

TURBINE TALK

MORTLAKE SOUTH WIND FARM

Project Update

SEPTEMBER 2024

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Hello again! It's been a busy year so far at the wind farm and beyond – we have lots of news to share.

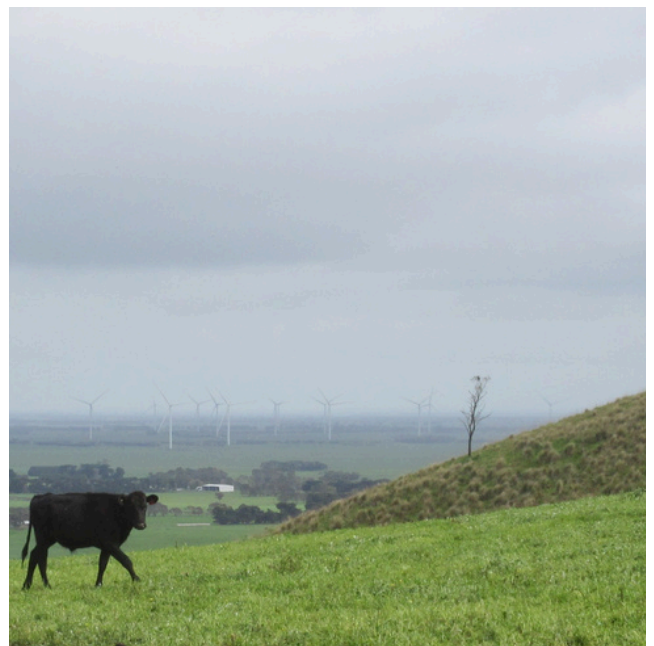
Wind Farm lookout and track opened at Mt Noorat

A scenic viewing area and track at Mt Noorat was opened on Sunday 15 September to provide locals and visitors with a panoramic view of the Mortlake South Wind Farm and surrounding pastoral land. The work was led by the Mt Noorat Management Committee in collaboration with Corangamite Shire Council, and facilitated by a donation of \$50,000 as part of the Mortlake South Wind Farm Community Benefits Sharing Program. The opening coincided with a planting day, with dozens of volunteers braving the cool weather to help revegetate the mount with native species.



The viewing area and plaque were unveiled by our Mortlake South Wind Farm Site Manager Chris Egan and national Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Dominic Luddy, in a ceremony also attended by the Corangamite Shire mayor, Councillor Kate Makin and Mt Noorat Management Committee Representative, Bernard Conheady.

Committee chair William Conheady commented prior to the event, "We are grateful to ACCIONA Energía for its generous funding for this project, which promotes recreation in the local area. By having this dedicated look-out and track, we hope to attract locals and visitors who want to take in the beauty of the landscape surrounding Mt Noorat with wind turbines on the horizon."



Gaga pit for St Coleman's School, Mortlake

As part of the 2023 Small Grants Program, ACCIONA Energía funded the addition of a Gaga Pit for St Coleman's School, Mortlake. Gaga Ball is a blend of handball and dodgeball which started in the 1970's and has become increasingly popular.

Recently, Site Coordinator Sara Church and Community Engagement Lead Erin Mulquiny stopped by for a visit to check out the pit and chat with the school captains, Mason and Ivy, about how much they enjoy the game and how popular it is amongst the students. Gaga Ball encourages physical activity, teamwork, and, most importantly, a lot of fun, and we're proud the Mortlake South Wind Farm was able to support St Coleman's through the program.



Update from the site

We are delighted to share that, following commissioning last year, the site became fully operational in August 2024. This is a huge milestone and we thank you our community for your patience as we have got to this point!

Maintenance works continue at Mortlake South Wind Farm, with further replacement parts being installed across a number of turbines. You can expect to see a crane on site until early next year, but only one turbine at a time is likely to be affected. Turbine parts, including blades, may be visible on the ground as turbines are dismantled.

Other minor works continue at the site, such as blade inspection and repairs, and scheduled servicing.

We'll keep you updated on any disruptions on our community hub -

www.community.accionacom.au/mortlake
over the coming months.



Scholarship Program

Each year, a one-time scholarship of \$5,000 is available to students wishing to undertake tertiary study that will benefit their community. Scholarship recipients are selected through an application process, and preference is given to those studying engineering, science or agricultural based courses.

2024 Scholarship Recipient – Brittany Abbott

Brittany had been in touch with the team about the Scholarship Program back in 2023 but had to delay her studies after a medical scare while studying in New Zealand last year. After taking the time to recover, Brittany commenced studying at Federation University for a Bachelor of Veterinary and Wildlife Science, which has fortunately tied into her Veterinary degree at Massey University from the previous year.

This opportunity has enabled Brittany to complete subjects that will aid the completion of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.



Brittany Abbott - 2024 Scholarship Recipient

2024 Scholarship Recipient – Mitchell Hughes

Mitchell commenced a Bachelor of Commerce this year at Deakin University - Geelong Waterfront. He has a keen interest in sustainable business practices and is excited to build his theoretical and practical skills in this field as the degree progresses. We are proud to support Mitchell as he pursues tertiary education and explores his passions and wish him all the best for end-of-year exams and the future.



Chris and Sara from the wind farm awarding certificates at the Small Grants morning tea

Small Grants Program

It was a bumper year for grant awards and we were delighted to be able to provide funding to 17 incredibly deserving local organisations.

Highlights included provision of a defibrillator to the Mortlake Senior Citizens Club, donation of a rake and trailer for East Framlingham Golf Club and the renovation of the community rose garden for Mortlake Garden Club. We were also thrilled to support the installation of a wall display cabinet for the Terang RSL Sub-branch.

Awards this year totalled \$48,000, with over \$16,000 going towards local schools including Mortlake College, Noorat Primary School and St Thomas' Terang. You can view the [full list of recipients](#) online via our Community Hub.

Maths and Science at Work

We thoroughly enjoyed sharing an insight into renewable energy and wind farm operations at the Terang College Maths and Science Day. Numerous local businesses participated in the event – spanning career opportunities as diverse as dairy, water, hospitality and engineering. Organised by the Neil Porter Foundation and Demo Dairy Foundation, year 7 students from not only Terang but also Cobden Technical School, Timboon P-12, Hampden Specialist School and Camperdown College joined in.

Erin, Dominic and Sara from the wind farm set students a challenge of building a model turbine and creating real wind energy to power an electric car. We were really impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm they brought to the session, as well as their engineering skills!



Environmental monitoring

Environmental monitoring is continuing as required under our planning permit, with the second year of bird and bat monitoring kicking off in August. As the wind farm is now fully operational, post-construction noise monitoring will officially commence before the end of the year, following the additional, voluntary round of noise monitoring that was completed in October last year.



Neighbourhood Benefits Program

A reminder that residents within 4km of the wind farm may be able to qualify for our neighbour benefit scheme – receiving gift cards which can be spent with over 30 local retailers.

To apply as a local resident, or if you are a local business interested in joining the scheme, you can find out more at

<https://community.acciona.com.au/mswf-nbp>

Here to listen

As much as we want to share information with you about what is happening on site and the ways we are supporting the community, we want to hear your views and ideas, and answer your questions. There are a number of ways you can get in touch. You can find us at

www.community.acciona.com.au/mortlake

You can also drop us a line at Mortlake@acciona.com or call our freephone helpline at **1800 283550**

And we encourage you to subscribe via the QR code. That way we can provide email updates whenever we are posting important news.

