

KINGLAKE COMMUNITY EXERCISE

Council is working with Emergency Management Victoria to run an emergency management exercise in Kinglake in March. The purpose of the exercise is to help everyone, community and emergency services, be better prepared, and understand the complex needs and challenges that may arise, in the event of an emergency

As part of the exercise, Council and emergency services will operate a mock relief centre at the Kinglake Community Centre on Saturday 25 March between 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Locals are invited to register to participate in the exercise and will be provided with a scripted persona (character) to act out on the day, which will reflect real challenges and opportunities for emergency services to respond to. You do not need experience or specific knowledge to be involved.

To register your interest in participating, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kinglakeexercise

You can also drop into Council's Kinglake Library and Customer Service Centre and let our customer service team know that you'd like to register to attend.

COMMUNITY MEETING IN MURRINDINDI

Would you like to speak to Council about topics that affect you and your community? Council is hosting an Open Community Meeting in Murrindindi for residents to talk directly to Murrindindi Shire Councillors about issues or ideas that are important to you or your community.

Date: Wednesday 29 March 2023

Time: 5.00 – 7.00 pm

Venue: Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Hub, 815 Murrindindi Road, Murrindindi

You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with Murrindindi Shire Councillors about issues or ideas that are important to you and your community, and you may be speaking in front of members of the public, as well as Council officers.

If you, or your community group, would like to speak to Council, you are invited to attend the meeting. Prior registration if not required, we'll greet you and collect your details on the evening.

Email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or call 5772 0333 for more information.



MURRINDINDI SHIRE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS ARE BACK!

Nominations for the Murrindindi Shire Citizen of the Year Awards are now open! Council is encouraging all Shire residents to think about an individual or community group that inspires you and to consider nominating them for one of the four Award categories. This year's categories are:

- Murrindindi Shire Citizen of the Year
- Murrindindi Shire Senior Citizen of the Year
- Murrindindi Shire Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year

Our new Community Group of the Year Award category seeks to recognise not-for-profit community groups and organisations who demonstrate outstanding achievements.

Nominations close on Sunday 2 April 2023, and entries will be judged from 11 April, with winners of the Awards announced and presented at council-led events during National Volunteer Week (15-21 May 2023).

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/awards for more information on the Awards, eligibility criteria, Frequently Asked Questions, and to nominate an individual or community group for an Award.

DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/2024

We are currently working on preparing a draft Annual Budget for the next financial year. The draft Budget will soon be made available to the community for comment during March and April. Stay tuned for more information on how you can provide feedback.



REGISTERED PETS ARE SAFE PETS

Do you own a dog or a cat? If your pet is registered with Council, you will soon receive your 2023-2024 pet registration renewal notice, with a due date of 9 April.

Nearly one quarter of Murrindindi Shire residents own a dog or a cat, and keeping your beloved pet safe is important. That's why it's a legal requirement for all cats and dogs over the age of three months to be registered with Council, under the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*. These requirements help us reunite you with your beloved pet, should they become lost.

If you have a dog or cat and they are not yet registered, download an animal registration form from our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au or give us a call on 5772 0333. You can also complete an online form to change the details of a registered pet.



QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY AND BLACKBERRY A destructive love story

It is time to keep your eye out for Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF), an incredibly destructive pest that targets ripening summer fruit and fruiting vegetables. QFF becomes more active in warmer weather and adult female flies lay their eggs within a wide range of host fruits.

If left uncontrolled QFF can not only lead to damaged produce for backyard fruit and veggie growers, but it can cause total crop loss for our farmers.

Blackberry can be a vector for QFF movement, enhancing the spread of this insidious pest.

Most municipal roadsides contain some Blackberry. Council's seasonal Roadside Weed Control Program focuses on Blackberry and other noxious weeds and is almost complete.

Working on a landscape level, together with your neighbours, to control Blackberry and the spread of QFF will deliver the best outcome.

There are many things you can do to help control QFF by taking some simple steps in your own garden. For more information, please visit preventfruitfly.com.au



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY PLANNING?

Have you booked your seat at one of our Community Planning Prioritisation Dinners? These events are where you, and other community members, will decide which priority projects are included in the Community Plans for your town, and they are the culmination of a series of get-togethers held over the last few weeks.

These events are a chance to bring it all together and vote for priorities for your community.

Everyone is welcome to these family friendly events, even if this is the first event you have attended. A FREE dinner will be provided, and bookings are essential for catering purposes

Glenburn Prioritisation Dinner

When: Wednesday 25 March 2023 at 6.00 pm

Where: Glenburn Community Hall

Thornton-Rubicon Prioritisation Dinner

When: Wednesday 29 March at 6.00 pm

Where: Thornton Memorial Hall

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au and search 'community planning' or call 5772 0333 to book your spot.

Alternatively, you can drop in to one of our Library and Customer Service Centres, or the Mobile Library, and let us know you will be attending. Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

SUBSCRIBE - FLOOD RECOVERY NEWS

If you want to stay up to date on the latest flood recovery information, subscribe to receive our e-newsletter. The e-newsletter will provide you with key updates on flood recovery activities, including infrastructure assessments and repairs, flood waste removal, road re-opening, available financial and wellbeing support and more.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter and subscribe today.

PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATES

Blue Gums to Eildon Recreational Trail

Construction of the Blue Gums to Eildon Recreational Trail is about half-way complete!

Once we finish excavation works and establish a solid base for the trail, we'll apply a spray seal to trail and carry out landscaping works. We are busy completing other important elements of the project including gabion basket stone retaining walls as part of an extension of the trail to the Eildon Pondage weir, and the construction of a pit stop area at the front of the Big4 Breeze Holiday Park - Eildon (Blue Gums Caravan Park).

People will soon be able to walk or ride the trail and enjoy views of the Goulburn River and the Eildon Pondage. We expect to complete the project in mid April. The trail will link the popular caravan park with the Eildon Township and encourage greater use of Eildon's parks, playgrounds, facilities and businesses.

Thanks to Regional Development Victoria for funding of \$1.77 million to supplement Council's \$190,000 investment to deliver this exciting project.

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au and search 'recreational trail' to find out more about the project.

Drainage upgrades on Kinglake-Glenburn Road

During the first half of 2023, Council will deliver kerb upgrades and carry out underground drainage works to alleviate existing drainage issues on Kinglake-Glenburn Road, on the southern side between the Kinglake Service Station and Elm Grove, Kinglake.

Gravel Roads Re-sheeting Program

Council will soon commence its Gravel Roads Re-sheeting Program. Re-sheeting involves grading and re-shaping gravel roads, reshaping of table drains, and the application of a layer of new gravel over the existing gravel road surface.

We will re-sheet over 27 km of gravel roads across the Shire from March and until May 2023 including:

- Clarkes Road, Thornton
- Forest Road, Flowerdale
- Horns Lane, Fawcett
- Killingworth West Road, Killingworth
- Larritts Lane, Glenburn
- Limestone Road, Limestone
- Shannons Road, Limestone
- Swamp Creek Road, Taggerty
- Thoms Lane, Thornton

Any disruptions for residents will be kept to a minimum.

Further updates will be provided on Council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news and on our Facebook page [@MurrindindiShireCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MurrindindiShireCouncil)



New Skate and Play Spaces for Alexandra

It is wonderful to see the community enjoying the new playground and skate park in Alexandra, which is nearing completion. Gates and water play features will be installed over the coming weeks, as well as the minor defects attended to, and the pump track is in the final stages of construction. Further landscaping and planting of more vegetation should see this project fully completed over the next couple of months, weather depending.

We have had wonderful feedback from the community and due to this, Council is considering the installation of further seating, bins and fencing. Consideration is also being given to upgrading the original flat sections in the skate park and possibly replacing and repairing of the older more cracked concrete, to ensure the precinct can be the best it can be for everyone to enjoy well into the future.

This \$1.725 million project has been possible due to the support from Sport and Recreation Victoria and Regional Development Victoria.

Council intends to host an official opening soon and will be back in touch with the community with more information about this event.

For more information about this project, you can visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/activity-precinct or give us a call on 5772 0333.

Eildon Reserves Redevelopment

Members of a Deliberative Panel in Eildon are participating in an independently run, collaborative engagement process relating to the proposed sale of Council-owned parcels of land, to part fund the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Project.

The Panel sessions are focusing on:

- the Project, including how it was originally identified as a need for Eildon and its benefits to the community and local economy
- the sale of land, including the benefits of selling underutilised land and the trade-offs
- the housing shortage in Eildon
- recommendations to Council on the way forward for the Project

A final report on the recommendations from the community is being prepared by the panel members supported by Capire Consulting Group, which Council engaged to facilitate this deliberative process. The report will be presented to Council and it will guide the decision on the way forward for the Project, including a decision on the sale of land parcels.

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark for more information.

MEET SCOTT, ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS

Scott works as a Community Safety Officer at Council. We asked Scott a few questions, so you could find out a bit more about them and their role.

Can you tell us a bit about your professional background?

I have been in Local Government for over 20 years, starting at Nillumbik Shire Council as a Machinery Operator. I was then given a great opportunity to study and train to become a Ranger, working at Nillumbik for 10 years, before moving over to City of Whittlesea, where I spent 10 years as a Local Laws and Fire Prevention Officer. I spent two years as an Acting Team Leader of the Local Laws Unit before taking up my role as Community Safety Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council in June last year.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

Being a member of my local CFA for over 30 years, I have a particular passion for fire prevention awareness and education and enjoy being able to contribute to Murrindindi Shire's fire preparedness activities. The work I've most enjoyed is coordinating Council's Roadside Slashing Program, together with our Parks and Gardens Team, and rolling out our Fire Prevention Program, which involved promoting a community awareness campaign and helping community members keep their properties safe and well-prepared for bushfires and grassfires.

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

There really is no typical day working in Community Safety – there is a lot of variety in the work we do. Some days I might be helping reunite a lost dog with its owner, working with the local Police on educational campaigns, or simply talking with locals and listening to their concerns. I like to spend time with community and find ways I can support them through my role at Council.

What do you love most about Murrindindi Shire?

The staff. The area. I can happily say I have the best office! My view every day when I drive around would make a great screen saver. Our team is a close team, and we are all there for each other if one of us has a bad day. I did ten years at Nillumbik, ten at Whittlesea, so I think the tradition of ten years will stay true for Murrindindi.



CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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



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