

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews

July 2025



EVENTS

ATO Online Tax masterclass	21 July, August, Sep
From feed test to feed budget	23 July
Calculating on-farm emissions webinar	30 July
Statewide seasonal forecast webinar	30 July
Online whole farm planning course	12 August - 18 Sep
EOI for Climate Smart Whole Farm Planning Course	13 August
Shire Bairnsdale Jobs and Careers Expo 2025	20 August
Regional Renewables in Ag Forum and Farm Tour	9-11 S
Youth Agritech Jobs Expo	16 & 17 September
Gippsland Soil School	Starts 8 October
*Save the Date – Spring Field Day	23 October
*Save the Date Agrifutures Evoke Agrifood Innovation Event	17-18 Feb 2026
Gippsland Soil School	Starts 8 October

FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

Backing our farmers through the drought	Now Available
The On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grant program	Now Open
Face to face farm mentoring - Technical support	Now Available
Australian Government – Other support in drought	Now Available
Free listing for Agritourism Ventures to grow tourism in East Gippsland	
AgVic Young Farmer Scholarship	Closes 23 July
AUSVEG 2025-2026 industry study tours	
Cheaper Home Battery Program	

COMMUNITY FUNDING

AusNet Energy Resilience Grants	Closes 25 July
Look over the farm gate funding for community events	
FRRR	
Nutrien Ag Solutions Community Grants	Closes 7 August
The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital	Closes 17 Sep
The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover	Closes 17 Sep

SURVEYS AND INPUT SOUGHT

EOI: Sheep and beef cattle producer members of SALRC Regional Committees
New project aims to reduce admin for vegetable, onion and potato growers
EOI Gippsland Agricultural Group Board Positions

INFORMATION

Kangaroo management
Digging Deeper Podcasts
Watch out for Gorse
And Pattersons Curse
Ag Vic Soil moisture monitoring
New course on Safe AI for small business
Backbone Magazine – 3rd issue out now
Quick quiz to help evaluate your farm water system

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Enjoy a show at the Forge Theatre

Your say

Love Where its Grown Caught Made Case Study – Nicholson River Soap

OUT AND ABOUT

Gippsland Soils Symposium

Steak for a Mate – Farmer Dinner Night in Omeo

EVENTS

ATO Online Tax Masterclass

21 July, August, September

If you are a small business owner in Victoria, there is a series of online webinars to boost tax knowledge.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is running a series of free online masterclasses where experienced tax officers will cover key topics relevant to small businesses. You'll also have the chance to ask questions and get tailored insights for your business.

Upcoming Webinar Sessions

-  Monday 21 July 2025
-  Monday 18 August 2025
-  Monday 22 September 2025

Spots are limited, so be sure to register. For more information or to register, <https://business.gov.au/events-and-training/supporting-small-businesses-in-victoria-and-tasmania-ato-masterclasses>

From feed test to feed budget

23 July

Agriculture Victoria is inviting livestock farmers to a webinar on feed testing and developing a feed budget.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Extension Officer Nick Linden will discuss matching livestock requirements and feed quality bringing expertise in feed management and valuable guidance for farmers feeding and managing livestock. Livestock Extension Officer Chris Blore will also talk about the current drought support available.

- How to take a feed test
- Interpreting results - know what you have and what can you do with it?
- Feeding livestock scenarios, how long will feed last & what do I supplement?
- Drought resources and support available.

There is also the offer of a free feed test per Victorian farmer to make the most of the event. A limited number of tests are available so you must register for the webinar to be eligible to receive a free feed test. Contact Chris Blore on 0428 155 781, or email christopher.blore@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

To register [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#) from website [From feed test to feed budget | Events | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Calculating on-farm emissions webinar

30 July

Understanding your on-farm emissions can help you access emerging markets, understand on-farm opportunities and increase your productivity, all while improving the environment.

In this webinar, agronomist and farmer Cam Nicholson will take you through a new, simple calculator from Agricultural Innovation Australia (AIA) and will give you a step-by-step guide to calculating your on-farm emissions. Cam will be joined by land carers and farmers, who will share their experience and tips for calculating their on-farm emissions. Their learnings and productivity gains may surprise you.

When: Wednesday 30 July

Time: 5:30 to 7 pm.

Where: Online

This webinar is part of an ongoing series of events, including free, sector relevant local training which can be viewed at [Projects - Carbon Farming Outreach Program](#). Register and submit questions at [Calculating on-farm emissions webinar | Events | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Statewide seasonal forecast webinar

30 July

This webinar will present the weather service updates and the spring and summer forecast outlooks presented by Agriculture Victoria.

Wednesday 30 July

12.00pm to 1.00pm

Agriculture Victoria Seasonal Risk Agronomist, Dale Grey, will present on

- Seasonal outlook for spring and summer
- Understanding climate influencers and models
- What is the predictability barrier?
- Rainfall, temperature and deep soil moisture levels across the state.

The event includes an update on services from the Bureau of Meteorology's Rachel Davis

- Getting the most out of long-range forecasts
- Brown rot advice changes
- Forecast improvement projects
- Decision making tools

Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Online whole farm planning course

12 August - 18 September

Helping you meet the challenges of farming in the 21st century.

Agriculture Victoria and Glenelg Hopkins CMA invite farmers and their families to participate in an online (via Zoom) whole farm planning course during August and September.

- farm design and layout
- soils and land classing
- pasture and grazing management
- farm water supply
- farm business planning
- tree growing and biodiversity
- adapting to a changing climate

DATE: 12 August – 18 September
Tuesday and Thursday (for 6 weeks)

TIME: 10 am – 12 pm

Free, RSVP Friday 4 July

To register click here <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1401167>. You will require your Property Identification Code (PIC) to receive a high-resolution air photo of your farm which will be used in the course.

Please apply for, check or update your PIC before registering for this course, visit pic.agriculture.vic.gov.au. Contact Hannah Manning 0400 532 595 if you need assistance.

For more information on the course reach out to Clem Sturfels, 0429 018 879 or email clem.sturfels@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

EOI for Climate Smart Whole Farm Planning Course

13 August

This whole farm planning course is perfect for those new to farming or anyone wanting to elevate their knowledge in climate smart farming and how to improve their natural capital for a more sustainable future.

This course will be made up of 7 workshops. There will be 5 farm visits to see how experienced local farmers are managing their natural assets. The VFF will deliver the sixth practical session, and the course will finish with a session completing participants' whole farm plans.

Participants will receive:

- a poster-side laminated aerial photograph of their property, which they will use as a base to develop their whole farm plan.
- a copy of the book 'Natural Asset Farming'
- a copy of the book 'Stock and Waterways'
- morning tea and lunch at each session

Please note places are limited and submission of an EOI does not guarantee participation. EOIs will be assessed and participants selected by the organisers whose decision will be final.

When: Weekly, beginning on Wednesday 13 August

[EOI for Climate Smart Whole Farm Planning Course](#). For further information contact Kirby, kirby@sgln.net.au or 0480 749 731.

Shire Bairnsdale Jobs and Careers Expo 2025

20 August

This event is aimed at fostering local employment, training, and workforce development.

**Cremin Hall, 38 Pyke Street Bairnsdale
Wednesday 20th August
9:30am to 2:30pm**

The expo will bring together:

- Local employers and industry sectors with current job opportunities
- Jobseekers seeking direct connections to employment pathways
- Education and training providers
- Support agencies and employment services

Local Businesses will be presenting current job openings, providing advice on skill development and discussing opportunities with those seeking employment.

For job seekers, whether you want to upskill, change jobs, enter the workforce, or simply learn more about our local industries, this event is your chance to meet employers and learn about job openings, apprenticeships and career paths in Bairnsdale and the nearby areas.

Just bring your resume and an open mind to explore the opportunities. Jobseekers do not need to register in advance.

Employers with job vacancies are encouraged to register to exhibit. A physical jobs board will also be available to display local vacancies, which will enable connection with employers who are unable to attend on the day.

Register your business to exhibit at <https://forms.office.com/r/ahZy6JNeLp>. The event is supported by Workforce Australia and Skills and Jobs Centres and features a launch of the new Gippsland Jobs website.

Regional Renewables in Ag Forum and Farm Tour

9-11 Sep

Council are coordinating a Regional Renewables in Ag forum and farm tour which will take place on the 9 and 11 September at the Gippsland New Energy Conference [Gippsland New Energy Conference](#).

The agriculture forum will feature on the second day of Gippsland New Energy Conference, and include presenters on renewables in place in agriculture, trails, farmers that have saved thousands through on farm application and a presentation on how to utilise a Smart Box.

Date: 9-11 September 2025

Location: Gippsland Performing Arts Centre Precinct Traralgon

On the 12 September there will be tours leaving from Sale and Traralgon, to farming properties and businesses with renewable solutions in place to provide insight into application utilising renewables, time saving, efficiency through technology and increasing productivity.

Book tickets at [Gippsland New Energy Conference 2025 Tickets, Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon | TryBooking Australia](#)

Youth Agritech Jobs Expo

16 & 17 September

Council are leading the development of a Youth Agritech Jobs Expo themed '**Modern and futuristic farming – what will it look like**' in Gippsland with industry partners, Gippsdairy, education providers and Gippsland Agriculture Group.

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.

In an aim to encourage young people to engage in School Based Apprenticeship Training (SBAT) and pathways to increase uptake in Agriculture careers. "Raising Aspirations in Careers and Education" a federally funded program, will provide bus tours on the first day in conjunction with Gippsdairy, then the Youth Agritech Job Expo will provide hands on experience promoting careers in agriculture through innovative agricultural technologies on the second day. Target age group is 12- 25 years.

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, book through your school

Wednesday 17 September - Experiential & Jobs Expo

Gippsland Agriculture Centre Bairnsdale Airport, come along on the day and see what is on offer

For more information, call Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer on 0423 205 007.

Gippsland Soil School

Starts 8 October

A first-of-its-kind program building practical, paddock-ready soil skills across the region.

We're blending science with real farmer experience – and putting it to work in the field. Proudly delivered with East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

The Gippsland Soil School is delivered in 8 modules across 4 x 2-day training blocks over 12 month with its first two-day learning block on October 8 and 9 2025.

Facilitated by Peter Ronalds, this immersive course brings together leading voices in soil health, including Cam Nicholson, Fiona Baker, Chris Alenson, Grant Sims, and Peter Norwood.

Each learning block combines expert presentations with on-farm visits and real-time demonstrations.

What makes this course truly practical? We'll be working closely with three local case study farms—a dairy operation, a cropping and cattle farm, and a sheep enterprise, to explore what truly invigorates and replenishes our soils for production, and what practices deplete and degrade them over time. These examples will provide grounded, real-world insights that you can apply back on your own property.



📍 Limited places available – register at [Gippsland Soil School](#) or scan the QR code above.

***Save the Date – Spring Field Day**

23 October

Gippsland Agriculture Group Spring Day will be on the 23 October at the Gippsland Agriculture Centre Bairnsdale Aerodrome. Place a note in the diary for now.

***Save the Date Agrifutures Evoke Agrifood Innovation Event**

17-18 Feb 26

The Asia Pacific's premier agrifood innovation event evoke^{AG} will be in Melbourne to bring the brightest minds in agtech, food production, research and agricultural investment to Victoria.

Led by AgriFutures Australia, evoke^{AG} is a leading global agrifood technology and innovation event that unites the agrifood innovation community. The event will showcase entrepreneurs and growing companies work, together with live demonstrations, food and beverage experiences and interactive sessions designed to inspire, inform, and drive collaboration

Date: 17-18 February 2026

Location: Melbourne Convention Centre

.Across two days, the event promises to facilitate opportunities for the agriculture sector to innovate and commercialise solutions for key agricultural challenges. It will welcome over 2,000 delegates from more than 20 countries, 134 speakers and more than 50 startups to the state.

The event has a strong alignment to the Government's Economic Growth Statement, which identifies agribusiness as a priority growth sector and Victoria's standing as a leading global investment destination for Agtech and innovation.

Victoria's Primary producers and food manufacturers have delivered another year of record-breaking exports, leading the nation and hitting the state's \$20 billion target six years ahead of schedule.

The *2023-24 Food and Fibre Export Performance Report*, shows Victoria is Australia's top food and fibre exporter, capturing 27 per cent of the total national export value [Victorian Food and Fibre Export Performance Summary 2023-24 | Global Victoria](#).

Victoria makes the ideal backdrop for the next edition of evoke^{AG} as it is home to a quarter of Australia's farm businesses, 14 agricultural Research and Development centres, world-class universities, and a thriving business startup ecosystem. For more information or to register your interest, visit [evokeAG](#).

FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

Backing our farmers through the drought

Now Available

The Victorian Government is providing more support for drought-affected farmers.

This support was informed by the Drought Taskforce and includes:

- \$5.9 million to extend important statewide technical decision-making support, mental health services, community events, and timely farm debt mediation

- A fee and duty relief package of up to \$6.3 million to reduce costs linked to biosecurity and food safety regulations and duties
- Funding to extend existing infrastructure and secure long term water reliability
- \$1 million for catchment management authorities to run Drought Employment Programs

Farmers across the state can access the Farm Drought Support Grants Program (previously the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants Program) to fund a range of eligible activities including infrastructure improvements, support for dealing with fallen livestock, water carting and pasture re-establishment.

Find more information on drought support: [Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#) or call 136 186.

The On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grant program

Now Open

The On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grant program offers eligible farmers from across the state access to grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) to support on-farm drought management and be better prepared for future droughts.

Eligible activities under the grant program have been expanded to cover activities including water carting and pasture re-establishment in recognition of the broad pressures farmers are managing. Also, for testing (such as soil, water or feed testing) to support drought management decisions. Visit [Grants | Rural Finance](#) for more information or to apply.

Face to face farm mentoring - Technical support

Now Available

Farm business technical and decision-making support is now available right across the state. These services are being delivered in partnership with a range of technical specialists, to support farmers to manage the impacts of increasingly difficult conditions.

Farmers anywhere in Victoria can register now for a one-on-one farm advisory consultation to take stock and discuss the best way forward for their business. The consultation includes a session of up to 3 hours (face to face on farm or online) and follow-up call, to develop and implement a drought management action plan. When registering for the program, participants can indicate their preferred consultant from an extensive list of experienced service providers. A series of workshops, activities and events are also being delivered across the state to discuss drought management, together with our partners.

[Technical decision-making support | Drought support | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Australian Government – Other support in drought

Now Available

The Australian Government has support programs to help manage the impacts caused by drought. Programs are open all the time with no drought declarations needed to apply.

You may be eligible for more than you realise - know your options and apply early.

- Farm Household Allowance: call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316 or visit [Farm Household Allowance - Services Australia](#) to see if you are eligible for up to four years of support.
- Rural Financial Counselling Service: call 1300 771 741 to access free, confidential and independent financial counselling if you're an eligible primary producer or small business experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship.
- Concessional loans: call 1800 875 675 to find out about a low-cost RIC loan if you're an eligible farmer or farm-related small business in financial need.
- Farm Management Deposits: talk to your accountant about drawing down on any farm management deposit account you may have.

- Tax support: call 1800 806 218 to ask the ATO for more time to lodge and pay tax or talk to a registered tax professional about other concessions.
- Social support and wellbeing: call Lifeline Australia on 13 11 14 for immediate support or visit [Home | Medicare Mental Health](#) for a list of other services that can help.



Visit [Drought, disaster and rural support - DAFF](#) for more information.

Free listing for Agritourism Ventures to grow tourism in East Gippsland

East Gippsland Shire Council is inviting tourism / agritourism businesses across the region to submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** for a limited number of subsidised 12-month Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) listings, each valued at \$295.

This **subsidy** covers the full cost of an annual ATDW profile, your gateway to being seen by thousands of potential visitors across major tourism platforms like Visit Victoria, Visit Gippsland, and the upcoming Visit East Gippsland site, launching later this year.

With just one ATDW profile, your business can appear on multiple tourism platforms, helping you reach more people, increase your visibility on Google, and drive more bookings.

This is all part of Council's commitment to supporting local tourism and building a stronger, more connected regional visitor economy.

To be eligible, your business must:

- Be based in the East Gippsland Shire Council region
- Offer a tourism or leisure-related experience
- Have a physical location that visitors can access
- Fit into one of these categories: Accommodation, Attraction, Food and Drink, Hire, Tour, Transport, or General Service. If you're a tour or accommodation provider, you'll also need a current ABN

Complete an Expression on Interest at <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/leisure/tourism>

If you've got any questions, email Nick Matolytsch, Tourism Recovery Projects Officer on nickma@egipps.vic.gov.au.

AgVic Young Farmer Scholarship

Closes 23 July

The Young Farmer Upskill and Invest Scholarship program is now open for applications. The program offers scholarships to people aged between 18 and 40 who are currently working in a food and fibre farm business in Victoria at least three days per week, for the past three months, and have at least two years of total experience on-farm.

Recipients can receive up to \$10,000 to undertake training or study, and to invest in putting new skills into practice. [Young farmers scholarships | Young farmers | Networks | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#)

AUSVEG 2025-2026 industry study tours

AUSVEG is inviting vegetable and onion producers and industry stakeholders to lodge their **Expression of Interest for international study tours** to be held over the next financial year. The first tour to New Zealand (Eol's closed) will be held in August 2025, followed by



tours to Europe in September 2025, and for Fruit Logistica in Berlin in February 2026.

These industry study tours provide opportunities for Australia's vegetable and onion growers and supply chain businesses to increase their awareness and knowledge of the research and innovations in the global horticulture industry through the delivery of tours to strategic vegetable and onion growing regions, conferences, facilities, and innovation centres around the globe. Growers can express interest in being part of the study tours [International Study Tours 2025-26 Expression of Interest Form](#)

Cheaper Home Battery Program

The \$2.3 billion Cheaper Home Batteries Program is now available to help more people install batteries.

Australia is a world leader in rooftop solar with more than 4 million rooftop solar PV systems, however only one in 40 households have installed batteries. The high upfront cost of batteries means installing batteries is out of reach for many households and businesses.

Australian households, businesses and community organisations can now get a discount of around 30% on the upfront cost of installing small-scale battery systems (5 kWh to 100 kWh).

The discount is:

- available for batteries connected to new or existing solar PV systems
- funded by the government to ensure no extra costs are passed on to consumers
- based on the battery's usable capacity and the number of [small-scale technology certificates](#) the battery is eligible for
- going to be reviewed at least annually and will gradually decrease until 2030, in line with reducing battery prices.

Eligibility for the discount is subject to requirements in the [Renewable Energy \(Electricity\) Amendment \(Cheaper Home Batteries Program\) Regulations 2025](#) being met. The program is administered by the [Clean Energy Regulator \(CER\)](#) and the government is funding the discount.

Read more about the Cheaper Home Batteries Program's [eligibility](#) and our [strategy for purchasing small-scale technology certificates](#).

COMMUNITY FUNDING

AusNet Energy Resilience Grants

Closes 25 July

AusNet currently have two grant programs open providing grants to community and not-for-profit organisations, local councils and small businesses to help build and strengthen community energy resilience. This means communities will be less impacted by and recover faster from extreme weather events and other electricity reliability challenges.

AusNet Energy Resilience Grants

Funding amount of \$5k-\$50k per grant – Submissions close 6:00pm 25 July 2025.

Examples of what we may fund, include:

- generators, solar and storage solutions, backups for critical businesses or sections of main streets
- generator-powered mobile facilities, such as cool rooms, kitchens or showers to support a community during a power outage or emergency

AusNet Energy education and literacy grants

Funding amount of \$5-25k per grant – Submissions close 6:00pm 25 July 2025.

Examples of what we may fund include:

- learning and development resources, multi-media, communications and promotional campaigns or community forums to educate community members about using energy wisely
- resources and tools that help communities prepare for and respond to an electricity outage - for example, how to prepare for and where to go during an outage or severe weather event, and what support services are available in their local area. This could also include what resources local residents have they are willing to share with their community members
- short courses or programs on maintaining energy resilience equipment, such as generators
- allocation for specialists to deliver energy education or resilience programs.

Follow this link to the page for all the required information:

<https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/ercf>

If anyone has any question on the grant process, please contact the ERCF manager Kim Sullivan on [0499 781 580](tel:0499781580) or email at ERCF@ausnetservices.com.au before submitting your application.

Look Over the Farm Gate funding for community events

A '[Look Over the Farm Gate](#)' mental health and wellbeing grant program is available statewide to help communities come together and support farmers and farming families under stress.



Whether you are being creative or responding to a specific need, get those ideas flowing!

If it connects your community and supports mental wellbeing – it's worth applying!

Anyone who is able to demonstrate links to a farming community can apply – including, but not limited to, community and/or farmer groups, sporting clubs, volunteer organisations, service providers, incorporated bodies, private businesses, local government organisations and healthcare providers. Visit [Look Over the Farm Gate – National Centre for Farmer Health](#)

FRRR

If you seeking are funding for your community-led project, FRRR has a range of funding opportunities currently open and accepting applications.

We know how vital strong, connected communities are in building resilience during tough times. This grants program empowers local organisations to deliver events and initiatives tailored to their unique needs. The focus is on activities that support mental wellbeing and bring people together — whether through capacity-building initiatives or other creative ideas — reflecting the diversity of the communities they serve.

Head to [People Grants - Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#) and fill in the details as pictured here, plus what is the purpose you are seeking funding for.

Who are you seeking a grant for?

I am looking for funds for my organisation I am seeking funds as an individual

Not-for-profit organisation For-profit organisation

Where are you?

VIC NSW ACT SA QLD NT TAS WA

Nutrien Ag Solutions Community Grants

Closes 7 August

Is a small grants program aiming to contribute to the success, vibrancy and wellbeing of rural and regional communities nationwide.

Nutrien Ag Solutions seeks to support local grassroots organisations with funding for projects that are meaningful for their communities.

We require organisations interested in applying for a grant to first contact a Nutrien Ag Solutions branded store Branch Manager to be endorsed. More information is provided in the guidelines and if you need help with this requirement simply get in touch with FRRR on the numbers below. **Closes 7 August 2025.**

[Nutrien Ag Solutions Community Grants Program - Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#)

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital

Closes 17 Sep

This stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. There are two tiers of Small & Vital funding available.

Small grants up to \$10,000 are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions, with a preference for smaller communities (populations less than 15,000). The timeframe to deliver these projects is up to 12 months. **Closes 17 September.**

[Strengthening Rural Communities - Small & Vital - Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#)

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover

Closes 17 Sep

This program supports communities in remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to implement initiatives that **prevent and prepare** for future climate related impacts, or **recover** from existing disasters in the medium to long-term timeframe, generally one to ten years after the disaster.

Grants **up to \$25,000** are available for a broad range of initiatives. Priority will be given to projects that:

- Respond to a specific climate impact or event, either historic or likely to occur in the future;
- Focus on [community-led resilience building](#) in recovery or preparedness to strengthen the capacity and capability of local people and systems, especially to manage the impact of future disasters, through: inclusion; networks; communication; information sharing; self-organising systems; local decision making; or resourcing, tools and support;

- Are from local community groups and not-for-profits or organisations that do not have DGR status. **Close 17 September.**

[Strengthening Rural Communities – Prepare & Recover - Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#)

SURVEYS AND INPUT SOUGHT

EOI: Sheep and beef cattle producer members of SALRC Regional Committees

EOI's are invited from livestock producers to assist in directing the RD&A agenda for the livestock industries in south-eastern Australia through membership of the SALRC regional committees.

The Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC) provides recommendations on research and development (R&D) and extension and adoption (E&A) initiatives and investments in the Australian red meat and livestock industries for south-eastern Australia.

SALRC is an independent Incorporated Association made up of producer representatives from across NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, as well as research organisations and education providers from those states.

For more information, including selection criteria and roles and responsibilities, visit the [Home | Southern Australia Livestock Research Council](#) or contact SALRC Executive Officer Mike Stephens on (03) 5341 6100 or info@salrc.com.au.

New project aims to reduce admin for vegetable, onion and potato growers

A new Hort Innovation project is set to streamline the way grower feedback is collected across the vegetable industry. The goal of the project is to reduce survey fatigue, boost efficiency, and ultimately enhance the quality of insights used to guide future research and development (R&D) investments that deliver impact for growers.

The project will explore the feasibility of consolidating grower surveys for levy-funded research, development and extension (RD&E) projects into a single, annual survey. This will complement and support strengthened monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes.

The project is being led by research agency Focus Insights who are expected to make a decision around the feasibility by late 2025.

If growers from vegetable, onion, fresh potato and processed potato industries would like to get involved in the consultation stage of the project, they are encouraged to email an expression of interest to Sean Nonnenmacher, Innovation Evaluation Manager at Hort Innovation at sean.nonnenmacher@horticulture.com.au

EOI Gippsland Agricultural Group Board Positions

The Gippsland Agricultural Group Inc (GAgG), are seeking passionate, skilled, and visionary individuals to join our Board.

GAgG is a dynamic, community-led organisation driving sustainable, resilient, and profitable agriculture through innovation, collaboration, research, and education. With over 20 active projects and deep partnerships across government and industry, GAgG is at the forefront of transforming Gippsland's agricultural landscape.

Chair of the Board – Strategic Leader and Advocate

The Chair leads a high-performing Board, working closely with our Executive Team, and represent GAgG in key regional and industry forums. You'll bring strategic insight, governance experience, and a passion for agriculture to help steer our future direction.

Time commitment: Approx. 20–25 hours/month

Stipend: \$1,800/month (honorarium)

View Chair Position Description at [GAqG Chair Position Description Final JS 0525.pdf](#).

Apply at [GAqG Chair Position Application](#)

Board Members – Strategic Contributors and Community Champions

As a Board Member, you'll actively contribute to the governance and strategic direction of GAqG. Whether your background is in agriculture, research, finance, education, or community engagement — your voice matters.

Time commitment: Approx. 4–6 hours/month

View Board Position Description [GAqG Board Position Description Final JS 0525.pdf](#)

Apply at [GAqG Board Member Application](#)

INFORMATION

Kangaroo management

More support has been announced to help farmers whose property is impacted by kangaroos.

Farmers will soon be able to apply for rebates to engage professional shooters to control kangaroos under an approved Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW).

Apply for an ATCW online, visit <http://www.vic.gov.au/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations>.

To register interest to be notified when the rebate program is open email:

drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Digging Deeper Podcasts

A massive thank you to our listeners for tuning in to the Digging Deeper podcast! Whether you're in the paddock, on the road, or in the shed, we're so glad to be part of your day.

From animal health to market updates, it's been an incredible journey digging into the issues that matter most to Gippsland agriculture.

Haven't listened yet? Catch up on all episodes here: [DIGGING DEEPER - AG CHATS WITH AL | Podcast on Spotify](#). Here's to growing more knowledge — and many more downloads to come! 🎧

We're calling for nominations of local farming identities to be featured on our podcast as guests. Whether it's a neighbour, mentor, colleague – or even yourself – we'd love to hear from you.

You don't need to have won awards or run a thousand-acre property to have a great story. Some of the most memorable episodes come from people who thought they had "nothing special" to say — until they started talking.

Email your nomination to administration@gippslandag.com.au and we'll be in touch.

Watch out for Gorse

Gorse is an introduced plant from Europe and is present in very small amounts within the East Gippsland shire area and currently in flower. It is highly prickly, creates a dense thicket with bright yellow flowers for primary identification. Seed presence is up to 50 years viable in the soil so if worth keeping an eye out for its isolated occurrences in your area. Further detail is available from Agriculture Victoria website [Gorse | Weeds information | Weeds | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)



If you need assistance with any identification, please send a clear close-up picture to Council at feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au and we can assist.

And Pattersons Curse

Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*) is an introduced (around 1850) annual plant that flowers in early Spring. It has a bright purple flower with five protruding stamens from the main flower, a rosette base and a seedbank that can persist for around 5 years. It thrives in degraded soils and is often grazed by livestock. It has a small presence in the East Gippsland region and often is unnoticed in pastures and roadsides. For support on identification of Paterson's Curse, please reach out to feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au and provide some close up photos of the flower head. [Paterson's curse | Weeds information | Weeds | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)



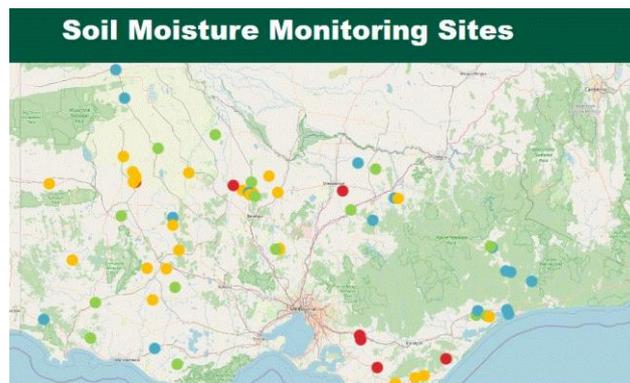
Ag Vic Soil moisture monitoring

Agriculture Victoria's soil moisture monitoring (SMM) project, with the use of underground probes, provides real-time soil water content data to Victoria's farmers.

Monitoring sites have been set up in cropping regions throughout the state providing real time soil water content data. They record soil water content at one source point from 30cm down to 1 metre as a reference point for a paddock.

To access information provided in the graphs, go to the [Agriculture Victoria soil moisture monitoring dashboard](#). No login or passwords required – just mouse over the sites, and speedos are automatically updated and will represent the most recent rainfall.

Agriculture Victoria also regularly publish the updated findings in the soil moisture monitoring newsletter which you can [subscribe to via this link](#)



New course on Safe AI for small business

Small Business Victoria are running a new [Cyber Wardens Level 2: Safe AI for small business course](#) which can help you embrace AI technology safely, while protecting your personal and business information.

Stay protected with free online cyber security training

Many business owners think because they are small, they are safe. But the latest [Cyber Security Pulse Check Report](#) shows that businesses in Australia are impacted by cyber-crime:

- \$46,000 is the average cost to a small business per cyber-attack
- 21% of businesses have been exposed to an invoice or payment scam
- 17% of businesses have had their data leaked because of an attack on another organisation
- 10% of businesses have had their passwords or accounts hacked.

Take the free Cyber Wardens training program to help protect your business. Cyber Wardens is an initiative of the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA), supported by the Australian Government and the Australian Cyber Security Centre. Learn about the risks for specific industries and practical ways to protect your business in this 1 hour course. To register go to [Courses - Cyber Wardens](#).

Backbone Magazine – 3rd issue out now

Championing the importance & prosperity of rural & regional business, Backbone Magazine is a free resource guide designed to support rural and regional businesses, highlighting valuable programs, people and services supporting your wealth and wellbeing. It acts as a central directory for services and support agencies, including QR codes linking directly to resources.

Rural & Regional Backbone is a non-profit magazine designed to highlight the benefits of programs, grants, services and support agencies available to rural and regional businesses.

You can find Backbone at the following locations or read it [Online here](#)

NEX · Business Farming Wellness	East Gippsland Shire Council
Food & Fibre Gippsland	Workways
Agri. Suppliers	Local Businesses
General Stores	11 Shire Councils across South East Victoria

Proudly published by [NEX · Business Farming Wellness](#)

Quick quiz to help evaluate your farm water system

Farmers can use a simple online quiz to evaluate the effectiveness of their farm water supply system – which is available on the Agriculture Victoria website.

Agriculture Victoria Climate Change Service Development Officer Heather Field said the short quiz could help farmers develop a farm water improvement plan for their property by answering the 14 questions.

The quiz is designed to help you assess whether your farm water system is easy to maintain, performs well and is suitable for climate challenges such as warmer, drier climatic conditions, fire risk and other natural disasters such as storm events.

At the end of the quiz, you will receive a score and summary report based on your responses.

‘The quiz is best suited for livestock enterprises that have dams and a reticulated farm water supply system.’

Go to <https://go.vic.gov.au/4I4PKDJ> and visit the Goals Catalogue to access the quiz. Sign in to our Learning Management System to complete the quiz.

Find more information on drought and dry seasons support and technical decision-making support below. [Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#)

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Enjoy a show at the Forge Theatre

The Forge Theatre showcases performances to suit all tastes: drama, comedy, music, children’s theatre, dance, physical theatre and musicals, including locally produced shows, go to [What's On and Buy Tickets](#) to see what is coming up.

Your say

Your Say is your opportunity to respectfully provide your thoughts, feelings and ideas on a range of Council projects, services and activities.

Please click on an item that interests you to provide feedback or keep up-to-date with a project.

The best way to search for a project is to click the 'All Projects' tab at the top of the page and then search [Your Say East Gippsland](#)

Love Where its Grown Caught Made Case Study – Nicholson River Soap

Nicholson River Soaps was created in 2010 when a family need presented, Bianca researched and started to make goats milk soap from her kitchen in Nicholson. Originally the main clients were friends and family, they encouraged her to increase sales by attending local markets.

An offer came to change her product line, which Bianca embraced, as this was something very unique and different, which led her to broaden her range, using buffalo milk and camel milk.

After many years of attending markets and expos and making products “The Soap Shack’ was opened in Bairnsdale in 2019, they made it through the East Gippsland fires, Covid lockdowns and are still going strong today, you can visit the shop at 174 Main Street, Bairnsdale.

To see the case study go to: [Nicholson River Soaps - Case Study.mp4](#)

OUT AND ABOUT

Gippsland Soils Symposium

The Gippsland Soils Symposium, hosted by Gippsland Agriculture Group brought together 108 attendees from right across the region, from Cann River to Pakenham, and Omeo to Yarram. It was a gathering of farmers, agronomists, and industry professionals all committed to digging deeper into soil health, productivity, and long-term resilience.

The day was packed with engaging presentations, practical insights, and robust discussions covering everything from soil biology and nutrient cycling to on-farm trials, pH management, and carbon strategies. Whether you're grazing livestock or growing crops, there was something for everyone to take away.

If you would like tot seed the presentations check them out at <https://gippslandag.com.au/communications/publications>.

Steak for a Mate – Farmer Dinner Night in Omeo

What a turn out it was for our inaugural ‘Steak for a Mate’ farmer dinner night in Omeo recently. The Golden Age Hotel was buzzing with warmth and camaraderie as farmers from Benambra, Omeo, and surrounding districts gathered for *Steak for a Mate* – a farmer dinner night hosted by the Benambra Neighbourhood House.

Thanks to generous support from fellow farmers and community members across Gippsland, attendees enjoyed a hearty steak dinner – completely free of charge. But the highlight wasn’t just the food – it was the honest stories and solidarity shared around the room.

Guest speakers, board member’s - **Trent Anderson**, a mixed farmer from Giffard, and **Dave Caldwell**, who runs Angus and Black Suffolk sheep near Lindenow, offered their insights into managing the pressures of dry times. Both spoke candidly about the challenges they've faced and the practical approaches they've taken to stay resilient – in business, in community, and in themselves.

Thank you Trudy for organising this evening with the Gippsland Agriculture Group. If you would like to donate to the next Steak for a Mate night scan the QR here.





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.

From feed test to feed budget

Agriculture Victoria is inviting livestock farmers to a webinar on feed testing and developing a feed budget. Register and receive a free feed test.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Extension Officer Nick Linden will discuss matching livestock requirements and feed quality. Nick brings extensive expertise in feed management and will offer valuable guidance for farmers feeding and managing livestock.

Livestock Extension Officer Chris Blore will also talk about the current drought support available.

TOPICS

- How to take a feed test
- Interpreting results - know what you have and what can you do with it?
- Feeding livestock scenarios, how long will feed last & what do I supplement?
- Drought resources and support available.

We are offering one free feed test per farmer to help you make the most of the event. A limited number of tests are available so you must register for the webinar to be eligible to receive a free feed test.

The webinar will be recorded for those that can't make it on the day. However, we encourage you to attend as there will be a Q&A session.



WHEN

Date: Wednesday 23 July

Time: 12:30-1:30 pm via Zoom.

The webinar will run for about an hour with a chance to answer some questions at the end.

MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER

Register via the Ag Vic events page <https://go.vic.gov.au/44KblM5> or scan this QR code.

Once you register you will receive an email with the Zoom link.

If you have any questions, please contact workshop coordinator.



Chris Blore

E: christopher.blore@agriculture.vic.gov.au

M: 0428 155 781

DIG DEEPER – LEARN – FARM SMARTER.



Gippsland Soil School

Soil is your farm's most valuable asset – but often the least understood. The Gippsland Soil School is designed to break down silos between conventional, regenerative, precision, and biological systems – giving you practical tools to manage soil better, no matter your enterprise or philosophy

8 Modules in 4 x 2-day blocks over 12 months
In-paddock learning | Expert guest speakers | Interactive workshops

... WHAT WILL YOU LEARN ...

Geology, soil types & classification

Physics & chemistry foundations

Soil life & nutrient cycling

Test interpretation: Soil and plant

Inputs: Granular, foliar, manures & bioferts

Grazing, diversity & biofertilisers

Soil Carbon : Science versus hype

Measuring what matters: Soil , profits, wellbeing

More course information at <https://gippslandag.com.au/soil-school>

Cost \$330 Expression of Interest Application Process

CLICK LINK: <https://bit.ly/441VJIH> 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.

Statewide Seasonal Forecast Horticulture

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Join us for weather service updates and the spring and summer forecast outlooks in this free webinar presented by Agriculture Victoria. Horticulture producers are invited to hear from Seasonal Risk expert - Dale Grey and the Bureau of Meteorology's Agricultural Lead (horticulture) - Rachel Davis.

Location: Online - Zoom
Date: Wednesday 30 July
Time: 12 to 1pm

Agriculture Victoria Seasonal Risk Agronomist, Dale Grey, will present on:

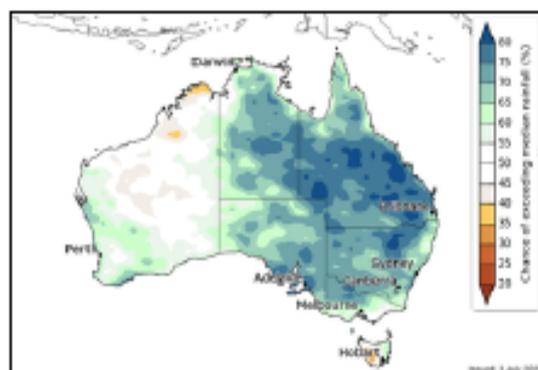
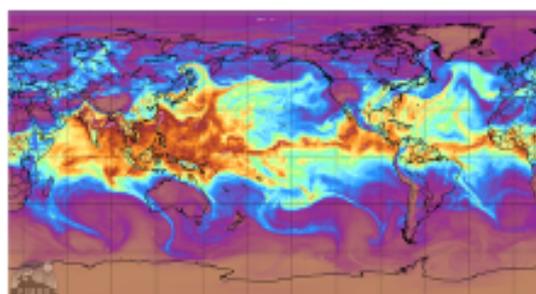
- Seasonal outlook for spring and summer
- Understanding climate influencers and models
- What is the predictability barrier?
- Rainfall, temperature and deep soil moisture levels across the state.

The event includes an update on services from the Bureau of Meteorology's Rachel Davis

- Getting the most out of long-range forecasts
- Brown rot advice changes
- Forecast improvement projects
- Decision making tools

Register here

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1kOE4VaQ6mAFchX89UffQ#/registration



Further information

Scott Botten - Horticulture Program Coordinator,
Gippsland
scott.botten@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Drought Support

The Victorian Government is providing direct drought support for farmers across Victoria impacted by drought and dry seasonal conditions

Find more information about drought support at agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

CONNECTING COMMUNITY WITH LOCAL JOBS

Gippsland Jobs Expos



Are you looking for work? *Need staff for your business?*

The Bairnsdale Jobs and Careers Expo give employers and jobseekers the opportunity to meet in person to discuss jobs available in the local area.

Free BBQ supplied.

Wednesday 20th of August

9:30am - 2:30pm

Cremin Hall (Jan Pianta School of Dance)

38 Pyke Street, Bairnsdale

Scan the QR code
to register your business for the
event or
[Register here](#)



**SKILLS
AND JOBS**

Workforce Australia
Local Jobs

Save The Date!

YOUTH AGRITECH JOBS EXPO

MODERN AND FUTERISTIC FARMING-

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

Join us at the Gippsland Agriculture Center for
our exciting two-day Ag Tech Expo!

When is the expo?

From the 16th to the 17th of September

What's the expo about?

The first day of the expo starts with bus tours to farms, showcasing careers aimed at youth. The second day is all about the fun hands on activities to show the broad range of jobs in agriculture!

Where is the expo?

Gippsland Ag center, 345 Bengworden
Rd, Bairnsdale VIC 3875



What is agritech?

Agri-tech is the creation and use of innovative technologies used to enhance agricultural practices, improve efficiency, and increase profitability in farming.



New technologies



New ways of
thinking

Contact Us Now



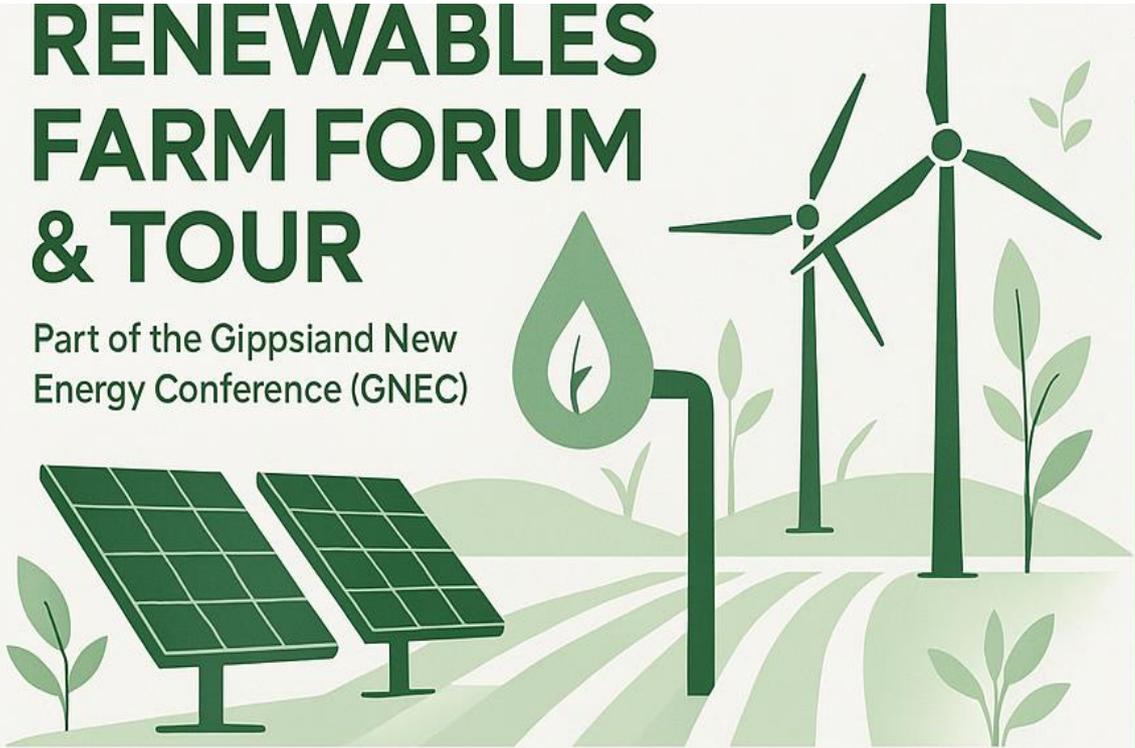
+0423 205 007



<https://agri-techeducation.com>

RENEWABLES FARM FORUM & TOUR

Part of the Gippsland New
Energy Conference (GNEC)



Forum Date:
Wednesday, 11 September
2025, 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Thursday, 12 September 2025
Departs from:
Traralgon or Sale

Discover the future of farming through renewables!

- Harnessing solar and gravity, fed irrigation
- Saving time and boosting productivity
- Preparing for next-gen tech like anaerobic digestors
- Operating fully robotic dairies

“The payback period is quicker than you think.”

Don't miss out! Be part of the growing community 