

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews

June 2025



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- FREE ~ Women's Wellbeing Conversations 19 June
- Changemaker Workshop – Bairnsdale 23–24 June
- Managing sheep nutrition in dry times– FREE online session 24 June
- Making cent\$ of carbon and emissions on-farm – FREE online session 25 June
- Banking Scams Information Session Presented by Commonwealth Bank 23 & 26 June
- FREE 3-hour carbon literacy workshop 1 July
- Home resilience workshops June – July
- Winter Festival is on again June – July
- Australian sheep and wool show 2025 18-20 July
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EVENTS

Exploring the life in your soil

18 June and 19 June

David Hardwick is presenting a hands-on, one-day workshop where you'll explore the essentials of soil biology—from microbes and soil organisms to plant roots and organic matter.

Through interactive activities you'll gain practical skills to assess and improve soil biology on your farm or property.

What will be covered:

- Introduction to the soil community
- Why soil biology matters
- Soil microbes and organisms
- The role of plant roots and organic matter
- Simple ways to assess soil biology
- Key practices to improve soil health

18th June at Clifton Creek Hall (810 Deptford Rd, Clifton Creek)
9.30am to 3.30pm.

19th June at Gippsland Agriculture Centre (345 Bengworden Rd) from **9.30am to 3.30pm.**

They are the same workshop, just different venues. Register below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/exploring-the-life-in-soil-clifton-creek>

<https://events.humanitix.com/exploring-the-life-in-soil-bairnsdale>

FREE ~ Women's Wellbeing Conversations

19 June

Join Gippsland Women's Health and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in East Gippsland for a conversation on women's mental health. Together, we'll explore women's lived experiences, local barriers and enablers to mental wellbeing, and opportunities for community connection.

Event highlights:

- Panel of expert speakers, community discussion
- Take-home resources and health information
- Free light lunch provided

Who should attend:

Women and gender diverse people from the community, health professionals, community leaders and advocates

Register now for free! [Women's Wellbeing Conversations: Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

Date: Thursday 19 June

Time: 10am–1pm

Location: The Hub Bairnsdale – Room 2, 27 Dalmahoy St, Bairnsdale

Changemaker Workshop – Bairnsdale

23–24 June

The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation is excited to announce an upcoming Changemaker Workshop, a two-day leadership development workshop designed for individuals who want to play a more active role in the Bairnsdale communities and contribute to positive change.

The workshop, facilitated by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) under the Future Drought Fund's Helping Regional Communities - Prepare for Drought Initiative, aims to foster self-awareness, community engagement, resilience, leadership skills, and the ability to create positive change while considering diverse perspectives and community well-being.

Run in partnership with Gippsland Agricultural Group Inc., this workshop is open to individuals who have a strong desire to drive meaningful change within their community, an interest in finding innovative solutions for complex challenges, a commitment to exploring new approaches for building a thriving community, and an interest in driving local action to prepare for drought effectively.

For more information or to register for this event, visit: <https://qrcodes.pro/XzNVUX>

For more information visit <https://rural-leaders.org.au/> or contact: **Jema Brown** 0451 917 773
support@rural-leaders.org.au

Date: 23 - 24 June 2025

Time: 8.30am - 4.30pm

Location: Gippsland Agricultural Centre, Bairnsdale, VIC

Managing sheep nutrition in dry times – FREE online session

24 June

As winter hits, many are already experiencing dry times and it's more important than ever to ensure your sheep are getting the right nutrition to maintain health and performance.

Join expert nutritionist Nicole Logg from The Livestock Coach for an in-depth webinar on nutrition for the challenging months ahead.

When: 24 June

Where: Online

Time: 1 pm



Click here to register. [AWI Extension NSW Webinar - Managing sheep nutrition in dry times](#)

Making cent\$ of carbon and emissions on-farm – FREE online session

25 June

AWI Extension WA are pleased to present a free 1-hr webinar for woolgrowers called 'Making cent\$ of carbon and emissions on-farm'.

Understand carbon and emissions on your farm, including how to complete an emissions calculation at our free online event.

Guest speakers include:

- Richard Brake, Richard Brake Consulting - Understanding carbon and emissions on your farm
- Bruce Pengilly, Penrose Pastoral - Tips and tricks to starting your CN30 journey.

Plus discussion and Q&A.

When: 25 June

Where: Online

Time: 3 pm

Click here to register. [Making cent\\$ of carbon and emissions on-farm \(awiextensionwa.com\)](https://www.awiextensionwa.com)



Banking Scams Information Session Presented by Commonwealth Bank

5-26 June

Join us for this informative session with a member of the Commonwealth Bank!

Commonwealth Bank will be presenting a Staying Safe Online seminar which is designed to teach people who aren't confident using digital platforms how to identify and avoid scams and

fraud, how to protect themselves online, and give them confidence to securely manage their finances online.

Attendees will learn how to:

- Identify scams and suspicious links
- Protect themselves from scams and fraud (online and telephone scams)
- Create strong passwords and keep them secure
- Safely access online banking
- Stay digitally safe while travelling

This Information Session is part of the Shires Positive Ageing Education Series

Bairnsdale Library

Monday 23 June
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Thursday 26 June
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

To book ring the library on 5152 4225,

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries Or scan the QR code on the flyer below

FREE 3-hour carbon literacy workshop

1 July

We are pleased to invite you to a free, high-value professional development opportunity, re carbon literacy that will equip you (or your team members) with essential insights into the emerging carbon dimensions shaping the future of farms, landscapes, finance, and government policy.

Aimed at Local council staff, extension officers, water authorities, Landcare facilitators, farm advisors, ag industry representatives and farmers, this interactive workshop is designed to elevate your ability to understand, communicate, and integrate carbon and emissions-related knowledge into your everyday work.

Whether you're speaking with producers, advising communities, planning programs, or evaluating land management practices, this session is for you. Featuring Two Nationally Recognised Speakers, Alison Kelly – Farm Emissions Specialist, Agriculture Victoria, and Josie Zilm – Agribusiness Executive, National Australia Bank (NAB)

See flyer below for all event details. Please register early as places are limited.

Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Uwa7WfAEJJ>

Date: 1 July

Time: 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Location: Gippsland Agricultural Center (via Bairnsdale Airport)

Or Phone Jen: [0409 436 133](tel:0409436133)

Home resilience workshops

June - July

Australia's changing climate represents a significant challenge both now and into the future.

Councils have joined with experts at the Resilient Building Council and the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) to offer FREE workshops across Gippsland, to help homeowners prepare for bushfires, storms and other natural disasters.

Want to understand your home's vulnerabilities? Learn practical ways to improve resilience? Highly regarded resilience experts will be here to answer your questions.

Don't miss out! Join one of five workshops in East Gippsland:

- Thursday **26 June** 4.00 pm - 7.00 pm, Buchan Mechanics Hall - [book here](#)
- Friday **27 June** 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm, Mallacoota Community Clubrooms - [book here](#)
- Monday **30 June** 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm, Omeo Community Hub and Hall - [book here](#)
- Tuesday **1 July** 10.00 am - 1.00 pm, Bruthen Mechanics Hall - [book here](#)
- Tuesday **1 July** 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm, Raymond Island Community Hall - [book here](#)

Winter Festival is on again

20 June - 20 July

As one of the major partners of the 2025 East Gippsland Winter Festival, East Gippsland Council are proud to support this vibrant celebration of 'How We Winter' in East Gippsland with a \$50,000 grant.

Running from **20 June - 20 July**, the festival will energise our region with art, music, feasts, cold dips, and fireside gatherings.

More than just an event, EGWF brings people together, strengthens community spirit, and supports local jobs and businesses.

Download the program at egwinterfest.com.au and start planning your winter.

Australian sheep and wool show 2025

18-20 July

The Australian Sheep and Wool Show is the largest show of its type in the world where each year up to 3000 sheep from across Australia with 30 plus breeds compete in the show ring.

Added to that are over 400 trade sites covering everything from the finest woollen clothing to large machinery.

Shearing and dog trial competitions are also part of the event as is a Festival of Lamb marquee showcasing how to cut up a carcass and cook food.

[Click here for more information.](#)

THE ANNUAL
Australian
SHEEP & WOOL
SHOW



24th Australian fleece competition

18-20 July

Entries are currently being received for the 2025 Australian Fleece Competition. Run jointly by Nutrien Ag Solutions, Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) and Australian Sheep Breeders Association, the competition forms part of the [Australian Sheep and Wool Show](#), held in Bendigo **18-20 July**.

This year we will be celebrating 24 years of the Australian Fleece Competition.

The Australian Fleece Competition is the largest fully measured fleece competition in the world. The competition showcases a range of fleeces, representing every state and a wide range of breeds and microns. The performance class will again be part of the competition to allow the benchmarking and display of fleeces shorn at 6 to 8-month intervals.

At the conclusion of the competition, exhibitors have the opportunity to donate their fleeces to this year's nominated charity, Rural Aid. Thanks to the generosity of exhibitors, 22 national charities have shared in over \$220,000 since the inception of the competition.

Further details regarding the competition schedule and fleece tickets are available on the following websites:

www.nutrienagsolutions.com.au www.sheepshow.com www.awta.com.au

National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo

23 July

This event brings together farmers, agriculture and energy consultants, peak bodies and government representatives to share stories of on-farm renewables, their business case and discuss what's driving the transformation of energy use in agriculture.

Large scale solar and wind developments present opportunities for farmers and regional communities if planned well with meaningful engagement around benefit sharing. These topics plus combining farming and solar, termed agrivoltaics, also forms part of the yearly conference program. Click below for more information.



For a limited number of attendees, funding has been allotted to assist farmers who want to participate in this conference. For a cost of \$50 per person, which covers the ticket to the conference and two nights' accommodation (22nd and 23rd of July). You must get to the event yourself, but carpooling is possible. To take advantage of this offer,

visit [Bendigo Renewables Agriculture Conference \(humanitix.com\)](https://humanitix.com)

Gippsland Agricultural Group Think Tank Session

27 August

After the Gippsland Agricultural Group AGM, you are invited to help shape GagG's direction. We'll reflect on the work Gippsland Agricultural Group has delivered over the past three years, and most importantly, they want to hear from you.

What do you want to see at the Gippsland Research Farm in the next 3 years and what on-farm trials and extension activities will help you unlock productivity?

They will explore ideas across:

- Soil health and management
- Pasture systems
- Grain and fodder innovation
- Livestock productivity
- A Healthy Farming Community

This is your opportunity to ensure the projects they deliver reflect the needs of Gippsland farmers.

Date: Wednesday 27 August

Time: 5.00pm

Location: Gippsland Agricultural Centre



Save the date – Youth Agritech Jobs Expo

16-17 September

The Expo is to provide hands on experience to promote careers in agriculture through the use of technology and showcasing the broad range of careers available.

The days are to promote employment options in agriculture and aimed at young people in schools, those not currently engaged in education or have chosen their employment pathways and will be devliered as a partnership between Gippsland Agriculture Group, Gippsdairy, RACE program QU, TAFE Gippsland, GELLEN, Ag Vic and many more.

Tuesday 16 September - Bus Tours

The tours are to offer on farm visits to explore the range of careers available in agriculture – think technology, drones, engineering

Wednesday 17 September – Experiential & Jobs Expo at Gippsland Agriculture Centre Bairnsdale Airport

If you are interested in having a stand or promoting an ag tech product please reach out to Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer EGSC on 5153 9450.



Gippsland Soil School

16 – 17 Sept

The Gippsland Soil School is a new, region-wide farmer education initiative co-led by Gippsland Agricultural Group (GAGG) and the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. The school is designed to break down the silos between different soil management approaches – drawing on the best of conventional, regenerative, precision, and biological soil management systems to equip our farmer to manage soil better in their unique farming and soil systems

This program integrates knowledge across soil chemistry, biology, and physical structure – along with a little bit of human psychology – to help farmers make better decisions. By increasing confidence and capability, participants will learn how to spend their annual amendment and fertiliser budgets more wisely, unlocking stronger plant growth and better returns.

Program Structure

The Gippsland Soil School is delivered in 8 modules across 4 x 2-day training blocks over 12 months. The program includes practical, paddock-based learning, interactive workshops, and expert guest speakers. Each module builds on the last, taking farmers from foundational knowledge to advanced decision-making frameworks. It is a practical education series designed to build soil literacy, farm resilience, and productivity by helping land managers understand and manage the physical, chemical, and biological foundations of soil.

For more information go to the Gippsland Agriculture Group web site [Gippsland Soil School](#)

To register your interest visit <https://bit.ly/441VJIH>

FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

Agsafe ChemClear chemical collection – Victoria

Agsafe is pleased to announce a ChemClear collection event in Victoria, providing agricultural producers and businesses the opportunity to dispose of unwanted or obsolete agricultural or veterinary chemicals safely and responsibly.

Information on what it involves can be found via this link.

<https://www.agSAFE.org.au/agSAFEnews/agSAFE-announces-chemclear-collection-in-victoria>

Register your chemicals and once several properties from one region are registered, Agsafe will organise a day for pick up.

To register follow this link <https://www.agSAFE.org.au/cc-register-chemicals>

Please Ignore the January deadline listed on their web site – as they are still taking registrations, but they are closing soon. If interested register ASAP.

Native Vegetation Management Plans

We are inviting expressions of interest from local landholders to receive a free native vegetation management plan as part of a pilot project supporting conservation outcomes, enhanced native vegetation practices, and caring for Country.

The Black Summer bushfires significantly impacted local ecosystems, and recovery efforts are ongoing across the region to improve broadscale biodiversity outcomes. To assist in this process, we are offering native vegetation assessments for a limited number of privately owned properties between 2 and 15 hectares in size, regardless of bushfire impact.

This initiative aims to support land managers to improve their knowledge and capacity to value and care for native vegetation, and in doing so, enhance biodiversity outcomes.

Participants will receive a tailored native vegetation management plan and guidance to help:

- understand the ecological value of their property, and
- strengthen land management skills for conservation.

Interested landholders can complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form on the dedicated [Your Say page](#) on Council's website, or call [5153 9500](tel:51539500) to request a hard copy by post.

Applications close 18 July 2025.

More information: Kate Allen, Natural Environment Coordinator

Community Development Grants – Dairy Sector

The Gardiner Foundation and Gippsland Community Foundation are proud to partner to support the community across Gippsland deliver benefits to individuals, families and community groups operating in the dairy sector across Gippsland.

The grants will be made for **locally-led initiatives that strengthen the social fabric and connectivity** of Victoria's dairying communities.

Grants between \$5,000-\$10,000 are available for:

- Events & workshops
- Equipment
- Project or service delivery
- Operational or core costs
- Training & education

Expressions of interest are currently being taken. Please contact Gippsland Community Foundation to discuss your project or activity, noting that not-for-profit and social enterprise organisations are eligible to apply.

<https://gippslandcf.org.au/grants/>

info@gippslandcf.org.au

[0499 241 917](tel:0499241917)

Making Our Farms Safer: Free Safety Support for Victorian Farmers

Delivered by the Victorian Farmers Federation, the Making Our Farms Safer (MOFS) program is here to help farmers across Victoria create safer, healthier workplaces — at no cost.

We are available to visit your farm and provide practical, tailored advice to help you to maintain and improve safety systems, reduce risk, and support compliance with WorkSafe regulations.

We offer:

- ✓ Free on-farm safety visits
- ✓ Tools and templates to improve WHS systems
- ✓ Guidance on safety for families, workers, and contractors
- ✓ Mental health and wellbeing resources
- ✓ Support for hazard identification and emergency preparedness.

Whether you're in beef, sheep, mixed farming, or any other ag sector — we're here to support you. Safer farms are more productive farms.

👉 [Book your free safety visit or learn more here.](#)

Not So Hard Quiz – Feeding Livestock

Want to hone your livestock feeding skills; test your knowledge or find some good resources?

If so – welcome to our Not So Hard Quiz – Feeding Livestock.

Just click on the picture to find the answer.



[Home](#) | [Feeding Livestock](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

AgriEmpower Scholarship Program

The agricultural industry is evolving, and to stay ahead, we must continuously invest in the people and businesses that drive it.

The AgriEmpower Scholarship Program is an investment in the future of our next generation of changemakers, dedicated to helping young people enhance their capabilities and unlock new opportunities for growth.

The program offers financial support, resources, and access to National Farmers' Federation and Woolworths networks, and a community of like-minded individuals, all with the goal of driving long-term success in the agriculture sector.

As part of the \$400,000 program, 20 scholarships of \$20,000 each will be awarded.

The AgriEmpower Scholarship Program runs for 18 months allowing individuals an opportunity to deep dive into developing themselves and with the support of NFF and Woolworths.

[Click here to apply, applications close 30 June.](#)

Young Farmer Upskill and Invest Scholarship

The Young Farmers Upskill and Invest Scholarship is an opportunity to invest in you and your career. The scholarship program is designed to be flexible and to fit with the demands and ambitions of young farmers and farm workers.

Since the start of the program in 2015, the Minister for Agriculture has awarded scholarships to 133 young farmers. Each year, 12 to 14 scholarships are awarded to young farmers.

Up to \$10,000 is available per scholarship: up to \$5000 towards study and up to \$5000 to invest in putting new skills into practice, with professional development, business planning or other on-farm activities. Visit the link below to find more details about the program.

[Young farmers scholarships | Agriculture Victoria](#)

ATO's tax masterclasses

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is hosting 4 masterclasses, designed to strengthen your small business knowledge on tax, available between June and September 2025.

During these free online sessions, you will have the opportunity to speak with experienced tax officers, ask questions and gain insights tailored to your business needs.

Access the free resources now at: <https://smallbusiness.taxsuperandyou.gov.au/>

To register, click on the following link: [Register Program - Webex](#)

Free mental health coaching program

NewAccess for Small Business Owners is a free and confidential mental health coaching program designed to support small business owners, including sole traders, in managing life and business pressures.

The structured 8-session program will give you practical tools as you work with a coach who will guide you through a tailored program.

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/newaccess-mental-health-coaching>

Creating local leaders in northern Victoria and Gippsland

The Victorian Government is expanding the Forestry Transition Program through a new Community Leadership Program which will help create emerging leaders in communities of northern Victoria and Gippsland.

Committee for Gippsland and the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship are two established leadership providers that will deliver the tailored leadership programs, aimed at fostering a new generation of community leaders in these former native timber towns.

For further details about the program, visit the link below or contact Cara Carter, Programs Coordinator at the Committee for Gippsland directly on: Cara.carter@gipps.com.au or call her on: [03 5623 3219](tel:0356233219) or [0493 371 782](tel:0493371782).

[Building Resilient Forestry Communities \(BRFC\) Program — Committee for Gippsland](#)

Do you have an idea to help combat established pests and weeds in Victoria?

Round 4 of the Partnerships Against Pests grants program is now open to organisations operating at a regional or local level with an interest in established invasive species management.

The grants will help community groups to deliver workshops, resources and community engagement initiatives, build community capacity, and promote collaboration between neighbours and communities.

This round of grants will include an opportunity for groups that can demonstrate sustained community engagement over a minimum of two years, to purchase capital items with a value up to \$10,000.

This will aid groups to move to the next stage of their engagement, education and management journey to purchase equipment for demonstration and education purposes in line with best practice management for their target species.

Applications close on Friday 4 July for 1- or 2-year projects between \$10,000 and \$50,000. Agriculture Victoria encourages all eligible groups with innovative and impactful ideas to apply.

[Partnerships Against Pests program and grants | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Expanded drought support package: Assistance for farmers and communities

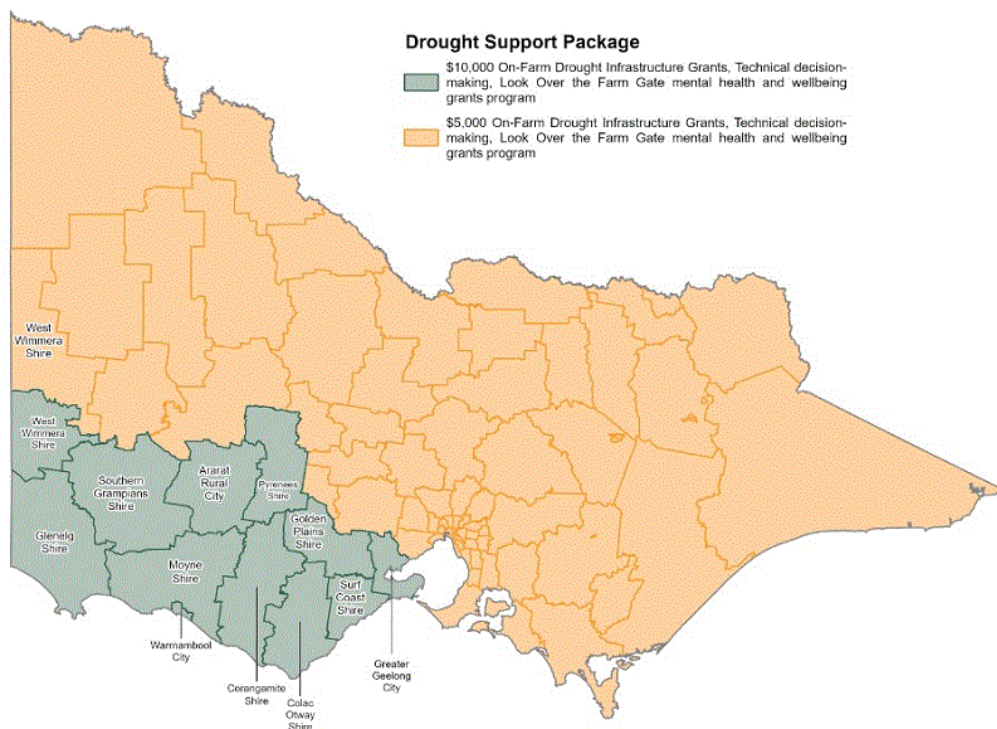
The Victorian Government has announced a new and expanded Drought Package – with an additional \$37.7 million in funding.

Eligible farmers across the state will be able to access grants of up to \$5,000 to support on-farm drought management.

The Premier has also established a Drought Response Taskforce.

More details are available at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support>

Farmers can lodge an Expression of Interest for the grants by emailing Rural Finance at: admin@ruralfinance.com.au



SURVEYS AND INPUT SOUGHT

Gippsland Agricultural Group – Board Chair and members

We're looking for passionate individuals with a commitment to advancing sustainable and innovative agriculture in the region. Whether you're a grower, industry leader, researcher, or someone with governance expertise and a vision for regional success — we want to hear from you.

- Help drive strategic direction
- Strengthen industry collaboration



- Support the growth of Gippsland's farming community

For more information and to view the position descriptions visit

<https://gippslandag.com.au/about/join-us>

Applications close: 25 July 2025

👉 To apply click on the following links:

Board Member Application link - <https://forms.office.com/r/JBVTGUJRmP>

Chair Position Application link - <https://forms.office.com/r/Ec0QAJ2k2X>

Application and Appointment Process:

- Nominations are reviewed by a Board recruitment subcommittee.
- Nominations require a resume and endorsement at the Annual General Meeting.
- Appointments are confirmed by a simple majority vote of members present or via proxy.

Please email administration@gippslandag.com.au with any questions.

Have your say in Hort Innovation's Grower and Partner Survey

Hort Innovation's 2025 Grower and Partner Survey is open, and we want to hear from you. This survey is our primary, regular mechanism for feedback, and the results help us to deliver value and impact for growers, invest strategically to address challenges and opportunities, and ultimately help the industry we all care about to prosper.

To participate in the 2025 survey, please sign up below and we will provide you with a link.

[Enter your details here to be sent a Survey link](#)

INFORMATION

Business Renewables Buying Group 2025

Eligible East Gippsland businesses are invited to explore renewable energy purchasing through a free and collective power purchase agreement.

We've joined with councils across Victoria to assist businesses to purchase renewable energy, to save money and cut emissions.

Hosted by the [Business Renewables Buying Group](#), there is information on the advantages of collectively buying renewable electricity, rather than going to market individually.

Participants will gain insights into the Victorian energy market, learn about the benefits of long-term renewable energy contracts, and receive facilitation support to navigate the group procurement process.

If your business is ready to support the transition to renewable energy, don't miss this valuable opportunity!

Complete the [expression of interest form](#) to join. More information: Rebecca Steenholdt, Economic Development Coordinator 5153 9500.

Give A Farmer A Break

A BlazeAid initiative connecting farmers in need with generous volunteers and donors.

This platform was created to support farmers facing drought by matching them with essential assistance, including volunteers, donations of equipment and feed, and agistment opportunities for livestock. Our BlazeAid community is here to lend a helping hand and ensure farmers receive the support they need.

BlazeAid respects your privacy. We will only share information entered into the Give a Farmer a Break website if we believe it will directly benefit the assistance we can provide to property owners affected by current drought conditions.

To be part of this vital initiative, visit <https://giveafarmerabreak.com/home/index.php>

Together we can help farmers who are suffering through drought. If you are needing help please email admin@blazeaid.com.au or give Debbie a call [0418990267](tel:0418990267)

Why do dam repairs often fail?

As dry conditions continue across Victoria, many farmers may be considering repairing leaking or failed dams to increase on-farm water storage capacity once it rains.

Dam repairs are often high-risk and expensive and should only be undertaken when the cause of failure and repair options are well understood.

Repairs should only be attempted on larger, well-constructed dams.

Understanding the dam's history – who built it, what equipment was used, and how it has performed – is essential before any work begins. To read more, click below.

[Why do dam repairs often fail? | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Young Farmers and Networks

Young Farmers of Victoria – this is your network and we welcome you to share through social media posts, your personal stories and photos of interest, event and opportunity news, and details of things happening on your farm and in your community and organisations.

For more information about the Young Farmer Network email youngfarmer.coordinator@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

[Young Farmers Network Facebook group](#)

[Young Farmers Network extensionAUS page](#)



For general enquiries contact:

Sarah Wallis, Young Farmer Project Coordinator, Agriculture Victoria
sarah.wallis@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Back on Track

Back on Track is an innovative approach to providing accessible mental health support to farming communities.

Understanding how difficult it can be for rural people to access appropriate mental health support, the National Centre for Farmer Health has developed an approach that provides one-on-one coaching from Coaches with a farming background.

They are now trialing this in the Gippsland, South West and North East Regions of Victoria.

Follow this link to submit an expression of interest:

<https://redcap.latrobe.edu.au/redcap/surveys/?s=C73CPL7LF3PMA9F9>

Or scan the QR code on the attached flyer. To find out more visit farmerhealth.org.au or call [03 5551 8533](tel:0355518533), email bot@wdhs.net or scan the QR code on the flyer below to register your interest.

Helping Victorian farmers access interstate fodder

Importers looking to bring fodder into Victoria from interstate can go through Agriculture Victoria to apply for a Plant Biosecurity Permit (PBP) to ensure biosecurity risks are properly managed.

All imported fodder requires a PBP to manage key biosecurity risks from entering Victoria from interstate, including Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (found in all states but NT and Tasmania), Green Snail (found in WA), Red Imported Fire Ant (found in QLD), and Electric Ant (found in QLD).

Agriculture Victoria is providing a free service to suppliers, transporters and farmers to navigate permit requirements and expedite access to fodder. [Read more](#)

Find [more information and to apply for a plant health permit](#). or email it directly to market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au

The Crop Density tool – AgVic’s latest agronomy tool

An early estimation of crop emergence in these challenging, dry winter conditions is an important agronomy tool to later manage canopy density for the season and spring outlook. If plant establishment is poor it can have a major influence on final crop yield.

Agriculture Victoria Seasonal Risk Agronomist Dale Boyd said successful crop establishment depends largely on soil moisture which has been limited due to May’s decile 1 rainfall.

‘Having the planting equipment and good quality seed can really help make the most of what moisture is there.’

‘The crop density calculator can be easily downloaded to your home screen of a Smart phone, and is part of the soil moisture dashboard, which provides real time moisture profiles across the state. Try it out by clicking the link below.

[Estimating crop plant density - Soil Moisture Monitoring | Soil Moisture Monitoring \(extensionaus.com.au\)](#)

Council Information

Open letter to the community: Emergency services and volunteers fund

On the 4 June, East Gippsland Councillors have published an open letter to the community about how the new Emergency Services Volunteers Fund levy is taking a toll on everyone in our community.

Our letter outlines what we’ve been doing over the past six months since the tax was announced, what we know, and what’s next.

You can read the Open letter to the community here:

[Media Release: Open letter to the community: A tax that is taking a toll on us all](#)

Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Welcomes New Members

The Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee is an assembly of industry experts and stakeholders who contribute their expertise to the continued growth and sustainability of East Gippsland’s agricultural sector.

Originally established in February 2021, this committee has played a vital role in shaping policies and initiatives to address the unique challenges faced by local farmers. Council expresses gratitude to the eight outgoing members for their dedication and achievements in advancing the development and resilience of agriculture within the region.

Council is pleased to announce the following new appointments to the Committee:

- Kate Commins: Manager of Meringo Pastoral in Swifts Creek
- Chris Jehu: Operator of a farm consultancy firm specializing in financial planning
- Rob Lightfoot: Expert in viticulture and marketing from Lightfoot Wines
- Alister McCallef: Specialist in sheep farming with an education background
- Ty Mason: Producer of quality turf with Lilydale Instant Lawn in Bengworden
- Rohan Reynolds: Dairy manager in Hillside with experience in agricultural equipment sales
- Joanna Trevakis: Operator of Beef at the Farm Gate agribusiness in Wariewa

The new members bring skills and expertise that are well regarded and will add considerable value to the current committee that consists of Wayne Dredge of Lake Tyers, Emily Richardson of Orbost and Edward Mauger of Bindi.

Further information on the committee can be accessed on Council's website at [Agricultural Assistance \(eastgippsland.vic.gov.au\)](http://Agricultural Assistance (eastgippsland.vic.gov.au)).

Council's Agribusiness Development Officer, Kaylene Wickham provides administration support for the committee and can be contacted on 03 5153 9450

New Emergency Dashboard

East Gippsland Shire Council launched a new [Emergency Dashboard](#) to provide our community with centralised access to emergency information and resources.

Developed in partnership with QIT Plus, the Emergency Dashboard brings together real-time, place-based information to help residents and visitors stay informed before, during and after emergency events.

The platform includes live updates on:

- VicEmergency warnings
- weather conditions
- road closures
- power outages
- river heights, and
- key information drawn from lead agencies.

It also links to local hazard mitigation plans, preparedness information, and municipal and district-level emergency planning, to access click on [Dashboard](#)



Compost rebate

We are encouraging local residents to turn their food scraps into compost and healthy soils for their home garden.

Composting is one of the simplest ways to keep food scraps out of Bairnsdale Landfill and reduce the amount of methane (a greenhouse gas) produced from rotting food. This small action makes a big difference in keeping our local air and water cleaner.

Our [Reusable Product Rebate](#) is available to all residents in East Gippsland and can be used towards the purchase of compost bins and worm farms.

You can apply online with a copy of your receipt and proof of residence. For more information: contact Kelly Thorburn, Waste and Recycling Education Officer. Telephone: [5153 9500](tel:51539500)

Email: sustainability@egipps.vic.gov.au

Community Directory

Join hundreds of community organisations around Australia

Are you running a local community organisation, support service, club or group? If you want to be found by more people online, then consider joining the new East Gippsland Shire's Community Directory.

Council is excited to partner with My Community Directory to enable the community to connect with other organisations.

The East Gippsland Community Directory can help you to:

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

Visit [here](#) for more information, including short videos on how to register.

For more information contact: **Rhonda James**, Community Projects and Research Officer

Telephone: [5153 9500](tel:51539500)

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange Commercial Review

Recognising the importance of staying current with evolving industry norms and ensuring organisational efficiency, the decision to conduct a commercial review of the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange, was made to look at the best operating model for our facility, which ensures the facility continues to meet the needs of East Gippsland's agricultural sector in an effective and cost-efficient manner.

An external consultant's report was summarised and shared with community earlier this year, prompting engagement with local farmers through events and surveys, 66 responses, mostly sellers provided input.

Key user values include proximity, reliability, and community support. Suggested improvements focused on infrastructure, technology, and marketing. Some dissatisfaction was noted regarding pricing and competition.

The survey showed strong support for Council involvement to remain, with a preference for local leadership. An internal team is now analysing the data, reviewing models and costings, with findings due to councillors in August.

Our focus continues to remain on what is best for the livestock industry, local vendors and buyers, and ratepayers. To keep up to date on the progress of the review follow the link: [East Gippsland Livestock Exchange Commercial Review | Your Say East Gippsland](#)

AROUND THE TRAPS

Benambra Farmers Water Awareness Session

In May 15 farmers and agencies met to discuss how to correctly gauge water available on their properties through using the Summer Water Calculator and dam depth measurements. They assessed the amount of water required for stock retention utilising the Farm Water Budget and talked on water loss minimisation through pumping remaining water to troughs.

Of the farmers present many had destocked retaining their breeding stock. Nearly all were trucking in hay at a high cost, particularly as they need to transport it from further away than previously.

It was noted that there were good farming practices in the region already and that farmers only needed to continue these practices and implement those shown at the session to maximise their resources.



Rebuilding in East Gippsland: Volunteers bring hope to farmers

In early May, [Rural Aid](#) returned to the East Gippsland community for a week-long Farm Recovery Event in Bairnsdale, Victoria—an area still recovering from the compounding impacts of natural disasters over the past five years.

With the support of 31 volunteers, including corporate volunteers from NAB and APT, eight farms received hands-on assistance with fencing, clearing, maintenance and more. The impact was immense. For these farmers, many of whom have experienced the relentless stress of bushfires, floods, storms and a hidden green drought, the arrival of Rural Aid's team didn't just provide physical relief—it reignited a sense of hope.

"Having people turn up who care—it just lifts your spirit," one farmer shared. "You feel like you can breathe again."

These events are only possible thanks to our generous supporters, like APT who helped fund this event. You're helping us not just repair farms—but rebuild lives.

Visit [Home - Rural Aid - Supporting Rural Communities](#) to learn more.



Ag Leadership Round 3

In 2023 East Gippsland Council ran the third Ag Leadership course for people in the agricultural industry to provide them with a new way of thinking about solutions and new tools for sharing their vision with others in their communities.

The course enables people to step back from day to day problem solving and look at the bigger picture of the systems on their farm, their community and even globally. This changes the way to look at problems and also the way to think about solutions.

Many of the participants have gone on to be emerging leaders in East Gippsland's agricultural industries.



Ag Leadership Alumni

With three rounds of the agricultural leadership course, there is now a large group of people who have shared the learning of the program. Many of them came together last week at the first alumni gathering for the group. They had a chance to share what they had learned from the program and how they had applied it in their own lives.

Many have changed the way that they work on their farms. For some, the confidence they took from the course led them to new careers or pathways within their existing job. The overall feedback from the program was that looking at things from a wider perspective allows you to make more informed decisions which will have broader impact over time.



The Privilege of Succession

In agriculture, succession planning is more than a legal or financial process it's a deeply personal privilege. To be part of a farming legacy, to walk the same paddocks as generations before and nurture a future for those to come, is an opportunity not every family receives. When done well, succession is not a burden or box to tick it's a celebration of commitment, continuity, and care.

It's much like the old family dining table passed down through generations. Its timber worn smooth by time, marked with the dints of childhood elbows and the stains of countless meals shared. That table has heard laughter and arguments, planning and dreaming, heartbreak and triumph. It holds the story of a family, etched into every scratch and scuff.

So too does the land.

A good succession plan, like that table, carries those stories forward. It invites the next generation to step up with energy and purpose, bringing fresh ideas to build on what's come before. For the older generation, it's a chance to step back with pride, knowing the farm and the values behind it are in safe, willing hands.

There is joy in that transition. In seeing your children take ownership, in watching grandchildren chase sheep or ask questions about crops. In the feeling that your story doesn't end it continues in new, meaningful ways.



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 kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au or call 5153 9450.



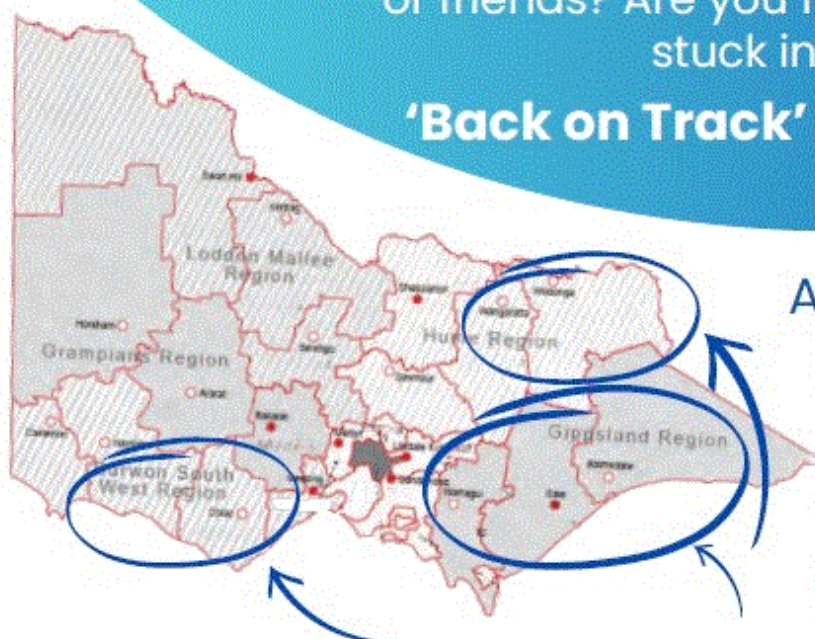
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
FARMER
HEALTH

GARDINER
FOUNDATION

Back On Track

Are you feeling overwhelmed, lacking concentration, or avoiding tasks, family or friends? Are you feeling run down or stuck in a rut?

'Back on Track' might be for you!



An innovative 1-on-1 program with a Coach for 10-weekly sessions **running in these regions now**

We're looking for 40 members of the farming community to participate in a new peer-led mental health program trial!

Find out more!

T: 03 5551 8533

E: bot@wdhs.net

W: farmerhealth.org.au/back-on-track
or scan QR code to register your interest

**EOIs CLOSING
22ND JUNE**

**Don't hesitate to
share this
opportunity with
others**



This study has received St Vincents Hospital Research Ethics Committee Approval (Reference Number: 070/24)

Banking Scams Information Session



Presented by Commonwealth Bank



Join us for this informative session with a member of the Commonwealth Bank!

Commonwealth Bank will be presenting a Staying Safe Online seminar which is designed to teach people who aren't confident using digital platforms how to identify and avoid scams and fraud, how to protect themselves online, and give them confidence to securely manage their finances online.

Attendees will learn how to:

- Identify scams and suspicious links
- Protect themselves from scams and fraud (online and telephone scams)
- Create strong passwords and keep them secure
- Safely access online banking
- Stay digitally safe while travelling

The event will run for 60 minutes including time for questions and answers.

This Information Session is part of the Shires Positive Ageing Education Series



Libraries
Change Lives

Bairnsdale Library

Monday 23 June
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Thursday 26 June
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Orbost Service Centre

Wednesday 11 June
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Paynesville Service Centre

Thursday 5 June
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Book Now

At your library
5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries

Scan the QR code



Are you **passionate** about
your community?

Do you want to make **change**
happen in your community?

Join us for a two-day **Changemaker Workshop – Bairnsdale**

23–24 June 2025 // 8.30am – 4.30pm

Gippsland Agricultural Centre, 345 Bengworden Rd, Bairnsdale, VIC

Join a network of changemakers across rural, regional & remote Australia

- As a collective, delve into your region's readiness for change.
- Explore how change happens, practise how to adapt to change and how to overcome resistance.
- Become a changemaker, adapt your skills to enable your involvement in creating new and exciting things, managing setbacks and work collectively and purposefully with others.

Take part in diverse community conversations

- Understand the local ecosystem; undertake purposeful and inclusive engagement; step into informed and authentic conversations.
- Learn how to have those conversations, suspend judgement and assumptions, and build trust and transparency for connection and diverse relationships.

Create momentum within your community

- Unpack what forms and shapes a community.
- Learn how a community can be more inclusive.
- Considering the impacts of drought, trauma, and other events, gain the tools to better support others and balance giving and taking within a community.

Contribute to and inspire your community's future

- Explore ideas to shape the future you would like to see for your community.
- Understand the importance of language and the power of storytelling in motivating and mobilising others.
- Learn what makes a good story and how to connect with the hearts and minds of others.

REGISTER NOW 



This workshop is fully subsidised with thanks to the **Australian Government's Future Drought Fund**. It is delivered by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, as part of the Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative.

Note: This is a face-to-face workshop. All catering and stationery provided. Registrations close either when fully booked or 7 days before the workshop.

For more information visit rural-leaders.org.au or contact:

Jema Brown

0451 917 773

support@rural-leaders.org.au



Tackling Emissions Together: Practical Steps for Your Farm Business

An Interactive Workshop with Alison Kelly & Local Farmer Josie Zilm

Carbon is more than a challenge – it's an opportunity.

With markets evolving, banks and processors shifting focus, and new opportunities on the horizon, now is the time to understand how emissions reduction fits into your farm's future.

Bairnsdale

1pm – 4pm on Tuesday,
the 1st of July

Gippsland Agricultural Center
345 Bengworden Road









Flynn

9am – 12pm on Wednesday
the 2nd of July

Flynn Community Hall
Widdis Way, Flynn 3844

Whether you're curious, cautious, or keen.... this is your chance to hear straight from the experts to help you as a farmer at a grass roots level to better understand:

-  What emissions reduction means for **YOUR** farm
-  Learn the process to “know your number” and why it matters
-  Simple, practical actions that boost farm productivity and carbon outcomes
-  How to get your farm ready and tap into future carbon opportunities
-  Hear how Josie is working toward a more efficient farm — including strategies around trees, pastures, and natural capital
-  Learn how participation in a Sustainability Beef Program is unlocking processor premiums and aligning farm actions with profit signals from banks, markets, and the supply chain

Get in. Get informed. And keep farming with confidence.



BOOK NOW

Phone Jen: 0409 436 133

Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Uwa7WfAEJJ>

Scan QR Code



AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



The Victorian Carbon Farming Outreach Program is delivered with funding from the Commonwealth of Australia through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the National Carbon Farming Outreach Program. The program is delivered through a partnership between Agriculture Victoria, 10 Catchment Management Authorities, Landcare Victoria and other bodies

2 June 2025 (V.2)

Drought support package – overview

The Victorian Government is providing direct drought support of \$67.2 million for farmers across Victoria impacted by drought and difficult seasonal conditions.

This is in response to deteriorating seasonal conditions across much of the state, with south west Victoria now recording significant rainfall deficiencies since winter 2023.

On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants are available for primary producers to support on-farm drought management improvements. Primary producers **across the state** will be able to access grants of up to \$5,000 while those in **south west Victoria**, will be able to access an increased amount up to \$10,000 (in the 11 eligible local government areas and parts of West Wimmera).

Technical and decision-making support is also available to farmers **across the state**, including a free 1-on-1 consultation with a farm advisor and local group based technical events. These services will be delivered in partnership with a range of service provider specialists.

A **‘Look Over the Farm Gate’ mental health and wellbeing** program will be available statewide to help communities come together and support farmers and farming families under stress. This program will be open soon.

These escalated services build on supports [that are always available to Victorian farm businesses across the state, year-round](#). These include the Rural Financial Counselling Service, the Commonwealth Government’s Farm Household Allowance and low interest loans available through the Regional Investment Corporation.

STATEWIDE TECHNICAL DECISION-MAKING SUPPORT

Agriculture Victoria’s technical and decision-making support program is available to farmers right across the state.

The program will provide farm businesses with access to tailored support and advice through one-on-one consultations, webinars, workshops, field days, and boosted online tools and information.

One-on-one drought advisory service

Impacted farmers anywhere in Victoria can register for a **one-on-one session with a farm advisor** to take stock, discuss and plan the best way forward for their business in the challenging conditions. Farmers can nominate their preferred consultant from a panel of providers for a 3-hour consultation (on-farm or virtually) and a follow up call.

This program remains open to farmers in south west Victoria and will soon be open for farmers across the state.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & THINK TANK

You're invited to our upcoming AGM and Think Tank where community voices come together to shape our shared future.



Wednesday
27 August, 2025



Kick off
5:00pm with BBQ



Gippsland
Agricultural
Centre