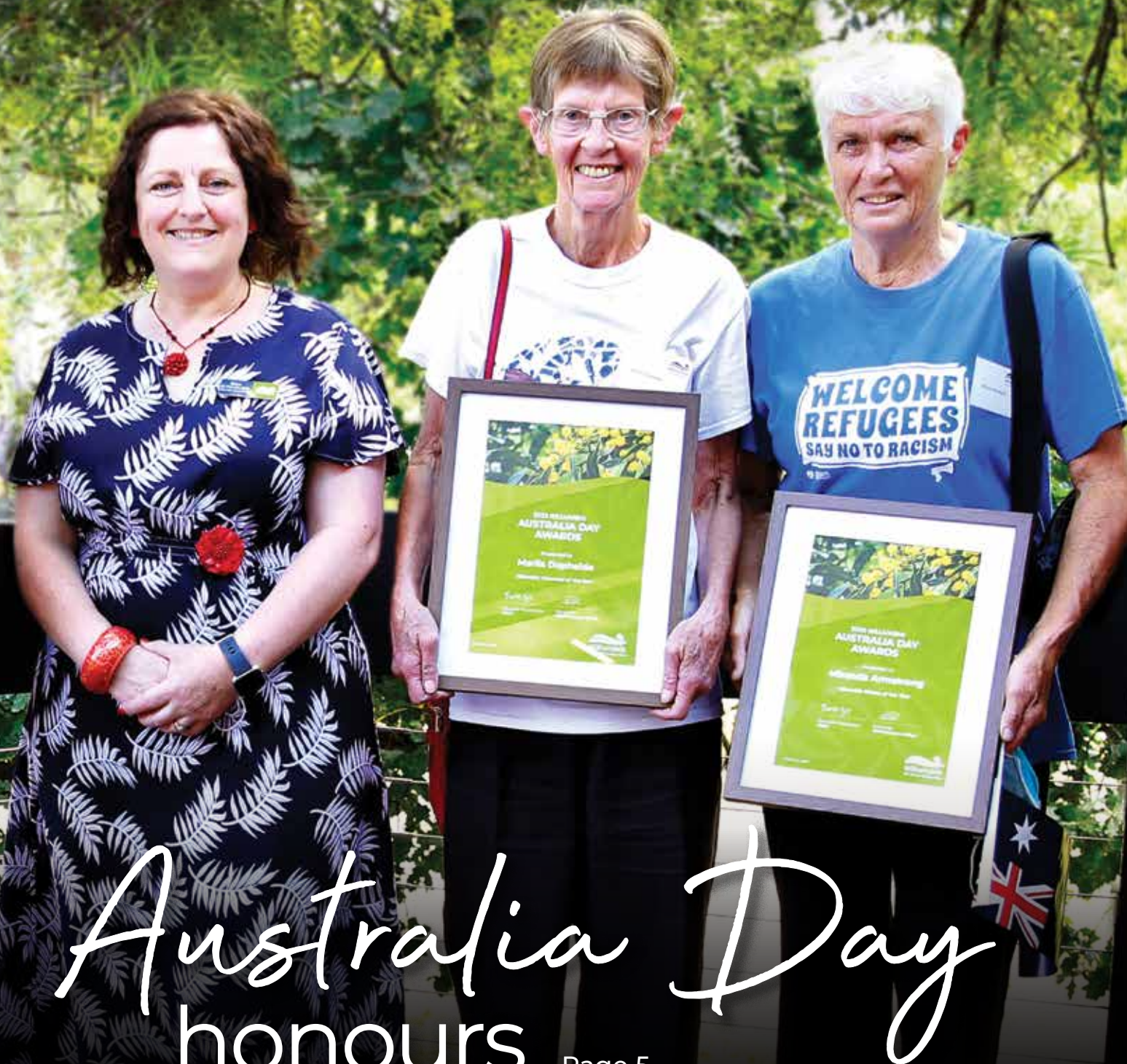


Autumn 2022 • MARCH - MAY

Nillumbik



NEWS



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Netball's big return

Local netball has got off to a great start in 2022 with the upgraded Diamond Creek Netball Courts opening just in time for the season launch in February.

The \$2.52 million upgrade has seen the construction of eight new netball courts, with new lighting, line marking, seating and shelters ensuring they are compliant with Netball Victoria standards. The project complements the new netball pavilion which was completed in 2020.

The project has been funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$2.29 million) and Council (\$229,000).

The courts are home to the Nillumbik Force Netball Association with seven member clubs catering to more than 100 teams and 1200 players.

Nillumbik Mayor Frances Eyre said the upgraded facilities were a fantastic asset for all the community to enjoy.

"After two years of construction for the pavilion and then the courts, I'm sure our netballers can't wait to get out and play and I look forward to seeing them in action," Cr Eyre said.

Ellis Ward Councillor Peter Perkins said the upgrade was one of many major infrastructure projects to benefit Diamond Creek.

"I'd like to thank the Victorian Government for their significant investment in our community," he said.

Madison Head, Abi Lowther, Jasmine Taylor, Madi Goldspink, Alisha Goldspink, Olivia Taylor, Charlotte Beddoe at the courts.



Council has received \$2 million from the Victorian Government for the project which includes:

- New netball court
- Amphitheatre
- Shelters, picnic tables and barbecues



The Graysharps Road precinct will be revitalised while (inset) work is almost finished on the Diamond Creek Trail.



Triple treat for Hurstbridge

It's a big year for the township, with several major projects including the Diamond Creek Trail coming to fruition.

✓ Diamond Creek Trail

Lace up your sneakers, get your bikes and horses ready – the final stage of the Diamond Creek Trail extension to Hurstbridge is almost ready to open.

The bridges are in place and almost three kilometres of shared-use path laid from Wattle Glen to Hurstbridge with just the finishing touches to go including signage, trail marking and outdoor furniture.

We anticipate the full extension to the trail will open mid to late March.

✓ Graysharps Road Open Space Precinct Plan

The trail extension finishes at Graysharps Road, where work is gearing up to implement the Open Space Precinct Plan, creating a new gateway to Hurstbridge.

- Public toilets
- Adaptive bike shed
- Car park improvements

The public was invited to comment on the concept plans over the summer and there will be further opportunities to provide feedback in coming months.

participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/hospp

✓ Hurstbridge Multi-Use Facility

The football season is set to get off to a great start with the completion of the new multi-use facility at Ben Frilay Oval. The expanded and upgraded pavilion is expected to reopen shortly following the end of construction in February.

The \$1.7 million redevelopment includes four change rooms and amenities for male and female players and umpires and an expanded social area, transforming the building into a multi-use facility for all the community. The building is home to the Hurstbridge Football Club, Hurstbridge Junior Football Club and the Hurstbridge Cricket Club.

The project has been funded by Council, the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund, and Sport and Recreation Victoria.

The rooms are available for community use – for information please email leisure@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Courts back in action at Diamond Valley centre

We're thrilled to welcome you back to the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre, which reopened on 1 February.

This follows the completion of a \$16.5 million redevelopment which has seen the centre in Civic Drive Greensborough almost double in size.

Highlights include:

- Four new courts for basketball, netball, volleyball and badminton, bringing the total number of courts to eight
- New entrance with reception, kiosk and café area
- Expanded gym
- New and refurbished toilets and change rooms.

Mayor Frances Eyre said the project was a long time in the making and she was pleased it could be delivered on schedule, despite the challenges of COVID-19.

"This is now a top-class sporting facility for not only the people of Nillumbik, but the region," Cr Eyre said.

Liam O'Brien, of Aligned Leisure which manages Nillumbik leisure facilities, said his team was excited to welcome the sporting community back.

"We are looking forward to seeing the return of our members and sporting clubs, as well as welcoming new members to the family," he said.

General Manager of the Diamond Valley Basketball Association, Patrick Di Lizio, said it was exciting for their 5000 members and everyone involved with the association for the past 50 years.

"This stadium is a special place where many have begun their basketball journey. It's a tremendous achievement of all involved to deliver a world-class facility," he said.

The transformation has been funded with \$6 million from Council, \$8 million from Sport and Recreation Victoria and \$2.5 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund.

diamondvalleysfc.com.au

The new courts (below) and (left) Cr Natalie Duffy, Deputy Mayor Ben Ramcharan, Mayor Frances Eyre, Vicki Ward and Cr Richard Stockman.



Mural makes a grand entrance

A major new public artwork, a mural by Aboriginal artist Fiona Clarke, has been completed as part of the new-look Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre.

The 40m mural, *Family and Future (Past, Present and Future ... emerging)*, depicts the importance of the sports centre as a gathering place for the community, and in improving the health and wellbeing of local people.



Fiona Clarke with her mural.



from the Mayor

Welcome to the autumn edition of *Nillumbik News*.

It was an honour to start the year with the presentation of our annual Australia Day Awards, recognising the recipients' outstanding contribution to the Nillumbik community. Congratulations to the winners as well as all the nominees for your remarkable efforts.

The year is already flying by and there is plenty on Council's agenda. With both the Federal and State elections coming up, we will be focussing our efforts on advocating for the best outcomes for our community. Greater support for pandemic recovery and more meaningful action on climate change are among the key issues identified in our Advocacy Priorities 2022 document.

We're continuing to seek your opinions on a wide range of projects and policies. We're here to listen and your feedback is critical to our decision making. You can stay up to date on what's out for community consultation at our Participate Nillumbik website. Make your voice count.

It's exciting to see the completion of some major projects that have been many years in the making. The impressive Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre opened in February, and it was great to celebrate the fantastic upgrade to the neighbouring Diamond Valley Library.

I'm looking forward to exploring the new extension to the Diamond Creek Trail from Wattle Glen to Hurstbridge when it opens in March – the pandemic has certainly made me appreciate our local walking trails more than ever.

Autumn is a fantastic month in Nillumbik. There are so many great events to enjoy including International Women's Day, Home Harvest, the Warrandyte Festival, the Come Together Festival and our Platypus Celebration at Edendale.

I hope to see some of you there, please come and say hello. Until then, take care.

Frances Eyre

Cr Frances Eyre
Mayor Nillumbik Shire Council

STAY IN TOUCH

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

COVID updates
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-19

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

Customer Service call centre
Phone 9433 3111, 8.30am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Our website
You can conduct many items of council business on our website at nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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

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

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

COVER

Mayor Frances Eyre with Australia Day Award recipients, Citizens of the Year/Volunteers of the year **Marlis Dopheide** and **Miranda Armstrong**.

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

Service dashboard

Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community. In support of this commitment, *Nillumbik News* includes a service dashboard to indicate performance across a range of key council services. Council's Annual Community Survey results continue to reinforce that residents rank core service delivery as important.

A snapshot of service performance for the October to December 2021 quarter is below, which provides a comparison between current and previous performance.



Service Improvement:

Opportunities to provide feedback on Council services

Council values community feedback and sees it as essential to be able to continue to deliver high-quality services.

Our community now has more opportunities to quickly connect with Council using a QR code via various mediums. The QR codes were developed to provide flexible ways to get in touch with Council, ask a question or provide feedback. They are visible at most Council facilities, and on signage and handouts at community events.

Council's outdoor staff can also provide the public with a business card that displays the QR code. Scanning this QR code will take you to the 'Contact Us' page on the Council website where you can easily provide feedback, a compliment or raise a concern.

One of the QR code signs located at Edendale Community and Environment Farm.



Awards recognise our remarkable citizens



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Our Australia Day Award recipients have made exceptional contributions to Nillumbik.

The 2022 Australia Day Awards were presented on 26 January at a small in-person gathering at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre and livestreamed to the public.

The awards recognised some of our community's most wonderful contributors, who each selflessly assisted others through a challenging year.

We also welcomed more than 50 new citizens. Speakers included Uncle Ian Hunter, Jan Aitken and Jan Mackenzie from Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, and Paralympian Jaryd Clifford. There were performances by Ganga Giri, *Neighbours* star Bonnie Anderson and local Joel Quinn.

The day was equal parts a celebration of our new citizens and award recipients, and a respectful reflection on Australia Day and what it means for each of us.



Citizen of the Year/Volunteer of the Year – Miranda Armstrong and Marlis Dopheide

Known as 'M&M', Miranda and Marlis are tireless advocates for refugees, and worthy Citizens of the Year. They bought their shared Eltham home in 2013, and have welcomed many individuals and families to stay as they establish new lives after fleeing horrible circumstances.

M&M were instrumental in welcoming Syrian refugees to Eltham in 2014, helping them put down roots in the area and create lasting friendships within the community. Last year, when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, M&M successfully campaigned to have two women brought to safety and a new start.

All of the people M&M have assisted have become like family, and many turned out to see them receive their Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards.



Senior Citizen of the Year – Lorraine Hudson

For her commitment to keeping community spirits high during COVID-19, Lorraine Hudson is our Senior Citizen of the Year.

Bringing a smile to the faces of many, Lorraine – with the support of son Daniel of DC Meats – prepared 80-100 meals each week for three months to hand out to people in Diamond Creek.

Lorraine's efforts warmed the hearts and filled the bellies of many Nillumbik families during a tough period.



Young Citizen of the Year/Community Group of the Year – Hayden and Stephanie Rujak and Hayden's Helping Hands

Eltham siblings Hayden and Stephanie Rujak were named Young Citizens of the Year, and also awarded Community Group of the Year for their incredible contributions via their Hayden's Helping Hands group.

In the past seven years, the siblings – with the help of other young volunteers – have contributed the equivalent of \$200,000 in clothing, food, bedding and toiletries – an amazing effort that has benefited others and diverted quality goods from landfill.

Established to assist people experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence, the group also provided food relief during COVID, as well as Christmas presents and back-to-school items for children.

Read more about our award recipients at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/aus-day-winners-2022

TOP, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Our Australia Day Award recipients with Mayor Frances Eyre: Hayden's Helping Hands volunteer Jess, Stephanie Rujak, Hayden Rujak, Cr Eyre, Marlis Dopheide, Miranda Armstrong and Lorraine Hudson.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Arts and Culture

The draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-26 is anticipated to be open for further feedback in late April. We had a huge response to our initial consultation last year with more than 2000 residents getting involved.

Climate Action

Our community has overwhelmingly told us that climate change is an important challenge we must address. We're now reviewing your feedback and preparing the final Climate Action Plan for Council's consideration on 26 April.



Local Law

Throughout 2021, the General Local Law went through extensive community consultation.

For those that made submissions to draft local law last year, there will be a further opportunity to address Councillors on the draft local law at the 12 April Planning and Consultation Committee meeting.

To register to speak at the meeting, go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/speak-at-PCC

Neighbourhood Character

A Neighbourhood Character Strategy is being prepared to guide development within the residential zones, ensuring it responds to the valued features and characteristics of the area.

Community opinion is an important component of developing the strategy and feedback will open shortly.

Participate Nillumbik – have your say on key local projects

Community consultation continues to be our priority.

“ BMX Park

We've been seeking feedback on the development of a new BMX park and other off-road bike riding opportunities in the Shire.

BMX and off-road cycling are hugely popular activities in Nillumbik that, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, have provided positive outlets for those of all ages. However, there has also been a noticeable increase in the construction of makeshift jumps and tracks in the Shire. While evidence of just how passionate our local BMX community is, these constructions, due to both location and design, have presented a range of issues – safety, environmental and amenity – for local residents.

We want to continue working with our community to reach a satisfactory outcome for everyone. We've been investigating the feasibility of a possible BMX park at the Diamond Creek Linear Reserve in Allendale Road as well as other suitable locations in the Shire, and are engaging with specialist consultants. Initial feedback on the project closed in February, but there will be further opportunities to get involved over the coming year.

participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bmx-park

“ Access, Equity and Inclusion

We're committed to ensuring everything we do is accessible, equitable and inclusive and are developing a draft policy which will soon be available for feedback.

We're planning a new BMX Park in Nillumbik to provide more opportunities for off-road riding enthusiasts.



Find out about these projects and subscribe for updates at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au



“ Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2022-2030

Our Recreation and Leisure Strategy will inform the development of sport, leisure and active recreation over the next eight years. We encourage you to complete our survey about the draft strategy at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/recreation-leisure-2022 by Sunday 6 March.

You can register to speak about the strategy at the 12 April Planning and Consultation Committee meeting at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/speak-at-PCC

“ Municipal Planning Strategy

The draft MPS is scheduled to be presented at the 24 May Council meeting to be endorsed for public consultation via Participate Nillumbik. We welcome your feedback.



Back: Nillumbik Deputy Mayor Ben Ramcharan, Banyule Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealy, YRPL CEO Jane Cowell, Bundoora MP Colin Brooks, Banyule Cr Alison Champion, Nillumbik Cr Richard Stockman, Nillumbik Cr Natalie Duffy, Front: Eltham MP Vicki Ward, Nillumbik Mayor Cr Frances Eyre, Nillumbik Cr Karen Egan. Right: Cutting the ribbon.



New chapter for library

Book in a visit to the upgraded Diamond Valley Library

The library in Civic Drive, Greensborough, has undergone a \$1.63 million transformation and was officially opened by Eltham MP Vicki Ward in February on behalf of Local Government and Suburban Development Minister Shaun Leane.

The renovated glass atrium is a feature of the light and bright library, which has a variety of spaces for different users to enjoy.

The kids will love the expanded children's area, while adults will appreciate the new parents' room and accessible unisex toilets.

Take a break on the covered outdoor deck overlooking the community garden.

There are two meeting pods that can be booked for meetings, presentations, or study, as well as a larger community meeting room. There are also smaller co-working spaces and study areas.

Nillumbik Mayor Frances Eyre said libraries are central to the community.

"They're not only for borrowing books, but a meeting place providing a chance to connect with others, learn, share knowledge as well as work and study," she said.

The library upgrade has been funded with \$500,000 from the Victorian Government Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, \$955,000 from Council and \$175,000 from Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries.

Following the restrictions of the past two years, both the Diamond Valley and Eltham libraries are looking forward to welcoming you back. The Mobile Library is also on the road. Hours vary, so check the YRPL website for details at yrpl.vic.gov.au

What are you waiting for – return yourself to the library!



Pet regos due

Do you own a dog or cat? Pet registration renewals are due by Sunday 10 April. Renewal forms were sent to Nillumbik pet owners in February. Didn't receive your forms? You can contact us on 9433 3111.

All cats and dogs over the age of three months must be microchipped and registered with Council. Registration can be paid online, in person at the Civic Centre in Greensborough, or by mail.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/pet-rego



IN BRIEF

Easy way to report graffiti

Have you seen some graffiti that needs to be removed? You can report it quickly and easily from your mobile device with the Snap Send Solve app.

Free from the App Store and Google Play, Snap Send Solve makes it easy to report incidents on the spot including photos and the exact location.

Our new graffiti removal contractors, The Graffiti Eaters, have more than 37 years' experience in the industry.



Become a school crossing supervisor

Play an important role in the Shire by becoming a school crossing supervisor.

Crossing supervisors provide for the safety of children and pedestrians and can be a friendly face in the school community. With flexible work options, permanent or casual, come support your community 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

For information, contact our Community Safety team on 9433 3231.

Grants open

The Nillumbik Community Fund is now open and provides grant funding up to \$5000 to support initiatives that respond to the needs of our community.

If you're a not-for-profit incorporated community group, organisation, club and artist, or individual or local commercial business auspiced by a not-for-profit incorporated organisation in Nillumbik, apply before 3 April for community projects undertaken in 2022/23.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/NCF

Caring for our carers

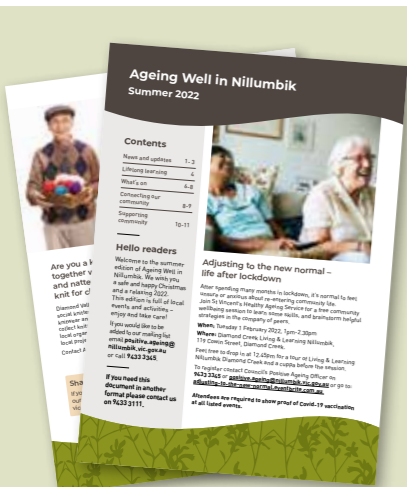
Are you an unpaid carer providing care and support to a family member, friend or neighbour?

Living & Learning Nillumbik has launched a new Carers Hub to support unpaid carers in the Shire and surrounding areas by providing a range of health, wellbeing, social connection and employment pathway activities.

The Carers Hub will provide access for unpaid carers of all ages to a range of free and subsidised programs and referral services designed to suit carers' individual needs and caring responsibilities.

Activities will be offered from our Living & Learning Neighbourhood Houses in Eltham, Diamond Creek and Panton Hill as well as online.

Find out more at our website livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au, email info.livinglearning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call 9433 3744.



Good news for ageing well

The Ageing Well in Nillumbik newsletter will keep you up-to-date with Council, community news, events and information to help you to live well, and age even better.

The quarterly newsletter can be delivered free to your home.

Join our mailing list by completing the form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/AWiN, call 9433 3345 or email positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Celebrating our volunteers

Dedicated community members play vital role in bringing us together.

During the pandemic, being able to navigate the online world has become more important than ever.

Checking in with QR codes, uploading digital vaccination certificates, online shopping, Zoom meetings and staying in touch with family and friends via social media have become part of everyday life for many of us.

But not everyone has the skills to join the online community.

A group of volunteer digital mentors is helping to change that through Living & Learning Nillumbik's Be Connected program. These volunteers are providing one-on-one technical support to older residents, encouraging them to be connected online and building basic skills.

Jan Wigley, of Hurstbridge, is one of the latest volunteers to join the program.

"My husband and I have volunteered in many nations, training teachers in poor communities," Mrs Wigley said.

"We lived in Mozambique for five years volunteering in various roles, then started a K-8 school in Kathmandu, Nepal. We went on to train teachers in Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Mozambique."

NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
VOLUNTEER
Better Together **WEEK**

Nillumbik is celebrating National Volunteer Week 2022 – Better Together from 16-22 May.

Getting involved in local volunteering is easy, find out how at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/volunteering

"Being stuck at home during our long lockdowns, I realised others don't have the ability to connect with people around the world like we do."

We're looking for more people like Jan to join the program. For more information call 9433 3744 or visit nillumbik.vic.gov.au/volunteering



Explore Nillumbik's community gardens, farmers markets and seed libraries on a self-guided tour.

Connect, grow, eat, enjoy

Home Harvest is back with opportunities to celebrate and share home-grown produce and local food year round.

Whether you're starting your first vegetable patch or you're a seasoned gardener, join us in exploring the local food community in Nillumbik with seed libraries, community gardening workshops, farmer's markets, food swaps and more.

The 2022 program kicked off with a twilight picnic at Edendale in February and continues throughout the year with a range of activities.

Be sure to save the date for Home Harvest's first Community Gardens Open Day on Saturday 19 March.

Community gardens across the Shire will be hosting a number of hands-on workshops on the day, where you can learn more about creating a successful garden.

Download a copy of the community gardens map from our website and take a self-guided tour of Nillumbik's community gardens.

Throughout the year you'll also have the opportunity to connect, grow, eat and enjoy with community gardeners across Nillumbik, at a number of workshops on offer.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/home-harvest

Plug into clean, green power

The upcoming Clean Energy Expo at Edendale Community Environment Farm promises educational fun for all the family.

The expo on Sunday 3 April, 11 am-3pm will be presented by Clean Energy Nillumbik (CEN); a volunteer community group that partners with Council to deliver sustainability activities. There will be children's activities; an electric vehicle display and EV expert

to answer questions; induction cooking display; and entertainment.

The Practically Green Waste Art Sculpture for 2022, made by local artists using waste materials, will also be unveiled.

Entry is by donation but online registration is essential at cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/expo



Anna Russell at her Hurstbridge home.

Sustainable House Day

Sustainable House Day – The Nillumbik Trail is on Sunday 1 May.

Don't miss the chance to view homes around the Shire and meet the owners to chat about their property's sustainable features.

Anna Russell and Michael Shiell are opening their Hurstbridge home, demonstrating how sustainability can be part of everyday life.

"We consider ourselves 'accidentally sustainable'," Anna said.

"We feel like the choices we make for our home are mostly common-sense in responding to our environment, and these decisions typically align with sustainability practices."

Register at: cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/shd2022

No flies on us

Help us manage the Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) in Nillumbik.

We're hosting a free "train the trainer" program on Saturday 2 April for people who would like to upskill in community management of QFF.

You will learn a variety of control and management options that you can teach others in your own community.

Applications at: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/qff-training



Hurstbridge volunteer Jan Wigley has joined Living & Learning Nillumbik's Be Connected program.

Place Shapers



Supporting bushfire preparedness

Do you have an idea for a project that can assist your community to respond to and recover from bushfires and other emergencies?

This year, two Council programs – Place Shapers and Communities First – join forces to assist community members from rural Nillumbik to develop place making projects that focus on community preparedness, connection and resilience.

An information session is on Tuesday 8 March in St Andrews and applications close 3 April.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/place-shapers

COMMUNITIES FIRST

Meanwhile, community groups and not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for Community Bushfire Preparedness and Resilience Grants of up to \$2000.

The grants, available as part of our Communities First program, can be used towards community led initiatives such as education and training, resources, events or social connectedness activities to build bushfire preparedness and resilience in the Shire.

Applications are open until all funds are expended or 12 June 2022.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/communities-first

Giving local art a remix

An exciting new exhibition featuring works from Council's art, civic and public collections will be held at Montsalvat from 7 April.

Titled *Local | Remix: the cultural collections of Nillumbik Shire Council*, the exhibition considers what art can tell us about place and perceptions of local identity.

Included in the selected works is the Shire's most recent acquisition, *Scars and Bruises* (Acrylic and oil on canvas), by Diamond Creek artist Nicholas Currie.

Currie, 19, spent his early years in Darwin, identifies as an Indigenous Polish man, and is studying his final year at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Currie produced the work during last year's lockdown on the floor back home in his parents' Diamond Creek garage.

"My work is storytelling and I tell stories for my communities and about my community in Diamond Creek on Wurundjeri land," he said. "Finding stories from this country, my lived experience here, there's a lot of memory, and that's often subconsciously reflected in the art I'm making."

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/local-remix



Diamond Creek artist Nicholas Currie, whose work will feature in Council's latest exhibition at Montsalvat.

Poets put age on the page

Council's inaugural Age on the Page poetry challenge was an opportunity for residents aged 55 and over to tap into their creative side. They were asked to write poems that addressed themes of independence, identity and wisdom.

Participant Renata Ringin said, "I wrote this piece as part of the Creative Writing course I am undertaking via the Living & Learning Centre. The poem represents an honest reflection of how I am embracing this next stage of life, including some unexpected joys as well as some of the less amazing aspects! It's all a matter of perspective."

To read all the poems and to get involved visit: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/age-page



Age on the Page participant Renata Ringin.

On Ageing

by Renata Ringin (excerpt)

*I'm fine with being older,
no longer being thin
I'm happy with this grandma's body,
I find myself in
I like the invisibility cloak,
I now get to wear
And how no-one's fussed,
if I haven't done my hair
It's OK being slower,
not cutting such a pace
I'm even fairly happy with the
wrinkles on my face*

*I seem to have this energy,
this untapped well within
To launch into those projects,
I'm longing to begin
I might even give the grey nomad life,
a crack
Hook up the van, hit the road,
and not look back
You see I'm OK with ageing,
I'll embrace the stereotype
The secret is my friend,
it's better than the hype.*



Volunteers tend to the Edible Hub Community Garden in Hurstbridge.

Community directory is growing

Nillumbik's Community and Services Directory is a one-stop-shop for information about the range of community organisations, services, groups and clubs in the Shire.

You can use the directory to find out about local organisations and services, and to help with immediate needs such as food or financial assistance.

The directory allows you to search by keyword, suburb or category, to ensure that you can find the group or service that best suits you. For community organisations and service providers, the directory provides an opportunity to promote your services to Nillumbik residents.

The Edible Hub Community Garden in Hurstbridge provides a space to learn about food growing and sustainable living, and is one of many groups using the directory.

Volunteer Jules Jay says the directory is a great community resource.

"If people are looking to join a particular type of group – say a gardening group like ours – but aren't sure what's around, they don't have to trawl through multiple webpages and Google searches to find all the relevant groups in the area," she said.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-directory

Kicking goals for equality

Join our celebrations for International Women's Day

Margo Fox from the Eltham Redbacks Football Club will be one of the guest panellists at this year's Nillumbik International Women's Day Dinner on Wednesday 9 March.

Margo is a graduate of Nillumbik's 2021 Women's Community Leadership and Connections Program, working on a project to encourage more women to take on leadership roles at the club.

"Women represent about 20 per cent of coaching positions across Soccer Victoria, despite large increases in girls and women joining football programs," she said.

"We want to break down the stereotypes of what a football coach looks like and we need to start at grass roots to normalise the presence of women in coaching and referee roles within boys and girls programs. This can accelerate the growth and positive perceptions of women in football."



Margo Fox (second from left) with Ethan, Ember, Danielle Kibell and Amelia.

Book tickets for the in-person event at Eltham Community and Reception Centre, or register for the free livestream at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/IWD

YOUNG MINDS



Strategy for our youth

A Youth Hub providing services, support and programs for young people is one of many actions recommended as part of Nillumbik's new Youth Strategy 2022-2026.

The strategy, which has given young people a new voice in the decision-making of Council, is the first to be developed in partnership with Nillumbik's Youth Council.

The Youth Council – an advisory committee of 15 young people aged 15-25 – took a lead role in the creation of the strategy, which sets out a four-year commitment by Council in how it will support and respond to the needs of young people in Nillumbik.

Read the full strategy at nillumbikyouth.vic.gov.au



Apply for preschool

Applications for preschool are now open. You can submit a preschool application:

- one year before your child is eligible to attend three-year-old preschool, or
- two years before your child is eligible to attend four-year-old preschool.

Applications close on 30 June and first-round offers will be sent the week of 11 July.

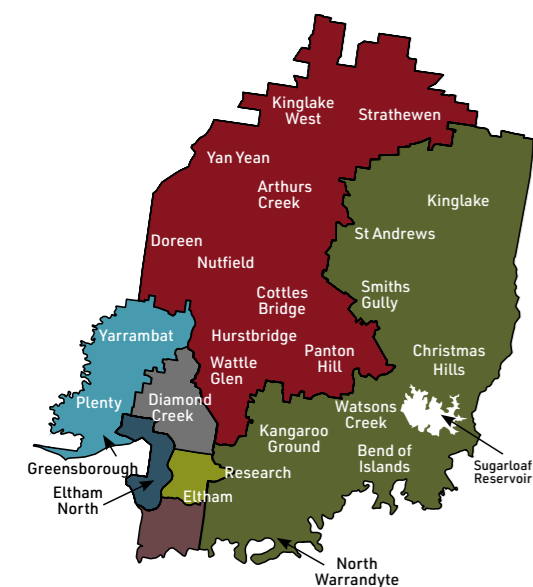
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/preschool



YOUR COUNCILLORS

✉ Postal address for Council and all Councillors:

Nillumbik Shire Council
PO Box 476
Greensborough VIC 3088



KEY

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

To find out which ward you live in, go to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/my-neighbourhood



Cr Frances Eyre
Swipers Gully Ward
Mayor

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

We've well and truly settled into the new year. School is back and while for some this is wonderful, for others it can be a source of anxiety, so please reach out to support services if you need them.

The Friends of the Aqueduct Trail had its first meeting on 6 February with Eltham MP Vicki Ward and Cr Ben Ramcharan. It was fantastic to have so many interested and passionate community members join us to share ideas and strategies. We'd love you to join the new Facebook group, [facebook.com/groups/2734956603476790/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2734956603476790/)

The footpath from the Research Industrial Estate to the Eltham Theatre will be finished by end of March if not before. The Research toilets have been demolished and works have begun on the new facilities.

Council was successful in a grant for irrigation works for the Research Junior Football Club, which is great news.

The Leane Drive lights are complete with the lights moving to mains electricity in the coming weeks. Major Roads Projects Victoria has been contacted to look at the sequencing to prioritise pedestrians and allow Main Road traffic to flow longer.

I'm hosting a Swipers Gully Ward Meeting on Wednesday 30 March, 7pm-8.30pm at the Research Park Pavilion. I hope you can come along, please RSVP via nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ward-meetings



Cr Ben Ramcharan
Sugarloaf Ward
Deputy Mayor

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

With more freedoms this year, I've finally been able to hold community meetings across Sugarloaf Ward. I really enjoyed meeting residents in Kangaroo Ground in December and St Andrews in February. Thank you to everyone who came along. Your feedback was incredibly valuable.

I'm looking forward to my upcoming community meetings, including in North Warrandyte and Christmas Hills. Stay tuned for details.

We have a lot to do this year. As we finish drafting our climate action plan, we're moving it to the implementation phase while beginning work on our all-important biodiversity strategy, which will be crucial for protecting the incredible range of flora and fauna that we share our home with in the Green Wedge Shire.

We're also making progress with our neighbourhood character strategy, which will be key to retaining the special local character that makes Nillumbik what it is.

I'm continuing to liaise with Council officers and the Department of Transport about a range of traffic and parking issues around Sugarloaf Ward, including parking issues at Research Shops and the danger posed by truck crashes at the southern end of Research-Warrandyte Road.

Please contact me any time if you have any questions or issues to raise.



Cr Richard Stockman
Blue Lake Ward

☎ 0438 143 678
✉ richard.stockman@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

I'm really looking forward to getting involved even more in 2022, as I believe it will be another big year for Nillumbik and Blue Lake.

The training wheels are off for the new Councillors and the energy and positivity we bring will convert into community benefits.

Last year, I stuck to my promises and focussed on outcomes rather than talk.

In Council decision making, I've done my best to support what the majority of the community has wanted.

Come out and visit me on my regular Wednesday morning catch-ups or don't hesitate to contact me and I will make an appointment to see you at your convenience.

Remember, I am your voice on Council, so keep me accountable by allowing me to represent you.

I am so fortunate to have already met some amazing people who live in Blue Lake Ward and intend on meeting many more of you in '22.

Meanwhile, I'm sure many of you will have already checked out the reopened Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre. I'm now enjoying the facilities there again myself but must applaud all the good people who made my visits to the Diamond Creek Community Centre gym an absolute treat.



Cr Karen Egan
Bunjil Ward

☎ 0438 341 595
✉ karen.egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

We've begun 2022 with some major infrastructure developments in Bunjil ward. The Diamond Creek Trail extension to Hurstbridge is expected to open mid March.

With help from a \$2 million State Government grant, we're preparing for the implementation of the Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct Plan. Keep an eye on our Participate Nillumbik website for updates and further consultation opportunities.

In another boost to the precinct, the new multi-use community facility at Ben Frilay Oval with new change rooms and expanded social area is set to open shortly, and work on the lighting upgrade for the Hurstbridge High Oval is continuing.

Road safety works on Church Road in Pantan Hill are due for completion in early March.

We have also worked with Hurstbridge Traders Association to install a tourism sign at the Wattle Glen roundabout to inform and direct visitors to the Hurstbridge township.

Council officers will work on the final designs for the Hurstbridge Men's Shed in coming months, with works commencing in 2023.

With the Federal and State elections coming up, Council is advocating for improvements across the Shire including greater funding support for improving trail connectivity, and eradicating mobile and internet black spots – a critical issue for rural residents.



Cr Natalie Duffy
Edendale Ward

☎ 0466 043 493
✉ natalie.duffy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Happy 2022! Let's make enjoying life our goal for the year. Let's focus on what we can do and do it well. Let's look for the good in the people and places around us to beat the fatigue of this ongoing pandemic. Here are five things we can do for a positive mindset:

1. Exercise for good health
2. Use less plastic
3. Plant more trees for shade
4. Get involved in a community group
5. Visit the Gawa Trail at Watson's Creek

Congratulations to our community award winners as well as all nominees. You make us proud! (Featured on page 5 of this edition).

Council will continue to deliver core services. Thank you to those who have contacted me requesting bus stop infrastructure improvements, street tree planting locations and playground upgrades.

Edendale Farm is open for visitors. Tell me if you'd like to help Friends of Edendale with indigenous plantings along the Diamond Creek. Check out Clean Energy Nillumbik's website for tips on sustainable living. Shop local to support local business.

Help us shape Nillumbik by regularly having your say on projects and plans through Council's website at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

What legacy would you like us to leave? I'm listening!



Cr Peter Perkins
Ellis Ward

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

It was great to see netball make its recent return to the Diamond Creek courts following the \$2.5 million resurfacing and lighting upgrade. Together with the new pavilion, we have a top-class regional sporting facility and I'd like to thank the Victorian Government for its continued support of projects in our township.

There's been significant investment in Diamond Creek of late with the extension of the Diamond Creek Trail, the regional playspace and Marngrook pavilion, but there is still more work to be done.

With the State and Federal elections being held this year, I'm strongly advocating for funding to upgrade the outdoor pool, as well as establish a community hub with much-needed local library. I encourage you to lobby the local candidates for their support of these important projects.

In other works, the Marngrook Oval electronic scoreboard is due to be installed if it hasn't already, while plans are being finalised for the road improvements around the oval. Drainage works are being undertaken in Ornsay Crescent to reduce the flood risk to homes.

Thanks to everyone who has provided feedback on a BMX park in Allendale Road. We're now considering what you had to say and the best option to meet the needs of our riding enthusiasts.



Cr Geoff Paine
Wingrove Ward

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

After a shaky start to the year with so many of us affected by the pandemic and other disruptions, I wanted to point out that the many works we see in the area will benefit the wider community, not just commuters.

Eltham Lower Park is getting a range of upgrades, from better Main Road car parking to new lights for the sporting ovals. Road resurfacing is happening at Falkiner Street, Mt Pleasant Road, Eucalyptus Road and Homestead Road.

We're also installing bike racks around the Eltham shopping precinct to make it a little more bike-friendly, and we're extending Eltham Skate Park to make it more all-age accessible for a range of wheels including bikes, skates and scooters.

Andrew Pocket Park will soon have a range of recreation and sporting equipment for all to enjoy, and Eltham Leisure Centre's solar upgrade is fully operational.

As always, stay patient with others, buy local when you can and stay connected with your community; that's how we get through this together.

With the traffic lights at the Main Road / Fitzsimons Lane finally switched on (ahead of schedule), let's hope traffic becomes less of a maze and that some greenery returns to this southern gateway to Eltham.

What's on this autumn



Meet and connect with other local businesswomen.

Women in Business event

Thursday 17 March, 12.30pm-2.30pm

Eltham Community and Reception Centre, \$45

We're bringing women across Nillumbik together to meet, connect, network and discuss the highs and lows of their business journey. No matter where you're at with your business – whether it's only an idea, you're just starting out or you're established and ready to grow – this event is for you!

Bookings: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/women-in-business

COMMUNITY

Smart Gardening for Seniors

FREE

Thursday 17 March, 11am-12pm
Diamond Valley Library,
Greensborough

Learn how to continue to enjoy your garden.

Bookings: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/smart-gardening

Warrandyte Festival

Friday 18 and Saturday 19 March
Stiggants Reserve

The Warrandyte Festival is back in 2022, kicking off at 6pm Friday with the Film Feast, then the street parade at 11am Saturday, followed by an afternoon and evening of entertainment. No Sunday events this year.

warrandytefestival.org

Come Together Festival

Saturday 19 March, 1pm-10pm
Edendale Community Environment Farm
Tickets: Adults \$40

The family friendly, culturally diverse and socially aware festival brings the community together to celebrate life.

cometogether.org.au

Advance Care Planning

FREE

Tuesday 22 March, 10.30am-12pm
Wadambuk
St Andrews Community Centre

Learn how to document your future health care preferences. In collaboration with Banksia Palliative Care Service.

Bookings: advancecareplans.eventbrite.com.au

Information: 9433 3138 or
agedcare@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Swipers Gully Ward meeting

Wednesday 30 March, 7pm
Research Park Pavilion
1459 Main Road

Meet Swipers Gully Ward Councillor and Nillumbik Mayor Frances Eyre and discuss the matters that are important to you.

RSVP: nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ward-meetings

Body Confident Children and Teens

Wednesday 6 April, 7pm-8.30pm
\$5 (free for concession card holders)
Online

Learn practical tips on promoting positive body image.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/parenting-series

Nillumbik Seniors Lunch

Thursday 7 April
Eltham Community and
Reception Centre

Cost: \$25

Bookings: seniors-social-lunch.eventbrite.com.au

Grandparents Morning Tea

FREE

Wednesday 20 April, 10am-12pm
Eltham

Thursday 26 April, 10am-12pm
St Andrews

Thursday 5 May, 10am-12pm
Hurstbridge

An opportunity for grandparents to come together, share experiences and let us know how we can support you.

Registrations and information at:
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/parenting-series

Voluntary Assisted Dying

FREE

Thursday 28 April, 10.30am-12pm
Diamond Valley Library, Greensborough

Learn more about this law and considerations for you and your loved ones. Presented by a clinician from the Voluntary Assisted Dying Navigator Service.

Bookings: voluntaryassisteddying.eventbrite.com.au

City Nature Challenge

FREE

29 April – 2 May

Help Council compete with cities around the world by recording the incredible biodiversity of our area.

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/city-nature-challenge

Neighbourhood House Week

FREE

9-14 May

Living & Learning Nillumbik's Neighbourhood Houses in Diamond Creek, Eltham and Panton Hill will be running a range of come and try sessions across the week.

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

All You Need to Know About Palliative Care

Wednesday 25 May, 1.30pm-3pm
Hurstbridge Hub

In collaboration with Banksia Palliative Care Service.

Bookings: aboutpalliativecare.eventbrite.com.au

Information: 9433 3138 or
agedcare@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Find out more about the elusive platypus. Picture: Doug Gimesy, Melbourne Water

Platypus Celebration Day

FREE

Saturday 26 March, 1.30pm-6.30pm

Edendale Community Environment Farm

After being postponed in 2021 due to COVID-19, we're pleased to be able to finally hold our Celebrating the Platypus in the Diamond Creek event. This event will feature a platypus expert guest speaker, live entertainment, children's craft activities, a water bug discovery activity, food vendors, face painting, farm tours and more.

Preregistration essential at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/platypus

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Edendale Community Environment Farm

Wildlife Xposure – Marine Animals
Wednesday 13 April, 10.30am

Wildlife Xposure – Creepy Crawlies
Wednesday 20 April, 10.30am

Sensory friendly farm tour

Tuesday 12 April, 9.30am
Thursday 21 April, 9.30am

Join the Edendale farmers for a tour around the farm in a small, sensory friendly sized group tailored to suit children on the Autism Spectrum. Sponsored by Eltham Paediatrics. Light refreshments provided.

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

SAVE THE DATE

IDAHOBIT – Tuesday 17 May

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia celebrates LGBTQIA+ people while raising awareness about the work still to be done to stop discrimination.

Find out how you can celebrate IDAHOBIT in Nillumbik at
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/IDAHOBIT

EXHIBITIONS



Naughty Monkey, *98 pool of reflections*, 2007, Oil and collage on paper, 60 x 42cm

Eltham Library Community Gallery

FREE

The Eltham Library Community Gallery (ELCG) exhibition program promises a wonderful array of works throughout the year. These free exhibitions are a much-loved part of the local artistic calendar.

Naughty Monkey & Louise Jade
Dancing on Sunshine
Friday 4 March to Sunday 3 April

Open Studios 2022
Friday 8 April to Sunday 15 May

The Artistry of Books
Thou Art Mum
Friday 20 May to Sunday 19 June
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/ELCG

Community Training Calendar



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

Upcoming Sessions:

Spotlight on Wellbeing
Wednesday 27 April
7pm-9pm (online)

Getting Started with your Big Idea
Thursday 12 May
7pm-9pm (online)

To register and find out about more upcoming sessions, visit
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-training-calendar

Business workshops

FREE

To support local businesses, Council is holding a series of workshops at our Civic Centre in Greensborough.

Maximising your marketing
Wednesday 23 March,
9am-11am

Learn what marketing is and the steps required to successfully promote your business.

Starting your small business
Wednesday 20 April,
9am-12pm

Find out about the essentials of starting a small business.

Strategies to advance your online business
Wednesday 25 May,
9am-12pm

Gain the knowledge, strategies and tools to grow your business online.

Registrations essential at
nillumbik.vic.gov.au/business-events



Want to stay up to date with the latest news and events in Nillumbik?

Subscribe to our new monthly

Nillumbik e-News!

Sign up at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/enews and keep an eye on your inbox!



Easter and public holiday opening hours

Council offices

Civic Drive, Greensborough
Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

Call Centre

9433 3111
Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm

Closed:

- **Labour Day** Monday 14 March
- **Good Friday** 15 April
- **Easter Monday** 18 April
- **Anzac Day Monday** 25 April

Bin Collection

There will be no kerbside bin collections on Good Friday, 15 April. Instead bins will be collected on Saturday 16 April.

There will be no kerbside bin collections on Anzac Day, Monday 25 April. Instead all bin collections that week are taking place one day later than normal, with Friday collections taking place on Saturday 30 April.

Recycling Centre and Reuse Shop

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty
Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, open 8am-4pm

Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and public holidays:

- **Labour Day** Monday 14 March
- **Good Friday** 15 April
- **Saturday** 16 April
- **Easter Sunday** 17 April
- **Easter Monday** 18 April
- **Anzac Day Monday** 25 April

Nillumbik Pound

Monday to Friday, 8.15am-12.30pm
Saturday, Sunday, 8.15am-11.30am
Open public holidays

Call 9433 3111 to arrange pet pick-up, pound is not open to the public.

Edendale Community Environment Farm

Gastons Road, Eltham
Open every day including public holidays. Please check opening hours at edendale.vic.gov.au

Living & Learning Nillumbik

Eltham, Diamond Creek and Panton Hill
Phone 9433 37344
Closed public holidays

Please check opening hours at livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au



Participate Nillumbik

Have your say on projects that matter to you and the community

Sign up to Participate Nillumbik to find out about our latest consultation opportunities.

Sign up at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Nillumbik Shire Council

Civic Drive, Greensborough Victoria 3088
9433 3111 | nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



nillumbik.vic.gov.au

