

GS3 eBulletin

August 2021



GIPPSLAND
Smart Specialisation

Welcome message

We're thrilled to bring you the third instalment of the GS3 eBulletin. Over the past couple of months, we have seen a diverse range of people brought together through Smart Specialisation workshops and events.

In mid-April, a Health Innovation Showcase was fittingly held at the new Morwell Innovation Centre, and brought together minds from local health providers, education and government. Read more about the event in this eBulletin.

Later in April, the Food & Fibre Gippsland team hosted an online Seaweed Symposium featuring various experts to help us think about different ways we could use the nutrient-rich, underwater asset as a supplement in our cooking, gardens, pet food and more.

In May, over 70 people gathered at the Yarram Regent Theatre to talk about circular economy in Yarram, with Radial Timber already taking big steps to reduce their wastage and bring benefit to the broader community.

Meanwhile, the Visitor Economy team are exploring an exciting new platform called Wayfairer.coop – a community-led alternative to current vacation rental platforms.

We would also like to welcome Tim Cotter to the team, who is working closely with the Orbost community to apply Gippsland Smart Specialisation, as featured in the latest edition of Gippslandia – be sure to check it out!

Your GS3 Team leaders,



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Smart Specialisation is based on three principles (S3)



Smart

Identify the region's own strengths and comparative and competitive assets



Specialised

Prioritise research and innovation investment in competitive areas



Strategic

Define and develop a shared vision for regional innovation.



Energy



Tourism



Food and
Fibre



Health and
Wellbeing

Upcoming GS3 events & Innovation Group meetings

Energy

Energy Innovation Groups

- Geothermal – 20 July 2021
- Community Energy – 27 July 2021
- Bioenergy – 3 August 2021
- Smart Grids – 10 August 2021

Food & Fibre

- Sustainable Emerging Commodities – Insects – 24 August 2021
- Carbon Economies EDP – 26 August 2021 (TBC)
- Circular Economies – Waste Trading EDP – 31 August 2021 (TBC)

Health & Wellbeing

- EDP Workshops – 31 August 2021

Visitor Economy

- Design, Construct & Maintenance – Date TBC
- Gippsland Lakes Aquatic trail – Date TBC

S3 Principles: Smart | Specialised | Strategic

Energy

Over 70 locals gathered to showcase the possibilities of a circular economy for Yarram at the Regent Theatre on Sunday, 23rd of May. The event was hosted by the Yarram Community Energy Group and partners, supported by Gippsland Smart Specialisation, the Latrobe Valley Authority and Wellington Shire Council.

The event also included tours of nearby Radial Timbers who are already taking big steps to reduce their wastage and get the most out of their timber products.

In contrast to the 'take-make-waste' linear model, a circular economy is regenerative and aims to gradually design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems. A circular economy is designed to benefit businesses, society, and the environment.



In the morning, attendees participated in a tour of Radial Timbers which included an overview of the proposed Yarram Renewable Energy Park, with the project already gaining momentum with local project partners and the community.

Tours, presentations, and information stalls included Matt Charles-Jones from Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY), Radial Timbers and Yarram Renewable Energy Park, Warrigunya, GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Council, Yarram Yarram Landcare Network (YYLN), Farmers for Climate Action, Solar Victoria, DELWP Gippsland, Star of the South, Gippsland Climate Change Network and Gippsland Smart Specialisation.



In the afternoon a panel conversation at the Regent Theatre facilitated a Q&A session with Andrew Lester (Yarram Community Energy), Chris McEvoy (Radial Timbers), Scott Elliott (YYLN) and Matt Charles Jones (TRY). Chris has had a long-held dream of implementing a closed loop and self-sufficient sawmill which could be expanded to provide renewable energy to other businesses and the Yarram community.

You can watch the event re-cap video [here](#).

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Food and Fibre

Introducing seaweed and insects, carbon and circular economies

Elena Nauta is a Federation University Industry Placement Program student who joined the GS3 team to explore two new exciting potential industries for Gippsland - seaweed farming and insect farming.



Both seaweed and insects are nutritious and sustainable sources of protein suitable for humans and animals, requiring significantly less environmental resources compared to traditional protein sources (beef, chicken, pork) to produce a comparatively high-quality (and delicious) source of protein.

Food & Fibre Gippsland recently held two online insect farming workshops and a Gippsland Seaweed Symposium, with an enthusiastic group of participants from local government, industry, education and the local community discussing the potential of an insect and seaweed industry in Gippsland.

Upcoming workshops and investigation by Food & Fibre Gippsland will explore concepts raised, including developing a guide on how to farm insects, an investigation into seaweed species that grow in Gippsland, and the potential of

commercial opportunities surrounding native Australian insect and seaweed species.



Food & Fibre Gippsland are also exploring the potential of two new opportunities to reduce waste and improve the sustainability of farming practice in the region; carbon and circular economies. Carbon economies refer to initiatives and farming practices designed to reduce or offset the overall carbon emissions produced through agricultural practice, contributing to the Victorian Government's goal for Net Zero Emissions by 2050.

The circular economy opportunity involves the reuse and recycling of food waste through the trade of unused farm produce, as well as carbon and other commodities, which may create new opportunities for Gippsland industry, improve sustainability outcomes, and provide revenue streams for produce that is currently wasted.

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Visitor Economy

Wayfairer.coop offers Gippsland a way to adopt a community-led approach to tourism.

Wayfairer.coop is a community-led alternative to current vacation rental platforms. The Wayfairer.coop model uses 50 per cent of the platform fee to fund local projects that guests visit – empowering local communities while promoting authentic, fair and conscious tourism.



The platform has been assessed and considered by the GS3 Visitor Economy Business Revenue Innovation Group as a further revenue raising opportunity to support the development of a world-class trails network in Gippsland.

It's a place-based model with community engagement at the heart of its delivery and projects selected by communities.

It is a long-term approach with the model supporting innovation, participation and leveraging Gippsland's competitive advantage in visitor economy including both built and natural assets.

Beyond the 6-month pilot, it is projected that relevant, localised projects will be identified by the GS3 Innovation Group.

The goal is to build a self-sustaining tourism platform to support development of tourism infrastructure and the work of Destination Gippsland.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect, is that the Wayfairer.coop revenue sharing model has the potential to become a cornerstone strategy that can help fund regional tourism development – enabling communities to gather capital that can be invested back into the local economy.



You can read more about the Wayfairer.coop model at <https://www.wayfairer.coop/>

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Health and Wellbeing

Gippsland Health and Wellbeing Innovation Showcase

A meeting of the minds occurred in April as part of a Gippsland Health and Wellbeing Innovation Showcase, held at the new Morwell Innovation Centre.

Guest speakers included Nithya Solomon from RMIT's Health Transformation Lab; Professor Simon Cooper from Federation University's Health Innovation and Transformation Centre; Jane Anderson, Latrobe Health Advocate; Ellen-Jane (EJ) Browne from the Latrobe Health Assembly; and Ben Gebert and Elena Nauta from Food and Fibre Gippsland.



Welcoming attendees, Nithya Solomon and Professor Simon Cooper set the scene with examples of how innovation can be used to solve real-world problems.

EJ and Jane shared their experiences and learnings from working directly with the local community, while Ben and Elena, provided an overview of their work in the Smart

Specialisation space and introduced the concept of insects as an alternative protein source.

Don't worry if you missed the event, you can watch a recording of the Gippsland Health and Wellbeing Innovation Showcase [here](#).

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Smart Specialisation in Orbost

Welcoming Tim Cotter to our team

Employed by the Orbost & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tim has been busy engaging with members of the community, industry, education and government sectors - spending time in Bemm River, Cabbage Tree, Marlo, Orbost and Newmerella.

Tim has conducted interviews with over 50 individuals and organisations as part of the first phase of the project known as the regional context analysis.

This phase is based around exploring the region's economic, social and environmental characteristics, building relationships, finding opportunities for collaboration and innovation, and understanding the regions potential for growth.

Orbost and District Networking Night

On Thursday 28th April, a networking night was held at the Orbost Club with local project participants.

An update on the project was provided on the evening along with two entertaining and informative Q&A sessions with Sallie Jones and Steve Ronalds from Gippsland Jersey and local dairy farmer Alistair Steel, providing an insight into his newly installed 4-unit robotic dairy on the Marlo Road.

The evening had over 50 attendees and provided an opportunity for local participants to talk about a range of current projects taking place in Orbost and district. The events will be scheduled on a quarterly basis to enable those engaged in the project to network outside of the typical workshops and meetings that take place as the project moves through the design process.

Agri-tourism opportunity for Sailors Grave



Congratulations to Sailors Grave Brewing based in Orbost who were recently announced as a successful applicant under the Australian and Victorian Governments' Local Economic Recovery (LER) program. They have been offered \$2.35 million to develop agri-tourism in the region through relocation and expansion of their operations.

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