



SWIFTS CREEK FUTURE – PROJECT UPDATE

July 2025

Project Manager update

The Swifts Creek Future Project team is thrilled to welcome back Alyce Richards, who has returned to the role of Project Manager as of Tuesday 1 July. While Alyce will be working remotely in this new chapter, she'll continue to provide the strategic leadership and big-picture thinking that helps keep the project moving in the right direction. It's great to have her back on board – even from afar!

At the same time, Kiri Allen is stepping into a refreshed Project Officer role, with the role taking on a stronger focus on local, place-based engagement. Kiri will be the friendly, familiar face of the project on the ground in Swifts Creek, helping to make sure the team stays closely connected with the community and its needs. Her local knowledge and relationships are a huge asset.

Together, Alyce and Kiri will be working hand-in-hand to guide the Swifts Creek Future Project forward – combining strategic direction with strong local presence to help bring the community's vision to life.

This work continues to be strengthened by the valuable contributions and ongoing partnership with the Swifts Creek Leadership Group and the Innovation Working Groups. Their insight, dedication, and community focus remain at the heart of the project's progress and success.

Structure plan

The Swifts Creek Future project has been awarded \$100,000 to develop a structure plan for the area, a significant step toward supporting sustainable growth and revitalisation in the town. A structure plan is a strategic tool that outlines a long-term vision for land use, infrastructure, and development, ensuring that future growth is well-coordinated and responsive to the needs of the community. For Swifts Creek, this means identifying suitable areas for new housing, improving transport and community infrastructure, and preserving the unique character and environmental values of the region. To ensure the project is thorough and has broader regional benefits, the East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) has contributed additional funds, enabling the plan to also include the nearby township of Omeo. By providing clear guidance for future development across both communities, the structure plan will help attract investment, address housing shortages, and support population growth, while ensuring that development occurs in a logical and efficient manner. Ultimately, it lays the foundation for a more resilient and thriving future for Swifts Creek and the surrounding region.

Shaping the future of Tourism and Business in the Omeo Region

Last week the Eco-mapping project reached an important milestone as our consultants provided us with a Draft version of the regions 'investment roadmap,' a document that will outline the commercial challenges and opportunities that await the completion of the Omeo MTB Trail. Once approved, the investment roadmap will become a section of the greater 'Investment Prospectus' that will be distributed publicly (to be completed this month).

A huge thankyou to the 60+ Community members who filled out our survey on YourSay, as well as all those who came to chat with us at our two community drop-in sessions on the 27th May (Swifts Creek) and 2 June

Collective IWG

Monday 7th July all three Innovation Working met to discuss progress and where the priorities of the group lay. Each working group discussed what they are working on and identified common themes and ideas.

It was fantastic to have everyone in the room and learn from each other and feel the energy it brings to the project to have everyone in the space.

If you are interested in being a part of the project or have a contribution please visit the website www.swiftscreekfuture.com.au or contact Kiri Allen, Project Officer kiria@egipps.vic.gov.au or Alyce Richards, Project Manager alycer@egipps.vic.gov.au





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Youth Agritech Event Coordinator

Lily McCole has been appointed as the Youth Agritech Event Coordinator for the 2025 Youth Agritech Jobs Expo, an exciting two-day event aimed at inspiring the next generation of young people to pursue careers in agriculture and technology. With a passion for youth engagement and a wealth of experience in the Agriculture field, Lily is set to take the lead in planning and delivering this impactful event. Supported by a dedicated mentorship team from the Gippsland Agriculture Group (GAGG), her role will involve everything from coordinating activities and logistics to driving social media campaigns and outreach efforts. Throughout the process, Lily will receive guidance from a variety of professionals, including her primary supervisor, Nat Jenkins, and leadership coach, Jen Smith, ensuring she has the skills and resources necessary to successfully execute the event.

The Swifts Creek Futures program is supporting Lily in her journey by providing funding for her position and acting as a local community partner. Lily will be working from the Swifts Creek Futures Office located at the Swifts Creek Community Centre 1-2 days a week. This partnership fosters local youth development and strengthens regional connections to agriculture, enabling young people to engage with the latest advancements in AgriTech. Through this collaboration, Lily is poised to create an event that not only showcases innovative careers in agriculture but also leaves a lasting positive impact on the community.



This is Swifts Creek

The academic and implementation team from Swifts Creek met with artists and members of the Great Alpine Gallery on Monday to plan the development and launch of the picture book series. The books are set to be integrated into the Grade 3/4 curriculum for Term 3, with the official launch scheduled for Term 4 at the Great Alpine Gallery.

This pilot project supports the Swifts Creek Future initiative, part of the Victorian Forestry Transition Program, aimed at providing long-term economic and social opportunities for communities transitioning from native forest harvesting. It focuses on community-led capacity building, involving local artists, Swifts Creek P-12 staff, and literacy academics to co-create resources celebrating the region's unique identity. The project aligns with the Education and Skills Working Group's vision of Swifts Creek as a 'live and learn hub' and uses picture books to explore diverse perspectives on place. It also offers new opportunities for local residents, pre-service teachers, and researchers, with the goal of fostering a long-term education employment strategy. The initiative will strengthen community pride and engage external artists and educators, creating artifacts that highlight Swifts Creek's vibrant identity, with published picture books contributing to social recovery and media attention for the region.

