# Nillumbik News Summer 2015 - 2016 December to February

#### From the Mayor

I am honoured to be taking on the role of Mayor for Nillumbik Shire Council and would like to thank all the Councillors for voting unanimously for me and for all the people who have congratulated and supported me over the years.

My family is, naturally, of great importance and raising our three children in this Shire with the safety, the fresh air and space to allow free roaming in wild parts was a vital part of their childhood. My hope is that other children to come will have this chance, will climb trees, will walk to school and learn how to plant trees with their grandma’s as mine did.

My interest in politics grew from a childhood in Nillumbik surrounded by academics arguing about the political turmoil of the day around the dinner table. My childhood also influenced my passion for the arts, with my mother close to the early Montsalvat crowd.

As Councillor for Swipers Gully, I’ve been pleased to serve as Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee and supporting our Council Plan which promotes the arts and champions our artists.

Our natural environment, the Green Wedge, needs our help more than ever before. The lungs of Melbourne are at risk. Each time our State of the Environment Report is released, it tells a story of incremental loss. Our aim is to reverse this trend and this is, to me, Council’s most pressing and important work.

As your Mayor I will be a strong advocate for our environmental, social and economic health with other levels of Government, through the meetings with the Interface Mayors and CEOs and individually with Ministers.

And with our former Mayor, Cr Helen Coleman, also Deputy Mayor, who is our Interface representative on the peak body for local councils, the Municipal Association of Victoria, amongst other things, we will make a formidable team in these leadership roles, and I am hopeful of good outcomes for our Shire.

We have many challenges facing us, including rate capping and the freeze on funds from the Federal Government meaning we have to do more with less each year before we begin.

I genuinely love this place and the Shire is in good hands with a strong group of councillors heading into the election year with an excellent staff headed up by our CEO Stuart Burdack.

Mayor, Cr Bronnie Hattam

#### Eltham Town Square

The newly renovated Eltham Town Square is now open.

The newly renovated town square significantly increases the amount of pedestrian/car-free space from 56 to 85.5 per cent but has managed to maintain the same number of car parking spaces with just seven spaces being moved undercover.

The new 700 square metres grassed area is proving popular with the high numbers of people who walk through the area and it connects with public transport and parking.

Local food operators Jerry and Florie Mustafa, and Quinton and Nancy Sadiku are opening a tapas bar at the new cafe which was built in Eltham Town Square earlier this year.

Jerry and Florie also manage the award winning Eltham Burger Lounge, Bolton Street Chicken Shop and Quinton and Nancy Sadiku were the original owners of Bolton Street Deli and Liquor.

The quartet will bring new life and vitality to the town square and they are already very popular with locals and customers further afield.

The development also includes public toilets, tree planting for shade, alfresco cafe and changes to access roads to increase the pedestrian area.

There is a drinking water fountain, interactive artwork for children and improved seating and lighting to make the square a place where everyone can relax and enjoy shopping in and around Eltham.

#### Protecting our environment now and into the future

Many people live in Nillumbik because they love the green wedge environment. It’s Council’s role to protect this environment including our unique biodiversity, and significant ecosystems.

One of the ways that Council can do this is by applying ‘overlays’ to properties. An overlay is a planning tool which may apply to all or part of your property. Some properties may also be affected by more than one overlay. Overlays may affect the type and level of development you can undertake on your property as well as design requirements such as building height, landscaping or vehicle access.

You can find out what overlays are applied to your property by visiting http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/schemes/nillumbik

##### Environmental overlays are being changed

One of the overlays that Council can apply is an Environmental Significance Overlay – also known as an ESO. Council is proposing to change the current ESO to ensure it betters identifies and protects the biodiversity values of the Shire, which includes over 1,342 species of indigenous plants and animals.

If your property is affected, you will have received a letter and some information in the post during November about the changes to the ESO and how that applies to your property.

You can make a comment on the proposed changes before 21 January 2016 at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/eso or by writing to us at Strategic and Economic Planning, Nillumbik Shire Council, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088 or emailing nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

##### What is an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)?

The ESO details what development can occur on your land with or without a permit. This ensures that any future development is compatible with the environmental values we enjoy across our Shire.

For most properties a planning permit is already required for buildings, works, subdivision, fencing and vegetation and so the proposed changes will have minimal impact.

The changes being proposed include replacing and updating the current ESO1 and consolidating the current Waterways ESO schedules into one that also includes streams and smaller tributaries.

Two new schedules will also be introduced; ESO2 – Buffer Habitat and ESO3 – Environmentally Significant Habitat in Township and Residential Areas.

##### Why is Council proposing to make these changes?

These changes are being proposed to reflect the findings of recent strategic studies and reviews, including new information on sites of significance.

It will also more accurately reflect the current extent of vegetation and observed biodiversity values and will recognise and distinguish between the different levels of biodiversity significance. It should also help to standardise planning matters and permit exemptions.

##### What does this mean for you?

For properties with an existing ESO, a planning permit will continue to be required for a range of activities. For properties where an ESO is proposed to be applied for the first time, a planning permit will be required for buildings, works, subdivision, fencing and vegetation removal within the area of the overlay.

Properties where the ESO is being removed will no longer need an ESO planning permit but may continue to require a permit under the planning zone that you live in or a different overlay which may apply to your property.

##### Further information

If you are affected by the proposal you should have already received information specific to your property, however further information including maps of the Shire where the ESO is proposed to apply can be found at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/eso

You can also view the information at the Civic Centre Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm and until 8pm on:

* Thursday 3 December 2015
* Thursday 14 January 2016

The documents are also available at Diamond Valley Library, Eltham Library and Hurstbridge Community Hub.

#### Have your say: Positive ageing

The purpose of the group is so Council can consult with community representatives about issues related to positive ageing in Nillumbik.

Responsibilities include:

* keeping informed of current developments, issues and concerns relating to ageing in Nillumbik
* being aware of the activities, interests, and concerns of organisations and groups in the Shire
* preparing for and actively participating in group meetings every second month at the Civic Centre
* helping disseminate and communicate information to the Nillumbik community.

If you are interested in joining the group email positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call 9433 3348.

#### Volunteer Award

Nillumbik’s 500 volunteers do a wonderful job assisting and supporting our community through the Council’s Community Volunteering Program.

Victoria’s first State Volunteering Awards showcase the commitment, diversity and impact of Victoria’s volunteer programs, volunteer managers and volunteer involving organisations.

Council’s Volunteering Program was a finalist in the Excellence Award category – for a volunteer management team, or individual, demonstrating best practice in the management of volunteers and the delivery of programs by those volunteers.

Well done to our volunteers.

#### Community transport

Council works with a wonderful team of volunteers to provide a variety of community transport services.

Community transport can help eligible residents get to shops, services, social activities and their medical appointments.

If you need transport assistance please email community.transport@nillumbik. vic.gov.au or phone 9433 3723.

##### Saturday Community Bus

The Saturday Community Bus travels from Hurstbridge train station to Panton Hill, Smiths Gully, St Andrews, Cottles Bridge and back to Hurstbridge. It is a great way to visit the St Andrews Market or venues such as the Panton Hill Hotel for lunch, without having to worry about parking or driving. The Saturday Community Bus now stops at the St Andrews Market as part of its regular loop.

Visitors who drive to the St Andrews Market are asked not to park in front of the bus stop. The bus needs clear access to pick up and set down passengers safely. There is a sign coming, meanwhile please look out for the bollards and bunting.

Pick up a copy of the bus timetable from any of the general stores in Smiths Gully, Panton Hill or St Andrews, or online at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus

Your gold coin donation is appreciated to help keep the bus running.

The bus does not run on days of total fire ban.

##### Volunteer with us

We welcome new volunteer drivers who would like to help our residents get out and about. We particularly need more volunteers on our Saturday Community Bus and medical transport teams.

If you would like to find out more, contact details are below.

##### Walking School Bus

The Walking School Bus program runs in five primary schools across the Shire. Contact Council if you would like more information about starting a Walking School Bus at your school.

For more information about any of the above programs, please call 9433 3723 or 9433 3361, email community.transport@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

#### Summer safety

While the long hot days of summer can be enjoyable, we also need to make sure that we have a safe and happy time.

Statistics from the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report show that in 2014-2015, 26 Australian children aged 0-4 years drowned – an increase of 30 per cent from 2013-2014.

Backyard swimming pools are the most common location where toddler drowning incidents occur. In 2014-2015, more than half of all toddler drowning incidents occurred in a backyard pool.

Safety is paramount when you are thinking about adding a pool/spa to your home and fencing your pool/spa safely is a legal requirement.

If you already have a swimming pool at home it is your responsibility to ensure that it is compliant with the safety standards in accordance with the Australian Standard AS1926.1.

If you are not sure if your pool complies with the standard or you would like further information contact our Customer Service team on customer.service@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or 9433 3111.

##### Pool safety

* Ensure your pool fence is legally compliant.
* Actively supervise children near water at all times.
* Don’t expect older children to look after their younger siblings.
* Remain within arms-reach of your child at all times in case something goes wrong.
* Take children with you if you leave the pool area, even for a minute.

##### Free Information session: Summer preparedness for older adults

With representatives from Council, CFA, and SES, you can share information and ask questions on how to look after yourself, your pets and your property during a heatwave, bushfire, or storm.

Date: Thursday 3 December

Time: 10am-12pm

Where: Hurstbridge Community Hub,

50 Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge

Complimentary afternoon tea

RSVP: 9433 3348 or positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Council also offers a Summer Preparedness Information Pack for Older Adults. It contains a wealth of information to help inform and prepare you for potential heatwaves, storms, floods and bushfires this summer.

For your free copy email positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call 9433 3348

#### Bushfire safety

Fire Danger Period declared from 9 November

This summer, on hot, dry, windy days, if fires start they will spread quickly. The best way to protect yourself and your family is to leave early. If the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe, you’re risking your life if don’t take action.

Last summer there were more than 2,300 warnings issued in Victoria. It’s up to you to stay informed by using more than one source of information, and understand the levels of warnings, what they mean and what you should do.

It is important to plan what you will do in an emergency and prepare your family, pets and home and consider things such as electricity loss. Make sure that your family also knows and understands the plan.

If you are already prepared, be a good neighbour and check with those people around you who may need help.

Council manages about seven per cent of the land across the Shire and over the past few weeks we have been implementing our bushfire mitigation works program.

These works includes slashing and vegetation removal on Council owned roadsides and reserves at various locations across the Shire. Box clearing will be undertaken to improve road safety and managing the quantity and density of regrowth in the fire-affected areas. This is in addition to the ongoing annual maintenance schedule.

#### Our most common enquiries

Our Customer Service team handles more than 1800 enquiries each week. Here is a snapshot of the most common enquiries and the quickest way to resolve them.

##### My bins weren’t emptied

Fill in an online service request form at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/missedbin or contact our Customer Service team to request a collection.

##### What can I take to the Recycling and Recovery Centre (transfer station)? When is it open? What are the fees?

All this information can be found on our website at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/rrc](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/rrc)

##### My bin is broken

Fill in an online service request form at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/brokenbin](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/brokenbin) or contact our Customer Service team to request a bin repair/replacement.

##### I’d like to get some hard waste collected

Each household is entitled to one hard waste collection of two cubic metres per financial year. To book your collection, contact Northern Recycling on 5784 4151. For further information on what can/cannot be collected visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/hardwaste](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/hardwaste)

##### Am I receiving the pensioner discount on my rates?

You can check on your initial rates notice to see if the pensioner discount has been applied. Please note discounts are not itemised on subsequent rate instalment notices; you will need to check your initial notice. If you can’t locate your initial notice contact our Customer Service team.

##### What do I owe on my rates?

Contact our Customer Service team to check your rates balance.

##### When are the free green waste drop-offs?

The next green waste drop off is Sunday 7 February at the Recycling & Recovery Centre, 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty, 8am-4pm. Information about how to dispose of green waste can be found at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/rrc](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/rrc)

##### Grass on Council land is getting long

Grass is cut every five weeks, weather dependent in many reserves. Our Customer

Service team can check the mowing schedule for you. Email customer.service@

nillumbik.vic.gov.au or phone 9433 3111.

##### I’d like a permit to burn off

When the Fire Danger Period has been declared it is highly unlikely that any permits will be granted for burning off. Outside of the Fire Danger Period you can apply for a permit at [www.nillumbik.vic](http://www.nillumbik.vic). gov.au/burnoffpermit. Alternatively you can contact Customer Service to apply over the phone.

##### I’m concerned about a tree on Council land

Contact Customer Service to request a tree inspection.

#### New website

##### Same web address, new web experience

Check out the improved Council website which is easy to use from your smart phone or tablet.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au

* Responsive
* Accessible
* Customer-focused

#### Handling complaints

Council is committed to service excellence and recognises a customer’s right to make a complaint.

Complaints give Council vital information about its services and a valuable opportunity to make things right, and identify areas of service that need improvement.

Nillumbik’s new Complaint Handling Policy details how the organisation will deal with customer complaints and outlines the internal processes for how complaints should be recorded, monitored, escalated and resolved.

It also outlines how the outcome of a complaint can be reviewed if the complainant is not satisfied. The policy has followed as closely as possible the best practice model developed by the Victorian Ombudsman.

The Complaint Handling Policy is a public document and is available on

[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

#### Where to take the things that can’t go in the bin at home

##### Hard waste collection

Make use of your hard waste collection (two cubic metres) each financial year. To book, telephone our service provider Northern Recycling on 5784 4151.

For information about what’s accepted, visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/hardwaste](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/hardwaste)

##### Nillumbik’s Recycling & Recovery Centre

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

9433 3111 (business hours)

9436 1791 (weekends only)

Open: 8am-4pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday (four days only)

Closed: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays

Items accepted free of charge

* batteries – household, car and mobile phone
* cardboard (excluding waxed cardboard)
* clothing in good condition
* e-waste e.g. computers, printers, keyboards, screens, hard drives, mouses
* household recycling e.g. hard plastics, cardboard/paper, glass bottles/jars, cans,

steel pots and pans, plastic toys

* light globes/bulbs and fluoro tubes
* mobile phones
* motor oil and containers
* scrap metal e.g. bike, stove, washing machine, dryer, metal poles, roofing.

Note: charges apply for fridges, freezers and air conditioners because of the

de-gassing process

* televisions
* x-rays ( you can now drop off x-rays for free)

Items accepted at a charge

Individual items

* fridge, freezer or air conditioner $30
* mattress $30
* car tyre $12, with rim $14
* 4WD tyre $15, with rim $17

Loads

* car boot $27
* station wagon $37
* small van or ute $47
* medium van or ute $68
* large ute $78
* large van $92
* 6 x 4 trailer $64
* 7 x 5 trailer $72
* 6 x 4 high side or 8 x 6 tandem trailer $78
* 7 x 5 trailer high side $92
* 8 x 6 tandem trailer high side $104

Prices subject to change 1 July 2016

Examples of items accepted in loads (as per 2015-2016 charges) are:

* garden materials
* hard waste
* plaster
* polystyrene/foam/bean bag beans
* processed wood e.g. treated pine posts/sleepers, fence paling, untreated timber
* other things that can't be recycled.

##### Reuse Shop

Items that are in good condition and able to be re-used can be donated to the Reuse Shop at the Recycling & Recovery Centre.

Open: 9am-3.30pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Closed: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays

##### Hanson Landfill

Bridge Inn Road, Wollert

Items accepted at a charge:

* asbestos (small quantities) – strict precautions apply; call Council for information
* bricks and building/renovation rubble such as concrete, stone and tiles
* commercial quantities of waste (vehicles with more than 4.5 tonne capacity)
* dirt/soil

More information and prices www.hansonlandfill.com.au or 9408 1299.

#### Plastic bag recycling coming soon

From February 2016 Nillumbik residents will be able to recycle plastic bags and packaging in your yellow recycling bin.

This includes plastics like bread, rice and cereal packaging, cling wrap, postal bags, bubble wrap and packaging from large appliances.

Simply collect plastic bags and flexible plastic packaging in a plastic bag, tie the bag and put it in your recycling bin.

Importantly, continue to keep your hard/rigid plastics and other recyclables loose.

We are committed to providing environmental best practice services in waste and recycling.

As flexible plastics are one of the last remaining items that have had to go in the garbage bin, this exciting change takes us one step closer to eliminating waste from landfill.

#### Our heritage

Cultural heritage is made up of many components including the way communities live, their history, traditions and values.

The cultural heritage of Nillumbik defines the character and identity of the Shire, helping to tell the story of the area through evidence left by past generations.

Council plays an important role identifying, assessing and protecting local heritage places with the active support of community and heritage groups.

Information about why Nillumbik's heritage places are significant and protected by the local planning scheme can be viewed on the Victorian Heritage Database which is hosted by the State Government.

Council has transferred all data held on its Heritage Overlay Places to the database, including the comprehensive Shire of Eltham Heritage Study conducted in 1992. There are currently 316 individual listings for locally significant heritage places within the Shire.

The Victorian Heritage Database can be viewed at <http://vhd.heritage> council.vic.gov.au/nillumbik

Information on the assessment of heritage places and Council's Heritage Strategy are available on www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or by calling 9433 3210.

#### Home Harvest 2016: Connect, Grow, Eat, Enjoy!

Do you like growing your own produce? Join us as we gather for the fifth year at Home Harvest Feast 2016. Held on Sunday 28 February 2016 at Edendale in Eltham, the Home Harvest Feast is a celebration of home grown produce and local food.

Growers are invited to celebrate in the harvest to enjoy sharing some wonderful local food in a delicious community meal created by trained cooks using your home or community-grown product.

##### What does it involve?

1. Register to grow and supply produce for the Home Harvest Feast.

2. Spend the summer growing produce and in the week leading up to the Feast donate some produce in return for your tickets.

3. Attend the Feast on Sunday 28 February 2016 and enjoy a delicious meal and a great day!

##### Become a grower

No matter what your level of experience, or how green your thumbs are, everyone is invited to take part and get growing.

To sign up as a grower complete the online registration form at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/) homeharvest and get growing!

If you need a little help getting started check out the Home Harvest booklet available at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/homeharvest or call 9433 3316 to request a copy.

#### Eltham Fun Run Swim Spin

##### Fundraising event for kids with disabilities

Find your happy pace running or walking along Nillumbik’s picturesque recreational trails or swimming in the 25 metre pool at the Eltham Leisure Centre or cycling in the Centre’s indoor state of the art studio with race ambassadors Tracy Morrison (Ironman athlete) and Jack Swift (Paralympian).

The Eltham Fun Run Swim Spin event supports the YMCA’s Open Doors Program which assists children with disabilities to access vital programs and services to improve their health and wellness at the Eltham Leisure Centre.

For registrations and more information visit www.eltham.ymca.org.au

To make a donation or volunteer on race day contact Amanda Uniacke on 9439 2266.

#### Nillumbik Youth: Busy year for the young people of Nillumbik

It’s been a great year at Nillumbik Youth. We hosted our first Youth Festival at Edendale Farm, skate and BMX events, a production of Hairspray, Battle of the Bands events, as well as a whole bunch of other great skill development workshops and activities.

##### Nillumbik Youth Theatre

Nillumbik Youth Theatre launched in 2015 and it's been a busy year of fantastic performances and workshops.

We love everything about theatre; the friends, the rehearsals, the costumes, lights, music and of course…the performances! So, we’re looking forward to another packed year of programs and workshops in 2016.

Next year a yearly membership of $50 will include workshops through school terms, school holiday activities, participation in annual productions and an NYT t-shirt.

##### Auditions for the 2016 senior production

We will be auditioning for our senior musical for young people aged 12-25 years in February. Rehearsals will be on Monday evenings from 4.30pm-6pm at Hurstbridge Hall, with performances in late August.

Audition dates:

Monday 15 February 4pm-7pm

Monday 22 February 4pm-7pm

Monday 29 February 4pm-7pm

Performers must attend all three auditions.

Audition location:

Hurstbridge Hall, Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge

Audition bookings open in January 2016. Details will be published on [www.nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au)

##### Want to join NYT?

9433 3168

Holly.Teagle@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Ages: 10-25 years old

#### Youth Development Quick Response Grants

Have you got a great idea for a project involving Nillumbik young people?

We’ve funded great projects this year that are engaging young people in the community, such as the Panton Hill Choir and St Helena’s Breakfast Program.

The Youth Grants are aimed to develop new youth-focussed programs and events that increase participation for people aged 10-25 years and empower young people to be involved in local activities.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants

bridget.muir@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

#### L2P Program helps learners get their licence

The L2P program with the help of 30 volunteer mentor drivers has helped 68 young people gain their 120 hours of driving practice this year.

The L2P program provides access to a car and a supervising driver as well as a limited number of professional driving lessons for free. If you are unable to access a licenced driver or car you may be eligible to access the Nillumbik L2P program.

‘If it weren’t for L2P I wouldn’t have my licence for years. L2P not only helped me learn to drive but my mentor Dave taught me to be safe and how to handle certain events on the road.’ - Madeline

We are also interested in hearing from people that would like to join our team of happy volunteer mentor drivers.

www.nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au

l2p@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

#### Eltham Library Community Gallery

DiversARTy

Living & Learning Nillumbik

26 November – 14 December

Chasing Story and Finding Beauty

Kevin Burgemeestre

14 January – 8 February 2016

Garden

Kate Hudson

11 February – 7 March 2016

#### Laughing Waters Artist in Residence Program

Laughing Waters Road: Art Landscape and Memory in Eltham

30 January – 13 March 2016

Barn Gallery, Montsalvat

Coinciding with the launch of Jane Woollards’ book, funded by Department of

Environment, Laughing Waters Road: Art Landscape and Memory in Eltham, this exhibition showcases the history and ongoing importance of Laughing Waters through artwork, historic images and artefacts by past and present artists, designers and residents.

Curated by Jane Woollard and Grace Longato.

#### The Nillumbik Ekphrasis Poetry Award 2016

Poets from across Australia are invited to respond to selected artworks in poems up to 12 lines long. Artworks will be selected from the Laughing Waters Road: Art Landscape and Memory in Eltham exhibition showing at Montsalvat 30 January to 13 March 2016.

Judges: Helen Lucas, Steve Smart, Karen Throssell

Entries open: 1 February 2016

Entries close: 31 March 2016

9433 3126

artsinfor@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/arts](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/arts)

#### Alan Marshall Short Story Award 2016

Australian writers are invited to enter the 31st Alan Marshall Short Story Award.

Word length: 2,500 words

Entries open: 1 February 2016

Entries close: 31 March 2016

9433 3126

artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/arts](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/arts)

#### Nillumbik Prize 2016

A celebration of contemporary artists and works of excellence from the Nillumbik region.

Sponsored by Nillumbik Shire Council in association with Montsalvat.

$5,000 First Prize (non-acquisitive)

Entries open: 27 January 2016

Entries close: 17 March 2016, 5pm

Submit entries online at www.montsalvat.com.au

9439 7712

montsalvat@montsalvat.com.au

#### December calendar

Have you checked your technology to ensure you have the latest version of the FireReady app this summer? FireReady delivers timely and relevant warnings and information direct to your smartphone.

firereadyfaq.emergency.vic.gov.au

1 December – 14 December

Exhibition: diversARTy

Eltham Library Community Gallery

1 December

Enrolments open for 2016 short courses,

MakerSpaces and activities

Living & Learning Nillumbik

Livinglearning nillumbik.vic.gov.au

1 December – 1 February

Summer reading club

Great prizes to be won!

Fizz,Boom, Read: For ages 3-12

YRead – Ignite your imagination: For ages 13-24

yprl.vic.gov.au

4 December

10.30am

Launch: Nillumbik Heritage Guide

Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre

5 December

10am-2pm

Makers Market

Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre

6 December

Hurstbridge Farmers’ Market

8.30am-1pm

hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au

7 December

11am-11.30am

Toddler time Santa fun

Diamond Valley Library

8 December

4pm-5pm

Frozen storytime with Elsa

Eltham Library

Come dressed as your favourite Frozen character!

yprl.vic.gov.au

7pm

Policy and Services and Planning Committee Meetings

Civic Centre

nillumbik.vic.gov.au

8 and 9 December

10.30am-11.30am

Preschool storytime Santa stories

Diamond Valley Library

9 December

4pm-5pm

Decorate Christmas baubles

Diamond Valley Library

yprl.vic.gov.au

10.30am-11.30am

Gift wrapping with style

Eltham Library

yprl.vic.gov.au

5 and 6 December

Sensitive Santa

Mill Park Library, bookings essential: 9437 8186

kcarlson@yprl.vic.gov.au

An initiative designed specifically for children on the autism spectrum and their families to have photos taken with Santa in a calm and sensory friendly environment.

A partnership between Nillumbik Shire Council and Yarra Plenty Regional Library.

12 December

10am-11.30am

Food swap

Bring your excess garden produce along to swap.

Diamond Valley Library

yprl.vic.gov.au

15 December

4pm-9pm

St Andrews Twilight Market

The Saturday Bus will run for this special market. Enjoy food, drinks, live music and the great market atmosphere while you pick up some great Christmas gifts.

7pm

Ordinary Council Meeting Civic Centre

nillumbik.vic.gov.au

16 December

4pm-5pm

Just4Kids snow in summer?

Make a snow dome using a jar, glitter and magical clay.

Diamond Valley Library

yprl.vic.gov.au

18 December

School Term 4 ends

1pm

Living & Learning Nillumbik Eltham closes for Christmas

19 December

Last run of Saturday Bus for 2015

[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus)

22 December

10.30am-11.30am

Christmas craft

Diamond Valley Library

yprl.vic.gov.au

25 December

Christmas Day

26 December

Boxing Day

28 December

Public Holiday

#### January calendar

Take the plunge…leap into learning!

Living & Learning Nillumbik

Dive in head first or dip your toes in the water. Get a new perspective. Find a new direction. Discover a new passion! Change your career. Change your mind. Change your life! livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

At Living & Learning Nillumbik we believe learning is for everyone. We provide learning opportunities that are community based and centred on people learning together. Come and see us to find out how you can leap into learning in 2016.

Mobile library

Visits St Andrews, Panton Hill, Hurstbridge, Arthurs Creek and North Warrandyte

yprl.vic.gov.au

School holidays at Edendale

Edendale will be offering a holiday activity program from Monday January 11 to Friday January 22.

There will be lots of fun activities focusing on butterflies and water with the aim of connecting children to their environment. Activities will include an Edendale Quest, Eye Spy, water painting, origami, bubble blowing and a water play table. Felicity will be doing one of her popular art activities and we will also have an interactive science workshop.

Open 9.30am-4.30pm daily

30 Gastons Road, Eltham

www.edendale.vic.gov.au

9433 3711

Keep up to date with Council

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facebook.com/hurstbridgecommunityhub

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1 January

New Year's Day Public Holiday

11 January

9am

Living& Learning Nillumbik Eltham centre re-opens

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

13 January

1pm-6pm

Leadlight MakerSpace

Living & Learning Nillumbik Eltham

Livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

26 January

9.30am

Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony

Eltham Community Reception Centre

Main Road, Eltham

Welcome our newest Australian Citizens and celebrate the winners of the 2016 Nillumbik Australia Day Awards.

27 January

9am

Living & Learning Nillumbik

Diamond Creek centre re-opens

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

27 January

The 2016 Nillumbik prize

Entries open

nillumbik.vic.gov.au

30 January

Saturday Bus resumes

Bus will not run on days of Total Fire Ban.

[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus)

#### February calendar

The 2016 Eltham Jazz, Food & Wine Festival offers great fun for everyone – and it’s free! An exciting line-up of jazz, swing, blues and rock’n’roll artists playing on three stages across Eltham’s town centre.

Monday 1 February – 13 March

Art Exhibition: Laughing Waters Road: Art, Landscape and Memory in Eltham

Barn Gallery, Montsalvat

Curated by Jane Woollard & Grace Longato

1 February

The Nillumbik Ekphrasis Poetry Awards

2016 entries open

nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Alan Marshall Short Story Awards 2016

Entries open

nillumbik.vic.gov.au

2 February

9.45-10.45am

Yoga in the park

Living & Learning Nillumbik Diamond Creek

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

4 February

7pm-8pm

Music appreciation

Living & Learning Nillumbik Diamond Creek

Livinglearning nillumbik.vic.gov.au

6 February

10am-1pm

Thai cooking workshop

Living & Learning Nillumbik Panton Hill

Livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

7 February

Free green waste drop off

nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Hurstbridge Farmers’ Market

8.30am-1pm

hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au

11 February

12noon-1.30pm

Italian Level 1

Living & Learning Nillumbik Diamond Creek

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

Thursday 11 February – 7 March 2016

Exhibition: Garden

Kate Hudson

Eltham Library Community Gallery

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

12 February

1pm-3pm

Cards for fun

Living & Learning Nillumbik Eltham

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

13 February

10am-11.30am

Clay for kids

Living & Learning Nillumbik Eltham

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

18 February

7.30pm

Courthouse Readings

Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Road, Eltham. Details 0438 339 732

20 February

10am-1pm

Sourdough bread making workshop

Living & Learning Nillumbik Panton Hill

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

21 February

Melbourne Tomato Festival

Edendale

info@melbournetomatofestival.com

27 and 28 February

Eltham Jazz, Food & Wine Festival

Eltham Town Square

Great musical entertainment, sumptuous food and award-winning local wines, with a designated kids area filled with fun activities for the littlies.

elthamjazz.com.au

28 February

Home Harvest

Edendale

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/homeharvest

#### Your Councillors

##### Mayor, Councillor Bronnie Hattam

0400 411 862

Bronnie.Hattam@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

SWIPERS GULLY WARD

Friends of Swipers Gully and the Green Army planted 550 trees, shrubs and grasses this year with the woody weed removal creating the opportunity to plant more in the future. Founding members Marian Weaving and Joy Pagon have offered to take up the Convenor’s role and I thank them and all those who made it to a working bee this year. I have enjoyed being Convenor and will continue my involvement in the rejuvenation of the area in the years to come. New members always welcome!

Recent new works include:

* Butterfly Trail pathways constructed between Beard Street and Diosma Road, Bainbridge Drive and Eucalyptus Road and Madine Way.
* Footpath connections: Elsa Court and Valonia Drive.
* New concrete footpath between 1390 Main Road and Bayfield Drive service road.
* Pram crossings at Valonia Drive and Beard Street, Eltham.

##### Deputy Mayor, Councillor Helen Coleman

0437 940 930 9439 0063

Helen.Coleman@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

WINGROVE WARD

I was very pleased to attend Eltham Primary School in September as part of the Principal for a Day event. The children delighted me with their level of enthusiasm for community spirit and, as usual, it was a truly rewarding experience. I was reminded of the days when my own children attended the school and I saw the bricks in the playground with their names inscribed.

I have also spent some time at local pre-schools and primaries with a new initiative called Mayor for a Day. The initiative meant educating youngsters about the important role that councils play in the local community. We also need to ensure that we hear children’s voices and views to make sure that they are being considered across all areas of Council, they are our future after all.

##### Councillor Michael Young

0437 840 866 9431 1972

Michael.Young@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

EDENDALE WARD

October saw the ever-popular Practically Green Festival, it was another great event where hundreds of people came to learn all about building sustainably and the weather was kind to us providing a beautiful spring day.

I’ve been involved in the festival since it began and have been pleased with the way it has progressed and grown. It’s a real asset to the community that we can provide a festival which looks at providing residents with information, support and services for sustainable living.

There was also a mudbrick tour, another passion of mine. This too was very successful where visitors celebrated our architectural heritage and visited some of unique mudbrick properties that have been accumulated over more than half a century of experimentation, design and construction.

##### Councillor Peter Perkins

0437 455 064

Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

ELLIS WARD

With summer comes the opening of the refurbished Diamond Creek outdoor pool with its heated 25 metre pool, toddlers play pool and barbecue facilities. Both pools are shaded to offer some respite and make it a sun safe area. It’s open from 6am to 6pm everyday throughout summer and is a great place to cool off.

Some projects have also been completed recently to improve Diamond Creek and they include: resurfacing at the Diamond Creek Tennis Club car park in Phipps Crescent from gravel to asphalt, the construction of a footpath along Moray Street and landscaping works at Coniston Street Preschool which

includes a new sandpit, soft fall area, digging patch for herb and vegetable planting, and a flat rock mini amphitheatre area.

With Christmas just round the corner I’d like to give the traders at Diamond Creek a plug – so buy local this year and help contribute towards improving our local economy.

##### Councillor Meralyn Klein

0407 801 066

Meralyn.Klein@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

BLUE LAKE WARD

Exiting news – a Yarrambat Township Plan Advisory Committee has now been appointed to assist Council in developing the township plan. As Ward Councillor I will be chair of this committee.

Nine community members were appointed following an expression of interest process and will provide ideas and advice to Council on proposals, draft strategies and community consultation for the plan’s development. The first meetings were held in October and November.

There has been a high level of community participation in the project so far and there will be more opportunities for your involvement in the future.

If you would like regular project updates,please add your name to the contact list at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/yarrambat or contact me on 0407 801 066.

##### Councillor Anika Van Hulsen

0408 281 905

Anika.Vanhulsen@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

BUNJIL WARD

Convenor, Stephanie Germancheva and Friends of Watery Gully are very proud of their 22 years of work on Peppers Paddock in Wattle Glen, and so they should be.

The latest work has been the new wetlands – a real community effort involving plantings by the Friends’ group with a grant from Melbourne Water, hands-on help from the Diamond Valley Lions and management of the project by Nillumbik Council officers. It’s great to see all this work coming together for the good of the community.

I have been a participating member of this group for yonks and appreciate that the volunteers not only come from Wattle Glen but also from neighbouring parts of Nillumbik.

Volunteering and friendships go hand in hand!

##### Councillor Ken King

0427 549 759

Ken.King@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

SUGARLOAF WARD

I was really pleased to part of the group who launched the wonderful new interpretive signage at the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower. The signage which was funded through the Australian Government ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program reflects the story of the people of Nillumbik, and the sacrifices they made in World War One. Please make some time to go and have a look at this important piece of our local history.

Council continues to meet with VicRoads, Manningham, Victoria Police, CFA and EMV to review the operation of the Warrandyte Bridge from both a day to day traffic perspective and in an emergency situation. VicRoads has engaged a company to undertake traffic modelling of the area. A report is currently being finalised reviewing the feasibility of a number of options.

#### HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

##### CIVIC CENTRE

Civic Drive, Greensborough

Thursday 24 December 8.30am – 1pm

Friday 25 December CLOSED

Monday 28 December CLOSED

Tuesday 29 December 8.30am – 5pm

Wednesday 30 January 8.30am- 5pm

Thursday 31 January 8.30am – 5pm

Friday 1 January CLOSED

##### KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTION

Please note changes to kerbside collection over the holiday period.

Friday 25 December moves to Saturday 26 December

Friday 1 January moves to Saturday 2 January

##### RECYCLING AND RECOVERY CENTRE

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

Monday 21 December 8am – 4pm

Friday 25 December CLOSED

Saturday 26 December CLOSED

Sunday 27 December CLOSED

Monday 28 December CLOSED

Friday 1 January CLOSED

Saturday 2 January 8am – 4pm

Sunday 3 January 8am – 4pm

Monday 4 January 8am – 4pm

##### REUSE SHOP

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

Monday 21 December 9am – 4pm

Friday 25 December – Monday 11 January CLOSED

Friday 15 January 9am – 4pm

##### OPERATIONS CENTRE OFFICE

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

Thursday 24 December 8.30am – 12pm

Friday 25 December CLOSED

Monday 28 December CLOSED

Tuesday 29 December 8.30am – 4.30pm

Wednesday 30 December 8.30am – 4.30pm

Thursday 31 December 8.30am – 4.30pm

Friday 1 January CLOSED

##### LIVING & LEARNING CENTRES

ELTHAM – 739 Main Road, Eltham

Closes 1pm Friday 18 December 2015

Reopens 9am Monday 11 January 2016

DIAMOND CREEK – 119 Cowin Street, Diamond Creek

Closes 3pm Thursday 17 December 2015

Reopens 9am Wednesday 27 January 2016

PANTON HILL – 18 Bishops Road, Panton Hill

Closes 1pm Wednesday 16 December 2015

Reopens 9am Monday 1 February 2016

#### Green gifts for Christmas

##### Package 1 $35

For the keen gardener, the native plant package may be just the thing.

• Plant voucher for two150mm pots and 10 tubes

• Advice and information about selecting plants

• Pair of gardening gloves

• Live Local Plant Local book

Valued at $50

##### Package 2 $50

Treat the family to a fun day out!

• Two family tickets to a wildlife show and/or an art activity

• Six tickets for a farm tour

• Two vouchers for coffee and cake at café eden @ Edendale

• Nillumbik’s Native Fauna book

Valued at $85

##### Package 3 $80

Do you know someone who would be interested in worm farming or composting?

• A worm farm OR a compost bin and composting turner

• A batch of worms (250g)

• A ticket to a composting and worm farming workshop

• Home Harvest book

Valued at $110

All packages have a 12 month expiry date and can be purchased from Edendale.

Edendale is open 7 days, 9.30am to 4.30pm | 9433 3711

Edendale Community Environment Farm 30 Gastons Road, Eltham

edendale@nillumbik.vic.gov.au | [www.edendale.vic.gov.au](http://www.edendale.vic.gov.au)

#### Market launches cookbook

Hurstbridge Farmers Market has launched a compilation cookbook featuring recipes from market stall holders, local residents and MasterChef contestant and local, Dani Venn.

Pick up your copy next time you visit the Hurstbridge Farmers Market.

Funded by the State Government as part of their Farmers Market Support Program.

#### 2016 Nillumbik Australia Day Awards

It’s time to recognise those extraordinary people and groups in our community who make Nillumbik a better place.

Nominate now for:

* Nillumbik Young Citizen of the Year
* Nillumbik Citizen of the Year
* Nillumbik Senior Citizen of the Year
* Nillumbik Community Group of the Year
* Nillumbik Volunteer of the Year.

Nomination forms are available at [www.nilllumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nilllumbik.vic.gov.au) or from the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough.

Nillumbik Shire Council

Civic Drive, Greensborough VIC 3088

Telephone 9433 3111 | Facsimile 9433 3777

Email nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Web www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Cover: The redeveloped Eltham Town Square.

Nillumbik News is available in alternative formats on request.

Contact 9433 3188. Printed in Nillumbik, using vegetable inks on Australian-made recycled paper.

www.facebook.com/nillumbikcouncil

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