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Celebrating our most outstanding and newest citizens

On our day of national reflection, we recognise those who make us proud to be Australian

Our 2020 Nillumbik Australia Day Award winners were announced on 26 January at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre.

We asked the community to nominate those people who make us proud to be Australian, and we were pleased to recognise the efforts of some of Nillumbik's most dedicated volunteers.

While their experiences are diverse, they have a few things in common: they are community-minded, hard-working people whose efforts help make Nillumbik a wonderful place to live, work and play.



Citizen of the Year – Neil Marshall

Now living in Doreen after spending more than 60 years as a resident of Panton Hill, Neil has

devoted countless hours to community committees, groups and organisations.

Neil has been a member of the Panton Hill Fire Brigade for 59 years, including 10 years as president and nine as secretary, and he has been Community Safety Coordinator for the past two years.

He is a life member both of the brigade and of the CFA. Neil is also a member of the CFA District 14 Headquarters East Brigade and works in the Incident Control Centre on Total Fire Ban days. He has been a fire tower observer at Kangaroo Ground Fire Tower for 18 years.

Neil is known for putting in long hours, going above and beyond, and sharing his extensive knowledge to benefit others.

During Black Saturday, Neil worked continuously in the Kangaroo Ground Incident Control Centre to provide invaluable local data and input on the fires.

Among Neil's other community contributions are an eight-year membership of the Hurstbridge Probus Club, during which he served terms as president and vice president; membership of the Shire of Nillumbik Memorials Advisory Committee for three years; a former role as a Panton Hill Scout Troop leader; former membership of the On the Hill Festival and Panton Hill Art and Craft Show, and 14 years as a member of the Friends of Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park advisory committee, where he is currently vice president.

He also takes on the role of Master of Ceremonies at Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services at the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park.

In 2019, Neil was presented with an Australia Day Award for the Federal Electorate of Jagajaga.

Senior Citizen of the Year – Tony Barbeta



Our 2020 Senior Citizen of the Year is Tony Barbeta of St Andrews. Tony has been fundamental to the establishment and success of the St Andrews Men's Shed.

He has been involved with the group since its inception, including serving as president, and has worked tirelessly to develop the group.

Tony, 67, is the first to arrive at the Men's Shed, and the last to leave. He has devoted countless hours to the shed over the years. He helps keep a focus on men's health, actively recruits members, deals with grant bodies, manages the budget and assists members to complete projects.

Among the many community groups to have benefited from Tony's Men's Shed efforts are the St Andrews Community Centre; Eltham Living & Learning Centre; the Ceramics Collective; Landcare groups; Eltham traders; youth theatre groups, and other Nillumbik Men's Sheds.

Described as reliable, honest and dedicated, Tony has often flown under the radar and not received accolades for his commitment to his community. Council is pleased to celebrate Tony's achievements and acknowledge his admirable contributions to the community.

COVER

Citizen of the Year Neil Marshall with Mayor Karen Egan

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

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Volunteer of the Year – Carol Jenkinson



Cottles Bridge resident Carol Jenkinson is Volunteer of the Year for 2020.

Carol's role at the Panton Hill Football Club includes

organising the canteen on match day; coordinating Auskick; arranging committee meetings; being the club's secretary and planning club events.

Those who know Carol appreciate the role she plays in assisting the club to engage with the community. The club gets involved in the annual Panton On the Hill Festival, and it functions as a social hub that fosters healthy activity and exercise.

In 2019, Carol was named Volunteer of the Year by the Northern Football Netball League. In addition to Carol's football club commitments, she is also Diamond Valley College Council President; coordinates the running of the annual Hurstbridge Wattle Festival, and is involved with the Diamond Creek parish of St John's Anglican Church where she sits on the parish council.

At St Michael's Yarrambat, she is involved with worship and works with a team to coordinate school holiday programs for children.

Carol also sits on the board of the Bendigo Community Bank – Valley Community Financial Services, which runs the Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Eltham, Mernda/Doreen and Kinglake Community Bank branches. Carol chairs the marketing committee, working at a state and national level to deliver promotion for Bendigo Community Bank, which ensures more outcomes for local communities.

Community Group of the Year – Nillumbik Youth Productions



The 2020 Community Group of the Year is Nillumbik Youth Productions (NYP). NYP is a committee of young volunteers who provide a safe and accessible space for young people aged 10–28 to express themselves in the arts through its program Nillumbik Youth Theatre.

NYP is open to all youth who live, work or play in the Nillumbik area and provides a space for young people who may be struggling within their own school environment.

We congratulate our Australia Day Award winners and nominees, and our newest citizens.

The volunteer committee contributes at least four hours each week to NYP, which increases to 40 hours per week in the lead-up to and during its annual production.

In 2019, NYP staged its first production independent of Nillumbik Shire Council, and the dedicated young people involved formed their own committee. Without committee experience, they managed all aspects including financial (grant application and fundraising) and practical, including hiring staff, casting, rehearsing and staging the musical *All Shook Up*.

A new home in our Shire

Also cause for celebration on Australia Day was welcoming 78 new citizens during our Citizenship Ceremony.

VIPs and guests were also treated to musical performances by Ben Clark, Edendale Community Environment Farm's 'singing barista' and star of the 2018 season of *The Voice*, as well as renditions of *Advance Australia Fair* and *I am Australian* by Robert Dugdale and the Diamond Valley Brass Band.

Guest speaker on the day was Hurstbridge author Sabi Buehler. Sabi has lived in Nillumbik for 50 years and has spent 44 of those years as a Hurstbridge resident. Sabi was Nillumbik U3A's first official member and the inaugural president. She and the founding committee worked to ensure the group encompassed the whole shire.

Sabi is also on Council's Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, has sung with community choir Chocolate Lilies for 25 years, and is on the Edible Hub committee in Hurstbridge.

Sabi has authored two books: A Life in Two Suitcases, which chronicled the life of her mother, Gundel, during the Nazi regime; and a creative memoir called Fighting Dragons all on my Own. She also contributed a story to the anthology, Nillumbik Tales.



from the Mayor

Welcome to the autumn edition of *Nillumbik News*.

The year started on a sombre note with the devastating bushfire crisis. Our hearts go out to all those involved. As a Shire that has been deeply affected by bushfire, many in the community know only too well what the victims of this latest disaster are going through.

I would like to thank the emergency services staff and volunteers from our community, including the local CFA crews, who have gone to fight the fires and assist in the recovery efforts.

We had our own emergency with the bushfire in Plenty Gorge Parklands. Thank you to everyone who helped contain the fire. Our staff worked around the clock in the emergency operations centre and we provided a tanker and grader to assist in the firefighting efforts.

Although we have entered autumn, the bushfire threat remains and I urge residents to stay vigilant, keep your property prepared and have your plan ready.

In good news, it was an honour to recognise some of our most outstanding citizens at the 2020 Nillumbik Australia Day Awards. These dedicated residents are making a vital contribution to our community and we commend them for their efforts. I was also pleased to welcome 78 of Australia's newest citizens.

We have a busy year ahead. Many big projects will be coming to fruition, including the Marngrook Oval Pavilion in Diamond Creek, while the Eltham North Pavilion has already opened. Preparatory works have begun on the Diamond Creek Regional Playspace, the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre redevelopment and the Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion.

There are a range of exciting events to enjoy this autumn including the Open Farm Day on March 22. I urge you all to get out and explore this great Shire.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Easter.

Han Far

Cr Karen Egan Mayor Nillumbik Shire Council



Waste and recycling update

Change for soft plastics

Soft plastics can no longer go in your recycling bin. Instead, we encourage you to recycle soft plastics through REDcycle drop-off points at Coles and Woolworths.

Soft plastics include any plastics that can be scrunched into a ball such as plastic bags, food wrappers, bubble wrap, silver-lined chip and cracker packets, and squeeze pouches with lid on (eg yoghurt and baby food).

redcycle.net.au

E-waste drop off

A new drop-off point for small e-waste items has opened at Community Bank Stadium, 129-163 Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek. There are also dropoff points at Hurstbridge Hub, Eltham Library and Diamond Valley Library.

Residents can drop off small items such as batteries, light globes, mobile phones, remote controls and other e-waste items smaller than a laptop that can fit though an 8cm x 40cm slot.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/e-waste

Reduce and reuse

Recycling is important, but it's better to reduce your waste in the first place. Wondering where to start? Visit nillumbik.vic.gov.au/reducewaste

Coming soon

From July, Council will provide extra bin options for residents including a weekly 120-litre landfill bin collection, a larger 140-litre landfill bin and a larger 240-litre green waste bin.

These are in addition to the current options of an extra green waste bin, landfill bin and recycling bin. More information will be available closer to their introduction.

Wild about gardening

How to attract wildlife into your garden

Residents wanting to encourage native wildlife into their gardens have the opportunity to join an exciting new Council and community program.

Nillumbik Gardens for Wildlife is a partnership between Council and the community to create habitat gardens for local wildlife.

The free program involves trained volunteer garden guides in teams of two visiting private gardens and providing encouragement and advice on increasing habitat and food sources for local wildlife.

Participants receive a report on their garden, a voucher for 20 free plants from one of our partnering nurseries, a sticker for their letterbox and resources for further information about wildlife gardening. Community members were recently invited to vote on a logo for the program and the winner was the brush-tailed phascogale.

Brush-tailed phascogales are nocturnal marsupials with distinctive black bushy tails and large eyes for seeing in the dark. They are found in dry open forests of northeast Melbourne including Nillumbik, but their numbers are declining. They feed on insects and spiders and need tree hollows to hide and raise their young in.

Registrations for the Gardens for Wildlife program open in April. Numbers are strictly limited.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife



A spinebill, a member of the honeyeater family, in a Nillumbik garden. Picture: Shellie Drysdale

Plan gets green light

Following extensive community consultation, Council adopted the Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) on 26 November 2019.

The new plan provides direction for the management of the green wedge over the next decade. It includes a vision, principles, goals, objectives and key actions. Preparation of the plan was informed by extensive community engagement over the previous 18 months.

Council received 746 submissions in response to the draft GWMP. Council's Future Nillumbik Committee also heard 80 verbal submissions on 10 and 11 September 2019. The plan was further revised in response to the feedback received from the community. Mayor Karen Egan said: "We appreciate your feedback and have listened to what you had to say."

Council made a commitment to review the 2010-2025 Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan when it was elected in 2016. Nillumbik's green wedge is one of 12 across Melbourne and covers 91 per cent of the Shire.

Now that the GWMP has been adopted, annual implementation plans will be prepared. Priorities will be determined every four years through the Council Plan and prior to the four-yearly review of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

For more on the green wedge, go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/greenwedge



Shooting goals for recreation

The redevelopment of the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre headlines a range of major infrastructure projects.

Four new basketball/netball courts will be part of the \$14.5 million upgrade to the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre.

Construction works on the Greensborough site are expected to start in the new financial year. The project is due to be completed in early 2022.

Diamond Creek will be a hive of activity in coming months with several major projects underway.

Mayor Karen Egan will soon turn the first sod on the much-anticipated Diamond Creek Regional Playspace. The restored Diamond Creek Rotary Tram, which was delivered in February, will operate as a community café. The playground equipment is expected to be delivered in autumn with completion anticipated mid-year. Nearby, work is about to start on the Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion, while the Marngrook Oval Pavilion is finished and due to be officially opened soon. The Eltham North Pavilion was completed in late 2019.

Plans for the extension to the Diamond Creek Trail to Wattle Glen are tracking nicely with the scheduled completion of the trail and bridges this year. It will include a shared path for pedestrians and cyclists with recycled concrete as well as a separate horse trail.

In other parts of the Shire, works are due to start on the Greensborough Hockey Pavilion. Works are progressing on the second stage of the Eltham Central Pavilion (social rooms) and are expected to be finished mid year.



Council was on hand to assist emergency services during the Plenty Gorge bushfire, which started on 30 December 2019. Emergency staff worked around the clock while Council also provided equipment including two water tankers and a grader to assist in the firefighting efforts.

Shining a light on solar

Innovative farm proposal to offset carbon emissions

Council is leading the charge on climate action with a proposal for external parties to develop a solar farm on the former Plenty landfill site in Yan Yean Road.

The solar farm could provide up to 5MW of green electricity, capable of supplying all of Council's annual electrical power consumption requirements.

Mayor Karen Egan said: "Council is committed to being a leader in climate change action and supporting the renewable energy economy."

Council is now seeking to engage with the solar farm development market, including examining options such as battery storage, potential community investment opportunities and power purchasing agreements.

Big switch for sport

In great news for our sporting community, the lighting systems for both Yarrambat Memorial Park Oval and Eltham Tennis Court are set to be upgraded soon.

Yarrambat Park is the home ground of the Yarrambat Junior Football Club and the Plenty Valley Cricket Club, however, the existing lights at the oval did not provide sufficient light for junior AFL competitions.

A sports field LED lighting system has been designed and installed, which will reduce glare from the lights and allow clubs to train and play into the evenings.

An LED lighting system will also be installed on courts two, three and six at Eltham Tennis Club to accommodate use of the court in low-light or night time, and to comply with relevant regulations.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/parksrecreation

Time to come together

In 2020 for the first time, the Nillumbik FReeZA team will present a dedicated Youth Stage and activities at the Come Together Music & Arts Festival.

Held across two stages in a beautiful outdoor setting, this popular event features contemporary world music, creative arts, delicious food and drink and is free for under 18s.

The Come Together Music & Arts Festival, at Edendale Community Environment Farm on Saturday 14 March, aims to raise awareness around suicide prevention, mental health and multiculturalism.

Visit **cometogether.org.au** to buy your ticket or find the festival on Facebook @cometogethereltham or Instagram @ctmaf

Game for creativity

Young people aged 10 to 18 are welcome to drop in, hang out, meet new people and learn new skills at the Nillumbik Youth Maker Lab – a free, creative after-school program for young people.

The Youth Maker Lab provides an opportunity for young people to use the facilities and equipment at Banyule Nillumbik Tech School. Participants can work on their own projects in areas such as programming, 3D printing, digital design and gaming, with support from trained mentors.

The program starts in Term 2 on Tuesdays, 3.30pm-6pm at Banyule Nillumbik Tech School, 61 Civic Drive, Greensborough.

For details or to express interest in attending, email youth@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or contact Nillumbik's Youth Team on 9433 3111.



Nillumbik Youth Week will feature events including workshops, music, art shows, films and more.

Festival fun for the young

Nillumbik Youth Week celebrates young people aged 12 to 25

This year's Youth Week is set to kick off with the Eltham Street Food Festival.

The festival, featuring an amazing line-up of food trucks, market stalls, activities and live entertainment, will be held at Alistair Knox Park on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 April.

Youth Week continues until 12 April and will feature events including workshops, music, forums, art shows, films, sport, dance and more.

Council has given grants of \$500 to organisations delivering Youth Week events

that celebrate positive contributions young people make to their communities.

Showcasing more than 100 youth-focused activities, projects and events across the state, Victorian Youth Week provides a space for young people to express their ideas and views, and act on issues that affect their lives.

For the full program of events visit nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au or find us on Facebook and Instagram @nillumbikyouth

Celebrating women's success

International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March is a day to recognise the considerable progress made towards gender equality, but also how far we have left to go. It is a day to celebrate the achievement of women around the world, and particularly in Nillumbik.

At the Nillumbik IWD 2020 Dinner on Wednesday 4 March, celebrated Australian author Maxine Beneba Clarke and feminist youth activist group The Violet Fems spoke to a packed room of residents at Eltham Community and Reception Centre.

Before the dinner, local businesswomen gathered for networking opportunities at the inaugural Women in Business High Tea with Eltham local and guest speaker Em Rusciano.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the inaugural Nillumbik Young Women Leaders awards. The awards were presented to young women who make a positive contribution to their communities across five categories – Young Woman of the Year, Arts/Sports, Gender Equity, Young Carer and Youth-Led Group of the Year.

At the time of printing this edition of *Nillumbik News,* the winners were yet to be announced, so please make sure to check the Nillumbik website and social media channels for all the details.



Maxine Beneba Clarke

Down on the farm

Get a taste of country life right in our own backyard

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a farmer or want to know more about how you can grow your own produce at home?

On 22 March, farms and businesses across Nillumbik will open their gates for the 2020 Open Farm Day.

This free, family-friendly event offers a rare experience to connect residents and visitors with working farms, and the chance to meet local farmers and enjoy local produce.

For the first time, visitors will have the opportunity to spend the night in Nillumbik camping out under the stars in Hurstbridge before setting off on their farm adventure the next day.

Open Farm Day aims to foster a greater understanding of how food, wine and fibre products are grown and produced on Melbourne's fringe.

Nillumbik is home to a diverse mix of farms including fruit and veggie farms, livestock and animal farms, orchards and vineyards.

You can choose the farms you wish to visit and create your own trail of experiences, or follow one of the trails we have carefully put together.

Participating farms included Balashi Flowers, Edendale Community Environment Farm, Kings of Kangaroo Ground, Omaru Alpacas, Shaws Road Winery and Cider, Sugarloaf Produce, Weeping Grevillea Nursery, Yarra Valley Custom Meats, plus more.

Pick up Open Farm Day passport at the first farm you visit, collect at least three stamps from participating farms and complete the survey to enter the draw to win some great prizes.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/openfarmday

Download the Open Farm Day 2020 app from the Apple App Store or Get it on Google Play

FARM



Open Farm Day visitors will be able to see what farm life is like.

Let your true colours shine

Thousands to enjoy Warrandyte Festival

The festival has been a much-anticipated event on the community calendar for more than 40 years. As summer comes to a close, the festival welcomes 10,000 people to Stiggants Reserve across the weekend of 20-22 March, enjoying concerts and camel rides, waterslides and whacky races.

Other events include a billycart derby, kids' market, battle of the bands, Rotary Art Show and much more. Festival-goers enjoy a weekend of family fun, free from corporate sponsorship and with an emphasis on celebrating artistic endeavours. Festivities kick off on Friday evening at the Warrandyte Film Feast, with the celebrations continuing at Saturday morning's Grand Parade. The 2020 Festival theme is "Show Us Your Colours" and the parade promises to feature a rainbow of colourful costumes and floats.

Alongside continued initiatives to reduce waste, the festival is striving to become more water-wise. Bottled water will not be sold, but free drinking water will be available and visitors are encouraged to bring a reusable bottle.



Our business achievers

Nillumbik's 2019 Northern Business Achievement Awards (NBAA) nominees were recognised at the Grand Finale event.

The awards are presented annually and bring together business nominees from the six northern councils.

Hurstbridge's Hot Coals Catering received the Sustainability and Environment Award, and Diamond Creek's Bio2Lab was named Best Start Up or Micro Business. Nillumbik's 2019 Young Business Achiever (aged 25 or under) was Ellie Dunstan, owner of Eltham outfit hire company Dress Hire Au.

We congratulate our 2019 nominees on their achievements and look forward to their future successes. We are now seeking 2020 nominations until 31 March.

For more information and to nominate, visit **nillumbik.vic.gov.au/nbaa**

NILLUMBIK PRIZE CONTEMPORARY WRITING 2020

Thank you to those who entered the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing 2020.

Entries are now being judged by writers Melanie Cheng, Claire G Coleman, Sarah Schmidt and Jeff Sparrow, with the shortlist to be revealed on 1 May.

The winners will be announced at the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing celebration on 20 June.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/npcw

Celebrate diversity

Get involved in International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) on Sunday 17 May.

Community and non-profit groups are encouraged to apply for one of Council's community grants to support their efforts in hosting celebrations, events and programs that promote IDAHOBIT in Nillumbik.

Visit nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants for more information or phone 9433 3111 or email grants@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Project grants

Are you a community group or organisation that has an initiative, event or project that you need help with getting off the ground?

The Nillumbik Community Fund offers various grants to support the community in delivering these.

For application guidelines and details, visit **nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants** or contact Council's Grants Officer on 9433 3270 or **grants@nillumbik.vic.gov.au**

Community connections

Are you looking to connect with one of our Shire's many community groups or services? Our new online Community Directory can help.

The directory on Council's website contains details and contact information for community organisations and services across the Shire. Go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ community-directory

To be included in the free directory go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/mycity



Richmond Football Club head of AFLW Kate Sheahan, President Peggy O'Neal, Mayor Karen Egan and AFLW star Sabrina Frederick at Punt Rd Oval for This Girl Can.

Join the club of active women

Try something new and fun as part of VicHealth's This Girl Can Week

The Richmond Tigers roared into Eltham as part of the VicHealth This Girl Can campaign in January, encouraging women to be active in any way they can.

The Eltham Community and Reception Centre was packed out to hear speakers including Richmond Football Club President Peggy O'Neal, AFLW star and Eltham local Sabrina Frederick and Mayor Karen Egan speak about the barriers to women getting out and getting active.

Hosted by the Richmond Football Club's Tiffany Cherry, other speakers included VicHealth's Mel Fineberg, Richmond Head of AFLW Kate Sheahan and Eltham Leisure Centre member Di Terril-Wynne.

Now women and girls across the Shire can take part in the VicHealth This Girl Can Week from 23-29 March.

Council is again supporting the program and encourages women and girls to take part in activities on offer during the week at local sporting clubs, the Shire's five sport and leisure centres and Yarrambat Golf Course.

Program details can be found at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/thisgirlcan

Read all about it: library upgrade

The Diamond Valley Library is set to undergo a major \$850,000 upgrade. Council has received a \$500,000 grant from the State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program for the project. Council will contribute \$270,000, with the library providing \$80,000.

Improvements to the library in Civic Drive, Greensborough, will include extending the children's area, introducing co-working spaces, adding a tech area, building a community meeting room with kitchen facilities and improvements to accessibility.

Mayor Karen Egan said the library was outdated and needed urgent upgrading.

"Our library is a vital, well-loved resource of our community. Since it was built, there have been significant global changes in how libraries are used, the use of technology, and our community's needs," Cr Egan said.



Yarra Plenty Regional Library CEO Jane Cowell said the upgrade was exciting news.

"We are one of the best library services in Victoria, delivering a wide variety of services, and we would love everyone in the Shire to join us and become a member," she said.

To join go to: yprl.vic.gov.au

We invite you to have your say

Give your feedback on Council's draft Annual Budget 2020-2021 at Participate Nillumbik.

Council's draft Annual Budget 2020-2021 will be exhibited for public consultation from Thursday 26 March.



Community members are invited to make a submission on the draft budget before 5pm on Friday 1 May. Council will consider submissions at the Future Nillumbik Committee meeting on Tuesday 12 May 2020.

Keep an eye on Participate Nillumbik over the coming months to share your feedback on these important projects as well:

- Draft Economic Development Strategy
- Draft Structure Plans for the Eltham
- and Diamond Creek activity centresDraft Housing Strategy
- Draft Community Engagement Policy

participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Mentors part of the family

Our dedicated volunteers can help with the challenges parents face

It's not easy raising kids, but for Louise Harper, looking after a young son and newborn twins while her firefighter husband was out on the job became not just a juggle, but a struggle.

Luckily help was at hand, with her Maternal and Child Health Centre suggesting teenage babysitter Melissa Sinclair could assist.

"She was a lifesaver," Louise recalls. "Mentally, it helped a lot and relieved a stressful situation."

Thirty years later, Louise and Melissa were reunited at a Christmas function for Nillumbik Shire Council's In-Home Family Mentoring Service.

Both women had become mentors with the service, offering advice and support to families. They are two of the Shire's many volunteers, whose generous contribution is being celebrated as part of National Volunteer Week from 18-24 May. Louise says she was inspired to help other families because of the support she received as a young mum from Melissa.

Melissa, now a mum of five, has been a mentor for three years.

"It takes a village to raise a child. A lot of people don't have extra support for whatever reason," Melissa says.

The In-Home Family Mentoring (IHFM) Program is a free service for parents with babies or children under the age of six living in the Shire, who are experiencing challenges. Families are linked with a trained volunteer who visits once a week for two hours, for three to 12 months.

IHFM is recruiting new volunteers. If you think you can help, training will start in May.

bttr.im/3xqvm or contact Volunteer Development on 9433 3147.



In-Home Family Mentors Louise Harper and Melissa Sinclair



A pet cause

Pet registration renewals are due by Thursday 9 April. Renewal forms were sent to Nillumbik pet owners in February – you can contact us on 9433 3111 if you haven't received your notice.

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

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

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

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

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/petrego

Fight the flu

Don't get sick this winter. The annual flu vaccine will be available at Council immunisation sessions from May.

We provide the free governmentfunded flu vaccine for all children aged six months to under five, pregnant women and older members of the community. It is recommended people aged over 65 should see their doctor for medical advice prior to getting the vaccine.

Council also provides the flu vaccine to other members of the community at a cost of \$25 per dose, so the whole family can be immunised at the same time.

Bookings must be made for the flu vaccine, including the free shots. See our website for details about when bookings open and information on our immunisation service.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ immunisations

YOUR COUNCILLORS



Mayor Councillor Karen Egan Bunjil Ward

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

In exciting news, work will soon start on the extension of the Diamond Creek Trail from Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen. It will include a recycled concrete shared path for pedestrians and cyclists as well as a separate horse trail.

Part 2 of Amendment C117 to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme to rezone Lot 1, 44 Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge to Public Park and Recreation Zone is still under consideration. On October 29, Council resolved to request the Planning Minister to appoint a Planning Panel to consider this. The hearing was due to take place on 24 February and Council is awaiting its report and recommendations.

It is an honour to be involved with the VicHealth This Girl Can campaign. I hope women and girls of all abilities are inspired to get out and be active and take part in This Girl Can week, 23-29 March.

I'm looking forward to Open Farm Day on 22 March. It's a wonderful opportunity to get out and explore our Shire and support local farmers and small businesses in our rural areas.



Councillor Peter Perkins Ellis Ward

0437 455 064
 Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

The tram renovated by Diamond Creek Rotary was delivered to the Diamond Creek Regional Playspace in February, with playground equipment due to be installed in autumn. Marngrook Oval Pavilion is expected to officially open soon, and construction of the new Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion is due to start. Renewal projects on the go include an upgrade to the bowling club's kitchen.

Work is set to commence on extending the Diamond Creek Trail from Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen, and is due for completion later this year.

We're advocating for improvements to the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade Project Stage 2, including safe pedestrian crossings, upgrades to the Diamond Creek station and future removal of the Diamond Creek level crossing.

A 600m footpath will be built between Old Aqueduct Road and Old Diamond Creek Road by mid-year.

Keep an eye on Participate Nillumbik for details on the community consultation around the Diamond Creek Activity Centre Draft Structure Plan.



Deputy Mayor Councillor Peter Clarke Wingrove Ward

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

We have successfully concluded negotiations with Yarra Valley Water to now have access to a sewerage connection point for each property in the entire Eltham South area.

Council is liaising with YVW on their construction schedule which is anticipated to be completed in one to three years. YVW is undertaking the works.

Council has raised significant concerns with the Fitzsimons Lane/Main Road intersection project. The Planning Minister has taken control of the provisions in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. The planning scheme now states that the upgrade of the intersection must be undertaken in accordance with the plans and documents approved by the Minister for Planning. This was recently gazetted. Council supports the upgrade of the intersection, subject to a more sensitive design respecting the Eltham Gateway.

Eltham Library is a much loved community asset, if you are not already a member of this important service, join up now at **yprl.vic.gov.au**



Councillor Jane Ashton Sugarloaf Ward

0409 177 500 **ane.Ashton@nillumbik.vic.gov.au**

I hope those affected by the extreme weather during summer will find some reprieve in the cooler months. In January, many residents – particularly those in North Warrandyte – were impacted by a destructive hailstorm. Council assisted by arranging extra green waste pickups, extending operating hours at the Recycling and Recovery Centre and allowing residents to drop off their waste free of charge. Our street sweepers and bobcats were also busy clearing roads and drains.

Elsewhere, the new Living & Learning Nillumbik and U3A year got off to a great start with an impressive variety of courses on offer.

It was wonderful to see Neil Marshall, a well-known CFA member and supporter of Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower, awarded Citizen of the Year at the Nillumbik Australia Day Awards.

I'm looking forward to International Women's Day, the Warrandyte Festival and the many other wonderful events happening around the Shire.



Councillor Grant Brooker Blue Lake Ward

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

The last days of 2019 brought the national bushfire crisis to our front door, with a fire in Plenty Gorge threatening nearby homes, highlighting the need for everyone to have a fire plan and be prepared. Council provided assets to assist the CFA on the day and throughout the recovery effort, including a grader and two water tankers.

The Diamond Valley Library in Greensborough will undergo an \$850,000 upgrade, which will see new co-working spaces for micro businesses, an extension to the children's area and a new community meeting room.

Works are planned to commence later in 2020 on the \$15 million Diamond Valley Sport and Fitness Centre redevelopment including four new basketball/netball courts.

The lighting and drainage upgrade at Yarrambat War Memorial Park has also recently been completed.

We are seeking offers from the market to possibly repurpose the landfill site in Plenty as a solar farm. This will be a tangible response from Nillumbik to climate change.



Councillor John Dumaresq Edendale Ward

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

The Eltham North Pavilion is now open and being well-utilised by our sporting groups. This is an asset that will benefit us well into the future and adds to Eltham's list of exceptional resources and facilities.

Over summer, both Eltham North Adventure Playground and Edendale Community Environment Farm were well attended by locals and visitors to the area. Both venues are still major attractions during the cooler months, so will no doubt continue to draw visitors throughout autumn and winter.

Those who were affected by bushfires over the summer remain in our thoughts. As we live in a bushfire-prone municipality, Nillumbik residents must remain vigilant about property preparedness and keep safety front of mind.

Remember to have a written bushfire plan that you're ready to act on – and ensure it's prepared well before next summer arrives.



Councillor Bruce Ranken

Swipers Gully Ward

0402 384 006

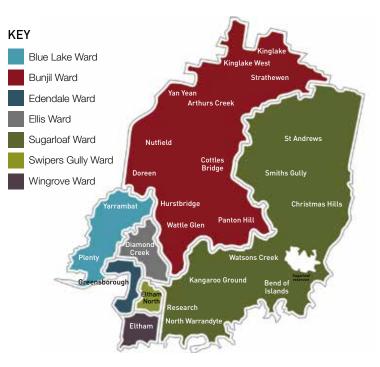
Bruce.Ranken@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Despite living in Eltham Central, the need for awareness when it comes to bushfires is essential, as we saw in January when Plenty Gorge was impacted by fire. Shortly after that fire, hundreds of residents attended Eltham CFA's Fire Ready Victoria community information evening – a testament to our active, engaged and alert community. Remember we can never be complacent.

Some residents have raised concerns with Council around road access and overlays, and the potential difficulties in the event of a fire incident. We are taking these concerns seriously and looking into these instances.

Pavilions at Research and Eltham North are open and operating. We worked closely with the community to bring these projects to fruition and it's great to see them up and running.

The State Government has provided planning approval for its Eltham Gateway project. Council has strongly advocated for enhancements to the final design.



Postal address for Council and all Councillors: Nillumbik Shire Council PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

Stable life

The first group exhibition by The Stable Artists is on at the Eltham Community Library Gallery until 16 March.

The Stable Artists (so named because they work out of a Kangaroo Ground studio repurposed from stables) are Angie Lethborg, Jill Clark, Jo Brazil, Margaret Blackburn, Ros Muston and Susie Raz.

The exhibition includes a range of paintings and sculptures, and reflects not only the group's passion for art, but also their treasured friendships.

A special collaborative piece created by all six artists will be on show during the exhibition.

The work was exhibited digitally at Council's International Women's Day celebration dinner on Wednesday 4 March.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events

Get on board The Fire Game

If you – or your friends and family – need to brush up on local and general bushfire safety knowledge, Diamond Creek Fire Brigade has the perfect solution.

In February, the brigade launched the Nillumbik version of 'The Fire Game', a board game that tests players' knowledge of what to do before, during and after a bushfire emergency.

The Monopoly-style board game was developed by Surf Coast Shire, which shared the concept.

Council provided a \$2000 Community Quick Response Grant towards the project.

The game is suitable for children in late primary school through to adults and is available to borrow from local cafes and libraries.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ thefiregame

On course for a great education

There are some fabulous courses and activities coming up at Living & Learning Nillumbik. Take a look at our website to find out about the many volunteer and learning opportunities for all ages in arts and craft, languages, music, home, wellbeing, writing, gardening and more.

Semester 2 courses include:

- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care – CHC30113*
 Become a qualified assistant in the early childhood field.
- Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care – CHC50113* This course is for those wanting to advance their career and studies in early childhood.

- Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing, Home and Community) – CHC33015* This course provides a qualification for the Aged Care and Home and Community Care industries.
- Job Ready Learn how to master your resume, write cover letters, prepare for interviews and more.
- Intro to Horticulture This short course runs at Edendale Farm.

For more information, visit: livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

*For eligible individuals this training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding. Registered Training Organisation No. 3989

LIVING & LEARNING NILLUMBIK





Jasmine Corbett will be helping Nillumbik residents create a banner from treasured scraps.

Fabric of society

A community arts project is giving new life to old scraps of fabric

Residents are invited to donate their treasured scraps of fabric to a new community arts project. The project, Treasured Scraps, will see the precious pieces made into a beautiful textile banner to go on display in the Shire.

Textile artist Jasmine Corbett will hold workshops where community members can bring their treasured scraps to embellish or decorate.

Ms Corbett said the project gave the community an opportunity to share the stories and histories of their treasured scraps. "It's also about giving people the opportunity to create something 'new' out of our scraps, thinking about sustainability and our textiles use and end use," she said.

The workshops will be held at Eltham Library on Saturday 21 March, 10.30am-12.30pm, and Saturday 18 April, 10.30am-1pm and Community Bank Stadium, Diamond Creek, on Saturday 28 March, 10.30am-1.30pm.

Treasured Scraps is supported by a Nillumbik Community Fund Arts & Culture Grant.

For more information email melbourneartsexperience@gmail.com or follow on Facebook @melbourneartsexperience

What's on in March

ARTS AND CULTURE

Exhibition: Kate Cross FREE Until 27 April

Montsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham A solo exhibition of works painted along the rugged Gippsland coast in 2019.

FREE

FREE

montsalvat.com.au

Weaving Workshop

Friday 6 March, 4pm-5pm **Diamond Valley Library**, Civic Drive, Greensborough

A practical workshop where you will learn weaving techniques with recycled fabrics.

yprl.vic.gov.au

Bring a side project FREE

Sunday 8 March, 10.30am-1.30pm Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham Creative powerhouse Madeleine Dore will inspire creative women to give that side project the attention it deserves.

yrpl.vic.gov.au

The Wife

Thursday 12 March - Saturday 14 March Departs from St Andrews General Store, **10 Caledonia Street** \$30/\$20

Theatre 451 – New Australian Theatre Funded by the Regional Arts Fund and Nillumbik Shire Council.

Bookings: theatre451.com/what's-on

Stable Art Exhibition

Until 16 March Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place For more information see page 12

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events

Eltham Poetry Readings

Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm Eltham Living & Learning Centre, **Pavilion Room** \$5

Open Mic - five open spots, grand raffle prize, feel free to bring something for supper. Supported by a Nillumbik Shire Council 2019-2020 Arts & Culture Grant.

Enquiries: Peta Heywood, pheywood@bigpond.net.au or 0418 325 959



Tired of working from home? CO-LLAB is a chance to meet new businesses and collaborate locally.

Co-LLAB FREE

A series of pop up co-working spaces set up in rural Nillumbik Shire.

Tuesday 10 March -Thursday 12 March 9am-5pm **Christmas Hills Hall** Wednesday 18 March -Friday 20 March 9am-5pm St Andrews **Community Centre**

FREE

FREE

Tuesday 24 March -Thursday 26 March 9am-5pm **Arthurs Creek Mechanics Hall**

Register: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/collab

ARTS AND CULTURE

Musing of My Mind on Untamed Tracks

19 March - 20 April Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham Tara Stubley's paintings ponder the sensation of just being, while exploring our connection with the magic and mystery of nature.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/elthamlibrarygallery

Treasured Scraps workshop

Saturday 21 March, 10.30am-1.30pm Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham For more information see page 12 yrpl.vic.gov.au

ENVIRONMENT

FREE Management of Common (Indian) Mynas

12 March, 7pm-9pm Edendale Community Environment Farm 30 Gastons Road, Eltham

This workshop will cover strategies to try and reduce the population in your area of an annoying introduced pest.

Bookings essential: edendale.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY

Come Together Festival

Saturday 14 March, 1pm-10pm Edendale Community Environment Farm, 30 Gastons Road, Eltham \$35 adults, children free For more information see page 6

Bookings: cometogether.org.au

Warrandyte Festival

Friday 20 March - Sunday 22 March Stiggants Reserve, Stiggant Street, Warrandyte For more information see page 7

warrandytefestival.org

Open Farm Day

FREE

FREE

FREE

Sunday 22 March 10am-4pm Various farms around the shire. For more information see page 7 nillumbik.vic.gov.au/openfarmday

Walking, Talking, Listening, Learning

Series of walking talks at Bunjil Reserve, Bishops Road, Panton Hill

Sound and Silence: meditation in nature Sunday 22 March, 4pm-6pm sound-and-silence.eventbrite.com.au

What's on in **April**

ANZAC DAY SERVICES Saturday 25 April

DIAMOND CREEK March, 10am Service, 10.30am March with the Diamond Creek RSL from the corner of Inglis Street and Chute Street to the cenotaph at Marngrook Oval for the service.

ELTHAM/MONTMORENCY Dawn Service, 6am War Memorial Cenotaph 903 Main Road, Eltham

This service is run by the Montmorency-Eltham RSL Sub-Branch in conjunction with Eltham Rotary.

March and Service, 10.30am Montmorency March from Were Street, Montmorency to the Montmorency-Eltham RSL Sub Branch for a service.

montyrsl.com.au cait@montyrsl.com.au

GREENSBOROUGH Dawn Service, 6am Greensborough War Memorial Park Henry Street, Greensborough

Join the Greensborough RSL at sunrise with the Catafalque Party from the Simpsons Barracks.

Parade, 8.45am

Led by the Victorian Police horses, the parade starts at the Greensborough RSL, and travels to War Memorial Park for a service at 9.10am.

HURSTBRIDGE

10am, Anzac Memorial Park Corner Main Road and Anzac Avenue, Hurstbridge

Join the Hurstbridge RSL for the first Anzac Day service to be held at the new Hurstbridge War Memorial since it was dedicated last October.

Enquiries: lindsaypark2@bigpond.com

KANGAROO GROUND Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park, 10am 375 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road

Australian Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Terry Beaton is to give the address this year.



Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park.

ENVIRONMENT

Vertical Gardens

Saturday 18 April, 10am-12pm Edendale Community Environment Farm 30 Gastons Road, Eltham An introduction to vertical gardens and how to start one of your own.

edendale.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY

Edendale Sensory Farm Tour

Friday 3 April, 11am-12pm Edendale Community Environment Farm \$8 per child, parents/carers free A 45-minute tour of Edendale tailored for children on the Autism Spectrum.

Bookings essential: edendale.vic.gov.au/events

Sustainable Sewing FREE

Saturday 4 April, 2pm-4pm Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham Learn how to repair and alter your clothes. Details: yrpl.vic.gov.au

Pet registration due

9 April For more information see page 5 nillumbik.vic.gov.au/petrego

Walking, Talking, Listening, Learning

Series of walking talks at Bunjil Reserve, Bishops Road, Panton Hill

FREE

Locals at the Locale: perspectives from Panton Hill residents Sunday 19 April, 10am-12pm

Register: locals-at-the-locale.eventbrite. com.au

ARTS AND CULTURE

Poetry@Chrissy Hills

Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute Hall 787 Ridge Road, Christmas Hills \$5

Open mic, supported by a 2019-2020 Nillumbik Arts & Culture Grant

Enquiries: Sandy: 0418 523 644 or sandyjeffs@ozemail.com.au

Creative Minds

FREE

FREE

23 April – 25 May Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham A showcase of artworks created by Nillumbik's VCE Art and Studio Art students. nillumbik.vic.gov.au/elthamlibrarygallery

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Taking your business online Wednesday 15 April, 5.30pm-7.30pm Nillumbik Shire Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough \$20

Feel better informed and prepared to bring your business online at this essential Small Business Victoria workshop.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/businessevents

Planning your regular financial commitments

Wednesday 22 April, 10am-11am Nillumbik Shire Offices,

Civic Drive, Greensborough Learn a five-step process to stay on top of your financial commitments.

Register: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ businessevents

What's on in **May**

AUTUMN MARKETS

St Andrews Community Market Saturdays 9am-2pm Corner Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road and Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, St Andrews

Eltham Farmers' Market Sundays 9am-1pm Eltham Town Mall, Arthur Street

Kingsbury Drive Community Market Sundays 9am-1pm Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora

Hurstbridge Market First Sunday each month 8am-1pm Fergusons Paddock, Hurstbridge-Arthurs Creek Road

Eltham Craft and Produce Market Third Sunday of every month 8.30am-1pm Alistair Knox Park



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Starting a new small business

Monday 18 May, 10am-11am Nillumbik Shire Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough

Thinking of starting a small business or have a hobby that is becoming a business? Learn the difference between a business and a hobby, and about the most common business structures.

FREE



See demonstrations, buy unique artwork and sign up for courses at the open studios weekend.

Nillumbik Artists Open Studios

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May, 10am-5pm Various locations around Nillumbik

Proudly supported by Nillumbik Shire Council, 26 artists will open their studio doors to the public. Explore sculpture walks in picturesque locations, get lost in painting studios, speak with our artists and discover the source of their passion. Download a map to plan your visit.

artistsopenstudios.com.au

ARTS AND CULTURE

Eltham Poetry Readings

Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm Eltham Living & Learning Centre, Pavilion Room \$5

Open Mic – five open spots. Supported by a Nillumbik Shire Council 2019-2020 Arts & Culture Grant.

Enquiries: Peta Heywood, pheywood@bigpond.net.au or 0418 325 959

Hurstbridge Heart FREE Writing Festival

Saturday 30 May, 9.30am-5pm Hurstbridge Community Hub, Graysharps Road

Workshops and discussions about writing, history and community.

Register: eventbrite.com/e/hurstbridgeheart-writing-festival-tickets-93448654441

COMMUNITY

Doggy Tales with Xena FREE Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham Saturday 9 May, 3pm-4pm

Doggy Tales program is an exciting way for children to practise their reading with a non-judgmental, canine audience. No need to book. Just come along and meet our reading dog.

Walking, Talking, Listening, Learning

FREE

Series of walking talks at Bunjil Reserve, Bishops Road, Panton Hill

Horse Wisdom: the healing possibilities of connecting with equine friends Sunday 17 May, 10am-12pm

Register: horse-wisdom.eventbrite. com.au

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.



64.4% 2.6% less than previous quarter 0.02% less than previous year COMMUNITY SERVICES Satisfaction with provision of community services 8.04 out of 10 4.8% higher than previous year 3.0% higher than Victorian average **Council's Annual Community** Survey results continue to reinforce that residents rank core service delivery as important. The key service indicators on this dashboard provide a comparison between current and previous

Service improvement highlight

As part of Council's first customer experience strategy Nillumbik Customer First, we introduced our first Call Quality Benchmarking system for customer experience.

This aims to monitor and improve our customer interaction and experience, and ensure we are providing services at an effective level.

Under the guise of 'mystery shoppers', an independent quality benchmarking company assesses our teams on their phone service skills, from call introduction, knowledge and information flow, through to call closure.

Late in 2019, our customer experience team was awarded 'Best in Sector' out of 40 councils for mystery shopping for outstanding customer service. Council was also ranked second out of all 145 organisations assessed as part of the benchmarking process.

Mystery Shopping is now operational across five key teams within Council, and will be expanded further throughout 2020.



Our customer experience team was awarded 'Best in Sector' out of 40 councils for mystery shopping for outstanding customer service.

Easter and public holiday opening hours

Council offices

Civic Drive, Greensborough

Open 8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday except:

Labour Day Monday 9 March	closed
Good Friday 10 April	closed
Easter Monday 13 April	closed
Queen's Birthday	
Monday 8 June	closed

Bin Collection

There will be no kerbside bin collection (recycling or green waste) on Good Friday 10 April. Bins will be collected on Saturday 11 April.

Recycling & Recovery Centre

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty Sunday and Monday.

Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays.

closed
closed
closed

Nillumbik Pound

Monday to Friday 8.15am-12.15pm Saturday and Sunday 8.15am-11am Open all public holidays

Edendale Community Environment Farm

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

Living & Learning Nillumbik

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

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

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



Nillumbik Shire Council

Civic Drive (PO Box 476) Greensborough Victoria 3088 03 9433 3111 | nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

