Nillumbik News   
Summer 2017-2018 December to February  
Merry Christmas from Nillumbik

#### From the Mayor

Welcome to the summer edition of Nillumbik News Council has maintained a stable leadership team and I am honoured to continue in the role of Mayor for the next 12 months. Cr Karen Egan will remain as Deputy Mayor and all Councillors will continue to serve as chairs of their respective committees.  
  
In this issue of Nillumbik News we look at preparations for the forthcoming bushfire season. As you will see, Council is playing its part in helping make our community fire safe.  
  
However, it is important that property owners, residents and businesses also play their part. Our bushfire preparation feature will give you some handy tips on being even better prepared.  
  
We will continue to build on the achievements of the past 12 months, which saw us freeze Council rates this year. We are focused on delivering value for money services that matter to our community. We have also tackled issues that impact on our sense of community pride like graffiti, littering and improving the look of our public places.  
  
We are continuing to push the state government to adopt Option A as the preferred route for the North East Link and at the time of writing this article we are waiting on an official announcement. Option A represents the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly outcome and will go a long way to helping reduce congestion on our local roads.  
  
Finally with Christmas just a matter of weeks away I wish you, your family and friends a happy, safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year.  
  
**Mayor, Cr Peter Clarke**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

##### ****Bushfire safety****

Council is doing its part to ensure our community is even better protected from the threat of bushfires this summer with a raft of measures designed to reduce bushfire risk.

More than $1.2 million will be spent on an expanded program of bushfire prevention works, including additional roadside and reserve slashing, controlled burn offs, enforced property clean ups and a ramped up community education program.  
  
Council recently launched its bushfire safety campaign ‘Fire Safe Nillumbik’ as a means of raising the community’s awareness of the need to prepare for what is forecast to be a dry, hot summer.  
  
Early indications from essential services agencies also highlight the risk of power outages which can contribute to heat stress conditions.  
  
On hot, dry, windy days, if fires start they will spread quickly.  
  
If the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe you’re risking your life if you don’t take action. The best way to protect you and your family is to leave, and leave early.  
  
It is important to plan what you will do in an emergency and prepare your family, pets and home. It is also essential that you consider things such as power outages or supply issues. Make sure your family knows and understands the plan.  
  
Know where you are going and plan your journey, allowing plenty of time for any traffic issues. Leave early. There should be no expectation that road travel will be safe immediately before, during or immediately after a fire.  
  
If you are already prepared, be a good neighbour and check with people around you who may need help.

##### Council works

Council has been preparing for the summer season with bushfire reduction plans well underway.  
  
This has included roadside clearing, slashing and mowing, tree management and native vegetation clearing. It is important to understand that when conditions are Severe, Extreme and Code Red, vegetation management will do very little to stop the spread of a fire.  
  
Council’s fire prevention program has also included ensuring the maintenance of fire tracks, power line clearance, removing hazardous trees, clearing road sides, water tank maintenance and environmental works in our 32 reserves. This work is vital for Council to undertake but it will not entirely eliminate our bushfire risk.  
  
It is important for residents to think about their own properties and start to get them ready for summer by clearing long grass, timber and wood stores along with gutters and drains.  
  
Burning off without a permit during the Fire Danger Period is an offence under the CFA Act so make sure you check the Fire Danger Period by visiting [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)   
  
To make it easier for you to reduce your fuel load, Council has introduced free green waste vouchers, giving you the flexibility to recycle garden materials and vegetation at the Recycling and Recovery Centre in Plenty.  
  
The vouchers can be used for one cubic metre of domestic green waste such as prunings, garden clippings, leaves or grass or one level 6 x 4 trailer load or less. Loads larger than this will require two vouchers.  
  
Remember that ember attack causes many houses to burn down. Your house could be subject to ember attack from fires burning many kilometres away.  
  
If you are thinking of staying and defending, remember that experiencing a bushfire can be very traumatic. Exposing your children to this experience can lead to serious psychological harm.   
  
Visit the CFA website for more ideas and information to help prepare and protect you and your property this bushfire season [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

##### VicEmergency app

The VicEmergency app provides warnings and information for incidents such as fires, floods, storms and other events.  
  
The VicEmergency website [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) has also been upgraded and a new hotline 1800 226 226 to ensure Victorians continue to receive the most up-to-date emergency information this summer through a range of sources.  
  
The app, hotline and website will provide the community with the best information so you can make the critical decisions about your safety.  
  
The VicEmergency app provides warnings and alerts for incidents such as fire, flood, storms, and other emergency events. Download the VicEmergency app from the App store or Google Play.

##### Who are you and what do you do?

Norm Golgerth has been a constant at Nillumbik Shire Council for 35 years, with 25 of these working in emergency management. With the title of Emergency Management Coordinator, Norm’s role also doubles as Municipal Fire Prevention Officer. Sounds important and it is, as Norm monitors all things related to emergencies across the Nillumbik region, especially fires.

**What does your role entail?**

It’s very broad, I do a range of things from inspecting potential fire hazards on properties, issuing fire prevention notices, providing fire safety advice and making sure Council meets all emergency management requirements on its projects.   
  
There are two primary focuses in my role, one is the planning side of things where I work with government and emergency service agencies on activities such as prescribed burns, coordinating clearance work with the CFA on fire access tracks and maintaining water tanks. The other side of my job involves community education and raising awareness of the need to plan, and prepare for emergencies of any nature.   
  
**When you say prepare, do you mean cleaning up your property?**  
That’s an important factor, but it’s much more than just that. It’s about having a survival plan, which is flexible in the event of things not going as you expected. You have to plan for the worst possible scenario and know what your options are.  
  
**What advice do you have on preparing for emergencies?**

I liken it to the preparation an athlete does. They plan, practise and practise, until what they’re doing becomes second nature. Athletes also use the right equipment to succeed. For them it might be shoes, a bike or racquet. They get it sorted early. Preparing for an emergency is the same.   
  
You need to get the right equipment together, go over and over your plan and consider all possible scenarios. Don’t just rely on emergency services.   
  
Black Saturday brought it all home to us. And while our plans and procedures have greatly improved, you never actually know what you’ll be confronted with so plan, prepare and practise.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

##### Extreme heat and heatwaves

A heatwave is a period of unusual and uncomfortable hot weather. Conditions that cause heatwaves can also cause power and transport outages, traffic congestion and an increased risk of bushfires.  
  
Extreme heat and heatwaves can affect anyone, however some people, such as the elderly and very young children are more vulnerable. Heatwaves can cause illnesses such as cramps, exhaustion and heat stroke, which can be fatal. If you suspect someone is suffering a heat-related illness, call triple zero (000).

Survive the heat during summer with these tips:

**Drink more water**

* even if you don’t feel thirsty, drink water
* make sure you keep a full drink bottle with you.

**Hot cars kill**

* never leave children, adults or pets in hot cars
* the temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.

**Stay cool**

* seek out air-conditioned buildings such as shopping centres, supermarkets, libraries, cinemas or community centres
* draw your blinds, use a fan and dress in light and loose clothing
* keep yourself cool by using wet towels, putting your feet in cool water and taking cool showers.

**Help others**

* look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, the elderly, the young, people with a medical condition and don’t forget your pets.

**Plan ahead**

* schedule activities for the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a full bottle of water with you
* stock up on food, water and medicines so you don’t have to go out, and remember to store medicines safely at the recommended temperature
* check that fans or air-conditioning are working well and have your air-conditioner serviced if necessary
* prepare for power failures by ensuring you have a torch, battery-operated radio, fully charged mobile phone, food items that don’t require refrigeration, medications, plenty of drinking water and other essential items at hand.

Visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/heat](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/heat) for more information.

##### Looking after pets

As the weather warms up in the coming months it’s important to not only look after yourself, you should also take care of your pet’s needs.   
  
Here are a few things to keep in mind to ensure your pet stays safe over summer:

* ensure your pet has access to cool, shady areas in the house or yard and always make sure your pet has access to plenty of cool drinking water.
* don’t forget to slip, slop, slap. Fair-skinned pets can easily sunburn so use special animal sunscreen
* ensure your pet is kept up to date with flea and tick treatments. The warmer months are a prime time for these pests
* loud noises such as fireworks and thunderstorms can frighten pets so make sure your yard is safe and secure. It’s also important to make sure your pet has identification and is microchipped
* never leave your pet in a car. It can take just six minutes for a dog to die in a hot car.

Visit [www.rspca.org](http://www.rspca.org) for more information.

##### Snake advice

Snakes become much more active during the summer months, so it’s important to safeguard your family and pets as much as possible.

* make your yard unappealing to snakes by keeping the grass cut, clear piles of rubbish and other objects such as piles of wood, rocks, sheets of metal or building materials where snakes may hide
* if you see a snake, keep calm and try to move yourself, anyone with you or your pets away from it
* never touch or attempt to catch or hurt snakes, contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on 136 186. They can provide you with a list of licensed snake handlers in the Shire
* undertake first aid and ensure your first aid kit contains several compression bandages
* if someone is bitten, call triple zero (000) immediately.

COMMUNITY

##### The Travelling Teapot - Council’s new Arts and Cultural Plan unveiled

The Travelling Teapot was a unique series of roving creative focus groups, facilitated by creative consultants, Evi Van der Niet and David Adams that was used to develop the 2018-2022 Arts and Cultural Plan.  
  
You may have participated in one of the focus groups, come across a roving consultation or perhaps you contributed via the online survey.  
  
We’ve been hard at work gathering everything you told us and on Saturday 3 February, the new Arts and Cultural Plan will be launched at the Eltham Library Community Gallery (ELCG).

The launch will coincide with the Travelling Teapot exhibition at the ELCG from Friday 19 January – Monday 12 February 2018.  
  
This carnivàle event celebrates the values and visions of Nillumbik’s arts and culture. The Travelling Teapot sets will be on display along with tablecloths, stories, photos and videos collected during the Travelling Teapot season. There will also be music and roving performances by local artists.  
  
Visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/travellingteapot](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/travellingteapot) to find out more.

##### 2018 Australia Day Awards – nominate now

Council is seeking nominations for the 2018 Australia Day Awards.  
  
It’s time to recognise those exceptional people and groups in our community who make Nillumbik a better place.  
  
Nominate now for:

* Nillumbik Citizen of the Year
* Nillumbik Young 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.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay) or from the Civic Centre.

##### Prevention of violence - 16 Days of Activism

Council strongly believes all violence is wrong, regardless of the gender of the victim or perpetrator. That’s why we’re supporting Victoria Against Violence – 16 Days of Activism.  
  
The campaign started on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 25 November and runs until 10 December.   
  
The sad reality is:

* on average at least one woman a week is killed in Australia by a current or former partner
* police are called-out on average once every two minutes to attend to women in family violence situations
* across the country one in three women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15
* family violence against women is the single largest driver of homelessness for women and a common factor in child protection notifications.

This year we offered small grants to community groups and organisations to help raise awareness of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.   
  
We hope that by joining the Victorian Government and other local councils, we can help make a difference.

TOURISM

Make the most of the warmer months at one of our many festivals, markets, family activities and more. From live music at the Eltham Jazz Festival to bike riding along one of our many trails, there’s plenty to explore in Nillumbik.

**On ya bike**

Nillumbik is home to more than 40 kilometres of urban and rural trails.

Meander through tranquil bushland by bike, foot or hooves and reconnect with nature. It’s the perfect way to enjoy a sunny afternoon.

While you’re out and about make sure you check out the variety of attractions along the way. From historical sites to wineries, pubs, galleries, playgrounds and cafés, there’s something for the whole family to enjoy. So saddle up and discover the beautiful landscapes of The Artisan Hills.

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

**Make a splash!**

Looking for somewhere to cool off this summer? Pack your togs and lunch and head to the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool for some family fun in the sun.

The complex boasts a heated 25 metre pool, shaded toddler pool, barbecues, and a kiosk. The centre also offers swimming and water survival lessons.

[aquatics.dcop@ymca.org.au](mailto:aquatics.dcop@ymca.org.au)

**Stock the pantry**

Not only is the Hurstbridge Farmers’ Market a food lover’s paradise, it’s also the perfect place to stock up on locally made, one of a kind gifts.

Pick up everything you need for your Christmas feast including free-range meats, seasonal fruit and veggies, gourmet pâtés, olives, cheese, craft beer and wine, gluten-free products and other specialty products.

Purchase some of the delicious goodies and enjoy a family picnic on the lawn at the twilight market from 4pm-8pm on Sunday 17 December.

[www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au)

**Put your green thumb to the test**

The annual Home Harvest FEASTival is a celebration of home grown produce and local food.

All growers are invited to celebrate in the harvest and the joys of local food by sharing a delicious community meal.

There’s plenty of advice and support to help you get growing in your garden so register now.

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

**Grab your dancing shoes**

Head to the Eltham Jazz, Food and Wine Festival on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 February and dance the summer days away. Enjoy fabulous music, local food and wine in a laid back atmosphere.

The festival has been running for more than 20 years and in 2017 was voted best jazz festival in Australia and ranked in the top 20 jazz festivals in the world by American Express Essentials.

See exciting jazz, blues, soul and rock ‘n’ roll line-up’s with artists playing on multiple stages across Eltham.

[www.elthamjazz.com.au](http://www.elthamjazz.com.au)

PROJECTS

##### Eltham Leisure Centre update

Progress is continuing on Council’s largest-ever capital works project, with the $20.2 million development of Eltham Leisure Centre’s new aquatic facilities.  
  
When completed in autumn 2018 the centre will boast some of the region’s best water-based and dry facilities, including new pools, accessible change rooms, an outdoor water splash area and a hi-tech gym and fitness area.

Despite a relatively dry winter, a number of wet days at critical stages in the project have led to delays. However, with the forecast of a dry summer work is expected to pick up pace.   
  
Council understands that the project delays are frustrating for members and centre users and has put in place arrangements to reduce any possible impacts.   
  
These include the early opening of the Diamond Creek heated outdoor pool. The pool is catering for learn to swim classes, fun days, school holiday programs and for recreational and lap swimmers.

While work is continuing on the aquatic centre, members of the gym will reap the benefits of a major upgrade that will see it fully revamped and new-state-of-the-art exercise equipment installed.   
  
Our partnership with our centre operators, Aligned Leisure, will see an expanded range of programs and major investment in new equipment, including Technogym cardio and fitness equipment.   
  
Using cloud-based technology users will be able to access a variety of training programs and tools to monitor and track their progress. They will also have instant access to their own personal content and favourite apps.   
  
In addition to the new equipment and other major improvements, members will also benefit from 24/7 gym access, allowing them to work-out at a time that suits them.   
  
Once the aquatic redevelopment is complete it will offer:

* 25m, eight lane indoor heated pool with ramp access
* warm water program pool with ramp access
* program/leisure pool with toddler zone
* outdoor water splash park
* multi-purpose program room
* accessible change rooms
* school change rooms and separate school access
* spa with ramp access, sauna and steam room
* poolside seating
* new equipment, and
* improved car parking.

Nillumbik Shire Council would like to thank our state government funding partners:

* State Government Community Facilities Funding Program – Better Pools $3M
* State Government – Growing Suburbs Fund $3.8M
* Nillumbik Shire Council $13.4M

##### Open Space Precinct Plan

As part of Council’s Open Space Precinct Plan for Graysharps Road in Hurstbridge, residents were invited to write their idea or vision for the plan on a printed leaf.  
  
The leaves were then tied to a tree, known as the ‘Idea Tree’, and placed in various locations in Hurstbridge for six weeks.  
  
The ideas and visions for the space have been collated and were presented at a community workshop held in November.  
  
Outcomes from the workshop are now being considered and there will be further opportunities for your feedback in early 2018.  
  
For more information about the project, visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/OpenSpacePrecinctHurstbridge](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/OpenSpacePrecinctHurstbridge)

ENVIRONMENT

##### Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard comes to Nillumbik

The Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard has been developed to help households better understand the energy performance of their homes and identify ways to reduce emissions and lower energy costs.  
  
A scorecard assessment of your home provides you with a star rating out of 10 that represents the average cost of energy for your home.  
  
The assessment identifies where the most energy is used in your home and assesses heating, cooling and hot water appliances, along with the construction and design of your home. The assessment also provides practical options to improve your home’s energy efficiency.  
  
The cost of an assessment is $175 for most households. For residents holding any type of pension card or health care card the fee is $25.  
  
To book an assessment go to [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/PracticallyGreenLiving or call 9433 3316](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/PracticallyGreenLiving%20or%20call%209433%203316).

##### Clean Energy Nillumbik

Clean Energy Nillumbik is a community group working to achieve 100 per cent clean energy in Nillumbik within the next ten years.  
  
The group was launched at the Practically Green Festival in October and is being assisted by award winning think tank Beyond Zero Emissions.  
  
Clean Energy Nillumbik can help you find the best solutions to incorporate renewable energy and efficiency measures in your home or business.

For more information   
[info@cleanenergynillumbik.com.au](mailto:info@cleanenergynillumbik.com.au) or [www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au](http://www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au)

YOUTH SERVICES

##### 120 licenses for 120 hours

Thank you to our L2P Program Mentors for collectively achieving the amazing milestone of helping 120 young people get their license.   
  
The Nillumbik Learner Driver Mentor Program, L2P, supports people under 21 years of age who don’t have access to a suitable vehicle or supervising driver to gain 120 supervised learner driver hours to get their license.   
  
The L2P Program has enjoyed great success with more than 83 dedicated volunteers sharing 13,000 drive hours of their time.   
  
Ten of our longest serving mentor volunteers; Bob Mietus, Jamie Kelly, Joy Ferguson, Robyn Purchase, Jack Zagorski, David Bradley, Rob Batten, Helen Smith, John Zito and Phil Toy have completed five years or more of service and collectively, they have clocked up a whopping 6,000 volunteer hours.   
  
If you would like to make a difference to a young person’s life and have some time to spare we would like to hear from you. Contact [L2P@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:L2P@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or 9433 3329.   
  
The Nillumbik L2P program is funded by the TAC and managed by VicRoads in conjunction with Council. Thanks to the Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek and Eltham Community Bank Branches for their continued support.

##### Youth Development Grants

If you are involved in a local group running a project that engages young people in the community or you are developing a new youth-focused program or event that involves young people aged 10-25 years, then you might be eligible for a Youth Development Quick Response Grant.  
  
Each financial year from 1 July, eligible organisations can apply to Council for up to $2,000 out of a pool of $10,000. Grants are available until the funds are expended.  
  
The Youth Development Quick Response Grants support local groups to run projects that:

* develop new youth-focussed programs and events
* increase participation for people aged 10 to 25
* empower young people to be involved in local activities through participation, leadership or project design.

Guidelines and application forms can be found at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants) or contact [Sarah.Hammond@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Hammond@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) for more information.

ARTS & CULTURE

##### The Nillumbik Prize 2018

2018 entries open Thursday 18 January

[www.montsalvat.com.au](http://www.montsalvat.com.au)

##### Living in the Landscape Public Art Incubator

The Living in the Landscape Public Art Incubator program supports temporary public art installations that respond to Nillumbik’s unique natural environment and creates connections between artists and the community.   
  
Woven Pods is the first of four projects from the program.  
  
Artist, Gay Chatfield, spent a month at the Hurstbridge Community Hub weaving three sculptural pods made from locally sourced materials.   
  
Children from the Hurstbridge Children’s Hub and passers-by were invited to assist Gay to weave willow, wattle and other plants to make the tepee-like sculptural forms.   
  
The one-metre high pods invite visitors to the Hub to experience nature from both inside the pods and looking out onto the surrounding landscape. Children attending the Hub are especially enjoying seeing and hiding in the pods that they helped make every day on their way into and out of the kindergarten.   
  
The pods will stand outside the Hub for the community to enjoy over the coming months.   
  
Visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/artincubator](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/artincubator) to find out more.

Subscribe to the arts e-bulletin for all things arts and culture [artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

##### December

**CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

Saturday 2, 9, 16 and 23 December 10am-2pm   
Visit from Santa and free kids activities  
Eltham Town Square  
  
Sunday 3 December  
9am-1pm  
Christmas tree  
Visit the yarn bombed Christmas tree at the Hurstbridge Makers Market.  
Wattle Place, Main Hurstbridge Road, Hurstbridge  
  
Sunday 3 – 23 December  
Christmas treasure hunt  
Keep an eye out for a Christmas treasure hunt by the Hurstbridge traders.  
  
Friday 8 December  
10.30am-11.30am  
Christmas cake decorating  
Eltham Library  
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Thursday 14 December  
2pm-3pm  
Christmas gingerbread wreath  
Bookings essential  
Diamond Valley Library  
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Thursday 14 December  
7pm-8pm  
Christmas Carols  
Eltham Library  
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Thursday 14 Friday 15 and Saturday 16 December  
Nillumbik Youth Theatre: Elf Jr The Musical  
The Clarke Auditorium, Eltham College Performance Centre  
[www.trybooking.com/SCEP](http://www.trybooking.com/SCEP)   
  
Friday 15 December  
10.30am-11.30am  
Party with Mrs Clause  
Diamond Valley Library  
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)

Sunday 17 December  
6pm-9.30pm  
Diamond Creek Community Carols  
Coventry Oval, Diamond Creek  
  
Wednesday 20 –Saturday 23 December  
Santa visits Diamond Creek shopping precinct  
  
**COMMUNITY**

Sunday 3 December   
International Day of People with Disability   
[www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au)   
  
Tuesday 5 December   
International Volunteer Day   
  
Saturday 16 December   
Last run of the Saturday Bus for 2017   
[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus)   
  
**MARKETS AND FOOD**

Sunday 3 December  
8.30am-1pm   
Hurstbridge Farmers’ Market   
Fergusons Paddock   
[www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au)   
  
Sunday 3 December   
8.30am-1.30pm   
Eltham Craft and Produce Market   
Alistair Knox Park   
[www.elthammarket.com.au](http://www.elthammarket.com.au)   
  
Saturday 9 December   
10am-11am   
Food Swap   
Bring along your excess produce and swap with others.   
Diamond Valley Library   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Sunday 10 December   
9am-1pm   
Eltham Farmers’ Market

Eltham Town Mall   
[www.localfoodconnect.org.au](http://www.localfoodconnect.org.au)   
  
Thursday 14 December   
4pm-9pm   
Eltham Twilight Christmas Market   
Celebrate the festive season with live music, activities for the kids, plenty of food, a visit from Santa and pick up some last minute gifts.   
Eltham Town Square and Commercial Place   
  
Sunday 17 December   
8.30am-1.30pm   
Eltham Craft and Produce Market   
Alistair Knox Park   
[www.elthammarket.com.au](http://www.elthammarket.com.au)   
  
Sunday 17 December   
9am-1pm   
Eltham Farmers’ Market   
Eltham Town Mall   
[www.localfoodconnect.org.au](http://www.localfoodconnect.org.au)   
  
Sunday 17 December   
4pm-8pm   
Hurstbridge Farmers’ Market Christmas Twilight Market   
[www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au)   
  
Tuesday 19 December   
4pm-9pm (TBC)   
St Andrews Twilight and Makers’ Market   
[www.standrewsmarket.com.au](http://www.standrewsmarket.com.au)   
  
**WHAT'S ON AT THE LIBRARY?**

Friday 1 December – 31 January   
Summer Reading Club: age 3-18   
All Yarra Plenty Regional Library branches   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Monday 11 December   
10am-12pm   
Beading with OMG Beads   
Basic beading skills required   
Diamond Valley Library

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

Saturday 2 December   
2pm-3pm   
Book launch – Snakes and Ladders   
Eltham Library   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
**ARTS AND CULTURE**

Exhibition opening   
Saturday 2 December 2pm-4pm Runs until 15 December   
Exhibition – diversARTy   
Living & Learning Nillumbik   
A showcase of visual arts, ceramics, textiles, glass, crafts and more. Vote for the People’s Choice Award.   
Eltham Library Community Gallery  
Panther Place, Eltham   
Gallery hours: Mon-Thur 10am-8.30pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm Closed public holidays   
  
Wednesday 13 December   
6.30pm-8pm   
diversARTy People’s Choice Awards presentation   
Eltham Library Community Gallery   
Panther Place, Eltham   
  
Exhibition opening   
Saturday 16 December 2pm-4pm   
Runs until 15 January Exhibition – The Boy Who Drew Dragons   
Marc McBride   
Eltham Library Community Gallery   
Panther Place, Eltham   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
**COUNCIL**

Tuesday 12 December 7pm  
Future Nillumbik Committee   
Civic Centre   
[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)   
  
Tuesday 19 December 7pm   
Ordinary Council Meeting   
Civic Centre

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

##### January

Friday 26 January   
Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony   
Welcome our newest Australian Citizens and celebrate the winners of the 2018 Nillumbik Australia Day Awards.   
[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay)

##### February

**COMMUNITY**

Saturday 3 February   
Saturday Bus resumes for 2018. Bus will not run on days of Total Fire Ban.  
[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/saturdaybus)   
  
Saturday 24 February 11am-3pm   
Combined Preschool Open Day   
See the quality preschool programs available in Nillumbik while your children take part in a range of fun activities. Check out the website for a list of participating preschools. [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/preschool](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/preschool)   
  
Monday 26 February 9.30am-3pm   
Introduction to horticulture 9 session course   
Edendale   
[www.livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au)

**MARKETS AND FOOD**

Sunday 4 February 8.30am-1pm   
Hurstbridge Farmers’ Market   
Fergusons Paddock   
[www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au)   
  
Tuesday 13 February 7pm-8pm   
World of Chocolate   
Presented by Chocolatier   
Diamond Valley Library   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 February   
Eltham Jazz, Food & Wine Festival   
Enjoy fabulous music, delicious food and award-winning local wines in a relaxed atmosphere at this family friendly event.   
[www.elthamjazz.com.au](http://www.elthamjazz.com.au)

**WHAT'S ON AT THE LIBRARY?**

Saturday 10 February   
11am-2pm   
Chinese New Year celebrations   
Diamond Valley Library   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Monday 12 February   
1.30pm-2.30pm   
Feng Shui for Love   
Diamond Valley Library   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Wednesday 21 February   
3.45pm-4.45pm   
Code Club: ages 8-13   
Bookings essential   
Diamond Valley Library   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
Wednesday 28 February   
2pm-3pm   
Start your family history   
Diamond Valley Library   
[www.yprl.vic.gov.au](http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au)   
  
**COUNCIL**

Saturday 3 February   
3pm   
Celebrate the launch of Council’s Arts and Cultural Plan with music and entertainment   
Eltham Library Community Gallery   
  
Wednesday 28 February   
Rates instalment due

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

Thursday 18 January – Monday 12 February   
Exhibition – The Travelling Teapot   
Eltham Library Community Gallery   
Panther Place, Eltham   
Gallery hours: Mon-Thur 10am-8.30pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm Closed public holidays   
[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/travellingteapot](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/travellingteapot)   
  
Shakespeare in the Park   
An open-air, family-friendly twilight performance proudly supported by Nillumbik Shire Council and the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek.

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 February   
Alistair Knox Park, Eltham

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 February   
Watkins Street Reserve Diamond Creek

Gates open at 7pm   
[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)   
  
Nillumbik Youth Theatre senior production castings   
Workshops 4.30pm-5.30pm   
Monday 12 and 19 February   
[www.trybooking.com/SCFN](http://www.trybooking.com/SCFN)

Audition 4.30pm-5.30pm Monday 26 February   
Hurstbridge Hall   
[www.trybooking.com/SDTE](http://www.trybooking.com/SDTE)   
  
Thursday 15 February 7.30pm   
Courthouse Poetry Readings   
Eltham Courthouse   
0438 339 732

##### HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

**CIVIC CENTRE   
Civic Drive, Greensborough**Closed public holidays, open 8.30am-5pm all other times

Monday 25 December CLOSED   
Tuesday 26 December CLOSED   
Monday 1 January CLOSED

**KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTION**

There will be no kerbside collections on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Bins will be collected one day later for that day and the remainder of that week.   
  
If your normal collection is Friday, your bin will be collected on the Saturday of that week.   
  
**RECYCLING AND RECOVERY CENTRE   
290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty**

Sunday 24 December 8am-4pm   
Monday 25 December CLOSED   
Tuesday 26 December CLOSED   
Sunday 31 December 8am-4pm   
Monday 1 January CLOSED   
  
**REUSE SHOP   
290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty**

18 December – 12 January CLOSED   
Saturday 13 January 9am-3.30pm  
  
**LIVING & LEARNING CENTRES**

**ELTHAM   
739 Main Road, Eltham**

Closes 11am Tuesday 19 December 2017   
Reopens 9am Monday 8 January 2018

**DIAMOND CREEK   
119 Cowin Street, Diamond Creek**

Closes 11am Tuesday 19 December 2017   
Reopens 9am Monday 29 January 2018

**PANTON HILL   
18 Bishops Road, Panton Hill**

Closes 3pm Friday 15 December 2017   
Reopens 9am Monday 29 January 2018

LIVING & LEARNING NILLUMBIK

Living & Learning Nillumbik is more than just courses… it’s where people share, learn and connect.

**Did you know?**

* 602,796 hours of learning were undertaken in 2013-2017
* 7,873 hours of volunteering contributed by 88 individuals

Find out more about Living & Learning Nillumbik in ‘Share, Learn, Connect: Reflections 2013-2017’. Get your copy at livingandlearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au or one of our centres.

* DIAMOND CREEK - 119 Cowin Street
* ELTHAM - 739 Main Road
* PANTON HILL - 18 Bishops Road

##### ****Nationally Recognised Training - Qualification Courses****

95.8% of our vocational education students would recommend Living & Learning Nillumbik to others

Tuesday 30 January   
9.15am-3.15pm  
Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care CHC50113 course commences  
  
Wednesday 31 January  
9.15am-3.15pm  
Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care CHC30113 course commences  
  
Tuesday 6 February  
9am-3pm  
Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing, Home & Community) CHC33015 course commences  
  
Wednesday 28 February  
9am-3pm  
Certificate IV in Training and Assessment TAE40116 course commences  
  
Visit [www.livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au) for more information about these qualification courses.

##### Makerspaces

**ANY MONDAY**

9.30am-11.30am   
Art MakerSpace   
Panton Hill   
  
12pm-5pm   
Sewing and Wool Crafts MakerSpace   
Eltham   
  
**ANY TUESDAY**

9.30am-1.30pm  
Needle Natter MakerSpace   
Panton Hill   
  
9am-4.30pm   
Studio Arts MakerSpace   
Eltham   
  
**ANY WEDNESDAY**

9.30am-3pm   
Crafty Cats MakerSpace   
Panton Hill   
  
12pm-5pm   
Scrapbooking and Paper Crafts MakerSpace   
Eltham   
  
**ANY THURSDAY**

9am-4.30pm  
Clay MakerSpace (for experienced potters)   
Eltham   
  
9.30am-3pm   
Just Xmas MakerSpace  
Panton Hill   
  
7pm-9pm (monthly)   
Sew Social MakerSpace   
Diamond Creek   
  
9.30am-2pm   
Mosaics MakerSpace   
Panton Hill   
  
10am-5pm   
Leadlighting and Glass Arts MakerSpace (for experienced leadlighters)  
Eltham

YOUR COUNCILLORS

##### ****Mayor Councillor Peter Clarke****

Wingrove Ward  
0401 100 141  
[Peter.Clarke@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Clarke@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Residents are starting to see improvements to a number of footpaths. Council is focusing on better connecting suburbs and townships and increasing pedestrian safety. We have listened to the community and more money in our budget will be directed to construct new footpaths and better maintain existing ones.   
  
In Wingrove Ward, residents of Grey Street, Eltham will benefit from a new concrete footpath and the narrow footpath in Mulberry Court will be replaced.   
  
Other similar projects will include upgrading the Diamond Creek bike trail near Alistair Knox Park and at Dalton Street and Main Road.   
  
Council is also undertaking significant work to reduce graffiti through a range of targeted activities. These include the rapid removal of tags and other illegal graffiti. The use of surveillance cameras in hard hit areas and a close working relationship with our local police has led to successful prosecutions and a decrease in the rate of graffiti vandalism.   
  
I hope you enjoy the festive season and that you have a happy and healthy 2018.

##### ****Deputy Mayor Councillor Karen Egan****

Bunjil Ward  
0408 058 899  
[Karen.Egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

The new Panton Hill streetscape is looking fabulous with many positive comments from residents, traders and visitors. The newly constructed Cherrytree Shared Trail between Coolaroo Avenue in Hurstbridge and Kangaroo Ground- St Andrews Road in Panton Hill is also proving popular.   
  
Hurstbridge residents know just how poor parking is at the railway station carpark. I recently wrote to the Minister for Transport calling for additional, or at the least, improved parking by formalising the unsealed area adjacent to Graysharps Road.   
  
I also requested that as part of planning for the duplication of the Eltham to Greensborough section of rail line, the government consider upgrades to Eltham Station, a new station at Eltham North and the removal of the Diamond Street level crossing.

These changes would make a significant difference to commuters using the train to get to and from work, school and social activities.   
  
Finally, I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2018.

##### ****Councillor Grant Brooker****

Blue Lake Ward  
0427 207 819  
[Grant.Brooker@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Grant.Brooker@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

The transition from winter to summer sport saw a wonderful example of Council working closely with members of the Plenty Valley Cricket Club to replace a synthetic cricket pitch with three new turf wickets for the 2017-2018 season. Council assisted with the project and the club provided both funding and volunteers to ‘pitch in’ and complete it.   
  
Speaking of sport and active participation, the Diamond Valley Basketball Association will join the South East Australia Basketball League in 2018. The league is just one step below the NBL and is a wonderful achievement for our local association. It will bring some of the highest quality basketball to our region.   
  
I was pleased to be able to support the funding of Christmas lighting and decorations, which I am hopeful, will mean a little bit of magic can be experienced by all our residents when visiting our principal townships.   
  
Best wishes to our residents, I trust the time spent with family, friends and loved ones will be truly special as we reflect on those relationships that are most enduring and meaningful to us all.

##### ****Councillor John Dumaresq****

Edendale Ward  
0439 556 733  
[John.Dumaresq@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:John.Dumaresq@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Congratulations to Eltham High School on receiving a $3.3 million Victorian Government grant to develop new sports facilities for both school and wider community use. Oval upgrades, new multi-sports courts and unisex change rooms will mean local sporting clubs will be able to train and use the facilities out of school hours. Council will contribute to the ongoing maintenance and asset renewal of the school’s sportsground, pavilion and multi-use courts.   
  
The Practically Green Festival at Edendale was once again an enormous success. A crowd of more than 3000 people enjoyed 40 different stalls, exhibitions, talks, workshops and music. Exhibitors including not for profit groups, with experts on hand to answer questions and demonstrate a range of sustainable practices.

The Diamond Street Bridge project has been completed. This is a great achievement as we have been able to preserve the heritage character and integrity of the timber bridge, while at the same time ensuring it will meet the challenges of at least the next 40 years.   
  
Lastly, I would like to wish all Nillumbik residents and traders a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2018.

##### ****Councillor Peter Perkins****

Ellis Ward  
0437 455 064  
[Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

As chair of our Emergency Management Committee I want to remind everyone of the importance of cleaning up around your property. Reducing leaf litter and debris, cleaning gutters, moving wood piles away from your house and making sure you have a well-rehearsed bushfire survival plan are some of the most practical things you can do to make a difference.   
  
Council and the Diamond Creek Netball Association have been working in partnership with Netball Victoria and the State Government to plan the development of a major $3.1 million regional netball facility and sporting pavilion with a shared community meeting space at Rotary Park. We have also lodged an application to the Growing Suburbs Fund to develop a pavilion and upgrade sportsground lighting at Marngrook Oval to support a range of local sporting clubs.   
  
Other local projects we are seeking State Government support on are Diamond Creek Trail Extension from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek Regional Playground and a rail pedestrian crossing behind the Community Bank Stadium.   
  
I wish you the very best for Christmas. I hope Council’s partnership with Diamond Creek Traders to install new decorations bring a little bit of Christmas magic your way.

##### ****Councillor Jane Ashton****

Sugarloaf Ward  
0409 177 500  
[Jane.Ashton@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jane.Ashton@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

The last 12 months have flown by and I hope that Sugarloaf residents are happy with the work I am doing as their councillor. Rural townships are definitely a priority for the new Council, with St Andrews and Panton Hill receiving some TLC over the last couple of months.   
  
Welcome to our new Inclusivity and Disability Advisory Committees, thank you to all for volunteering your time.

The Panton Hill festival committee again did an amazing job with a fun-filled program and a chance to show off their re-vamped main street and much safer school crossing.   
  
Congratulations to the Panton Hill Bushland Reserves group for obtaining a Bio-Diversity on Ground; Action Grant, and for all the great work they continue to do in the reserves, with walks, talks and the recent Murnong harvest.   
  
Meetings with Landcare and another visit to the Bend of Islands have given me greater insight into our wonderful local environment. We can all play a part, particularly with regard to managing weeds like capeweed and Paterson’s curse, as well as eradicating rabbits.   
  
I hope you enjoy time with family and friends over the Christmas holidays and that you stay safe.

##### ****Councillor Bruce Ranken****

Swipers Gully Ward  
0402 384 006  
[Bruce.Ranken@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Ranken@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Two issues kept coming up during last year’s election campaign as I met with residents. They were the maintenance and upkeep of our parks and reserves and the need for traffic lights at either Leanne Drive or Beard Street and Main Road. Since being elected I have been advocating to ensure the state government supports the installation of lights at this dangerous location. I will continue to work on ensuring we get this project funded and delivered during this term of Council.   
  
We have also been working hard to ensure our parks and reserves are better maintained and residents should see more frequent mowing in the lead up to summer. The Eltham North Pavilion will be commencing shortly, followed by the Research Pavilion and we are putting a lot of time and money back into previously neglected community infrastructure. Other upcoming projects include the Wattle Glen Pavilion and the Plenty War Memorial Park.   
  
To make sure we can provide the best possible facilities to our community we have been busy applying for state government sporting grants. We look forward to more successful outcomes.   
  
Finally I wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES

##### Green Waste Vouchers

Council has delivered on its promise to introduce green waste vouchers to residents. The vouchers provide flexibility to recycle garden materials and vegetation at any time of the year at the Recycling and Recovery Centre in Plenty.

**Operating times are Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 8am-4pm.**

##### Size chart for loads

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| One voucher | Two vouchers |
| Car boot | Medium van or ute |
| Station wagon | Large ute |
| Small van or ute | 6 x 4 trailer high sided / heaped |
| 6 x 4 trailer | 8 x 6 tandem trailer |
| 7 x 5 trailer | 8 x 6 tandem trailer high sided / heaped |

You can use two vouchers to drop off loads larger than this. All load sizes will be assessed by an attendant.

**Stay on Santa’s nice list and dispose of your Christmas tree the right way this holiday season**

Natural Christmas trees can be disposed of in the following ways:

Green waste bin – cut the tree into small pieces and make sure your green bin lid can be fully closed.

Drop off at the Recycling and Recovery Centre – use a green waste voucher to dispose of your tree free of charge.

Alternatively, bring your tree in with a load of green waste. Load prices start from $35.

For more information visit: [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/recyclingguide](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/recyclingguide)

Cover: Your Councillors enjoying the festive season

Nillumbik News is available in alternative formats on request. Contact 9433 3111.

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

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