

Wednesday, August 25 2010

Launch of the Horticulture Service Provider Network

The Horticulture Service Provider Network is kicking off with a series of inaugural professional development meetings across Victoria.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) program manager Euan Laird said the first meeting was held today in Mildura.

“The Horticulture Service Provider Network will link service providers across Victoria with access to the latest research and development, new tools and resources,” Mr Laird said.

“The network is free to join and is open to all horticulture service providers including input supplier representatives, consulting agronomists, agribusiness professionals, the finance sector and the education sector.”

The network is a DPI initiative which complements existing networks.

Members will be able to access the Horticulture Industry Network’s online library – a dedicated search engine for horticulture tools, information and resources.

The quarterly, DPI-facilitated workshops will be held in Sunraysia, the Goulburn Valley, Melbourne and Gippsland.

Each session will be themed and include a presentation by a subject specialist.

The HSPN will be supported by an online collaboration space. Attendees will have the opportunity to guide the direction of future meetings.

The inaugural meetings will provide an update on climate change science and policy. There will also be an update on the locust situation, which has the potential to cost Victoria’s agricultural sector \$2 billion if left untreated.

Meeting details:

- **Goulburn Valley** – August 27, 12pm, Shepparton RSL, 88 Wyndham St Shepparton
- **Melbourne** – August 31, 12 pm, DPI Knoxfield, 621 Burwood Hwy, Knoxfield
- **Gippsland** – September 2, 7.30am, Debritz Room, West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul