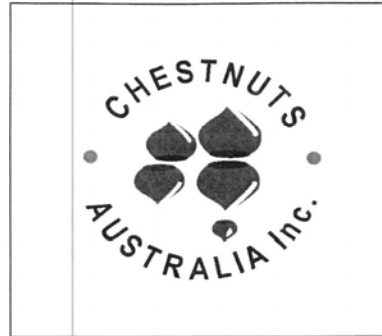


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Issue 1/2008 Pre Season Edition

# Nuts & Burrs

PO Box 472  
MYRTLEFORD, VICTORIA, 3737  
PHONE 03 5751 1466  
EMAIL [admin@chestnutsaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@chestnutsaustralia.com.au)



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## **Executive Committee Contact Details:**

President: John Morton – 03 9873 2011  
[jmorton@bigpond.com](mailto:jmorton@bigpond.com)  
Alfred Rose – 02 4759 3856  
[eyevest@hotmail.com](mailto:eyevest@hotmail.com)

R & D Chair: Heather Kane – 02 6125 4447  
[Heather.Kane@anu.edu.au](mailto:Heather.Kane@anu.edu.au)  
Luciano Cester – 03 9580 3344  
[lcester@flavourmakers.co.au](mailto:lcester@flavourmakers.co.au)

Sam Perna – 08 8389 8452  
[robbins.sally@sau.gov.sa.gov.au](mailto:robbins.sally@sau.gov.sa.gov.au)

## **President's Message**

Welcome to 2008 and all its glory in the Northeast of Victoria and some other good chestnut growing areas of Australia. It has been an absolute pleasure visiting my chestnut farm in Stanley this summer, the orchard has been green all the way through and the trees have reached all of their stages towards fruit on time and look great right now. It is to be hoped the scenario continues and we have a normal season, thus resulting in healthy Chestnuts and prices that bring a smile to many faces within our industry.

It is a good time to remember how we can maximize our enjoyment of our industry and achieve the greatest possible return for our crop. Rest assured, we will all be told many times by our Agents that the crop is large and prices are not what we had hoped! It is up to all of our members to market their crop judiciously and learn from previous oversights and errors; marketing is going to be paramount in such a fruitful season. It all starts in the orchard, we must look after the trees and the chestnuts, the trees are not machines and must be treated with tender loving care. The product must be saved as the precious beings they are, make sure you maintain the cool chain all the time and send only acceptable product to market, be as tough as you can, your reputation is only as good as your worst quality carton! In such a good season there could be decisions you make that

will determine your brand for many years to come. Don't pour disdain on lower prices, think of them as a way for the uncommitted and the new chestnut buyers to enter the market; make sure you deliver the consumer a top quality item all season.

To assist all of our members we will be providing, on the website, a weekly update of prices from the Sydney and Melbourne markets during the season, obviously once reasonable numbers are being sent, probably just after Easter onwards. Monitor this new aid closely and use it to ensure the best return for your crop. Remember approximately 70% of chestnuts are delivered to the markets in a 3 week period; don't be afraid to properly store your chestnuts for release after the peak. We can also use the Blog on the website for our members and growers generally to exchange ideas, remember we are all in this together. Good luck and many happy returns...

It is timely to mention the benefits to all growers of maintaining your membership to Chestnuts Australia Inc., these market updates will only be available to members. We have reintroduced the Member Login to the CAI website, so in the next few days create your new account to access the Members Information area. We are finding it more and more difficult to grow our

can be picked up from the Myrtleford Office, free of charge!

**WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENT:** The Committee requested the reintroduction of the Member Login to the CAI website for entry into a Members Only Information area. This is now up and running. We now ask all Members of CAI to log on to create your new account with your personal username and password. This will then give you access into the Members Information area

that can only be viewed on the website after you have logged in. Activation may take up to 48 hours to approve from the time of registration. We hope you enjoy this feature again and the benefits it will bring to you as a financial member of Chestnuts Australia Inc.

Tanya Edwards  
Communications Officer



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This Newsletter is partly funded by HORTICULTURE AUSTRALIA LTD. – Partnership in horticulture.

## **Sustainable Farm Families is about to roll out at La Trobe.....**

The Sustainable Farm Families program, a partnership between Beechworth Health Service, Western District Health Service, the Department of Primary Industry and Chestnuts Australia Inc., will be running a two day program at La Trobe University, Beechworth, on Tuesday the 20th and Wednesday the 21st of May 2008.

The Sustainable Farm Families program is a program for you, the chestnut grower and your partner. It is a two day program that explores the lifestyle of a farmer from a health and productivity point of view and individually works with each farm family to assess and develop strategies to improve health wellbeing and farm viability.

“The program will cover a range of areas including coping with stress and depression, farm safety, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, women and men’s health, nutrition and exercise”, local Sustainable Farm Families Program coordinator David Kidd said.

“Evaluations of other programs have found that farmers who took part in the trial believed they coped better with stress associated with the running their

farms,” David said. “And 100 per cent of participants recommended it to other farmers.”

After the initial two day program, the farm families return in 2009 for another two day program. At this point the farm families’ progress is reviewed and the future strategies are re-addressed to ensure positive future farmer health, wellbeing and productivity.

Over fifty programs are currently rolling out across Victoria with the program assisting over 400 farm families to date.

There are only twenty spaces available so be sure to register your interest with Tanya at Chestnuts Australia Inc., on 03 575103 5751 1466.

Check out the Sustainable Farm Families website:  
<http://www.sustainablefarmfamilies.org.au/>

Or contact David Kidd or Annette Chalkley at Beechworth Health Service on 5728 0200 for further information.

## **London, Melbourne.....Eurobin??**

My name is Jenny Rogers and this is just a brief look at how my husband Peter and I came to be living in Eurobin, North East Victoria and owning a fabulous Chestnut Orchard. After extensive travelling around Europe in my younger days, and spending 3 years with my husband Peter living and working in that mad city called London, we came to the conclusion we were lucky to have a country like Australia to come home to.

We had rented our home in Melbourne where we had lived and worked prior to going to London, so on our return we had no place to go! We decided to take the opportunity to have a break from working, and to travel around and see the “real” Australia. In the back of our heads was the notion to look for a country property as we travelled, as part of a desire to ultimately get out of the city and make a “sea-change” or “tree-change”.