

Summer 2018-2019 • DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

Nillumbik

NEWS



living & learning
nillumbik

ACTIVITY GUIDE
JANUARY-JUNE 2019

16-page centre fold out

Merry Christmas

Spirit of giving

From increasing awareness about methods of communicating without speaking, to holding Christmas carols and a BBQ for a men's group, there's a whole lot of goodwill being spread around the Shire thanks to Council's inaugural Goodwill Grants.

Grants of up to \$1500 each went to:




- provide entertainment and food for the More to Say Communication Project at Diamond Valley Development School
- buy materials to make Boomerang Bags
- provide light and sound equipment for Christmas Carols at Marngrook Oval
- an open Christmas BBQ held by Older Men New Ideas
- converting an old storage room into a wellness area at the Diamond Creek Community Centre.

Lights, Camera, Instagram


Our Instagram account is ramping up. We are now using Instagram to showcase Nillumbik's diverse range of events, activities and services and to stay connected.

We're inviting you to connect with us and share the great things that make our Shire unique.

To connect, follow us on:

-  @nillumbikcouncil
-  @nillumbikshire
-  Nillumbik Shire Council

And now Instagram:

-  @nillumbikcouncilvic

We will re-post unique and creative content across our social media accounts, so be sure to tag us and use the #Nillumbik hashtag to ensure your post is noticed.



One of the many bespoke decorations made by local artists. Photo supplied by Darcy Howe

Our bespoke Christmas

Christmas is being celebrated in the Shire this year with community-driven events and bespoke nature-inspired decorations.

We have provided funds to traders' associations to get grassroots-inspired festivities in place, as well as enabling residents to share in all the decorations and good cheer.

Mayor Karen Egan said acting on feedback, Council decided to let the community steer how the festive season would be celebrated this year.

"Bespoke decorations will be made from locally sourced materials as well as recycled products such as metals and grapevines, all made by local artists and children. Our message this Christmas is celebrate local, shop local," Cr Egan said.

Eltham Town Square and Main Street are decorated with metal reindeer sculptures and metal Christmas trees with timber-etched discs reflecting the area, including the Eltham Copper Butterfly and

endangered orchids. Other attractions include a children's magic garden starring six elves and a miniature train display, and shop windows festooned with art created by local children at the Eltham Festival.

A total of 23 schools, pre-schools, groups and clubs in Diamond Creek received an almost two-metre tall wooden tree to decorate. There's the visit from Santa, as well as Santa sitting on the back of a CFA truck.

Christmas at Hurstbridge will see bunting and decorations including little lanterns made by local artists along Main Street and a giant Christmas lantern in Anzac Park. Other highlights include a bush nativity scene in front of the Uniting Church.

Check out Council's Facebook and website for details.

Santa is coming to Eltham Town

Sensitive Santa is back this month, offering children the opportunity to meet and have their photo taken in a sensory-friendly environment.

healthAbility's Sensitive Santa program is designed primarily for children on the autism spectrum. It gives children access to a specially trained Santa in a calm environment free of crowds and other distractions.

To ensure Sensitive Santa is tailored to suit each child's individual needs, families

can book a private 20 minute session on Tuesday 4, Thursday 6 and Saturday 8 December at trybooking.com/433072

For more information, please contact Joanna Friedl at healthAbility on 9430 9100 or via email enquiries@healthability.org.au

Council is working for business

Nillumbik businesses are set to benefit from a range of activities currently being developed or on the drawing board.

Here is a little snippet:

- We have just recently announced a new partnership with Yarra Ranges Tourism
- Our business database is growing strong – if you are not receiving our monthly business eNews please sign up at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/business
- Stay tuned as we start the new Economic Development Strategy and Equine Industry Activity Plan. There will be ample opportunities for your participation so get your thinking caps on
- We are in the process of creating Melbourne's North Investment Attractions Plan via our Northlink membership
- We are working on a new Business Kit, which aims to make it easier for all businesses to navigate Council processes, permits and advice
- We have also finished our festivals and events audit and are now

getting ready to announce our new permit process and centralised grant funding program. To assist our key events and festivals we are also building a toolkit so event organisers are better able to run safe and compliant activities

- We have ramped up our support of the agribusiness sector with an increased focus on funding and management of Open Farm Day and are gaining some good traction on identifying funding programs to support local economic development.

Mayor Karen Egan said the uplift in programs that we are now seeing is a result of the increased focus Council has placed on supporting business and growing the local economy.

"I encourage you to get in touch with one of the team to discuss your business development needs and/or ideas," Cr Egan said.

Working together to rebuild the Eltham North Playground

Work is almost complete on the rebuild of the much-loved Eltham North Adventure Playground, just in time for the school holidays.

Since August the community has been eagerly watching the structure take shape. In November, we celebrated a significant milestone in the build with a Topping Out ceremony. This ceremony is an ancient tradition celebrated around the world to signify reaching a structural milestone. We celebrated the roof going onto the playground by attaching a wreath, decorated by local children to the new playground roof.

The community has come together again recently to help landscape the area around the playground, with improvements to garden beds and around the dry creek riverbed.

We want to thank everyone who has donated their time and energy to this project and to the Eltham & District Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank, the Victorian State Government and local community groups for their financial contributions.

There will be an official opening of the new playground when the build is finished at Christmas, with further community landscaping days in 2019. Check our Facebook page for details of the opening event.



Local children decorating the wreath at our Topping Out ceremony



from the Mayor

Welcome to the summer edition of *Nillumbik News*.

I'm honoured to have recently been elected Mayor. When first elected in 2016, Councillors set an ambitious target with our Council Plan and we are now well on our way to delivering on the numerous projects across our Shire. The back page of Nillumbik News outlines this in more detail. Given I'm the first Burjil Ward councillor elected as Mayor, I look forward to a putting a renewed focus back on our rural residents.

Thank you to Cr Peter Clarke for the past two years he has dedicated to the Shire as Mayor. We thank Peter for his hard work and commitment to Nillumbik and his focus on getting the Council back on track – reducing the rates burden on families, paying off inherited debt and setting a benchmark for delivering programs across roads and footpaths, sporting and community infrastructure and a commonsense approach to the day-to-day delivery of Council's services.

In October we welcomed the Shire's new CEO Carl Cowie. Carl comes to Nillumbik following three years at Mornington Peninsula Shire Council – another green wedge shire, and an impressive corporate sector resume. Carl's focus is on improving customer service and the way you interact with Council, along with the roll out of many eagerly awaited infrastructure projects.

On a sombre note, February marks 10 years since the devastation caused by Australia's worst natural disaster – the Black Saturday bushfires. Our Shire, our State and our Nation will pause to reflect and remember the innocent lives lost in this tragedy, many of whom were family and friends to us.

I look forward to the coming year and continuing to deliver for our great Shire.

Mayor, Cr Karen Egan

Picking projects

Congratulations to those involved in the following Nillumbik projects which were awarded State Government Pick My Project funding: the **Eltham North Adventure Playground community landscaping project**, the **Plenty Gorge Park Mountain Bike Trail Program** and upgrades and improvements to the **Diamond Creek Trail**.

Pick My Project is a state government community grants program that gives Victorian communities the chance to apply for funding for ideas that make their community an even better place to live. The broader community then votes on the projects it believes should be awarded funding.



Nominate now

Australia Day Awards

Do you know a role model who has contributed to the Nillumbik community and demonstrated excellence in their field? If so we'd love you to nominate them for an Australia Day Award.

It's a wonderful way to acknowledge the work and dedication of those who live, work or volunteer in the Shire.

Nominations are open in the following categories:

- Young Citizen of the Year
- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year

To nominate, go to

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ausday or visit the Civic Centre. Hurry, nominations close 5pm on Monday 10 December.

Award winners will be announced at the Nillumbik Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony on Saturday 26 January 2019.

Proposals to revitalise Eltham's historic heart reach next stage

Council's aim to revitalise the sites at 895 and 903-907 Main Road, Eltham, the first site being the former Eltham Shire Offices, has moved into its next phase.

The highest ranked proponents to be identified from the initial call for Expressions Of Interest issued in September this year, have now been sent what is known as a Request For Proposal (RFP), whereby they will be required to submit detailed proposals. These will determine the feasibility of Council's plans.

The former Shire Office site has stood vacant for more than 20 years, while the buildings at 903-907 Main Road were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s.

To achieve an Eltham-style, revitalised precinct, Council is considering a joint venture with the private sector that will come at no cost to ratepayers. For any proposal to be considered it must conform to Council's vision for the sites – also known as Precincts 3 and 4.

They will be judged by the following criteria:

- How the proposed development benefits the Nillumbik community
- Quality of the development design
- Provision of a community facility
- Financial return to Council, including investment in a new Pre-School and Maternal and Child Health Centre

The evaluation and shortlisting of submissions is expected to be completed by the end of the year. If the private sector is able to demonstrate a feasible project that addresses these criteria, a comprehensive community engagement process is expected to get underway in early 2019.

The community will be kept fully updated as the process is worked through.



GWMP panel day in action

Green Wedge panel

Nillumbik's inaugural Community Panel has presented its recommendations to Council for an updated Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP).

Over six sessions between August and November, panel members considered detailed technical information and listened to a range of speakers on how to best manage Nillumbik's Green Wedge now and into the future.

Council will release the revised GWMP for further community feedback in March and consider a final GWMP in mid-2019.

Mayor Karen Egan said the report will directly inform and influence the preparation of the new GWMP.

"The GWMP is an integral strategy for us as the Green Wedge covers

91 per cent of our Shire and needs to support our policies and strategies, including planning, parks and regulation, and recreation, bushfire mitigation, tourism and economic development," Cr Egan said. "This is why we committed to a thorough community engagement process that includes more opportunities for residents to have their say next year."

To learn more about the panel and see its recommendations and Council's response, visit

participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp



Above: Artist Mary-Lou Pittard helps Diamond Valley Special Development School students Cemil (left) and Rylea paint tiles for the snake mosaic (inset)

Unloved space morphs into community haven

As an early Christmas present two local schools will be holding carols concerts at the new \$1.2 million Recreational Activity Centre at Civic Drive, Greensborough.

The project has transformed two largely unused grassy areas into an open air community asset that can be enjoyed all year round by generations to come.

The southern area has been revamped into a flat open lawn area, with plants and shady trees. This is ideal for passive recreation to have a picnic on the grass or kick a ball around.

The northern area has also been transformed with a new playground including tower play and boulder climbing units; accessible swing, ropes and totem pole course; flying fox, spinner, inclusive sand play, basketball and musical play elements.

Around 1500 children from nearby schools and kinders have been busy creating a giant snake made of hand painted ceramic tiles that will weave across the playground.

The 'cookie cutters' that created the diamond shapes were made by John Armstrong of the Eltham Men's Shed. A picnic table, BBQ, shelter and drinking fountain will complete the area.

The existing outdoor performance area has been transformed into an amphitheatre with grassed terraced seating as well as a half basketball/netball



court which can be used as a stage (all you need to do is remove the hoops!).

Blue Lake ward Councillor Grant Brooker is delighted with the project.

"We've taken a largely unloved, unused area and turned it into something really special that the community can enjoy," Cr Brooker said.

The Civic Drive Community Facilities Project was made possible thanks to \$950,000 from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

Our business achievers

Two Nillumbik businesses are in the running to be recognised at the Northern Business Achievement (NBAA) Awards Grand Finale Breakfast in December, where they will compete against other regional nominees for the title of Business of the Year.

Nillumbik's nominees for the awards were announced in September and are Doreen-based flower grower Balashi Flowers and Eltham consulting business Enesys.

Balashi Flowers is a family business that has experienced significant growth in recent years. Enesys provides innovative, sustainable solutions across a range of fields like energy production, food management and automation.

Andrew Campbell of Optimal Health Lab in Eltham was awarded Nillumbik's Young Business Achiever award in September for demonstrating an outstanding attitude and contribution to his company and fellow employees.

The NBAA Awards are an initiative of Northlink, which is a partnership of industry, education, local and state government and business leaders from Melbourne's Northern Council group. It recognises business excellence, growth and innovation.

We wish our nominees the best of luck. For more information on the NBAA visit nbaa.org

Digital Agora

Six secondary school students took part in a three-day workshop with lead artist Yandell Walton during the Nillumbik Digital Agora Youth Program earlier this year.

They used digital technology to create artworks that were projected nightly in public spaces in Eltham.

In 2019 this exciting project is being expanded to include unique sites in Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Eltham.

Artworks will be commissioned by multiple Victorian artists as well as opportunities to participate in a projection art masterclass.

Artists keen to participate are asked to go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/digitalagora

Step by step

Our Maternal and Child Health Service is free for all families with children from birth to school age. The program provides 10 key age, health and development assessments with a qualified nurse. To make an appointment phone 9433 3368 or email mch@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Upgrades

Council's Playhouses in Eltham and Panton Hill are now offering the Federal Government / Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy to eligible families. The Eltham Playhouse will use \$100,000 Commonwealth Government funding over the next three years with an additional \$75,000 for a designated sleeping area for babies at its Pitt Street facility. For information call 9433 3351 or email playhouse@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

New diploma

Living & Learning Nillumbik is offering a new Diploma of Project Management (BSB51415). Students will work on real community projects as they develop the confidence, mindset, practical skills and knowledge required to effectively manage all aspects of a project from start to finish. Starting February 2019. For information contact Maggie on 9433 3742 or visit livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au



Preschools

Check out the Preschool Open Day on Saturday 23 February 2019, 10am-1pm. Participating preschools are listed on Council's website. Applications for families planning to send their child to four-year-old preschool in 2020 open on 1 March 2019. For details call 9433 3161 or email preschool@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Making a splash!

The outdoor splash park at the Eltham Leisure Centre is set to open this summer – and a heads-up, it's sure to be absolutely awesome.

This completes the \$20.2 million Aquatic Centre redevelopment and it promises to be a huge hit with families.

An expansive undercover deck will overlook the splash park, with interactive features including; frogs that spray water, spray fountains and a giant flower that cascades water onto those below. It is also zero depth making it suitable for all ages and abilities.

barbecues and picnic areas aim to encourage families to enjoy a day out, overlooking the natural environment alongside the Diamond Creek.

The aquatic precinct also hosts children's birthday parties, which is a great way for the kids to have fun and for you to come back to a clean house.



Mayor Karen Egan, Councillors Jane Ashton and Grant Brooker with staff trained to help those with a disability utilise all that's on offer at the centre

An A for accessibility

The new Eltham Leisure Centre Aquatic Precinct is making waves among those with limited mobility and special needs.

The Give it a Try Day was held in November to show exactly how accessible the centre is.

The new facility includes accessible toilet rooms with showers with seats as well as the Changing Places facility with its hoist and change table.

There are ramps leading into the warm pool, main pool, and eight-lane pool as well as the heated therapeutic pool, which is fitted with a hoist.

There is also access to the jet pool just off the main pool. Ramps can also be used by bariatric patrons.

There are even holders at all the pools where walking sticks can be stored. Both the sauna and steam rooms are wheelchair accessible.

There are special hearing loops so those with limited hearing can listen to loudspeaker announcements as well as another ramp to the splash park outside. If you haven't already, come and visit it today.



Elizabeth Vercoe, *Into the Light*, (detail) 2014, Watercolour, 300gsm arches paper

Remembering 10 years on

In recognition of the 10 year commemoration of Black Saturday, Council invites the Nillumbik community to come together for a time of *Renewal*.

In 2019, we will host a special memorial exhibition to acknowledge the 10 year commemoration of Black Saturday. The exhibition called *Renewal* will be held at the Eltham Library Community Gallery and Wadambuk Art Gallery, St Andrews from Thursday 24 January-Monday 25 February.

The exhibition will contain artworks from community members who live, work or study in Nillumbik, or have a strong connection to the community.

In addition to the exhibition, the State Government has offered Victorian Bushfire Commemoration grants of up to \$5000 each, to Nillumbik and other communities affected by the fires. These commemoration grants are intended for the community to contribute to events or activities, in remembrance of Black Saturday.

Mayor Karen Egan said Council is available in the lead up to February to receive any enquiries or personal community concerns around the day.

Bid to grow our future

The completion of the Diamond Creek Trail from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge, along with upgrades to the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre and Greensborough Hockey Club, are now in the hands of the Federal Government.

They are the three applications lodged by Council to the \$641 million Building Better Regions fund.

It's the first time Nillumbik has applied for the fund following its successful advocacy to the Federal Government requesting a change to the eligibility criteria.

Council is seeking \$4 million for the Diamond Creek Trail extension, \$10 million for court compliance upgrades to the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre and \$2 million for Greensborough Hockey Club to upgrade its pavilion. All projects already have funding from Council and the State Government.

Food and Health Registrations

Did you know that any business that manufactures or distributes products that can be consumed requires a valid Food Act Registration and any business that provides body art/care services requires a valid Public Health and Wellbeing Registration?

If your business is already registered, by now you would have received your Food Act or Public Health and Wellbeing Act registration renewal form via mail.

If you have changed any of your contact details, or need to register a new or existing business, notify our Environmental Health team on 9433 3340 or at health.services@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Christmas tree disposal

Stay on Santa's nice list and dispose of your natural Christmas tree the correct way this holiday season:



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



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

(You can also drop off any excess household recycling such as wrapping paper, cardboard, bottles and cans.)

Keeping your cool



How to keep your cool in a heatwave – and ensure your pets do too.

- Heatwaves can cause exhaustion and potentially fatal heatstroke. Phone triple zero (000) if someone needs urgent medical attention
- Never leave anyone or any animal in a hot car – they can die
- If you don't have an air conditioner, go to places that do. Turn on fans, take cool showers, drape wet towels over yourself, draw the blinds, drink more water and don't exercise in the heat
- Check on neighbours particularly if they are frail or needing assistance
- Ensure there's cool drinking water and shade for your pet at home
- Apply sunscreen – also on fair-skinned pets that can also burn

betterhealth.vic.gov.au/heat and rspca.org

Chill out for longer

Hot summer nights just got a little bit more manageable, thanks to the extension of acceptable hours for air conditioner noise.

Following a recent review of the Environmental Protection (Residential Noise) Regulations, air conditioner noise is now permitted between 7am and 11pm (previously the cut-off was 10pm).

There will be an exception to the restrictions on extremely hot days.

If there is a Heat Health Alert in effect in the Central forecast district, you can use your air conditioner without restriction.

Aged care changes

Calling all older residents and carers: there will be major changes to how aged care is delivered from July 2020.

The Federal Government is revamping aged care services across the community, many of which will be run on a competitive basis by private providers.

In response to these changes, we have consulted extensively and know and understand your concerns. Social isolation, lack of transport and difficulty in navigating the new My Aged Care system are at the top of the list.

From July 2020, Council will offer:

- Support services and programs to address social isolation and lack of transport including community-based meals
- Ongoing information and support to help you understand and access the new My Aged Care services
- Community based transport including to medical appointments for those who need access to transport particularly in our rural areas

- Regional Assessment Services (RAS) that assess individual needs and identify what you're entitled to. We'll continue to promote this until the government says otherwise.

Beyond June 2020, Council will no longer provide:

- Domestic assistance
- Respite care
- Personal care
- Delivered meals
- Home maintenance

These services will be provided to eligible clients by a provider of their choice through My Aged Care.

We will continue to work closely with you to ensure you're supported during the transition.

If you have any questions call our Community Support team on 9433 3138.

Upgrades to our favourite farm

Visitors to Edendale Community Environment Farm will soon have access to a kiosk following a major upgrade of facilities over winter.

The kiosk and raised deck has been constructed to the north of the historic Edendale homestead, complementing a new multi-purpose shelter and amenities block. Café Eden operators will be running the new kiosk which will continue to provide visitors with their delectable coffee and freshly prepared menu items.

More than 100,000 people visit the farm each year, including over 9000 school students from 79 schools and preschools across Melbourne. It is for this reason that the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund contributed \$500,000 to the redevelopment, with Nillumbik contributing the remaining \$400,000 toward these new facilities.

The recent works will increase Edendale's capacity to host visitors through all weather conditions, with two new wetland and lawn outdoor public shelters with views of gardens and a nature play space.

Additionally a large undercover toilet block and the accompanying Ironbark

shelter will offer views of the nearby Eltham North Adventure Playground.

Tours are offered for schools and private groups and can be tailored to suit people of all interests and abilities. For information and bookings visit edendale.vic.gov.au or call 9433 3711.



The new kiosk at Edendale



Council preparing for the fire season

Preparing for the fire season

Council has been preparing for this summer season, with bushfire fuel reduction plans now well under way. The Fire Danger Period for Nillumbik began on 19 November.

This has included roadside clearing, slashing and mowing, tree management and native vegetation clearing. However, it is important to understand that when conditions are Severe, Extreme and Code Red, vegetation management only plays a very small part in stopping the spread of a fire.

Council's fire prevention program has also included ensuring the maintenance of fire tracks, power line clearance, removing hazardous trees, clearing road sides, water tank maintenance and environmental works across our 32 reserves.

While we are busy with our public space it is also important for you to think about your own property and ensure it is ready by clearing long grass, stored timber and wood along with clearing gutters and drains.

As a reminder, burning off without a permit during the Fire Danger Period is an offence under the CFA Act – for more information visit cfa.vic.gov.au

To make it easier for you to reduce your fuel load, please use the free green waste vouchers on your rates notice.

CFA and Council working together

Council officers, Forest Fire Management Victoria and representatives from CFA branches throughout Nillumbik met at Yarrambat Lake in October for the 16th annual 'Working Together' exercise. The exercise provided a chance to meet and greet each other, test equipment and train new staff to draw water from a dam or lake in case of an emergency.



Fire awareness

Fire will spread quickly on hot, dry, windy days.

If the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe, you're risking your life if you don't take action. The best way to protect yourself and your family is to leave early. Know where you are going and plan your journey, allowing plenty of time for potential traffic issues.

If you are thinking of staying and defending your property, remember that experiencing a bushfire can be very traumatic. Exposing your children to this experience can lead to serious psychological harm.

Visit the CFA website for information to help prepare and protect you and your property this bushfire season.

Download the VicEmergency app on your phone for warnings and alerts around fire, flood, storms, and other emergency events.



Snake safety tips

With summer well and truly upon us, it's time to remember the do's and don'ts so you stay safe from our snake friends:

- Keep your grass cut. Clear rubbish and piles of wood, rocks, sheets of metal or building materials around your property.
- If you see a snake, stay calm and move yourself, anyone with you, and your pets away from it.
- Never try to touch, catch or hurt a snake.
- If there is a snake on your property, you can call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on 136 186 for the contact details of a licensed snake handler in the Shire. If you see a snake in a high-use Council-owned area such as a playground or sportsground, call our customer service team on 9433 3111.
- Ensure your first aid kit contains several compression bandages and you know how to apply them.
- If someone is bitten, call triple zero (000) immediately.



Mayor Councillor Karen Egan
Bunjil Ward

☎ 0408 058 899
@ Karen.Egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

It's the first time a councillor from Bunjil has been elected as Mayor and I make no apologies for putting our great rural ward front and centre.

The construction of the footpath from the Doreen Primary School to Yan Yean Road to ensure a safer walk to and from school is now complete.

New change rooms and the extension of the Wattle Glen soccer and cricket pavilion to accommodate growth, particularly in female participation, is expected to be completed early next year.

Heading into summer, Council has been busy preparing for the fire season. We've engaged Craig Lapsley, an experienced leader in emergency management, to review and strengthen Council's response to emergency management and we look forward to working with him.



Deputy Mayor Councillor Bruce Ranken
Swipers Gully Ward

☎ 0402 384 006
@ Bruce.Ranken@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

The opening of the Eltham Leisure Centre's new aquatic facilities in September was a significant moment and it was great to see this project come to fruition.

The pools are truly state-of-the-art and can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

Works are progressing on pavilions at Research and Eltham central, and Eltham North Adventure Playground is on track to be completed at Christmas.

The traffic lights I pushed so hard for are finally coming. This will make the crossing for cars and pedestrians on Main Road and Beard Street much safer.

I promised our community I would get this done and am very happy that it will be delivered.



Councillor Grant Brooker
Blue Lake Ward

☎ 0427 207 819
@ Grant.Brooker@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Join me every Saturday throughout December for a ward walk from 4pm at the Diamond Valley Library in Greensborough.

During these leisurely strolls you are invited to raise with me any Council related issues that matter to you while enjoying our upgraded public spaces including the new passive recreation space and playground.

After neglect and denial for decades, a new elevator installation at the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre will finally address some of the access issues.

As the year comes to a close, I trust the time spent with family, friends, and loved ones will be truly special as we reflect on 2018 and anticipate a new year and new possibilities ahead.



Councillor John Dumaresq
Edendale Ward

☎ 0439 556 733
@ John.Dumaresq@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

The Eltham North Adventure Playground is almost complete, ready for the busy summer holiday period. It is great to see the new car park already being put to good use. Thank you to everyone for your patience and cooperation adjusting to the new layout.

I have spent some time at Edendale Farm recently for the Practically Green Festival and the official opening of the new kiosk, both of which were a great success. I encourage you to visit and enjoy the space. Works are underway for the redevelopment of Eltham Central Pavilion, due for completion by the end of 2019.

I'm also pleased that the State Government has made a funding commitment of \$180,000 to upgrade the courts at Eltham Tennis Club.

Have a wonderful festive season and best wishes for 2019.



Councillor Peter Perkins
Ellis Ward

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@ Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

As we approach the 10 year commemoration of Black Saturday, take the time to look after yourself and each other. If you have thoughts on how Council can support commemorations across our community or the ongoing needs of affected community members, we'd like to hear from you.

The Marngrook Oval Pavilion upgrade is underway and the new cricket pitch finished. Another great facility is the recently-announced \$2.5 million regional play space – one of my long-term aims for Diamond Creek. Our parklands will also become home to a historic tram. Congratulations to Diamond Creek Rotary, the Diamond Creek Men's Shed and Josh Allen for making this happen. There'll also be upgrades to a section of the Diamond Creek Trail, thanks to Nikki Waterfall's Pick My Project winning grant submission, and we are exploring locations for the adaptive bike shed. Also check out the improvements to Station Street.

If you see a snake in a high-use area such as a playground or sportsground, call our customer service team on 9433 3111.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and 2019.



Councillor Jane Ashton
Sugarloaf Ward

☎ 0409 177 500
@ Jane.Ashton@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Community consultation has driven the Sugar Gum Tree, adjacent to the Kangaroo Ground Tennis Club Carpark, to remain intact. I am delighted to report that Council will be actively preserving the area to ensure the tree's optimal growth.

The redevelopment of the Research Park Pavilion continues to make vast improvements towards ensuring all facilities are accessible for our diverse participants.

The makeover has been designed to encourage female involvement in AFL and cricket, and will hopefully contribute to a growth in sports participation within the Shire. The expected completion date is set for June 2019.

As we enter summer, I'd like to pay my respects in acknowledgment of the 10th year since Black Saturday and urge everyone to review their fire safety plans and emergency services during this time.



Councillor Peter Clarke
Wingrove Ward

☎ 0401 100 141
@ Peter.Clarke@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Council has been busy delivering much needed social and sporting infrastructure throughout the Shire.

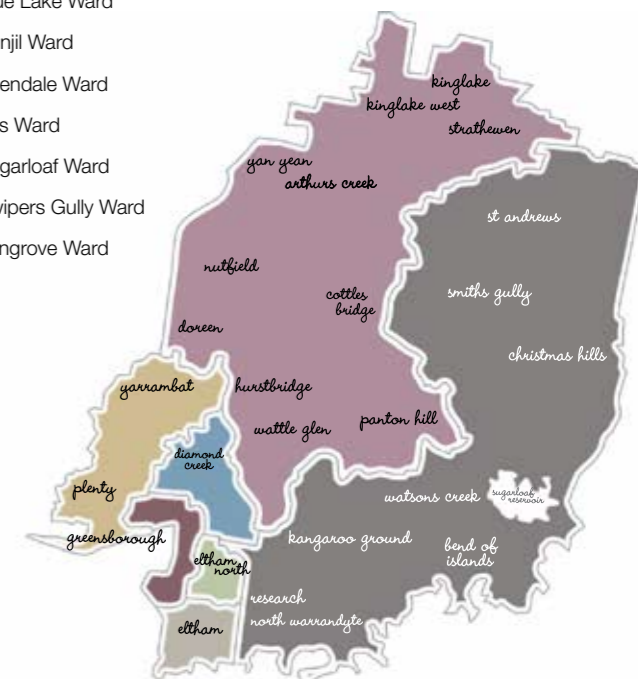
It was an honour for me to open the indoor aquatic upgrades to the Eltham Leisure Centre and turn the first sod for the new pavilion at Eltham Central Park for the Eltham Football and Cricket clubs along with U3A.

Works are also complete on the footpath upgrade on Main Road between Pitt and Brougham Streets.

We're very proud of the Shire's reputation in the Arts. I'm excited to see that the Digital Agora program that projected images on walls and buildings in Eltham will be expanded into other areas of the Shire early next year. It's a great way to showcase local talent.

KEY

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



Postal address for Council and all Councillors:

✉ Nillumbik Shire Council
PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

December EVENTS

MARKETS

St Andrews Market

Saturdays, 9am-2pm
Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road,
St Andrews
Regulars include arts and crafts,
face painting, pony rides and a great
selection of foods.
facebook.com/StAndrewsMarket

Eltham Farmers' Market

Sundays, 9am-1pm
10-18 Arthur Street, Eltham
Local stallholders sell fruit, veggies,
condiments and sweet treats.
localfoodconnect.org.au/elthamfm

Diamond Creek Twilight Market

Friday 7 December 7pm-10pm
Corner of Main Road and Elizabeth
Street, Diamond Creek
Spend the evening browsing the 60+
craft and food stalls while enjoying live
music and expect a visit from Santa
during the evening.
[diamondvalley.vic.lions.org.au/
twilightmarkets](https://diamondvalley.vic.lions.org.au/twilightmarkets)

Greensborough Food Swap

Saturday 8 December 10am-11am
Diamond Valley Library
Bring your excess garden produce along
and swap for other wonderful produce.
ypri.vic.gov.au

Eltham Twilight Market

Thursday 13 December 4pm-9pm
Eltham Town Square
elthamtwillightmarket.com

Eltham Food Swap

Sunday 23 December 10am-11am
Eltham Town Hall Car Park
The Eltham Food Swap has moved
from Edendale and is now at the Eltham
Farmers' Market.
localfoodconnect.org.au/food-swaps



St Andrews Twilight Market

Tuesday 11 December 4pm-9pm
Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road, St Andrews

A local community market at twilight that showcases
colourful produce and handmade crafts. Catch the
Community Bus to and from the market from 3.45pm-10.15pm
standrewsmarket.com.au



ARTS AND CULTURE

diversARTy annual Exhibition

Until Monday 10 December
Eltham Library Community Gallery,
Living & Learning Nillumbik
Be inspired by Living & Learning
Nillumbik tutors and participants, who
celebrate the achievements of 2018 with
this showcase of visual arts, ceramics,
textiles, glass, crafts and more.
livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

Exhibition: Catherine Hickson 'The Paris Paintings'

Saturday 1 December –
Wednesday 6 February
The Boulevard, Montsalvat
A lover of French culture, Catherine is
recently back from her regular sojourn in
Paris where she sets up her studio in
Le Marais for several weeks.
montsalvat.com.au

Judith Rossell Exhibition

Thursday 13 December –
Monday 21 January
Yarra Plenty Regional Library
Judith Rossell is a writer and illustrator
of maze and puzzle books, picture
books and novels. Explore the world
within award-winning illustrated novels
Withering-by-Sea and *Wormwood Mire*.
ypri.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY

#16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Saturday 1 – Sunday 16 December
Diamond Valley Library
Nillumbik Libraries will again participate
in this Council community program to go
orange and be visible against violence.
ypri.vic.gov.au

Sensitive Santa

4, 6 and 8 December
healthAbility, 917 Main Road, Eltham
Sensitive Santa is back this December, to
offer children needing a sensory-friendly
environment the opportunity to meet and
have their photo taken with Santa.
healthability.org.au

Kids Movie Night

20 December 6.30pm-8.30pm
Eltham Library
Enjoy a great kids film in the Library.
ypri.vic.gov.au

Free Christmas Pantomime

Sunday 8 and 15 December at
10.30am and 11.30am respectively
Eltham's Craft Kitchen and Bar stage
Everyone is invited to the concerts,
written by Nillumbik Youth Production.



Free Christmas cabaret

Wednesday 12 and 19 December 11am
Eltham Town Square
Council will be inviting aged care facilities
to transport guests to town, and will be
working with the Lions Club to help older
shoppers hit the town for a two-hour
shopping spree.

Elf Christmas

Saturday 15 December
Diamond Creek
Diamond Creek businesses will feature
an Elf in their front windows and an Elf
Hunt will be held at Mitre 10. Book in for
a free tea either mid-morning or early
afternoon at Windy Mile with an Elf.
diamondcreekshopping.com.au

Panton Hill community carols

Sunday 16 December 6.30pm-8.30pm
Panton Hill Firefighters Memorial Park
Pack a picnic, rug, torches or candles
and enjoy community carolling and a
visit from Santa.

Santa visits

Saturday 22 December
Diamond Creek
Santa will meet and greet the little
ones and also go on the back of a
CFA fire truck along the main street
diamondcreekshopping.com.au

Yarrambat Movie Night – Under the Stars

Sunday 23 December 5.30pm-8pm
Yarrambat Park Golf Course
Screening *Elf*, a Christmas special for
the whole family. Tickets are \$5-\$25.
[facebook.com/events/
1657177801061097](https://facebook.com/events/1657177801061097)



January EVENTS

Australia Day Awards and citizenship ceremony

Saturday 26 January, 10am-11.30am
Eltham Community and Reception Centre

Join us for the presentation of our Australia Day Awards and
welcoming our newest Australian Citizens nillumbik.vic.gov.au

ARTS AND CULTURE

Renewal – Black Saturday Memorial Exhibition

24 January – 25 February
Eltham Library Community Gallery
and Wadambuk, St Andrews
A special memorial exhibition to
commemorate the 10th anniversary of
Black Saturday.
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ELCG

COMMUNITY

Edendale

Open 9.30am-4.30pm seven days
(except Christmas Day)
Animals, gardens, a café and heaps to
see and do.
edendale.vic.gov.au

Diamond Valley Miniature Railway

Open every Sunday 11am-5pm, and
selected public holidays.
Eltham Lower Park
Bring along a picnic basket and enjoy the
day out. Trains run throughout the day.

Montsalvat

Open 9am-5pm seven days
Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day
Artwork, jewellery, beautiful grounds, food
and drinks, an awesome experience.
montsalvat.com.au

Eltham Leisure Centre

Outdoor splash park area with barbecue
facilities, pools, sauna and steam room.
Fully accessible.
elthamleisurecentre.com.au

MARKETS

St Andrews Market

Saturdays 9am-2pm
Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road,
St Andrews
Regulars include arts and crafts and a
great selection of foods.
facebook.com/StAndrewsMarket

Eltham Farmers' Market

Sundays 9am-1pm
10-18 Arthur Street, Eltham
Local stallholders sell fruit, veggies,
condiments and sweet treats.
localfoodconnect.org.au/elthamfm

Greensborough Food Swap

Saturday 12 January 10am-11am
Diamond Valley Library
Bring your excess garden produce along.
ypri.vic.gov.au

Eltham Food Swap

Sunday 27 January 10am-11am
Eltham Town Hall Car Park
Now at the Eltham Farmers' Market.
localfoodconnect.org.au/food-swaps

February EVENTS

MARKETS

St Andrews Market

Saturdays 9am-2pm
Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road, St Andrews
Regulars include arts and crafts, face painting, pony rides and a great selection of foods.
[facebook.com/StAndrewsMarket](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsMarket)

Eltham Farmers' Market

Sundays 9am-1pm
10-18 Arthur Street, Eltham
Local stallholders sell fruit, veggies, condiments and sweet treats.
localfoodconnect.org.au/elthamfm

Hurstbridge Farmers' Market

Sunday 3 February 8.30am-1pm
Fergusons Paddock, Hurstbridge
Entry is \$2 and all proceeds go to the CFA, the market's community partner.
hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au

Greensborough Food Swap

Saturday 9 February 10am-11am
Diamond Valley Library
Bring your excess garden produce along & swap for other wonderful produce.
ypri.vic.gov.au

Eltham Community Craft and Produce Market

Sunday 17 February 8.30am-12.30pm
Alistair Knox Park, Eltham
Stallholders produce quality homemade, home-grown and handcrafted products, or selling fresh produce.
elthammarket.com.au

Eltham Food Swap

Sunday 24 February 10am-11am
Eltham Town Hall Car Park
The Eltham Food Swap has moved from Edendale and is now at the Eltham Farmers' Market.
localfoodconnect.org.au/food-swaps



Eltham Street Food Festival

Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 and Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 February
12pm-9pm
Eltham Community Reception Centre

Head down to the Eltham Street Food Festival with food trucks showcasing cuisines from across the world, live performers, children's entertainment and market stalls. The event is organised by Not Quite Brothers and supported by Council, Nillumbik Youth Productions and FReeZA.

notquitebrothers.com.au/events

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Dream – Shakespeare in the Park

SHOW WEEK 1
Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 February
Alistair Knox Park

SHOW WEEK 2
Thursday 14 – Sunday 17 February
Watkins St Reserve, Diamond Creek

They are back again. Brought to you by In the Park Productions, bring your picnic blanket and enjoy a great entertaining night under the stars.

[facebook.com/shakespeares/thedream](https://www.facebook.com/shakespeares/thedream)

2019 Nillumbik Prize

Entries open Monday 25 February
Celebrating contemporary artworks of excellence by artists with a Nillumbik connection. Submit your entry online.
nillumbik.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY

In-home Mentoring Program

Thursdays from 28 February
9.30am-3pm
Civic Centre, Greensborough
To help support parents in the community experiencing challenges. Applications need to be in by 1 February.

SAVE THE DATE

International Women's Day

Thursday 7 March 6pm
Eltham Community and Reception Centre
Program and ticket details will be updated on Council website in January 2019.
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/IWD

Open Farm Day

Sunday 7 April 10am-4pm
Various locations throughout the Artisan Hills region
A free family event where you can visit working farms and meet local farmers. Farm tours, live demonstrations, product tastings and more.

SERVICE DASHBOARD



Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community.

In support of this commitment, in the last edition of *Nillumbik News* we launched a service dashboard.

The Nillumbik Annual Community Survey results from 2018 reinforced that residents rank core service delivery as important.

The key service indicators on this dashboard provide a comparison between current and previous performance, and some results have been measured against the collective average of all Victorian Councils based on 2016-2017 data.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHT

The Community Safety team, as part of our Continuous Improvement and Innovation program, have identified a number of improvements to make things easier and quicker for our residents. One improvement is that residents are now able to update their animal registration details via our website. Since this has been available we have received over 850 requests from residents saving time for both residents and staff.



HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

CIVIC CENTRE Civic Drive, Greensborough

Closed public holidays, open 8.30am-5pm all other times

Tuesday 25 December CLOSED

Wednesday 26 December CLOSED

Tuesday 1 January CLOSED

Monday 28 January CLOSED

KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTION

There will be no kerbside collections on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Bins will be collected one day later for that day and the remainder of that week. If your normal collection is Friday, your bin will be collected on the Saturday.

RECYCLING AND RECOVERY CENTRE 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

Normal opening hours – 8am-4pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday (closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays)

Monday 24 December Open 8am-12pm

Saturday 26 January CLOSED

Monday 28 January CLOSED

EDENDALE FARM Gastons Road, Eltham

Tuesday 25 December CLOSED

Open every other day 9.30am-4.30pm

Closed on Extreme and Code Red fire danger days

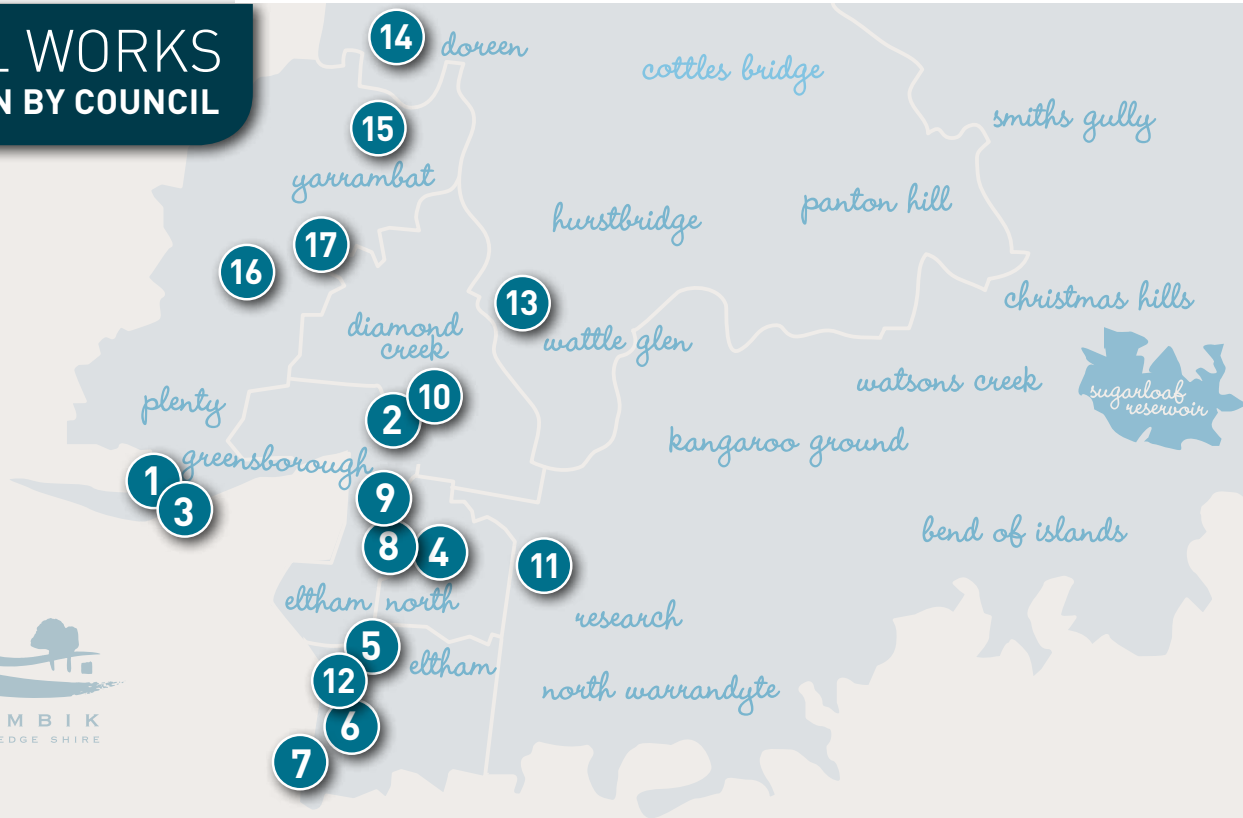
LIVING & LEARNING CENTRES

ELTHAM
739 Main Road, Eltham
Closes 11am Thursday 20 December
Reopens 9am Tuesday 15 January

DIAMOND CREEK
119 Cowin Street, Diamond Creek
Closes 11am Thursday 20 December
Reopens 9am Tuesday 29 January

PANTON HILL
18 Bishops Road, Panton Hill
Closes 1pm Wednesday 12 December
Reopens 9am Tuesday 29 January

CAPITAL WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY COUNCIL



1 Civic Drive Precinct upgrade \$1.29m

New playground, halfcourt basketball and site improvements
Commenced December 2017
Completion due early 2019
 Outdoor performance centre area
Completed

2 Diamond Creek Trail extension \$11m

Land acquisition expected early 2019
Completion due mid 2019
Still seeking external funding for completion

3 Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre redevelopment \$6.5m

Ability access works
Commenced September 2018
Due to commence mid-2019
Continuing to seek external funding for further upgrades

4 Edendale Farm works \$900,000

New kiosk, decking, nursery point of sale and teaching shelters
Commenced February 2018
Completed August 2018

5 Eltham Central Pavilion redevelopment \$3.65m

Reconstruction and extension of change rooms and community space
Commenced September 2018
Completion due early 2020

6 Eltham Leisure Centre redevelopment \$20.2m

New state-of-the-art aquatic facilities
Commenced November 2016
Completion November 2018
 Splash park
Completion due end of 2018

7 Eltham Lower Park change rooms redevelopment \$275,000

Four new change rooms to achieve female friendly facility
Commenced December 2018
Completion due mid-2019

8 Eltham North Adventure Playground rebuild \$1.4m

Rebuilding playground with safety and accessibility improvements
Commenced August 2018
Completion due December 2018
 Landscape/site improvements
Completion due Autumn 2019

9 Eltham North Reserve Pavilion upgrade \$4.7m

Commenced August 2018
Completion due end of 2019

10 Marngrook Oval Pavilion development \$1.63m

New home for female and junior-focused seasonal sporting clubs
Commenced October 2018
Completion due late 2019

11 Research Park Pavilion redevelopment \$3.04m

Improving the facility's building and accessibility standards
Commenced July 2018
Completion due mid-2019

12 Susan Street Reserve Pavilion upgrade \$315,000

Female-friendly upgrade to change rooms and cubicles
Commenced November 2018
Completion due mid-2019

13 Wattle Glen Pavilion extension \$750,000

Provide female-friendly change facilities
Commenced March 2018
Completion due end of 2018

14 Doctors Gully Road Footpath Construction \$127,000

Approx. 700m asphalt footpath from Yan Yan Road to Doreen Primary School
Commenced October 2018
Completed November 2018

15 Yarrambat Cricket Nets \$200,000

Turf and Synthetic practise nets
Commenced September 2018
Completion due mid 2019

16 Plenty Landfill \$5M

Rehabilitation of Plenty Landfill site
Commenced February 2016
Completion due late 2019

17 Eltham Woodworkers, Yarrambat \$110,000

Extension of existing workshop and accessibility improvements
Commenced March 2018
Completed October 2018

Cover: Mayor Cr Karen Egan with Santa at Montsalvat

Nillumbik News is available in alternative formats on request. Contact 9433 3111. Printed in Nillumbik, using vegetable inks on Australian-made recycled paper.



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 Greensborough VIC 3088
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 @Nillumbikcouncilvic