Gippsland Shire Council

SPECIAL EDITION AGRINEWS
Omeo Show 2026

Contents

EVENTS 1
FUNDING 4
COMMUNITY FUNDING 4
SURVEYS & OPPORTUNITIES 5
INFORMATION 7
COUNCIL UPDATES 11
WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

EVENTS

Are you Growing Profit or Eating it? 19 Nov

There is a practical Business of Farming session focused on understanding your numbers, making smarter feed decisions and getting more out of your livestock enterprise in Omeo on Thursday 19 November.

Explore:

- **Know your numbers:** Understand your true cost of production, where your money is being made and where hidden costs are eating into cash flow.



- **Spring or autumn calving?** Look at real numbers from six High Country farms and how calving time influences feed demand, seasonal pressure, workload and business returns.
- **Grow feed smarter:** Discover the true cost of home-grown fodder using a new calculator, and learn how fodder testing can help you make better feed and nutritional decisions.
- **Turn knowledge into profit:** Bring your costs, feed and livestock decisions together to improve business performance, manage risk and plan for the next 6–12 months.

Whether you're looking to sharpen up your cost of production, rethink your calving system or make every tonne of home-grown feed work harder, there's something practical to take back to your farm.

Thursday 19 November 2026
10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Omeo Soldiers Memorial Hall
179 Day Avenue, Omeo

No cost to attend – lunch provided. **Please register at** https://wkf.ms/3UTziP0. For further information or book direct, contact Kelly on 0484 124 281.

National Agriculture Day Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House 20 Nov

Celebrate National Ag Day and acknowledge the vital contribution of local farmers at a community event in Bairnsdale on Friday 20 November, from 11am to 2pm at Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House.

Enjoy a range of East Gippsland products, connect with community members, and learn more about the role agriculture plays in supporting our region. The event will also feature guest speaker Professor Sarah Birch from King's College London, who will share insights from her research into the social impacts of bushfires.

Also the day will feature a mini expo showcasing local producers, a FREE lunch featuring BBQ venison, chicken sausages and other local treats, and meet agricultural agencies and support services supporting our rural communities.



A great opportunity for farmers, residents and the wider community to come together and celebrate the people and industries that help make our region thrive.

Friday 20 November
10am – 3pm with lunch 12 – 2pm
Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House

For more information, please contact Leanne on 0428 330 756.

Emerging Weeds - Recognising threats, taking action webinar 26 Nov

What happens when a new weed appears, and how can we act before it becomes a major problem?

Emerging weeds can spread rapidly, threatening biodiversity, agriculture and natural landscapes. But early detection, community involvement and coordinated action can make a real difference in preventing new infestations from becoming established.



Join Landcare Victoria for an engaging webinar exploring the importance of recognising emerging weed threats and taking action before they become widespread.

Through two inspiring case studies, we will explore the power of community-led action:

- **Taking action against inkweed on a small island:** Discover how a local community has mobilised to tackle the rapid spread of inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*), bringing together volunteers, landholders and funding opportunities to coordinate control efforts and prevent further spread.
- **From local concern to national recognition:** Hear how the determination of a Landcare volunteer in East Gippsland helped elevate sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) from a local environmental concern to a nationally recognised weed priority, demonstrating the influence grassroots communities can have on national weed management.

Thursday 26 November
12pm to 1.30pm
Hosted by Landcare Victoria Inc

Register at [Emerging Weeds - Recognising threats, taking action]

Allan Parker Brain Reset 3 Dec

Join renowned facilitator and trainer **Allan Parker** for **Resetting Your Brain**, an engaging workshop designed to help participants better manage the pressures of everyday life. Discover practical strategies to reduce stress, anxiety and overwhelm, improve wellbeing, and support more restful sleep.
Through a better understanding of how the brain works, participants will learn techniques to manage tension, build resilience, and have **calming conversations** that foster understanding and stronger relationships rather than reactive debates.

Allan will share practical tools and insights that can be applied both personally and professionally, helping participants develop healthier approaches to life's challenges and enhance their overall mental wellbeing.

3 December 2026
10am to 4pm
Gippsland Ag Centre, Bengworden Rd
$40 per person



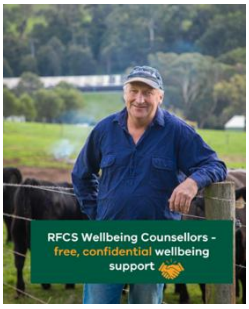
Book online at https://events.humanitix.com/brain-reset. For more information contact Emma Orgill 0400 467 921.

Save the date - Cann River Business of Farming 8 December

FUNDING

Drought Support Package

As we move into the warmer months, support is available for farmers across Victoria to manage current conditions, access practical advice and plan ahead with more confidence with:



- Rural Financial Counselling Service Wellbeing Counsellors - free, confidential wellbeing support alongside its usual financial and business counselling support.
- Drought support events – workshops and events across the state supporting farmers in drought and recovery.

To view the full range of financial, technical and wellbeing support available, visit our website or phone 136 186.
Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria

Programs from Regional Investment Corporation

RIC low-interest loans support Australian farm businesses involved in the agricultural, horticultural, pastoral, apicultural (beekeeping) or aquacultural industries.

Before you apply, visit the website to check if your farm business is an eligible industry. If you are, there is a loan for you with great rates and conditions to get you going, help your recover or scale up and invest.

- **AgBiz Drought Loan** - these enable farm-related small business to manage through and recover from drought.
- **Farm Investment Loan** - these support recovery from severe business impact and preparation foe future financial disruptions.
- **Drought Hardship Loan** - this is to help manage through and recover from prolonged and severe drought.



- **Drought Loan** - prepare for, manage through, and recover from drought. AgBiz Drought Loan - Regional Investment Corporation

On-farm Energy and Electrification Demonstration Program

The On-Farm Energy and Electrification Demonstration (OFEED) Program aims to accelerate the uptake of proven and new-to-market energy technologies across Victoria's agriculture sector. The program will show how energy technologies perform on Victorian farms. It will share information about costs, benefits and return on investment. This will help farmers make informed decisions and adopt technologies with confidence.

Grants of $200,000 to $750,000 are available for successful applicants to showcase energy technologies that can:



- improve on-farm energy efficiency
- reduce fuel, gas or energy consumption
- generate renewable energy
- provide energy storage on farm.

Find more information and the application at On-Farm Energy and Electrification Demonstration Program | Funds, grants and programs | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria

COMMUNITY FUNDING

FRRR – Strengthening Rural Communities Program: Prepare & Recover to 3 Dec

The Strengthening Rural Communities – Prepare & Recover Program is now open, with grants of up to $25,000 available to support remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to prepare for future climate impacts or recover from past disasters.

Funding is available for community-led projects that:

- Build resilience to future climate-related events.
- Support medium to long-term disaster recovery (generally 1–10 years after a disaster).
- Strengthen community skills, knowledge, leadership and local connections.
- Improve social wellbeing and information sharing.
- Recognise First Nations knowledge and support healing, connection and care for Country.
- Deliver lasting benefits that reflect local priorities and needs.

Round 31 closes on the 3 December, to find out more go to Strengthening Rural Communities – Prepare & Recover or call 03 5430 2399.

Generous Gippsland Community Grant Launch & AGM

Community groups, supporters and interested parties from across Gippsland are invited to Traralgon as Gippsland Community Foundation launches the first-ever **Generous Gippsland Community Grant Round.**

It's a chance to meet with Gippsland Community Foundation Directors, share priority projects in your community, and get your questions answered about **grants of up to $5,000** for locally-led projects across all six Gippsland local government areas. Since 2021, Gippsland Community Foundation has awarded $10.8 million to community projects across Gippsland.

GIPPSLAND Community Foundation

Monday 7 December 2026, 3.00 pm
Traralgon Greyhound Club

This is Gippsland funding, from a Gippsland Foundation, exclusively for Gippsland community-led projects. To book or find out more go to Generous Gippsland Grant Launch & AGM

SURVEYS & OPPORTUNITIES

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM MORE FARMERS for the Looking Ahead 2026 survey



We are seeking East Gippsland and Wellington Shire farmers input to help shape the 2019 'Looking Ahead' advocacy paper for Gippsland agriculture.

We need your input on:

- What are the key issues affecting the farm?
- What opportunities do you see?
- What challenges are you facing?

Complete the survey at **Agricultural Assistance** which may take up to 15 minutes. For further information contact Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au or phone 0423 205 007.

Business Skills and Mentoring Program

Get expert support to grow your business. The Business Skills and Mentoring Program connects Victorian small business owners with experienced mentors. Access personalised guidance to help build skills, overcome challenges and plan for the future. Business Skills Mentoring Program | Business Victoria.

Business Skills and Mentoring Program

Get expert support to grow your business. The Business Skills and Mentoring Program connects Victorian small business owners with experienced mentors. Access personalised guidance to help build skills, overcome challenges and plan for the future. Business Skills Mentoring Program | Business Victoria.

CQUniversity AUSTRALIA

CQU Identify practical solutions for silage plastic waste across Gippsland

Council is encouraging farmers, contractors, waste operators and industry stakeholders to participate in a research project being led by Prof. Amy Cosby and CQUniversity to help identify practical solutions for managing and recycling silage plastic waste across Gippsland. The study will investigate the feasibility of a council-run collection and recycling model and will help inform future services that reduce landfill, improve resource recovery and support on-farm sustainability outcomes.

Participants are invited to take part in a confidential 45-minute interview or focus group to share their experiences, challenges and ideas relating to silage plastic waste management. Insights gathered will contribute to the development of a regional roadmap and practical model for silage plastic recycling that can be scaled across Gippsland and potentially adopted by councils throughout Australia. To commence go

to https://calendly.com/ageducation/silage-plastic-waste-_-cqu or contact Patricia Menchon, PhD Candidate p.menchon@cqu.edu.au.

Pollinator Positive Farming



A new **Pollinator Positive Farming** certification program has been launched by the Wheen Bee Foundation to support Australian farmers in protecting and enhancing pollinator populations that are vital to agricultural productivity. The program provides practical guidance to improve pollinator habitat, food sources, nesting areas, water availability and pest management practices, with participation open to farmers and land managers across all agricultural sectors.

Applications for Pollinator Positive Farming are now open. Learn more at www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/pollinator-positive/

Deck the farm gate: GippsDairy's Christmas farm challenge

Forget decking the halls. This Christmas, we're decking the farm gates! Gather your farm team and transform your entrance into a creative, dairy-inspired Christmas display. Think Christmas cows, tractors covered in tinsel, festive fencing or even a full dairy Christmas wonderland!

To enter:

- Decorate your farm entrance with a Christmas and dairy theme.
- Get your farm team involved.
- Take a photo of your finished display.



Submit your entry before judging begins on 1 December. There are three prizes up for grabs, including bragging rights as GippsDairy's Best Christmas Display. Entries will be judged on creativity, dairy theme and visual impact. Let's light up farm gates across Gippsland and celebrate the people, farms and communities that make our dairy industry great.
Ready, set… decorate register at GippsDairy Christmas Challenge: Deck the Farm Gate | Dairy Australia

Bugs In My Backyard Week — 16 to 22 Nov

Help create a nationwide springtime snapshot of bugs across Australia and join Bugs In My Backyard Week, Bug Hunt's annual national citizen science event.



Find out more at bughunt.org.au, including details of prizes on offer this year!

Bug Hunt is a national citizen-science project by the Invasive Species Council and Invertebrates Australia with support from the Australian Geographic Awards for Nature program.

Every photo helps scientists build a springtime snapshot of Australia's bugs, and spot any sneaky invaders that don't belong here.

It's completely free to take part, all you need is your phone and a sense of curiosity! Find out more at Bugs In My Backyard Yard Week 2026 · iNaturalist Australia.

INFORMATION

Planning a Farm Development Project? – including dams - Start Here

If you are planning to construct a farm building or modify your farming system, it is important to firstly determine if you need a permit from Council or other statutory authority.



Before you *buy the shed* or *the excavator arrives* check out **Agriculture Victoria's Navigating Farm Developments (NFD)** tool. It will help farmers and farm consultants to determine when a building permit and/or change of land use planning permit is required for a range of typical farm development projects.

Covering eight agricultural sectors, including beef, dairy, grains, horticulture, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats, the tool provides sector-specific guidance tailored to your property and proposed development.

NFD can help you understand key planning considerations early in the process to efficiently navigate the planning process. It is a valuable starting point that can minimise regulatory hurdles by simply shifting the development out of a flood zone or away from a waterway. The NFD report can be discussed with Council planning to inform early decision-making and reduce the risk of constructing expensive infrastructure without approval or consent.

Navigating farm developments – online planning tool | Planning and farm development | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria.

Other handy online pages from Ag Vic:

- https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/planning-and-farm-development
- https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/planning-and-farm-development/agvic-planning-and-advisory-service
- eGuides: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/planning-and-farm-development/eguides-planning-and-farm-development

H5 bird flu



If you see sick or dead birds or other wildlife, do not touch them.

- **Avoid** direct contact.
- **Record** what you see.
- **Report** it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 or using the online form.

Report clusters of 5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria. Report even one sick or dead:

- wild seabird, waterbird, shorebird or bird of prey
- marine mammal (e.g. seal, dolphin).

Learn more on Ag Vic website H5N1 avian influenza | Poultry diseases | Animal diseases | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria

You can also view reports on the online map and follow surveillance activity across the state at **agriculture.vic.gov.au/birdflu**

Taking your farm vehicle on the road?

Special work vehicles are used for specific agricultural, maintenance or service tasks, including quad bikes and side-by-sides may require VicRoads conditional registration for road use, with specific conditions covering licensing, equipment, safety and where they can be operated. Special work vehicles - Transport Victoria



View more information on operator groups on the VicRoads non-compliant vehicles page.

Update your farm fire preparedness plan

Every farm is different, and effective fire preparedness requires a tailored approach. Developing a fire plan helps protect your family, staff, livestock, infrastructure and business operations, while supporting a faster recovery if your property is impacted by fire.

Planning ahead allows you to identify risks, prioritise actions and schedule preparedness activities before the fire season arrives. Get fire season ready with **Agriculture Victoria's Fire Preparedness Toolkit**, which includes practical checklists and templates to help review your farm, assets, livestock, workforce and arrangements for high-risk fire days.

Use the toolkit to assess and update your:

- Business preparedness
- Family and staff emergency planning
- Farm preparedness
- Building and vegetation maintenance
- Equipment and asset maintenance
- Water supply and firefighting resources
- Livestock management and relocation planning



You can also draw on resources from the **Horticulture Bushfire Toolkit** to strengthen your preparedness and response planning.

Download your free copy of the toolkit from our website at agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires/fire-toolkit or email recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au to request a hard copy.

Why Reporting of Dingoes and Livestock Losses Matters

Last month we featured an article on the timely reporting of dingo activity, including livestock attacks, sightings, tracks, and any other predation incidents support effective management and protect livestock. Every report contributes valuable information that helps government officers and management programs better understand the scale, location and movement of dingo populations, allowing resources to be directed where they are needed most.

This month we discuss how the information is used once you report.

How the Information Is Used

All reports are recorded in management databases, creating a real-time picture of dingo activity and livestock impacts. The data is analysed and used to guide future management decisions including best use of resources.

Short-Term Benefits

Current information enables officers to:

- Assess the likelihood of further attacks.
- Identify emerging hotspots.
- Decide whether additional control measures are required.
- Determine when and where reactive management should occur.

Medium-Term Benefits

Accumulated reporting data helps agencies:

- Understand how dingoes move across landscapes.
- Develop and improve management plans.
- Prioritize resources and operational activities.
- Support applications for funding, approvals and control programs.

Long-Term Benefits

Over time, reporting information:

- Builds a comprehensive understanding of the predation problem across Victoria.
- Informs government policy and strategic planning.
- Supports research into more effective management techniques.
- Demonstrates the impacts of dingoes on livestock, communities and the environment.
- Helps justify ongoing investment in management programs.

A Shared Responsibility

The most effective outcomes occur when landholders combine timely reporting with appropriate on-farm management practices and work collaboratively with management agencies and neighbouring landholders.

Every report, whether it relates to livestock predation, livestock harassment, sightings, tracks, or hearing dingoes, contributes to a more accurate understanding of dingo activity. This information helps ensure management efforts are targeted, resources are used effectively, and support is directed to the areas experiencing the greatest need.

If you see dingo activity, or experience livestock impacts, report it as soon as possible. Early and accurate reporting improves local responses, strengthens long-term management programs, and helps protect livestock and farming enterprises Report dingo activity or livestock losses to DEECA Customer Call Centre on **13 61 86** or contact your local **Vertebrate Species Management Officer (VSMO)** for assistance and advice.

More information at Livestock predation management in eastern Victoria | Livestock predation management | Livestock health and welfare | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria.

Digging Deeper - Lisa Miller Beyond the Surface: Exploring Soil Acidity

In this episode of Digging Deeper, Lisa Miller discusses why managing soil constraints is often harder than identifying them, emphasizing the need to assess the full soil profile and target the most production-limiting issues. Common constraints covered include acidity (treated with lime), sodicity and dispersion (often treated with gypsum), compaction, and dense clay subsoils where deep ripping alone can be a short-lived “band-aid.”



She outlines Soil CRC research found the greatest plant performance gains occurred when nitrogen and phosphorus were placed directly into constrained subsoil layers, promoting deeper root growth, increased microbial activity, improved aggregation, and nutrient cycling.

Trials also showed what outperforms over lime, highlighting the importance of economics and locally relevant research when addressing soil constraints. *More information on addressing Soil Constraints can be found at the Soil CRC* ***https://soilcrc.com.au/projects/addressing-complex-soil-constraints/***

Digger Deeper Chats with AI can be listened to at Podcast - Digger Deeper - AG Chats with AL.

Improving soil health and pasture productivity Quentin Hodge

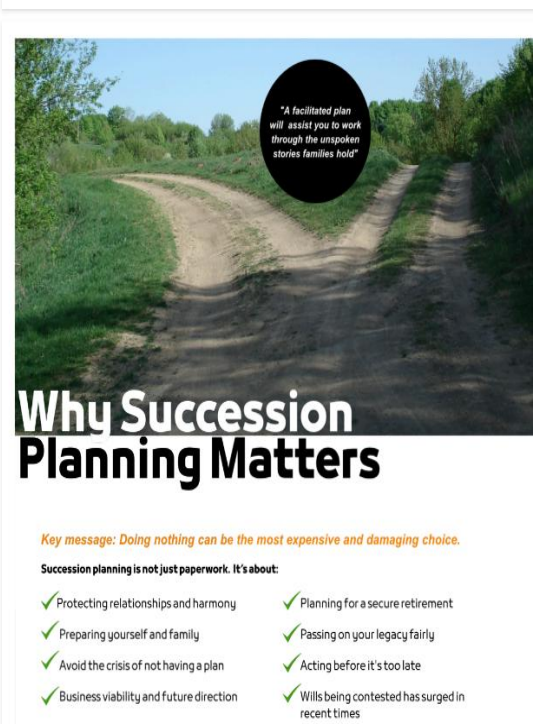
East Gippsland producer **Quentin Hodge** has focused on improving soil health and pasture productivity across his breeding property at Gelantipy and backgrounding property near Bairnsdale. Through participation in an MLA-funded Producer Demonstration Site project, he has used soil moisture and temperature probes to better understand how his soils perform and to support more informed management decisions. Quentin emphasised that strong soil fertility is the foundation for productivity, with the data helping move decision-making beyond traditional calendar-based practices.



The soil monitoring technology has improved decisions around pasture species selection, crop establishment, fertiliser timing and seasonal risk management. Insights from the project highlighted significant differences in how annual crops and perennial pastures access and use soil moisture, with perennial pastures drawing water from much deeper in the soil profile than expected. The information has strengthened Quentin's confidence in planning for dry periods, managing stocking rates and supplementary feeding providing a valuable tool for both farm management and advisory work with other producers. The Weekly: Digging deeper into pasture performance.

Succession Planning

Why Succession Planning Matters



Successful planning is not just about legal documents. It matters as it helps with:

- Protecting relationships and family harmony
- Preparing yourself and your family
- Avoiding the crisis of having no plan
- Supporting business viability and future direction
- Planning for a secure retirement
- Passing on your legacy fairly
- Taking action before it is too late

Tailoring the Approach - The succession planning is **not one-size-fits-all** and should reflect a family's stage of life and goals.

Near retirement / health concerns - Plan for aged care, housing, superannuation and medical needs over the next 3–5 years.

Still farming with children involved - Create clarity around roles, fairness (which may not always mean equality), and retirement income.

Younger or forward-thinking families - Establish frameworks early to reduce conflict, protect the farm legacy and build resilience.

Overall Message - The best thing is for farming families to start succession planning early, proactive conversations and structured planning can help avoid conflict, protect family relationships, support retirement goals, and secure the future of the farming enterprise.
For more information reach out to NEX 1300 045 747.

FOOD & FIBRE GIPPSLAND UPDATE

FFG launches New Branding - Gippsland Trusted

The launch of **Gippsland Trusted** brought together producers and industry leaders to celebrate Gippsland's reputation for high-quality food and fibre and explore new opportunities to strengthen market access and consumer confidence through a unified regional brand. The initiative aims to enhance recognition of Gippsland products and support the growth of the region's agricultural sector.

East Gippsland was strongly represented, with eight local producers attending the launch and all eight submitting expressions of interest to join the program. Businesses can join through either the **Licensed Brand Membership** or **Market Access Membership**, with fees starting from **$500 + GST per year**. For more information, contact Food & Fibre Gippsland at **info@foodandfibregippsland.com.au**

To find out more contact Food & Fibre Gippsland info@foodandfibregippsland.com.au.







COUNCIL UPDATES

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange





Roadside Grazing Permits Fees being waived

Many farmers across the Omeo district continue to face rising feed costs and ongoing green drought conditions. To help support local producers, **East Gippsland Shire Council is waiving application fees for eligible Roadside Grazing Permits**, making it easier for farmers to access additional feed while ensuring livestock are grazed safely and in accordance with permit requirements.

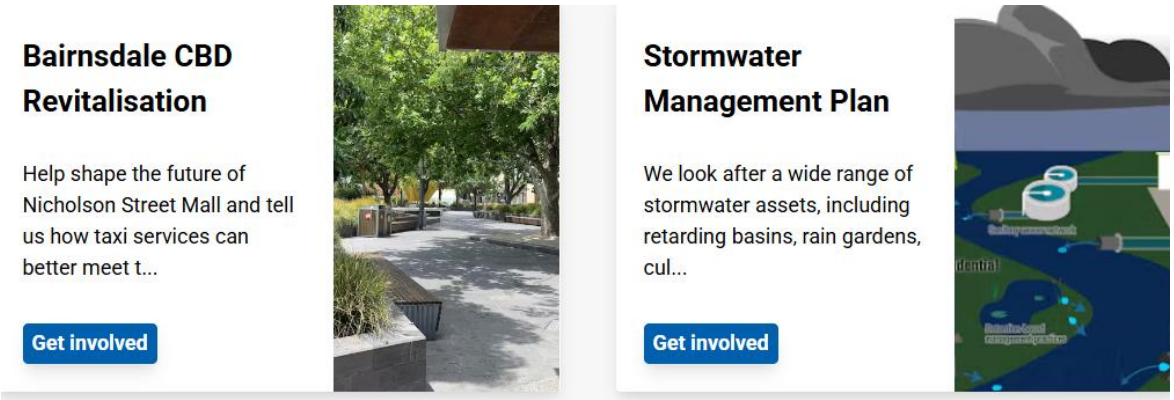
Farmers are still required to submit an application and obtain approval from a Community Laws Officer, however the permit fee will be waived. To find out more or apply for a permit, visit Council's **Roadside Grazing Permits** webpage: https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community-laws-and-permits/roadside-grazing.

Have your say - Your Say on Projects

Have you checked out **Your Say, East Gippsland** recently? Your Say is an online platform that lets you share what you think about the projects, services and places that matter to you. It's an important engagement tool for Council and community.

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

Current engagement opportunities you can comment on at Your Say East Gippsland are:



Have your say on the draft Bairnsdale 2050 Strategy by 30 Nov

Planning for Bairnsdale's future

Bairnsdale 2050 is a long-term strategic plan to guide the growth, renewal and development of Bairnsdale, East Bairnsdale, Eastwood, Lucknow and Wy Yung to 2050.

The draft strategy sets out a vision for a connected, inclusive and enterprising regional centre, with diverse housing, a resilient economy, vibrant public spaces and strong connections to culture and the natural environment. It brings together existing strategic directions to guide Council's future decisions, advocacy, investment and partnerships.



Phase 2 Community Engagement closes at **5.00 pm on Monday, 30 November 2026**.
The draft Plan for feedback can be accessed at Bairnsdale 2050 | Your Say East Gippsland.

Sustainable Living Summer Comfort webinar

Don't miss your final opportunity to take part in this popular webinar series.

This sessions will explore practical energy efficiency measures to help keep homes cooler and more comfortable during summer, while also reducing energy costs and lowering emissions. The last session is for renters. Hosted by **Andrew Reddaway**, sustainable design expert at **Renew**, these informative sessions will provide practical advice and plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

Summer Comfort for Renters – Thursday 26 November, 7:00 pm

Register here and join us for this 90 minute session, with plenty of time for questions.

Other council links:

We-are-ready-before-it-happens.aspx
Summer-Comfort-webinars.aspx
East Gippsland Shire (VIC) - Community Directory
Dashboard
Hidden wiring: The volunteer efforts powering community resilience in East Gippsland | The Centre
The latest news from your Council

East Gippsland Grant Finder

Looking for funding for community projects, business ideas, or events? East Gippsland Grant Finder portal helps local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits, and individuals discover grants from local, state, and federal sources, as well as corporate and philanthropic funding. For more information, visit the East Gippsland Grant Guru portal.

East Gippsland grant finder

Community Matters e-newsletter

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

Community Matters e-newsletter

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

ASAC Meeting

The Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC) met on 12 November 2026 with members discussing Council's Plantation Discussion Paper and recognising opportunities associated with the forestry transition while highlighting concerns around the loss of productive farmland, pest animal management, road impacts, local employment outcomes and the long-term sustainability of rural communities. The Committee also received an update on the Looking Ahead 2026 survey feedback to date, which identified farm viability, financial pressures, simpler support programs, resilience planning and coordinated advocacy as key priorities for local producers.

Members discussed Council's work to strengthen the evidence base for pest animal management advocacy, including gathering producer case studies and economic impact data relating to wild dogs, deer, pigs and other pest species. Council provided updates on the 2027-28 Budget engagement process, Local Law review, drought resilience initiatives, business support programs and the My Lot online planning tool. The meeting reinforced the Committee's role in guiding Council advocacy and ensuring industry perspectives are reflected in future planning, policy development and support for East Gippsland's agriculture sector.

Welcome New Members

The committee welcomes Anthony Woodland and Cindy Jacobs as the two newest members. **Anthony Woodland** is the General Manager of Lakes Entrance Fishermen Limited, who brings extensive experience in seafood industry operations, workforce leadership and industry advocacy and former agricultural educator and dairy industry representative **Cindy Lucas** brings significant experience in dairy production, agricultural training and industry engagement.






Orbost Dairy Night

GippsDairy welcomed 26 attendees to an informative evening featuring the latest dairy industry outlook from Tom Youl, Dairy Australia, and farm performance insights from Natalie Nelson, Agriculture Victoria. Presentations explored dairy market trends, the impacts of recent seasonal conditions, strategies farms have used to rebuild resilience, and encouraging improvements in profitability across Victorian dairy businesses.





Gippsland Wine Awards

The **2026 Farmer's Daughters Gippsland Wine Show** attracted 116 entries and awarded a record 85 medals, highlighting the strength of Gippsland wines across varieties including Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Shiraz and Aromatic Whites.

East Gippsland's **Lightfoot Wines** enjoyed outstanding success, winning **Best White Wine of Provenance** for its Home Block Chardonnay and **Best Other Red Varieties & Blends** for its Lightfoot 2025 Minotaur. Council was proud to sponsor the Best Other Red Varieties & Blends category and was pleased to see a local East Gippsland producer take home the trophy, presented by Jessica Barlow , EGSC Visitor Economy Coordinator.

The annual wine show continues to showcase Gippsland's premium wine industry and its important contribution to the region's economy, visitor appeal and agricultural sector.







Gippsland Jersey Celebrates 10 years

Gippsland Jersey celebrates 10 years and for 10 years Lucke's in Bairnsdale has been stocking Gippsland Jersey milk.

Steve and Sallie say thank you to every local who has purchased their products, shopped at Lucke's and supported their ever-increasing range. Your support has helped keep local dairy farming alive and thriving. And they love working with businesses that care about where their food comes from.

When you shop local, it makes a difference.



Gippsland Jersey and Lucke's are a great example of what can happen when local businesses support each other and the community chooses to buy local. Every purchase helps support local farmers, jobs, families and businesses, with more money staying in East Gippsland and circulating through our local economy.

As part of **East Gippsland's Buy Local campaign**, we're encouraging residents to look for opportunities to choose local products and services wherever they can. Small choices made by many people can have a big impact on the strength and resilience of our region.

Congratulations to Gippsland Jersey on this milestone and thank you to everyone who continues to support local. See more on Instagram









Omeo Show

Visitors to this year's Omeo Show stopped by Council's Agribusiness marquee in strong numbers, creating valuable opportunities to connect with local farmers, landholders and community members. Conversations

were about Council services and resources, including the Emergency Management Dashboard, Monthly AgriNews newsletter and support available for farmers experiencing seasonal challenges.

Conversations reflected the issues most important to local farming families, including pest and weed management, bushfire preparedness, roadside vegetation management and the impacts of wild dogs, deer, pigs, rabbits and feral horses on agricultural land and the environment. Producers also shared concerns about succession planning and rural planning controls, while welcoming news that roadside grazing permit fees are currently being waived to help eligible farmers access additional feed. One visitor commented that Council had "done a good job in advocating" on issues such as pest management and raising awareness of dry seasonal conditions. Council thanks the Omeo Show Committee, volunteers and exhibitors for helping make the event another successful day for the local community.

OTHER WINNERS

Silage Wrap: 20 entrants	Jeromiah Topperwien Time: 10.03 seconds
	Women's: Maree Time: 11.09 seconds
	U16 Oliver aged 12 Time: 13.18 seconds
Buy Local Hamper: 48 entrants	Julie from Lindenow South
New Member Book Voucher:	Rosemary Fitzgerald.












There are many more programs and projects being delivered in the region, contact your local agencies, production group or ag business to find out more.

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

BEHIND THE GATE

FARM VISITS I CONVERSATION I DINNER



Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 November

Starts & finishes in Traralgon

Overnight in Warragul

Gippsland Farmer Study Bus Tour

Join fellow Gippsland farmers for a two-day bus tour exploring how other producers are building productive, profitable and resilient farming businesses.

Visit five farms and hear directly from the people making it work. Ask questions, compare approaches and explore the costs, benefits and lessons learned along the way.

From sustainable agriculture and resource management to adapting in a variable climate, this is an opportunity to see what others are doing, share ideas with fellow producers and take home practical insights for your own farming system .

Your tour includes:

- Five farm visits across two days.
- Farmer-to-farmer conversations, practical insights and plenty of opportunities to ask questions.
- One night's accommodation in Warragul, including breakfast.

$149 per person
Non-refundable

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own lunches and dinner.

Meat, Greet & Eat

Unlocking Carcass Value:
From Market Requirements to Better Returns

Producer Dinner included in the tour

- Greenham's Producer Program
- MLA market update
- Meat Standards Australia (MSA) update
- Lardner Park Steer Trial
- Sustainability trends – global and local



**** Only 21 places available – bookings are first come, first served ****

REGISTER NOW!

Click Link: https://bit.ly/4z0PZqs

Scan QR:

For more info contact Jen
0409 436 133

This project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, through funding from the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program

GIPPSLAND AGRICULTURAL GROUP INVITES YOU TO

Meat, Greet & Eat

Wednesday 18 November | 6.00pm | Warragul Club Downtowner

PRODUCER DINNER

Unlocking Carcase Value: From Market Requirements to Better Returns

Join us for a producer dinner exploring practical ways to increase cattle carcass value and improve returns.

Hear how meeting premium market specifications and improving carcase weight and quality can translate into better payments, with real-world examples of what this means for your bottom line.

The evening will cover:

- **Greenham's Producer Program**
  Opportunities and what producers need to know
- **MLA Market Update**
  Insights into market trends and the outlook for red meat.
- **Meat Standards Australia (MSA)**
  Update on meat quality and eating quality.
- **Lardner Park Steer Trial**
  The latest insights and take home lessons.
- **Sustainability Trends**
  What's happening globally and locally, and what it could mean for your livestock business, market opportunities and profitability.



REGISTER NOW!

Click link: https://bit.ly/4k49qdq
Scan QR Code to register

Info: Call Jen 0409 436 133

MEALS AT OWN COST ~ BAR PRICES APPLY

This project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, through funding from the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program

BUSINESS OF FARMING

KNOW IT - USE IT - IMPROVE IT

Are you growing profit or eating it?

Explore how your costs, calving choices and feed decisions affect your bottom line, and learn how to make every dollar and every tonne of feed work harder for your business.



Know your numbers Understand what your cost of production is really telling you, where your money is being made and where hidden costs are eating into your cash flow.

Spring or autumn calving? The real numbers from six High Country Farms that explore how calving time affects feed demand, seasonal pressure, workload and business returns.

Grow feed smarter Uncover the true cost of home-grown fodder with a new calculator, and use recent fodder testing results to understand feed quality and make better nutritional decisions for different livestock classes.

Turn knowledge into profit Connect your numbers, feed and livestock decisions to improve business performance, manage risk and plan confidently for the next 6–12 months.

REGISTER

PHONE KELLY
0484 124 281

LINK: https://wkf.ms/3UTziP0

OR SCAN QR CODE:

OMEO

THURS 19TH NOV

10:00AM - 2:00PM

Omeo Soldiers Memorial Hall
179 Day Av, Omeo

** No cost & lunch provided **

COUNTRYSIDE BUSINESS PARTNERS

PEAK PASTURE & LIVESTOCK

TopSoils

SFS Southern Farming Systems

GAgG GIPPSLAND AGRICULTURAL GROUP INC.

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

This event is being co-delivered by Countryside Business Partners on behalf of Agriculture Victoria as part of the Victorian Government's statewide Drought Support Package and Southern Farming Systems' Top Soils Project which is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.


NATIONAL AG DAY 2026
OUR FARMERS
OUR FUTURE
20TH NOVEMBER
FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER
11am – 2pm
(set up from 10am)
FREE LUNCH
12 – 2pm
Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House
27 Dalmahoy Street
Everyone Welcome!
CELEBRATE OUR FARMERS
Acknowledge the generosity of local farmers
Take some samples home
TASTE OUR LOCAL PRODUCE
Enjoy a BBQ cooking a variety of venison and beef sausages from Game on Meats with Elders stock agents.
COMMUNITY KITCHEN
Our Community Kitchen will be cooking up a variety of dishes with products from Game on Meats, Picnic Point Farm, Down Under Mushrooms, Maroubra Eggs etc.
TAKE SOME SAMPLES HOME
Try and take home some samples of the amazing local produce our farmers provide for our community.
GUEST SPEAKER
Professor Sarah Birch
from Kings College England will be in attendance for a short period carrying out research on how bushfires have affected state-social relations.
Neighbourhood House
RURAL MINDS
Elders
GAME ON MEATS
BAIRNSDALE
PICNIC POINT FARM
DownUnder MUSHROOMS
Curative Kitchen
Contact Leanne 0428 330 756
Draft flyer if anyone is interested please contact Leanne to be added to this event to celebrate farmers.



Brain Reset

with Allan Parker from Peak Performance
2026 Australian Speaker of the year

DATE: 3rd Dec 2026
TIME: 10am to 4pm
WHERE: Gippsland Ag Centre, Bengworden Rd
COST: $40 per person

YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR MOST POWERFUL ASSET

- BEING MENTALLY FITTER, SHARPER, AND CALMER.
- LEARN HOW TO LISTEN TO THE BRAIN AND BODY YOU LIVE IN
- LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW, TO LIVE LONGER WITH AN INTACT AND HEALTHY BRIAN
- MAINTAIN COMPOSURE WHEN THERE ARE BUMPS AND HOLES IN THE ROAD OF LIFE.

LEARN HOW TO:

- Reset your brain in 5 easy steps
- Manage pressure & tension
- Understand the brain better
- Have calming conversations
- Learn the facts & myths of brain food & exercise

TO BOOK USE LINK OR QR CODE

HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/BRAIN-RESET

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

Regional Landcare East Gippsland
EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Australian Government

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