



Goulburn Murray
Community Leadership

2025

GMCL Programs Overview



Our Journey

Goulburn Murray Community Leadership is evolving from delivering a single leadership program to creating a comprehensive learning system aimed at building stronger local communities and enhancing the region's well-being and liveability. For nearly three decades, the Fairley Leadership Program has laid a strong foundation for change, equipping hundreds of leaders to tackle local challenges. However, the growing complexity of regional pressures — ranging from population growth and diversity to climate preparedness and rising costs — requires a new approach.

To address these challenges, we are shifting from a standalone program to a dynamic community development system. This transformation will increase participation, foster localised learning, and ensure our strategies reflect the diversity of our communities. By mobilising more community leaders, we can amplify our impact across the region.

Our commitment is to build stronger communities by developing people. With a focus on the future, we are dedicated to implementing an action-based learning system that will significantly contribute to the Goulburn Murray region's well-being and liveability, creating a future-ready community.

Our Vision

To see positive change in Goulburn Murray regional communities driven by local community leaders.

Our Purpose

Creating a catalyst for positive change by cultivating a willing, ready, and able pool of community leaders.

Our Why

We believe in the power and necessity of community leadership to more effectively address the complex issues and critical opportunities in our region.

Our Model

The GMCL Community Leadership Model is the foundation for every program we deliver. The model encompasses three key areas of learning and exploration, which we believe to be the core components of what makes a community leader.



CL = Community Leader



Leadership

The development of leadership capacity at the individual, community and organisational level.



Regional Awareness

An awareness of the strengths, challenges and foundations of our regional communities.



Mobilisation

Demonstrations of leadership through civic engagement and action in community.

Our Commitment

At GMCL, we are committed to fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is respected, and every voice is valued. We believe that different perspectives strengthen our communities, and we work to ensure everyone feels welcome and able to contribute meaningfully. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live and work, paying respect to Elders past, present, and emerging. We recognize their enduring connection to the land and culture, and are committed to supporting reconciliation and inclusion for all.



Our Region

Goulburn Murray Community Leadership operates across the communities of the Goulburn Murray region, including 10 local government areas, and defined by the intersection between the Goulburn (Warring) and Murray (Dhungala) rivers.

2025 Programs & Packages

FAIRLEY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Incl. Fairley Leadership Intensive, a CAN workshop and Summit
(Does not include Canberra Advocacy Tour)
Annual fee of \$7,500 plus GST

COMMUNITY BUILDER PACKAGE

Incl. a CAN workshop, the Canberra Advocacy Tour and Summit
Annual fee of \$2,500 plus GST or alumni fee of \$2,300 plus GST

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

Annual fee of \$500 plus GST or alumni fee of \$400 plus GST

CANBERRA ADVOCACY TOUR

Annual fee of \$2,100 plus GST or alumni fee of \$1,900 plus GST

REGIONAL MOBILISATION SUMMIT

Ticket prices to be announced in 2025





Fairley Leadership Program

The 2025 Fairley Leadership Program is a transformative journey designed to maximise each participant's potential for community leadership. Built for individuals from various sectors and locations across the Goulburn Murray region, the program delivers a unique experience that balances personal growth with community engagement.

The program is dedicated to evolving with the needs of the region, providing a platform for emerging leaders to invest in their communities and drive meaningful change. With a combination of program days and online sessions, the program will be delivered in a hybrid format.

Throughout the program, participants will build essential skills, deepen their regional understanding, and discover opportunities for effective community mobilisation. The Fairley Leadership Program is committed to supporting passionate individuals who aim to enrich the collective well-being of the Goulburn Murray region and beyond.

Eligibility

Participants are chosen based on their demonstrated community leadership, willingness to contribute, and capacity to apply their skills and knowledge within local communities.

It is our goal to create space for diverse thought and experience within each cohort. We encourage individuals from Aboriginal and multicultural communities, rural and isolated areas, and disadvantaged backgrounds to express their interest in joining the program.

Commitment & Inclusions

- **Fairley Leadership Intensive:** A 12-week journey where participants gather in-person and online for regional exploration and personal development, laying the groundwork for the entire program.
- **Community Action Network:** A 2-day workshop where regional hubs dive deeper into community gaps and opportunities, collaborating on impactful, ongoing projects.
- **Regional Mobilisation Summit:** A full-day event bringing participants and broader stakeholders together to build on the region's mobilisation efforts.
- **Closing & Graduation:** A 2-day event focused on final reflections, consolidation, and a Graduation Luncheon to celebrate the program's completion.























































Participants will travel across the Goulburn Murray region, experiencing its communities and landscapes firsthand. To graduate, a minimum of 80% attendance is required, emphasising the importance of full engagement. Employer support is essential, recognising the program's value to both the individual and broader community.

Fees

The fee for the 2025 Fairley Leadership Program is \$7,500 plus GST. Participants can be supported through employer sponsorship, scholarships, or self-funding.

We are pleased to offer a number of scholarships to help overcome financial barriers to participate, though we cannot guarantee a scholarship-funded place due to limited availability.

2025 Fairley Leadership Program Calendar

Opening & Launch	5 & 6 March 2025	  
Online Session	12 March 2025	  
Online Session	19 March 2025	  
Place-Based Day 1	26 March 2025	  
Online Session	2 April 2025	  
Online Session	9 April 2025	  
Place-Based Day 2	30 April 2025	  
Online Session	7 May 2025	  
Place-Based Day 3	May 2025 (TBC)	  
Online Session	21 May 2025	  
Online Session	28 May 2025	  
Place-Based Day 4	4 June 2025	  
Hub 1 Workshop (1 hub per participant)	30 & 31 July 2025	  
Hub 2 Workshop (1 hub per participant)	6 & 7 August 2025	  
Hub 3 Workshop (1 hub per participant)	13 & 14 August 2025	  
Hub 4 Workshop (1 hub per participant)	20 & 21 August 2025	  
Regional Mobilisation Summit	8 October 2025	  
Closing & Graduation	22 & 23 October 2025	  



Community Action Network (CAN)

The 2025 Community Action Network (CAN) is a new, collaborative initiative grounded in the principles of a communities of practice model. It is designed to bring together participants to address regional gaps and opportunities through community-led projects.

Over a 2-day workshop, participants will validate community gaps, explore and evaluate potential initiatives for regional benefit, and identify stakeholders for partnership and collaboration. The focus will be on learning and growth, encouraging participants to embrace learning through experimentation and adaptability. The end goal is to create actionable plans that can be refined and scaled for broader regional impact and which produce transferable outcomes.

Four workshops will be held across regional hubs, inviting Fairley Leadership Program participants from each region and the wider community to join in this collaborative effort.

- **Hub 1:** Campaspe and Murray
- **Hub 2:** Moira, Berrigan and Federation
- **Hub 3:** Greater Shepparton
- **Hub 4:** Strathbogie and Benalla

The projects developed through these workshops will also contribute to the Regional Mobilisation Summit, where they will become a central focus in discussions on regional advancement and collective well-being.

Eligibility

Anyone over the age of 18 may participate. We encourage participations who have a demonstrated commitment to community leadership or a genuine desire to contribute, and the ability to apply their skills and knowledge to benefit local communities.

Our aim is to create an inclusive environment that embraces diverse perspectives and experiences. We especially encourage individuals from Aboriginal and multicultural communities, rural and isolated areas, and disadvantaged backgrounds to consider participating in a workshop with their regional hub.

Fees

The fee to participate in a 2025 CAN workshop with one of four available hubs is \$500 plus GST, or \$400 plus GST for alumni of GMCL programs.

Participants can be supported through employer sponsorship, scholarships, or self-funding.

2025 Program Calendar

Hub 1 Workshop	30 & 31 July 2025	  
Hub 2 Workshop	6 & 7 August 2025	  
Hub 3 Workshop	13 & 14 August 2025	  
Hub 4 Workshop	20 & 21 August 2025	  



Canberra Advocacy Tour

The 2025 Canberra Advocacy Tour is a comprehensive 4-day experience for active community leaders looking to enhance their ability to advocate effectively for the community.

Participants will focus on representing the interests of the Goulburn Murray region, meeting with key policymakers and stakeholders. The tour offers a platform for leaders to deepen their understanding of national governance and discover opportunities for collaborative action across regional Victoria and Australia.

Fees

The fee to participate in the 2025 Canberra Advocacy Tour is \$2,100 plus GST, or \$1,900 plus GST for alumni of GMCL programs. Participants can be supported through employer sponsorship or self-funding.

Eligibility

The Canberra Advocacy Tour is open to individuals who are actively engaged in community leadership roles or who have a strong commitment to advocating for regional issues. Participants should have a passion for driving positive outcomes in their communities and a desire to enhance their advocacy skills. Whether you're already experienced in advocacy or looking to develop your influence, this tour offers valuable opportunities for growth and connection.

2025 Program Calendar

Planning Session	10 Sept 2025
Advocacy Tour	15 - 18 Sept 2025





Regional Mobilisation Summit

The annual Regional Mobilisation Summit aims to bring together community leaders and skilled individuals to foster a shared sense of purpose within our community. Its primary goal is to cultivate a shared sense of purpose and collective responsibility for the future of our communities. By focusing on collaboration, practical action, and inclusive dialogue, the Summit seeks to empower participants to address local issues, enhance participation, and prepare for a future where every community member plays a meaningful role.

Fees

Ticket prices are to be announced in 2025.

Please note that one ticket to the Regional Mobilisation Summit is included for participants as part of the Fairley Leadership Program and Community Builder packages.

2025 Event Date

RM Summit

8 Oct 2025



Goulburn Murray
Community Leadership

Contact

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Connect with GMCL

To find out more about who we are and what we do, contact us using the details below or connect with us on social media.

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