



The Life Story of Anne Frank Exhibition

The exhibition titled “Let Me Be Myself – The Life Story of Anne Frank” is being held at Council’s Alexandra Library until 29 June.

This remarkable exhibition takes you through Anne Frank’s personal story, her joyful childhood in Frankfurt, her immigration to Amsterdam and her life in hiding. The exhibition also sheds light on the rise of the national socialists, the Holocaust and the impact of anti-Jewish measures.

Entry is free and is suitable for families. Group bookings and scheduled tours are available. Call the Library on (03) 5772 0333 for more information.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annefrank to learn more.

Council’s 2024/25 Annual Budget

After considering community feedback, Council adopted its Annual Budget for 2024/25 at the 12 June Special Meeting of Council.

The 2024/25 Budget outlines the resource requirements and priority projects in line with the key strategic objectives that have been set in the Council Plan 2021-2025. It has been a challenging budget to prepare amid escalating costs and limits on our ability to raise revenue.

This budget has been carefully prepared with an approach that includes advocating for increased government grants, responsible borrowing, comprehensive efficiency reviews, process automation, asset consolidation and initiatives aimed at expanding our rate base and stimulating economic growth. Average rate increases are limited to 2.75% in line with the Victorian Government’s Rate Cap.

To read the Annual Budget 2024/25, please visit Council’s website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget or drop in to one of our Library and Customer Service Centres, including the Mobile Library Service.

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To stay up to date with the latest Council news, initiatives and events, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews



Parks Team Progress

Ever wondered what our Parks team is up to? In the first half of 2024, we worked tirelessly to respond to storm and flood damage. We cleared fallen trees and debris from roads, roadsides and parks. In addition to these unplanned works, we kept our public parks and spaces in top shape by cleaning restroom facilities, shelters and BBQs – almost daily – and by mowing the grass and keeping gardens under control.

Recently, we prepared war memorials and cenotaphs across the Shire for Anzac Day services, ensuring they were clean and tidy for these important events.

Our dedicated ‘tree crew’ has been starting to lift street tree canopies, to improve their shape and to allow access for high vehicles. In response to community requests, we regularly clear roadside debris and inspect the condition of trees in public areas across the Shire. We were pleased to receive funding support from the Victorian Government to purchase a tree chipper to support this work.

During autumn, leaves were constantly cleared from township gutters right across the Shire.





Road Maintenance and Repairs

It's been a productive first half of the year for our road crews and contractors.

Our annual road programs, including our gravel resheeting, resealing and major patching programs are now complete, with 35 roads receiving important maintenance works.

Our road repair crews regularly inspect roads across the Shire, as part of our maintenance programs and they also respond to requests from the community. Since the start of the year, our crews have responded to 1927 road related requests.

Our annual grading program has been underway since September last year. To date, we have completed grading and culvert works to 260 km of unsealed roads, with the aim of completing a further 40 km before the wet weather sets in. So far, 5,200 tonnes of crushed rock has been used for these works.

Council maintains more than 1200 km of roads across the Shire and 60% of Council-maintained roads are unsealed. Unfortunately, potholes are a routine and unavoidable feature on our roads, as hard as we try to keep them in good condition. As we head into the winter months, the wet weather makes it hard for us to carry out repairs. During winter, Council can only provide temporary fixes, filling the potholes with gravel, as wet conditions make full repair works ineffective. We encourage the community to report potholes to Council by submitting a request at murrindindi.vic.gov.au or by downloading the Snap Send Solve app to your mobile and reporting issues through the app. Snap Send Solve will automatically assign requests to the relevant authorities, including Regional Roads Victoria for requests relating to the major highways in our Shire.

We understand that travelling on roads with potholes can be a nuisance, but we ask the community to drive to the conditions.

Drumming Workshops a Huge Success

Council recently hosted three African Drumming Workshops in Yea and Alexandra, taking participants on a memorable journey into West African music.

We had over 70 people attend each workshop, where they learnt about the instruments, songs and rhythms, and spent time drumming, laughing and connecting with one another.

These events are part of Council's flood recovery efforts to foster connected and resilient communities and they were made possible with funding from the Australian and Victoria Governments through Emergency Recovery Victoria.

Standing Up Against Discrimination

On 17 May, Council celebrated IDAHOBIT, the International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination, by raising the Pride Flag at our Council offices in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake. We also helped raise awareness by handing out information about IDAHOBIT at pop-up stands in Alexandra and Yea. The Pride Flag will fly proudly at our offices until the end of June to celebrate Pride month.

As part of our shared community vision, we strive to create an inclusive community, embrace diversity and encourage the participation of all. Why is it important to celebrate this day, not just today, but every day? Because LGBTQIA+ people in Australia still experience disproportionate rates of bullying, harassment and discrimination.



Alexandra Landfill Project Update

Council's Alexandra Landfill is undergoing a significant development, with additional cells (compartments where waste is isolated from the environment) being constructed in the western area of the landfill. These additional cells are expected to provide an additional 30 years of capacity, based on current waste volumes.

The project is expected to receive final approval from the EPA to begin using the new cells in September 2024. Once in use, the old cells in the eastern area of the landfill will be closed and sealed to reduce landfill gas emissions.

Strategy Guides Future of Local Economy

Council recently adopted its five-year Economic Development Strategy, which is designed to improve the economic well-being and quality of life in the region. The Strategy serves as a guide for Murrindindi Shire's economic development, promoting sustainable growth, community prosperity and resilience in the face of evolving global and regional opportunities and challenges.

To read a copy of the Strategy, visit the 'Strategies and Plans' section of our website.



Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Update

The Eildon Reserves Redevelopment is progressing well, with the skate park complete and open for use. Works continue on the senior play space, flying fox and swing set playground and toilet block.

The toilet block is undergoing a significant upgrade, providing access for all abilities and incorporating a new change area. It is closed until the upgrades are complete.

Construction of the adventure playground, splash park, BBQ shelter and minor footpath and landscaping works is scheduled for completion over the coming months. We're aiming for the whole project to be complete by mid-December this year.

For more information about the project, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonreserves

This \$6.1 million project is made possible with funding from both state and federal governments.

Murrindindi Shire on your TV screen

Over the last few months Murrindindi Shire has featured in two exciting TV shows. In May, 'The Fishing Show' showcased the fabulous fishing opportunities available in Eildon and surrounds and the episode is now available to stream on the 7Mate app and website. The Country House Hunters team with host Catriona Rowntree recently visited Alexandra, Thornton and Eildon, with that episode due to air soon on the 9 Network.

Tune in to Council News on UGFM Radio

Did you know that you can hear the latest news from Council each week by tuning in to UGFM radio at the following times: Tuesdays at 8.15 am, Thursdays at 8.40 am and Saturdays at 7.30 am.

Advocating for our Community

When Council talks about 'advocacy', we refer to the work we do (which is often behind the scenes) to raise issues with other levels of government on behalf of our community. One issue we recently raised was the lack of direct engagement with our community about the future use of the Central Highlands forests. In 2021, the Victorian Government formed the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement to advise on the use of state forests. The Panel, focusing on the Central Highlands Regional Forest Agreement Area, sought input on managing over 390,000 hectares of forests and 50,000 hectares of Immediate Protection Areas. As part of this engagement, the Panel held a number of local community sessions. Alexandra and surrounds lacked a scheduled local session, prompting Council to advocate for one to be held. As a result, 564 community members attended the event on 6 May, ensuring their voices were heard. Thank you to all who attended. We eagerly anticipate the Panel's Report and recommendations in the coming months.

Flowerdale Plans for the Future

More than 60 people from Flowerdale came together last month to prioritise projects that will help make their community even stronger. The group had the hard task of selecting the top ideas from more than 50 suggestions made by the community as part of the Flowerdale Community Planning Program.

For more information, including a list of priority projects, or if you'd like to get involved in an action team for one or more projects, visit: theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/flowerdale-community-planning or phone (03) 5772 0333.

Celebrating National Tree Day

In the lead up to National Tree Day (Sunday 28 July), our Libraries are hosting a competition to encourage the community to rug up and get out in nature to look for the longest gum leaf you can find. A prize is up for grabs and it's a great way for the whole family to connect with our natural surrounds.

We are also hosting an information session with tree expert, Dr Greg Moore, a regular on ABC Radio. This event will be held at the Yea Shire Hall on Tuesday 16 July at 6.45 pm.

Stay tuned for more details on the competition and upcoming information session on Council's website, Facebook page and in your local publication or community newsletter.

MEET PELI, GRADER AND MACHINERY OPERATOR

We asked Peli a few questions, so you could find out a bit more about him and his role.



What does your typical work day look like?

My day starts with planning out where I'll be working for the day. Murrindindi Shire covers a large area and Council maintains over 700 km of unsealed (or gravel) roads. One day I could be working in Strath Creek and next in Eildon or Marysville.

Then, I check that all machinery is good to go and begin grading works.

Each year, we roll out a grading program on Council-managed roads. This involves reshaping roads to create an even and level surface and to make sure drainage is working as it should. The summer and autumn months are the busiest as we try to get all our grading works done before winter.

What do you love most about Murrindindi Shire?

The open spaces, fresh air, hills and mountains, and the bush. It's a great place to live and work.

Can you tell us a bit about you and your work background?

I am originally from Tonga, an island in the South Pacific. I have been operating graders and other machinery for over 35 years.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I love working outdoors and I appreciate the good feedback from local residents for the work that I do.

Council Elections

Every four years, Murrindindi Shire residents and ratepayers vote to elect Councillors to represent our community. The next Council elections will be held in October 2024 and conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC).

Council is inviting passionate community leaders to stand as candidates in the upcoming elections. If you are considering running or you'd like to learn more about what being a councillor entails, visit the Municipal Association of Victoria's website at mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024

If you have any questions about the election process, visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au or call 131 832.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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



Cr Damien Gallagher (Mayor)
Red Gate Ward
0419 017 801
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Cr Sue Carpenter (Deputy Mayor)
Cheviot Ward
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Cr Ilona Gerencser
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Need to get in touch? Please email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au, call us on **(03) 5772 0333** or visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Reflecting on COUNCIL'S PROGRESS

Council is inviting our community to reflect on the progress made to date on our 2021-2025 Council Plan and actively inform the strategic direction for the next four years.

We've prepared a Progress Report that outlines key projects and activities delivered to support the five main themes in the current Council Plan:

- Resilient Communities
- Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings
- Growth and Opportunity
- Our Protected Environment
- Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability

We want to know what you think of our progress, if we have focused our efforts in the right areas and if there are additional or different priorities we should consider for the future.

Your feedback is important as we start to prepare our next Council Plan and we'd really like to hear from as many people in our community as possible. This opportunity to participate in Council Plan engagement comes along once every four years, with the final document guiding Council's work throughout 2025-2029.

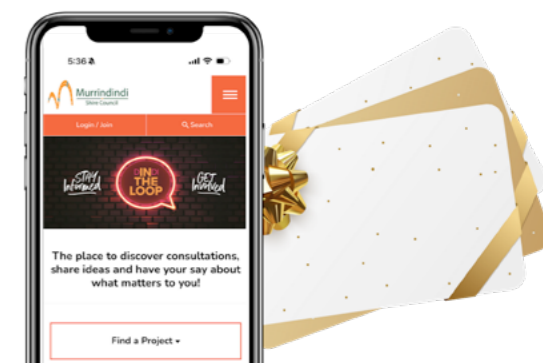
To get involved and have your say, you can complete a feedback form, both online and in person at our Library and Customer Service Centres.

We also encourage you to register and come along to a 'Warm Bowls, Hot Topics' community conversation session, where Council officers will be facilitating discussions with community members and capturing feedback. You can enjoy a bowl of warm soup and exchange ideas at the following locations:

Kingslake Community Centre Monday 8 July 6.30 - 8.30 pm	Yea Council Chambers Wednesday 10 July 6.00 - 8.00 pm	Marysville Community Centre Thursday 11 July 12 noon - 2.00 pm	Alexandra Shire Hall Monday 15 July 6.00 - 8.00 pm
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Look out for Council officers at community events across the Shire and drop by for a chat to learn more about the project. For more information and to get involved, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ourprogress or give Council a call on (03) 5772 0333.

By providing feedback by 21 July 2024, you'll go in the draw to win one of three \$100 FOODWORKS SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS





Pictured: Ursula Jenkins and Christine Stonehouse from Boomerang Bags, Alexis Holder and Darryl King.

That's a wrap for Council's 2024 Community Awards

We were thrilled to again present the annual Murrindindi Shire Community Awards during National Volunteer Week in May. These Awards provide us with a great opportunity to recognise the outstanding contributions of volunteers who demonstrate exceptional community spirit and a willingness to help others.

To celebrate volunteers across our Shire, Council hosted a special volunteer appreciation dinner in Alexandra. At this event we announced our Award winners and celebrated all the wonderful Award nominees.

We congratulate the following 2024 Award recipients:

Volunteer of the Year: Darryl King

Young Volunteer of the Year: Alexis Holder

Senior Volunteer of the Year: Julie Lynch

Community Group of the Year: Kinglake Ranges Boomerang Bags

If you're interested in giving back to your community and connecting with people, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteerhub and check out the local volunteering opportunities available to you.

If you are a member of a volunteer organisation not yet listed on the Volunteer Hub, you can complete the online form or give us a call on (03) 5772 0333.



Pictured: Glenda Woods (accepting Julie Lynch's Award, Cr Sue Carpenter and Darryl King.

Inspiring Early Years Conference

Council's Murrindindi Children's Network hosted its Annual Early Years Conference at Holmesglen on 9 May. The event was attended by around 70 participants all involved in learning to improve outcomes for children in our Shire and around the state. The key speakers offered insights into the importance of storytelling from an Aboriginal perspective and how to incorporate that into everyday learning, how consent works in early childhood and an array of strategies for working with children with additional behavioural needs.



Visitor Information Volunteer Tour

Last month, Council hosted a familiarisation tour of the Yea River Valley, Toolangi and the Kinglake Ranges for volunteers from Murrindindi Shire's Visitor Information Centres (VIC).

The aim of the tour was to showcase our wonderful region to the VIC volunteers so they can better know the hidden gems of the eastern half of our Shire and confidently promote them to visitors.

Celebrating National Reconciliation Week

To celebrate National Reconciliation Week, Council proudly partnered with Buxton Primary School to host a special morning tea event for students, parents, school staff and the community.

The event was held at the school and began with a traditional Welcome to Country and a speech from school Principal Sarah Irving. Students performed a song in Taungurung language and attendees had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the Warrk Warrk Trail.

Did you know that in 2018, Taungurung Language and Culture became a Language Other Than English (LOTE) Program at Buxton Primary School? The students use Taungurung language daily in class for greetings, acknowledgements, and other learning tasks. They have a strong understanding of, and connection to, the Taungurung concept of custodianship of the land.