

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews

October 2025



EVENTS

- How to live longer at Home session 23 October
- Seniors Month October
- Agritourism - Destination Gippsland and SRO Short Stay Levy Webinars
- Succession Planning Roadshow 21 – 28 October
- Growing & Grazing Multispecies Crops 21 October
- Power up to electric 21 October
- Spring Field Day 23 October
- Detox Your Farm/Home 25 October
- Webinar: Farm fire preparedness 27 October
- Soils and Floods at Genoa 30 October
- Just a Farmer - Community screening Orbost 31 October
- Pacific Engagement Visa Webinar 11 November
- From Pit to Profit - Tackling Soil Constraints for Better Yields 11 November
- Gippsland Circular Futures 11-13 November

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 - Cash back into the pockets of drought-affected farmers
 - Farm Drought Support Grants
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- For those in adjoining Shires – Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

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OUT AND ABOUT

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- Succession Roadshow

SHOUT OUT

- Melbourne Food and Wine Awards
- Aussie Hayrunners delivery of hay to Benambra

EVENTS



FREE Info Session - How to Live Longer at Home - Seniors Festival

The final information sessions on in home and aged care services, including an overview of the new “Support at Home” program that begins on 1st November 2025 is on Thursday 23 October from 1.30pm with afternoon tea.

Thursday 23 October 1:30 - 2:30pm

Latrobe Community Health Service ~ 68 Macleod Street, Bairnsdale

To register please contact Craig Ryan 0428 253 417.

Seniors Month

October

Victorian Seniors Festival creates opportunities for Victorians who are 60 years and over to participate in fun, free and low-cost events throughout October. The festival encourages active ageing, community participation and meaningful social interaction

**Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025**

For a comprehensive list of events on please visit Seniors Online calendar:

www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival

Agritourism - Destination Gippsland and SRO Short Stay Levy Webinars

The State Revenue Office is holding free webinars to help you understand whether the Short Stay Levy applies to you, and what you may need to do. From 1 January 2025, the short stay levy applies to short stays in Victorian property if you accept bookings for a stay in Victorian accommodation that is less than 28 consecutive days and charge a fee for the stay.

If you collect booking fees less than \$75,000 per year, you must lodge and pay annually – and the due date for the first return is 30 January 2026.

12 November Wednesday 8:30–9:30am – book <https://bit.ly/45YC7kQ>

13 November Thursday 5:30–6:30pm – book <https://bit.ly/468tcvO>

For more information visit [Short stay levy | State Revenue Office](#)

Register at [Integrated Worm Management for Sheep. Tickets and Event location varies depending on session. See above | TryBooking Australia.](#)

Succession Planning Roadshow

21 – 28 October

We have held the first two Succession workshops in Genoa and Paynesville with low numbers, which enabled deep conversations, peer to peer support and an opportunity to talk about an emotional subject in a safe environment.

We have partnered with Rural Financial Counselling Service, now branded as NEX to present on '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'.

Each session allowed attendees to ask questions and gain a bigger understanding of the actual process and themes that emerged were: Traditional succession vs nontraditional succession; The difference succession planning and Wills and How to be fair not just equitable.

The events received the following feedback, with families attending commenting:

- “This is the next conversation we needed to have, it’s so good you are bringing a team to show us how to do it”
- “I thought this would be the same as the last series, however, this session has empowered us to start the conversation and put things down on paper”.
- “We have been looking at the flyer and knew we needed to start, so we chatted to our daughter this week, it’s very emotional, so it is nice to be able to have support to move through the process”

Bairnsdale: **Tuesday 21 October, 10 am - 12 pm**
GAGC 345 Bengworden Road, Bairnsdale

Orbost: **Wednesday 22 October, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**
Service Centre/Library 1 Ruskin Street, Orbost

Omeo: **Tuesday 28 October, 4 - 6 pm**
Fresh Air Cafe 199 Day Avenue, Omeo.

To register for any of these events go to: <https://forms.office.com/r/daf10iQyKv>

More information will follow to enquiry call **Alison Dodd** NEX 1300 045 747 or Kaylene Wickham 0423 205 007.

Growing & Grazing Multispecies Crops

21 October

Ag Vic with Herd Solutions are delivering an onsite session with Jade Killoran on Growing and Grazing Multispecies Crops. Come and learn how multispecies crops fit into your system to improve forage production and cattle health. Lunch is provided.

- How to Grow them,
- How to oversow with them
- Where they fit into a pasture renovation plan
- What are the benefits to your cattle.

Marlo 927 Marlo Conran Road
Tuesday October 21
10:00 am - 2:30pm

Please register at <https://forms.gle/xNyWj4cNNMz6fdARA>

Power up to electric

21 October

Want to learn more about switching your home to electric? The SEC are running an online session on 'how to go electric.'

Join the free online information session to learn more about going electric. Switching your heating, hot water, and other appliances to electric will reduce your energy bills and emissions.

When: 21 October 2025, 1pm – 1.30pm

Register: [SEC - Power up to electric \(secvictoria.com.au\)](https://www.secvictoria.com.au)

The online information session will cover how:

- Switching to electric is not as hard as you might think
- SEC can help you create a personalised plan
- You can go electric one step at a time, prioritising what is right for you.

Spring Field Day

23 October

Gippsland Agriculture Group Spring Day will be on the 23 October at the Gippsland Agriculture Centre Bairnsdale Aerodrome.

This year's Spring Field Day is set to be one you won't forget!

Date: 23 October
Time: 8.30am to 4.00pm
Location: Gippsland Agriculture Centre Bairnsdale Aerodrome
Register: [2025 Gippsland Research Farm Spring Field Day](#)



SPRING FIELD DAY

Gippsland Research Farm

<p>Lucerne Learning the best fit for your dryland farm with variety trials on display</p>	<p>Pastures Selecting the best perennial mixes for growth in all seasons</p>	<p>Containment Areas Design options and feeding lambs in containment</p>
<p>Faba Beans The how, what and when for growing this valuable protein source</p>	<p>Weighty Weaners What are you missing to maximise weight for age?</p>	<p>Soils & Lime Liming rates demo & using "LimeAssist" to calculate applications</p>
<p>Hay & Silage Making quality hay & silage for high livestock performance</p>	<p>Cereals Varieties and disease management options for grain and livestock enterprises</p>	<p>Tractor Demo McCormick tractors incorporating poultry litter</p>

Detox Your Farm/Home

25 October

Detox your home is coming to East Gippsland.

Saturday the 25 October
East Gippsland Livestock Exchange
9.00am to 1.00pm

Throwing chemicals in your rubbish bin is dangerous. They may explode, catch fire, leak or mix with other chemicals, either in your bin or in the collection truck or sorting facility.

Pouring them down the drain may pollute the environment, harm animals and vegetation, contaminate our water supply and make rivers and beaches unsafe for swimming.

Instead, you can drop off many hazardous chemicals at the free Detox Your Home event, which is staffed by trained specialist chemists. If your unwanted chemical is not accepted at a Detox your Home event, learn about [other safe ways to dispose of it](#).

View the [list of accepted items](#). Sign up to our [e-newsletter](#) for program updates.

To register go to [Detox Your Home collections | Sustainability Victoria](#)

Webinar: Farm fire preparedness

27 October

Managing the risk of bushfire for your farm is vital, join Ag Vic for this webinar about farm fire preparedness. Planning and preparing for the bushfire season include identifying risks and undertaking tasks to prepare your farm well ahead of the season.

In this webinar, Agriculture Victoria's Kylie Macreadie will discuss key preparedness activities, tools and templates to help you plan for the fire season.

Landholders impacted by recent fires will share their stories of preparing for fire and putting a fire plan into practice. They will also share information on the recovery process.

When: Monday 27 October, 7 to 8:15 pm

Topics covered:

- Preparing farm infrastructure
- Farm asset inventories and insurance
- Fire preparedness checklists, action plan and map
- Planning for impacts and recovery
- Updating your property identification code (PIC) and NLIS details.

To register go to: [Farm fire preparedness webinar | Events | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#).

Soils and Floods at Genoa

30 October

A wet year has caused some unique challenges for Genoa and surrounding farming communities. The day will start with a discussion on flood trigger points, maps, and other relevant topics - followed by a talk on understanding your soil test results. Then we will head out to the paddock to discuss sowing in wet ground.

- Understanding your soil test results
- Sowing into Wet Soil
- The Latest Flood Maps for the Genoa River
- Flooding Trigger Points

The morning is going to be the flooding info which is sponsored by the Neighbourhood Houses and the afternoon is the soils which is a TopSoils event supported by the National Heritage Trust under the Climate Smart Agriculture Program and Gippsland Community Foundation.

Thursday 30th October

10.00am to 2.00pm

Genoa Hall - Princes Highway, Genoa



Lunch will be provided, to register click: [Genoa - Soils & Floods](#) OR Scan QR Code. For further information contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921.

Just a Farmer - Community screening Orbost

31 October

Just a Farmer movie event is coming to Orbost Friday 31 October at 6.00pm.

Come support your local community, watch a quite impactful film, and meet the producer – Leila McDougall

"Just A Farmer" transcends traditional cinema, authentically portraying the challenges and triumphs of a resilient farmer in rural Australia.

This cinematic journey amplifies the often-overlooked voices of rural communities and sheds light on mental health struggles.

It's more than a movie; it's a dedicated movement creating awareness, dismantling stigmas, and impacting the well-being of rural Australia.

"Just A Farmer" breaks new ground, fostering understanding and assuring individuals they don't face darkness alone.

Join in for this free community event at the Snowy Rovers Football and Netball Club Social rooms, Lochiel Street Orbost. To book <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1436820>.

Pacific Engagement Visa Webinar

11 November

The Department of Home Affairs is hosting a webinar on the Pacific Engagement visa (PEV) which is a new permanent residence visa for participating countries across the Pacific and Timor-Leste to grow ongoing connections to their home countries, strengthen people-to-people links, and encourage greater cultural, business and educational exchange.

The webinar will be held on **Tuesday 11 November 02:30PM – 03:30PM.**

The PEV is not an employer sponsored visa, however applicants do need an offer of ongoing employment for a genuine position in Australia to be granted the visa.

The webinar will cover the following topics:

- PEV program overview
- Application process
- Support for participants



To register for the PEV webinar, please visit the event page [Pacific Engagement Visa \(PEV\) employer information webinar Tickets | TryBooking Australia](#)

From Pit to Profit - Tackling Soil Constraints for Better Yields

11 November

Join soil scientist Dr Cassandra Scheffe for a practical soil pit day exploring how to get the best from your soils and fertiliser applications. During the day, you'll gain valuable insights into improving productivity while looking at physical and chemical soil constraints.

Topics include:

- Soil pit discussion
- Identifying & managing soil constraints (physical & chemical)
- The 4R's (Right source, rate, time & place)
- Efficient fertiliser use
- Making the most of soil test results
- Organic matter management
- The importance of good soil fertility

On farm - location advised when booking

Tuesday November 11

10:00am – 1:30pm

Time 10:00am – 1:30pm
Date Wednesday 15 October
Location On-farm (address provided after registration)
Register 
<i>Robyn McLean</i> P: 0447 379 173 E: robyn.mclean@dairyaustralia.com.au

This is a great chance to ask questions, and take-home practical strategies to boost your farm's productivity.

Register by scanning the QR or contacting Robyn McLean 0447 379 173

robyn.mclean@dairyaustralia.com.au.

Gippsland Circular Futures

11-13 November

The Gippsland Circular Futures is a practical program helping local small and medium-sized businesses move towards a circular economy. Instead of the traditional "take, make, waste" model, the circular approach focuses on reducing waste, reusing resources, and creating smarter, more sustainable systems.

Delivered by Federation University Australia in partnership with the Gippsland Climate Change Network, the program offers targeted workshops for different industries, tailored tools and resources, and opportunities to connect with other businesses facing similar challenges. Participants will learn how to improve resource efficiency, cut costs, and build resilience, while contributing to a more sustainable future for Gippsland.

This session is tailored for:

- Farms, wineries, breweries

- Food processors and ag machinery providers
- Agricultural suppliers, nurseries, and seed producers and more

Participants will explore themes like:

- Organic waste reuse and nutrient cycling
- Shared equipment and infrastructure
- Composting, anaerobic digestion, and circular logistics
- Real-world case studies and collaborative innovation opportunities

Date & Time:

- **Session 1. Hospitality & Tourism:** Tues 11 November. 10.00am – 1.30pm
- **Session 2. Manufacturing & Agribusiness:** Wed 12 November. 10.00am – 1.30pm
- **Session 3. Retail & Professional:** Thurs 13 November. 10.00am – 1.30pm

Venue: Morwell Innovation Centre, 1 Monash Way, Morwell

Cost: \$15 per person, per session, please [Register via this link](#)

Reach out to Tammy Logan Gippsland Circular Futures Coordinator GCCN if you'd like any additional information. To check a video produced with Wilandra Farms in the first stage of the program last year: <https://youtu.be/-kiRQ-mq0kw?si=SvUPI-AHf1Lb5ieb>



FUNDING

Dry Seasons Supports

Cash back into the pockets of drought-affected farmers

The Victorian Government is driving down business costs for Victorian primary producers and providing critical cash flow help for drought affected farmers, recently announcing the rollout of the Duties and Fees Relief Package, which will waive fees for farmers over the next financial year and deliver more than \$10 million in relief to Victorian producers.

To find out more details check out the relevant website:

- [Livestock duties and fees](#)
- [Plant biosecurity service fees](#)
- [Beekeeper registrations and movement certificates](#)

Access further Agriculture Victoria drought resources:

- [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](#)

Refer to posters at the end of the newsletter that have QR's codes on them as well for the following.

Farm Drought Support Grants

The Victorian Government is providing practical support to farmers impacted by drought.

Eligible farmers will receive up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) as a co-contribution grant that will support activities including water infrastructure upgrades (such as pipes, tanks, troughs and dams), stock containment areas, and grain and fodder storage.

See the program guidelines for the full list of eligible activities at [Grants | Rural Finance](#)



One-on-one farm advisory service

All farmers, anywhere in Victoria, can register for a free consultation with a farm management specialist.

The advisory service offers a session of up to 3 hours (face-to-face or online) and a follow-up call, to help farmers take stock and develop a plan for managing drought conditions.

Agronomists, livestock nutritionists, veterinarians, pasture and grazing specialists and farm business advisors, can support you with:

- feed and water budgeting
- farm safety and workload management
- farm business and financial management
- soil health and pasture re-establishment
- animal health and welfare, and more.

For more information about drought support: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.



On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate program

Farmers impacted by kangaroos competing for pasture and crops can apply for the On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate program now.

The program provides rebates for eligible farmers statewide who hold an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) to hire authorised professional harvesters who have accreditation from the Game Management Authority.

Eligible farmers across the state can access up to 3 rebates of \$450 each (ex-GST) with a 25% co-contribution to help control kangaroos.

Find more information go to [Managing kangaroos on your farm | Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#) or call 136 186.



Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Wellbeing Officers (statewide)

The RFCS offers free, confidential wellbeing support alongside their usual financial and small business counselling support.

Wellbeing counsellors can visit farmers at their property or talk over the phone to assist with mental health and wellbeing issues farmers and their families with three new positions funded in the Southwest.

- To access the support of a wellbeing counsellor, call the Rural Financial Counselling Service on 1300 771 741 or find out more at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation/rural-financial-counselling-service>

RIC Loans

RIC variable interest rate for farm business loans is on hold at 5.18% effective 1 August 2025 until 1 February 2026. Farmers in tough financial times due to situations outside their control from drought, flood or other natural disasters may be eligible to apply for a RIC loan.

RIC's AgriStarter Loan is also available for new farm businesses or succession planning to keep family farms in the family. Farmers can restructure up to 50% of their existing debt to improve cash flow to gain some financial breathing space. More information [Our Loans - Regional Investment Corporation](#).

Discounted Solar to Help Businesses Cut Costs

The Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) will now offer discounts for commercial and industrial businesses and community organisations to install solar.

The VEU discount will wipe up to \$25,000 off the upfront cost of installing a 100-kilowatt system and up to \$34,300 off a 200-kilowatt solar system, with discounts available for systems from 30 kilowatt up to 200 kilowatts.

Businesses are also eligible for Commonwealth Government rebates on solar systems in the 30-to-200-kilowatt size range which can slash up to \$50,000 off the cost. Combined with the VEU discount businesses can get up to 35 per cent off the cost of the installation. For more information see [Commercial and industrial solar panel discounts](#).

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Regional Microgrids Program - Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to 19 Dec

There is a Federal Government fund of up to \$120M to support regional microgrids which opened on 25/8/2025 and closes 19/12/2025.

They are inviting Expressions of Interest - with a project plan (maximum 20 pages), conflict of interest declaration (see template), and complete the project budget template. Program Guidelines provide further information, and it is requirement to speak with ARENA before submitting an EOI.

How Microgrids Work

1. A microgrid generates power at a local level, rather than receiving it from the grid.
2. The system ensures that local renewable sources, energy storage, and other resources are coordinated effectively.
3. Microgrids can be Grid-Connected or Independent:
 - Embedded Microgrid: An electricity supply arrangement that coordinates and optimises the use of connected, locationally proximate distributed energy resources to provide secure and reliable electricity within the microgrid and can provide value to the major grid. This could include energy market participation, provision of system flexibility, systems services and deferral of network investment.

- Standalone Power Systems (SPS): An electricity supply arrangement that can demonstrate temporary or permanent operation when not physically connected to a major grid. SPS encompasses supply to single and multiple customers. Where: customers, currently connected to a major grid, can move to a SPS, or a SPS is installed rather than a new grid connection.

Benefits

- Reliability and Resilience: Microgrids provide a dependable power supply during main grid disruptions, which can be essential rural manufacturers and critical facilities.
- Sustainability: Microgrids reliance on carbon intensive fuels, lower emissions, and support climate change mitigation efforts.
- Cost Reduction: By effectively managing local energy generation and storage, microgrids can help reduce overall energy costs.
- Energy Independence: They offer increased energy security and self-sufficiency for rural manufacturers and communities.

To find out more go to [Regional Microgrids Program](#)

SURVEYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Grow your farm profits

'Level Up' is a Hort program run by RMCG which aims to take your business to the next level. Every business has a vision, whether to expand or grow more profit from every dollar invested, but to make it a reality you need to know what elements of your business can help you reach your goals.

Thinking about:

- Buying or leasing land?
- Cutting input costs?
- Improving cashflow?

The program assists vegetable growers free, one-on-one business support. You'll get \$10K worth of expert advice each year, including two on-farm visits and a personalised report. It's not just about the numbers—we help you understand your costs, compare to others, and make smarter business decisions

1. **Free expert advice** – \$10K of support for vegetable growers.
2. **On-farm visits** – We come to you, collect data, and go through the results.
3. **Know your costs** – Understand what's driving your profits and how to improve returns.
4. **Make better decisions** – Use real numbers to plan for the future.

[Click here to find out more](#) and to download the 2024 National Vegetable and Onion Benchmarks. Register at [Free Registration - Level Up Hort](#)

Are you a rising star in the agriculture or rural sector?

The Zanda McDonald Award can help you realise your ambitions through life-changing mentoring, industry connections, and unique 'light-bulb moments.' Tap into a dynamic network of leading ag professionals and take part in a fully funded trans-Tasman tour designed to fast-track your personal and professional growth.

Open to individuals aged 21–35 across Australia and New Zealand. Online applications are open until 31 October 2025 [Zanda McDonald Award](#).

For those in adjoining Shires – Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

The Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network (LCLN) is seeking **expressions of interest** for new **Board Members – including the Chair** – to guide our next chapter of growth and impact.

We support nearly 20 Landcare groups across West Gippsland, driving projects in **sustainable farming, habitat restoration, and community education**. As a board member, you'll join a respected grassroots movement committed to land stewardship, community action, and environmental resilience.

 **Applications close 5.00PM Friday 31 October 2025**

 [Board Position Description](#)

 [Submit your Expression of Interest](#)

For more information, contact Chair **Phil Darton (0408 351 915)** or visit www.lcln.com.au.

INFORMATION

Orbost Water project empowers farmers

Over the past two years the Future of Orbost & District Project have explored the peaks and troughs of water demand and availability across the district to promote optimising water access and security for the region.

Through this process, it was identified that **water is an enabler for growth**, rather than a trigger in itself. While it is well known that SRW manages water access arrangements under clear regulations—and that **no new water licences are available on the Snowy River**—what may be less known is that **existing water licences can be transferred**, either permanently or **temporarily** (for up to five years).

SRW has advised that farmers can trade water by accessing underutilised allocations via their website. Farmers seeking water are encouraged to go to the **Victorian Water Register**: waterregister.vic.gov.au. This government-owned platform provides transparent access to water entitlement information, similar to land ownership records. While it does not facilitate trading directly, it offers valuable data on entitlements and trading activity for a small fee.

SRW provides guidance at: <https://www.srw.com.au/customer/buy-and-sell-water/water-trading> and [Trading, leasing or transferring groundwater & unregulated surface water.pdf](#). This site also links to a dedicated Facebook group for farmers interested in buying or selling water, helping connect those with surplus entitlements to those in need. Farmers can also seek assistance from their local SRW representative.

It is envisaged that the outcome of this work will support sustainable growth, innovation, and diversification in the region's significant agriculture sector  [Orbost Water Trading Advocacy Media Release Aug 2025.docx](#).

Victorian Wine Strategy 2025–2030

This co-designed strategy outlines how the Victorian wine industry can collaborate and innovate to secure a vibrant future with the vision – *Victorian wine: Enjoyed locally, acclaimed globally*.

Wine Victoria is Victoria's peak wine industry body and responsible for leadership and delivery of the strategy in partnership with the Victorian Government.

This strategy focuses on actions that will have the greatest impact on industry prosperity and economic growth. There are 4 key priorities:

1. **Domestic and international trade:** Grow domestic market share and exports to ensure financial sustainability.
2. **Innovation and sustainability:** Accelerate innovation to tackle issues including productivity, adaptation to consumer demands, sustainability and climate change.
3. **Visitor experience:** Partner with the visitor economy to enhance the quality and diversity of the visitor experience and drive sales.
4. **People and community:** Attract, develop and retain skilled people to build a capable and diverse workforce, partner with First Peoples and maintain social licence.

Thank you to everyone who contributed through surveys, submissions and workshops. Results of the engagement can be found in the [public consultation report](#)  [PDF File - 739.8 KB], [Victorian Wine Strategy | Wine and grapes | Crops and horticulture | Agriculture Victoria](#) and on the [Engage Victoria](#) website. You can find more information about programs and actions at: <https://winevictoria.org.au>.

Integrity systems webinar - LPA, NLIS, ENVD and eID update

Join ISC and Agriculture Victoria for this webinar to learn more about Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) including:

- How to use a new mapping tool to share your geolocation to support European market access for beef and beef products after EUDR rules begin in December.
- How to create an Animal Welfare Management Plan when seeking LPA accreditation/reaccreditation or at any time.
- New Dairy QA voluntary module – what this means for dairy producers.
- Sheep and goat electronic identification - update and reminders.
- Latest eNVD web-based system improvements.
- NLIS Database Uplift Project - receive an update on this significant project to uplift the NLIS database.

To watch go to: [WEBINAR | LPA, NLIS, eNVD & eID update for Victoria: ISC State Partner Webinar Series](#)

Gippsland Soil Moisture Probe Update No 29

The soil probe update is part of the Gippsland Soil Moisture Probe Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) running across central and east Gippsland, funded by MLA, East Gippsland Shire and Agriculture Victoria. It aims to help farmers interpret the data provided by their local soil moisture probes to inform seasonal decisions.

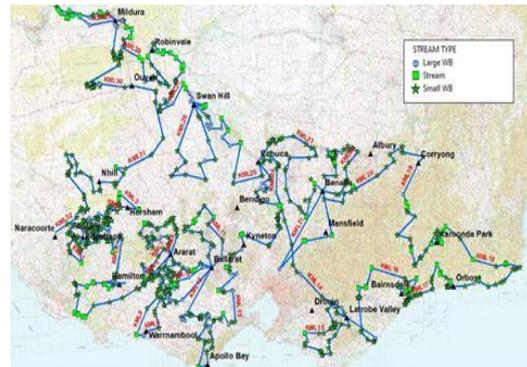
This update includes rainfall, soil temperature and soil moisture data for September 2025 and to 7 October 2025, to view the update click on agriculturevictoria.cmail19.com/t/r-e-tkjtuyll-bujudydukj-y/.

For more information, please contact James Paulet on 0447 695 839 or james.paulet@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Victoria's duck abundance survey about to begin

The Game Management Authority (GMA) will begin its annual survey of Victoria's game duck population on Tuesday, 21 October 2025.

The survey will be conducted by wildlife biologists, who will record the presence, species and number of game ducks at more than 850 waterbodies across Victoria, including wetlands, farm dams, sewerage treatment plants, streams and rivers. The survey will also include ground counts where the helicopter is unable to operate. Read more at [Duck Research - Game Management Authority](#).



Get Fire Ready

Victorians are being urged to prepare for the upcoming fire season, as part of CFA's 'Get Fire Ready' month during October.

CFA brigades are hosting activities at fire stations and community events to meet residents and provide practical advice on how they can plan for what may be an increased fire risk this summer.

'Get Fire Ready' focuses on helping householders understand their local bushfire and grassfire risks, including how to create a survival plan, and learning where to access emergency information.



Getting prepared doesn't need to be complicated. Clearing gutters, mowing lawns and trimming branches around homes can reduce the chance of embers starting a fire.

Families are encouraged to make a fire plan that includes where they will go if a fire breaks out, and making sure they have set a watch zone in the VicEmergency app to receive alerts.

The 'Get Fire Ready' events strengthen connections between CFA brigades and their local communities, ensuring everyone has the information they need.

All Victorians, particularly those in high-risk areas, are encouraged to attend a local event by visiting www.cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready

You can also request a free 'Get Fire Ready' pack to be sent to you by filling out an online form at the same website address.

EGSC Emergency Dashboard

Have you checked out EGSC Emergency Dashboard?

The Emergency Dashboard is a central online hub for real-time emergency updates and essential information. This tool represents a significant step forward in supporting our community's preparedness, response, and recovery during emergencies.

We know all too well the impact of natural disasters, from devastating bushfires to floods and severe storms, our community has been tested repeatedly and will continue to be.

In these situations, having timely, accurate and local information is essential.

The Emergency Dashboard:

- Is accessible on desktop and mobile devices
- Provides live data from VicEmergency, Bureau of Meteorology, road and power authorities, and more
- Functions reliably even in low-bandwidth or high-demand conditions
- Links to local emergency and preparedness plans.



For more information, visit the <https://emergencydashboard.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/>.

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion Project

The Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project is a statewide Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) program which focuses on prompt detection and intervention of early invader environmental weeds to control and limit the spread of invasive species through landscape scale weeds and pest animal projects.

Managing weeds can be a daunting and challenging task, and the WESI Project has developed a range of tools to assist with working through this.

The Decision-Making Framework (DMF) can be used to guide you through the process of dealing with early invader weeds, from detection through to implementing eradication (if feasible). The [Early Invader Manual](#) combines each of the guides into a concise summary of the DMF process.

Invasive plants present a serious and ongoing threat to Victoria's biodiversity and whilst some of these plants are [declared weeds](#) there are many other environmental weeds that are not legislated, for various reasons. The WESI Project, with assistance from experts, has developed the [Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria \(2022\)](#). To learn more visit the [early invader weeds webpage](#).

Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project

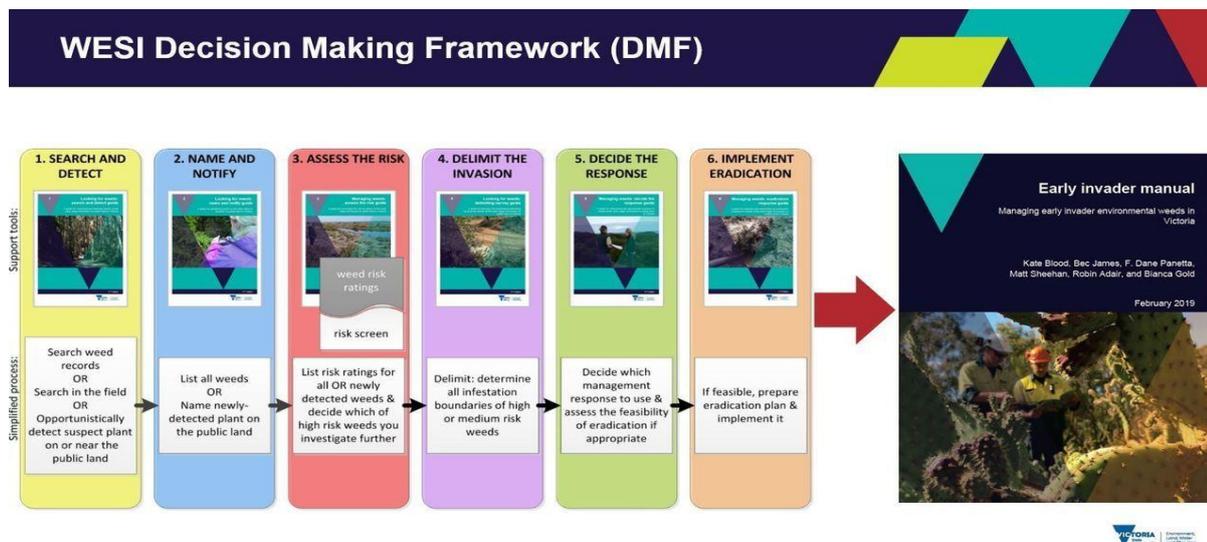
<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/early-invaders>

Weeds and Pests on Public Land (WPPL) Program

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/invasive-species-on-public-land/weeds-and-pests-on-public-land-program>

Early Invader Manual (2019)

https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/414244/WESI-Early-invader-manual.pdf



English Broom

English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is flowering in October, with bright yellow pea-like flowers becoming visible across the landscape. It can grow up to 3m, with very small leaves present on an angular stem. Their flowers turn into long dark-colored hairy pods, full of seeds which can be viable for up to 80 years in the soil, often germinating quickly and densely after soil disturbance or fire. It is often seen as a rosette, due to deer and rabbit grazing keeping its height down. For support on identification of English Broom, please reach out to feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au.



[English broom](#) | [Weeds information](#) | [Weeds](#) | [Biosecurity](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

Five key tips for silage this season

Capitalising on the spring surplus will be critical on farms this year. Five key factors for silage this season are:

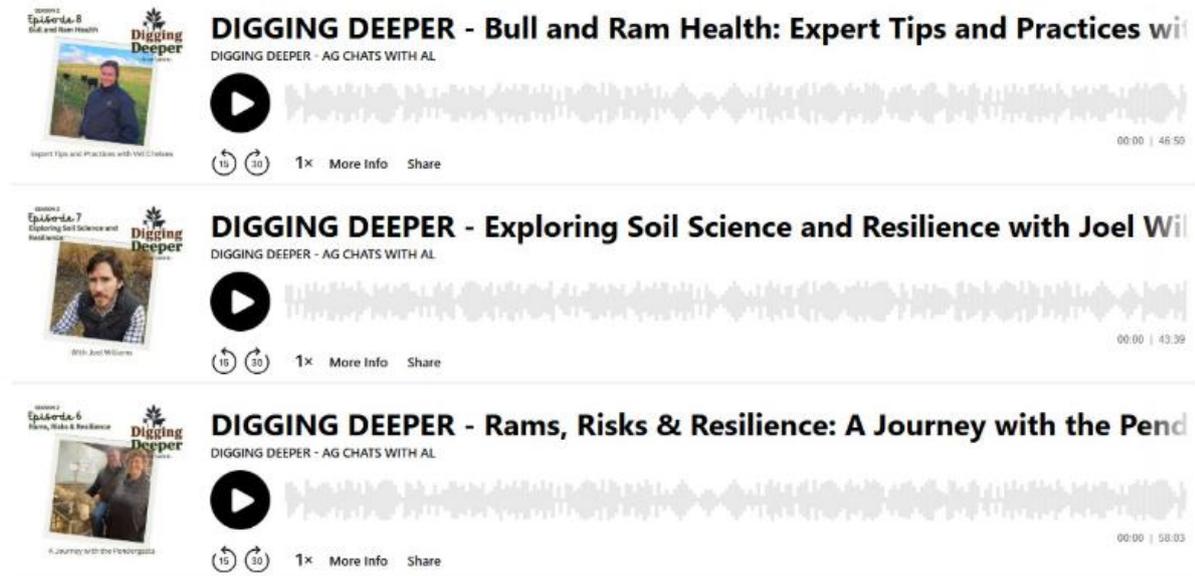
1. Only lock up pasture that is surplus to requirements
2. Use nitrogen (N) to increase dry matter yield but cut pasture within 6 weeks of application
3. Be prepared to cut pasture when the ryegrass component of the sward is just reaching early ear emergence
4. Use tedders to increase the drying rate of cut material and so reduce the wilting period
5. Ensilage material quickly and seal well.

[Five key tips for silage this season](#) | [Media releases](#) | [Media centre](#) | [About](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

Digging Deeper Podcast - Ag Chats with AI

This podcast dedicated to farmers and rural communities, delivering timely and relevant information throughout the farming year—from autumn sowing to summer harvest. Hosted by

Alistair Micallef from the Gippsland Ag Group, a grassroots farmer-led organisation in Victoria's East, the podcast shares practical tips and insights to support innovation and profitability in farming businesses. Click here for the latest episodes [Podcast](#).



The image shows three podcast player cards for the 'Digging Deeper' podcast. Each card features a small thumbnail image of the host, Alistair Micallef, and the episode title. The first card is for Episode 8, 'Bull and Ram Health: Expert Tips and Practices with...'. The second card is for Episode 7, 'Exploring Soil Science and Resilience with Joel Wil...'. The third card is for Episode 6, 'Rams, Risks & Resilience: A Journey with the Pend...'. Each card includes a play button, a progress bar, and a duration indicator.

Gippsland Jobs Hub

Connecting job seekers and employers across Gippsland

Gippsland Jobs Hub is the go-to place for employment opportunities across our thriving, diverse region. Whether you're a job seeker looking for work locally or considering a tree-change to Gippsland, this free portal is here to support you and your career journey.

To find out more or visit the Gippsland Jobs Hub: [Gippsland Jobs Hub](#)



Mental Health & Wellbeing local

Free service is now available at 25 Service Street, Bairnsdale (beside Library). Support is available by walking in or phoning 1300 000 352.

The team at Mental Health and Wellbeing Local are there to support and start your wellness journey as Mental Health issues impact everyone at some point in their life [Mental Health and Wellbeing Local - Wellways](#)



COUNCIL INFORMATION

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. 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.

East Gippsland Business Resources



East Gippsland Shire Council is committed to supporting our vibrant business community with strategic initiatives, funding, and development programs. Whether you're a local staple or a new venture, our resources are designed to help you expand, innovate, and thrive in the East Gippsland economy.

Economic Development Strategy  Our strategic roadmap prioritises high-value growth, sustainability, and economic diversification across all local sectors. View Strategy	Agrinews Newsletter  Stay informed with our monthly updates on funding opportunities, programs, and agricultural developments. Subscribe	Business Matters Newsletter  Access workshops, training, and development opportunities designed specifically for growing your business. Subscribe
Investment Opportunities  Explore our new Investment Prospectus highlighting diverse growth opportunities throughout the East Gippsland region. Download	Economic Data & Insights  Access comprehensive economic profiles and data for your local area through REMPLAN. View	Tourism & Marketing  Reach More Customers: Promote your unique visitor experiences, food offerings, and local businesses through our new Visit East Gippsland platform. Explore

OUT & ABOUT

Youth Agritech expo 16 & 17 September

More than 350 people from across East Gippsland took part in the region's Youth Agritech Expo last week. The two-day expo, led by Swifts Creek local and Youth Agritech Coordinator Lily McCole, brought together more than 250 students from Swifts Creek, Omeo, Sale, Orbost, Bairnsdale and beyond through school involvement and the local homeschool students – to experience agriculture in new and hands-on ways.

Students were fully engaged and immersed in every activity on offer, from pregnancy testing a prosthetic cow and analysing sugars in food, to learning how drones are used to spray crops and the licensing required to operate them, the expo gave young people a genuine taste of the modern farming industry. The hands-on sessions gave young people a real taste of what's possible in agriculture. It showcased just how innovative, high-tech and diverse the industry has become, and that really sparked excitement.

The expo was supported by Swifts Creek Futures, East Gippsland Shire Council and the Youth Ambassadors, alongside a wide range of partners including Gippsland Agriculture Group, Southern Farming Systems, TAFE Gippsland, Central Queensland University Australia, Raising Aspirations in Careers and Education, Gippsland Morwell Tech School, the Victorian

Department of Education, Gippsland East LLEN, Agriculture Victoria, Dairy Australia, GippsDairy and apprenticeship businesses.

On the Tuesday and Thursday schools also visited farming enterprises to look 'at the everyday operational aspect of how this technology is being utilised, this could not have happened without the farming sector support. Thank you to everyone who supported this huge event.





Succession Roadshow Commences

The first four Succession workshops in Genoa, Paynesville, Buchan and Nicholson which have allowed deep conversations, peer to peer support and an opportunity to talk about an emotional subject in a safe environment.

We have partnered with Rural Financial Counselling Service, now branded as NEX to present on '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'.

Each session allowed attendees to ask questions and gain a bigger understanding of the actual process and themes that emerged were: Traditional succession vs non traditional succession; The difference succession planning and Wills and; How to be fair not just equitable.

The events received the following feedback, with families attending commenting:

- "This is the next conversation we needed to have, it's so good you are bringing a team to show us how to do it"
- "I thought this would be the same as the last series, however, this session has empowered us to start the conversation and put things down on paper".

- “We have been looking at the flyer and knew we needed to start, so we chatted to our daughter this week, it’s very emotional, so it is nice to be able to have support to move through the process”



SHOUT OUT

Melbourne Food and Wine Awards

Recently at the Melbourne Food and Wine Awards Gabrielle and Chris Moore of Sailors Grave Brewing in Marlo took out the Legend Award for Local Hero. Congratulations. Pictured here are Chris, Gab and Tom McIntosh from the opening last year.



Aussie Hayrunners delivery of hay to Benambra

Over the past two months, Benambra Neighbourhood House (BNH) has been working with Aussie Hay Runners and Heyfield Lions Club - Supporting Gippsland Farmers - to source fodder and support for our farming community.

They coordinated a delivery of molasses to local farmers and 17 trucks laden with 680 bales of beautiful oaten hay mostly collected from around Collarenebri in northern New South Wales. Benambra welcomed the drivers with a dinner funded by East Gippsland Livestock Exchange and delivered by the Benambra Neighbourhood House (BNH) crew.



The support from these fantastic organisations truly lifts the morale of farmers at a time when things are tough.

This came about by Aussie Hayrunners and Heyfield Lions Club joining forces with many people and organisations, partnering with local Rotary clubs, Eastern Valley Street Rodders, public, Freemantle feeds for the molasses, Goodes honey for the IBC, Grinters transport, Elders ‘Bairnsdale, Buchan towing, East Gippsland Shire Council and Benambra Neighbourhood House, it was a team effort through and through.



A HUGE SHOUT OUT to the 15 truck drivers- Aussie Hay Runners, Ray and Trudy. The community expressed that this amazing project touched their hearts — and seeing the photos of livestock enjoying the harvest of goodwill, bringing a little relief to farmers... is heart-warming, wonderful memories, still emotional for many.





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.



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](#).

Drought support package – statewide overview

The Victorian Government is providing direct drought support of \$144 million for farmers across Victoria impacted by drought conditions. Statewide support includes a one-on-one farm advisory service and boosted events program, grants for on-farm improvements, mental health support, and fee and duty relief. In addition, funding is available to support practical measures that improve access to water.

To stay up to date with all drought programs, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought.

FARM DROUGHT SUPPORT GRANTS*



Grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) to support investment in on-farm drought management activities and essential business activities. A dollar-for-dollar co-contribution is required. Eligible expenses since 30 September 2024 considered. *NB: formerly the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grant Program.

Scan the QR code to check your eligibility and apply.

ONE-ON-ONE FARM ADVISORY SERVICE



A free consultation with a farm advisor to take stock, discuss and plan the best way forward for your business. Nominate your preferred consultant from a panel of providers for a 3-hour consultation (on-farm or virtually) and a follow up call.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the program and to express your interest.

FARMER GROUP TECHNICAL EVENTS



Agriculture Victoria is coordinating delivery of technical information and decision-making events and workshops across the state, focused on key drought management issues.

Scan the QR code for events in your area.

LOOK OVER THE FARM GATE – CLOSED



The 'Look Over the Farm Gate' mental health and wellbeing grant program is **now fully subscribed**. It provided grants of up to \$5,000 designed to support local organisations to create events and initiatives tailored to their unique community. The program is managed by the National Centre for Farmer Health on behalf of the Victorian Government. **All approved projects will be supported through to 30 April 2026.**

Scan the QR code for more information about the program.

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE (RFCS) – WELLBEING SUPPORT



In addition to the ongoing rural financial counselling services always available statewide, wellbeing counsellors are now available in Gippsland, the north east and north west, as well as south west Victoria. To access the support of a wellbeing counsellor, call the RFCS on 1300 771 741. Scan the QR code for more information about your local RFCS service.

DUTIES AND FEES RELIEF PACKAGE



Agriculture Victoria is working with food and safety regulators Dairy Foods Safety Victoria, PrimeSafe, the State Revenue Office and the livestock advisory committees to deliver this support. The package includes measures to waive a raft of livestock biosecurity duties, plant biosecurity fees, beekeeper registration fees, food safety fees and other service charges, delivering more than \$10 million in relief to Victorian producers.

Scan the QR code below for more information on specific fee and duty relief.

INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF HAY AND FODDER AND FREIGHT NETWORK



A dedicated network to support fodder and grain movements on key freight routes in south west Victoria, permitting loads of up to 84 tonnes – a 15-tonne increase on the usual limit on these routes. Suppliers, transporters and farmers can now apply for a free Plant Biosecurity Permit, with applications processed within 2 working days, with inspection fees waived (where required upon arrival).

Scan the QR code for information on permit requirements, application forms, and the Victorian Freight Drought Network.

ON-FARM KANGAROO CONTROL REBATE PROGRAM



The On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program is open for farmers to hire authorised professional harvesters to help control kangaroos. Farmers with an approved authority to control wildlife (ACTW) can access up to 3 individual rebates of up to \$450 (ex-GST) each, noting farmers are required to co-contribute 25% to the cost.

Scan the QR code for more information about the program.

OTHER: COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Programs and services are available to help farmers impacted by drought. These include the Farm Household Allowance, Rural Financial Counselling Service, concessional loans and tax concessions.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

GROWING & GRAZING MULTISPECIES CROPS

WITH GUEST SPEAKER JADE KILLORAN

Tuesday 21st of October

10am - 2:30pm



Come and learn how multispecies crops fit into your system to improve forage production and cattle health

- How to Grow them
- How to oversee with them
- Where they fit into a pasture renovation plan
- What are the benefits to your cattle

927 Marlo-Conran Rd MARLO 3888

Lunch Provided

RSVP essential! <https://forms.gle/xNyWj4cNNMz6fdARA>



AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

This event is being delivered by Herd Solutions on behalf of Agriculture Victoria as part of the Victorian Government's statewide Drought Support Package.



SPRING FIELD DAY

Gippsland Research Farm



Lucerne

Learning the best fit for your dryland farm with variety trials on display



Pastures

Selecting the best perennial mixes for growth in all seasons



Containment Areas

Design options and feeding lambs in containment



Faba Beans

The how, what and when for growing this valuable protein source



Weighty Weaners

What are you missing to maximise weight for age?



Soils & Lime

Liming rates demo & using "LimeAssist" to calculate applications



Hay & Silage

Making quality hay & silage for high livestock performance



Cereals

Varieties and disease management options for grain and livestock enterprises



Tractor Demo

McCormick tractors incorporating poultry litter



Thursday 23rd October 2025

8:30am - 4:00pm : Bengworden Rd / Bairnsdale Airport

A free event but places are limited register now!

Click or scan QR to register bit.ly/4nNVLQb

More info phone: 0436 462 559 Email: njenkins@sfs.org.au



The 2025 Spring Field Day is powered by McCormick Tractors through local dealer Clark Equipment





Detox your Home is coming to Bairnsdale

Saturday 25 October 2025 | 9.00am to 1.00pm

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange,
11 Saleyard Road, Bairnsdale

Household chemicals such as bleach, pesticides, weed killers, cleaning products and fuels should never be put in your rubbish bins or poured down the drain.

Safely dispose of unwanted household chemicals at Sustainability Victoria's **free** Detox your Home event, without harming your health or the environment.

For a full list of chemicals accepted, visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/accepted-items

Detox your Home events are drive-through and contactless.



To register to attend simply scan the QR code or visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome



SUCCESSION PLANNING ROADSHOW

"It's all okay... until
it's not"



FREE
Tea, coffee &
light meal provided



**Practical
Takeaways**
With handouts
& goodies

As part of the **Victorian Seniors Festival 2025**, **NEX** and **East Gippsland Shire Council** are hosting a series of informative workshops on Succession Planning. These sessions are designed to give attendees **clarity & confidence** to approach the important & often difficult topic of succession.

Learn why succession planning matters, what options there are and how to start the process.

<p>7 October 1:30pm - 3:30pm Service Centre/Library, 55 Esplanade Paynesville</p>	<p>9 October 12:00pm - 2:00pm Genoa Community Hall Princes Highway Genoa</p>	<p>14 October 10:00am - 12:00pm Neighbourhood House, 6 Centre Rd Buchan</p>	<p>15 October 2:30pm - 4:30pm Nicholson Hotel 929 Princes Hwy Twin Rivers</p>
<p>21 October 10:00am - 12:00pm GAgG 345 Bengworden Rd Bairnsdale</p>	<p>22 October 10:30am - 12:30pm Service Centre/Library 1 Ruskin St Orbost</p>	<p>28 October 4:00pm - 6:00pm Fresh Air Cafe 199 Day Ave Omeo</p>	<p>Bookings essential, register at https://forms.office.com/r/daf10iQyKv or phone 1300 045 747</p>



Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025

East Gippsland Women in Agriculture
Network invites you to:

Basic Tractor Skills Workshop

DATE: Wed 26th October 2025

TIME: 9.45am to 2.30pm **And 26 November**

VENUE: Gippsland Agriculture Centre
345 Bengworden Rd, Bengworden



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

LUNCH IS PROVIDED

LUNCH

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.





SOILS & FLOODS *at Genoa*

A wet year has caused some unique challenges for Genoa and surrounding farming communities.

Thursday 30th October
10.00am to 2.00pm
Genoa Hall - Princes Highway, Genoa



TOPICS

- ✓ Understanding your soil test results
- ✓ Sowing into Wet Soil
- ✓ The Latest Flood Maps for the Genoa River
- ✓ Flooding Trigger Points

FREE



Bring your soil tests

To register click:
[Genoa Tickets](#) OR
Scan QRCode



Any questions contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community™



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

This workshop is supported by the Gippsland Community Foundation

TAW PADDOCK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

JUST A FARMER



LEILA
MCDUGALL

JOEL
JACKSON

AND
ROBERT
TAYLOR

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

JUST A FARMER MOVIE SCREENING
Q&A WITH LEILA MCDUGALL PLUS FILM SCREENING
FRI 31ST OCT 2025 LOCHIEL STREET,
ORBOST VIC 3888 || 6.00PM
REGISTER HERE -->



DIRECTED BY
SIMON LYNDON

PRODUCED BY BEAN & LEILA MCDUGALL



Proudly
supported
by



FARMER
HEALTH

This event is supported by the
South-Eastern Pastoral System Community Project
in partnership with the Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
under the Australian Government's 2023-2025 Regional Package



Saputo
Dairy Australia





Join the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network Board

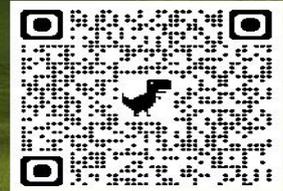
Help shape the future of Gippsland's landscapes & communities.

-  Board & Chair opportunities available
-  Voluntary | Hybrid | Quarterly meetings
-  Supporting 20 Landcare groups across West Gippsland

Applications close: Friday 31 Oct 2025

Apply now: www.lcln.com.au

#Landcare #CommunityLeadership



CIRCULAR ECONOMY WORKSHOPS

NOV 11TH

SESSION 1. HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

NOV 12TH

SESSION 2. MANUFACTURING & AGRIBUSINESS

NOV 13TH

SESSION 3. RETAIL & PROFESSIONAL

MORWELL INNOVATION CENTRE

10AM - 1.30PM \$15

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DFWFZ](https://www.trybooking.com/DFWFZ)





FROM PIT TO PROFIT – TACKLING SOIL CONSTRAINTS FOR BETTER YIELDS

Join soil scientist Dr Cassandra Scheffe for a practical soil pit day exploring how to get the best from your soils and fertiliser applications. During the day, you'll gain valuable insights into improving productivity while looking at physical and chemical soil constraints.

Topics include:

- Soil pit discussion
- Identifying & managing soil constraints (physical & chemical)
- The 4R's (Right source, rate, time & place)
- Efficient fertiliser use
- Making the most of soil test results
- Organic matter management
- The importance of good soil fertility

Program:

🕒 10:00am – 1:00pm — Soil pit session: soil constraints & discussion

🍽️ 1:00pm – 1:30pm — Lunch

This is a great chance to ask questions, and take-home practical strategies to boost your farm's productivity.

Time
10:00am – 1:30pm
Date
Wednesday 15 October
Location
On-farm (address provided after registration)
Register

<p><i>Robyn McLean</i> P: 0447 379 173 E: robyn.mclean@dairyaustralia.com.au</p>



Delivered with funding support from the Commonwealth of Australia through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Carbon Farming Outreach Program.