Gippy AGchat    April 26, 2010 – Issue 26

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Diversify your income from your landholding

There’s been lots of interest already in the free forums looking at how to make more from your landholding, whatever its size. Organisers DPI, Agribusiness Gippsland and the municipalities of Casey and Cardinia have already been asked to stage another session later in May.

If you want to diversify your income, this series of free forums will offer insights from people with hands-on experience. Whether it’s high-value/small-scale horticulture, maybe agisting stock or leasing out your land, making commercial compost or setting up a growers’ co-op … come and hear what’s working. Two of the forums are specifically for potato growers, one is for larger-holding owners, one for smallholders and – to finish the series – an overview by Neil Barr discussing the future for small farms.

All sessions include refreshments. Please RSVP for catering purposes.

**Thursday May 13, 11am-2:30pm:** Koo Wee Rup, for larger farms.
  - THEMES - Sectioning down farm management and outsourcing operations to decrease workload.
  - Or increasing workload for those who want to add value to their business.
  - Diversification case studies (stories presented by farmers) relevant to broadacre farming.

**Thursday May 20, 11am-2:30pm:** Pearcedale, for smallholdings.
  - THEMES - Small farm diversification opportunities.
  - Diversification case studies (stories presented by farmers) relevant small-acre farming.
  - Co-ops.

**Thursday June 3, 11am-2:30pm:** Gembrook
  - THEMES - Co-ops and diversification opportunities for potato growers
  - Exploration of export markets for potatoes.

**Thursday June 17, 11am-3pm:** Gembrook
  - THEMES - Opportunities and strategies for agribusiness diversification for potato growers

**Friday June 25, noon-2pm:** Lunch with keynote speaker Neil Barr discussing the future for small farms. Venue: Koo Wee Rup Community Centre. All welcome.

**More?** Karen Thomas 0488 372 411 or karen.thomas@dpi.vic.gov.au
Gippsland agricultural women: find your voice

Every good farm has a great story behind it … and Agribusiness Gippsland wants to find the women to tell that story.
We are seeking women who want to inspire others about their industry and the opportunities in sustainable agriculture.
A grant from DAFF’s Recognising Women Farmers program will provide four days of training and networking for up to 30 Gippsland women in two venues.
The project, called ‘Nurture the land, nourish the people: Gippsland women find their voice’, is seeking women from agribusiness, fisheries or forestry sector and involved in the sustainable production or processing of Gippsland food, fibre and timber.
Participants will get top-line training with Owen Stickels, Sue Webster and Jenny O’Sullivan. All training, accommodation and meals costs are covered.
Participants attend one of two training sessions, on May 24/25 at Phillip Island (for West Gippsland women) or June 7/8 at Sale (for East Gippsland delegates). They then are invited to participate in a major one-day conference on August 3 to promote sustainable agriculture and discuss how farmers are responding proactively to climate change. And finally, there’s a fun follow-up session.
Numbers are very limited and applications close on May 7.
More? Jenny O’Sullivan, osulliva@dcsi.net.au, Ph 56632386 or 0427 086 087
Or visit http://agribusinessgippsland.com.au or aginc@wordpress.com for info/rego.

Innovation, information, education all on offer

East Gippsland’s premier agricultural event will be staged over two big days, Friday April 30 and Saturday May 1. The East Gippsland Field Days are located at the Bairnsdale Aerodrome, just 8km east of Bairnsdale. They showcase new and innovative products and services, demonstrate machinery, highlight new technology, techniques and provide educational information to more than 6000 visitors. The event features 300 exhibitors from all over Australia. Major attractions this year are:
- Australia’s largest travelling fishing show
- Huge car motor show
- Tall cranes and haulage equipment
- Victoria Police display
- CFA Bairnsdale mobile fire fighting units
- Schools cook off challenge on Friday April 30
- International chefs cooking demonstrations all day Saturday
- Woodchop competition.
More? Ian Rees 5153 1398 or info@egfielddays.com or www.egfielddays.com

VECCI looks at ways of growing Gippsland

Restoring trade skills through technical schools, optimising wastewater use for agriculture and industry and boosting the capacity of Traralgon airport were some of the suggestions raised at a recent VECCI workshop at Morwell.
Agribusiness Gippsland was among the invited delegates attending the workshop, one of 10 being held across the State in the lead up to the VECCI Regional Convention, which will be held on October 14-15.
VECCI CEO Wayne Kayler-Thomson attended the workshop which saw about 40 business leaders discuss the top issues for the ongoing prosperity of Gippsland.
Five delegates from the workshop will be selected to present Gippsland’s case at the October state convention.
Mr Kayler-Thomson said: “In a year that will see at state election and most likely a federal election, the convention provides a platform for regional businesses to highlight their concerns and suggestions into the Government and Opposition.”
**Pasture poor performer as carbon sink**

Scientists do not yet appear to have the technology to accurately measure soil carbon (C) at paddock level, a State Government panel heard from Agribusiness Gippsland recently.

AGI’s deputy chair Dr Ras Lawson warned that many factors – including $ return – make pasture an unlikely C sink.

He was addressing the State Government’s C biosequestration hearing at Traralgon on April 19.

MPs Craig Ingram, Joanne Duncan and Nathan Murphy heard Dr Lawson explain AGI’s past involvement in the soil C issue.

He explained how AGI had helped sponsor a visit by soil C identity Christine Jones and had also overseen a federally funded project benchmarking soil C levels in East Gippsland.

“Those levels were fairly reasonable under high-production agricultural systems,” he told the panel. “At 5%, they represent relatively high levels of C, and even the lowest figure was approaching 3%. The state of soil C in East Gippsland is relatively high.”

He noted that soil C levels in West Gippsland – at Ellinbank – were about the same level.

Dr Lawson then drew upon a new literature review prepared with Dairy Australia backing by GippsDairy. The review found that, in high-level pasture growth in high rainfall areas, farmers would need to triple dry matter (DM) production to lift C levels in the top 10cm of soil.

“I think the problem with that – if farmers are going to grow that much extra DM – is that they will be more inclined to feed that to grazing animals to produce milk and meat then just leave it there,” he said.

An extra tonne DM fed to a dairy cow meant between $200 and $300 extra income, far higher than current C prices, he noted.

More inputs – such as fertiliser – would be needed to produce the extra DM, and fertiliser is a source of greenhouse gas, he added.

The volatility of soil C could also present farmers with a challenge, he added.

“Some forms of C are long-lived, for example some inert systems like biochar and humus.

“It’s an interesting but unknown area.”

Questioned by Mr Ingram, Dr Lawson explained that productivity levels in agriculture suggest a biosequestration through pasture was unlikely. “It’s a very big ask to be able to do it using pasture. We’re going to need a major breakthrough in pasture production to make this happen,” he said.

Mr Ingram, who chaired the panel’s hearing, thanked Dr Lawson for presenting a complex scientific issue in easy-to-understand terms.

**Home gardeners crops swap**

Local gardeners are invited to bring excess, home-grown foods to exchange for other growers’ surplus fruits and vegetables at swaps in Poowong, Yarragon and Rokeby.

Those without excess produce can contribute recipes, compost, eggs, seeds, dried food, sauces or a monetary donation.

The Poowong produce swap will be held on the first Sunday of each month at the Poowong Public Hall. The next swap will be May 2 from 9.30am-11am.

The Rokeby swap is a new addition to the popular Rokeby Market and the Yarragon Produce Swap meets Wednesdays from 2-4pm at 81 Princes Hwy.

**More? Tammy Logan 5634 2284 or bbsn@dcsi.net.au**
Picking pastures made easier
A new online tool offers growers access to regionally-specific information about sown pastures and varieties.
Tanya Robinson, Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) project manager practices says the Pasture Picker brings decision support information directly to farm offices. “The tool filters content based on end use, soil type and environment, and fact sheets are available on each of the pasture choices.” Pastures Australia supported development of the tool and its partners included GRDC, Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Dairy Australia.

Employing or employed?
YDDP South Gippsland is hosting a seminar on employers and employees in the dairy industry on May 12 from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Guest speakers Karen Baum from the People in Dairy and Colin Wright from Phillipsons accountants will lead the interactive seminar discussing: wages, awards, sick pay, superannuation, work cover, relief milkers, job descriptions, termination, contractors, employee details, OH&S, apprentices/trainees and contracts and more! The seminar will be held at the Fishy Pub, Fish Creek. RSVP by May 12.
More? Kylie Barry 5624 3900 or yddpgipps@dcsi.net.au

Nuffield scholarship a life-changing opportunity
Primary producers with a passion for the future of their industry can apply for a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship. Scholarships are for primary producers aged 28 to 40 years, although applications outside this range may be considered. Each scholarship is valued at $28,000, sponsored by major agribusiness and industry groups across Australia. All scholars take part in a six-week global focus program, with up to 10 weeks of individual travel to investigate a topic of their choice. The aim is to improve Australian primary producers’ skills, provide a global perspective of agriculture and bring back new ideas and strategies to benefit scholars and their industries. Applications for 2011 scholarships close on June 30.
More? Nuffield Australia 03 5480 0755 or enquiries@nuffield.com.au or visit www.nuffield.com.au

Talking about irrigation
Macalister Demonstration Farm is holding a morning discussion session on irrigation systems on May 11, with discussions led by Gavan Lamb from DPI Maffra.
More? Neil Baker 0409 940 782

Keep bovine liver disease out of your herd
Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD) is a disease of beef and dairy cattle, and typically occurring in autumn or early winter. The main sign of disease associated with ABLD is photosensitisation. If not identified quickly, herd death rates can be extremely high. In general, cases of ABLD are associated with grazing unimproved pasture at high stocking rates. Frequently outbreaks occur in warm, damp weather, ideally suited to fungus. Often Rough Dog’s Tail (Cynosurus echinatus) is present in the pasture. Farmers who suspect they may be dealing with an incident should contact their veterinarian or local District Veterinary Officer immediately.
More? Animal Health Staff at DPI Ellinbank 5624 2222, DPI Leongatha 5662 9900, DPI Maffra 5147 0800 or DPI Bairnsdale 5152 0400
Farm Day is on again …

Farm Day is on again … and organisers are seeking landholders to host a visiting city family and show them farmgate life. On May 29 and 30 the city visitors travel to your farm for a hands-on day to learn about how food and fibre are produced. It is a unique opportunity for farmers to showcase their farm and their profession, and contribute to increasing the understanding of farming through the urban community.

More? Deb Bain 0438 402 215, deb@farmday.com.au or www.farmday.com.au

Megatrends and megashocks: CSIRO plots future

CSIRO has released a thought-provoking list of ‘megatrends’ and ‘megashocks’ as a future-scoping exercise.

It lists five megatrends - patterns of economic, social or environmental activity that will change the way we live and the products we will demand:

1. More from less. This relates to the world’s depleting natural resources and increasing demand for those resources through economic and population growth. Coming decades will see a focus on resource use efficiency.
2. A personal touch. Growth of the services sector of western economies is being followed by a second wave of innovation aimed at tailoring and targeting services.
3. Divergent demographics. The populations of OECD countries are ageing and experiencing lifestyle and diet related health problems. At the same time there are high fertility rates and problems of not enough food for millions in poor countries.
4. On the move. People are changing jobs and careers more often, moving house more often, commuting further to work and travelling around the world more often.
5. i World. Everything in the natural world will have a digital counterpart. Computing power and memory storage are improving rapidly. Many more devices are getting connected to the internet.

A megashock, a significant and sudden event, could include:
- asset price collapse
- slowing Chinese economy
- oil and gas price spikes
- extreme climate change-related weather
- pandemic
- biodiversity loss
- terrorism
- nanotechnology risks.

CSIRO is seeking comment to its report Our Future World, An analysis of global trends, shocks and scenarios. Read it at Our Future World report.

Conventional/organic milk ‘nutritionally similar’

A new US study suggests little nutritional difference between conventional and organic milk.

Scientists at Cornell University compared the nutritional profile of organic and recombinant bST (rbST)-free milks in the US with that of conventional milks, assessing a total of 292 milks for their fatty acid composition. They found statistically significant differences between the fatty acid profile of organic and conventional milk, but ruled none of these were meaningful. The milks were all considered “similar in nutritional quality and wholesomeness” they reported.

They concluded dietary components and formulation were more relevant than production management practices, citing research indicating that feed supplements containing fish oil, EPA or DHA could lift the milk’s fatty acid profile.

The study was supported by Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station, Monsanto and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, USDA.

**Bloomin’ lovely funding**
Operators of flower-growing businesses are invited to one of six one-day ‘fresh forums’ offering business tools and networking opportunities. The project is one of 14 to share in nearly $1.3m under DAFF’s Promoting Australian Produce initiative.

**5% lift predicted for 2010/11 wool clip**
Good seasonal conditions combined with some stabilisation of sheep numbers are expected to result in higher shorn wool production in 2010/11, according to the latest forecasts from the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee - with a predicted rise in average fleece weights by around 5% The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated sheep numbers at July 1, 2009 as 72.7m head or 5% lower than the previous year.

**Feeding for thoughts for the future**
South Gippsland teachers will undertake a new hands-on professional development workshop ‘Food for the Future’ on April 29, in Leongatha.
The free workshop will be delivered by the DPI’s LandLearn program and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and will showcase curriculum-linked packages such as Learning in the Garden and Schoolyard Sustainability.
Resources to support the teaching of how food availability and decision making could be affected by globalisation, climate change and other issues will be discussed.
Topics such as food footprints, food security, genetic applications and new foods potentially suitable for changing climatic conditions will also be explored.
The workshop will be held at South Gippsland Shire Council from 10am to 3:30pm (BYO lunch). Please register your intention to attend.
More? Catherine Gear 5824 5523 or visit www.landlearn.net.au

**Grants available for fishing projects**
Organisations wanting to improve their local fishing are encouraged to submit project proposals for the 2009/10 Recreational Fishing Grants Program. Projects of up to $5000 in the small grants category are available year round.
Large grants are available for projects up to $100,000 and there is also a new commissioning category for priority projects, generally in excess of $100,000.
Applications under the large grants category close on May 31.
The program is open to fishing clubs, community groups, incorporated bodies, registered companies and government and statutory bodies.

**Minding gaps and analysing trends**
Trendalyzer is a free web-service displaying development statistics for all countries using data on land use, water, climate and the environment; all downloadable and with splendid graphs that show both spatial patterns and trends over time.
See www.gapminder.org

**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
All ears for grain news
GRDC notes the National Variety Trials website – www.nvtonline.com.au – has been rebuilt and is now much easier to navigate and locate information relevant to specific crops. A downloadable file has National Variety Trials Chief Executive Officer Alan Bedggood talking encouraging growers and agronomists to become familiar with the website before making variety selections later this year for the 2011 cropping season. Listen here http://www.grdc.com.au//uploads/documents/bedggood.mp3

Naturally protecting grapes from grey mould
A beneficial microbe called Muscodor albus may help protect grapes from grey mould according to experiments conducted by the US Agricultural Research Service. M. albus was found to combat Botrytis cinerea, the organism that causes grey mould by acting as a natural fumigant. For organic growers, Botrytis is especially troublesome because these producers cannot use sulfur dioxide. The researchers reported M. albus reduced the incidence of Botrytis-infected grapes by up to 85%. More? http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/loi/pdis

For the forward diary
Merline Olson will be returning to Gippsland in June for a FarmReady-Approved workshop based on Dr. Elaine Ingham’s Soil Foodweb International methods. Her visit follows an appearance last week at Vervale near Garfield and at St Paul’s Anglican Grammar School in Warragul.
More? Gerhard Grasser 5627 8663 or visit www.agriculturalsolutions.com.au

Hopping ahead to a solution for greenhouse gases
Hops could be useful in curbing ammonia-producing bacteria in the rumen, potentially offering a solution to greenhouse emissions from cows and optimising feed energy conversion, according to US scientists. Laboratory experiments saw dried hops flowers and hops extracts added to a bacterial mix collected from a live cow’s rumen. Both the flowers and the extracts inhibited bacterial growth and ammonia production.
More? April 2010 issue of Agricultural Research magazine

Getting on board
Gippsland’s Agribusiness chair Alex Arbuthnot AM has been elected to the board of the Gippsland Climate Change Network Inc.
More? Scott Ferraro 5173 9800 or scott.ferraro@epa.vic.gov.au

Cows not so guilty: FAO
A new United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization report has found cows responsible for less greenhouse gas emissions than previously thought. The new FAO report estimates global milk production, processing and transportation contributes just 2.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Adding emissions related to meat produced from dairy animals, the estimate is just 4%. A 2006 UN report ‘Livestock’s Long Shadow - Environmental Issues and Options’ claimed livestock agriculture contributed 18% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, even more than emissions from all transportation. Authors of this report later admitted faults with their findings but the report continues to be cited.
The new FAO report focuses on the entire dairy food chain, from feed production and on-farm emissions, to emissions associated with milk processing and packaging and transportation of dairy products to retailers.
Opening doors for Landcare
The SGLN Landcare Open Day on Saturday May 1 showcases the diversity of great work being undertaken by Landcare members.
Three Landcare award-winning properties will be open to the public: Rob and Linda Whitaker (Arawata), Graeme and Rosemary Trease (Mardan Mirboo North) and Stuart and Veronica Greaves (Nerrena), as well as a display at the Landcare office. Farm walks on all properties will take place at 10.30, 11.30am, 12.30, 1.30 and 2.30pm. Detailed maps to the properties are available from the South Gippsland Landcare Network office, cnr Bair and Young St, Leongatha.

Baw Baw opens farms for a sustainable future
Baw Baw Open Farms Day is a self-drive event on May 15 featuring three farms in West Gippsland. Learn about the management practices these Landcare farmers have adopted to protect water, land and other natural resources. The open days will be held from 10am to 3pm.
More? Nicole Driessen 5624 1630 or click here to view the brochure

Using what you have
The Dairy Extension Centre's Feeding Pastures for Profit (FPFP) program can help Gippsland farmers lift their profits by growing and utilising more high quality pasture and reducing the need for higher cost feeds.
Many farmers who have completed the program have since discovered a previously 'unseen' supply of ryegrass in their paddocks through the use of FPFP tools, altering their grazing management and growing more pasture in each season.
The next series of FPFP programs will be run on the following dates and locations:
- Trafalgar - Wednesdays, May 10 and 17
- Modella - Thursdays, May 11 and 18
- Maffra - Thursdays, May 11 and 18
- Yarram - Tuesdays, June 1 and 8
- Maffra - Fridays, June 4 and 11
Interested farmers and service providers need to register with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) at least two weeks prior to commencement of each program.
More? Jason McAinch 5147 0839 or Jason.mcainch@dpi.vic.gov.au or visit www.dairyextension.com.au

Carbendazim fungicide restricted
The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is reminding chemical users of tightened controls on the fungicide carbendazim, announced by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).
The APVMA said the changes were based on new data indicating maximum residue limits for some food crops and potential public exposure to treated turf may not meet new health standards.
Carbendazim is a systemic fungicide used to control a wide range of fungal diseases including mould, spot, mildew, scorch, rot and blight on a wide variety of food crops, ornamentals and turf. It is also used as a timber treatment.
More? Chemical resellers, the APVMA website http://www.apvma.gov.au or DPI Chemical Standards field staff
Get a win against the WONS
Aquatic Weeds of National Significance (WONS) pose a serious threat to agricultural production, biodiversity, and the use and health of West Gippsland’s waterways. Workshops designed to raise awareness and improve identification skills will be held the West Gippsland Arts Centre on Wednesday, May 5. Workshop participants will learn about the increasing threat of WONS and other new and emerging weeds such as Alligator weed, Cabomba and Salvinia. Morning and afternoon workshop sessions are available and will be held in the Fountain Room at the West Gippsland Arts Centre, Civic Place, Warragul.

More? Tyson Dennis 5624 2409

Don’t be a chicken, get your bird’s snuffles checked
Poultry owners and buyers in Gippsland are urged to report respiratory illness in birds to the DPI. Several outbreaks of the infectious poultry disease Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) have been reported and can lead to significant flock deaths. Mild cases see a drop in egg production and minor ‘snuffles’. In more severe cases birds cough and gasp. Cases can be quickly resolved by vaccinating the birds. ILT readily spreads by contact with infected birds, people, clothing or equipment.

More? Animal Health Staff at DPI Ellinbank 5624 2222, DPI Leongatha 5662 9900, DPI Maffra 5147 0800 or DPI Bairnsdale 5152 0400

Agricultural businesses numbers remain steady
The ABS 2008/09 Agricultural Survey revealed that the number of Australian businesses undertaking agricultural activity fell 3% to 136,000, compared to 2007/08. However, the number of non-agricultural businesses undertaking agricultural activity remained steady at an estimated 15,000 businesses. The beef cattle farming industry remained the largest sector in 2008/09, comprising nearly a third of businesses classified to the agriculture industry. The mixed farming sector (grain-sheep/grain-beef cattle) represented the next largest sector, accounting for 11% of businesses in the agriculture industry. A notable shift in 2008/09 was a 12% fall in the number of dairy businesses.

Fancy South America in June?
Could your agribusiness find an export market in South America? Agribusiness Gippsland has been asked to find firms for a Chilean Government aid package to explore marketing food, know-how or agricultural engineering into Chile. Selected companies go to Chile in June for an agri-food investment forum. The Chilean government will cover accommodation, meals and transfers and organise meetings with potential partners or customers. Participants must cover the airfare. The invitation is co-ordinated by regional business advisors, SED Consulting. Director Scott Williams said: “Meat and dairy industries are two of the target industries, as well as wine, grapes, olives and processed foods. We are looking for companies ready to export, or are already exporting, and could benefit from a leg-up into South America. Chile is a good jumping-off point to the rest of South America.”

More? Scott 0413 059 190 or scottw@sedconsulting.com.au

From oil dependence to local resilience
‘In Transition’ is the first detailed film about the Transition movement in communities around the world responding to peak oil and climate change. It will be shown on May 26 at 7.30pm at GippsTAFE Warragul. RSVP by Friday May 21.

More? Tammy Logan 5634 2284 or bbsn@dcsi.net.au
Who does what with water?
A special water management seminar will be held at Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Ellinbank on Wednesday, April 28. The Gippsland-focused seminar will discuss the key areas of farm water use and planning with speakers from DPI and Southern Rural Water. It will also explain the roles of various government agencies responsible for water policy and strategy development, cover how surface and ground water resources are managed, and licensing of water use and compliance. The free seminar will be held at DPI Ellinbank, 1301 Hazeldean Road, Ellinbank on Wednesday, April 28 from 12:30 -1:30 pm.
More? Julie Williams 5624 2285

Calling for expressions of interest
The Victorian Organic Industry Committee (VOICe) was successful in receiving a Recognising Women Farmers Grant from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to conduct a VOICe for Organic Women Leadership program. The project will deliver an innovative workshop for organic women to:
- Build leaderships skills
- Increase awareness of the industry organisational systems
- Develop strong networks
- Provide business management and marketing training
- Provide mentoring to support learnings
- Train the trainer
The project team will be led by well know rural woman leader Cathy McGowan, OA. The workshop will be conducted on May 2- 4 in Daylesford
More? Liz Clay 5628 9557 or liz-clay@sympac.com.au

Just released
READ SUSAN BOYLE’S AMAZING STORY
Susan Boyle has become a worldwide sensation. Not even one year ago she was a complete unknown, she would never have expected that an appearance on Britain’s Got Talent would catapult her to global fame. Susan Boyle: Living the Dream is the biography of this incredible singing sensation. John McShane chronicles her amazing journey from the moment she appeared on British television to her world tours on the back of having released a record-breaking debut album.
This is a title that is not-to-be-missed. Susan Boyle’s story inspires others to believe that even at later ages it is still possible to harness one’s talent and enthusiasm and wow the world.
You can order online at www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au – Click here
Every order is backed with a 100 per cent money back guarantee.

Bushwalk to create your own urban habitat
Join an experienced guide to explore the bushland at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, discovering the relationships between Australian native plants and the animals that call them home on Sunday May 2 from 11am–12pm. Cost: $6.50 adult/ $5.20 concession. Bookings required.
More? Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne 5990 2245
CLASSIC COUNTRY CLOTHING THAT MEANS BUSINESS
For the past 20 years, Gippsland-based Port Phillip Shop has supplied smart casual, eye-catching corporate clothing embroidered with the customer's logo. No customer is too small and our service is friendly and helpful. Our family-owned business offers a prompt and free sampling service. Wherever possible we supply Australian-made products: Clothing, footwear and gifts sourced from R M Williams, hats from Akubra and Barmah, knitwear from Merino Gold, Toorallie and Geccu. Our customers include rural supply houses, stock agents, industry groups, breed associations, wineries, tourist organisations, local government, family companies and individuals. Even if it's not on our website, we'll hunt it up for you because, like you... we mean business.
CONTACT US: Ph (03) 5623 4369 Fax (03) 5623 4575 Visit our shop ... 1a Barkly Street, Corner Smith St, Warragul 3820 see map Or browse http://www.portphillipshop.com.au ...
WorkSafe Victoria award nominations open soon
It’s time to register for this year’s WorkSafe Victoria Awards which open next month. WorkSafe is looking for companies and individuals that go the extra distance and whose innovation and leadership raise the standard of health and safety for all. Information packs at worksafe.vic.gov.au/awards. Applications close May 7.  
More? Awards Coordinator 8663 5033 or awards@worksafe.vic.gov.au

Rabobank opens executive development program
Applications for Rabobank’s 2010 Executive Development Program are open until May 28 and only 36 applicants will be accepted from across a range of commodities and geographical locations in Australia and New Zealand. The first module runs from August 22-27 in Sydney, with the second module taking place in July 2011.  
More? Skye Ward 02 8115 4139, bmp@rabobank.com or www.rabobank.com.au/bmp

Dairy industry structure and pricing explained
Free workshops for dairy farmers are being held to provide up-to-date information about dairy industry structure and the different organisations, companies and roles within it. It will also explore the dairy markets, how milk pricing works, and what influences price – including global, national, local, and on-farm factors. The workshop is on Tuesday April 27 Gippsland at Kernot Hall – Princess Drive, Morwell and runs from 10am to 3pm, with lunch provided. RSVP for catering.  
More? Kate 1300 882 833 or krandall@vff.org.au

Into ag? Under 35? There’s $10K up for grabs
The George Alexander Foundation, administered by the ISS Institute Fellowship, is offering fellowships to help talented young people. Applications are invited for fellowships in the areas of environment and sustainability or alternative energy. Submissions in other areas will be considered including:
- Manufacturing
- Food
- Automotive
- Engineering Trades
- Building and Construction
- Marine
- Furniture
- Heritage
- Primary Industries
- Specialist Trades
Applications to be received at the ISS Institute office by 4pm on Monday June 28.  

Baw Baw community development grants available
Groups and clubs interested in applying for community development grants from Baw Baw Shire Council are urged to attend one of three information sessions to be held at the West Gippsland Arts Centre Fountain Room in Warragul on April 28 and May 25. Applications close on June 30.  
More? Community Development Grants Coordinator 5624 2483 or grants@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
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

2010 National Landcare Awards
The 2010 National Landcare Awards will be held in Canberra on Thursday June 24. The Awards ceremony will be a dinner at Parliament House.

Food awards on again
The annual Food Challenge Awards competition allows companies to showcase their innovative products. Categories include: baked goods; confectionary; alcoholic beverages; dairy; health and wellness; meat and small goods; non-alcoholic beverages; pet food; ready meals; snack foods; soups and prepared foods and sustainable manufacturing. Applications close May 1.

Country racing is off and … well … racing
Meetings this month are:
- Apr 29: Sale
Meetings next month are:
- May 9: Sale
- May 17: Moe
- May 29: Bairnsdale
More? Call 1300 139 402 or visit www.countryracing.com.au

Looking for a venue for 20 people? Or 20,000?
Look at Lardner Park, near Warragul.
We have a reputation for large-scale events, such as Farm World, Trucks In Action and the Civil Works Expo.
We also have flexibility for smaller meetings, conferences and workshops. The Lardner Park board room and pavilions are ideal for equipment and product launches.
Our location is convenient for Melbourne and Gippsland attendees.

For further information
email mark@lardnerpark.com.au, visit www.lardnerpark.com.au or phone 5626 1373
**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 to our 1800-plus readers. No large files, no photos, no sales pitches and full contact details, please.

**RECRUITING:**

**Want hands-on experience in real-life farming?**
Volunteers are wanted to gain practical experience in harvesting, mulching, watering, feeding animals and helping train horses on a Bruthen organic smallholding. Accommodation is available.

**More? Tanya or Mike at Oasis Organic Food Gardens 51575183 or tancode77@yahoo.com.au**

**WORK SOUGHT:**

**French farmers seeking experience**
Odysée Agri places young French farmers abroad as a way for them to discover other farming techniques and a new culture.
Nicolas Chatte has a good level of education in agriculture and farming experiences in dairy. He is 21 and has an undergraduate diploma in farm management. His parents are dairy farmers and he has experience on several dairy farms. He would like to be placed on dairy farm for at least six months.
General Information regarding Odysée Agri trainee placement:
- Duration of the traineeship six month
- No registration fee for host family
- Minimum allowance to give to trainee $215/week + full board
- Type of visa: working holiday visa (organised by trainee)
- Insurance (organised by trainee)

**More? Nadia Rabiller 0423 151 912 or nadiar@westnet.com.au**

**International student seeking a six-week internship**
Gregor Heinrich is studying renewable resources and bioenergy for a Bachelor of Science with a focus on plant cultivation and engineering at the University of Hohenheim in south-west Germany. He needs to undertake a six-week internship during the European summer which he is keen to do in Australia on a farm that grows and processes renewable resources. Contact Gregor.heinrich@uni-hohenheim.de

**Fire management planning**
Consultant available to prepare sustainable fire management plans for your property or small reserve.
For a quote please 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: lssibl@swin.edu.au or ph: 9214 8753 or Karen: kpomeranz@swin.edu.au or ph: 9215 7136**

**Positions wanted**
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

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.

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 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.

Want to reach the right audience? More than 2000 ‘yes-please’ subscribers read GippyAGchat. Farmers, farm consultants, agronomists, stock agents, catchment management and DPI staff, local council, 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

The most important item in this entire e-newsletter
Annual subscriptions to Agribusiness Gippsland Inc are due, only $50 plus $5 GST individual/or a farm business and $200 plus $20 GST corporate. Our postal address is PO Box 1312 Warragul 3280. More? 9456 9791 or visit www.aginc.wordpress.com

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. No prizes, no steak knives, just our thanks…
1. Farmer/landowner/agri-tourism operator
2. Consultant/service provider
3. Government employee or agency
4. Food processor/manufacturer
5. Other

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>Your dairy industry workshop</td>
<td>Morwell</td>
<td>Kate 1300 882 833</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Baw Baw Community Development Grant information session</td>
<td>Warragul</td>
<td>5624 2483</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Water management seminar</td>
<td>Ellinbank</td>
<td>Julie Williams 5624 2285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Food for the Future workshop</td>
<td>Leongatha</td>
<td>Catherine Gear 5824 5523</td>
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<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Country Race Meet</td>
<td>Sale</td>
<td>1300 139 402</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 30-May 1</td>
<td>East Gippsland Field Days</td>
<td>Bairnsdale</td>
<td>Ian Rees 03 5153 1398</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>SGLN Landcare Open Day</td>
<td>South Gippsland</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1-31</td>
<td>Gippsland Festival of the Arts</td>
<td>Josephine Kent</td>
<td>1300 226 278</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne –Urban habitat walk</td>
<td>Cranbourne</td>
<td>5990 2245</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Poowong Produce Swap</td>
<td>Poowong</td>
<td>Tammy Logan 5634 2284</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2-4</td>
<td>VOICe for Organic Women Leadership program</td>
<td>Daylesford</td>
<td>Liz Clay 5628 9557</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Aquatic Weeds of National Significance workshop</td>
<td>Warragul</td>
<td>Tyson Dennis 5624 2409</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Country Race Meet</td>
<td>Sale</td>
<td>1300 139 402</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Mother’s day at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne</td>
<td>Cranbourne</td>
<td>5990 2245</td>
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<td>May 10, 17</td>
<td>Feeding Pastures for Profit program</td>
<td>Trafalgar</td>
<td>Jason McAinch 5147 0839</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Morning discussion on irrigation</td>
<td>Maffra</td>
<td>Neil Baker 0409 940 782</td>
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<td>May 11, 18</td>
<td>Feeding Pastures for Profit program</td>
<td>Modella</td>
<td>Jason McAinch 5147 0839</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11, 18</td>
<td>Feeding Pastures for Profit program</td>
<td>Maffra</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
<td>Baw Baw Open Farms Day</td>
<td>West Gippsland</td>
<td>Nicole Driessen 5624 1630</td>
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<td>Moe 17</td>
<td>Country Race Meet</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Baw Baw Community Development Grant information session</td>
<td>Warragul</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>In Transition movie night</td>
<td>Warragul</td>
<td>Tammy Logan 5634 2284</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Country Race Meet</td>
<td>Bairnsdale</td>
<td>1300 139 402</td>
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<td>May 29,30</td>
<td>FarmDay 2010</td>
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<td>1300 367 036</td>
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<td>June 1, 8</td>
<td>Feeding Pastures for Profit program</td>
<td>Yarram</td>
<td>Jason McAinch 5147 0839</td>
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<td>June 4, 11</td>
<td>Feeding Pastures for Profit program</td>
<td>Maffra</td>
<td>Jason McAinch 5147 0839</td>
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<td>Jun 9-12</td>
<td>Fresh Event 2010</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td><a href="http://www.freshevent.com.au">www.freshevent.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 21-23,</td>
<td>6th biennial Enviro Conference and Exhibition</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Veronica Dullens 02 8746 5055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 22</td>
<td>Food Challenge Awards</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1-6, 2010</td>
<td>19th World Congress of Soil Science</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td><a href="http://www.19wcs.org.au">www.19wcs.org.au</a></td>
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<td>Sep 6-13</td>
<td>Wool Week 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>Wool Week lunch and dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 29-30</td>
<td>South Gippsland Dairy Expo</td>
<td>Poowong</td>
<td>Deanne Kennedy 0419 878 055</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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