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A BONNIE ADDITION TO THE FOOD & FIBRE GIPPSLAND TEAM!

Gippsland's horticulture sector is set to benefit from the growth of the VegNET team, with Glengarry's Bonnie Dawson recently appointed as an Extension Support Officer.

Bonnie will work alongside VegNET Victoria Gippsland Coordinator Shayne Hyman who has led a highly successful project in the region for more than three years, with results exceeding well beyond the expected parameters.

Bonnie joins the VegNET contingent of the Food & Fibre Gippsland team with a growing knowledge and interest in the sector, evident in her decision to undertake post graduate studies in Agricultural Sciences, topping up her Bachelors in Health Sciences and International Development.

With broad experience in stakeholder engagement and project management across a number of roles in regional areas both in Gippsland and other parts of Australia, she's looking forward to engaging with producers all over Gippsland.

"I'm excited about this role as it gives me the opportunity to draw on all of my varied experiences - in community engagement, local food systems, agriculture and business."

"In my work with the Baw Baw Food Security Coalition, I really enjoyed engaging with producers and being able to support their vital and dynamic contributions to our local community and economy – so I am thrilled to now be building that connection to producers again as an Extension Support Officer "she said.

Ms Hyman said that Bonnie joining the team will be an integral part of the next stage of growth in the VegNET Victoria Gippsland project.

"Relationship building and bringing producers together in a collaborative culture where they know that we are "all in this together" has been a really important part of the success to date."

"Bonnie already has a strong connection to the region and growing knowledge of the horticulture sector, and together we will continue to build the VegNET brand for the benefit of every grower in Gippsland – and in the bigger picture, growers right across Australia "she said.

The National Vegetable Extension Network has been in operation for over three years in Gippsland, launched with the aim of extending important research-based knowledge to vegetable growers to help them grow their businesses.

Gippsland growers have embraced the project, seizing opportunities to network, attend events and access training that helps not only their business, but everyone along the value chain.

The project has been extended to the end of March 2020.

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For more information, please call Communications Manager Jody O'Brien 0416 222 899