



FARMER health and safety specialists Adrian Calvano (left), Alison Dennis, Phillip Ritchie, Tony Donkers and Lance Mason were among the speakers at an on-farm safety workshop hosted by the Dunkeld Lions Club at Todd Burger's (right) property on Tuesday. Photo: ABBY HAMILTON.

140325ah003

Workshops provide valuable information for farmers

KAREN SWEENEY

The Dunkeld Lions Club arranged the workshop with the help of Occupational Health and Safety consultant Lance Mason.

The on-farm health and safety workshops are providing farmers with an avenue to gain information and ask questions.

Dunkeld Lions Club member Todd Burger hosted the workshop organised by Lions farm safety zone co-ordinator Peter Hinchey.

Mr Burger said he was keen to implement some of the things he had learnt.

"It's a great opportunity to learn and ask questions," he said.

Mr Mason, whose role includes plant and risk

assessments and training, arranged for speakers from the National Centre for Farmer Health, WorkSafe, VicRoads and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries to speak to farmers are about the importance of maintaining safety on farming properties.

This was Mr Mason's ninth workshop and he is already planning another at Balmoral.

"We have specialists in their fields and farmers get to ask questions and clarify details in their own environment," he said.

Mr Mason has been in the business for five years and said he still learns things from the workshop, including this week's information session presented by National Centre for Farmer

Health team member Adrian Calvano.

The workshop was the first one Mr Calvano had been involved in and he used the chance to talk about improving the health of farming families.

One of the points he raised was in relation to hearing, noting that all the equipment used by shearers exceeds the average daily noise exposure limits.

VicRoads officer Tony Donkers talked about the various permits required for farm vehicles.

He praised the workshops, which are a first for the region.

"These types of things have never been done in years gone by," he said.

"It gives the farmers a chance to come out and

get the information they need and to be able to do what they should be doing."

WorkSafe manager Phillip Ritchie and inspector Alison Dennis talked about preventing on-farm accidents as well as chemicals on farms.

"The great thing is that it is not just one agency," Mr Ritchie said.

"We've got people from different fields answering a range of questions.

"At other workshops we've even had vets talking about diseases that can be communicated to people.

"It's a great information day."

Details of the next workshop will be advertised around Balmoral in the lead up to the event.