



Council E-news - Opt In and Win!

We're excited to soon launch a regular e-newsletter, following feedback from our Communications Preferences Survey in which email communication was ranked highly as a preferred option for receiving Council news.

Help us name our new e-newsletter and you could win one of four \$50 visa gift cards. To opt in and enter, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews

To stay up to date with Council news, you can also follow us on Facebook and find us in a range of local community newsletters and publications.

Council Services Over Easter

Kerbside waste collection will operate as usual over the Easter long weekend. Resource Recovery Centres are open as usual, with the exception of Good Friday, when they are all closed. Landfill will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. For more information, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RRC

Council's Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake and our Mobile Service will be closed over the Easter long weekend from Good Friday. Usual hours resume Tuesday 2 April.

For matters such as stock on roads, dog attacks or unsafe road conditions, including fallen trees over roads, please call (03) 5772 0333 at any time.

For any non-urgent requests, we'll be back on deck from Tuesday 2 April, or you can always lodge a customer request at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request



Eildon Reserves Redevelopment

Council commenced the highly anticipated Eildon Reserves Redevelopment last month. The project, which is currently in progress, involves the transformation of Walter Moore and Thomas Marr Reserves, introducing a new playground, senior play space, skate park, splash park, and upgraded facilities.

Contractors are working in three stages to deliver the project by October 2024. During construction, the public toilet block is closed for upgrades, and safety fencing has been installed around the reserves. Utah Place has been closed and based on community feedback, will become a no-through road, providing a safe pedestrian link between the two reserves.

This \$6.1 million project is made possible with funding from State Government's *Regional Tourism Investment Fund*, *Local Sport Infrastructure Fund* and *Changing Places Fund*, and the Federal Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund*. Council's \$1.493 million contribution includes the proceeds from the future sale of two parcels of vacant Council owned land in the Eildon township.

For more information about this ongoing project, call (03) 5772 0333, or visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark

Climate Change Action Plan: Towards 2035

Council is committed to combating climate change. We know that climate change poses serious risks to our health, our environment and our way of life – and we are already feeling its impacts.

Our Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), developed through extensive community consultation, will guide us in taking action to mitigate and adapt to climate change and achieve our goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2035. It will also guide how we support our community to take action as well. We are excited to announce that the final version of the CCAP is now available.

You can view or download the CCAP on Council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/CCAP

Printed copies are available on request.



Are You in The Loop? Join Council's Online Community

Join 'The Loop' to stay informed, share ideas and shape projects that matter to you! Council is committed to engaging genuinely with our community and hearing a broad range of perspectives, experiences and expertise. We seek community input on a range of projects because this leads to better outcomes and provides an opportunity for you to influence decisions that affect you. The Loop is where everyone's voice matters.

By joining, you'll receive tailored alerts to your email inbox, based on your interests, and you'll never miss out on an opportunity to provide feedback. Members can 'follow' projects to track their progress and see how their contributions are put into action. Join by scanning the QR code or visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/join

To get involved if you are not online, Council officers regularly host and attend community events to chat to you in-person, and you can call or visit our Library and Customer Services Centres.

That's a wrap for our 2023/24 Swimming Pool Season

It was another wonderful season at our swimming pools this summer, with approximately 22,000 visitors enjoying free entry at our pools in Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and Yea.

Keeping you safe this season was our incredible team of lifeguards, duty managers, and aquatic operations staff. We were pleased to host the VICSWIM Program at Eildon, Alexandra, and Yea throughout the school holidays. This Program provided a great low-cost opportunity for kids between the ages of 4 and 12 years to develop water safety skills, confidence and competence in the water, over a period of 4-5 days.

Four pool parties were held across the Shire, bringing even more summer fun to our pools. Approximately 600 attendees, across all four events, enjoyed live music from young local musicians, a free BBQ lunch, fresh fruit and icy poles, and pool games with prizes. These events were made possible with funding from the Victorian Government's FReeZA Youth Development Program.

Our pools are a wonderful way for everyone in our community to keep active and cool during the hot summer months. Thanks everyone for a great season at the Murrindindi Shire pools!



Draft Annual Budget 2024/2025

Council is preparing its draft Annual Budget for the next financial year. We aim to present the draft Budget to Council later this month for endorsement for community feedback during April.

Keep an eye out for more information about how you can have your say.

Advocating for Our Community

One of Council's important functions is to advocate on behalf of our community – either in the form of government funding to help our Shire prosper, or to bring about changes to policies that will improve how we live and work.

Over the last few months, Council's advocacy efforts have been focusing particularly on road safety, boosting our grant funding from government, matters arising from recent floods and storm events, and the sustainability of our community and economy.

The Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire Council Road Trauma Study 2021 revealed alarming road safety statistics for our region, with Murrindindi Shire recording the highest number of fatalities and crashes among small rural shires in Victoria, between 2010 and 2019. We are seeking \$100 million from state and federal governments over the next decade to modernise our road network.

Council faces a significant shortfall in grant funding. Despite being one of the least funded councils in the state, we maintain a large road network and rely heavily on grant funding for upgrades and improvements. We are calling for a review of the Victorian Grants Commission's methodology for allocating funding to councils, to reflect the financial burden faced by smaller councils like us.

We are also prioritising the sustainable development of the community and economy. We are seeking funding to deliver the Activating Lake Eildon Master Plan, including construction of the Skyline Road Touring Route. The plan aims to create jobs and support regional development around Lake Eildon. Council is asking for \$48 million to deliver four key activation projects as part of this plan.

Fair Access in Sport Policy Consultation

Council wants to ensure that local community sport is welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for everyone, and that our recreation facilities provide a level playing field for women and girls. In consultation with local community and clubs, we've developed a draft Fair Access in Sport Policy and Action Plan.

The Policy and Action Plan will help address barriers in access to sport and recreation, including use of sporting infrastructure, and build community capacity to identify and eliminate gender inequality.

Whether you work in sport, volunteer, or play sport yourself (or even if you don't), we'd appreciate your feedback. We want to make it easier for everyone to get involved in community sport and keep active.

Feedback is open until Friday 5 April. For further information and to provide feedback, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fairaccess

Roads Advisory Group Update

Meeting in March, Council's Roads Advisory Group (CRAG) considered issues relating to Council's approach to road management across the Shire, including current and desired service levels, and the implications of changing Council's service levels to better meet community expectations. In addition, the Group reviewed the draft Capital Works Program for road assets proposed for 2024-2025.

CRAG's purpose is representing the local community on road management issues, and offering valuable feedback to guide Council decisions and practices.

The Group explored challenges that Council faces when managing roads, and provided Council with a better understanding of the values that are important to the community when it comes to local roads.

To learn more or ask the Group a question, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ramp

Community Award Nominations

Do you know someone who's made a significant contribution to Murrindindi Shire? Would you like to recognise the efforts of a local community group or initiative?

Nominations for our 2024 Community Awards are closing soon, on 24 March, so get in quick! Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards for more information. Paper forms are also available at our Library and Customer Service Centres.

Projects in Murrindindi Shire

Council is pleased to announce our new 'Projects in Murrindindi Shire' page on our website. This will be where the community can find out up to date information on our capital works projects, including our annual roads programs.

You can subscribe to this page for email updates when a project is added. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects

Shaping Murrindindi's Future Update

Workshops were held in February for community members to discuss several innovation opportunities and ideas for the region and local industries.

The workshops were delivered as part of the Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project, which is focused on assisting communities who are directly impacted by the transition away from native timber harvesting, particularly the areas of Marysville, Taggerty, Buxton and Alexandra, to identify and develop opportunities for economic diversification.

The workshops covered Farm Forestry, Renewable Energy and Circular Economy, Health, Aged Care and Social Assistance, Tourism and Sustainable Agriculture, Aquaculture and Horticulture.

A sixth workshop is set to be held in April on the topic of Advanced Manufacturing.

ideas recommended for further investigation will then progress to the next stage of the project, which involves establishing working groups to further test ideas and develop the project scope.

For more information about the Project, workshops, or to get involved and participate, visit shapingmurrindindisfuture.com.au or contact Allisha Milestone on 0458 758 379, or via email at amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

This project is made possible through funding from the State Government's Victorian Forestry Plan and is supported by Murrindindi Shire Council, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and RMIT University.

Registered Pets are Safe Pets

Do you own a dog or a cat? If your pet is registered with Council, you will soon receive your 2024-2025 pet registration renewal notice, due 10 April 2024. Nearly a quarter of Murrindindi Shire households own a dog or cat, and keeping them safe is important. That's why it's a legal requirement for all cats and dogs over the age of three months to be registered with Council, under the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*. This helps us reunite you with your beloved pet, if they are lost.

If you have an unregistered dog or cat, or would like to change the details of a registered pet, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pets or give us a call on (03) 5772 0333. Paper forms are also available.

MEET CARA, ALEXANDRA CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM LEADER

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



What do you enjoy most about your role?

I'm constantly learning, and no day looks the same. Customer Service is a starting point of contact for most residents, so each request varies. We quickly become quite knowledgeable in a range of different areas of Council, which helps us try to solve the request at the first point of contact. I've always enjoyed helping people, and it's wonderful when I can help someone feel heard, and assist them with finding a solution. Occasionally, lovely community members bring their dogs to visit, and those moments truly brighten my day.

What do you love most about Murrindindi Shire?

It's such a beautiful location – both for its scenery, as well as its sense of community. I enjoy exploring the area, there's always new waterfalls or native wildlife that I didn't know about. And it's lovely having such friendly people around, who always seem willing to offer assistance or even just a smile along with a greeting. I see so many examples of generosity, humanity and compassion from staff and community members: it's quite heart-warming.

Can you tell us a bit about your professional background?

I've had a few different retail roles where I developed my Customer Service skills, before moving to work as a Receptionist in a Medical Clinic near Geelong. I enjoyed my time, and learnt a lot about compassion, and recognising someone's needs without them necessarily telling me. I then worked at a hospital in Werribee in a similar role, and eventually moved to a hospital in Melbourne, focused on Cardiology. Working alongside and conversing with so many patients made me really appreciate the little things in life.

Working as the Team Leader in Customer Service, I try to bring all the skills I learnt from my various other jobs together, to effectively help as many members of our community as I can.

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

I set up reception in the morning, ready for the day ahead, and then open the doors! Our community email, call or walk in for many reasons, from rates to planning and roads. I manage parcels, support Council staff, arrange Facility Hire or Community Bus bookings, process VicRoads licence renewals.

I feel sometimes residents are surprised when I tell them some of the services we offer! I would encourage everyone to have a look at Council's website or call/walk in for an overview of how we can assist you.

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



Cr Sue Carpenter (Deputy Mayor)
Cheviot Ward
0437 899 120
scarpenter@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Cr Ilona Gerencser
Kinglake Ward
0437 847 577
igerencser@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Cr John Walsh
Koriella Ward
0437 835 586
jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Cr Eric Lording
King Parrot Ward
0459 066 637
elording@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Cr Sandice McAulay
Cathedral Ward
0419 552 020
smcaulay@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Cr Karine Haslam
Eildon Ward
0400 427 964
khaslam@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Need to get in touch? Please email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au, call us on **(03) 5772 0333** or visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au