

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews June 2026



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EVENTS

BetterBeef conference program

23 & 24 June

The BestWool/BestLamb and BetterBeef Conferences is happening in Ballarat at the Goods Shed Ballarat on 23-24 June.

This will be two packed days of learning and networking, practical, producer-focussed program will deliver proven strategies and the latest research that you implement on your farm.

This conference is one the largest producer-focussed events on the calendar for sheep and beef producers in southern Australia. 2026 Bestwool/Bestlamb (BWBL) and BetterBeef Annual Conference

When:	BWBL Conference:	Tuesday 23 June 2026
	BetterBeef Conference:	Wednesday 24 June 2026,

View the full program and purchase tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1553856>

If you need any assistance with registering for the conference or just want to know more contact the event manager Deanne Kennedy on 0419 878 055 or deanne@jaydee.net.au.

Sustainable Living Series 2026

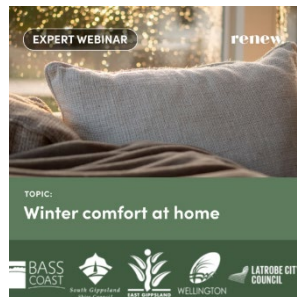
June - August

The ongoing series of free monthly sustainable living webinars in 2026 continues. Independent experts from Renew present on topics including solar, batteries, EVs, renting, energy efficiency, building design and more.

Attend **online** OR join us in the **Bairnsdale library** as part of the Libraries After Dark program.

Webinars are from **7.00 pm to 8.30pm**:

- **Winter Comfort at Home, 18 June**
- **Winter Comfort for Renters, 9 July**
- **Finding a Sustainable Builder, 30 July**
- **Designing for Resilience, 13 August**



To book and see the full webinar list visit <https://thecap.com.au/sustainable-living-series>. Have your questions ready and take advantage of free technical advice.

Building safer workplaces

Free psychological health workshop

Building Safer Workplaces

19 & 24 June 2026

Victorian businesses can attend a free 2.5-hour online workshop on Psychological Health Basics to help meet new workplace health and safety (OHS) requirements. With psychosocial hazards (e.g. bullying, high workload, conflict) now treated the same as physical risks, employers must actively identify and manage them.

The workshop supports small to medium businesses by:

- Explaining legal OHS responsibilities
- Providing practical tools to manage psychosocial risks
- Offering expert guidance and a follow-up Q&A with WorkSafe

It is suited to employers, managers, supervisors, and health and safety representatives, helping participants build confidence and take practical steps toward a safer, healthier workplace.

- **Friday** **19 June** **12pm - 2.30pm**
- **Wednesday** **24 June** **10am - 12.30pm**

Whether you are just getting started or looking to strengthen your approach, this workshop is a great first step [Click here to read more or register now.](#)

The East Gippsland Winter Festival returns

19 June - 19 July

One of regional Victoria's most anticipated celebrations, the East Gippsland Winter Festival returns in 2026 with a month-long festival of light, music, food, art and culture.

In East Gippsland, winter isn't something to escape — it's something to celebrate.

As the air gets cooler and the nights grow longer, East Gippsland comes alive with a month-long festival of light, food, music, art and culture – all set against a backdrop of stunning natural beauty!

From the high country to the coast, the East Gippsland Winter Festival transforms winter into a wonderful season of community celebration.



The festival will kick off on Friday 19 June with dinner on the Nicholson River bridge. Find out more here egwinterfest.com.au.

Sheep Drought Readiness Masterclass with Nigel Kerin

1 & 15 July

Gippsland sheep producers participated in a practical online masterclass with Nigel Kerin, focused on strengthening drought readiness, decision-making and building more resilient sheep systems.

Across two interactive sessions, participants will explore key topics including feeding systems, destocking triggers, agistment versus feeding economics, and flock flexibility. The format encourages active involvement, with pre-work and discussion centred on real farm decisions and financial drivers.

Designed for progressive producers, the masterclass supports participants to improve performance, profitability and preparedness for tougher seasonal conditions.

Session details:

- **Tuesday 1 July** 1:00–2:00pm
- **Tuesday 15 July** 1:00–2:00pm

Register: Online at: [Masterclass in Sheep Drought Preparedness](#) or contact: Alister – 0418 576 957.

Ag Vic - A feed and a yarn community events

8 & 10 July

Join Ag Vic for a Feed and a Yarn - a chance to connect with fellow farmers, share experiences, and explore practical ideas for on-farm challenges, whether it's seasonal conditions, farm management, or simply a chat with people who understand.

Each event **starts 6pm** with a farmer panel at 6.30pm and dinner at 7pm.

- **Bairnsdale RSL** **Wednesday 8 July** 6.00pm start
- **Orbost Club Hotel** **Friday 10 July** 6.00pm start

You are encouraged to **register early**, as **spaces are limited** at: <https://www.trybooking.com/DMYCL>.

For more information, please contact: **Bec Cameron** on 0428 307 250 or **Andy Henry** on 0439 418 952.

MAKING THE MOST OF SPRING

& prepare for summer

With Nicole Frost from Peak Pasture & Livestock

Making the Most of Spring – and preparing for summer

5 August

This day based in Genoa with agronomist Nicole Frost will include a paddock walk and lunch and cover the following topics:

- boosting that winter crop
- silage & hay
- making the most of Spring
- preparing for Summer
- fertiliser use
- summer cropping



When: Wednesday 5th August at Genoa Hall

Time: 10am to 2pm.

Any questions please contact Emma Orgill on emma.orgill@fevl.org.au or 0400 467 921. **Register** at <https://events.humanitix.com/preparing-for-summer-and-making-the-most-of-spring>.

Emergency Preparedness Workshop – Bendoc

11 August

Community members are invited to attend a free Australian Red Cross *EmergencyRedi* workshop on

When: Tuesday 11 August

Time: 12pm–2pm

Where: Bendoc Neighbourhood House.

The session will provide practical tips to help individuals and households prepare for emergencies, with a light lunch included. Bookings are essential for catering.

To Book or learn more, contact Alli Norfolk at anorfolk@redcross.org.au

Dairy Australia Events in Gippsland

from 6 July

Dairy Australia are hosting a series of workshops on Milking and Mastitis Management, Rearing Healthy Calves, Downer Cow and Euthanise Livestock workshops across Gippsland. Follow the links below for more information and to register.

- [Euthanasia of Livestock Training Course | Dairy Australia](#) 8 July Tinamba
- [Rearing Healthy Calves | Dairy Australia](#) 9 and 16 July Tinamba
- [Downer Cow Workshop | Dairy Australia](#) 22 July TBC
- [Milking Mastitis Management - MID | Dairy Australia](#) 6 and 13 August Tinamba

For further information contact Megan Grumley Extension Coordinator megan.grumley@gippsdairy.com.au

Red Meat Conference – Every Decision Counts

25 August

Don't miss your opportunity to be part of one of Victoria's premier red meat industry events.

The 2026 Gippsland Red Meat Conference will be held on **Tuesday 25 August** at Sale Baptist Church, with **tickets going on sale from 6 July**. Under the theme “Every Decision Counts,” the event will focus on the day-to-day decisions that influence productivity, profitability and long-term sustainability for sheep and beef producers.

Mark the date in your calendar and keep an eye on Gippsland Agricultural Group and Gippsland Red Meat Conference social media channels for speaker announcements and ticket release information

The conference will bring together industry experts, producers and agribusiness professionals to share practical insights on markets, technology and farm management. Highlights include a presentation from Frank Archer on virtual fencing, offering real-world lessons and considerations. Gippsland Agricultural Group members will receive priority access to tickets, with limited numbers available for this key regional industry event. More information at [Gippsland Ag](#).

FUNDING

Trees on Farms Utilisation Program Register by 28 August

Trees on Farms Utilisation Program is now open to all eligible Victorian Landowners. The program has expanded and can assist owners of existing farm forestry plantations to realise the commercial potential of their timber resource.

Eligible landowners with plantations between 3 and 30 hectares that were planted before 2021, can receive a free plantation assessment by a plantation assessor. Following the assessment a free report containing insights into the plantation's commercial potential will be provided.

Trees on Farms Utilisation Program webpage provides detail and the link to submit your **Expression of Interest** to receive a free farm plantation assessment prior to 5pm, Friday 28 August 2026 at [Trees on Farms Utilisation Program | Trees on farms | Plantations and farm forestry | Crops and horticulture | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Drought support programs

Farm Drought Support \$5,000 offers grants for 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 provides an opportunity for a second consultation for farmers to build capacity to manage drought conditions now and into the future. You get to choose your preferred consultant depending on what you need from a list of specialists from across the state. [Farm advisory service](#) | [Drought support](#) | [Farm management](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

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](#).

Look over the farm gate \$5,000 funding for community events will remain open until funding is fully allocated or **30 June 2026**, whichever comes first. Funded events must be delivered by 30 September 2026. Apply at [Look Over the Farm Gate – Community Grants | National Centre for Farmer Health](#).

Fire affected farmers and businesses

Financial assistance is available to help fire-affected farmers with recovery.

Primary Producer **Bushfire Recovery Grants** of up to \$75,000 to assist with clean-up and reinstating enterprises. Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as disposing of stock, rebuilding, or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

Primary Producer **Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans** of up to \$250,000 are available for those who have suffered major asset damage or loss of income, while loans of up to \$100,000 will support those experiencing a major loss of income. This assistance can help cover essential costs such as repairing or replacing damaged equipment, rebuilding infrastructure, purchasing livestock and meeting working capital expenses like wages, rent, and fodder.

These supports are administered by **Rural Finance** on behalf of the Victoria Government, for grant guidelines and to apply visit ruralfinance.com.au/grants. Applications are open until 4 pm Wednesday 21 October 2026

Recovery support and events are hosted by Agriculture Victoria staff to support farmers affected by bushfires across the state.

Their teams provide technical information to support farm business recovery on topics like erosion control, feeding livestock, pasture management, animal health and nutrition, farm mapping and planning and water quality.

Check out upcoming bushfire recovery events here: agriculture.vic.gov.au/events and find out more about supports by visiting agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires

Recovery checklist

A practical, step-by-step recovery after fires checklist has been developed by Agriculture Victoria to help farmers step through recovery.

Covering short, medium and long term actions, this check list can be used as a conversation starter for farmers navigating bushfire recovery.

Covering topics like stock, family, fencing, pastures, water supply, soils and weeds, this checklist can help when the task list can feel overwhelming. Find the list here: [Fire recovery checklist](#).

Mental health supports

The fires may have passed, but don't underestimate its impact on your mental health. Here are some reminders about the support out there for farmers in recovery.

Wellbeing Counsellors offer free, confidential wellbeing support alongside the financial and business counselling support provided by the Rural Financial Counselling Service. They are available to visit bushfire-affected producers and their families on-farm or over the phone. For a free and confidential chat call the RFCS on 1300 771 741.

The National Centre for Farmer Health have valuable wellbeing resources on their online support hub at: farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub as well.

Lifeline: call 131 144

Beyond Blue: call 1300 224 636

Other funding and support for drought and fire recovery

- Refer to agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires.
- Australian Government drought support is available at drought.gov.au.

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Look Over the Farm Gate

Look over the farm gate \$5,000 funding for community events will remain open until funding is fully allocated or **30 June 2026**, whichever comes first. Funded events must be delivered by 30 September 2026. Apply at [Look Over the Farm Gate – Community Grants | National Centre for Farmer Health](#).

FRRR

Grants and Funding is available for a range of projects, Small Network grants, Regional Drought Resilience Plan Social Outcome Grants and Strengthening Rural Communities both Small and Vital & Prepare and Recover grants are all now open. Find out more at [Find funding now - Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#).

SURVEYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Guide how we care for Victorian waterways

Consultation has opened for the new Victorian Waterway Management Strategy, which guides how we will sustain Victoria's waterways, while balancing the many ways we use and value them.

Waterways are the lifeblood of communities, supporting our health, wellbeing and productivity, as well as providing critical habitat for Victoria's native wildlife and plants.

This will be the third iteration of the 10-year waterway management strategy and will build on more than 20 years of learnings and achievements in waterway and catchment management across Victoria [Guide how we care for Victorian waterways](#).

To read the draft strategy, provide feedback or register to attend a webinar, visit: [The Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy](#).

ARLP Lead in rural, regional & remote Australia

We envision thriving communities in regional, rural, and remote Australia where people work with one another and the environment around them; respectfully, boldly and intuitively. Become a part of it.



The Australian Rural Leadership Program supports individuals who want to respond to regional, rural, and remote Australia's most complex challenges, as well as the opportunities that arise.

Through challenge-based and experiential learning, you'll get the opportunity to immerse yourself in these indispensable experiences and networks. The experiences will shape the rest of your career and life

If you're interested in applying for the ARLP Course 34 scholarship, please go to [Australian Rural Leadership Program - ARLF](#) and email viviennej@rural-leaders.org.au for more information.

Scholarship to Deakin University

Closes 25 June

Are you ready to make a difference to ag communities? Apply for a scholarship to study Deakin University's online postgraduate unit – HMF702: Healthy and Sustainable Agricultural Communities – before 25 June.



Delivered during Trimester 2, 2026 (July to October), HMF702 provides rural professionals with the knowledge and skills to drive meaningful, place-based change, and strengthen the wellbeing of farming communities.

A limited number of half-scholarships supported by the NCFH are available – [apply today](#) or contact Dr Jacquie Cotton at j.cotton@deakin.edu.au for more information.

Participants needed: Chronic pain research for farming communities

Chronic pain is common in farming communities, yet many farmers face barriers accessing treatment and support. We're inviting Victorian farmers, agricultural workers and members of farming families to take part in a [short online survey](#) exploring chronic pain, pain management and barriers to care.



The survey takes approximately 5–8 minutes to complete and will help improve understanding of how chronic pain affects farming communities and identify ways to improve rural pain support services. [Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)

Improving mental health and wellbeing support for parents in regional and rural areas

Join a Deakin University [research trial](#) to strengthen mental health and wellbeing support for country families. Rural and regional families with children aged 0–12 years are invited to take part, with at least two parents, caregivers, or parenting partners participating in the trial.

Families will receive one of two types of wellbeing support, delivered online or by phone. Your feedback and experiences will help to build evidence about what support works best in rural and regional settings, and help shape future programs and services to ensure they are relevant and effective for families living in the bush. You can be a part [Support and Strengthen Families Living in Regional and Rural Communities | Deakin Lifespan Institute](#).

Nominate a farmer

Individuals and businesses championing health and safety improvements at work are encouraged to share their stories, with nominations now open for the 2027 WorkSafe Awards.

In its 37th year, the annual awards will shine a spotlight on efforts that reduce workplace harm and improve outcomes for injured workers – celebrating the employers, workers and teams who have developed creative health and safety solutions, fostered a strong safety-first culture, and supported injured workers in their return-to-work journey. Nominate someone at [WorkSafe Awards | WorkSafe Victoria](#).



Water Efficiency Rebate Program

East Gippsland Water has introduced a new Water Efficiency Rebate Program to assist residents and small business save water and costs.

This program helps customers reduce water consumption by providing incentives to save water and will run until 30 June 2028.

The Water Efficiency Rebate Program assists eligible customers to maximise their water savings by installing more water efficient products to replace inefficient ones and receive up to a maximum of \$1,500 in rebates for agreed/eligible products, such as **mulch, compost bins, showerheads, water tanks and more.**

For more information on which products are eligible and for an application form, visit the East Gippsland Water [website](#).



Heating and cooling discounts

You can reduce costs by replacing old heating and cooling systems with energy-efficient systems through the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program, helping families slash their energy bills by reducing your costs and energy use, see more at [heating and cooling discounts](#).

There are discounts available for rental properties also.

About the VEU

The VEU program offers discounts on a wide range of energy-efficient products, helping Victorians upgrade their homes and businesses with modern, electric appliances that use less energy, making them cheaper to run.

Households that replace a gas ducted heating system with an electric one can receive a discount of up to \$3,600 on the system and save around \$600 every year on their energy bills. An electric heat pump hot water system can save households \$250 per year compared with a gas unit.

Converting an existing home from gas to all-electric will save the average family \$1,700 per year and if they add rooftop solar, they could save \$2,700 per year. Find out more about the [VEU program here](#).

Midday Power Saver offer

Victorian households can soon switch to access **three hours** of free midday electricity in the middle of the day, every day.

Available from 1 October 2026, the Midday Power Saver will benefit households that can shift their electricity use to daytime hours, including people who work from home or use timers and smart appliances.

Around 2.6 million Victorian households will be eligible and can opt into the offer through their energy provider. If a household can shift 20-30% of their power use to the midday period, a four-person household could save up to \$300 per year on their energy bills - or up to \$1,070 per year for households with solar panels and batteries. See more information visit www.energy.vic.gov.au.

Going electric at home is now 'easy as' with SEC

The SEC launched *Easy Electric SEC*, a free digital one-stop platform that supported Victorian households to switch from gas to electric appliances and potentially save around \$2,000 annually on energy bills.

The platform provided clear, personalised insights into energy use, helped users explore upgrade options, access rebates and discounts, obtain obligation-free quotes, and connect with SEC-endorsed local installers. Participants also received free tailored guidance from a specialist support team, helping them confidently transition to electrification at a pace and budget that suited their needs.

SEC-endorsed installers delivered accredited and licensed services across key household systems, including hot water, heating and cooling, cooking, solar, batteries and EV chargers, and were authorised under relevant government incentive programs.

Heating and cooling discounts



Visit easyelectricsec.com.au to understand how much you could save and check out the [Households](#) section of the website for the [Help centre](#).

INFORMATION

Payroll update: Payday super changes  
What Victorian small businesses need to know

Payday Super changes

From 1 July 2026, the way businesses pay superannuation is changing. Under the new Payday Super rules, **most employers will need to pay super at the same time as wages** – rather than quarterly. While this is a shift, getting prepared early can make the transition much smoother.

The biggest changes include more frequent super payments, tighter timeframes (super must reach employee funds within 7 business days), and updated reporting requirements through Single Touch Payroll.

For businesses that currently pay quarterly, this may impact cash flow and payroll processes. **Super payments won't increase overall, but they will be made more regularly**, meaning less funds held over time.

What you should do:

- Review **your payroll software** and check for updates
- Confirm **employee super details** are accurate
- Plan for **changes to cash flow** timing
- Understand clearing house **processing** times

Late payments under the new system may result in stricter penalties, so preparing ahead is key.

Refer to [Payday Super: how Victorian small businesses can prepare now | Business Victoria](#)

You can also access support through the ATO, your accountant, payroll provider, or the Victorian Small Business Commission.

Is your PIC up to date?

In an emergency such as fire, flood or disease outbreak, every minute counts. Your Property Identification Code (PIC) helps us to contact you quickly and trace animals accurately when needed.

Keeping your PIC details current is a simple step that helps protect your livestock, your property, and the wider livestock industry.

Remember to update your PIC when:

- your contact details change (phone, email or address)
- your livestock changes (type/species)
- your management changes (new manager or changing business ownership)
- your property details change (new land or you have downsized your landholdings)



Do your part to help keep Victoria's livestock industry safe. [Property Identification Codes \(PIC\) | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#).

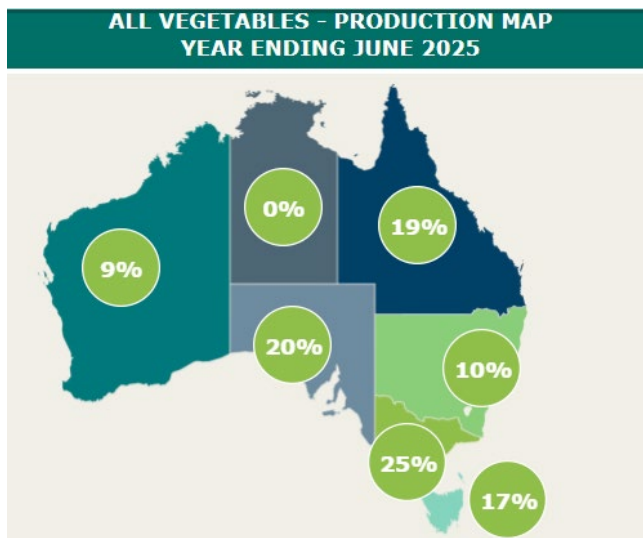
Industry Update: Driving Future Growth in Horticulture

The **Hort Innovation Impact Update** brought growers together to connect, collaborate and explore how investments in research, development, trade and market access were strengthening the profitability and resilience of Australian horticulture.

Held alongside Hort Connections, the event focused on what sustainable success looks like, with the industry projected to reach \$21 billion by 2030—highlighting the need for profitable, adaptable businesses that can manage costs and risk.

Participants gained insights across the supply chain, including productivity, demand, biosecurity and export opportunities, while hearing real-world examples of how industry investment was improving decision-making, margins and on-farm outcomes.

Learn more at www.horticulture.com.au and view the Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook 24/25 at [Hort Innovation | Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook 2024/25](#).



Jen Smith – the impact of perspective

In the complex landscape of Australian agriculture, where productivity often collides with environmental constraint, Jen Smith is advocating for a fundamental shift in how the industry values its most essential resource, the soil.

Her journey, sparked by the [Australian Rural Leadership Program](#) (ARLP) and a global investigation into soil management supported by the John B. Foundation, represents an evolution from instinctive, result-driven leadership to a sophisticated systems-thinking approach. By reframing soil health from a technical farming challenge to a system approach, Jen Smith is demonstrating that the most enduring changes in regional Australia often begin with a subtle, yet profound, pivot in perspective. [Jen Smith - the impact of perspective - Australian Rural Leadership Foundation](#)



Food & Fibre Gippsland News

Soil Coring continues in East Gippsland

Through the Gippsland Node of the Victorian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub— Food & Fibre Gippsland with support from the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund—the soil coring project continues to build a strong evidence base to support more resilient farming systems across the region. Led by Rick Blackshaw and Gippsland Agricultural Group, soil cores continue to be collected to a depth of 1 metre, providing valuable insights into soil structure, moisture holding capacity, carbon levels and nutrient distribution not typically captured through standard testing.

These deeper insights enabled farmers to make more informed decisions around pasture management, fertiliser use, water efficiency and drought



preparedness. The project also highlighted variability between farms, supporting more targeted and efficient management practices while strengthening the region's overall capacity to respond to drier conditions.

FFG Greening Dams Field Day

Greening Dams Field Day coordinated by South Gippsland Landcare - Monday 22 June 2026 at Dumbalk East [Drought Resilience – Real water solutions for all farmers – South Gippsland Landcare Network](#)

For more information go to [Food and Fibre Gippsland](#)

Soil Moisture Probe Update #36

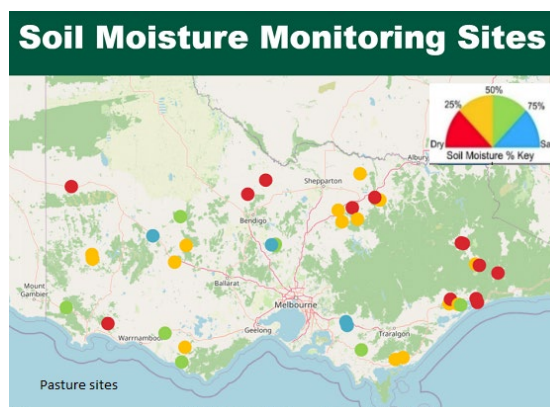
Weather and soil moisture monitoring observations

Pasture sites

Pasture sites in the southwest and Gippsland are not yet fully wet and remain dry at depth at probe monitoring locations. Most of these sites are dominated by perennial species, which have responded to May rainfall and are generating growth. However, runoff into dams has not yet occurred.

Cropping sites north of the divide

North of the divide, cropping sites have shown a positive increase in shallow soil moisture, supporting crop germination and strong emergence. However, several grain-growing districts still have deep moisture deficits lingering from the dry summer.



In areas that received decile 10 rainfall in March, May rain has supported crop growth and improved the connection to deeper soil moisture, setting up above-average yield potential. The Wimmera and Mallee are well ahead of the usual establishment schedule, with crops appearing relatively even. Paddock crop establishment assessments are recommended in early June.

agriculturevictoria.cmail20.com/t/r-e-tuyhfdd-ofjkkrttk-y/.

To access information provided in the graphs, log onto the [Agriculture Victoria soil moisture monitoring dashboard](#).

Increasing drying times information

You can utilise these sites to assist with informed decision making

- Soil moisture dashboard [Soil Moisture Monitoring | Soil Moisture Monitoring](#)
- GAGG network [Weather Stations](#)
- The **Prepare for Drought – Plan It Out** resource helps farming businesses think through drought triggers, priorities and actions before pressure hits [DroughtResilience-2024-web.pdf](#).

Is your farm layout costing you?

Jessica Fedorow, a NSW contractor and cattle producer, is researching how on-farm infrastructure investment affects profitability, efficiency, and resilience through her Nuffield Scholarship. She highlights that many Australian farms still rely on outdated layouts, prompting the need to design infrastructure for future business needs rather than past practices.

Her work focuses on whole-farm planning—ensuring infrastructure supports stock movement, labour efficiency, and grazing systems. She stresses the importance of evaluating potential returns *before* investing, rather than relying on guesswork after spending.

Key insights include:

- Infrastructure decisions have long-term impacts and should go beyond upfront cost.
- Many systems can be improved by redesigning layouts to better suit livestock behaviour, enhancing welfare, productivity, and safety.
- Small but strategic upgrades (like improved flow or drafting systems) can significantly boost efficiency without full rebuilds.

Her research will examine international approaches to measuring ROI (particularly in Ireland, NZ, and Canada) and explore innovations like virtual fencing and intensive grazing.

Overall, her message: **better infrastructure design—based on evidence and planning—can transform farm performance over time.** Listen or read more at [Is your farm layout costing you? | Meat & Livestock Australia](#).

COUNCIL UPDATES

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange



 EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
UPCOMING SALES

JUNE 2026 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
Wednesday 3 June
Wednesday 10 June
Wednesday 17 June
Wednesday 24 June

Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am
Friday 12 June
Friday 26 June

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
Tuesday 9 June
Monday 22 June



 EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
UPCOMING SALES

JULY 2026 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
Wednesday 1 July
Wednesday 8 July
Wednesday 15 July
Wednesday 22 July
Wednesday 29 July

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

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
Monday 6 July
Monday 20 July



Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee

This quarter's ASAC meeting highlighted that the agricultural sector is under increasing pressure and transition to manage increasing costs. Major challenges include pest animal impacts, land use changes (notably plantation expansion), and rising input costs affecting farming. These issues require stronger coordination, industry engagement, and evidence-based advocacy.

Council is able to be a key facilitator for collaboration and advocacy across stakeholders and cross-agency coordination challenges.

Community priorities focus on maintaining agricultural productivity, supporting local jobs, and identifying diversification opportunities.

Key focus areas:

- Council has advocated to strengthen coordination, and evidence-based decision-making across key agricultural issues.
- Priorities include improving pest management collaboration with agencies and landholders and maintaining ongoing stakeholder engagement.
- Council will also progress a plantation position paper, assessing the economic impacts of land use change.
- Gather industry evidence on fuel impacts to strengthen Council advocacy on rising production costs.
- Monitor and support emerging industry initiatives, including seeking updates and engagement on the Game Meat Hub pilot project.
- Share key reports with stakeholders, including the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange review outcomes once finalised.

The Committee provides advice, guidance, and recommendations to Council on matters that affect the agriculture sector in East Gippsland and its communities. The roles and responsibilities of the Committee are set out in its Charter Version 4 [Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Charter - 17 February 2026.pdf](#) (2026).

Pest Advocacy

The East Gippsland Shire Pest Animal Management Advocacy Paper called for urgent recognition of pest animals as a regional and state priority, highlighting the escalating impacts on primary production, regional economies and community wellbeing. Developed over 12 months with input from farmers, industry groups and peak bodies, the paper documented significant damage from deer, feral pigs and wild dogs, including livestock losses, pasture degradation, rising control costs and increasing financial and emotional strain on farm businesses.

Council has brought this paper forward to ensure decision-makers clearly understand the scale and urgency of the issue from an on-ground perspective. Unchecked pest animal impacts are undermining agricultural productivity, threatening food security, regional jobs and the long-term resilience of rural communities.

The paper urged stronger, coordinated government action, including long-term investment, improved cross-border and cross-agency management, and more practical control tools that reflect on-ground realities. While recent funding for feral pig control was welcomed, the message was clear that sustained, collaborative effort is needed to protect agricultural productivity, regional jobs and the long-term resilience of rural communities.

The following media releases may be of interest:

- [Farmers under pressure as ASAC calls for urgent government action on pest animals](#)

- [Strong local advocacy = feral pig control program](#)

East Gippsland Grant Finder

Looking for funding for community projects, business ideas, or events? Don't forget about the East Gippsland Grant Finder, provided free by East Gippsland Shire Council in partnership with Grant Guru.

The portal helps local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits, and individuals discover grants from local, state, and federal sources, as well as corporate and philanthropic funding. Users can save favourites, receive email alerts, and access grant-writing tips. It is a one-stop shop for all your grant needs.

For more information, visit the [East Gippsland Grant Guru portal](#).

East Gippsland
grant finder



The Emergency Dashboard – Check out the Ag Support section

The [East Gippsland Emergency Dashboard](#) is a practical one-stop place for our community to access trusted, up-to-date emergency information.

Bringing together warnings, weather, road conditions, outages, relief information and [local emergency planning resources](#), it helps residents and visitors stay informed and [prepared before, during and after emergencies](#).

The **dashboard also includes links to [agricultural supports](#) and services** that can assist people facing [fuel and cost-of-living pressures](#) through the link to Rural Aid. It is a valuable source of information and support when it is needed most.

Community Matters e-newsletter



Community Matters e-newsletter

Check out the latest edition of our community e-newsletter, *Community Matters!*

Our Community Matters newsletter shares updates on projects, services, decisions, open consultations and more. [Click here to subscribe and stay informed.](#)

NEW recycling hub units

Council has received grant funding from Sustainability Victoria (SV) to support the installation of eight new community recycling hubs across East Gippsland. The fund aims to give Victorians greater access to battery drop off locations.

We risk rubbish truck fires when batteries are disposed of in household bins and it is illegal to dispose of electronic waste in landfill. Our Recycling Hubs make it easier for our community to safely drop-off and recycle batteries, light bulbs and unwanted or broken small e-waste items such as electric toothbrushes, kids toys, charging cords and computer equipment when they are visiting our recreation centres, libraries or service centres. Medicine blister packs can also be included in the units and are recycled through the Pharmacycycle program



New Recycling Hubs can be found at:

- Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre (BARC) – 80 McKean Street, Bairnsdale
- Bairnsdale Library – 22 Service Street, Bairnsdale
- Lake Entrance Library – 18 Mechanics Street, Lakes Entrance
- Lakes Aquadome – 43 Palmers Road, Lakes Entrance
- Mallacoota Service Centre – 70 Maurice Avenue, Mallacoota
- Omeo Service Centre – 179 Day Avenue, Omeo
- Orbost Service Centre – 1 Ruskin Street, Orbost
- Paynesville Service Centre – 55 The Esplanade, Paynesville

Larger batteries, e-waste can be disposed of for free at our Transfer Stations and Landfill site. To understand how to dispose of more waste and recycling items visit eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/a-z.

NEW Container deposit bin baskets

Finished your drink? Share your ten cents instead of binning your container.

We're delighted to share that our Vic Return CDS basket grant has been successfully secured. Council will be rolling out 100 Container Deposit Scheme bin baskets across East Gippsland, during the month of June, making it easier than ever for people to return eligible containers.

Leave your bottle, drink can or eligible drink containers in one of our new bin baskets. They'll be attached to East Gippsland Shire Council's public place street litter bins. They make it easy to recycle on the go: **pop your eligible drink containers in** or **take what's already there** and go get your refund.

Your container can also be collected by someone else who can return it for a 10c refund through Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.

Help reduce contamination – noting the following cannot be included: Wine and spirit bottles, plain milk containers and coffee cups. You can check if your container is eligible at cdsvic.org.au. *More information: Carina Turner, Waste Minimisation and Sustainability Officer.*



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.

This weeks engagement opportunities at [Your Say East Gippsland](#) are:

Lindenow District Place Plan

Having a Place Plan is our way of working with communities to shape the future of each district –...

[Get involved](#)



August 20, 2025

Omeo District Place Plan

Having a Place Plan is our way of working with communities to shape the future of each district –...

[Read more](#)


June 2, 2026

EOI Community Representative – Municipal Emergency Management Plann...

Help shape how East Gippsland prepares for emergencies

We're looking for a passionate ...

[View Project](#)



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Gippsland Jersey Wins another Award

Gippsland Jersey recently won Australia's Best Light Milk at the recent dairy Industry Awards presented in Melbourne. Huge congratulations to Sallie Jones and Steve Ronalds and the entire Gippsland Jersey team. This award not only recognises the excellent milk, it also represents their unwavering commitment to quality and the support for Gippsland farmers.

Well Done!



Ag Leadership Alumni

The East Gippsland Agriculture Leadership Masterclass was delivered as a two-day capacity-building program for established rural leaders, providing participants with practical tools to strengthen systems thinking, collaboration and leadership skills.

Building resilience into a system requires a shift in thinking—from trying to control outcomes to understanding that agriculture operates as a **complex adaptive system**. In these systems, cause and effect are not always clear, and multiple stakeholders make daily decisions that continuously shape outcomes. Conditions evolve through both internal factors and external influences, meaning interventions must focus on influencing behaviours and guiding the system's direction, rather than attempting to control it. This perspective encourages a more flexible, adaptive approach to managing ongoing challenges.

This systems lens highlights the **role of constraints**—some that enable growth, some that stabilise, and others that limit progress. By **identifying** what is holding a system back and what can be strengthened, efforts can be targeted more effectively. Tools such as mapping constraints and assessing the **impact of interventions against the cost and effort required help prioritise actions**, from quick wins to longer-term investments. When traditional problem-solving leads to recurring issues, **reframing the challenge**

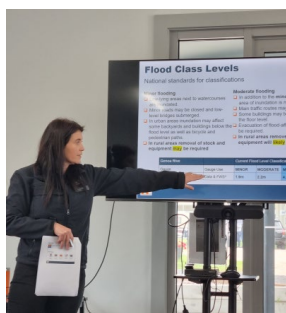
through this systems approach allows for more strategic resource allocation and more sustainable, long-term outcomes.



Mallacoota Understanding Flooding Session

An Understanding Flooding session was held in Mallacoota recently. This session was arranged in response to community requests from the November Agriculture day held last year. Council, SES and EGCMA, presented on the warning systems, processes, preparation time to better understand the emergency management system in place. This created a constructive environment for open discussion.

There was a strong representation of agencies who enable collective input, conversations, and information showed the community spokespeople to assist in making informed future decisions. The day was delivered in partnership with the East Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood House and funded by East Gippsland Shire Council and Gippsland Community Foundation.



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](#).



Support for farmers in recovery

Is drought or fire recovery putting pressure on your farm?

Support is available.

Technical information and financial support is available to eligible primary producers.

What's available?



Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants

Up to \$75,000 is available to assist those directly impacted by the January 2026 bushfires with clean-up and reinstating enterprises. Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

Apply at Rural Finance - www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/
Have questions? Call 1800 260 425



Technical information

Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground partnering with local shires and other support services to provide farm management information.

Staff are also at events providing farmers with technical information on a wide range of topics including managing and feeding livestock, pasture recovery, managing and protecting farm water supplies, farm mapping and re-fencing.



Need some assistance with your application?

Get in touch with the Rural Financial Counselling Service on 1300 771 741.



Farm Drought Support Grants

Eligible farmers receive up to \$5,000 as a co-contribution grant to support activities like water infrastructure upgrades, stock containment areas, grain and fodder storage and water carting. For eligible farmers in south-west Victoria, an additional \$5,000 top-up is available, taking the total grant on offer up to \$10,000.

Apply at Rural Finance - www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/
Have questions? Call 1800 260 425



Wellbeing Counsellors

Wellbeing Counsellors offer free, confidential wellbeing support alongside the financial and business counselling support provided by the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

They are available to visit farmers and their families on-farm or over the phone. Call 1300 771 741 for a free and confidential chat.



Scan here to visit the Agriculture Victoria website for recovery support.

Grant application checklist

Applying for a **Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grant?**

Follow this checklist to tick all of the boxes.



Before applying for a **Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grant**, make sure you have the following information ready for a seamless application process.

Check list



Personal details

- Name and residential address
- Your role in the business
- Telephone number and email



Business details

- Trading name
- Industry
- Property address and size
- Gross annual income
- Years of operation
- Number of employees



Proof of direct damage from the 2026 Victorian Bushfires

- Description of the direct damage as a result of the disaster
- Photos of the damage, where possible
- List of recovery costs to be incurred (e.g. activities and works to be undertaken).



Documents of proof

- Proof of ID (e.g. a valid drivers licence)
- Proof of property location (e.g. council rates)
- Proof of income (e.g. tax return) to demonstrate more than \$75,000 in income OR more than 50% income from primary production in an average year.



Bank details

- Bank
- Account name
- BSB
- Account number



Apply now

Apply at Rural Finance - www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/
Have questions? Call 1800 260 425



Need some assistance with your application?

Get in touch with the Rural Financial Counselling Service on 1300 771 741

Mental health and wellbeing

Support is here for farmers, families and rural communities feeling stressed or overwhelmed.



Taking care of yourself in tough times is as important as taking care of the farm.

Free wellbeing and mental health services are available in the community to help you manage challenging times, including:

Look after yourself so you can look after the farm



Wellbeing Counsellors

Wellbeing Counsellors offer free, confidential wellbeing support alongside the financial and business counselling support provided by the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

They are available to visit farmers and their families on-farm or over the phone.

Call **1300 771 741** for a free and confidential chat.



Royal Flying Doctor Service – Flying Doctor Wellbeing

Flying Doctor Wellbeing is a free mental health and wellbeing service for people in rural and remote Victorian communities. Call **8412 0480**.



Beyond Blue

Call **1300 224 636** for a free counselling service 24 hours 7 days a week.



Lifeline

Call **13 11 14** for 24 hour 7 day a week crisis support and suicide prevention services.



National Centre for Farmer Health

The National Centre for Farmer Health have valuable wellbeing resources on their online support hub at: farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub

Rabo Client Council Business Transition & Succession Planning



Hosted by the Rabo Client Council of Victoria and Tasmania

Sale · Friday 19 June 2026

8.30am (for 9.00am sharp start) to 2pm

The Criterion Hotel

90 MacAlister Street, Sale VIC 3850

RSVP by Friday 5 June 2026

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

These information sessions help set the foundation for family farm succession and equip farming families with the tools to optimise their chances for business continuity. Participants will explore important topics such as why family and business communication is difficult and how to improve it, what makes a meeting work, and how to take account of differing family goals.

Attendees have the opportunity to interact in a face-to-face environment with facilitator Jim Benson (Director, Transition Partners), other farmers and the local Rabobank team. This complimentary information session is available for all farmers and is supported by the Rabo Community Fund to help develop long-term industry capacity and provide agricultural education.

The session is broken down into four sections:

1. What is succession planning and why is it so important?

Establishing an agreed definition, outcomes and objectives.

2. The planning process

When to start and what steps are involved.

3. Understanding the key elements

Untangling the complexity into key focus areas, Management, Business, Property & Wealth.

4. The ingredients for a successful outcome

Setting priorities, resolving conflict, structuring planning and effective communication.

Click or scan to
register now!
Places are limited.



Unable to attend?
Click or scan to
register your interest
in future sessions.



Click or scan for
more about
Rabo Client Councils



For more information contact 1300 303 033 for your local Branch.

Business Transition & Succession Planning is a Rabo Client Council initiative



BestWool/BestLamb and BetterBeef Conferences
 The Goods Shed, Ballarat
 23 and 24 June 2026



Turning today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities

Tickets now available! Earlybird tickets now on sale

Full program and ticket purchases visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/networks-conference-2026, or scan the QR code to view.
 For more information contact Deanne Kennedy 0419 878 055, deanne@jaydee.net.au



BestWool/BestLamb Conference - 23 June

Conference program includes:

John Francis <i>Agrista</i>	Playing the right game: costs, risks and decisions that win in wool and lamb production
Rick and Marni Luhrs <i>Mooralla Merino</i>	From little things big things grow: the journey from BestWool/BestLamb to a resilient whole farm system
Peta Bradley <i>Meat & Livestock Australia</i>	World-class tools, real-world results: sheep genetics for modern Australian enterprises
Matt Dagleish <i>Episode 3</i>	Global conflict, local consequences: What a volatile world means for the sheep industry

BetterBeef Conference - 24 June

The 2026 BetterBeef Conference offers two concurrent, full-day streams. Whole Farm Beef Systems focuses on pasture-based production, covering management and performance topics. The Feeder Steer Masterclass, inspired by the UNE Feeder Steer School, delivers an intensive, in-depth look at steer production, meat science, supply chains, markets, and more.

Whole Farm Beef Systems program includes:

John Francis <i>Agrista</i>	Beef production: the biggest risk is the way you think
Angus Gidley-Baird <i>Rabobank</i>	Domestic and international beef market outlook
Elle Moyle <i>Pathfinder Angus</i>	Managing through drought – experiences, challenges and lessons learnt – a producer's perspective.
Prof. Wayne Pitchford <i>Adelaide University</i>	Strategies to improve maternal productivity and efficiency in a beef enterprise
Mark Dempsey <i>Gallagher, eShepherd</i> James Knight <i>The Sisters Pastoral Co</i> Travis McKenzie <i>Halter</i>	The beef farm of the future: virtual fencing and the commercial realities



BestWool/BestLamb and BetterBeef conference dinner - 23 June
 This year, our guest speaker is Justin 'Jonesy' Jones, whose remarkable story of resilience, mindset and adaptability offers a powerful and inspiring perspective on overcoming the challenges life can throw at us.

Feeder Steer Masterclass program includes:

1. The feeder steer market evolution	
Grant Garey <i>Australian Lot Feeders' Association and Teys Australia</i>	Australia's feedlot growth and evolution
Jon Condon <i>Beef Central</i>	Feeder steer specs and preferences
Jeff House <i>Jeff House Livestock Pty Ltd</i>	Insights from 16 years of feedlot and carcass data
2. Optimising supply chain productivity and eating quality	
Jake Phillips <i>Phillips Livestock Solutions</i>	Commercial application of EBVs
David Packer <i>Meat & Livestock Australia</i>	Understanding carcass value
Prof. Pete McGilchrist <i>University of New England</i>	Where to next on eating quality?
3. Value-based marketing	
Sarah Strachan <i>Meat & Livestock Australia</i>	Value-based marketing for feeder steers
Charlie Perry <i>Trent Bridge Wagyu</i>	Value-based marketing using genomic feeder checks
4. On farm – setting steers for success in the feed yard	
Lachlan McKenzie <i>McKenzie Ag</i>	Nutrition for high performance feeder steers
Dr Brad Hine <i>Angus Australia</i>	Animal health for high performance feeder steers
James Sage <i>Thomas Foods International</i>	Frontline insights on high performance feeder steers

This event is proudly delivered by Agriculture Victoria as part of the Victorian Government's statewide Drought Support Package, in partnership with Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) Extension Vic and supported by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).



This masterclass is designed for the serious sheep producer wanting to take their farming system to the next level of performance, profitability and preparedness.

MASTERCLASS WITH NIGEL KERIN SHEEP DROUGHT READINESS

*"You can't buy preparedness,
you have to build it in"*

Following several strong seasons, now is the time to strengthen your sheep enterprise before conditions tighten.

Gippsland sheep producers are invited to join us for two practical online conversations with Nigel Kerin, focused on drought readiness, decision making and building a more resilient sheep system.

Tuesday 1st July : 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Tuesday 15th July : 1:00pm to 2:00pm

This is not a watch only webinar, participants complete "homework" so discussions focus on practical application, key decisions, and the numbers behind preparedness

Topics include:

- ✓ Feeding systems and infrastructure for resilience
- ✓ Destocking decisions and trigger points
- ✓ Agistment versus feeding economics
- ✓ Cull and replacement strategies
- ✓ Building flexibility into your flock system
- ✓ Decision frameworks for tougher seasons

REGISTER

More info: Alister 0418 576 957

Click link <https://bit.ly/3SHpfuS> or scan QR code

After registering, you'll receive an email with two podcasts and a form to submit questions before the first session.



This project has been funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund with support from Food & Fibre Gippsland



MAKING THE MOST OF SPRING

& prepare for summer

With Nicole Frost from Peak Pasture & Livestock

Nicole Frost is a well-known agronomist based in Ensay, with 12 yrs experience working across Gippsland. She combines practical farming experience with expertise in soil health and pasture management.

Learn about:

- boosting that winter crop
- silage & hay
- making the most of Spring
- preparing for Summer
- fertiliser use

 **WED 5TH AUGUST 2026**

 **10AM - 2PM**

 **GENOA HALL**
4644 Princes Hwy, Genoa

FOLLOWED BY A Paddock WALK

lunch is provided



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



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

OFFICIAL

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

A feed and a yarn – free community event

Join us for a Feed and a Yarn - a chance to connect with fellow farmers, share experiences, and explore practical ideas for on-farm challenges, whether it's seasonal conditions, farm management, or simply a chat with people who understand.

Everyone is welcome!

Time: doors open 6 pm, farmer panel 6:30 pm and meal 7 pm

Where	When
Welshpool Hotel	Wednesday 1 July
Korumburra Middle Hotel	Friday 3 July
Bairnsdale RSL Club	Wednesday 8 July
Orbost Club Hotel	Friday 10 July

Meals will be provided, drinks at bar prices.

Registration

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



We encourage you to register early, as numbers are limited.

Register here:

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



More information

For more information, please contact:

Bec Cameron

0428 307 250

Or

Andy Henry

0439 418 952

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

OFFICIAL

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



Working together to prepare for Emergencies

Australian Red Cross EmergencyRedi workshops are FREE for your community
Please join us for a free lunch, and learn some tips for preparedness!

- *Tuesday 11 August*
- *Bendoc Neighbourhood House, 18 Dowling St Bendoc Vic.*
- *12pm - 2pm*
- *Light lunch provided- RSVPs for catering essential (please advise any dietary needs) to Alli Norfolk anorfolk@redcross.org.au*

About the workshops EmergencyRedi workshops help individuals and households prepare for emergencies. They provide people with an introduction to emergency preparedness, and help them to learn practical ways to prepare for emergencies.

RSVPs to anorfolk@redcross.org.au

