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EVENTS

Data to Dollars - Does New Tech Really Pay?

17 – 18 November

You're invited to “**Data to Dollars: Does New Tech Really Pay?**”, an on-farm event series exploring the latest innovations transforming livestock and pasture management.

Hear from experts and see firsthand how tools like virtual fencing, monitoring collars, auto gate openers, pasture meters, and smart fence lifters can boost productivity and profitability in your farming system.

Topics include:

- Monitoring Collars & Ear Tags – real-time insights into cow activity, health, and fertility
- Virtual Fencing – GPS-enabled “Halter” smart collars for virtual paddock boundaries
- Auto Gate Opener – solar-powered, programmable “Batt-Latch” system
- Auto Fence Lifters – automate tape fencing at set times
- Electronic Pasture Gauge – measure pasture height and density for accurate dry matter estimates

Orbost: Mon 17 Nov, 9:30am–1:30pm Newmerella

Register [Orbost Discussion Group Technology in Grazing Systems 17th November 2025 | Dairy Australia](#)

Omeo: Tue 18 Nov, 10am–2pm Cassilis Rd

Register [Grazing Management Technology - OMEO](#)

Bairnsdale: Tue 18 Nov, 5pm–8pm – Gippsland Ag Centre

Register [GippsDairy and Gippsland Agriculture Group Technology in Grazing | Dairy Australia](#)

Register via the links above, or contact: **Veronica McLeod (GippsDairy):** 0499 696 632, **Jackie Aveling (GippsDairy):** 0474 488 750 or **Emma Orgill (Landcare):** 0400 467 921

Trees on farm – Boosting productivity and cutting net emissions

24 November

Integrating trees into livestock systems can deliver real productivity gains and help reduce farm emissions.

This webinar will unpack key findings from a recent Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) funded study by the University of Melbourne, which shows that strategic tree planting can cut net farm emissions by up to 33% over 30 years — while improving shelter and productivity.

Join to explore practical tools, case studies, and planting scenarios that support climate-smart decisions for graziers and advisors. Speakers: Rachel Myer Intergrity Ag, Dr Hugh Stewart Hugh Stewart Consulting and Julia Waite MLA.

Date: **Monday 24 November**
Time: **12 - 1pm**
Location: **Online (Zoom)**
Registration: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Trees on Farms Utilisation Program

25 November

Agriculture Victoria are delivering a Trees on Farms Utilisation Program information session on **Tuesday, 25 November at 2:00pm**.

The Trees on Farms Utilisation Program was released on 17 October 2025. Phase one of the program provides a free plantation assessment for landowners with existing plantations at a scale between 3 – 30 hectares.

The program has been initiated in Northeast Victoria with a planned rollout to other parts of the state from early 2026.

This online event via Zoom will provide detailed information on

- The objectives of the Trees on Farms Utilisation Program
 - The program's eligibility requirements
 - An overview of information collected as part of the free farm plantation assessments
 - The Expression of Interest application process, including how to map your plantations using Google Maps coordinates
 - An example farm plantation assessment report provided to landowners
- Information on the program's second phase that will extend support for plantation management.

Register at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Agritourism in Australia - learnings from statistics webinar

28 November

Tourism Research Australia will present the latest agritourism research, diving into the agritourism growth and opportunity, and wider tourism sector insights, to understand the tourism market in 2025 and beyond.

Drawing on recently published information, this webinar will uncover and share:

Agritourism in Australia is growing rapidly, with 2024 generating \$20.4 billion in visitor expenditure. travellers engaging in agritourism spend more, stay longer, and participate in diverse activities compared to average tourists.

Regional impact is significant, with 75% of agritourism trips occurring in regional areas, boosting local economies and showcasing unique landscapes and produce. Victoria and NSW lead in popularity, though all states offer distinctive experiences such as farm stays, food markets, and indigenous food tours.

Regional-level insights are available through tourism research Australia, including mobility data and visitor density at LGA level, providing actionable intelligence for operators, policymakers, and investors. To attend register at [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).



Webinar – Taking stock of feed quality

2 December

Making metabolizable energy and protein work effectively. Variable seasonal conditions impact quality and quantity of available pasture, silage, hay and grain. Now is the time to look at what 'fuel' – metabolizable energy (me) and crude protein (cp) – is available to manage livestock productivity through the season ahead.

Join Dr Jill Kelly to explore the fundamentals of ruminant nutrition to drive performance of the rumen to support good productivity. Making the most of me and cp in conserved fodder, grain and standing feed is vital in running an efficient production system.

When: 2 December

Where: online

Time: 12:30 to 1:30 pm

Hear from Julian Carroll and Ed Weatherly using in-paddock weighing for cattle and sheep that assists understanding feed and animal performance. There are a limited number of free feed tests available to Victorian farmers attending, so register early. For more information, contact Greg Ferrier on 0438 738 634 or greg.ferrier@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

FUNDING / SUPPORT

Dry Seasons Supports

Farm Drought Support Grants – Expense Claim

Eligible primary producers across the state can access up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) as a co-contribution grant. For program guidelines, a list of eligible drought management activities and to apply visit [Rural Finance](#).

Drought Support Grants can support drought management activities including:

- Stock Containment Areas (SCA)
- Reticulated water systems
- Irrigation system upgrades
- Grain and fodder storage
- Internal re-fencing
- Feed system upgrades
- Pasture/crop restoration
- Water carting for livestock and essential business activities.



1:1 Advisory Service

- Involves a 3 hour on-farm consultation to develop a plan of action. Delivered by a panel of consultants, farmers can nominate their preferred consultant.
<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/help-with-farm-decisions>

Drought support – duties and fees relief

- The duties and fees relief package is helping to reduce the cost of doing business for drought affected primary producers. Payment of livestock duties for the sale of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs paused until 30 September 2026.
- Primary producers won't have to pay the standard processing fees when ordering NLIS tags (for orders placed from 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026), other livestock

related fees and services for 2025–26 stay at the same rate as 2024–25. <https://go.vic.gov.au/48FF4bG>

Group technical events

- Industry or producer groups, community organisations can apply to run a technical event to help farmers upskill and learn in a supported environment.

A series of free webinars will be held over November and December

- To assist farmers with water planning and decision making on infrastructure upgrades <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/2025-releases/water-planning-over-morning-tea>

National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH)

- Farmers can access the centre's new online mental health hub, designed to provide tailored mental health information and resources in a central location. <https://farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub>

Plant Biosecurity Permit Process

- A free service to suppliers, transporters and farmers to help them efficiently navigate the permit requirements to bring feed into Victoria while managing biosecurity risks. Where plant health certificates are required, the fee has been waived and turnaround times reduced to two days. [Plant biosecurity permit | Moving plants and plant products | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Rebates - Kangaroo management

- The Government is also providing rebates to support farmers to engage commercial shooters for kangaroo control. Permits for kangaroo control will also be fast-tracked, reducing average processing time to less than one week. <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/managing-kangaroos-on-your-farm>
- For further drought support visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

There are multiple drought supports that are always available including:

- NEX Business Farming Wellness; Gippsland's Rural Financial Counselling Service - offers free and confidential business planning support & encourage any farmers thinking about support services or grants to contact these guys for free and confidential advice and help to apply for grants
- Farm Debt mediation process agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation/rural-financial-counselling-service
- Farm household allowance - fortnightly Commonwealth Government payment www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/farm-household-allowance

- Regional investment corporation – low interest drought loans of up to \$2 million to assist farmers to prepare for, manage and recover from drought www.ric.gov.au/loans.
- Farm Management Deposits – a scheme to assist primary producers to manage financial risk through tax-deductible deposits www.ato.gov.au/farm-management-deposits-scheme

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Powering the Regions Round 3

Opened 25 September 2025

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has opened a third round of its Powering the Regions Industrial Transformation Stream (ITS) program with the Focus Areas of innovation in industrial decarbonisation and advancing commercial deployment.

The program aims to support industrial decarbonisation projects including but not limited to:

- electrification
- energy efficiency
- low emissions processing
- fuel switching
- enabling technologies such as energy storage
- demand management
- critical infrastructure supporting onsite decarbonisation.

\$180 million in funding available for round 3. This is an open, ongoing round where ARENA will remain open to new applications until ITS grant funding is exhausted.

More information can be accessed at [Powering the Regions Industrial Transformation Stream - Australian Renewable Energy Agency \(ARENA\)](#).

Sporting Club Grants Program

Closes 26 November

Access to this funding helps grassroots clubs and organisations address barriers in participation, develop safe and sustainable practices and build social and active local communities.

This program assists organisations to:

- purchase uniforms and equipment that are essential for participation, first-aid and safety
- attract, build the capability and retain a skilled workforce – both volunteer and paid
- increase equity, diversity and inclusiveness
- implement good governance practices
- increase participation of individuals and communities who participate less
- create opportunities so Victorians can participate in ways that suit them
- build a robust sector that responds to current and changing community needs
- support athletes to achieve success in their sport.

More information at [Sporting Club Grants Program | Sport and Recreation Victoria](#)

SURVEYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Safe Food Victoria - Board Members

Open Now

Safe Food Victoria will be a new independent statutory authority responsible for protecting public health and ensuring confidence in the food supply. Safe Food Victoria brings together the regulatory responsibilities of current regulators – PrimeSafe, Dairy Food Safety Victoria, and food safety functions in the Department of Health and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Safe Food Victoria will play a vital role in upholding Australia's food safety standards which strengthens the world-class reputation our meat, seafood, dairy and other food industries. Victoria's regulatory system is focused on protecting public health and maintaining consumer confidence in the food produced in Victoria.

The Board is expected to commence operations in mid-2026. The board will consist of between 5 and 7 members. For more information or to express your interest in being on the Board go to: [Safe Food Victoria - Board Members | boards.vic.gov.au](https://boards.vic.gov.au)

Business Skills Mentoring program

Available Now

The Business Skills Mentoring program will provide up to 1,000 Victorian small business owners with 3 free one-hour mentoring sessions, to help them navigate challenges and grow their business.

The program will help you build skills, set goals and navigate challenges that are relevant to your business needs.

Expressions of interest close 5 pm Friday 27 March 2026, or earlier if places are filled.

[Business Skills Mentoring program - Business Victoria](#)

A new era for industrial hemp in Victoria

The Victorian Government is opening the door to a new sustainable hemp industry by considering ways to make it easier for Victorian farmers to grow hemp and seize the growing opportunities in this market.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently launched public consultation on proposed new legislation, inviting Victorians to share their priorities for the industry, what's working under current laws and ideas for improvement.

Hemp is a fast-growing crop, and fibres and seeds can be used for a wide range of products, including building materials, packaging, biofuels, textiles, seed oils and other food products.

Industrial hemp is currently regulated under the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*, which exempts licensed growers from cannabis-related offence when cultivating and processing hemp for non-therapeutic use.

[A New Era For Industrial Hemp In Victoria | Premier](#)

that public consultation is now open on the proposed [Stand-alone legislation for Victoria's industrial hemp industry | Engage Victoria](#), with AgVic seeking feedback on the priorities for the legislation around the cultivation, processing and sale or supply of industrial hemp in Victoria.

Submissions will close 3 December 2025.

INFORMATION

Plus One Serve by 2030 - Driving vegetable consumption across generations

Vegetable consumption is at critically low levels across Australia, Hort Innovation and AUSVEG are backing targeted interventions to help shift veggies from a “good to have” to a “must have” in the lives of Australians, creating health benefits for all Australians, reduction in healthcare costs, and long-term demand, unlocking value for growers.

According to the latest ABS data, Australians consume just 2.2 serves of vegetables per day - less than half the recommended amount. Among teenagers and young adults, the numbers are even more concerning. In 2022, only 3.5 per cent of adolescents met daily intake guidelines, and among 15- to 17-year-olds, five per cent of girls and seven per cent of boys consumed no vegetables at all.

Hort Innovation has announced a suite of R&D projects aimed at changing behaviours and delivered as part of Plus One Serve by 2030 - Australia's coordinated national program to help all Australians add one extra 75g serve of vegetables each day by 2030. Find out more at [Hort Innovation | Home](#).

What's in your fire preparedness plan this season?

Make a cuppa and time to Kylie Macreadie discusses key preparedness activities and the tools and templates you can use to plan ahead.

Farmers who have been impacted by fire also share stories and insights of putting their plans into action. Hear from:

- Rob Pelletier and Kate Blood, horticulture business owners, Beaufort Victoria
- Doug and Jan James, livestock producers, Bungeet Victoria.



[Fire Preparedness webinar on Vimeo](#)

Emergency Fodder Transportation Pre Registration

Victoria is becoming drier, which means risk of bushfires. With the support of the Victorian Government and as part of the Emergency Fodder Support Program, the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is reminding truck transport operators to pre-register their details with them.

In the event of a bushfire or other significant emergency, the VFF may call on those registered to help deliver fodder to where it's needed most. Transporters please register here: [The Voice of Victorian farmers | Victorian Farmers Federation](#)

Very Fast Break video is available now

The Very Fast Break is delivered as short [YouTube videos](#) summarising oceanic and atmospheric climate drivers and the summarised model predictions for rainfall and temperature for Victoria. Youtube channel here to watch the latest clip [The Very Fast Break - YouTube](#)

Farm Safety

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) will deliver the next phase of the *Making Our Farms Safer* project.

The funding will expand the project's dedicated safety advisory service, which delivers on-farm, in-person support to identify and help manage key risks and provides a range of tools and resources that help them adopt better on-farm health and safety practices.

Agriculture employs about two per cent of the Victorian workforce but is one of the State's high-risk industries, accounting for 33 work-related deaths since 2021. In that same period, WorkSafe accepted 2,458 claims from Victorian workers seriously injured in the sector.

This next phase of the *Making Our Farms Safer* project will have a stronger focus on high-risk areas such as cattle handling and the use of machinery including tractors and attachments,

quad bikes and side-by-sides – which together account for more than a quarter of all farm injuries.

For more information visit worksafe.vic.gov.au/saferfarms or makingourfarmssafer.org.au

2024 Deer Harvest Report now available

The Game Management Authority has released the estimates of the 2024 deer harvest in Victoria report. Results show an estimated 167,600 deer were harvested in 2024. This is a 22% increase on the estimated 137,100 deer harvested in 2023 and an 83% increase on the long-term average (91,100).

Sambar deer were the most harvested species with an estimated harvest of 128,000 deer, of which 60% were female. Fallow deer were the second most harvested species, with an estimated harvest of 35,400 deer, of which 58% were female.

The number of licenced recreational deer hunters in 2024 was 52,098. The number of deer hunters in Victoria has remained relatively steady since 2023, when there were 52,321 licensed deer hunters.

Of the 52,098 licensed deer hunters, 50% actively hunted in 2024. On average, active deer hunters harvested an estimated 6.4 deer over 13.5 days.

The most popular hunting areas were around the towns of Mansfield, Bairnsdale, Omeo, Benalla and Eildon. The highest number of deer harvested were around the towns of Mansfield, Bairnsdale, Benalla, Yarram and Omeo. [Home - Game Management Authority](#)

Ag Vic Podcasts - Listen while you work

Hear farmers across Victoria chat about the agriculture sector, like using Ag Tech on-farm and improving farm safety from the paddock to the kitchen table.

Farmers share their inspiring stories of managing the dynamic nature of farming, in droughts or recovering from fires and floods. Plus, much more.

Next time you're out in the back paddock, driving the tractor, straining a fence, or harvesting a crop, you can listen to one [AgVic Talk | Podcasts | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#).



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

Digging deeper with AI – Interview with Lily McCole Youth Agritech coordinator

AI's podcasts are dedicated to farmers and rural communities, delivering timely and relevant information throughout the farming year— the latest podcast is with Lily McCole who coordinated the Youth Agritech Expo: [Podcast - Digger Deeper - AG Chats with AL](#)





Celebrating national ag day!

21 November 2025

As Australians, we all enjoy the world class food and fibre grown right here in Australia. But some Australians know very little about the farmers and workers who put food on their tables.

National Agriculture Day is a chance to celebrate and learn about Australia's incredible farm sector. Held on the third Friday of November each year, it's one day to celebrate an industry that's part of our lives – every single day.

On this Ag Day, we're calling on all Australians to **Stand with the Land**. For the past year, our farmers have shown extraordinary grit, navigating record-breaking floods, devastating droughts, imperfect policies and trade disruptions. Stand with the Land is a powerful call to action that unites Australians in solidarity with our farmers and rural communities.

To stay up to date with everything that's happening to celebrate Australian agriculture go to [National Agriculture Day 2025 – National Agriculture Day 2025](#)

Watch out for Weeds – Ragwort

Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is currently within its known growing and flowering period across Gippsland. It has a low presence in East Gippsland, with populations isolated. Ragwort is from the Aster family, and is known by its bright yellow daisy-like flowers in large clusters on bright green stalks. This species can affect the health of stock when grazed.



For more information go to: [Ragwort](#) | [Weeds information](#) | [Weeds](#) | [Biosecurity](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

COUNCIL INFORMATION

ASAC Meeting 6 November 2025 Summary

On the 6 November Council met with the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee which comprises of ten farming enterprises, Food & Fibre Gippsland, EG Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Agriculture Group and Agriculture Victoria.

Topics covered at the meeting included:

- **AgVic presented on Avian Influenza Preparedness**, highlighting composting for carcass disposal based on past trials.
- **ASAC feedback sought** to inform Council's Pest Animal Advocacy Strategy.
- **Sam Forbes summarised actions** from Tom McIntosh MP's visit on regional ag priorities.
- **Water project proposed**, recommending funding to investigate on-farm storage.
- **Concerns raised** over reduced government staffing and impacts on extension services.

- **Council outlined Gracemere Plantation application**, seeking ASAC advice on environmental and economic considerations.
- **Update provided** on East Gippsland Livestock Exchange operating model review.
- **CEO announced Skeene Creek Farm Partnership** with Gippsland Agriculture Group; members showed

The East Gippsland Livestock Exchange commercial review continues

Council are continuing to review how the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange (EGLE) is managed, with the goal of finding the best ways to support our local farming community, both now and into the future.

Through recent conversations and feedback from our community and stakeholders, we heard a strong message – people value local ownership and control, and a facility that continues to deliver tangible benefits to the local farming community.

Along with community feedback, we have thoughtfully considered recommendations from the economic consultancy AEC Group, which has assisted in shaping the upcoming steps of the review.

As a result, we are now taking a closer look at three options for the way the saleyards could be managed in the future:

- Establishing a Council-owned subsidiary.
- Introducing a hybrid model that includes both Council and contractor involvement.
- Continuing the current Council-managed model.

This next stage of work will help us to understand the implications of each option before making any decisions.

Summary of feedback - what we heard about each model:

Subsidiary model

Participants saw this option as business-like and efficient, while keeping it Council owned. This may help to manage costs and open ways to generate income. It also allows for quicker decision-making and more flexibility in how the site is run. One significant advantage mentioned was the opportunity to select a dedicated and talented board consisting of local industry specialists, which will help keep the saleyards in tune with the community's needs.

Hybrid model

Community input indicates that this model has the potential to enhance the management of sale days by incorporating outside expertise. More broadly, it combines Council's overall direction with the flexibility and experience of contractors. This could help the saleyards access new funding opportunities, trial new technologies, and reach more buyers and sellers through contractor networks. It also supports resilience by sharing management responsibilities across different parties.

Current Council-managed model

Many people told us they value the current model for its stability, transparency, and local accountability. It's seen as convenient and cost-effective, and the familiarity of the current setup is appreciated. Community feedback indicates that this model meets the needs of the farming community.

We will keep working through the details of each option, making sure that any future decision is based on what we have heard from the community, expert advice, and a clear understanding of

what is best for the long-term future of the saleyards and our agricultural sector. [East Gippsland Livestock Exchange Commercial Review | Your Say East Gippsland](#)

TopSoils 3 Partnership

Council has joined the TopSoils3 Project Steering Committee to help drive the development, promotion, and delivery of TopSoils projects and events. This includes fostering partnerships, supporting funding applications, and overseeing program implementation.

Additionally, Council has committed to hosting two industry stakeholder events—one in 2025/26 and another in 2027/28. Proposed themes include circular economy, waste cycles, on-farm trials, and topics identified through community input.

No-fee November – FREE green waste recycling



FREE Green Waste disposal for November

Council are offering **FREE green waste disposal all November** to help residents prepare their properties for the bushfire season.

No-fee green waste disposal will be available at Bairnsdale Landfill and transfer stations where green waste is accepted. A limit of 4 cubic metres of green waste disposal per customer per day will apply.

- Free disposal for landholders *and* renters
- Helps reduce fire risk and keep our region safe
- Perfect time to clear branches, clippings, and garden debris

For a list of locations that accept green waste, visit our website: <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/environment-and-waste/landfills-and-transfer-stations>

Buy Local East Gippsland

As we approach the busy summer trading period, East Gippsland Shire Council is proud to launch the Buy Local East Gippsland campaign — a region-wide initiative designed to celebrate, promote, and support the incredible businesses that make our towns thrive.

This campaign is about more than just shopping locally — it's about strengthening our community. Every dollar spent locally helps create jobs, support families, and keep money circulating within East Gippsland. When we choose to buy local, we're investing directly in the success and resilience of our region.

How Your Business Can Get Involved

The Buy Local East Gippsland campaign offers a simple and effective way for businesses to show their pride and encourage customers to do the same. Here's how you can participate:

- **Display your support** – Display a “Buy Local East Gippsland” window decal or poster in your business.
- **Add a local touch** – Use provided stickers to promote the campaign
- **Promote online** – Share your business story and photos on social media using our campaign tiles and hashtag: #EastGippslandProud – download using the QR code below
- **Spread the message** – Encourage your customers and followers to support other local businesses. Together, we can amplify the impact.



This campaign aims to foster a strong, visible sense of local pride — reminding both residents and visitors that East Gippsland offers quality products, experiences, and services worth celebrating. By uniting under the Buy Local East Gippsland campaign, we’re helping build a more vibrant and self-sustaining local economy.

If you would like campaign materials or digital assets to share online, please contact our Business Concierge Royce Edwards roycee@egipps.vic.gov.au or scan the QR code.



Your Say on Projects

Check out [Your Say, East Gippsland](#), a council online platform that lets you share what you think about the projects, services and places that matter to you. Your experience is important to help us understand community needs and interests.

- [Omeo District Place Plan | Your Say East Gippsland](#) – feedback closes at 12pm, **Wednesday 19 November 2025**.
- [Lakes Entrance - Church Street pedestrian crossings | Your Say East Gippsland](#)

Two new raised pedestrian crossings are coming to Church Street – one near the intersection with Mechanics Street and another at Bulmer Street, Lakes Entrance.

HOW DID IT GO?

Succession Roadshow

The seven roadshow events at Paynesville, Genoa, Buchan, Twin Rivers, Bairnsdale, Orbost and Omeo attracted approximately 67 attendees. These were lower numbers than in the past and enabled deeper conversations, peer to peer support and an opportunity to talk about an emotional subject in a trusted environment.

Partnering with NEX, presentations covered ‘What are your options’, ‘how to progress with your succession plan’ and, if you are yet to commence ‘how to start and who to talk to’ to enable farmers to ‘take the next step’.

What Are Your Options?



1. Do nothing

Conflict, legal costs, family breakdown



2. Traditional

Lawyers, accountants, planners – Top Down - siloed, expensive, compliance focus.



3. Facilitated approach

Parents still in control, but more informed, affordable, family focused



Succession planning is essential – doing nothing is not an option.

- **Start the conversation early** – don't leave it too late; time is running out.

- **Talk to family members** – involve children and get their opinions.

- **Engage an independent facilitator** – seen as a valuable first step for guidance and neutrality.

- **Aged care considerations** – important to factor into planning.

- **Be realistic and careful** – when setting up plans, legal documents, wills, and trusts.

- **Help is available** – support and resources exist to make the process easier.

Feedback received was: 'Its a good reminder we need to set ourselves up as well as our kids into the future, 'a good reminder to finish what we begun', 'it is possible and help is available', 'to do nothing is not an option' and 'be aware and realistic when planning.



Retirement is a New Phase Not the End

Message: Succession = Retirement + Business Transition .

Skeene Creek Farm partnership with Gippsland Agriculture Centre

The Spring Field days hosted by Gippsland Agriculture Group drew a large crowd with presenters talking on the outcomes from trials, learnings and tips for actioning on farm, well done GAgG.

Our CEO announced the new partnership Council have entered with Gippsland Agriculture Group to manage the Skeene Creek Farm. This partnership will support the development and demonstration of integrated, sustainable, and resilient farming systems for the Gippsland region, particularly in the context of drought preparedness and climate change adaptation.

This plan sets the vision for Skeene Creek Farm as East Gippsland's first large-scale integrated drought resilience demonstration site. The project unites Productive Agriculture, Circular Economy, and Environmental Sustainability, showing how synergy across these systems builds profitability, biodiversity, and resilience.

Governed by the East Gippsland Shire Council with partners (East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) (Gippsland Agricultural Group, Southern Farming Systems, Greening Australia, Trust for Nature, East Gippsland Water), the farm will be a living laboratory and community hub, reducing isolation through shared learning.

This announcement received strong supportive feedback from attendees, pleased that council would offer an opportunity like this and showing how they value the sector.



Just a Farmer Screening in Orbost

Just a farmer screened in Orbost on the 31 October with 120 farmers, industry representatives, community members and agencies, including Council in attendance. This thought-provoking film directed and written by Leila McDougall, who was recently nominated for the 'Australian of the Year', created in depth conversations about the real issues in life and reaching out.

Following the screening, a panel of Leila McDougall, her husband Sean McDougall, Sallie Jones of Gippsland Dairy and Paul Marshall spoke to the challenges of mental health, being able to talk through the hard times and the importance of not carrying the load yourself.

Well done to Royston and the team who arranged such a meaningful evening.



Liela, Royston, Sallie and Claire and the crowd

SHOUT OUT

Gippsland Wine Awards

Lightfoot Wines

Congratulations to Lightfoot Wines who was recently accoladed at the Gippsland Wine Awards this year.

Council were proud to again be able to support the awards by sponsoring the Chardonnay class. Better still, we had a local winner! Lightfoot Wines (Calulu) won the category with their 2024 Myrtle Point Vineyard Chardonnay. The award was presented to Alastair Butt by Cr John White, Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.



Wyanga Park Winery

Congratulations to the Wyanga Park Winery who won a bronze medal at the 2025 Westpac Gippsland Wine Show for its 2025 Field Blend.



More updates available

There has also been a series of events hosted by Gippsland Agriculture Group Landcare and others, check out their newsletter for all their highlights, some links included below.

Access Agriculture Victoria drought resources here:

- [Catch up on events in November and December with AgVic](#)
- [The On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grant program managed by Rural Finance.](#)
- [Farm Advisory & Technical support](#)
- [Importing fodder from interstate](#)
- [The Victorian Drought Freight Network](#)
- [Kangaroo Management](#)

Access Wellbeing, financial and mental health support:

- [National Centre for Farmer Health](#)
- [NEX Business Farming Wellness](#)
- [Flying Doctor Wellbeing](#)
- [RFCS Victoria West Wellbeing support](#)
- [Farm management deposit scheme](#)

[News and Events from Gipps Dairy](#)



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 email Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer East Gippsland Shire Council at kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au or call 5153 9450 or register online at [Agrinews Newsletter](#).

East Gippsland Women in Agriculture
Network invites you to:

Basic Tractor Skills Workshop

DATE: Wed 26th November 2025

TIME: 9.45am to 2.30pm

VENUE: Gippsland Agriculture Centre
345 Bengworden Rd, Bengworden



- ✓ How to safely operate a tractor
- ✓ Select, remove, and fit attachments
- ✓ The right tractor for the right job
- ✓ Handy hints and tips



LUNCH IS PROVIDED



Places are limited.

To book press this link [BOOK](#) or use the [QR code](#)

Any questions please contact Emma or 0400 467 921



This event is supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government's 2025 Drought Support Package. #LookOverTheFarmGate



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
FARMER
HEALTH



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

