



## Farming diversity field day

A field day at one of Gippsland's renowned farms for environmental innovation will encourage farmers to develop resilience to climate change through diversity.

The free, all day event is being run in partnership with South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Councils, Bass Coast Landcare Network, Demonstrating Sustainable Farm Practices and the State Government.

Featuring two specialist guest speakers, Council's Agricultural Climate Resilience Officer, Jill Vella, said the field day was about raising awareness of the possibilities of diversifying a farm business to survive climate change and be sustainable in the future.

"This event is about encouraging and supporting farmers to think outside the square," Mrs Vella explained. "We will explore how we can develop resilience to climate change to ensure our farming businesses remain viable by learning from some of the best in the business."

The event will be held at Ventnor farm, Bimbadeen – renowned for its award winning premium quality beef and innovative environmental practices with farm owner, Steve Davie, on hand to share some of his secrets for diversification on the day.

Bimbadeen is a 360 acre farming property where the Davie family has planted over 40,000 trees, protected remnant vegetation and addressed salinity issues. Over 200 Angus cattle graze the paddocks with 500 Isa Brown hens.

"As part of the new direction for Bimbadeen, free-range eggs are being produced making it the first and only commercial free range egg producer on Phillip Island," Mrs Vella said.

Organic farmer and teacher at the National Environment Centre (NEC) in Albury, Robert Fenton, will also share his expertise on the day. The NEC is a unique educational facility set on a 182 hectare farm producing organic lamb, free range pork and eggs, olives, honey, vegetables and herbs which Mr Fenton sells locally.

The field day will be held on Wednesday 24 February from 10.00am - 3.00pm at Bimbadeen, 550 Back Beach Road, Ventnor. Although free, bookings are required before 19 February by phoning Jill Vella on 0408 208 350 or register online at [www.sustainabilitygippsland.com/event/resilience-through-diversity](http://www.sustainabilitygippsland.com/event/resilience-through-diversity).

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