Future of Heyfield

Newsletter
November 2026

The Future of Heyfield Project is focused on supporting the rollout of opportunities identified by the Innovation Working Groups for the growing future and economic stability of Heyfield. This project is supported by the Victorian Government under DEECA's Forestry Transition Program.

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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.





Photo: Heyfield Wetlands

Project Update

It has been an exciting period of collaboration, and activity within the Future of Heyfield Project with the recent delivery of the Be Work Ready - Jobs on Farms training program, Farmers Dinner, and Customer Service Excellence program.

This month, we also hosted a Social Media Marketing workshop, followed by two Coffee Making training courses delivered by TAFE Gippsland. These programs helped participants develop practical skills, build their confidence and support future employment opportunities.

The Heyfield Aventure Hub has also delivered some fantastic events including two sold out Cosmic Adventure Nights and a Forest Bathing wellness walk.

To find out more about the project and the work we are doing, or explore opportunities to get involved, please come in to the Heyfield Community Resource Centre to see us, or give us a call on 5148 2100.

The Future of Heyfield Project is supported by

HEYFIELD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

VICTORIA State Government

Innovation Working Group Update

Tourism

Discover our Forests Program

The Heyfield Adventure Hub and Gippsland Adventure Tours have been awarded funding for the Discover our Forests Program, an initiative by the Victorian Government in partnership with DEECA and Outdoors Victoria.

The program aims to create opportunities for people who may face barriers to participating in outdoor recreation, encouraging people from all backgrounds to experience and enjoy Victoria's State Forests.

The program engages licensed tour operators and community organisations to host community groups on supported days out in state forests to try activities such as bushwalking, mountain biking, nature education, bush skills, orienteering and more.

The aim of the program is to create opportunities that educate and enable people to better connect with the state forests through outdoor recreation.

Thanks to this funding, the Heyfield Adventure Hub and Gippsland Adventure Tours will partner to deliver six free outdoor activities for the Heyfield community. We are super excited to be delivering the program to our community.

Keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and social media for more information about these activities and how to get involved.

Do you have an event coming up you would like advertised on the Visit Heyfield website?

We will happily advertise your event on the Visit Heyfield event's page.

Send us an email to adventurehub@heyfield.net with the following information:

- Event name and short description
- Event date and time
- Event organiser details
- Promotional material (banners, posters or photos)
- Details on event bookings (online booking page, contact details of event organiser)

LIVE LIFE OUTDOORS

Are you looking for your next adventure?

INTRODUCING...

DISCOVER OUR FORESTS







The **Heyfield Adventure Hub** and **Gippsland Adventure Tours** will partner to deliver six free, full day adventure activities in our local state forests
Activities will run from **December 2026 to April 2027**

TOGETHER LET'S DISCOVER...

STATE FORESTS IN GIPPSLAND

Available activities will include:

- Canoeing for Carers
- Inclusive Orienteering
- Guided Nature Walk for Over 65's
- Women's Introduction to Packrafting
- Women's Introduction to Navigation
- Community Bush Safety and Outdoor Confidence

Facilitated in partnership by:

GIPPSLAND ADVENTURE TOURS
Real Adventures. Real Gippsland.
GUIDED TOURS & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

HEYFIELD ADVENTURE HUB

This is a unique opportunity to help more Victorians explore our state forests and engage in outdoor activities, supported by the Victorian Government and delivered in partnership with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Outdoors Victoria.

The program seeks to involve Community Groups supporting people from:

- multicultural backgrounds
- migrants & refugees
- people with disabilities
- people with mental health challenges
- older adults (65 years plus) and
- women's groups.

For more general information about visiting state forests go to www.exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au





We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, their Elders past and present, for the important role Indigenous people continue to play in Victoria, especially on land and waters used for outdoor education and recreation.

To find out more or to register your interest, please contact Estelle, the Adventure Hub Coordinator
Email: adventurehub@heyfield.net
Phone: 0403 392 631

Proudly brought to you by:

VICTORIA State Government

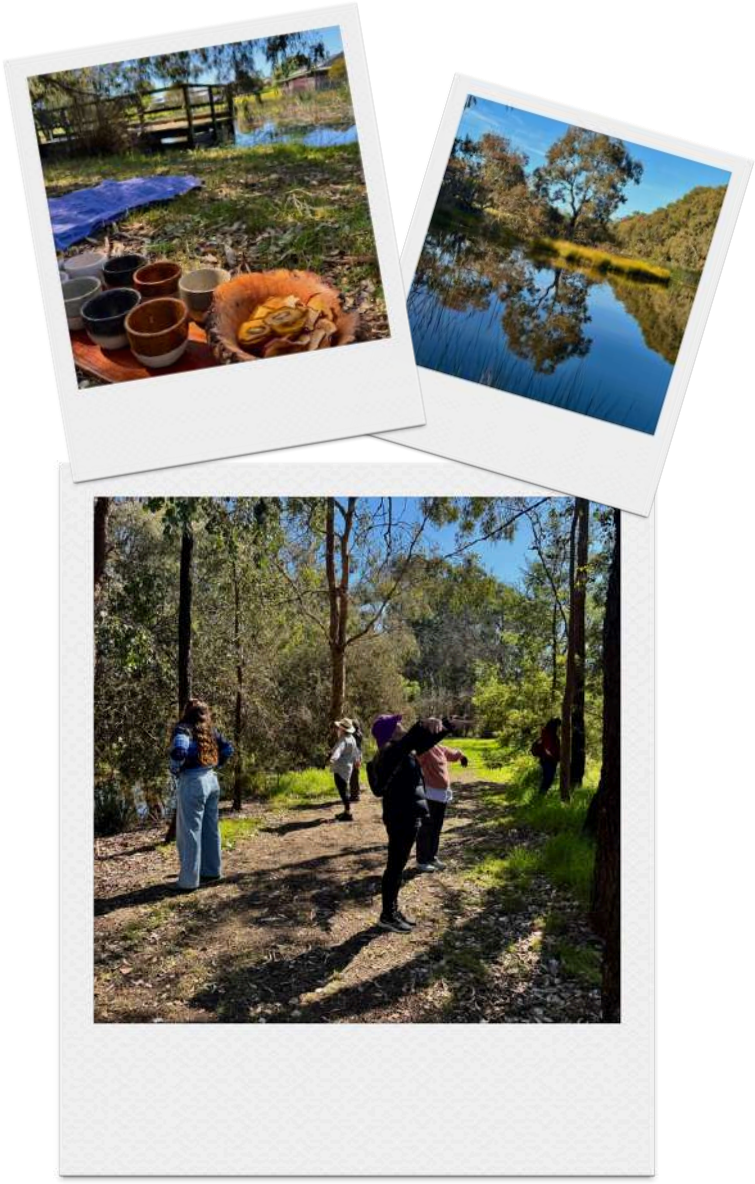
Outdoors Victoria

Innovation Working Group Update

Tourism

Wellness at the Wetlands: Forest Bathing Walk

On Wednesday 23rd September we welcomed women from our community for a relaxing morning at the beautiful Heyfield Wetlands, with a gentle forest bathing walk followed by morning tea inside the Information Centre. It was a wonderful opportunity for women, both local and visiting the area, to connect with nature and each other.



Forest bathing, or Shirin-yoku is a Japanese sensory practice that promotes mindfulness and relaxation. Individuals slow down to engage their senses and absorb their natural surroundings and atmosphere for therapeutic benefit.

Key benefits include lowered cortisol levels, reduced blood pressure, boosted immune function through increased natural killer cells and improved mental well-being by curbing rumination and anxiety.

We would like to thank our partners in helping us deliver this activity, Sue Stranger from Renew & Nourish, Wellington Shire Council's Gippy Girls Can Campaign, the Heyfield Information Centre and the Heyfield Community Resource Centre.



Learn more about our new partners

renew & nourish

www.renewandnourish.com.au

GIPPY GIRLS CAN

www.gippygirlscan.com.au

HEYFIELD ADVENTURE HUB PRESENTS

MOUNTAIN BIKE SKILLS SESSIONS

BLORES HILL MTB PARK

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Each session is led by Rachel Hore, an Accredited Exercise Physiologist, Exercise Scientist and PMBIA Level 1 & 2 Certified Coach

RIDE WITH STRENGTH



SESSIONS

Fundamentals for Women (16+)
9:00am - 10:30am

Intermediate Kids (Open to all ages)
11:00am - 12:30pm

Cornering Open Session (Intermediate 16+)
1:00pm - 2:30pm

BOOK ONLINE

www.trybooking.com/DQOHB

For general event enquiries contact:

adventurehub@heyfield.net

0403 392 631

HEYFIELD ADVENTURE HUB

heyfieldadventurehub

Heyfield Adventure Hub

Agriculture

Be Work Ready - Jobs on Farms Training

In August the Future of Heyfield Project presented 'Be Work Ready - Jobs on Farms', a pilot training program developed with the support of the Agriculture Innovation Working Group members.



Megan from GippsDairy speaking with students

For people considering a career in agriculture, knowing where to start can sometimes be a challenge. The aim of the 'Jobs on Farms' program was to provide a clear understanding of the agriculture sector, what employers are looking for, and the range of opportunities available in the way of employment and continued training.

Throughout the five days of training, delivered as a partnership between the Resource Centre's Learn Local program and the Future of Heyfield, students were assisted with skills in resume writing, completing job applications and preparing for interviews.

The program was supported through local industry partnerships built through the Future of Heyfield Projects work to date, including guest speaker presentations from Fresh Select, GippsDairy and Food and Fibre Gippsland.

Farm tours of the Fresh Select site in Maffra and BNS Agriculture in Tinamba also allowed participants to meet with farm managers, learn about day-to-day operations and hear about the different employment opportunities that are available in both Horticulture and Dairy,

The final day of the program linked the students with members of both TAFE Gippsland and the Victorian Skills and Jobs Centre, where they learnt about further training and employment pathways.

By providing opportunities to learn, meet industry, visit workplaces and understand the next steps towards employment, programs like 'Jobs on Farms' strengthen connections between people looking for work and an agriculture sector seeking skilled and motivated workers.

We extend our thanks to our local partners for their time and support of this program, and look forward to being able to continue to develop this local training initiative.



Michael from Fresh Select discussing crop management at their Maffra farm



Students participating in a dairy farm tour with Nicole from BNS Agriculture.

Innovation Working Group Update

Agriculture

Farmers Dinner

Our second dinner to bring local farmers together was held at 'The Lodge' Heyfield in September, providing another opportunity for farmers to enjoy an evening of good food, conversation and connection.

The dinners are an initiative of the Agriculture Innovation Working Group members to create opportunities for farmers to step away from their farms, connect with others who understand the challenges and rewards of agriculture, and build stronger relationships across the industry.



Jen Smith from Gippsland Agricultural Group discussing work at their Bairnsdale Research Farm

The focus of the evening was on current research and trials in the health of soils and the role soil plays in sustainable farming systems. Guests heard from Jen Smith of Gippsland Agricultural Group, Bill Grant of Federation University and local farmer Tameeka Vera, who all shared insights on the work they are involved in.

We extend our thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a valuable and enjoyable occasion. We look forward to continuing these gatherings in 2027, and creating more opportunities for connection, learning and support among our local farming community.

If you are a local farmer and are interested in attending future dinners, please contact Erin on 5148 2100 or email erinb@heyfield.net



Bill Grant from Federation University explaining their current areas of research



Local farmer Tameeka Vera talking about soil trials at their farm

Innovation Working Group Update

Active Ageing

Accessibility Study

Aligned with the Active Ageing Innovation Working Group's commitment to supporting senior community members to maintain their independence, remain socially connected and actively participate in community life, the importance of access and inclusion has been an ongoing focus of recent discussions.

Members have highlighted the value of ensuring that local buildings and public spaces are welcoming, accessible and inclusive for everyone. This is important not only for older residents and people living with disability, but also for families, visitors and others who may experience barriers to accessing local facilities and services.

The Working Group have connected with Helen from Latrobe Community Health Services, who provides education, advice and support to local businesses and community groups to help improve their knowledge and focus on how to make spaces more accessible.



This connection has so far provided an opportunity for four local businesses to meet with Helen, and identify their strengths and low or no cost opportunities to support accessibility and inclusion.

Community Workshops





Help Us Plan for 2027!

We are starting to plan our community workshops, information sessions and training opportunities for 2027, and we want to hear from you.

Are there particular skills you'd like to develop, topics you'd like to learn more about, or training opportunities that could help you or your business? Perhaps there's a workshop we've previously hosted that you'd like to build on, or a topic you'd like to explore in more depth.

Your feedback will help guide our planning and shape the activities we deliver over the coming year.

Contact Erin on 5148 2100 or email your ideas to erinb@heyfield.net

Community Workshops

Customer Service Excellence Training

In August the Future of Heyfield Project hosted a free Customer Service Excellence training workshop at the Resource Centre.

Presented by Daniel from TAFE Gippsland, the workshop provided participants with practical knowledge and greater confidence to build positive customer relationships, navigate challenging interactions, and tailor their service approach to meet the needs of diverse customers.

The Future of Heyfield is proud to be providing local training opportunities. These not only support community members to gain skills, but contribute to a stronger, more resilient Heyfield.



Participants of the Customer Service Excellence training at the Heyfield Community Resource Centre

Social Media Marketing Workshop

We were delighted to recently host a Social Media Marketing Workshop at the Heyfield Wetlands Information Centre, welcoming 25 attendees from across our community.

Led by Erika McInerney, the session provided valuable insights and practical tips on how to build and strengthen an online presence. Topics included Google Business Listings, AI tools, marketing strategies and getting started with paid advertising.

The Future of Heyfield Project is committed to supporting opportunities that help showcase the many assets, attractions and experiences our region has to offer. By building a stronger social media presence, we can help promote local tourism, encourage more visitors to explore our area and create greater opportunities for community connection and engagement.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the workshop such a positive and engaging session!





Erika McInerney offering insight to local business owners on current social media trends, and how to develop a digital marketing strategy that will work for them

Community Workshops

Basic Espresso Coffee Making Training

It was great to see local community members take part in two Basic Espresso Coffee Making training sessions held in Heyfield this month, delivered by TAFE Gippsland through the Future of Heyfield Project.



Skye from TAFE Gippsland demonstrating how to use a commercial coffee machine

Across the two three-hour sessions, participants had the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of making coffee, including different coffee styles, grinding beans, texturing milk, operating a commercial coffee machine, as well as machine safety and cleaning.

There was plenty of opportunity to gain hands-on experience, with participants getting to put their new skills into practice by making a variety of coffees using different types of milk.

The Future of Heyfield Project is committed to bringing valuable training and development opportunities to our community, helping locals build new skills, increase their confidence and open doors to potential employment opportunities.

A big thank you to Sheree at Quick Cuppa for allowing access to their mobile Coffee Van and to everyone who took part. We hope you enjoyed the experience and feel confident putting your new skills to use!





Participants of the Basic Espresso Coffee Making Training learning the art of making a great coffee