

Autumn 2016  
March – May



# Nillumbik

## NEWS



# *Celebrating* Australia Day in Nillumbik

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## from the Mayor

Council's comprehensive community engagement process on rate capping and budget priorities has concluded and we have made the decision to remain within the 2.5 per cent cap on rate increases in 2016-2017.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in this consultation process. It began in September last year with our community panel of 39 local residents who took part in four workshops over eight weeks to learn about Council's services, budgeting and rating strategies to inform our decision-making about future budget priorities, given the rate cap introduced by the State Government.

The community panel made some recommendations to Council and we tested these with the wider community through our annual community survey conducted face-to-face with 500 randomly chosen residents from across the Shire, as well as an online survey which was open to everyone.

Survey recipients agreed with the panel's recommendation that an exemption to the rate cap should only be sought if Council needs to respond to a natural disaster.

At our meeting in January, Council resolved to keep the increase in average rates within the rate cap of 2.5 per cent for 2016-2017.

Council's International Women's Day event for 2016 will be held this year on Thursday 10 March from 6pm-9.30pm at Eltham Community and Reception Centre.

The theme for this year is *Women without Borders*, with a number of speakers including Sharon Smee from the International Women's Development Agency and Lena Katharina Sivasailam-Pichler from Project Respect, a support service for women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The entertainment on the night will be the Chocolate Lilies choir and Vardos. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased via [www.trybooking.com/176502](http://www.trybooking.com/176502)

I look forward to seeing you there.

Mayor, Cr Bronnie Hattam

### COVER STORY



Citizen of the Year – Beth Pender

## Nillumbik celebrates Australia Day

Eltham resident, Elizabeth (Beth) Pender was recognised for her many years of community commitment and volunteering by being named Citizen of the Year at Council's Australia Day celebrations.

Recipients of awards were announced on Australia Day at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre, where 56 local residents also became Australian citizens. We are privileged to have such dedicated residents across Nillumbik who make the Shire such a wonderful place to live, work and play.

### Citizen of the Year – Beth Pender

Beth Pender's deep commitment to caring for others less fortunate than herself began during her early teaching career where her classes contained significant numbers of aboriginal children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Since that time Beth has been involved in many charities including the Diamond Valley branch of Community Aid Abroad (CAA). Along with being President for a number of years she organised the Oxfam/CAA Book Fairs which raised in excess of \$200,000 for the charity.

In 2000, Beth joined the Eltham Brotherhood of St Laurence opportunity shop and has served in varying roles from 2004, including President. She helps to manage 32 volunteer staff and continues to serve in the shop up to four shifts each week. The shop is a great success with annual takings of about \$90,000.

Beth, at 80 years young, never lets age stand in the way of her remarkable personal and financial contribution and unwavering support for the people and causes she works for – making her a person to be admired and emulated.



Young Citizen of the Year  
Michael Shields

Michael Shields, aged 28, has already made a significant contribution to the local community and beyond as Charter President of Rotaract (Diamond Valley and Australia); the Eltham Festival Youth Stage and Festival Committee; Relay for Life team captain and Joey Leader, Eltham North.

He is a proud and passionate soccer player, coach, team manager and board member of the Eltham Eagles Soccer Club. He has worked with and helped to develop a soccer club for Sudanese refugee youth who now run their own club. He also organised a partnership with the *Hope Through Soccer* program in western Kenya. He travelled to Kenya taking 100 soccer balls to local orphans and raised \$6,000 for the orphanage. He is an inspirational role model for others as well as an innovative fundraiser, helping to raise in excess of \$20,000 for local projects.



Senior Citizen of the Year  
Ern Wardell

Greensborough resident, Ern Wardell, 75, has been a member of the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek for 23 years, serving as President in 1996-1997. The organisations which have benefited from Ern's efforts over the years include the Men's Shed Diamond Creek, the Lions Club of Diamond Valley, Moira Kelly House in Kilmore, the Bone Marrow Institute, the RSL Diamond Creek, and the Doreen and Mernda Probus Clubs, both of which Ern established.

Ern has been the electrical safety officer for the Diamond Creek Town Fair for 15 years, ensuring everyone is protected when using generators and running leads for the powered sites. He also manages the electrical layout for Council's annual Pet Expo and tests the lighting for the Lions Club Twilight Market each December. Ern sees himself as an ordinary bloke but he is much more. He is not afraid of hard work and is always willing to help others.

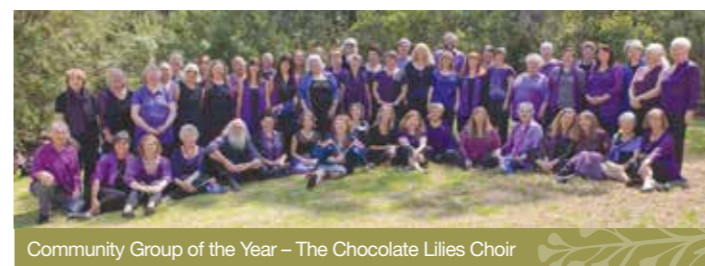


Volunteer of the Year  
Julie Mietus

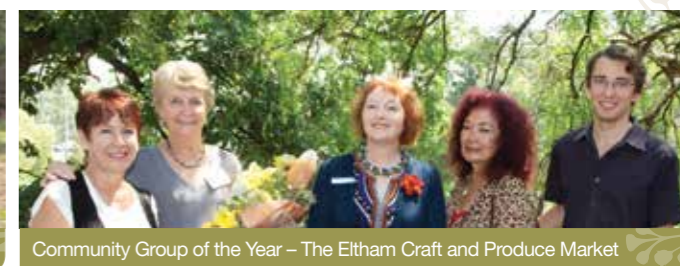
Julie Mietus is Nillumbik Health's longest serving emergency relief volunteer with 22 years service. Julie provides care and concern but always within the professional boundaries that respect privacy and client empowerment.

Helping the most disadvantaged people in the community can at times be challenging, but Julie has always maintained an unwavering positive attitude, strong connection to her clients and dedication to helping others.

Julie displays many of the best qualities of Australians, having a strong sense of friendship and maintaining strong connections with a wide range of people she has met over the years.



Community Group of the Year – The Chocolate Lilies Choir



Community Group of the Year – The Eltham Craft and Produce Market

This year the entries for Community Group of the Year were so good that two were chosen, **The Chocolate Lilies Choir and The Eltham Craft and Produce Market.**

Led by long-time Eltham resident Nerida Kirov, **The Chocolate Lilies Choir** is a community singing group which last year celebrated its 20th anniversary. With some 60 active members and 40-50 performing members, the Chocolate Lilies performs voluntarily at up to 20 community events each year.

Over the past two decades the Chocolate Lilies has helped hundreds of timid singers gain confidence and find a sense of community whilst having fun. Many members have benefitted from the support of the group

while struggling with personal issues such as illness, post-traumatic stress, the Black Saturday bushfires, positive ageing and separation. The Chocolate Lilies is one of Nillumbik's 'quiet achievers'.

The **Eltham Craft and Produce Market** has been operating for 36 years. Run by a committee of volunteers, the market is a not-for-profit monthly event which encourages talented people who make, bake, sew or grow their products to sell them at the market which brings tourists into Eltham. Once expenses

have been accounted for the remaining money is then given to deserving groups and individuals in the Nillumbik community.

Recipients have included Riding for the Disabled, Eltham Foodshare, local primary and preschools, SES, CFA, Araluen, Blaze Aid, Men's Shed, District Nursing, bushfires and the Tree Project, scouts/guide, netball, and others. Since 2007 alone, some \$99,000 in funds has been distributed to deserving community groups.

# The Pound



Reuniting lost animals with their owners is one of the important services we provide to residents at the Nillumbik Regional Pound.

What happens when an animal is taken to the pound?

The Nillumbik Regional Pound impounds and cares for lost, injured, stray and unowned dogs, cats and other animals.

When an animal is first taken to the pound it is checked for any form of identification, such as a collar or name tag. It is then scanned for a microchip. If the owner cannot be reached, the animal is impounded and legally held at the pound for eight days. The animals details are uploaded onto the lost animals page on our website and sometimes posted on our Facebook page.

Collecting an animal from the pound

To collect your animal you will need to provide details about your pet's registration, photographic identification, pay any fines and release fees. Dogs and cats being collected from the pound must be microchipped and registered with Council prior to release. Full details are available at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/lost-animals](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/lost-animals)

RELEASE FEES			
Day 1	\$76	Day 5	\$172
Day 2	\$100	Day 6	\$196
Day 3	\$124	Day 7	\$220
Day 4	\$148	Day 8	\$224

What happens if an animal is not claimed?

If a domestic animal is not claimed by its owner within eight days, it is taken to Blue Cross Animal Society at Wonga Park where it is temperament tested. If the animal passes the temperament testing it can be rehomed and will be advertised on [bluecrossanimals.org.au](http://bluecrossanimals.org.au)

Unclaimed larger animals, such as horses, cattle, sheep or other livestock are sold by public tender.

What animals are taken to the pound?

Animals that are typically found wandering and are taken to the pound by rangers include dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, ferrets and livestock. Some of the more unusual animals impounded include emus and a peacock.

Tips for pet owners

- Ensure your property is maintained with adequate fencing.
- Microchip and register your animal with Council.
- Ensure Council and Central Animal Records (which maintains microchip records) have your current contact details.
- Where appropriate, ensure your animal wears a collar and tag with your contact details.

- De-sex your animals if they are not used for breeding purposes. This prevents unwanted pregnancies and commonly reduces behavioural problems such as roaming, aggression and urine marking in males. In females it prevents mating behaviour and false pregnancy. Reducing the desire to roam also reduces the risk of being in fights or a traumatic accident. De-sexed animals are also less likely to get diseases and certain illnesses such as mammary and prostate cancer.
- Animals that are regularly exercised and mentally stimulated through toys and activities are less likely to seek out other means of entertainment such as roaming, digging and nuisance barking.

How can I report a lost animal?

To report a missing or roaming animal, phone 9433 3111 during business hours or 9433 3334 after hours (24 hour pager).

If you seize a stray or lost animal the law requires you to take that animal, as soon as is reasonably possible to the pound.

**Nillumbik Regional Pound**  
290-304 Yan Yean Road, Plenty  
(behind the Nillumbik Operations Centre)  
Open 8am – 11am, seven days a week  
📞 9433 3111

## The truth about cats and dogs:

**2014-2015**  
**294 dogs were impounded**  
249 (85%) were returned to their owners  
24 (8%) were rehoused to new owners  
**97 cats were impounded**  
24 (25%) were returned to their owners  
58 (60%) were rehoused to new owners



## Reception Centre upgrade

The Eltham Community and Reception Centre has been earmarked for substantial upgrades, with construction to start early 2016.

The iconic mudbrick building, built in 1977, is used by the local community as well as people from the northern parts of Melbourne, attracting more than 35,000 visitors each year.

The upgrade to the centre will significantly improve community access and the centre as a whole.

The renovation will include replacing the corrugated asbestos roof, upgrading the car park to improve accessibility, water harvesting to capture rainwater for garden

and grounds, better access to the stage, installation of solar power to provide energy savings, upgrades to art, improved general and stage lighting, individual room lighting and sound controls, replacement of amplifiers, new toilets including upgrading the disabled toilet area, new foyer and a new kitchen to meet commercial standards.

When completed the redeveloped centre will provide a fully-accessible and more functional community space.

## Liveable Nillumbik

The Liveable Nillumbik project is the exciting housing development proposed for Hurstbridge which aims to increase the number of options for people who want to downsize, live in accessible properties or be a first-time buyer while staying in the Shire.

Council is about to start the Expression of Interest process which will advertise the site and ask developers to provide design concepts for a housing development at this location.

Any proposed development must comply with all planning guidelines that apply to the Hurstbridge area, such as the Urban Design Guidelines, and strict criteria has been set which requires developers to explain how they will address the accessibility, diversity, affordability, environmental and neighbourhood character aspects of the development.

Once Council has received the Expressions of Interest, a panel including external expert consultants on architecture, accessibility and the environment will assess each

application and make a decision on which developers are preferred to proceed to the next stage.

Through the tender process, the successful developer will then need to create a Development Plan which details everything about the development including the design and landscaping and will be presented to Council for final approval. Once approved, all future development on the site must be undertaken in accordance with the Development Plan.

The planning and building approvals process of the Liveable Nillumbik project is anticipated to take in the region of three to four years. Construction will begin once the approvals process is completed.

## UPDATE Eltham Leisure Centre

**Pool facilities at the Eltham Leisure Centre (ELC) will close on 30 June 2016 to enable work to start on the \$15 million aquatic redevelopment.**

The ELC project has received \$3 million from the State Government's Community Facilities Better Pools Fund and received a further financial boost late last year with \$3.8 million from the State Government's Interface Growth Fund.

The project will include:

- 8 lane 25m pool
- warm water pool
- leisure pool with water features
- spa, sauna and steam room
- outdoor water play park, with an outdoor deck and landscaped gardens with picnic and barbeque areas
- individual change cubicles and accessible and family changerooms
- poolside multi-purpose room
- dedicated school change room area.

The redevelopment will ensure the ELC meets the needs of the community and people of all ages and abilities now and into the future.

All other facilities at ELC will remain open during the construction period which is expected to be completed in 2018.

For regular updates on the project please visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



## Environmental Health

Most people are probably not aware of the role that Council plays in managing environmental health, and the important role it plays in protecting and managing public health.

**Issues such as food poisoning, noise pollution and communicable diseases come under environmental health's watch, but their responsibilities extend far beyond that.**



They inspect food businesses and assess food handling practices and the standard of food businesses (both fixed and mobile) to ensure correct food safety measures and processes are in place. Food sampling is also undertaken to ensure locally produced food is safe to consume and meets all food safety standards. They also respond to complaints about food premises and investigate reports of food poisoning.



Premises providing accommodation (hotels, motels and school camps) are also inspected to make sure they are suitable for registration. This includes assessing the condition and cleanliness of the

premises, amenities, kitchen facilities and bedroom space to ensure overcrowding does not occur.



Environmental health also oversee Council's immunisation service which provides protection to the Shire's infants and school children from a range of diseases including measles, mumps and rubella.

On rare occasions, they are called in to help clean-up sites which have been used to make illegal substances



Businesses that provide beauty treatments, body modification and skin penetration procedures, such as tattooists also come under the environmental health banner. Inspections are carried out to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met, including equipment cleaning and sterilisation, personal hygiene and the condition and cleanliness of the premises.



Our environmental health team has a key role to play in emergency management, particularly in relation to heatwave and pandemic. When relief centres are operating they ensure the health of those attending is maintained and also conduct important work in impact assessments following an emergency.



Their brief includes monitoring the sale of cigarettes to minors, extreme hoarding and asbestos management, in addition to problems such as pests, noise pollution, environmental pollution and offensive odours.



The team also manages the application and permit process to install and use septic tank systems. They work with water authorities for the provision of reticulated sewers to areas in the Shire.

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

## headspace Greensborough now open

The new headspace centre is located at Level 1, 66-78 Main Street, Greensborough and can support young people aged 12-25 years affected by mental health, alcohol and other drug issues.

Youth and family-friendly, the centre is run by Mind Australia with several services delivering support across four core streams: primary health care, mental health, alcohol and other drug, and social and vocational services.

Local young people interested in helping shape how the centre can best

meet their needs are encouraged to join the Youth Advisory Committee. A website and social media page will also keep everyone updated with the latest information and events.

For more information about Greensborough headspace, contact the Centre Manager, Christine Denton on 0499 300 960.

headspace is funded by the Australian Government under the Promoting Better Mental Health – Youth Mental Health Initiative.

If you need urgent support now, please contact Lifeline 13 11 14 or visit [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)



## YOUR ENVIRONMENT



# Weeds – what can residents do?

The Shire of Nillumbik boasts an outstanding ecology, with more than 300 native animal species and around 800 indigenous plant species. Yet this special environment is being seriously degraded by weeds.

Residents have told us they want more information about weed control and what they can do. All land managers are responsible for managing weeds on their land, irrespective of whether the land is public or privately owned.



The *Common Weeds of Nillumbik* booklet is a comprehensive resource that all residents can use to help identify and manage weeds. It is available on Council's website or we can send you a copy.

**Importantly, if all residents do the following key things, we will go a long way in tackling weeds together.**

- ✓ Don't plant 'weeds' in your garden. You may be surprised by some of the plants considered weeds in Nillumbik. Many may look pretty but are in fact harmful to Nillumbik's agriculture and natural environment. Check the booklet for a list.
- ✓ Work with your neighbours to develop a plan to reduce, contain or possibly eliminate the most threatening weeds from your land. Council or Landcare can help with this.
- ✓ Avoid soil disturbance and maintain a strong and healthy vegetation cover to 'out compete' potential weeds.

Some common environmental weeds include Boneseed, Sweet Pittosporum, Blackberry and Watsonia. Of particular concern to agriculture is the declared noxious weed Chilean Needle Grass. Information about managing these and other weeds on your property can be found in the booklet.

Council manages weeds on our land including reserves, wetlands and roadsides. We prioritise weed control according to the weed's threat to agriculture and the natural environment.

Council also assists residents with the control of weeds by providing advice on weed identification, control options and planning a control program. The Land Management Incentive Program can provide grants for weed control on private land in rural and environmentally significant areas of Nillumbik.

More information:

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

9433 3111



Top: Sweet Pittosporum; Right: Chilean Needle Grass; Sweet Pittosporum with fruit



## The Northern Region campaigns for improved trails

Nillumbik has joined with seven other councils to develop a Northern Regional Trails Strategy to advocate for funding to connect and create new trails across northern metropolitan Melbourne.

The strategy provides a regional approach to establish a framework for the future planning, and development of 'off road' recreational trails across Melbourne's north.

The aim of the strategy and supporting advocacy campaign is to showcase the regions diverse natural and cultural heritage, provide a range of recreation interests, connect people to places and contribute to community wellbeing.

Twenty-nine trails have been identified as being priority projects for extensions or connections with the region already having 120 existing off-road regional trails and 96 proposed trails. The total span is 780 kilometres of accessible trails across the northern region.

The proposed extension to the Diamond Creek Trail to Hurstbridge is still being considered. Further information on this proposal will be reported on in the next edition of *Nillumbik News*.

Trails provide a wide range of community and regional benefits including connections and access to open spaces and the environment, promotion of recreation, health and wellbeing outcomes, linking tourism destinations and economic and employment benefits.

The strategy includes a vision, cost benefit analysis and prioritisation which will provide a blue-print for future planning and funding.

The seven participating Councils are: Yarra, Hume, Moreland, Darebin, Banyule, Whittlesea and Nillumbik which is the lead agency for the development of the strategy.

## Do you need flexible occasional child care?

Council manages two playhouses – in Eltham and Panton Hill – that provide sessional/occasional child care.

With qualified, professional educators, the playhouses cater for children aged up to six years and deliver programed activities to stimulate and educate.

The playhouses offer fun, care and education in a family-like setting, where children of all ages play in the one room and outdoor spaces together.

All educational programs are delivered in keeping with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework established by the Department of Education and Training. The playhouses are registered and comply with the *Children's Services Act 1996* and the *Children's Services Regulations 2010*.

Give them a call, as they may offer the flexibility in child care you need.

### Eltham Playhouse

58 Pitt Street  
9433 3755

### Panton Hill Playhouse

14 Bishops Road  
9433 3795



## Parenting in Perspective

Council has a new Parenting in Perspective Program which features eight programs for parents of newborns to preschoolers and those expecting.

These programs provide practical and useful information for parents and are suited to both male and female parents, with sessions specifically just for dads and mums.

The Parenting in Perspective Program works in conjunction with maternal and child health visits that parents are encouraged to attend.

All sessions are free and are held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive Greensborough.

- **Expecting your first baby – expectant parents**  
Thursday 7 April, 6.30pm-8.30pm  
Thursday 14 April, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- **Why dads matter – fathers of babies aged 1-3 months**  
Thursday 3 March, 6.30pm-8.30pm  
Thursday 28 April, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- **Supporting mothers – mothers of babies aged 1-3 months**  
Thursday 3 March, 6.30pm-8.30pm  
Thursday 28 April, 6.30pm-8.30pm

- **Baby boot camp – parents of babies aged 1-3 months**  
Wednesday 20 April, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- **Baby to toddler – parents of babies aged 8-12 months**  
Thursday 5 May, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- **Toddler to preschool – parents of children aged 18 months-3 years**  
Thursday 12 May, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- **Happy parent, happy partner, happy children – parents of children up to preschool age**  
Wednesday 22 June, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- **Responsive parenting – follows on from happy parent session**  
Thursday 31 March, 6.30pm-8.30pm

### Bookings

Sessions are free but bookings are essential.

- [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/pip](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/pip)
- 9433 3190
- [rachel.birrell@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:rachel.birrell@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Bookings can also be made with your maternal and child health nurse.



Saturday 16 April, 12-5pm  
**Nillumbik Youth Festival**  
*World Jam – Bringing it in*

FREE entry • Edendale Farm, Eltham

Join us at this year's Youth Festival where we will be celebrating art, music and performances from diverse cultures.

## L2P Mentors make a difference

### More dedicated L2P mentors wanted

The L2P program matches mentor volunteer drivers with eligible learner drivers to provide them with 120 supervised driving hours.

Zara recently got her licence after working with L2P mentor Frank for about nine months. Zara has nothing but praise for Frank, and recently told us that 'without the L2P program and Frank's tireless efforts, I can safely say that I wouldn't have learnt to drive at all. Before hearing of the L2P program, I was quite resigned

to public transport and the odd lift as my only form of transport'. Since getting her Ps, Zara says she has far more independence and freedom.

Thank you to Frank and all our L2P mentor drivers for providing a much-needed community program for young people in need and creating L2P success stories like Zara's.

If you are available to mentor for one hour a week or more and you like the sound of volunteering that makes a real difference to the lives of young people please email [l2p@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:l2p@nillumbik.vic.gov.au). Access to L2P cars is provided and our next round of training is in May 2016.

L2P is funded by TAC and managed by VicRoads.



Left: L2P mentor Frank congratulates Zara on getting her Ps.



## SKATE EVENTS

### Term 1

**Become a skateboard instructor**  
Eltham Skate Park  
Learn how to organise local events, basic first aid, teach basic skateboarding skills and develop your people skills. You can also be part of a committee to assist with improving skate parks in Nillumbik.

Open to young people 16-21 years

### Term 2

**Girls skateboarding clinic**  
8-week clinic  
Diamond Creek Skate Park  
Learn basic skateboarding skills under the supervision of qualified instructors and trainees. All safety gear and skateboards will be provided.

Open to grade 5 and 6 girls in Nillumbik area.

**Registrations**  
[www.nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au)



## Nillumbik Youth Theatre



We're looking forward to another jam-packed year of programs and workshops for young people aged 10-25 years in 2016. For a yearly membership of \$50 you can participate in creative workshops, school holiday activities, theatre productions and nab yourself a cool NYT t-shirt.

### Term 1 Program

**MASSIVE Fam Hip Hop Choir**  
Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23 March and 13 April, 4pm-6pm

MASSIVE Fam and Sisters and Brothers Project bring you a set of hip hop and creative writing workshops focused on sharing culture, culminating in a performance at the Nillumbik Youth Festival on Saturday 16 April.

### Term 2 Program

**Mish Mash**  
Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 May and 1 and 8 June, 4pm-5pm

Drama games, improvisation and role play.

### School Holiday Program

**Circus workshop**  
Wednesday 6 April, 10am-3pm

Juggle, balance, clown and tumble with RUCCIS Circus.

### Henna workshop

Friday 8 April, 10am-2pm

Learn to design and apply Mehendi/Henna.

All workshops are held at the Hurstbridge Hall and are free for NYT members.

Want to join NYT or register for one of the programs?

- [www.nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au)
- 9433 3168
- [Holly.Teagle@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Holly.Teagle@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

## freeza

[www.freeza.vic.gov.au](http://www.freeza.vic.gov.au)

### Committee members needed

We are currently looking for dedicated enthusiastic young people aged 12-25 to become members of a new Nillumbik FReeZA Committee to organise local events. As a committee member you will make decisions and assist with the staging of events for young people.

- 9433 3327
- [NYP@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:NYP@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)
- [www.freeza.vic.gov.au](http://www.freeza.vic.gov.au)

Closing soon

## NILLUMBIK PRIZE 2016

A celebration of contemporary artists and works of excellence from the Nillumbik region.

Sponsored by Nillumbik Shire Council in association with Montsalvat.

\$5,000 First Prize (non-acquisitive)

Entries close: 17 March 2016, 5pm  
Submit entries online at [www.montsalvat.com.au](http://www.montsalvat.com.au)

9439 7712  
montsalvat@montsalvat.com.au

## THE NILLUMBIK EKPHRASIS POETRY AWARD 2016

Poets from across Australia are invited to respond to selected artworks in poems up to 12 lines long.

Judges: Helen Lucas, Steve Smart, Karen Throssell



## ALAN MARSHALL SHORT STORY AWARD 2016

Australian writers are invited to enter the 31st Alan Marshall Short Story Award.

Word length: 2,500 words  
Entries close: 31 March 2016

9433 3126  
artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au  
www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/arts

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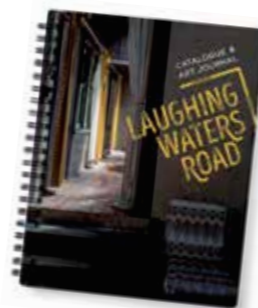
## LAUGHING WATERS ROAD

2016 is an important year for the Laughing Waters Artist in Residence Program beginning with an exhibition called *Laughing Waters Road: Art, Landscape and Memory* at Montsalvat.

The exhibition draws from Jane Woollard's book of the same name and celebrates works produced by artists inspired by their Laughing Waters artist residency over the past 15 years.

The exhibition closes on 14 March. If you don't catch the exhibition, the catalogue \$15 and book \$35 are available for purchase from [artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

There will be no artists in residence this year as the two houses involved are undergoing major renovations. If you are interested in a 2017 residency contact [artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



## Art acquisition

In 2015 Nillumbik Shire Council acquired a suite of three works from Elizabeth Gower's series *Cycles*.

They were made 'in transit' during the artist's studio residencies at Point[B], New York and Laughing Waters, Eltham, and at three temporary studios in Rome, Berlin and Collingwood.

Gower's work explores ideas of recovery and re-purpose, sustainable practice and thrift strategies that critique excesses of mass production and the notion of impermanence.

Elizabeth GOWER  
*Cycles 7 2015, Cycles 11 2015, Cycles 10 2015*  
Paper on cardboard  
11 x 11 x 1 cm

## Generations work together to raise awareness

An exciting new art project will see local older adults working collaboratively with secondary students to create a large scale mural including text and street poetry in one of Eltham's high traffic pedestrian corridors fronting the train line.

This inter-generational multimedia artwork will provide an educational platform for anti-graffiti and positive health messages.

Under the guidance of two local artists, the mural will be created by Eltham High VCAL students, local older adults and participants in Nillumbik Health disability programs.

Council is partnering with Nillumbik Health and Victoria Police to create the artwork with funding from a \$25,000 grant from the Department of Justice.

## CALENDARS

# March

Edendale has lots on offer during the Easter holidays. Learn all about trees and leaves, take part in the new Quest and Eye-Spy activities or pack a picnic and enjoy the landscaped spaces.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2		4	5	6
		Until Monday 14 March Exhibition: <i>Laughing Waters Road: Art, Landscape and Memory in Eltham</i> Barn Gallery, Montsalvat <a href="http://montsalvat.com.au">montsalvat.com.au</a>		9am Diamond Creek Men's Shed weekly bike ride Every Friday 53 Challenger St, Diamond Creek 0400 009 041	10am-2pm Responsible Service of Alcohol Diamond Creek Living & Learning Centre <b>livinglearning</b> <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>	Clean Up Australia Day  8.30am-1pm Hurstbridge Farmers' Market <a href="http://hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au">hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au</a>
7	8		10	11		
6.30pm-8pm Write your own legal will Diamond Creek Living & Learning Centre <b>livinglearning</b> <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>	9.30am-12.30pm Mail Chimp eNewsletters (2 sessions) Diamond Creek Living & Learning Centre <b>livinglearning</b> <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>		6pm-9.30pm Thursday 10 March International Women's Day Dinner - <i>Women Without Borders</i> Eltham Community and Reception Centre <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>	Thursday 10 March - Monday 11 April <i>Creative Minds</i> - Nillumbik's VCE Art and Studio Art students of 2015 Eltham Library Community Gallery <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>	Artek HALPERN, <i>Bushfire at Crib Point 2015</i> digital print on photographic paper, 100cm x 141.5cm, Eltham High School	
14 Public Holiday Labour Day		<b>THE 2016 NILLUMBIK PRIZE</b> entries close 17 March <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>  Jessie IMAM, <i>Diagram of Sentiment</i> , Inkjet photo print, mounted on acrylic, Edition of 5 + 1AP, 61cm x 91cm	17 <b>COURTHOUSE POETRY READINGS</b> 7.30pm Courthouse Readings James Hickey Eltham Courthouse Main Road, Eltham 0438 339 732	18  Friday 18 March - Sunday 20 March Warrandyte Festival <i>Dance: Boogie in the Bush</i> <a href="http://warrandytefestival.org">warrandytefestival.org</a>	19	
	21	22	24	25	26	27
	10am-12pm Backyard chooks for beginners \$35 Edendale <a href="http://edendale.vic.gov.au">edendale.vic.gov.au</a>	7pm Ordinary Council Meeting Civic Centre <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>		Public Holiday Good Friday	9.30am-3pm Introduction to horticulture (9 week course) Edendale <b>livinglearning</b> <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>	Easter Sunday
28	29					
Public Holiday Easter Monday						
						
			<b>THE NILLUMBIK EKPHRASIS POETRY AWARD 2016</b> Entries for both awards close 31 March <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>			

community environment farm

## edendale

School holidays @ Edendale

Do you want to learn more about the local Indigenous plants of Nillumbik?

How long does a tree take to grow? How do birds help trees to survive? Find the answers to these questions and more at Edendale as part of our Trees and Leaves theme for the Easter holidays.

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

# April

The Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre turns 40 this month. To celebrate, the centre will offer FREE activities for the family. [diamondvalleysfc.com.au](http://diamondvalleysfc.com.au)



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			<p><b>1</b> Nillumbik Community Fund grants open Grants of up to \$5000 are available in the areas of Arts and Culture and Community Projects. Applications close Friday 27 May 2016, 5pm. Quick Response grants for youth projects and community projects are also available. <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants">nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants</a></p>		<p><b>2</b> Sunday 3 April, 2pm-4.30pm Beekeeping – a taster \$15 Edendale <a href="http://edendale.vic.gov.au">edendale.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>3</b>   8.30am-1pm Hurstbridge Farmers' Market <a href="http://hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au">hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>4</b> 9.30am-11.30am Art MakerSpace Panton Hill Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>6</b> 9.30am-3pm Crafty Cats MakerSpace Panton Hill Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>8</b> 9am Diamond Creek Men's Shed weekly bike ride Every Friday 53 Challenger St, Diamond Creek 0400 009 041</p>	<p><b>10</b>   Pet registrations due <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>			
<p><b>11</b> 7pm-8.15pm Yoga – Bhava style (9 sessions) Panton Hill Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>13</b> 4pm-5.30pm Art for kids (6 sessions) Eltham Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>14</b> Thursday 14 April – Monday 9 May Exhibition: Artists Open Studios Eltham Library Community Gallery <a href="http://artistsopenstudios.com.au">artistsopenstudios.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>2016 Nillumbik Youth Festival: World Jam – Bringing it in</b> Saturday 16 April 12pm-5pm Edendale <a href="http://edendale.vic.gov.au">edendale.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>24</b>   Karena GOLDFINCH <i>There's a Fire on the Hill</i> 2015, photogravure with chine colle, 20cm x 20cm</p>		
<p><b>18</b> 9.30am-3pm Intro to horticulture (9 week course) Edendale <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>Monday 18 April – Friday 22 April</b> DVSFC 40th Anniversary Family fun week Civic Drive, Greensborough <a href="http://diamondvalleysfc.com.au">diamondvalleysfc.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>COURTHOUSE POETRY READINGS</b> 7.30pm, Thursday 21 April Courthouse Readings – Wendy Fleming Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Road, Eltham. 0438 339 732</p>	<p><b>23</b> 2pm-4.30pm Soil matters Edendale <a href="http://edendale.vic.gov.au">edendale.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>24</b> 1pm-3.30pm Indigenous plant propagation \$35 Edendale <a href="http://edendale.vic.gov.au">edendale.vic.gov.au</a></p>		
<p><b>25</b> 7pm Ordinary Council Meeting Civic Centre <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>26</b>   ANZAC Day Public holiday</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9.45am-10.45am Discovering dance (6 sessions) Eltham Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>29</b>   Saturday 16 April 10am-1pm Italian cooking workshop Living &amp; Learning Panton Hill <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>			

## CALENDARS

# May

Open to the public only three weekends a year, the Artists Open Studios Program takes you through the rolling hills and vibrant bushland of Nillumbik to see local artists at work in their studio. [artistsopenstudios.com.au](http://artistsopenstudios.com.au)



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p><b>2</b>   12noon-5pm Every Monday Sewing and Wool Crafts MakerSpace Eltham Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>31</b> 9.30am-1.30pm Needle Natter MakerSpace Panton Hill Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>5</b> 9.30am-3pm Just Xmas MakerSpace Panton Hill Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>7</b> 3pm-4pm Set up and maintain a worm farm Edendale <a href="http://edendale.vic.gov.au">edendale.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>8</b>   Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 May Artists Open Studios 11am-5pm <a href="http://artistsopenstudios.com.au">artistsopenstudios.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>10</b>   8.30am-1pm Hurstbridge Farmers' Market <a href="http://hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au">hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>10</b>   Judy TREMBATH <i>Vessel (Tepee) 2015</i> stoneware, glazes, 24cm x 4-8cm diameter</p>
<p><b>10</b> 10am-5pm Studio Arts MakerSpace Eltham Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>11</b> 12noon-5pm Scrapbooking and Paper Crafts MakerSpace Eltham Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>12</b> Thursday 12 May – Monday 6 June <i>What Happened at the Pier #2 Nillumbik</i> Curated by Lella Cariddi Eltham Library Community Gallery <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>14</b> 10am-12pm Backyard chooks for beginners \$35 Edendale <a href="http://edendale.vic.gov.au">edendale.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>14</b> 1pm-4pm Linocut printing workshop (2 sessions) <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>		
<p><b>16</b> 7pm-9pm Creative MakerSpace Hurstbridge Hub <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>17</b> 1pm-6pm Leadlighting and Glass Arts MakerSpace (For experienced leadlighters) Eltham Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>18</b> 7.30pm Courthouse Readings – Anna Forsyth Eltham Courthouse 728 Main Road, Eltham 0438 339 732</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9.30am-2pm Mosaics MakerSpace Panton Hill Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>20</b>  </p>		
<p><b>23</b> 7pm Ordinary Council Meeting Civic Centre <a href="http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au">nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>24</b>   Saturday 16 April 10am-1pm Italian cooking workshop Living &amp; Learning Panton Hill <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>25</b> 7pm-9pm Sew Social MakerSpace (fortnightly) Diamond Creek Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>26</b> 9.30am-11.30am Hobby Hub MakerSpace Diamond Creek Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>27</b> 10am-1pm Japanese ink art Eltham Living &amp; Learning Centre <a href="http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au">livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au</a></p>		

# YOUR COUNCILLORS



Mayor, Councillor Bronnie Hattam  
 ☎ 0400 411 862  
 @ Bronnie.Hattam@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

## Swipers Gully Ward

As Chair of the Interface Councils, I had the pleasure of presenting the 2015-2016 Interface Growth Fund Benefits Report to the Minister for Local Government Hon Natalie Hutchins MP at Parliament House late last year. The report announced that more than 1000 jobs and \$102 million in investment will be created by the first \$40 million of funding.

As well as boosting economic activity in Melbourne's outer suburbs, the Interface Growth Fund plays an imperative role in addressing the four key areas of social disadvantage experienced in interface communities, including: fragile families, poor health outcomes, at risk youth and isolated ageing.

Nillumbik benefitted significantly from the first round of funding, receiving \$3.8m for the Eltham Leisure Centre redevelopment and \$2.5m for works at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre.




Deputy Mayor, Councillor Helen Coleman  
 ☎ 0437 940 930 ☎ 9439 0063  
 @ Helen.Coleman@nillumbik.vic.gov.au  
 www.facebook.com/helen.coleman.73345

## Wingrove Ward

As a Councillor and volunteer when I was elected to Council in 2004 I committed to supporting volunteering. Late last year I was thrilled to be appointed by Minister Hon Jenny Mikakos MP to the Ministerial Council for Volunteers which has been established to advise the State Government on how best to support and strengthen the volunteer sector and oversee a broader program of volunteer recognition.

Council members represent emergency services, health, sport, disability, arts, conservation, youth, ageing, diversity, education and the community services sector.

Locally, infrastructure work has been completed to replace two pedestrian bridges within the Susan Street Reserve, off Brougham Street, Eltham with renovations taking place on the pedestrian bridge at the bottom of Pitt Street.




Councillor Michael Young  
 ☎ 0437 840 866 ☎ 9431 1972  
 @ Michael.Young@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

## Edendale Ward

Eltham North Reserve now hosts Nillumbik's largest soccer, cricket and scout groups. For 10 years I have worked with the clubs to achieve a synthetic soccer pitch, competition lights, resurfacing of the top oval, state-of-the-art cricket nets and a huge expansion of parking.

We are now planning brand new accommodation for the clubs including all ability facilities and versatile function areas for the broader community. With the potential of close to a million dollars of Council contribution (currently being discussed for 16-17 budget), to add to the State governments pledge of \$2 million dollars; a good project is possible.

If the Redbacks Soccer and Wanderers Cricket clubs add a potential contribution of up to another \$500,000, a really exciting project is beckoning. We will keep you posted throughout the planning of this exciting project.




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

## Ellis Ward

I recently met with Council officers, Victoria Police and the Diamond Creek Traders Association and can advise that strategies are currently being implemented to apprehend and charge those who graffiti public and private places in Diamond Creek.

If you observe graffiti being sprayed or written on any building or sign please call police via 000 immediately. To report graffiti after the act and/or obtain assistance or advice from Council for its removal please call 9433 3111.

Council spends over \$80,000 of ratepayers' money every year on graffiti removal. There are better ways to spend public funds but those causing the graffiti need to be caught and prosecuted first. Hopefully the courts will order the culprits to clean the mess they've created.



## Postal address for Council and all Councillors:

✉ Nillumbik Shire Council  
 PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088



Councillor Meralyn Klein  
 ☎ 0407 801 066  
 @ Meralyn.Klein@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

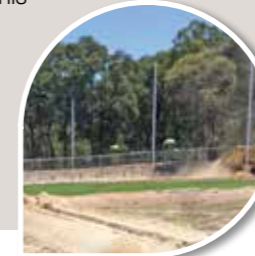
## Blue Lake Ward

As Chair of the Yarrambat Township Advisory Committee, I'm pleased to advise the Township Plan is progressing.

Improvements at Plenty Park Oval include planting of new grasses, drainage, irrigation and fencing. Council contributed \$300,000 towards this project, making this an A grade ground. Consideration is being given to updating the masterplan to include local sporting club proposals.

As Chair of Council's Memorials Advisory Committee I was honoured to attend the official opening of the Eltham War Memorial Gardens. I congratulate the Eltham/Montmorency RSL for the upgrade and expansion of this sacred site.

Capital works underway in Blue Lake include bitumen sealing and drainage in Pioneer Road (special charge scheme). New footpaths are scheduled in March along Yan Yean Road.




Councillor Anika Van Hulsen  
 ☎ 0408 281 905  
 @ Anika.Vanhulsen@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

## Bunjil Ward

The highlight of recent months was being asked to open the new Hurstbridge Men's Shed workspace in the gymnasium building.

Shed member Darrell James noted the strength of this location is its proximity to the Hurstbridge Hub – a win, win.

When speaking, I recalled attending one of the group's meetings six months earlier and that I'd not before heard men speak in such a definite and positive manner, always in a way that was caring and respectful of each other – I hope this aspect will never be lost.

Council is introducing soccer to the Shire's north with provision of a new surface and lighting at Wattle Glen War Memorial Oval.




Councillor Ken King  
 ☎ 0427 549 759  
 @ Ken.King@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

## Sugarloaf Ward

Good news for Sugarloaf Ward with construction underway on two significant road sealing projects – Buttermans Track in Christmas Hills and Hildebrand Road, St Andrews.

Buttermans Track will be sealed between Wallace Road and Yow Yow Rising at a cost of \$466,500. Hildebrand Road will be sealed between School Road and Mittons Bridge Road at a cost of \$208,160.

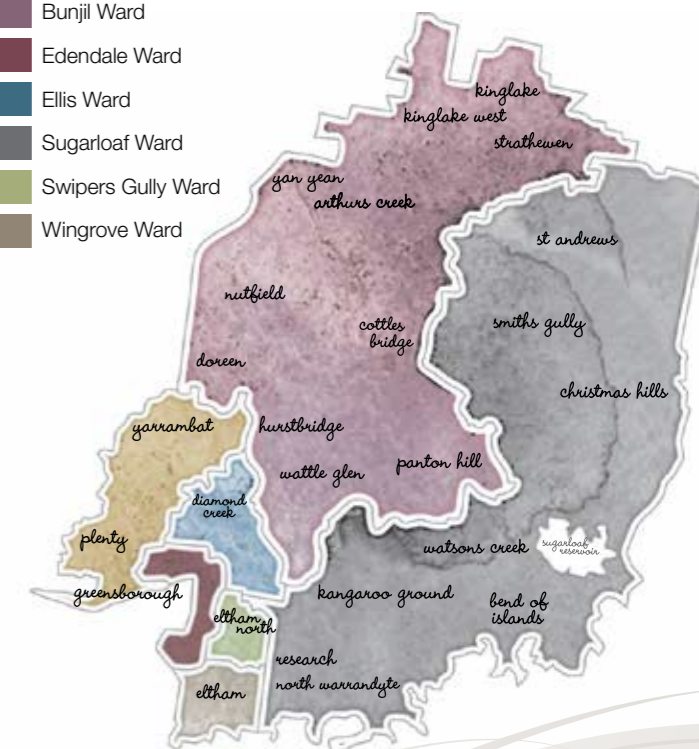
Funding for both projects is included in Council's capital works budget of \$850,000, of which \$770,000 is being contributed from the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program.

Works on both projects will include some underground drains, road pavement and primer sealing of the road surface as well as driveway works, signs and line marking.



## KEY

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







## Ramp up litter prevention

Did you know that the highest rate of platypus litter entanglements in Melbourne is along the Diamond Creek?

This is a statistic of which no one can be proud, but an exciting new project aims to raise awareness of the issue in an effort to change the littering behaviour that is threatening our platypuses.

The 'Ramp up litter prevention' project will transform Eltham Skate Park and the Bridge Street underpass and aims to reduce the amount of litter in and around the Diamond Creek through student-driven artwork, improved bins, education programs in local schools and greater engagement with users of the area.

Local secondary students will work with a local artist to design and paint a platypus-themed mural on the Bridge Street underpass near the skate park, help Council design new bins and survey young people who use the skate park. Primary students will help create artwork for footpaths and public spaces while learning about the platypus and impacts of litter on local waterways.

Litter and illegally dumped rubbish are common issues in Nillumbik. Many of our townships are adjacent to waterways with known populations of platypus and other wildlife to which litter is a key threat. We need people of all ages to take responsibility for their rubbish and reduce the amount of litter going down drains and into the Diamond Creek.

You can also help by reporting illegal dumping, litter thrown from or near a vehicle or other pollution of the environment to the 24-hour EPA pollution hotline on 1300 372 842.

'Ramp up litter prevention' has come to fruition with thanks to \$14,000 from the Victorian Government's Litter Hotspots Program and \$5,000 from Melbourne Water and in collaboration with Vic Roads, Eltham High School, Diamond Valley College and Eltham Primary School. The project is scheduled to start in March.

Cover: Nillumbik Shire Mayor Cr Bronnie Hattam congratulates Elizabeth Pender who was named Citizen of the Year at the Nillumbik Australia Day Awards.

Nillumbik News is available in alternative formats on request. Contact 9433 3188. Printed in Nillumbik, using vegetable inks on Australian-made recycled paper.

## WASTE SERVICES

### Recycle plastic bags in your recycling bin



You can now recycle plastic bags and other flexible plastic in your recycling (yellow lid) bin.

#### How to do this:

1. Collect all your unwanted plastic bags and other flexible plastics
2. Put them in a plastic bag (such as those from the supermarket)
3. Tie the bag when full and put it in your recycling bin
4. Do not put individual/loose plastic bags in your recycling bin
5. Continue to keep your hard/rigid plastics and other recyclables loose

To get you started, look out for an information pack and instructional bags in the mail, which you'll receive by the end of March.



#### Bags and flexible plastics, including:

- plastic shopping bags
- plastic packaging from groceries like bread, rice, pasta, toilet paper, and frozen foods
- inner cereal/biscuit wraps
- clean cling wrap and freezer bags
- plastic wrapping from appliances
- plastic postal bags and document sleeves
- bubble wrap



#### Do not include:

- silver-lined packaging from chip, chocolate bar and ice-cream wrappers
- paper dockets
- garbage or food
- polystyrene
- nappies



Consolidating all your flexible plastics in a bag means they won't blow away and will be easy to sort at the recycling facility where they will be sent off to make new products such as decking and park benches. If you reuse your plastic bags for other things or avoid plastic bags by taking reusable bags shopping, please continue to do so as it is even better than recycling.

Nillumbik is one of the first councils in Melbourne to introduce this best practice recycling service. As flexible plastics are one of the last remaining items that have had to go in the garbage bin, this exciting change takes us one step closer to eliminating waste sent to landfill.

This initiative is funded by the Victorian Government's Metropolitan Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Fund and Australian Packaging Covenant, and is a partnership with City of Boroondara, Hobsons Bay City Council and Cardinia Shire Council.



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 @nillumbikshire