The Project

This is a two year project, running until Nov 2016 to develop resilience to climate change in our local food producing community. Through understanding, mentoring and skill development we are aiming for health food production systems caring for people, animals, plants and the soil.

Follow us on twitter: @agclimateadapt

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Council web page:
www.tinyurl.com/agclimateadapt
Sustainability Gippsland page:
http://www.sustainabilitygippsland.com/group/agricultural-climate-adaptation-project-southern-gippsland
What is the Agricultural Climate Resilience Project all about?

The project developed out of work that South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Councils have been doing with local producers with the assistance of the State Government over the last four years, culminating in outcomes and partnerships like the Southern Gippsland Local Food Map, South Coast Local Food Coalition and Bass Coast Rural Engagement Group.

The State Government identified that climate adaptation for the agricultural sector was an important issue to address for the long term prosperity of our communities. This is definitely the case for our region, with agriculture being a major industry worth ~ $500M annually.

This was seen as an opportunity for the alliance between a range of organisations in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland municipalities to further support local food producers in a meaningful way.

Project Goals

Two years from now, South Gippsland & Bass Coast Shire food producers will be better prepared, confident and sufficiently diverse so that they can cooperatively prosper through climatic changes both financially and socially.

This means they have a business plan that may include planning for:

- physically reducing impacts of climate change, such as wind breaks, shelter belts, healthier water retaining soil, improved land / water design and management.
- creating diverse markets for products, such as value adding processes, more direct markets for greater profit margins.
- sharing resources and knowledge, such as local food cooperatives for value adding or slaughter or packing as well as local suppliers with climate adaptation knowledge.
- diversification of products and or business partners such as new horticultural enterprises, land sharing / community supported agriculture and / or agri/eco-tourism opportunities.

What’s Next

We have a number of exciting workshops and farm visits planned for the next few months.

Some of the topics we will explore are:

- Understanding soils
- Resilient pastures
- Energy efficiency and alternate energy sources including biogas
- Visiting farms and learning from innovative food producers
- Animal and farmer health
- Risk management skills
- Effective product marketing

We aim to provide workshops and farm visits to support the needs of our food producers.

The best way to find out what’s happening is to register on the Sustainability gippsland website. By adding our group to your profile you will be notified by email whenever a new workshop or event is happening. We also post all our activities on our twitter account and on the Shire of both South Gippsland and Bass Coast web pages.

The project also maintains a mailing list, so contact Jill to be added to the list.