# Gippsland Shire Council Agrinews – Field Day edition April 2025



#### **EVENTS**

Benambra Seasonal Stocktake Session	23 April
<ul> <li>Bugs In &amp; Above the Soil – healthy soil &amp; plants</li> </ul>	29 & 30 April
<ul> <li>How to start a Business Workshop</li> </ul>	30 April
• Developing Direct-to-Market Regen Models in Canberra	2 May
• 2025 Events Masterclass	6 & 7 May
Elder Rights Australia Information Sessions	May
• East Gippsland Shire's Customer Experience Program	
gets set to launch	15 May
White Rock Film & Community Q&A	17 May
<ul><li>Low Stress Stockhandling. What's it all about?</li></ul>	27 & 28 May
<ul> <li>2025 Beef and Sheep Networks Roadshow</li> </ul>	3 June
Explore Your Paths career expo	18 June
<ul> <li>National Renewables in Ag Conference and Expo</li> </ul>	
Save the date	23 July

#### **FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES**

- Ready to Export and wondering how? Contact Gippsland's new Tradestart Officer
- 2026 Nuffield Scholarships
- Do you have an idea to tackle a horticulture problem?

#### **INFORMATION**

- MLA Livestock transport hub
- Victoria's Biosecurity Roundtable 2024 report is now available
- Non-lethal control methods to manage livestock predation
- Rural Leadership Unearthed podcast
- Help Us Keep Our Community Clean: Follow These Rubbish and Recycling Guidelines
- East Gippsland Community Directory & Diary
- Rural Financial Counselling Service is now NEX

Register for Agrinews online

#### Seasonal Stocktake Session Benambra

23 April

Join Fiona Baker from Agriculture Victoria and Nicole Frost from Peak Pastures and Livestock for a discussion on making the most of pasture, crop and stock decisions for the coming months.

Topics will include:

- Maximising feed from crops and pasture
- · Options to rebuild fodder reserves
- · Protecting pastures in difficult seasons
- · The golden rules of supplementary feeding
- · Animal health what to look out for.

Location: Benambra Recreation Reserve

Date: Wednesday 23 April

**Email**: karen.walker@agriculturevictoria.vic.gov.au **Cost**: Free Registration link (See the flyer below)



#### Bugs In & Above the Soil – healthy soil & plants

29 & 30 April

Paul Horne and Rebecca Addison from IPM technologies who are renowned for their work in creating Integrated Pest Management, are visiting East Gippsland to talk about Bugs In & Above the Soil – healthy soil & plants.

On the day you will learn about

- 1. Healthy soils soil biology. What is in your soil?
- 2. Integrated Pest Management what is above your soil? Bugs can be both good and bad. What do you have in your pasture or crops?
- 3. IPM Strategies for pasture and crops work on a practical strategy for your property. Paul and Rebecca will adapt these strategies to suit the pest you are currently dealing with, have dealt with, or are concerned about. See *flyer below*.

Location: Genoa Hall

When: Tuesday 29 April 10.30am to 2.00pm

https://events.humanitix.com/bugs-in-and-above-the-soil

Location: Orbost Football Club

When: Wednesday 30 April 9.30am to 1.30pm

Booking is essential https://events.humanitix.com/bugs-in-and-above-the-soil-at-orbost

#### **How to start a Business Workshop**

30 April

Dreaming of being your own boss but not sure where to start? Or looking to turn a hobby into a side hustle? From idea to action, your business journey starts here.

This exclusive one night only workshop gives you the tools, knowledge, and confidence to turn your business idea into reality. Don't miss this opportunity to take control of your future, as this workshop won't be held again anytime soon!

What you'll learn:

- Choosing the best business structure for you
- Registering your business or company name
- ✓ Insurance, premises, and online platform options

- Crafting a compelling business overview
- ✓ Developing an action plan to launch successfully
- ✓ Accessing additional business resources

Date: Wednesday 30 April

Location: The Hub. 27 Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale.

Time: 5.30-8.30pm. Don't worry if you're running a bit late. See the flyer below

#### **Developing Direct-to-Market Regen Models in Canberra**

2 May

Join us for the 2025 CBR LOCAL REGEN Forum, a must-attend event for CBR regional farmers, producers, organisations and policy makers who are passionate about a resilient local food system. This forum is about connecting local regenerative farmers with local consumers — building direct-to-market models that strengthen our region's food security and economy.

The event will share knowledge on the benefits of regenerative products and what this means for market opportunities, followed by interactive discussion with local farmers and marketers who have successfully developed direct-to-market models.

You will gain valuable insights on the 'why to' and 'how to' of marketing regeneratively produced food, while forming connections with potential collaborators and partners across the local supply chain. If you farm in the Canberra region or are interested in Direct-to-Market models. See the flyer below

**Date**: Friday 2 May

Location: University of Canberra.

**Time**: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Register: https://events.humanitix.com/2025-cbr-local-regen-forum

#### **2025 Events Masterclass**

6 & 7 May

Join the East Gippsland Shire Council's 2025 Events Masterclass to plan safe community events and launch the 'Promoting Your Next Event in East Gippsland' guide.

Keynote speakers include:

- Cassie Atkinson from GippSport, discussing the Volunteering Gippsland website and resources for volunteers.
- Miles Malcom from CFA, providing guidance on effective risk and emergency management plans for events.

Don't miss these informative sessions in Bairnsdale or Lakes Entrance.

Date: Tuesday 6 May 2025 at Bairnsdale RSL - 2 Forge Creek Rd, Bairnsdale Wednesday 7 May 2025 at Albert & Co - 201 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance

**Time**: 5.30pm - 8.00pm

**Cost**: Free. Bookings essential meal included <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/DAPQH">www.trybooking.com/DAPQH</a>

#### **Elder Rights Australia Information Sessions**

**Throughout May** 

In May we will be hosting FREE Elder Rights Australia Information Sessions across East Gippsland.

During these information sessions, Elder Rights Australia will be providing information about:

- The value of advocacy
- Rights in aged care
- Navigating the aged care system
- How to recognise and respond to elder abuse
- The Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Program

Lakes Entrance Service Centre Tuesday 6 May	Orbost Service Centre Tuesday 6 May
10.00 am – 12.00 pm	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Mallacoota Service Centre	
Wednesday 7 May	
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	
Bairnsdale Library	Paynesville Service Centre
Monday 19 May	Monday 19 May
10.00 am – 12.00 pm	2.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Omeo Service Centre	
Tuesday 20 May	
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	

#### East Gippsland Shire's Customer Experience Program gets set to launch 15 May

East Gippsland Shire Council is excited to announce a new free Customer Experience Program aimed at helping local businesses boost customer satisfaction and strengthen long-term success.

Tailored for businesses in retail, hospitality, tourism, and all businesses that require positive ongoing client relationships, this self-paced online training - developed by expert facilitator Ange O'Connell-makes it easy for business owners and their teams to enhance communication, conflict resolution, customer engagement, and service consistency.

Funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria, the program is part of the Business and Economic Recovery and Resilience Grant and is designed to raise service standards across the region while supporting East Gippsland's reputation as a must-visit destination.

To mark the launch, businesses are invited to a free networking event:

**Location:** Eagle Point Foreshore Hub

Date: Thursday, 15 May 2025

**Time:** 6:00 PM

Bookings are essential, secure your ticket at <u>Customer Experience Program Community Event</u>

Enjoy refreshments, meet fellow business owners, and hear from Ange O'Connell as she introduces the program and demonstrates how easily it can be integrated into your operations.

#### White Rock Film & Community Q&A

**17 May** 

White Rock is a compelling new documentary helmed by Damon Gameau (2040, That Sugar Film) that brings together scientists, chefs, fishers, and policymakers to tackle one of the biggest environmental challenges facing our oceans - the explosion of longspined sea urchins devastating Australia's kelp forests. Shot across stunning locations from NSW to Tasmania, the film unpacks the science, the stakes, and the emerging solutions to this underwater crisis.

Join us for the White Rock Q&A Tour with expert panel to explore how this issue is affecting Australia's kelp forests and what we can do about it.

**Date**: Saturday 17 May **Time**: 6.00pm -9.30pm

**Location**: Sailors Grave Cellar Door Dunetown **Registration**: <u>Great Southern Reef Foundation</u>

#### Low Stress Stockhandling. What's it all about?

27 & 28 May

A LSS Stockhandling School is a remarkable 2-day program that can leave you wanting to do stock work, seeing the economic benefits in the kilos gained and the ease in which stockhandling can be achieved. See how to make more \$ from your stock.

Where: "Nerina" farm shed, Llowalong Stratford

**Date**: 27 & 28 May

Email: angus@zilmadvisory.com.au

Trainer: Nic Kentish

View the Registration Form





#### 2025 Beef and Sheep Networks Roadshow

3 June

Agriculture Victoria's BetterBeef (BB) and Bestwool/Bestlamb (BWBL) networks are hitting the road.

The 2025 Beef and Sheep Networks Roadshow will bring top industry experts to 4 locations across Victoria, delivering the latest insights on pastures, livestock, and farm business management.

In response to seasonal challenges, we're taking a fresh approach in 2025. Instead of one big BWBL and BetterBeef state-wide conference, we're bringing the knowledge to producers with a series of half-day events, making it easier for producers to attend without spending a whole day off-farm.

The Gippsland Roadshow will be on the **3 June**. Full event details will be published on the <u>Agriculture Victoria events website</u> soon, and in the Beef and Sheep Networks Newsflash email newsletter.

#### Your business is invited to the 'Explore Your Paths' career expo 18 June

This event promises to be an invaluable experience, allowing students to gain insight into future career paths right here in Gippsland by bringing senior school students and regional businesses together for a day of career exploration and job pathways discovery. The day will showcase exciting training and career opportunities across our region's key sectors, including trades, agriculture, emergency services and much more.

Businesses can participate in this event:

- Through networking with educators from schools who can promote the opportunities and future workforce needs
- Introduce young people to career pathways they may not yet be considering
- Exposure to local secondary schools' staff school principals, careers advisors, teachers.
- Opportunity to highlight careers and jobs in your organisation

The event will be held at:

Location: Riviera Convention Centre, Bairnsdale

**When**: Wednesday 18 June **Time**: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Bus transport will be provided, to **Register** using the link by 16 May at <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/exploreyourpathscareerexpo">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/exploreyourpathscareerexpo</a>.

For more information, contact: Mae Beckhurst - Event Coordinator on 0428 879 285, email mae@gellen.org.au or Don Shaw 0439 829 811 don@gellen.org.au

#### National Renewables in Ag Conference and Expo – Save the date

23 July

National Renewables in Ag Conference and Expo is coming to Victoria for the first time and is set to take place in Bendigo, 23 July 2025.

Mark your calendars for this essential gathering (which sold out last year) where farmers, industry leaders, Governments, innovators and passionate sustainability advocates come together to discuss the future of renewable energy in agriculture. An electric ute will be displayed for farmers to check out, we'll learn about biogas used at a piggery to cut waste and costs, a dairy farmer using solar for irrigation, a fully electrified cherry farmer will speak and how the distribution network is evolving. Don't miss out and grab a ticket today at the early bird prices National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo 2025 (humanitix.com).

#### **FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES**

#### Ready to Export and wondering how - Contact Gippsland's new TradeStart Advisor

Looking to expand your agribusiness into international markets? The TradeStart Program, delivered in partnership with Austrade and Global Victoria, offers expert one to one support for your business, with tailored advice to help your business succeed globally.



Whether you're new to exporting or ready to grow, TradeStart connects you with the tools and networks you need to thrive in priority international markets.

Learn more and get export-ready today at <a href="https://global.vic.gov.au/our-programs-and-services/our-programs/trade-start-program#about-the-program">https://global.vic.gov.au/our-programs-and-services/our-programs/trade-start-program#about-the-program</a>

Or register <a href="https://global.vic.gov.au/contact-us-form">https://global.vic.gov.au/contact-us-form</a> to connect with your local TradeStart Advisor: Rachel Truscott on 0447 355 816 or <a href="mailtrachel.truscott@global.vic.gov.au">email rachel.truscott@global.vic.gov.au</a>.

#### 2026 Nuffield scholarships

AgriFutures Australia: 2026 Nuffield Scholarships is for those working in an AgriFutures levied or emerging industry. You can apply for a sponsored \$63,000 scholarship to travel overseas and study innovative farming practices (applications close Friday 16 May 2025).

Expand your networks globally and collaborate with some of the world's leading agribusinesses, all while researching a topic of interest to your business, community or industry.

With a Nuffield Scholarship you can help build more sustainable and profitable primary industries in Australia.

Apply for a scholarship in 2026.



#### Do you have an idea to tackle a horticulture problem?

Hort Innovation Frontiers, in partnership with Startup bootcamp and Cluster Connect, has launched a new program designed to drive innovation that will tackle the most pressing challenges in horticulture.

The Australian-Grown Innovation program, which is for Australian growers and those across the horticulture supply chain, will accelerate grower-led innovation through three stages of mentorship. The aim is to turn great ideas into commercially viable products and services that make a real difference on the ground.



**Engage**: Participate in a local workshop for growers and supply chain participants to learn about innovation in horticulture.

**Incubate**: Following the engagement session, a cohort of 10 are selected based on an expression of interest, to participate in a six-week program which offers hands-on support via workshops and mentoring to refine, test and create market viable opportunities. Participants will also learn about global best practice in their areas of innovation.

**Build**: A 12-week program offering participants an opportunity to develop a test version of their idea and trial it in a real-world market environment. Selected participants may also take part in a global immersion experience, where they explore partnership opportunities, participate in site visits, learn international best practices, connect with global experts, and learn from leading innovators to help scale their idea.

Register or Find out more click on this link.

#### **INFORMATION**

#### **MLA Livestock transport hub online portal**

Developed by MLA, the Livestock Transport Hub is an online tool to help everyone understand their roles and responsibilities for livestock transport and understand that best practice livestock transport comes down to preparation.

The Transport Hub features best practice guidelines on preparing different classes of sheep, cattle and goats for their intended journey.

<u>Meat & Livestock Australia Transport Hub – everything you need to know about transporting</u> livestock safely and humanely

#### Victoria's Biosecurity Roundtable 2024 report is now available

Victoria's Biosecurity Strategy Biosecurity Roundtable meetings final report is now available and includes keynote speaker presentation summaries, insights, feedback and a record of questions raised. This can be accessed at <a href="Access the 'What was said' report or watch the keynote speaker presentations">Access the 'What was said' report or watch the keynote speaker presentations</a>.

#### For more information

If you're interested in keeping up to date with biosecurity news around Victoria, please click here to subscribe to Victoria's Biosecurity Matters eNewsletter.

To be updated on the progress of collective effort to implement Victoria's Biosecurity Strategy.

For questions, contact biosecurity.strategy@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

#### Non-lethal control methods to manage livestock predation

There are a range of non-lethal control measures that landholders can use to reduce the impacts of livestock predation. Many of these can be implemented without a permit.

- Exclusion fencing
- Property hygiene
- Animal husbandry
- Guardian animals
- Trail cameras

Non-lethal control strategies can take time to implement effectively, and several methods may need to be combined to achieve the desired outcome, find out more at <a href="Non-lethal control">Non-lethal control</a> methods to manage livestock predation | Agriculture Victoria

For further information about predation management phone the AgVic customer centre on 136 186 or email <a href="mailto:pest.animals@agriculture.vic.gov.au">pest.animals@agriculture.vic.gov.au</a>.

#### **Rural Leadership Unearthed podcast**

Hosted by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, they unearth stories from people passionate about building stronger industries and communities outside our city limits.

Visit their page to dive into the ingredients for effective leadership, whatever the challenges you face, wherever you live or work.

Follow the <u>Rural Leadership Unearthed podcast</u> link for the list of all episodes

Or check out the Optimistic for Ag episode, where Matt Linnegar and Su McCluskey reflect on the recent challenges and wins for Australian agriculture and take a look at trends that will continue to impact the sector.



#### Help Us Keep Our Community Clean: Follow These Rubbish and Recycling Guidelines



We all play a part in maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of our community. To ensure we are doing our best, please follow these guidelines regarding rubbish and recycling:

- 1. Separate Your Waste: Make sure to separate recyclables from general waste. Use the appropriate bins for paper, plastics, glass, and organic waste.
- Reduce and Reuse: Before disposing of items, consider if they can be reused or repurposed. Reducing waste at the source is the most effective way to manage waste.
- 3. Proper Disposal: Ensure that all rubbish is securely bagged and placed in the correct bins to prevent littering and animal scavenging.
- 4. Recycling Cleanliness: Rinse out any food or drink containers before placing them in the recycling bin to avoid contamination.

5. Bulk Waste: For large items or bulk waste, please use designated collection services or drop-off points.

For more go to Waste (eastgippsland.vic.gov.au).

#### **East Gippsland Community Directory & Diary**

Are you running a local community organisation, support service, club or group? Do you want to be found by more people online & to promote your events and services?

The East Gippsland Shire Council is excited to partner with My Community Directory to provide you with your free local Community Directory + Diary.

The East Gippsland Community Directory + Diary can help you to:

- List your services
- Advertise for volunteers
- Promote upcoming events
- Be found by more people online

All for free! To visit organisations already using the directory visit: <a href="https://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Victoria/East\_Gippsland">https://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Victoria/East\_Gippsland</a>

To create your groups listing visit: https://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/register

#### **Rural Financial Counselling Service is now NEX**

Rural Financial Counselling Service is excited to announce that as of 31 March 2025, RFCS Gippsland will be known as NEX Business Farming Wellness, or more simply NEX.

This change reflects our growth and commitment to providing enhanced services beyond the Rural Financial Counselling Program designed to better support small and ag businesses.



NEX are a not-for-profit organisation committed to delivering expert business coaching, strategic planning, & tailored consulting services for farmers, agribusinesses and small business owners.

With over 40 years of industry experience, NEX empower businesses like yours to navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and build a stronger, more sustainable future.

Find NEX at NEX • Business, Farming & Wellness (nexsolutions.org.au)

#### **Subscribe to the online Agrinews**



If you would like to receive the Agrinews each month, you can subscribe to the online newsletter by going to the East Gippsland Council Website.

Select the "Community" drop down and AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE to reach the subscription page or you can scan the QR code below to subscribe.

#### **UPDATES**

#### **East Gippsland Field Days**

The Economic Development team attended the East Gippsland Field Days to connect with business, primary producers, farmers, agribusinesses and new residents and visitors to the Council tent. In addition, the day provided an opportunity to touch base with the many services and agencies that support the Agriculture sector in Gippsland.

This year Rachel Truscott the Global Victoria and Austrade Trades Start Advisor, joined the Agribusiness Development Officer on the Friday to promote and look for business wanting to become export ready or increase their export footprint. Austrade currently have a key focus on Gippsland increasing its exporting due to it being currently underrepresented in this space.

Of the businesses we engaged with conversations covered product readiness, marketing, identifying points of difference, upscaling product development to meet market demand and quantities of scale, services supporting farmers, training opportunities to upskill and the significance of the Gippsland region as a prime food producing area and the important of holding agriculture land into the future to continue the growth of the industry.

The day also provided an opportunity for an informal round table with Food and Fibre Gippsland new Acting CEO Road Hayes, our team and Rachel to further discuss exporting, tariff impacts and the potential to increase our reaching into the world market.



Cr Davies, Rod Hayes FFG, Rachel Truscott Global Victoria, EGSC CEO Fiona Weigall, Brodie Anderson FFG, Kaylene and Cr White







Emma Filtness, Nicole, Finn and Levi Frost with Jen Smith



Advisor with Mary Baldwin



That's a wrap, well done to all the organisers for a great day



Compiled for general information only. There are many more programs and projects being delivered in the region, contact your local agencies, production group or ag business to find out more.

If a friend would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer East Gippsland Shire Council at <a href="kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au">kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au</a> or call 5153 9450.







# Seasonal Stocktake Session Wednesday 23 April

Join Fiona Baker from Agriculture Victoria and Nicole Frost from Peak Pastures and Livestock for a discussion on making the most of pasture, crop and stock decisions for the coming months.

DATE: Wednesday 23 April

WHERE: Benambra Recreation

Reserve

TIME: 11 am - 1 pm

Lunch provided.

#### TOPICS:

- Maximising feed from crops and pasture
- Options to rebuild fodder reserves
- Protecting pastures in difficult seasons
- · The golden rules of supplementary feeding
- Animal health what to look out for.

COST: Free

REGISTRATION: Please register by clicking below

Register link

or with Keren Walker, to assist with catering.

MORE INFORMATION: Keren Walker, 0477 706 384

keren.walker@agriculture.vic.gov.au

The Farm Business Resilience Program is supporting farmers to build stronger, more productive agricultural businesses Visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/FBRP

The Farm Business Resilience Program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Fixure Prought Fund and the Victorian Government's Future Agriculture Skills Capacity Fund



# Bugs In & Above the Soil

Integrated Pest Management with IPM technologies

Date: Tuesday 29th April

Where: Genoa Hall (Princes Highway)

When: 10.30am to 2.00pm

Healthy Soils

Soil Biology - bugs in soil. What, why & who.

Integrated Pest Management

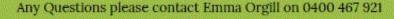
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the successful integration of all available methods of controlling pests, rather than just relying on pesticides. Bugs can be both good and bad. What do you have in your pastures? The day will assist in identifying what you may have in your paddocks.

Pasture and fodder crops - strategies

An IPM strategy deals with all pests, harnessing biological and cultural controls as the first line of defence, and using compatible chemicals (those which are least disruptive to the key biocontrol agents) as a support tool only when necessary. Expect to come out of the day with a practical strategy.



To book follow link or use QR code https://events.humanitix.com/bugs-in-and-above-the-soil















Date: Wednesday 30th April

Where: Orbost Football Club (Lochiel Rd)

When: 9.30am to 1.30pm

Healthy Soils

Soil Biology - bugs in soil. What, why & who.

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the successful integration of all available methods of controlling pests, rather than just relying on pesticides. Bugs can be both good and bad. What do you have in your pastures? The day will assist in identifying what you may have in your paddocks.

Crops & Pasture - strategies

An IPM strategy deals with all pests, harnessing biological and cultural controls as the first line of defence, and using compatible chemicals (those which are least disruptive to the key biocontrol agents) as a support tool only when necessary. Expect to come out of the day with a practical strategy.



To book follow link or use QR code https://events.humanitix.com/bugs-in-and-above-the-soil









Any Questions please contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921



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When: 5.30 - 8.30pm, Wednesday 30 April 2025 Where: The Hub, 27 Dalmahoy St, Bairnsdale.





























# **EAST GIPPSLAND**

SHIRE LIBRARIES

FREE | BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

# **Elder Rights Australia**

### **Information Sessions**



## Spend some time with an advocate from Elder Rights Australia!

During this information session, Elder Rights Australia will be providing information about:

- The value of advocacy
- · Rights in aged care
- Navigating the aged care system
- How to recognise and respond to elder abuse
- The Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Program

### Bairnsdale Library

Monday 19 May 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

#### Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Tuesday 6 May 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

#### Mallacoota Service Centre

Wednesday 7 May 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

#### **Orbost Service Centre**

Tuesday 6 May 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

### Omeo

**Service Centre** 

Tuesday 20 May 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

#### Paynesville Service Centre

Monday 19 May 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

#### **Book Now**

Or scan the QR code

At your library Phone: 5152 4225 www.trybooking.com/eventlist /eastgippslandshirelibraries





