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MARYSVILLE

# triangle news



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President Glenn McFadzean

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## MARYSVILLE'S MURCHISON STREET TO BE TRANSFORMED

Significant works are about to commence revitalising Marysville's Murchison Street and town centre under the \$1.35 million Murchison Street and Town Amenity project.

The project, developed in consultation with the local community, aims to restore the character and heritage significance of key streets in the town, with extensive landscaping work, complemented by civic works including public art, street furniture and the creation of pedestrian friendly links.

A significant aspect of the project is the replacement of 18 of 46 street trees that have not recovered from the February 2009 fires.

Mayor Peter Beales said Murrindindi Shire Council and the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) had engaged independent arborists to inspect the streetscape and make recommendations that focused on saving trees.

"The comprehensive report has assessed that 18 trees recommended for removal are either dead, severely declining or have recovered poorly from the fire damage," Cr Beales said.

"Those 28 that have survived will need extra care and we are putting in place a maintenance program that we hope will see the trees come back to their former glory.

"The choice in taking the next step in removing the trees has not been made lightly and we have consulted with the Marysville Community Recovery Committee (CRC) about our decision, with members taking the opportunity to hear first hand from arborists about the condition of the trees.

"This has been a difficult process because of the historical significance of

the trees. Many were planted by the early settlers of Marysville whose great or great-great grandchildren still reside in the area.

"We will support the CRC by trying to keep as much timber as possible for future community use. We hope the timber can be used to build, among other things, street and park furniture."

Cr Beales said a community walk-through would be held on Wednesday August 4 to explain the condition of each tree recommended for removal. The community walk-through will start at the top end of Murchison Street at 10am.

"We are hoping that we can have the new trees established as soon as possible to take advantage of prime growing conditions," Cr Beales said. "This is another important step in the rebuilding phase and we will continue to keep the community informed as we start to see the project come to fruition."

The trees that are removed will be replaced with advanced deciduous species that have been identified in the Murchison Street and Town Amenity masterplan and will maintain the character and feel of the streetscape.

"Council will work closely with VBRRA and its managing contractor Bovis Lend Lease to co-ordinate these works so that replacement trees can be replanted within days of removal," Cr Beales said.

People wanting further information are asked to contact Council's Senior Project Manager Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Mark Leitinger on 5772 0333.

The \$1.35 million Murchison Street and Town Amenity project has been funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund on behalf of donors from

## Reconstruction and Recovery Executive Appointed at Murrindindi

Murrindindi Shire Council has appointed Dimitri Scordalides, as the Executive Director, Reconstruction and Recovery.

Mr Scordalides is currently the General Manager Infrastructure at the Benalla Rural City Council and will take up his position on 26 August.

Murrindindi's Chief Executive Officer Margaret Abbey said Mr Scordalides had extensive local government experience in both metropolitan and rural areas.

"Mr Scordalides is no stranger to the Murrindindi Shire having been involved in a number of regional projects during his career," Ms Abbey said. "These projects include the Regional Asset Management Program, joint waste and recycling collection contract and the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities Regional Plan. With a good knowledge of the Shire, it will mean that Dimitri will be able to have an immediate impact on staff and community."

Mr Scordalides said that his aim was to provide support and direction to those who had been working tirelessly to rebuild communities. "I want to create strong relationships and clear lines of communication with the community and ensure we deliver the leadership people expect of Council," Mr Scordalides said.

Ms Abbey acknowledged the valuable assistance and support the Murrindindi Shire Council had received from Daryl Treloar and Ian Robins who had been overseeing the position.

"Their experience and expertise has been of a great benefit to Murrindindi communities on the journey of recovery and rebuilding," Ms Abbey said.

As part of Mr Scordalides' appointment, Council has established additional office space in a shop-front in Alexandra to accommodate staff associated with the bushfire recovery. Staff located at the office will include reconstruction and recovery team and community development.