

Autumn 2021 • MARCH - MAY

Nilumbik

NEWS



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Australia Day – we're all part of the story

On a day of national reflection and respect, we recognise and celebrate those who make us proud to be Australian

Our 2021 Nillumbik Australia Day Award recipients were announced on 26 January at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre in a celebration that was livestreamed to the community for the first time.

A grant from the Australia Day Council allowed for a small COVID-safe in-person event, with this year's theme *Reflect. Respect. Celebrate – We're all part of the story.*

While their experiences are diverse, our winners have worked collaboratively across many of Nillumbik's community groups.

With selflessness and determination, they have a common goal to support the community and create a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

If you need this document in another format please contact Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111.



Citizen of the Year – Josh Allen

Over a decade of service to the local community was recognised when Josh Allen was named Nillumbik's 2021 Citizen of the Year.

Through his work with the CFA as a member of the Diamond Creek Fire Brigade, Josh has been involved in the response and recovery from significant events including the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires and the Christmas Day flash floods of 2011.

A member of the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek, Josh's work in the community has been notable for his energy and enthusiasm, along with his ability to collaborate with various local groups and services.

These include the Men's Shed, Lions Club and Diamond Creek Traders' Association. He was instrumental in securing the W-Class Tram, which now occupies a prominent place in the new Diamond Creek Regional Playspace and operates as a community café.



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

WE'RE
ALL PART
OF THE
STORY.

On Australia Day we celebrated and welcomed 12 new citizens during our Citizenship Ceremony.

Performances by *Jersey Boys* star Bobby Fox, and a cultural dance and drum performance by the talented African Beat group got everyone on their feet.

Guest speaker Rima Touna shared the inspiring story of her life after arriving in Australia at the end of 2016 as part of a special humanitarian intake.



COVER Mayor Peter Perkins with Citizen of the Year Josh Allen.

LEFT PAGE Cr Perkins with our Australia Day Award recipients.



ABOVE Cr Perkins and Cr Natalie Duffy conduct the Australia Day flag raising ceremony; entertainers Bobby Fox and African Beat.



from the Mayor

Welcome to the autumn edition of *Nillumbik News*.

We're already a quarter of the way through the year and while looking forward with optimism over what's to come, it's also worth reflecting on where we've been.

We continue to experience periods of great uncertainty and difficulty as the COVID-19 pandemic impacts many aspects of our lives. Our community continues to adapt and respond in the most admirable ways.

Nillumbik's public COVID testing station, located alongside our Civic Centre and library in Greensborough, has conducted more than 40,000 tests since July last year.

It's a real credit to everyone who has been tested for the benefit and safety of us all.

I aim to ensure that Council continues to provide support to the community wherever possible as the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter.

Victoria's Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, local MPs, councillors and community members recently turned the first sod of the second stage of the Diamond Creek Trail extension from Wattle Glen to Hurstbridge.

That the State Government has contributed approximately two-thirds of the funding for a project worth about \$14 million speaks to the importance of this relationship to Council. In fact, over the past four years Council has received more than \$35 million in State Government grants – funding that's integral to most, if not all, of our major infrastructure projects either complete, underway or about to commence. We have also received more than \$9 million from the Federal Government over the same period for capital works projects.

There's plenty more happening and I'll be sure to keep you updated as we move through a busy year.

Cr Peter Perkins
Mayor Nillumbik Shire Council



Senior Citizen of the Year – Jan Aitken

Jan Aitken has been fundamental to the development and success of the Nillumbik

Reconciliation Group. For 13 years as group president, she has worked to connect communities through passion, warmth and a commitment to Reconciliation. Jan is also president of Community and Volunteers of Eltham (CAVE), which provides support for school students in Nillumbik and Banule as well as numerous other community organisations.



Volunteer of the Year – Peter Talbot

An active member of Community and Volunteers of Eltham (CAVE) for 20 years, Peter

has also been Liaison Officer for Eltham High School for 15 years and Eltham Lions Club President for seven years. Over this time he has been tireless, despite his own health setbacks and challenges, in driving fundraising efforts for various important community causes.



Young Citizen of the Year – Finn Deacey

Over the past year, Finn has balanced the completion of his Year 12 studies with his commitment

to volunteering for various community organisations. These include the Eltham CFA, Nillumbik's FreeZa Group, Nillumbik Unplugged and Eltham Life 3095.



Community Group of the Year – Rotary Club of Diamond Creek

Despite the challenges of 2020, the club managed to push ahead with a range of initiatives and projects to help those in need of support. These included the Second Bite project (providing food to the disadvantaged) as well as a range of arts and education initiatives.

"While their ages and backgrounds may be diverse, this unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of those around them is the thread that draws them together. It is also a reflection of an attitude among the broader Nillumbik community," Cr Perkins said.

"I congratulate and extend my heartfelt thanks to our award recipients – and to all those in our community who work so selflessly to help improve the lives of others."

Mayor Peter Perkins said the award recipients and their achievements – and those of others nominated – underlined a strong legacy of community service in Nillumbik.

"Our award recipients highlight the strength of commitment to helping others that exists in our community."

STAY IN TOUCH

There are a number of ways you can stay in touch with us.

COVID updates

For the latest on COVID-related closures and reopenings go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-19

Customer Service desk

Nillumbik Shire Council
Civic Drive,
Greensborough

Our customer service desk has reopened to the public 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Customer Service call centre

Our customer service team is available to assist with your enquiries on 9433 3111, 8.30am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Our website

You can conduct many items of council business on our website at nillumbik.vic.gov.au

News

You can find out the latest news and sign up to receive our news releases at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/news

Social media

Find out the latest news, information about services, events and local alerts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn.

e-newsletters

We have regular e-newsletters providing news and information from areas including Arts, Business, Disability Inclusion, Environment, Living & Learning Nillumbik and the Hurstbridge Community Hub. Sign up at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/newsletters

Consultation our priority

Community at heart of all decision-making

Council has a new Community Engagement Policy, a key document that puts the community at the heart of all planning and decision-making. The policy was adopted in February following two rounds of community consultation.

The introduction of the Local Government Act in March 2020 made it mandatory for all councils to have a community engagement policy in place by 1 March this year.

Mayor Peter Perkins said the policy would guide Council's aim of ensuring and strengthening closer collaboration with the community on a range of key issues.

"The Community Engagement Policy sets out the way Council will consult and interact with the community in its planning and decision-making," Cr Perkins said.

"This policy will provide the foundation to ensure our community is at the centre of all Council decisions."

The policy is underpinned by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) framework. The framework emphasises that community



engagement should: Inform; Consult; Involve; Collaborate; and Empower. Also included in the policy is a commitment to apply deliberative engagement practices as required by legislation.

You can view the new policy at: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/strategies



Local laws, including those covering animals, will be reviewed this year.

Local laws come under review

Council is undertaking a review of some of its local laws.

Local laws respond to issues and community needs, and are designed to ensure the actions of an individual or group do not have an adverse effect on others.

We will soon be starting engagement, with the first round reaching out to key stakeholders and targeted groups.

If you would like to stay informed about the review, please register your interest at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/local-laws



Stay informed! Sign up to Participate Nillumbik today at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au





Our future is in your hands

Have your say on Our People, Our Place, Our Future

Nilumbik is a unique part of the world – a special place we love to live, work and visit.

To help guide the Shire's future, we would like to hear what is important to you.

Council is preparing a range of key strategic documents including a Community Vision, the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Council Plan, Financial Plan, Asset Plan and Municipal Planning Strategy.

Your input as part of the Our People, Our Place, Our Future project will help us develop these important initiatives.

Nilumbik Mayor Peter Perkins said it was vitally important to hear from as many people as possible.

"The community – our people – are at the heart of everything we do," Cr Perkins said.

"We want to work with you to achieve the best outcomes for our place and our future."

Community engagement began in February and continues until 28 March 2021.

We would love you to complete our survey, available online at participate.nilumbik.vic.gov.au/our-future.

Hard copies are available at the Council offices, Eltham Library, Eltham Community and Reception Centre, Diamond Creek Community Centre, Hurstbridge Hub, Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre, Eltham Leisure Centre, Living and Learning Nilumbik (Panton Hill or Diamond Creek).

You can also request a hard copy be sent to you by emailing place@nilumbik.vic.gov.au or calling 9433 3111.

Our People, Our Place, Our Future

Community engagement events in March

Come and tell us what is important to you as part of the Our People, Our Place, Our Future project.

We are holding a number of community consultation events in March.

-  **Sunday 7 March**
9am-1pm
Hurstbridge Market
-  **Saturday 13 March**
9am-2pm
St Andrews Market
-  **Sunday 14 March**
9am-1pm
Eltham Farmers Market
-  **Friday 19 March**
2pm-5pm
Wattle Place, Hurstbridge
-  **Saturday 20 March**
10am-2pm
Eltham Town
-  **Sunday 21 March**
10am-2pm
Diamond Creek Activity Centre
-  **Saturday 27 March**
10am-2pm
Diamond Creek Regional Playspace
-  **Sunday 28 March**
11am-2pm
Eltham North Adventure Playground

Virtual sessions

Wednesday 3 March
7pm-9pm

Thursday 11 March
10am-12pm

Tuesday 16 March
2pm-4pm

To book your spot at one of the online sessions go to nilumbik.vic.gov.au/our-future



Complete the Our People, Our Place, Our Future survey at participate.nilumbik.vic.gov.au/our-future



Library closed for upgrade

The Diamond Valley Library in Greensborough has closed until June as work starts on its \$1.27 million upgrade.

While members will no longer be able to visit the library, a Click & Collect service will operate from Council's neighbouring Civic Drive office. Members can pick up holds and return borrowed items, subject to current COVID-19 restrictions.

This service will operate Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm.

Other library branches are open as normal and there is also the new Click & Collect service at the Hurstbridge Community Hub.

The library upgrade includes an expanded children's zone, new co-working space, upgraded amenities and new parents lounge.

ypri.vic.gov.au



MRPV starts road works

Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) has begun work on the Fitzsimons Lane upgrade.

This project includes a new signalised intersection at Main Rd to replace the roundabout, and new traffic lights at the corner of Main Rd and Leane Drive. It is due to be completed at the end of 2023.

MRPV is delivering this project on behalf of the Victorian Government. BMD Constructions is the construction partner to build the upgrade.

For information go to MRPV's website at roadprojects.vic.gov.au/projects/fitzsimons-lane-upgrade, where you can sign up for updates and SMS alerts.

You can also call MRPV 24/7 on **1800 105 105** or email contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au



Minister Lily D'Ambrosio (third from right), Yan Yean MP Danielle Green, Eltham MP Vicki Ward, Mayor Peter Perkins, councillors and community members turn the first sod of the new trail.

Digging deep for new trail

Work starts on Stage 2 of the Diamond Creek Trail extension.

Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio visited Wattle Glen in February for the official ground breaking ceremony for Stage 2 of the Diamond Creek Trail extension.

This section will run 3km from Wattle Glen to Hurstbridge continuing on from Stage 1, which is about to be completed.

Stage 2 is funded through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Suburban Parks Program (\$5.1 million). Stage 1 works were funded through VicRoads' Towards Zero initiative (\$4 million).

Council contributed about \$5 million for the acquisition of 14.4 ha of land.

Mayor Peter Perkins said this was a significant project for the community.

"This is a great result for our community and a credit to the efforts of others on their behalf – including the Victorian Government, Yan Yean MP Danielle Green and Eltham MP Vicki Ward, the Member for Eltham," said Cr Perkins. "Our community, including our Regional Trails Advisory Group and Trailblazers Inc. are also to be commended."

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/diamond-creek-trail



Nillumbik Mayor Peter Perkins (centre) and members of OM:NI Diamond Creek at the new labyrinth.

New idea is set in stone

Needing some quiet reflection? The new Nillumbik Labyrinth in Diamond Creek is the perfect place to get away from the world.

The concept was initiated by OM:NI (Older Men, New Ideas) Diamond Creek.

Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has no dead ends as you follow the stone path into the centre of the circle and out again.

The labyrinth is in Diamond Creek Reserve on Watkins Street, and completed as part of the playspace project.

Life's a picnic in Nillumbik

Enjoy a range of outdoor dining options on offer

Autumn's crisp sunny days are the perfect time to explore our beautiful shire.

Fill a picnic basket with local produce, tasty treats or even your favourite takeaway and get out into nature. Enjoy the shady gum trees, natural attractions and fantastic playgrounds on offer at picnic patches across the region.

Our new downloadable Picnic Patches map provides suggestions of where you can enjoy a meal in the great outdoors, but there are plenty of other "hidden gems" to discover.

Extra picnic tables have also been installed in parks and open spaces across the shire.

Picnics not for you? Check out our outdoor dining directory that lists restaurants, cafes, pubs and takeaway stores offering options to eat "al fresco" across Nillumbik.

Wattle Place in Hurstbridge and St Laurence Lane in Eltham have been fitted out with some fantastic landscaping and seating arrangements for locals and visitors to use while supporting local businesses.

A series of pop-up events will be taking place to encourage outdoor dining, shopping local while staying safe. Follow [@visitnillumbik](#) for details.

We encourage residents to get behind our Nillumbik businesses during the ongoing challenges of COVID-19.



Help our platypus

Did you know that the Diamond Creek is home to the elusive platypus?

To celebrate and learn more about this unique creature, we will be hosting a series of events in May.

The platypus is now officially a threatened species and listed as vulnerable in Victoria. Unfortunately, there has been a decline in the Diamond Creek platypus population in recent years.

Find out how you can help at one of our events.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/platypus



Download our Picnic Patches map at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/picnic-in-nillumbik where you can also find our outdoor dining directory.



Seed of an idea

As part of our Home Harvest program, seed libraries will start to sprout up across Nillumbik and Banyule this month.

Nillumbik artist Ravi Sommerhalder (below) has been building the new libraries, which will go in locations including the library branches, Edendale Farm, and the Hurstbridge Hub.

The libraries provide the chance to share seeds and the experience of home growing.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/home-harvest



Become a Nillumbik place shaper

Are you passionate about your local community? Would you like to help create interesting, inclusive and engaging public places?

Then join our Nillumbik Place Shaper program. The program will give you the resources and skills to implement your own local community project.

It's free to participate, all you need is an idea and two hours a week to attend the free sessions.

The eight-week program includes:

- Weekly workshops with experts and community leaders
- Place making and project support
- Coaching to develop your project idea.

Expressions of interest close on Sunday 11 April.

For more information go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/place-shapers

New support for older adults

Do you need help with day-to-day tasks around the house?

Maybe you need respite care while your family or carer is away? Or perhaps it's time to look into aged care homes.

There are many services available to help you live independently and maintain a good quality of life as you get older.

We have a new free and confidential Aged Care Navigation and Advocacy Service to support older people and their families. We are also offering a range of free information sessions to help people understand and navigate home support options and the aged-care system.



Home support options

What is My Aged Care? Find out what services are available and how to access them.

Monday 29 March, 10.30am-11.30am
Hurstbridge Hub

Home care packages

Am I eligible for this funding? What services are available?

Monday 19 April, 2pm-3pm
Eltham Community and Reception Centre

Residential Aged Care

What should I know when considering a move to an aged-care facility?

Wednesday 12 May, 6.30pm-7.30pm
Council chambers, Nillumbik Shire Council, Greensborough

Bookings essential on 9433 3138, email agedcare@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or through the event listing at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events

Loan an iPad to connect online

Would you like to experience using an iPad? We have several iPads available for older people in Nillumbik to loan for free.

This new program aims to assist older people with digital skills and improve connections.

Call 9433 3148 or email social.connection@nillumbik.vic.gov.au to arrange a loan.



Become a wiser driver

Free driver education course for older adults

Being able to get around the Shire safely is a priority for older adults. Being able to drive is also important to maintaining independence and socialising.

To support this, Council is pleased to offer older residents two free Wiser Driver education programs funded through VicRoads.

During each free four-week course, older drivers can upgrade their knowledge of Victorian road rules, discuss safety tips for wiser driving plus gain an understanding of car safety features and roadworthiness. No driving lessons or tests are involved – this is an opportunity to build on your driving experience in the company of peers.

Bookings are essential. For more information contact our Positive Ageing Officer on 9433 3345 or email positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Older residents needing assistance with transport to medical appointments, shops or social groups, contact Community Transport on 9433 3723.

Hurstbridge Hub
Friday 16, 23, 30 April, 7 May
2pm-4pm

Living & Learning Nillumbik
Eltham centre
Monday 3, 10, 17, 24 May
10am-12pm



Stay up to date. For news and updates for older residents, subscribe to the quarterly Ageing Well in Nillumbik newsletter available in print or by email. Call 9433 3345 or go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/newsletters



Our L2P mentors are again helping learner drivers obtain their licence.

L2P program back on the road

Celebrating 10 years of helping learner drivers

Our TAC L2P Program has helped more than 400 young people learn to drive and 220 obtain their licence since it first began in 2010.

Volunteer mentors are the driving force of the program, which assists disadvantaged learner drivers aged 16 to 21 with no access to a supervising driver or vehicle gain the 120 hours' driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence.

More than 90 L2P volunteers have logged 18,000 supervised drive hours with young learner drivers over the past decade.

COVID-19 put the brakes on L2P in 2020, but we are pleased our L2P cars and mentors are back out on the road subject to current guidelines, helping Nillumbik's young people learn to drive again.

We are looking for more volunteer mentors to join the program.

Go to nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au/L2P to find out more.

Thank you to everyone who has supported L2P, particularly our volunteers. A 10-year anniversary celebration will be held in May. To attend, please email L2P@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call 9433 3329.

The TAC L2P Program is a joint partnership between the Transport Accident Commission and Department of Transport, supported by the Victorian Government.

Celebrating our volunteers

National Volunteer Week a chance to say thanks

Volunteers are the backbone of our community, with thousands of people involved in volunteering across the Shire.

We will be celebrating the important contributions of our volunteers during National Volunteer Week from Monday 17 May to Sunday 23 May. This year's theme of Australia's largest celebration of volunteers is *Recognise, Reconnect, Reimagine*.

About a quarter of Nillumbik's community is involved in some form of volunteering. Council has more than 450 volunteers, who assist in a variety of areas including community transport, caring for our bushland parks and reserves, mentoring learner drivers through our TAC L2P

program, family support, digital mentoring, helping at Edendale Community Environment Farm and much more. There are also many more volunteers who donate their time to a wide variety of other community and service organisations.

Mayor Peter Perkins thanked Nillumbik's volunteers for their generous contribution.

"Volunteering is an integral part of Nillumbik life. By working together and looking out for each other, we continue to make our Shire a great place to live," Cr Perkins said.

A range of events will be held to celebrate National Volunteer Week. Stay up to date by following our social media channels. For information on volunteering go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/volunteering

Volunteering opportunities

Council has a range of volunteer opportunities.

You can visit nillumbik.vic.gov.au/volunteering to find out more, email volunteering@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call our Volunteer Development Officer on 9433 3147.

The new DVCS Volunteers Hub, a partnership between Diamond Valley Community Support and Nillumbik and Banyule councils, can also assist those wanting to volunteer find their ideal role, matching skills, experience and interests to suitable positions with a variety of organisations.

You can visit the Hub's online portal dvcsvolunteerhub.com.au, call 9435 8282 or drop into the Hub at Shop 378a, Level 3, Greensborough Plaza.



Our Community Transport bus.

Driven to help

Nillumbik Community Transport provides one-on-one transport and a community bus service for eligible residents to attend medical appointments, social and community activities and do shopping.

We need volunteers who can spare as little as one day a week or fortnight to drive either the community bus (car licence only), or provide one-to-one transport where volunteers use their own car and are reimbursed for kilometres travelled.

If you can help, email community.transport@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or phone 9433 3723.

Virtual event

Gather your family and friends for a fun night at home as we celebrate International Women's Day with a special virtual event on Thursday 11 March.

The event is being held as part of a week of celebrations to mark International Women's Day (which is on 8 March).

Hear from our keynote speaker, award-winning writer, speaker and appearance activist Carly Findlay, who has edited the newly released book *Growing up Disabled in Australia*.

We will also announce the winners of our second annual Nillumbik Young Women Leaders Awards, presented to young women who make a positive contribution to their communities.

To secure your free spot go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/IWD and get set for an inspiring and entertaining evening.



Taking the lead

As part of the celebrations for International Women's Day, we are proud to launch the Nillumbik Women's Community Leadership and Connections Program.

The aim of the program is to develop emerging women leaders from across all areas of the Nillumbik community.

Applications open on Tuesday 9 March and close Sunday 11 April. The program begins Saturday 1 May.

It is open to women, girls and individuals who identify as female aged 18 years and over who live, work, volunteer, study or play in Nillumbik and are available to attend all program sessions.

If this sounds like you, complete an expression of interest online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gender-equity



Youth given new voice

Youth Council to represent our young people

The Council, appointed for a two-year term, will consist of up to 15 young people who are passionate about their community and representing the views, ideas and needs of young people in the Shire.

Aged between 15 and 25, the Council will inform future policy and services, and enable a unique opportunity to hear and share the voices of the next generation of Nillumbik.

A Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor will be elected by a majority of the Council for a one-year term.

Cr Ben Ramcharan, 25, the youngest councillor ever elected to Nillumbik Shire Council, welcomed the move.

"It's really good to see this project engage young people like me in the

actions of Council ... I really believe that young people need a voice," Cr Ramcharan said.

"Young people are currently faced with significant impacts on mental health and wellbeing ... and so giving young people a voice through the Youth Council is an incredibly important thing."

Deputy Mayor Frances Eyre said it was a great step forward.

"We have many passionate young people in our community, we need to support them to channel their ideas or frustrations into positive outcomes, for them and for our community," Cr Eyre said.

Applications have now closed with the first formal meeting of the Youth Council to be held on Monday 12 April.

Enrol for kinder

State Government funding for three-year-old preschool programs will be available in Nillumbik from 2022.

Applications for 2022 have now opened and close on 30 June 2021. Families can apply online via Council's website or by postal/hard copy.

We are also taking applications for four-year-old preschool for 2022 and 2023. Applications for 2022 close 30 June 2021.

For further information and how to apply, visit nillumbik.vic.gov.au/preschool or email preschool@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Paws for thought on pets

A timely reminder for dog owners using shared outdoor spaces

The past year has seen us make the most of our parks, reserves and trails like never before.

For many of our canine companions, life has never been better with many opportunities to get out and about with their owners.

We would like to kindly remind dog owners about the importance of respecting shared trails. Some key points:

- Dogs should be kept on a leash on shared trails and in all areas other than defined leash-free areas.
- Dogs should also be always kept under effective control when out in public. This means keeping them on a leash no longer than two metres in length, or – in leash-free areas – under effective voice control.
- Dog excrement left on shared trails and paths is inconsiderate to other users. Dog owners must carry a receptacle for picking up after their pets. Rangers can ask owners to show they have the ability to clear up after their dog.
- Dogs are not permitted in any established playground.



We have two designated off-leash dog parks in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge and a number of off-leash dog areas. A new off-leash dog park in Eltham North is coming soon.

For information on where to walk your dog, go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/where-to-walk-your-dog

Regos due

Animal registrations for 2021-22 will be due on 10 April 2021.

Renewal notices started to be sent to registered pet owners in the last week of February.

All cats and dogs over the age of three months must be microchipped and registered with Council.

Registration fees contribute to animal management services including the pound, dog parks, and a free boarding service for pets of families experiencing family violence.

Registration is also vital in case your pet goes missing. Our Community Safety team aims to reunite lost pets with their owners within 24 hours if the pet is both microchipped and registered.

Registration can be paid online, in person at the Civic Centre in Greensborough, or by mail.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/petrego

Did you know?

- Provided your dog has its registration tag on, if it is found at large, we can more easily contact you to collect it without impounding it.
- We have partnership with Banyule, the Cat Protection Society and Save-a-Dog for the rehoming of cats and dogs surrendered in both municipalities.



Dog park works to start

Things are looking paws-itive for the new off-leash dog park in Eltham North.

Construction is anticipated to start in March on the park in Dansey's Paddock in Wattletree Road with works hoped to be completed later this year.

Council has received \$275,000 for the project through the Victorian Government's Local Parks program.

The park will include a fenced off-leash dog park area with a separate zone for small or quiet dogs.



Kidsafe presents the award to Mayor Peter Perkins, Cr Natalie Duffy, CEO Carl Cowie, Jeavons Landscape Architects, naturform and Council staff.

Top award for playground

Our much-loved Eltham North Adventure Playground (ENAP) has won a major national design award.

The Kidsafe National Playspace Design awards recognise excellence and innovation in the provision of safe, creative playspaces across Australia.

ENAP, designed by Jeavons Landscape Architects with Gardiner Architects and constructed by naturform, was the winner

in the Public Playspaces \$1 million – \$3 million category.

The Kidsafe awards showcase the achievements of communities working with designers and the playground industry in creating amazing play environments.

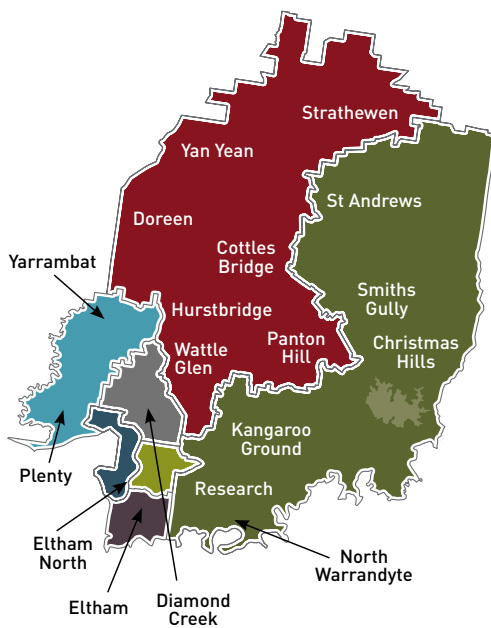
The new playground was rebuilt in collaboration with the community after the fire of 2017.



YOUR COUNCILLORS

✉ Postal address for Council and all Councillors:

Nillumbik Shire Council
PO Box 476
Greensborough VIC 3088



KEY

- Blue Lake Ward
- Bunjil Ward
- Edendale Ward
- Ellis Ward
- Sugarloaf Ward
- Swipers Gully Ward
- Wingrove Ward



**Mayor
Cr Peter Perkins**
Ellis Ward

☎ 0437 455 064
✉ peter.perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Since the last edition, I hope you have visited our new regional playspace. It's a great spot with improvements to parking and access around Marngrook Oval coming soon thanks to a Federal Government grant.

The construction of our new \$2.8 million Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion is finished and works on new netball courts will soon start. Likewise the shared trail to Wattle Glen along the Diamond Creek is complete and the extension to Hurstbridge underway.

You will soon see off-street car parking installed on Elizabeth Street along with a footpath to create better pedestrian connections.

I will continue to advocate for upgrades to our aged outdoor pool, senior citizens centre and community centre via a community masterplan process exploring possibilities for future development.

Fifty per cent of Nillumbik residents are members of our free library service. Imagine the percentage if we also had a local library?

Stay safe and keep supporting each other.



**Deputy Mayor
Cr Frances Eyre**
Swipers Gully Ward

☎ 0466 049 798
✉ frances.eyre@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

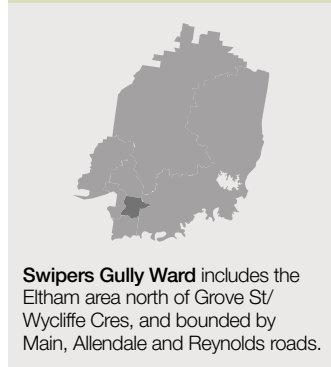
It's been a whirlwind few months since being elected to Council last November.

There's been much to learn about the processes and requirements of being a Councillor and I, along with my fellow councillors, have been working hard as we negotiate this steep but very important learning curve.

As we head toward COVID-normal, I am pleased to be getting out to meet with the Swipers Gully community in-person. My aim is to visit and meet with the various clubs, groups and businesses in our ward over the next few months to gain an understanding of the issues that matter to you.

I'd also like to welcome those residents in the area of Research which is now part of Swipers Gully. I look forward to getting to know and working with you and Eltham residents over the coming months and years.

I would also like to offer my support to anyone looking to start – or reinvigorate – a local "Friends of" group. The Aquaduct, Frank St and Tadema Reserve come immediately to mind.



Cr Richard Stockman
Blue Lake Ward

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We live in one of the luckiest shires in the Lucky Country. One of my proudest moments to date was to read out the new citizens' names at our recent Australia Day Ceremony. Welcome to our country.

Big things are happening in Blue Lake and across the Shire.

I'm pleased to see that work has started on the \$1.27 million Diamond Valley Library upgrade. Apollo Parkways and the broader Nillumbik community will benefit greatly from this project to improve the library facilities.

Other projects around Blue Lake are going well. This Council's strong focus on engagement means a greater focus on consultation in Yarrambat and Plenty.

I'm also available for a chat at the local coffee shops in Yarrambat and Apollo Parkways each Wednesday morning after dropping off some local papers as per my election promise. If you're in the neighbourhood, drop by and say hi, or get in touch by phone or email.





Cr Karen Egan
Bunjil Ward

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As the year gathers pace, I look forward to seeing through projects started in the previous Council term and also commencing some exciting new ones.

Preliminary designs for the Hurstbridge Men's Shed are expected to be completed by the end of March and Council has been working closely with the Men's Shed on these designs.

Work has just commenced on the upgrade to the Ben Frilay Oval multi-use sports complex. Over the coming weeks and months this site will be the scene of much activity, but the result will be a magnificent community asset.

I also recently attended another significant local milestone in Wattle Glen, with launch of works for Stage 2 of the Diamond Creek Trail project by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

Covid-19 has caused some delays to many of these projects, but we're making progress.

Finally, we're not yet out of the fire danger period and vigilance remains very important.



Cr Natalie Duffy
Edendale Ward

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I have lived in Edendale Ward for 12 years with my family and I love Nillumbik for its precious environment and friendly communities. I am proud to live in the Green Wedge Shire, the lungs of Melbourne and I want to ensure its protection for future generations to enjoy.

Since being elected to Council I have focused on listening to the community, ensuring heritage protection for the Eltham War Memorial buildings and securing funding for a new synthetic pitch for the Eltham Redbacks Soccer Club.

Neighbourhood character, urban tree canopy and stronger partnerships between Council, community groups and the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung are priorities. I am committed to putting community at the heart of Council and strengthening community engagement.

Having recently been diagnosed with breast cancer, I am acutely aware of the importance to residents of Council's work in the area of Health and Wellbeing and I encourage everyone to take a moment for a health check-up.



Cr Ben Ramcharan
Sugarloaf Ward

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While it's early days in my first term as a Councillor, things are definitely gathering pace. It's an exciting time in Nillumbik and there's lots to do.

In the coming months, I aim to run community meetings across all of the major townships in Sugarloaf Ward.

Among the things I'm looking forward to progressing is the Kangaroo Ground Tower masterplan community engagement process. More to come on this important project.

I'm also in early discussions with Council officers about a pedestrian bridge to connect Warrandyte to North Warrandyte – something residents have been asking about for some time. I look forward to our Council exploring the feasibility of this project with neighbouring Manningham.

The St Andrews Wayfinding Project is open for submissions. I encourage residents to have their say on the places and stories that make St Andrews special.

There's so much to achieve over the next four years and I can't wait to see what we can do together.



Cr Geoff Paine
Wingrove Ward

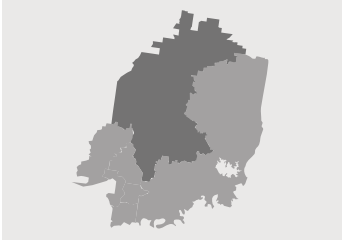
☎ 0438 148 283
✉ geoff.paine@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

This is my first ward update as Councillor for Wingrove; hello to those who don't know me and thanks to those who have reached out for help, clarification, or a chat about things in the local community. If I don't have an answer straight off, I'll find someone who does.

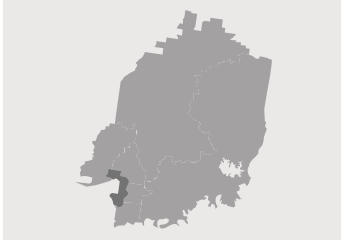
My ward takes in much of Eltham and its Activity Centre, and you may have noticed outdoor seats popping up to help people stay well-fed and COVID safe at the same time. Council is also planning more outdoor events to 'activate' different parts of the Shire over the warmer months, celebrating food, sport and entertainment. Our markets, sports groups, picnic spots and schools are back up and running, and Montsalvat is once more open to the public, subject to the latest COVID-19 restrictions.

Of course, we still need to take care of ourselves and each other. Major roadworks have started around the Fitzsimons Lane roundabout, so we'll need to take extra care with that gateway and keep disruption to a minimum.

And if you're working from home, take time to enjoy the green wedge we're lucky enough to live in.



Bunjil Ward covers Arthurs Creek, Doreen, Hurstbridge, parts of Kinglake, Kinglake West, Nutfield, Pantom Hill, Strathewen and Yan Yean.



Edendale Ward covers Eltham North and parts of Diamond Creek.



Sugarloaf Ward covers Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Kangaroo Ground, North Warrandyte, Research, Smiths Gully, St Andrews and Watsons Creek.



Wingrove Ward covers Eltham South.

What's on in autumn



Workshops are the write stuff

To help our community prepare for bushfire, community groups and not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for grants of up to \$1000 to assist in bushfire preparedness in the Shire.

The Community Bushfire Preparedness and Resilience Grants are available as part of our Communities First program and can be used towards community led initiatives.

Applications are open until all funds are expended or 14 April 2021.

To assist groups with their applications, two grants workshops will be held in March.

- **Wednesday 24 March**
7pm
Hurstbridge Hub
- **Saturday 27 March**
4pm
St Andrews Community Centre

To register or for more information, go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/communities-first



Sculptor Clive Murray-White at The Dunmoochin Foundation with his piece *Assisted Suiseki No: 9* which will feature in the Finalist Exhibition.

Prize makes big return

Nine locals among finalists for prestigious exhibition



The Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art returns in May with the Finalists Exhibition opening at Montsalvat.

The biennial acquisitive art prize is open to emerging and established artists working in any medium across Australia. Works from 41 artists were shortlisted from 323 entries.

Nine of the artists are from Nillumbik, including sculptor Clive Murray-White, who has lived and worked at the Dunmoochin Foundation in Cottles Bridge for the past three years with his partner Michelle Caithness, also an artist. The pair also collaborated for the Art in the Time of COVID-19 exhibition, which is on until 5 April.

Clive's work, *Assisted Suiseki No: 9*, is created out of natural marble from Chillagoe in Far North Queensland, which he selected himself.

He said his work was a reappraisal of historic sculptural origins and a contemporary "return" to skills, materials, techniques and sentiments.

"For quite some time now, I've found myself thinking that in my lifetime, in terms of art, we may have thrown far too many good things away, and maybe it's time to start trying to put some of them back in ways that relate well to the present."

The Nillumbik Prize is presented in association with Montsalvat and the Finalist Exhibition will be held at the Barn Gallery from 6 May to 1 July 2021.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/npc



Olivia Chubb, *We are buzzing*, (detail) Creative Minds.

Book in some gallery time

The much-loved Eltham Library Community Gallery has reopened after it was forced to close for most of 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The gallery program for 2021 launched in December with an exhibition from the Nillumbik Artists Open Studios.

Satellite of Love: Perspectives from Bunjil Reserve by Paradoxa Collective is showing until 14 March.

Tara Stuble's *Musings of my Mind on Untamed Tracks*, which was originally to open in March 2020 but was cancelled

because of COVID-19, has been rescheduled to open from Friday 19 March to Sunday 18 April.

The Creative Minds exhibition, a showcase of artworks created by Nillumbik's very talented VCE Art and Studio Arts students, will run from Friday 23 April to Sunday 23 May.

The gallery program is for artists who live, work or study in Nillumbik or are able to demonstrate strong ongoing links to the Shire. The gallery is open in line with current COVID-19 restrictions.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/elcg

Calendar of events

Nillumbik Parenting Series

Book online:
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/parenting-hub

Upcoming sessions include:

- Building Happy and Resilient Kids with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg**

\$5 or free for concession card holders
Thursday 4 March
7pm-8pm

This webinar provides strategies to help your child through adolescence, and promote wellbeing and resilience during the uncertainty of COVID-19.

- One child, two parents: when your parenting style is not aligned**

FREE

Wednesday 14 April
7pm-8.30pm

Relationships Australia (Victoria) will present on same-page parenting and what happens when your parenting style is not aligned.

- Managing Change for Teens**

FREE

Monday 19 April
6pm-7.30pm

Presented by Parent Zone and Nillumbik Shire Council, this session will explore some of the fears and worries teens can have around change and how we can respond to these.

- Healthier Gaming and Screen Time**

FREE

Monday 3 May
6pm-7.30pm

Presented in partnership with Gamblers Help, this session will focus on the role of gaming for young people, how to recognise and manage harmful gaming, and tips to manage healthy screen time.

ZOOM SESSIONS



The exhibition in the Barn Gallery, Montsalvat.

Art in the Time of COVID-19

Until 5 April

Montsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Ave, Eltham

Entry fee: Adults \$14, Concession \$10

Children 5-12 \$8, Children under five free,

Families \$35 (two adults, up to three children under 13)

Proceeds to Montsalvat

Proudly presented by Nillumbik Shire Council, this major exhibition explores the experience of COVID-19 through the eyes of 40 artists. Sponsored by the Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge and Eltham Community Bank branches of the Bendigo Bank.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-art

ART IN
THE TIME
OF COVID-19

HOME AND GARDEN

Prepare your home and garden for winter

FREE

Saturday 27 March

1.30pm-3.30pm

Edendale Community Environment Farm
30 Gastons Road, Eltham

Learn some energy and money saving tips from the Australian Energy Foundation, Clean Energy Nillumbik, Solar Savers and the Edendale nursery team.

Bookings:
edendale.vic.gov.au/events



COMMUNITY

Community Social Lunch for older people

Wednesday 28 April

doors open 11.30am for 12pm start

Eltham Community and Reception Centre
Tickets: \$25 each

Enjoy a two-course meal entertainment. Come on your own and meet new people or bring some friends.

Bookings: 9433 3148 or
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events

Safe Seats, Safe Kids

Mondays fortnightly,
Living & Learning Nillumbik
Eltham centre

Second Tuesday of the month,
Panton Hill Living & Learning
Free car restraint fitting or safety check.

Bookings: safeseatssafekids.com.au/venues-mec/

Service dashboard

Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community

In support of this commitment, *Nillumbik News* includes a service dashboard to indicate performance across a range of key council services. Council's Annual Community Survey results continue to reinforce that residents rank core service delivery as important.

A snapshot of service performance for the October-December 2020 quarter is below, which provides a comparison between current and previous performance.



Service highlight: New website LiveChat

Launched in late 2020, our new LiveChat function has been designed to help you navigate our website and answer general queries relating to Council.

When visiting our website, you will notice a "chat with us" tab on the right of the screen.

Click this to start a text chat with our friendly Customer Service team. Research tells us most

customers prefer LiveChat functionality because of its ease of use and instant responses.

As our LiveChat is handled by real people, this service is only available during business hours and response depends on the number of enquiries at a given time.

We'd love for you to give it a go and tell us what you think in the post chat survey.

Easter and public holiday opening hours

Council offices

Civic Drive, Greensborough
 Open 9am-5pm
 (Call centre 8.30am-5pm)
 Monday to Friday except:

Labour Day Monday 8 March	closed
Good Friday 2 April	closed
Easter Monday 5 April	closed

Bin Collection

There will be no kerbside bin collection on Good Friday 2 April. Instead, bins will be collected on Saturday 3 April.

Recycling and Recovery Centre and Reuse Shop

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty
 Open 8am-4pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays.

Labour Day Monday 8 March	closed
Good Friday 2 April	closed
Easter Saturday 3 April	closed
Easter Sunday 4 April	closed
Easter Monday 5 April	closed
ANZAC Day Sunday 25 April	closed

Nillumbik Pound

The pound is not open to the public and collection of animals is by appointment only.

Monday-Friday:
 9.30am-3pm, call 9433 3111
 After hours and public holidays:
 9am-12pm, call 9433 3334

Edendale Community Environment Farm

Gastons Road, Eltham
 Open every day
 (including public holidays)
 9.30am-4.30pm

Living & Learning Nillumbik

Closed public holidays
Eltham
739 Main Road, Eltham
 Monday 9am-12pm
 Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm

Diamond Creek
119 Cowin Street, Diamond Creek
 Monday 9am-12pm
 Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm

Panton Hill
18 Bishops Road, Panton Hill
 Monday 9am-12pm
 Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm



Nillumbik Shire Council

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 nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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