Future of Heyfield

Project Newsletter - Issue 3 November 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2
- Project Manager Update
- Agriculture Training, Be Work Ready - Jobs on Farms

Page 3
- Heyfield Adventure Hub funding announcement
- Meet Estelle, the Heyfield Adventure Hub Coordinator

Page 4
- Blores Hill MTB Skills Day
- Active Ageing Update - Proposed Heyfield Dog Park

Page 5
- Upcoming events

Project Update

We are excited to bring to you our third issue of the Future of Heyfield Newsletter.
There has been lots of exciting developments within the Project since our last newsletter in June.

In July the Heyfield Traders & Tourism Association (HTTA) received approval and funding support for the Heyfield Adventure Hub which is an initiative to develop nature and adventure based tourism events.
This announcement also led to the employment of an Adventure Hub Coordinator to help drive the project.

In October we hosted 'Be Work Ready - Jobs on Farms', a pilot training program to support individuals looking to enter employment in the Agriculture sector.

There are some exciting projects and community skills-building events in the works for 2026 and look forward to sharing the details with you soon.

The Future of Heyfield Project Team

The Future of Heyfield Project is supported by

Heyfield Community Resource Centre

Victoria State Government

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai People as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we operate, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Project Manager Update

We would like to introduce you to Erin Baxter, who has stepped in to replace Steve McDonnell in the role of Project Manager.

Erin has been offering support to the project throughout the year and moves in to the role with a good knowledge of work to date, and has some great connections with both working group members and the wider community.

Local to Heyfield, Erin is committed to supporting our community through the remainder of the Forestry Transition Project and the continued growth of our town.

Erin's working hours are
Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm.

Erin can be contacted on 0401 194 848 or email erinb@heyfield.net

Agriculture Working Group Update

In October, we hosted a pilot training program for individuals looking to learn skills to support their pathway into employment in the agriculture industry.

The four day program, 'Be Work Ready - Jobs on Farms', was held at the Heyfield Community Resource Centre as part of their Learn Local program. Training was focused on preparing resumes, interview skills, an introduction to workplace culture and workplace rights, responsibilities, health and safety and self management skills.

The course attracted a handful of participants from Heyfield and surrounds, with guest speakers from local farming businesses, Food and Fibre Gippsland and Gippsland Skills and Job Centre providing insight in to the current industry trends and needs in our area.

The Agriculture Innovation Working Group will continue to focus on further developing a program to support Agriculture training for individuals and businesses in 2026.

Heyfield Adventure Hub funding approval

In July, the Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence approved funding for the development of the Heyfield Adventure Hub.

The Heyfield Adventure Hub concept will see the Heyfield Traders & Tourism Association (HTTA) lead tourism initiatives for the region.

With support from the Future of Heyfield Project's Tourism Working Group, the HTTA is working on a year-round calendar of events aimed at showcasing Heyfield's unique, natural attractions and bringing more visitors to the area.

HEYFIELD ADVENTURE HUB

Meet Estelle

We would like to introduce to you Estelle Kayler-Thomson, our Heyfield Adventure Hub Coordinator.

Estelle has a background in ecology and conservation and she is passionate about showcasing the natural assets of Heyfield and surrounds.

Estelle's working days are Monday to Wednesday from 8.30am-4.00pm.

If you would like to find out more about this exciting project, contact Estelle on 0403 392 631 or email adventurehub@heyfield.net

Find us online!

If you are online, why not check out the Heyfield Adventure Hub on Facebook and Instagram.

There's already lots of events in the works for 2026, so make sure you follow us to keep up to date with what's happening in and around Heyfield.

heyfieldadventurehub

Heyfield Adventure Hub

Blores Hill MTB Park skills day hosted by the Heyfield Adventure Hub

The MTB Skills Session held on Sunday, 9 November 2025 at Blores Hill Mountain Bike Park was a great success.
Professional cyclist Brenton Jones led three dynamic sessions, two for children and one dedicated to women, creating a welcoming environment where riders of all levels could build confidence and develop new skills.
Participants enjoyed expert coaching and practical trail-based learning, with many expressing how valuable and confidence-boosting the experience was.
The strong positive feedback highlights the Heyfield Adventure Hub's commitment to delivering high-quality outdoor and nature-based experiences for the community.

We look forward to offering more MTB Skills Sessions next year, along with a range of exciting activities in 2026.

Update from the Active Aging Innovation Working Group

The Future of Heyfield Project group has formally withdrawn its application with DEECA for a proposed Dog Park in Heyfield as it could not be supported at this time

The Active Aging Innovation Working Group has since discussed supporting the creation of a Friends of the Dog Park group to investigate the possible development of a Dog Park in the future.

The group is now focusing on how the project may be able to support the ageing community to maintain independence and stay in their homes for longer. We will share more information on this in the new year.

Upcoming Events

Introduction to Human Resources (HR) for small business

This FREE two-hour session, presented by Full Circle HR, is designed to help you navigate through HR obligations to ensure you are doing the right thing by your employees.

When: Wednesday 25th February 2026
Cost: FREE
Where: Heyfield Community Resource Centre
Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Light dinner provided
Please RSVP your attendance to Erin on 0401 194 848 or email erinb@heyfield.net

Grant Information Session

Following the positive feedback from our Grant Information Session last year, we will be hosting another session mid year with a formal date to be confirmed early 2026.
This information session will bring representatives from various funding bodies together to present information on grant opportunities they have as well as provide details on what they look for in a group to partner with.

AI for Grant Writing Workshop

We are aware that preparing a grant application can be overwhelming.
This workshop will focus on utilizing digital AI programs to help you save time and write an effective application
This workshop will follow the Grant Information Session, with a date to be confirmed soon.

Customer Service Excellence

If you are looking to start working in Customer Service, or are you an existing business or employee looking to boost your skills, then this course may be for you!
This free workshop will offer expert customer service advice, and provide you with practical tools and steps that you can tailer to your individual business. This session will be held in the second half of 2026.

If you are interested in attending any of these sessions please contact Erin on 0401 194 848 or email erinb@heyfield.net

HUMAN RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESS

This FREE two-hour session, presented by Full Circle HR, is designed to help you navigate through HR obligations to ensure you are doing the right thing by your employees.

Topics covered will include

- Employing People - the essentials
- Why contracts matter
- Workplace retention
- Managing difficult behaviour

When: Wednesday 25th February 2026, 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Where: Heyfield Community Resource Centre
Cost: FREE
Light supper provided
Bookings essential on 0401 194 848 or email erinb@heyfield.net

HEYFIELD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

VICTORIA State Government

This is a free community event, brought to you by the Future of Heyfield Project.