



Gippy AGchat July 19, 2010 – Issue 30

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 2355 recipients (*that's 99 sign-ups in three weeks!*)

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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

Food farming and health – back for a second bite

The official food pyramid might soon incorporate the 'green' factor as well as nutritional needs. Health authorities are investigating including the eco-footprint of foodstuffs as part of Australians' recommended dietary allowances.

Discover new insights into how we produce food – and the food we eat – 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.

Speakers include Deakin University's Prof Mark Lawrence examining how authorities are reshaping food recommendations by taking sustainability into account.

RDV's Anthony Sherry will offer insights into Victoria's integrated food policy and a CSIRO expert will discuss sustainable farming vs how to feed more people.

Baw Baw mayor Cr Adam Tyson, a food industry participant, will open proceedings.

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 and a delicious locally-sourced lunch, plus forum notes, for only \$40.

Bookings are already nearly half-filled, so please get a move on. This conference will book out. The event will be held on August 2 from 9.30am to 4pm at Lardner Park.

Click here for registration details ... [nurturenourish regojune10 final](#) or go to the website <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or blog site <http://aginc.wordpress.com/>

Funded by DAFF's Recognising Women Farmers project, the Victorian DPI and West Gippsland CMA and co-ordinated by Jenny O'Sullivan for Agribusiness Gippsland.

More? Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386 or Sue Webster 0402 267 802

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

Gippsland food greats in national awards

Fingers crossed for Moondarra Blueberries and Isola Chianina beef, finalists in the national Produce Awards to be announced on Monday night. Presented by ABC *delicious* magazine, the awards will be hosted by Masterchef's Matt Preston. The organic blueberry grower south of Rawson and Cape Liptrap beef producer face judges such as Alla Wolf-Tasker (The Lake House) and Neil Perry (Rockpool).

Rural land use report released

The Minister for Planning's report into land use in rural areas has been released. Headed by Mick Murphy OAM, the Future farming Rural Planning Group seeks standardised, tighter planning provisions to conserve farmland for agricultural production. Its recommendations would see "tighter restrictions upon the establishment of dwellings within rural areas not associated with primary production."

The report recommendations include:

- A Victorian Rural Area strategy subject to a regular five-yearly review
- Regulatory provisions for rural-specific planning issues
- A new Government-based rural planning team
- Using case studies to form planning templates
- Support municipalities seeking to formulate strategy plans
- Important farmland to be identified and protected
- Right to farm acknowledged
- Restricting new housing within rural zones, but more lenient provision for agricultural worker accommodation
- Tighter sustainability requirements, including bushfire protection
- Green Wedge Zones introduced around regional cities
- Wider range of zones to accommodate agribusinesses
- New overlay on water catchment and recharge areas
- Retain the right to establish small private dams without planning approval
- Regionally-based monitoring of councils' planning decision-making
- Permits decided by independent delegated groups

In summary: "In recommending more restrictive controls on the establishment of dwellings in rural areas the Group has been mindful of the vast array of living and settlement opportunities across Victoria's rural areas; in the Group's view such controls would not seriously disadvantage the rural community relative to proximity between the home and workplace. The tighter controls on dwellings will also reduce speculation and the inflated value of rural land arising from the ability to direct that land to a residential rather than farming purpose. Some of Victoria's most productive areas have been commandeered for their amenity rather than their productive value."

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)

AGI director to chair construction group

Agribusiness Gippsland director Brian Norwood has been appointed chairman of the Queensland-based property and construction company CEC Group. He replaces acting chairman, Warren Entsch who has resigned to contest the Federal seat of Leichhardt in the forthcoming federal election.

Get your Gippy milk

Longwarry Food Park will begin marketing fresh bottled milk products under its Gippy Milk brand and will commission a new UHT milk carton line. The Gippsland processor has announced an opening price of \$4.85 kg/MS or 36.2c litre.

Baw Baw products in spotlight

Baw Baw Shire Council has received Victorian Government funding to expand the “Baw Baw Great local Products – Great local Outlets” campaign promoting the brand, local products and their outlets through a deal with the Warragul and Drouin Gazette. Council will expand the database into other sectors. Local manufacturers or retailers seeking to be listed should phone the Economic Development Unit on 5624 2523

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

SFS welcomes new coordinator

Nikki Hellyer has taken over the role of Branch Coordinator, Southern Farming Systems Gippsland from Rosemary Maher.

More? Nikki Hellyer 0421 813 647 or n.hellyer@hotmail.com

South Gippsland’s sustainability hot-spots

South Gippsland Shire’s sustainability strategy workshop, to be held on July 21, wraps up a nine-month community consultation process involving 1100 people over 20 meetings. Feedback identified the following 12 issue areas:

- Renewable/distributed energy/resource efficiency
- Promoting sustainable development partnership and networks
- Sustainable Agribusiness
- Sustainable community supported regenerative agriculture
- Sustainable business and tourism
- Resource minimisation water, waste, energy
- Sustainable transport and mobility
- Promoting a climate change adaptation dialogue
- Building resilient communities
- Young people and sustainability and education
- Natural resource management
- Sustainable population, human settlement and land use planning

Shire sustainability planner Christine Hamilton said: “The aim is to identify what people believe are key strategies that will assist the community in identifying sustainability challenges and establish broad priorities and timing to address them.”

More? Christine Hamilton 03 5662 9314

Local alpaca breeders win high award

Phillip Island alpaca breeders Keith and Daphne Gregory were awarded Champion Huacaya Alpaca Fleece for their home-bred, young, white male, Chiverton Nureyev. The event was held at Pakenham Cultural Centre with 40 entries statewide.

More? Daphne and Keith Gregory chiverton@dcsi.net.au

Wonthaggi start for Gippsland bike tour

The sixth Lakes Oil Tour of Gippsland (July 28-August 1) sees a 515km, eight-stage cycling tour through five municipalities – Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe, Wellington and East Gippsland. The first stage starts at 11am with a criterium at Wonthaggi.

More? Janine Temme 5671 2278 or www.caribou.net.au/tour_of_gippsland.html

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

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

Learn to find funding

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

- Golden Beach Hall, August 3, 7-9pm
- 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

What's cooking?

Last week it was the wacky vegetarian lasagne with meat from Mardan dairy farmer Tanya Privitera and the prize-winning double moist choc mud with whipped cream from the students of Leongatha Secondary College.

This week, Lakes Entrance's Peter Anthony, (Age journo and former US chef) proves that ally-olly-oh is not a Swiss yodelling technique.

Visit GippyTable at either our website <http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au> or the blog www.aginc.wordpress.com

Garden to bring community benefits

Cardinia Shire Council has received \$20,000 for a community garden at Bunyip's Hillview Aged Care from the Department of Planning and Community Development as part of a Health and Wellbeing for Older People Program, on behalf of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. An information session will be held July 27, 10.30-11.30am at the Hill Centre, 22 A'Beckett Road.

More? Cardinia Shire Council 1300 787 624

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

Did you know?

... Australia’s population passed 22m last October. The latest 1m were added one year less than the time taken for the previous million to be added, and almost two years less than the time taken to add the million before that...
... Couple families without children will become Australia’s most common family type, overtaking families with children by 2014...
... While older people are least likely to be concerned about climate change, younger people are the least likely to recycle or reduce personal electricity use...
... One-parent families are projected to increase by between 40% and 77%, to between 1.3 and 1.6m in 2031...

A new review of Australian social trends was released by the Bureau of Statistics at the end of June. It contains some fascinating insights.

More? www.abs.gov.au/socialtrends

Register your food or beverage business

Victorian food and beverage producers/processors are sought for the State Government’s new Online Victorian Food and Beverage Business Directory. Register for free before July 28 and you’ll go into the draw to win a two-night luxury stay for two at Grand Hyatt Melbourne or a Regional Victoria food and beverage hamper. The directory, launched by Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, will be an up-to-date, user-friendly resource for domestic and international buyers seeking food and beverage products from Victoria.

More? Tracy Quertier 9651 9187 or Tracy.Quertier@diird.vic.gov.au

Students compete for top crop

University students can enter the Australian University Crops Competition, held from September 17-19 in Temora, NSW, featuring lab-based competition components and in-field live crops trials. The top five place-getters will win an international crops industry study tour. Students can enter individually or as a team. Deadline, August 6.

More? GGA 1800 620 519 or visit www.unicropscomp.com.au

Woolies boss with food security warning

Woolworths chief Michael Luscombe has warned that Australia needs wide-ranging action to ensure the long-term security of its food supply. He added that Australia needs to increase food production without further degrading the environment, as well as introducing new technology to compete with low-cost labour countries. Food safety and security was one of the world’s greatest challenges, he said.

Dinner offers region’s greats

Narkoojee wines will host a Gippsland wine and produce dinner on July 30 at RACV Inverloch Resort. The five-course dinner showcases Gippsland beef, Koo Wee Rup asparagus, Koonwarra bread and other local ingredients, finishing with Tarago River cheeses and Phillip Island chocolates. The cost is \$95/head. Bookings essential.

More? Caddy Taylor 5674 1007 or caddy_taylor@racv.com.au

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 or visit www.dairyaustralia.com.au

Agriculture can meet world demand

The world will need 70-100% more food by 2050 but agriculture will meet the challenge, according to a leading US academic. Farming has produced almost 200% more food in the past 50 years, said R.D. Sainz of the University of California-Davis, Adoption mechanisations, fertilisation and irrigation have meant significant rises in the production and productive efficiencies of grains and meats since 1961, he said, warning that equitable global distribution of production increases were a concern.

YDDP appoints state coordinator

Bill Dullard has been appointed state coordinator of the Young Dairyfarmer Development Program.

More? Bill Dullard 0448 969 337 or yddpsc@gippsdairy.com.au or visit www.yddp.org.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 or karen.meyers@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

AWIS move is now complete

The Australian Wool Industries Secretariat has moved to Unit 9, 42-46 Vella Drive, Sunshine West.

More? AWIS 9311 0103

Feedback on draft Landcare framework sought

The Australian Framework for Landcare Reference Group is seeking feedback on the draft Australian Framework for Landcare. The submission period closes on July 30.

More? www.daff.gov.au/landcareframework

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



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Ph (03) 97699935



Kind regards,
Ian Wenzel

You and the Department of Agriculture – 1946 to 1996

Did you work for the Department of Agriculture during 1946 to 1996? Or did departmental extension officers or inspectors visit your farm? Add your story to a departmental history being compiled jointly by AGI director Dr Ras Lawson, Hamish Russell and Barrie Bardsley. Barrie was a pastures specialist at Warragul and later headed up VCAH, Hamish was a sheep and wool officer and Ras was a research scientist at Werribee and Ellinbank before being Gippsland regional manager. Read some of the stories at www.vicdofaghistory.org and find more about the project and how you can contribute. The authors would particularly like to hear from farming families and farming organisation leaders who had dealings with the department.

More? Dr Ras Lawson 5627 8491 or raslawson@dcsi.net.au

Fighting to keep free-range hens free

Gippsland free-range egg farmers are fighting for higher standards for free-range egg production. Anne and Phil Westwood of Freeranger Eggs at Grantville, Ron and Dianne Moore of Labertouche, Phil Ledin at Poowong, Tania Murray of Hallora and Graeme Barwise of Tooradin are members of the Free Range Farmers Association opposed to a loosening of standards by the Australian Egg Corporation.

The corporation seeks new standards in free-range egg production to allow de-beaking or beak trimming of hens, stocking rates to increase from 1500 hens/ha to 20,000 and hens to be kept locked in sheds for up to 25 weeks.

The Free Range Farmers Association say the proposed changes allow large producers to charge customers a premium for branding eggs 'free range' without incurring the additional costs of genuine free-range production methods.

They have set up a petition at: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/freerange/>

More? Phil Westwood 0402 070 531 or <http://freerangereggs.blogspot.com>

Sensis launches a new free book for SMEs

Sensis has launched a free guide for small and medium-sized businesses. "Small Business, Big Opportunity: Sustainable Growth" offers information, case studies and tips on saving money and being more efficient while reducing environmental impacts.

More? Visit <http://about.sensis.com.au/small-business/>

Keeping crops greener for longer

Soil 2 Grain are workshops, training courses and meetings to keep farmers up to date with latest results, techniques and guidelines from a GRDC project on canopy and disease management interactions in cereal and canola crops. Speakers include Dr Jeff Baldock (CSIRO), Jon Midwood (Southern Farming Systems) Geoff Dean (Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research) and Ben O'Conner (SFS) discussing:

- Making better in-crop management decisions on nitrogen
- Disease management in cereals in the high rainfall zone of Southern Victoria
- Defining water availability for your crops
- Plant growth regulators
- Canopy manipulation in canola and barley

They will be held July 21, 10am-3pm, Room 3, ACE, 55 Raymond St, Sale.

More? SFS Office 5229 0566 or office@sfs.org.au

Seeking environmental expressions of interest

Expressions of interest are sought from volunteers to join Baw Baw Shire Council's environmental advisory committee – Environmental Voice. Applications close July 30.

More? Nicolette Davey 5624 2570 or Nicolette.Davey@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

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>

Not so green at the checkout counter

While 84% of shoppers surveyed at the point of purchase said that they were concerned about the environmental impact of their purchasing decisions, only 13% could actually identify a product they bought based on its environmental credentials, according to a survey of 1000 shoppers by the Australian Food and Grocery Council.

Workshop to focus on better communication

GRDC is funding a free workshop in Melbourne on July 29-30, immediately after the Australian Grains Industry Conference (<http://www.ausgrainsconf.com/>) covering presentation skills, audience analysis, structuring a presentation, choosing visual aids, delivering with confidence and answering questions, as well as shaping a clear message, interview skills, getting on the front foot and dealing with difficult questions.

More? Heather Stevens 07 3846 7111 or admin@econnect.com.au

Get a grant and plant

Owners of rural properties over 2ha in the Baw Baw Shire can apply for grants of up to \$200 to plant indigenous trees and shrubs. Community groups can also seek funding for trees in public areas. Funding application forms can be accessed via: http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/page/Page.asp?Page_Id=683&h=-1

More? Tyson Dennis 5624 2599

Working on the good oil

Standards Australia with the Australian Olive Association, is developing new Australian standards to cover virgin olive oils, refined olive oils, olive-pomace olive oils and blends imported or produced in Australia. It will provide guidelines for simpler and clearer labelling and set benchmarks for olive oils purchased for health reasons.

More? Visit www.standards.org.au/

Funding for improved water quality for small towns

Successful projects under Round 2 of the State Government Small Towns Water Quality Fund include:

- \$243,500 to install shade cloth over the water supply for Mallacoota, in far east Gippsland, to decrease evaporation and contamination;
- \$207,500 to improve water security for Swifts Creek, in East Gippsland, by installing a larger water tank.

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

Business Excellence Awards open for business

The SP AusNet 2010 Baw Baw Business Excellence Awards are open to all Baw Baw businesses, except clubs, co-operatives, not-for-profit organisations, government-supported businesses and agencies. Categories include:

- Agribusiness
- Business and Professional Services
- Environmental Sustainability
- Hospitality
- Innovation
- Manufacturing
- New Business
- Personal and Other Services
- Retail
- Tourism
- Trades and Construction
- Young Achiever Award
- pARTnership Award
- Judges' Encouragement Award

All entrants except Young Achievers must have an ABN or ACN. Deadline August 4.

More? Visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=1746

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

Anyone want to swap?

South Gippsland Council will help the Poowong Produce Swap deliver a 12-month program of workshops offering skills to grow food and how to make produce available off-season. The next swap is August 1, 9.30-11am, at Poowong public hall. Non-swap attendees are asked for a gold coin donation.

Meanwhile: The swap has formed a partnership with Yooralla Leongatha to supply food for the Youth Kitchen Days, where young people are taught to cook and cater.

More? Tammy Logan tammylogan@bigpond.com or

http://www.facebook.com/groups/edit.php?edit_members&gid=107428452630925#!/group.php?gid=107428452630925

Student seeks help from farmers

A fourth year psychology Honours student at the University of New England is looking at farming practices and farmers' attitudes towards climate change. Farmers are invited to complete an online survey that takes around 20-30 minutes. The survey can be found at: http://unebcss.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_720fKz3dTeK0IDO&SVID
More? Methuen Morgan 0429 192 087 or mmorgan5@une.edu.au

Caring for calves right to the end

The East Gippsland YDDP and Dairy Australia invite farmers to a seminar on "Calves – how to destroy and dispose of humanely", July 26, 10am-2pm at Macalister Demonstration Farm, Riverslea. RSVP by July 22 is essential, as places are limited. Vet and consultant Tristan Jubb will lead the interactive seminar covering:

- humane destruction of calves – different methods, including practical demonstrations
- safety precautions
- how 'not' to destroy a calf
- safe disposal of carcasses
- your legal obligations.

More? Kylie Barry 0428 889 337

Get a grant for Latrobe community growth

Latrobe City Council fund programs, activities/events or facilities aiding the ongoing development or maintenance of recreational, social, and cultural needs of citizens. The 2010/2011 program closes July 23. Maximum funding per group/organisation is:

- Minor capital works - \$5000
- Events grant - \$2000
- Community development grant - \$2000

More? Visit www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Services/Grants/

Grants open for South Gippsland community

Round one submissions to the South Gippsland Shire Council Community Grants Program will be accepted up to 5pm on Friday, July 30.

Applications will be accepted under the following four categories:

- General Community Grants (Max \$5000)
- Celebrations, Festivals and Events (Max \$5000)
- Planning Development Studies (Max \$10000); and
- Major Events (Max \$5000).

The South Gippsland Community Grants funding program now enables applicants to seek funds of up to \$10000 from any of the above categories for leveraging to other funding programs i.e. State Government funding bodies.

More? Grants Coordination and Support Officer 5662 9378 or pennie@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Wellington community grants available, too

Wellington Shire Council, through its Community Assistance Grant Scheme, invites applications from local community groups for funding under the following categories:

- Community Programs (Max \$5000)
- Community Facilities (Max \$5000)

Applications close on Wednesday August 4.

More? 5142 3630 or

http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=1913

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/

Find your way with PeopleGPS

PeopleGPS, a four-day course from the People in Dairy Program, explores recruitment, safety procedures/protocols, industrial relations laws and awards, performance appraisals, termination, working with others and future planning. The PeopleGPS course will be held in Warragul on August 4.

More? [Gavin McClay 0425 825 288 or gavin@gavinmccclay.com.au](mailto:gavin@gavinmccclay.com.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](#).

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 three and four. 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](tel:0418108599)

Yogurt preserving calf milk for Gippsland farmer

Gippsland dairy farmers are using yogurt as a preservative for calf milk. Two farmers offered their recipe in the online discussion group AusDairyL after another farmer, Noel Pattinson of Willung, sought advice on ways to preserve calf milk. Kaye Courtney of Bass River Dairies suggested a natural greek yogurt at a tablespoon/20 litres warm milk, adding that the milk keeps well during cold weather without additives if thoroughly stirred twice daily. Yarram's Bob Clench said for calves aged five weeks or older, he adds a large tub of natural yogurt to a 1200 litre unrefrigerated vat and just keep adding milk. AusDairyL is a discussion group supported by Dairy Australia.

More? [Visit http://groups.google.com/group/ausdairy/](http://groups.google.com/group/ausdairy/)

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](http://landcareonline.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c874938162801405204f0d115&id=f82037b29e)

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](tel:56551811) or [farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au/](mailto:farmersmarket@coalcreekvillage.com.au) or visit www.coalcreekvillage.com.au

Women making it work

A Women Making it Work business conference will be held at the Blue Hills Rise Country Club, 240 Berwick-Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne, July 25, 9am-4.30pm. The cost is \$120 members and \$150 non-members. Book at www.wmiw.com.au

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

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

More? [Frances Grigoriou 5945 0402](tel:059450402) or f.grigoriou@cardinia.vic.gov.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

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](#)

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

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](tel:0261637208) 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 click [here](#) Already registered? [Log in here](#)

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

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 or Stefanie Failla 9668 3049 or stefanief@incolink.org.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: "gippsdairy 4 teats expo podcasts", "sarah killury" "Gippsland cma", "Gipps zagami", "august 3 at lardner park Gippsland food", "farming and health 2010", "linking environment agriculture and people and Gippsland community leadership program aug 2010".

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:

- July 27: Sale
- July 31: Bairnsdale

Meetings next month are:

- August 5: Sale
- August 17: Sale
- August 31: 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 or alycias@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

We were wrong...

In the last edition of Gippy Agchat we incorrectly reported that the Victorian Farmers' Markets Association had accredited a number of farmers' markets in Gippsland. In fact, the only accredited Gippsland market is the Casey-Berwick farmers' market. A number of other Gippsland markets are taking steps towards accreditation.

More? Sarah Robins 0410 668 667 or website@vicfarmersmarkets.org.au or visit www.vicfarmersmarkets.org.au

JOBS: A free feature in GippyAGchat

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

WORK AVAILABLE

Research Manager

Southern Farming Systems (SFS) is seeking someone looking for a role that has both a field research and an agronomic management component. The Research Manager role is a key leadership position in the SFS team and will be working across sites in the HRZ of southern Victoria. Contact Nigel Crawley (Rimfire Resources) on (03) 9645 5200 or submit your resume at 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.

Classifieds

With more than 2350 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
July 19	AgFutures Forum	Giffard West	Karen Thomas 9785 0103
July 18-21	VOICe Women's development workshop	Daylesford	Karen Nankervis 5728 1924
July 21	Soil 2 Grain workshop	Sale	SFS Office 5229 0566
Jul 21-23,	6 th 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 26	Calves – how to destroy and dispose of humanely seminar	Riverslea	Kylie Barry 0428 889 337
July 26-28	Australian Grains Industry Conference	Melbourne	02 9427 6999
July 27	Bunyip Community Garden information session	Bunyip	Cardinia Shire Council 1300 787 624
July 27	Workshop: Implementing Business Strategy	Jindivick	Karen Meyers 5624 2422
July 27	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
July 28 – Aug 1	Lakes Oil Bike Tour of Gippsland		Janine Temme 5671 2278
July 29-30	GRDC Communication Workshop	Melbourne	Heather Stevens 07 3846 7111
July 30	Gippsland wine and produce dinner	Inverloch	Caddy Taylor 5674 1007
July 31	Country Race Meet	Bairnsdale	1300 139 402
July 31-Aug 1	Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT)– National Tree Planting Day		

Aug 1	Poowong Produce Swap	Poowong	Tammy Logan tammylogan@bigpond.com
Aug 1-6, 2010	19 th World Congress of Soil Science	Brisbane	www.19wcsc.org.au
Aug 2	Food, Farming and Health Forum	Warragul	Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386
Aug 3	Finding Funding Roadshow	Golden Beach	Wellington Shire Council 1300 366 244
Aug 4	PeopleGPS	Warragul	Gavin McClay 0425 825 288
Aug 5	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Aug 10	Green Business, Lean Business seminar	Leongatha	Alycia Stivic 5662 9271
Aug 13	Gippsland Tourism Conference	Traralgon	Elysa Sorahan 5655 2044
Aug 13	Slow Romance Dinner	Traralgon	03 5626 1373
Aug 17	Country Race Meet	Sale	1300 139 402
Aug 19-20	2010 Victorian agribusiness forum	Mt Evelyn	
Aug 25	Sustainability seminar	Pakenham	Angela Petty 02 6163 7208
Aug 27	East Gippsland Shire Mayoral Charity Dinner and Dance	Bairnsdale	1800 637 060
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 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 17-19	Australian University Crops Competition	Temora, NSW	GGA 1800 620 519
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 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