

### HOLIDAY SEASON OPERATING HOURS

Murrindindi Shire Council wishes all residents and ratepayers a peaceful, safe and joyous holiday season. Council's operating hours over this period are:

#### **ALEXANDRA, KINGLAKE AND YEA LIBRARY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES, MOBILE LIBRARY AND MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES:**

22 December 2023: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm

23 December 2023 - 1 January 2024: **CLOSED**

2 January 2024: Usual hours resume

### SWIMMING POOLS

Monday 25 December 2023: **CLOSED**

Visit our website for information and opening times:  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pools](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pools)

### KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

There is no kerbside bin collection on Monday 25 December (Christmas Day) or Monday 1 January 2024 (New Years Day).

Services due for collection during the two weeks commencing 25 December and 1 January will be collected a day later than usual, including those usually collected on a Friday, which will be collected on a Saturday. From Monday 8 January 2024, kerbside collections will resume as usual.

Visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/holidayclosures](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/holidayclosures) for more information about the holiday season collection schedule.

### RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRES AND ALEXANDRA LANDFILL

All Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

In addition to these closures, all RRCs are closed on days of Total Fire Ban.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Maternal and Child Health Advice Line: 13 22 29

Poisons Information Line (24 hours): 13 11 26

Community Safety or Infrastructure Services - after hours emergency (stock on roads, dog attacks, dangerous road conditions etc): 5772 0333.

### NEW MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE 2023-2024

At the 15 November 2023 Scheduled Meeting of Council, Cr Damien Gallagher was elected as Mayor and Cr Sue Carpenter was elected as Deputy Mayor to complete the last year of the current Council term.

Cr Damien Gallagher was pleased to be elected as Mayor and re-affirmed his love and passion for the region as well as his commitment to delivering the Council Plan and supporting vital industries within Murrindindi Shire.

In the same meeting, Council also resolved to establish the Councillor portfolios and appointments.

Finally, Council adopted the timetable of Scheduled Meetings for the 2024 calendar year.

To find out more about your Councillors, their portfolios, and upcoming Council meeting dates, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/newmayor](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/newmayor)



### STAY UP TO DATE WITH COUNCIL NEWS

To stay up to date with Council news, follow us on Facebook.

We also advertise news and updates in a range of local community newsletters and publications, including Mountain Monthly, Flowerdale Flyer and Triangle News.

We'll soon have an email newsletter – stay tuned for how you can opt-in and receive updates direct to your inbox.

If there's anything you'd like to hear more about, email [communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)



## COMMUNITY INPUT GUIDING COUNCIL'S WORK AND PROJECTS

Over the last few months, the community has helped shape several important projects and there's still plenty of opportunity to get involved, if you haven't already. To find out more about any of the projects below, scan the QR code to visit Council's online engagement platform, The Loop, at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

### We Are Open to Business

Council is preparing a five-year Economic Development Strategy to support existing and new businesses, as well employment, sustainable growth, the fair distribution of wealth and opportunity, and to enhance the livability of our Shire and the wellbeing of our community.

In November, Council invited the community to help shape the Strategy by providing input on the five proposed Priority Areas and Outcomes. We held a number of pop-up events across the Shire and hosted targeted focus group sessions with local businesses and industry, as well as the broader community.

We would like to thank everyone who provided input and ideas on how we can better support local businesses and our economy. All feedback is being used to inform our draft Strategy, which will be presented the community for further feedback early next year.

For more information, visit The Loop.

### Thank You for Helping Shape the Future of Eildon Pondage Precinct

At the December Scheduled Meeting, the Eildon Pondage Precinct Masterplan will be presented to Council for adoption, following comprehensive consultation with the Eildon community, local community groups and other key stakeholders, including AGL, Goulburn-Murray Water and Victorian Fisheries Authority.

The Masterplan will set the long-term vision for the Eildon Pondage Precinct and will provide a roadmap for growth and development of the area. It seeks to appropriately enhance this important area in Eildon for both locals and visitors.

We would like to thank everyone who has provided input and ideas to help shape the Masterplan. All feedback will be considered and used to finalise the Masterplan.

### Celebrating Seniors

To celebrate Seniors Month, we hosted five free lunches across the Shire during October.

We had a total of 240 guests attend. The events supported community members to enhance social connections and encouraged staying active within their communities. They enjoyed a hot lunch, heard music from local musician Steve Paix and chatted with Councillors and officers.

These events were made possible with funding support from the Victorian Seniors Festival, Emergency Recovery Victoria and through the Victorian Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

### Improving Participation in Sport for Women and Girls

Council is exploring ways to improve opportunities for women, girls and others to participate in local community sport and recreation by developing a Fair Access Policy and Action Plan.

In October and November, Council invited the community to share feedback on what makes it difficult or challenging to get involved in local sport to help us address barriers in access and participation.

We would like to thank everyone who provided input. Your feedback will be used to inform our draft Policy and Action Plan, which we'll seek further feedback on early next year. For more information visit The Loop.

### Reducing Road Trauma in Murrindindi Shire

From August to October, Council invited the community to help shape its Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, with the goal of reducing road trauma, death and serious injuries on our roads by implementing tangible safety measures and initiatives.

We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback. Now we are reviewing your input before we prepare a draft Strategy and Action Plan and present it back to the community for a final round of feedback. For more information visit The Loop.

### Community Planning

Council would like to thank all community members who contributed to the Flowerdale, Kinglake, Kinglake West and Pheasant Creek drop-in sessions to learn more about how they can get involved in community planning.

Local core teams have been formed to guide this program. With local guidance, we are planning for a series of events starting early next year. More details coming soon.

New members are always welcome to join the core teams.

To get involved reach out to our Community Planning Officer Anna Paix on 5772 0333 or visit The Loop.

### Council's Annual Report

Council is pleased to inform the community that our Annual Report 2022/23, is now available on our website.

The Report details our achievements from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and tracks our progress against actions and goals set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and in the Annual Budget 2022/23.

To access this year, and previous year's reports, you can visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annualreports](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annualreports) or visit one of our Library and Customer Service Centres to view a physical copy.

### Local Open University Education Hub

Council, together with a Community Working Group and Country Universities Centre, is establishing a Tertiary Education Hub in the Shire.

It will be centrally located to support the whole Shire, to help residents undertake university and TAFE courses in a safe and supportive environment.

This will complement existing secondary schools, community houses, the University of the Third Age and regional TAFE facilities, in providing opportunities and removing further barriers to participation. It will:

- provide resources and infrastructure to support learners in accessing online content
- provide local expertise to mentor, support and guide student learning
- provide high speed internet connection, and a safe and accessible venue for extended hours

To deliver this exciting project, Council is actively exploring available grant opportunities.

### Subscribe to Recieve Flood Recovery News

Stay up to date with the latest flood recovery news across Murrindindi Shire by subscribing to our free email flood recovery newsletter.

It contains a wide range of information for community members, businesses and farmers. Subscribe at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter)

You can also pick up a copy at Council's Libraries and Customer Service Centres.

Visit our online Flood Hub for more information on flood recovery at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022)

### Keep Informed During an Emergency

VicEmergency is the key source for all emergency warnings and incident information in Victoria.

This information is shared in a number of ways:

- VicEmergency website: [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au)
- VicEmergency app: mobile version of the website
- VicEmergency hotline: Call 1800 226 226
- Facebook: you can follow 'VicEmergency' for state-wide information and 'VicEmergency – Hume' for region specific information.

To learn more, visit the CFA website:

[cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings)

### Fire Prevention and Free Green Waste

Fire season is here. If you haven't already, now is the time to prepare your property. Here are some jobs you can do around the house immediately:

- mow your grass
- remove flammable items from decks and verandahs
- clean your gutters
- move woodpiles away from your home
- prepare your fire plan

For more information on preparing your property, please visit Council's website at:

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireprevention](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireprevention)

Or the CFA website at:

[cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare)

A reminder that Council offers free green waste disposal at our Resource Recovery Centres in the lead-up to the fire season, this year from 1 October to 31 December. This is a great way to remove your unwanted green waste and fuel loads on your property without having to burn off.

Council's Roadside Slashing Program is also underway, with contractors currently working their way across the Shire.



### What's Free @ Your Library?

Council operates libraries in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea, as well as a Mobile Library, which stops at eight locations across the Shire. We have a huge range of books and online resources, PLUS:

- Free WiFi
- Free Library Membership
- Free Local Newspapers
- Free Connections with your community through your Library's extensive programs

For all enquiries drop into your local library, call us or visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries)

## MEET ANNA, COMMUNITY PLANNING OFFICER

We asked Anna a few questions, so you could find out a bit more about them and their role.



### Can you tell us a bit about your professional background?

I love getting to know people, helping them connect and work together to make their community an even better place to be. I have a community development qualification and have worked with communities in all sorts of places - in Brazil, through a number of countries in Africa, around Melbourne and, for the last five years, around Murrindindi Shire as Council's Community Planning Officer.

### What do you enjoy most about your role?

Having conversations with people all around our Shire! I am privileged to hear what people love about their community and their ideas for making it even better. Often, I get to connect those people to others who have similar ideas for their area. Usually, when people find that there are other people with similar dreams, it changes the energy – it's easier when you are part of a team.

Great things have come from these connections: from public art installations to a community-run gym, even a 'Learn-to-Ride' trail for small children!

### What do you love most about Murrindindi Shire?

I love the bush and waterways and open spaces. It is such a beautiful part of Victoria, in every season.

It has been the best decision to live and work here – people are friendly and helpful, and I feel very-much 'at home' and part of the community.

### What does a typical day working in your role look like?

Some days are inevitably spent in the office with paperwork and administration, but the best days are out and about in the community.

At the moment I'm starting with community planning in Flowerdale, Kinglake, Kinglake West and Pheasant Creek.

It's quite varied, so I might call a meeting to get to know a bunch of people in those communities, talk with staff from the local neighbourhood house or meet someone one-to-one to understand how they see their community.

I'm also planning for some community dinners there, and other events, so keep an eye out to get involved if you're connected to any of those communities.

You can also get in touch with me by calling 5772 0333 or by visiting Council's online engagement platform, The Loop, and searching for 'community planning' at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

## CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Together, our Councillors set the strategic direction of Council and make decisions about our Shire's future. If you have insights or information that can assist your Councillor to carry out his or her role, you can contact them directly:



**Cr Damien Gallagher (Mayor)**  
Red Gate Ward  
**0419 017 801**  
[dgallagher@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:dgallagher@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Sue Carpenter (Deputy Mayor)**  
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Need to get in touch? Please email [customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au), call us on **(03) 5772 0333** or visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au)