

ALEXANDRA MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE UNDERGOES MAKEOVER

The Maternal and Child Health Centre in Alexandra has recently undergone an exciting and complete renewal, bringing a new era of functionality and design to the facility.

Council, in partnership with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, delivered the extensive refurbishment project, which included both interior and exterior upgrades, that have been sensitively delivered to protect and enhance the charm and functionality for future generations.

The upgrades have transformed the facility into a modern, welcoming space that is well equipped to accommodate essential maternal and child health services to local families.

The Centre has received a fresh coat of paint both inside and out, structural enhancements have been made to shore up the safety and stability of the building, brand-new flooring has been installed, and upgraded cabinetry and storage solutions have been incorporated.

The Centre's treatment room now boasts modern conveniences, designed to enhance comfort and convenience for both patients and caregivers. The entrance to the facility has also been renewed, offering a warm welcome for all visitors.



STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST COUNCIL NEWS

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, follow us on Facebook. We also advertise news and updates in a range of local community newsletters and publications, including the Mountain Monthly, Flowerdale Flyer, Granite News and Triangle News. We'll soon be introducing a regular email newsletter – stay tuned for information on how you can opt-in and receive updates direct to your inbox. If there's anything you'd like to hear more about, email communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



EILDON RESERVES REDEVELOPMENT

Exciting news! Construction of the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment project is set to begin in early October.

This project will see the transformation of Thomas Marr and Walter Moore Reserves, in the heart of the Eildon Township. Elements of this exciting project are being delivered at different stages, with the flying fox, swing area, and senior play space going in first. Contractors have been appointed for the splash park, playground, new amenity facilities and associated pumps, water filtration systems, and equipment has been ordered.

Once a successful contractor is appointed, we will begin building the brand-new skate park. Works on the splash park, toilets, change rooms and picnic shelter, as well as the installation of new footpaths and upgrades to furniture and other facilities, will occur from February 2024. We expect the new development will be open to the community from October 2024.

While these works are occurring, Utah Place will be closed off to through traffic.

This significant project will provide a wonderful experience for locals and visitors and enhance the recreation offering in Eildon. For more information, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark

This project is made possible with funding from Regional Development Victoria's Regional Tourism Investment Fund, the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund, Sport and Recreation Victoria's Local Sport Infrastructure Fund and the Department of Families Fairness and Housing's Changing Places Fund. This funding has supported Council's \$1.2 million contribution.



STAY INFORMED, GET INVOLVED

Big things are happening in the community engagement space! Get involved in our new projects below. Scan the QR Code to visit Council's engagement platform at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Reducing Road Trauma

Council is seeking community input to help plan for future road safety measures across the Shire.

Tell us what you think about road safety and how we can work together to improve it. Your feedback will help us prepare a draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, with the goal of reducing road trauma, fatalities and serious injury on our roads.

Road safety is a shared responsibility and community input is extremely valuable.

Feedback closes 30 September 2023.



Help shape the future of the Eildon Pondage

The Eildon Pondage is enjoyed by many people, whether you like to fish, run, walk or relax around the lower pondage with BBQ or picnic. It's a great spot, but we want to make it even better!

To enhance the Eildon Pondage area, Council is developing an Eildon Pondage Precinct Masterplan. The Masterplan presents a unique opportunity to improve this important area in Eildon for both locals and visitors.

We're asking you to share with us how you use the Pondage and your ideas on how we could improve the area. With your help, the Masterplan will identify key projects, which will help Council and other agencies prioritise and seek the funding required to deliver these projects.

Feedback closes on 9 October 2023.

Register to attend a free lunch for Seniors

In recognition of the Victorian Seniors Festival in October, Council is hosting FREE lunches in Alexandra, Yea, Flowerdale, Eildon and Kinglake.

Come along and enjoy a hot lunch and live music by Steve Paix. Bring your friends or make new ones. Book a seat, it will be fabulous! These events are available for seniors living in Murrindindi Shire. Limited spots available.

For more information and to reserve your place, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniorsslunches

Registrations are required by Thursday 5 October 2023. Give Council a call on (03) 5772 0333 if you require any assistance with registration.

Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review

As part of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review, Council is inviting feedback from the community on how the Planning Scheme is working, as well as suggestions or ideas that will help guide Council's future land use planning work.

Council is particularly interested in hearing from community members, groups and organisations who have experience with the Planning Scheme, through the permit application process. Insights and input are encouraged on what's working, what's not, what can be improved and what Council should focus on in reviewing how the planning scheme works for all.

Feedback closes 30 September 2023.

Community Planning is coming to Flowerdale and the Kinglake Ranges

Do you live, work or play in Flowerdale or the Kinglake Ranges? Do you want to help plan for the future of your community?

Community Planning is an exciting opportunity for the people of Flowerdale and Kinglake to come together to identify local strengths and priorities, and develop solutions that will help the community flourish.

Building on ideas that came about in 2022, as part of the community-led Kinglake Ranges Flowerdale Talks Program, Council will support these communities to prioritise what's most important and develop their own community plan.

With Flowerdale Community Planning set to launch first, community members are invited to get involved and help plan how the program might work in Flowerdale by attending one of the following drop-in sessions:

- Flowerdale Community House Open Day
Sunday 8 October from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
- Flowerdale Hotel
Thursday 12 October from 5.00 - 7.00 pm
- General Store in Flowerdale
Saturday 14 October from 10.00 am - 12 noon

To find out more, visit The Loop or call (03) 5772 0333 and ask to speak with Anna from Community Planning.

LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS FOR BUSHFIRE MEMORIALS

Towards the end of September, Council will be carrying out landscaping and maintenance works on the Bushfire Memorials in Kinglake, Kinglake West and Flowerdale. These memorials, along with the memorials in Castella, Marysville and Narbethong, were constructed to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the devastating Black Saturday Bushfires and they are important places for our community to gather and reflect.

A range of works will occur at the Kinglake, Kinglake West and Flowerdale memorials in the coming weeks, such as replacing trees, pressure cleaning, treatment of timber furniture and cleaning of memorial artwork. Council will also increase its existing maintenance program for these memorials to include pressure washing of hard surfaces and treatment of timber surfaces twice yearly.

FORESTRY TRANSITION PROGRAM

Grants are available to help native timber businesses and communities to transition ahead of native timber harvesting ending on 1 January 2024.

Visit deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry/grants for more information and to apply.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS PROGRAM

Are you interested in applying for a grant through Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program? Applications for Round Two are now open, including Quick Response Grants which are open year-round.

Visit our website murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants or call our Grants Officer on (03) 5772 0333 for more information.

PLANNING FOR THE FIRE SEASON

In preparation for the forthcoming fire season, Council will begin its Fire Prevention Roadside Slashing Program in the coming months. As part of Council's broader fire prevention activities, Council officers will also be inspecting properties with heavy fuel loads (grass, stubble, weeds and leaf litter) across the Shire. Officers will work with landowners to ensure they maintain their property's fuel load throughout the fire danger period.

We'd like community members to start getting ready and thinking about what can be done now, to make sure we're prepared ahead of this fire season. Rural areas are more likely to be impacted by bushfires, it is important that owners of residential and industrial land also take the time to prepare their property in advance of the warmer weather.

A reminder that Council offers free green waste disposal at our Resource Recovery Centres in the lead-up to the fire season, during October and November. This is a great way to remove your unwanted green waste and fuel loads on your property without having to burn off.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireprevention or the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare for more information on preparing your property.

THE VOICE REFERENDUM - 14 OCTOBER 2023

Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum being held on Saturday 14 October 2023.

The Referendum is about whether we should change the constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Voting is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over. Learn more at voice.gov.au

ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

During June and July, Council sought feedback from the community on all aspects of road management, as part of its Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP) review. We received over 130 submissions, and we are currently reviewing and considering all feedback. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your valuable insights.

We have also established a Council Road Advisory Group, which is made up of 14 community representatives from across the Shire. The purpose of the Advisory Group is to provide recommendations to Council on road management, including input on the review of our RAMP, which covers maintenance, renewal, upgrades and service quality.

The Advisory Group has already had its first meeting and will continue to collaborate with Council on matters that are related to road management practices, policies, plans and strategies.

Once we have prepared our draft RAMP, we will seek comment from the broader community. For more information about this project, including updates from the Advisory Group meetings, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ramp

DETOX YOUR HOME EVENT IN YEA

Dispose of unwanted household chemicals and paint at the next Detox Your Home event in Yea on 21 October 2023 from 9.00 am – 12 noon at the Yea Saleyards.

Toxic chemicals should never be put in your rubbish bins, poured down the drain, or put in a skip. You can drop off unwanted household chemicals at our free Detox Your Home event, which is licensed to accept toxic chemicals and staffed by trained specialist chemists. Acceptable chemicals are household volumes of cleaners, fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and paint.

Registrations are essential and time slots are limited. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/detox to register and for a full list of materials that can be accepted.

MEET NATALIE, KINGLAKE LIBRARY'S TEAM LEADER

We asked Natalie 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 had a very diverse career! In short, I began my career working in Cultural Heritage, with a variety of fly-in, fly-out roles across Australia. I've worked in the Museums, Exhibitions and Collections spaces at large organisations both overseas and in Australia, including a regional council just outside Edinburgh, Scotland and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra. After 18 months as Team Leader of the Yea Library and Customer Service, I'm very happy to be able to bring my skills and my passions to my role in Kinglake!

What do you enjoy most about your role?

Libraries are constantly evolving, and the silent libraries of my childhood (not to mention the grouchy librarians!) are a relic of the past. Books and reading are accessible in a variety of ways, and connecting users to new media or technology that suits their lifestyle is such a joyful task. Heaven for a nerd like me!

What do you love most about Murrindindi Shire?

I've found a real sense of community in Murrindindi Shire. The locals look after one another, and if they know you're looking for information or assistance, I've found they are very quick to offer to put you in touch with the right person. We have had a few incidents in my time in the region, including the October 2022 Floods, and last summer's fires. Help was offered, coffees were purchased for volunteers, and there was no question that we would all do our best to look after one another.

What does a typical day at work look like?

I get to the Kinglake Office at about 8.45 am, usually with a coffee in my hand. We open up the building, prepare for any upcoming programs like Storytime or Pageturners, and help our customers with things like animal registrations and rates payments, as well as reserving or searching for books.

Kinglake is the hub for incoming books from our wider network, so as tubs of books arrive from other libraries for our customers, we allocate them to the home library for that customer. I often spend time helping customers to print their documents or access online services from other organisations. Kinglake is a Centrelink Access point, and I like to be able to help troubleshoot some of the obstacles our customers face when accessing these services.

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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