

Winter 2020 • JUNE - AUGUST

# Nillumbik

## NEWS



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Nillumbik Shire Councillors prior to COVID-19 and (inset) making history at the first Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting to be held virtually.

# Council's response to the COVID-19 crisis

Your health and safety are our priority as we work to slow the spread of the coronavirus

Our world has been turned upside down as we deal with the impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on our community.

Your health and safety, and that of our staff, are our number one priority and we have been taking the necessary steps to help slow the spread of this disease.

We are continually following the recommendations of the state and federal governments to guide our operations. As a result, there are significant disruptions to Council services, events and programs.

Social distancing restrictions began to ease in May, and as this edition of *Nillumbik News* was going to print, we were awaiting news of further changes.

## Facility closures

As of 31 May 2020, many Council facilities were closed including our leisure centres, Living & Learning centres, Edendale Community Environment Farm, the Eltham Community Reception Centre, Hurstbridge Hub (except for the Maternal and Child Health Service and the children's centre) as well as our playgrounds and skate parks.

## Customer Service

Our desk at the Civic Centre in Greensborough has been closed, however our team is available to take your call on 9433 3111. Many types of Council business can also be completed online.

## Recycling and Recovery Centre

Our Recycling and Recovery Centre has reopened. Strict operating practices are in place to ensure a safe environment for customers and staff. These changes may cause delays and we ask for patience during this time.

## Libraries

While the library branches have been closed, the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service is still offering a great range of programs and services online through Your Library at Home at [yprl.vic.gov.au/your-library-at-home](http://yprl.vic.gov.au/your-library-at-home).

In addition to the digital books, audiobooks and digital magazines available, there are live virtual storytimes, a tech helpline, family and local history help, homework help and librarians ready to help with your questions.

## Yarrambat Park Golf Course

The golf course reopened in May with strict social distancing measures in place.

## Stay in touch

Keep up to date with the latest changes to Council facilities, services and events at our website [nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or by following us on Facebook [@nillumbikcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/nillumbikcouncil)

## Ratepayer support

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on rates and any other financial implications for Council were being considered as part of the annual budget process. The 2020/21 Budget was due to go before Council on 26 May 2020.

We have been assisting ratepayers who may be experiencing financial hardship during the crisis. Any ratepayer who finds themselves in this situation can contact our Rates team to discuss their circumstances and come to a manageable arrangement.





Our vital delivered meals service is continuing for our older and vulnerable residents.

## Community support

Our essential community services have been continuing. These include our delivered meals service and the community bus for medical appointments and essential shopping.

Other services not affected by COVID-19 for eligible residents include domestic assistance, personal care, respite care, home modifications and property maintenance.

Immunisations clinics have been running at all venues. Maternal and Child Health appointments for newborns and babies aged two, four and eight weeks have continued in person, while other appointments are by phone or skype.

## Business support

Many of our local businesses have been doing it tough. In response, we have developed a Nillumbik Business Support Package. Contact our Economic Development team for details at [business@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@nillumbik.vic.gov.au).

## One-on-one support

We are checking in with businesses to identify support they require.

## Regular newsletter

This provides businesses information on government initiatives, education and marketing opportunities, and other support available.

## Mentoring and Education

A range of small business and digital workshops, seminars and mentoring opportunities are available.



## Registration fees

Food businesses experiencing hardship can apply in writing to [health.services@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:health.services@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) to receive a 30 per cent refund of this year's registration. This includes Streatrader fees.

Food businesses registered as Class 3 businesses can upgrade to Class 2 activity for no extra cost, but must apply to the Environmental Health team.

## Street furniture

Fees for A-frames and footpath furniture will be waived. Contact our Community Safety team at [nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au).

## Events

Many Council-run events have been cancelled and this edition of *Nillumbik News* does not include an events calendar. But our staff are coming up with new ways to bring events to you.

For details go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events) and follow our social media channels.

## Council meetings

Our meetings have continued to be held throughout the crisis.

May's Future Nillumbik Committee meeting made history as the first Council meeting to be held virtually, with Councillors dialling in via Zoom.

Measures have been put in place to ensure members of the public have an opportunity to be heard or to make a submission as they would with any other committee meeting.

All virtual meetings are livestreamed and accessible through our website [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/council/minutes-and-agendas](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/council/minutes-and-agendas).

## Shop local

**Support businesses in Nillumbik by getting behind our Shop Local campaign.**

Follow our Visit Nillumbik Facebook and Instagram pages to find out who's open, who's offering delivery or take away and those who have adopted new and innovative ways to deliver goods and services locally.

There are many great Nillumbik businesses who are thinking outside the box and we encourage you to shop local where you can.

@Visit Nillumbik



# from the Mayor

## Welcome to the winter edition of *Nillumbik News*.

We have certainly been living through unprecedented times these past few months as we deal with the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting social distancing restrictions.

Thank you to everyone for your support and patience in these difficult circumstances, and for following the important restrictions that have been essential in helping to keep our community safe.

The restrictions are now being slowly eased, but there is a long way to go before our lives will get back some semblance of normality.

In the meantime, it has been business as usual for Council as we have worked behind the scenes to continue providing our essential services to you. Many of our staff have been working remotely where possible. Others have been continuing their work out in the community while complying with social distancing measures.

Our Council and Future Nillumbik Committee meetings have gone virtual until further notice. At first they were livestreamed from the Council Chamber, but more recently Councillors have been dialling in via Zoom to ensure we continue to make the important decisions for our community.

The Victorian Government is expected to announce further changes in coming weeks, so keep an eye out on our website and social media channels for updates.

We are all in this together and I urge you to continue to keep a look out for your family, friends, neighbours and those who are socially isolated. I also encourage you to support our local businesses who continue to do it tough. The benefits of bringing our community together in these ways will be felt well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you think there is anyone who may have fallen through the cracks, please let us know.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

**Cr Karen Egan**  
Mayor Nillumbik Shire Council



## Lighting up Nillumbik for Victoria Police

**Police stations across Nillumbik were lit up in blue in May in honour of the four Victoria Police officers who lost their lives so tragically while working to keep our community safe.**

Nillumbik Shire Council joined with Victoria Police to pay their respects to the officers – Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor, Senior Constable Kevin King, Constable Glen Humphris and Constable Josh Prestney.

On Friday 1 May, the Diamond Creek Police Station was bathed in blue and four light beams were projected into the sky, representing each of the officers.

Officers from Diamond Creek, Eltham, Hurstbridge and the Greensborough Highway Patrol stood to attention outside the station.

The Hurstbridge Police Station was also lit up on the Friday night, while the Eltham Police Station was lit up the next night.

Mayor Karen Egan said joining with Victoria Police to light up the stations was a tangible gesture of support and solidarity with officers.

“On behalf of Nillumbik councillors, staff and residents, I wish to express our deep sadness at this awful tragedy and to thank all our police officers who each day, selflessly put their lives on the line to protect our community,” Cr Egan said.

Victoria Police thanked the Nillumbik community for their support.

“Police would like to extend their gratitude to the Nillumbik community for their condolences, support and compassion shown to police during this difficult time.”

# Everybody needs to have good neighbours

Join the campaign to stay connected during times apart

There has never been a more important time to connect with our community than during COVID-19.

For this reason, we are proud supporters of the growing Know Your Neighbour campaign that encourages residents to get to know and support each other.

During the past few months, many in our community have experienced loneliness and social isolation like never before.

Which is why it is so important to reach out to our neighbours, keeping in mind the current social distancing restrictions.

Our neighbourhoods provide a great chance for us to meet people who are different from us.

Many residents have turned strangers into neighbours and streets into neighbourhoods by taking part in small acts of neighbourliness.

For some, that may mean a wave or smile, teddy bears in windows or cookies left on the doorstep.

For others, a chat over the fence is all it takes. Join the campaign and make a difference to our neighbourhoods by starting in your own backyard.

And when this is all over, we might be left with some life-long friends.



## Kindness counts

There is no time like now for us to come together and show little acts of kindness.

Simple acts of kindness include:

- Checking on a neighbour
- Calling (not texting!) people you love
- Doing a grocery shop for someone who can't
- Asking the person who's serving you how their day is going
- Dropping off a home-cooked meal to someone doing it tough.

Nillumbik businesses are doing their best during these unprecedented times. Support them where you can – they need your kindness now more than ever. Every small act of kindness counts.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/be-kind](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/be-kind)





## Working together

### Council has signed up to the Small Business Friendly Council initiative.

Developed by the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC), the initiative aims to address issues experienced by small business owners by making it a lot easier for them to start and grow their businesses.

Commissioner Judy O'Connell met with Mayor Karen Egan and CEO Carl Cowie (pictured above) for the signing of the initiative's Charter in February.

By signing, Council is committing to a range of measures to support small businesses.

Cr Egan said Council was pleased to sign up to the initiative.

"Becoming a part of this initiative is a way for us to make it easier for new businesses to start in the Shire in relation to planning, greatly benefitting the broader Nillumbik community," Cr Egan said.

# Top marks for our services

Ninth Annual Community Survey rates council performance

## Our top performers



Facilities and services



Customer service



Governance and leadership



Community engagement

Our residents have given Council services and facilities a big tick of approval in the 2020 Annual Community Survey.

Council recorded the highest satisfaction results for services and facilities since the survey began in 2011.

Our top performers include libraries, children's services, green waste collection, education and learning, and sports ovals and facilities.

Other high-performing areas of Council include governance and leadership, community engagement, and planning and development outcomes.

Customer service ranked highly with the best overall result since 2011 and follows the ongoing implementation of Council's Customer First strategy. Top marks from respondents were given for courtesy and friendliness, and access to Council officers.

But the big issues residents remain concerned about include traffic and roads maintenance, bushfire management and prevention, and rubbish and waste.

Council commissioned Metropolis Research to conduct its ninth annual community survey over three weekends in March this year.

The survey aims to measure community satisfaction with Council services and facilities, governance and leadership, planning and housing development

processes and outcomes, communication and community engagement and customer service.

Satisfaction with Council's overall performance remains stable, recording a slight decline of 1.2 per cent, but staying above the long-term average.

Mayor Karen Egan said it was pleasing most residents surveyed were satisfied with Council's performance and services, but said it was always looking to improve.

"Council continues to advocate on behalf of our residents for improvements to roads across the Shire.

"We are pleased to have received \$5 million in Federal Government funding for congestion-busting works in Main Road, Eltham.

"We have an excellent team working in bushfire mitigation and much has been done in that area over the past six months. And following community consultation, we will be offering residents a range of extra kerbside bin collection options from 1 July to assist with waste management needs."

In good news, most residents feel very safe in Nillumbik's public areas, with not one respondent raising safety, policing and crime as one of their top three issues.

"These survey results highlight Nillumbik remains a great place to live," Cr Egan said.

## Lodge a planning application online

### Lodging a planning application? You can now lodge and pay for planning applications online.

Property owners and planning applicants can also go online to book a pre-application meeting with a Senior Advisory Liaison Officer.

This meeting provides the opportunity to discuss plans and receive feedback on applications prior to them being lodged.

These new services have enabled the Planning Services team to effectively respond to the needs of our customers and become accessible and transparent.

For more information go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/planningonline](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/planningonline)



## Virtual gardens

We have had a fantastic response to the Nillumbik Gardens for Wildlife program and are pleased to launch the program logo.

Thank you to those community members who voted on the logo to help us develop the final design of the brush-tailed phascogale.

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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are working to deliver a modified program and registrations were due to open in May. Places are strictly limited – those that miss out will be put on a waiting list.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife)



## All fired up

As we head into the cooler months, smoke from wood heaters can impact our health and the environment.

Make sure you are using the right wood, storing it correctly, using the proper methods for burning, and maintaining your wood heater. Not only will this prevent pollution, it will also improve the efficiency of your heater – meaning extra toasty evenings by the fire!

Find out more, visit [epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au) and search for 'wood smoke'.



Artist Mary-Lou Pittard installs the tiles along the welcome walk. The tiles were designed by students and community members at a workshop earlier this year.

## We all have a hand in reconciliation

### Community landscaping project takes root at the Eltham North Adventure Playground

An indigenous seasonal garden and gathering space that honours the Wurundjeri is taking shape at the Eltham North Adventure Playground, thanks to our community.

Following the 2017 fire that destroyed the playground, the Friends of Eltham North Adventure Playground Group shared a vision for a reconciliation landscape at the new playground to honour and acknowledge the Wurundjeri and their long connection to the land.

In 2018, community support for this project saw it receive the most votes in the Northern Metro region securing funding from the Victorian Government through its Pick My Project initiative.

Working with the Wurundjeri Tribe Council, Nillumbik Shire Council is assisting in the project's delivery in partnership with the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group and the Pick My Project Community Reference Group.

The community landscaping project will feature an indigenous seasonal garden with plantings guided by the Wurundjeri Narrap team and cultural signage. It includes a Welcome to Country walkway to a gathering space featuring artwork based on seasonal themes of the Wurundjeri. The welcome walkway has been edged with terracotta tiles in the shape of plants and animals, designed by Eltham North

Primary School students and community members together with artist Mary-Lou Pittard, providing a nostalgic link between this generation of children and those from the past who created tiles for the original playground more than 25 years ago.

The area will feature an indigenous seasonal garden. Key pages of Aunty Joy Murphy's book, *Welcome to Country*, will be brought to life through signage.

Mayor Karen Egan said the space was a collaborative community effort which Council was proud to support. "The Wurundjeri are the traditional owners of this land and it is important we recognise and honour them," Cr Egan said.

Natalie Duffy from the Friends of Eltham North Adventure Playground said: "Inspired by Aunty Joy Murphy and her book, *Welcome to Country*, it is hoped this emphasis on Wurundjeri culture and seasons at the playground will strengthen a shared connection to country, environment and education for all ages."

Despite the restrictions due to COVID-19, work has continued on the community landscaping project to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation. Stay tuned for more details of how you can have a hand in reconciliation through this project at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au) and our social media channels.



# Project updates

## Diamond Creek Trail extension

Work will soon start on Stage 1 of the Diamond Creek Trail extension from Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen.

The 2.5km shared-use trail will be suitable for all ages and abilities for walking, running, cycling and horse-riding.

## Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre

Preliminary works have been gathering pace in preparation for the centre upgrade that will include four new compliant basketball/netball courts.

## Eltham Tennis Courts

Tennis will be an even bigger hit in Eltham with the construction of three new multi-sport, all-ability courts at Andrews Park.

## Greensborough Hockey Club Pavilion

Work has started on the \$2.7 million redevelopment.

In February, Council called on the Federal Government to provide in its next Budget the \$500,000 Council missed out on for the project through the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant Program.

## Eltham Central Pavilion

The end is in sight for the \$3.6 million redevelopment with Stage 2 scheduled to be completed in the new financial year.



The historic tram was transported by truck and crane to its new home; The Diamond Creek Rotary Club is presented with \$20,000 from Council for the tram project.

# Tram makes final stop

The new Diamond Creek Playspace is the end of the line for a historic W-Class tram

Infrastructure projects across the Shire are continuing in the face of COVID-19. Our teams have been taking special measures to ensure social distancing and safe work practices while ensuring these important works are completed for the enjoyment of our community.

## Diamond Creek Regional Playspace

In a milestone for the Diamond Creek Regional Playspace, Mayor Karen Egan and Yan Yean MP Danielle Green turned the first sod of the project and planted a commemorative tree in early March.

The ceremony came after the delivery of the restored Diamond Creek Rotary tram, which will operate as a community café on site. Moving the tram was a huge effort, with two cranes required to lift it from a truck and position it in place with the assistance of volunteers from the Ballarat Tram Museum.

Valley Community Services Limited (Bendigo Bank) donated \$20,000 towards the tram project, which was matched by Council, and the cheques were presented to the Diamond Creek Rotary Club at the sod turning ceremony. Works are continuing on site with plans to officially open the playground later in the year.

## Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion

The same day, Cr Egan and Ms Green turned the first sod on the new Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion. The old building has been demolished to make way for a modern facility with accessible player and umpire change rooms.

The pavilion has been funded by a \$2.8 million Growing Suburbs Fund grant, \$200,000 from Council and \$80,000 raised by the Diamond Creek Force Netball Association.



Turning the first sod at the Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion.



## Protecting our wildlife

**At the end of June, Council will complete two, four-year biodiversity conservation projects, funded by the State Government.**

'Rivers to Ranges' and 'Conservation Futures' have helped restore thousands of hectares of wildlife habitat and protect some of Nillumbik's most threatened animals and plants.

Conservation Futures focused on protecting threatened species on public and private land. Rivers to Ranges managed weed threats to biodiversity on public land.

Both projects operated across the Nillumbik landscape from Kinglake National Park to the Yarra River.

The success of the projects was due to the hard work of the project partners: Nillumbik Shire Council (lead agency), City of Whittlesea, Manningham Council, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Trust for Nature, Nillumbik Landcare Network and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/environment-projects](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/environment-projects)



New alpacas Truffles, Hush and Nutmeg at Edendale. Check out the photobomber in the background!

## Triple treat for Edendale

### Trio of alpacas make farm their new home

The arrival of three new alpacas has been a bright spot for Edendale Community Environment Farm during its COVID-19 closure.

And in exciting news, farm staff are hoping to hear the patter of tiny hooves with the possibility at least one of the alpacas might be expecting a baby later this year. A baby alpaca is called a cria.

The alpacas arrived at Edendale just after the farm closed to visitors and have quickly made themselves at home.

Farm officer Jo Skuse said it had been useful to acclimatise the alpacas while there were no visitors.

"They came from a large farm and lived out in the paddocks with lots of other alpacas, so they have not had much constant human contact," she said.

"The black one is called Hush and she is the most friendly. We have been trying to train them to come up and eat from our hand and Hush is always first.

"The light brown one is Nutmeg and she is the most hesitant. Truffles is the chocolate brown one. She is in between."

Ms Skuse said that despite the closure, farm life was busy.

"We are making the most of not having the public in and allowing the animals to graze in unusual places such as the driveway and walkways which are normally for the visitors," she said. "We still have all our normal farm chores to do plus plenty of other work as we do not have all our volunteers coming in to help. We have up to 75 volunteers normally helping with farm and indigenous nursery chores and we have had to cancel them coming to the farm.

"It's been very quiet and we can't wait until things return to normal and we have all our regular visitors back to see the animals and chat to us."

Keep up to date with the farm's latest news at [edendale.vic.gov.au](http://edendale.vic.gov.au) and the Edendale Facebook page.



## Farm tours continue

Sensory Friendly Farm Tours will continue at Edendale Community Environment Farm for another three years, thanks to sponsorship by Eltham Paediatrics.

Last year, Eltham Paediatrics proudly sponsored the farm tours as part of a pilot program and will now continue the partnership with Council.

The sensory friendly 45-minute tours are led by a farmer and are tailored for children with autism and sensory processing issues.

The tours support young people to learn about the farm and seasonal activities, feeding the chickens and interacting with other animals in a small, sensory friendly sized group.

The tours are presently not running. Check Council's Facebook page and website [nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au) for when they will re-commence. For further information please contact Edendale Farm: [edendale@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:edendale@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or call 9433 3711.



# New kerbside bin options

An expanded range of bin choices will be available from July

The new bin options include a weekly 120-litre landfill bin, a larger 140-litre fortnightly landfill bin and a larger 240-litre weekly green waste bin.

The new services are in addition to the options already available. There will be charges for the extra landfill arrangements.

Mayor Karen Egan said Council had listened to community feedback about waste collection.

“While most of our residents are happy with the current waste management service arrangements, following community consultation, we are increasing the range of services we provide,” Cr Egan said.

“For residents who don’t want changes to their bins or collection frequency, services will continue as normal and they don’t need to do anything.”

Residents can order the new bin options from 1 June with the new services to start from 1 July. Residents can take up the new options at any time.

Charges for the new bins were being finalised as part of Council’s consideration

of the 2020/21 Budget as this edition of *Nillumbik News* was going to print.

The changes come as JJ Richards takes over the delivery of Council’s kerbside waste collection from 1 July.

Cr Egan said the appointment of JJ Richards follows a best-value review of the in-house service through an open tender process, ensuring Council continues to provide a high-quality, value-for-money service to the community.

“Residents will see no change to services as a result of changing providers,” Cr Egan said.

In the meantime, Council has welcomed the State Government’s waste and recycling initiatives that will see all households receive a new fourth bin for glass recycling.

Cr Egan said Council is required to introduce the new glass bin by 2027 and is working with the State Government on an implementation plan.

For more information about Council’s new bin and collection options go to our website at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins)

## New Act brings change for councils

**A new Local Government Act 2020 is being introduced this year, delivering significant reforms to Victorian councils including Nillumbik.**

The new Act seeks to improve democracy, accountability and service delivery in the local government sector.

Reforms will cover community engagement, public transparency, strategic planning, financial management and service performance. Compulsory training for council election candidates will also be introduced.

The Act received Royal Assent on 24 March. The Act 2020 is proclaimed in four stages, with Stage 1 receiving proclamation on 6 April. This stage brings into operation the overall architecture of the new Act without any of the council obligations, except for those that relate to elections.

Stage 2 was proclaimed on 1 May 2020, Stage 3 will be on 24 October 2020 and Stage 4 on 1 July 2021, but the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* are still applicable if a particular stage has not been proclaimed.

Council is working closely with Local Government Victoria and other peak bodies on the implementation of the Act 2020.

For more information about the new Act, go to [localgovernment.vic.gov.au](http://localgovernment.vic.gov.au)



Residents can upgrade their current green waste bin to a larger 240-litre bin.

## Planning for future liveability

As Nillumbik’s population grows, we need to consider how we will accommodate extra residents and plan for changing housing needs in our Shire.

Council is preparing a new Housing Strategy to respond to these changing demands and Council is seeking your input.

Housing needs within the Shire should be planned and managed in a way that optimises our liveability and protects the valued characteristics that make Nillumbik unique.

The Housing Strategy must also respond to State Government planning policy to:

- Fairly contribute to Melbourne’s expected housing growth;
- Provide a diversity of housing options, including affordable housing, housing for people with special needs, and for our ageing population; and
- Concentrate housing close to the Eltham and Diamond Creek Major Activity Centres, so more people can live in walking distance of shops, services, jobs and public transport.



We anticipate our draft Housing Strategy will be released for public consultation mid-2020. To find out more, visit [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or email [strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

## Driven to volunteer

**Council has been operating and supporting the TAC L2P Program for many years.**

Young people in the Shire who may not otherwise be able to complete the mandatory 120 hours on their learner's permits are matched with volunteers who provide mentoring and instruction in preparation for their probationary driving test.

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, which was held from May 18 to 24, we'd like to share with you this correspondence sent to volunteer mentor Joy from Bertrand, a previous L2P learner driver who has come full circle and now volunteers as an L2P mentor himself!

For more information about the program, including volunteering as a mentor, visit [nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au/L2P](http://nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au/L2P)



Bertrand and Joy

*Hi Joy, it's Bertrand here!*

*I just want to let you know that I've been on my full licence for about a year now and I have just started up as a mentor for the L2P driving program in Moonee Valley!*

*You really inspired me to become a mentor since you played a crucial role in my development as a young adult and you volunteered your time to others and giving back to the community, and I feel inspired to do the same thing.*

*I really couldn't be in the position I'm in right now without you and [...] your help in getting my licence.*

– Bertrand



The winners of the Young Women Leaders Awards.

## Young women make a mark

Our outstanding young women are taking the lead in our community

To coincide with International Women's Day celebrations, Nillumbik Council presented the inaugural Young Women Leaders of Nillumbik Awards in March. These awards recognise and celebrate the contribution of young women in Nillumbik to their communities. Awards were presented across five categories:

### Young Woman of the Year

After starting Libby's Koala and Wildlife Crusade at the age of 12, Libby Fisher, now 15, has raised more than \$45,000 for koalas and native wildlife.

### Young Carer Award

Jhemma Hall was recognised for her commitment to supporting other young carers, giving back to the community and assisting others. As a carer herself, Jhemma is a member of the Youth Advisory Council and supports young people caring for family members.

### Gender Equity Advocate Award

Challenging age and gender bias in emergency services as an active member of the Kangaroo Ground CFA, Tara Frost is a great example of the important role women play in protecting and promoting the safety and wellbeing of our community.

### Excelling in Arts or Sports

Eliza Stone was recognised thanks to her theatre arts, drama and sports experience – including mentoring young actors at Eltham Little Theatre, playing and coaching state volleyball, and touring the Adelaide and Melbourne fringe festivals.

### Youth-Led Group of the Year

The Violet Fems are a group of young women from Eltham High School who meet weekly to discuss feminism-related issues and work on ongoing projects.

## Takeover Melbourne – tell us your story

Do you have a story to tell? Young people aged 12 to 18 are invited to share a true story about an aspect of their life and/or community, giving Australia a window to their experiences.

Takeover Melbourne focuses on the lives of young people and the places they live – their challenges, obstacles, passions and triumphs. Young people are encouraged to share their stories and ideas in a creative and honest way.

Entrants can submit a story in any format: audio, video, photos or text, and winners will work with ABC producers to have their story featured on ABC TV, radio and online.



Young people of Nillumbik – this is your chance to tell your story! Entries close 26 June.

[nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au/takeover](http://nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au/takeover)

# Aligning our leisure centres

Residents are set to benefit with Council's five sport and recreation centres to be managed by one operator from 1 July

Council has appointed Aligned Leisure to manage Eltham Leisure Centre, Community Bank Stadium, Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool, Diamond Creek Community Centre and Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre.

Mayor Karen Egan said there would be no change for leisure centre members or visitors.

"It will be business as usual for members and visitors. We anticipate many benefits for centre members including reciprocal usage rights across the five centres," Cr Egan said.

Aligned Leisure, a subsidiary company of the Richmond Football Club, is the current operator of the Eltham Leisure Centre.

A comprehensive tender process was undertaken to award the management

and operation of the five centres to a single provider from 1 July 2020.

Nillumbik Chief Executive Officer Carl Cowie thanked the current operators YMCA and Clublinks for their excellent service to the community.

"We anticipate many of the staff will have the opportunity to transfer to the new service provider," Mr Cowie said.

Aligned Leisure Chief Executive Officer Shane Dunne said: "We are delighted to continue our partnership with the Nillumbik community."

Council's sport and leisure centres are closed to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Keep an eye on [nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au) and our social media channels for when the facilities will reopen.



The Living & Learning team prior to COVID-19.

## Still learning in isolation

**Keeping the community connected has been the focus of Term 2 at Living & Learning Nillumbik; developing resilience while adapting to changing circumstances and thinking of new ways to deliver learning.**

As a result of COVID-19 social distancing requirements, our accredited courses quickly moved to remote learning to ensure students were able to continue with their studies and achieve success.

Community programs such as Italian, creative writing and photography have been reimaged for online delivery.

In May, we celebrated Neighbourhood House Week and reflected on the theme 'Loneliness: the answer is community', a timely reminder of the importance of creating spaces and opportunities for people to connect and share their stories.

Our team is looking forward to opening our doors to the community when it is safe to do so.

Please continue to check the Living & Learning website and social media pages for updates. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

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



The Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool will be managed by Aligned Leisure from 1 July.



# Master plan for memorial park

Council has started a project to prepare a master plan for the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park, one of the Shire's most well-known landmarks.

The master plan will be developed with key park stakeholders and with input from the community. It will create a long-term vision and plan, as well as outline shared responsibilities for the care of the park.

In April and May, the community was invited to share their experience of,

and thoughts about, the park through Participate Nillumbik.

A concept plan will be shared with the community for information in July. This will be further developed and a draft Master Plan is expected to be shared for public feedback in 2021.

Keep up to date about the project at [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or email [strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) for more information.



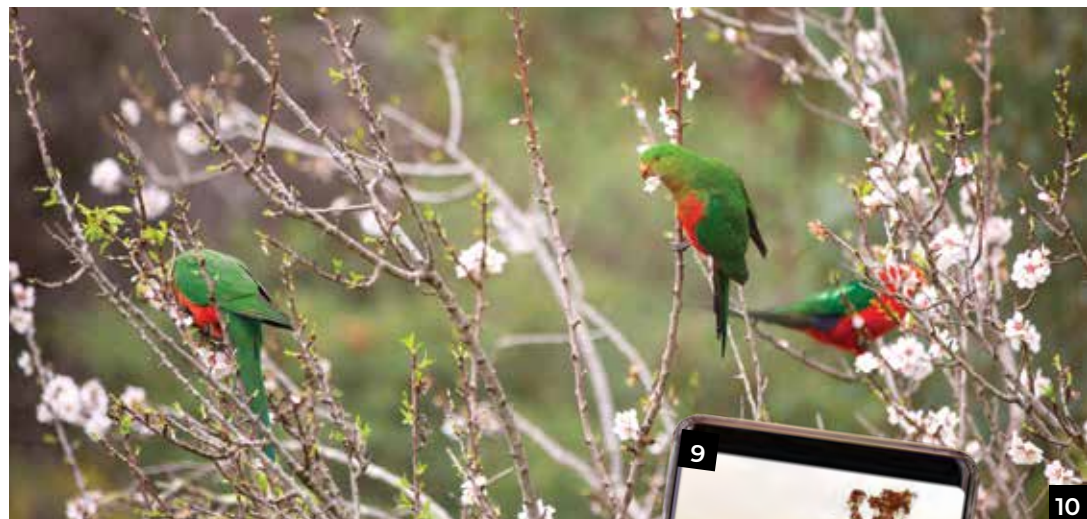


Image credits: 1. Iain Macrae; 2. Nillumbik Landcare Network 3. Hurstbridge preschool; 4. Rachael Ledwich; 5. Anonymous; 6. Iain Macrae; 7. Alii Spoor; 8. Iain Macrae; 9. Alii Spoor; 10. Mel Miles

## Connecting with Nature

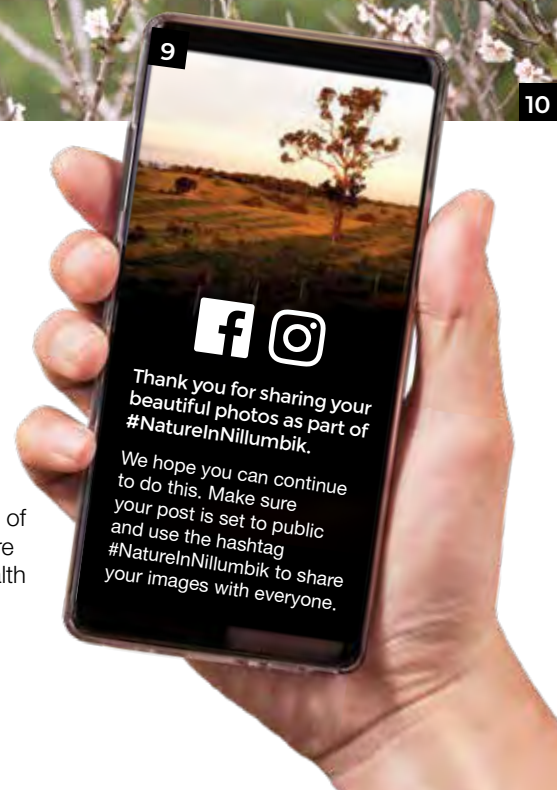
During our time of isolation, we have been asking you to share your favourite photos or videos of Nillumbik's reserves, animals and plants to Facebook or Instagram.

Visit the hashtag #NatureInNillumbik online to view some stunning photos.

Stay connected on social media and our website to see the ways that Nillumbik's Environment team are working every day to protect our unique environment.

See our work on hand pollinating Rosella Spider Orchids and supporting the Eltham Copper Butterfly, and a series of nature soundscapes from across the Shire that are being gathered via our forest health monitoring program.

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



# How to cut your energy bills

Residents have taken charge of their energy bills with more than 100 Nillumbik households installing or getting quotes for a solar system via the Solar Savers bulk-buy program.

The successful local government-supported program has now closed, but with winter here and many of us spending more time at home, there are plenty of simple ways to cut electricity usage.

These include:

- Draft proofing your home to prevent heated air from escaping.
- Setting your heater between 18 and 20 degrees – every extra degree can increase your electricity costs by up to 10 per cent.
- Double glazing windows, or keeping windows covered.
- Replacing older, inefficient lights with LEDs, using lamps instead of lighting whole rooms, and when replacing appliances, looking for energy efficient options.

For queries about energy efficiency in the home, solar systems and batteries, contact Council's Sustainability Officer at [ian.culbard@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:ian.culbard@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



## Climate for change

**Council is committed to working actively and collaboratively to help address climate change.**

We're developing a new Climate Action Plan and are seeking community input. Find out more at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/CAP](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/CAP)

We've partnered with the Australian Energy Foundation who can help you work out what you need to do to make your home more energy-efficient. Visit [aef.com.au](http://aef.com.au) to find out more.

Council has recently appointed Clean Energy Nillumbik to deliver a new-look Practically Green series of community sustainability events. Find out more at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/practically-green](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/practically-green)

We've also signed up to the Cities Power Partnership, a national program that brings together Australian towns and cities who are working together to transform our energy future. Find out more at [citiespowerpartnership.org.au](http://citiespowerpartnership.org.au).

Council has made five action pledges as part of our membership:

1. Use Council resources to support the community uptake of renewable energy
2. Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on Council buildings
3. Investigate opening up unused Council-managed land for renewable energy production
4. Roll out energy-efficient lighting across the municipality
5. Support local community energy groups with their community energy initiatives.



Deer have moved from other parts of Victoria to Nillumbik in growing numbers.

## Deer me, we have a problem

We are working with residents to control deer in our Shire

Over the past 10 years, the deer population in Nillumbik, in both rural and suburban areas, has grown rapidly.

These introduced animals are now widely regarded as pests. Deer cause damage to agriculture, destroy native plants, strip residents' gardens of grass and shrubs and compete with native animals for food.

While deer are difficult to eradicate, we can try to reduce their numbers.

We have received a Communities Environment Program grant to assist landholders in their efforts to control deer through advice and establishing local action groups.

More than 70 people registered to attend our first Community Deer Information Session in March, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We will be scheduling further meetings and a program of events when possible.

Our pilot deer culling program, Sugarloaf Link, is still underway across Christmas Hills, Watsons Creek, Bend of Islands and Kangaroo Ground.

Two appointed professional contractors have worked closely with the District Firearms Officer from Victoria Police and identified appropriate properties to cull deer.

So far, more than 130 deer have been humanely culled and either taken to an abattoir for processing as pet food, or provided to the landholder for dinner.

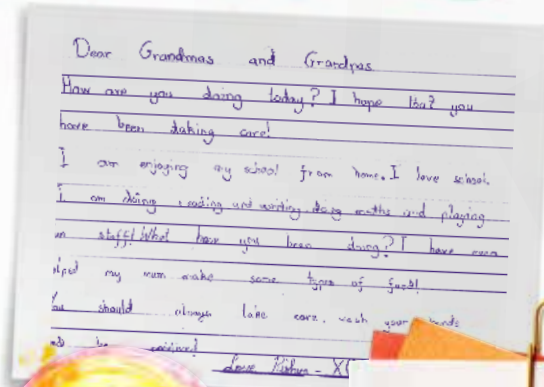
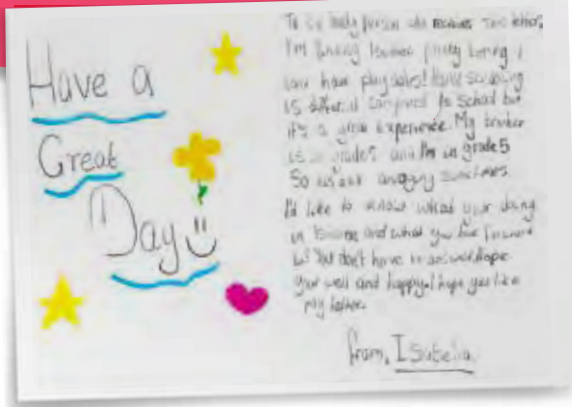
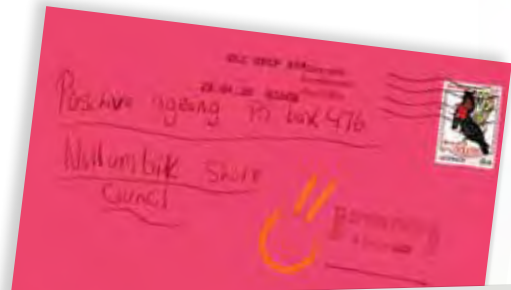
We would love to hear the community's thoughts on deer in Nillumbik. Complete our Deer Survey at [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au).

## Fruit fly invades Shire

**Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) is one of Australia's worst horticultural pests.**

QFF infestations have been identified across Nillumbik. Council has created a series of videos to help residents learn more about this pest and reduce the spread.

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



Hi Mr Mitch im writing  
to put a smile  
on ur face. 😊

Hello. I'm writing this to inform you on what I've been doing to keep myself busy in self isolation, I've been mainly playing video games as well making some stuff like videos and whatnot.

I've been also playing with my dog a bit as I love my dog. That's pretty much it, every now and then maybe I'll go on a walk but other then that, that's all.

I hope you enjoyed reading my letter :)

hello there I hope this letter cheers somebody up.

I like to do puzzles how about you? i have also been keeping myself busy by reading my books which are fantasy and adventure stories what kind of books do you like reading? I have also been playing card and video games with my family and spending some more time with my two dogs who are beagles. me and my best friend can still talk to each other by talking on the phone and see how we are going. Despite being stuck at home I can still have fun and not get bored do you get bored easily? my little sister can be really helpful whether I need her help or not and she is also not afraid to annoy me no matter what I'm doing unless I am doing my homework.

hope this cheers a person up and have a good day.



## Children have the write stuff

Some of our youngest residents have been sending letters of hope to older people during the COVID-19 isolation.

Primary students and young people have been putting smiles on older people's faces, brightening their day with letters, drawings, jokes and rhymes that show someone cares and is thinking of them.

The letters are confidential (the writer remains anonymous), screened by our Positive Ageing Officer and then posted to an older resident who has said they would like to receive one.

There are many older people who would love to receive a letter – so we are encouraging more of our younger residents to send in a letter or drawing – get creative!



Please send letters to:

**Positive Ageing  
Nillumbik Shire Council  
PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC**



Online parenting groups provide support during social distancing restrictions.

## Support for isolated mums and dads

Our Maternal and Child Health parenting groups have gone online

Being a new parent can be tough at the best of times, but having a baby during COVID-19 has been an anxious experience for many mums and dads in the Shire.

Strict social distancing measures have required staff at Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres to be creative in the way many services are provided.

Face-to-face new parent groups were one of the programs that needed to be suspended. But recognising what a lifeline they can be, MCH nurses started several new online groups in their place.

MCH coordinator Sonia Evans said there had been a lot of positive feedback about the online program.

“We do a bit of education, but we encourage the parents to discuss what is important to them and make new connections,” she said.

“At the moment it’s virtual, but you hope that once restrictions are lifted, parents will have the connections to build on and

meet to go for a walk in the park, have a coffee, or form a new playgroup.”

New mum Lara Bailey of Diamond Creek said being away from family and friends during isolation had been really difficult.

“My son Bryson’s first weeks of life were very different to what we were expecting,” she said.

Ms Bailey joined one of the first online new parent groups.

“It feels a little strange to virtually meet other parents, but our MCH nurse did a great job of getting the conversation flowing and kick starting baby chat between strangers on a screen,” she said.

“I think all the new parents are struggling with similar things – not being able to see family and friends at a time when you’d generally have that support. Also, it’s a pretty anxious time, worrying about COVID-19 on top of general new parent things like feeding and tiredness.”

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/maternal-and-child-health](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/maternal-and-child-health)

## Register for preschool

If your child is eligible to attend four-year-old kindergarten in 2021 or 2022, you can now submit your preschool registration to Council.

Registrations for 2021 will close on 30 June 2020 in preparation for preschool offers to be made in mid-July. Families will receive their offers via email.

Last year, Council launched the Parent Portal, which enables parents to view their child’s preschool enrolment details online by logging in with a unique application number which is provided to them upon registration. Parents can change their preschool preferences and accept/decline/defer offers via the Portal.

Preschool registrations can be completed online via the Nillumbik website at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/preschool2020](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/preschool2020)



## Playhouse fun

Council operates two early education child care services; one in Panton Hill and one in Eltham.

Both services operate for five hours per day from 9am-2pm Monday – Friday. Child care subsidy is available to eligible families and children.

The Playhouses are small services offering a maximum of only 20 places per day in a family grouped program meaning children are not separated into age categories.

Vacancies exist at both services across the week so if families are looking for shorter hours of care, respite or casual child care, please pop in and have a look around.

For information, email [playhouse@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:playhouse@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

## Make new connections

The Nillumbik Disability Inclusion Network has provided an important connection for people with a disability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The network shares information about supports and services of interest to people with a disability, carers and advocates in the community.

Connect with the local disability community in Nillumbik by joining the network and signing up for the regular email updates.

Email [inclusion@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:inclusion@nillumbik.vic.gov.au), phone 0438 277 428 or go to our website [nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



## YOUR COUNCILLORS



**Mayor Councillor Karen Egan  
Bunjil Ward**

☎ 0408 058 899

@ [Karen.Egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

During the past few months, it has been great to see how our small rural communities have come together to support each other. Our local businesses are thinking outside the box to keep trading and it's important we continue to support the buy local campaign.

Works are soon expected to start on the extension of Diamond Creek Trail, which is a joint project between Council and VicRoads.

Stage 1 will see the shared-use trail built from Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen. It will be a fantastic asset for rural residents. I think the social distancing restrictions of late have made us appreciate our beautiful trails even more.

Works on the blackspot at Arthurs Creek Road near the primary school are almost complete. A new guard rail has been installed and line marking modified. Two solar-powered flashing 40km/h school zone signs will soon be operational, improving safety for our children.

I hope you continue to stay healthy and safe.



**Deputy Mayor Councillor Peter Clarke  
Wingrove Ward**

☎ 0401 100 141

@ [Peter.Clarke@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Clarke@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Major Road Projects Victoria released revised reference designs for the Fitzsimons Lane/Main Road intersection in February, reducing the intersection from 11 lanes to eight. In March, the Minister for Planning approved the designation of the project area for the upgrade, which allows delivery powers under the Major Transport Facilitation Act to apply.

A new more accessible bus stop is planned on Mt Pleasant Road, Eltham, relocating the existing stop near Rockcliffe Street to a safer location. Council is working with residents to finalise preferred traffic treatments along Rockcliffe Street as part of the Special Charge Scheme.

Council recently accepted feedback about the Eltham Activity Centre Draft Structure Plan. Submissions are expected to be presented to the Future Nillumbik Committee meeting on 14 July.

Council was considering the draft 2020/21 budget as this newsletter was being printed. I have argued to keep rates low as well as providing hardship support for ratepayers during the COVID-19 crisis.



**Councillor Peter Perkins  
Ellis Ward**

☎ 0437 455 064

@ [Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 has presented, it's been a busy time with work continuing on many exciting projects.

The fantastic new Marngrook Oval Pavilion recently opened and construction of the Diamond Creek Netball Pavilion is well underway.

Council has appointed Aligned Leisure to manage our five sport and recreation centres including the Diamond Creek Community Centre, Community Bank Stadium and Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool from 1 July. This will improve services for users, with reciprocal rights across all centres, expanded programming and much more.

The Diamond Creek Regional Playspace continues to make great progress, with earthworks and landscaping underway. The public toilets and Tram Café building is nearing completion and will provide a wonderful meeting place.

Work on the Diamond Creek Trail to Wattle Glen is about to start, if it hasn't started already, and will provide a great shared-used trail for walkers, joggers, cyclists and horseriders.



**Councillor Jane Ashton  
Sugarloaf Ward**

☎ 0409 177 500

@ [Jane.Ashton@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jane.Ashton@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

"We are so lucky to live in Australia, and even luckier to live in Nillumbik." This is what I have heard time and time again over the past few months.

Community publications such as U3A's *Gibber Gabber*, the historical society newsletters, and community Facebook posts have kept many of us occupied, engaged and stimulated. The online Artists Open Studios, yoga classes and home deliveries have sustained us all, kept us connected and helped support local businesses.

Walking dogs, cycling or horse riding on our tracks and trails have kept many busy. Gardening, cooking and chook keeping, always popular in Nillumbik, have taken off with renewed vigour.

Local businesses and many residents have been hit hard financially and this Council is and will be doing as much as possible to support and kick-start our local community and economy in clever and dynamic new ways as soon as the opportunity arises. Stay safe and creative.





**Councillor Grant Brooker**  
**Blue Lake Ward**

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

Social distancing has dominated our lives for the past few months. It is cruel, unfair, but necessary for health and safety. At Council, we are here to help provide connections through all types of networks from sporting and art to local shopping and events. Stay connected on social media and our website for different ways to get involved during these unprecedented times.

A new viewing platform at Diamond Hills Reserve has been constructed. Blue Lake residents should check out the views from one of the highest points in the Shire. We are hoping for additional investment in this public open space.

The Council budget for 2020/2021 was due to be determined as this publication was going print, after going out for community consultation. Please contact me directly if you have any queries as this budget has been constructed in vastly different circumstances from three months ago. Both revenue and expenditure need examination and any rates increase must be below the government-imposed cap at a minimum.



**Councillor John Dumaresq**  
**Edendale Ward**

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

Although we have been going through tough times, it is still business as usual at Council with many projects underway.

The Eltham North Reserve Pavilion extension has been completed and the second stage of the Eltham Central Pavilion redevelopment will be finished soon.

There have been footpath upgrades along Ryans Road and Diamond Creek Road, with a shared path upgrade on Diamond Street. Drainage upgrades have also been completed in Scenic Crescent

It's pleasing to see the progress on the community landscaping project honouring the Wurundjeri at the Eltham North Adventure Playground. Council is proud to support the project for which the Friends of Eltham North Adventure Playground and Nillumbik Reconciliation Group were successful in securing Pick My Project funding for.

Over at Edendale Community Environment Farm, Sensory Friendly Farm Tours will continue for another three years, thanks to sponsorship by Eltham Paediatrics.



**Councillor Bruce Ranken**  
**Swipers Gully Ward**








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

Our Housing Strategy Discussion Paper, which was recently out for consultation, provided the community with an opportunity to influence the type of housing and developments to occur into the future in our Shire. We love the area we live in and all agree that we do not want to overdevelop. This updated strategy will help to manage housing in the future and will inform changes to the Planning Scheme.

While at home, we have continued to work through a number of high-level projects in the sporting and leisure arena with many of the projects reaching completion. We will get to use these great pavilions soon.

Thank you for your feedback on the 2020/2021 budget. Yet again we have delivered an amazing outcome – repaying debt, guaranteeing our services are delivered to a high level, and ensuring responsible spending. Council has made a number of adjustments to the handling of late rates payments. If you are struggling with hardship and are not able to make payments, please contact Council and discuss your situation with one of our helpful team members. Please stay safe and well as we all look forward to visiting our retailers and restaurants soon.

**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



## NILLUMBIK PRIZE CONTEMPORARY WRITING 2020

### Celebrating our talented writers

This year, the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing continues Council's support for great Australian writing through the Alan Marshall Short Story Award, established in 1985.

In addition, this year sees the introduction of a new prize for Creative Non-Fiction. There will also be a new Mayor's Award for a local writer, chosen from across both short story and creative non-fiction entries.

More than 350 entries were received across both award categories from all over Australia. Readers and judges have been hard at work, with the shortlists for this year's awards now available on Council's website.

Jeff Sparrow and Claire G. Coleman, who judged the Creative Non-Fiction Category said, "We were struck by the strength of the writing, and the bravery of the writers, which reflected the importance of the Nillumbik Prize."

Keep an eye on Council's website and social media for details about this year's award ceremony, which due to COVID-19 restrictions will be streamed online on June 20.

In difficult times, great writing opens up new ways to understand our community and our world. The writing in the shortlists for this year's Nillumbik Prize is no exception.

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



Image courtesy of The Rebel Bear and Crawford Jolly

## Creative response to COVID-19

Council finds new ways to support artists through the tough times

Keep an eye out around the Shire as artists, writers and performers find innovative ways to respond to life in the time of COVID-19.

The arts sector has been hit particularly hard by the social distancing measures put in place to keep the community safe.

In May, Council offered a series of "In the Time of COVID-19" employment opportunities to support Nillumbik's vibrant arts community during this difficult time.

### Live-streamed in the time of COVID-19

Follow Council's Arts & Cultural Development Facebook page, @NSCArts, to see a range of live-streaming events from arts demonstrations and workshops to studio tours, theatre or literary readings.

### Written in the time of COVID-19

Selected short texts will soon appear on pathways around Nillumbik.

Writers were invited to submit short texts about the impacts of COVID-19. Selected pieces will be stencilled on pathways, creating a connection with walking – a popular activity during the restrictions.

### Art in the time of COVID-19

Artists were invited to apply for visual arts commissions to produce work in any medium that responds to the theme.

We hope to exhibit commissioned artworks in September, during Council's Major Collections Exhibition at Montsalvat, in Eltham.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/artist-opportunities](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/artist-opportunities)

## Putting on a show

The Eltham Library Community Gallery (ELCG) is a much-loved community gallery space within the Eltham library complex.

The gallery closed in March as a result of the social distancing restrictions. But you can still see some of the exhibitions online by following Council's Arts and Cultural Development Facebook page @NSCArts.

Exhibition proposals are sought annually from artists, groups or organisations and curators who live, work, study or have strong, ongoing links to the Shire.

Applications to exhibit in 2021 will open on 1 July.

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

# Check what goes where

With a new state-wide action plan to build a strong local waste and recycling industry, it's more important than ever to put the right thing in the right bin.

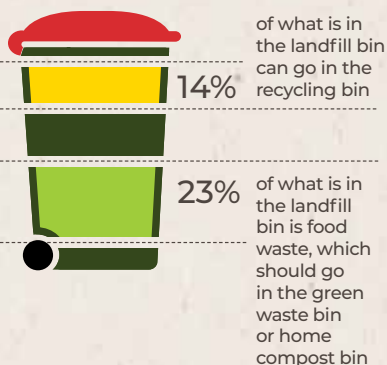
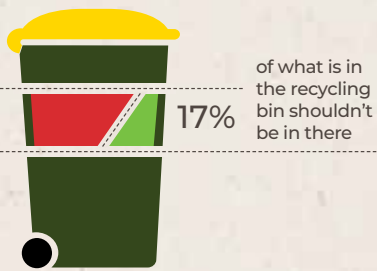
This will improve the quality of material being collected and stop as much as possible from ending up in landfill.

If you're unsure, check Council's online A-Z recycling guide at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/a-z-recycling](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/a-z-recycling)

## This year's audit shows:



Thanks for keeping contamination low. Now let's also focus on improving Nillumbik's food waste recycling. We need everyone to put their food scraps in the green waste bin or home compost rather than the landfill bin.



## Other disposal options

### Recycling Centre

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

**Open** 8am-4pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday  
**Closed** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays

#### Recycle free of charge:

- batteries – household, car and mobile phone
- CDs, DVDs, videos and cassettes
- cardboard (excluding waxed cardboard)
- e-waste\* (anything with a plug, cord or battery) e.g. televisions, computers, appliances, mobile phones
- household recycling
- light globes/bulbs and fluoro tubes
- scrap metal\* e.g. bike, stove, washing machine, dryer, metal poles, roofing
- x-rays

\* Charges apply for fridges, freezers and air conditioners

#### Charges apply for:

- air conditioners
- fridges and freezers
- garden materials
- mattresses
- plaster
- polystyrene/foam/bean bag beans
- tyres and rims
- wood – processed e.g. treated pine, fence paling, untreated timber
- other non-recyclable items

Pre-sort free of charge items and different types of waste in your load – it helps with a quick drop off and may even save you money.

For a full list of accepted items, prices and items we don't accept, visit: [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/rrc](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/rrc)

#### Things we don't accept:

Asbestos, gas bottles, fire extinguishers and paint can be taken to other nearby facilities. Call us or visit our website for details.

### Reuse Shop\*

**Open** 9am-3.30pm  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday  
**Closed** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays

Visit the on-site shop for a range of affordable second-hand goods, and support waste minimisation through re-use.

### Hard waste

You can book a collection (two cubic metres) each financial year.

**9433 3512**  
[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/hard-waste](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/hard-waste)

### Composting and worm farms

Council offers a range of discounted products online or at Edendale Farm. You can also take part in our free composting and worm farm workshops at Edendale Farm.

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

### Small e-waste drop off points\*

- Community Bank Stadium, Diamond Creek
- Diamond Valley Library, Greensborough
- Eltham Library
- Hurstbridge Community Hub

#### For recycling:

- batteries
- light globes/LEDs/CFLs
- mobile phones
- other e-waste items smaller than a laptop or that can fit through an 8cm x 40cm slot

Please remove batteries from items and sort correctly.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/e-waste](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/e-waste)

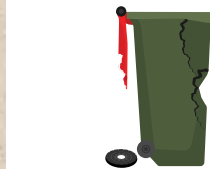
Look out for your **green waste vouchers** on your rates notice

\* Please note at the time of print, the Reuse Shop and the small e-waste drop-off points were closed due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for reopening details.

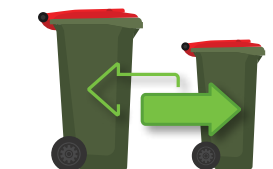
## How to put your bins out



Place bins out by **6am** on collection day, half a metre apart and away from trees, power poles and cars



If your bin goes missing or is damaged, report it online [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins) or call us



You can downsize, upsize or order extra bins. Visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins) or call us to find out more

Squeeze any air from bags of rubbish before placing in your landfill bin. This will create more space in your bin, stop waste from getting stuck and prevent a partially-emptied bin



**Do not over compact** your bin



**Do not overfill;** the lid must be closed



Tear off and put on your fridge

# Bin collection calendar 2020-2021

### Green waste (Green lid)

Collected weekly and turned into compost



All food scraps (loose or wrapped in newspaper or paper towel)



Garden materials



**X** No plastic, compostable or biodegradable bags

### Recycling (Yellow lid)

Collected fortnightly and recycled



Plastic bottles and containers



Glass bottles and jars (including metal lids)



Paper and cardboard



Aluminium/steel cans, foil (scrunched in a ball), trays and empty aerosols



**✓** Loose, not in a plastic bag  
**X** No soft plastics

### Landfill (Red lid)

Collected fortnightly and goes to landfill



Broken pyrex, crockery, window glass, drinking glasses and mirror



Nappies, textiles/rags, rubber, polystyrene and foam



**X** No food  
**X** No garden material

### REDcycle

Drop at a REDcycle bin at Coles or Woolworths




Plastic bags and other soft plastics

Learn more: [redcycle.net.au](http://redcycle.net.au)

**If you can't use REDcycle, put soft plastics in your landfill bin**

Visit our website to look up an item on the A-Z recycling guide and for local options to reduce your waste

Your green waste bin is collected weekly on the same day as your recycling or landfill bin.



My bin day is .....

July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
November 2020	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

○ Due to Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday public holidays, bins will be collected one day later.

COVER  
A rainbow lorikeet at Eltham Lower Park  
Picture: Paoli Smith

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