



EVENTS

- Intro to Lean & Business Planning Free Webinar 28 April
- Decisions that Drive Success 21 April
- Wellington Shire Events 21&22 April
- Accelerating AI for your business 22 April
- Business of Farming Boot Camp 28 April
- Webinar: Cutting methane in grazing 23 April
- PDS webinar: Unlocking containment success 28 April
- NEX Plan to be Resilient: Orbost and Benambra May 5 & April 29
- Planning for your farming future Commencing 5 May
- Local Vertebrate Species Management Zone workshops 6 & 7 May
- Food and Fibre Sector Workforce Development Framework 12 May
- Irrigation Expo 20 May
- Shearing and wool program Omeo 6 -10 July

FUNDING

- Drought support programs
- NEW Drought Hardship Loan
- On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate
- Wellbeing Support
- General financial counselling
- Temporary tax relief for businesses

COMMUNITY FUNDING

- Partnerships Against Pests funding Closes 11 May
- Landcare Grant applications Closes 23 April

SURVEYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Victoria's Biosecurity Roundtable 2026
- Sponsorship Opportunities for the 2026 Gippsland Red Meat Conference
- FedUni Co-op education - students in the workforce opportunities
- AgCAREERSTART Opportunity – Farms needed
- BulkUp MLA Program now open
- Help shape grassfed beef insights
- Business Viability Assessment Tool
- One-on-one support for business owners

INFORMATION

- Baseline data report for East Gippsland Regional Soil Sampling 2025

- Digging Deeper Podcast
- A new chapter for Food and Fibre Gippsland

COUNCIL UPDATES

- East Gippsland Livestock Exchange
- Housing Options As We Age – Seniors Rights Victoria
- Kindergarten Registrations are now open
- Community Matters e-newsletter
- Your Say on Projects

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

- East Gippsland Field Days
- Off the Wharf wins award
- GLAWAC Oyster trail receives award
- Building on Topsoils

EVENTS



Intro to Lean & Business Planning Free Webinar

28 April

This **practical online session** is designed to help Victorian growers and businesses build resilience, reduce waste and improve profitability. The day will assist to begin planning a stronger future for your business, with expert advice from Moshie.

In this online workshop and information session, you will be walked through:

- introduction to lean management
- simple business planning templates and self-assessment tools
- costing and overhead calculators for clarity on resource and labour costs
- strategies to improve profitability and make confident decisions
- how to build drought resilience and long-term sustainability.

When: Tuesday 28 April

Time: 3 - 4.30pm

Register at: [Intro To Lean & Business Planning Including Drought Support with Moshie Australia](#)

Decisions that Drive Success

21 April

This Workshop provides a **proven and practical approach to managing** competing priorities so you can make sound business decisions to strengthen your resilience and capacity and adapt your business to recover from drought and other challenges.

In this 1-day group workshop participants will learn to:

- Identify key trigger points, review priorities, and optimise resources to manage risk, control costs, and seize opportunities
- Respond quickly to changing conditions, minimising disruption to farm operations
- Recognise and prioritise local and business-specific stressors, risks, and opportunities
- Make timely, sound decisions that support profitability, with clear milestones and checkpoints
- Strengthen adaptability through contingency planning and practical decision-making tools



Pre-workshop support: Each participant receives a 30-minute personalised online session (Zoom or phone) to tailor the workshop to their farm's critical issues.

When: Tuesday 21st April
Time: 9.00am to 3.30pm (arrive 8.45 am)
Where: Bellevue Lakes Entrance



Register at: [Decisions that drive success Tickets, Bellevue on the Lakes - Function Room, Lakes Entrance | TryBooking Australia.](#)

This is a Free event funded by Agriculture Victoria, morning tea and a light lunch provided. For more information contact Leigh Crocker ION Group on mobile 0419 359 409 or email lcrocker@iongroup.com.au.

Wellington Shire Events

Getting Bank Ready in Sale - 21 April

You'll gain insight into:

- How the bank views your business
- What drives lending decisions
- How to position yourself to borrow with confidence
- How to negotiate better terms and lower interest rates



When: Tuesday 21st April 5:00–7:30pm
Where: The Criterion Hotel, 90 MacAlister St, Sale

Register: Call Chris on 0487 291 197 or click link <https://bit.ly/4dguQAN>

Talking Dirt: The Business of Soils

Join experienced consultant Simon Falkiner as he unpacks a practical approach to soil management — positioning your soils as a core business asset, not a science project and not something you can afford to ignore.

When: Wednesday 22nd April 4:00–7:30pm
Where: Flynn Hall, Waddis Way

Register: Call Jen on 0409 436 133 or click link <https://bit.ly/4sGIVfC>



The details of these event are on the Gippsland Agriculture Group online page at [Gippsland Ag.](#)



Accelerating AI for your Business workshop

22 April

Accelerating AI for Your Business is a practical, hands-on workshop designed to help Gippsland businesses cut through the hype and start using AI to save time, boost productivity and stay competitive.

In just three hours, you'll see where AI can make an immediate difference in your day-to-day work — from streamlining admin and marketing to improving decision-making and efficiency. You'll work with popular AI tools, explore real business scenarios, and learn how to use AI with confidence, clarity and control — no technical background required.

This face-to-face session is built for business owners and teams who are curious about AI, feeling behind, or simply looking for smarter ways to work. You'll leave with practical ideas you can apply straight away, a clearer understanding of what AI can (and can't) do, and the confidence to start using it in your business.

- Location: Gippsland Tech School, TAFE Gippsland (Morwell Campus)
- Dates: Wednesday 22nd April ([Booking Link](#)) or Thursday 23 April ([Booking Link](#))
- Time: 4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Supper: Light supper, tea and coffee provided
- Cost: \$99
- Bring: Laptop with a paid subscription to an AI tool of your choice (ie ChatGPT, CoPilot)

What participants will gain

- Real-world business examples of AI in action
- Practical tools to improve efficiency and productivity
- Guidance on responsible and safe AI use
- Ideas to work smarter, reduce risk and improve services



Spaces are limited, so early registration is recommended by scanning the relevant QR.

BUSINESS OF FARMING BOOT CAMP

Plan, Profit, Perform

With Chris Jehu from Countryside Business Partners

Business of Farming

28 April

This 2 ½ day workshop at Lake Tyers Beach Camp is designed to help farmers step back from the day-to-day workload and **focus on the bigger picture** of their business.

Chris Jehu from Countryside Business Partners will assist you to explore your “why”, helping clarify what you want the farm to achieve for you, your family and the future of the business.

You will learn: Practical tools to track and understand business performance, how to interpret key figures measure profitability, make better decisions for long term profitability and identify opportunities for improvement.

When:	28 - 30 April
Time:	Commencing 10.00am 28 th April until 12 noon on the 30 th
Cost:	\$50 per property
Registration:	Business of Farming - East Gippsland .

If you have any questions contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921, emma.orgill@fevl.org.au.

Webinar: Cutting methane in grazing: What works and what’s emerging 23 April

Professor Joe Jacobs will shares insights from nearly two decades of **methane mitigation** research undertaken by Agriculture Victoria.

Joe will walk through recent trials of emerging methane reducing additives and their potential to reduce enteric methane emissions in dairy cows and other ruminants, building on a foundation of work involving feedbase manipulation, mainstream supplements, and by-products.

Date: Thursday 23 April 2026
Time: 12-1 pm

Online registration at: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#), please use the **Password:** *Climate*.
For more information about these webinars, including assistance joining the webinar email climate.webinars@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

PDS webinar: Unlocking containment success

28 April

Practical containment insights and real producer learnings to support better on-farm decisions.

Delivered with the Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG) and facilitated by Deb Scammell (Talking Livestock), this session will share the key insights generated through the ‘Increasing production using containment areas’ PDS project, along with practical on-farm experiences shared by participating producers.

The webinar will also introduce the new PDS project ‘Improved ewe health outcomes from containment’, outlining what producers can expect from this next phase of work.

What you’ll hear about

- key results from ‘Increasing production using containment areas’
- ration design approaches, infrastructure learnings and labour efficiencies
- on-farm impacts and adoption insights from producers
- practical tools and templates to support containment decision-making
- why the group has established the new ‘Improved ewe health outcomes from containment’ PDS
- what producers can expect from upcoming activities and how to get involved.

Register by 9am 28 April 2026 to receive the link to attend the webinar

Date: Tuesday 28 April 2026

Time: 12pm – 1 pm AEST (QLD, NSW, VIC & TAS)

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Register at: [MLA Event Registration](#)

For more information or queries on PBS, contact Deb Scammell/Talking Livestock on 0407 790 622 or deb@talkinglivestock.com.au. Regarding registration: Alana McEwan/Meat & Livestock Australia on 0417 541 000 or pds@mla.com.au.

NEX Plan to be Resilient: Strengthen your business **29 April & 5 May**

Strengthen your farm business against climate variability, financial pressure and future uncertainty.

Running a farm in Gippsland means making decisions in an environment that is constantly shifting. Seasonal variability, rising costs and tighter margins require more than hard work, they require clear thinking, structured planning and financial confidence.

Plan to Be Resilient: Strengthen your business against climate variability, financial stress and future challenges is a practical, 3-hour hands-on workshop designed specifically for Gippsland farmers.

- **Benambra** Wednesday 29 April 9.30am – 12.30pm
- **Orbost** Tuesday 5 May 10.00am – 1.00pm

Register here [Plan to be resilient: Ag Vic Drought Support Workshops](#).

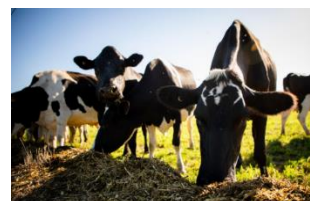
For further information contact Allison Dodd NEX Community Engagement Facilitator allisond@nexsolutions.org.au or call 1300 045 747.

Gippsdairy Heifers on Target discussion group **30 April**

Join Gippsdairy for an on- **farm discussion group** which will cover the importance of good heifer rearing and discuss practical ways to monitor how they are performing and see tools to better manage your heifer's growth. Topics covered will include:

- The importance of good heifer rearing
- Practical ways to monitor how heifers are performing
- Tools available to help you better manage heifer growth.

When: Thursday 30 April
Time: 10:30am - 2:00pm



Register at: [Orbost Discussion Group- Heifers on Target 30th April 2026 | Dairy Australia](#)

For further information please reach out to Jackie Aveling on 0474 488 750. *Don't miss the latest GippsDairy News!* Register to receive this regular newsletter.

Planning for your farming future **Commencing 5 May**

Do you wish your farm was easier to manage, more adaptable to seasonal conditions and helps provide environmental benefits?

Landholders are invited to **participate in a series of workshops**, hosted by Ag Vic and designed to build on **current management practices** and support planning for future improvement, a free laminated property map will be provided as part of the program.

Participants will meet for **4 sessions, every Tuesday in May**, to discuss the following farm management topics.

- Farm layout
- Setting current and future goals
- Soils and land classing
- Soil fertility and nutrient budgeting
- Grazing and feed management
- Farm water supply planning



Dates: Tuesday 5, 12, 19 & 26 May
Venue: Gippsland Ag Centre 345 Bengworden Road
Time: 9.30 am to 3pm daily

Register by 27 March. Scan the QR or visit [Planning for your farming future](#).

For more information contact: Keren Walker on 0477 706 384 or keren.walker@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Local Vertebrate Species Management Zone workshops 6 & 7 May

The Vertebrate Species Management Program (VSMP) has been formed to more accurately reflect the broader scope of the program’s operations which will include the management of a greater range of vertebrate species impacting agricultural production and environmental values. Dingo management to support producers experiencing livestock losses will still be a key function of our staff.

If you would like to have input into your local 2026–2027 Vertebrate Species Management Zone plan, our staff will be available to listen to your constructive feedback and ideas.

We will have a map of your Vertebrate Species Management Zone, and your local Vertebrate Species Management Officer (formerly Wild Dog Controller) will be on hand to assist and provide information on how to best manage dingoes for your enterprise. Other staff will also be on hand to answer questions relating to other vertebrate species which may be impacting your property.

Dates and venues for the Vertebrate Species Management Zone planning workshops can be found below.

Vertebrate Species Management Zone Workshops – 2026 Schedule			
Hume	Date	Venue	Time
Gelantipy	Wednesday 6 th May 2026	Karoonda Park 3855 Gelantipy Road Gelantipy	10:00 am to 12:00 pm Morning tea
Heyfield	Thursday, 7 th May 2026	Heyfield DEECA Office Liocola Road, Heyfield	10:00 am to 12:00 am Morning tea
Bairnsdale	Thursday, 7 th May 2026	Glenaladale Hall Fernbank – - Glenaladale Road Glenaladale	2:00pm – 4:00pm Afternoon tea

For more information contact your local Vertebrate Species Management Officer or email: vertebratespeciesmanagement@deeca.vic.gov.au.

Food and Fibre sector Workforce Development Framework

12 May

You're invited to join a roundtable and networking event aimed at strengthening local connections and contributing to current projects focused on workforce development. This day will explore a framework that supports career pathways across the food and fibre industries—including VET teaching skills and trade careers in agriculture and horticulture.

This event welcomes employers, training providers, industry representatives, business support services, local government, and community organisations.

When: Tuesday, 12 May
Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm
Where: TBC
Register: [Gippsland Event Tuesday, May 12, 2026](#)

Agricultural workforce shortages reflect broader skills gaps across the sector. By collaborating, we can shape practical solutions for the future of apprenticeships and trade careers in agriculture and horticulture—and strengthen support for apprentices, employers and trainers. *To register please refer to the [webpage](#).*

Irrigation Expo

20 May

The Gippsland Irrigation Expo one-day event brings together the latest technologies, research, suppliers, and best practices in irrigation management.

- See what's new in irrigation technology and practices that can make a real difference on farm.
- Learn from people who know their stuff, including researchers, suppliers, and locals sharing practical tips and demonstrations.
- Connect with other irrigators, suppliers, agencies and experts who can help you find solutions that fit your farm
- Take home ideas you can put into practice



Whether you're an irrigator looking to upgrade your system, a consultant seeking the latest insights, or a supplier wanting to connect with decision-makers, the Gippsland Irrigation Expo is a premier opportunity to meet new people.

When: 20 May 2026
Where: Sale Showgrounds
Time: 9.00am – 4.00pm
Register at: [Gippsland Irrigation Expo Tickets, Sale Showgrounds, Sale | TryBooking Australia](#) or scan the QR.



To find out more go to: [Gippsland Irrigation Expo](#) and [👉 https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/IrriExpo](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/IrriExpo)

Shearing and Wool program for Omeo

6 -10 July

SCAA SWTI invite registrations for their 1 & 2 week Shearing Schools in shed training, designed to give real-world, hands on training taught by leading industry trainers.

The Novice & Improver Shearing and Woolhandling Courses are designed for learner & improver shearers to provide a solid introduction to the Wool Harvesting industry & create a pathway to obtaining ongoing employment. Participants will be issued with a nationally recognised Qualification or Statement of Attainment upon completion of the course.

Omeo - AHCSS00192 Introduction to the Wool Harvesting Industry Skill Set,

Bairnsdale - AHCSS00192 Introduction to the Wool Harvesting Industry Skill Set

More details at [Shearing Courses | Shearer Woolhandler Training](#). **Book now** ring 1300 787 984 or email admin@swti.edu.au.

FUNDING

Drought support programs

Use a Farm Drought Support \$5,000 Grant to make on-farm infrastructure upgrades and improvements such as grain feeders, troughs, pasture restoration, stock containment areas, and more. This is a co-contribution grant. [Farm Drought Support Grants | Grants and financial support | Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#).

One-on-one farm advisory service is an opportunity of a second consultation that is available for farmers across the state. Book now at [Farm Advisory Service one-on-one sessions](#).

Groups events are being rolled out check upcoming events near you at agriculture.vic.gov.au/events and findout more at [Farmer Group Technical Events](#).

For a full list of support available as part of the Drought Support Package visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

NEW Drought Hardship Loan

Drought Hardship Loans are now available through RIC for farm businesses that have been affected by drought for at least 24 months and expect further impacts over the coming season.

The **Drought Hardship Loan** will provide **short-term financial relief** to assist with essential operating costs while farmers continue managing drought impacts and planning for recovery.

The loans are for up to **\$250,000 over a 5-year term** on RIC's concessional interest rate, with no interest or principal repayments required for the first 2 years.

Key details include:

- offering loans of up to \$250,000 over five years for essential operating costs
- a two-year interest and principal repayment holiday to support cash flow during hardship
- variable concessional interest rate, currently 5.18%
- loans delivered through the RIC

Further information on the Drought Hardship Loan, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, go to www.ric.gov.au/drought-hardship.

Information about broader Australian Government drought support is available at drought.gov.au.



On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate

Farmers managing pasture and crop pressure can also access the **On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate**, which supports engagement of accredited professional harvesters.

Eligible farmers can access up to three rebates of \$450 each (ex-GST), with a 25% co-contribution.

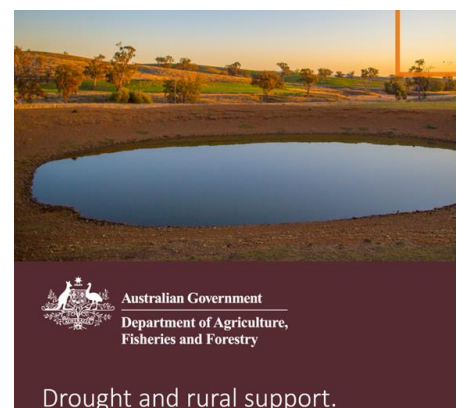
- Fast-track [ATCW permit processing](#) by the Conservation Regulator
- Funding until 30 June 2026 or until funds are exhausted

[Managing kangaroos on your farm](#) | [Drought support](#) | [Farm management](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)



[2025 Dry Season & Seasonal Conditions Resources – Victoria](#)
[Drought Resilience Adoption](#)

National support measures:
Resources such as the Rural Financial Counselling Service, concessional loans and Farm Household Allowance are available



<https://vicdroughthub.org.au/news-events/news-articles/article/supporting-victorian-farmers-through-dry-conditions>**Wellbeing Support**

Wellbeing counsellors work hand in hand with experienced financial counsellors to ensure that your mental health receives as much attention as your bottom line.

Wellbeing counsellors can visit you at your property or talk over the phone to assist with:

- ✓ managing stress
- ✓ building resilience for tough times
- ✓ balancing work and life with practical tools
- ✓ getting support for big decisions and life changes

To speak to a Wellbeing Counsellor call 1300 045 747. Find out more at [NEX • Business, Farming & Wellness](#), more services listed in Backbone Directory [Backbone Support Directory](#).

General financial counselling

A financial counsellor can help you make a plan to manage your money. They can also talk to creditors on your behalf. Call the: *National Debt Helpline – 1800 007 007 to speak to a financial advisor. Mob Strong Debt Helpline for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people – 1800 808 488 Small Business Debt Helpline – 1800 413 828.*

More information at agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires.

Temporary tax relief for businesses

The **Australian Taxation Office** will provide temporary relief for businesses unable to meet their tax obligations due to fuel supply issues, where appropriate.

This will include more generous payment plans, remission of interest and penalties, and support in varying PAYG instalments where there has been a downturn in taxable income.

The Small Business Responsible Lending Obligation exemption will also be extended for a further 10 years to help small businesses access easier and faster credit. For more information go to [ATO fuel response | Australian Taxation Office](#)

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Partnerships Against Pests funding

Closes 11 May

This program is to assist farmers protect their crops, and livestock pasture from invasive pests, and improve the long-term health of their land.

These grants enable groups to deliver place-based and community-led invasive species management activities that meet the program's objectives and outcomes to build community capacity and capability.

Groups can apply for project funding of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 (ex-GST) to complete a project over a 12-month period. There is a total of \$600,000 (ex-GST) of funding available for Round 5 projects.

Applications are open until 11 May 2026. For more information and to apply visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/protecting-victoria/partnerships-against-pests-program-and-grants/partnerships-against-pests-grants.

Landcare Grant applications now open

Closes 23 April

Applications are now open for Landcare Grants to help fund projects making a difference to enhance and protect Victoria's great outdoors.

Landcare and environmental volunteer groups can apply for project grants of up to \$20,000 for projects and \$500 for support grants for projects that:

- protect and restore the natural environment
- expand participation and engage new and diverse volunteers
- enhance knowledge and understanding of the natural environment
- support recovery from natural disasters
- recognise Traditional Owners' longstanding connection to Country and support Traditional Owners aspirations in healing and ongoing care for Country and culture
- sustain and develop groups/networks

Applications close on 23 April 2026 for more information go to [Victorian Landcare Grants](#)

SURVEYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Victoria's Biosecurity Roundtable 2026

Registrations are now open for Victoria's Biosecurity Roundtable 2026. Join people from across Victoria—including First Nations and Traditional Owners, farmers, land and water managers, researchers, industry, communities and government—to work together for maximum biosecurity impact.

This year's roundtable will focus on collective action to implement Victoria's Biosecurity Strategy, where effort can be most effectively targeted, and how small, practical actions can drive lasting change. Through engaging plenaries, group discussions and case studies, participants will share what's working, learn from real-world examples, build connections, and identify how they can maximise impact in their own roles.

Date: Thursday 7 May 2026

Time: 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

Format: Hybrid – attend online via Zoom or in person

Register: [Victoria's Biosecurity Roundtable 2026 Tickets, Hybrid Event - Online or In person, Docklands | TryBooking Australia](#)

The Victorian Fox Bounty resumes

The bounty is currently funded to 30 June 2026 and reward payments remain at the increased rate of \$14 per fox scalp.

To streamline the application process and ensure prompt electronic payment, participants are encouraged to create an online bounty account. Please note that cheque payments are no longer accepted.

Bairnsdale collections 35 Bairnsdale–Dargo Road

Time: 12 pm to 2 pm
Dates: Tuesday 12 May



The 2026 collection schedule across the state can be viewed at [Victorian Fox Bounty | Pest animals | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#).



Sponsorship Opportunities Open for the 2026 Gippsland Red Meat Conference

Expressions of Interest are now open for businesses and organisations interested in sponsoring the 2026 Gippsland Red Meat Conference.

The conference will be held at Sale Baptist Church on Tuesday, 26 August 2026, bringing together producers, industry professionals, service providers, and stakeholders from across the Gippsland red meat sector. The event provides an excellent opportunity for sponsors to showcase their products, services, and expertise to a highly engaged agricultural audience.

Becoming a sponsor offers valuable exposure, networking opportunities, and the chance to support one of Gippsland's key industry events focused on innovation, productivity, and collaboration within the red meat sector. Expressions of Interest close 30 April 2026.

For further information or to request a copy of the sponsorship prospectus, please scan the QR or contact: Jen Smith at jen.smith@gippslandag.com.au or 0409 436 133 or [2026 Gippsland Red Meat Conference Sponsorship - Expression of Interest](#).



FedUni Co-op education - students in the workforce opportunities

FedUni STEM degrees (among a few others) are currently offering a Co-op education model, and as such, students are required to undertake paid placement in industry:

- Minimum **60 days/450 hours for Undergraduates**
- Minimum **30 days/225 hours for Postgraduates** (N.B. not for Science)
- Via an employee > employer model, can be BAU or Project based activity with a focus on transferable skills



If you have a workforce need, think you could provide a meaningful placement opportunity, and would like to tap into the pool of students please contact Fed Uni and provide them with a PD outlining the role, timelines and reporting lines.

Here's how it works

- Your organisation agrees to participate in Federation Co-op by signing an agreement that sets out the expectations and obligations of each party.
- We give you access the resources you'll need to help placement students.
- We help you create and advertise placement positions.
- You receive applications then interview and recruit student/s just as you would regular employees.
- We help you set learning objectives at the start of the placement.
- We check in regularly during placement and provide ongoing support.
- You complete a simple student assessment at the end of the placement.

Contact fedUni for more information co-op@federation.edu.au or refer to [Federation University Australia Co-op model](#) and check out the [Co-op YouTube channel](#), which highlights a growing collection of industry and student testimonials across a variety of disciplines.

AgCAREERSTART Opportunity – Farms needed

The AgCAREERSTART team is calling on farmers to sign-up to its popular gap-year program. The program connects young people who are interested in an agricultural 'gap-year' with farmers who are looking to hire workers.

If you know a farmer who needs a junior farmhand, please reach out to the AgCAREERSTART team, or apply via the AgCAREERSTART website as there are more than 100 candidates 18–25-year-olds are genuine full of energy, and eager who have been shortlisted and are ready to begin on-farm roles immediately.

For more details [Farmer Info - AgCAREERSTART](#), this program is an opportunity to:

- Employ a young Australian to work on your farm for 10-12 months and share your skills, knowledge, and industry insights as a farm-host
- Contribute to the future agricultural workforce by giving someone a start in industry
- Access a new labour market by leveraging AgCAREERSTART's recruitment process

BulkUp MLA program now open

BulkUp is a structured, six-year program designed to support on-farm change through expert guidance, practical learning and peer networks. With a minimum two-year commitment, it brings together MLA's proven adoption packages into one pathway, helping producers lift performance through targeted technical learning, informed decision-making and benchmarking.

In the Australian livestock industry, the top 20% of businesses generate around 80% more profit than average, largely due to higher production efficiency. BulkUp focuses on closing this gap.

While the program runs for six years, participants can exit after Year 2 if they don't see value. Annual commitments include monthly online group calls, 4–6 days of technical training, provision of production and economic data for benchmarking, and implementation of practice change.

Valued at up to \$8,000 per business per year, BulkUp requires an approximately 15% producer contribution: \$500 per year in Years 1–2 and \$1,500 per year in Years 3–6.

BulkUp has been designed to help producers implement practices that drive whole-farm profitability. For more information go to [BulkUp | Meat & Livestock Australia](#).

Help shape grassfed beef insights

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is calling for grassfed beef producers to complete the Beef Producers Intentions Survey (BPIS) throughout April.

The Beef Producer Intentions Survey (BPIS) is an MLA initiative designed to provide insights into the Australian beef herd and future intentions of grassfed cattle producers. Now in its fourth year, the survey underpins industry forecasts and analysis, informs MLA programs, and helps ensure communication and adoption efforts align with industry sentiment. Survey data is a critical input into MLA cattle industry projections covering herd size, slaughter, production and exports, particularly in the context of global uncertainty and forecast drier conditions influencing on-farm decision-making.

The BPIS is conducted three times a year. The April survey focuses on breeding season plans, branding and weaning, and weight and sales expectations; a July PULSE provides updated producer intentions, calving estimates and sales figures; and the November survey captures herd profiles, producer sentiment, breed demographics and sales to date. Aggregated results are published in public reports, and participants can opt in to receive a personalised report card comparing their responses with regional data. Read more at [Help shape grassfed beef insights | Meat & Livestock Australia](#) and complete the survey at [Beef Producer Intentions Survey - 08 - April 2026](#).

Business Viability Assessment Tool

The ATO's **Business Viability Assessment Tool** helps small businesses check if they are financially healthy. The tool shows early warning signs and suggests next steps, including where to go for advice or when to contact the ATO if you are struggling with your business finances.

A business is viable where either:

- it's returning enough of a profit to provide a return to the business owner and also meet its commitments to business creditors
- it has sufficient cash resources to sustain itself through a period when it is not returning a profit.

You can assess your own business using the [Business viability assessment tool](#). It considers a range of information linked to the financial performance and position of your business. This includes your ability to pay outstanding debts while meeting ongoing commitments to creditors. For more information go to [Business viability assessment tool | Australian Taxation Office](#).

One-on-one support for business owners

The **Business Skills Mentoring Program** gives eligible Victorian small business owners free one-on-one support from experienced mentors. You get 3 one-hour sessions over 3 months to improve skills, set goals, solve problems and grow your business with confidence.

Defined industry sectors

The program is for small business owners in 6 priority sectors:

- advanced manufacturing and defence
- agribusiness
- circular economy
- digital technologies
- health technologies and medical research
- regional tourism.

Expression of interest deadline has been extended until Sunday 31 May 2026. For more information go to [Business Skills Mentoring Program | Business Victoria](#)

INFORMATION

Baseline data report for East Gippsland Regional Soil Sampling 2025

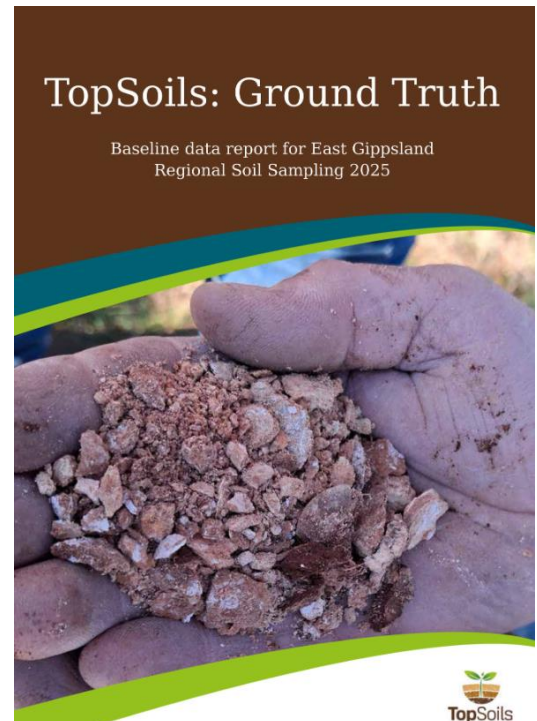
Did you know that the median soil pH across 117 paddocks surveyed in East Gippsland in 2025 was 4.91, meaning most soils are still more acidic than the recommended level for optimal pasture growth?

Or that around half of the paddocks tested had low sulphur levels, while boron — an important nutrient for legume production — was also low across much of the region?

In Autumn 2025, a comprehensive soil survey was conducted across East Gippsland, analysing soil health, nutrient levels, and farm management practices. By comparing these results with surveys dating back to 1973, the report reveals important trends in soil fertility, organic carbon, and how management practices such as liming, fertiliser use, and rotational grazing are shaping the region's soils today.

While there have been some positive shifts, such as more farmers applying lime and gradual improvements in soil acidity, the survey also highlights several nutrient challenges that could impact pasture productivity into the future.

Read the full report to see how your region's soils are tracking and what it might mean for your farm. [TopSoils: Ground Truth](#)



Digging Deeper Podcast

Overview: Hosted by Alistair Micallef from the Gippsland Ag Group, this farmer-led podcast delivers timely insights, practical tips and real conversations to support rural communities and farming businesses across the seasons. Launching in February 2025, it covers everything from autumn sowing to summer harvest, with episodes available on Apple, Spotify and the Gippsland Ag website.

[Podcast - Digger Deeper - AG Chats with AL](#)

A new chapter for Food and Fibre Gippsland

Food and Fibre Gippsland have launched its new strategic plan and branding. Setting a clear direction for the future — one built on connection, innovation and growth.

The **Strategic Plan 2026–29** has major initiatives that will shape their work and impact the coming years: The **new membership offer**, and the **refreshed Food & Fibre Gippsland brand**.

New membership offer

FFG introduced a **new membership offer**, simpler, more accessible and better aligned with the needs of businesses, organisations and partners across Gippsland's food and fibre value chains.

Businesses have options to:

- remain on their current plan, or
- or transition to the new structure, including a potential fee reduction where applicable.

You can learn more about the [new membership offer here](#) or at [Food and Fibre Gippsland](#).



COUNCIL UPDATES

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange

EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
UPCOMING SALES

APRIL 2026 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
Wednesday 8 April
Wednesday 15 April
Wednesday 22 April
Wednesday 29 April

Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am
Friday 10 April
Friday 24 April

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
Monday 13 April
Monday 27 April

EAST GIPPSLAND SHEEP COUNCIL

The poster features a purple background on the left side with white text. The right side shows a photograph of several sheep. The East Gippsland Sheep Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
UPCOMING SALES

MAY 2026 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
Wednesday 6 May
Wednesday 13 May
Wednesday 20 May
Wednesday 27 May

Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am
Friday 8 May
Friday 22 May

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
Monday 11 May
Monday 25 May

EAST GIPPSLAND SHEEP COUNCIL

The poster features a green background on the left side with white text. The right side shows a photograph of several cows. The East Gippsland Sheep Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

Housing Options As We Age – Seniors Rights Victoria

Cost of living, health changes, and family circumstances can all influence housing choices. Some arrangements can carry legal and financial risks if not properly planned.

Taking time to understand the implications of each option can help prevent misunderstandings, financial loss, and elder abuse. This free session with Seniors Rights Victoria covers; staying where you are, moving in with your family or family moving in with you, private rental market and other retirement options.

Lakes Entrance Service Centre	Tuesday 21 April	10.30 am – 12.00 pm
Mallacoota Service Centre	Wednesday 22 April	1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Orbost Service Centre	Tuesday 21 April	1.30 pm – 3.00 pm
Paynesville Service Centre	Monday 20 April	2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

The FREE session forms part of the East Gippsland Shire's Positive Ageing Education Series.

Kindergarten Registrations are now open

30 June

It is important for families to register their children for kindergarten over the next two months, as timely registration supports effective planning and helps ensure children can access a place at their preferred service.

All families who have a child attending a funded 3 or 4 year old kindergarten in 2027 will need to register through the Central Registration Service.

Registering for kinder can be done in 4 easy steps.

1. **Register** - Family completes an online form
2. **Allocate**- Council carefully reviews all registrations and allocates kindergarten places
3. **Confirm** - Family receives a kindergarten offer
4. **Enrol** - Family completes the child's enrolment directly with the kindergarten

Families can visit our website to complete an [Form: Kindergarten Registration Form](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Early Years Team on 5153 9500. We would love to discuss this exciting new service with you.

Community Matters e-newsletter

Check out the latest edition of our community e-newsletter, Community Matters. This newsletter shares updates on projects, services, decisions, open consultations and more. [Click here to subscribe and stay informed.](#)



Your Say on Projects

Have you checked out [Your Say, East Gippsland](#) recently?

Your Say is an online platform that lets you share what you think about the projects, services and places that matter to you. It's an important engagement tool for Council and community.

It is important to note that Council will also continue to consult with the community in a number of other ways including site meetings, community workshops, drop-in sessions and more.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

East Gippsland Field Days

The field days provided an excellent chance to connect with the industry firsthand, to hear how farmers are really traveling, ask questions about current market impacts, reconnect with stakeholders and equip famers with access to events and funding that they may not have previously had access to.

With over 90 'mum and dad – famer show bags' distributed on the Friday alone, Council connected with many farmers who had yet to connect into councils' ag support for the industry.

Meaningful information was shared thanks to farmers who were willing to discuss the impact of increasing costs, the blessing of the autumn break and share ideas of opportunities they saw for growth in the industry and for the sector. As usual Pest Animal Management was a key conversation, along with current projects as part of the Futures projects and silage wrap recycling.

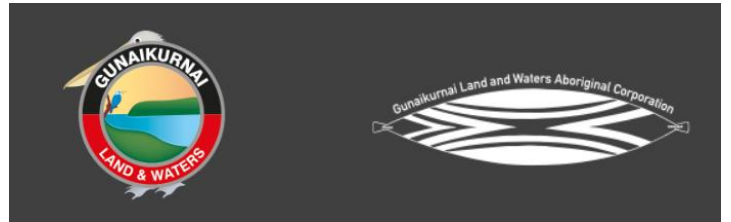
The field days provided the opportunity to connect with stakeholders, Ag Vic, NEX, Forest Vic, Landcare, strengthening connections and keeping communications lines open to maintain effectiveness and efficiency in delivering for the community.



Off the Wharf and GLAWAC Oyster Trial win awards

The Victorian Seafood Industry Awards were held recently, and many of our Gippsland businesses were recognised for their awards.

Off The Wharf Seafood Café in Lakes Entrance won the Victorian Seafood Industry award - Restaurant Award and the Research, Development and Extension Award was won by Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation for their oyster trial project. Which is huge recognition for the hard work and commitment of the team who support the Aquaculture Enterprise.



Building on Topsoils

This week Council hosted a Topsoils 3 workshop which was attended by 22 agency representatives who heard from three panels on; The 14 year history of Topsoils and reports completed; the onground application of Topsoils projects and outcomes and; the current state and national policy that can be leveraged to build the project. Joined by a facilitator the group then completed a SWOT analysis to commenced developing the Topsoils 4 funding submission.

One question that was asked of attendees was **What excites you as delivery partners**, here are a few answers below:

1. Linking better to new and innovative information.
2. Bridging the gap with agencies and better understanding of what each does and the important role we each play.
3. Better strategic links across the region - silos are reducing.
4. Good Communication which makes us more effective when supporting the community.



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.

This is compiled by council for general information only. If a friend or a neighbour would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please contact Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer on 5153 9450 or register online at [AgriNews newsletter](#).



Housing Options As We Age

Seniors Rights Victoria



Seniors Rights Victoria join us for this free information session!

Cost of living, health changes, and family circumstances can all influence housing choices. Some arrangements can carry legal and financial risks if not properly planned.

Taking time to understand the implications of each option can help prevent misunderstandings, financial loss, and elder abuse. This free session with Seniors Rights Victoria covers; staying where you are, moving in with your family or family moving in with you, private rental market and other retirement options.

Bairnsdale Library

Monday 20 April
10.30 am – 12.00 pm

Lakes Entrance

Service Centre
Tuesday 21 April
10.30 am – 12.00 pm

Mallacoota

Service Centre
Wednesday 22 April
1.00 pm – 2.30 pm

Orbost

Service Centre
Tuesday 21 April
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Paynesville

Service Centre
Monday 20 April
2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Book Now

At your library
5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries

Scan the QR code



Decisions that drive success – Proven techniques for effective on-farm decision-making

A powerful and practical 1-Day Group Workshop that equips participants to make the decisions necessary to navigate their farm business through critical seasonal crisis/challenges by:

- Learning how to identify key trigger points or events for their farm business, review strategic priorities and know how to optimise resources to mitigate risks, manage costs and seize opportunities;
- Improving their readiness to respond to these trigger points to enable rapid pivoting and minimising disruptions to operations;
- Identifying key stressors (internal/external) unique to their locality and business situation and learning how to navigate and prioritise risks and opportunities;
- Building capacity and confidence in making timely and sound decisions that support business profitability and know how to implement those decisions with on-track/off-track checkpoints and milestones;
- Strengthening techniques to improve overall adaptability to challenge and change – including contingency planning and access

Key Details:

Lakes Entrance Tuesday 21st April 2026

Venue: Bellevue on the Lakes
Esplanade, Lakes Entrance, Vic, 3909

Time: 9.00am to 3.30pm (please arrive 8.45 am)

Cost: Free (fully funded by Agriculture Victoria)
Morning tea and a light lunch provided

Why attend?

Success depends on sound decision-making. This is especially so in times of crisis and change. This Workshop provides a proven and practical approach to managing competing priorities so you can make better decisions, rebuild your resilience and capacity and how to adapt your business to recover from drought and other challenges.

For Information:

Leigh Crocker (ION Group)

M: 0419 359 409 E: lcrocker@iongroup.com.au

Ion Group

ION GROUP PTY LTD
ABN 69 120 990 132
www.iongroup.com.au



Recent feedback:

“the workshop has opened our eyes as to how we look at our business and not to over-complicate things. To put our health and well-being first which will benefit the business. It was great to listen to other people in our community and discuss ideas as a team.”

“very inspiring and motivating”

“without this program our family would have sold the farm and that would have fractured our family”

Register Now: Limited numbers

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



BUSINESS OF FARMING BOOT CAMP

Plan, Profit, Perform

With Chris Jehu from Countryside Business Partners

This 2 ½ day workshop is designed to help farmers step back from the day to day workload and focus on the bigger picture of their business. We will explore your “why”, helping clarify what you want the farm to achieve for you, your family and the future of the business.

Across the two and a half days you will learn:

- practical tools to track and understand business performance
- how to interpret key figures
- measure profitability
- how to make better decisions for long term profitability
- identify opportunities for improvement.

 **28, 29 & 30 APRIL 2026**

 **10AM 28TH - 12PM 30TH**

 **LAKE TYERS CAMP & CARAVAN PARK**

\$50 a property includes 2 nights accommodation and some meals

REGISTER LINK

RSVP is essential to book use QR code or above link.

Questions - contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921 or emma.orgill@fevl.org.au



The Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate Smart Agriculture Program

Planning for your farming future.

Do you have a plan to manage and improve your farm?

Do you wish your farm was easier to manage, more adaptable to seasonal conditions and helps provide environmental benefits?

Landholders are invited to participate in a series of workshops designed to build on current management practices and support planning for future improvements.



Participants will meet for 4 sessions, every Tuesday in May, to discuss the following farm management topics.

Workshop topics will include:

- Farm layout
- Setting current and future goals
- Soils and land classing
- Soil fertility and nutrient budgeting
- Grazing and feed management
- Farm water supply planning

A free laminated property map will be provided as part of the course.

Dates

Tuesday 5, 12, 19 & 26 May

Venue

Gippsland Ag Centre
345 Bengworden Road, Bengworden

Time

9.30 am to 3pm each day
Morning tea and lunch provided.

To register:

Scan the QR code to fill out the form or visit:

<http://bit.ly/3OR3nLD>



RSVP: Friday 27
March

For more information contact:

Keren Walker on 0477 706 384 or
keren.walker@agriculture.vic.gov.au

"The presenters for each segment were engaging and very knowledgeable. We would highly recommend the whole farm planning course."

– Donna and Michaela Lawless,
Churchill.

Share your experiences, ideas and prepare for the future.

INVITATION: Local Vertebrate Species Management Zone workshops

Formerly Wild Dog Management Zone workshops

The Vertebrate Species Management Program (VSMP) has been formed to more accurately reflect the broader scope of the program's operations which will include the management of a greater range of vertebrate species impacting agricultural production and environmental values. Dingo management to support producers experiencing livestock losses will still be a key function of our staff.

If you would like to have input into your local 2026–2027 Vertebrate Species Management Zone plan, our staff will be available to listen to your constructive feedback and ideas.

We will have a map of your Vertebrate Species Management Zone, and your local Vertebrate Species Management Officer (formerly Wild Dog Controller) will be on hand to assist and provide information on how to best manage dingoes for your enterprise. Other staff will also be on hand to answer questions relating to other vertebrate species which may be impacting your property.

Dates and venues for the Vertebrate Species Management Zone planning workshops can be found below.

Vertebrate Species Management Zone Workshops – 2026 Schedule

Hume	Date	Venue	Time
Gelantipy	Wednesday 6 th May 2026	Karoonda Park 3855 Gelantipy Road Gelantipy	10:00 am to 12:00 pm Morning tea
Heyfield	Thursday, 7 th May 2026	Heyfield DEECA Office Lioola Road, Heyfield	10:00 am to 12:00 am Morning tea
Bairnsdale	Thursday, 7 th May 2026	Glenaladale Hall Fernbank – - Glenaladale Road Glenaladale	2:00pm – 4:00pm Afternoon tea

For more information contact your local Vertebrate Species Management Officer,

Or email:

vertebratespeciesmanagement@deeca.vic.gov.au

If you cannot attend, email the above address and we will provide a link to an interactive map on the Agriculture Victoria, Vertebrate Species Planning website as an additional method to provide input to the planning process.



GIPPSLAND IRRIGATION EXPO 2026

SOMETHING FOR ALL IRRIGATORS, PROSPECTIVE AND ESTABLISHED



DATE & TIME _____ ↙

20 MAY 2026

FROM 9:00 AM TO 4:00PM

VENUE _____ ↙

SALE SHOWGROUNDS

ON THE PROGRAM _____ ↙

EXHIBITOR STALLS, EXPO SPECIALS, EXPERT PRESENTATIONS, Q&A SESSIONS, COFFEE, FOOD VENDORS & MORE!

FREE EVENT!



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

— JOIN US FOR VICTORIA'S PREMIER IRRIGATION EVENT —

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, the Gunaikurnai people, and recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture.



AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

