustainability training.

Two different workshops will cover financial and risk management for small and medium-sized businesses, with an emphasis on how to sustain your business after major traumatic events such as drought, bushfires, floods or personal tragedies.

- Planning for Financial Success: Covering improving profitability and cash flow, measuring financial position and funding business operations, August 30, 6-8.30pm, Suite 7/61, Smith Street, Warragul
- Implementing Business Strategy: Learn how to plan, prepare and implement strategies, including marketing, risk management and SWOT analysis, July 27, 6-8.30pm at the Barn on Jacksons, 1070 Jacksons Track, Jindivick.

More? [Karen Meyers 5624 2422](tel:56242422) or karen.meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Entries open in 2010 Fire Awareness Awards

Fire agencies, MFB, CFA and DSE are seeking entries into the 2010 Fire Awareness Awards to recognise projects that cut the number or effects of fires in Victoria.

Be in the running to receive the \$10,000 RACV Insurance Fire Safety Grant to help implement an innovative fire project. Or apply for a special incentive grant of up to \$2000 and turn a great idea into a reality. Entries close August 20.

More? Visit www.fireawarenessawards.com.au



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Few fibres are as wonderful to wear as Australian merino wool. Soft, comfortable and breathable, Australian merino is a highly efficient insulator, cool and fresh in hot temperatures and warm in colder weather. Wool has the innate ability to absorb excess moisture and repel large quantities of liquid, which means it can resist soiling. [Visit the website for more wool facts.](#)

Australian merino translates into luxurious, resilient textiles with low wrinkle and superior drape, hence the fibre is highly sought after by many of the world’s leading manufacturers designers and retailers.

www.portphillipshop.com.au, as an enthusiastic marketer of Australian-made products, (e.g. R M Williams and Akubra) is now actively promoting Merino Gold and Geccu –two outstanding brands of pure merino wool knitwear. There are not many left. We are promoting our Port Phillip label of merino wool socks made by Rizzi.

Special offer

To introduce you to these quality Australian knitwear manufacturers we are making a special offer. Merino Gold and Geccu knitwear will be delivered freight free anywhere in Australia. (a \$2 handling charge applies) With each order a free pair of merino wool socks will be supplied.

For a short time all our knitwear is marked down by up to 20% off the recommended retail price.

<http://www.portphillipshop.com.au/winterwarm.html>

Port Phillip Shop
1a Barkly Street
Corner Smith St
Warragul VIC 3820
Australia
Ph (03) 56234575

Berwick Store
73 High St
Berwick 3806
Ph (03) 97699935



Kind regards,
Ian Wenzel

Get inspired by Gippsland

Destination Gippsland is staging the inaugural 2010 Gippsland Tourism Conference and bringing Mao's Last Dancer to the region to celebrate. The conference theme is 'Doing Business Better' and will bring together regional industry representatives for presentations from tourism experts, industry leaders and small business innovators. The event is being held with Gippsland Gourmet Country's Slow Romance Dinner on Friday, August 13. The conference is from 9am-4pm at the Century Inn, Traralgon. The dinner, from 7pm, features speaker Li Cunxin and a three-course meal, local wines and live music. Cost is \$100 (conference) \$125 (dinner) or \$215 (both).

More? Elysa Sorahan 5655 2044 or esorahan@destinationgippsland.com.au or visit <http://destinationgippsland.com.au/industry-development/tourism-conference>

Enjoy a day out at Lardner Park

Lardner Park market features over 250 stalls offering top quality, Australian-made products. On September 19 the market will sell home and giftware, arts and craft, gourmet foods, fashion and accessories, plants and much more.

More? Louise Gamon 5974 4710 or lgamon@craftmarkets.com.au

Agribusiness scholarships on offer

Applications are sought for three AgriFood Skills Australia Fellowships. Valued at \$10,000 each, these are offered in conjunction with the International Specialised Skills (ISS) Institute and provide 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

Applications close 4pm on Monday, August 30.

More? www.agrifoodskills.net.au/

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](#).

More? Visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Become a citizen scientist

Landcare Australia is seeking children citizen scientists in Landcare Week September 6 -13. Register to monitor, collect and record data that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change.

More? Visit <http://landcareonline.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c874938162801405204f0d115&id=f82037b29e>

Cardinia Council offers business grants

Cardinia Shire Council offers matched grants of up to \$3500 for business groups to develop projects to strengthen the local economy and aid employment growth.

More? Development Officer 5945 0401 or p.jackson@cardinia.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 or visit www.coalcreekvillage.com.au

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

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

Small Business Victoria bus to visit Morwell

The Small Business Victoria business bus is equipped with the latest information for small business owners. Free mentoring sessions are also available on the bus.

The bus will visit Latrobe City Council Corporate Headquarters, 141 Commercial Road Morwell, Morwell on August 26 from 10am-1pm.

More? Donna Starkey 5128 5659 or donnast@latrobe.vic.gov.au visit www.business.vic.gov.au/mbc

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

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. To register your group visit www.landcareonline.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

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>

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

Look at Lardner Park, near Warragul.

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

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



For further information email

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

Gippy dairying leads the state

The annual State Government survey into Victorian dairying saw farms in south-west Gippsland enjoy the state's best returns.

More than 80% of surveyed farms in south-west Gippsland recorded a positive EBIT in the 2009/10 Dairy Industry Farm Monitor Project.

The area returned the highest number of profitable farms in the fourth annual survey conducted by DPI and Dairy Australia.

Survey data came from farms across Victoria's north, south-west and Gippsland.

Participants were selected from a range of farm and herd sizes and geographical locations within each region.

The farm monitor project is a financial and comparative analysis of dairy farms. It provides the industry with farm-level data relating to productivity gains and profitability and identifies the key drivers.

Average results for 2009/10 were lower than those recorded in 2008/09. Average profitability across the participant farms was \$0.68/kg MS, or \$507 per hectare, down 37% and 36% respectively on levels recorded in 2008/09. Similarly the return on assets across the state fell from 3.8% to 2.2% year on year.

Comparing return to equity showed that more than half the farms surveyed recorded a negative result.

However, the farm monitor project's latest business confidence survey shows farmers are now feeling upbeat. Earlier this year Dairy Australia's Situation and Outlook report flagged that 2010 conditions had significantly improved on 2009, which has now been reflected in the results of the farm monitor project's survey. Similar to last year, milk price, climate and water availability were the greatest challenges participant farms saw themselves facing over the next 12 months.

More? Felicity Gallagher 03 9694 3894 or fgallagher@dairyaustralia.com.au

\$500 on offer for climate change seminars

VFF members can apply for \$500 to run a climate change seminar in their area. Contact the VFF (1 300 882 833) to book a date.

Rain curbs soil C loss

Heavy, frequent rainfall that saturates soils can significantly reduce soil C losses during the wet season, according to research published in the latest *Australian Journal of Soil Science*. Chinese scientists from Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou measured the effects of simulated rainfall on soil carbon transformation. They compared the effects of differing levels of rainfall and found the high frequency rainfall treatment with the greatest amount of water resulted in a 40% reduction in cumulative CO₂ emission.

More? [Australian Journal of Soil Research 48\(5\) 404–412](#)

Praise for sustainability on the air

Community radio station 3BBR and the Baw Baw Sustainability Network received a Baw Baw Shire Council certificate for promoting environmental sustainability by collaborating with Council's Environment team to produce a month-long series called "Sustainability and You". 3BBR is a community radio station based in Drouin.

More? www.3bbrfm.org.au or 56 254 995.

Trust celebrates two new members

Two new members have joined the regional Trust for Nature Team, Deborah Topp and Geordie Kuzniarski. They join Neil Stringer to help protect the critically endangered woodlands and grasslands on the Gippsland Plains. Through the Commonwealth Government's Caring for Our Country initiative, Trust for Nature can offer incentives to landholders, including full costs for fencing native vegetation, weed and pest species control, and an initial payment of up to \$540/ha and ongoing aid.

More? 51530457 or visit www.tfn.org.au.

Subsidised horticulture tour on offer

Vegetable growers are invited to join a study tour to the US, including a visit to the PMA Fresh Summit in Orlando, Florida. The tour cost is substantially subsidised by the National Vegetable Levy with matching funds provided by the Australian Government. Growers will be required to make a voluntary contribution of \$3500 toward the cost of the tour. All air and land travel, single room accommodation and most meals will be included, as well as registration for the summit.

More? [Elizabeth Cox 9822 0388](mailto:Elizabeth.Cox@ausveg.com.au) or elizabeth.cox@ausveg.com.au.

Offer to visit Doha exhibition

The Victorian Government is offering financial assistance to companies that exhibit at the Doha International Hotel, Restaurant and Food Exhibition (DIYAFA) in Qatar between 5 and 11 November. It is expected that a grant of up to \$1500 (depending on participant numbers) will be provided for each stand occupied by a Victorian company. Companies sharing a stand will be eligible for subsidies on a per-stand basis. Participation packages in the Doha Trade Show start from US\$2835 for a 9sqm booth. Register by 27 August.

More? [Mark Morley 9651 9213](mailto:mark.morley@diird.vic.gov.au) or mark.morley@diird.vic.gov.au

Inaugural water awards on offer

Southern Rural Water (SRW) is inviting nominations for its inaugural Waterwise awards. The awards are open to all SRW licence holders (some conditions apply). The awards seek to recognise good work on properties in water savings and efficiency. There will be four awards presented, each worth \$2000. These will cover the areas of groundwater, rivers/creeks and irrigation districts. Deadline August 30.

More? Visit www.srw.com.au or call 1300 139 510.

Advice on employing holiday workers

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has recently released a flyer about the Working Holiday Maker program and the employment limitations placed on Working Holiday Maker visa holders.

More? Visit

<http://ausveg.businesscatalyst.com/news/weekly%20update/August%202010/Employing%20WHMs%20-%20understanding%20the%20program.pdf> or email whm.enquiries@immi.gov.au.

Music to our ears

The Tudor Choristers will perform in the Poowong public hall from 2pm on September 19, the first time the Melbourne-based choristers will have performed in South Gippsland. Tickets \$25/20 conc from Stephen Halliday PO Box 72. Poowong Vic 3988. Cheques to 'Poowong Historical Group' with a 60c SSAE please.

More? lauriegregg@dcsi.net.au or 56275576 or 56592379.

Hunting in AGInc hyperspace

Recent top searches on our blogsite (www.aginc.wordpress.com) are: bass coast, sustainable women farming workshop at lardner park 2010, agribusiness, electrical engineer "2010", "saan ecker" +july 2010, your speech on the Warragul council bass coast, jindivick blueberry farm, gippsland women find their voice, chris melham adf

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

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

Meetings this month are:

- August 17: Sale
- August 31: Moe

Meetings next month are:

- September 2: Sale
- September 12: Sale
- September 23: Sale
- September 27: Moe

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

Make your business green and lean

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

More? [Alycia Stivic 5662 9271](mailto:AlyciaStivic@southgippsland.vic.gov.au) or 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 and we'll give you a free plug. No large files, no photos, no sales pitches and full contact details, please.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Research Manager in SFS

Southern Farming Systems (SFS) is offering an exciting role with both field research and agronomic management components. The Research Manager role is a key leadership position and works across the high rainfall zone of southern Victoria.

SFS is looking to build stronger technical relationships with industry, further develop R&D services and initiate and manage major industry and RDC-supported projects.

More? Nigel Crawley 9645 5200 or www.rimfireresources.com.au

WORK SOUGHT:

Fire management planning

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

Need staff?

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

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

Positions wanted

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



Want to reach the right audience? More than 2000 'yes-please' subscribers read GippyAGchat. Farmers, farm consultants, agronomists, stock agents, catchment management and DPI staffers, local councils, regional and federal politicians... everyone who makes agribusiness grow across Gippsland. And you don't get lost in the display advertising crowd. GippyAGchat offers a good-value, targeted ad medium with a stand-out factor. Corporate membership is only \$200 plus GST and that gives you a free ad in the readership that matters to your business. Phone 0402 267 802 or 9456 9791

Consultant available to undertake:

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

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

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

Advice on employing holiday workers

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has recently released a flyer about the Working Holiday Maker program and the employment limitations placed on Working Holiday Maker visa holders.

More? Visit

<http://ausveg.businesscatalyst.com/news/weekly%20update/August%202010/Employing%20WHMs%20-%20understanding%20the%20program.pdf> or email whm.enquiries@immi.gov.au.

Classifieds

With more than 2400 ag readers, we've been asked if we could run some ads. So, here we go! If you have something to sell or seeking something to buy, place an ad for \$20, plus GST for up to 30 words. (Jobs ads are still free). Email to ptarmigan2@internode.on.net Deadline a fortnight from this edition.

FODDER

Dry cow hay, approx 50 round bales \$25/roll neg. Pick up from Phillip Island.

More? 5956 9318 or 0413 259 231

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

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.

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, <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or 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.

Gippy Diary

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Aug 13	Gippsland Tourism Conference	Traralgon	Elysa Sorahan 5655 2044
Aug 13	Slow Romance Dinner	Traralgon	03 5626 1373
Aug 14	Local food production and distribution meeting	Korumburra	Chris Hamilton 5665 9314
Aug 14	Money Management seminar for women	Traralgon	Lyn Hall 1300 550 692
Aug 17	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Aug 19-20	2010 Victorian agribusiness forum	Mt Evelyn	
Aug 19	Adaptive Forage Planning Days field day	Flynn, V	Frank Mickan 5624 2259
Aug 19	Cardinia business breakfast	Pakenham	Frances Grigoriou 5945 0402
Aug 20	Adaptive Forage Planning Days field day	Yarram, V	Frank Mickan 5624 2259
Aug 23	Artists in the Black seminar	Bairnsdale	Business Victoria 13 22 15
Aug 25	Sustainability seminar	Pakenham	Angela Petty 02 6163 7208
Aug 25	Burford direct seeder field day	Stradbroke	Yarram Yarram Landcare Network 5182 5073
August 26	Small Business Victoria Business Bus visit	Morwell	Donna Starkey 5128 5659
Aug 27	East Gippsland Shire Mayoral Charity Dinner and Dance	Bairnsdale	1800 637 060
Aug 28	Traralgon Farmers Market	Traralgon	Allan L Vickery 0409 232 715
Aug 28-29	Education Centre Gippsland subject trial	Pakenham	Malcolm Brown 0403 997 831
Aug 30	Workshop: Planning for Financial Success	Warragul	Karen Meyers 5624 2422
Aug 31	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Sep 2	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Sep 4-5	Education Centre Gippsland subject trial	Traralgon	Malcolm Brown 0403 997 831
Sep 6-13	Landcare Week		
Sep 6-13	Wool Week 2010		
Sep 7	Finding Funding Roadshow	Rosedale	Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244
Sep 9	Wool Week lunch and dinner		
Sep 9, 16, 23, 30	Vital Soils Workshop	Korumburra	Vital Farms 5674 1543
Sep 11	SGLN AGM	Leongatha	Belinda Brennan 5662 5759
Sep 12	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Sep 14	Managing Stock, Suppliers and Debtors seminar	Leongatha	13 22 15
Sep 17-19	Australian University Crops Competition	Temora, NSW	GGA 1800 620 519
Sep 19	Lardner Park Market	Warragul	Louise Gamon 5974 4710
Sep 21-22	Farming Ahead 2010 Conference	Sydney, NSW	
Sep 23	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Sep 27	Country Race Meet	Moe	1300 139 402
Sep 29-30	South Gippsland Dairy Expo	Poowong	Deanne Kennedy 0419 878 055
Oct 5	Finding Funding Roadshow	Heyfield	Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244
Oct 12	Access to Finance seminar	Leongatha	13 22 15
Oct 13	Young Agribusiness Professional Forum	Pakenham	Sue Webster 0402 267 802
Nov 3	Finding Funding Roadshow	Stratford	Wellington Shire Council

			1300 366 244
Nov 26	Dairy Australia AGM	Flemington	Dairy Australia 9694 3777

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