

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews

May 2025



EVENTS

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| • Top Soils Field Day with agronomist Neil Moss | 20 May |
| • Reimagining Orbost & District through Industrial Hemp | 20 May |
| • Mental Health and Wellbeing for Seniors | May & June |
| • Free Insurance Information Sessions for Seniors | 5 - 30 May |
| • Creating an Animal Health Plan for Sheep | 22-23 May |
| • Small Business Workshops - Orbost | 27-28 May |
| • Tractor Skills Day. | 29 May |
| • BetterBeef and BestWool/BestLamb Network Roadshow | 3 June |
| • Hort Connections 2025 | 4-6 June |
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SURVEYS AND INPUT SOUGHT

- Feedback - Draft Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy
- Have your say on Council Plan, Budget and strategic documents

INFORMATION

- The benefits of stock containment in dry conditions
- Your Farm - As a business
- Nominations are now OPEN for the 2025 Victorian Volunteering Awards!
- East Gippsland council's new Emergency Dashboard

Congratulations

- Elders community stewardship award

EVENTS

Rural Minds meet up

19 May

Rural Minds Workshops are a relaxed way to learn how to maintain good mental health.

They provide helpful, practical information that can help you, your family, friends and community. Workshops focus on proactive, preventative practices to maintain and improve mental health and wellbeing.

Location: Ensay Bush Nursing Centre

Date: 19 May

Time: 9.30am

Rural Minds grassroots approach empowers people in small, isolated or under-served communities to do what they do best: look out for each other.



Ensay Monday 19th May

9:30am morning tea for 10:00am start

Lunch supplied

Bookings: Ensay Bush Nursing Centre 51573215



Email Bec :-

Rebecca.Campbell@GHA.NET.AU

Top Soils Field Day with agronomist Neil Moss

20 May

Are your kikuyu paddocks struggling through winter?

Join us for a Top Soils Field Day with agronomist Neil Moss, where we'll explore practical strategies to maximise winter feed potential!

Location: Clifton Creek Hall, 810 Deptford Rd

Date: Tuesday, 20th May

Time: 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**** Free event + warm dinner included ****

This hands-on session will take you into the paddock to compare different winter management strategies, including annual vs perennial over sowing options.

We'll also dig into what's really happening above and below the surface to enhance:

- ✓ Feed quality
- ✓ Dry matter production
- ✓ Grazing potential

There will be plenty of opportunities to ask the expert your toughest kikuyu questions!

REGISTER ONLINE NOW

<https://bit.ly/42q3TDD>

or call Natalie on [0436 462 559](tel:0436462559)

Reimagining Orbost & District through Industrial Hemp

20 May

As native timber harvesting ends, Orbost & District is at a turning point. A new identity is emerging—one rooted in our land, heritage, community and future potential. Can industrial hemp play a role in this next chapter?

Together let's create the picture of a bold, community-led vision—one that turns transition into opportunity and positions Orbost as a leader in sustainable innovation.

This workshop will showcase emerging hemp innovations—sustainable construction, climate-smart farming, and bioproducts—while facilitating a bold post-forestry visualisation to help our district redefine its identity, inspire action, and attract support.

<https://events.humanitix.com/reimagining-orbost-and-district-through-industrial-hemp-a-community-workshop-to-explore-identity-innovation-and-opportunity>

Location: 20 Ruskin Street, Orbost

Date: Tuesday, 20th May

Time: 10am - 12pm

The project is hosted by the Orbost & District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is a collaboration across community, industry, government, and knowledge institutions to contribute to a bright, prosperous, and resilient future for the region.

Slab Hut Visitor Information Centre - 03 5154 2511

Mental Health and Wellbeing for Seniors

29 May, 2 June

Come along for an informative session about Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in East Gippsland.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in East Gippsland provide free mental health support to adults anywhere in East Gippsland.

Come and learn:

- What is the Mental Health and Wellbeing Local?
- Who do they support?
- What supports are on offer?
- What can you expect when you ask for help?
- How can the Local support you, your friends, family, or neighbours?

Location: Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Date: Thursday 29 May

Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

[Register here.](#)

Mallacoota Service Centre

Monday 2 June

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

[Register here.](#)

You can also phone [5152 4225](tel:51524225) or book in person at the library for these free events

Free Insurance Information Sessions for Seniors

16 - 30 May

Do you know if your insurance coverage is sufficient to protect your family assets?

As part of the Shires Positive Ageing Education Series our libraries and service centres we will be holding insurance information sessions for seniors across the month of May.

Join Gippsland Community Legal Service to discuss:

- Types of insurance
- Difference between sum insured cover and total replacement cover
- Understanding policy exclusions and risks
- Steps to take after an event and more.

The sessions will include case study discussions, attendees are welcome to bring their own insurance documents to better understand their personal coverage.

Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Friday 16 May

10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Omeo Service Centre

Friday 23 May

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Orbost Service Centre

Friday 30 May

9.30 am – 11.30 am

Mallacoota Service Centre

Friday 30 May

2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Book your place by visiting: <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries>

You can also phone 5152 4225 or book in person at the library for these free events.

Creating an Animal Health Plan for Sheep - Swifts Creek – Bairnsdale 22 / 23 May

Join AgVic and veterinarian Dr Alison Gunn from Herd Solutions for an interactive workshop. They will discuss local health issues and learn about their prevention, treatment options and create an animal health plan for your sheep flock.

Location: DEECA offices, 13 McMillan Avenue, Swifts Creek.

Date: 22 May

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

[Register on TryBooking](#)

Location: Gippsland Ag Centre, 345 Bengworden Road, Bairnsdale.

Date: 23 May

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

[Register on TryBooking](#)

See Flyer Below

For more information about these events contact **Keren Walker** - Team Leader Meat & Wool - East Gippsland on 0477 706 384

Small Business Workshops - Orbost

27-28 May

The Future of Orbost & District (FoOD) project is delighted to announce an exciting partnership with Australian Business Volunteers (ABV) to deliver a dynamic series of workshops tailored specifically for small business owners in the Orbost region.

Workshop 1: Building Your Business Blueprint

Workshop 2: Getting Customers Through the Door

Workshop 3: Money Matters & Digital Know-How

Workshop 4: Running a Tight Ship

Location: 20 Ruskin St Orbost

Date: 27/28 May

Time: 4 - 8:30pm includes dinner

Read further information [here](#) to register please click [here](#).

For more information contact: Dr Nicola Watts - Future of Orbost & District Project Lead
0408 351 475



Basic Tractor Skills Workshops

29 May

This Workshop is designed to teach you the basic skills for operating your machinery. These skills are invaluable, especially during drought conditions, when reliable equipment is crucial. The day will be tailored to suit the skills you might need.

Location: Gippsland Agriculture Centre

Date: 29 May

Time: 9:45am - 2pm

To book visit [Tractor Skill Day \(humanitix.com\)](http://TractorSkillDay(humanitix.com))

For more information or to book contact : Emma Orgill - East Gippsland Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator. Email: emma.orgill@fevl.org.au Mobile: 0400 467 921

BetterBeef and BestWool/BestLamb Network Roadshow

3 June

Agriculture Victoria's BetterBeef and BestWool/BestLamb network are hitting the road!

The 2025 Beef and Sheep Network Roadshow will bring top industry experts to four 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 BetterBeef and BestWool/BestLamb 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.

Same high-quality content—just more accessible and closer to home.

Tickets are free of charge, so [register now](#)! Limited seats available.

Location: Lardner Park, Lardner.

Date: Tuesday 3 June

Time: 8:30am – 2:30pm

[Register here](#)

Media contact: Makayla Rimington Phone: 0473 914 662

Hort Connections 2025

4-6 June

Hort Connections 2025 - Australia's premiere horticulture conference and trade show, will be held in Brisbane, following a highly celebrated Hort Connections 2024 in Melbourne.

Hort Connections 2025 will again adapt to the horticulture industry's ever-changing needs, and will offer plenty of networking opportunities, champion the trade show, and host the Horticulture Awards for Excellence 2025 on Friday 6 June.

Hort Connections speakers and exhibitors will showcase the latest research, technologies, and innovations to offer new perspectives on the future of Australasia's horticulture industry.

Location: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Date: 4-6 June

For registrations visit the website at <https://hortconnections.com.au/>

And for further information and accessibility options you can contact Hort Connections on info@hortconnections.com.au or call (03) 9882 0277



On Wed 11th June, the Gippsland Ag Group and other partners are running a soils symposium to showcase the results of different soil research projects conducted in the wider Gippsland region over the past few years. Some of this research has just completed, and others have been conducted over a decade.

There will also be farmers sharing their knowledge and experience around soil management, and what happened to productivity and profit when they changed practices.

See the flyer below

Location – Gippsland Agricultural Centre

Date – Wed 11th June

Time 9am – 3pm

Watch out for further booking details on the [GippyAgGroup Facebook page](#)

or email administration@gippslandag.com.au

National Renewables in Ag Conference and Expo

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.

For more information you can email Karin Stark on hello@renewablesinagconference.com.au 0467 602 886,



SURVEYS AND INPUT SOUGHT



Feedback - Draft Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy

The Gippsland Dairy Industry Leadership Group is proud to share the Draft Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy 2025. This is a significant document for Gippsland to support regional planning, new investment in dairy and ensure dairy continues to provide positive economic, environmental and community outcomes across Gippsland. [This short video](#) from Matt Gleeson, farmer and Chairperson, explains the importance of the Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy.

The draft strategy can be [downloaded here](#).

To provide feedback on this draft strategy by 5pm WED 21 May 2025 please complete this [online survey](#) or share your thoughts through an email karen.mclennan@gippsdairy.com.au or phone call 0409 179 706.

Have your say on Council Plan, Budget and strategic documents

We are inviting community feedback on our Draft Budget 2025/26, Council Plan 2025–2029, Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan.

These documents guide how we support our community, deliver services, and plan for a strong and sustainable future.

Read our [Community Matters newsletter](#) with all the details, links to documents, fact sheets and how to get engaged.

This year's Draft Budget limits the general rate rise to 2.0% – a full percentage point below the Victorian Government's 3.0% rate cap and less than inflation.

Mayor Cr John White said this decision was made in direct response to rising cost-of-living pressures facing residents and businesses across the region.

"We've taken a financially responsible approach that puts our community first. By holding the rate rise below the cap, we're easing the pressure on households while continuing to deliver the services people rely on," John said.



Have your say:

- Visit our [engagement website](#) to view the documents and share your feedback.
- Copies of the draft plans are available at our customer service centres and libraries.
- You can share your thoughts and suggestions through our [engagement website](#), by [email](#) or mail, or in-person at our customer service centres.

Feedback is open from **7 to 21 May 2025**.

We look forward to receiving your feedback on any or all of the five documents.

INFORMATION

The benefits of stock containment in dry conditions

Agriculture Victoria is encouraging livestock producers to consider effective stock containment strategies to help maintain core herd or flock numbers and support pasture recovery.

Agriculture Victoria's land management extension officer Kerri Goschnick said dry seasonal conditions and limited rainfall continue to place pressure on grazing operations, impacting pasture growth and causing bare ground across many paddocks.

'Stock containment refers to confining livestock in designated areas, where farmers can effectively manage feed, water and shelter.

'This allows farm paddocks to rest until an autumn break causes pastures to recover and withstand livestock grazing.' Stock containment doesn't necessarily require a complicated system; it can be as simple as a sacrifice paddock with good quality water and access for feeding.

Farmers should be aware that there is a higher risk of weed infestation when importing feed to supplementary feed livestock. Establishing a stock containment area to use supplementary feed will contain the weed seeds to a manageable area.

It is important that animals in containment have their nutritional, water and shelter needs met. Agriculture Victoria can assist in planning feed budgets and stock containment area design and management.

Further information can be found by searching for these items on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

Your Farm - As a business

All businesses - including farming businesses - benefit from having a business plan and regularly reviewing it. A plan helps you to set a vision and document how you will achieve your business goals. Business planning is essential for growth, adaptability and the long-term success of your business.

Business Victoria have got 6 tips to help you write a new business plan or update your existing one. Is your business ready for the upcoming new financial year?

1. Review your plan regularly
2. Make planning fun and collaborative
3. Set achievable goals
4. Create an action plan
5. Build in resilience and plan for uncertainty
6. Get help from experts

[Make business planning part of your success | Business Victoria](#)

For help with your business or to ask a question about the website during operating hours contact the Business Victoria Hotline on 13 22 15

Nominations are now OPEN for the 2025 Victorian Volunteering Awards!



Every day, volunteers across our state make a powerful difference – offering their time, skills and energy to strengthen communities and change lives. The Victorian Volunteering Awards are your chance to say thank you and spotlight the individuals and organisations who make it all possible.

Nominate today!

For further information and to submit a nomination, please follow the link below.

[Volunteering Awards - Volunteering Victoria](#)

Nominations close Friday 4 July 2025

East Gippsland council's new Emergency Dashboard

East Gippsland Shire Council have 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 is available on both desktop and mobile and includes live updates on VicEmergency warnings, weather conditions, road and power outages, river heights and other key information drawn from lead agencies. It also links to local hazard mitigation plans, preparedness information, and municipal and district-level emergency planning.

If you haven't seen it yet, check out the [Emergency Dashboard](#) and bookmark it!



Congratulations

Congratulations to Matt & Kate Zagami for taking out Victoria's "Elders community stewardship award" for Ausveg Victoria. This is a great recognition of their willingness to contribute to community through industry visits and so much more.

Matt Zagami the founder of AvaGrow Farms has an unquenchable passion for the agricultural industry, particularly, vegetable production. This knowledge coupled with years of experience and an overwhelming passion for the industry enables AvaGrow Farms to deliver "Quality Produce within Reach"

Well done Matt and Kate!



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.



KIKUYU GRASS

Got kikuyu-based paddocks that frost off and leave you short on winter feed?

Join us for an afternoon in the paddock with agronomist Neil Moss to explore real, on-farm solutions for getting more out of your kikuyu through the cooler months.

We'll walk through the Clifton Creek demonstration site and see how different winter management strategies are performing side by side—including both annual and perennial options.



You'll get a clear look at what's happening above and below the ground: pasture cover, feed quality, dry matter production, and grazing potential.

If you've been wondering how to keep the feed coming when the frost bites, this is your chance to see what's working and ask the hard questions.

We'll finish the day with a warm dinner and a chance to catch up with other local farmers.

TUESDAY 20TH MAY

3:00PM to 6:30PM

Clifton Creek Hall
810 Deptford Rd, Clifton Creek

**** No cost - dinner included ****

REGISTER NOW

Contact Natalie
Phone: 0436 462 559

CLICK LINK:
<https://bit.ly/42q3TDD>
OR SCAN QR CODE



The Top Soils Project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate Smart Agriculture Program



FREE | BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE LIBRARIES



Mental Health and Wellbeing for Seniors

Mental Health Support



Join us for this informative session with Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in East Gippsland!

Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in East Gippsland provide free mental health support to adults anywhere in East Gippsland.

Come and learn:

- What is the Mental Health and Wellbeing Local?
- Who do they support?
- What supports are on offer?
- What can you expect when you ask for help?
- How can the Local support you, your friends, family, or neighbours?

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

Bairnsdale Library

Tuesday 6 May
1.30 pm - 3.30 pm

Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Thursday 29 May
10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Mallacoota Service Centre

Monday 2 June
10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Omeo Service Centre

Wednesday 14 May
10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Orbost Service Centre

Monday 5 May
10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Paynesville Service Centre

Thursday 15 May
1.30 pm - 3.30 pm

Book Now

At your library
5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries
Scan the QR code



Libraries
Change Lives



mental health &
wellbeing local
Free support in your community



Insurance Information Session for Seniors

Gippsland Community Legal Service



Do you know if your insurance coverage is sufficient to protect your family assets?

Join Gippsland Community Legal Service to discuss:

- Types of insurance
- Difference between sum insured cover and total replacement cover
- Understanding policy exclusions and risks
- Steps to take after an event and more.

The session will include case study discussions, attendees are welcome to bring their own insurance documents to better understand their personal coverage.

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



Libraries
Change Lives



Bairnsdale Library

Friday 9 May
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Friday 16 May
10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Mallacoota Service Centre

Friday 30 May
2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Orbost Service Centre

Friday 30 May
9.30 am – 11.30 am

Omeo Service Centre

Friday 23 May
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Paynesville Service Centre

Monday 5 May
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Book Now

At your library
Phone: 5152 4225

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

Creating an animal health plan for sheep - Bairnsdale

Join Agriculture Victoria and sheep veterinarian **Dr Alison Gunn from Herd Solutions** for a free workshop. At this interactive workshop you will identify local health issues and learn about their prevention and treatment options to create an animal health plan for your flock.

An animal health plan is an important tool for farmers to minimise biosecurity risks and increase animal performance.

Date: Friday 23 May

Time: 10 am – 2 pm

Where: Gippsland Ag Centre

345 Bengworden Road.

Light refreshments will be provided, please note dietary needs at registration.

Workshop topics

- Identify **local animal health issues** and solutions to prevent and treat them.
- Create an **animal health plan**.
- Find out how your animal health plan is part of your **biosecurity plan**.
- Learn about what records you need to keep and the systems you can use to comply with regulation and the **Livestock Production Assurance** program.



Registration

To register please scan the QR code or click on the link below.

Workshop numbers are limited so you must register to attend.

<https://www.trybooking.com/DAZBD>



More information

For more information, please contact:

Keren Walker

Meat & Wool Team Leader on 0477 706 384

keren.walker@agriculture.vic.gov.au

This event is delivered by the Risk and Records project funded by the 2021 Livestock Biosecurity Fund Grant Program.

This event also supports a three-year project funded by Meat and Livestock Australia and Agriculture Victoria on sheep worm management being run in-conjunction with the Bairnsdale BestWool/ BestLamb Group.

Soils Symposium



Gippsland Soils

Results of region wide soil sampling with Fiona Baker and Pete Ronalds



Soil Management on Farm

Benchmarking change on farm with Pete & Kate Mirams



Soil Renovation

Bringing rundown soil back to life with Trevor Caithness



Sulphur & Trace Elements

The importance of sulphur and trace elements in our soils with Peter Norwood



Growing More Top Soil

Demonstrate the options of growing more top soils with Bill Grant, Peter Norwood, Trevor Caithness & Rick Blackshaw

WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE

9am to 3pm

Gippsland Agricultural Centre
(Bairnsdale Airport)

SAVE THE DATE



This event is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust

