

### ART ON THE GREAT VICTORIAN RAIL TRAIL

The Art on the Great Victorian Rail Trail Project was officially opened at an event at Trawool Estate on 26 May ahead of a major tourism campaign planned for spring.

The project has seen seven large-scale artworks and a series of smaller works placed along the length of the 134 km Great Victorian Rail Trail (GVRT).

The joint initiative between Murrindindi, Mansfield and Mitchell Shire Councils, aims to improve the rail trail experience by implementing innovative and impactful art installations to attract visitors to the trail and the surrounding towns within the region.

This exciting project has the potential to bring visitors and economic benefit to the region.

The GVRT will also benefit from a series of new wayfinding and interpretive signs installed along the trail. These signs will improve the visitor experience on the trail, sharing First Peoples stories and information, and connecting people with sites along the trail.

We thank the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund whose \$1.2 million grant covered the full cost of the artworks, their installation and the selection process.

For more information about the artists and the artwork, visit [greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au/art](https://greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au/art)



### REFLECT RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Council officially launched its 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) on Tuesday 30 May in the company of Taungurung Traditional Owners and Elder Aunty Jo Honeysett, local Councillors, staff and students from Yea High School.

The event was held in Alexandra during National Reconciliation Week and began with a traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony performed by Taungurung Elder Aunty Jo, followed by a speech from Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor John Walsh and a morning tea made with native bush ingredients.

The RAP aims to improve connections with, and outcomes for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live in Murrindindi Shire. Council's RAP supports the 10-Year Community Vision, where we respect and celebrate the cultural heritage of our First Nations peoples and those who have come before us.

To find out more about Council's RAP, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/reconciliation](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/reconciliation), give us a call on (03) 5772 0333 or pop-in to one of our Library and Customer Service Centres.

### DIGITAL LITERACY AT YOUR LIBRARIES

Kinglake and Alexandra Library offer a Digital Literacy Program, designed to assist community members with using electronic devices, such as smartphones, tablets and laptops. The Program also aims to answer any tech-related questions you might have.

Come along to the following sessions:

- Be Connected – Every Monday at 12.00 noon at Kinglake Library
- Tech Talk – Every Friday at 11.30 am at Alexandra Library

For more information and to RSVP, you can drop in or give us a call on (03) 5772 0333.

## MURRINDINDI SHIRE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Murrindindi Shire Citizen of the Year Awards provide us with an opportunity to recognise and celebrate individuals and community groups for their contribution and commitment to making our Shire such a great place to live.

We congratulate the following 2023 Award recipients:

- Young Citizen of the Year (joint award recipients) - Alastair Gerrey from Alexandra and Kirk Mercuri from Kinglake
- Citizen of the Year - Sarah Southam from Alexandra
- Senior Citizen of the Year - Bob Emblin from Buxton
- Community Group of the Year - The Alexandra Truck Show Committee

To show our appreciation for volunteers across Murrindindi Shire, Council hosted Volunteer Appreciation Dinners in Marysville and Kinglake, during National Volunteer Week. At these celebrations we announced the Citizen of the Year Award winners and celebrated all the wonderful Award nominees.

If you're interested in giving back to your community and connecting with people, please visit our online Volunteer Hub at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteerhub](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteerhub) to 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 at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteer](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteer) or give us a call on (03) 5772 0333.



## COUNCIL'S PLAN FOR NET-ZERO EMISSIONS

Demonstrating its commitment to fighting climate change, Council has developed a draft Climate Change Action Plan: Towards 2035, which will act as a roadmap to help Council and the community work towards net-zero emissions by 2035.

Council recently put the call out to residents, business owners and landholders to review the Plan, provide feedback and vote for your choice of actions that Council can take to support you.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback. We are now reviewing and considering your input, and are working to finalise the Plan.

Visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction) for more information.

If you, or a group you are involved in, would like a more detailed conversation, please email [environment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

## PET REGISTRATIONS

Calling all pet owners! Did you know that it is a legal requirement for all dogs and cats, over the age of three months, to be registered with Council? It is also mandatory for all dogs and cats being registered for the first time with Council to be microchipped.

Registering your pet(s) is important for ensuring that they can be easily identified and returned to you in the event they become lost. It's also important to keep your microchip details up to date. You can easily view your pet's microchip information via Central Animal Records at [car.com.au](https://car.com.au) or by calling 1800 333 202

Pet registrations were due on 10 April 2023 and there are still a number of outstanding renewals. For those who haven't paid their registration renewal yet, please do so as soon as possible, or you could be liable for a fine.

If you would like any further information about pet registrations, please call Council's Community Safety team on (03) 5772 0333.

## SUBSCRIBE - FLOOD RECOVERY NEWS

Flood recovery efforts continue throughout Murrindindi Shire in response to the October 2022 floods. To stay up to date with the latest information, you can subscribe to receive our email newsletter direct to your inbox. To subscribe visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter)

Printed copies are also available at our Library and Customer Service Centres.



## PROJECT DELIVERY UPDATES

### Eildon Reserves Redevelopment

We are pleased to announce that we have awarded the construction tender for the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Project to the successful contractor.

The Project will transform the Walter Moore and Thomas Marr Reserves in Eildon and replace infrastructure with new, accessible, contemporary attractions, as part of the regional splash park project. This project will be a key catalyst, delivering on the vision for Eildon.

This follows an independent, deliberative engagement process with the Eildon community, where 87% of the Deliberative Panel (made up of 25 community members), recommended Council proceed with the sale of land parcels in Eildon, to part-fund Council's \$1.2 million contribution to the Project.

A Summary Report of the process and recommendations of the Deliberative Panel is available at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark)

Preliminary works have commenced to prepare the site for major construction, which we expect will commence in Spring 2023 with completion for the summer of 2024.



### Skyline Road Tourism Precinct Catalyst Project

A detailed design is almost complete for the upgrade and sealing of an 18 km section of Skyline Road, Maintongoon Road and Sonnberg Drive, which will aid future applications for grant funding to construct the project.

The Project will support the establishment of the Skyline Road Touring Route, connecting Eildon and Bonnie Doon. As part of the overall design work, we are including architectural lookouts at key vantage points and investigating opportunities for commercial tourism developments, while protecting the unique natural environment.

The Skyline Touring Route is a priority project in the Activating Lake Eildon Masterplan with both Murrindindi and Mansfield Shire Councils strongly advocating for the funds required to turn the area into a premier tourism destination and realising a continuous touring route around the lake.

We thank the Victorian Government for funding of \$500,000 from the Investment Fast Track Fund, to complete the design and planning work for this exciting project.



### Thornton Netball Courts Resurfacing

Exciting news for local netballers! Council recently engaged a contractor to complete the resurfacing of the netball courts at the Thornton Recreation Reserve.

Thanks to the Thornton Eildon District Football & Netball Club for their contribution towards the new playing surface.

Sporting infrastructure projects like this directly support the health and wellbeing of our communities.

### Gravel Roads Re-sheeting Program

Council's Gravel Roads Re-sheeting Program is nearly complete.

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. This program is re-sheeting over 27 km of gravel roads across the Shire.

Any disruptions for residents will be kept to a minimum.

## ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/24 ADOPTED

Council has adopted its Annual Budget for 2023/24, demonstrating a renewed focus on maintenance and renewal of Council infrastructure, including sealed and unsealed roads, footpaths and bridges.

The 2023/24 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.

Visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget) or drop in to one of our offices or the Mobile Library Service to read a copy of the Budget.

## AGRICULTURE VICTORIA FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS EXTENDED UNTIL 13 JULY

Applications for a range of Agriculture Victoria grants have been extended until 13 July 2023. This extension of time gives farmers and primary producers more time to get the relief and support they need.

For more details on available grants, visit the Agriculture Victoria website at [agriculture.vic.gov.au](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

For assistance call Agriculture Victoria on 136 186, Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

## MEET HOLLY, ONE OF OUR PARKS AND GARDENS OFFICERS

Holly works as a Parks and Gardens Officer. We asked Holly 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 always had a passion for gardening. I started my horticultural studies and worked in nurseries around Monbulk, mostly doing propagating work, when I was 19-20 years old. The bulk of what I know now, I have learnt while working at Council. I started with Council in June 2020 and have loved every minute of it. I've learnt how to brush cut, spray responsibly, prune correctly, use zero-turn mowers and so much more.

### What do you enjoy most about your role?

I have to say, I enjoy brush cutting the most. It is a very satisfying feeling when I look back and see what I've done. I also enjoy how much the community appreciates my work. Parks are so important and I'm glad I can play a role in helping community members enjoy these spaces.

### What do you love most about Murrindindi Shire?

There's such a variety of landscape around our beautiful Shire. We really do live in a wonderful part of the world. Every day is different, and I look forward to what the day brings.

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

We start at the depot bright and early. I try to arrive 10-15 minutes early to check the work vehicle and grab any necessary equipment from the shed. We have a quick toolbox meeting to discuss the tasks that need to be done that day, and then we head out to our respected job sites. Sometimes I'm on a brush cutter for the day in Yea, sometimes I'm on the zero-turn mower in Kinglake, and sometimes I'm pruning trees along a walking track in Flowerdale. It really depends on the day!



## 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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