

# MT GELLIBRAND WIND FARM

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Welcome to the 15th edition of the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Newsletter. This newsletter provides information and updates about the project. ACCIONA Energía looks forward to a continuing positive relationship with the local community and thanks you for your interest in the project.

Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm is located 25 kilometres east of Colac and 17km west of Winchelsea in the Colac Otway Shire on Victoria's Western Plains. The 132MW wind farm has been constructed around the southern and western sides of Mt Gellibrand itself.

## Project Update

Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm has been operational since 2018. On site, there are eight full time staff attending to the day-to-day operations and regular ongoing maintenance.

Corrective maintenance on a number of blades at the Wind Farm began this year. Routine inspections last year identified that some resin in the blades had minor inconsistencies. These inconsistencies pose no immediate issues, but over time, can reduce the lifespan of a blade and require premature replacement.

To proactively redress these sections of the blades, in January this year we began repairs to the leading edge of turbine blades. This work entails repainting the leading edge that cuts through the air. Work was stopped over the winter months due to some higher than predicted winds and an increased chance of wet weather. Blade repairs resumed in October 2023, and we anticipate that all repairs will be completed by May 2024.



Turbines at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm on a clear day

# Scholarship

## 2023 Scholarship Recipients

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



Successful scholarship recipients Ben and Rose with Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Site Coordinator Charlotte Daniels at Yeowarra Hill Winery

### Rose Gittings

Rose is excited to begin her post high-school studies with a Bachelor of Science (Geology and Earth Sciences) at the University of Melbourne this February. She commented, "I am honoured to receive the 2023 Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm scholarship, provided by the clean energy company ACCIONA Energía. ACCIONA Energía's scholarship program has aided me in the move from my beloved hometown Birregurra to the city of Melbourne. Thank you to ACCIONA Energía for your generous support."

### Benjamin Black

Ben commenced a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) (Honours) and Bachelor of Industrial Design (Honours) this year at RMIT University. He was inspired to pursue the degree after attending The National Youth Science Forum, an immersive program that encourages young people in their passion for science, technology, engineering, maths (STEM). Ben is thrilled at the opportunity to study a degree where he is able to both think creatively and use his knowledge of maths and science. In the future, he would love to design products that help others and the community.

We wish Ben and Rosie all the best with their studies and can't wait to see what they achieve.

# Sponsorship

This year marked ACCIONA Energía's eleventh year of the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Sponsorship Program and over \$500,000 of shared benefits funding since its inception.

In July 2023, we announced over \$73,000 in funding across 33 community organisations as part of this year's annual Sponsorship Program. This year we received a significant number of high-quality applications and would like to thank all those who applied for the effort they put into their applications.

Representatives from the successful community organisations came together to celebrate their new initiatives at a morning tea on 4th July at Yeowarra Hill Winery.

This year's funding included almost \$14,000 for local sports and social clubs as well as support for local healthcare, schools, arts, and sustainability initiatives. We are honoured to continue to fund these great initiatives and look forward to future sponsorship opportunities.



Successful sponsorship recipients celebrating their achievements at Yeowarra Hill Winery

### Rotary Club Colac West

ACCIONA Energía are proud to be a continued sponsor for the 'Books for Bubs' and 'Books for Beginners' Program run by the Rotary Club Colac West. Recently our Community Benefits Lead, Erin Mulquiny went out to visit Sacred Heart Primary School in Colac to help hand out some picture books that were gifted to the Prep students.

Thanks to the funds provided by ACCIONA Energía and the hard work of the Rotary Club, the Preps took home their own copies of some brilliantly written and stunningly illustrated books that celebrate native Australian animals and explore themes on sustainability and connection to nature.

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Beeac Golf Club Inc.	Beeac Golf Club Open	\$1,500
Birregurra Art Show	2023 Art Show sponsorship	\$500
Birregurra Landcare	Heavy Duty 4 Wheel Dump Cart Trailer Project	\$1,900
Colac Camera Club	Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS) convention	\$500
Colac Football Netball Club	Netball Goal Post Padding	\$1,968
Colac Otway Arts Showcase and Exhibition (part of Colac Otway Arts Trail)	Colac Otway Arts Showcase and Exhibition	\$4,000
Colac table tennis association	Table tennis shirts with table tennis logo and Acciona logo	\$800
Creative Otways Inc	Hidden Small Art Treasures	\$2,500
Eliminyt Public Hall Inc	Ultra Aluminium Premium Mesh installed	\$2,500
Geelong and South Western Rail Heritage Society Inc	Birregurra Rail Station Maintenance	\$529
Irrawarra Cricket Club	Fence Installation	\$2,310
Irrewarra-Beeac Football Netball Club Inc.	New fridge for the sports club	\$2,000
Repair Cafe Colac Otway	Repair Cafe Colac Otway	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Colac West	Books for Beginners Books for Bubs	\$5,000
Southern Otway Landcare Network	SOLN Nursery Bench Restoration	\$1,500
Yeodene Public Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Defibrillator for the Yeodene Hall	\$1,870
Colac Kindness Network	Freezer Full of Goodness	\$4,300
Birregurra Community Group Inc who auspice the Birregurra Markets	Birregurra Community Markets	\$4,000
Barongarook West RFB	Expanding Our Capability with Breathing Apparatus	\$3,000
Barwon Downs Community Group Inc	Outdoor Seating & Kitchen upgrade	\$2,000
BCYF - Bethany Ltd	Winifred Nance Kindergarten - Defibrillator	\$1,350
Birregurra Football Netball Club	Netball Change rooms fit out	\$2,500
Birregurra Mens Shed	Purchase tools, benches and other equipment to run men's shed	\$2,000
Birregurra Primary School	Sensory Garden	\$1,000
Birregurra Recreation Reserve	The Birre Big Show	\$6,000
Colac & District Historical Society	Cultural Heritage Display	\$2,000
Colac and District Cricket Association - Female Cricket	Kit out our female representative cricketers with uniform	\$2,000
Colac Lawn Tennis Club	100 Years Celebration event	\$1,000
Colac Multicultural Community Services Geelong Inc	Conversational English classes	\$3,500
Colac Neighbourhood House	ASEND (Assende)	\$2,000
Colac Secondary College	Work Related Skills - Skill Building	\$2,500
The Colac Players Inc	Cosi, a two act play	\$2,500

### Colac Kindness Network

We are always heartened by the care, kindness and effort that is so foundational to many of the groups who participate in the program. The Colac Kindness Network, with their 'Freezer Full of Goodness' initiative is one of those groups. The team works tirelessly to organise and supply nutritious frozen meals for free to community members in Colac who may be in need. With the funds provided this year by ACCIONA Energía, The Colac Kindness Network has been able to increase the supply of pre-cooked frozen meals as well as ensure more efficient transportation and storage of the food.



Rotary Club Colac West members and ACCIONA Energía's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Adviser Erin with Prep students at Sacred Heart Primary School, Colac

# Managing the risk of fire

With the temperatures set to rise this summer, 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

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.



### 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. As well as fully closed electrical equipment, circuit breakers and fuses to interrupt any electrical faults.



## CONTACT US

We welcome your contact for information or feedback about any of our activities. Please call the free-call number **1800 283 550** or email [MtGellibrand@acciona.com](mailto:MtGellibrand@acciona.com)

Visit our website for more information about Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm here - [www.acciona.com.au/projects/mt-gellibrand-wind-farm](http://www.acciona.com.au/projects/mt-gellibrand-wind-farm)

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