



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Annual Report 2009-2010

Contact Us

Alexandra

28 Perkins Street, Alexandra
Ph: (03) 5772 0333
Fax: (03) 5772 2291

Kinglake

19 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road,
Kinglake
Ph: (03) 5786 1522
Fax: (03) 5786 1515

Yea

Civic Centre, Semi Circle, Yea
Ph: (03) 5797 2209
Fax: (03) 57972900

Email:

msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Web:

www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Further copies or questions?

If you would like additional copies of the Murrindindi Shire Council 2009-2010 Annual Report or you have any questions about this report, please send your enquiry by email to msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or mail to Communications Officer, Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra 3714.

Front cover photo:

'Thank you' photo taken at Kinglake on the first anniversary of the February 2009 bushfires. Thank you to everyone who has helped us during this difficult time.

Table of Contents

Murrindindi snapshot	3
Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer	4
Snapshot of our performance 2009-2010.....	6
Financial summary	9
Capital works summary	10
Rebuilding our communities	13
Your elected representatives.....	16
Performance reporting.....	19
Theme 1 - Governance.....	20
Theme 2 - Community	23
Theme 3 - Local Economy.....	29
Theme 4 - Infrastructure	33
Theme 5 - Climate Change and Natural Environment	38
Theme 6 - Planning and Environment.....	41
Theme 7 - Corporate Development.....	44
Our Organisation	47
Corporate and Statutory Information	51
Introduction to the Financials.....	62

Financial Report

About this Annual Report

The Murrindindi Shire Council *Annual Report 2009-2010* details progress we have made in the past financial year, 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, towards achieving the activities of the *Council Plan 2009-2013* and the *2009-2010 Annual Budget*.

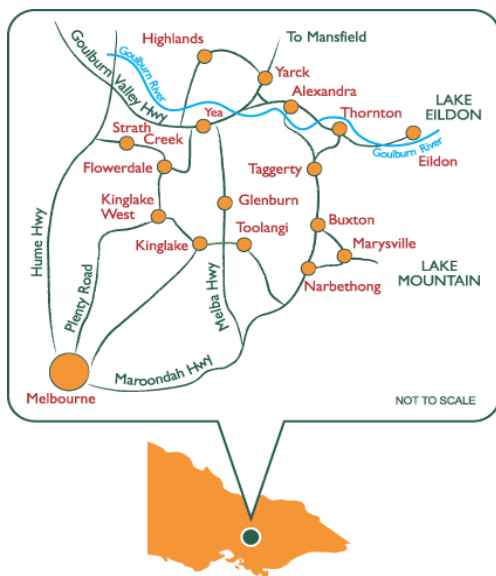
In this report we identify our achievements, challenges and what is planned for the year ahead for seven themes of Governance, Community, Local Economy, Climate Change and Natural Environment, Planning and Environment, Infrastructure and Corporate Development.

The *Annual Report 2009-2010* also contains audited financial reports and performance statements, which are a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The *Annual Report 2009-2010* is written for a variety of audiences including government agencies, the community, ratepayers and businesses. Copies of the *Annual Report 2009-2010* are available at council offices or online at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

We encourage you to tell us how we can improve our reporting to you. If you have any comments or suggestions please write to the Chief Executive Officer, Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra 3714 or email msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Murrindindi snapshot



Our shire

- Location: 150 kms or 90 minutes north east of Melbourne
- Area: 3,889 sq kms (48% Crown Land)
- Councillors: 7
- Rateable properties: 9,385
- Sealed roads: 460kms (*Council maintained*)
- Unsealed roads: 758kms (*Council maintained*)

Townships

• Acheron • Alexandra • Buxton • Cathkin • Castella • Eildon • Flowerdale • Glenburn • Gobur • Highlands • Homewood • Kanumbra • Kinglake • Kinglake West • Koriella • Limestone • Marysville • Molesworth • Murrindindi • Narbethong • Rubicon • Strath Creek • Taggerty • Terip Terip • Thornton • Toolangi • Woodbourne • Yarck • Yea

Our history

The Wurundjeri tribe and the Taungurung language speakers are the traditional owners of the land now known as the Shire of Murrindindi.

European settlement followed Hume and Hovell's overland exploration in December 1824. Many of the existing towns were established during the 1850s and 1860s after the discovery of gold.

The Shire of Murrindindi was declared on 18 November 1994 by the amalgamation of the former municipalities of Alexandra and Yea, and the addition of parts of the former municipalities of Healesville, Broadford, Eltham, Whittlesea and Euroa.

On 7 February 2009 more than 40% of the shire was directly impacted by bushfires. The fires have resulted in changes to our demographics.

Industries

Agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture and viticulture • Forestry and timber processing • Tourism, hospitality and conferencing • Light manufacturing and engineering • Retail and trade services • Education (including outdoor education) • Public services

Council services

• Tourism and Economic Development • Events management • Waste management • Environmental services • Land use, land development and subdivisions • Building control • Aged and Disability services • Youth and Recreational development • Public Health • Libraries • Road and bridge construction and maintenance • Child and family services • Community Development

Vision

Murrindindi will be a vibrant and progressive shire, with strong communities thriving within a healthy environment.

Mission

To care for, foster and promote the Murrindindi Shire in partnership with communities and other stakeholders.

Values

• Honesty and Integrity

We will be open and truthful in our dealings.

• Accountability and Consistency

We will accept responsibility for our actions and be consistent in the application of our principles, policies and processes.

• Innovation and Excellence

We will consider new ideas, opportunities and better ways of doing things.

• Respect and Trust

We will respect other people and their opinions and do as we say we will.



Margaret Abbey
Chief Executive Officer

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer

Our Annual Report is one way in which we communicate to our community and the State Government about our achievements, challenges and financial position over the past 12 months.

It is also an opportunity to highlight our goals and aspirations for the next year as we strive to create a shire that promotes being a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

The last 12 months have seen many challenges in Council's operations. There continued to be a significant focus on the reconstruction and rebuilding process following the February 2009 bushfires, but our attention has also been firmly planted on creating and supporting new opportunities across the shire to stimulate economic development, tourism and improve Council infrastructure.

This can be seen with almost \$9 million invested in capital works across 2009-10 on a range of projects.

It has also been a time of change in the way Council does business. We saw the resignation of Chief Executive Officer Mark Henderson in September 2009. As we searched for a new CEO, Rob Croxford filled the breach in an acting role under demanding circumstances. Then in June 2010 Margaret Abbey was appointed to the role of CEO.

Our Council ranks have also changed. Councillor Cris Ruhr was elected to the King Parrot Ward following the resignation of Lyn Gunter. The mayoral election in December resulted in Cr Peter Beales being elected Mayor in a unanimous decision.

While our focus has been on the bushfire recovery, we have also faced a \$3.5 million clean up following an intense rain event on New Year's Day. There was extensive damage to private property, businesses and Council buildings in the Alexandra area.

There is a resolve by Council and the Executive Management Team to ensure prudent financial management of Council's Budget and long term ability to meet recurrent costs.

This has resulted in the appointment of international accounting firm KPMG to evaluate whole-of-life costs associated with project building in the shire, providing Council with an understanding of recurrent costs arising from post-bushfire related rebuilding programs.

Projects costing up to \$20 million will become a Council responsibility on completion and stem from the replacement of damaged or destroyed infrastructure and other projects identified by the community and funded by all levels of government since the February 2009 fires.

We continue to advocate and lobby on behalf of our community for improved health, education, telecommunication and community services.

Our Murrindindi Health and Wellbeing Plan and Positive Ageing Strategy, outline actions to improve health, wellbeing and quality of life for Murrindindi residents.

Importantly we have strengthened youth services across the shire, with a focus on bushfire recovery. Initiatives have

included the launch of a new youth website; development of a Youth Partnership Group to coordinate the delivery of youth support and outreach services being delivered by agencies operating across Murrindindi Shire, the development and commencement of a youth development grants program and the appointment of a Youth Coordinator for two years.

Our local economy continues to show signs of improvement. As part of a 'Buy Local Campaign' we encouraged and supported local contractors in preparing and tendering for major rebuilding works.

We secured \$1.75 million funding to develop an environmental interpretation and accredited visitor information centre at the Yea Wetlands. We also successfully applied for \$1.1 million through the Jobs Fund to support the development of Marysville Central as a temporary business and community hub.

We look forward to the next 12 months in supporting and revising our 2008-2012 Economic Development Strategy to incorporate strategies for fire affected businesses.

We will undertake a feasibility study into the development of industrial/ business park land in the Marysville and Triangle area. And supporting our diverse tourism needs remains a priority of our economic initiatives.

Our natural environment is a significant asset and one that must be protected.

One of our great achievements has been the completion and public release of our draft

Environment Strategy and Resource Plan to guide environmental management on Council land, reduce Council's environmental footprint and encourage sustainable living practices in the shire.

This document will provide the framework for the management of our natural environment for future generations to admire and enjoy.

As a Council we do face considerable challenges as has been outlined in the annual community survey. The desires of our community have been highlighted in our annual plan and correlate with the community survey.

We will endeavour to lift our community satisfaction results through our decision-making, customer service and communications.

We are committed to our community. As we head into 2010- 2011 we want to continue to deliver on projects, services and advocacy across the shire. We need to do this in a financially responsible way so that we can represent our shire as a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

Margaret Abbey

Margaret Abbey
Chief Executive Officer



Cr Peter Beales
Mayor

Cr Peter Beales

Cr Peter Beales
Mayor

Snapshot of our performance 2009-2010

Theme 1: Governance - further information page 20

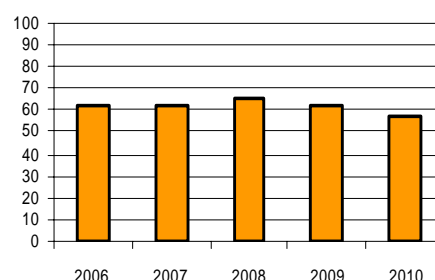
Strategic Objective

Effective leadership providing representation and advocacy for the community backed by a financially strong organisation

Achievements:

- Continued to provide support for Community Recovery Committees and the Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Section 86 Committee.
- Negotiated with the State Government an Assistance Package totaling \$9.7 million, payable over four years.
- Appointment of international accounting firm KPMG to evaluate whole-of-life costs associated with project building in the shire as recurrent costs on gifted assets will become a key issue.
- Finalised insurance assessments and payment process for bushfire damaged assets.

**Community Satisfaction Results
Council's Overall Performance**



Theme 2: Community - further information page 23

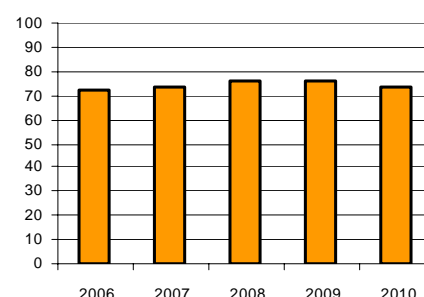
Strategic Objective

Communities enjoying good health and wellbeing

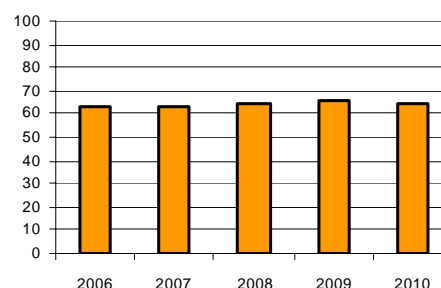
Achievements:

- Commissioned the highly successful 'Beyond Age' photographic exhibition and multi-media project which aimed to challenge some of the stereotypes of ageing and to demonstrate the part our older people played during the bushfires and the recovery process.
- Strengthened youth services across the shire, with a focus on bushfire recovery. Initiatives included: launch of new youth website.
- Planned, promoted and implemented from our libraries, over a 16-week period, 77 events, reaching 2,020 participants of all ages.
- Successfully refurbished the Marysville Swimming Pool in time for the 2009 – 2010 swimming season.
- Contributed \$30,000 towards redevelopment of Flowerdale tennis courts.
- Completed the Murrindindi Health and Wellbeing Plan and Positive Ageing Strategy, which outline actions to improve health, wellbeing and quality of life for Murrindindi residents.

**Community Satisfaction Results
Health and Human Services**



**Community Satisfaction Results
Recreation Facilities**



Theme 3: Local Economy - further information page 29

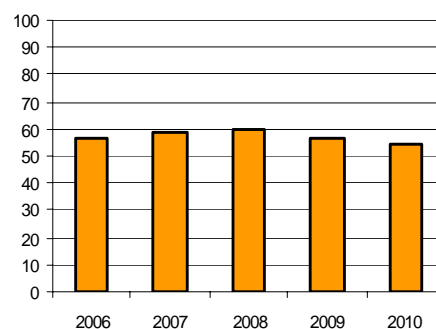
Strategic Objective

Sustainable growth for our local economy

Achievements

- Finalised a business plan and secured \$1.75 million funding to develop an environmental interpretation and accredited visitor information centre at the Yea Wetlands.
- Successfully applied for a \$1.1 million Jobs Fund grant to enable the development of Marysville Central as a temporary business and community hub for the town and surrounds.
- Partnered with Mitchell, Greater Shepparton and Strathbogie Councils to establish the Goulburn River Valley Tourism Board to secure a \$375,000 Tourism Quality grant to aid in industry and product development, regional marketing and events promotion across the four shires.
- Participated in a successful bid to secure the 2010 Great Victorian Bike Ride together with the Mitchell, Strathbogie and Greater Shepparton Councils.

**Community Satisfaction Results
Economic Development**



Theme 4: Infrastructure - further information page 33

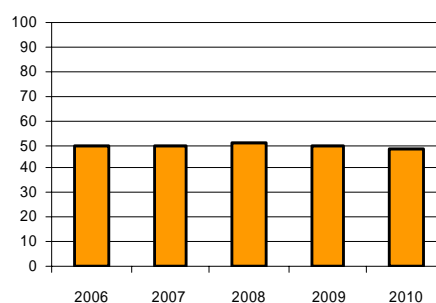
Strategic Objective

To enhance the sustainability of our infrastructure, recognising the changing needs and expectations of our communities

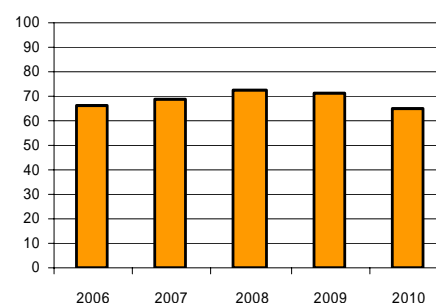
Achievements

- Appointment of contract managers Bovis Lend Lease, in partnership with VBRRA, for the delivery of a range of bushfire reconstruction projects.
- Replaced destroyed bridges over King Parrot Creek, Flowerdale and Health Creek, Taggerty and repaired and upgraded Walls Road bridge, Glenburn.
- Carried out significant tree safety works in public areas and on roadsides across fire impacted areas.
- Constructed public toilets in Bakers Lane carpark in Alexandra to provide central conveniences in the retail precinct.
- Established stack sites for timber and mulch and provided an opportunity for use of timber and mulch by local communities.
- Developed the Gallipoli Park Master Plan to guide the restoration for the park which was adopted by Council in December 2009.
- Clean up works costing approximately \$3.5 million were undertaken following the 1 January 2010 intense rain event.

**Community Satisfaction Results
Local Roads and Footpaths**



**Community Satisfaction Results
Appearance of Public Areas**



Theme 5: Climate Change and Natural Environment - further information page 38

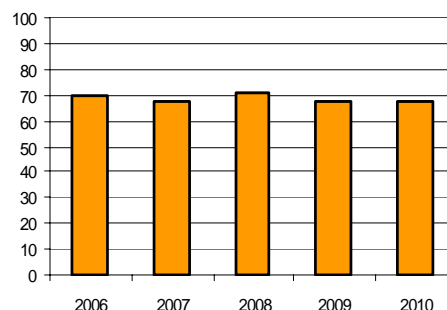
Strategic Objective

A natural environment that is diverse, healthy and cared for

Achievements

- Completed the draft *Environment Strategy and Resource Plan* to guide environmental management on Council land, reduce Council's environmental footprint and encourage sustainable living practices in the shire.
- Installed solar panels on the Yea council office and library, so that a minimum of 30 per cent of its energy use is renewable with funding from the Economic Stimulus Package.
- Provided an extensive free green and hard waste materials disposal program at Council Resource Recovery Centres for residents in December 2009 and January 2010. A total of 3,600 cubic metres of hard waste and 2,530 cubic metres of green waste was received.

Community Satisfaction Survey Waste Management



Theme 6: Planning and Environment - further information page 41

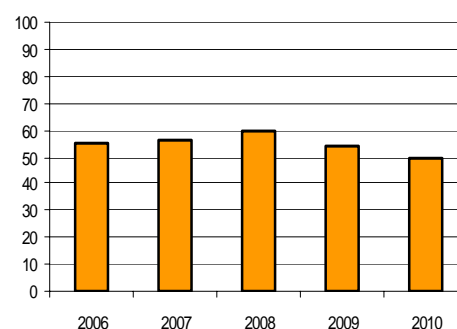
Strategic Objective

Sustainable land use, development and growth

Achievements

- Marysville and Triangle Urban Design Framework* was completed in partnership with VBRRA, adopted by Council 12 November 2009 and incorporated into the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. Amendments to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme to incorporate UDF outcomes have been completed.
- Prepared a range of Planning Scheme Amendments to facilitate bushfire recovery and to remove impediments for development in appropriate areas of the shire.
- Completed Alexandra industrial land amendment to create opportunities for light industrial development to support incremental growth of the Alexandra township and surrounding region.
- Worked with the CFA to develop/implement a Township Protection Plan for Eildon. Adopted by Council 24 February 2010.
- In partnership with the community, VBRRA, Department of Planning and Community Development and Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale, Toolangi and Castella Community Recovery Committees, commenced developing the Kinglake, Flowerdale, Toolangi Comprehensive Plan and Design Framework.

Community Satisfaction Results Town Planning Policy and approvals



Theme 7: Corporate Development - further information page 44

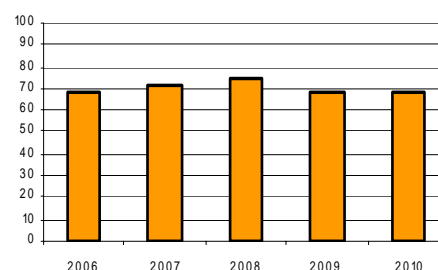
Strategic Objective

Improve systems and processes

Achievements

- Continued to produce and deliver the Murrindindi Recovery newsletter across the shire. 48 issues and 31,200 copies of the Bushfire Recovery Newsletter were distributed across the shire.
- Produced first edition of Council's community newsletter 'Murrindindi News' in May 2010.
- Appointed a grants officer to coordinate the management of Council grant applications, including sourcing of bushfire related grants.

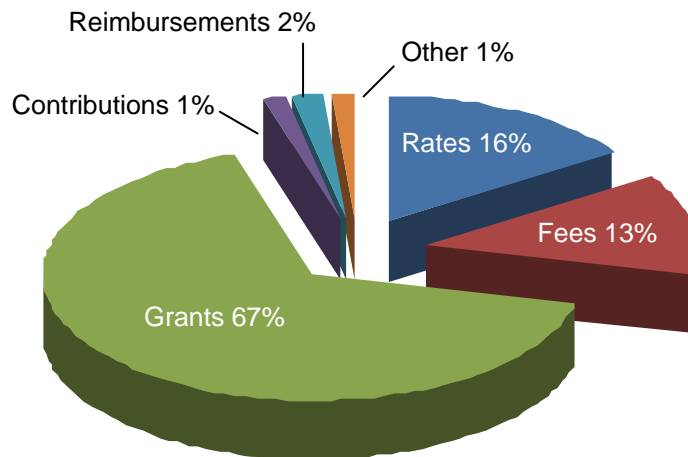
Community Satisfaction Results Customer Contact



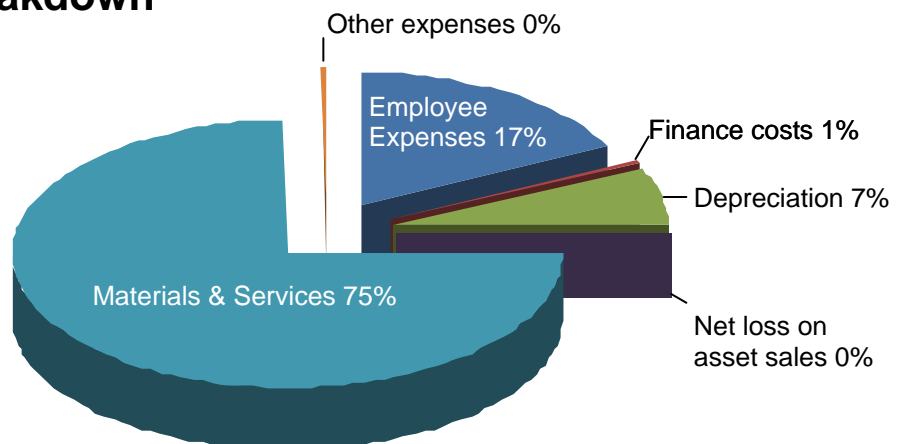
Financial summary

The following graphs are a summary of Council's financial reporting for the year ended 30 June 2010. For further financial detail refer to the Financial Report at the back of this report.

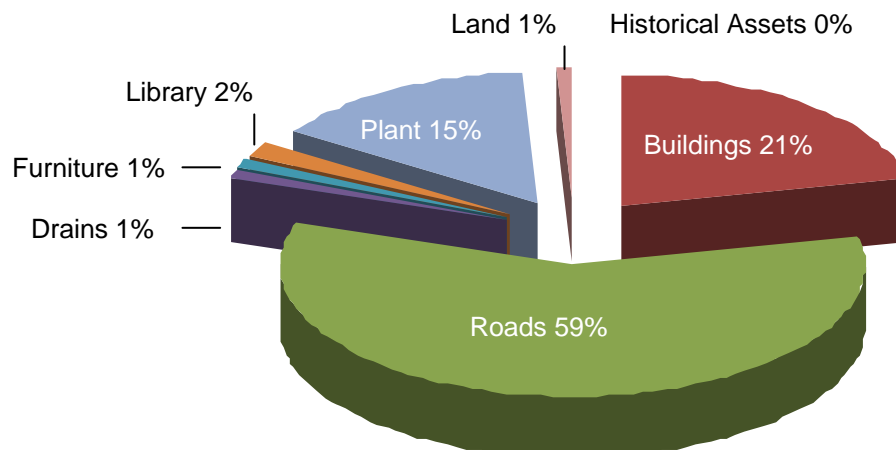
Income breakdown



Operating expense breakdown



Capital expenditure breakdown



Capital works summary

Description of works	Works in progress as 1 July 2009 \$	Total value of works 2009-2010 \$	Total value of works completed 30 June 2010 \$
Land			
Acquisition Kinglake	-	24,696	24,696
Acquisition Acheron Road Reserve	21,838	-	21,838
Total Land	21,838	24,696	46,534
Buildings and Structures			
Alexandra Chamber and Mayor's Office air conditioning		10,438	10,438
Kinglake Early Learning Centre - rebuild		136,910	136,910
Marysville Caravan Park - rebuild		180,417	180,417
Marysville Transfer Station/Depot - rebuild		41,384	41,384
Kinglake Community Centre (rebuild)		174,623	174,623
Kinglake Memorial Reserve Tennis Club & Kiosk (rebuild)		30,022	30,022
Playgrounds		12,446	12,446
Yea Children's Precinct		7,353	7,353
Alexandra Transfer Station		4,252	4,252
Gallipoli Park BBQ Shelter - donated funds		10,260	10,260
Replace switchboard Yea Depot		3,500	3,500
Terrip Hall Pergola		15,657	15,657
Buxton Park upgrades		14,882	14,882
Yea Library Solar Panels		38,561	38,561
Kinglake Community Centre access		13,274	13,274
Kinglake West Playground shade sails		19,193	19,193
Alexandra Senior Citizens access		11,916	11,916
Leckie Park Oval fence		20,381	20,381
Alexandra Shire Hall - Heritage Victoria		11,871	11,871
C J Dennis Hall Toolangi kitchen		110,798	110,798
Alexandra Swimming Pool		8,923	8,923
Eildon Swimming Pool		13,280	13,280
Yea Pioneer Reserve upgrade		11,726	11,726
Yea Playground - shade sail		35,016	35,016
Yea Recreation Reserve fence upgrade		11,635	11,635
Marysville Swimming Pool redevelopment		106,457	106,457
Landfill capital cell construction	4,954	224,478	229,432
Bollygum - sewerage and water treatment plant	9,155	3,870	13,025
Coster Street Units - Unit 3 fire damage	9,100	80,497	89,597
Thornton Netball Courts	27,663	12,503	40,166
Thornton Recreation Pavilion upgrade	140	33,137	33,277
Kinglake Memorial Reserve veranda	350	19,720	20,070
Eildon Cricket Pavilion	140	22,809	22,949
Yea Community House - DDA Access	14,699	9,690	24,389
Kinglake Football Netball Club	45,691	30,946	76,637
Total Buildings and Structures	111,892	1,492,825	1,604,717

Capital works summary

Description of works	Works in progress as 1 July 2009 \$	Total value of works 2009-2010 \$	Total value of works completed 30 June 2010 \$
Plant and Machinery			
Major Plant	5,800	842,009	847,809
Motor Vehicles	-	473,945	473,945
Total	5,800	1,315,954	1,321,754
Roads, Streets and Bridges			
Eildon own and pathways - Riverside Drive		269,135	269,135
Myrtle Street Alexandra - footpath		28,373	28,373
Footpaths - missing links		7,250	7,250
Gravel Roads - resheeting – client		794,129	794,129
Sealed Roads – reseals		816,470	816,470
Sealed Roads - pavement renewal		189,887	189,887
Bridge / component renewal		26,900	26,900
Footpath renewal		11,974	11,974
Kerb renewal		49,710	49,710
Mt Margaret Road TIRES		260,000	260,000
Final seals		15,750	15,750
Caveat Dropmore Road		135,399	135,399
National Park Road - resealing and linemarking		56,000	56,000
Eildon Jamieson Road - 3.7 km to 7.2 km		402,000	402,000
Extons Road - resheet and seal		444,000	444,000
Maintongoon Road upgrade		98,425	98,425
Highlands Road guardrail		8,196	8,196
Eildon - Jamieson 9.8 km to 18.4 km		675,633	675,633
Total Road, Streets and Bridges	0	4,289,231	4,289,231
Drainage			
Drainage - network expansion		13,226	13,226
Drainage renewal		32,946	32,946
Total Drainage	0	46,172	46,172
Furniture and Equipment			
Computer equipment		100,288	100,288
Other		16,084	16,084
Total Furniture and Equipment	0	116,372	116,372
Library Materials			
Books	-	101,644	101,644
Library materials	-	43,376	43,376
Total Library Materials	0	145,020	145,020

Capital works summary

Description of works	Works in progress as 1 July 2009 \$	Total value of works 2009-2010 \$	Total value of works completed 30 June 2010 \$
Work in progress			
Eildon Go Fishing - tables and facilities		17,230	17,230
Yea Caravan Park - toilet upgrade		1,650	1,650
Alexandra Shire Office - air conditioning		12,800	12,800
Marysville Retirement Village - rebuild		13,000	13,000
Murchison Gap Observation Platform		10,653	10,653
Yea Shire Hall - upgrade		423	423
Marysville Caravan Park – reinstate DSE/VBRRA		7,920	7,920
Kinglake Memorial Recreation Reserve project		60,581	60,581
Rotary Park upgrade project		37,745	37,745
Alexandra public convenience - Bakers Lane		70,981	70,981
Bollygum DPCD		1,695	1,695
Bollygum RDV		8,029	8,029
Bollygum Skate Park		12,854	12,854
Bollygum- Jobs Fund (DEEWR)		118,587	118,587
Yea Skate Park		3,740	3,740
Yea Tennis Club – Sugarloaf Pipeline funding		3,630	3,630
Red Gate – Alexandra		8,180	8,180
Land Purchase - 2950 Heidelberg- Kinglake Road		50,168	50,168
Lyell Street and Kings Road drainage improvements		32,911	32,911
Urban access improvements - Inclusiveness Project		1,530	1,530
Narbethong Streetscape		49,920	49,920
Eildon town and pathways - shared trails		2,038	2,038
Kinglake footpath		6,673	6,673
Narbethong pathway and signage		8,594	8,594
Eildon Go Fishing - pathways		8,401	8,401
Natural Disaster Fund Bridge Rebuild Program		421,796	421,796
Bayley Street - seal / carparking		18,018	18,018
Lamont Street / Station Street intersection		1,578	1,578
Yea Saleyards intersection		2,471	2,471
Topsie Gully Road		54,128	54,128
Flowerdale Ranges Pathways Project		8,582	8,582
Kinglake Ranges Pathways Project		6,734	6,734
Toolangi District House - walking track		4,882	4,882
Spring Creek Road - pavement/seal widening		334,494	334,494
Total Works In Progress	0	1,402,616	1,402,616
Total value of Capital works completed 2009-2010	139,530	8,832,886	8,972,416

Rebuilding our communities

Our communities are rebuilding from the February 2009 bushfires and are creating an even better shire in which to live. We highlight the infrastructure that has been rebuilt since 2009.

It has been an outstanding effort by many people; communities, councillors, staff, State and Federal Governments and their agencies particularly the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA), donors and volunteers.

We still have a way to go but we are on the road to recovery.



Marysville Central



Marysville Swimming Pool



Marysville Primary School and Early Years Facility - Maternal & Child Health



Marysville Temporary Village



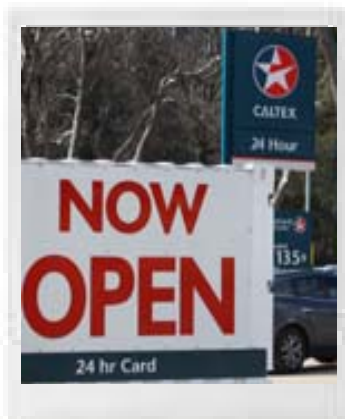
Marysville Rebuilding Advisory Centre



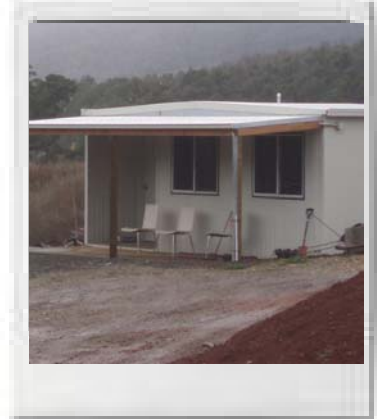
Gallipoli Park barbecue facility



Marysville Caravan Park



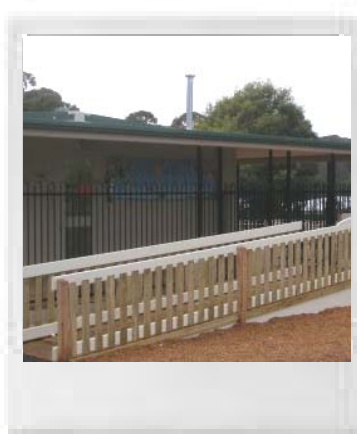
Marysville fuel outlet



Marysville Transfer Station



Kinglake Community Village



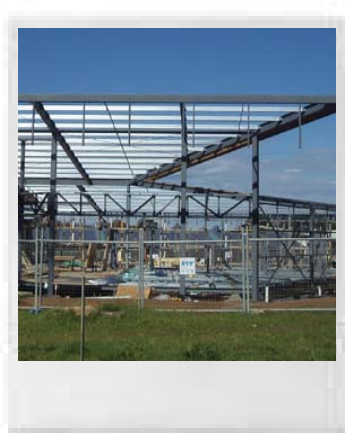
Kinglake Early Learning Centre



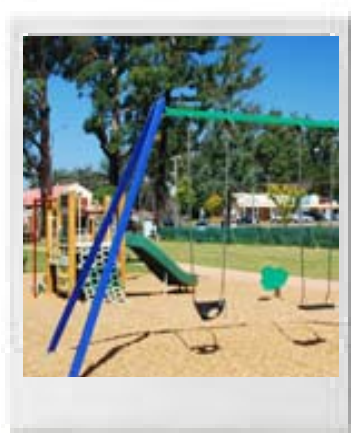
**Kinglake Memorial Reserve –
facility improvements**



**Kinglake Ranges Business
Centre**



**Kinglake Rebuilding Advisory
Centre**



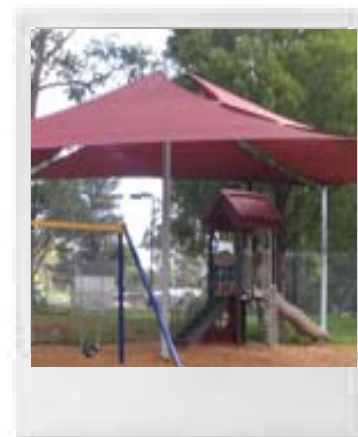
Kinglake Playground



Kinglake temporary fuel outlet



Middle Kinglake Education Precinct and Community Recreation Precinct



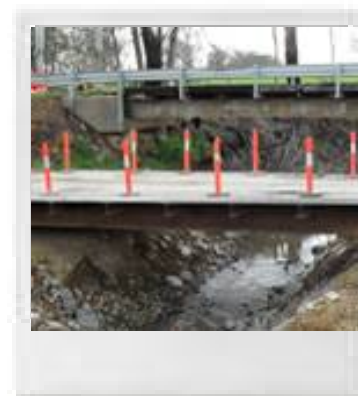
Kinglake West Playground



Toolangi Playground



Flowerdale Community Village



Bridges in Glenburn, Flowerdale and Taggerty



Narbethong Streetscape



Buxton Playground

Rebuilding Statistics for fire affected areas @ 30 June 2010

- Total dwellings destroyed - 1,397
- Total Planning Approvals issued - 315
- Average days to issue Planning Approvals - 7
- Total Building Permits issued - 367
- Average days to issue Building Permits - 11
- Total Septic permits issued - 372
- Average days to issue septic application - 14
- Per cent of total dwellings destroyed approved to rebuild - 26%

Your elected representatives



Cr Peter Beales
Mayor
Kinglake Ward

First elected March 1997
Mayor 1999-2001, 2009-2010

Portfolio The Mayor does not have a specific portfolio

Qualifications Bachelor of Arts degree in Youth Affairs, Associate Diploma in Criminal Justice and Welfare Administration, Certificate IV in Disability Studies and a Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment.

Committee Representation
Bollygum Park Reserve Committee of Management, Community Building Initiative Committee, Primary Care Partnerships, CJ Dennis Hall and Castella Public Hall Reserve Committee of Management, Kinglake Community Centre Committee of Management, Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils, Victorian Local Government Association, Municipal Association of Victoria, Audit Committee

Telephone: 0457 709 331

Email: jbeales@bigpond.com.au



Cr Kevin Bellingham
Deputy Mayor
Cathedral Ward

First elected 1997
Re-elected November 2008

Portfolio Corporate Services

Committee Representation
Alexandra Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Buxton Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Gallipoli Park Committee of Management, Marysville Retirement Village Committee of Management, Marysville Village Residents Association, Marysville Community Liaison Group, Steavensons Falls Scenic Reserve Committee of Management, Murrindindi Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Section 86 Committee, Audit Committee

Telephone: 0448 327 563

Email:
kbellingham@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Cr Robert Flowers
Redgate Ward

First elected November 2005
Mayor 2006-07

Portfolio Infrastructure and Assets

Qualifications Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Diploma in Education

Committee Representation
Alexandra Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management, Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Alexandra (Bill Clapham) Saleyards Committee of Management, Goulburn Valley Regional Waste Management Authority, Mount Pleasant Reserve Committee of Management, UT Creek Enhancement Community Support Group, Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

Telephone: 0429 165 052

Email:
bflowers@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



**Cr Christopher Healy
Eildon Ward**

First elected November 2005

Portfolio Planning and
Environment

Committee Representation

Eildon Alliance Boat Ramp
Committee, Eildon Resource
Centre Committee of
Management, Lake Eildon Public
Users Liaison Committee,
Municipal Association of Victoria
Planning and Advisory
Committee, Thornton Recreation
Reserve and Hall Committee of
Management

Telephone: 0429 436 156

Email:

chealy@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



**Cr Sally Abbott Smith
Cheviot Ward**

First elected November 2008

Portfolio Climate Change and
Natural Environment

Qualifications Post Graduate
Diploma of Documentary Film and
Television, Post Graduate Diploma
Educational Technology

Committee Representation

ICLEI, Municipal Association of
Victoria Strategic Environment
Advisory Group, Municipal
Association of Victoria Water
Taskforce Committee, Murrindindi
Environment Advisory Committee,
Victorian Local Sustainability
Accord, Yea Cemetery Trust –
Advisory Group, Yea Indoor
Recreation Centre, Yea Wetlands
Committee of Management, Yea
Saleyards Committee of
Management, Yea Shire Hall
Committee of Management, Friends
of Yea Railway Committee of
Management, King Parrot Catchment
Streamflow Advisory Committee,
Yea Pioneer Reserve Committee of
Management, Yea River Catchment
Streamflow Determination Advisory
Committee, Flowerdale Public Hall
Reserve Committee of
Management, Goulburn River High
Country Rail Trail Committee of
Management, Murrindindi Bushfire
Reconstruction and Recovery
Committee

Telephone: 0407 011 089

Email:

sabbottsmith@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



**Cr John Walsh
Koriella Ward**

First elected November 2008

Portfolio Economic
Development and Tourism

Committee Representation

Central Ranges Local Learning
and Employment Network,
Municipal Fire Prevention
Committee, Murrindindi Regional
Tourism Association, Plantations
North East, Timber Roads
Advisory Committee, Timber
Towns Victoria, Transport
Connections Steering Committee,
Drought Strategy Committee,
Murrindindi Bushfire Recovery
Committee, Murrindindi Scenic
Reserve Committee of
Management, Murrindindi
Bushfire Reconstruction and
Recovery Section 86 Committee

Telephone: 0408 013 237

Email:

jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Cr Cris Ruhr
King Parrot Ward

First elected March 2010

Portfolio Community and
Customer Service

Qualifications

Certificate IV: Occupational
Health and Safety, Workplace
Training and Assessment, Project
Management and
Communication. Currently
completing a Degree in
Marketing.

Committee Representation

Glenburn Community Centre
Committee of Management,
Kinglake Memorial Reserve
Committee of Management

Telephone: 0459 066 637

Email:

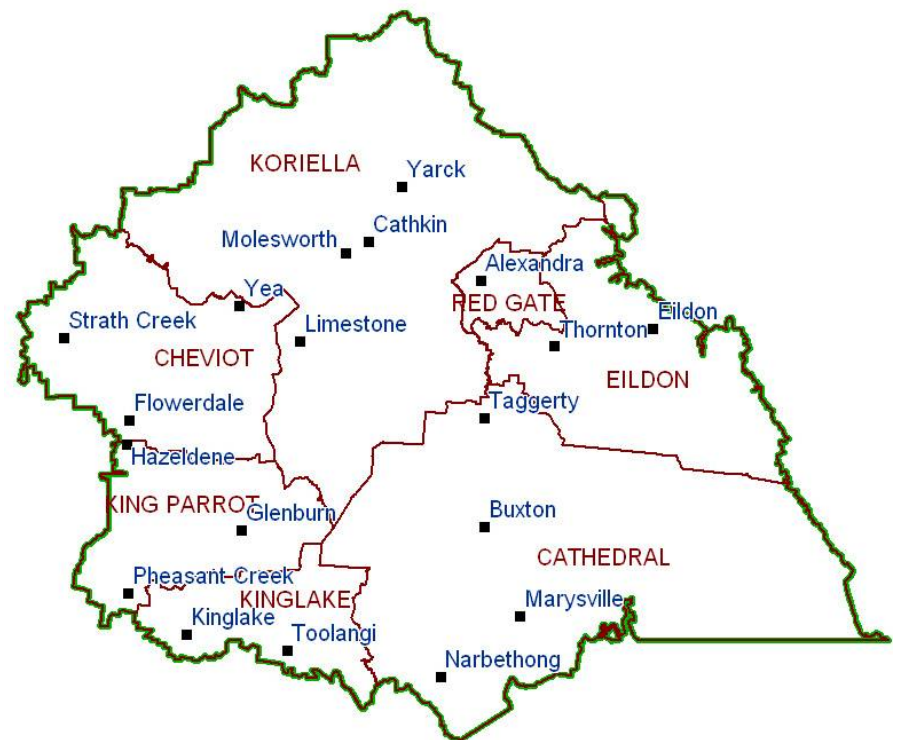
cruhr@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Murrindindi Wards

The Murrindindi Shire Council comprises seven councillors elected from seven single councillor wards.

Councillors were elected on 29 November 2008 for a four year term.

Refer to page 51 for more information on the role and processes of the Council.



Councillor resignation

Lyn Gunter, representing the King Parrot Ward resigned as a councillor of Murrindindi Shire Council, effective 9 December 2009.

Lyn was first elected to the Murrindindi Shire Council in March 2000.

We thank Lyn for her passion and commitment to the Shire of Murrindindi and its residents during her time as a councillor. Lyn worked tirelessly with Murrindindi communities following the February 2009 bushfires.

Committee representation prior to resignation: Audit Committee, Drought Strategy Committee, Kinglake Memorial Reserve Committee of Management, Moores Road Reserve Committee of Management, Municipal Association of Victoria, Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee, Peri Urban Group of Councils, Victorian Local Government Association.

Performance reporting

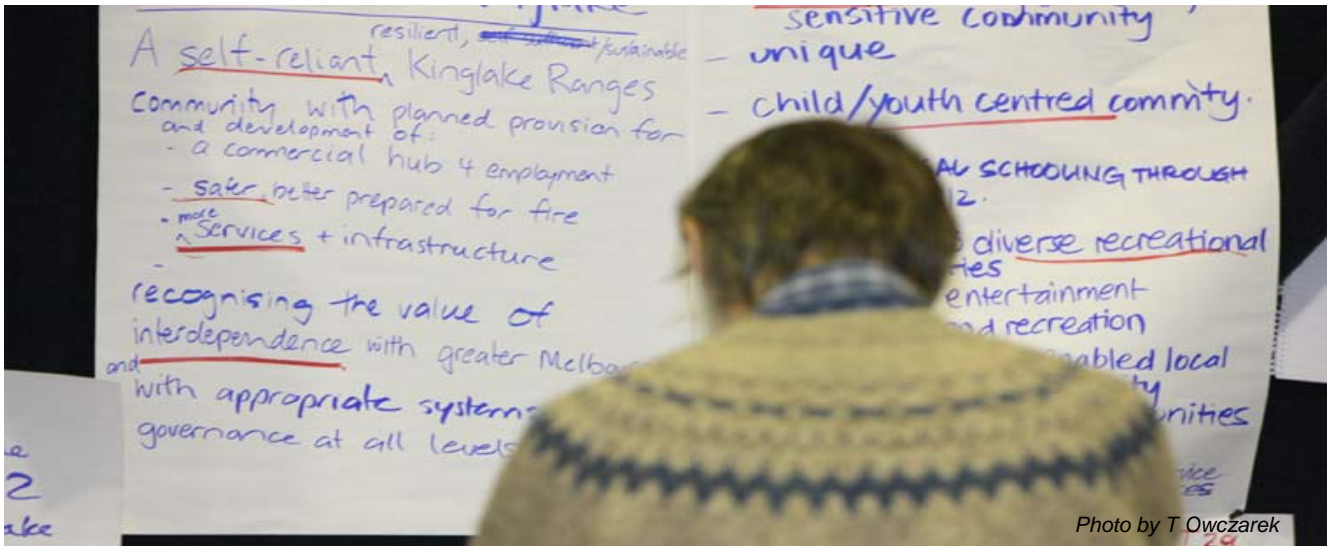
We report on our performance under the seven themes of the *Council Plan 2009-2013*

- Governance
- Community
- Local Economy
- Infrastructure
- Climate Change and Natural Environment
- Planning and Environment
- Corporate Development

For each theme we have included:

- a summary of our achievements, challenges and the year ahead
- tables listing Council Plan activities and the status of these items
- graphical data of our performance

Please note that graphical data is not available for all of our strategic indicators. This is because not all of our indicators are measured annually.



Theme 1 - Governance

Strategic Objective

Effective leadership providing representation and advocacy for the community backed by a financially strong organisation.

Strategies

- Facilitate and support recovery within fire affected communities.
- Provide opportunity for open and responsive communication with the community.
- Improve governance systems, processes and relationships.

Introduction

In the context of local Councils, governance is the exercise of legislated power and obligation to properly manage the Council's resources and affairs. We commit to being transparent, accountable and lawful and to engage with our community.

The success of Council rests on good governance by:

- providing clear direction for the shire
- improving the flow of information in both directions between Council and the community
- identifying community needs, aspirations and the key priorities
- supporting all Council activities by maintaining a solid financial position

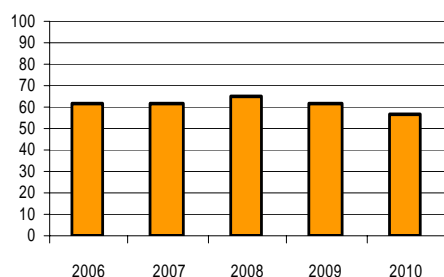
As we move through recovery and reconstruction following the 2009 bushfires much of the Council's initial focus and energy is naturally given to asset rebuilding and helping communities recover. Given the recovery issues to be dealt with at the local level, the Council is foreshadowing a major review of this plan following a community visioning project entitled *Murrindindi 2030* in 2010-2011.

Council services relating to this theme

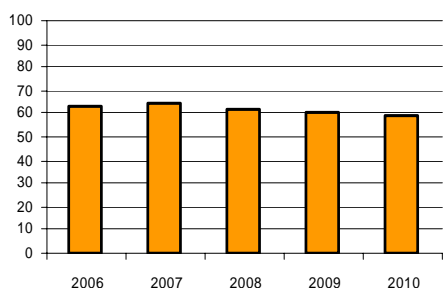
- Civic functions and events
- Citizenship ceremonies
- Councillor training and development
- Council elections
- Community engagement

Strategic Indicators

Community Satisfaction Results Council's Overall Performance



Community Satisfaction Results Advocacy and Community Representation



Financial performance measured through liquidity and operating result

A \$6 million assistance package was negotiated with the State Government during 2009-2010.

Achievements

- Conducted an information session for approximately 100 bushfire recovery case managers about the range of services Council offers and how their clients can best take advantage of these services.
- Continued to provide support for Community Recovery Committees and the Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Section 86 Committee.
- Negotiated with the State Government an Assistance Package totaling \$9.7 million, payable over four years.
- Address by the Mayor at the National General Assembly of Local Governments in Canberra discussing the affects of the bushfires on local communities and the difficulties being faced by residents.
- Appointment of international accounting firm KPMG to evaluate whole-of-life costs associated with project building in the shire, providing Council with an understanding of recurrent costs arising from post-bushfire related rebuilding programs. Projects costing up to \$20 million will become a Council responsibility on completion and stem from the replacement of damaged or destroyed infrastructure and other projects identified by the community and funded by all levels of government since the February 2009 fires.
- Finalised insurance assessments and payment process for bushfire damaged assets.
- Conducted 20 naturalisation ceremonies.

Challenges

- The bushfire recovery workload meant that continual improvement activities were not completed. These activities will recommence in the 2010-2011 financial year.

Looking forward

- Finalise and implement the Bushfire Reform and Recovery Plan.
- Implement Skills Development training program throughout September to December for Council's Section 86 committees and all community groups.
- Develop a mentoring program for future community leaders.
- Ensure a smooth transition of contract management arrangements to Bovis Lend Lease for the delivery of reconstruction projects.
- Undertake a community visioning exercise to develop a Murrindindi 2030 Community Plan.

Council Plan activities

KEY YEAR ONE ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Clearly communicate Council's direction in the Council Plan to the community.	Completed
Implement a Councillor training and development program with a focus on community mentoring.	Withdrawn
Provide training and development program to Committees of Management and Community Advisory Groups.	Completed
Develop a program of mentoring for future leaders.	Roll over to year 2
Support the Murrindindi Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery - Section 86 Committee to achieve collaborative recovery and reconstruction.	Continue in year 2
Ensure financial information is provided in a style which is both professionally acceptable and understandable by the community.	Continue in year 2
Lobby other levels of government to secure recovery resources.	Continue as a core Council role
Review governance processes to identify opportunities for improvement.	Continue as a core Council role



Australia Day Festivities 2010



Australia Day Ambassador, Rebecca Herrmann (centre) congratulates David Hall, Citizen of the Year (left) and Jarryd Biffin, Young Citizen of the Year (right).



Mayor Peter Beales presented the award for the Community Event of the Year to representatives of the Toolangi District Community House and Bushfire Recovery Group. Photo courtesy Kinglake Ranges News.



Theme 2 - Community

Strategic Objective

Communities enjoying good health and wellbeing.

Strategies

- Facilitate and support recovery within fire affected communities.
- Foster a more resilient community by promoting diversity, inclusion, access and equity, and supporting community interaction.
- Facilitate improved quality of life for the Murrindindi communities.
- Advocate for and facilitate access to arts and cultural experiences and events.

Introduction

Strong local communities supported by consistent high quality services are the backbone of the Council. Vibrant community spirit is crucial to enabling us to enjoy the shire's amenity to prosper in the face of adversity and to attract visitors and new residents to the shire.

Our aims for the community in 2009 to 2013 are to restore those communities affected by the February 2009 fires to a level higher than that which existed before the fires, and to enhance those communities that were not directly impacted. Achieving these aims will require close cooperation with the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA), a range of government departments and the not for profit sector. Maintaining the high standard of services that are currently provided which foster health and wellbeing, social connectedness and community involvement will be critical to the recovery process.

Council services related to this theme

- Library arts and culture program
- Library services
- Meals on Wheels
- Centre based meals
- Domestic support
- Personal care
- Social activities and Outings
- Home maintenance
- Senior citizens clubs
- Youth support
- Maternal and Child Health
- Home and centre based childcare
- Community Development team
- Recreation

Strategic Indicators

- Community Indicators Victoria - subjective well being rating
- Community Indicators Victoria - feeling part of the community rating
- Community Indicators Victoria - food security rating

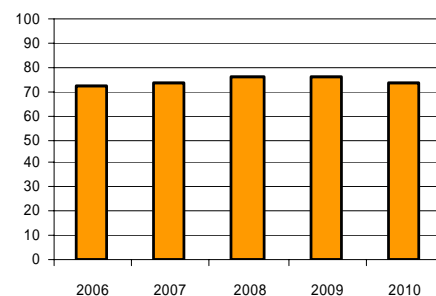
No current data is available for these indicators. The next survey will be undertaken late 2010.

Achievements

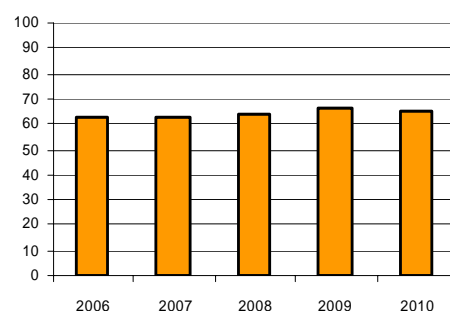
- Established the Commemorations and Memorials Working Group to advise Council on bushfire commemorations and memorials and associated consultation process. The working group developed guiding principles to help affected communities consider memorials when ready.
- Coordinated seven events for the first anniversary commemoration with the assistance of Community Recovery Committees, the Commemorations and Memorials Working Group and event managers. Funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.
- Commissioned the highly successful 'Beyond Age' photographic exhibition and multi-media project which aimed to challenge some of the stereotypes of ageing and to demonstrate the part our older people played during the bushfires and the recovery process. This project was funded as part of the Community Assistance Gift.
- Launched a campaign in May 2010 supporting and recognising the valuable contribution volunteers have made to bushfire recovery and to other facets of community life throughout the shire.
- Strengthened youth services across the shire, with a focus on bushfire recovery. Initiatives included: launch of new youth website; development of Youth Partnership Group to coordinate the delivery of youth support and outreach services being delivered by agencies operating across Murrindindi Shire; commencement of a youth development grants program; appointment of Youth Coordinator for two years.
- Completed the Murrindindi Health and Wellbeing Plan and Positive Ageing Strategy, which outline actions to improve health, wellbeing and quality of life for Murrindindi residents.
- Employed a Playgroup Support Officer to work with playgroups across the shire to assist them to redevelop following the February 2009 bushfires. Two family Fun Days were organised. More than 100 people attended the events. This position is funded by the Department Education and Early Childhood Development.
- Planned, promoted and implemented from our libraries, over a 16-week period, 77 events, reaching 2,020 participants of all ages across our communities as part of the \$90,000 Out There! Program, funded by the Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund.
- Coordinated the annual arts and cultural program undertaken by the Alexandra Library which saw 358 events being held with a total attendance of 6,111 people.
- It was expected that loans of library materials would drop subsequent to the February 2009 bushfires, however other library statistics show an increase in user uptake of library services, including a 14% increase in new members enrolled and 10% increase in the number of books placed on hold by borrowers.
- Championed a story collecting project with renowned author Arnold Zable across six bushfire affected communities. This project, generously sponsored by the Victorian Writers Centre and the Grace Marion Wilson Trust, had a profound influence on many participants.

- Supported the Alexandra Junior Friends of the Library to host an art show for youth from across the shire at the Alexandra Shire Hall. More than 200 entries were received.
- Hosted a total of 242 programs for the community at the Yea Library and attracted 2,280 participants over the year.
- Facilitated 14 young people from FReeZA committees across the shire to participate in a joint leadership excursion to Melbourne in April. The excursion's main focus was to develop among members an understanding of the essentials of event management, budgeting and successful event promotions.
- Facilitating the development of Kinglake Memorial Reserve Master Plan to identify sporting facilities needed on the site. Thank you to the City of Hume for their assistance with this project.
- Successfully refurbished the Marysville Swimming Pool in time for the 2009 – 2010 swimming season. Pool features now include a new entrance, roofing over the change rooms, toilets and kiosk, permanent shade structures, synthetic turf and outdoor furniture. Works were funded by \$100,000 from the Bushfire Relief for Community Sports Recovery Fund and insurance payments. Opened 5 December 2009.
- Ran a highly successful quality, fun based, aquatic education program for children aged 6 months to 4 years at the Alexandra Swimming Pool. More than 70 children registered for the program.
- In partnership with the Yea Let's Skate Committee facilitated the construction of the Yea Skatepark at Railway Recreational Reserve. The Yea Skatepark was officially opened on Sunday 21 March 2010.
- Coordinated Australia Day celebrations in eight communities across the shire.
- Contributed \$30,000 towards redevelopment of Flowerdale tennis courts.
- Developed a Master Plan for Tumbling Waters Reserve as a bushfire recovery assistance initiative in partnership with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.
- Prepared and submitted proposals to extend transport (bus) services within the shire through the Council's Transport Connections Program for Flowerdale, Kinglake, Toolangi and Glenburn.
- Bushfire Community Development Team continue to resource and support the work of six Community Recovery Committees in the development of Community Recovery Plans, including the scoping of projects and the sourcing of funding.
- Implemented improvements to the Municipal Emergency Communication Centre at Council's Alexandra office as identified during the 2009 bushfires.
- Successfully hosted FReeZA events across the shire including: Hume region Battle of the Bands final; hip hop and band nights, dance parties and cinema night.

Community Satisfaction Results Health and Human Services



Community Satisfaction Results Recreation Facilities



Yea Skatepark - open for business

-
- Coordinated the successful Sustainable Garden Recovery at Buxton in November. Since the February 2009 fires, Council's CHEVIOT programs, Marysville Gadabouts and members of the Eildon Mystery Trippers propagated cuttings for those who lost their gardens. The plants were distributed free of charge along with other donated plants to those who attended.
 - Underwent the Quality Assurance process with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing for the Community Aged Care Packages and Murrindindi Flexible Respite Program. Feedback was Murrindindi's programs demonstrated best practice and delivered a very high level of quality care for clients.
 - Launched a two days a week bus service between Eildon and Alexandra on 17 February 2010 as part of a 12 month pilot project.
 - Coordinated installation of shade sails for Buxton Recreation Reserve playground and Yea Railway Reserve.
 - Coordinated a program through which in excess of 5,000 donated books from across the state have been stored, sorted and delivered to the communities of Strath Creek, Flowerdale, Glenburn, Kinglake, Toolangi and Marysville.
 - Contribution towards the planning of the Middle Kinglake Education and Community Precinct.
 - Coordinated the installation of the Kinglake playground next to the Police Station with the valuable assistance of many volunteers.
 - Coordinated successful Social Connectedness Projects with events including an open day to promote the Yea Men's Shed, a bus trip for older Flowerdale residents to the Melbourne AC/DC concert, the intergenerational community function 'Eildon Knees Up', 'Back on Track', a 12 week health and wellbeing plan for men and women over the age of 55.



Shade sails were installed over the Yea Railway Station Playground



More than 70 children aged 6 months to 4 years were registered for the aquatic education program at the Alexandra Swimming Pool

Challenges

- Funding for Drought Officer ceased in December 2009.
- Due to the financial impact of the February 2009 bushfires on Council's ability to fund 50 per cent of the proposed Yea Swimming Pool feasibility and redevelopment an application to Sport and Recreation for grant funding was withdrawn. This proposal will be further investigated.
- Enrolments at the Kinglake Early Learning Centre decreased as families completed their Special Childcare Benefit allocation which fully subsidised the care for bushfire affected families. Marketing of the centre and current vacancies is underway.

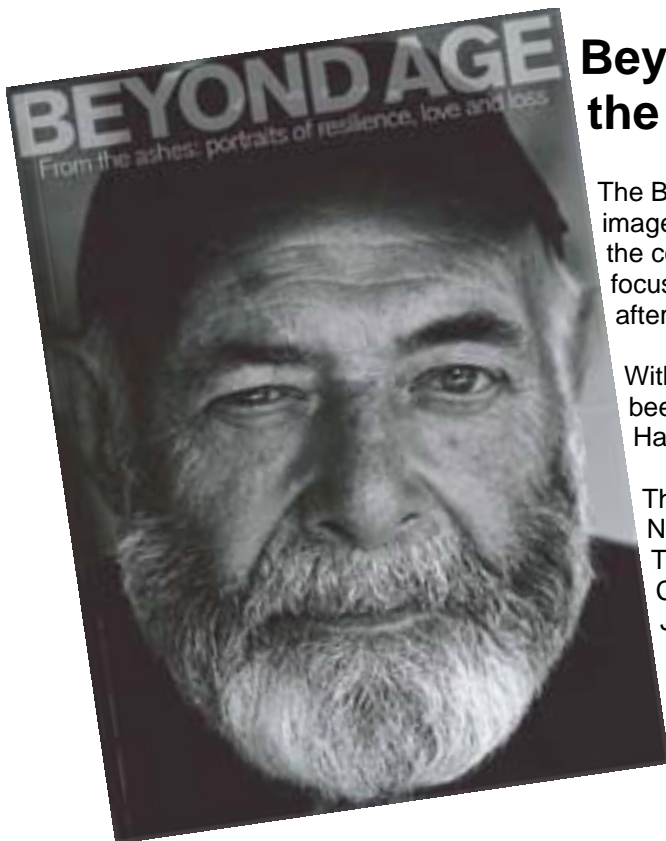
Looking forward

- Work with VBRR, Community Recovery Committees (CRCs) and fire affected communities to develop community based recovery plans based on active participation and strengthened community connectedness.
- Complete the development of the arts and cultural policy.



Seven events were held across the shire for the first anniversary commemoration for the 2009 bushfire

-
- Implement initiatives from the *Inclusiveness, Access and Equity Plan*.
 - Implement initiatives from the *Health and Wellbeing Plan*.
 - Extend programs to all fire affected communities to strengthen communities and prepare for future disasters.
 - Develop a plan for the implementation of the Transport Connection Program for years 2010-2013.
 - Seek funding through the Department of Planning and Community Development grants program.
 - Flowerdale Tennis Court (construction of synthetic grass courts)
 - Eildon Basketball Court (resurfacing of court)
 - Alexandra Leisure Centre Feasibility Study
 - Plan for the integration and future governance of the Kinglake Early Learning Centre.
 - Implement Transport Connections program.
 - Identify and implement priority strategies in the *Healthy and Active Third Age Strategy*.



Beyond Age exhibition captures the strength of our people

The Beyond Age photography exhibition captured positive images of people over the age of 65 to celebrate and promote the contribution they make, and support they provide, with a focus on their involvement in the relief and recovery process after the February 2009 fires.

With the photos came their very personal stories which have been compiled into a beautiful and captivating book by author Hanna Mills.

The exhibition was opened by VBRR Chair Christine Nixon, in Kinglake West Mechanics Institute Hall on Thursday 20 May 2010 and was displayed at Yea, Strath Creek, Taggerty, Alexandra and Marysville during May and June.

Photographers: Alan Attwood, Julie Bowyer, Andrew Chapman, Rodney Dekker, Susan Gordon-Brown, Brent Lukey, Morganna Magee, Dale Mann, Jaime Murcia, Kristian Scott and Ellen Smith

Council Plan activities

KEY YEAR ONE ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Work with VBRR, Community Recovery Committees (CRCs) and fire affected communities to develop community based recovery plans based on active participation and strengthened community connectedness.	Continue in year 2
Develop and deliver additional youth support programs and activities including: Youth website Youth leadership program Youth provider's committee Youth development grants program	Continue in year 2
Roll out a program of activities and initiatives to support fire affected communities including: Recreation programs Social connectedness program Celebrate positive ageing images project Library programs Community information and notice boards Theatre plays Support for volunteers	Continue in year 2 Continue in year 2 Completed Completed Completed Completed Continue in year 2
Work with the community to deliver a series of community festivals and celebrations.	Continue in year 2
Facilitate a community building initiative to support people impacted upon by the Sugarloaf North South Pipeline.	Continue in year 2
Subject to funding:	
Develop leadership, mental health and wellbeing programs for drought affected communities.	Continue in year 2
Provide additional support to Community and Neighbourhood Houses for additional programs.	Not funded
Assist people to re-establish gardens damaged or destroyed by fire.	Not funded
Finalise Yea Swimming Pool redevelopment planning, considering disability access and improved amenity.	Completed-project under review
Assist community to secure funding for a skate park in Yea.	Completed
Complete the development of the arts and cultural policy.	Roll over to year 2
Complete Health and Wellbeing Plan.	Completed
Complete Alexandra community kitchen project.	Roll over to year 2
Implement phase two of transport connections project.	Completed
Plan for a healthy and active aging population by finalising the Healthy and Active in the Third Age Strategy.	Completed
Establish a Community Development Interface Committee to facilitate community development outcomes from Council departments	Completed



Participants of the annual Visitor Information Centre Summit

Theme 3 - Local Economy

Strategic Objective

Sustainable growth on our local economy.

Strategies

- Support recovery of businesses within fire affected communities.
- Support and promote events and festivals across the shire.
- Provide support to new and expanding business.
- Participate in cooperative marketing.
- Facilitate improved access to information communication technology and mobile phone services.
- Undertake or facilitate major economic development projects.

Introduction

In these times of economic challenges, influenced by the bushfires, the global economic downturn and climate change, it is vitally important that we provide solid leadership and support for our local economy.

Through its advocacy, programs and support Council aims:

- to stimulate the sustainable economic growth of local economies
- to strengthen economic activity in areas not directly affected by the bushfires
- to restore economic conditions in the bushfire areas and to assist the recovery of businesses affected by the fires

Success will create employment, encourage new business and services to the shire, and make the region more attractive to potential residents.

Activities such as developing cooperative regional marketing approaches for common business products and services are intended to enhance local businesses.

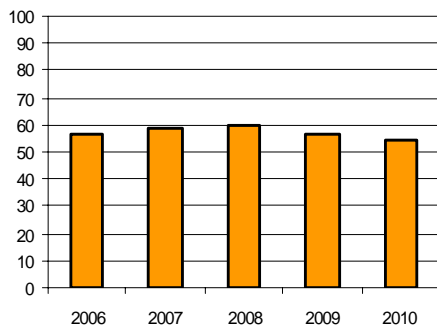
Our bushfire recovery efforts will focus on restoring and enhancing our traditional industries of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, horticulture and tourism. We will also promote the development of new industries such as solar power, building fabrication and logistics.

Council services related to this theme

- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Events

Strategic Indicators

**Community Satisfaction Results
Economic Development**



- Business Reinvestment Post Fires

Business investment post fires has been steadily building. Nine building permits were issued for the construction of shops with a total value at \$2,680,287 in areas including Marysville, Narbethong and Kinglake West. The Victorian Bushfire Business Investment Fund will provide a substantial boost to the rebuilding fire affected local economies by the bushfires. This fund is expected to support numerous businesses established or re-established primarily in the Marysville and Kinglake regions with investment across a broad mix of accommodation, tourism and industrial businesses.

Achievements

- Finalised a business plan and secured \$1.75 million funding to develop an environmental interpretation and accredited visitor information centre at the Yea Wetlands.
- Hosted as part of a 'Buy Local Campaign' workshops at Alexandra, Kinglake, Marysville and Thornton with VBRRRA and Bovis Lend Lease to support local contractors in preparing and submitting tenders for major works associated with rebuilding projects across the shire.
- Conducted more than 30 business forums, information sessions and networking opportunities to support business recovery in the Marysville Triangle, Flowerdale and Kinglake Ranges communities.
- Continued to support the recovery of tourism in the shire through a range of marketing and promotions initiatives including a revamped Official Visitors Guide, Calendar of Events, local touring maps and other collateral as part of Council's involvement in the Murrindindi Mitchell Bushfire Tourism Recovery Group.
- Provided individual support, guidance and referral services to more than 200 businesses.
- Assisted bushfire impacted local business and tourism associations to take strategic actions in their local area - such as 'buy local' initiatives, local business registers and linking contractors to recovery works.
- Successfully applied for a \$1.1 million Jobs Fund grant to enable the development of Marysville Central as a temporary business and community hub for the town and surrounds.
- Facilitated a range of health and wellbeing and networking initiatives for business operators including Beyond Blue workshops, tactical workshops to support frontline businesses and Work Safe health checks.
- In conjunction with Murrindindi Regional Tourism Association lobbied Tourism Victoria to create the Murrindindi Mitchell Bushfire Tourism Recovery Group. Projects have included production of a range of marketing and public relations material, creation of an image library for use in tourism marketing initiatives, provision of funding for numerous events and the development of a website and iPhone application promoting local attractions and accommodation options.
- Instigated the formation of the Economic Leadership Group to aid economic recovery in the Marysville and Triangle district. The group's primary objectives are to identify economic priorities, share information, act as an advocate to government agencies and private sector investors, to take action on identified priorities, avoid duplication of effort and communicate widely with all sectors of the community.
- Initiated a Business Support Group - currently with more than 90 businesses in the Marysville and Triangle area involved.
- Provided substantive input into the Economic Recovery Strategies for the Kinglake Ranges and Marysville and Triangle area.
- Participated in the establishment of the Kinglake Ranges Business Centre - providing a one stop shop for business services and a place for displaced businesses.
- Worked with VBRRRA to establish temporary fuel supply in Kinglake with ongoing involvement in the effort to secure a permanent facility.

- Secured \$140,000 funding to develop a business support program across the shire to deliver a range of business skill workshops, seminars, forums and networking opportunities.
- Secured funding to perform a small towns marketing review for Eildon, Alexandra and Yea.
- Partnered with Mitchell, Greater Shepparton and Strathbogie Councils to establish the Goulburn River Valley Tourism Board to secure a \$375,000 Tourism Quality grant to aid in industry and product development, regional marketing and events promotion across the four shires.
- Undertook a comprehensive Visitor Services Feasibility Study.
- A large number of community based and tourism related events have occurred as a result of the 2009 fires with an increase of 50% on the previous year. The Events Coordinator and a group of other Council officers processed 78 event inquiries.
- Drew to a close the very successful Rural Skills Connect program which saw 206 participants from Murrindindi complete a formal training qualification and 75 effective full time equivalent job placements occur over a two year period.
- Advocated to Federal and State government for improved access to high speed, affordable broadband and mobile phone services.
- Participated in a successful bid to secure the 2010 Great Victorian Bike Ride together with the Mitchell, Strathbogie and Greater Shepparton Councils. This iconic nine day ride will start on 27 November and take in large sections of the shire entering via Strath Creek and including overnight stays in both Yea and Eildon with the finish in Marysville.

Looking forward

- Revise the 2008-2012 *Economic Development Strategy* to incorporate strategies for fire affected businesses.
- Expand cooperative marketing activities and develop product under the Goulburn River Valley Tourism and the Murrindindi Mitchell destination marketing campaigns and tourism sector initiatives.
- Support the Yea Wetlands Committee of Management to progress a sustainable business model for the Yea Discovery Centre.
- Participate in the development of a region-wide on-line calendar of events and promotions mechanism.
- Participate in a Yarra Valley High Country touring route marketing campaign.
- Facilitate processes relating to the development of Mt Pinniger Resort, Kinglake Resort and a core tourism development in Marysville.
- Undertake a feasibility study into the development of industrial/business park land in the Marysville and Triangle area.
- Progress the development of industrial land in Alexandra.
- Participate in a Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail marketing campaign.
- Advocate for improved access to and local provision of tertiary training opportunities.



Marysville Ski Hires have reopened for business in temporary accommodation in Marysville



Council Plan Results

KEY YEAR ONE ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Conduct industry forums for Marysville District and Kinglake Ranges.	Completed
Conduct <i>Inspired by Murrindindi</i> food, wine and arts events.	Completed
Participate in the Mitchell Murrindindi destination marketing campaign.	Continue in year 2
Revise Economic Development Strategy to incorporate strategies for fire affected businesses.	Roll over to year 2
Determine Council's future role and possible structure of regional tourism industry support.	Continue in year 2
Initiate cooperative regional marketing and industry development as part of the <i>United Approach to Tourism</i> project.	Completed
Advocate for improved access to high speed, affordable broadband and mobile phone services.	Continue in year 2
Finalise financing and implementation of Yea Saleyards upgrade.	Continue in year 2
Support the Yea Wetlands Committee of Management to progress a sustainable business model for the Yea discovery centre.	Continue in year 2
Develop a plan to attract new business and support existing businesses.	Continue in year 2
Confirm Council's position on the future of the Murrindindi Regional Tourism Association (MRTA) as it relates to the five year plan.	Completed
Develop a synchronised online Council tourism calendar of events for Council and tourism activities.	Continue as core Council role



A business plan has been finalised and \$1.75 million funding secured for the development of an environmental interpretation and visitor information centre at the Yea Wetlands.



Theme 4 - Infrastructure

Strategic Objective

To enhance the sustainability of our infrastructure, recognising the changing needs and expectations of our communities.

Strategies

- Rebuild community infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the February 2009 fires.
- Work with the fire affected communities and other levels of government to assist the implementation of priority infrastructure projects.
- Undertake a range of community infrastructure projects which enhance community amenity and foster civic pride.
- Align infrastructure service delivery with community needs and expectations.
- Improve and expand the network of footpaths and shared trails both within towns and linking communities.
- Maintain and further develop a safe and efficient transport network.
- Undertake whole-of-life cost analyses for all new assets, and commit to funding necessary for operational, maintenance and renewal amounts.
- Enhance the organisation's asset system knowledge and data.

Introduction

Quality infrastructure is fundamental to the ongoing development and affluence of our shire. It is also a key factor in what makes the Shire of Murrindindi a great place to live, work and visit. The maintenance and further improvement of our infrastructure to better meet the needs and expectations of our communities is a priority of Council.

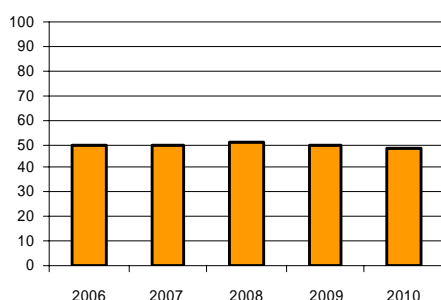
Initially there will be a focus on the areas of the shire affected by the bushfires. This will be achieved by developing a capital works plan for the next five years which will improve the management of our existing assets and by the provision of adequate resources by local, State and Federal governments.

Council services related to this theme

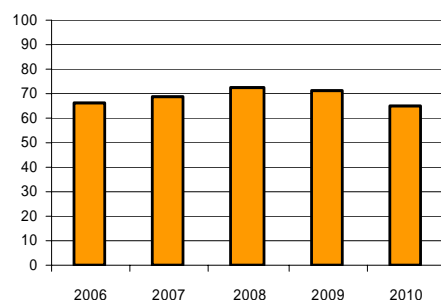
- Facilities Maintenance
- Engineering Design and Management
- Infrastructure Planning
- Parks and Gardens

Strategic Indicators

Community Satisfaction Results
Local Roads and Footpaths



Community Satisfaction Results
Appearance of Public Areas



Achievements

- Appointment of contract managers Bovis Lend Lease, in partnership with VBRRA, for the delivery of a range of bushfire reconstruction projects.
- Coordination of construction works:
 - **Alexandra Senior Citizens** access ramp
 - **Eildon Cricket Pavilion** reroofed, replaced windows, other minor maintenance
 - **Playground shade sails** at Buxton, Yea, Kinglake West,
 - **Thornton Recreation Pavilion** – painting, power upgrade, carpentry work
 - **Kinglake Community Centre** - stadium, hall and craft room, temporary kitchen and storage room for Senior Citizens, disabled access
 - **Toolangi Hall** - kitchen renovation, upgrade water tanks, verandah built, additional septic system
 - **Kinglake West Rest Stop** - reinstated
 - **Flowerdale Hall** - fire damage repaired
 - **Gallipoli Park, Marysville** – toilet facilities upgrade, repair saddle tramps building and horse yards, BBQ facility constructed
 - **Marysville Caravan Park** - toilet block reroofed, new fencing, reinstated essential services
 - **Buxton-Marysville Road** - toilet block repairs
 - **Marysville Transfer Station/Depot** - reinstated essential services, replaced bulk bin and winch, replaced site hut
 - **Kinglake Memorial Reserve** – verandah and terraced seating, repair structural fire damage, reinstatement of lights - water supply established in co-operation with Country Fire Authority, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and reserve committee
 - **Kinglake Scouts** – air-conditioning, re-surface floor and carpentry
 - **Kinglake Early Learning Centre** – coordinated relocation and fitting out of the donated purpose built building for the Kinglake Child Care Centre. Opened 25 August 2009
 - **Kinglake playground** installed adjacent to police station
 - **Marysville Retirement Village** – design and project manage rebuild with owners' corporation
 - **Marysville Kindergarten and Maternal & Child Health Centre** - worked with the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development to replace Marysville Kindergarten and Maternal & Child Health Centre as part of the school redevelopment. The new facility opened to students on the first day of term two in 2010.
- Installed new Murrindindi shire boundary entrance signs on all main road access points to promote and enhance the image of the shire.
- Replaced destroyed bridges over King Parrot Creek, Flowerdale and Health Creek, Taggerty and repaired and upgraded Walls Road Bridge, Glenburn.
- Completed road restoration works on more than 300km of roads across fire impacted areas of shire.
- Carried out significant tree safety works in public areas and on roadsides across fire impacted areas.

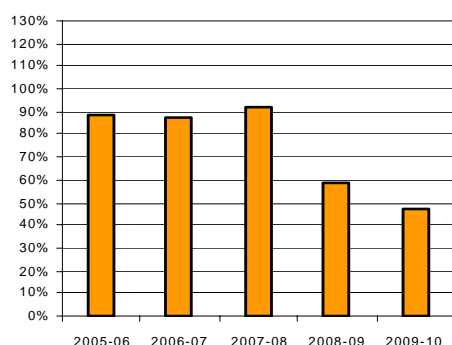
Infrastructure Funding Gap

Addressed in the Performance Statement on page 55 of the Financial Report

Compliance with Road Management Plan

- Road Inspection Compliance 97%
- Road Defect Service Response Compliance - 94%

Completion of Capital Works Program



- Constructed public toilets in Bakers Lane carpark in Alexandra to provide central conveniences in retail precinct.
- Conducted a review of Council's *Road Management Plan* with revised plan being adopted by Council.
- Progressed significantly with Bollygum Park project in Kinglake. Project management arrangements were put in place, landscape architects appointed, and park masterplan was further developed into detailed designs. Contract for skate park development was awarded and tenders for the playground and park construction were developed and advertised.
- Established stock sites for timber and mulch and provided an opportunity for use of timber and mulch by local communities.
- Provided technical advice and input into ongoing maintenance and development of the Murchison Street Streetscape and tree works in Marysville.
- Developed the *Gallipoli Park Master Plan* to guide the restoration for the park which was adopted by Council in December 2009.
- Coordination of the Narbethong Streetscape project to repair fire damage and beautify the small township - work commenced in late 2009 and is expected to be completed in late 2010.
- Sourced funding from CFA to construct community water supply facilities for the following sites in the fire area: Flowerdale, Kinglake West, Kinglake Central, Kinglake East. Council will maintain and operate a free community service at these sites providing stock and domestic water for residents as well as a static water supply for emergency services.
- Sourced joint funding from Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and CFA for Council to prepare and install a large static water storage facility at the Kinglake Memorial Reserve. Supplied from a new bore, the facility provides a reliable water supply for the sports oval and surrounds as well as an upgraded fire service for the Kinglake Community Centre and temporary Primary School. With Kinglake having no reticulated water supply, this new facility will provide the CFA with a large supply of water for fire fighting.
- Clean up works costing approximately \$3.5 million were undertaken following the 1 January 2010 intense rain event.



Public toilets constructed in Baker's Lane, Alexandra



Bridges destroyed by the 2009 bushfires have been replaced in Flowerdale and Taggerty and another in Glenburn repaired and upgraded



Stacksites for logs and mulch were established across the shire for use by local communities



Community water supplies were established in Flowerdale, Kinglake West, Kinglake Central and Kinglake East

Looking forward

- Complete priority infrastructure projects:
 - Buxton Streetscape
 - Narbethong streetscape
 - Narbethong Hall
 - Marysville Community Centre - stage 2
 - Gallipoli Park development
 - Marysville Streetscape
 - Marysville drainage
 - Toolangi all-purpose track
 - Middle Kinglake Early Learning Centre
 - Kinglake Memorial Reserve improvements
 - Flowerdale Community House
 - Hazeldene Bridge
 - Flowerdale Early Learning Centre
 - Glenburn Community Precinct
 - Strath Creek Hall upgrade
- Develop a five year forward capital works plan (new and upgrade works) aligned to the *Strategic Resource Plan*.
- Build initial stages of Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail:
 - Homewood Station to Yea Station (8.7km)
 - Cathkin to Alexandra (14.0km)
- Pursue funding for the replacement of Ghin Ghin Bridge over the Goulburn River.
- Pursue funding for Alexandra to Eildon shared path link.
- Finalise plans and project management for the completion of the Bollygum Park project:
 - Adventure Park
 - Skate Park
 - Carpark
- Complete and publish an *Infrastructure Design Manual*.
- Undertake revegetation of Council Reserves including No 1 Creek.
- Develop Stormwater Drainage Strategies for the towns of Alexandra and Yea.
- Complete *Overall Asset Management Strategy (OAMS)*.
- Further develop township signage.

Council Plan results

KEY YEAR ONE ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Rebuild damaged and destroyed buildings and other infrastructure.	Continue year 2, 3 and 4
Complete refurbishment or repair of Hazeldene Store access bridge.	Roll over to year 2
Develop a five year forward capital works plan (new and upgrade works) aligned to the <i>Strategic Resource Plan (SRP)</i> .	Roll over to year 2
Build new public toilet facility in Alexandra shopping precinct.	Completed
Develop initial stages of Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail.	Continue in years 2,3 and 4
Establish bushfire maintenance teams.	Completed
Resource Assets Team to cope with rebuild workload.	Completed
Undertake a roadside green waste and hard waste collection program.	Continue in Year 2
Contribute to the maintenance of Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail.	Continue as core Council role
Complete review of <i>Road Management Plan</i> .	Complete
Pursue funding for the replacement of Ghin Ghin Bridge over the Goulburn River.	Continue in year 2
Complete and publish <i>Infrastructure Design Manual</i> .	Continue in year 2
Pursue funding for Alexandra to Eildon shared path link.	Continue in year 2
Finalise plans and project management for the completion of the Bollygum Park project.	Continue in year 2

January 2010 storm



On New Year's Day an intense rain storm hit parts of the Murrindindi Shire. Clean up works cost approximately \$3.5 million.





Theme 5 - Climate Change and Natural Environment

Strategic Objective

A natural environment that is diverse, healthy and cared for.

Strategies

- Facilitate and support environmental recovery within fire affected communities.
- Promote and advocate sustainable living, business practice and land use.
- Reduce generation of waste by Council and the community.
- Integrate environmental resource and land management across Council operations.
- Reduce Council and community carbon footprint.
- Encourage the community to adapt to climate change.

Introduction

Based on the *Murrindindi Shire Environment Policy* adopted in April 2008, our aim in 2009 to 2013 is to set up an overarching *Environment Strategy and Climate Strategy*.

These two strategies will be further refined in other related strategic documents, eg. a municipal weed strategy or a municipal waste management strategy and related guidelines. Together, they form the framework for corporate and community based pro-environmental actions in the domains of water, biodiversity, sustainable land management, resource efficient human settlement and adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts.

In addition to the extended drought, the February 2009 bushfires have been devastating for both our local communities and our natural environment. Because a healthy and well functioning natural environment is so essential to strong and healthy communities, Murrindindi Shire Council, in partnership with other organisations, will be involved in the recovery of our natural assets.

Council services related to this theme

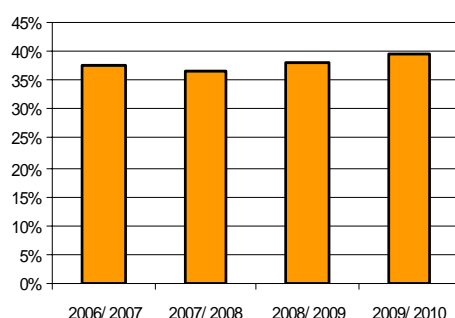
- Waste Management Service
- Strategic Planning
- Roadside biodiversity and weed mapping
- Provision of advice regarding to sustainable land use practices and community based environmental protection resources

Strategic Indicators

- Community Indicators Victoria - Household Waste Recycling rates

No current data is available for this indicator. The next survey will be undertaken late 2010.

% of Annual Waste Diverted



• Greenhouse Gas Emissions

No current data is available for this indicator.

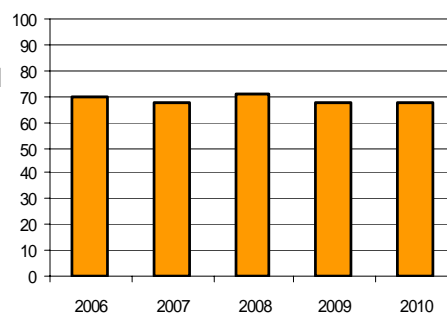
Achievements

- Completed the draft *Environment Strategy and Resource Plan* to guide environmental management on Council land, reduce Council's environmental footprint and encourage sustainable living practices in the shire. The draft plan is currently the subject of extensive community consultation.
- Provided an extensive free green and hard waste materials disposal program at Council Resource Recovery Centres for residents in December 2009 and January 2010. A total of 3,600 cubic metres of hard waste and 2,530 cubic metres of green waste was received.
- Introduced public recycling bins at 17 locations throughout retail precinct and parks in Alexandra providing access to recycling options in public areas.
- Implemented garbage and recycling collections at all temporary community villages.
- Replaced 495 recycling bins and 508 garbage bins at fire affected properties.
- Installed solar panels on the Yea Council office and library, so that a minimum of 30 per cent of its energy use is renewable with funding from the Economic Stimulus Package.
- Provided support to the Marysville Sustainable Living Expo in March 2010 run by the Murrindindi Climate Network, with more than 30 exhibitors and presenters, featuring cutting edge environmental technologies and services.
- Secured \$41,000 from the *Caring For Our Country* Federal government funding for woody weed control on municipal roadsides within fire affected areas.
- Secured funding from the State government's *Future Farming Initiative - Building Capacity of Local Government to Respond to Pests* - \$81,950 over two years for weed control on municipal roads.
- Participated in the delivery of community workshops in the east and west of the shire to promote weed identification and management and to advise on appropriate species for replanting gardens.
- Erected 'Significant Roadside Vegetation' signage at several sites in Toolangi and Castella to protect the endangered Round Leaf Pomaderris on Council managed land.
- In liaison with Sustainable Gardening Australia and Friends of Marysville Walks organised and facilitated 'Sustainable Gardening after Fire' Expo in Buxton. Marysville Gadabouts and Eildon Mystery Trippers assisted with propagating of plants. Four hundred plants were donated. 60 residents attended.
- Assisted with planning stage of PlantAid temporary nursery at Marysville where donated plants will be stored for up to two years for residents to re-establish gardens.
- Participated in Whole Farm Planning Workshops for Natural Resource Management hosted by DSE and DPI at Glenburn, Buxton and Flowerdale.
- Working with Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries, Parks Victoria and Yarra Ranges Shire Council to ensure the protection of endangered plants in Toolangi, Castella and Kinglake areas.

Looking forward

- Complete the mapping and assessment of significant flora, fauna and pests on Council managed land.
- Establish and commence implementation of a weed and pest control strategy for Council managed land.
- Establish a process to ensure Council works do not threaten listed flora, fauna and ecological communities.
- Finalise and implement the *Domestic Wastewater Management Plan*.
- Establish water use targets for Council facilities and activities and monitor progress.
- Identify and purchase eco-friendly products and materials through participation in a green procurement program.
- Finalise and commence implementation of the Council's *Waste Management Strategy*, including the expansion of recycling facilities in public places.
- Implement stage two of the green and hard waste collection program.
- Review the Environment Local Law to ensure consistency with Council's *Environment Policy* and strategy.

Community Satisfaction Survey Waste Management



Installed public recycling facilities at a number of sites across the shire

Council Plan results

KEY YEAR ONE ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Assess roadside biodiversity and conservation value and develop guidelines for management and protection.	Rollover to year 2
Undertake roadside management protection and map noxious weed infestations.	Continue in year 2
Participate in an education and awareness program for community groups and private land owners in partnership with other agencies.	Completed
Complete Council's <i>Environment Strategy and Resource Plan</i> .	Completed
Improve access to recycling in public areas.	Completed
Complete Council's <i>Local Climate Adaptation Action Plan</i> .	Completed
Publish tree and land clearing guidelines.	Completed
Install roadside signage to protect threatened plant species.	Completed
Establish and resource an ongoing environment officer position.	Roll over to year 2
Provide support to community education on environmental issues.	Continue in year 2
Identify and prioritise sites with significant biodiversity values and formulate management guidelines to protect them.	Continue in year 2



Theme 6 - Planning and Environment

Strategic Objective

Sustainable land use, development and growth

Strategies

- Streamline approvals processes to encourage rebuilding in fire affected areas
- Use a strategic approach to land use planning to facilitate integrated residential and public facility construction
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Country Fire Authority

Introduction

Land use planning is the process used to assess the environmental, economic and social impact of land use alternatives in order to select and adopt the best land-use options within the framework of the Victorian Planning Provisions and the *Murrindindi Planning Scheme*. The planning scheme guides land uses that will best meet the needs of people, having regard to land use capability and safeguarding resources for the future.

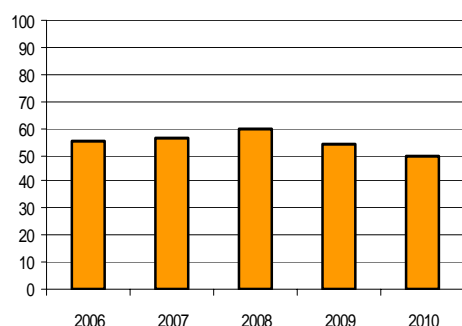
The February 2009 bushfires have had a major impact on demand for Council's planning and building services. Our goal in the short term is to facilitate easy access to the services people need to rebuild their homes and continue to protect the elements of our towns and districts for future generations.

Council services related to this theme

- Development Approvals
- Building Services
- Fire Prevention
- Environmental Health
- Local Laws

Strategic Indicators

**Community Satisfaction Results
Town Planning Policy and
approvals**



VCAT Determinations Consistent with Council Decision

During 2009-2010 one planning application was taken to VCAT and the decision supported that of Council.

Achievements

- Prepared a range of Planning Scheme Amendments to facilitate bushfire recovery and to remove impediments to development in appropriate areas of the shire.
- Modified the planning, building and health approval processes for people rebuilding homes and farms destroyed by the bushfires and exceeded targets set for turnaround times for the issue of permits - planning consents 7 days, building permits 11 days, septic permits 8 days.
- Completed Alexandra industrial land amendment to create opportunities for light industrial development to support incremental growth of the Alexandra township and surrounding region.
- Worked with the CFA to develop/implement a Township Protection Plan for Eildon. Adopted by Council 24 February 2010.
- In partnership with the CFA Council resolved to designate Eildon Recreation Reserve as a Place of Last Resort – Neighbourhood Safer Place in the case of a bushfire emergency.
- Changed the fire prevention enforcement procedures to provide a faster turnaround time for required works to address fire hazards on private properties (reduced notice period from 42 days to 28 days).
- Issued 514 fire prevention notices to private landholders across the shire during the 2009/2010 fire season.
- In partnership with the CFA, commenced the establishment of a Fire Risk Register to identify and prioritise risks associated with community and private assets within the Murrindindi Shire.
- *Marysville and Triangle Urban Design Framework* (UDF) was completed in partnership with VBRRA, adopted by Council 12 November 2009 and incorporated into the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. Amendments to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme to incorporate UDF outcomes have been completed.
- Requested the Planning Minister to prepare and approve an amendment to the Victorian Planning Provisions allowing temporary accommodation to be constructed until 31 March 2011 and occupied until 31 March 2012. Gazetted 14 May 2010.
- In partnership with the community, VBRRA, Department of Planning and Community Development and Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale, Toolangi and Castella Community Recovery Committees, commenced developing the Kinglake, Flowerdale, Toolangi Comprehensive Plan and Design Framework.
- Conducted 'Focus on rebuilding' days in Kinglake and Buxton. Staffed by Planning, Building and Health personnel, residents were taken through the necessary steps involved in the rebuild / permit process. 31 applications resulted.
- The Manager of Development and Environmental Services attended the Bushfire Royal Commission hearing in February 2010.



Health, Planning, Building and Engineering staff hosted two successful 'Focus on Rebuilding Days' - 31 applications resulted

Challenges

- European wasps became a public health issue particularly across fire affected communities. Council officers and volunteers destroyed 293 European wasp nests across the shire.

Looking forward

- Resolve planning scheme anomalies.
- Map municipal fire risk.
- Assist Goulburn Murray Water in rezoning process related to the Mt Pinniger Resort Development.

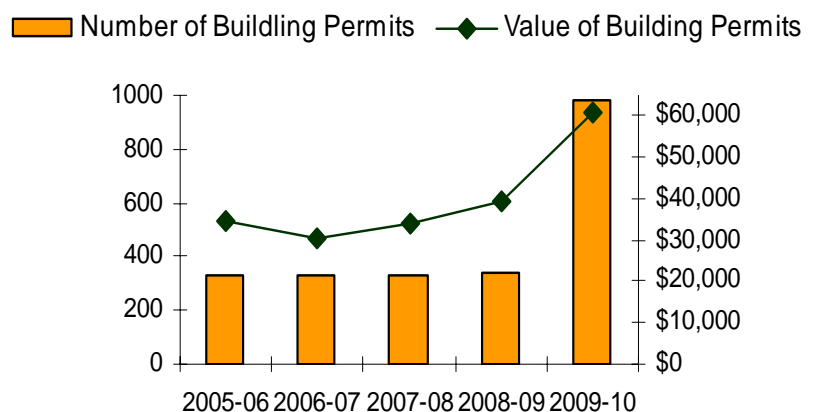
Council Plan results

KEY YEAR ONE INITIATIVES	STATUS
In conjunction with VBRRA and the community assist with new land use options to facilitate desired outcomes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land rezoning Marysville Urban Design Framework Approvals processes 	Amendment abandoned Completed Completed
Complete Alexandra industrial land amendment.	Completed
Investigate innovative water treatment options for Kinglake.	Completed
Review the Council's fire management planning having regard to the State's response to the Bushfire Royal Commission.	Roll into year 2
Map municipal fire risk.	Roll into year 2
Progress strategic fire prevention programs that address an ongoing commitment to fire safety and community awareness.	Completed



The Eildon Recreation Reserve has been identified as a place of last resort in the case of a bushfire emergency

Building Permit Numbers and Value





Council staff presentation to Case Managers in Alexandra

Theme 7 - Corporate Development

Strategic Objective

Improve systems and processes

Strategies

- Improve systems and processes.
- Communicate well with our stakeholders.
- Deliver excellent customer service.
- Reduce organisational risk.
- Be an employer of choice.

Introduction

Our aims in undertaking Corporate Development in 2009 to 2013 are to advance the efficiencies of Council's administration, to improve the service we provide to our customers, and to achieve higher levels of organisational performance.

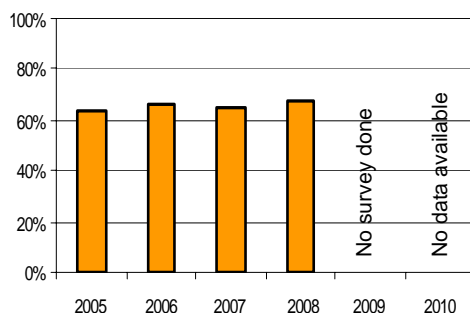
Bushfire recovery efforts within the shire place considerable extra demands on the Council and will require additional assistance from State and Federal governments. Such assistance will need to be well managed if we are to assist with recovery and re-establish services in the shortest possible time.

Council services related to this theme

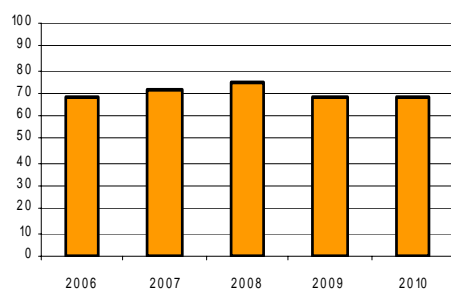
- Communications and publications
- Corporate Services
- Customer Services
- Financial Services
- Information Technology
- Organisational Development
- Risk Management Strategic Objective

Strategic Indicators

Staff Satisfaction % Score



Community Satisfaction Results Customer Contact

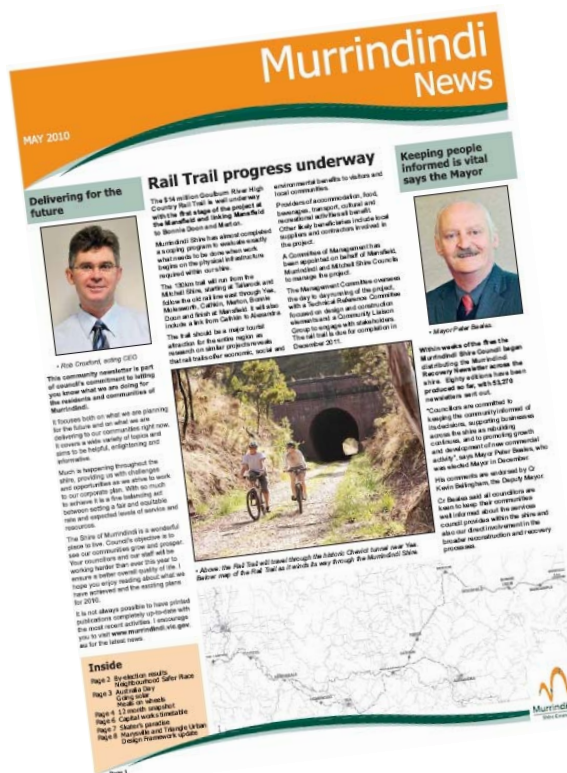


Achievements

- Produced first edition of Council's community newsletter 'Murrindindi News' in May 2010.
- Continued to produce and deliver the Murrindindi Recovery newsletter across the shire. 48 issues and 31,200 copies of the Bushfire Recovery Newsletter were distributed across the municipality this year.
- Rolled out compulsory training program to all staff for delegation training, electronic purchasing and revised procurement practices.
- Implemented a revised Council management reporting process.
- Appointed a temporary grants officer to coordinate the management of Council grant applications, including sourcing of bushfire related grants.

Looking forward

- Support staff to achieve their best given the increased workload of bushfire recovery.
- Refine the grants application and management process.
- Participate in the MAV Shared Services Document Management steering committee.
- Investigate business case for electronic document management.
- Complete business continuity plans.

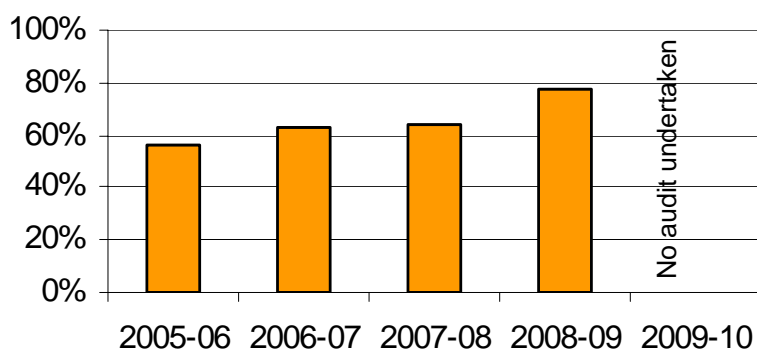


The first edition of the Murrindindi News was distributed during 2009-2010

Council Plan results

KEY YEAR ONE ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Implement council and management reporting process.	Completed
Adopt the <i>Communication Strategy</i> .	Under Review
Produce a quarterly community newsletter.	Completed
Complete a pandemic plan.	Completed
Review the recovery section of the <i>Emergency Management Plan</i> .	Completed
Support staff to achieve their best given the increased workload of bushfire recovery.	Continue in Year 2
Establish an effective grants management process.	Continue in Year 2
Carry out a shire-wide property revaluation.	Completed
Implement a <i>Shared Services Document Management</i> system.	Roll over to year 2
Investigate business case for electronic document management.	Roll over to year 2
Implement procurement policies and processes.	Continue in year 2
Review chart of accounts.	Roll over to year 2
Review Mayor and General Manager's executive support.	Completed

Public Liability and Professional Liability Audits - CMP



Further detail regarding Council's Public Liability and Property Audits is available on page 54

Our Organisation

Executive team

In September 2009 Mark Henderson resigned from the position as Chief Executive Officer with the Murrindindi Shire Council.

Robert Croxford was appointed as Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Following an extensive recruitment process Margaret Abbey was appointed as Chief Executive Officer. Ms Abbey commenced with Council June 2010.

Government funding supported an additional member being appointed to the executive team to oversee the bushfire recovery process. Darrell Treloar and Ian Robins (job share) were appointed as heads of the Bushfire Recovery Team to manage the recovery process and associated project implementation.



Chief Executive Officer

Margaret Abbey

Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Master of Town and Country Planning, Diploma of Management and Ord 4 (Cert) NSW

Margaret joined Murrindindi Shire Council on 28 June 2010 after nine years at the Nillumbik Shire Council where she had been the Group Manager Environment and Planning Services. Margaret has over 26 years local government experience in both Victoria and interstate.

In her role as Chief Executive Officer Margaret is the link between Council and the organisation and Council delegates a number of powers to the CEO to ensure that she has the necessary authority to fulfil her role.



Acting Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Operations / Municipal Recovery Manager

Robert Croxford

Bachelor of Business (Local Government), Grad Cert (Marketing), Fellow LGPro

Rob came to Murrindindi Shire Council in August 2000 as Director Corporate and Community Services. In his role as General Manager Operations he was responsible for the management and strategic development of the operational services within Council including corporate services, community services, libraries and customer service and engineering services.

Rob held the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer from September to June 2010.



General Manager Sustainability

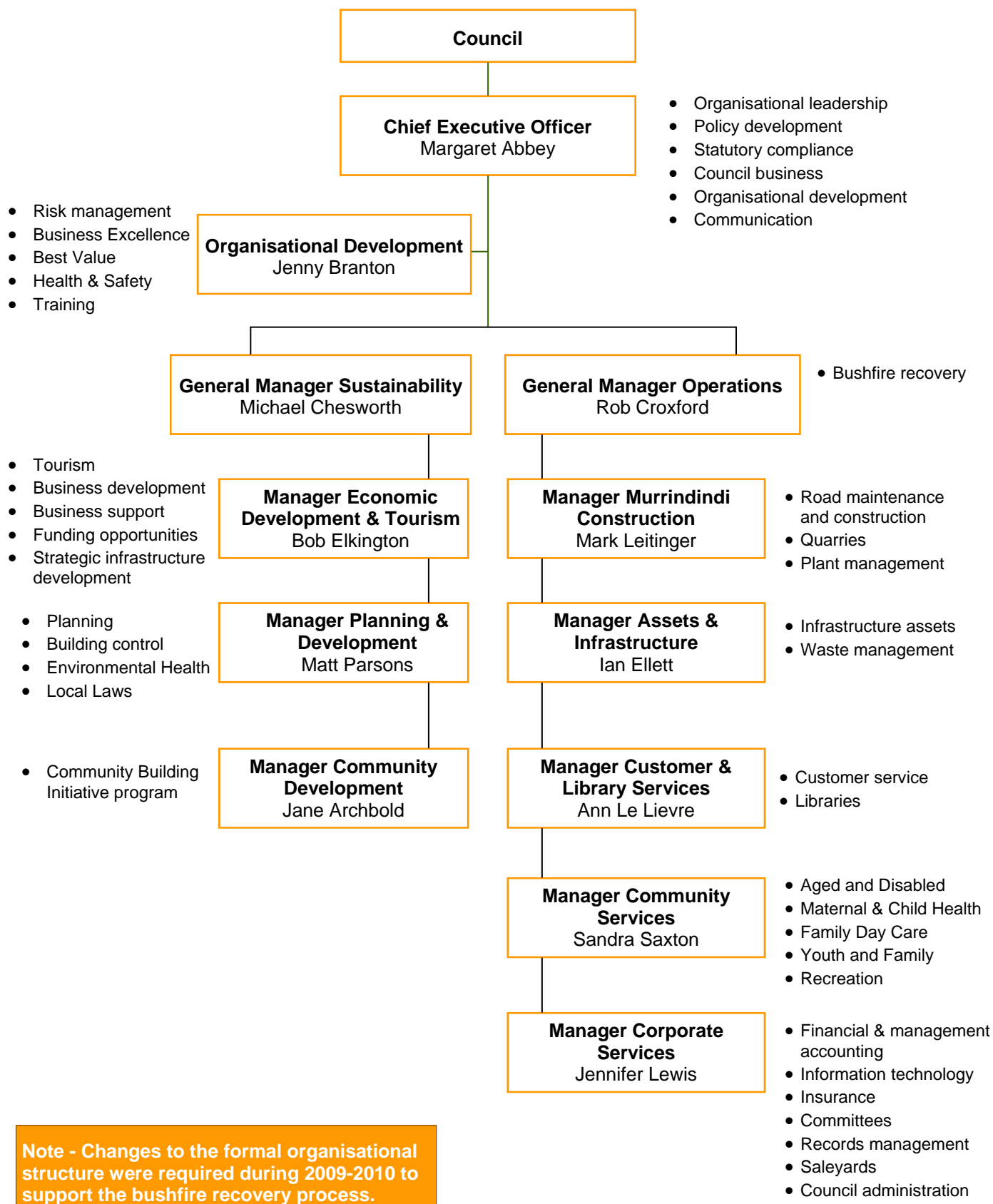
Michael Chesworth

Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Hons.)

Michael was first appointed to Murrindindi Shire Council as Manager of Organisational Development in 1997.

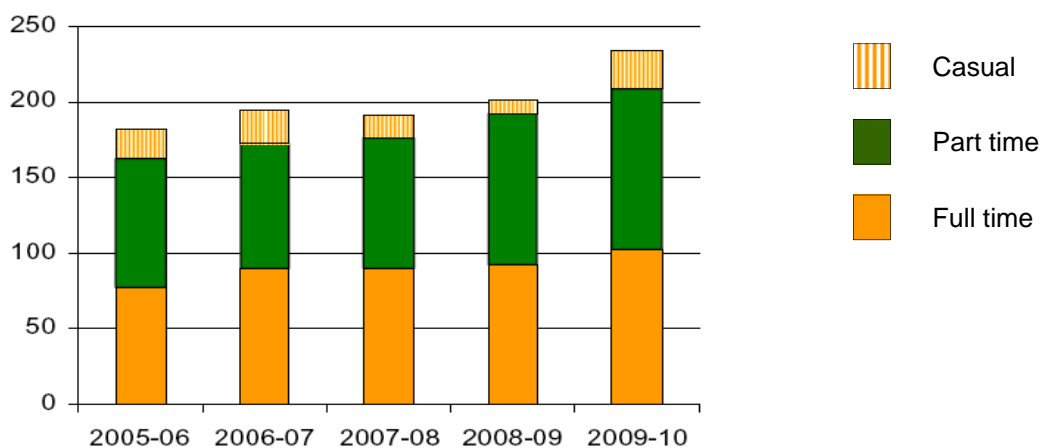
His current role as General Manager Sustainability involves the management of the sustainability services within Council which include organisational development, economic development and tourism, building, planning and environmental services.

Organisational structure

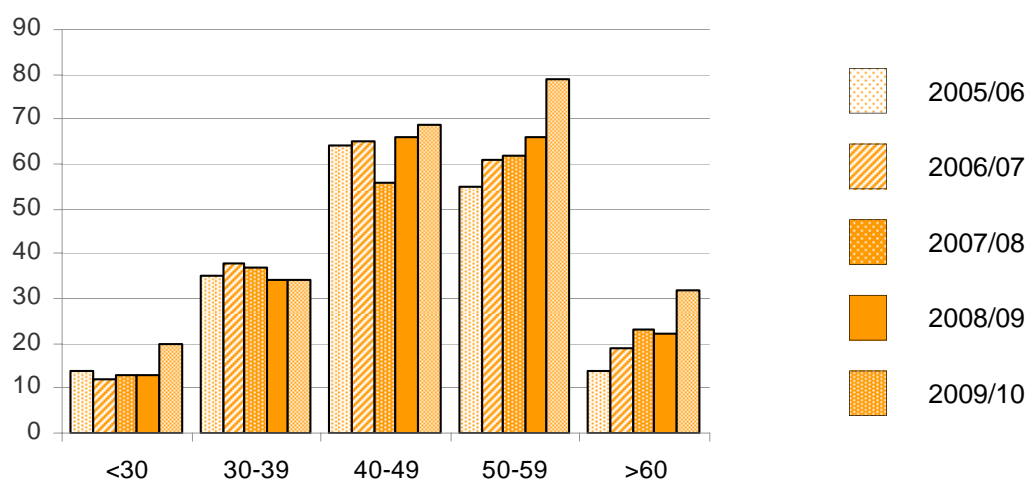


Workforce profile

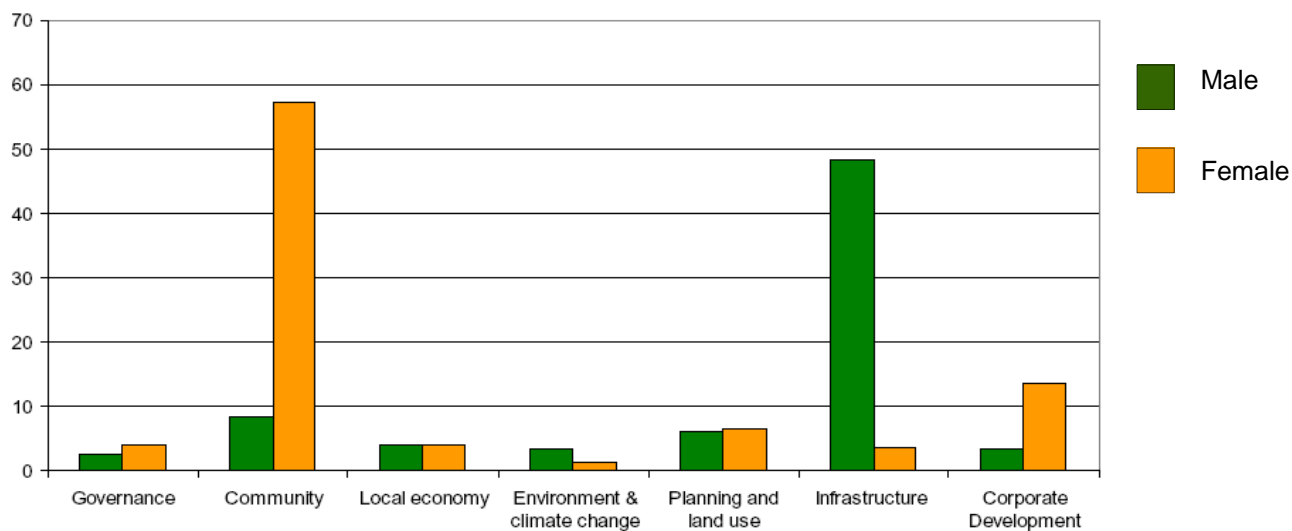
Number of employees x Employment type



Age distribution of employees



Number of employees in each work area



Equal employment opportunity

Murrindindi Shire Council is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and anti-discrimination in employment and delivery of Council services to the community.

Council believes that its employees are entitled to be treated on the basis of their true abilities and merit, and to work in an environment which is free of discrimination and harassment.

Council has an *Equal Employment Opportunity Policy* and supporting procedures which apply to council employees and contractors.

Staff Code of Conduct

The Murrindindi Shire Council *Code of Conduct* is an agreement about the way in which we have chosen to behave in our working relationships with each other and with the wider community.

The *Code of Conduct* aims to establish a shared understanding of how we can work well together to create an enjoyable, satisfying and productive workplace.

For the community our *Code of Conduct* establishes our commitment to carry out our duties and deliver our services responsively, impartially, professionally and with the highest level of integrity.

Internal communications

During 2009-2010 we produced the *Staff Informer* on a regular basis. Staff members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter and articles can be on professional, informative or social topics.

A number of departments also produce service specific

newsletters for their staff or customers.

- *Works Talk* for outdoor staff
- *Dindi Chat* for staff, volunteers and clients of the aged and disability services
- *YAK* for home care staff
- *Home Based Child Care News* for Family Day Care and In Home Child Care families and carers.

During 2009-2010 Council's intranet, 'Murri', has continued to grow as an integral communication tool for our organisation. It is a key component in the induction of new staff and provides a single focal point for access to a range of information.

Other forms of internal communication include general staff meetings, departmental meetings and depot meetings.

Health and safety of our people

Our staff are our most valuable asset because they are essential to the delivery of our services and our achievements.

Health and Wellbeing

Staff continued in 2009-2010 to work under great pressure and additional workload related to the 2009 bushfires.

A program of staff support was continued and included considerable pro bono assistance from The Training Connection, Austin Hospital and Beyond Blue.

Occupational Health and Safety

Council is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment and ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all employees.

Training is an essential component of improving our workplace safety.

Relevant training has been provided across the organisation to reinforce workplace safety.

Training increases employee awareness of safety responsibilities, assists employees to apply safe work procedures and practices at all times, and provides relevant information.

During this year occupational health and safety related training has included:

- Risk management
- Occupational Health and Safety representatives certificate (refresher)
- First aid - level I and II
- Manual handling certificates
- Fire warden
- Evacuation practice
- Driver training
- Red Card
- Back hoe and grader operation training.

Training and development

This year Council established and implemented an in-house training and development plan to reduce the time and costs incurred by travelling to city or regional venues.

Seventeen training programs were delivered with 232 staff members participating.

Training topics included:

- Supporting traumatised customers
- Personal well-being and development
- Health and safety
- Introduction to Relief and Recovery Centres

Staff satisfaction survey

Staff Satisfaction Survey results are expected in August 2010.

Corporate and Statutory Information

The role of local government

Local Government is governance by Councillors who are democratically elected by the voters of the local communities. As such it is the 'grass roots' level of government.

Section 3D of the *Local Government Act 1989* states that the role of a council includes:

- acting as a representative government by taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making
- providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring their achievement
- maintaining the viability of the Council by ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner
- advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments
- acting as a responsible

partner in government by taking into account the needs of other communities

- fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

Councillor Code of Governance

All Councils in Victoria are required by the *Local Government Act 1989* (s76C) to develop and regularly review a Councillor Code of Governance.

A Councillor Code of Governance was adopted by Murrindindi Shire Councillors in March 2010 at which time the existing Councillor Code of Conduct (May 2006), Councillor Code of Ethics (February 2003) and the Statement of Governance Principles (March 2008) were repealed.

The Councillor Code of Governance sets out the standards expected of councillor behaviour and disclosure, and identifies a process for resolving complaints.

There were no breaches of, or complaints made under the Code in 2009-2010.

Councillor support and remuneration

Section 74 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides for the Governor in Council to set allowances for the mayor and councillors. Councils are categorised according to their size and revenue base and an allowance range payable to councillors is set for each category. Murrindindi Shire Council is a level one council.

For 2009-2010 the allowance paid to the Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council was \$49,610 per annum plus an amount equivalent to 9% superannuation and the exclusive use of a vehicle.

The allowance paid to the councillors was \$16,605 per annum plus an amount equivalent to 9% superannuation. All councillors are provided with a laptop computer and mobile phone.

For further detail regarding allowances and expense entitlements please refer to Council Policy 16: *Councillor's Allowance and Expense Entitlements*.

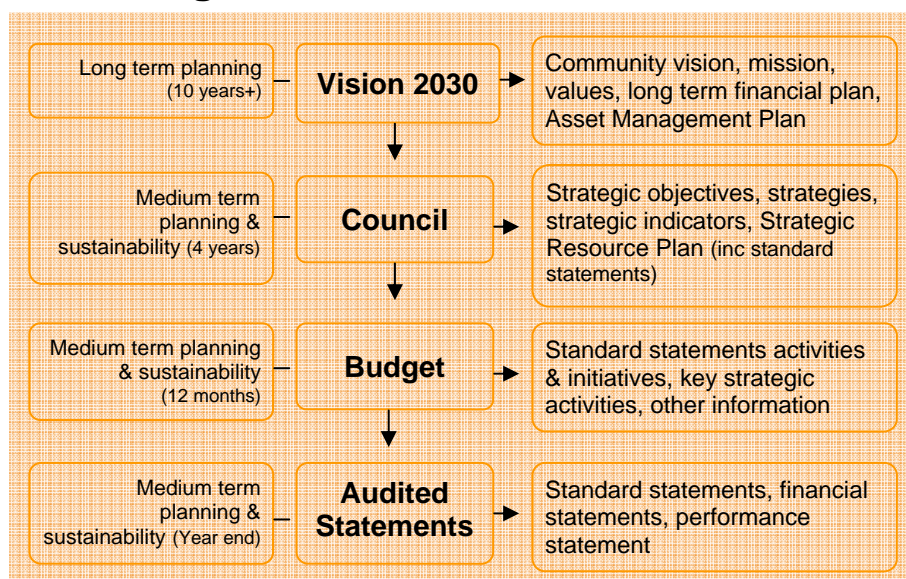
Council electoral structure

The Shire of Murrindindi is divided into seven single councillor wards.

Boundaries are aligned to average out the number of voters in each ward.

Refer to the map on page 3.

Planning Process



Council elections

Six of the seven current Murrindindi councillors were elected on 29 November 2008 for a four-year term.

The resignation of the King Parrot Ward councillor on 24 November 2009 required that a by-election be held for that Ward.

The by-election was conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission, by postal vote.

Two candidates stood for election and 63 per cent of voters on the electoral roll participated. The informal voting rate was 6.22 per cent.

The Returning Officer declared Cris Ruhr elected at the Election Office at 2pm on 6 March 2010.

The next election for all Victorian councils will be held on the last Saturday in November, 2012.

Each year the seven councillors elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Council meetings

Council decisions are made by resolution of council either at ordinary council meetings or at special committees of council meetings.

Council meetings have been held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Council meetings are held in the Alexandra Council Chamber except for six meetings annually which are held in locations across the shire. A schedule of council meetings is available at any council office or on our web site.

Councillors also meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month for briefing sessions. The briefing sessions give Councillors the opportunity to hear presentations by officers and the community on upcoming items and to seek clarification on these and other issues that may appear on the agenda at future Council meetings.

Community members are encouraged to attend and participate in council meetings.

An 'Open Forum' is held prior to each Council meeting and briefing session to allow members of the public to address Council. If you wish to speak at this time please submit an 'Open Forum' application form prior to the meeting. Forms are available from Council offices or online.

You can get an agenda for the council meetings no less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting from a Council office or on our website.

Additional special meetings of Council may be called to consider specific issues. As well as the formal notice we make every effort to publicise these meetings.

Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the procedures as detailed in Murrindindi Shire Council's Local Law No. 3 - *Processes of Municipal Government (Meetings & Common Seal)*.

A Statutory Meeting is held annually to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, set allowances for the mayor and Councillors, and nominate council's representatives for a range of committees. The Statutory Meeting was held on 9 December 2009.

Council meeting attendances for 2009-2010

	Ordinary Council Meetings (14)		Statutory Meetings (1)		Special Meetings (7)	
	Eligible to Attend	Attended	Eligible to Attend	Attended	Eligible to Attend	Attended
Cr Peter Beales (Mayor)	14	13	1	1	7	7
Cr Kevin Bellingham (Deputy Mayor)	14	10	1	1	7	6
Cr Sally Abbott Smith	14	13	1	1	7	4
Cr Bob Flowers	14	14	1	1	7	7
Cr Cris Ruhr	4	4	-	-	3	3
Cr Chris Healy	14	14	1	1	7	6
Cr John Walsh	14	14	1	1	7	6

Portfolios

Each Councillor, with the exception of the Mayor, is responsible for a specific 'portfolio' which focuses on a functional area of Council.

This allows each Councillor to maintain a close relationship with staff managing issues associated with their portfolio, and to report to council meetings on points of interest to the Council that fall under that portfolio.

- **Cr Peter Beales**, Mayor
Pre December 2009 – Community and Customer Services
Post December 2009 - The Mayor does not hold a portfolio
- **Cr Kevin Bellingham**
Corporate Services
- **Cr Cris Ruhr**
Community and Customer Service
- **Cr Bob Flowers**
Infrastructure and Assets
- **Cr Chris Healy**
Planning and Environment
- **Cr John Walsh**
Economic Development and Tourism
- **Cr Sally Abbott Smith**
Climate Change and Natural Environment

Special committees of Council

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* Council may establish special committees with delegated powers to inform and act on behalf of council.

Murrindindi Shire Council has 25 Section 86 Committees of Management.

Councillor	Committee Representation (CoM - Committee of Management)
Cr Peter Beales	Bollygum Park Reserve CoM, CJ Dennis Hall and Castella Public Hall Reserve Committee of Management, Kinglake Community Centre CoM
Cr Kevin Bellingham	Alexandra Racecourse and Recreation Reserve CoM, Buxton Recreation Reserve CoM, Gallipoli Park CoM, Murrindindi Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Committee, Steavensons Falls Scenic Reserve CoM, Alexandra Tennis Club CoM
Cr Bob Flowers	Alexandra Community Leisure Centre CoM, Mount Pleasant Reserve CoM, UT Creek Enhancement Community Support Group
Cr Chris Healy	Eildon Alliance Boat Ramp Committee, Eildon Resource Centre CoM, Thornton Recreation Reserve CoM
Cr Cris Ruhr	Glenburn Community Centre CoM, Kinglake Memorial Reserve CoM
Cr John Walsh	Murrindindi Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Committee
Cr Sally Abbott Smith	Friends of Yea Railway Reserve CoM, Yea Pioneer Reserve CoM, Yea Saleyards CoM, Yea Shire Hall CoM, Yea Wetlands CoM, Strath Creek Pioneer Reserve CoM, Yea Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve CoM, Murrindindi Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Committee, Moores Road Reserve CoM

Local laws

Local Laws are available for viewing at all council offices and online www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Council did not introduce any new local laws during 2009-2010.

Local Laws currently in place are:

- *Local Law No. 1* - Consumption of Liquor in Public Places
- *Local Law No. 2* - Environment
- *Local Law No. 3* - Processes of Municipal Government (Meetings & Common Seal)

- *Local Law No. 4* - Streets and Roads
- *Local Law No. 5* - Livestock
- *Local Law No. 6* - Open Air Burning
- *Local Law No. 7* - Swimming Pools (unauthorised entry)

Policy and strategy reviews

There were no new policies adopted during the year.

Policies reviewed during the year:

- Risk and Safety
- Community Grants Program
- Prevention of Bullying and Occupational Violence
- Equal Employment
- Councillor Code of Conduct
- Confidentiality and Privacy

Auditing

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is an independent advisory committee to Council. The primary objective of the Audit Committee is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organisation's ethical development.

The Internal Audit Committee comprises of:

- Mayor (voting) or Deputy Mayor
- Corporate Services Portfolio Representative (voting if Mayor absent)
- Two external independent representatives (voting)
- Chief Executive Officer (non voting)
- General Manager Operations (non voting)
- Internal Auditor (non voting).

The Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee are currently being reviewed.

Recommendations from the audit program are prioritised and addressed as opportunities for improvement across the organisation.

Internal Audits

Murrindindi Shire Council's internal audit function is contracted to Richmond, Sinnott & Delahunty.

During 2009-2010 the Internal Auditor completed the following reviews:

- Works Department Operations Review - December 2009
- Procurement Processes - December 2009

External Audits

Council's external auditor is currently the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

The main audit is conducted in early September with interim audits conducted during the year

Public Liability and Property Audits

There were no property audits undertaken in 2009-2010 due to changes implemented by Council's public liability and property insurer which introduced a three tiered auditing system with full audits conducted every two years rather than annually.

Council completed a full public liability audit in January 2009 and achieved a final score of 77% compared to 64% in 2007-2008.

Council completed a property risk audit in January 2010 achieving a final score of 61.7% compared to the Victorian average of 74% (refer to graph below).

Cemetery management

Murrindindi Shire Council administers the old and new cemeteries in Yea.

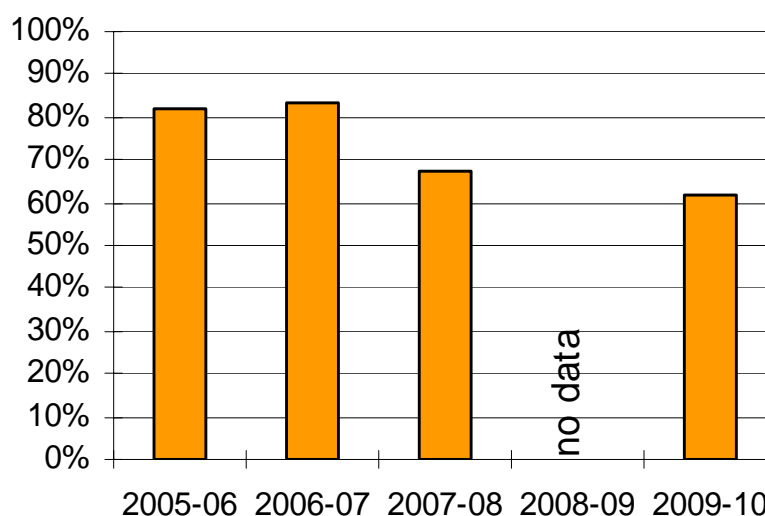
A number of projects have been undertaken in 2009-2010:

- Constructed a new columbarium
- Undertook construction improvements to both entrances
- Appointed a contractor to install new watering system
- Drafted plans and specifications for new shelter to be built
- Drafted plans and specifications for kerb and channelling

The year ahead

- Applications for funding to the Crematoriums and Cemeteries Association for works to be undertaken at the old cemetery
- Application for funding for road works
- Further construction of beams and plaque stands

JMP Property Risk Audit Score



Local government indicators

The Victorian Government requires all Victorian councils to measure and annually report against 11 Victorian Local Government Indicators.

Category	Description	Score 2009-2010
Overall performance	Community satisfaction rating for overall performance generally of the council	57
Advocacy	Community Satisfaction rating for Council's advocacy and community representation on key local issues	59
Engagement	Community satisfaction rating for Council's engagement in decision making on key local issues	55
All rates	Average rates and charges per assessment	\$1,223
Residential rates	Average residential rates and charges per assessment	\$1,006
Operating costs	Average operating expenditure per assessment	\$6,834
Capital expenditure	Average capital expenditure per assessment	\$946
Infrastructure	Renewal gap	83%
	Renewal and maintenance gap	86%
Debts	Average liabilities per assessment	\$1,389
Operating result	Operating result per assessment	\$963

National Competition Policy Compliance 2009-2010

Murrindindi Shire Council has complied with the requirements of the Local Government Act Improvement Incentive Program in respect of: -

National Competition Policy (in accordance with National Competition Policy and Local Government – A Revised Statement of Victorian Government Policy (January 2002);

for the financial year 2009-2010 as set out below:

Trade Practices Compliance State whether the Council is compliant or non-compliant. If non-compliant, justify or cite actions to redress	Compliant
Local Laws Compliance State whether the Council is compliant or non-compliant. If non-compliant, justify or cite actions to redress	Compliant
Competitive Neutrality Compliance State whether the Council is compliant or non-compliant. If non-compliant, justify or cite actions to redress	Compliant

I certify that:

- this statement has been prepared in accordance with the 2006/07 Local Government Improvement Incentive guidelines issued in June 2007 for reporting on the following criterion : - National Competition Policy in accordance with National Competition Policy and Local Government – A Revised Statement of Victorian Government Policy (January 2002); and
- this statement presents fairly the Council's implementation of the National Competition Policy.

Signed:
Margaret Abbey
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 12 July 2010

Margaret Abbey

Freedom of Information

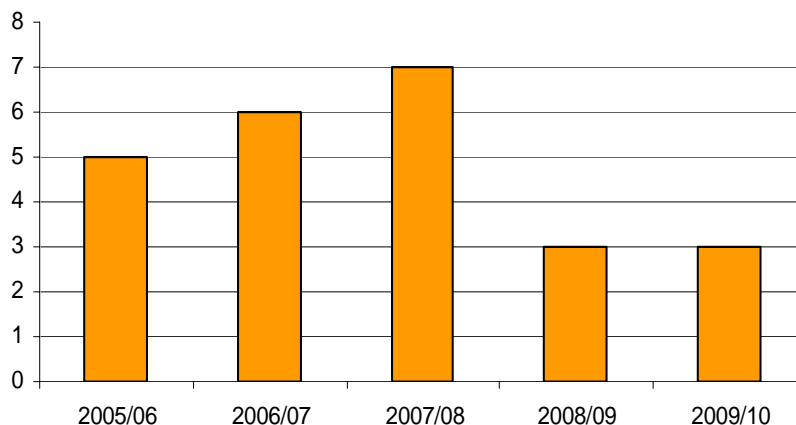
The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* gives members of the public a way to access information held by a council. Some documents and information may be deemed exempt under the Act.

Applications under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* must be made in writing and addressed the Freedom of Information Officer, Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714. An application costs \$22.70 to lodge.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Council's Freedom of Information Officer prior to lodging an application.

In 2009-2010 the Murrindindi Shire Council received three applications under the *Freedom*

Number of Freedom of Information Requests Received



of Information Act.

Of the applications received:

- Full access was granted for one application

- Two applications did not proceed

Council received \$22.70 in fees and associated charges for these applications.

Whistleblower Protection

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* came into effect on 1 January 2002. Its purpose is to encourage and facilitate the disclosure of information about improper conduct by council officers or councillors.

Council has established procedures to facilitate the making of disclosures under the Act.

Council does not tolerate improper conduct by its employees, officers or members, nor reprisal against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Council's Protected Disclosure Coordinator.

Topic	Report 2009-2010
Number of disclosures made	Nil
Disclosures referred to Ombudsman for determination	Nil
Disclosures referred by Ombudsman	Nil
Disclosures referred to Ombudsman to investigate	Nil
Investigations taken over by the Ombudsman	Nil
Requests made under Section 74 during the year to Ombudsman to investigate disclosed matters	Nil
Disclosures the public body has declined to investigate	Nil
Disclosures that were substantiated on investigation	Nil
Recommendations by the Ombudsman under this Act that relate to Murrindindi Shire Council	Nil

Public documents

Section 11 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2004* requires Council to have the following documents available for public inspection:

- Financial statements
- Details of current allowances fixed for the Mayor and Councillors under Section 74 of the Act
- Details of senior officers' current gross salaries, allowances and other benefits for the current financial year and previous financial year
- Details of overseas and interstate travel exceeding three days undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any member of council staff in the previous 12 months
- Names of council officers who were required to submit a return of interest during the financial year and the dates these returns were submitted
- Names of Councillors who submitted returns of interest during the financial year and the dates these returns were submitted
- Agendas for and minutes of ordinary and special meetings kept under Section 93 of the Act, except where such minutes relate to parts of meetings, which have been closed to members of the public under Section 89 of the Act
- A list of all special committees established by the Council and the purpose for which each committee was established
- A list of all special committees established by the Council which were abolished or ceased to function during the financial year
- Minutes of meetings of special committees established under section 86 of the Act except where such minutes relate to parts of meetings which have been closed to members of the public under Section 89 of the Act
- Agreements to establish regional libraries under Section 196 of the Act
- Register of delegations kept under Section 87,88 and 98 of the Act
- Submissions received under Section 223 of the Act during the previous 12 months
- Details of all property, finance and operating leases involving land, buildings, plant, computer equipment or vehicles entered into by the council as lessor or lessee
- Register of authorised officers appointed under Section 224 of the Act
- List of donations and grants made by the Council during the financial year
- List of names of organisations of which the Council was a member during the financial year
- List of contracts valued at \$100,000 or more which the Council entered into during the financial year without first engaging in a competitive process

Donations and grants provided by Council 2009-2010

Received by	Amount
Alexandra Community Leisure Centre	\$12,000.00
Alexandra Visitor Information Centre	\$3,910.00
Alexandra Life Centre	\$500.00
Alexandra Kindergarten	\$2,060.00
Anglican Parish of Alexandra	\$5,000.00
Eildon Community Leisure Centre	\$1,000.00
Eildon Visitor Information Centre	\$1,155.00
Eildon Kindergarten	\$4,200.00
Eildon Kindergarten	\$500.00
Flowerdale Kindergarten	\$500.00
Flowerdale Tennis Club	\$3,000.00
Kinglake Community Centre	\$2,000.00
Kinglake Visitor Information Centre	\$2,870.00
Kinglake Kindergarten	\$2,105.00
Kinglake Senior Citizens Centre	\$4,640.00
Marysville Visitor Information Centre	\$7,268.00
Marysville Pre School	\$4,200.00
Mt Pleasant Reserve Committee of Management	\$500.00
Murrindindi Film Society	\$250.00
State Emergency Service Alexandra	\$17,511.00
State Emergency Service Kinglake	\$17,511.00
State Emergency Service Marysville	\$17,511.00
Terip Terip Primary School	\$500.00
Thornton & District Sports Club	\$5,000.00
Universal Access Project	\$500.00
Yea Camera Club	\$500.00
Yea Indoor Recreation Centre	\$4,000.00
Yea Visitor Information Centre	\$1,096.00
Yea Men Sheds	\$500.00
Yea Pre School	\$1,052.00
 Total of donations and grants with a value of less than \$500 paid to four organisations	
 Total value of donations and grants provided	 \$123,339.00

Organisation memberships for 2009-2010

Organisation	Membership fee
Local Government Professionals	\$1,100.00
Personnel Development	\$2,000.00
Municipal Association Of Victoria	\$22,963.38
Family Day Care Council	\$157.90
Victorian Employers Chamber Of Commerce & Industry	\$3,849.00
Timber Towns Victoria	\$2,200.00
Alzheimers Association Australia	\$50.00
Viclink	\$740.00
Viclink - Libraries Australia	\$1,146.00
Viclink - Picture Victoria	\$550.00
Family Day Care Victoria	\$112.84
Livestock Saleyards Association of Victoria	\$1,704.75
Civil Contractors Federation	\$2,308.50
National Saleyards Quality Assurance Ltd	\$467.50
Children's Book Council of Australia	\$82.50
National Childcare Accreditation Council Inc	\$229.20
Victoria Local Government Association	\$2,255.00
Goulburn Valley Regional Waste Management Group	\$7,042.20
SAI Global	\$374.00
Regional Victoria	\$165.00
Carer's Management Society Australia	\$100.00
Victorian Maternal & Child Health Coordinators Group	\$50.00
ICLEI	\$753.50
National In-Home Childcare Association	\$150.00
North East Authorised Council Officers Association	\$200.00
Total value of memberships	\$50,751.27

Calendar of events

July 2009



Toolangi Recreation Reserve Opening
3 July 2009
Toolangi



Remake Kinglake
19 July 2009
Kinglake



Case Managers information day
19 July 2009

August 2009



FReeZA - Battle of the Bands
28 August 2009
Alexandra



Youth consultation workshop
August 2009
Yea and Alexandra

September 2009



Damian Callinan live
15 September 2009
Alexandra

October 2009



Bushfire Recovery with Dr Rob Gordon
18 October 2009
Yea



Seniors Week 2009
5 - 9 October 2009
Shire-wide

November 2009



Sustainable gardening after the fires
21 November 2009
Buxton



The Big Charity Day Out - 20/20 cricket match
8 November 2009
Strath Creek

Focus on Rebuilding day
28 November 2009
Kinglake

December 2009



Marysville Swimming Pool opening
5 December 2009



FReeZA - community outdoor cinema and activities
5 December 2009
Flowerdale

January 2010



Australia Day Celebrations
26 January 2010
Shire wide



Focus on rebuilding day
16 January 2010
Buxton

February 2010



Bushfire Remembrance Services
7 February 2010
Shire wide

Skills and confidence for tackling tough times: For business operators in the Kinglake Ranges
2 February 2010

March 2010



Marysville Thai Festival
19-20 March 2010



Small Business Seminar - Getting the Right Staff
23 March 2010
Marysville and Kinglake



Building the Recovery Information Session and Tendering Workshop
25 March 2010
Yea



Sustainable Living Expo
28 March 2010
Marysville

April 2010



FReeZA Leadership Excursion
8 April 2010



ANZAC Day Services
25 April 2010
Shire wide

May 2010



Tom Gleeson Live
18 May 2010
Alexandra



Beyond Age Photography Exhibition
May - June 2010
Shire wide



Story Collecting Project with Arnold Zable
May - June
Strath Creek, Narbethong, Kinglake, Kinglake West

June 2010



Kinglake, Flowerdale and Toolangi Comprehensive Plan and Design Framework Community Forum
6 June 2010
Flowerdale, Toolangi, Kinglake



Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show
12-13 June 2010



Building the Recovery 'Tender Right' Workshops
Alexandra, Marysville, Kinglake

Introduction to the financials

Understanding the financial statements

The financial report of the Murrindindi Shire Council is a general purpose financial report that consists of an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement together with notes accompanying these statements. This general purpose financial report has been prepared to comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act, 1989*, *Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004*, applicable *Australian Accounting Standards* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. Council's Audit Committee and the Council have examined the report. The Victorian Auditor General has provided an 'unqualified' audit opinion.

The Income Statement

The Income Statement sets out the movement in relation to revenue, expenses and other adjustments from all activities and compares these figures to the previous financial year. The Income Statement requires revenues to be separately disclosed where the item is of such a size, nature and incidence, that its disclosure is relevant in explaining the performance of the Council.

The change in total revenues from \$41.73 million in 2009 to \$72.82 million in 2010 represents an increase of \$31.09 million. This is predominantly made up of an additional \$33.4million in grants funding relating to the bushfires of February 2009.

The change in total expenses from \$36.56 million in 2009 to \$63.82 million in 2010 is mainly due to an delivering the projects and required to undertake the restoration and recovery process.

The Income Statement delivered a surplus of \$8.99 million as a result of receiving grant funding during the financial year that will be expended on both operating and capital projects during the 2010/11 financial year.

The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows a snapshot of the financial situation at the end of the period. It shows the total of what is owned (assets) less what is owed (liabilities). The assets and liabilities are separated into current and non-current. Current means those assets or liabilities that fall due in the next 12months.

The 'bottom line' of this statement is net assets, which is the net worth of the Council. The change in net assets between the two years shows how the financial position has changed over the period. Net assets is made up of the total current and noncurrent assets less the current and non-current liabilities.

Items of note in the balance sheet include:

- An increase in cash and cash equivalent of \$8.25 million as a result of receiving increased revenue for grant funded projects related to the bushfire recovery process to be expended in 2010/11.
- Decrease of \$3.17 million of Trade and Other Receivables which relates to Government Grants outstanding.

- An increase in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment of \$16.8 million, mainly as a result of the revaluation of assets (\$12.0 million) and capital works projects.
- An increase in trust funds related to Council holding the insurance proceeds for the Marysville Retirement Village.
- A reduction in interest bearing loans of \$0.57 million resulting from repayment of loans.

An overall increase in total equity or net worth of the Council of \$21.0 million demonstrates that the value of assets under Council's control has increased over the period.

Notes 15 - 25 in the financial report provides more details on the items reported in the balance sheet.

Statement of Changes in Equity

The Statement of Changes in Equity tables the types of movement and adjustments in the financial reporting that determines the balance of ratepayers equity at the end of the reporting period. The most significant items in the table relates to:

- Recognition of increased values of land, buildings and infrastructure assets of \$12.0 million
- The effect of the \$8.99 million surplus.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows what has occurred during the year in terms of cash. It explains

what cash movements have resulted in the difference in the cash balance at the beginning and end of the year. The net cash flows from operating activities shows how much cash is remaining after paying for Council operations and commitments. The information in the Cash Flow Statement assists in the assessment of the ability to generate cash flows, meet financial commitments as they fall due, including the servicing of borrowings and fund changes in the scope or nature of activities.

The Cash Flow Statement also reports on restriction on cash assets. Note 29 of the accounts more fully outlines the legislative restriction to provide for employee entitlements and reserve funds. Importantly the closing cash position of \$17.08 million is in line with the 2009/10 budget projections and enables the recurrent and capital functions to be undertaken in the coming year. The cash balances are higher than normal due to bushfire restoration funding being received in advance of project delivery.

Performance Statement

The Performance Statement reports on the actual results of some of the Key Strategic Activities as outlined in Council's Budget. The report provides the performance measure for those activities and details on whether or not the targets were achieved. The Performance Statement is found in the financial report.

Summary

The financial statements represent a positive outcome for the 2009-10 financial year. Council has demonstrated an ability to meet operational expenses, statutory requirements and its commitment to achieving the goals as set by the *Council Plan 2006-2010* and long term *Strategic Resource Plan*.

Council has managed to provide services to bushfire response and recovery during the year and will continue to do so in 2010-11. Note 39 of the statements sets out several indicators to monitor the financial health of the Council. The debt commitment ratio has remained fairly flat over the past

three years and reflect an increasing debt services cost and increasing rate and total revenues. The ratio is considered to be financially prudent, as is the debt servicing ratio as it has dropped by 1.3% to .49% in 2009-10 over the three reporting years, reflecting Council's repayment of loans.

The revenue ratio demonstrates the impact of increased grant funding received to support the bushfire recovery.

The working capital ratio shows a coverage of current assets to current liabilities of 2.3 times which is a financially sound measure. It is noted however that this is artificially inflated as a consequence of the additional grant revenues received by the council.

In conclusion, the indicators of surplus on operation, improving equity, and sufficient cash reserves, ensures that council's position remains sound. Please see the commentary contained in the *Strategic Resource Plan* (SRP) that sets out the financial challenges facing the Council.