

## Strawberry ladies' success celebrated.....

"Women are the backbone of any horticultural business", said Carolyn Burgi as guest speaker at the 5th Annual Strawberry Ladies (Fragole Donne) Women in Industry Evening. All ninety-eight strawberry ladies attending the dinner agree with her.



L-R: Jessica Hasan, Vanessa Ciccotelli, Dina Hasan & Georgina Pappas

The Women in Industry Evening was an initiative to encourage women who work on farms and within the strawberry industry to gather and celebrate their contribution.

This year's celebration dinner was held at the beautiful Helen's Hill Restaurant and Winery in the Yarra Valley.

It was wonderful to see many ladies bring their daughters and shed workers along to the evening in recognition of their work on the property.

Industry Development Officer, Chloe Thomson, used the evening to single out and congratulate the ladies who are actively involved on committees within the industry.

Anna Hasan and Clarrisa Cincotta, both ladies from strawberry farms in the Wandin area, sit on one or more industry committees. At Committee meetings the ladies are involved in decision making about where industry levies will be spent, what projects the industry will take on board and general supervision of the IDO.

Julie Scardamaglia grew up on a strawberry farm and now works for AQIS and is a non-grower representative on the VSIDC.

Women are needed on industry committees. The women on committees help ensure a woman's perspective is given on all issues and many ladies would agree with Anna Hasan in saying "sometimes we are just better listeners"!



Thanks go to the following for helping to make the evening a success: Victorian Strawberry Industry Development Committee, Helen's Hill Restaurant and Winery, Fruit Cheque and Avon for the donation of sample products for take home gifts.



Chloe Thomson & Sam Violi present Carolyn Burgi (centre) with a thankyou gift.

Other activities for the ladies this year include; the annual bus tour and training courses relating to staff management & OH&S.

If you would like a copy of a photo taken on the night contact Chloe Thomson.

### REMINDER

ALL growers will soon be asked to vote for the continuation of the VSIDC & its various projects in August or September this year.

You will receive your voting papers in the mail, please return them promptly to ensure **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

If your mailing details have changed please contact the IDO.

### 2006 Yarra Valley Strawberry Festival

**5th November 2006  
Lilydale Showgrounds**

To sponsor, request a stall or donate products please call:  
John on 0417 538 535

Proudly presented by St Patrick's Primary School, Lilydale & VSIDC

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# Industry News **Chloe Thomson - VIC Strawberry I.D.O**

## NEW Food Labelling Legislation for Australia: Country of Origin

New Standards have been introduced in response to consumers voicing a desire to know exactly where the produce they consume originates. The New Standard requires that all food must contain a statement:

- on its package; OR
- on the individual food item; OR
- on a sign connected with the food item,

WHICH:

- identifies the country of origin (strawberries are considered 'unpacked' produce for this legislation); OR
- states whether unpackaged food is a mix of local or imported foods

Further unpackaged products (including strawberries) must have a specific country of origin statement in a font of a least 9mm. Produce grown in another country MUST state this country of origin on the packet or fruit, even if re-packaging occurs in Australia.

The New Standards are expected to become enforceable from the 8 June 2006.

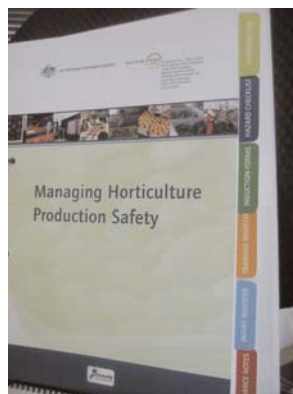
Guidelines for the New Standard will be available shortly and all Victorian Strawberry Growers will be given access to them.

In the mean time for further information visit:

[www.foodstandards.gov.au](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au)



## NEW Managing Horticulture Production Safety Handbook



This manual is designed as a tool to assist producers to reduce the risk of injury and illness associated with working on horticultural properties.

It contains easy to complete and file induction/training register forms for recording staff and contractor farm safety training, an injury register and a hazard checklist.

Plus information about complying with the changes to OH&S standards.

The manual costs \$20.00 to purchase please ring RIRDC on: (02) 6272 4819 or email [rirdc@rirdc.gov.au](mailto:rirdc@rirdc.gov.au)

## Calculating YOUR gross margin



As the 2005/06 season comes to a close don't forget to have a go at calculating YOUR businesses gross margin utilising the CD and booklet sent to ALL growers earlier in the season.

If you have any problems downloading the spreadsheet from the CD please contact *Chloe Thomson* on 0408 416 538 or 9207 5562

## UPDATE: Pesticide Minor Use Permits

Below are tables highlighting 1) the CURRENTLY issued minor use permits for use on strawberries as of March 2006, these permits are relevant to all states, however the issuing of these permits means the use on strawberries in Victoria will no longer be considered off-label and 2) the PROPOSED permits currently awaiting the necessary trial work to be conducted before permits for their use can be issued.

Minor use permits are important as they ensure growers have access to the latest chemicals WITH the relevant MRL and handling information. For more info about MUPs or to apply for one contact: *Peter Dal Santo* on: 0407 393 397

### Permits currently issued for use on Victorian strawberry crops as of March 2006

Permit Number	Crop	Pest description	Active Ingredient	Date Issued	Expiry Date
PER7154	Strawberries	Phytophthora & Pythium	Phosphorous Acid	19 Aug 2004	30 Aug 2006
PER8321	Strawberries	Western Flower Thrips	Abamectin	19 Oct 2005	30 Sep 2008
PER7833	Strawberries	Western Flower Thrips	Endosulfan	11 Oct 2005	30 Sep 2008

### PROPOSED PERMITS for pesticides for use on Victorian strawberries

Problem	Product	Active Ingredient	States	Trials needed to support permit	Est. trial costs	Background Info
Powdery mildew	Nimrod	bupirimate	All states	4	\$20,000	Major crop & pest - need good justification. APVMA have no data to support application. Supported by Nuchem for registration.
Helicoverpa spp. & Cluster caterpillar	Proclaim	emamectin	All states	4	\$20,000	Major crop & pest. DPI have efficacy data. APVMA has no data to support application. Also requested by WA. Want Avatar for pressure situations.
Helicoverpa spp. & Cluster caterpillar	Avatar	indoxacarb	All states	4	\$20,000	Major crop. APVMA has no data to support permit application - therefore 4 trials needed. QDPI have efficacy data.
Root Rot (Phytophthora spp.)	Agri-fos	phosphorous acid	All states	4	\$20,000	Major crop and disease. Use needs to be registered. Efficacy and crop safety trials only

## Growers participate in fumigant workshop

Recently, more than fifty strawberry fruit growers participated in a half-day, fumigation workshop held at Luciano and Heather Corallo's property in Millgrove.



The workshop consisted of formal presentations, a farm walk, an open discussion forum, practical demonstrations and activities, and a spit roast at the end of the day.

Scott Mattner (DPI) presented data on the attributes of different fumigants and biofumigants for soil disinfestation, Rod Mitchell (R&R Fumigation) discussed some practical fumigation issues such as equipment maintenance, application and safety, and Leanne Trinder (DPI) explained the implications of soil disinfestation for soil health.

Rod offered growers the opportunity to trial new low-permeability barrier films on their farms, which allow reduced application rates of fumigants by retaining them in soil for longer periods than traditional plastic films. Growers who would like to trial these films can contact Rod on (03) 9720 9099.

Participants inspected on-farm trials of new soil fumigants (eg methyl iodide and Telone C-35) and the strawberry variety Albion, and were able to quiz Luciano on his innovative hail netting system.

Rajendra Gounder (DPI) demonstrated the use of Gastec tubes for detecting the presence of fumigants in soil and determining when it is safe to plant crops. He also led growers in an interactive experiment on biofumigation (the use of fumigant-producing Brassica crops, eg mustard and canola, as green manures or soil amendments).



Above: Luciano shows attendees the MB alternative trial plots

Results returned by growers from the experiment showed that, under controlled conditions, biofumigation killed 100% of germinating clovers.

In the field, biofumigation is less effective than chemical fumigants, but used in conjunction with other treatments offers growers a sustainable method of soil disinfestation.



Rajendra (DPI) discusses soil residue testing

Thanks go to Chloé Thomson for organising the event, Luciano and Heather for hosting the day, Alan Shanks (DPI) for leading the workshop and to all growers who attended and participated.

For further information on soil fumigants and biofumigants for strawberry production contact:

Scott Mattner or Rajendra Gounder at DPI on: (03) 9210 9222 or e-mail [scott.mattner@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:scott.mattner@dpi.vic.gov.au)



Do you have soil loss or erosion occurring on your property?

Not sure what to do about it??

We provide free expert advice

## WHOLE FARM PLANNING

We provide:

- an aerial photograph of your property
- a free one day workshop in 'Whole Farm Planning' as a tool to manage these issues AND
- a \$5,000 grant towards on-ground earthworks

This is the last year the offer will be available to the strawberry industry. So if you are interested please call Mark Hincksman (see number below) for a no obligation conversation & visit.

We also provide advice on:

dam issues, boggy/inaccessible areas, track issues, water quality & off farm impacts



Contact: Mark Hincksman - Whole Farm Planning & Water Quality Project Officer DPI  
 ph: 03 5954 4004 fax: 03 5964 7037  
 mob: 0437 254 913  
 email: [mark.hincksman@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:mark.hincksman@dpi.vic.gov.au)



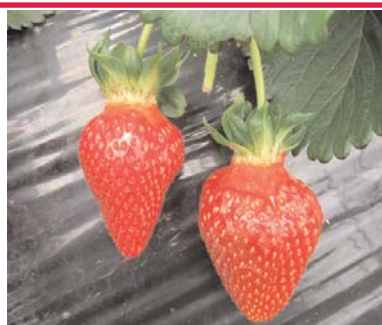
## Varieties for Commercialisation



### KALINDA

97-101-125

- Day Neutral cultivar
- High yielding, medium to large plant
- Similar colour, shape and powdery mildew resistance to Lowanna (one of parent crosses)
- Good fruit display & long conic, bright red fruit.
- Good levels of rain resistance
- Fruit size frequently exceeding 35 grams during spring



### BUNYARA

98-049-119

- Short Day cultivar
- Medium to large plant with good fruit display
- Similar colour, flavour and fruit size of Adina (one of parent crosses)
- Exceptionally large fruit, frequently exceeding 50 grams during spring
- Uniformly conic fruit, with bright red glossy appearance
- High pack out percentages, moderate rain resistance

*These varieties have been bred as part of the National Strawberry Breeding Program.*

## Runner husbandry - early season strawberry wisdom

### 1. DON'T BURY THE RUNNERS

When planting, DON'T PLANT THE RUNNERS TOO DEEPLY, it is so important that the crowns are not buried too deep or production from that runner will suffer.



*Above: The central runner here is planted at the correct depth*

#### Handy hint:

Carefully educate planters about the correct planting depth and supervise closely. If planted too deeply, soil will wash onto the crown and cause crown rot. If planted too shallow plants will find it hard to grow roots from base of crown into the soil. DO NOT allow the roots to double back/fold over when planting - if roots are too long, trim to 10cm.

### 2. NUTRITION

Good soil nutrition is essential to runner establishment. In dry years plants can burn as a result of excess fertiliser under the plastic. However in wet years, plants can suffer from low levels of nutrient as a result of excess nutrient leaching prior to planting.

#### Handy hint:

Do a soil test to determine the nutrient status of your soil.

### 3. IRRIGATION

Correct irrigation is vital for runner establishment. The early days of planting will be affected by the amount of care given to watering plants. If the soil has been dry for a long period prior to planting, ensure the soil under the plastic is moist.

#### Handy hint:

Check the soil moisture when using overhead sprinklers, the soil beneath the plastic may still be dry. Apply water via T-tape if the soil has been dry for a long period to help ensure even soil moisture.

Mist the plants with overhead watering system immediately after planting to reduce temperature around the runners. Overhead keeps the plastic and establishing plants cool on hot days.

### 4. FUMIGATION & PLANT BACK TIME

With methyl bromide phased out, many growers will be using alternative fumigants. REMEMBER...many of these alternatives have longer plant back times than MB.

#### Handy hint:

Double check plant back times & test residues in soil before planting.

*The information presented is only a guide and growers should seek more variety specific and farm location specific information from their runner grower and local agronomist before planting runners.*

*Info supplied from: The HCM Pty Ltd Newsletter and Toolangi Runner Growers Co-OP*



**VICTORIAN  
STRAWBERRY  
INDUSTRY  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE**

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