

Summer 2021-2022 • DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

# Nilumbik



NEWS



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## STAY IN TOUCH


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


 **COVID updates**  
[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-19](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-19)

 **Customer Service desk**  
Civic Drive, Greensborough  
Our customer service desk is open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

 **Customer Service call centre**  
Phone 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](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

 **Live Chat**  
Our Live Chat on our website can assist with your queries.

 **Social media**  
Find out the latest news and information on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn.

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

### COVER

Eltham CFA volunteer firefighters Michael Clark, Matt Thomas, Andrew Heath and Amanda Vella.

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Printed in Nillumbik, using vegetable inks on Australian-made 100% recycled paper.

# It's great to have you back

Following the easing of the Victorian Government COVID-19 restrictions we're pleased to reopen our facilities and resume services.

Our customer service desk at the Civic Centre in Greensborough has reopened to the public and our team is looking forward to seeing you again.

The Recycling Centre in Plenty has resumed normal operating hours and residents are reminded they can use one of the three green waste vouchers which can be found on the rates notice to dispose of green waste for free. The Reuse Shop has also reopened.

Fun and fitness have returned to Nillumbik's Leisure Centres, and the reopening of the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool comes just in time for the warmer weather. Stay tuned for the reopening of our new-look Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre.

The animals are certainly happy to have visitors back at Edendale Community Environment

Farm, and the nursery is well stocked with plants.

Our libraries, including our revamped Diamond Valley branch, have reopened.

Our Maternal and Child Health centres have returned to normal services, including face-to-face appointments and home visits. First-time parents groups also make a welcome return.

The Hurstbridge Community Hub is also now open for essential services and bookings.

All of our facilities and services are operating in accordance with the current Victorian Government COVID-19 guidelines regarding capacity limits, checking in, vaccination status and mask wearing.

Stay up to date at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/COVID-19](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/COVID-19)

## Get the latest news in your inbox

Would you like to stay up to date with the latest news from Council?

Subscribe to our new Nillumbik e News – a monthly e-newsletter delivered straight to your email inbox.

Nillumbik e News will contain the latest news on Council decisions, services, programs,

community engagement opportunities as well as major events and activities.

Our first e-newsletter will be released in February, and will then be issued the first week of every month following.

To sign up, go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/newsletters](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/newsletters)



The events of the past 18 months, especially the lockdowns, inspired the artistic reflections of Nillumbik University of the Third Age Painting and Drawing Class members. The resulting **PANArt** collection of paintings, drawings, film and text evidence will be on display at the **Eltham Library Community Gallery** this summer from **17 December to 16 January**.  
[yprl.vic.gov.au/locations/eltham-library](http://yprl.vic.gov.au/locations/eltham-library)

*Still Life, after Chris Canning – Anthony Guilfoyle*



New Deputy Mayor Ben Ramcharan and Mayor Frances Eyre following their election in November.

## Our new Mayor and Deputy

Cr Frances Eyre has been elected the new Mayor of Nillumbik.

The Swipers Gully Ward Councillor was elected Mayor at an extraordinary meeting on 24 November.

Cr Eyre, will be supported by Sugarloaf Ward Councillor Ben Ramcharan, who was elected Deputy Mayor.

At age 25, Cr Ramcharan is the youngest ever Deputy Mayor in the Shire.

Cr Eyre said it was an enormous honour to be Nillumbik's new Mayor.

"As your new Mayor, I say to our community: I am here to listen. I am here to act on your behalf and in your best interests," Cr Eyre said.

## Council adopts vision and key strategic plans

Nillumbik has a vision for the future, capturing the essence of what is most valued about our community and our Shire, and informed by extensive consultation.


The **Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040** was adopted by Council in October along with the **Council Plan 2021-2025**, **Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025**, and **Financial Plan 2021-2031**.


The Vision reflects the aspirations of our community and will inform all of our strategic planning, budgeting, service delivery and advocacy over the next 20 years.

Thanks to everyone who helped shape these important strategic plans through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement project.

 The **Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040** includes a vision statement and key community aspirations centred on the themes of Our People, Our Place, Our Future and Our Council.

 The **Council Plan 2021-2025** will set the strategic direction of Council for the next four years, delivering on the community's priorities identified in the vision.

 The **Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025** commits to addressing the health and wellbeing priorities of our community and reducing inequalities.

 The **Financial Plan 2021-2031** provides a forecast of the financial sustainability over 10 years, with services maintained at current levels and continued management of the asset portfolio.

Read the Vision and plans at our website, [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/plans-strategies](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/plans-strategies).

## Season's Greetings

from your Councillors

**After another challenging year, we'd like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.**

It's been heartening to see how everyone has again pulled together during these difficult times. This community spirit is what makes Nillumbik such a great place. With the easing of restrictions, it's a wonderful time to spend with family and friends.

We are pleased to support our Christmas in Nillumbik program, offering a range of festive events and activities as well as encouraging opportunities to shop local, buy locally made and support local trades and services.

As we finish our first year on Council, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

This first year has seen a number of achievements including the adoption of our new Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040, Council Plan, Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan and Financial Plan. We've adopted our Community Engagement Policy, putting the community at the heart of all our decision making.

We've seen the progression of several major capital works projects across the Shire, in spite of the challenges of continued COVID-19 restrictions.

A highlight has been the appointment of our first Youth Council. And we're taking big steps in reducing our contribution to climate change with the development of a draft Climate Action Plan and our new solar farm.

With summer here, it's time to prepare for bushfires. You'll find some important emergency information at the end of this magazine.

Have a safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year.







## Annual Report out now

Council's Annual Report 2020-2021 has been released.

The Annual Report is developed to inform our community and stakeholders, and reflects Council's commitment to making Nillumbik a better place for current and future generations.

It is a comprehensive overview of the Council's performance in the 2020-2021 financial year against the five strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2017-2021 and Annual Budget 2020-2021.

Some of the highlights from this year's report include:

- The Nillumbik Community Pandemic Recovery Plan 2021-2022;
- New kerbside waste service bin options;
- The Diamond Creek Regional Playspace and Eltham North Adventure Playground winning major playground design awards;
- Establishment of the first Nillumbik Youth Council;
- Delivery of major capital works projects including the Diamond Creek Trail (Stage 1), Diamond Creek Regional Playspace, the Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion and the Greensborough Hockey Club Pavilion, as part of 31 programs and 58 projects with an expenditure of over \$33 million;
- An increased focus on community engagement.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/annual-report](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/annual-report)

# 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 July-October 2021 quarter is below, which provides a comparison between current and previous performance.



## Service Improvement:

### Making our websites more accessible for all

A new accessibility toolbar, ReachDeck, has been added to our websites to support people of all abilities to navigate independently online.

The toolbar provides text-to-speech, text magnification, translation support and more.

You can see it in action at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au) – click the speaker icon located in the bottom left of your screen.

We're committed to removing barriers so that all web visitors have a positive online experience.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email [nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



The redeveloped Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre including new courts, front entrance and viewing areas.

## Library turns a new page

The upgraded Diamond Valley Library in Greensborough is now open.

We hope you enjoy the \$1.6 million upgrade, which was completed in September, but did not open to the public until November due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The library now has an expanded children's area, parents' room, fully accessible gender-neutral toilets, new community room, co-working zone, meeting pods, tech pods and an outdoor deck overlooking the community garden.

For opening hours, visit the Yarra Plenty Regional Library website at [yprl.vic.gov.au](http://yprl.vic.gov.au)

Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Frances Eyre, Corrienne Nichols, Cr Richard Stockman, Tracey Jermieson, YRPL CEO Jane Cowell; one of the new library spaces.



## New centre set to sparkle

We're excited to soon welcome our community back to the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre following a \$16.5 million redevelopment.

The project has seen extensive refurbishment of the existing building, plus a new extension which more than doubles the centre in size.

We're completing the finishing touches, so keep an eye out on our website and social media channels for when the centre will open.

The facilities will cater for sports and activities including basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, squash, dodgeball, table tennis, group fitness classes and children's programs. The redevelopment hasn't been without its challenges, most notably the COVID-19 restrictions, as well as the discovery of major works required in the existing section to meet safety and building compliance regulations. But despite the difficulties, the entire project will be completed ahead of schedule.

The centre's redevelopment has been funded with \$6 million from Council, and \$10.5 million from the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$8 million) and the Growing Suburbs Fund (\$2.5 million).

[diamondvalleysfc.com.au](http://diamondvalleysfc.com.au)

### Sports centre highlights:



The new centre features four new courts, including three multi-sport courts and one show court, bringing the total number of courts to eight. Retractable spectator seating for more than 500 people will be installed early in 2022.



There's a new centre entrance with reception and café, and other features include amenities for both the public and referees, competition change rooms, first aid room and offices.



The Health Club (gym) in the existing building has been expanded and has its own entrance for 24/7 access, subject to COVID-19 guidelines.



The change rooms and amenities in the existing building have undergone a much-needed refurbishment.



Extensive works have been completed to ensure the building is accessible for people with disability including a new ramp to mini court 6.



**Become a member!** To celebrate the reopening, Aligned Leisure will be offering a no joining fee membership offer for a limited time. To find out more, go to [diamondvalleysfc.com.au](http://diamondvalleysfc.com.au) or scan the QR code.



# Memorial Park marks 100 years of service

Milestone event for popular Kangaroo Ground landmark.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Memorial Park at Kangaroo Ground. The event was marked on 7 November with a special commemoration including the unveiling of a plaque at the park as part of the traditional Remembrance Day service.

Speakers included the Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, Nillumbik Mayor Peter Perkins and Ross McDonald from Friends of Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park Inc.

The Memorial Park on Garden Hill, also known at the time as the Shire of Eltham Soldiers' Memorial Park, was officially opened on 3 September 1921.

The summit with its views across Melbourne had been popular as a tourist lookout and picnic spot since as early as the 1880s.

Because of its prominence in the district, the former Shire of Eltham considered Garden Hill a fitting location for the creation of a memorial park in honour of all the local men and women who served in the Great War.

Anna Pelling, President of the Friends of Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park Inc, said more than 1000 residents of the Shire, both men and women, enlisted in World War I.

"The commemoration of the park's centenary recognises the work that was done by the citizens of the Shire at the time to remember those who went to war," she said.

The Shire of Eltham War Memorial tower was completed in 1926 and the park continues to be a much-loved landmark in the Nillumbik community and a drawcard for visitors from across Melbourne.



Apollo Parkways Primary School students William and Leroy with Katrina Naish.

## Funding boost for community projects

**A unique waste minimisation initiative is one of 26 community projects to receive funding via Council's 2021-22 Nillumbik Community Fund grants program.**

Grants of up to \$10,000 were available in the categories of arts and cultural development, community event and place making, and community support (community, indigenous and youth). Council contributed approximately \$120,000 through the program.

Students from three schools will learn the benefits of minimising waste and re-purposing textiles thanks to a \$3000 grant awarded to community group A Fitting Connection for its 'Fundraising with Purpose' project.

Apollo Parkways Primary School, Christmas Hills Primary School, and Montmorency Secondary College students will source disused clothing and bed sheets and provide them to volunteers who will help repurpose them for sale.

The students will sell the products as Christmas presents to raise money for their school.

The secondary school students will also be fundraising for Eltham Copper Butterfly conservation.

See the full list of recipients at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants)



Entrance to Shire of Eltham Soldiers' Memorial Park, Garden Hill, Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground, c.1923. Picture from the collection of the Eltham District Historical Society.

## Summer road blitz

Major Roads Projects Victoria will be undertaking a "summer roads blitz" at the Fitzsimons Lane roundabout from early January to mid-February.

Round-the-clock works will take place as the roundabout is upgraded to traffic lights. During this time there'll be intersection closures and detours in place. Access to Eltham Lower Park will be affected.

Plan your travel and please continue to support local traders who will be open for business throughout the



construction period. For details go to [roadprojects.vic.gov.au/projects/fitzsimons-lane-upgrade/main-road](http://roadprojects.vic.gov.au/projects/fitzsimons-lane-upgrade/main-road)



The restored former courthouse is the oldest public building in Eltham and dates back to 1860.



## New life for historic court

The former Eltham Courthouse has undergone a \$385,000 restoration to conserve the historic building for future generations.

Completed in November, it is the first major refurbishment of the building since it was built in 1860.

The courthouse on Main Road, which is now home to the Eltham District Historical Society and managed by Council, is the oldest public building in Eltham and operated as a courthouse until the 1980s.

Built in response to the law and order issues arising from the influx of people drawn to the nearby goldfields, it is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and is one of only two intact examples of its design in the state.

The works, undertaken by Ducon Building Solutions with research by RBA Architects, have involved meticulous restoration inside and out including repairs to the exterior render, repainting, replacing slate roof tiles

and replacing the subfloor. The original furniture including the magistrate's desk, dock, pews and cabinetry have been refurbished and the courthouse returned to how it would have looked in the 1860s.

Eltham District Historical Society President Jim Connor said a range of specialist tradespeople were required to undertake the work.

"The Eltham District Historical Society greatly appreciates Nillumbik Shire Council actively supporting the restoration of this much-loved building, including the original court furniture," Mr Connor said. "The restored Eltham Courthouse will continue to be an important feature of our local history."

Council funded the refurbishment through the Facility Maintenance Renewal Program.

## Lone Pine at Anzac park

A Lone Pine – long considered a powerful symbol of remembrance – has been dedicated at Anzac Memorial Park in Hurstbridge. The dedication took place during a Hurstbridge RSL Remembrance Day service on 11 November, which was attended by Cr Peter Perkins as Mayor, and Cr Karen Egan of Bunjil Ward.

Meanwhile, work has been completed on the new playspace at the park in Heidelberg-Kinglake Road. In recognition of the multi-use nature of the site, shade, seating and new play equipment for children were incorporated into the area.



## Stories for the ages

**Thanks to the efforts of some of our youngest and oldest residents, the 2021 Digital Intergenerational Storytelling Program was a huge success.**

A partnership of Council and HumanKind Enterprises, the program saw young people, or Story Collectors, team up with older Storytellers via Zoom and over the phone weekly for six weeks.

They'd discuss a range of topics, from their childhoods through to the daily challenges of COVID-19, and the Story Collectors would record the experiences. The youngest Story Collector was 19, and the oldest Storyteller 91.

As Story Collector Max Hughes explained, the program surpassed his expectations.

"The concept of an intergenerational program that aimed to build bridges between young and older generations was an exciting opportunity, and something I thought I could really learn from," he said.

"I'm fascinated by the stark contrasts, between growing up over half a century ago and my teenage experience. Having open conversations with all the Storytellers regarding what we do and don't understand about our respective generations, helps me think about what I take for granted, and conversely, what we've lost over time."

The recorded conversations will be compiled into a video, and into individual videos for older residents and their families.

To find out about the next round of the program, contact Council's

Social Connections Officer on 9433 3111 or email [social.connection@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:social.connection@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



Max and Patricia exchange stories.




# 2022 Community training

FREE

The Nillumbik Community Training Calendar provides access to a range of free training, workshops and information sessions for Nillumbik's community groups, clubs and volunteers.

## February sessions:

 **Building Community with Social Media**  
Monday 14 February  
7pm-9pm (online)

 **Spotlight on Health and Wellbeing**  
Monday 21 February  
7pm-9pm (online)

We are continually adding training and workshops to the calendar, so keep an eye out for more great opportunities.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/  
community-training-calendar](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-training-calendar)

## SAVE THE DATE International Women's Day

Join us Wednesday 9 March, in person or via livestream to celebrate International Women's Day.

**Time:** 6pm-9pm (in-person)  
7pm-8.45pm (livestream)

**Where:** Eltham Community Reception Centre

Tickets will go on sale late January 2022.

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

# Prepare for preschool

As well as helping them develop language and literacy skills, preschool provides a strong social and emotional foundation for young children ahead of their school years.

Play-based learning has been shown to support children's development at a young age and set the foundation for their future education.

Four-year-old children are already eligible for 15 funded hours of preschool each week, and from 2022, three-year-old children will have access to five funded preschool hours weekly as part of a Victoria-wide rollout by the State Government.

**If your child is approaching preschool age, mark your calendars for early 2022, because there are some important dates coming up.**

## Open day

Preschool Open Day is on Saturday 19 February (10am-1pm).

The open day offers parents and carers the chance to visit preschools throughout the Shire, have their questions answered, and see which preschool is the right fit.

Come along and see the quality preschool programs available in Nillumbik while your children take part in a range of fun activities.

## Application deadline

Once you've decided on your preferred preschool, make sure you get your application in on time.

Applications for 2023 three-year-old preschool (for children born between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2020) and 2024 four-year-old preschool (for children born between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2020) will open on 1 March 2022.

For more information call 9433 3161 or email [preschool@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:preschool@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

## Application process

Council will centrally manage three-year-old preschool registrations for the 16 standalone preschools in Nillumbik that operate from Council-owned or managed buildings.

Some childcare centres in Nillumbik that are not part of Council's central registration system also offer funded three-year-old preschool programs. If you'd like to apply to one of these centres, your application must be made directly with the centre.

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



Play-based learning has been shown to support children's development.





We have many great courses and activities on offer next year at Living & Learning Nillumbik.

## Class is back for 2022

We're excited to welcome you back to our Living & Learning centres for a range of courses, activities and formal training.

Whether you would like to meet people, learn something new or upgrade your skills in a fun and friendly environment, we have something for everyone at our three locations in Eltham, Diamond Creek and Pantan Hill.

Our new Course and Activity Guide for January-June 2022 is now available to download from our website, or you can contact us to have one posted to you. Don't forget you can also browse the range of courses and activities on our website.

**Enrolments for Term 1 courses and activities open on Monday 6 December. You can enrol online on our website, via email or over the phone 9433 3744.**

Our Registered Training Organisation (Toid 3938) is now taking enrolments for our February 2022 intake for:

- **Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care** (CHC30113)
- **Cert III in Individual Support – Home and Community** (CHC33015)

We also have a range of exiting short courses planned for those looking for pathways to employment and further studies.

Customer Support will be available remotely, via 9433 3744, until 1pm Friday 17 December and will return on Tuesday 11 January 2022.

[livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au)



**Diamond Creek**  
119 Cowin Street



**Eltham**  
739 Main Road



**Pantan Hill**  
18 Bishops Road

## Learn and connect

After the success of the pilot Women's Community Leadership and Connections Program this year, we're excited to be running the program again in 2022.

The program provides women with the skills and knowledge to become more confident, active and engaged leaders across all areas of the Nillumbik community.

Participants will have the opportunity to apply their new skills and knowledge to real-life community projects and situations with the support of peers and Council.

This year's projects included Nillumbik Repair Café, Carer's Collective, Safe Horses Smiths Gully, Coaches in Community and more.

Applications close 31 December. To find out more and to apply visit: [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/women-leaders-program](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/women-leaders-program)

## Be a digital mentor

**Are you competent and confident with computers, smart devices, email, the internet and Microsoft software? Are you patient and friendly? Why not become a 'Be Connected' Digital Mentor and help older people to navigate the online world.**

This is a great volunteer opportunity to gain practical experience and make a positive difference in your local community. You'll provide one-on-one technology support to older people at Living & Learning Nillumbik.

To find out more about this satisfying role visit our volunteering hub Better Impact at [btr.im/vmgy0](http://btr.im/vmgy0)



Neighbourhood Houses  
The heart of our community



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED  
TRAINING

LIVING & LEARNING  
NILLUMBIK



Nillumbik

[livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Living & Learning Nillumbik is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO No.3989).



# festive CALENDAR

## Eltham CFA Santa runs

**Sunday 19 December**

Santa is coming to town on the back of an Eltham CFA fire truck.

### Run 1

- **1pm-1.30pm**  
Malcolm Blair Reserve, Greensborough
- **2pm-2.30pm**  
Anthony Beale Reserve, St Helena
- **3pm-3.30pm**  
Eltham North Reserve (near soccer club)

### Run 2

- **1.30pm**  
Petrie Park, Montmorency
- **2pm-2.30pm**  
Eltham Lower Park
- **3pm-3.30pm**  
Eltham Library

## Rotary gifts

The Rotary Club of Diamond Creek will be distributing Christmas gifts from local businesses to older residents.

## Festive Foods Cookbook

**Aligned Leisure (Nillumbik Leisure Centres)**

**Cost: \$10 donation**

Money raised from this community recipe e-book will go to Second Bite for food hampers. Email [rosie.haszler@alignedleisure.com.au](mailto:rosie.haszler@alignedleisure.com.au) for your book.

## Community Christmas Wreath Project

**SHIFT (Sustainable Hurstbridge: Ideas for Transition Inc)**

**Hurstbridge Community Hub**

**50 Graysharps Road**

**1- 24 December**

Be inspired by SHIFT's natural festive wreath by artist Gay Chatfield (below). A limited number of wreaths are available to decorate. Instructions on how to decorate your own wreath are on SHIFT's website. [shiftinc.org.au](http://shiftinc.org.au)



Santa's getting ready to visit local parks with volunteers from the Eltham CFA.

# 'Tis the season in our Shire

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Join us as we spread festive cheer across the Shire during the holiday season.

After another rollercoaster year, we all deserve a little fun and special time with family and friends.

Celebrate with our calendar of events and activities organised by local community groups, organisations, schools and businesses. The activities, designed to increase community connectivity at this time of year, have been supported with \$20,000 in Council grants.

Shop in our Shire this Christmas and support our many local businesses who have been really doing it tough. Their range of great offers, services and vouchers are sure to provide inspiration for the perfect Christmas gifts.

And if you are heading out to celebrate, experience our many cafes and eateries or take advantage of our beautiful open spaces and unique places to visit across the Shire. To help you get into the spirit of



the season, a range of festive trimmings inspired by local flora and fauna have been installed throughout the Shire.

For the full line-up of festivities, go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Christmas-2021](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Christmas-2021) and follow [@visitnillumbik](https://www.facebook.com/visitnillumbik) on Facebook and Instagram.

## Festive Macramé Workshop

**Saturday 4 December**

**10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm**

**Saturday 11 December, 10am-12noon**

**Online via Zoom, Free**

CraftByRita is running a festive ornament macramé workshop. Limited tickets. [craftbyrita.com/events](http://craftbyrita.com/events)

## Eltham Town windows

**Until 31 December**

As you shop local this Christmas, enjoy the festive artwork in shopfronts by artist Nicole Bester. There will also be a scavenger hunt with prizes to be won.

## Trail Treasure Hunt

**Smiths Gully MTB Club**

**Until 22 December**

Explore the trail network around Smiths Gully for your chance to find Trail Tokens valued at \$25 and \$50, and redeemable at local businesses. For clues follow the Smiths Gully MTB Club on Instagram [@smithsgullymtbclub](https://www.instagram.com/smithsgullymtbclub) and Facebook.

## Diamond Creek Windows

Local artist Angharad Neal-Williams will be decorating the shop windows of Diamond Creek with beautiful local flora and fauna.



## Diamond Creek Community Carols

Sunday 19 December, 6.30pm  
Online

Join in the carols, which will be livestreamed from the grounds of St John's Church.  
Register: [stjohndc.org.au/christmas](http://stjohndc.org.au/christmas)

## Christmas candle workshop

Friday 10 December, 7pm, Online

Brought to you by Christmas Hills Primary School, limited places are available for this candle workshop. Call 9730 1238.

## Apollo Parkways Roving Carols

Sunday 12 December  
From 11am

Civic Drive Playspace, Greensborough  
Enjoy the roving entertainment and a visit from Santa.

## Diamond Valley Gift Appeal

Until 24 December

Diamond Valley Community Support will be providing gifts to vulnerable community members. To support this program contact DVCS on 9435 8282.



## Light Up Pantan Hill

Saturday 18 December to  
Saturday 1 January

Visit Pantan Hill as they light up the town.

## "Head-in-the-hole" project

Friends of Edible Hub Community Garden  
Hurstbridge Community Hub

50 Graysharps Road  
Until 30 December

Visit the garden and become a character in the bush-themed head-in-the-hole scene.  
[shifftinc.org.au/what-we-do/workshops-events](http://shifftinc.org.au/what-we-do/workshops-events)

## Preschool Christmas Cards

Until 24 December

Children at Hohnes Road Playhouse will be making Christmas cards for older residents. Look for the artworks at [honesroadplayhouse.com.au](http://honesroadplayhouse.com.au)

## Refugee hampers

Welcome to Eltham is creating hampers for Nillumbik's refugee community.  
Donations: [welcometoeltham@gmail.com](mailto:welcometoeltham@gmail.com)

## Christmas appeal

United Minds Community Services will provide locally sourced hampers to vulnerable community members.

# What's on this summer



Cr Peter Perkins with the 2021 Australia Day Award recipients.

## Australia Day in Nillumbik

We look forward to acknowledging the extraordinary contributions of some of our incredible citizens when we present our Nillumbik Australia Day Awards on 26 January.

Awards will be presented for Young Citizen of the Year (aged 12-25), Senior Citizen of the Year (aged 60+), Volunteer of the Year, and Community Group of the Year.

The recipient with the highest overall score from the judging process will be named Citizen of the Year.

The awards will be presented on 26 January 2022.

Event details will be available on our website in January.

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

## Barista training for teens

Council's Youth team has partnered with Living & Learning Nillumbik to present the next round of Barista Basics, a one-day training course teaching hands-on experience in the safe operation of a commercial coffee machine.

Aimed at teens, the course will teach participants how to prepare and make a range of coffee types. Important skills such as customer service and team work will be covered.

The course is open to those aged 15-18 and is suited to anyone looking to a hospitality course at TAFE, or keen to work in a café or restaurant.

Fee and enrolment details: [livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au/barista-basics](http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au/barista-basics)



## Upcoming training sessions include:

- 📍 **Wednesday 12 January**  
Eltham Living & Learning Centre (15-18 years only)
- 📍 **Wednesday 19 January**  
Panton Hill Living & Learning Centre (15-18 years only)





PICTURE: Nick Bean

## Watch out for wildlife

One of the benefits of living in Nillumbik is being so close to nature. However, when out driving, it's important to keep a lookout for wildlife, which can cross our roads at any time.

Slowing down between dusk and dawn helps. But if you do hit an animal, or find one that is injured, there are groups who can help.

### Wildlife Victoria

8400 7300  
[wildlifevictoria.org.au/wildlife-information/report-a-wildlife-emergency/](http://wildlifevictoria.org.au/wildlife-information/report-a-wildlife-emergency/)

### Wildlife Rescuers

0417 506 941

### Help for Wildlife

0477 555 611

### Rescue Rehabilitate Release

0422 969 703

### Second Chance Wildlife (Doreen)

0430 223 833

### Stringybark Wildlife Shelter (Kangaroo Ground)

0414 863 752

### Nillumbik Shire Council

9433 3111

After hours service:

9433 3334

# A lifeline for rare orchid

The endangered Rosella Spider-orchid population has received a boost with 200 of the species planted across the Panton Hill bushland reserves.

The mass planting by the Threatened Orchid Recovery Team effectively doubled the population of Rosella Spider-orchids in the wild.

Prior to this, it was estimated that only 150-200 of the orchids were growing in the wild. Since the orchid is considered extinct throughout other parts of Victoria, the entire remaining population is in Nillumbik.

Due to the decline of the species, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) secured threatened species Urgent Actions funding to allow the plants to be grown externally by the Royal Botanic Gardens. It takes three to four years before they are ready to be planted.

The orchid's population has been affected by habitat clearance, rabbit grazing, birds and millipede predation, and grassy weeds. The hope is that the population will become self-sustaining and any "new recruits" will equal or exceed the original number of plants.

The Threatened Orchid Recovery Team of 12 was established in 2016 and comprises members from Council; Parks Victoria Warrandyte and Plenty Gorge; DELWP; Royal Botanic Gardens and the Australasian Native Orchid Society, volunteers, and a private landowner.



The orchid being planted in Nillumbik (above) and (right) a close-up of the flower.

## Snake safety

Snakes are part of the Nillumbik landscape, and a protected species.

Now the warmer weather is here, keep an eye out for snakes when you're out and about. It's also a good time to ensure your garden is well maintained to help discourage snakes from entering your property.

If you are working in the garden, make sure you wear gloves and footwear and avoid nooks where snakes may hide.

If you come across a snake, calmly walk away and contact a snake catcher to remove it. Council does not provide a snake catching service for snakes found on private property.



An eastern brown snake.

To find a local snake handler visit [snakecatchers.com](http://snakecatchers.com)

To find out what to do if you spot a snake on Council-owned land or one of Nillumbik's trails visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/snakes](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/snakes)





Images of a brush-tailed phascogale, superb lyrebird, short-beaked echidna and red fox captured in Nillumbik's forests.

# Cameras capture secret life of Nillumbik's forests

A unique forest health monitoring project has found an increase in the number of native animals in the Shire, a key indication of healthy forests.

Since 2017, Council has been working with Nillumbik Landcare Network to monitor the health of Nillumbik's forests.

Motion-sensing cameras and automated audio recorders were deployed across ten wet and 20 dry forest sites, located on public and private land across the Shire.

The range of species documented in the project enrich the understanding of forest health across forest assets within Nillumbik. This information can be used to better protect and preserve these important habitats.

A total of 2897 hours of audio and 46,871 images has been collected to date, with 19,363 of the captured images containing identifiable animals. Camera data confirms that native mammals and birds are found throughout Nillumbik, with the diversity

of native animal species increasing from 2017 to 2020. The number of sites where non-native animals were detected declined over time.

The data indicates that the greatest diversity of native mammals and birds are found within the Hurstbridge, Arthurs Creek, Bend of Islands and Nutfield sites. However, these sites also had the greatest detections of red fox and European rabbits.

Analysis of the acoustic data is underway, with detections so far completed for white-throated nightjars, sacred kingfishers and eastern whipbirds.

Council has recently begun data collection for a fifth year and is exploring opportunities to expand this biodiversity monitoring as a long-term project.

## Council joins nappy study

Nillumbik Shire Council has joined 11 other councils to research and understand how to implement a best-practice reusable nappy program to reduce waste to landfill.

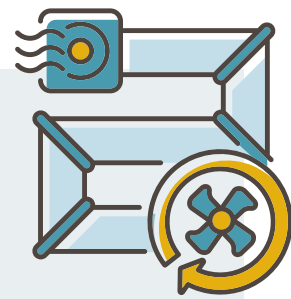
The Best Practice Reusable Nappy Program – Feasibility Study, led by Monash Council, has been awarded up to \$80,000 from Sustainability Victoria, through the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria Councils Fund.

Disposable nappies are becoming one of the most significant waste issues, comprising 5 to 15 per cent of waste

in household bins. About two billion disposable nappies end up in landfill each year in Australia and it can take up to 500 years for nappies to break down.

The feasibility study will engage with parents to understand current barriers to using reusable nappies and will benchmark existing programs of other councils.

The study will recommend a best-practice model to achieve waste reduction, assist and support parents, increase the circular economy and create behaviour change.



## Keep your cool

**When installing a new reverse cycle air conditioner, it is important to consider the impact of the noise of your system on your neighbours.**

So before you have a system installed, identify where your neighbours bedrooms are and avoid these areas. Ensure you only use your system during permitted times and turn it off at 11pm.

To find out more, download the EPA's guide to buying and operating an air conditioner at [epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1176-1](http://epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1176-1), or call Council's Environmental Health team on 9433 3340.

**Did you know you can use your reverse cycle / split system air conditioner to heat your home as well as to cool it, and that you'll save energy costs and reduce carbon emissions at the same time?**

Council's community energy action partners can help you reduce your energy use and switch to renewable options.

Visit Clean Energy Nillumbik to find out about their Bulk Purchase Reverse Cycle Program at [cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/bulk-purchase](http://cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/bulk-purchase)

Contact Australian Energy Foundation to book a free consultation [aef.com.au/bookings](http://aef.com.au/bookings) or call on 1300 23 68 55.

Download their free guide on air conditioners: [aef.com.au/air-conditioner-guide/](http://aef.com.au/air-conditioner-guide/)



## PROJECT UPDATES

### Draft Local Law

**Feedback on the Draft Nillumbik Local Law is open until Sunday 5 December.**

This follows a review of Council's local laws and initial consultation earlier this year. There will be further opportunity to provide input in early 2022.

[participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/local-laws](https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/local-laws)



### Plan for pets

**Council has adopted the new Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2021-25 after receiving more than 800 submissions.**

The four-year plan refers to the management of cats and dogs and covers topics ranging from microchipping through to dog attacks.

[participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/damp](https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/damp)

### Climate action

**Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on our draft Climate Action Plan.**

Community members are now invited to make a verbal submission to Council in February.

[participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/climate-action](https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/climate-action)

### Planning strategy

**Council is now considering the feedback received for a new Municipal Planning Strategy that will guide future land use and development in the Shire.**

Verbal submissions will be heard next year and a draft of the updated MPS will be released for further consultation.

[participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/MPS](https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/MPS)

# Solar farm leads the charge

Concept designs for the first stage of the solar farm at the former Plenty landfill site have been released.

The 1.5MW first stage, next to Council's Recycling Centre at 290 Yan Yean Road, will be large enough to supply renewable energy to power all of Council's corporate facilities including the Civic Centre, and street lighting, delivering significant environment benefits to our community. The solar farm will also power electric vehicle charging stations.

The facility will consist of more than 3300 solar panels, which will generate about 2200MW/h of renewable energy each year and equal to powering more than 400 homes or 44,000 electric vehicles. It is anticipated to reduce carbon emissions by 2400 tonnes a year.

Council has entered into a partnership with renewable energy project company LMS Energy, who are designing and constructing the solar farm. LMS Energy will be responsible for the cost of developing, operating and maintaining the solar farm and will lease the site from Council.

Construction is estimated to start mid-2022 and the site can accommodate an expansion of the solar farm up to 5MW as demand grows.

To see the concept designs and for more details go to [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/solar-farm](https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/solar-farm)



An image of what the solar farm in Plenty could look like when completed.

## Eltham Area Community Hospital

Council has voted against the sale of parkland at Civic Drive Greensborough to the Victorian Government as the site for a proposed community hospital.

The land had been identified by the Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA) as a possible location for the Government's proposed Eltham Area Community Hospital.

The decision follows a consultation process in which a majority of the 1070 respondents opposed to any sale of the land.

Among the main reasons given by respondents were traffic, parking, loss of public open space, and public transport accessibility.



The proposed site in Civic Drive, Greensborough.

Council remains supportive of a community hospital being built in the Eltham area, but it must be located in a major Activity Centre in accordance with state and local planning guidelines.



Stay informed! Sign up to Participate Nillumbik at [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)







One of the five bridges is installed along the Diamond Creek Trail extension between Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge.

## We're bridging the gap on the Diamond Creek Trail

The final section of the extension is closer to completion.

We're anticipating the 3km section from Wattle Glen to Hurstbridge will be ready to officially open in early 2022.

Despite another difficult year of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, work on the extension of the trail from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge has been able to continue. Over the past few months construction work has focussed on the completion of the concrete trails and the design and assembly of the five bridges.

Subject to wet weather conditions easing, we hope to provide access to some completed sections of the trail soon. However, please be aware there is still some work to do applying the finishing

touches to the trail before it is finally ready to be officially opened next year. Once complete, the entire extension of the shared trail for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders will run 5.5km from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge.

The works have been funded by Council and the Victorian Government through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and VicRoads.

It's been a project many years in the making and one that wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of our community including the Regional Trails Advisory Group and Trailblazers Inc.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/diamond-creek-trail](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/diamond-creek-trail)

## Green light for traffic project

The \$5 million Eltham Urban Congestion Fund project has been approved, with works set to start in March.


The project has undergone a number of modifications to address issues identified during consultation in which almost 900 contributions were received.

Funded through the Federal Government's Urban Congestion Fund, the project includes traffic and transport initiatives to make the Eltham Activity Centre more pedestrian-friendly and connected, while reducing congestion.

Key outcomes of the project include:

- Abandoning plans for a 24/7 40kmh Main Road speed limit
- Adopting the underground power line option for the Main Road shared-use path
- Abandoning the proposal to make Cecil Street entry only from Main Road
- Retaining the roundabout at the intersection of Bible and Arthur streets
- Abandoning plans for a raised platform intersection at Bible and Cecil streets.

Council will also initiate discussions with St Vincent's Health and VicTrack regarding a longer-term option for the "missing link" of the Diamond Creek Trail.

 Stay up-to-date at [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/congestion-busting](http://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/congestion-busting)

The planned shared-use path on Main Road, Eltham.

## Park gets fur-ther ahead



Get your canine friends ready. Construction of the new Eltham North Dog Park is in its final stages.

The park in Dansey's Paddock, Wattletree Road, will feature a main off-leash area for dogs as well as a smaller quiet dog area. There's new car parking, and a footpath that links to the Eltham North Adventure Playground and Diamond Creek Trail.

The park has been funded with a \$275,000 grant through the Victorian Government's Local Parks Program.

[participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/dog-park](http://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/dog-park)

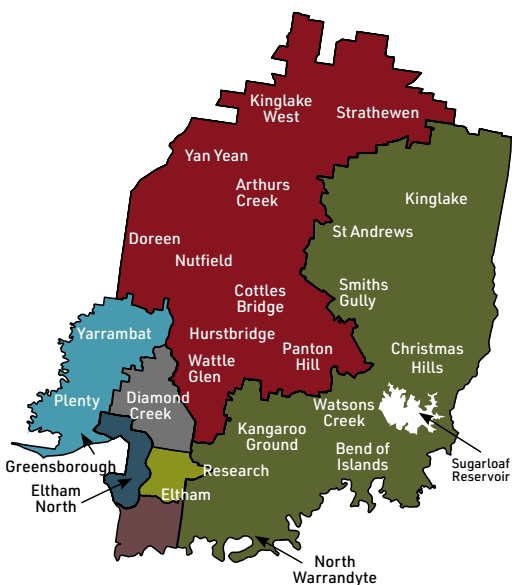




## YOUR COUNCILLORS

### 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

To find out which ward you live in, go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/my-neighbourhood](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/my-neighbourhood)



**Cr Richard Stockman**  
Blue Lake Ward

☎ 0438 143 678  
✉ [richard.stockman@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.stockman@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

As we approach the end of the year I'd like to thank everyone who has engaged with me in 2021.

Blue Lake is a big ward and there has been plenty going on the past 12 months. I've had some in-depth conversations with many of you, about projects ranging from the Eltham Area Community Hospital, to the future use of the old Plenty Fire Station.

Council voted against the sale of parkland at Civic Drive for the proposed hospital in October. We will be considering the future use of the old Plenty Fire Station at our December Council Meeting.

It's great to see the Diamond Valley Library back open – the \$1.6 million upgrade is looking fantastic.

Thanks to all those who have contacted me about the Aqueduct Trail. How amazing would it be to link the \$20 million Plenty River Trail to the \$16 million Diamond Creek Trail, and the Yan Yean Road Trail.

Our neighbours at Whittlesea and Banyule will benefit, but it would be residents of Research, Eltham, Eltham North, Plenty, Yarrambat, Greensborough and Diamond Creek that would benefit the most.

A continuation of the trail in the future could see it link through our rural areas to the Yarra Valley Trail.



**Cr Karen Egan**  
Bunjil Ward

☎ 0438 341 595  
✉ [karen.egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:karen.egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Plan Project. Many important and connected issues and opportunities were raised (e.g. the difficulty for pedestrians in moving between the Diamond Creek Trail and Peppers Paddock). The draft plan is scheduled for public engagement in 2022. You can register your interest for updates on Council's Participate Nillumbik website.

The Hurstbridge Community Multi-Use Facility upgrade is proceeding well. In November the plastering, roof and ramp/stair access at the front of the pavilion was completed. Construction is due for completion in early 2022.

The Hurstbridge Skate Park is now open, and the completion of the Diamond Creek Trail extension – 2.5km from Wattle Glen to Hurstbridge – is due early in the New Year.

Also in Hurstbridge, the ANZAC Memorial Park playground is open, and the children are loving it. On 11 November the Lone Pine was re-planted and acknowledged at the Remembrance Day service.

Lastly, the fire season is upon us. Please register burns in the rural areas, and clean up gutters, clutter next to your house, and keep your grass under control. Have a safe and happy summer.



**Cr Natalie Duffy**  
Edendale Ward

☎ 0466 043 493  
✉ [natalie.duffy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:natalie.duffy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

There is a sense of excitement as families, friends, schools, clubs and community groups reconnect in person after the lifting of lockdown. Well done everyone!

The State Government is helping Council assist local businesses with outdoor activations. This summer let's shop in our Shire and buy from our local businesses, artists and authors.

A shout out to:

- Our schools, preschools, teachers, students and parents
- Our GP clinics, health workers, pharmacies and in-home carers
- Local support group 'Help 3095 and Surrounds' for your letters to Year 12 students
- Eltham Rotary and Friends of Edendale for your environmental projects.

A year ago, you elected me as your Council representative. Putting community at the heart of Council remains my focus. Behind the scenes: the Adventure Playground has a new shade sail, footpaths have been getting attention at Nerreman Gateway, Eltham, and Diamond Creek Road, Plenty. Drainage work is happening in Ornsay Crescent, Diamond Creek. Contact me if you'd like tree plantings in your street.

Have a super summer, Natalie.





**Cr Peter Perkins**  
Ellis Ward

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

Thanks for your support during my term as Mayor this year – we’ve had many significant achievements.

Council has received a Sports and Recreation Victoria grant to upgrade the lighting at Coventry Oval, providing opportunities for evening matches and training.

Marngrook Oval will soon get a new electronic scoreboard, thanks to a Local Sports Infrastructure grant – a huge improvement.

I’m looking forward to welcoming the community back to the \$5.1 million Diamond Creek netball facility once the surface and lighting upgrade is finished next year.

The Diamond Creek Trail extension is tracking well and you will soon start to see sections opening for use.

Footpaths and indented car parking spaces have been completed on Elizabeth Street near Coventry Oval. We’ve completed a new footpath from Collard Drive to the Black Gully Road bus stop.

We’re starting on a masterplan for community facilities in Diamond Creek including recreation and community precincts and buildings.

In the lead up to Christmas, Council is supporting a great line-up of community activities and I encourage you to shop local for all your festive needs as well as trades and services.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.



**Cr Ben Ramcharan**  
Sugarloaf Ward

☎ 0476 175 359  
✉ ben.ramcharan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

As we come to the end of a tumultuous two-year period, I hope everyone is taking an opportunity to relax and recharge over the holidays.

Thank you to everyone who made comments on our Draft Climate Action Plan. The new plan will help us take the strong action that is needed and I’m looking forward to finalising it early next year.

Our Local Law review is well underway and it’s exciting to see new proposed laws to protect our tree canopy in urban areas and laws to protect amenity and wildlife.

In the coming year, I’m looking forward to commencing a range of council projects, including a plan to support sports such as BMX, a neighbourhood character assessment to help protect what we love about where we live and an access, equity and inclusion policy to make council services accessible to everyone in our community.

Projects are happening across Sugarloaf Ward, with new toilets in Research, footpath and drainage work in North Warrandyte, a new management plan for Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park and wayfinding signage in St Andrews.

Let’s look to next year with a sense of optimism and hope.

Council has a lot to do to support the community to recover as life finally starts to get back to normal. There’s a lot we can achieve and I know we can do it together.



**Cr Frances Eyre**  
Swipers Gully Ward

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

It’s December and the festive season is here – I can’t believe that 2021 is almost at an end.

After such a tough period for our community, I hope that you have a chance to have a break, spend time with your loved ones, and enjoy all our Shire has to offer.

I encourage you to shop and eat local to support our hardworking local traders. If you’re on the hunt for the perfect Christmas gift, look no further than the wonderful range of small businesses across the Shire.

My advocacy on several local projects continues, including efforts to secure a safe pedestrian and cyclist crossing over the train line at Allendale Road, and for a major upgrade of the Eltham Woods Family Centre that will deliver a modern, fit-for-purpose facility that meets our community’s needs.

MRPV’s traffic works at Leane Drive are pretty much complete, with power for the lights switching from a generator to mains in December. This will make a real difference for the many residents who drive, cycle and walk there, and enable a safe crossing over Main Road.

Down the road, the replacement of the Research toilets is about to commence, and they will be a great improvement for the area.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year; here’s to a brighter year for all of us in 2022.



**Cr Geoff Paine**  
Wingrove Ward

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

With restrictions eased and that summer feeling in the air, many of us continue to rediscover the art of the picnic – I’ve never seen Eltham Lower Park so busy.

Various Council plans have been released including the Community Vision and Council Plan, so thanks to all who submitted their ideas. It’s time consuming, but gives us the feedback we need to make sure we’re listening and planning for the future.

And a little bit of our past is about to reopen – the Eltham Court House renovation has been completed.

Christmas is close, so remember to shop locally when you can and that we still need to be patient with each other and the various rules around apps, masks and vaccine certificates. Keep an eye out for the fun festive activities calendar.

In terms of construction, designs for the Eltham Skate Park have now been finalised, with work due to start in February next year. The Eltham Urban Congestion Fund has been endorsed, with those works slated to start in March.

Bear with us as we work through the big decisions before us – we are genuinely looking for the best outcome for the entire community. Whatever your plans are for the festive season, stay safe and here’s looking forward to freedoms, finer weather and a better 2022.



## Place making in rural Nillumbik

Are you a passionate community member in rural Nillumbik who has a creative idea for activating a public space?

Two successful Council programs are joining forces in 2022 to support our rural communities with their bushfire preparedness initiatives.

Communities First and Nillumbik PlaceShapers will combine in a unique program to assist community members develop placemaking projects that focus on community preparedness and resilience.

The projects will help our rural communities respond to and recover from bushfires and other emergencies.

Participants will complete an eight-week program that explores:

- Placemaking in Nillumbik
- Project visioning
- The process for community and Council co-designing projects
- Planning for project action
- Grant writing opportunities.



### Save the date

Join us for an information session to discuss your ideas:

**Tuesday 8 March 2022**  
from 7pm  
Hurstbridge Hub

Register your interest in the project by emailing [place@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:place@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or go to our website [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/place-shapers](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/place-shapers) to find out more.

# Time to get bushfire ready

Summer is here, and if you haven't already, it's important to prepare for the possibility of bushfire and have a plan for emergencies.

## Prepare your property

Ensure you clean up around your property. Fine fuels can have a huge impact on fire intensity and spread.

- Keep grass length below 10cm
- Remove, thin and distance bushes close to your home
- Trim overhanging branches
- Remove leaves, twigs or branches from the ground
- Clear gutters
- Create and maintain a firebreak.

Remember, removal of certain vegetation including trees may require a planning permit.

Our Fire Prevention Officers have been inspecting properties across the Shire to identify those that may be a fire hazard.

So far more than 8000 properties have been inspected with 256 Fire Prevention Notices issued. Properties will continue to be inspected until the end of the Fire Danger Period. In pleasing news, officers have

reported most properties are well prepared for the coming fire season.

## Have a plan

Don't leave decisions to the last minute. Plan now for an emergency.

Things to consider:

- What will you take?
- Where will you go?
- Which route will you take to get there (including a Plan B)?
- How do you support people with additional needs?
- What about your pets and other animals?

## What is your trigger to leave?

Most importantly, know when you are going to leave, and don't leave it too late. Everyone's trigger to leave will be different but leaving early is always your safest choice.



We've produced a series of videos to assist with your preparation for bushfire. We also have a range of other resources on our website. Go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/prepare-for-fire](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/prepare-for-fire)



Removing woody weeds such as blackberry is an important part of bushfire preparation.

## Weeding out blackberries

It's a prickly problem for landowners, and now Council has released a series of videos to assist in the control of blackberry, a common weed found throughout Nillumbik.

Summer is the best time to control blackberry, when the plants are actively growing.

Controlling blackberry is also an important part of preparing your property for bushfire.

To view the video and for other useful resources, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/blackberry](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/blackberry)



## COMMUNITIES FIRST

### Grants to help prepare

Council has been funded through the Victorian Government 'Safer Together' initiative to support community-led bushfire preparedness.

Local organisations and community groups can apply for a Community Bushfire Preparedness and Resilience Grant of up to \$2000 to deliver projects that help communities prepare for bushfires and bounce back from emergencies. Apply at: [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/communities-first](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/communities-first)

### Must-see summer TV

A webinar series about preparing bushfire is now available to view online.

Produced by Bushfire Resilience Inc (BRI), the webinars include:

- Reducing your house and property risk
- Getting water ready: tanks, pumps and sprinklers
- Your physical and emotional preparation
- Triggers to take action.

Council supported the project with a Community Bushfire Preparedness and Resilience Grant.

Max Garner from BRI said there were 10 videos to view online from 2020 and 2021.

"The series featured high viewer numbers, strong audience engagement and feedback," he said.

Watch the recordings at [bushfireresilience.org.au](http://bushfireresilience.org.au)



# Warnings and updates



## Stay informed checklist

Download **VicEmergency** app allow push notifications for warnings, Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans if you have a smartphone

Visit and save **emergency.vic.gov.au** to your favourites

Connect with **VicEmergency** at @**VicEmergency** and **facebook.com/vicemergency**

Connect with **CFA** at @**CFA\_Updates** and **facebook.com/cfavic**

Download **Bureau Of Meteorology Weather** app

Subscribe to heat health alerts **health.vic.gov.au/environment-health/heat-health-alert-status**

Pre tune your emergency broadcast radio station **Plenty Valley 88.6FM, ABC** local radio, commercial and designated radio stations or **Sky News TV**

**Save important contact numbers in your mobile**, include your family, friends and neighbours

Save **VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226** in your mobile

Save the **Nurse on Call Hotline 1300 60 60 24** in your mobile

Visit and save the **tisnational.gov.au** website to your favourites

### Warnings

Warnings are issued when a fire has started and you need to take action. It's your responsibility to understand the different types of warnings and how to access them.

You should never wait to receive an official warning before you leave.

Bushfires can start, spread and become uncontrollable quickly.

### Levels of warnings

There are three different levels of warnings - **Advice, Watch and Act** and **Emergency Warning**.

Don't expect warnings to be issued in any particular order. The first warning issued could even be an **Emergency Warning**.



#### ADVICE

An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.



#### WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)

An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.

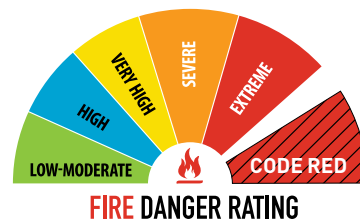


#### EMERGENCY WARNING

You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted.

## Know your daily Fire Danger Rating

The Fire Danger Rating predicts fire behaviour (should a fire start) and how dangerous it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire season.



### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



These are the worst conditions for a bush or grassfire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high-risk bushfire areas.



Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions. Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.



Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable. Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.



If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety.



Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk.



Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe - check to see if permits or conditions apply.

# Make your plan for emergency and extreme weather

## Stay informed - stay safe

This information aims to help you prepare and make good decisions for yourself, family, pets and livestock in the lead up and during an emergency or extreme weather.

### Prepare your property now



#### Maintain your garden

Keep grass cut to less than 10cm and cut back branches, remove leaves and twigs



#### Tidy your backyard

Store flammable liquids and woodpiles away from house



#### Remove flammable objects from around your house

Including mats and outdoor furniture

### Plan 4 days ahead



#### Weather forecast and Fire Danger Rating

Turn over for suggested sources



#### Heat Health alerts

Visit the [dhhs.vic.gov.au](http://dhhs.vic.gov.au) website



#### Know local conditions

Have a plan for heat and fire high-risk days



#### Have at least 2 sources for info and warnings

Turn over for suggested sources

### Who to care for and plan for?



#### School-aged children

Know the school plan and school bus plan and closure on high-risk days



#### Elderly and vulnerable family members

Where and who will provide care on heat and fire high-risk days



#### Animals

Plan for pets and livestock. Visit the [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) website for information on how to prepare



#### Yourself

Caring for yourself is essential to be able to assist others

### Circumstances to factor into your plan



#### Power outages



#### Road closures



#### Loss of mobile phone coverage



**Nillumbik**

The Green Wedge Shire

## Holiday opening hours

### Council offices

The Customer Service desk at the Civic Centre will close on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December at 1pm and reopen on Tuesday 4 January at 9am. However our call centre – while closed public holidays – will be available to speak with you during this period.

As always, our website is available 24/7 at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

### Customer Service call centre – 9433 3111

The Customer Call Centre will remain open between 8.30am-5pm, Monday to Friday except:

- **Christmas Eve**  
Friday 24 December – Closed 1pm-5pm
- **Christmas Day public holiday**  
Monday 27 December – Closed
- **Boxing Day public holiday**  
Tuesday 28 December – Closed
- **New Year's Eve**  
Friday 31 December – Closed 1pm-5pm
- **New Year's Day public holiday**  
Monday 3 January – Closed
- **Australia Day**  
Wednesday 26 January – Closed

### Recycling Centre

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty  
Normal opening hours – 8am-4pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays

### Edendale Community Environment Farm

Gastons Road, Eltham  
Open every day except Christmas Day

### Living & Learning Nillumbik

Eltham, Diamond Creek and Panton Hill  
Closed from 1pm, Friday 17 December 2021 to Tuesday 11 January 2022