

Flood Recovery in Murrindindi Shire

Edition #8

In this edition

Welcome to the February 2024 Murrindindi Shire Flood Recovery newsletter.

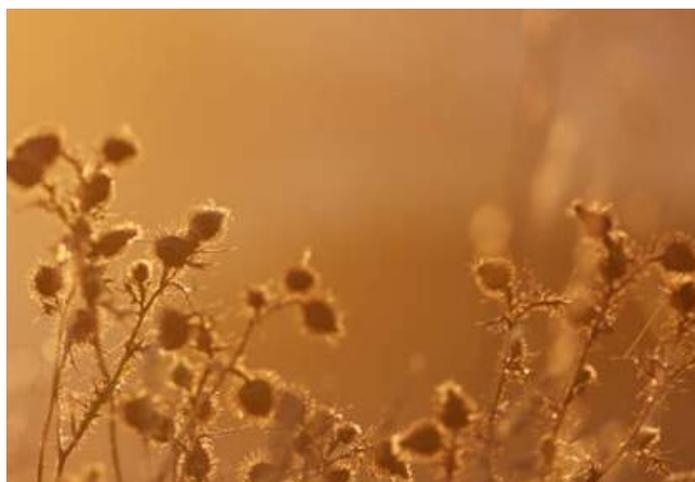
If you know anyone who would benefit from the information in this newsletter, please share it with them and encourage them to opt-in to receive the latest updates direct to their inbox.

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter

Topics

- Upcoming flood recovery events
- Update on Breakaway Bridge
- Road repair works
- Molesworth and Thornton Community Conversations
- Health Checks at the Yea Cattle Sales
- Public health information: Mosquitos
- Support for communities impacted by the January 2024 floods
- Yea Wetlands temporary closure

If you have any suggestions about what you'd like to see in future editions of the newsletter, please let us know by emailing communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Upcoming flood recovery events

Council's Flood Recovery team hosted several events and pop-ups throughout 2023 and is currently scheduling the 2024 calendar. We encourage all community members to stay in touch, come along to community recovery events and find out what support is available.

Council's Flood Recovery team will be attending the following upcoming events:

- Health checks at the Yea Cattle Sales – Friday 1 March
- Flowerdale's Twilight Market Fair – Saturday 23 March, 4.00 – 7.00 pm

If you have any suggestions on where you'd like to see Council's Flood Recovery team next, or a suggestion to help your community be more connected and resilient, please contact the Flood Recovery team on 5772 0333.

Update on Breakaway Bridge

Council has received the last of the technical reports on Breakaway Bridge. Further discussions have been held with the Department of Transport and Planning (the responsible funding authority) following receipt of the latest information. Clarifying the funding situation will be the next task of Council, particularly getting a firm commitment of what is possible.

In the meantime, an update is being prepared for the Acheron community about the status of Breakaway Bridge and the technical advice we have received. This will be followed by community information sessions, with times and dates to be advised.

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Road repair works

Long term repairs to roads impacted by the October 2022 Floods are underway across the Shire.

These repairs were recently approved by state and federal governments, who are responsible for providing funds to councils to assist with the costs associated with infrastructure repairs and reinstatement following declared disasters.

The January 2024 floods caused extensive damage to roads, bridges and culverts in the western areas of our Shire, particularly in Yea, Strath Creek, Limestone, Murrindindi, Glenburn, Flowerdale and surrounds. Some of our assets were damaged again after recently being repaired from the 2022 flood event and Council is working with the Department of Transport and Planning to rectify these locations as a priority, while still progressing the repair works related to 2022.

Council and the Department of Transport and Planning is conducting secondary impact assessments on recently damaged roads and other assets. These assessments will provide essential information for further funding applications to state and federal governments and will help guide the recovery process this year.

We aim to complete scheduled repairs to damaged roads from the October 2022 floods by the end of February 2024, weather depending. To see a full list of roads included in this program, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects.

Have a request to repair a Council managed road or asset? You can submit a request to us by visiting murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request or submit a Snap Send Solve directly from the phone app or visiting reports.snapsendsolve.com.



Molesworth and Thornton Community Conversations

Did you join the chat?

Thank you to everyone who joined the Community Conversations sessions in Molesworth and Thornton in November and December 2023. Your engagement brought insight and meaningful information to the forefront. Together, we revisited the immediate effects of the October 2022 floods, reflected on the efficiency of long-term recovery efforts and discussed strategies and opportunities for enhancing future recovery processes.

So, what now? The information gathered during these sessions is invaluable to the Flood Recovery team in our efforts to advocate for improved policies, processes and resources to enhance community resilience against severe weather events. We are currently working on compiling this information into a report that will provide an outline of actioned responsibilities between Council, the community and other agencies. This will be a valuable resource to community members, stakeholders and policymakers to foster a more informed and proactive approach to challenges raised in these discussions.

Didn't make it to the sessions or have something to add? Contact Council on 5772 0333 and ask to speak with a member of the Flood Recovery team.

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Health Checks at the Yea Cattle Sales

It's not just the cattle being checked out at the Yea cattle sales!

As part of a joint initiative between the Yea Saleyards Committee of Management, Yea & District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) and Murrindindi Shire Council, local farmers received free skin checks and health checks at the last two cattle sales in Yea.

A total of 117 skin checks were conducted by Southern Skin Cancer Clinic and 35 free health checks were delivered by nursing staff from YDMH.

A health check includes:

- blood pressure and cholesterol checks
- cardiovascular risk assessments
- healthy eating and exercise resources
- on the spot printed results
- information about accessing ongoing support via YDMH

This event has been made possible with funding support from the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



(Kim Chadband, Council's Manager Flood Recovery, Nicole Wilson - Sargeant Yea Police, Ben Harnwell, Council's Coordinator Economic Development)

This won't be the last event! The farming community can look forward to other health services at future Yea cattle sales, including eye checks, hearing checks, and flu vaccinations. Keep up to date with upcoming events by following [@MurrindindiShireCouncil](#) and [@YeaSaleyards](#).

This event has been made possible with funding support from the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



(Vanessa Haller and Emma Mordue from Southern Skin Cancer Clinic)

Photos have been supplied by Yea Saleyards.

Public health information: Mosquitos

Mozzie bites are unpleasant at the best of times, but did you know they can be carriers of diseases such as Barmah Forest virus, Ross River virus, Japanese encephalitis, and Murray Valley encephalitis?

Warm and wet weather, which we have been experiencing recently, can lead to increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases and in rare cases, life threatening illnesses.

Find out more about how to protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease by visiting betterhealth.vic.gov.au.

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Support for communities impacted by the January 2024 floods

The January 2024 floods were an unexpected start to the year as it marked the fourth flood in fourteen months. Especially affecting the Western side of the Shire, many residents, farmers and businesses were impacted. The storms caused damage to private property and community assets, significant erosion and substantial environmental losses. Debris has been a particularly hazardous result of the strong floodwaters and continues to require a massive cleanup response. This event has highlighted the uniqueness of natural weather events and the importance of specialised and adaptable emergency service responses.

When comparing this event to the October 2022 flood event, Emergency Service agencies report that the level of water in the Yea River (gauged at Devlins Bridge) was 61cm lower, while the Murrindindi River was reported to be 30cm higher. Fortunately, Goulburn Murray Water did not need to release water from Lake Eildon during the emergency, preventing more widespread flooding.

Council officers are visiting townships across the Shire to undertake secondary impact assessments on Council managed roads, bridges and culverts and to host flood information sessions with impacted community members.

For information on available financial support and flood waste disposal services, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/emergencies.

Yea Wetlands temporary closure

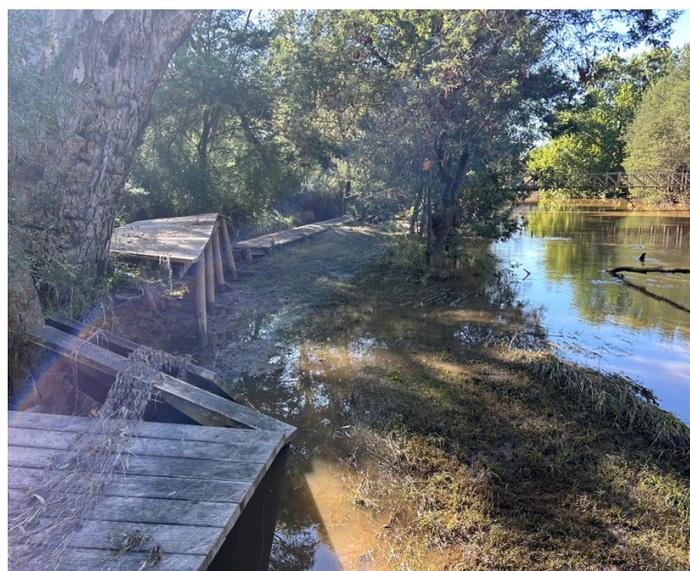
Yea Wetlands has temporarily closed its grounds to visitors due to significant flooding in January, causing damage to boardwalks and paths. Hazardous flood debris and many fallen trees have also created safety issues for visitors.

Many paths that were repaired following the October 2022 Floods have been re-damaged.

Once we have a better idea of the costs involved, we can develop a plan for repairs.

The Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre remains open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm daily. Pop in and find out more about the local area, peruse the gift shop for local artworks and produce, and learn more about the story of the Yea Wetlands and the life forms that support it. See what's on at yeawetlands.com.au.

Images provided by Don Knight.



(Yea Wetlands 2024)