

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews

September 2025



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- Help shape the future of the Omeo District Visitor Economy 18 September
- Horticulture in Gippsland – the basics of working with irrigated soils 25 September
- Home electrification options 6 – 10 October
- Integrated Sheep Worm Management 13 & 14 October
- Seniors Month October
- Spring Field Day 23 October
- Detox Your Farm/Home 25 October
- Grow your tourism business – free ATDW info session 29 October
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EVENTS

Youth Agritech Jobs Expo Tomorrow

17 September

Connecting young people to careers in ag

The Youth Agritech Jobs Expo has been developed to connect young people to careers in ag through hearing about the range of jobs available in the industry and see technology being used today.

Wednesday 17 September

Schools, students, individuals employed or currently unemployed and families are invited to attend the Agri-Tech Expo in Bairnsdale.

 **WHAT:** FREE Agri-tech Expo including fun and engaging activities

 **WHEN:** Wednesday, 17th September  9.30am – 2.30pm

 **WHERE:** Gippsland Agriculture Centre, Bairnsdale

 **HOW:** Follow the link  <https://bit.ly/Agri-TechExpo>

For further details contact Lily McCole at lily.mccole16@gmail.com

Help shape the future of the Omeo District Visitor Economy

18 September

Omeo has a proud history and an exciting future, and now is your chance to be part of it.

Council invites the community to an important session showcasing two key projects that will guide Omeo's visitor economy and strengthen its local Identity.

Join us as we present and discuss two of Councils economic development projects, The Omeo Eco-System Mapping Report and the Justice Precinct Draft Master Plan.

Omeo Tourism Ecosystem Mapping Report

This report sets out strategies to grow tourism by leveraging Omeo's strengths in heritage, natural landscapes, and outdoor recreation. It identifies opportunities for new accommodation, infrastructure, and partnerships to better support visitors and businesses.

Justice Precinct Draft Masterplan

The Justice Precinct revitalisation plan will transform Omeo's historic civic heart into a cultural anchor, combining heritage restoration with adaptive re-use. Guided by strong governance, the project will enhance visitor experiences, connect Council facilities, and create a vibrant, well-managed community asset.

When: Thursday 18 September

Time: 5.30 – 7.00 pm

Where: Omeo Community Hub, 179 Day Avenue, Omeo

Light refreshments will be provided, please register [Future of the Omeo Visitor Economy Presentation](#)

Drop-In Session: Friday 19 September 9:30am -11:30am

Enquiries: Rebeccas@egipps.vic.gov.au 0499 469 804.

Horticulture in Gippsland – the basics of working with irrigated soils 25 September

Are you farming irrigated horticultural crops?

Marek Matuszek heads up Ag Logic's irrigation advice and agricultural monitoring team. He has been running workshops like this one in Tasmania over the last couple of years. He and his team have found the greatest improvements in irrigation scheduling by going back to the basics of soils and making sure the fundamentals are in place before even beginning to consider data in decision-making.

When: Thursday 25 September, 10.30am to 2:00 pm

Where: Lindenow Pub Farmers Home Hotel, 167 Main Road, Lindenow

Register: [Workshop on how to get from soils 101 to strategic irrigation in irrigated horticulture](#)

Or in Maffra Wednesday **24 September** from 9.00am at AgVic Maffra office

Register: [Workshop on how to get from soils 101 to strategic irrigation of dairy pastures](#)

Join us for a friendly and open workshop on these fundamentals. In our workshop, you'll:

- learn how to identify different soil types
- learn how different soil types respond to irrigation
- get a better understanding of soil behaviour and its interaction with water and crops
- learn about the role of data in monitoring crop production
- learn how to make better decisions by using available data
- come away with tools that can help with your irrigation scheduling.

For more information, please contact Marek: 0419 000 267, marek@aglogic.com.au.

Home electrification options

6 – 10 October

Head to your local **library** for a discussion with the Sustainability Officer about all things energy and cost saving during the week of:

Monday 6 to Friday 10 October

Practical tips will be shared on how households can reduce energy use, transition from gas to electric appliances to save money, and take advantage of rebates for energy-efficient upgrades.

A highlight will be a hands-on demonstration of the new [Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits](#), now available to borrow from every library in our shire. These kits are designed to help residents better understand and improve their home's environmental performance. Contact your local library for specific dates and times, which will be advertised shortly as part of the Senior's Festival

Find out more about the kit's contents on Council's [webpage](#). Then reserve a kit at [collection catalogue](#). For more information contact Rebecca Lamble, Sustainability Officer 5153 9500.

Integrated Sheep Worm Management

13 & 14 October

A 3-year project with the Bairnsdale Bestwool/BestLamb group aims to demonstrate best practice sheep worm management in East Gippsland. **With** Ben Blomfield, Bairnsdale BestWool/BestLamb group co-ordinator and veterinary consultant from Melbourne University's Mackinnon Project.

These sessions will outline the various practices important to integrated sheep worm management such as monitoring drench effectiveness, grazing management and breeding for resistance.

Gelantipy 58 Saleyard Road 13 Oct 2025 9.30am – 12.30pm

Swifts Creek DEECA office 13 Oct 2025 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Bengworden Gippsland Ag Centre 14 Oct 2025 9.30am – 12.30pm

For more information, please contact Keren Walker Ag Vic 0477 706 384.

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

Seniors Month

October

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

Council are excited to host a free event with morning tea:

Forever Classics – The Hits of the 60s starring the talented Glenn Starr.

When: Monday 13 October

Time: 10 am ~ 12pm

Where: Club Eastwood, Bairnsdale

**Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025**

Bookings essential <https://events.humanitix.com/forever-classics-the-hits-of-the-60s> or ring the box office 52 1482, see poster at the end of the newsletter.

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

www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival

Spring Field Day

23 October

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

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

- Pastures: Join Gippsland's most passionate perennial pasture agronomist, Emma Goodall, for a tour of the Forage Trail Program. Learn which grasses will best fill your feed gap, whether it's summer, autumn, winter, or spring.
- Livestock: Local vet Chelsea Hair from Herd Solutions will share insights from the MLA-funded *Weighty Weaners* project, including a talk with producers from the project through their weaner programs and weight results.
- Grains & Fodder: Explore our wheat and barley variety trials, plus the farm's first replicated faba bean trial and new fertiliser rate work.
- Soils - Hear from Lisa Millar (Western Civ) on lime management and a special lime calculator for producers. And see the installation of a brand-new demonstration following a suggestion from recent session with Joel Williams.
- Lucerne & Fodder Systems: Local favorites Nicole Frost and Rick Blackshaw will showcase over 20 lucerne varieties. Research Farm Manager AI will update you on the sheep containment feeding demo, while Murray Stewart and Fiona Baker team up to unpack the "how, what and when" of hay and silage production.



Date: 23 October

Location: Gippsland Agriculture Centre Bairnsdale Aerodrome

There is real value at the Gippsland Research Farm this Spring Field Day — don't miss it.

Detox Your Farm/Home

25 October

Detox your home is coming to East Gippsland. On Saturday the 25 October at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange from 9/00am to 1.00pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Grow your tourism business – free ATDW info session

29 October

Tourism operators across East Gippsland are invited to join a **free online webinar** hosted by East Gippsland Shire Council & Visit Victoria.

Learn how the **Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW)** can help you reach more visitors, increase bookings, and appear on major tourism sites like **visitvictoria.com** and **australia.com**. The Visit Victoria team will explain how ATDW works and how to make the most of your listing.

Council will also share details about our **subsidised 12-month ATDW profile offer** (valued at \$295) and guide you through the Expression of Interest process.

 **When:** Wednesday 29 October, 10.00–10.45am

 **Where:** Online via Microsoft Teams

 **Cost:** Free registration required [Click here to register now.](#)

More details about this initiative are in the Business Support and Grants section below.

It's All Ok Until It's Not: Succession Planning Roadshow

7 – 28 October

Succession planning is one of those topics that's easy to put off — until it becomes urgent, a priority. This free two-hour session is designed to give farming families clarity, confidence, and a practical pathway forward. Proudly hosted by East Gippsland Shire Council in partnership with NEX Business Farming Wellness and the Victorian Seniors Festival 2025.

We will explore why succession planning matters and the very real costs of doing nothing. Through real-life stories, Q&A, and a clear breakdown of options, you will see how families can work through uncertainty toward a fair, affordable, and family-centred approach.

You'll learn:

- The different paths families take — and the risks and benefits of each.
- How a facilitated approach can protect both your farm and your family's future.

Times and dates of sessions are:

- **Paynesville** Tuesday 7 Oct 1.30pm Library/Service Centre
- **Genoa** Thursday 9 Oct 12pm Community Hall
- **Buchan** Tuesday 14 Oct 10am Neighbourhood House
- **Twin Rivers** Wednesday 15 Oct 2.30pm Nicholson Hotel
- **Bairnsdale** Tuesday 21 Oct 10am Gippsland Ag Centre
- **Orbost** Wednesday 22 Oct 10am Library / Service Centre
- **Omeo** Tuesday 28 Oct 4pm Fresh Air Cafe

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

Soils and Floods at Genoa

30 October

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

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

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

Thursday 30th October

10.00am to 2.00pm

Genoa Hall - Princes Highway, Genoa



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

Just a Farmer - Community screening Orbost

31 October

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

Join in for this free community event at the Orbost Snowy Rovers Football and Netball Club Social rooms, Lochiel Street Orbost.

Scan the QR code below to register \





EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

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UPCOMING SALES

SEPTEMBER 2025 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
Wednesday 3 September
Wednesday 10 September
Wednesday 17 September

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

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
Monday 1 September
Monday 15 September
Monday 29 September





EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

Dry Seasons Supports



Farm Drought Support Grants

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

The Farm Drought Support Grants (formerly On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants) program is available to assist primary production businesses to implement on-farm infrastructure improvements and undertake essential business activities that improve drought.

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

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

One-on-one farm advisory service

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

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

The advice is suited to your situation, from a consultant that you nominate from the registered panel.

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

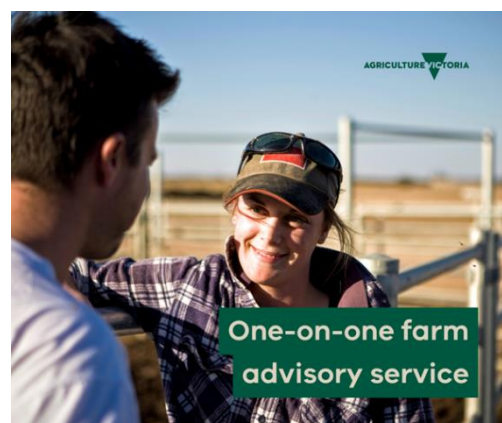
- feed and water budgeting
- farm safety and workload management
- farm business and financial management
- soil health and pasture re-establishment
- animal health and welfare, and more.

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

Look Over the Farm Gate program (statewide)

Grants of up to \$5,000 to run events that support community-led events while promoting social connection and mental health awareness.

- So far, more than 60 events have been held across the state including East Gippsland.
- To apply for a Look Over the Farm Gate grant, visit farmerhealth.org.au/look-over-the-farm-gate



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

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

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

- To access the support of a wellbeing counsellor, call the Rural Financial Counselling Service on 1300 771 741.
- More information about the RFCS is available at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation/rural-financial-counselling-service>

RIC Loans

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

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

Apply for Summer of Cyber Program

Summer of cyber is a government program being delivered in partnership with the Australian Women In Security Network (AWSN).

The program is boosting the cyber capabilities and competitiveness of small and medium-sized businesses and startups across all sectors, including technology.

It aims to bridge the cyber skills gap by connecting businesses with tertiary cyber students and recent graduates to solve cyber-related challenges over 10-12 weeks, at no financial cost to the business.

To participate, businesses will need a cyber-related problem or project that needs solving.

Businesses are also expected to provide in-kind support including:

- Mentoring and guidance to students
- Holding meetings with the project team and being involved in the process
- Providing a desk and equipment for the student (if permitted).

Applications for The Victorian Government's summer of cyber program are now open and close on 15 September 2025. For all enquiries, please contact summerofcyber@awsn.org.au.

Cheaper Home Batteries Program

The Australian government is offering the cheaper home batteries program, to help more homes tackle bills and reduce emissions.

From 1 July 2025, households and small businesses may be eligible for around a 30% discount on the upfront cost of installing small-scale battery systems alongside new or existing rooftop solar. The discount will be based on the usable capacity of the battery and will gradually decline through to 2030.

While Australia has the highest rate of rooftop solar in the world, just one in 40 households have a battery, meaning they can't store cheap renewable energy for when they need it most.

Under the program, a household could save around:

- \$4,000 off the upfront cost of installing an 11.5 kwh battery previously costing around \$13,000.
- \$700 to \$1,600 per year on their electricity bill, with the battery delivering \$300 to \$900 of that.

For more information visit the Australian government's [energy website](#).

Power saving bonus for concession holders

Eligible Victorian households can apply for the [power saving bonus](#) through the Victorian Energy Compare (VEC) website, whilst checking they're on the best energy offer.

When applying, eligible households need a recent residential electricity bill and must hold a health care, pensioner concession, veterans' affairs pensioner concession or veterans' affairs gold card.

For those without internet access or for anyone needing extra support accessing the bonus, 250 participating neighbourhood houses across Victoria are delivering in-person support to apply.

All Victorians are encouraged to visit the free and independent [VCE website](#) to shop around for a better deal on their energy – last year, users typically saved \$240 per year on their energy bills by switching providers.

Water Efficiency Rebate Program

East Gippsland Water has introduced a new water efficiency rebate program to assist residents and small business save water and costs.

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

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



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

Heating and cooling discounts

You can reduce costs by replacing old heating and cooling systems with energy-efficient systems through the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program, helping families slash their energy bills.

The cost of heating this winter could be a significant part of your energy bill. By replacing old heating with a new energy efficient system, you can reduce your costs and energy use.

Read more about the [heating and cooling discounts](#). There are discounts available for rental properties also.

ACUP/1080 course registrations invited

DEECA have a growing list of people seeking training for their Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP), and discussions are underway to organise a course for landholders. At this stage, most requests have come from the Bairnsdale area in early spring, however, there is scope to provide training in other areas if there is enough interest.

If you are interested, need to get your ACUP, or know someone else who is interested, please reach out to Mick Freeman – 0477 358 061 or michael.freeman@deeca.vic.gov.au.

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Trees on Farms Incubator Program

Closes 17 October 2025

The Trees on Farms Incubator Program supports communities of rural landowners to receive in-depth training and planning advice that will help strengthen their technical knowledge and informed decision-making.

The program invites applications from organisations or entities, with the capacity to design and deliver a customised suite of activities that address the practical, technical, and strategic aspects of tree growing - including risks and opportunities of establishing and managing trees on farms.

Under the Incubator Program, you can apply for up to \$50,000 (excl. GST) in grant funding to deliver an incubator project over a period of up to 12-months.

Examples of activities that can be delivered by an Incubator project include:

- Coordination activities: landowner network meetings or on-site visits.
- Education activities: visits to demonstration sites or timber mills and processors, or delivery of tree-growing courses.
- Planning activities: feasibility assessments, financial modelling, development of VToF project plans.

Once they have completed the incubator project, landowners will be supported to develop their own VToF project plan that is implementation-ready and can be used to apply for grant funding under the Victorian Trees on Farms Program.

Applications for the Incubator Program close on Friday, 17 October 2025, 5pm.

Find out more and apply on our website:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/incubator-program>

For more details visit [Trees on Farms Incubator program | Trees on farms | Plantations and farm forestry | Crops and horticulture | Agriculture Victoria](#)



Council community grants open October

Impact Grants will be released in October 2025. Between \$3,001 and \$20,000 will be available for community development, cultural development, or environmental sustainability initiatives.

There is a dedicated Environment Stream, aligned to support the delivery of Council's [Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032](#). Eligible projects in this category need to align with one (or more) of the goals of the environment strategy, namely:

1. Conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity.
2. Sustainable management of natural resources and climate mitigation.
3. Community participation in the climate response.
4. Respect and alignment with the rights of the Traditional Owner Groups.
5. Environmental sustainability supports sustainable economic growth and new job opportunities.

6. Growth in the circular economy.
7. Community resilience to respond to increasing climate risk and natural disasters.

Applications need to be submitted and acquitted through Smarty Grants, an online grants management program. More information contact communitygrants@egipps.vic.gov.au

Check the guidelines and our handy how-to guide, and apply at eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/grants.

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

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

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

How Microgrids Work

1. A microgrid generates power at a local level, rather than receiving it from the grid.
2. The system ensures that local renewable sources, energy storage, and other resources are coordinated effectively.
3. Microgrids can be Grid-Connected or Independent:
 - Embedded Microgrid: An electricity supply arrangement that coordinates and optimises the use of connected, locationally proximate distributed energy resources to provide secure and reliable electricity within the microgrid and can provide value to the major grid. This could include energy market participation, provision of system flexibility, systems services and deferral of network investment.
 - Standalone Power Systems (SPS): An electricity supply arrangement that can demonstrate temporary or permanent operation when not physically connected to a major grid. SAPS encompasses supply to single and multiple customers. Where: customers, currently connected to a major grid, can move to a SAPS, or a SAPS is installed rather than a new grid connection.

Benefits

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

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

East Gippsland Grant Finder

Council provides Grant Guru, the [Grant Finder](#) for all local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals. The site provides a list of funding opportunities available from many sources including state and federal government, corporate and philanthropic. Click on the link to see what is currently open.

SURVEYS AND INPUT SOUGHT

Seeking Private Vets

Private vets play an important part in an Emergency Animal Disease response. Agriculture Victoria is looking for private vets to help support future emergency animal disease outbreak response efforts.

Emergency response work for private vets could include:

- investigation of suspect cases
- in-field surveillance
- diagnostic sampling
- euthanasia and vaccination.

This is a great opportunity to share expertise, learn new skills and help protect Victoria's agriculture sector. Casual employment and veterinary service contracts are available.

Training and resources are available with a range of online courses tailored for vets available on the website covering different topics, including some that contribute to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points.

[Private veterinarians in an emergency response](#) | [Information for veterinarians and epidemiologists](#) | [Emergency animal diseases](#) | [Animal diseases](#) | [Biosecurity](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

Victoria's next Biosecurity Roundtable in 2026

Planning is underway for the next roundtable and there is a call out to hear from producers about what you want to discuss to stop the harms of pests and diseases affecting all Victorians.

Suggestions for Victoria's next Biosecurity Roundtable in 2026 can be made at [Help shape the 2026 Biosecurity Roundtable agenda Survey](#). The survey closes Friday 10 October.

To subscribe to Victoria's Biosecurity Matters register [Strengthening Victoria's Biosecurity System](#).

INFORMATION

National Agriculture Day 2025 – National Agriculture Day 2025

Australia Ag Day is the 21 November 2025 and there is a call for all Australians, no matter their postcode, to Stand with the Land.

This past year, our farmers have shown extraordinary grit, navigating record-breaking floods, devastating droughts, imperfect policies and trade disruptions.

It's time to celebrate their hard work.

Whether you're in the city or the country, the classroom or the boardroom, you're a vital part of National Agriculture Day.

Schools can celebrate National Ag Day with a range of resources at [National Ag Day | Primezone Lesson Plans](#), why not try this fun activity to learn some facts now - [Learn - Kahoot! Solo](#).

The AgDay photo and video competition is back for 2025! Entries open soon - submit your photo or video capturing Australian agriculture and the theme "*Grow you good thing!*". Entries close 5pm AEDT on **17 November**. [Photography & video competition – national agriculture day 2025](#)



Report livestock impacts from dingo predation

To ensure the best outcomes for your livestock, report any dingo-related incidents to your local **Senior Vertebrate Species Management Officer (SVSMO)** as soon as possible or alternatively, you may contact the **Customer Call Centre** at **136 186** to report dingo predation. SVSMO's response will depend on the number and severity of **Incident Reports (IRs)** currently being handled.

The SVSMO can assist with

- on on-farm management practices to mitigate dingo impacts
- Demonstration of dingo predation management tools and techniques
- Updates on dingo predation management activities on adjacent Public Land

Coordination of public land management actions to support your farming enterprise, can coordinate workshops on

- Nonlethal and lethal management techniques
- Use of exclusion fencing and livestock guardian animals
- Trapping and baiting methods
- Livestock management and animal husbandry practices

Senior Vertebrate Species Management Officers Gippsland	
Anthony Websdale	Dwayne Needham
0408 896 720	0429 667 868
<i>Bairnsdale, Benambra, Buchan, Dargo, Ensay, Gelantipy, Omeo, Swifts Creek</i>	<i>Bendoc, Bonang, Cann River, Deddick, Erica, Gembrook, Heyfield, Licola, Maffra, Noojee, Orbost, Tubbut</i>

Feral Pig Management

Favourable conditions have resulted in increased feral pig activity in some areas. The VSMP will continue to deliver the Landscape Feral Pig project across eastern Victoria. Control activities removed 73 feral pigs from the landscape in 2024-25, bringing the total to 383 pigs across the life of the project.

New control sites have been identified in Far East Gippsland, as a result of community reporting and historical sightings. Survey, reconnaissance and monitoring are underway to identify key control points.

Reporting feral pig activity either on your property or on the public land estate helps build data on feral pig presence and movement, allowing public land managers to prioritise areas for control works. Having this information also increases the opportunity for funds to be allocated to feral pig management. Please report activity at feral.pigs@deeca.vic.gov.au or phone 136 186.

Water quality testing during drought essential for food safety

Horticulture growers should take appropriate action to ensure that produce impacted by weather events or drought conditions is safe for consumption.

These events can physically damage produce and/or contaminate it with dirt, chemicals or animal faeces carried by wind or water. It is recommended that growers keep records of key weather events that impact their farm, including rainfall records and periods of strong wind.

It is important to note that weather events and sources of contamination may not always occur at the growing site, but rather in the larger catchment area, which can impact water quality.

Where to get water samples tested in Victoria

Use a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory, listed on the [NATA webpage](#). Search the term 'Analysis for microorganisms' fresh waters' and enter your location to find a suitable service.

Sampling costs

As a guide, the average cost of a single sample test is \$50 to \$100 for generic *E.coli*. If submitting multiple samples or testing for additional pathogens (see sampling tips), costs will increase.

Emily Scott, Engagement Officer Horticulture Standards, Maffra for more information please email Emily at emily.g.scott@agriculture.vic.gov.au.



Further information, including understanding test results:

- [Fresh Produce Safety Centre \(FPSC\) grower guides](#)
- [Food Standards Australia and New Zealand \(FSANZ\) Info Bites](#) and [Safe Horticulture Guide](#)
- [Safe Leafy Vegetable Project](#) and [Factsheet: Microbial food safety risk management in leafy vegetables](#)
- [Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* \(STEC\) contamination of leafy vegetables and risk management](#)

Find more information about available drought support visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

Cereal crop density calculator (tiller estimator)

The [Crop Plant Density tool](#) is a simple method to calculate key crop metrics from crop observations in the paddock.

The formula remains the same, whether calculating plants or tillers so the opportunity to understand the crop biomass can be identified by entering the tiller counts into the relevant sections.

Knowing plant numbers and the development of tillers can show potential yield and also provide guidance with the [hay versus grain calculation](#).

Find the crop density calculator on the soil moisture dashboard and save it to your smart phone home page to help determine crop biomass with paddock counts.

[Understanding Q fever: protecting dairy farmers, with Karen McLennan](#)

Do you know the signs of Q Fever? Did you know that the disease is prevalent in Victoria, especially in Gippsland?

Tune in to our latest Farming Safe and Well episode, where we are joined by Karen McLennan from GippsDairy.

Karen shares valuable insights on the importance of vaccination, protective measures for farmers and farm workers and awareness among the dairy community.

Listen now to learn how you can create a safer and more efficient farm by understanding and preventing Q fever. [AgVic Talk Season 10 | AgVic Talk | Podcasts | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#)

[Digging Deeper Podcast - Ag Chats with Al](#)

This podcast dedicated to farmers and rural communities, delivering timely and relevant information throughout the farming year—from autumn sowing to summer harvest. Hosted by Alistair Micallef from the Gippsland Ag Group, a grassroots farmer-led organisation in Victoria's East, the podcast shares practical tips and insights to support innovation and profitability in farming businesses. Click here for the latest episodes [Podcast](#).

[Gippsland Jobs Hub](#)

Connecting Job Seekers and Employers Across Gippsland

Looking for work close to home, or the right person to join your team? The Gippsland Jobs Hub is your free, go-to portal for employment opportunities across our thriving, diverse region.



For job seekers: Browse local job listings, discover training opportunities, and connect directly with employers. It's quick, easy, and free to sign up.

For employers: Post vacancies at no cost and tap into Gippsland's local talent pool, or attract new workers to the region.



The Gippsland Jobs Hub makes it simple to live local, work local. [Click here to explore the Jobs Hub](#)

[Boost your tourism business with a free ATDW listing](#)

Tourism businesses in East Gippsland can now boost their online presence for free, thanks to East Gippsland Shire Council's fully subsidised 12-month Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) listings (valued at \$295).

An ATDW profile helps your business appear across major tourism platforms like Visit Victoria, Visit Gippsland, and the soon-to-launch Visit East Gippsland site – reaching thousands of potential visitors and driving more bookings.

Your business must be based in East Gippsland, offer a tourism or leisure experience, have a physical location visitors can access, and fit into categories like accommodation, attractions, food and drink, hire, tours, transport, or general services. Tour and accommodation providers will also need a current ABN. 🖱️ [Click here to submit your Expression of](#)



[Interest](#) (spots are limited).

For more information contact Scott at Visitor Economy Coordinator scottr@egipps.vic.gov.au.

Mental Health & Wellbeing local

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

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



Supporting children's mental health in rural areas

You can listen to a podcast with Jacquie Lee from Emerging Minds about supporting children's mental health in rural areas during challenging times like droughts and bushfires.

In this Farming Safe and Well episode, Jacquie shares valuable insights on:

- Building strong parent-child relationships
- Understanding and managing children's emotions and behaviour
- The importance of maintaining routines
- Effective communication and meaning making
- Creating and utilising support networks

[AgVic Talk Season 10 | AgVic Talk | Podcasts | Support and resources | Agriculture Victoria](#)

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee - ASAC

List of issues from the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee:

The East Gippsland Agricultural Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC) met on 20 August 2025 and discussed a range of critical issues impacting the region's agricultural communities and industries.

The meeting marked the first for the newly appointed ASAC cohort, which includes seven new individual members and a new industry body representative, the Gippsland Agricultural Group. Each member had the opportunity to share their background and interest in the agricultural sector, setting the stage for a collaborative and informed term ahead.

Key agenda items included the economic implications of offshore renewable energy projects in the Gippsland region and a review of the ASAC's recent performance and structure. A recent visit to the region by Tom McIntosh MP sparked a broader conversation around drought preparedness, mental health in rural communities, and the importance of early decision-making for resilience.

Committee members also raised growing concerns about pest animal management, highlighting the need for coordinated advocacy and action.

The following recommendations were formally provided to Council:

1. Circulate the advocacy priority: ensuring the long-term viability of Victoria's largest commercial fishing fleet amid offshore wind development.
2. Coordinate the formation of an ASAC Planning and Development Subgroup and arrange a meeting with Council's planning team.
3. Provide an update to ASAC on next steps following the Councillor briefing on the Rural Land Use Strategy.

4. Consider observer representation on the Gippsland Critical Mineral Mine Community Reference Group.
5. Coordinate stakeholders to develop an advocacy strategy on pest animal management and include this as an agenda item for the next meeting.



Back: EGSC CEO Fiona Weigall, Ty Mason, Cr Barry Davi, Prue McTaggart Manager Economic Development and Tourism, Rohan Reynolds, Mayor Cr John White, Rob Lightfoot, Alister McCalfe, Jack Winterbottom Ag Vic. Front: Bec Hemming, CEO EGCMA, Kaylene Wickham, Joanne Trevaskis, Chris Jehu, Jen Smith General Manager Gippsland Agriculture Group and Chris Stephenson General Manager EGSC.

Applying for a single farm enterprise exemption

If you own more than one farm property you may be eligible for an exemption from the Municipal Charge, the Waste Levy, and the fixed amount of the ESVF on some of the properties.

Where more than one farm property is used to operate a single farm enterprise, a person may only need to pay the Municipal Charge and the fixed charge of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) once, by applying for a single farm enterprise exemption.

The ESVF fixed charge must be paid on at least one property which forms part of the single farm enterprise (the properties do not need to be in the same council municipality). The fixed charge must be applied to all properties with an occupied dwelling.

The Municipal Charge must be paid on at least one property within the single farm enterprise in each council municipality. The Municipal Charge must be applied to all properties with a dwelling.

If you think that you may be entitled to exemptions, you can contact Council's rates team to discuss this further on 5153 9500 or complete the Single Farm Enterprise Exemption Application available on our website at [Form: Single Farm Enterprise Exemption Application](#)

MEMPC Recovery and Resilience Group

Council convened the Relief and Recovery Sub Committee meeting as part of the ongoing connection of Not for Profits, organisations and emergency services out of times of disasters to continue conversations and relationship building. The Rapid Relief Team gave a presentation on their services and assets to update the committee on what can be accessed in an emergency.



Attendees that day include RRG, ERV, NEMA, St VDP, ADRA, Red Cross, Council, GLCH, Lions, Neighbourhood Houses, NEX, VCCEM and Council with Rapid relief Team and Wellness Worx.

What's a circular economy?

It's a better way of doing things - where we design out waste, keep resources in use for as long as possible, and help nature regenerate. East Gippsland is already making the shift:

- Roads made from crumbled (recycled) tyres.
- Hard plastics reused in outdoor furniture and food packaging through collection points at Woolworths, Coles and Aldi.
- Clothing given a second life through the UpCycle4Better (upcycle4better.com.au) program in Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Metung and Orbost.



The circular economy is good for local jobs, helps cut emissions, and protects the environment we all value. A win for now - and for the Sent less to landfill, East Gippsland!

Small everyday choices make a big difference.

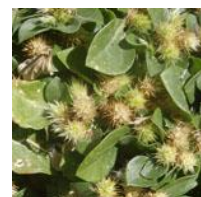
Whether you're shopping, cooking, or cleaning up use this handy checklist:

- Avoid – Does this have loads of packaging? Do I even need it?
- Reduce – Can I borrow or buy it second-hand? Can I use up what I already have?
- Re-use – Think coffee cups, jars, cloth nappies, water bottles.
- Recycle – Am I recycling everything I can?

Every little change helps build a cleaner, greener East Gippsland, for more information contact: Kelly Thorburn, Waste and Recycling Education 5153 9500.

Watch out for Khaki Weed

Khaki Weed (*Alternanthera pungens*) is a target species for the East Gippsland area, with very low populations occurring within our boundaries. It is a creeping perennial that runs along the ground, with small fluffy pale green flowers, spiny seeds and oval slightly hairy leaves. This species can grow from fragments and seeds, which are viable for an extended time in the soil. Germination can occur from August onwards with flowering and seeding commencing in Spring. Management measures recommended are application of a registered herbicide, cultivation and physical removal.



More information [Khaki weed](#) | [Weeds information](#) | [Weeds](#) | [Biosecurity](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

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.

Community Matters Newsletter

The monthly [Community Matters](#) newsletter shares updates on projects, services, decisions, open consultations and more. The previous community e-newsletter can be downloaded [here](#).

A promotional poster for the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange. The top left features the exchange's logo with a cow and calf. The main title 'UPCOMING SALES' is in large, bold, white letters on a purple background. Below this, the date 'SEPTEMBER 2025' is listed, followed by three sales events: 'Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am' (Wednesday 3, 10, and 17 September), 'Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am' (Friday 12 and 26 September), and 'Sheep Sale, 10.00 am' (Monday 1, 15, and 29 September). A note states '*Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents'. The right side of the poster shows a photograph of several black and white cows in a field. The East Gippsland Shire Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

OUT & ABOUT - BUSY MONTH OF ACTIVITIES IN EAST GIPPSLAND

In preparation for the Youth Agritech expo 16 & 17 September

A strong team have been working on the 2025 Youth Agritech Expo, Lily McCole Swifts Creek Futures Project, Natalie Jenkins Southern Farming Systems, Alister McCallef Gippsland Agriculture Group and Council's Youth Ambassadors.

As part of the initiative the Youth Ambassadors have been out interviewing farming businesses to find out about careers available in East Gippsland and learn what those jobs entail.

Also, Lily has been attending events and working with the industry to develop what will be a great event on the 17 September.



Kayden and Tara getting ready
To interview young farmers



Lily with David from Jobs and
Skills promotig the event



Banjo Jackson interviewing Andrew
Bulmer of Bulmer Farms

Regional Renewables Farm Forum and Tour 9-11 September

The Gippsland New Energy Conference was a powerful showcase of regional leadership in renewables, drawing over 700 attendees across three dynamic days. The event featured Councils coordinated Regional Renewables Farm Forum and Tour, with around 110 participants engaging in discussions focused on the future of renewables in agriculture and community collaboration.

The farm focus presented a mix of policy, innovation, and on-farm application to highlight how Gippsland is leading in renewables and circular economy thinking

Key themes included the shift from social licence to social performance, highlighting how companies must actively demonstrate value and build trust with communities to successfully deliver renewable projects. Attendees explored Victoria's energy transition plans and heard how VICGRID is working to connect with regional communities. A strong focus was placed on how industry can bring farmers along on the journey—building capacity, sharing benefits, and fostering innovation. A highlight was hearing directly from farmers who shared the benefits of wind turbine installations, and local innovator Sandra Jefford showcased the savings achieved through on-farm renewable technologies.



The farm tour organised by Council's Economic Development team with the assistance of Wellington Shire Council and DEECA staff, had 21 participants from universities, Food and Fibre Gippsland, media, government, industry, and the community. Three farmers showcased how technology and renewables are being used to reduce input costs, increase productivity, and

streamline operations. The fourth site, Elecsome, impressed attendees with its pioneering work in solar panel recycling—reclaiming trace elements and repurposing glass into road materials, a promising step toward circular economy solutions.



Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with one Melbournian attendee remarking, *"Gippslanders are innovators and risk takers, willing to invest in their future."* The event not only informed but inspired attendees, reinforcing Gippsland's role as a leader in renewable energy and agricultural innovation.





Planting for a greener future

Locals joined forces to mark National Tree Day through two major planting events. On Friday 25 July, the whole of Nagle College joined Council staff and community members for Schools Tree Day. As part of the Nagle College Rainforest Project, 900 native seedlings have been planted to help restore biodiversity and strengthen the environment.



Jacinta Symons, main teacher and organiser; Kate Allen, Natural Environment Coordinator at East Gippsland Shire Council; and Michele Shugg, Landcare, thank s to EGLN for the photo and article

More updates available

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



Compiled for general information only. 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.

If a friend would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer East Gippsland Shire Council at kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au or call 5153 9450.

Workshop on how to get from soils 101 to strategic irrigation in irrigated horticulture



Are you farming irrigated horticultural crops? Let's have a chat about getting the most out of your water.

Marek Matuszek heads up Ag Logic's irrigation advice and agricultural monitoring team. He has been running workshops like this one in Tasmania over the last couple of years. He and his team have found the greatest improvements in irrigation scheduling by going back to the basics of soils and making sure the fundamentals are in place before even beginning to consider data in decision-making.

Join us for a friendly and open workshop on these fundamentals. In our workshop, you'll:

- learn how to identify different soil types
- learn how different soil types respond to irrigation
- get a better understanding of soil behaviour and its interaction with water and crops
- learn about the role of data in monitoring crop production
- learn how to make better decisions by using available data
- come away with tools that can help with your irrigation scheduling.

Bring your questions, your data and/or last season's outcomes to talk through with Marek. Come along prepared to get your hands dirty.

This event is supported by Agriculture Victoria's Drought Support Package.

When: 25th September 2025; 10.30am - 2.00pm

Where: Lindenow Pub Farmers Home Hotel

167 Main Rd, Lindenow VIC

Cost: Free

Register: [Here](#)

For more information, please contact Marek:

0419 000 267

marek@aglogic.com.au

www.aglogic.com.au

AG LOGIC
Agricultural Intelligence

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

With Ag
Logic's
Marek
Matuszek



Integrated Worm Management for Sheep.

 **Monday 13 October, 2025 | 9.30am-12.30pm**

 58 Saleyard Road, GELANTIPY

 **Monday 13 October, 2025 | 5pm-8pm**

 DEECA Office, 13 McMillan Avenue, SWIFTS CREEK

 **Tuesday 14 October, 2025 | 9.30 am-12.30pm**

 Gippsland Ag Centre, 345 Bengworden Road, BENGWORDEN

Lunch or a light tea provided at each session.

Project background

A 3-year project with the Bairnsdale BestWool/BestLamb group aims to demonstrate best practice sheep worm management in East Gippsland.

These sessions will outline the various practices important to integrated sheep worm management such as monitoring drench effectiveness, grazing management and breeding for resistance.

Topics

- Outcomes of the drench resistance testing undertaken as part of the project.
- Importance of quarantine drenching.
- Grazing management to reduce worm burdens in your pastures and flocks.
- Breeding for resistance
- Update on demonstration sites in each area.

Presenter

Ben Blomfield, Bairnsdale BestWool/BestLamb group co-ordinator and veterinary consultant from Melbourne University's Mackinnon Project.

- **Note:** Ben will also speak at the end of these sessions on his Cattle Worm PDS for those interested.



This event is a part of an Enhanced Producer Demonstration Site (EPDS) project, co-funded by Meat & Livestock Australia and Agriculture Victoria, and run in conjunction with the Bairnsdale BestWool/BestLamb Group.

For more information:

Keren Walker, Agriculture Victoria
0477 706 384
keren.walker@agriculture.vic.gov.au

[Register here](#)

Please RSVP by the day before the event.



Detox your Home is coming to Bairnsdale

Saturday 25 October 2025 | 9.00am to 1.00pm

East Gippsland Livestock Exchange,
11 Saleyard Road, Bairnsdale

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

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

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

Detox your Home events are drive-through and contactless.



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



SUCCESSION PLANNING ROADSHOW

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



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

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

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



Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025



Navigating the Aged Care System

Information Session



Spend some time with Cindy and Grant from Services Australia Centrelink!

Are you looking to understand how to navigate the Aged Care System and unsure where to begin?

Cindy, one of the experienced Aged Care Specialist Officers (ACSO's) across Australia, and Grant, Financial Information Services Officer, will be joining us to provide valuable information about My Aged Care and how their roles can support you and your family through the system.

There will be plenty of time for questions, so feel free to bring yours along!

Bairnsdale Library

Monday 6 October
10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Tuesday 7 October
10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Orbost Service Centre

Tuesday 7 October
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Paynesville Service Centre

Monday 6 October
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Mallacoota Service Centre

Tuesday 14 October
10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Book Now

At your library

Phone: 5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries

Or scan the QR code



Libraries
Change Lives



Services
Australia

Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025

SOILS & FLOODS

at Genoa

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

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

TOPICS

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

FREE

Bring your soil tests

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



Any questions contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community™

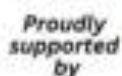


This TopSoils event is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.
This workshop is supported by the Gippsland Community Foundation

JUST
A FARMER

ROBERT
TAYLOR

PRODUCED BY SEAN & LEILA McDOUGALL



This article is supported by the
 People-Planning Future Local Community Grant
 provided by the National Lottery
 via the People's Trust for the Environment
 100 Avenue Road, London N1 1AA



Saputo
Dairy Australia

