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# triangle news



**We Serve**

NARBETHONG & GRANTON

BUXTON & TAGGERTY

Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> 2010

President Glenn McFadzean

Vol. 37 No. 26

## Management plan drives council's road responsibilities

Murrindindi Shire Council has completed a review of its Road Management Plan which sets out council's responsibilities for maintaining and service response times for the shire's 460km of sealed roads and 660km of unsealed roads.

Council's Assets and Infrastructure spokesman Cr Bob Flowers said the plan sets out council's obligations in supporting the shire's diverse road network.

"The plan has prioritised roads in terms of their use and importance across the municipality," Cr Flowers said.

"Road inspection and maintenance is a significant component of the works program and the plan sets out how we determine our schedules. The shire's roads are prioritised according to road use including traffic volumes and the use by school buses and the like."

"That does not mean to say that roads that are not utilised as much will not be repaired or maintained should there be a risk to public safety. It is all about providing the public with a clear understanding of council's road management responsibilities."

Cr Flowers said the plan balanced the needs of both business and community by considering factors such as risk management, road safety, social needs, environmental influences, and budget priorities.

"It should be recognised that council has had an active management plan in place and our focus on roads has seen a reduction in customer requests, which are almost entirely generated because of maintenance needs, drop from 322 in 2007 to 189 in 2009," Cr Flowers said.

"Importantly over 2008/09, 96 per cent of remedial actions were completed on time."

The Road Management Plan is available at [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au) under publications.

## 77th ICI Road World Championships in Melbourne in September

In 2010, Melbourne will welcome the 77th UCI Road World Championships. This event is second only to the legendary Tour de France in terms of importance and prestige in international cycling and it will bring the best riders in the world to Australia.

The popularity of the Tour de France in Australia and the excitement created by it will flow on to create unprecedented interest in the World Championships.

The event will be held over 5 days of competition from 29th September to 3rd October and features Elite Men and Women competitors as well as Under 23 Men's. Over 400 of the world's best cyclists will descend on Melbourne to compete in Time Trial and Road Race events based in Geelong.

In addition to the challenging courses set in Geelong for these competitors, for the first time in a World Championship, the Elite Men's Road Race will begin in one city and finish in another with the start of the race in Melbourne, finishing with laps of the tough circuit in Geelong.

The World Championships have a rich history and have been won by famous cyclists such as Lance Armstrong, Eddie Merckx, Greg Lemond, Mario Cipollini as well as Australia's Michael Rogers and current World Champion Cadel Evans. In 2010 a strong contingent of Australian riders will press for victory on home soil.

The current Australian team is likely to include a host of potential winners, including Cadel Evans, Michael Rogers, Simon Gerrans and Allan Davis, to name but a few.

The interest in the event will certainly be heightened with the expected presence of defending World Champion Cadel Evans. In the past two Tour de France events he has finished second on each occasion; an achievement unsurpassed in Australian cycling history.

To add to the excitement Evans will be riding for back to back World Championships in his "own backyard". His home town of Barwon Heads is just 20 minutes from Geelong, where he will attempt to win the Men's Road Race on 3rd October 2010.

The excitement and expectation this will generate will be unprecedented in the history of the sport here in Australia.

## From the Office of the Premier of Victoria

To Tony Parisi

### SAFETY CONCERNS REGARDING THE BLACK SPUR ROAD

Thank you for your letter of 30 April 2010 regarding the safety of the Black Spur section of the Maroondah Hwy between Healesville and Narbethong (Black Spur). The efforts you have gone to in preparing the attached petition demonstrate your commitment to this issue. I am responding on the Premier's behalf.

I would also like to thank you for your support for the ongoing bushfire recovery assistance provided by the Victorian Government. Whilst the challenge of rebuilding is enormous, the unity demonstrated by Victorians in the face of this tragedy is a great testament to our strength as a community.

Regarding your concerns about the safety of Black Spur, in 2008-09 over \$500,000 of upgrades were completed on this stretch of road in response to a high number of motorcycle accidents and as part of the Government's *Arrive Alive 2009-2017* road safety strategy. Improvements included shoulder resealing, speed reduction from 100km/hr to 80km/hr, upgraded signage and additional guard rails.

As these safety improvements were made only two years ago, VicRoads has advised that there is not yet enough data on recent accident rates to accurately compare with those that occurred prior to the improvements. VicRoads will continue to monitor the road to assess the need for any further improvements.

In response to your concerns around truck safety, in 2003 VicRoads investigated the feasibility of developing an alternative route through the Yarra Ranges National Park should Black Spur need to be closed temporarily. They found that the most feasible alternative would be to seal the nearby Acheron Way. However, this stretch of road also passes through mountainous terrain and is a much longer route. Combined with the significant technical and environmental issues involved, VicRoads concluded that this route would not be a suitable alternative for logging trucks currently using Black Spur.

VicRoads advises that truck accident investigations have highlighted driver behaviour and roadworthiness as significant contributors and, as a result, VicRoads has been monitoring truck use and undertaking roadworthiness testing. This monitoring will continue to ensure trucks are operating safely and appropriately.

Thank you for passing on options for consideration. I have provided these to the Minister of Roads and Ports for his consideration against other state-wide priorities.

Dan O'Brien - Chief of Staff

## Senior of the Year Nominations

Many ordinary people have been doing extraordinary things long after the initial impact of the fires on many of our communities, including those who would otherwise have been enjoying their retirement years.

That kind of community commitment is the kind of attribute that would make many of Murrindindi Shire's seniors worthy nominees for the annual Victorian Senior of the Year Awards, according to Mayor Peter Beales.

Cr Beales and other councillors are actively encouraging Murrindindi shire residents to get involved in this year's awards by nominating seniors they know for their outstanding efforts.

"This is a perfect opportunity to acknowledge a special person for all that they are and all that they have done," Cr Beales said.

Entries close Friday 23 July 2010.

Information and nomination forms are available from Sandra Rumble at the Murrindindi Shire Council ph 5772 0371.



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## ARCHITECT

# Bushfire Reconstruction Design

# Ecologically Sustainable Design

# References Available

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