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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Federation University partners with Apricot Consulting to deliver United Nations Sustainable Development Goals support for Gippsland organisations

The Gippsland region is set to get a major boost from a new support program based around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The 6-month program called 'Sustainable Gippsland' will be delivered by purpose-driven Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) organisation Apricot Consulting in partnership with Federation University Australia's Morwell Innovation Centre. The program will support further adoption of the SDGs in business and enterprises across the region.

Lisa Maatsoo, Industry Engagement and Innovation Manager at the Morwell Innovation Centre is excited about the 'Sustainable Gippsland' opportunity to support the adoption of the SDGs across Gippsland.

Lisa said: "Federation University is pleased to take a leadership role in bringing this SDG program to our local industry partners, as we work together to create a sustainable region for the benefit of everyone in Gippsland."

Director of ESG at Apricot Consulting, Geoff Gourley, who was born and raised in Traralgon said: "I'm really excited to be able to bring the 'Sustainable Gippsland' SDG support program to the Gippsland region that I know and love so much. We look forward to sharing our expertise and guiding local organisations over 6 months to embed the SDGs into their operations."

The program has been tailored for the region and will see participants work through four key pillars over 6 months, these include;

Education and Awareness, which includes access to a dedicated online site which will host a range of self-paced webinars and educational content, maturity assessments and a resource library to support organisations gain a deeper understanding and value creation opportunities.

Enablement and Support, which includes access to dedicated advice and consultancy, SDG scorecard and report and access to technology to register SDG actions.

Regional Excellence, which includes advanced support for local organisations and a range of community events based around the SDGs adoption and success across the region.

Benchmarking, which includes assessing the regions benchmark, performance and adoption of the SDGs as a result of the program and their contribution to Australia's action on the SDGs.

Information about the program will be shared on Wednesday 19th July at the Morwell Innovation Breakfast series event, which is a collaboration between Federation University, Latrobe Valley Authority and Regional Development Victoria. The event brings together community, government, industry and education to generate and inspire creative thinking and drive positive change in the Gippsland region.

Geoff Gourley will be the keynote speaker at the event and will discuss the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aspire to address global challenges relating to the environment, politics and the economy. Geoff will outline how the SDGs are relevant to all of us, and a panel discussion will follow featuring Gippsland organisations who have already taken steps to incorporate SDGs into their values and operations.

The panel will consist of local organisations including:

- Adrian Bromage, Co-owner and Managing Director, Metung Hot Springs
- Carolyn Crossley, Councillor of Wellington Shire Council and Chair of Gippsland Climate Change Network
- Moragh Mackay, Managing Director at Mycelia Renewables Ltd

For more information about the Sustainable Gippsland program, visit mic@federation.edu.au

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Media Images:

Supporting media Images will be taken at the event and can be requested by emailing Geoff.gourley@apricotconsulting.com.au

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About Federation University Australia

With a history spanning over 150 years, Federation University Australia is Victoria's premier regional dual-sector university with campuses located in Ballarat, Berwick, Brisbane, Gippsland and Wimmera. From 2018-2022 Federation ranked first in Australia for first-generation student enrolments. In a first for Australia, the globally recognised co-operative education model will be embedded across all Federation programs from 2025.

<https://federation.edu.au/>

About Apricot Consulting

Since its conception two decades ago, the Apricot team have delivered outcomes and strategies that quantify and improve the health of leaders, teams, organisations and communities.

While our firm has changed significantly since its first project in 2002, our work has always endeavored to meet the lofty goal of genuinely making the world a better place. Our primary service lines sit within the area of Organisational Development, and ESG. We see these two divisions increasingly intertwined, and reflective of a shift towards a more ESG-minded economy.

Our strength is our ability to connect leaders around a shared vision of success, and importantly, walk with our clients to implement and deliver influential programs driven from the top down and holistically informed by their unique business ecosystem, both internal and external.

We deliver this through the synergy of our expert consultants and in-house and external tech, including our own home-grown algorithms, the unique Apricot Health Index™ digital assessment, the integration of complex artificial intelligence, as well as a suite of partnerships with world leading institutions and organisations to ensure our client's commercial peace-of-mind and the knowledge that their work will leave a legacy.

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