

Summary of projects funded during the pilot program

The Ripe for Change Pilot Program received 32 grant applications, resulting in \$100,000 in grants being allocated to 12 projects across the Mornington Peninsula, Casey and Cardinia regions of Victoria. Please find a summary of the successful projects:



1 Healthy natural systems

1 Mentoring and growing a network of native foods producers \$7,500

Field days to educate on the importance of growing native plants, as a food source, habitat for native animals and supporting healthy environments. Over 100 people participated who were interested in native food production in rural and urban settings.

2 Enhancing soil quality for improved environmental outcomes \$10,000

Empowered graziers to better understand their soil and minimise use of synthetic fertilisers and inputs. Outcomes included lower nutrient run-off, reduced erosion, greater productivity and more sustainable land management.



2 Viable enterprises

1 Bee pollination and nectar production \$5,000

Built 12 new bee hives filled with live bees to support pollination. Established a hive rescue service to avoid swarms being killed. Began trial of using bees to deliver a live culture direct to the flowers to fight disease and reduce need for fertiliser.

2 Fresh for school \$8,970

Positive, healthy fundraising for schools. This program works through schools becoming a delivery point for fresh food orders from FarmGate Online and receive a % of that sale in return. *(project partially delivered)*



3 Galvanised and engaged movements

1 Mornington Peninsula food forum \$7,500

140 producers, restaurateurs, food retailers and local government came together to tackle some of the key issues and opportunities for food production on the Mornington Peninsula. Many new connections were made, and collaborations were formed.

2 Women on farms gathering \$10,000

A celebration weekend for women on farms across the country. Included many events that showcased all the Mornington Peninsula has to offer and enabled learning and discussion around sustainable agriculture.

3 Galvanising the Cardinia food movement \$10,000

Funding supported the Cardinia Food Circles project to establish, promote and expand a healthy, sustainable and fair food system for local residents. Communications activities were funded, enabling the establishment of the Community Grocer fresh, affordable food market in Pakenham, which is the most successful franchise to date, achieving financial viability very quickly.



4 Health equity access

1 Healthy bodies, healthy minds – community garden \$4,000

A community garden aimed at producing food for the disadvantaged. Grant enabled the installation of a composting loo, cooking workshops and a green house with seeds and organic fertiliser.

2 Kindergarten food garden \$3,036

Instilling sustainable food practices in our young people. Funding enabled two greenhouses, raised veggie gardens, organic soil and a variety of vegetable and herb seedlings.

3 Pantry redevelopment and local grower relationships \$10,000

Renovations to the Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre free food pantry program for disadvantaged communities. Funding enabled SPCISC to double fridge and triple freezer space, accept more regular rescued food deliveries and fostered connections with local food producers who can donate excess farm produce.

4 Local fresh fruit and vegetable supply to the disadvantaged \$10,000

Food rescue, storage and support *(still in progress)*.

5 Fresh food access point for Doveton Aboriginal community \$9,355

Cancelled