MT GELLIBRAND WIND FARM

APRIL 2025

Welcome to the 16th edition of the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Newsletter! This is our annual round-up of the latest from the site and the community we have supported around it.

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Project Update

In our last newsletter, we shared that corrective maintenance on blades at the wind farm had begun. Routine inspections in 2022 identified minor inconsistencies in some resin in the blades. These inconsistencies pose no immediate issues, but over time, they can reduce a blade's lifespan and require premature replacement.

This corrective work, called Leading Edge Protection, was completed on schedule in the first half of 2024. The project resulted in the application of new leading-edge protection to all 132 blades at the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm.



Cows checking out the camera at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm

Small Grants

The Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Small Grants Program has been supporting the community for twelve years now, contributing over $575,000 in funding to local initiatives since it first began.

This year, we were thrilled to award over $75,000 in grants to 25 incredible community groups and organisations as part of our annual program. We received many applications and want to say a big thank you to everyone who took the time to apply—it's great to see so many passionate people making a difference!



Successful grant recipients celebrating their achievements at Lake View Café Colac.

To celebrate, we hosted a morning tea on 4 June at Lake View Café Colac, bringing together representatives from the successful groups over tea, coffee, and some lovely food. This year's grants included over $20,000 to support local sports and social clubs, plus funding for healthcare, schools, arts, and sustainability projects. We're so proud to be part of these wonderful initiatives and can't wait to see the positive impact they bring to the community.

Colac South West Primary School



Charlotte Daniels, Site Coordinator at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm pictured with staff and students from Colac South West Primary School.

In 2024, we were excited to support Colac South West Primary School's Garden Gurus Program, an initiative designed to inspire young environmental leaders through hands-on gardening. This fantastic program encourages students to take an active role in caring for their local environment, deepening their understanding of biodiversity while developing valuable teamwork and leadership skills.

Throughout the program, students research and plan their garden spaces, selecting native plant species from a local nursery to create a thriving, biodiverse ecosystem. Working in small teams, they prepare garden beds, plant their chosen species, and even design and implement a water irrigation system. It's a wonderful way for students to connect with nature, learn about sustainability, and take pride in a project that will benefit their school community for years to come.

In November last year, Charlotte Daniels, Site Coordinator at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm, had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the garden. It was great to see the dedication and care that went into bringing this space to life, and we're proud to support initiatives like this that nurture a love for the environment in future generations!

Barongarook West Fire Brigade

The Barongarook West Fire Brigade received a grant from us to purchase breathing apparatus, an important addition to their equipment as they respond to an increasing number of incidents where respiratory protection is essential. This new gear will not only enhance their ability to protect the community but also provide greater safety for firefighters, allowing them to work more effectively in hazardous conditions. We are proud to support the incredible work of our local emergency responders and appreciate their dedication to keeping the community safe.

Our Site Coordinator, Charlotte Daniels is pictured with Captain Ken O'Brian (left) and Second Lieutenant Steve Brooke (second from right). We look forward to continuing our support for local emergency services.
Photo credit: Colac Herald



Beeac Golf Club

We were proud to support the Beeac Golf Club's 2024 Beeac Open, a fantastic two-day event that brings together golf enthusiasts from across South West Victoria. The ladies' competition day, played over a full course, typically sees 40 to 60 participants and is a good opportunity for players to compete, connect, and enjoy the spirit of the game. Events like the Beeac Open play a vital role in fostering social connections, especially for the many retirees who participate.

Erin Mulquiny, our Community Benefits Lead, and Charlotte Daniels, Site Coordinator at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm, had the pleasure of attending and presenting awards after the ladies' event. It was a joy to celebrate the players' achievements and be part of the day!



Erin Mulquiny, Community Benefits Lead, pictured with winners of the Beeac Open Ladies Day.

Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm
Small Grants Recipients 2024

Organisation	Project	Amount
Alvie Football Netball Club Inc.	Keep our Cool	$2,770
Beeac Golf Club Inc.	Beeac Golf Club Open	$1,200
Birregurra Art Show	2024 Art Show	$500
Birregurra Community Group Inc.	Birregurra Sunday Markets	$4,000
Birregurra District Historical Centre Inc.	Painting of Historical centre and Op Shop rooms	$3,800
Birregurra Football Netball Club Inc.	Football Room Kitchen Upgrades	$3,200
Colac Neighbourhood House	Colac Quilting Group	$2,000
Colac South West Primary School	Garden Guru's Program	$3,000
Colac Yacht Club	Learn to Sail Program equipment restoration & refurbishing	$6,220
Geelong and South Western Rail Heritage Society Inc.	Birregurra Railway Station - Upgrade of station toilets	$6,000
OCR FM	Outdoor Broadcast Trailer	$2,400
Shrub Club Community Nursery - Southern Otway Landcare Network	Developing our Community Nursery	$3,000
The Red Violets	Find Your Light- All abilities, inclusive, community choir	$1,500
VICSES Colac Unit	Fridges for Unit Vehicles	$4,000
Yeodene Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc.	Toilet facilities at Yeodene Public Hall	$1,383
2nd Colac Sea Scout Group	Canoes	$1,395
Anam Cara House Colac (ACHC)	Renewable Rays for Respite	$4,000
Birregurra Primary School	Nature Play Space	$4,000
Colac Central Bowling Club	Freezer for Kitchen	$1,500
Colac Otway Rovers AFC	Safety and First Aid Equipment	$1,500
Colac Pony Club	Horse Trials emergency health care provision	$3,800
Colac Secondary College	Colac Secondary College Victorian State School Spectacular Camp	$3,000
Cultura (Colac)	Secondary Students After School Support SSASS	$5,000
Deans Marsh Primary School	Fresh Drinking Water for Students	$3,000
Rotary Club of Colac West	Books for Beginners Books for Bubs	$3,000

Thanks also to all of you who have now applied for our 2025 small grants program. We will be in touch in May to notify successful recipients.

Scholarship Program

We are proud to say that we awarded scholarships of $5,000 to two local students in 2024, which will support them as they transition from secondary to tertiary education.

2024 Scholarship Recipient – Lachlan Stoddart

Lachy commenced a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in 2024 at RMIT in Melbourne. He described this experience as a huge relief, as it represented a major step toward achieving his career goals. Moving away from his hometown of Colac has definitely been a challenge, and the scholarship was a game-changer, significantly easing the financial pressure of university life and allowing him to focus on his studies and future goals. With a love of travel, Lachy aspires to work globally and contribute to innovative projects around the world.



Lachlan Stoddart - 2024 Scholarship Recipient

2024 Scholarship Recipient –Austin Harwood

Austin is currently studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in Wagga Wagga and hopes to become a livestock consultant in the future. His goals include helping farmers optimise animal health, productivity, and sustainability by making small changes in their day to day systems.



Austin Harwood- 2024 Scholarship Recipient

Thanks also to all of you who have now applied for our 2025 scholarship program. We will be in touch in May to notify successful recipients.

Managing the risk of fire

We want to assure our local community that ACCIONA Energía recognises our responsibility to minimise the risk of fire at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm. We also have an important role to play assisting emergency services in the case of a fire in the vicinity of the wind farm. The key management measures implemented at the wind farm are listed below.

Listening to the experts

If Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm (MGWF) is in the path of a fire, ACCIONA Energía will follow the advice of the State Control Centre and other emergency authorities.

Bushfire Mitigation Plan (BMP)

The objective of this BMP is to mitigate any uncontrolled risks of fire ignition that have the potential to initiate bushfires during the operational and maintenance activities of MGWF. This includes, but is not limited to, the following mitigation measures.

Managing the risk of fire

Wind turbines

- All turbine hardstands are covered in crushed rock, kept free of litter, rubbish and other flammable items
- Weeds are regularly removed
- Underground power cables
- All underground cables are accurately surveyed, and marked with delineator posts
- Any work involving excavation is controlled within 6.4m of any underground cable route

Substation

- The yards of the substation are covered with crushed rock to inhibit growth of vegetation
- Aerial conductors are correctly designed, installed and maintained to prevent line slap
- Lightning protection poles are installed to prevent strikes inside the switchyard

Fire-fighting equipment and vehicles

- Firefighting equipment is supplied for all vehicles and collector substations, and is adequate to extinguish small fires
- Turbines are designed with fire detection systems, lightning protection devices, and monitoring systems that detect temperature increases in the turbines. They also have fully closed electrical equipment, circuit breakers and fuses to interrupt any electrical faults.



Turbines at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm at sunset.

Contact Us

Feel free to get in touch for more information or with feedback about any of our activities.

Please email mtgellibrand@acciona.com or call our freephone helpline on 1800 283 550.

You can also visit our online community hub to find out more about our wind farm community.acciona.com.au/mt-gellibrand

And we encourage you to subscribe via the QR code. That way we can provide email updates whenever we are posting important news.

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