



Victorian
Farmers
Federation

2026 VFF CONFERENCE

1 & 2 June | Goods Shed, Ballarat

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF
VICTORIAN AGRICULTURE

PROUD PARTNERS

A photograph of a farmer wearing a cap and a jacket, seen from behind, standing in a lush green field with several black and white cows. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect.

Strong Partnerships for a Stronger Future

For over a decade, gaining on two, WFI and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) have stood side by side, united by a shared commitment to supporting Australian farmers and safeguarding what matters most.

This enduring partnership is built on trust, local knowledge, and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities.

How Our Partnership Supports You

- Local, Friendly Service
- Collaborating for a Better Future
- Championing Rural Wellbeing
- Access to Support Services
- Standing Strong in Times of Crisis
- Giving Voice to the Regions
- Investing in Long-Term Resilience
- A Century of Trust

Together, WFI and the Victorian Farmers Federation are building a stronger, more secure future for rural Australia.










If you're a VFF Member interested in WFI's farm or business insurance, contact Mick McCarthy on 0448 043 806.

FROM FARM SUPPLIES AND LIVESTOCK TO FINANCIAL ADVICE

One team. Many ways to support your farm.

At Nutrien Ag Solutions we bring together a broad range of products and services for Australian farmers. Talk to your local Nutrien team about what's right for your operation.



-  AGRONOMY
-  FERTILISER
-  CROP PROTECTION
-  FARM SUPPLIES
-  FINANCE
-  INSURANCE
-  LIVESTOCK
-  REAL ESTATE
-  WOOL



How to get the best out of 4G and 5G coverage

1 Always update your phone's software, check network settings are correct and set your network to automatic.

2 For optimal coverage, we recommend a Bluetick mobile. You can also consider getting coverage extension devices.

3 Ensure your Telstra Go Repeater or Cel-Fi Go is set up for 4G.

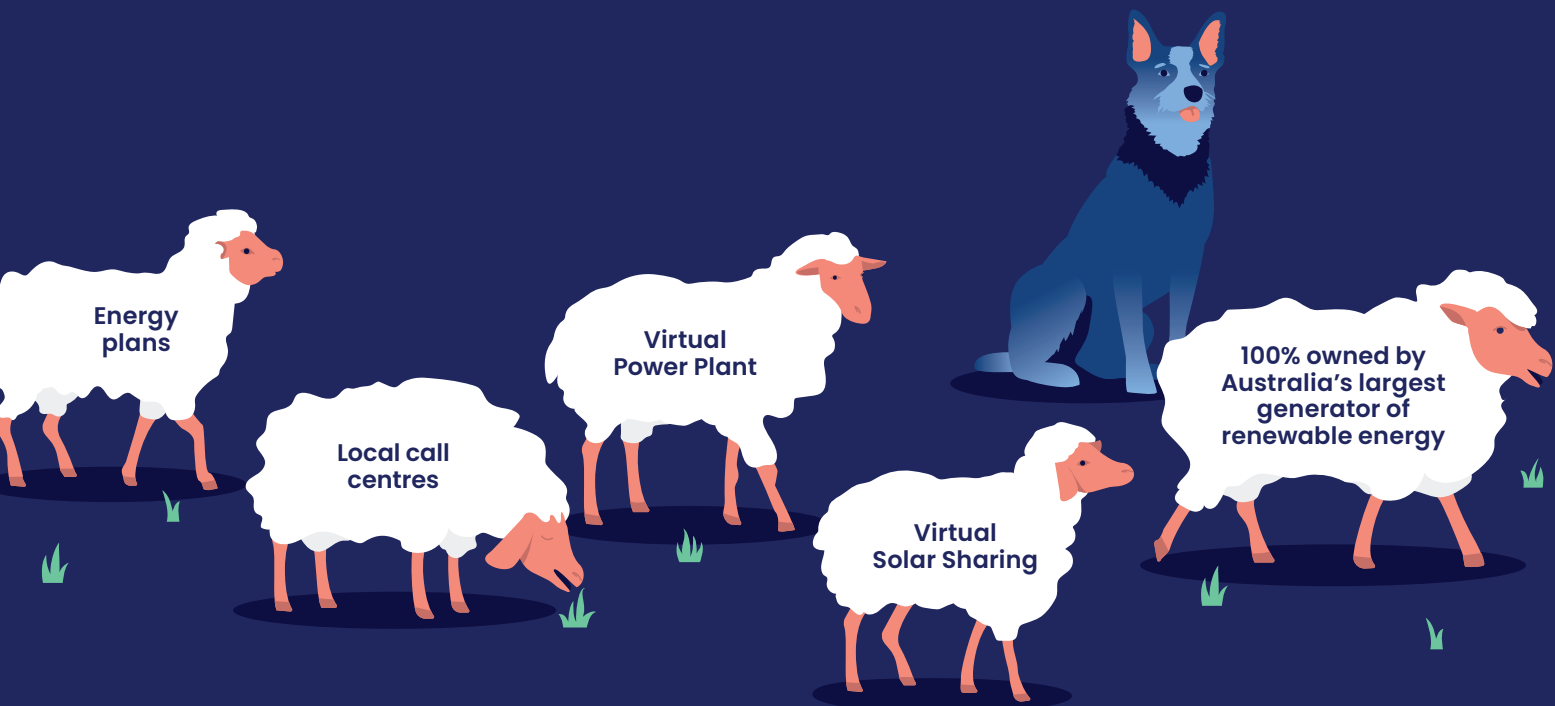
4 **Need more support?** Call our 3G Helpline on **1800 990 853** or use our webform.



We've rounded up the best energy solutions for farmers.

At Momentum Energy, we've been looking after VFF members for yonks. We have energy plans to fit any farm business. And look into our innovative energy solutions that can help unlock fresh revenue from energy assets you might already have.

Call us on 1800 672 228 or go to momentum.com.au to round up all your energy needs in one place.





TIME	CONFERENCE ITEM
8:15 am	Guest Registration
8:40 am	Conference Welcome - Kirsten Diprose
8:45 am	Opening Address – Ryan Milgate, VFF President
9:00 am	Michaela Settle MP, Minister for Agriculture
9:20 am	VFF Update - Charlie Thomas, VFF CEO
9:50 am	Keynote Gen Alpha Rising: The Born Digital, AI Powered Consumer of the Future Tony Hunter, Food Futurist
10:30 am	Morning Tea
10:50 am	<p>Panel One – Protecting Farmland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona Conroy, Partner Knewleave Partnership and Nicon Rural Services • Katherine Myers, Farmer, Economist, Valuer and Policy Analyst • Katie McRobert, Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute <p>Moderator: Ryan Milgate</p>
11:50 am	<p>Panel Two – Trade and Market Update - Recovery and Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua Jones, Stockbroker, Morgans Financial Limited • Matt Dalglish, AgWatchers • Hamish McIntyre, NFF President <p>Moderator: Tim Leviny</p>
12:50 pm	Lunch
1:50 pm	<p>Panel Three - Infrastructure - Regional and Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Hermione Parsons, CEO & Managing Director, Australian Logistics Council • Jim Gall, CEO RB Sellars - Sheep to Shop • Jim Riordan, Owner Riordan Grains <p>Moderator: Kirsten Diprose</p>
2:50 pm	<p>Panel Four - Tech and Innovation in Ag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stu Adam, Agronomeye with James Russell of Lilliput Ag • John Hill, LandWatch Australia - AI in Ag Tech • Jon White, National Director, Commercial Activities, Nutrien Ag Solutions <p>Moderator: Stu Adam</p>
3:50 pm	Afternoon Tea
4:10 pm	TAC Message – Samantha Cockfield, Executive General Manager, Road Safety Division Motions + Sharing of collated ideas by Delegates – Charlie Thomas, VFF CEO
4:45 pm	Conference close



Kirsten Diprose

Kirsten Diprose is a presenter and podcast business specialist based on a sheep and cropping property near Caramut in south-west Victoria. She founded the Rural Podcasting Co, supporting rural people to create podcasts. With a background in media and marketing, she spent much of her career as an ABC TV and radio journalist and still occasionally presents on ABC Radio. Kirsten hosts 'Ducks on the Pond' and 'Town Criers' and is a PhD candidate in local journalism.



Ryan Milgate

Ryan Milgate is a fifth-generation family farmer based in Minyip in Victoria's Wimmera region.

He is a board member of the Victorian Farmers Federation and currently serves as President of the Grains Group. Ryan will take on the role of VFF President from June 2, continuing his passion to advocate for agriculture and regional communities now and for future generations.



Tony Hunter

Tony is a Food Futurist Speaker, Author, Food Scientist and Consultant specialising in the Future of Food and Agriculture.

With over 35 years' experience in food and agriculture he has been General Manager of two food companies. Having spoken on four continents he appears regularly in global media as a Futurist and expert.

He delivers a unique perspective on the Future of Food and Agriculture using his distinctive combination of scientific and business experience.



Fiona Conroy

Fiona Conroy and her partner Cam Nicholson operate Knewleave Partnership, a 400 ha livestock operation on the Bellarine Peninsula approximately 1.5 hours west of Melbourne.



Katherine Myers

Katherine is an economist, policy analyst and property valuer by training and has 25 years' experience in farming systems research and agricultural policy. She's always had an interest in land-use conflict in farming areas which has been brought to the fore in the past six years in her community and VFF advocacy roles. She is deeply passionate about the importance of farms and the agricultural industries in the future of our landscape and economy.



Katie McRobert

Katie McRobert has been part of the Australian Farm Institute team since late 2017, becoming Executive Director in April 2024. Prior to AFI, Katie worked as a global Content and Community Manager for Rabobank, and as the National Editor for FarmOnline. Katie has an MBA from Griffith University specialising in Sustainable Business and is a member of the CSIRO Agriculture & Food external advisory group.



Joshua Jones

Josh is a Senior Investment Adviser with Morgans Financial. Josh joined Morgans in 2010 after holding positions within NAB and CBA Agribusiness. Born and raised on a cropping property between Wycheproof & Boort, Josh has centred his business around managing/investing Self-Managed Super Funds, working alongside many rural based Accounting firms. Josh has completed a Bachelor of Commerce (University of Melbourne) specialising in Business Law, along with a Bachelor of Business (Economics & Finance) RMIT Melbourne.



Matt Dalgleish

Matt Dalgleish is Founder and Director, with a background in Economics and Education and a lifelong interest in markets. He has decades of experience across commodity and financial markets, including equities, metals and foreign exchange. Since 2015, Matt has specialised in agricultural market analysis, providing data-driven insights and strategic advice to the food and agriculture sectors. A former commercial pig farmer, he now runs a hobby farm near Ballarat and is a respected industry commentator.



Hamish McIntyre

Hamish McIntyre is Managing Director of McIntyre Agriculture, a 236,000ha family agribusiness in Queensland spanning irrigated and dryland cropping, livestock breeding, feedlotting and broiler chickens. Producing cotton, grains, pulses and forage, it also runs Angus and Wagyu cattle, sheep and rangeland goats. Elected President of the National Farmers' Federation in October 2025, he is a former agronomist, ex-Cotton Australia Chair, and director of the Wagyu Association, Agsafe and Better Cotton, advocating for food and fibre globally.



Dr Hermione Parsons

Dr Parsons is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Australian Logistics Council and a supply chain and freight logistics specialist with executive experience across the public and private sectors. Her career spans end to end supply chains, strategy, and problem solving across domestic and international markets. Hermione is a strategic planner working across multimodal import, export, and domestic supply chains, including agriculture. She has led national and international programs and is a member of Ministerial Advisory Councils across each jurisdiction.



Jim Gall

Jim Gall is a strategic business leader and marketing professional with a deep connection to rural Australia. He founded Redhanded Creative in 2001, later acquired by Clemenger Group, where he led major campaigns for brands including Great Northern, Mars, BMW and NAB. After senior CEO roles across Australia and New Zealand, he returned to his family farm near Euroa. Jim is now CEO of Propel Group and champions Australian-grown fibres and rural industries.



Stu Adam

Stu Adam is the CEO and co-founder of Agronomeye, the team behind AgTwin, a platform that gives asset owners a clear picture of their land. AgTwin helps landholders make better decisions about their country, from water and erosion to carbon and biodiversity and, increasingly, to access the capital markets that want to invest in land that's being managed well.

Agronomeye is listed twice in the Global Top 100 Geospatial Companies, named Australia's AgriTech Climate Tech of the Year 2024 and Scale-Up of the Year in 2025.



James Russell

James Russell is a fifth-generation farmer from north-east Victoria, raised on a mixed cropping farm in the heart of the Rutherglen wine region. Early interests in agricultural operations and logistics led to tertiary education and extension within the industry. After time in the agricultural finance sector, James returned to the family farm. Experience in extension includes current position as chair of the VFF Farming Systems Committee, and graduating from GrainGrowers' Australian Grain Leaders program.



John Hill

John Hill is Co-Founder and Chief Storyteller of Land Watch Australia, a leading on-farm security monitoring company based on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. He works with his brothers to deliver purpose-built camera systems to rural producers. Passionate about agriculture and technology, John focuses on improving farm safety and efficiency. Leading sales and marketing, he is committed to educating rural Australia on crime prevention and protecting what matters most, helping drive Land Watch's position as a trusted industry leader.



Jon White

Jon has worked in Agribusiness across the primary production, Grains, & Rural Services sectors for over 20 years. Jon currently serves as a National Director Commercial Activity for Nutrien Ag Solutions, as well as being a Non-Executive Director at Auctions Plus, AWH, & AWEX. Agriculture has been a lifetime interest for Jon, family connections to Australian Agriculture date back to the 1850s. Jon and his family also operate a small farming business in Central Victoria.



Samantha Cockfield

Sam is the Executive General Manager, Road Safety at the TAC and has worked in road safety since 1992.

She is responsible for the development and delivery of the TAC's road safety strategy spanning road infrastructure, vehicle safety and a range of programs designed to improve road user behaviours.

Sam is a strong advocate for the implementation of the safe system and has dedicated her career to the elimination of death and serious injury on the road.



Tim Leviny

Chief Operating Officer Bulk Stockfeed, Ridley Corporation

Tim joined Ridley in 2026 as COO of Bulk Stockfeed. Prior to this, Tim was Senior Vice President, International at Land O'Lakes, leading WinField United and Animal Nutrition businesses across Canada, South Africa, China, Mexico, and Brazil. In addition to his international responsibilities, Tim previously co-led Land O'Lakes' Dairy Foods business. Tim has also held a variety of senior management and operational roles with Elders in Australia and internationally, including leadership positions across Asia.



Jim Riordan

Jim Riordan is the Managing Director and owner of Riordan, a leading Australian family-owned agribusiness providing grain marketing, transport, storage, and fuel services across domestic and export markets.

With more than 30 years' experience, Jim has contributed to the development and sustainability of the sector, holding leadership positions across the grain and transport industries. He also operates livestock and cropping enterprises in the Western District of Victoria and Central New South Wales.

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Charlie Thomas

VFF CEO

Charlie is a respected leader in Australian agriculture and public policy. Raised on a farm near Condobolin, New South Wales, Charlie's early experiences shaped his deep commitment to advancing the interests of rural communities and Australia's farm sector. Over more than 15 years, Charlie has honed his strategic and collaborative approach to political advocacy. He has earned a reputation for enhancing the impact of member-based organisations through strategic partnership, successful advocacy and deep engagement with stakeholders. Before joining the VFF, Charlie held senior positions in policy and corporate affairs at the NFF, Property Council of Australia and NSW Farms Association.



Your goals, our commitment



We're proud of our regional roots because they taught us what really matters – community.

That's why we take the time to understand your unique goals and support your journey, so together we can turn your vision of retirement into reality.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Speeding is a leading factor in road trauma, contributing to around **30%** of fatal crashes and a **quarter** of serious injuries.

Even as little as **5 km/h** over the speed limit can **double your risk** of a serious crash.

The risk of a serious crash on a **country road** is **higher** than in the city – so it is especially important to **drive within the speed limit**.

Make the right choice. Slow down on our roads.



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Thank you to our sponsors







This event is supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government's 2025 Drought Support Package. #LookOverTheFarmGate



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	<p>Customised pricing with discounts on over 5,500 products</p>		<p>Up to 15% discount on selected products, personalised IT support, and priority access to promotions and product launches</p>
	<p>4% off Health Insurance saving up to hundreds of dollars</p>		<p>10% off</p>
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Young Farmer Program

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF VICTORIAN AGRICULTURE

Thank you so much to Nutrien for subsidising the tickets of our young farmers to attend this event.

And thank you to Telstra for sponsoring this morning's exclusive breakfast with Tony Hunter, Food Futurist, and Dayle Stevens, Telstra AI Executive.

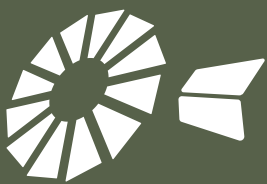


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