



Alpine Valleys

agribusiness forum

'Australian Alpine Valleys - Where the Best Grows to Perfection'

The **Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum** [AAVAF] was established in 1997 by North East Victorian community leaders with the aim of developing sustainable agribusiness across the region.

Today, the AAVAF is a vibrant, incorporated body with an independent board of management comprising active agribusiness professionals and community leaders, all of whom are committed to growing sustainable agribusiness in the region.

With a membership base in excess of five hundred individuals, agribusinesses, companies, government agencies and statutory authorities and a regular program of events and forums, the AAVAF is widely considered to be Victoria's premier agribusiness forum.

The alpine valleys are widely recognised for their attractiveness to agribusiness and that there is ongoing growth in the economic value and sustainability of agribusiness

Our objectives

On behalf of all those involved in agribusiness in the region, the Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum's key objectives are to:

- foster the growth of successful agribusiness in the Alpine Valleys by providing a forum to exchange information
- recognise and promote excellence in regional agribusiness
- enhance the profitability and sustainability of agribusiness by facilitating two-way communication about barriers and opportunities for agribusiness



Our capabilities

The Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum provides the following services to its members and to the wider agribusiness sector in the region:

- serves as the premier source for information on the agribusiness sector in the region
- facilitates investment in agribusiness in the region
- provides input into agribusiness policy development at all levels of government
- hosts conferences, seminars and forums on topical issues
- organises inbound and outbound trade missions
- manages projects fostering growth in the local agribusiness sector
- collects and disseminates key industry data
- convenes and hosts major award events for excellence in agribusiness

Organisational Structure

AAVAF board of management consists of members coming from a range of backgrounds including agribusiness practitioners, government agencies, community leaders and industry.

The Forum's Manager is responsible for the delivery of initiatives aimed at growing sustainable agribusiness and raising local and global awareness of the region's *'Australian Alpine Valleys – where the best grows to perfection'* and *'clean green'* brands.

Recent major regional agribusiness initiatives undertaken by AAVAF

- Research and identification of agribusiness opportunities in the region
- Collaborative support in conjunction with local government and the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership program for initiatives to assist 138 farmers affected by the demise of the Alpine Valley tobacco industry in 2006
- Commission of the 2007 Wine Industry Warehouse report
- Facilitation of introductions to companies looking to invest locally in corporate agribusiness
- Auspice of special drought initiatives and representation on irrigation committees in the region
- Co-ordination and management of a Commonwealth funded Evergraze pilot and project with key partner Australian Wool Innovations
- Ongoing recognition of local agribusiness leadership and the introduction of an annual New Agribusiness Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards
- Supported a major North East feedlot and abattoir expansion submission
- Secured local and state government agency support to engage a Drought Services Coordinator for the region to communicate information to farmers on drought services
- Regular conferences, forums and seminars to promote ideas and debate among agribusiness professionals

New Export Opportunities

The AAVAF has experience facilitating export programs via its 2006 and 2008 Alps to Asia initiatives and has since been involved with a number of in-bound and out-bound trade missions aimed at assisting local agribusinesses break into the potentially lucrative Asian marketplace.

Stewardship

The AAVAF, in partnership with major industry groups, municipalities and government agencies encourages producers and landowners to ensure the environment of the Alpine Valleys remains sustainable and productive.

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