

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews October 2026



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EVENTS

Gippsdairy Managing People Online courses

Oct to 24 Nov

The success of your farm business depends not just on cows or equipment, but on the people who make it work. As your business grows and you employ staff, effective people management becomes essential. This course equips you with the skills to lead, communicate and build strong teams on farm.

Learn how to:

- Identify the benefits of good leadership and how it drives farm business success
- Apply motivation and retention strategies, and manage conflict effectively
- Apply clear communication approaches, from safety messages to business goals
- Support staff development through goal setting and training.
- Identify leadership traits in your team.

Online

October 20 and 27

November 10, 17 & 24

Tuesdays from 12.00pm – 1.30pm



Register at [Managing People - National on-line course \(October 2026\) | Dairy Australia](#).

REAL Rural Conversations Workshop Coming to Gippsland 21 & 26 Oct

Would you know what to do if someone around you seemed different or was struggling?

Real Rural Conversations is a free NEX Business Farming Wellness initiative helping people working in agriculture who support farmers to recognise when someone may be struggling, start supportive conversations, and connect them with the right support when it matters most

Using the **R.E.A.L. approach** (Recognise, Engage, Acknowledge, Link), participants will gain practical tools for conversations that matter. No counselling experience is required. The workshop focuses on opening the door to meaningful conversations and helping people access the right support.

Wednesday 21st October
Buchan Neighbourhood House
10.30am - 2.00pm

Wednesday 28th October
Omeo Community Hub Former Parks Victoria offices
10.30am - 2.00pm



Attendance is free and lunch is provided. Places are limited, so early registration is encouraged.
Register at [Register NEX Events](#), or phone 1300 045 741 or scan the QR code.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training Cann River

21 & 22 Oct

This is for:

- Individuals: Equip yourself with practical skills to recognise and safely respond to mental health concerns
- Businesses and Organisations: Supports organisations in meeting Psychosocial Hazards obligations under Australian WHS legislation
- Community groups and Clubs: Increased capability in providing support.



The session Includes being trained by a MHFA Licensed Instructor, an MHFA Manual and a MHFA Certificate of Completion upon meeting requirements.

Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 October
Cann River Bush Nursing Centre
9 am to 3 pm Morning tea and lunch provided
Register at [Mental Health First Aid Training - Cann River](#).

Cultural Conversation Club

22 Oct onwards

Help culturally diverse dairy workers thrive on farm through stronger communication. In partnership with the Heyfield Community Centre, Gippsdairy is delivering a free six-week English Conversation Program starting 22 October, helping participants build confidence, strengthen workplace communication and feel more connected at work and in the community.

This is a program to help individuals improve their English language skills for work on Farms.

Thursday October 22nd for six evenings
Heyfield Community Resource Centre



Register with Caroline on 5148 2100 or email coordinator@heyfield.net for more information.

Shelterbelts for Livestock & Biodiversity workshop

22 Oct

A Shelterbelts for Livestock & Biodiversity workshop series is coming to the Benambra district, providing landholders with practical skills to plan, restore, establish and manage shelterbelts that support both livestock productivity and on-farm biodiversity.

The four-part program will explore the benefits of shelter and shade, species selection, paddock tree protection, shelterbelt restoration, site preparation and long-term management. Eligible landholders within the Northeast Catchment may also receive tube stock and tree guards to assist with shelterbelt projects.

Session 1
Thursday 22 October 2026
10.00am – 3.00pm
Benambra Recreation Reserve

Session 2
Thursday 19 Nov
10am to 3pm



Featuring presentations from Keren Walker (AgVic) and Sally Day (NECMA), followed by field visits to local shelterbelt sites. The series is supported by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust's Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

Register by 15 October, to contact Caroline Mildenhall tambovalleyhighcountrylc@gmail.com **or call 0418 961 600.**

Food & Fibre AGM and Launch of Gippsland Trusted

22 Oct

Food & Fibre Gippsland is proud to invite producers, businesses and industry stakeholders to the official launch of **Gippsland Trusted**, a new initiative that will celebrate and strengthen Gippsland's reputation as a leading food and fibre region. The launch marks an exciting new chapter for the region, bringing together local producers, partners and supporters to showcase the quality, innovation and provenance that make Gippsland products stand out.



The event will be held on **Thursday 22 October 2026 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Narkoojee Winery & Restaurant, Glengarry North**. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the Gippsland Trusted brand, connect with industry peers and explore how a united regional identity can create new opportunities for local businesses and communities. Register via the QR.



AgriStarter Loan webinar

28 Oct

Next month, the Australian Government's farm business lender RIC is hosting a free, online AgriStarter Loan webinar. The webinar will explain how the RIC AgriStarter Loan may help eligible applicants purchase their first farm business or support succession arrangements. It will also cover key eligibility requirements, what applicants need to prepare and practical tips for applying with confidence.



Wednesday 28 October
12 noon AEDT to 1.00pm
Register at <https://bit.ly/4wCd2GW>

If you have any questions, please reach out to the RIC team at communications@ric.gov.au

Gippsdairy Industry Update Lunch

29 Oct

Join Gippsdairy on **Thursday 29 October** for a lunchtime update in **Morwell** on the latest dairy industry trends and farm business performance. Hear from industry experts on Dairy Australia's Situation and Outlook Report and 20 years of Dairy Farm Monitor Project insights.

Register at [Gippsdairy Industry Update Lunch - Morwell | Dairy Australia](#)



Inclusive Employment Workshop for Gippsland Employers

5 Nov

Gippsland Multicultural Services is offering a free Cultural Humility and Inclusive Leadership workshop for Gippsland businesses, employers and people leaders on Thursday 5 November in Bairnsdale.

As our workforce and communities become increasingly diverse, creating inclusive workplaces is becoming an important part of attracting, retaining and supporting employees. This practical one-day workshop will provide businesses with tools and insights to better understand diversity, strengthen workplace culture, enhance leadership capability and foster more inclusive teams.



The workshop is free to attend, lunch is provided, and places are limited to 20, so early registration is encouraged.

Thursday 5 November 2026

9.00am to 4.00pm

Quest Bairnsdale, 11 Dalmahoy Street

Registrations for event with free lunch can be made at Economic.Development@egipps.vic.gov.au. Please see the attached flyer at the end of this newsletter.

40 years of Landcare - Hear from the Bird Man Sean Dooley

5 or 6 Nov

Join Landcare as they celebrate **40 years of Landcare in Far East Gippsland** with special guest **Sean Dooley**, alongside an engaging program featuring art, entertainment, photography and local culture.

These unique events are a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the achievements of Landcare and connect with the people who have helped shape our region's environmental legacy.

Cann River: Thursday 5 November, Monaro Centre

2.00pm (free event with light refreshments) [Book tickets – Cann River](#)



Orbost: Friday 6 November Golf Club

5.00 pm (dinner included \$10 for Landcare members & \$15 general admission) [Book tickets – Orbost](#)



Bookings are essential. Contact your local Landcare group or event organiser for ticket information.

Neil McDonald Working Dog & Livestock Handling Course

6 – 9 Nov

Expressions of Interest are now open for the Neil McDonald Working Dog & Livestock Handling Course, running from **6–9 November 2026** in Omeo.

This intensive four-day course is designed for livestock producers and working dog handlers looking to improve stock handling skills, strengthen livestock management practices, and gain practical insights into training and working with dogs in a livestock setting.

6–9 November 2026
Omeo, Victoria
\$2,200 (inc. GST)
Catering provided



Places are limited. To register your interest or find out more, contact **Sonya Lawlor on 0429 856 304**.

Step Back in Time at the 144th Bairnsdale Show

6 & 7 Nov

The **144th Bairnsdale Show** will be at the Bairnsdale Racecourse on **6 and 7 November 2026**, celebrating the theme **"Blast from The Past."** With a packed program of family-friendly entertainment, competitions, exhibits and attractions, the Show promises something for all ages. Highlights include the popular Show 'n Shine, Pets on Parade, Lego Competition, Home Baking Competition, Single Stem Rose Competition, Pie Eating Competition and the search for the Boy and Girl of the Show.

The Bairnsdale & District Agricultural Society is calling for **volunteers** to help make this iconic community event a success. Whether you're keen to lend a hand behind the scenes or enjoy being part of one of East Gippsland's most celebrated events, now is the perfect time to get involved. For more information, visit **www.bairnsdaleshow.com.au**.



Shearing and Wool Training Opportunities Available in 2026

9 -13 Nov

The 2026 Shearing and Wool Program Victoria offers a range of training opportunities for people interested in starting or advancing a career in the wool and shearing industry. The program includes introductory training, Certificate II and Certificate III in Shearing qualifications, and improver-level courses designed to build practical skills and meet industry workforce needs. Participants can gain hands-on experience and industry-recognised qualifications.

9 to 13 November 2026
Bairnsdale



This training is supported through State and Commonwealth Government funding. Places are limited, for more information or to enrol, contact Shearing and Wool Training Victoria on 1300 787 984, email admin@swti.edu.au or visit www.swti.edu.au.

From Drone to Decision: Using Drone Data to Improve Crop Management 11 Nov

Vegetable growers are invited to attend the free **From Drone to Decision** workshop, a practical hands-on session exploring how drone technology can be used to collect, process and interpret crop data to support better on-farm decision-making.

Facilitated by **Nat Parker from Airborn Insight**, the workshop will demonstrate how drone-captured imagery can be used to generate plant count, density, size and crop health maps, monitor crop performance over time, and turn data into actionable insights. Drawing on extensive agronomic, crop research and agricultural drone expertise, Nat will provide growers with practical knowledge to enhance crop monitoring and improve farm management outcomes.



Maffra on 11 November
9.00 am to 12.30 pm
Include a light meal

For further information, contact Scott Botten, Horticulture Program Coordinator, on 0499 413 423 or at scott.botten@agriculture.vic.gov.au.



Gippsdairy Industry Update and Farm Performance Insights

12 Nov

Join Gippsdairy for an informative evening featuring the latest dairy industry outlook and farm business insights from leading experts. Tom Youl (Dairy Australia) will provide an update on domestic and international dairy market trends, industry drivers, and what they mean for Victorian dairy farmers.

Natalie Nelson (Agriculture Victoria) will present key findings from the 20th year of the Dairy Farm Monitor Project, highlighting the trends, challenges and opportunities that have shaped Victorian dairy farming over the past two decades. The presentation will explore the impacts of challenging seasonal conditions on feed availability and fodder reserves, how some farms have successfully rebuilt resilience, and recent improvements in profitability, with average returns on assets approximately doubling between 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Thursday, 12 November
6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Lochiel Street Football Club Rooms, Orbost
Dinner Provided



Register at [Gippsdairy Industry Update and Dairy Farm Monitor Insights Dinner - Orbost | Dairy Australia](#).

Detox Your Home

14 Nov

It's time to clear out those unwanted household chemicals. Detox Your Home is coming to East Gippsland on **Saturday 14 November** - [Book to register](#)

Delivered this year by DEECA the program provides a safe and free way for households to dispose of unwanted and potentially hazardous chemicals.

Before you load up the car, remember:

- Book your spot as spaces are limited.
- Check what is accepted through the [Detox Your Home](#) program before you arrive.
- Keep chemicals in their original containers where possible, with labels intact.
- Never mix different chemicals together.
- Make sure containers are secure, upright and well-sealed for transport.
- Transport chemicals safely and keep them away from children and pets.
- Some items are not accepted, so check the program guidelines before making the trip.

Saturday 14 November 2026
9.00 am – 1.00 pm
East Gippsland Livestock Exchange in Bairnsdale
[Book to register](#)



Sat, 14 Nov, 9am - 1pm AEDT

Detox Your Home - Bairnsdale

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia

Omeo Show

The Omeo Show is happening over the Friday afternoon and Saturday in November 13 & 14.

The Friday evening will feature a new event for the littles with the Teddy Bear Shearing, followed by the regular shearing, then on Saturday there will be Whip cracking, Wood Chop, Yard Dog Trials, Dog High Jump, Horses events, the show pavilion (always full of so much to see and activities, the wool and fleece competition and attractions, food, displays and us.

The full schedule can be found at <https://www.omeoshow.com.au/>. See you there 😊.

13 & 14 Nov



SAVE THE DATE

National Agriculture Day Event Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House

20 Nov

Celebrate National Agriculture Day at the Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House on 20 November. Enjoy 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. *More in the next newsletter.* 🌱 🚜 🐄

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

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



FUNDING

Drought Support Package

As we move into the warmer months, support is still available for farmers across Victoria.

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 a farmer there is a loan for you with great rates and conditions to get you going, help you 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 for 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](#)

Online information session on RIC AgriStarter Loan, the key eligibility requirements, what applicants need to prepare and practical tips for applying with confidence.

Wednesday 28 October, 12 noon AEDT to 1.00pm, **Register at** <https://bit.ly/4wCd2GW>.

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.

If your organisation has a project that will help your community prepare for future challenges or strengthen long-term recovery, this is an excellent funding opportunity. Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate, with or without DGR status, delivering projects that benefit rural, regional or remote communities.

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 round opened on 18 September 2026 and closes on the 3 December. [Strengthening Rural Communities – Prepare & Recover](#).

The FRRR Partnerships team is here to help

Every partner engages with FRRR differently. Some are exploring new funding priorities. Others want deeper community insights, stronger stewardship and reporting, or opportunities to collaborate with like-minded funders. Ring to assess:

- Emerging priorities and opportunities in communities.
- Co-designed and place-based partnerships.
- Collaboration with other funders.
- Community insight, learning and impact reporting.
- Ways to deepen or extend your partnership with FRRR.

Led by Deb Samuels, the team brings together deep relationship management, place-based practice, donor stewardship and philanthropic experience. **Start a conversation:** partnerships@frrr.org.au | 03 5430 2399.

AusNet's 2027 HOME Grant

Closes 1 Nov

Do you know someone who has an idea that could make energy work better for their community?

Applications are now open for **AusNet's 2027 Helping Our Mission for Equity (HOME) Grant**, with **up to \$30,000** available to support a project or initiative connected to customers or communities on our electricity distribution network.

The opportunity is open to individuals and organisations and is not limited to traditional research. Ideas could take many forms, including trials, tools, services, activities and other practical initiatives.

More information, including the full grant brief, eligibility and application requirements, is available on the [AusNet Community Hub](#). Proposals should be submitted by 1 November to research@ausnetservices.com.au.



SURVEYS & OPPORTUNITIES

EXTENDED DEADLINE - WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

East Gippsland Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council

Have your say - Looking ahead 2026 survey

Help East Gippsland Shire, Wellington Shire and East Gippsland CMA update the 2019 'Looking Ahead' advocacy paper for Gippsland agriculture. If you live in Wellington Shire Council or East Gippsland Shire Council they need your input on:

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



Take 15 minutes to have your say.

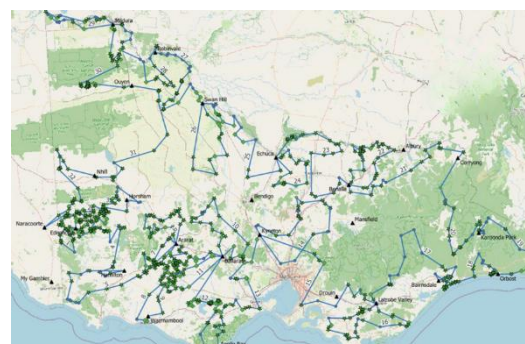
Complete the survey at [Agricultural Assistance](#) by **26 September**. For further information contact Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au or phone 0423 205 007.

Victoria's duck abundance survey

Open Now

The Game Management Authority (GMA) has begun its annual Victorian game duck abundance survey on Monday, 5 October.

The survey will be conducted by wildlife biologists who will record the presence, species and number of game ducks at more than 860 waterbodies across Victoria, including wetlands, farm dams, sewerage treatment plants, streams and rivers. Most sites will be surveyed by helicopter. Ground counts will be used where the helicopter is unable to operate.



Satellite imaging will be used to determine how much water is in game duck habitats in Victoria, which, together with the survey data, will be used to estimate the total abundance of each game duck species in the state.

The abundance estimate is a key input to support Adaptive Harvest Management for setting sustainable duck hunting arrangements each year.

[Victoria's duck abundance survey about to begin - Game Management Authority](#)

Federation University Survey for sheep producers

Federation University Australia and Adelaide University are currently undertaking the project “**Market Transition Strategy for Enhancing Demand for Diversifying Agri-food Exports in the Middle East and North Africa Region.**” The project is funded by the **Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)** through the Enhancing Market Demand Grants Program.

The project aims to identify opportunities and challenges for expanding Australian agri-food exports to markets in the Middle East and North Africa, including issues related to market access, export readiness, certification, supply chains and industry support.

They are particularly seeking participation from **sheep farmers, farm owners, farm managers, farmer groups, farming associations, and other stakeholders across the agri-food value chain.**

The survey takes approximately **15–20 minutes** to complete. **Survey link:** https://federation.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8pNUm8YuVudh3wi.



SCHOLARSHIPS & LEADERSHIP

2027 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and Acceleration Grant applications open

Applications now open for the 2027 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Acceleration Grant.

For more than 25 years, the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award has recognised and supported women who are creating positive change across rural, regional and remote Australia through their businesses, initiatives, community programs and projects. The two opportunities:

- The Award provides funding, leadership development opportunities and access to a powerful national alumni network.
- The Acceleration Grant offers women with an idea, cause, or vision the chance to create impact in rural and emerging industries and communities by providing opportunities for learning and development to bring their vision to life.



AgriFutures also invites participation in the new Champion Her nomination pathway. Champion Her enables individuals and organisations to nominate women they believe have strong leadership potential, a bold idea, or a passion for creating positive change in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Applications close on Wednesday, 4 November 2026 (Wednesday, 20 January 2027 for NT applicants). [Rural Women's Acceleration Grant | AgriFutures Australia](#).

Growing global demand for Victorian Dairy

Victoria remains Australia's leading dairy exporter, and we're ensuring that continues through a new partnership.

We're partnering with Dairy Australia to help more dairy businesses access new trades and markets.

Minister Settle announced \$250,000 in funding for the Growing Demand for Victorian Dairy Exports Program.

This funding through Global Victoria was matched by Dairy Australia, which will enable the delivery of:

- the Dairy Australia Scholarships Program including the Victorian based visit program and ongoing alumni engagement
- international seminars, showcasing the best of Australian dairy production and innovation on a global stage
- trade policy and market access work.

[Boosting global demand for Victoria's world-leading dairy | News and articles | Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.](#)

INFORMATION

H5 bird flu – current situation

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

Increased knowledge for land managers responding to H5 bird flu

More than 500 public land management staff and volunteers have increased their knowledge of H5 bird flu to help strengthen the response across Victoria.

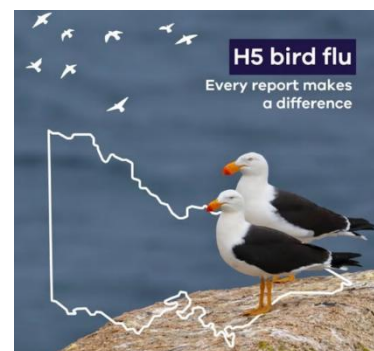
Surveillance and sampling training for public land managers has been delivered to land managers involved in detecting, reporting and collecting samples from deceased wildlife, particularly marine mammals and seabirds.



Coastal land managers and frontline staff and volunteers in areas where migratory and native birds converge have assisted with reporting dozens of suspected bird flu cases already.

This training will ensure that those working on the ground responding to H5 bird flu have the information they need to keep themselves and their local community safe.

[H5N1 avian influenza | Poultry diseases | Animal diseases | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)



Get Fire Ready 2026

As Victoria heads into what is expected to be a challenging fire season, it's more important than ever for residents and property owners to understand their local fire risk and take steps to prepare.

This year, Get Fire Ready will return from 1 October to 3 November and there are more than 600 brigades signed up to host an event to engage with their communities about the local fire risk, how to prepare and where to get emergency information. To find an event near you check out the [map here](#).



Also, hear practical lessons from farmers affected by the January fires and pick up tips to help protect your livestock, property and the future operation of your farm business.

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.

Videos show smart yard design makes farms safer

New videos by Agriculture Victoria are helping farmers improve safety in cattle yards, showcasing practical design features to reduce injury and make stock handling easier and more efficient.

The videos --Safe Cattle Yard Design: Key Considerations and Cattle Loading Ramps: Safe Handling -- were filmed at properties in north east Victoria to demonstrate how a safely designed cattle yard functions in real conditions. [Videos show smart yard design makes farms safer](#) | [Media releases](#) | [Media centre](#) | [About](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)



Why Reporting of Dingoes and Livestock Losses Matters

Timely reporting of dingo activity, including livestock attacks, sightings, tracks, and any other predation incidents, is one of the most important actions landholders can take to 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.

Report Livestock Losses as Soon as Possible - When livestock are killed, injured or harassed by dingoes, landholders should report the incident immediately to their local Vertebrate Species Management Officer (VSMO) or through the DEECA Customer Call Centre, on 13 61 86.

Early reporting enables officers to:

- Assess the incident and determine the level of risk to livestock.
- Provide immediate advice on actions that can reduce further losses.
- Recommend practical on-farm management strategies.
- Consider whether additional control measures are required.
- Prioritise responses to areas experiencing the greatest impacts.

Prompt reporting can significantly improve outcomes by allowing management actions to be implemented before further livestock losses occur.

Support Available to Landholders - Following a report, landholders may receive:

- Advice on on-farm livestock protection and management.
- Information about and dingo activity on nearby public land.
- Demonstrations of management tools and techniques.
- Guidance on exclusion fencing, livestock guardian animals, trapping, baiting and livestock husbandry practices.
- Access to workshops, field days and community capacity-building activities.
- Coordination of public land management activities that support neighbouring farming enterprises.

Why Reports are Valuable - Not every report will result in an immediate field response. Incidents involving livestock losses are generally prioritised, while reports of sightings or hearing dingoes howling may be addressed through phone contact or scheduled visits. However, all reports provide important intelligence to field staff.

Reports help managers to:

- Identify areas of high dingo activity.
- Understand seasonal and long-term population trends.
- Map movement pathways and dispersal patterns.
- Determine where control efforts will be most effective.
- Assess the extent of impacts across communities.
- Support coordinated management across public and private land.

More information at [Livestock predation management in eastern Victoria | Livestock predation management | Livestock health and welfare | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](#). **Report dingo activity or livestock losses to DEECA Customer Call Centre on 13 61 86 or contact your local Vertebrate Species Management Officer (VSMO).**

BOM & Vic Hub expands drought information

Understanding drought means looking beyond rainfall alone.

The Bureau of Meteorology has expanded its Drought Statement to bring together rainfall, soil moisture, evaporative stress, streamflow, water storages and groundwater, alongside one- and three-month outlooks.



New information includes rainfall-deficiency forecast maps, moisture-loss maps and additional streamflow, storage and groundwater data. Read together, these indicators can provide a fuller picture of how dry conditions are developing and help inform decisions before options narrow. More information at [Bureau expands drought information – Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub](#).

Digging Deeper podcast - Navigating bull testing and beyond

Alister Micallef speaks with Chelsea Hair our local vet about a busy late-winter period of calving assistance, bull testing, and pregnancy testing, plus her recent Red Meat Conference talk on Focus on Weighty Weaners (nutrition, trace elements, and parasite management) and an upcoming MLA webinar in October. [Podcast - Digger Deeper - AG Chats with AL](#)



FOOD & FIBRE GIPPSLAND - JOIN US, EAST GIPPSLAND



F&FG AGM & the Launch of Gippsland Trusted

22 October

Join Food & Fibre Gippsland as they reflect on another year growing Gippsland's food and fibre sector, and celebrate the official launch of Gippsland Trusted, the region's brand connecting producers with new markets, partners and opportunities.

The event will be held on **Thursday 22 October 2026 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Narkoojee Winery & Restaurant, Glengarry North**. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the Gippsland Trusted brand, connect with industry peers and explore how a united regional identity can create new opportunities for local businesses and communities. Registrations are now open via Humanitix <https://events.humanitix.com/gippsland-trusted-launch/tickets>.

For other information go to: info@foodandfibregippsland.com.au.

COUNCIL UPDATES

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange



EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
UPCOMING SALES

NOVEMBER 2026 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
 Wednesday 4 November
 Wednesday 11 November
 Wednesday 18 November
 Wednesday 25 November

Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am
 Friday 13 November
 Friday 27 November

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
 Monday 9 November
 Monday 23 November

EAST GIPPSLAND

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:

Metung District Place Plan

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

[Get involved](#)



Council Budget Feedback

We're working towards a more open, accessible and year-round approach to gathering feedback to...

[Get involved](#)



East Gippsland Shire Council Budget Feedback



Have

Your Say on East Gippsland's Future Budget Priorities

East Gippsland Shire Council is moving to a more open, accessible, year-round approach to community feedback on budget priorities. Residents, businesses and community groups are encouraged to share ideas, priorities and suggestions that will help shape future Council budgets and long-term planning.

Whether it's maintaining essential services, improving local facilities or investing in new initiatives, your feedback will help ensure Council decisions reflect community needs and support a resilient, connected and thriving East Gippsland.

Feedback to inform the 2027/28 Budget is open until **31 December 2026** and can be provided online, via email at feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au, by phone on **5153 9500**, in person at Council service centres and libraries, or by writing to **East Gippsland Shire Council, PO Box 1618, Bairnsdale VIC 3875**. Visit **Your Say East Gippsland** to learn more and complete the survey.

East Gippsland Grant Finder

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

East Gippsland
grant finder



The portal helps local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits, and individuals discover grants from local, state, and federal sources, as well as corporate and philanthropic funding. Users can save favourites, receive email alerts, and access grant-writing tips. It is a one-stop shop for all your grant needs. For more information, visit the [East Gippsland Grant Guru portal](#).

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

Benambra Community BBQ Connects Farmers with Council

Council recently attended the Benambra Community BBQ, providing an opportunity to connect with local farmers and residents. The event provided an opportunity to promote the Farmer Survey, encouraging producers to share their experiences and priorities to help inform Council's future advocacy and planning. It also provided an opportunity for Council's new Economic Development Officer, Melissa Johnston, to meet members of the farming community.

The BBQ brought together staff from a range of Council departments to discuss topics including roads, rates, waste management and the Draft Omeo District Place Plan. Well supported by the local community, the event strengthened relationships with Benambra residents and reinforced Council's commitment to engaging directly with rural and farming communities across the district.



Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust emergency jobs and volunteering expo

Red-Mob Pathway and Volunteer Emergency Services Day at Lake Tyers was a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections between young people, community organisations and industry leaders.

Attracting almost 300 students and more than 37 services, businesses and community organisations, the event showcased emergency services, volunteering opportunities and career pathways while fostering relationships that will support future community leadership.

East Gippsland Shire Council staff joined a range of agencies to engage with students, share local career opportunities, particularly in council and in agriculture and highlighted the importance of community preparedness, collaboration and building strong local networks.



Who Will Farm the High Country in the Future?

This dinner was more than a discussion about succession and farm business structures; it highlighted the critical importance of engaging directly with farmers to understand the opportunities and challenges shaping agriculture across the region.

The event brought together local producers, industry representatives and future farming leaders to explore topics including farm profitability, managing risk, business models and succession planning. It also provided an opportunity to encourage farmers to complete the Farmer Survey, ensuring their experiences and priorities are captured and used to inform future advocacy, investment and decision-making.

Conversations throughout the evening reinforced the significant economic and social contribution agriculture makes to East Gippsland and the need to support a strong, resilient farming sector so future generations can continue to farm, invest and thrive in the High Country and across the region.



Gippsland Agricultural Research Farm Spring Field Days

Council attended the Gippsland Agricultural Research Farm Spring Field Days on 8 October 2026, engaging with more than 150 farmers and agricultural stakeholders to discuss the East Gippsland Farmer Survey and the important role agriculture plays in the region's future.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to hear directly from producers about current challenges, emerging opportunities and priorities for the industry, while encouraging participation in the survey to ensure farmer voices help inform Council's advocacy, economic development initiatives and future planning.

The day included sessions on pasture productivity, soil health, livestock management, cropping systems, African Lovegrass management and agricultural careers, the day reinforced the strength, diversity and enduring value of agriculture to East Gippsland's economy, communities and future prosperity.



Lindenow Place Planning Community consultation

Councils engaged with the Lindenow community on the development of the Lindenow District Place Plan. The two events I attended highlighted the value of bringing together residents, businesses and farmers to help shape the district's future.

Through community conversations and local feedback, Council is gaining a better understanding of the priorities, opportunities and challenges facing the region. With agriculture playing a vital role in the local economy and community identity, farmer participation is helping ensure future planning reflects the needs of the agricultural sector, supports sustainable growth and strengthens Lindenow as a great place to live, work and farm for generations to come.



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 show them the QR to scan.



CANN RIVER

Mental Health First Aid® (MHFA) Training

FREE Hosted by a Farmer

TUE 20th - 21th October
WED

9am - 3pm

Cost FREE to participants

Funded by Look Over The Farm Gate

Delivery 2 days, Face - face

Location Bush Nursing Centre

27 Monaro Hwy, Cann River VIC 3890

Morning tea & lunch provided

Includes

- **Official MHFA Manual** to each participant.
- **MHFA Training** by a Licenced Instructor.
- **MHFA Certificate of Completion** upon meeting requirements.

Who is this for?



Individuals Equip yourself with practical skills to recognise and safely respond to mental health concerns.



Businesses & Organisations Supports organisations in meeting Psychosocial Hazards obligations under Australian WHS legislation.



Community groups & Clubs Increased capability in providing support.

Register SCAN HERE

or Email: info@rcaustralia.au



📞 0488 740 933

✉ info@rcaustralia.au

🌐 www.rcaustralia.au

REAL RURAL CONVERSATIONS

Recognise
Engage
Acknowledge
Link

FREE
WORKSHOP

LUNCH
PROVIDED



NEX
Business Farming Wellness

YOU NOTICE. YOU WONDER. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

**If someone seemed different, would you know what to say?
Would you know what to do next?**

Sometimes, having the confidence to start that conversation can make all the difference, and it **could save a life**.

This free, practical workshop will give people working in agriculture supporting farmers the confidence to recognise the signs, start a respectful conversation and connect someone with the right support.

You don't need to be a counsellor. You just need to know how to open the door.

You'll learn how to:

- Recognise when something does not seem quite right
- Engage in a respectful conversation
- Acknowledge what you are hearing
- Link people with the right support

Practical
skills for
conversations
that matter

Typically
valued at
hundreds of
dollars.



Real Rural Conversations is a NEX Business Farming Wellness initiative delivered through the Detect & Protect Wellness Framework and supported by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
& Regional Renewal

Workshops
Korumburra Oct 20th
Buchan Oct 21st
Omeo Oct 28th
Mirboo North TBC



SHELTERBELTS FOR LIVESTOCK & BIODIVERSITY



RSVP:

THURS 15TH OCT

CONTACT:

Caroline
Mildenhall

Landcare
Facilitator

tambovalleyhigh
countrylc@gmail
.com

0418 961 600

BRING:

- Yourself
- Sturdy Shoes
- Hat



Australian Government



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

A four-part practical workshop series focusing on planning, restoring, establishing, and managing farm shelterbelts for biodiversity or livestock protection. Participating landholders within the North East Catchment who wish to establish or repair a shelterbelt as part of this program, may also be supplied with tubestock and tree guards for their project.

Session 1: Benefits of Shelter & Shade – Planning for Success

- **Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Lunch provided) Benambra Rec Reserve**
- **Focus:** Livestock and biodiversity benefits, protecting paddock trees, species selection, and shelter design.
- **Speakers:** Keren Walker (AgVic) & Sally Day (NECMA).
- **Field Activity:** Ute drive visiting local shelterbelts to compare styles and establishment methods.

Session 2: Revamping/Repairing Existing Shelterbelts

- **Thursday, November 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Lunch provided) Benambra Rec Reserve**
- **Focus:** Restoring older or underperforming sites, interplanting, and benefits of maintaining fencing.
- **Speaker:** Sally Day (NECMA).
- **Field Activity:** Site inspection of struggling plantings to review key learnings and practical solutions.
- **Project participants:** Design their sites. Select plants.

Session 3: Site Preparation and Elements of Delivery

- **Date & Time:** TBC (Later in 2026)
- **Focus:** Groundwork preparation, planting techniques, and project execution.

Session 4: Maintenance of Plantings and Future Management

- **Date & Time:** TBC (2027)
- **Focus:** Ongoing site management, weed/pest control, and long-term maintenance of established vegetation.

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



**Food & Fibre
Gippsland**

Connect, Innovate & Grow Together



OFFICIAL LAUNCH INVITATION

Gippsland Trusted

Celebrate a new chapter for Gippsland's food and fibre region.

Food & Fibre Gippsland warmly invites you to join us for the official launch of Gippsland Trusted. Please join us at Narkoojee Winery as we connect with producers, partners and stakeholders from across the sector.



Thursday 22 October 2026

1.00pm 4.00pm



Narkoojee Winery & Restaurant

220 Francis Road, Glengarry North VIC 3854



REGISTER VIA HUMANITIX

Scan the QR code to register.

Please include any dietary or accessibility requirements when registering.

CONNECTING PEOPLE.
STRENGTHENING OUR REGION.

*A stronger
Gippsland together.*

Conversation Club

*improve your
English for use on
farm and in daily
life*



WHEN:

**STARTS THURSDAY 22ND
OCTOBER AND RUNS FOR
6 THURSDAYS
6.30PM – 8PM
DINNER PROVIDED**

WHERE:

**HEYFIELD COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTRE
5 GEORGE STREET
HEYFIELD**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CALL
5148 2100 OR EMAIL coordinator@heyfield.net**

*Supported by Gipps Dairy, Learn Local and the Future of Heyfield Project
The Future of Heyfield Project is supported by the Victorian Government through the
Forestry Transition Program*

GIPPSLAND MULTICULTURAL SERVICES PRESENTS
Inclusive employment workshop for Gippsland employers

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

TURNING INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT INTO BUSINESS ADVANTAGE

Practical tools to build inclusive workplaces, strengthen teams
and unlock lasting business value.

DATE
 **THURSDAY**
05 NOVEMBER 2026

TIME
 **9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
LUNCH PROVIDED

VENUE
 **QUEST BAIRNSDALE**
11 Dalmahoy Street,
Bairnsdale VIC 3875



• For Gippsland businesses, employers and people leaders



MEET YOUR FACILITATORS



CARMEL RILEY
Chief Executive Officer



DERYA DENIZ DEMIROL
Community Engagement
Partnerships Coordinator
Governance & Risk Lead



REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

RSVP VIA EMAIL

Economic.Development@egipps.vic.gov.au

Please include your name, organisation and contact number.

Places are limited to 20 participants – register early to secure your place.



This training is supported by the Victorian Government's Community Support Fund through the Regional Settlement Support Fund (RSSF) Initiative in partnership with funding from Regional Development Australia (RDA) Gippsland.

GIPPSLAND MULTICULTURAL SERVICES PRESENTS

Inclusive employment workshop for Gippsland employers

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

FAIR AND SAFE WORKPLACES

Explore practical approaches to culturally diverse workplaces and how cultural humility connects with Australian Fair Work and OHS requirements.

Today's businesses operate in increasingly diverse workplaces and communities. Building the skills to understand, connect with and support people from different backgrounds can strengthen workplace culture, improve customer relationships and support workforce attraction and retention.

THIS PRACTICAL WORKSHOP COVERS:



CULTURAL AWARENESS

Understanding identity, diversity, unconscious bias and structural inequity.



CULTURAL HUMILITY

Developing reflective practice, self-awareness, respectful relationships and accountability.



FAIR AND SAFE WORKPLACES

Explore practical approaches to culturally diverse workplaces and how cultural humility connects with Australian Fair Work and OHS requirements.

Delivered by experienced facilitators from Gippsland Multicultural Services and partners, this interactive training combines research, lived experience and practical workplace applications. Participants will gain tools and insights they can apply immediately within their business, team organisation.

WHAT PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS SAY

“

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

The skills we explored helped me listen to different perspectives without judgement, understand diverse ways of thinking, and work through complex discussions alongside people from all walks of life. It was amazing to see how transferable these skills were and how they helped us achieve positive outcomes.

Corporate HR Manager

“

STRONG RECOMMENDATION

Just quietly, in my opinion, this training should be mandatory no matter what workplace you work in!

Training Participant – HR Manager

“

INDUSTRY RELEVANCE

In the spirit of inclusion, it was also great to discuss these important issues with fellow industry members... keep going – and we will come with you!

Industry Participant

“

DEMONSTRATED DEMAND

We surveyed all business members of our SEED program in Hume City, and your training was rated the most needed for our community

Seed Program Feedback – Hume City



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Business owners | Managers | Supervisors | Team Leaders

This workshop will help you create a more welcoming, inclusive and resilient workplace.

Neil McDonald Working Dog & Livestock Handling course

EOI

6th-9th November 2026

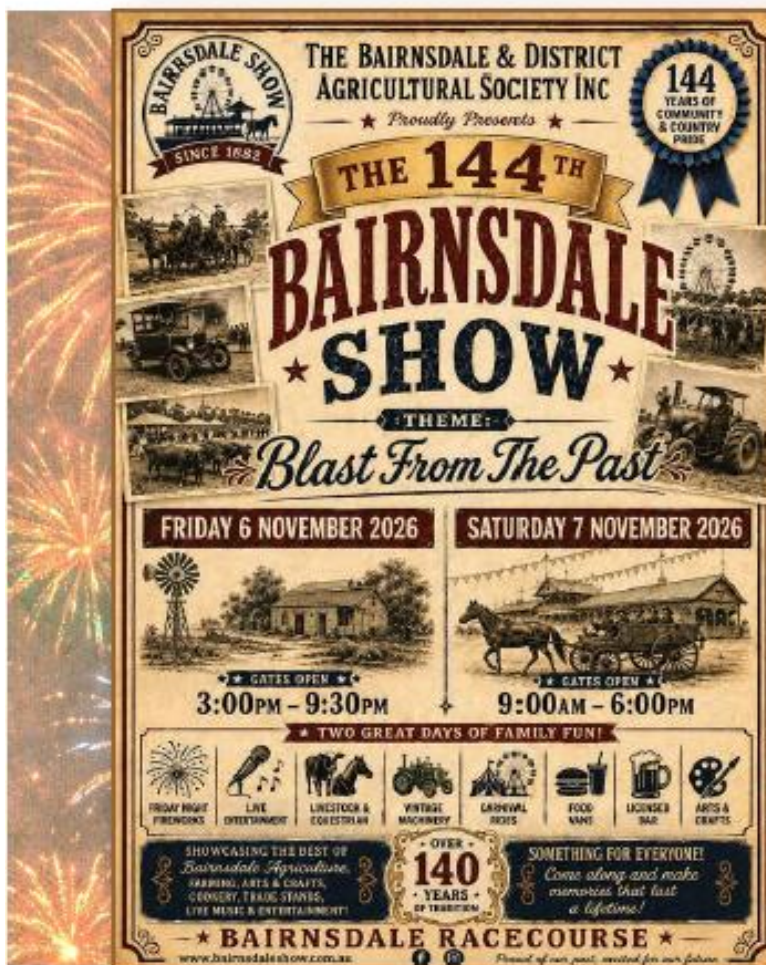
Omeo, Vic

Cost- \$2200 inc GST

Morning/afternoon tea & Lunch
provided

Contact:
Sonya Lawlor 0429856304





**VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED!**
6th and 7th November 2026

Meet and Greet Session
20th September
3pm
Bairnsdale Racecourse

www.bairnsdaleshow.com.au



OMEO SHOW



2026

Omeo & District

SHOW



SHOW DAY
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
FRIDAY 13TH QUICK SHEARS

HOME OF THE CHARITY WOOL BALE
FOR THE LATROBE VALLEY BASE HELIMED 1
AUXILIARY & GREAT ALPINE SHEARS
CHAMPIONSHIPS



www.omeoshow.com.au



SAVE THE DATE

There will be more information in the November agrinews



Friday November 20th 10am—3pm

At Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House 27 Dalmahoy Street.

Celebrating Farmers and Local Produce that they provide.

Lunch FREE 12—1:30 Delicious Meals with Local Produce

think venison sausages, salads , frittatas, Mushroom risotto , Apple Crumble + more

Displays of Local Produce chat to a farmer hear their stories or

come along as a farmer to enjoy a celebration.