

Council Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

Civic Centre, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale and
via Videoconference

Information for Councillors and the community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri People, as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.



COUNCIL VISION

Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we care for country, how inclusive and connected our communities are, and how sustainable balanced growth makes this the best place in the world.

VALUE OF HISTORY

We acknowledge that history shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.

COUNCILLOR COMMITMENT

We'll be truthful, represent the community's needs, be positive and responsive and always strive to do better.

OUR COUNCILLORS

Billanook Ward: Tim Heenan
Chandler Ward: David Eastham
Chirnside Ward: Richard Higgins
Lyster Ward: Johanna Skelton
Melba Ward: Sophie Todorov

O'Shannassy Ward: Jim Child
Ryrie Ward: Fiona McAllister
Streeton Ward: Andrew Fullagar
Walling Ward: Len Cox

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & DIRECTORS

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose
Director Communities, Jane Price
Director Corporate Services, Andrew Hilson
Director Recovery, Jane Sinnamon

Director Environment & Infrastructure,
Bill Millard
Director Planning Design & Development,
Kath McClusky

GOVERNANCE RULES

All Council and Delegated Committee meetings are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-documents/Policies-strategies/Governance-rules>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

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- making a verbal submission for up to 5 minutes on matters not listed on the agenda.
- submitting a question.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a specific item on the agenda. For planning applications and policy issues, the Chair will invite one person to speak on behalf of any objectors and one person to speak on behalf of the applicant. For other matters on the agenda, only one person will be invited to address Council, unless there are opposing views. At the discretion of the Chair, additional speakers may be invited for items of large interest.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a petition to be presented at a meeting.

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In the case of an emergency during a meeting held at the Civic Centre, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale, you should follow the directions given by staff and evacuate the building using the nearest available exit. You should congregate at the assembly point at Hardy Street car park.

CONTACT US

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Agenda

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | COUNCIL MEETING OPENED | 7 |
| 2. | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY | 8 |
| 3. | INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT | 9 |
| 4. | APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE | 10 |
| 5. | MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS | 11 |
| 6. | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS | 12 |
| 7. | DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST | 13 |

In accordance with Chapter 7, Rule 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 8. | QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC | 14 |
|----|--|----|

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 57 and 59, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- | | | |
|----|------------------|----|
| 9. | PETITIONS | 15 |
|----|------------------|----|

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rule 60, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----|
| 9.1 | Petition to Council | 16 |
|-----|---------------------|----|

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 10. | BUSINESS PAPER | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|

Planning, Design and Development

- | | | |
|------|--|----------|
| 10.1 | Planning Application - YR-2022/59 - 272 Maroondah Highway
Healesville - Planning Report | 17 - 261 |
|------|--|----------|

Agenda

- 10.2 Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment C210 - 262 - 297
consideration of submissions
- Communities
- 10.3 Grants for Community Funding Recommendations 2023 298 - 316
- Environment and Infrastructure
- 10.4 Committee of Management, Yering Billabongs Project 317 - 323
- 10.5 EO16105 7037: School and Valley Road Seville - Road 324 - 333
Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme Tender
Evaluation Report
- 10.6 Rivers and Ridges Update 334 - 346
- 11. COUNCILLOR MOTIONS 347**
- In accordance with Chapter 3, Division 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.*
- 12. ITEMS THROUGH THE CHAIR 348**
- 13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES 349**
- 14. DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING 350**
- In accordance with Clause 87 of the Meeting Procedures and Use of Common Seal Local Law 2015, as prescribed by Section 14(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2020.*
- 15. INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS 351 - 354**
- 16. URGENT BUSINESS 355**
- In accordance with Chapter 3 Rule 24 of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.*

Agenda

17. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS** 356

In accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

- 17.1 Lilydale to Warburton Trail - Mt Lilydale Mercy College 357 - 377

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 378 - 379

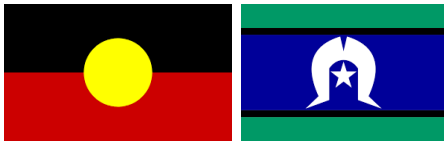
YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

**AGENDA FOR THE 568TH COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY
11 OCTOBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.00PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC
CENTRE, ANDERSON STREET, LILYDALE AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

1. MEETING OPENED

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri People, as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.



3. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

OUR COUNCILLORS

Billanook Ward: Tim Heenan
Chandler Ward: David Eastham
Chirnside Ward: Richard Higgins
Lyster Ward: Johanna Skelton
Melba Ward: Sophie Todorov
O'Shannassy Ward: Jim Child
Ryrie Ward: Fiona McAllister
Streeton Ward: Andrew Fullagar
Walling Ward: Len Cox

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & DIRECTORS

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose
Director Communities, Jane Price
Director Corporate Services, Andrew Hilson
Director Recovery, Jane Sinnamon
Director Environment & Infrastructure, Bill Millard
Acting Director Planning, Design & Development, Amanda Kern

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies received prior to the commencement of this meeting.

5. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 27 September 2022, as circulated, be confirmed.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Chapter 7, Rule 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Local Government Act 2020 defines two categories of conflict of interest:

- *a general conflict of interest, which is defined as "...a relevant person has a general conflict of interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty", and*
- *a material conflict of interest, which is defined as "...a relevant person has a material conflict of interest in respect of a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter. The benefit may arise or the loss incurred (a) directly or indirectly; or (b) in a pecuniary or non-pecuniary form."*

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020, a conflict of interest must be disclosed in the manner required by the Governance Rules and the relevant person must exclude themselves from the decision-making process.

No Conflicts of Interest have been received prior to the Agenda being printed.

8. QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 57 and 59, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

A person may make a submission to Council on matters that are not listed on the Agenda. A submission may be on any matter except if it:

- (a) is considered malicious, defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial, or objectionable in language or substance;
- (b) is substantially the same as a submission made to a Council meeting in the preceding 12 months;
- (c) relates to confidential information as defined under the Act;
- (d) relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; or
- (e) relates to any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

There were no Questions to Council or Submissions from the Public received prior to the Agenda being printed.

9. PETITIONS

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 60, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

A person may submit a petition to Council on matters that are not listed on the Agenda. Every petition or joint letter submitted to Council must:

- a) identify a 'Lead Petitioner' who Council can correspond with;
- b) be legible and in permanent writing;
- c) be clear and state on each page the matter and action sought from Council. Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter;
- d) not be derogatory, defamatory or objectionable in language or nature;
- e) not relate to matters outside the powers of Council; and
- f) clearly state the names and addresses of at least seven (7) people who live, work, study or do business in the Municipal district.

PETITION TO COUNCIL

Report Author: Governance Officer
Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
Ward(s) affected: Billanook;

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

The following petition has been received:

PART A – General Petition

1. Request for the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Francis Crescent and Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn. Residents have concerns regarding the dangerous traffic conditions that confront students, parents, staff and local residents at the Francis Crescent and Birmingham Road intersection, with the primary concern being the safety of all community members. 88 signatures.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following listed General Petition be received and noted and referred to the appropriate officer.

1. ***Request that Council install traffic lights at the intersection of Francis Crescent and Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.***

YARRA RANGES PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C210 - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS- APPLICATION HERITAGE OVERLAY – 1 MONTROSE ROAD, MONTROSE

Report Author: Executive Officer Strategic Planning
 Responsible Officer: Director Planning Design & Development
 Ward(s) affected: Walling;

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

Amendment C210 proposes to apply the Heritage Overlay (HO430) to 1 Montrose Road, Montrose.

The amendment was placed on public exhibition from 7 July 2022 to 8 August 2022 and six submissions were received. Of those, one submission makes reference to matters unrelated to the proposed Heritage Overlay, one submission supports retention of the existing building, two submissions support the amendment and also request changes and one submission opposing the application of the HO has been received from the land owner.

In response to submissions, this report recommends that Council refer the Amendment and submissions to an independent Planning Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Note the matters raised in submissions to Amendment C210.***
- 2. Request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent Planning Panel under section 23 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider submissions to Amendment C210.***
- 3. Write to all submitters advising them of Council's decision to refer the submissions to a Panel.***
- 4. Present a submission generally in accordance with the position outlined in this report and attachments to a Panel Hearing.***
- 5. Receive a further report to consider the Panel's recommendations.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 10 May 2022, Council resolved to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C210.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Purpose

Planning Scheme Amendment C210 was exhibited from 7 July 2022 to 8 August 2022. The amendment proposes to apply a Heritage Overlay to 1 Montrose Road, Montrose on a permanent basis.

The purpose of this report is to discuss the submissions received to Amendment C210 and recommend that the amendment be referred to an independent planning panel, appointed by the Minister for Planning.

Background

1 Montrose Road, Montrose contains a single residential dwelling known as Alta Dena, as shown on the photos and plan in Images 1 and 2 below.



Image 1 - View of front façade of Alta Dena (Extent Heritage Pty Ltd 2022)



Image 2 - Aerial location plan

In January 2022, Council received planning permit application YR2022/13, for use and development of 1 Montrose Road, Montrose for a childcare centre. The proposal involves partial demolition of the existing residential building and re-purposing of the building for a childcare centre. The application received 27 objections, including on the basis that the building is of heritage value. The application is currently subject to VCAT proceedings.

The site had not previously been identified as being of heritage significance in any existing Council heritage studies, and prior to this application had not been nominated for heritage protection. Subsequent to the advertising of the permit application, a formal nomination for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay was received from a community member.

Council sought heritage advice on the property from a qualified heritage consultant. The investigation identified that the property, including five trees, meets the threshold for local heritage protection and recommended its inclusion in the Heritage Overlay of the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme. The Statement of Significance which provides further details on the significance of the property is at Attachment 1.

Interim Heritage Controls

To enable protection of the heritage place whilst Amendment C210 was exhibited, Council also resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of 10 May 2022, to seek the application of an interim Heritage Overlay.

The Minister for Planning subsequently used his powers of intervention under section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to prepare, adopt and approve Amendment C209 on 7 July 2022. The interim control will apply to the property until 1 May 2023.

Key Issues**Submissions**

A total of six submissions were received in response to the amendment exhibition. A summary of submissions is at Attachment 2 and further discussed below.

Submission 1

The submitter raised concerns that the site is a poor location for a childcare centre, and also considers that the existing building should be retained due to its age.

Response to submission: The submitters concerns with the use of the building for a child care centre are noted. The submitter has also made an objection to the planning permit application for the childcare centre and their specific concerns with the proposed use will be further considered through the planning permit process. This Planning Scheme Amendment does not make any recommendations around use which would otherwise be part of the statutory Planning Application process, hence it is not possible to further consider this matter through the planning scheme amendment process. The expression of support for retention of the existing building is noted.

Recommendation: No changes are required to the amendment.

Submission 2

The submitter raised concerns that the site is a poor location for a child care centre.

Response to submission: The submitters concerns with the use of the building for a child care centre are noted. The submitter has also made an objection to the planning permit application for the childcare centre and their specific concerns with the proposed use will be further considered through the planning permit process. This Planning Scheme Amendment does not make any recommendations around use or the appropriate location of specific uses which would otherwise be part of the statutory Planning Application process, hence it is not possible to further consider this matter through the planning scheme amendment process.

Recommendation: No changes are required to the amendment.

Submission 3

The amendment was referred to Melbourne Water as a relevant agency. It has no objection to Amendment C210.

Response to submission: Melbourne Water's submission is noted.

Recommendation: No changes are required to the amendment.

Submission 4

The submitter has raised concerns that the Statement of Significance does not sufficiently recognise the key historic features of the main house, and that the garage/cottage annexe is original and should be included in the Statement of Significance.

Response to submission: The submission was referred to Council's heritage consultant for further assessment. The consultant's advice is that there is insufficient evidence to support the requested changes as further discussed below and within Attachment 3. Any change to a planning scheme requires a sufficient standard of evidence to justify the change, which has been done through obtaining expert advice to consider the matters raised by the submitter. Expert evidence needs to be relied upon to ensure the integrity of the amendment. The Panel process will allow further consideration of the merits of the submitters concerns.

Recommendation: No change proposed to be made to the amendment. The submission will be referred to an independent Planning Panel for further consideration.

Submission 5

The submitter objects to the amendment on the following grounds:

- The site does not meet criteria to qualify for a HO;
- The subject building has been substantially modified;
- The identified trees do not meet criteria to qualify for a HO; and
- The site is not tourist-related.

No further information or evidence was provided with the submission to support these statements.

Response to submission: The submission was referred to Council's heritage consultant for further assessment. The consultant's advice is that there is insufficient evidence to support the objections. The submitter has verbally advised that they intend to provide evidence to further support their submission at a panel hearing.

Recommendation: No change proposed to be made to the amendment. The submission will be referred to an independent Planning Panel for further consideration.

Submission 6

The submitter has raised concerns that:

- The Statement of Significance does not sufficiently recognise the key historic features of the main house;
- Extensions to the main building are sympathetically designed and deserve to be included in the Statement of Significance; and
- The garage/cottage annexe is original and should be included in the Statement of Significance.

Response to submission: The submission was referred to Council’s heritage consultant for further assessment. The consultant’s advice is that there is insufficient evidence to support the requested changes as further discussed below and within Attachment 3, with the exception of including additional historical detail that can be included in the Statement of Significance. Any change to a planning scheme requires a sufficient standard of evidence to justify the change, which has been done through obtaining expert advice to consider the matters raised by the submitter. Expert evidence needs to be relied upon to ensure the integrity of the amendment. The Panel process will allow further consideration of the merits of the submitters concerns.

Recommendation: Amend the Statement of Significance to include additional historic details on the house as provided by the submitter. No other changes proposed to the amendment. The submission will be referred to an independent Planning Panel for further consideration.

Further heritage advice

The three submissions that raised issues of heritage merit were referred to Council’s Heritage Adviser for further assessment and advice. The table below and Attachment 3 provide additional detail of the specific grounds of each submission and the analysis and response provided by Council’s Heritage adviser.

Submission	Heritage Advisor Response
Submission 4	Heritage Advisor Response
<p>The Statement of Significance has overlooked the following important features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of Montrose Bricks - from the Heritage Listed Montrose Brickworks. • Original internal features - Brick Fireplaces, Tasmanian Blackwood panelling and balustrading, exposed timber beam ceilings, sculptured plaster ceilings and ceiling roses. 	<p>Use of Montrose Bricks in the construction of Alta Dena has not been substantiated through physical or archival evidence following fabric analysis and historical research.</p> <p>Brickwork used for the main residence will be sufficiently protected through Clause 43.01-1 of the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme, which states that “A <i>permit is required to externally alter a building by</i></p>

Submission	Heritage Advisor Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sympathetically modernised kitchen/bathroom. • Outbuildings – Coach house/garage and Servants' quarters/Governess' cottage annex. <p>The steeply pitched roof section of the Servants' quarters/Governess' cottage points to its construction at the same time as the house.</p> <p>The additions and extensions to the property over time, should be valued for their essential contribution to the evolving needs of the occupants throughout the decades.</p>	<p><i>structural work, rendering, sandblasting or in any other way; and to externally paint an unpainted surface”</i></p> <p>The test for the application of internal controls is contained in the <i>Applying the Heritage Overlay Planning Practice Note 1, DELWP, 2018</i> which says that “<i>internal controls should be applied sparingly and on a selective basis to special interiors of high significance.</i>” In this instance there is no evidence that the subject interiors are of particularly high significance.</p> <p>There is currently no documentary evidence to corroborate whether the coach house/garage formed part of the original design or if it was added in subsequent decades. Even in the case of the former, the structure is currently of low integrity.</p> <p>The “servants' quarters/Governess' cottage annex”, is referenced in the citation as the “c.1953-1962 freestanding single-storey outbuilding to the north-east corner of the property” and does not form part of the property's original design.</p> <p>The claim regarding the value of additions and extensions in relation to the evolving needs of occupants is ultimately an argument about the social value of Alta Dena and its ongoing use (Criterion G), a criterion that the place does not satisfy.</p>
Submission 5	Heritage Adviser response
<p>The land does not meet the threshold of significance to justify the application of HO430.</p> <p>The building on the land has been substantially altered and is no longer intact.</p> <p>The five trees nominated, being a Grey Poplar (<i>Populus x canadensis</i>), two Lilly Pillis (<i>Syzygium smithii</i>), Japanese Cedar (<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>) and mature sweet gum (<i>Liquidambar</i>) do not meet the threshold of significance and are not of local significance.</p> <p>The house on the land does not form any link to tourism.</p>	<p>No evidence has been provided to substantiate why the land does not meet the threshold for heritage significance.</p> <p>While there are some alterations to the property, they cannot be classified as ‘substantial’. Alterations and additions are generally either sympathetic in design or comprise recessive rear extensions that do not detract from the form, detailing and fenestration of the extant c.1930 main residence. Where alterations do exist, they are noted in the citation.</p> <p>No evidence has been provided to substantiate why the five trees nominated do not meet the threshold for heritage significance.</p>

Submission	Heritage Advisor Response
	<p>The link to tourism as referenced in the citation refers to the historical theme of the Yarra Ranges area being used as a holiday destination for wealthy Melbournians, particularly in the Interwar era. Constructed as a holiday home for the original owner in c. 1929, Alta Dena clearly reflects this historical theme.</p>
Submission 6	Heritage Adviser response
<p>The heritage citation has inadequately identified the significance of several aspects of the property including internal original features of the main dwelling sympathetic to the Arts & Crafts movement of the time, in particular the use of fine wood and exquisite craftsmanship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Classic large rooms and open floor plan; b) Timber wainscoting/panelling on walls; c) Timber ceiling beams; d) Sculptured plaster ceilings and ceiling roses; e) Detailed brick fireplaces; and f) Tasmanian blackwood staircase and balustrading. <p>Rear extensions to the main dwelling built in the 1950's (just 20 years later) have been sympathetically constructed and do not detract from the properties historical value.</p> <p>George Rodd with his brother Earnest were founders of one of Australia's most iconic brand names G&E Rodd.</p> <p>The freestanding single story outbuilding (cottage) to northeast corner of the property - we challenge the heritage report that states this building is c1952-1963 and not original and therefore of no significance. The cottage shows numerous architectural similarities to the main dwelling.</p> <p>Eva and Harold Cropper lived in the cottage from 1951 to 1970.</p>	<p>As noted above, the internal features of the property are of some interest, however they are not considered to meet the threshold of high significance as required by the PPN01.</p> <p>The Heritage Citation does not state that the c.1953 rear extension to the main dwelling detracts from the heritage significance of the property. Rather, the exclusion of this extension was made on the basis that it does not contribute to the historical and aesthetic values of the place.</p> <p>While Building Files indicate that George and Verna Rose Rodd, manufacturing jewellers, owned Alta Dena in the 1950s, their association with the residence and subsequent extension does not inform the cultural heritage significance of the place.</p> <p>Extent Heritage notes that similarities in architectural features are not substantial evidence of original fabric, particularly where there is archival evident that indicates otherwise.</p> <p>While oral evidence has been provided in relation to the Cropper's occupancy at the freestanding structure at the north-east corner of the property between 1951 and 1970, this does not account for the period prior to the Cropper's occupancy, and therefore does not preclude the likelihood of its later construction date.</p> <p>Extent Heritage agrees that Alta Dena satisfies Criterion A and Criterion E of the HERCON criteria assessment. However, as detailed above, this is ultimately limited to the extant 1930 main residence and associated early landscape plantings, which clearly embodies the cultural heritage significance of the place.</p>

Planning Panel

Section 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* states that after considering a submission which request a change to the amendment, the planning authority must:

- Change the amendment in the manner requested; or
- Refer the submission to a panel appointed under Part 8; or
- Abandon the amendment or part of the amendment.

Given that three submissions raise matters that cannot be resolved, it is proposed that Council refer the Amendment and submissions to an independent Planning Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

A Planning Panel provides Council and all submitters with an opportunity to have the amendment proposal and matters raised within submissions further considered. Following the completion of the Panel, which generally includes a hearing, the Panel will provide a report to Council with its recommendations for consideration.

Status of Planning Permit YR2021/1066

Planning permit YR2021/1066 proposes to develop and use the site for a child care centre. The application is subject to an Application for Review at VCAT on the grounds that Council's failed to determine the application within the prescribed time.

A compulsory conference was held by VCAT on 26 August 2022, and the application has been set down for a full hearing on 25 November 2022. Council's position at the hearing will be that had Council been able to make a decision on the application it would have issued a Notice of Refusal.

Options considered

Option 1

Refer the amendment and submission to an independent planning panel. This will enable all parties with an opportunity to have their concerns or requested changes to the amendment further considered.

Option 2

Change the amendment as requested by submitters. As discussed under Submissions 4 and 6 above, the advice of Council's heritage consultant is that amending the Heritage Overlay to also include internal controls does not meet the HERCON heritage criteria. Submission 5 does not request changes but does not support the amendment and is therefore unresolvable.

Option 3

Abandon the amendment. If heritage protection of the property was not pursued, Council would be failing in its obligations under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme.

The risk of permanently losing a place that is of identified historic and cultural significance would significantly increase.

Recommended option and justification

It is recommended Option 1 be pursued. The further consideration of the amendment and matters raised by submitters by an independent Planning Panel provides all parties with an opportunity to have their concerns further considered. Modifying the amendment as requested by the submitters is not justified and abandoning the amendment would result in the place having no permanent heritage protection.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The costs associated with Amendment C210 are covered by the recurring Planning Scheme Amendments operational budget for Strategic Planning.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposal to apply permanent heritage protection to 1 Montrose Road, Montrose is consistent with the following Council strategies and plans:

Council Plan (2021-25) opening statement: *“We acknowledge that history shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.”*

Council Plan (2021-25): Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places.

Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme:

- Clause 15.03-1S Heritage Conservation: ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance; and
- Clause 21.06-1- Heritage Conservation Objectives and Strategies.

RELEVANT LAW

The planning scheme amendment has been prepared and exhibited in accordance with the legislative requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The amendment is not expected to have any adverse or significant economic effects. Inclusion of a site within the HO does not prohibit changes to that site or building, but

rather requires an application process whereby heritage considerations can be properly addressed, along with other factors before any decision on an application is made.

It is considered economic impacts on future development are considered to be offset by the contribution that the heritage place offers to the broader community.

Social Implications

The amendment will have positive social and cultural effects. Protection of heritage places benefits the community by adding to the understanding of Yarra Ranges' rich cultural history, providing a link to the past and giving a sense of place.

Environmental Implications

The amendment will not have any adverse effects on the environment. Retaining heritage buildings for adaptive reuse can also lead to environmental and economic benefits through the substantial reduction in building, demolition and new construction waste, and the conservation of embodied energy in the existing building.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Amendment C210 was publicly exhibited from 7 July 2022 to 8 August 2022 in accordance with the statutory requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notification comprised:

- Notices published in the 5 July 2022 edition of the Mountain Views paper;
- Letters sent by mail to the affected landowner and adjoining landowners and occupiers and other key stakeholders including local heritage societies and the local National Trust Branch;
- Letters sent by mail to all persons who had lodged an objection to planning permit application YR2021/1066, for the proposed use and development of a childcare centre on the site, as many of these objections raised potential heritage value as a concern;
- Letters sent by email to prescribed and relevant government agencies and departments; and
- Notice published in the Government Gazette on 7 July 2022.

In addition, information was made available from Council's and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning's websites.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The amendment will contribute to protection of Yarra Ranges heritage and as part of the amendment process Council is required to seek the view of all the relevant state government departments who have raised no objections.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Until the property is protected permanently by a Heritage Overlay, there is a risk of demolition or works that may compromise the integrity of the heritage place.


CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

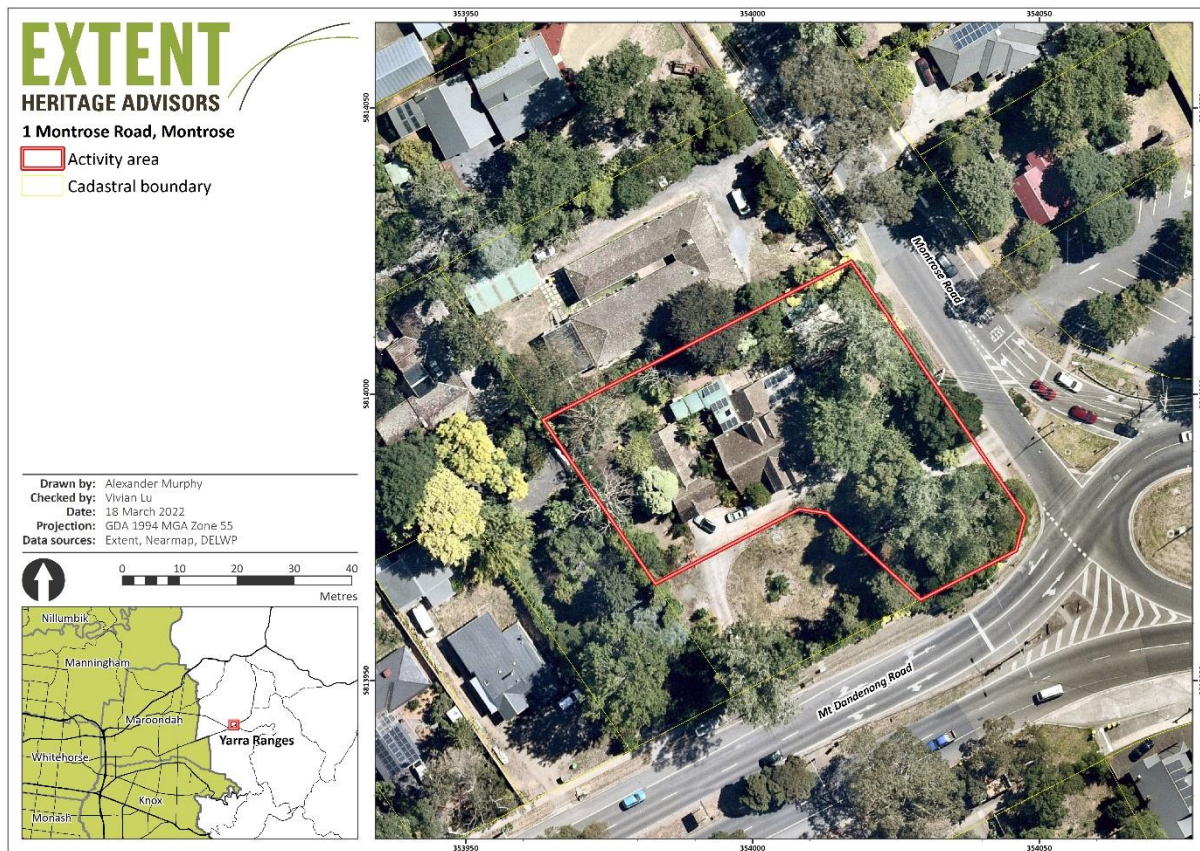
ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Statement of Significance
2. Summary of submissions
3. Heritage Adviser response to submissions

Heritage Citation – Individual Place

Place Name	Alta Dena
Image	 <p>View of the front facade of Alta Dena (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).</p>
Address	1 Montrose Road, Montrose VIC 3765
Item Group	Residential buildings (private)
Item Type	Residence
Architect	Unknown
Significance Level	LOCAL
Date Updated	April 2022

Curtilage Map



Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 1 Montrose Road, Montrose (otherwise known as Alta Dena), is locally significant to the Yarra Ranges Council. Specifically, the form, scale, detailing and sitting of the 1929 Tudor Revival style residence, along with five remnant mature trees on the property, including a Grey Poplar (*Populus x canadensis*), two Lilly Pillies (*Syzygium smithii*) and a Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) in the south garden, as well as the mature sweet gum (*Liquidambar*) in the east garden, are of local significance. Later alterations and additions, including the c.1953 brick and concrete rear extension to the northern elevation, the c.1952-1962 freestanding single-storey outbuilding to the norther-east corner of the property, substantially altered garage, and 1996 single-storey rear extension to the north-west corner of the main residence are not significant.

How is it significant?

Alta Dena is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the township of Montrose and Yarra Ranges Council more broadly.

Why is it significant?

Alta Dena is historically significant to the township of Montrose as an interwar era residence that was constructed during the growth of the Yarra Ranges area as a tourist destination and picturesque resort town during the 1920s and 1930s. Erected as a country holiday home, Alta Dena not only forms a tangible link to this phase of development, which saw the proliferation of architect designed guest houses by affluent Victorians across the mountainous districts of Healesville, Warburton and the Dandenongs, but also provides insight into the ways the region's built environment was shaped by tourism during the interwar period. (Criterion A)

Statement of Significance

Alta Dena is aesthetically significant as a highly expressive and substantially intact two-storey Tudor Revival residence with Arts and Crafts influences. Key features contributing to its aesthetic value include its steeply pitched gabled roof forms clad with terracotta tiles, entrance portico with a slate tiled awning, prominent chimney and chimney breast with terracotta chimney pots, timber framed sash double and triple leadlight windows with brick window sills, unique clinker brick corner buttresses, half-timbered gables and over-scaled bracketed eaves. Together, these elements not only encompass the key attributes associated with the Tudor Arts and Crafts style, but also combine to create a striking and visually distinct interwar residential design. The visual appeal of these architectural features is further enhanced by several remnant mature ornamental plantings, which enhance the property's picturesque landscape setting. (Criterion E)

HERCON Criteria Assessment		
A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history.</i>	Alta Dena is historically significant to the township of Montrose as an interwar era residence that was constructed during the growth of the Yarra Ranges as a tourist destination and picturesque resort town during the 1920s and 1930s. Erected as a country holiday home, Alta Dena not only forms a tangible link to this phase of development, which saw the proliferation of architect designed guest houses by affluent Victorians across the mountainous districts of Healesville Warburton and the Dandenongs, but also provides insight into the ways the region's built environment was shaped by tourism during the interwar period.
B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.</i>	Alta Dena is aesthetically significant as a highly expressive and substantially intact two-storey Tudor Revival residence with Arts and Crafts influences. Key features contributing to its aesthetic value include its steeply pitched gabled roof forms clad with terracotta tiles, prominent chimney and chimney breast with terracotta chimney pots, timber framed leadlight windows with brick window sills, unique clinker brick corner buttresses, half-timbering and over-scaled bracketed eaves. Together, these elements not only encompass the key attributes associated with the Tudor Arts and Crafts style, but also combine to create a striking and visually distinct interwar

HERCON Criteria Assessment		
		residential design. The visual appeal of these architectural features is further enhanced by several remnant mature ornamental plantings, which enhance the property's picturesque landscape setting.
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
	Significance Level	LOCAL

Recommendations	
Include on Heritage Overlay?	Yes
Include on Victorian Heritage Register?	No

Recommended Heritage Controls	Yes/No
External paint controls apply?	No
Internal alteration controls apply?	No
Tree controls apply?	Yes: Grey Poplar (<i>Populus x canadensis</i>), two (2) Lilly Pillys (<i>Syzygium smithii</i>), Japanese Cedar (<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>) and sweet gum (<i>Liquidambar</i>)
Outbuildings or fences which are not exempt under Clause 43.01-4?	No
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 1995?	No
Prohibited uses permitted?	No
Aboriginal heritage place?	No

Physical Analysis

Alta Dena comprises a two-storey interwar Tudor Revival residence set on generous and densely planted landscaped grounds on the corner of Montrose Road and Mt Dandenong Road. The property

Physical Analysis

also includes a single storey freestanding outbuilding towards the north-east corner, as well as a freestanding garage immediately west of the main two-storey residence.

Designed in a Tudor Revival style with Arts and Crafts influences, the main residence is a rendered brick structure with a strong, grounded massing over a symmetrical rectilinear plan. It is primarily defined by its steeply pitched overhanging gable roof clad with terracotta tiles, entrance portico with a slate tiled awning, pair of upper-storey gable projections along the south (front) and north (rear) elevations and prominent chimney and chimney breast with terracotta chimney pots embellished with a 'S' shaped wall tie along the east elevation. The main entrance is located on the south elevation and set under a portico supported by two brick pillars. The fenestration comprises timber framed sash double and triple windows with leadlight glass, which are harmoniously interspersed throughout the residence. The residence's character is also strongly informed by half timbering along the gable projection and brickwork along window sills. This is further augmented by the use of Arts and Crafts derived features, including over-scaled bracketed eaves. Of particular note are the clinker brick corner buttresses, which act as both balanced focal points and decorative brickwork accents. The main residence has been extended at the rear, although these additions are not visible from the main viewpoints to the property and do not detract from the heritage value of the place.

While much of the original landscaping has been lost due to subdivisions, a number of mature trees survive that appear in early historical images of the site. The property is screened from street view by a series of shrubs and trees along the boundary wall, although the majority of these plantings do not appear to be part of the original landscaping. There are also several noted trees within the front and side gardens that likely have an early provenance, including a mature Grey Poplar (*Populus x canadensis*) tree, and two mature Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium smithii*) trees in the front garden, and a mature sweet gum (*Liquidambar*) tree planted on a brick planter within the side garden. There are also two mature Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) trees along the property's southern extent, one of which is now within the boundary of 891 Mt Dandenong Road.

Also located on the property is a one-storey freestanding outbuilding / granny flat. Although not original, it is sympathetic in style and incorporates features derived from the original residence, including timber framed triple windows with leadlight glass, half timbering and terracotta tiles. The freestanding garage adjacent to the western elevation comprises a structure with a steeply pitched roof, front facing gable end as well as a projecting upper floor addition with a pitched roof along the southern elevation. The southern end of the garage, inclusive of the front facing gable and upper floor, are later additions that are not part of the original fabric. Notably, the rear end retains the form of the garage depicted in a 1962 aerial photograph. However, there is no documentary evidence to substantiate whether this formed part of the original design of the 1929 property or if it was added in the subsequent decades. Irrespective of this, physical analysis suggests that much of the original fabric has been replaced and/or altered. The gable end half timber work has either been re-laid and/or completely replaced.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- Brick and concrete rear extension to the northern elevation of main residence (c.1953).
- Freestanding single-storey outbuilding / granny flat added to north-east corner of property (c. 1953-1962).
- Northern (rear) portion of property subdivided (before 1962).
- Western portion of property subdivided (1983).
- Awning added to the northern elevation of outbuilding / granny flat to create an open garage (1993).
- Alterations and additions to the garage, including a ground floor extension and upper floor addition to southern elevation (1993).

Alterations and Additions

- Window added to the gable end of garage and half-timber work re-laid (1993).
- Single-storey rear extension comprising a breakfast room, storage and laundry area off the north-west corner of main residence (1996).
- Lean to verandah added to the eastern elevation of the garage.
- Rendered boundary fence and wrought iron entrance gate added to the south-eastern extent.
- Exterior render overpainted in mauve.
- Entrance portico enclosed with glass on southern elevation.
- Timber decking added to the entrance portico.
- Garage doors replaced with timber sectional lift door.
- Portico awning re-clad with slate.
- South-western corner of property subdivided.

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
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* Denotes element that detracts from the cultural significance of the place.

Historical Notes

Construction year(s)	1930
Key theme	Holidaying in the Shire
Key sub-theme	Guest Houses

The land encompassing Alta Dena formerly comprised a substantial portion of pastoral land belonging to Richard Toogood (Department of Crown Lands and Survey 1879). Consisting of land bounded by present day Leith Road, Mount Dandenong Road, Jacaranda Avenue and Trevallyn Close in what was then known as Mooroolbark South, settlement growth in the Yarra Ranges saw a series of subdivisions over the late nineteenth century. By 1885, the land had been subdivided into four smaller pieces of smaller land, and the land area on the corner of present day Mount Dandenong Road and Montrose Road is listed as belonging to James Walker (Department of Lands and Survey 1885).

While it remained under the ownership of James Walker over the next few decades, the land was ultimately purchased by well-known piano forte agent and importer Arthur Beckett and his wife Katherine Elizabeth Bertha (née Berber) Beckett in 1929 (Fern Tree Gully News 1930, 1). A two-storey Arts and Crafts Tudor style dwelling set on a landscaped garden was subsequently erected on the site in 1930, which served as the couple's country holiday home (Fern Tree Gully News 1930, 1; The Herald 1934, 17). Indeed, the growing popularity of the Yarra Ranges as a tourist destination and picturesque resort area during the interwar years saw the proliferation of guest houses across the mountainous districts of Healesville, Warburton and the Dandenongs (Kellaway 2000). At the time of construction, the house was anticipated as a 'splendid addition to the architecture of the district' (Fern Tree Gully News 1930, 1).

While Alfred Beckett passed away shortly after in 1936, Katherine Beckett continued to retain ownership of Alta Dena until 1950 (The Age 1936, 22). The house was subsequently sold to Ken Wright in the 1950s (Lilydale Historical Society). Wright's occupancy saw a sympathetic brick and concrete rear addition to the north elevation in 1953 (Council Valuation Cards, Shire of Yarra Ranges). Between 1953 and 1962, a freestanding outbuilding addition comprising a sympathetic single-storey structure with a pitched roof was added on the north-east corner of the site. The north facade of this outbuilding was later extended in 1993 to create an open garage. An 1962 aerial also depicts a freestanding garage with a steeply pitched gable roof adjacent to the dwelling's western elevation. As highlighted in the previous section, there is no documentary evidence to substantiate whether this formed part of the original design of the

Historical Notes

1929 property or if it was added in the subsequent decades. Irrespective of this, physical analysis also suggests that much of the original fabric has been replaced with contemporary materials and/or substantially altered. The gable end half-timber work detailing has either been re-laid and/or completely replaced. As with the outbuilding addition, an upper floor addition was later added to the south (front) elevation in 1993 (see Further Images).

Known occupants following Ken Wright include Peter Robinson in the 1960s, and William James Jackson in the 1970s (Lilydale Historical Society). The northern (rear) portion of the property was subdivided by 1962, while the western portion was subdivided in 1983, further reducing the property's footprint (Office of Titles 1983).

The state of the garage and original 1952-1962 outbuilding addition prior to their 1993 alterations are evident in auction flyers from 1986 and 1990 respectively, which depict two freestanding structures distinguished by English Domestic Revival features including steeply pitched roofs clad with terracotta tiles, decorative half timbering and leadlight windows (see Further Images). The property was subsequently purchased by David and Sharon Bacon in 1992. Aside from the aforementioned extensions to the freestanding additions, the Bacon ownership also saw a single-storey rear extension comprising a breakfast room, storage and laundry area off the north-west corner of the dwelling in 1996.

More recently, the south-western portion of the property, inclusive of the original driveway leading to Mt Dandenong Road and a substantial section of the south garden was subdivided in 2018, resulting in both the reduction of the property's footprint as well as the loss of original landscaping and several early plantings (see Further Images).

Comparative Analysis

As an intact Tudor Revival style residence erected as a country holiday home, Alta Dena illustrates both the growing popularity of the Tudor Revival style in the late 1920s into the 1930s, as well as the municipality's history as a popular resort area during the interwar years. It features the key elements associated with the Tudor Revival style, and is also unique in its adoption of Arts and Crafts derived features.

Comparative examples include:

- **Tudor Lodge, 1930 Healesville-Koo-wee-up Road, Yellingbo (HO382).** Built in 1927-29 by Donald Thomas Kitchener, Tudor Lodge is a notable example of the Interwar Old English style with Tudor inspired features. As with Alta Dena, it encompasses all the elements typically associated with the idiom, and shares key stylistic features including a steeply pitched roof, diamond-pane leadlight window, timber joinery and gable ends with half timbering. Tudor Lodge is less articulated however, and lacks the striking use of brick accents and bracketed eaves demonstrated at Alta Dena.
- **Sherbrooke House, 13 Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke (HO303).** Although considerably altered from its original state, this Old English style building dating to the 1930s is of historical and architectural interest as an interwar domestic style cottage designed specifically to rehabilitate children affected by the Depression. Extant original elements are visible on the exterior of the south elevation, and include its entrance hipped roof portico. While 13 Sherbrooke Road compares to Alta Dena in terms of its steeply pitched tiled gable roofs, incorporation of an entrance portico and intersecting roof lines, it lacks the brickwork accents, half-timbering, and prominent overhanging bracketed eaves that give Alta Dena its strong stylistic character.
- **Heatherlie, 57 Warburton Highway, Lilydale (Recommended for the Yarra Ranges Heritage Overlay).** Constructed in c.1938 in a restrained English Domestic Revival style to designs by Bernard Sutton, Heatherlie comprises an imposing two-storey interwar residence set on a large, wooded estate. It compares to Alta Dena in terms of its steeply pitched roof forms, prominent gable ends and defined chimneys. However, it is more restrained than Alta

Comparative Analysis

Dena in terms of its detailing and ornamentation, and more imposing in terms of its scale and formality. Heatherlie is also noticeably more intact, and retains much of its original landscaping that was designed by prominent landscape architect Paul Sorensen.

As per the above comparative assessment, Alta Dena is a highly expressive example of a Tudor Revival style residence. Its steeply pitched terracotta roof forms, fenestration, brickwork accents and half timbered gables are of particular interest, and compares well to existing examples within the municipality that have been afforded heritage protection. While it is not without several alterations and additions, the original heritage fabric is substantially intact. Notably, no other known buildings of this style currently listed on the Heritage Overlay were constructed as a country holiday house. As such, Alta Dena is unique in its capacity to demonstrate the popularity of the fashionable Interwar Revival styles that were being applied in the region by holidaymakers from the city.

Suggested Conservation Measures

For Alta Dena, conservation and enhancement of the dominant character of the place in order to improve its contribution as a heritage place, would be the principal objective. This would involve:

- Conservation of significant built form, scale and detailing of original heritage fabric at the main residence.
- Removal of non-original glass windows enclosed around entrance portico.
- Conservation of a landscaped garden setting.

References

Context Pty Ltd. 1999. 'Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study: Report on Stage 1A & 2A, Volume 3: Farmland, Forest and Fern Gullies- An Environmental History of the Shire of Yarra Ranges.' Unpublished report prepared by C Kellaway with C Lardner for the Yarra Ranges Shire. PDF file.

Department of Crown Lands and Survey. 1879. Mooroolbark Counties of Evelyn and Mornington. Map. Photographic Collection VPRS 8168/P0002. Public Record Office Victoria.

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J.B. Hudson Design and Drafting. 1993. Proposed Open Garages and Timber Framed Addition at No. 891-893 Mt. Dandenong Road, Montrose. Site plan, document ID: 4815630. Yarra Ranges Council.

Landata. 1962. Lilydale – Wandin Project, aerial photograph. Central Plan Office, Landata.

Millar & Merrigan Pty Ltd. 2017. Plan of Subivision. Subdivision plan, held by the Yarra Ranges Council.

N.R. Reid & L.J. Hooker. 1986. 891-893 Mt Dandenong Road. Auction advertisement, document ID: 4816887. Yarra Ranges Council.

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The Australian Jewish News. 1990. 'Advertising.' *The Australian Jewish News*, 14 September 1990.

The Herald. 1934. 'SOCIAL GOSSIP.' *The Herald*, 10 December, 1934.

Unknown, n.d. Montrose, looking from Mt Dandenong Road. Photograph. *Montrose, Victoria, Past & Present*, 3765 [Facebook page]. Facebook. Accessed 12 April 2022.

References

Unknown. n.d. View of Alta Dena. Black and white photograph. Unknown collection. Lilydale & District Historical Society.

Yarra Ranges Council. 1950-1980. Alta Dena. Shire of Lilydale Rates and Valuation Cards, document ID: 4816887. Yarra Ranges Council.

Yarra Ranges Shire Council. 2020. Heritage Citation Report: Sherbrooke House, 13 Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke, Hermes ID 115782. Unpublished report. PDF file.

Yarra Ranges Shire Council. 2020. Heritage Citation Report: Tudor Lodge, 1930 Healesville- Koo-wee-rupp Road, Yellingbo, Hermes ID 115897. Unpublished report. PDF file.

Limitations

1. A site visit, including internal access, was undertaken to the property on 6 April 2022. Observations regarding the property's physical integrity are true to this date.
 2. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.
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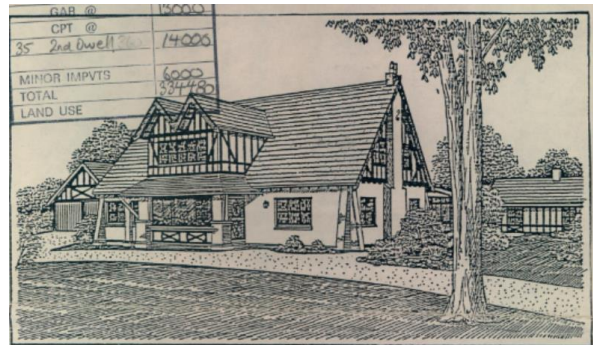
Further Images



c. 1940s photograph looking towards Alta Dena from Mt Dandenong Road (source: Unknown, n.d. Montrose, looking from Mt Dandenong Road. Photograph. *Montrose, Victoria, Past & Present*, 3765 [Facebook page]. Facebook. Accessed 12 April 2022).



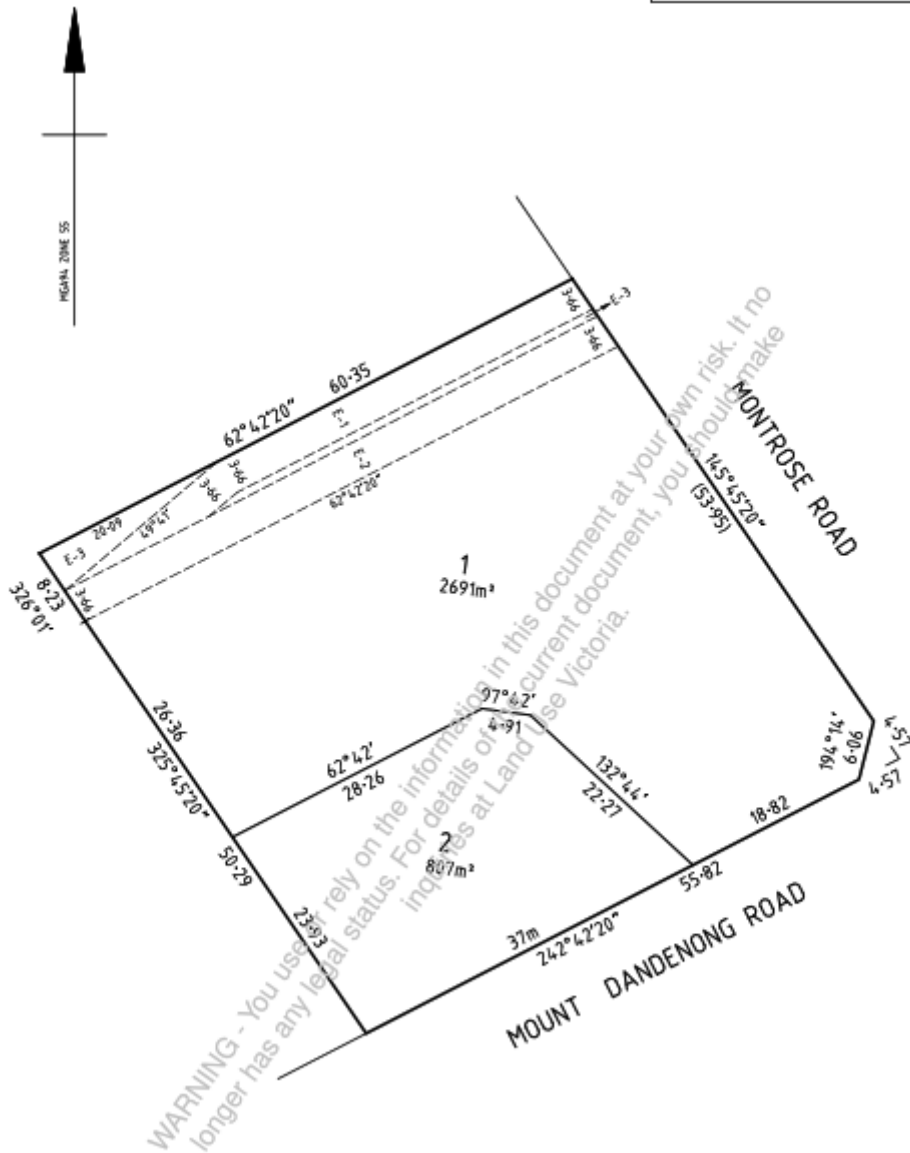
Black and white photograph of Alta Dena entrance portico and upper storey gable projection, date unknown (source: Unknown, n.d. View of Alta Dena. Black and white photograph. Unknown collection. Lilydale & District Historical Society).



1986 sketch of Alta Dena (source: N.R. Reid & L.J. Hooker. 1986. 891-893 Mt Dandenong Road. Auction advertisement, document ID: 4816887. Yarra Ranges Council).

Further Images

PS813854J



Plan of subdivision, 2018 (source: Millar & Merrigan Pty Ltd. 2017. Plan of Subdivision. Subdivision plan, held by the Yarra Ranges Council).

Further Images



North-west facing view of main residence from driveway (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



Detail view of entrance portico and awning (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



Detail view of ground floor fenestration, brick window sill, and clinker brick corner buttress (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



West facing view showing side elevation fenestration, half timber gables and chimney breast (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



Detail view of S shaped wall tie and chimney breast (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



View of rear extension and verandah (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).

Further Images



North-east facing view of main residence (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



View of freestanding addition situated towards northern extent of property (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



North-west facing view of garage (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



Detail view of upper floor addition, gable end and awning of garage (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



North-east facing view of 1996 rear addition (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



View of two mature Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) plantings from Mt Dandenong Road. Note: the cedar to the left is no longer included in the curtilage of the property (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).

Further Images



View of mature Grey Poplar (*Populus x canadensis*) planting from Mt Dandenong Road (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).



View of mature Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium smithii*) in front garden from driveway (source: The Department Pty Ltd, 2021).

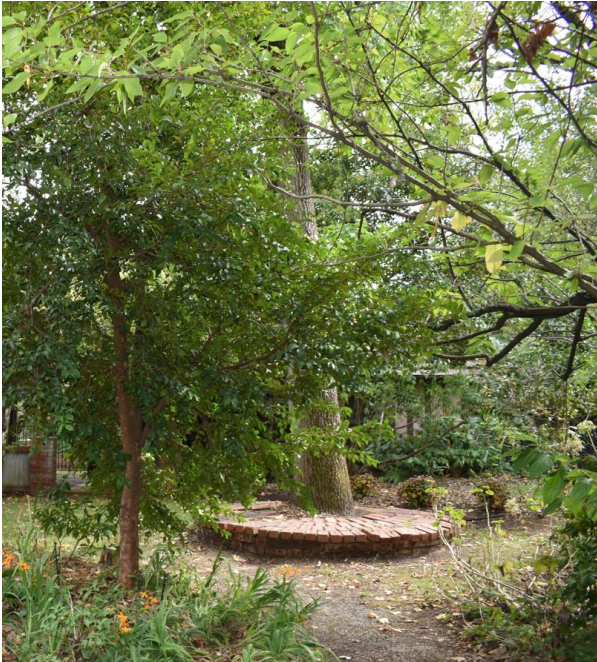


View of mature Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium smithii*) in front garden towards boundary fence from driveway (source: The Department Pty Ltd, 2021).



Overview of mature sweet gum (*Liquidambar*) tree planted on a brick planter within the side garden (source: The Department Pty Ltd, 2021).

Further Images



Detail of mature sweet gum (*Liquidambar*) tree base planted on a brick planter within the side garden (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2022).

Summary of Written Submissions to Amendment C210

The below table provides a summary of the written submissions, together with an officer response to the submission and recommendations.

Submitter no.	Summary of submission	Response to submission
1	<p>The submitter raised concerns that the site is a poor location for a child care centre.</p> <p>The submitter considers that the existing building should be retained due to its age.</p>	<p>Thank you for making a submission. In response to your submission, we advise the following:</p> <p>We note your concerns with the proposed child care centre and that you have made an objection to the application. Your objection to the centre will be further considered as part of Council's consideration of Permit YR-2021/1066, and as such will not be addressed through this amendment.</p> <p>We note your support for retention of the existing building.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change is required to the amendment.</p>
2	<p>The submitter raised concerns that the site is a poor location for a child care centre.</p>	<p>Thank you for making a submission. In response to your submission, we advise the following:</p> <p>We note your concerns with the proposed child care centre and that you have made an objection to the application. Your objection to the centre will be further considered as part of Council's consideration of Permit YR-2021/1066, and as such will not be addressed through this amendment.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change is required to the amendment.</p>
3	<p>The amendment was referred to Melbourne Water as a relevant agency. It has no objection to Amendment C210 and does not want to be party to further proceedings.</p>	<p>Thank you for making a submission. In response to your submission, we advise that your position is noted.</p>
4	<p>The submitter has raised concerns that the Statement of Significance does not sufficiently recognise the key historic features of the main house and also considers that the garage/cottage annexe is original and should be included in the Statement of Significance.</p>	<p>Thank you for making a submission. In response to your submission, we advise the following:</p> <p>Your submission was referred to Council's heritage consultant for further consideration and assessment. The consultant's advice is that there is insufficient evidence to support the requested changes – refer to Attachment 3.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change is proposed to be made to the amendment. The submission will be referred to an independent Planning Panel for further consideration.</p>

5	<p>The submitter opposes the application of the Heritage Overlay to the site and states that it does not meet criteria to qualify for a HO on the grounds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subject building has been substantially modified. • The identified trees do not meet criteria to qualify for a HO. • The site is not tourist-related. 	<p>Thank you for making a submission. In response to your submission, we advise the following:</p> <p>We note that no evidence or explanation has been provided to support the statements provided in the submission.</p> <p>Your submission was referred to Council's heritage consultant for further consideration.</p> <p>The consultants note that no evidence has been provided to substantiate why the land does not meet the threshold for heritage significance. This is further explained in Attachment 3.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change is proposed to be made to the amendment. The submission will be referred to an independent Planning Panel for further consideration.</p>
6	<p>The submitter has raised concerns that the Statement of Significance does not sufficiently recognise the key historic features of the main house.</p> <p>The submitter considers that extensions to the main building are sympathetically designed and deserve to be included in the Statement of Significance and that the garage/cottage annexe is original and should also be included in the Statement of Significance.</p>	<p>Thank you for making a submission. In response to your submission, we advise the following:</p> <p>Your submission was referred to Council's heritage consultant for further consideration and assessment. The consultant's advice is that there is insufficient evidence to support the requested changes – refer to Attachment 3.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change is proposed to be made to the amendment. The submission will be referred to an independent Planning Panel for further consideration.</p>

29 August 2022

Attention: Alison Fowler
Executive Officer Strategic Planning
Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Dear Alison,

Submission review – 1 Montrose Road, Montrose – C210 Amendment

We write to you in response to your request for feedback concerning three submissions received in relation to Planning Scheme Amendment C210 from Submitter 4 (received 7th August 2022), Submitter 6 (received 8th August 2022) and Submitter 5 (received 8th August 2022) respectively. Specifically, we note that while the submissions made by Submitter 4 and Submitter 6 are supportive of the Yarra Ranges Planning Amendment C210, they object to the exclusion of several structures and features at 1 Montrose Road, Montrose in the Amendment, including the outbuildings and internal features. Meanwhile, the latter submission received by Submitter 5 objects to the Yarra Ranges Planning Amendment C210 in its entirety. Our response to each submission has been outlined in the tables below.

Submitter 4

Submitter 4 letter:	Extent Heritage Response:
<p><i>However, after viewing the documentation including the explanatory report, we have some concerns that many important features of this property have been overlooked and are not mentioned in the citation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The use of Montrose Bricks - from the Heritage Listed Montrose Brickworks</i> ▪ <i>Original internal features - Brick Fireplaces, Tasmanian Blackwood panelling and balustrading, exposed timber beam ceilings, sculptured plaster ceilings and ceiling roses.</i> ▪ <i>Sympathetically modernised kitchen/bathroom</i> ▪ <i>Outbuildings - Coachhouse/garage and</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In response to concerns about the significance of these features, we note the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The use of Montrose Bricks in the construction of Alta Dena has not been substantiated through physical or archival evidence following fabric analysis and historical research. It was therefore not appropriate to include this aspect in the citation. Additionally, it should also be noted that the brickwork used for the main residence will be sufficiently protected under Amendment C210 due to Clause 43.01-1 of the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme, which states that a permit is required to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. externally alter a building by structural work, rendering, sandblasting or in any other way; and ii. externally paint an unpainted surface. b. While the extant Arts and Crafts style internal features, in particular the main living, are of some aesthetic interest, the test for the application of internal controls as per the Applying the Heritage Overlay Planning Practice Note 1 (2018) is that they <u>“should be applied sparingly and on a selective basis to special interiors of high significance.”</u> In this instance there is no evidence

Submitter 4 letter:

Servants' quarters/Governess' cottage annex.

The significance of these features needs to be noted and protected under this amendment.

Extent Heritage Response:

that the subject interiors are of particularly high significance in comparison to other residential interiors from the same era. It is noted that many interior details outside the main lounge appear to be alter additions constructed to match the details of the lounge, this is particularly evident with regard to the timber panelling to the entry.

- c. The “sympathetically modernised kitchen/bathroom” forms part of the 1996 “single-storey rear extension” noted in the Heritage Citation prepared by Extent Heritage. As a late twentieth century extension comprised of timber and a metal clad flat roof, it does not contribute to Alta Dena’s historical significance as an interwar era residence that was constructed during the growth of the Yarra Ranges area as a resort town, nor to its aesthetic significance as a Tudor Revival style residence with Arts and Crafts influences.
- d. In relation to the two outbuildings at Alta Dena described as “coachhouse/garage” and “servants’ quarters/governess’ cottage annex”, we note:
 - There is currently no documentary evidence to corroborate whether the “coachhouse/garage” formed part of the original design or if it was added in subsequent decades. Even in the case of the former, the structure is currently of low integrity and was substantially altered in 1993 to include a ground floor extension and upper floor addition to the upper floor addition, and again more recently to include a lean-to vernadah. It is therefore not considered a feature that contributes to the aesthetic value of Alta Dena. Lastly, the property’s 1929 construction date and the widespread use of the automobile by this period, suggests that it is highly unlikely that it was formerly used as a coach/carriage house.
 - The “servants' quarters/Governess' cottage annex”, is referenced in the citation as the “c.1953-1962 freestanding single-storey outbuilding to the north-east corner of the property” and does not form part of the property’s original design. Although sympathetic in style the combination of Council Evaluation Cards, which note a substantial jump in capital value, and historical aerials suggest that it was likely constructed some time between 1953 and 1962, while adopting similar detailing, physical analysis confirms that this building is of light-weight construction that mimics the original design but without the same resolution. In particular the half timbering to this building is of simpler and less resolved design that the original building and details such as window sills and chimneys differ substantially.
 - As this outbuilding does not form part of the original fabric of the site, it does not contribute to Alta Dena’s historical significance as an interwar era residence that was constructed during the growth of the Yarra Ranges area as a resort town, nor to its aesthetic significance as

Submitter 4 letter:	Extent Heritage Response:
	<p>a Tudor Revival style residence with Arts and Crafts influences.</p>
<p><i>We consider the steeply pitched roof section of the Servants' quarters/Governess cottage points to its construction at the same time as the house, and recommend further investigations be carried out in this regard.</i></p>	<p>See comment above.</p>
<p><i>Prominently located in Montrose, Alta Dena has been a substantial family home for more than 80 years. All elements of the heritage story need to be protected. The additions and extensions to the property over time, should be valued for their essential contribution to the evolving needs of the occupants throughout the decades.</i></p>	<p>As stated in the Heritage Citation, the cultural heritage significance of Alta Dena lies in its historical value as an interwar era residence that was constructed during the growth of the Yarra Ranges area as a tourist destination and picturesque resort town during the 1920s and 1930s, and its aesthetic value as a highly expressive and substantially intact two-storey Tudor Revival residence with Arts and Crafts influences. This was determined following a significance assessment of the site, which comprised a site inspection, detailed historical research and a comparative analysis.</p> <p>The claim regarding the value of additions and extensions in relation to the evolving needs of occupants is ultimately an argument about the social value of Alta Dena and its ongoing use (Criterion G), a criterion that the place does not satisfy.</p> <p>Consequently, while later additions and extensions certainly reflect the changing needs of the property's occupants, they do not inform its cultural heritage significance.</p>

Submitter 6

Submitter 6 letter:	Extent Heritage Response:
<p><i>Regarding Amendment C210 for Heritage Overlay to the property at 1 Montrose Rd, Montrose we welcome the Council identifying the property to be of local heritage significance. However, we feel the current Amendment C210 fails to give adequate protection as the Heritage Citation has inadequately identified the significance of several aspects of the property including:</i></p>	<p>As noted above, the internal features of the property are of some interest, however they are not considered to meet the threshold of high significance as required by the PPN01.</p>

Submitter 6 letter:	Extent Heritage Response:
<p>1. <i>Internal original features of the main dwelling sympathetic to the Arts & Crafts movement of the time, in particular the use of fine wood and exquisite craftsmanship.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Classic large rooms and open floor plan</i> b) <i>Timber wainscoting/panelling on walls</i> c) <i>Timber ceiling beams</i> d) <i>Sculptured plaster ceilings and ceiling roses.</i> e) <i>Detailed brick fireplaces</i> f) <i>Tasmanian blackwood staircase and balustrading</i> 	
<p><i>Rear extensions to the main dwelling built in the 1950's (just 20 years later) have been sympathetically constructed and do not detract from the properties historical value, in fact adding to it as the owners 1951 -1957 were George and Verna Rose Harris Rodd.</i></p> <p><i>George Rodd with his brother Earnest were founders of one of Australia's most iconic brand names G&E Rodd.</i></p> <p><i>We therefore recommend including the rear extensions in the Heritage Overlay and changing amendment C210 accordingly.</i></p>	<p>1. The Heritage Citation does not state that the c.1953 rear extension to the main dwelling detract from the heritage significance of the property. Rather, the exclusion of this extension was made on the basis that they do not contribute to the historical and aesthetic values of the place. As noted in above, the cultural heritage significance of Alta Dena lies in its historical value as an interwar era residence that was constructed during the growth of the Yarra Ranges area as a tourist destination and picturesque resort town during the 1920s and 1930s, and its aesthetic value as a highly expressive and substantially intact two-storey Tudor Revival residence with Arts and Crafts influences. Although the brick and concrete rear extension to the main residence is sympathetic, it was constructed in c.1953 and therefore does not reflect the cultural heritage significance of the place.</p> <p>2. While Building Files indicate that George and Verna Rose Rodd, manufacturing jewellers, owned Alta Dena in the 1950s, their association with the residence and subsequent extension does not inform the cultural heritage significance of the place. This information can be included in the Place History of the Heritage Citation as additional information but does not provide grounds for the inclusion of the rear extension in the Heritage Overlay.</p>
<p><i>Freestanding single story outbuilding (cottage) to northeast corner of the property. We challenge the heritage report that states this building is c1952-1963 and not original and</i></p>	<p>Refer comments above. Additionally, Extent Heritage notes that similarities in architectural features are not substantial evidence of original fabric, particularly where there is archival evident that indicates otherwise.</p>

Submitter 6 letter:	Extent Heritage Response:
<p><i>therefore of no significance. The cottage shows numerous architectural similarities to the main dwelling these include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Steeply pitched roof</i> <i>b) The same roof tiles</i> <i>c) Diamond leadlight sash windows, showing the same age-related bowing as the windows in the main dwelling (refer to photos)</i> <i>d) Montrose brick constructed fireplace</i> <i>e) Tudor revival external features</i> 	
<p><i>Research of the cottage has established that the cottage existed prior to 1953 which is contrary to the heritage report.</i></p> <p><i>Eva and Harold Cropper lived in the cottage from 1951 to 1970</i></p> <p><i>Harold Cropper built the flat roof extension to the cottage between 1951 and 1954. Eva worked as a housekeeper to George and Verna Rodd, retiring in 1970. Information courtesy of Lynda Hunter, Eva and Harold's daughter.</i></p> <p><i>We therefore recommend including the outbuilding (cottage) to northeast corner of the property in the Heritage Overlay and changing amendment C210 accordingly.</i></p>	<p>While oral evidence has been provided in relation to the Cropper's occupancy at the freestanding structure at the north-east corner of the property between 1951 and 1970, this does not account for the period prior to the Cropper's occupancy, and therefore does not preclude the likelihood of its later construction date. See comment above for further explanation regarding the originality of the structure.</p>
<p><i>In conclusion, the property, 1 Montrose Road, Montrose is a unique historical building located in the centre of Montrose township and is of great value to Montrose and the surrounding communities.</i></p> <p><i>We strongly believe the whole property meets both HERCON Criteria Assessment A, Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history, and Criteria Assessment E, Importance in exhibiting</i></p>	<p>Extent Heritage agrees that Alta Dena satisfies Criterion A and Criterion E of the HERCON criteria assessment. However, as detailed above, this is ultimately limited to the extant 1930 main residence and associated early landscape plantings, which clearly embodies the cultural heritage significance of the place as a highly expressive and substantially intact two-storey Tudor Revival residence with Arts and Crafts influences that was constructed during the growth of the Yarra Ranges area as a tourist destination and picturesque resort town during the 1920s and 1930s. Later alterations and additions do not contribute to these historical and aesthetic values and are therefore cannot be regarded as significant fabric.</p>

Submitter 6 letter:	Extent Heritage Response:
<p><i>aesthetic characteristics. of the Heritage Citation.</i></p> <p><i>Further detailed research should be undertaken.</i></p>	

Submitter 5

Submitter 5 letter:	Extent Heritage Response:
<p><i>Our client opposes the proposed Amendment and makes the following submissions in this respect:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The Land does not meet the threshold of significance to justify the application of HO430.</i> <i>2. The building on the Land has been substantially altered and is no longer intact.</i> <i>3. The five trees nominated, being a Grey Poplar (<i>Populus x canadensis</i>), two Lilly Pillys (<i>Syzygium smithii</i>), Japanese Cedar (<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>) and mature sweet gum (<i>Liquidambar</i>) do not meet the threshold of significance and are not of local significance.</i> <i>4. The house on the Land does not form any link to tourism.</i> 	<p>In response to these objections, Extent Heritage would like to note the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) No evidence has been provided to substantiate why the land does not meet the threshold for heritage significance. b) While there are some alterations to the property, they cannot be classified as 'substantial'. Alterations and additions are generally either sympathetic in design or comprise recessive rear extensions that do not detract from the form, detailing and fenestration of the extant c.1930 main residence. Where alterations do exist, they are noted in the citation. c) No evidence has been provided to substantiate why the five trees nominated do not meet the threshold for heritage significance. As per the Heritage Citation, historical aerials and photographs suggest that the nominated trees are very early plantings that were part of the property's early or original landscaping. d) The link to tourism as referenced in the citation refers to the historical theme of the Yarra Ranges area being used as a holiday destination for wealthy Melbournians, particularly in the Interwar era. Constructed as a holiday home for the original owner in c. 1929, Alta Dena clearly reflects this historical theme.

Kind regards,



Michelle Bashta
Senior Heritage Advisor | Extent Heritage

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2023

Report Author: Manager Creative & Connected Communities

Responsible Officer: Director Communities

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

Council is committed to partnering with the community through grants to encourage, support and sustain a range of cultural, social and community initiatives.

The 2023 Grants for Community round has sought to prioritise projects which build mental and physical health and wellbeing, support strong and sustainable community connections and nurture thriving local places.

This report presents projects recommended for funding for the 2023 calendar year. Council opened the grant round 1 June 2022 and closed 15 July 2022 receiving 91 applications for the round, across three program streams:

- 42 Community Development;
- 29 Arts and Heritage; and
- 20 Festivals and Events.

Two independent panels recommend 63 applications be funded, totalling \$480,138.12. These recommendations conclude a robust and transparent assessment process.

The grants celebration event, which acknowledges successful grant recipients and showcases 2022 Grants for Community projects, is scheduled for Thursday 8 December 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

Endorse the 2023 Grants for Community Program funding recommendations totalling \$480,138.12 as follows:

- 1. \$199,207.40 for 28 projects in the Community Development stream;***
- 2. \$146,485.72 for 19 projects in the Arts & Heritage stream; and***
- 3. \$134,445.00 for 16 projects in the Festivals & Events stream.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Several past Council decisions relate to this report:

- The 2020-21 budget endorsed in 2020 included an additional \$100,000 for Grants for Community. In 2020 these funds were re-directed to the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Program as a once-off;
- Council endorsed a Grants Policy in May 2020 which provides grant making high level guidance; and
- May 2022 Council endorsed the 2023 Grants for Community Program funding round and guidelines.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

This report presents Council with funding recommendations for the 2023 Grants for Community Program, from the two independent assessment panels.

Background

The Grants for Community round supports local community groups, and those outside the Yarra Ranges who deliver local community outcomes, to implement projects through Council funding. The program aims to foster mental and physical wellbeing, increase social connection and facilitate cultural and heritage development. This program enables grassroots communities to access valuable resources to respond to local issues. This is often achieved through creative and innovative endeavours which build resilience, collaboration, social engagement, capacity, leadership and independence.

The 2023 Grants for Community round has three streams:

- **Community Development** - focuses on collaboration, people and building communities around the principles of respect, equality and community led responses to local needs, issues and opportunities;
- **Arts and Heritage** - provides opportunities for the community to express, tell stories, connect and contribute to a sense of creativity, identity and wellbeing; and
- **Festivals and Events** - supports community groups to deliver activities that enhance local culture, celebrate community spirit and contribute to the liveability of Yarra Ranges.

Building Capacity in Communities

Complementary to grant funding is Council's annual skills building program. This program is designed to develop the capacity of community groups through free workshops. Curriculum is informed by feedback from workshop participants, consultation with community groups, volunteers and through advice from Council Officers. Topics covered in the curriculum include an online workshop on "Successful Grant Writing" as a practical prelude to the grant round opening. A Child Safe Standards workshop was also offered to equip current and future grant recipients with practical tools and support.

Program Initiation

Council endorsed the grants budget, selection criteria and panel process for the 2023 *Grants for Community* program at its meeting on 10 May 2022. Following endorsement, the grant round opened on 1 June 2022 and closed 15 July 2022. Council Officers worked alongside grant seekers to coach, encourage and build their grant making capacity.

The Assessment Panel Process

Community members are invited to sit on one of two panels: Creative Communities (Arts & Heritage, Festivals & Events); and Community Development. A Council Officer, independent to the grants process, is included on each panel to provide subject matter expertise and objective input. Council's role as the final decision maker concludes the governance process for the program.

The assessment process is intensive and time consuming. As such, an honorarium and small gift of appreciation is offered to external, volunteer panellists in recognition of their contribution.

Assessment panel members are presented in Attachment 1 - 2023 Grants for Community Assessment Panel Member Details.

Panel members assessed applications independently through SmartyGrants, Council's grant database, before attending an all-day session to reach consensus

with funding recommendations. Conflicts of Interest were actively monitored throughout the process with panel members removed from discussion and decision-making where appropriate.

Grants for Community Program 2023

The 2023 grant applications included a diverse range of projects designed to build mental and physical health and wellbeing, support strong and sustainable community connections and nurture thriving local places.

Options considered

All submissions were considered by an external assessment panel and recommendations made based on the quality of submissions against endorsed selection criteria. Where necessary, clarification or further information was sought from applicants.

Recommended option and justification

The panel recommendations are outlined in Attachment 2 – 2023 Grants for Community Funding Recommendations

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The approved budget allocation for the 2023 *Grants for Community* round was \$500,000 distributed across three funding streams:

- \$125,000 - Arts and Heritage;
- \$125,000 – Festivals & Events; and
- \$250,000 – Community Development.

Panel members assessed each application independently before meeting on 25 August 2022 to consider all projects and develop recommendations to Council.

The round was competitive. Within the funding limitations, a high proportion of projects are recommended for funding. A number of these projects are recommended to receive partial funding, with the panel determining that project outcomes could still be achieved.

Following the assessment process for the Community Development stream there was \$50,792.60 surplus funds remaining. To further support suitable applications across other grant streams, the assessment panel recommended an allocation of \$21,485.72 into the Art and Heritage stream and an allocation of \$9,445.00 into the Festival and Events stream.

Recommendations are for one-off funding to support projects occurring in the 2023 calendar year.

A summary of applications recommended for funding by the independent assessment panels is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Recommended Applications

Grant Stream	Applications Recommended	Funds Recommended
Community Development	28	\$199,207.40
Arts and Heritage	19	\$146,485.72
Festivals and Events	16	\$134,445.00
Total	63	\$480,138.12

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

The *Grants for Community* program supports Council's strategic objective to create "Connected and Healthy Communities". The program achieves positive outcomes aligned with several Council goals and objectives in the following strategies:

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Creative Communities Strategy;
- Equity, Access and Inclusion Strategy;
- Child and Youth Strategy;
- Economic Development Strategy;
- Environment Strategy and Liveable Climate Plan; and
- Reconciliation Framework for Action and Reconciliation Policy.

RELEVANT LAW

The 2023 Grants for Community Program Application Form and Agreement include a statement about commitment to Council's gender equity vision and meeting requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Grants have positive impacts on local economies, with long-standing events and festivals generating income and raising the profile of local areas. The re-emergence of such events (following cancellations in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19) supports local economies in contributing to the recovery process.

Grants leverage volunteer contributions and resources through other funders. Applicants are encouraged to "buy local first" when procuring goods and services in line with Council's Grants Policy.

Social Implications

Projects supported by the program across all grant categories have wide ranging positive social impacts that nurture the overall health and wellbeing of local communities. Projects build community connection, strengthen cultural expression, support activities that increase social inclusion and deliver vital resources that encourage community-led recovery, facilitating strong, resilient communities.

Environmental Implications

The program includes criteria for projects that protect the environment, build environmental resilience and sustainability, and engage people with the natural environment. Several projects recommended for funding will have a range of environmental outcomes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Online public information sessions were hosted via Zoom by Council Officers to encourage participation from across the municipality. The sessions incorporated a Q & A panel of current grant recipients who shared hints and tips.

Council Officers dedicated many hours to supporting grant seekers through encouragement, coaching and individual project development. This engagement aims to develop skills and expertise in grant seeking, designing projects or activities, managing community organisations, budgeting and acquitting grant funding.

Panel members from the 2022 Grants for Community round provided feedback to inform the process for the 2023 round.

Council Officers provided feedback to help refresh the 2023 Grants for Community guidelines and criteria.

With a commitment to continuous improvement, this program is reviewed annually, gathering feedback and insights throughout the year to understand community experience of the program.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Table 2. Risk Assessment

Risk	Mitigation
Funds not allocated appropriately	Budget endorsed by Council Robust assessment process to consider applications with selection criteria Detailed funding agreements and acquittal process outlined in application process Process for variation of agreements

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. 2023 Grants for Community Assessment Panel Member Details
2. 2023 Grants for Community Funding Recommendations.

Community Development Assessment Panel

External Panel Member	Skills and Experience
Mike O'Meara (Urban)	Kilsyth Community Planning Group Leader Government grant-making experience Experienced panel member
Ethne Pfeiffer (Valley)	President Healesville Community Garden Healesville Community Choir Grant making experience
Hannah Mahoney (Upper Yarra)	Youth Advocate Yarra Ranges Council's 2018 Young Citizen of the Year
Vicki Harrison (Upper Yarra)	Seville Community House Experienced panel member
Internal Panel Member	Skills & Experience
Rahki Khanna	Team Leader – Playgroup and Early Years Community Support

Creative Communities Assessment Panel

External Panel Member	Skills & Experience
Anna Reid (all)	Community Arts Officer, Manningham Council House Manager, Selby Community House
Nick Papas (Valley)	Born in a Taxi - multi disciplinary performance-maker and director. Experienced panel member
Ren Cutriss (Hills)	Community Engagement - 3MDR
Frankie (Upper Yarra)	Member of YouthARK theatre Completing a Conservation Diploma
Internal Panel Member	Skills & Experience
Samantha Piper	Indigenous Cultural Safety Officer

Panel members are:

- Selected based on their skill set, community knowledge and grant experience.
- Supported in their role through an information session, provision of assessment resources including selection criteria, a scoring matrix, subject matter expert Officer insights and access to dedicated Officer support; and
- Required to sign a Terms of Reference and Conflict of Interest Form (and are not involved in assessing or discussing applications where a perceived or actual conflict exists)

2023 Grants for Community - ARTS & HERITAGE

Recommended

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C003	Sarah Germain	Yarra Valley Arts Council	Small Hall Gypsy Cabaret	Small Hall Gypsy Cabaret is a dazzling smorgasbord of live gypsy music, spoken word poetry, dance and cabaret. Headlined by acclaimed festival favourites, The Royal High Jinx, the night will also feature renowned performance poet Fleassy Malay, the stunning gypsy fire-folk of Szara Fox and the Midnight Secrets, along with fire and belly dance shows. A night to reunite, dance and connect in community with a plethora of stunning performances. After the separation created by lockdowns, our event aims to provide a boost to the artistic/creative economy and unite community in an evening that celebrates music, poetry, live performance, dance and the beauty of human connection.	Lyster	\$6,000.00
2023G4C006	TarraWarra Museum of Art Limited		TarraWarra Biennial 2023 - Public Programs	The TarraWarra Biennial 2023, curated by Léuli Eshrāghi, is an invitation to Australian society to move closer to neighbouring cultures. The exhibition is driven by the curator's concerns with the ways artists from First Nations, Asian and Great Ocean communities are understood in mainstream Australian exhibitions. This application seeks support for a suite of public programming to genuinely engage with First Nations and CALD communities within Yarra Ranges and beyond. This will be achieved through grassroots community outreach and multi-lingual programs, building TWMA's profile as a culturally safe space and Yarra Ranges as a diverse and accepting community.	Ryrie	\$10,000.00
2023G4C017	Yarra Valley Arts Council		Yarra Valley Open Studios 2023	Yarra Valley Open Studios 2023 is a highly anticipated annual event held over 2 weekends in Spring. Local artists are given the opportunity to connect face-to-face with art lovers & other artists, demonstrate their skills/talents and sell their work in their own personal studios. Visitors can enjoy the unique experience of seeing where and how an artist works, their inspiration/s, discuss techniques, exchange tips, be inspired themselves or purely just admire the art. Some artists also offer a hands-on experience or arrange workshops. The Group Exhibition will be held in Healesville, with an additional 'Showcase' in Warburton for 'Upper Yarra' artists.	Melba, O'Shannassy, Ryrie	\$10,000.00
2023G4C018	Shaula Salathe	Dandenong Ranges Music Council	Singing Up a Storm	Singing up a Storm will commence as a weekly Family Community Choir session held at the Olinda Community House for all ages and abilities. As numbers grow, there will be potential to create a Children's Choir, a Youth Choir and/or a Rainbow Chorus (representing the LGBTQI community). Funding for the project will be dedicated to venue hire, a Music Director, music, backing tracks, an Accompanist, bi-annual piano tuning, insurance, promotion and a launch/celebration event.	Streeton	\$5,000.00
2023G4C021	EMACH Inc		Creative Expressions for Artists and Art challenged	EMACH, in partnership with Burrinja, would like to present "Creative Expressions for Artists and Art Challenged"; a monthly crafting workshop targeting anyone who wishes to explore their creative side (with a focus on seniors and community members craving participation). The project will include activities such as painting, sewing, eco-dyeing, nature walks (to collect materials and encourage connection to the land) and exploration of mixed media. The workshops aim to enable participants to express themselves through art, enhance their overall well-being and make lasting community connections. An online exhibition will be held.	Lyster	\$10,000.00
2023G4C024	Ms Rebecca Filliponi	Belgravia Foundation	All The Feels Community Art and Well-being Project	All The Feels Community Art and Well-being Project aims to provide a space for 6-12 year old children to discuss difficulties they may be experiencing, explore their strengths, investigate self-worth and learn strategies to encourage and strengthen their positive mental health/well-being. There will also be the opportunity to create art together (on Family Installation Days) and create the final Community Well-being Garden. In 2023 the emphasis will be on increasing the sense of community and connection, by creating something that everyone, especially children and families, can enjoy.	O'Shannassy, All	\$10,000.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C030	Angie Macmillan	Yarra Glen & District Living & Learning Centre	Where Water Flows	Where Water Flows is a community awareness project focusing on the river that flows through Yarra Glen from the mountains to the sea. It is aimed at younger families/members in the community and seeks to encourage inquiry, exploration and self expression through a series of creative arts experiences/workshops. These will include indigenous story telling, puppet making and a community walk/parade to honour the river. This parade will bring together past, present and future to invoke a journey of greater understanding, a connection to place and the conception of responsibility and stewardship. It will create an avenue for the young to express a voice for the future.	Ryrie	\$7,000.00
2023G4C037	Bogong Centre for Sound Culture	AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS	Between Two Sites	The Between Two Sites exhibition and relating programs respond to the impact of human activity on habitats in the Yarra Ranges and Alpine Shire. The project will engage diverse audience participation and deliver multiple learning experiences through a series of artist talks, workshops and a sound walk. It aims to bring together contemporary art practices and critical local stories to create a forum for environmental issues affecting the habitats of the two regions.	Melba	\$9,968.00
2023G4C047	The Valley Market Warburton	Warburton Advancement League	The Valley Market Warburton	The Valley Market Warburton runs on the first Sunday of each month (excluding January) from 11am - 3pm. Set in the heart of Warburton, the Valley Market supports local food producers, artisan makers, community groups and artists. It provides a platform to sell products, run workshops and provides access to multi-cultural food stalls. A stage features local musicians and hosts a range of Multi-Cultural performers providing entertainment for all ages. The Valley Market is delivered by a mentored youth team, who are given the opportunity to develop skills such as; project management, sound engineering, stall coordination, lay out/set up and event planning.	O'Shannassy	\$10,000.00
2023G4C059	Dandenong Ranges Orchestra	Burrinja Cultural Centre	Dandenong Ranges Orchestra Season 2023	Dandenong Ranges Orchestra Season 2023 will consist of 4 orchestra concerts throughout the year showcasing the talents of local classical/popular musicians (vocal and instrumental). The orchestra intends to invite pre/post music graduates to participate in these concerts as mentors to orchestra members, whilst simultaneously offering them mentorship opportunities from a professional Music Director. We are planning to offer some remuneration to these students as a sign of respect for their skills.	All	\$5,000.00
2023G4C065	Ms Cora Zon	Healesville Toastmasters	Zinezibar	Zinezibar aims to build a culture of zine making in the Yarra Ranges. Zinezibar will facilitate zine making workshops for families and teens within the branches of the Eastern Regional libraries, culminating in a zine exhibition at Healesville Library in November 2023. The theme for Zinezibar 2023 is "These are a few of my favourite things." Choosing to focus on the good things in life activates the Central Vagus Nerve, which can lead to feelings of relaxation and connectedness. Identifying and sharing personal glimmers in the format of a zine is a creative way to build community and wellbeing.	All	\$3,000.00
2023G4C079	Hills Creative Alliance	Olinda Community House	Stories of the Storm - June 2021	Stories of the Storm - June 2021 is a project aimed at exploring ways to archive (published, recorded or filmed) the stories of community members who experienced the 2021 June storms. Details captured will include; the exceptional and unusual ferocity of winds, trauma of trees falling, devastation to property, stories of community and emergency services that provided immediate aid/relief, the weeks without power and the impacts felt the year following the event. A team of local community will receive training on how to best record these oral histories, how to archive them and how we share them. A website is currently in production which could be a useful platform for communication.	Chandler, Lyster, Streeton	\$2,000.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C085	Phoebe Lines	AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS	Empublishment Project: Empowerment through Creative Writing and Publishing	The Empublishment Project: Empowerment through Creative Writing and Publishing, is a 12 week creative writing course for young people of diverse backgrounds. It will explore identity, belonging and connection to place, with a focus on inter-generational relationship building . With professional mentors, the program aims to enhance creative capacity and community building, and provide positive mental health outcomes. This project will result in a professionally published book, a local launch, employment opportunities (as published authors presenting at future writing workshops) and financial remuneration in the form of royalties, Public Lending Rights and Educational Lending Rights.	O'Shannassy, Ryrie	\$10,000.00
2023G4C088	Christelise de Graaf	Burrinja Cultural Centre	Hills Singers	The Hills Singers will be an all-abilities, all-genders, adult choir based in the Dandenong Ranges. It will be a supportive and encouraging musical community, fostering engagement and learning through regular rehearsals and performances. The Hills Singers' main focus is to create a platform for social connection. Alongside this, the choir's repertoire will be aimed at performances, giving the group a shared goal and purpose for their weekly rehearsals. Performances will be arranged around established collaborative community events and in key creative spaces within the Yarra Ranges.	Lyster, Streeton	\$5,000.00
2023G4C089	Ms Ethne Pfeiffer	AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS	Walkin' and Talkin' Together	Aboriginal educator/creative, Jenine Godwin-Thompson, has envisioned a work that speaks to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and builds cultural connections on Wurundjeri land. Set in Queen's Park, alongside OONAH Belonging Place in Healesville, the Walkin' and Talkin' Together project includes; enhancing the existing bridge over Don Road drain with paint and natural materials, mosaic pathways leading to the bridge (telling a cultural story), and signage with cultural stories. It will aim to continue our reconciliation journey, with a special focus on children. Council's Team Leader Northern Parks will work with the project to ensure it meets Council's standards.	Ryrie	\$10,000.00
2023G4C109	Ms Cath Russell	Olinda Community House	'Curious Tales: the Songs and Stories we Tell'	Curious Tales: the Songs and Stories we Tell' is a strength based, early childhood, song writing and music therapy program. It will work with children and families to creatively experience, problem solve and celebrate their world. The creative song writing techniques used will be tailored to the specific needs and interests of participants. For example, when Cath's 3 year old daughter was afraid of fog, Cath told her that fog was really a 'Curious Cloud' coming to visit. Walking into fog then became a family song. The program will conclude with a performance at Olinda Community House, with opportunities for children to participate. 'Curious Tales: the Songs and Stories we Tell' will be filmed and then provided as a resource for Olinda Community House, participants and local kindergartens.	Chandler, Streeton	\$10,000.00
2023G4C110	Mr Peter Mcilwain	AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS	Bird Child Spirit	Bird Child Spirit will consist of sound installations staged across three locations within the Yarra Ranges. The installations will use recordings of children pretending to be birds. The public can experience the sounds as they are played in a distributed fashion throughout a patch of bushland. The recordings will be sourced from children who live in the region in which the sound installation is staged, and will connect professional artistic processes with communities. Funding is required to secure a highly skilled artist to work with interest groups, families and children in the creation of the recordings and installation. The project leverages technology, art and working processes developed during the Art Attack installation 2022.	All	\$9,955.00
2023G4C114	Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society		Reflections of the Past	Reflections of the Past will be a revised and updated reprint of a highly successful, 25 year old publication. It will cover a selection of historical facts (involving text and photographs) on the townships along the railway line from upper Ferntree Gully to Belgrave, and beyond. The Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society carried on the good work of writer, historian, researcher, Helen Coulson. Improving on some of her work, adding to her work and building a more comprehensive record. The Reflections of the Past project will also include an Open Day display and public launch.	All	\$3,562.72

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C117	Emma Jennings	Olinda Community House	Windthrown - from the Southeast	Windthrown - from the Southeast is an art project aimed to sensitively and creatively document the impacts of the 2021 June storms that savaged the Dandenong Ranges. With advice from an Indigenous expert and disaster recovery psychologist, I will interview impacted residents and paint their portraits on storm wood. This will be done in my art gallery in Olinda, where visitors can experience the creation of the work. They will also have the opportunity to contribute to a collaborative artwork, using storm wood blocks, reflecting on their experiences. An exhibition will encourage community connections at a crucial time in the long process of recovery.	All	\$10,000.00
						\$146,485.72

2023 Grants for Community - FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Recommended

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C008	Victorian Skateboard Association (VSA) INC		Yarra Ranges Downhill Festival 2023	The Yarra Ranges Downhill Festival 2023 will be a 3 day downhill skate & luge event taking place at Mt Donna Buang, Warburton, Victoria. It will attract international, interstate and local riders to compete as part of a national and global circuit. The event will revolve around downhill skateboard & street luge racing in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment, and will further connect riders with their local community and the wider international scene.	O'Shannassy	\$10,000.00
2023G4C010	Yarra Valley ECOSS		Rhythms of The World	Rhythms of The World will be a full day of musical workshops, performances and food from 5 cultures from around the globe (Indigenous Australia, West Africa, Brazil/South America, India and The Chin Community). The event will include a grand finale stage performance focussing on percussion, drumming and dance. The aim of this performance, and the event overall, is to weave together the different rhythms from around the world and create an incredible cross cultural experience for all. It will bring people from various cultural backgrounds together to speak the shared language of music!	O'Shannassy	\$10,000.00
2023G4C013	The Philanthropic Collective		Halloween on the Green	Halloween on the Green (HotG) is a community led festival aimed at supporting the local school community and families facing hardship. The festival focuses on creative expression, cultural diversity and the exploration of ideas about death and ancestry. In 2023, HotG will feature the usual array of activities and entertainment; performances by local musicians, free carnival rides, stilt walkers, face painting, story-telling, market stalls, a trick or treat trail, a best dressed competition, a dunking machine and informative billboards (detailing global Halloween cultural celebrations). School groups and community organisations are invited to participate and self fund raise.	Streeton	\$10,000.00
2023G4C019	Selby Community House		SelbyFest 2023	SelbyFest 2023 is a free Music and Arts festival celebrating the community of the Dandenong Ranges. It is an event focused on our environment, culture and inclusivity, and is comprised of; performances on an open air music stage, exhibitions, buskers, health and wellbeing activities, local business and food stalls, art displays/workshops, environmental and CFA displays, tours of Wominjeka Bush Food Garden and our Wombalana Wild Garden and playground. In 2023 there will be an increased focus on community awareness around sustainability (through our Terracycle program), and initiatives on how we can support community with disasters and recovery.	Lyster	\$9,840.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C022	Kilsyth Community Action Group (KCAG)	Japara Neighbourhood House Inc	Kilsyth Festival	Kilsyth Festival aims to provide a village fair experience that brings residents and visitors together in a relaxed environment. The format will provide for approximately 40 stalls, with activity and entertainment centres operated by; local service providers, cultural and sporting groups, craftspeople, individual performers, schools and traders. This broad scope intends to offer something for all segments of our community, whilst encouraging awareness and everlasting local shopping. The intended long term outcomes are greater community cohesion and identity, and increased patronage of Kilsyth traders.	Walling	\$10,000.00
2023G4C038	Mount Evelyn Township Group (incorporated as Mount Evelyn Township Improvement Committee)		Mount Evelyn Street Party	The Mount Evelyn Street Party 2023 is a free community festival that draws the community together in celebration of their township. Hosted by the Mt Evelyn Township Group (METG) since its inception in 2001, this will be the festival's 12th occurrence. With roads closed to create appropriate spaces, attractions will include; market and food stalls, free/low-cost activities, a parade, performance stages, roving performers, workshops and community information.	Billanook	\$10,000.00
2023G4C043	Ranges Academy of Performing Arts Inc. (RAPA)		LANTERN & LIGHT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL 2023	The Lantern & Light International Children's Film Festival 2023 is a unique 3 day festival of films made by people under the age of 18 from the Yarra Ranges. It will include national and international components which draw upon the motto "Giving Voice to Our Children for Their Future". Ranges Academy of Performing Arts film making students will create and submit films under the mentorship of RAPA's founding Director, Rainsford Towner. The festival will also include a free "Best of LLICFF Regional Tour" in 4 Yarra Valley regional communities during the September school holidays.	Lyster	\$9,280.00
2023G4C049	The River Folk Festival	AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS	The River Folk Festival 2023	The River Folk Festival is a community led 3 day music festival held in Warburton. It celebrates the diverse creativity and culture of the area and showcases high quality local, national, and international musical acts over multiple stages. The festival activates public spaces and brings life, vibrancy and colour to Warburton and the Yarra Ranges region. It aims to promote and strengthen the cultural identity of the community and promote it as a vibrant hub of culture, art and environmental awareness. The River Folk Festival adheres to the highest ethical, environmental sustainability and cultural inclusivity standards, and commits to community consultation, collaboration and inclusivity at it's heart.	All	\$10,000.00
2023G4C051	Opus Twenty One (Eastern Suburbs Community) Big Band Incorporated		Big Band In The Park	Big Band in the Park is an opportunity for local musicians and vocalists to publicly perform and showcase their musical talents. The community will be provided free entertainment of the highest standard across two Sunday afternoon concerts at the Queens Park Sound Shell (during summer and autumn 2023). The SES VIC (Healesville Branch) will also be in attendance providing information packs, gifts for children, tea/coffee/soft drinks and a sausage sizzle as a fund raiser for their brigade.	Ryrie	\$3,825.00
2023G4C060	Ecstatic Arts Incorporated		Blacksmiths and Artisans Festival	The Blacksmiths and Artisans Festival is a free pre-modern arts, crafts and lost trades festival held at Mont De Lancey Historic Museum. Since 2005, this unique, alternative, tourism experience has engaged hundreds of volunteers and thousands of tourists. It has kept the venue and its artisans engaged, visible, socially relevant and financially viable for many years. Diverse art, history and culture enthusiasts are invited to share their fascinations and joy of making. Participants develop expertise, networks, sales and exposure. The festival will include; Blacksmiths, painters at their easels, medieval battles, Viking crafts displays, a gypsy market, knife and sword makers, candle making and a historic handcraft Market.	Chandler	\$10,000.00
2023G4C074	Yarra Ranges Film Society		Warburton Film Festival 2023	The Warburton Film Festival 2023 will take place over a weekend in June, and feature 8 film sessions spread over 3 days. The program will include a festival dinner and an opening night event. The Warburton Film Festival 2023 aims to showcase recent, quality feature films from a variety of genres and countries of origin. 2023 will be its 38th year of operation. The dates for this year's festival will be June 16-18th, 2023.	O'Shannassy	\$2,000.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C076	Celebrate Mooroolbark incorporated		Yarra Valley Wool and Handicraft Show	The Yarra Valley Wool and Handicraft Show (YVWHS) is a popular event held annually in Mooroolbark. Originally conceived and run by Mooroolbark Wool (MW), the event now comes under the banner of Celebrate Mooroolbark Inc, making it a NFP event. We receive a partnership grant for the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival, but no funding for this particular event. We seek funding to expand the event to include more local talent and makers. This will provide more opportunity for people of all ages, cultures, abilities and genders to participate.	Melba	\$5,000.00
2023G4C087	Australia Chin Community (Eastern Melbourne) Inc		THO PUA! (Harvest Festival) - Celebration	The Chin Harvest Festival (Tho Puai) is a "Thanksgiving Day" that celebrates traditional Chin Arts & Culture. Due to the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic, it has not been publicly celebrated for two years. It is a special festival that incorporates activities and entertainment and freely showcases the pride of Chin tradition. In celebrating this event with the wider Yarra Ranges community, the emerging Chin community will expand and engage with existing community. In delivering this project on a larger outdoor scale, the impacts amongst local community will be more widespread.	Billanook, Chirnside, Melba	\$10,000.00
2023G4C102	Upper Yarra Historical Society		Ride into History	Ride into History is a bicycle ride/event held across two consecutive nights along the Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail. Small vignettes focussing on particular themes, based on local history, will be performed along the ride. Themes will be as follows: Warburton - tourism, Millgrove - timber industry, Wesburn - Anzacs, and Upper Yarra Museum - trains, railway and the Queen's visit. A local theatre group will create the vignettes, and a projector company will provide historical background image/film projections on locations with a mobile projector on a bicycle. The aim is to make our local pioneering heritage better known and to highlight the profile of the Historical Society and the Museum as the guardians of our local history.	O'Shannassy	\$10,000.00
2023G4C104	Lilydale Township Action Group (LTAG)		Fun & Films At The Park	Fun & Films At The Park will be an event focused on relaxation and connection for all community to enjoy. Held at a public space (Melba Park or Lions Park), Fun & Films At The Park will involve a free outdoor cinema showing, games, events and simple food. Due to the ongoing risk of Covid-19 infection, the use of an outdoor space will reduce the risk of infection, whilst still providing the social connection and village atmosphere that is so beneficial to the community's health and well being. The outdoor cinema is suited to 200 people.	Billanook	\$4,500.00
2023G4C125	Ruccis circus school auspiced by Auspicious Art Inc	AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS	Burrinja circus festival	The Burrinja Circus Festival is an annual event held at Burrinja Cultural Centre in Upwey. Ruccis works to curate a festival that consists of professional and student performances and workshops for the local and wider community.	Lyster	\$10,000.00
						\$134,445.00

2023 Grants for Community - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Recommended

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C001	The Good Life Farm Limited		"Our Community - Resilience & Inclusion Program"	The intensive Our Community Resilience & Inclusion program focuses on; inclusion, mental health & wellbeing, team building, resilience, physical health, active involvement within community & relationship building. Offered to 24 vulnerable people between the ages of 12 & 17, the program will be delivered across a 4 day period by a Psychologist & will be supported by diversely qualified youth workers. The program is also inclusive of intensive equine therapy. Our Community - Resilience & Inclusion Program will support & promote strong and sustainable connections with positive impacts reaching the entire community.	Ryrie	\$5,000.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C004	Anchor		Challenge for Change "Watch me Rise"	The Challenge for Change "Watch me Rise" program aims to reconnect, engage and support young people within the FOYER. Designed by young people, it is inclusive of all genders and ethnicities and has been created with the intention of being "much less scary" for participants. Operating over a 12-month period, external community partners will provide activities/sessions such as; a Social Connections Committee, Neami Mental Health workshops, weekly nutrition sessions and weekly physical movement/PT/wellbeing sessions with a local provider.	Billanook	\$10,000.00
2023G4C007	Yarra Valley ECOSS		Crops for Community Volunteer Program	The Crops for Community Volunteer Program enables opportunities for connection, skill building and greater food security within the Yarra Valley. It educates volunteers of all abilities to grow food crops for distribution and sale. This initiative connects many existing collaborations, such as ECOSS Crops for Community Program, ECOSS Weekly Produce Market, ECOSS Nursery, Koha Community Cafe, Oonah Indigenous Services Tuckerbag Program and other local food relief organisations. We are seeking funding for facilitation of the program, expansion of our Community Garden and Nursery upgrades.	O'Shannassy	\$10,000.00
2023G4C020	Women's Health East		Kids Coffee and Connection: Bringing Mothers Together	Kids Coffee and Connection: Bringing Mothers Together is a social connection project aimed at mothers of babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the Woori Yallock catchment. The project will provide a space for mothers to come together to connect and learn while their children play. It will involve the delivery of regular, supported sessions, with workshops on topics such as maternal and child health and wellbeing issues, women's health issues, and fun activities such as craft workshops. The ultimate aim of the program is to reduce feelings of social isolation and improve women's mental health and wellbeing.	O'Shannassy, Ryrie	\$5,000.00
2023G4C025	Yarra Valley Singers		COVID Recovery	The Yarra Valley Singers Covid-19 Recovery Program endeavours to improve the capability and engagement of the choir whilst sustaining community connection throughout the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Funds will go towards improving quality of rehearsals via video technology (to enable members to take part in online rehearsals), purchase of additional online music and other specialist equipment (creating opportunities for disabled/elderly Choristers), employing an IT Coordinator and training a minimum of 2 volunteers.	All	\$8,000.00
2023G4C026	Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc		Dinner at Darron's Community Meal	Dinner at Darron's Community Meal is a nutritious, two course weekly meal served to the community on a Tuesday evening. All are welcome to attend with no charge or booking required. With a budget of \$200, six teams of volunteers prepare and provide approximately 60 meals. An additional team of volunteers welcomes the patrons and joins them for the meal. A HICCI staff member is also present for support and assistance as required. Whilst the program is primarily designed to provide food, feedback from patrons indicates that the social engagement enjoyed by the community is paramount.	Ryrie	\$5,000.00
2023G4C028	Community Information and Support Victoria		Social Inclusion Matters - Fun for EVERYONE	As Covid-19 has heavily impacted many community members abilities to meet basic needs, the Social Inclusion Matters - Fun for EVERYONE project will provide people experiencing social isolation and financial hardship with the opportunity to re-connect in a safe environment. The CIS Yarra Ranges team will identify community members seeking community connection and support with mental health and wellbeing, and link them with the relevant Community House to support engagement through group activities.	All	\$2,000.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C039	Interchange Outer East		Lead the Way	Lead the Way is a one day volunteering workshop for students of the Yarra Ranges run by Interchange Outer East and the Outer Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network (OELLEN). The workshop will include; youth empowerment/leadership specific speakers, a hands-on experience - living with a disability - How does it feel?, lunch and laughs and team building activities. The workshop aims to provide skills for volunteers in disability settings including; emotional/physical support, informed compassion - what does living with a disability feel like?, engaging in the community and looking after each other.	Lyster, Walling	\$5,201.90
2023G4C042	Mt Evelyn Community House and Reading Room		Empowering Carers and Families	Empowering Carers and Families is a selection of community workshops and luncheons for carers and carers with the child they care for. Workshops will be delivered in a nurturing, non judgmental community space and provide peer connection, opportunities to share journeys/experiences, support and knowledge. The workshops/luncheons dedicated specifically for carers (who are often socially disadvantaged) will be focused on the areas of health/wellbeing and creative arts, whilst the workshops/luncheons for the carer/child duo, will focus on creative arts, yoga and mindfulness skills transferrable to everyday life. Carer/child workshops provide designated carer and child focused time for fun, a sense of achievement and opportunities for increased positive relationships.	Billanook	\$6,940.00
2023G4C050	CHAOS Inc: Lilydale Community House		Cook Eat Chat Repeat	Cook Eat Chat Repeat offers community members the opportunity to learn how to cook nutritious, healthy meals with ease, whilst interacting, socialising and establishing connections with others in the process. There will be 2 types of cooking classes available; a formal "Cooking for One" session, and an informal weekly activity designed to bring together to prepare and eat soup. Historically, classes have chiefly been attended by older men with limited social connections, however; all demographics are welcome to participate. The expected outcomes include cooking skills, engagement, newly created community connections and a reduction in social isolation.	Billanook	\$5,000.00
2023G4C061	Belgrave Food Garden	Belgrave Tecoma Township Group	Creating a sustainable food system for the Hills community	In collaboration with Belgrave Library, the Belgrave Food Garden seeks to provide theoretical and practical know-how to successfully support the community to grow their own healthy, low-cost food. Running workshops and courses in the community garden space will allow social connections to form and improve mental health and wellbeing. A community compost scheme will be established by collaborating with Belgrave traders and Living Learning Pakenham, which will aim to turn produce destined for landfill into materials to feed the garden. The project will endeavour to grow food that will be shared with the community and those in need, and establish a financially and environmentally sustainable food system in the Hills.	Lyster	\$10,000.00
2023G4C063	SisterWorks Inc.		Capacity Building and Social Connectedness for Migrant and Refugee Women in the Yarra Ranges	The Mobile Hub provides workshops to build social connections and economic empowerment to Sisters in the Yarra Ranges. It provides opportunities for women in areas where access to services is limited. Workshops have been co-designed by the target cohort and local partners, to ensure the services offered suit the needs of this specific community. Classes will include; sewing, hospitality, generic and industry specific pre-employment and small business accelerators. All workshops are designed to support women to develop practical skills, build their confidence, develop a sense of agency and value their unique experiences.	Billanook	\$3,500.00
2023G4C064	Kalorama Collective	The Basin Community House	Kalorama Connections	"Kalorama Connections" is a project designed to build community connections within Kalorama and across the local hills villages. The program will enhance community spaces whilst featuring local events, training and a cooking & food program. With a specific focus on storm disaster victims, those affected by the ongoing pandemic and those who may be isolated or facing barriers to community inclusion; the project will deliver practical, immediate results. Support will be provided by ongoing effective partnerships with other local groups and the Yarra Ranges Council.	Chandler, Streeton	\$8,000.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C067	Woori Community House Inc		Seniors Digital Literacy	In partnership with the Be Connected Program and Eastern Regional Libraries, the Seniors Digital Literacy program will target seniors 65+ to build their digital literacy skills, enabling them to better connect with family, friends and community. It will consist of basic, 3 hour workshops over a duration of 46 weeks (flexible delivery will be guaranteed to ensure workshops are relevant for the learner using their own devices). Class sizes will be small (no larger than 6 to 8 participants) to ensure maximum learning opportunities, and a variety of digital devices will be introduced to extend knowledge and understanding. The program will also incorporate practical activities to develop skills, such as a "Communication Tree" to develop new ways of communicating.	O'Shannassy, Ryrie	\$5,000.00
2023G4C071	St Brigid's Catholic Parish Healesville Care Group	St Brigid's Catholic Church Healesville	St Brigid's Care Group Wellbeing Clinic	St Brigid's Care Group Wellbeing Clinic is a half-day wellbeing clinic for elderly and disabled Healesville residents. It will consist of presentations on healthy diet and healthy living, consultations and therapy sessions (provided by masseurs), yoga practice (including wheelchair yoga) and exercise therapy. It will also provide facilitation of mindfulness activities, including card and jewellery making. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the isolation from families and friends has severely affected the elderly and disabled. This clinic would address both the physical and mental wellbeing of the attendees, and provide reassurance that they continue to be valued members of our community.	Ryrie	\$2,215.00
2023G4C072	Healesville Community Renewable Energy Inc T/A Healesville CoRE		Community Engagement - Stage 2 of the Community Outreach Program	In 2021, Healesville CoRE was thrilled to received funding from Yarra Ranges Council to develop a Community Outreach Program. In order to complete this project, Healesville CoRE requires further funding to employ an experienced community engagement facilitator. This individual will contact local community and sporting groups and manage trained CoRE volunteers to visit and educate community on renewable energy options.	Ryrie	\$9,520.00
2023G4C073	Japara Neighbourhood House Inc		Community Sustainable Food Garden	The Community Sustainable Food Garden supports physical and mental health and wellbeing by enhancing social inclusion, sustainable living and food security. The project will focus on 3 major avenues; Community Education, Community Gardening and Community Food. Community Education will involve; inclusive, adaptive and engaging education on sustainable living, organic and hard waste reduction, food gardening and healthy eating skills. Informal skill-sharing between members will further enhance self-worth and empowerment. The Community Gardening avenue aims to contribute to planning, growing, harvesting, and enjoying sensory experiences, nature play, and reflective spaces. Community Food will involve learning sustainable healthy food sources, a regular "Montrose Community Cupboard - Food is Free" market and community meals.	Walling	\$10,000.00
2023G4C078	Inspiro		Step and Connect Lilydale	Step and Connect Lilydale will involve the production of an active living map and series of pop-up events. The map will detail existing and newly created POI art installations, historical and cultural POI, walking maps, green spaces, bike nodes and outdoor recreation assets in Lilydale. It will align with and facilitate the "Activation of Walking" initiatives and bring community awareness/sustainability around active travel opportunities. A series of 6 co-designed pop-ups targeting women and girls will also be implemented. This aims to encourage social connection and foster community engagement. Step and Connect will allow for greater visibility and create more opportunities to be active in the Lilydale area.	Billanook, Melba	\$10,000.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C080	EACH		The Rural Rainbows – Peer Support Groups for LGBTQIA+ young people in the Yarra Ranges	The Rural Rainbows is a Lilydale based, peer led social support group for LGBTQIA+ young people (aged 12-25) in the Yarra Ranges. Our overall objective is to increase the mental health, wellbeing and resilience of local LGBTQIA+ young people. The program will provide/include; safe and vibrant spaces for LGBTQIA+ young people that celebrate inclusion and diversity, social activities, educational sessions, guest speakers, events, and provide support and reduce isolation for all members. Funding will allow us to continue running our successful Lilydale group, whilst expanding to create similar groups covering the Upper Yarra (Yarra Junction), Healesville and surrounding regions.	Billanook, O'Shannassy, Ryrie	\$5,000.00
2023G4C081	Warburton Advancement League		Cerini Centre Social & Affordable Housing Project	The Cerini Centre Social & Affordable Housing Project seeks funding to enable preparation of a Specialised Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and a Bushfire Development Report (BDR). These reports cover the proposed development area for the Cerini Centre Social & Affordable Housing Project and are essential in obtaining Pre-development Approval from the Yarra Ranges Council. The reports are critical in enabling the project to progress to the development phase.	O'Shannassy	\$9,000.00
2023G4C083	Vantage Point Community		Boosting healthy food accessibility	The Boosting Healthy Food Accessibility project is aimed at increasing the ratio of healthy food distributed (through our foodbank program), providing healthier food options and encouraging and motivating participants to eat healthy. Our goal is for Yarra Ranges residents to have access to nutritious food, gain skills and feel motivated to prepare healthy meals for themselves and their families. In addition, we will create accessible, inclusive education on preparing low-cost, practical and high quality meals.	Melba	\$5,000.00
2023G4C086	Outer East Foodshare Inc.		Outer East Foodshare - Post-COVID Support	Outer East Food share have been working with the emergency food relief agencies to facilitate deliveries of perishable foods. We are seeking funding support to allow our operations to continue to function (rather than scaling back), to ensure we can expand support to those in need. While we continue to seek donations, the current environment has seen those funds reduce. Demand has increased 14x since the start of COVID, and we need support to ensure we can continue to operate & provide the required support to the community.	All	\$10,000.00
2023G4C090	ADRA Redwood Community Centre		Functional Fitness and Fun	Functional Fitness and Fun is an inclusive fitness training program held in Warburton for all ages and abilities. Involving minimal equipment, sessions will be run by a qualified trainer and aim to include people who have limited access to transport or funds. It will also aim to include those who are uncomfortable attending a formal gym for mental health reasons, feelings of overwhelm or other emotional barriers. Babysitting will be available and participants will be encouraged to commit on a term-by-term basis (new comers will also be welcome throughout). Exercises will modified to suit abilities and needs, furthering the programs inclusive nature.	O'Shannassy	\$10,000.00
2023G4C092	Koha Community Cafe Inc.		Koha Connects 3799 - Meaningful, Mindful and Fun Activities to Foster Community	Koha seeks funding to create new connections within community and reconnect with people that have moved away as a result of Covid-19. The aim of the "Koha Connects 3799 - Meaningful, Mindful and Fun Activities to Foster Community" project is to enhance the health and wellbeing of community through mindful, meaningful engagements. New and ongoing activities and extra food services have been requested by locals upon the reopening of the WCS in a bid to enjoy activities locally rather than travelling further afield. The proposed "Treasure Hunt" activity will connect locals with their beautiful town, Warburton, highlighting its natural beauty and creative features, whilst the "Time Capsule" activity offers an opportunity for healing.	O'Shannassy	\$9,868.00

Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2023G4C101	OELLEN		Yarra Ranges Youth Career Expo 2023	Yarra Ranges Youth Career Expo 2023 will be an event that brings together parents, young people, industry, career experts and job services. The event is aimed at 15-25 year olds and will fill a recognised gap in career education. Through panel presentations, interactive break out rooms (covering job readiness, job seeking skills and apprenticeship pathways) and marketplace stalls (representing a diverse range of careers and supports), attendees will be have access to an abundance of information in one convenient location.	Melba	\$7,500.00
2023G4C113	Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne)		Engaging the Matu Community	The Engaging the Matu Community project seeks to continue engagement with the Matu Community living in the Shire of Yarra Ranges. The program will deliver 3 programs: Sewing (meeting weekly for 18 weeks, bringing together Matu women to learn sewing skills and to socialise), Swimming (for 12 children for 16 weeks at Kilsyth Centenary Pool to teach swimming, encourage physical activity and promote access to local amenities), and Badminton (weekly for up to 20 men and women across 16 weeks to provide opportunities to socialise, participate in physical activity and access local amenities).	Walling	\$10,000.00
2023G4C127	Eco Warriors Australia		Bridging The Gaps: Wildlife Rope Bridges for Native Arboreal Marsupials in Storm Impacted Habitat	The Bridging The Gaps: Wildlife Rope Bridges for Native Arboreal Marsupials in Storm Impacted Habitat project will install wildlife rope bridges in areas with extensive damage from the 2021 June storms. The project will aim to restore habitat connectivity, particularly in the upper canopy. Volunteers from the local community will be engaged to create sections of simple flat rope bridge. In close collaboration with landowners (including Yarra Ranges Council), ecologists and arborists at Ecology and Restoration Australia, will work to install the bridges in key locations. The local community will be further involved in ongoing monitoring - including analysis of remote camera images. Eco Warriors Australia expect to involve a range of community groups, interested individuals, schools, home schoolers and local environmental groups.	Billanook, Ryrie, Streeton	\$9,962.50
2023G4C130	Healesville Living and Learning Centre		Our Community Celebration	Our Community Celebration, held on International Social Justice Day, will be an event welcoming community into the Healesville Living and Learning Centre. After establishing a steering group, including various intersectionalities, we will be exploring how we can provide an opportunity for celebrating the diverse community to which we belong. This will allow for the community to explore the diverse and varied programs and projects we are undertaking at HLLC, and inform future directions for the Centre.	Ryrie	\$2,500.00
						\$199,207.40

YERING BILLABONGS PROJECT

Report Author: Executive Officer - Environmental Stewardship

Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open the public

SUMMARY

The Yering Billabongs Project aims to re-create a natural floodplain as a shallow meadow for our community and importantly support the deepening of knowledge of this area for the Traditional Owners the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung.

A Committee of Management will ensure long-term care of the site and support the biodiversity outcomes. Melbourne Water and Council propose to partner in the management of the site through the Committee of Management model. Melbourne Water and Council are well positioned to balance the expectations of the community and conservation initiatives while supporting Indigenous connection to country.

A Committee of Management through partnership for Yering Billabongs is proposed via CEO delegated authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Approve Yarra Ranges Council as Committee of Management over Yering Billabongs in partnership with Melbourne Water.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the CEO to progress the Committee of Management arrangement and associated endeavours.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council endorsed the Yarra Strategic Plan 11 May 2021. The Yarra Strategic Plan lists the Yering Billabongs Project as a priority project for implementation.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Yering Billabongs Project is fully grant funded through the Yarra Strategic Plan, with over \$1M allocated over three-years. This project aims to re-create a natural floodplain as a shallow meadow for our community and importantly support the deepening of knowledge of this area for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung. See Attachment 2 for Concept Design.

A Committee of Management (CoM) will ensure long-term care of the site. Melbourne Water agreed to a partnership approach, with both agencies well positioned to balance the expectations of the community, conservation initiatives and Indigenous connection to country. *See Attachment 1 for the CoM area.*

Council and Melbourne Water will have shared responsibility of managing, improving, and maintaining the land for conservation and community.

Options considered

Committee of Management as a non-partnership and partnership model were considered. The partnership model will enable Council and Melbourne Water to support the maintenance as a co-funded agreement which presents a lower cost to Council, while also meeting community expectations of the site.

Recommended option and justification

Preferred option: Committee of Management in partnership with Melbourne Water.

Justification: The partnership approach will enable the realisation of a community legacy project improving outcomes for the Yarra River for current and future generations. This is a unique opportunity for Council to respond to community expectations and the strategic commitments through direct action and proactively through the Yarra Strategic Plan. This project will improve the environmental sustainability and resilience of our local landscape.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

While current project works are fully funded by the state government until 2024, future financial obligations will be determined through the Committee of Management. Budget implications for the project are predicted from 2024-2025:

- Council ongoing terrestrial (land) maintenance ~\$17,000 per year; and

- Melbourne Water ongoing riparian (water vegetation) maintenance and revegetation support ~\$35,000 per year.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

- Connected and Healthy Communities;
- Protected & Enhanced Environment; and
- Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism;

And the following:

- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023; and
- Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032

RELEVANT LAW

Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017

In February 2017, the Victorian Government released the Yarra River Action Plan. The Action Plan requires the Yarra River to be managed as a living integrated entity with a voice; centred by Traditional Owner values and perspectives; and underpinned by coordinated planning frameworks. *The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017* was developed in response to this Plan and recommendations of the Yarra River Protection Ministerial Advisory Committee.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Council has a shared responsibility for water quality issues and altered flow regimes now impacting the Birrarung and wider catchment. Over half of the length of the Yarra River flows through Yarra Ranges, and its creeks; Olinda, Stringybark and Muddy traversing the municipality. Council also has also acknowledged a responsibility to our community to preserve places and waterways with cultural significance, such as Yering, Birrarung and Olinda Creek.

This project aims to achieve water quality improvement to benefit plants and animals along with public recreation, fishing and downstream agriculture businesses. The project will increase and broaden the type of open space available for community to access.

Yering Billabongs will also provide a unique show case for direct action towards Indigenous connection to country and cultural practice through Firestick and storytelling.

There is an expectation to develop a '*Friends of Group*' through avenues such as Landcare.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Adjoining landholders have been consulted, broader community will be engaged as the project progresses, with a community engagement plan to be developed.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Collaboration project partners, includes:

- Melbourne Water; key project partner and partner in Committee of Management;
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as a key stakeholder;
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) and Narrap Rangers; and
 - Narrap Rangers will undertake ongoing management works; monitoring, weed control and cultural burns; and
 - WWCHAC will undertake a Cultural Values Assessment to deepen the Indigenous understanding of the site and create a narrative.
- Zoos Victoria; Committee of Management over adjacent section.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Key Risk	Risk Detail	Mitigation
Financial	Implications of Council supporting the CoM.	CoM as a partnership to reduce financial cost. Creation of Friends of Group to support long-term care of the site. Continue to seek future investment.
Design	Proposed design to align with cultural heritage and environmental considerations.	Engage necessary project partners early and consistently throughout project. Approved concept design to be low impact / minimal earthworks.
Community perception	Community concerned with council supporting this project and/or project activities exacerbating risks during extreme weather events.	Communications team will assist with a plan during community consultation. Project is a legacy project for future generations to enjoy.
Impact to	Perceived risk of restoration	Analysis from Birdlife Australia and

adjacent properties	activities attracting large flocks of wetland birds that will increase bird strike risk for the airport. Exacerbated localised flooding concerns.	Melbourne Water suggests a very low likelihood of bird strike. This will be continually reviewed and evaluated. Concept design will mitigate flood risk.
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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Attachment 1 - Yering Billabongs Project Overview
2. Attachment 2 - Yering Billabongs Concept Design

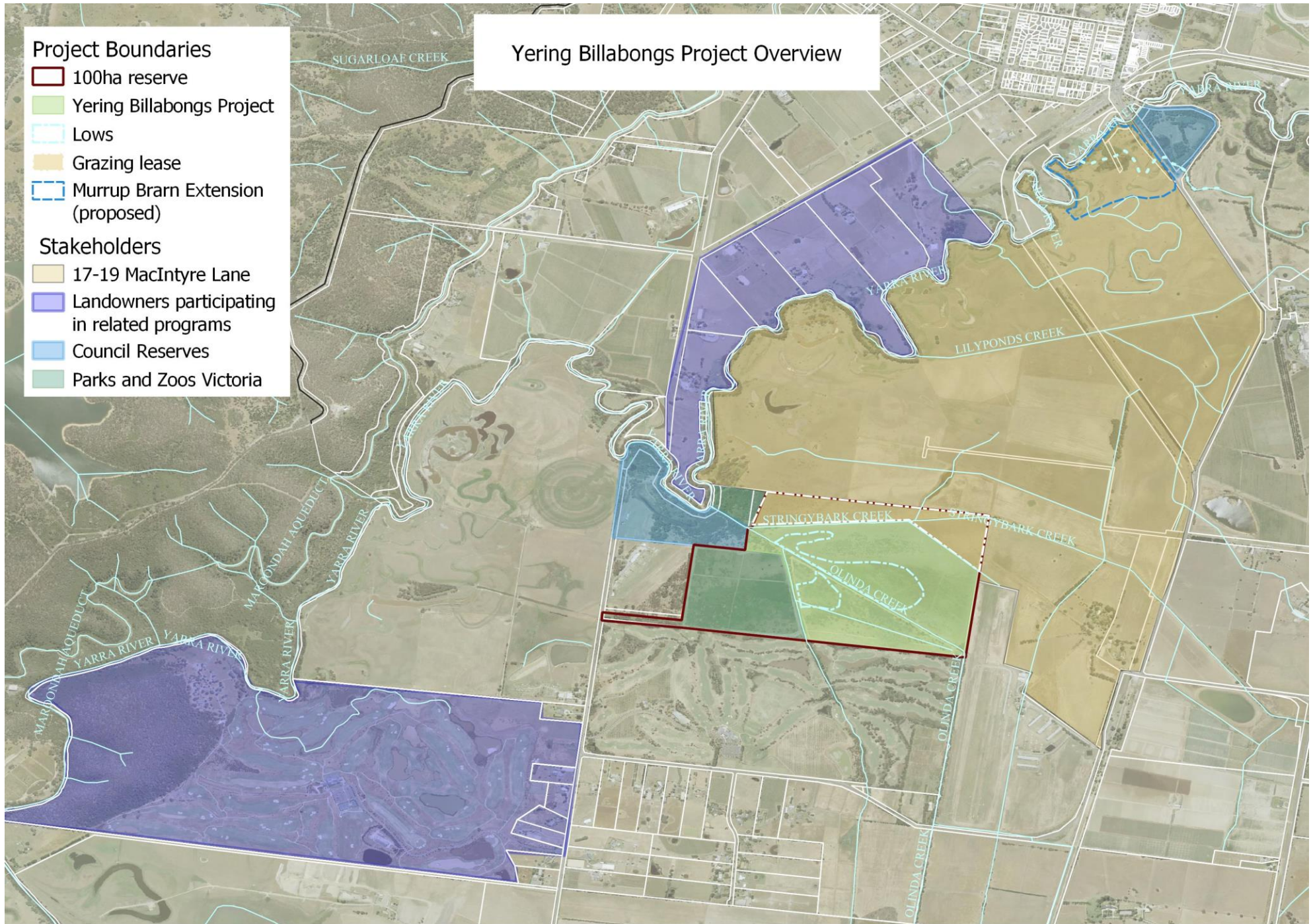
Yering Billabongs Project Overview

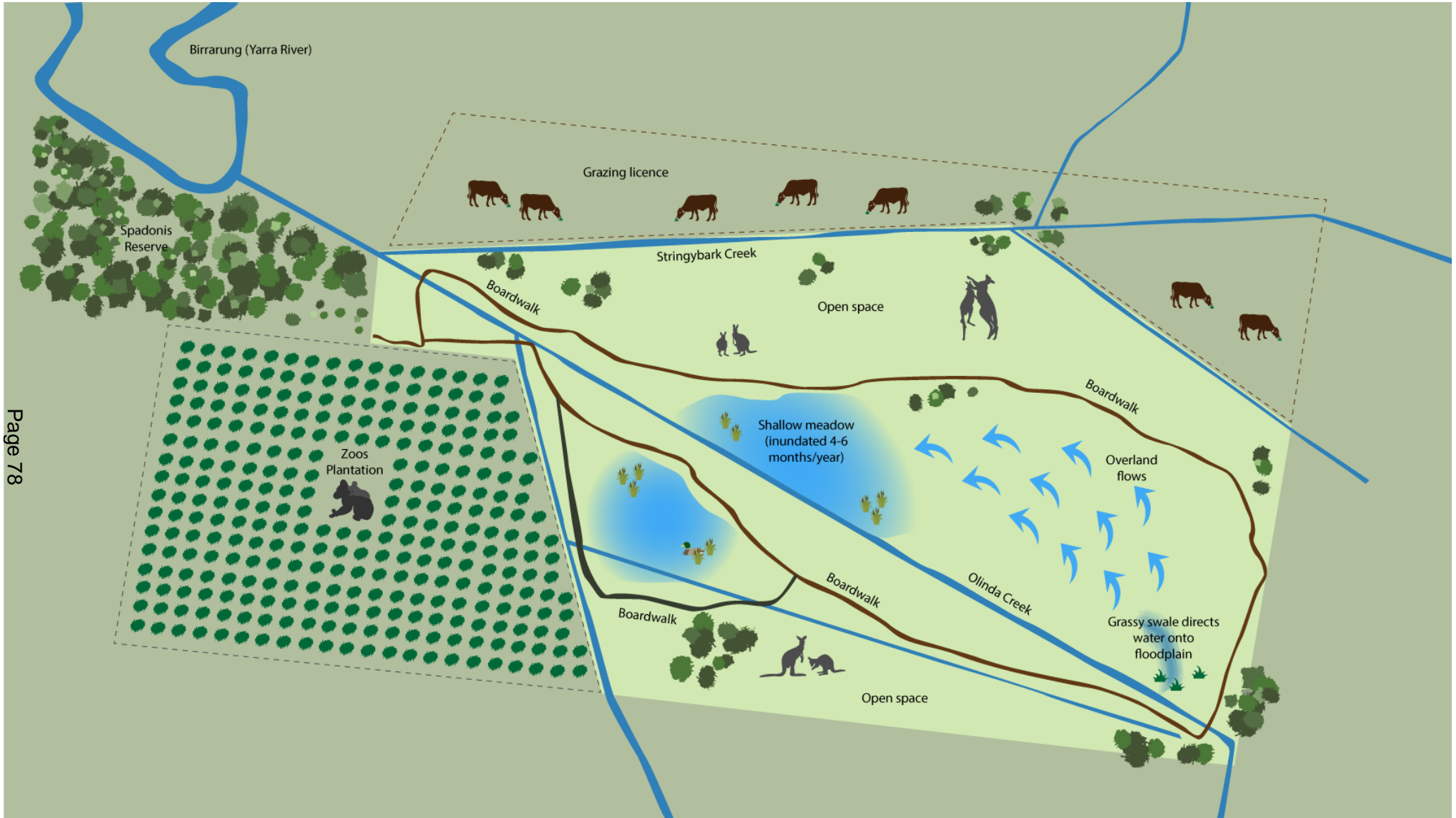
Project Boundaries

- 100ha reserve
- Yering Billabongs Project
- Lows
- Grazing lease
- Murrup Brarn Extension (proposed)

Stakeholders

- 17-19 MacIntyre Lane
- Landowners participating in related programs
- Council Reserves
- Parks and Zoos Victoria





Yering Billabongs Map

EOI6105 7037: SCHOOL AND VALLEY ROAD SEVILLE - ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME TENDER EVALUATION REPORT

Report Author: Special Charge Scheme Officer
 Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure
 Ward(s) affected: Chandler;

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The item has been included in the public agenda to facilitate openness and transparency in Council's decision making. Confidential attachments have been included with the report which contain commercially sensitive information that is not to be disclosed whilst the meeting is open to the public.

SUMMARY

This report summarises the quotation evaluation process for the School and Valley Road Seville - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme and seeks Council approval to award the contract for construction to Foley Services Pty Ltd.

As part of its 2019 budgetary process, the Federal Government announced a nine-year, \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas. At its meeting on 24 September 2019 Council endorsed a list of roads to be constructed using this funding to be facilitated by means of Special Charge Schemes.

School Road and Valley Road, Seville were included on this list of roads and in accordance with Council's Special Charge Scheme Policy, landowner support has been sought and obtained for construction of the road. The project has been listed in Council's 2022/23 Capital Expenditure Program.

The Special Charge Scheme Statutory Process has been successfully completed and the project is ready for construction.

RECOMMENDATION

That

- Council accepts the tender from Foley Services Pty Ltd for the total lump sum price of \$969,101.78 (GST exclusive), \$1,066,011.96 inclusive of GST and all provisional items as defined in this proposal.***

2. ***Council approves the Director of Environment and Infrastructure be delegated the authority to sign the contract documents.***
3. ***The confidential attachment to this report remains confidential indefinitely as it relates to matters specified under section 3(1) (g)(i), (g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council meeting 24 September 2019 – Council considered a report regarding the Federal Government Road Construction Funding Initiative and endorsed a listing of roads proposed for construction as Special Charge Schemes with landowner contributions fixed at \$7,000 per development unit.

Council meeting 25 August 2020 – Council approved the establishment of a panel of pre-qualified Road Construction and Associated Works contractors, to facilitate the efficient delivery of road infrastructure projects.

Council meeting 22 February 2022 – Council approved a report on the Intention to Levy a Special Charge Scheme for School Road and Valley Road, Seville.

Council meeting 26 April 2022 – Council declared the Special Charge Scheme for School Road and Valley Road, Seville.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to award EOI6105 7037 School and Valley Road Seville - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme.

Background

As part of its 2019 budgetary process, the Federal Government announced a nine-year, \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas.

To support efficient procurement processes, Council sought Expressions of Interest from contractors to establish a panel of twelve (12) pre-qualified Road Construction and Associated Works contractors to EOI6105. From this list Council would seek quotations for road construction and associated works, as and when funding allows.

Under the terms and conditions of the panel arrangement any contracts valued over \$1 million would require a formal declaration report indicating the estimated cost and budget be accepted by Council before the project can proceed to construction.

On 18 August 2022, Council invited seven (7) pre-qualified suppliers from the Road Construction and Associated Works Panel to submit their pricing for the School and Valley Road Seville - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme.

The tender process remained open for 10 days, closing on 02 September 2022 and seven (7) Submissions were received.

Key Issues

This tender process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of Council's Procurement Policy.

Tenderer's submissions were assessed for conformity with the tender documents and no tenders were eliminated from further evaluation as a result of any non-conformances.

The Evaluation Panel scored tenders against pre-established evaluation criteria. A summary of the evaluation criteria follows.

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Price	80%
Capability and Capacity	5%
Timeframes	10%
Commitment to Quality and Sustainability	5%
TOTAL	100%

Recommended option and justification

Following an extensive evaluation process as detailed in Confidential Attachment 1. The evaluation panel are unanimous in their decision to recommend Foley Services Pty Ltd for the Tender Price inclusive of provisional items. Foley Services Pty Ltd offers the best value outcome.

The evaluation panel request that Council adopts the recommendations within this report.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The total cost of the lump sum contract for the road construction is \$969,101.78 (GST exclusive), \$1,066,011.96 Inclusive of GST including all provisional sums.

Funds are allocated to this project from:

The 2019 Federal Government \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas; and

Landowner Contributions as part of a Special Charge Scheme beginning in the 2022/23 financial year. The funding details are provided within the Confidential attachment.

Works are anticipated to commence in October 2022 with works expected to reach practical completion by 30 June 2023.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan: The construction of local roads as a Special Charge Scheme meets the *Council Plan 2021-2025* strategic objective of Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places. Local road construction also has benefits related to the strategic objective of a Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism.

Council's Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements sets out in detail the procedures for managing Special Charge Schemes.

This project is part of the Federal Government's sealing roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas program.

RELEVANT LAW

This report seeks Council approval to award a contract that complies with Section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The construction of these roads would be undertaken utilising contractors from Councils Road Construction and Associated Works Panel. This panel was established with a majority of local smaller contractors which will help provide economic support to these local businesses.

Social Implications

Special Charge Schemes for road construction require sizeable contributions from abutting landowners. These contributions can lead to social and economic impacts for affected landowners. Council's *Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements* notes that those landowners with a demonstrated financial hardship may apply for assistance in accordance with Council's *Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy*.

Environmental Implications

The proposed works will require the removal of 14 native trees and 4 exotic trees.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is not required for the works.

The works will enhance the environmental amenity, through the reduction in dust.

The sealing of local roads will assist in reducing the impacts to the road condition from increased storm events, predicted as a result of climate change. Unsealed roads greatly deteriorate in condition following storm events creating an increased stress on service delivery for the unsealed road network.

Consideration is also given to the rate of flow of water into local creeks and impacts to water quality following the sealing local roads, sustainable treatment is prioritised, where possible within the catchment with measures such as grassy swales implemented as conditions allow.

As part of the construction of local roads, Council officers are continually investigating the increased use of recycled materials. In utilising recycled materials, officers consider the availability and location of materials, the quality of materials and overall cost to the project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Landowners in School Road and Valley Road, Seville have been consulted in the lead up to and through the statutory process for developing a Special Charge for the construction of their roads.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Projects constructed under the Roads for Community Initiative have been jointly funded by the Federal Government and participating landowners.

The Federal Government funding commitment of \$150 Million over 10 years will have a transformational impact on unmade roads throughout the Dandenongs and urban growth areas of the municipality. The key principles of the program are to construct unmade roads:

- Servicing schools, community facilities and sporting facilities;
- Within the urban growth boundary and township areas within Yarra Ranges;
- That significantly support bushfire risk and emergency situations to allow the community to safely exit areas of high risk;
- That support the growth and development of tourism across the municipality; and
- Where sections of high-volume rural roads intersect with collector/arterial roads.

In considering a strategic approach for future construction of unsealed roads, the proposed road construction of School Road and Valley Road, Seville fit within the above criteria.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Construction of the roads would provide the following benefits/risk reduction to landowners:

- Continued and safer vehicular access to and from properties abutting or gaining primary access via the roads;
- Improved stormwater drainage runoff control directed towards the roads from abutting properties, and protection of low side properties from stormwater runoff from the roads; and
- Enhanced physical and environmental amenity for abutting properties.

It is noted that the roads have existed in their current form for many years. If the proposed construction of the roads does not proceed, no unacceptable or unmanageable risk would be experienced by Council.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Confidential Attachment for Contract EOI6105 7037 School and Valley Road Seville - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme.

Confidential Item

RIDGES AND RIVERS UPDATE

Report Author: Manager Recreation Projects & Parks
 Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure
 Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

Ridges and Rivers encompass three main projects funded by all Government tiers and takes a strategic approach to expand the Yarra Ranges network of cultural and recreational experiences. These are the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination, RidgeWalk and Yarra Valley Trail. Together, when combined with the existing Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail, the trails provide a unified and unique cultural, recreational and educational experience in multiple locations servicing various audiences.

It is anticipated that the projects will deliver 910,000 visitors per annum, create 597 jobs and inject \$103 million in economic spend to the region.

Yarra Ranges has developed and achieved funding for the projects to a value of \$29.6 million, with \$22.4 million coming from external funding sources.

The Warburton Mountain Bike Destination has recently been through an Environmental Effects Statement (EES). Once completed, along with the adoption of a Warburton Master Plan by Council, the project is ready to proceed pending the required EES outcomes.

The RidgeWalk Master Plan was endorsed by Council in September 2020. Varying sections are now undergoing detailed design, with construction having commenced on some sections. The creative arts component of the project is also progressing well.

Yarra Valley Trail has completed Stage 1A Lilydale to Yering and is preparing further construction of Stage 1B Yering to Yarra Glen. A Planning Permit has recently been received for this stage, however, an objection has been lodged with VCAT by an adjacent landowner, with a hearing scheduled for February 2023.

Funding for Stage 2A, Yarra Glen to Tarrawarra, was received through a Labor Party Federal election commitment while the Northern Tourist Loop around Yarra Glen was funded through a previous State Government commitment.

Planning for unfunded Stages 2B and 3, Yarra Glen to Healesville and Healesville to Woori Yallock respectively, continues.

The intent of this paper is to provide an update on the progress of all three projects.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the current progress of all three Ridges & Rivers projects.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

March 2021 Update to Forum

7 September 2021 Update to Forum

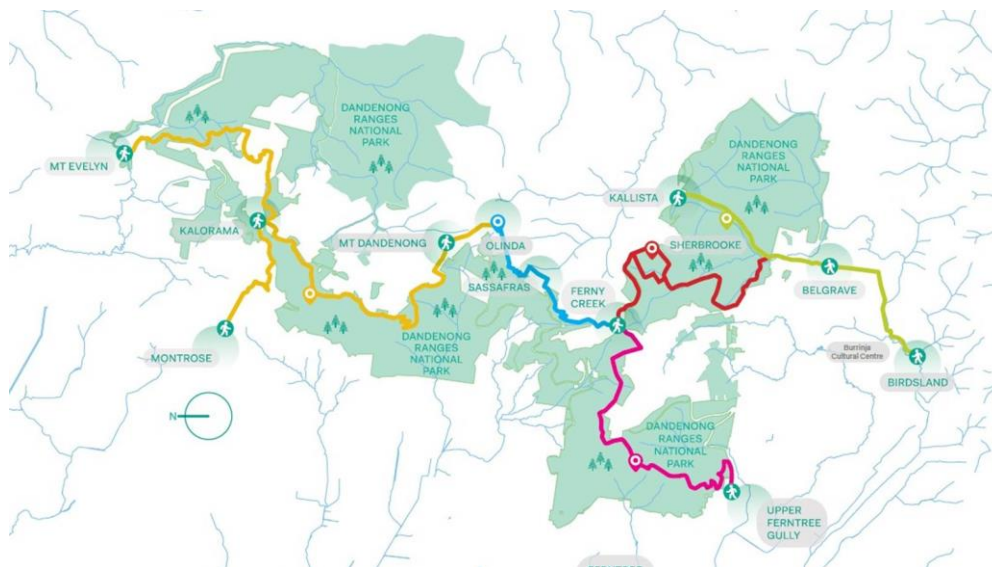
28 September 2021 Update at Council

6 September 2022 Update to Forum

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

RidgeWalk



The Stage 1 Trail upgrade Tender package was released in September 2022. This includes upgrades for 8.1km of trail in the areas of Kalorama, Fenny Creek, Sherbrooke Forest and One Tree Hill. Confirmation has been received from Council's Planning Department that a planning permit is not required for Stage 1 works.

Stage 2 trail works are expected to be tendered in late 2022. Section 27 Consent to Public Authority will need to be updated to include Stage 2 and put through the approval process with Parks Victoria.

The Olinda to Sassafras section of the RidgeWalk trail is now complete, with an upgrade of the existing trail between Mason Grove, Sassafras and Range Road, Olinda connecting the two townships. The existing trail was steep and scrubby, choked with fallen timber from the June 2021 storms. The new trail includes switchbacks and a series of rest points, making for a much more enjoyable 'linear park' experience as pedestrians make their way between the two villages.

Bird themed temporary artworks have also been installed. 'Tawny Frogmouth' by Renate Crow is a large-scale model of the local species which sits upon a log salvaged from the June 2020 storm and invites people to sit within its belly. 'Pathmarker Birds' by Peter McIlwain appears all the way up the new trail, where markers, like the local birds, offer small bursts of colour along the way. The art installations were supported by the Victorian Government's Outdoor Activation Fund and a well-attended Community Activation event was held on 10th July 2022.



Tenders are also pending for the Kalorama Land Art piece.

Traffic Engineering works continue at a number of sites including 5-ways in Kalorama. Pedestrian crossing concept designs have been completed by Council's traffic engineers and have been submitted to the Department of Transport for approval. Final car park designs now have incorporated officer comments as well as the arborists' tree ratings and downsizing the car parking yield from the first issue of designs.

Writing RidgeWalk

As part of the RidgeWalk creative program, the project is commissioning established and local writers to respond to place and comprise a living anthology of the Dandenong's. Later this year the anthology will come to life as an immersive experience along the track, allowing you to experience the Dandenong's through the writers' words. After a call-out to the local community, five local writers were selected for participation in the program:

- Marian Spires;
- Cameron Semmens;
- Leslie Almborg;
- Katelin Farnsworth; and
- Jessica Pritchard

The selection was conducted by a panel including community representatives and literary professionals, who anonymously reviewed the submissions. The writers joined the project team at Karwarra Gardens in April to film and record their work for use in the project.

Nodes

A scoping analysis of the five node sites was completed earlier in the year to brief the future design of the nodes. Quotations have been sought for the design and project management of all five nodes, with a strong emphasis on Indigenous Design Principles and a First Nations lead process. The selection process is now underway.

The five node themes are:

- Light, Form & Colour;
- Community;
- Resilience;
- Activism; and
- Country

Interpretation

The strategic framework for interpretive signage and digital interpretive material has been completed, in consultation with local historical societies and the Indigenous Advisory network. The next stage is development of interpretation content, which will be a collaboration with the Indigenous Project Advisory Network and through consultation the Mt Dandenong and District, Sherbrooke Foothills and Southern Sherbrooke historical societies. This will be followed by the design and construction of interpretation and wayfinding signage. GML Heritage has been contracted to deliver the content development component and have commenced work in September.

Digital Platform

A partnership has been developed with RMIT to develop a digital platform that will link with a website and deliver a digital art experience to complement the on-site art and interpretation experiences. This will provide flexibility in the programming and operation of the trail as an eco-tourism product and allow for the development and communication of content in a flexible, highly accessible way without physically or visually impacting the environment.

Milestones stages that are planned to be achieved through this project partnership:

- Digital platform Co-creation, design and research: September 2022;

- Development of vertical slice: November 2022; and
- Finalisation and launch of digital platform: May 2023

The RidgeWalk Project Reference Group met on August 2, 2022 and made several key recommendations based on a project SWOT analysis led by Council's Strategy and Transformation team, in conjunction with the project team, to ensure the successful delivery of the project:

These included:

- Extension of delivery deadline to December 2023;
- De-scope and map to next phase some Parks Victoria car park upgrades to a stage 2 of the project; and
- De-scope and map to next phase the trail from Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve to Karwarra Gardens to avoid a complex Childs Road crossing and conflicts with the construction timeline of the Melbourne Water Filtration plant, and related CHMP amendment activities.

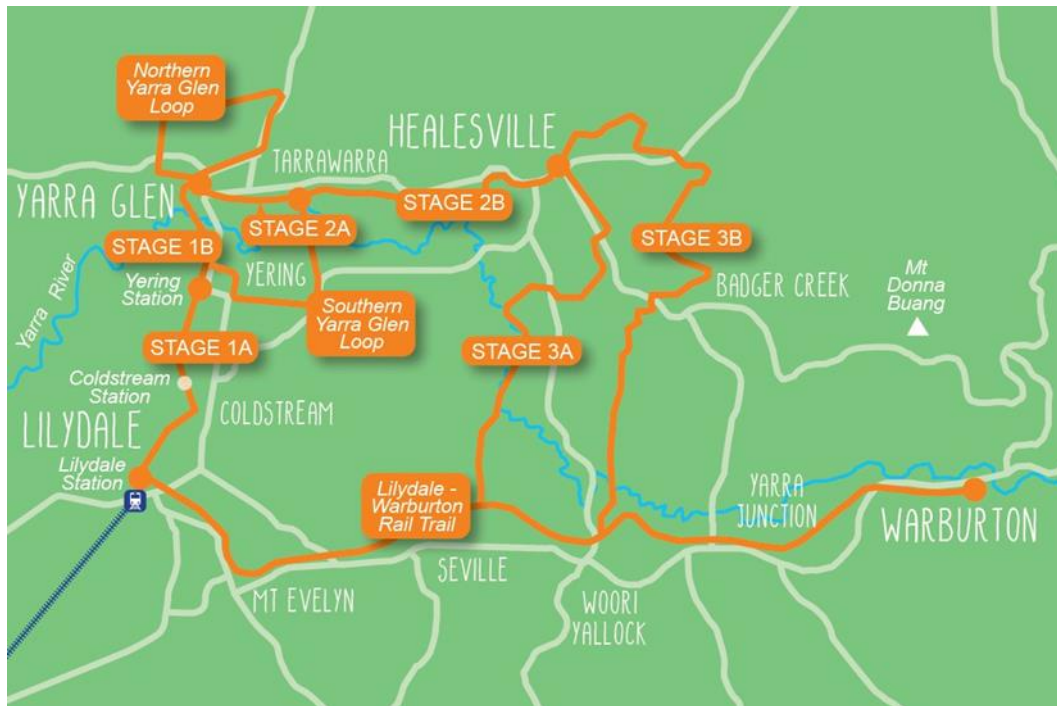
The Project Reference Group also recommended the proposed use of a Woi Wurrung name – **ngurrak barring** (noo-rak bah-ring - mountain paths) for the experience once launched. The name will undergo a branding process which will include considering an amalgamated Woi Wurrung / English name and/or a clear tagline expressing location and type of experience.

The endorsed RidgeWalk Masterplan has a strong stated focus on 'a significant wayfinding experience reflective of First Nations history and culture'. This sentiment has been further developed within the Interpretation Framework which frames the experience as one of two cultures intertwined. Art and storytelling will convey historical information from multiple perspectives and voices, with First Nations perspectives leading the experience.

During the planning phase engagement occurred in a Cultural Values Assessment (CVA) with Wurundjeri Elders. This process considers Aboriginal stories, culture and history outside of archaeological artefacts, and allows Elders to visit Country to reflect on its significance. It is increasingly a standard part of any robust cultural heritage process and has been a key pillar of the relationship with Wurundjeri Council, as they had not previously had an opportunity to engage with the Dandenong Ranges and its deep Aboriginal history and to document this.

During this process Wurundjeri Elders expressed the strong and unique potential of the project to become a flagship project due to its natural environment, in which visitors might be encouraged to Care for Country and to broach truth-telling in a sensitive way. Within this consultation phase, Elders recommended the use of a Woi-Wurrung name for the finished project. This also aligns with market trends which identify Indigenous cultural experience as key to both domestic and international tourism markets.

Yarra Valley Trail



Stage 1B Yering to Yarra Glen

A Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for Stage 1B was issued in May. There was subsequent notification that an appeal has been lodged by a local landowner.

The Statement of Grounds for the appeal is:

“the proposed use and development is incompatible with the existing use of the land bordering both sides of the Subject Land for farming” by “interfere with the passage of stock to and from the Neighbouring Land, and thereby interfere with the lawful existing farming use at the Neighbouring Land” and “fail to separate stock at the Neighbouring Land with users of the Subject Land, both during and after the proposed works are due to be carried out”.

Council Officers meet regularly with the local landowner. The trail dissects their land on the elevated rail corridor. The main concerns to date have been regarding continued right of passage for stock from one side of his property to the other, across the rail corridor.

Officers are working with Council’s planning team and planning lawyers on Council’s response.

A conference is scheduled for 1 December 2022, while the hearing is currently scheduled for 3 to 8 February 2023. If a resolution cannot be achieved outside of VCAT, this will result in a significant delay to the project timeline. An application to have the matter struck out is pending with VCAT. A decision on that will be known before the scheduled conference on December 1.

Stage 2A- Yarra Glen to Tarrawarra Station

Yarra Valley Trail Stage 2A was a fully funded election commitment valued at \$4.9M from the Labor government in the recent Federal election with funding to be confirmed in the October Federal Budget. Route finalisation, detailed design and agency discussions are currently underway.

Yarra Valley Railway (YVR) is currently dealing with ongoing concerns from landowners adjoining the railway over the proposed railway maintenance shed at Tarrawarra Station. There is a possibility that the proposed trail may be associated with concerns over the railway development. The project will have a long planning and design phase given the cultural heritage and environmental values and flooding potential.

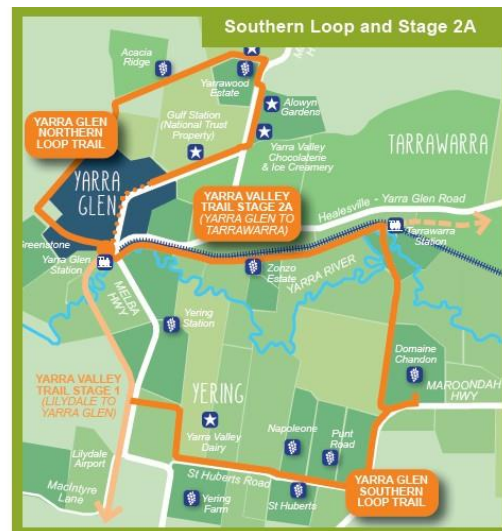
Yarra Valley Trail- Stage 2A

Stage 2A of the YVT will connect Yarra Glen township and Tarrawarra Road.

The trail will run parallel to the railway, offering connections to key tourism destinations.

This proposed trail extension will contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community, enable stronger connections to the natural environment and increase business opportunities for Yarra Glen and surrounds.

The precise route and design of both Stage 2A and the Yarra Glen Southern Loop are yet to be finalised and are currently unfunded.

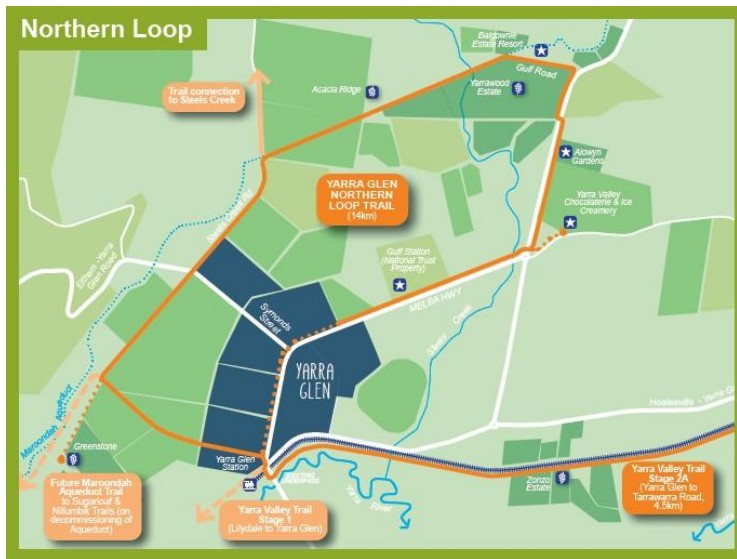


Northern Loop

The Northern Loop of the YVT was fully funded by the State Government. Steels Creek Trail upgrade works are underway and detailed design of other sections continues.

Some residents and businesses nearby the proposed alignment through a Melbourne Water pipe track have raised some concerns. On-site and on-line meetings have been held and an assessment of an alternative route along Steels Creek and Gibbs Road is being developed and costed to bring to Council for decision.

Negotiations with Department of Transport are continuing regarding the Melba Highway crossing near the roundabout to the north of Yarra Glen township.



Yarra Glen - Northern Loop

The northern loop trail creates a 14km journey north and east from Yarra Glen Railway Station.

This trail will be delivered in four sections, with different delivery timeframes and contracts. Where possible, existing paths and trails will be upgraded. Fencing, furniture and signage will be part of the trail.

This loop has been funded by the State Government under the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round Projects.

Warburton Mountain Bike Destination

Council received confirmation on 20 July 2022 that the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) report is now with the Minister for Planning and DELWP Independent Assessment Unit (IAU). DELWP IAU will now prepare their report for the Minister along with the draft of the Minister’s Assessment.

Recent Ministerial portfolio changes in the Victorian Government may increase the risk of a delayed EES decision. Should a delay run into the caretaker period for the 2022 State Election it, would be likely that a decision would not be known until early 2023. This would likely have significant impacts on delivery scheduling and lead to challenges with funding partners.

If the decision of the Minister supports the trail development, Stage 1, which is 110km of trails in the State Forest, will begin construction in February/March 2023 and continue for 18 to 24 months, conditions permitting.

In anticipation of a favourable EES outcome for Stage 1 (trails in the State Forest), planning and preparation for delivery of Stage 1 continues, including:

- Finalisation of the Master Plan;
- Finalisation of Cultural Heritage Management Plan;
- Detailed design of trail head works at Wesburn Park;
- Detailed design of Stage 1 bridges;
- Preparation and execution of construction phase of World Trail Early Contractor Involvement Contract; and
- Securing tenure agreements for Crown and private land as required for Stage 1

Native Vegetation Offset is a critical component of the project. In applying the project's Native Vegetation Offset Strategy, Council has identified an offset site on crown land (Woi Wurrung State Forest) as the preferred solution. This option allows Council to secure offsets for all stages of the project in one arrangement. Ongoing management arrangements will need to be negotiated with DELWP. DELWP Region could manage the site (preferred) or Council could assume responsibility and manage as Committee of Management.

Detailed work on the operating model is currently underway, with analysis and recommendation expected in September.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Over the past four years, each project has been planned, developed and funded.

The table below shows Council's \$7.2 million investment is leveraged to achieve a further \$22.4 million and realise a total of \$29.6 million investment across all projects.

Ridges & Rivers Projects	Total Project Cost	Federal Government	State Government	Council Contribution	Other
Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (Stage 1)	\$11,300,000	\$5,300,000	\$3,000,000	\$2,700,000	\$300,000 (Upper Yarra Community Enterprise)
Yarra Valley Trail (Section 1)	\$8,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$2,500,000	
RidgeWalk	\$9,800,000	5,800,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	
Totals	29,600,000	\$13,600,000	\$8,500,000	\$7,200,000	\$300,000

Many aspects of each project are still subject to tender.

The last twelve months has been subject to significant material cost increases due to a combination of a flooded market, labour shortages, pandemic disruptions, and material supply chain issues. Cost escalations are likely for each project. The main impact for each project will be in the cost of bridges and other infrastructure which require steel and concrete. Yarra Valley Trail 1B is the most exposed with four bridges of significance.

As per previous advice to Council, the EES approvals for the Warburton Mountain Bike Project exceeded initial cost estimations by approximately \$2M due to:

- Minister's Scoping Requirements for the EES were far more comprehensive than anticipated;
- Additional technical study works required by the State led Technical Reference Group (TRG) throughout the EES development process; and
- Previously unknown Inquiry costs that were not provided to Council until early 2022, and which escalated post this advice due to the unusually high number of public submissions and complexity of submissions (in particular government agencies and the Victorian National Parks Association).

Once the outcome of the Minister's decision is known, it is considered that Council will be in a stronger position to argue for all EES costs to be covered by the collective budget, rather than Council only funding. At this stage there is uncertainty as to what will be approved and in the absence of any statements made with the decision, it is difficult to have a strategic and effective conversation with the State and Federal administrators of the funding programs.

Based on a favourable outcome of the EES, negotiations will occur to determine the proportion of costs for the EES that are essentially design and investigation costs (arguably aligned with the funding agreements) and press for these costs to be met by all funders with Council's allocation covering any administrative costs not aligned with funding agreements.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan. Ridges and Rivers have significant strategic links across Yarra Ranges. The projects collectively deliver on Council's aspirations for Connected and Healthy Communities, Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places, Protected and Enhanced Natural

Environment and Vibrant Economic, Agriculture and Tourism. With their significant investment in the outdoor, open and accessible activity, they promote increased tourism, health & wellbeing, sustainable economic growth and job creation.

Project officers have been working closely with colleagues to ensure consistency and links with many of Council's strategies including;

- Council Plan 2017-2021;
- Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013-2023;
- Creative Communities Strategy 2019-2029;
- Reconciliation Framework for Action 2013-2023;
- Equity Access and Inclusion Strategy 2013-2023;
- Integrated Transportation Strategy, 2020 -2040;
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2021;
- Environment Strategy 2015-2025;
- Economic Development Strategy 2012-2022; and
- Council's Vision 2020.

RELEVANT LAW

A Gender impact Assessment is being completed for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project. The training involved is being completed by broader members of the Recreation & Active Living team and learnings from this will help inform other projects.

Tendering for the works associated with the projects has and will occur in accordance with requirements of Council's Procurement Policy, which is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2020.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Ridges and Rivers projects are considered an Eco-tourism product which will help immerse users in the environment and use the experience to further enhance education and awareness of areas in Yarra Ranges of environmental significance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Each project has involved significant engagement with the community throughout their development. As the delivery phase is reached, more localised consultation is occurring for those residents and communities more directly related to the current aspect of the project.

The EES process for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project has involved some of the most thorough community engagement ever completed for a recreation project, with in excess of 2,700 submissions received from the public during the process.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Elements of each project involve significant collaboration with internal Council stakeholders including Planning, Parks & Bushlands, Design & Place, Finance and Economic Development.

Externally each project also involves significant collaboration with government agencies including Wurundjeri, Parks Victoria, Department of Land, Water & Planning, Melbourne Water, Department of Transport, SES and the CFA, many of whom are represented on individual Project Control and Project Working Groups.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Major risks have been identified in project updates. All risks are being managed at present within constraints of each project. In summary:

RidgeWalk

- Tender price responses; and
- Inclement weather or another storm event

Yarra Valley Trail

- VCAT hearing;
- Continued wet weather; and
- Cost escalations for bridges for stage 1B

Warburton Mountain Bike Destination

- Delay in Minister's EES decision;
- EES cost recovery

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

Nil

11. COUNCILLOR MOTIONS

In accordance with Chapter 3 Division 4 of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Councillor motions received prior to the Agenda being printed.

12. ITEMS THROUGH THE CHAIR

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

14. DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

In accordance with Clause 87 of the Meeting Procedures and Use of Common Seal Local Law 2015, as prescribed by Section 14(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Documents for Signing and Sealing listed for this meeting prior to the Agenda being printed.

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Report Author: Governance Officer
 Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
 Ward(s) affected: All Wards

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public

SUMMARY

Chapter 8, Rule 1, of the Governance Rules requires that records of informal meetings of Councillors must be kept and that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the Minutes of that Council meeting.

An 'informal meeting of Councillors' is defined in the Governance Rules as a meeting of Councillors that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting.

The records for informal meetings of Councillors are attached to the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the records of the Informal Meetings of Councillors, copies of which are attached to the report, be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. 20 September 2022 - Council Briefing;
2. 20 September 2022 - Council Forum; and
3. 20 September 2022 - Review of Complex Planning Matters.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Council Briefing		
Date:	20 September 2022	Start Time: 6.00pm	Finish Time: 6.10pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale		
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child, Sophie Todorov, Andrew Fullagar & David Eastham, Richard Higgins, Johanna Skelton & Tim Heenan	
	Via Zoom:	Cr McAllister	
	CEO/Directors:	Tammi Rose, Andrew Hilson, Jane Sinnamon, Clint Hong (Acting Director Communities), Kath McClusky & Bill Millard	
	Officers:	Debbie Pulham, Andrew Edge, Allison Southwell & Amanda Kern	
	Via Zoom:		
Apologies	Len Cox, Jane Price		
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil		
Matter/s Discussed:	This briefing covered the following items of business to be considered at the 27 September 2022 Council Meeting		
	10.1	Planning Application – YR-2021/1040 - 266-268 Maroondah Highway, Mooroolbark Summerset Retirement Village	
	10.2	2023-27 Partnership Program	
	10.3	Domestic Animal Management Plan (for consultation)	
	10.4	Change of Representatives to Eastern Regional Library Corporation	
	10.5	Alfred Street, John Street, Wandin North special charge declaration	
	10.6	Breby Way, Montrose – Declaration of Special Charge	
	10.7	Tainton Street, Railway Parade, Wandin North special charge declaration	
	10.8	Cedar Court, Burns Way (Includes Harvest Close), Loch Avenue, Mayview Drive, Monbulk special charge declaration	
	10.9	Henry Street, Lester Street and Everard Grove, Woori Yallock - Intent to Levy a Special Charge	
	10.10	Henry Street, Yarra Junction - Intent to Levy a Special Charge	
	10.11	Capital Grants Development Program	
Completed By:	Andrew Edge		

Informal meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Council Forum	
Date:	20 September 2022	Start Time: 7.00 pm Finish Time: 10.00 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child, Sophie Todorov, Andrew Fullagar & David Eastham, Richard Higgins, Johanna Skelton & Tim Heenan
	Via Zoom:	Cr McAllister
	CEO/Directors:	Tammi Rose, Andrew Hilson, Jane Sinnamon, Kath McClusky, Clint Hong (Acting Director Communities) & Bill Millard
	Officers:	Allison Southwell, Hugh Baulch, Jarrod Reid, Julia Kelley, Nathan Islip, Kris Hanson, Isabel Ebsworth, Jessica Rae, Amanda Kern, Lauren Richardson, Ben Champion ,Kellie McPherson, Debbie Pulham & Andrew Edge.
	External Guests:	Nil
Via Zoom:	Santha Press, Jenny Davies, Miranda Flinn, Gavin Crawford , Paul Goodison & Tracey Varley	
Apologies	Len Cox, Jane Price	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil	
Matter/s Discussed:	2.1	Action and Agreement Record – 6 September 2022
	2.2	Councillor Discussion Time
	2.3	Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment C210 – Consideration of Submissions
	2.4	2023 Grants for Community Funding Recommendations
	2.5	Yarra Valley Trail – Northern Loop
	2.6	Yering Billabong Update
	3.1	Forum Report – Contract Approvals and Variations
	3.2	Indicative Forum & Council Meeting Schedule
	3.3	Mayor & CEO Update
	4	General Business
5	Late Items and Urgent Business	
Completed By:	Andrew Edge	

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Review of Complex Planning Items	
Date:	20 September 2022	Start Time: 5.30pm Finish Time: 6.00pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child, Sophie Todorov, Andrew Fullagar & David Eastham, Richard Higgins, Johanna Skelton
	Via Zoom:	Cr McAllister
	CEO/Directors:	Tammi Rose, Andrew Hilson, Jane Sinnamon, Clint Hong (Acting Director Communities), Kath McClusky & Bill Millard
	Officers:	Debbie Pulham, Andrew Edge, Allison Southwell, Amanda Kern & Gavin Crawford
	Via Zoom:	Lauren Richardson
Apologies	Tim Heenan, Len Cox, Jane Price	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil	
Matter/s Discussed:	1.1	Review of Complex Planning Applications
Completed By:	Andrew Edge	

16. URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Chapter 3 Rule 24 of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with Chapter 3 Rule 24 of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to matters specified under section 3(1), as specified below.

17.1 Lilydale to Warburton Trail - Mt Lilydale Mercy College

Item 17.1 is Confidential under the terms section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 as it contains information relating to: (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Councils position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; and (c) land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values.

Confidential Item

Confidential Item

Confidential Item

Confidential Item

Confidential Item

Confidential Item

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 25 October 2022 commencing at 7.00pm, at Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via videoconference.



In providing for the good governance of its community, Councillors are reminded of their obligation to abide by the provisions as set within the Local Government Act 2020 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

When attending a Council Meeting, Councillors should adhere to the procedures set out in the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The following is a guide for all Councillors to ensure they act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of Yarra Ranges as a whole.

- 1. Councillors will respect the personal views of other Councillors and the decisions of Council.*
- 2. Councillors may publicly express their own opinions on Council matters but not so as to undermine the standing of Council in the community.*
- 3. The Mayor is the official spokesperson for Council.*
- 4. Councillors will incur expenditure in a responsible manner and in accordance with the Councillor Expenditure and Policy.*
- 5. Councillors will avoid conflicts of interest and will always openly disclose any direct and indirect interests where they exist.*
- 6. Councillors will act with integrity and respect when interacting with Council staff and members of the public.*
- 7. Councillors will demonstrate fairness in all dealings and conduct and be open with and accountable to the community at all times.*
- 8. Councillors will conduct themselves in a manner that does not cause detriment to Council or the Yarra Ranges community.*