

Spring 2020 • SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

# Nillumbik

NEWS



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## Building a strong economy

A stronger local economy and more jobs are the aims of Council's new Economic Development Strategy, which was adopted in June.

The 10-year plan has four key objectives to:

- Improve economic development practices and programs to assist local business
- Create vibrant activity centres and employment precincts in Eltham and Diamond Creek
- Facilitate economically and environmentally sustainable use of land within the Shire's green wedge
- Enhance the visitor economy.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/economic-development-strategy](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/economic-development-strategy)

Council has also adopted the Equine in Nillumbik plan, which outlines opportunities to be explored to increase participation and support equine economic development projects.

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

More recently, Council considered the draft Major Activity Centre Structure Plans for Eltham and Diamond Creek. The drafts set out a vision and objectives for the townships and address land-use mix, shopping, services and entertainment, housing, employment, roads and transport while respecting local character. The Eltham Major Activity Centre Structure Plan was adopted in July, while the Diamond Creek plan was being considered at Council's August meeting.

Deputy Mayor Peter Clarke, Chair of the Planning Committee, said the adoption of the Eltham plan provided improvements to the 2004 plan.

"We have listened to the community. We have come to the point where we can progress to the next stage, which will be to look at any planning scheme amendments," he said.



The 2020-21 Budget has \$35.8 million in capital works projects.

## Property rates freeze

Support for households as COVID-19 hits hard

After consideration brought on by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council adopted its 2020-2021 Budget in June, including a zero increase in property rates for the coming year.

Mayor Karen Egan said the adoption of the Budget was achieved in an environment unlike any other.

"The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic meant a new range of factors, which could not have been anticipated when the draft Budget was first released for public comment, had to be taken into account," Cr Egan said.

"Because of the significant financial impact on households and businesses in our Shire, Council came to the sensible, considered and compassionate decision not to increase rates in the coming year."

Chair of Finance and Governance, Councillor Bruce Ranken, said freezing the rates increase was possible because of good financial management.

"This decision reflects the solid foundations put in place by this Council through astute financial management, good decision-making and a strong track record in attracting state and federal funding," Cr Ranken said.

Key items in the 2020-2021 Budget include:

- Zero per cent rates increase (State Government-mandated cap is 2 per cent);
- \$35.8 million in capital works projects, of which \$17.2 million will be funded through external grants and contributions;
- Proposed borrowings of \$3.3 million to partly fund capital works programs and provide options to leverage any grant opportunities available during the financial year; and
- Current debt continues to be reduced with a projected net debt balance of \$6.9 million (excluding any proposed borrowings).

## Share your COVID-19 experience

During these uncertain times, we are committed to supporting the community to stay safe and well.

To help us do this, we would like to better understand your experience during COVID-19.

We have partnered with healthAbility Community Health Service to deliver a *Together in Nillumbik* survey.

The results will be used to inform planning and programs to meet community need during and beyond COVID-19.

You can complete the survey at [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/together-in-nillumbik](http://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/together-in-nillumbik).

You can also book into an online focus group session on Wednesday 9 September, 10am-11am, Thursday 10 September 6.30pm-7.30pm or Saturday 19 September 10am-11am.

Council's Community Services team can assist in filling out the survey over the phone. Call 9433 3144 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

# Continuing our fight against COVID-19

Your health and wellbeing remain our priority

The coronavirus pandemic continues to dominate our lives.

In May and June, Council began to reopen facilities and services, only for the subsequent tightening of restrictions requiring their closure again.

We appreciate your patience as we work through these difficult circumstances.

As always, the health and wellbeing of our community and our staff is our highest priority.

Our customer service desk is currently closed but our team is available to assist on 9433 3111.

Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for further updates.

Our essential services continue as normal including waste collection, immunisations, critical Maternal and Child Health appointments and services for older and vulnerable residents.

For up to date information about Council facilities, services and events, go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/COVID-19](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/COVID-19) or follow us on Facebook @nillumbikcouncil

## Supporting our community

In recognition of the difficult circumstances many face during the pandemic, Council has made available a range grants and funding opportunities.

The COVID-19 Quick Response Grants for Local Businesses provided funding for businesses in Nillumbik to adapt and continue operating during restrictions.

The COVID-19 Quick Response Grants for community groups and not-for-profit organisations provided funding for innovative community-led initiatives to respond to issues brought on by the crisis.

In addition, the Nillumbik Community Fund offered opportunities in the areas of community, youth, indigenous, arts and culture and events, and recipients will be announced in September.

Council's Art in the Time of COVID-19 program supported the arts sector with commission opportunities for visual artists, writers and performers.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants)  
[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-art](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-art)



Short texts were stencilled on paths around the Shire as part of Written in the Time of COVID-19.



## from the Mayor

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

Spring is a season of new beginnings and I hope it will provide some brighter moments to what has been such a difficult year so far.

Many in our community are doing it tough, and we are doing everything we can to try and provide some support to those who need it.

Importantly, Council made the decision to keep property rate increases on hold as part of the 2020/2021 Budget. We have also sought to support local businesses and community groups through our COVID-19 quick response grants.

Our Art in the Time of COVID-19 program is also providing opportunities for the arts and cultural community.

We can all support our local businesses by shopping local wherever possible. And we encourage everyone to look out for each other through our Be Kind Nillumbik campaign.

Thank you to everyone who is doing the right thing in our fight to stop the spread of this disease.

In spite of COVID-19, Council continues to work behind the scenes. Key achievements in this past quarter include:

- The start of work on the extension to the Diamond Creek Trail
- Completion of the Diamond Creek Regional Playspace
- Completion of the Eltham Central Pavilion upgrade
- An expansion of kerbside bin collection options for residents.

We have adopted key Council strategies and plans including the Economic Development Strategy, Equine in Nillumbik and the Early Years Infrastructure Plan, and have begun the groundwork for the important Shire Plan 2040 – Towards a Community Vision for Nillumbik.

This is my final message as Mayor before we head into Council elections. I would like to thank everyone for their support of this Council during the past four years.

Stay safe.

**Cr Karen Egan**  
**Mayor Nillumbik Shire Council**

# New bin options are wheelie good

Our expanded range of waste collection options provides more choice for residents

The new options, detailed below, include a weekly 120-litre landfill bin, a larger 140-litre fortnightly landfill bin and a free larger 240-litre weekly green waste bin. These options are in addition to those already available, so if you are happy with your current collection arrangements, you don't need to do anything and your service will continue as normal.

Council set the standard waste management charge of \$419.56 in the 2020-21 Budget, along with the charges for the additional landfill bin options.

The charge covers bin collection, processing and disposal including government levies, hard waste collection, green waste vouchers, free recycling of many items at the recycling centre, education programs and the rehabilitation of the former landfills at Plenty and Kangaroo Ground.

The new bin options come as JJ's Waste & Recycling began the kerbside collections in July. Keep an eye out for the new trucks across the Shire.

For more information and to upsize your green waste bin online, go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins). To order a new landfill bin or for all other options, contact customer service on 9433 3111.



One of the new waste collection trucks.

## Food for thought

**Victorian farmers use compost made from your food and garden waste.**

Put your food scraps in the green waste bin, not the landfill bin. Nillumbik's waste audits show about one quarter of what's in the landfill bin

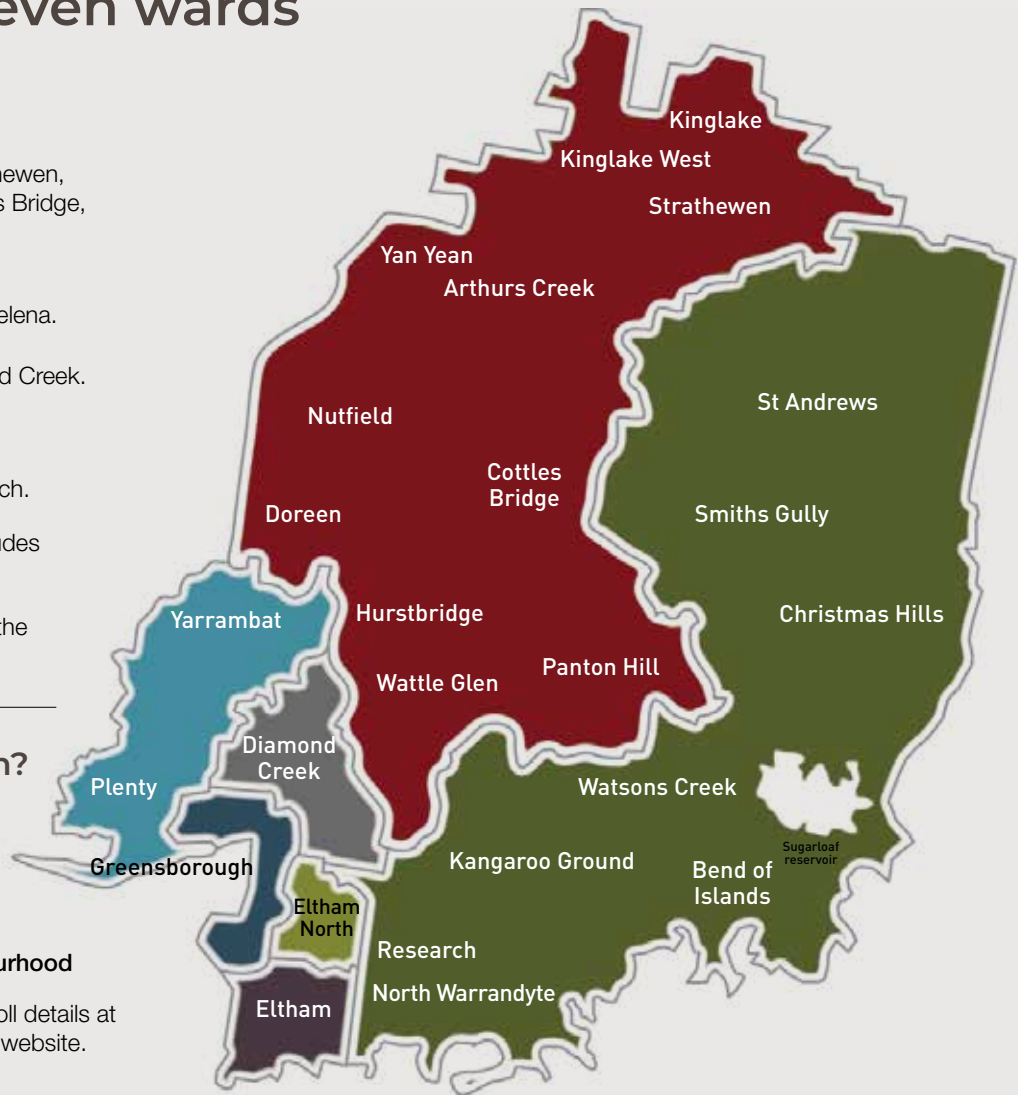
is food waste, even though it can go in the green waste bin.

Remember to separate food scraps from other waste during food prep and after meals, so they can be recycled into compost for farms, parks and gardens.

Recycling - collected fortnightly		Green waste - collected weekly, for garden materials and food scraps						
<b>240 litres</b> Standard 	<b>OR</b>	<b>2 x 240 litres</b> One-off cost for extra bin \$95 	<b>120 litres</b> Standard 	<b>OR</b>	<b>2 x 120 litres</b> One-off cost for extra bin \$80 	<b>OR</b>	<b>240 litres</b> Free upsize 	
<b>Landfill - collected fortnightly, with a new option of weekly collection</b>								
<b>120 litres</b> Standard 	<b>OR</b>	<b>80 litres</b> Downsize and save \$83.91 this year 	<b>OR</b>	<b>140 litres</b> Upsize for an extra annual charge \$41.96 	<b>OR</b>	<b>2 x 120 litres</b> One-off cost for extra bin \$80 Extra annual charge \$167.82 	<b>OR</b>	<b>120 litres</b> WEEKLY COLLECTION Extra annual charge \$335.65 

# Nillumbik's seven wards

- Blue Lake Ward** includes Plenty and Yarrambat.
- Bunjil Ward** includes Strathewen, Arthurs Creek, Doreen, Cottles Bridge, Hurstbridge and Wattle Glen.
- Edendale Ward** includes Eltham North and part of St Helena.
- Ellis Ward** includes Diamond Creek.
- Sugarloaf Ward** includes St Andrews, Christmas Hills, Kangaroo Ground and Research.
- Swipers Gully Ward** includes the northern part of Eltham.
- Wingrove Ward** includes the southern part of Eltham.



## Which ward do I live in?

To find out which ward you live in, go to the My Neighbourhood section on Council's website and enter the address listed on your rates notice.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/my-neighbourhood](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/my-neighbourhood)

You can also check your electoral roll details at the Victorian Electoral Commission website.

[enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au](http://enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au)

# Your chance to vote in council elections

Nillumbik heads to the polls on Saturday 24 October in Victorian local government elections

Local Government Minister Shaun Leane has confirmed the elections are going ahead as planned with additional health and safety measures to protect the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will conduct the election by post.

Ballot packs will be sent to enrolled voters in early October. The ballot packs will include voting instructions, candidate information, a ballot paper, and a reply-paid envelope.

Voting closes at 6pm on Friday 23 October.

Voting is compulsory for people over the age of 18, and those who don't risk a fine. Under the new *Local Government Act 2020*, voters aged 70 and over are no longer exempt from compulsory voting in council elections. Residents on the State

roll aged 70 and over will be required to vote. From 2024 all voters 70 and over will be required to vote.

You can check your enrolment details at [enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au](http://enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au).

Enrolments for the council elections closed on 28 August.

Nillumbik Shire Council is divided into seven wards with one councillor representing each ward.

In 2019, the VEC conducted an Electoral Representation Review where the existing seven-ward structure was retained with a slight boundary adjustment between two wards.

As legislated, Council will enter a Caretaker Period during the election period from midnight Tuesday 22 September to 6pm, Saturday 24 October.

The results of the election are expected to be declared by the VEC by Friday 13 November.

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

## Closing date for candidates

Nominations to be a candidate in the upcoming council elections open on 17 September and close at 12 noon Tuesday 22 September.

Candidates must be an Australian citizen and enrolled as a voter in Nillumbik. They must have also completed mandatory training.

For more information, go to the Victorian Electoral Commission at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) and [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/council-elections](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/council-elections).



## Register your pool or spa

The Victorian Government has extended the deadline for the mandatory registration of private pools and spas.

Private pool and spa owners now have until 1 November 2020 to register their pools with Council – an extension of five months from the original 1 June deadline.

The Government introduced new regulations in December 2019 to make swimming pools and spas safer and prevent young children from drowning.

These changes require owners to register their pools and spas with council, with a one-off fee of up to \$79. Pool barriers must then be inspected and certified.

Owners who fail to register their pool or spa with council by 1 November may face an on-the-spot fine of \$330.

For more information on the Victorian Government's pool safety reforms, visit [vba.vic.gov.au](http://vba.vic.gov.au)

For more information about registering your pool or spa in Nillumbik, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/pools-and-spas](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/pools-and-spas)



The intersection of Yan Yean and Bridge Inn roads.

## Have your say on road project

An Environment Effects Statement for the Yan Yean Road upgrade Stage 2 is being prepared for public exhibition

Nillumbik residents will soon be invited to make a submission on the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the project, which is being overseen by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The proposed upgrade, by Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV), will see the duplication of Yan Yean Road between Kurrak Road and Bridge Inn Road.

The project will also include:

- Replacing roundabouts with traffic lights at Orchard Road and Bridge Inn Road
- New traffic lights at North Oatlands Road and Bannons Lane and Jorgensen Avenue
- New roundabouts at Heard Avenue and Youngs Road.

An EES looks at the potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of the project and identifies how they will be managed.

After the EES exhibition, an independent panel will consider the EES and the submissions made during the exhibition period. The panel will make a recommendation to the Minister for Planning.

Nillumbik Shire Council will be making a submission on the EES.

For more information on the EES and to register to be notified when the EES goes on exhibition, go to [roadprojects.vic.gov.au/yyr-ees](http://roadprojects.vic.gov.au/yyr-ees). You can also request an EES information pack by emailing [contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au) or calling 1800 105 105.



The Better Business Approvals project is making it easier for small businesses to open their doors in Nillumbik.

## A better way to do business

Starting, expanding or buying a business may require permission from Council, and it can be difficult to know where to start.

In partnership with Small Business Victoria, Nillumbik Shire Council recently completed the Better Business Approvals project – a State Government initiative making it simpler and easier for businesses to obtain the regulatory approvals they need to open their doors.

The Business in Nillumbik section of our website has been updated to provide a roadmap of the permit application process, including an interactive checklist to help determine which permits may apply to each business' situation.

The application process has also been streamlined and, in many cases, can now be completed with a single form. Business owners are encouraged to meet with our Economic Development team who will act as concierge through the application process, providing support and advice at every step.

As a Small Business Friendly Council, Nillumbik is committed to supporting new and existing businesses in the Shire to start, grow and succeed.

For more information, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/business](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/business) or email [business@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

# Big step for trail extension

Work starts on Stage 1 of the long-awaited shared path

The major project will see a 2.5km shared trail built from Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen.

The project has been funded with \$4 million from the Victorian Government, through VicRoad's Towards Zero.

Nillumbik Shire Council has committed \$4 million for land acquisition for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the project.

The new section will start in Luscombe Drive, Diamond Creek, and follow the Diamond Creek to Wilsons Road in Wattle Glen. It will include three bridge crossings over the Diamond and Scrubby creeks.

The trail will consist of a shared path for pedestrians and cyclists, and a separate trail for horse riders.

Nillumbik Mayor Karen Egan said the trail would provide a vital link between the townships of Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen.

"This is an important piece of community infrastructure, set in a beautiful part of our Shire," Cr Egan said.

Ellis Ward Councillor Peter Perkins thanked the State Government for its significant contribution to the trail.

"The past few months have seen our trails used more than ever before and I have no doubt that, once finished, this new trail will be enormously popular with locals and visitors alike," Cr Perkins said.

Work is expected to be completed late 2020/early 2021.

## Regional playspace

Work has almost finished on the Diamond Creek Regional Playspace and we can't wait to welcome you to this fabulous new community facility.

We look forward to officially opening the playspace when the easing of COVID-19 restrictions allow.

## Solar project powers on

**Council's proposed solar farm at the former Plenty landfill site is sparking interest across the community.**

In late August, Council was due to consider market offers to develop the farm on the site in Yan Yean Road, next to the Recycling and Recovery Centre.

The community was invited to share their thoughts about the project through Council's Participate Nillumbik website in July.

Further community engagement will be undertaken during the solar farm development program.

The solar farm has the potential to supply all of Council's annual electricity requirements through the national electricity distribution network and will assist in significantly offsetting our greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information go to [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/solar-farm](https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/solar-farm) or email [solar.farm@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:solar.farm@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



Nillumbik's trails have been popular during the COVID-19 restrictions.

## Smart stuff

**Nillumbik is on its way to being a smarter city following the installation of gateways and sensors that will gather data to help us improve the management of our services and facilities.**

The sensors will monitor:

- Visitor numbers at Council facilities and outdoor spaces such as public toilets and shared trails
- Air quality including pollution and an early warning of bushfire smoke
- Water levels in water tank storage for bushfire fighting
- Waste volumes in public rubbish bins to alert when full bins need collection.

The Northern Melbourne Smart City Network is a collaboration between Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Banyule, Moreland and Mitchell councils, and RMIT and LaTrobe universities, and has been partly funded by the Federal Government.

## New dog park will be paw-some

In good news for our canine companions, Council has received \$275,000 from the Victorian Government to create a new off-leash dog park in Eltham North.

The park will be at Dansey's Paddock in Wattleree Road and include a fenced off-leash dog park area with separate zones for small or quiet dogs and big dogs.

The funding has been provided through the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program.

Edendale Ward Councillor John Dumaresq said residents had been asking for a dog park in Eltham North for many years.

"The community is thrilled that Council and the State Government have given the dog park the green light. It adds to the fantastic facilities in the North Eltham recreation and Edendale Farm precinct," he said.

Construction is anticipated to start in early 2021.

## Top stories

The amazing stories of some of our older residents have been brought to life as part of a unique intergenerational storytelling program.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council partnered with Humankind Enterprises to run the Digital Storytelling Program in which five young jobseekers were employed to work with 25 older community members, helping them record their stories and experiences.

The program aimed to increase social inclusion for older residents, many of whom have been forced to isolate during the pandemic. Young people have also been affected by job losses.

See video highlights at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/digital-storytelling](https://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/digital-storytelling)



Yarra Plenty Regional Library's mobile library service will be back on the road once COVID-19 restrictions allow.

## Book in some reading time

Our libraries are better than ever with a new rural hub and upgrade to the Diamond Valley branch

In great news for our regional townships, a library hub has been established in the foyer of the Hurstbridge Community Hub, in partnership with Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries (YPRL).

Once COVID-19 restrictions ease, the new library hub will allow library members to select their reserved books to be delivered and picked up at the Hurstbridge Community Hub. The system will be automated with a digital kiosk to facilitate the click and collect service, supported by Hub staff. Visitors will also be able to browse a small selection of books.

The YRPL mobile library will also continue to operate, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Residents will need to be a library member to use the library hub click and collect service, and can join for free.

Mayor Karen Egan said the new library hub was great news for rural residents.

"It's a convenient way to access a great range of resources in addition to the mobile library service," Cr Egan said.

In the meantime, planning is well underway for the upgrade to the Diamond Valley Library.

Concept designs were released for community consultation in August. These are now being finalised ready for work to start early next year.

While library branches have been closed in recent months, YPRL offers a great range of online services through the Your Library at Home program.

[ypri.vic.gov.au](https://ypri.vic.gov.au)

## Positive Ageing

Are you passionate about the health and wellbeing of older adults in Nillumbik?

We are seeking community representatives to join our Positive Ageing Advisory Committee.

Applications close Friday 2 October.

Visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/positive-ageing-2020](https://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/positive-ageing-2020), speak to our Positive Ageing Officer call 0437 676 617 or email [positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au).



## Taking action on inclusion

Whether it be access to facilities, services, programs, information, communication, employment processes or systems relating to Council, we want to ensure everyone, regardless of ability, can participate in our community.

About one in five people in Australia, and an estimated 49.6 per cent of people over 65, have a disability.

Based on feedback from more than 230 community members and 15 local service providers, Council's new Disability Action Plan (DAP) 2020-2024 aims to

reduce discrimination and will create more opportunities for people with disability to participate in all aspects of community life.

Download a copy of the DAP at our website, an Easy English version is also available at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/DAP-2020](https://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/DAP-2020)

If you require the DAP in an alternative format or wish join the Disability Inclusion Network and receive updates about disability in Nillumbik, please call the Inclusion Team on 0428 277 428, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/inclusion](https://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/inclusion) or email [inclusion@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:inclusion@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



# Are you prepared?

## Your guide to staying safe this fire season

### Mayor's Message

Spring is finally here and with it the promise of longer days and warmer weather.

But the new season also brings with it the threat of bushfire. Bushfires not only occur in summer, but spring and autumn, too.

While much attention has been given to dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's also important we also focus on preparing for the bushfire season.

The last bushfire season took a devastating toll on many parts of Australia, and indeed the flames came knocking on our door with the bushfire at Plenty Gorge Park just before the New Year.

Now is the time to prepare our properties, well before the bushfire season arrives.

We all have a role to play and it's important we work together.

Council has a program of works throughout the year to reduce fuel loads in our parks and reserves, on our roadsides, and to help keep roads clear in an emergency.

If you don't already have one, now is also the time to prepare a written bushfire plan for what you, your family or employees will do on days of high risk.

Of course, leaving early – long before a fire arrives – is always the safest option.

There's lots of work to be done. Please take the time to read this important guide to help you be fire ready.

Stay safe and take care.



Cr Karen Egan  
Mayor



Working with the community and stakeholders is key to bushfire preparedness.

## Working together to prepare for bushfire

### Our new Community First program supports a grassroots approach to bushfire preparedness

We are pleased to have received funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning under the Safer Together grants program to facilitate community-led bushfire preparedness activities within Nillumbik's rural communities.

The project, Community First, seeks to place the community at the centre of preparing for bushfires, build on existing capacity, collaboration and strengthening relationships with communities, agencies and Council.

The project uses a place-based, bottom-up approach to meet the unique needs of different

communities by working together to use resources and share local insight to improve bushfire preparedness.

Council has employed Emergency Project Resilience Officer Edwina Moran to implement this project.

During the first phase, in recognition of local knowledge and experience, Edwina will be undertaking structured community conversations with rural residents, businesses, community groups and organisations.

To find out more about this project or get involved, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-first](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-first) or email [community@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:community@nillumbik.vic.gov.au).

### Tell us what you think

What information about bushfire and preparedness would you like to receive/hear from Council and how would you like to receive it? Please send your thoughts to [emmatters@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:emmatters@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

## Council's 2020-21 bushfire mitigation works program

### JANUARY-DECEMBER

Assessment, fuel reduction,  
brush cutting and mowing at  
**104 parks,  
bushland reserves  
and open spaces**

**250km** of box clearance

### MARCH-DECEMBER

**Assessment and  
maintenance**

of trees affected by 2009  
bushfires along 39km of road

### SEPTEMBER- EARLY DECEMBER, MARCH-MAY

**Planned burns,**  
weather conditions permitting

### JULY-DECEMBER

**Tree hazard  
assessment,  
pruning and removal** along  
72km of road

Inspection and maintenance of  
**6.4km of fire  
access tracks**

Maintenance of  
**59 water tanks**

**Clearing vegetation**  
from about 168km  
of electric lines

### OCTOBER-FEBRUARY

**410km**  
of roadside mowing

# We're all in this together

## Bushfire prevention is a shared responsibility and Council is ensuring we play our part

Council has an annual program of works to ensure our parks and reserves, as well as the roadsides we manage, are prepared for bushfire while balancing the protection of the environment.

Our program includes fuel reduction, brush cutting and mowing in parks, reserves and open spaces, roadside mowing, box clearance (removal of vegetation around the required clear zone of the road), removal of roadside tree hazards, maintenance of roadside trees affected by the 2009 bushfires, planned burns, fire track and water tank maintenance and the clearance of vegetation from around electric lines.

The program is reviewed and developed each year in consultation with the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee which includes the CFA, local

brigades, Council, Parks Victoria and other key stakeholders.

We are also guided by our Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2022. This strategy adopts a broad set of strategic priorities including risk-based fuel management.

Most works are scheduled to be finished by 1 December each year. We work with our contractors to schedule works as late as possible to maximise benefit and value, for example we want grass to be cured before we cut so we only need to do it once, but need to start early enough so works can be finished ahead of the peak fire season.

For more information on our works program and to view our Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bushfire-mitigation](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bushfire-mitigation)



Brush cutting in one of the Eltham Copper Butterfly reserves.

## Protecting the Eltham Copper Butterfly

Council's bushfire mitigation works are not only essential for community safety, but for protecting endangered species such as the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

We manage a series of small reserves throughout Eltham which provide important habitat for the butterfly.

Not only could a fire be devastating or residents living near the reserves, but also the vulnerable butterfly population.

Our annual bushfire management works in the reserves include the maintenance of fire breaks, removal of fine fuels and thinning shrubby vegetation.

# Prepare your property and plan now

Nillumbik is one of the highest bushfire risk areas in the world. We all have a role to play in preparing for the threat of fire. Residents are being urged to prepare their properties now, before the bushfire season begins

The CFA website has a range of ideas and information to help prepare and protect yourself and your property.

## Some tips for preparing your property include:

- ✓ Keep grass short
- ✓ Get rid of dry leaves, twigs and loose bark
- ✓ Keep gutters clear of leaf litter
- ✓ Keep woodpiles away from the house
- ✓ Store flammable liquids away from the house
- ✓ Prune lower branches of shrubs to separate from surface fuels underneath
- ✓ Cut back overhanging branches
- ✓ Remove flammable items such as boxes, furniture and doormats from decks and verandahs.

Being prepared also means having a written and, if possible, well-practised plan to help you and your family or employees remember what to do during an emergency.

## Have you thought about:

- ⚠ Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?
- ⚠ Will you leave early on a high fire danger day or the night before?
- ⚠ Where will you go?
- ⚠ What route will you take – and what is your alternative if that is not available?
- ⚠ What will you take with you?
- ⚠ What do you need to organise for your pets or livestock?
- ⚠ Who do you need to keep informed of your movements?
- ⚠ Is there anyone outside your household you need to help or check up on?
- ⚠ How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
- ⚠ What will you do if there is a fire in your area and you can't leave?
- ⚠ Who will do what?

Go to [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) for more information.



Council officers work with emergency services and the community to prepare for bushfire.

## It's in the mail

In the lead up to the Fire Danger Period, you may receive a letter advising you to prepare your property.

This letter serves as a reminder and guide for clearing your property in order to reduce potential fire hazards. Failure to adequately prepare puts you and your neighbours at risk, and may result in a Fire Prevention Notice being issued.

## Fire Prevention Notices issued

To ensure the safety of our residents, Council officers conduct annual property inspections for properties that are covered by the Bushfire Management Overlay and other at-risk properties.

If it is identified that your property has a high level of fire risk, a Fire Prevention Notice may be issued, requesting you to conduct works on your property to reduce the risk. Council officers will be available to provide guidance. Failure to comply with this Notice may result in an infringement and/or possible court action.

## Burning off

**Burning off is one way to dispose of vegetation (grass, weeds, branches and leaves) as part of your fire preparedness activities.**

If your property is less than once acre, a permit is required to burn off. Properties larger than once acre do not require a permit to burn off, unless the pile to be burnt is larger than 10 square metres.

Burning off is permitted from 1 October until the start of the Fire Danger Period. Burning off is prohibited on all properties, regardless of size, on any Total Fire Ban day or Smog Alert day, and at all times during the Fire Danger Period.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/burning-off](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/burning-off)

## What am I allowed to do?

In many instances, a planning permit is required to remove or lop vegetation on Nillumbik properties, in accordance with the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

However, there are some exemptions, guided by the 10/30 or 10/50 rules. For more information about these rules, go to our website

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/10-3050rule](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/10-3050rule).

If you have any questions please call our customer service team on 9433 3111.

## Before fire season

- Pack an Emergency Kit with essential items and keep it in a handy place.
- Scan important documents and photos onto a memory stick.
- Buy a battery-operated radio, powerful torch and extra batteries.
- Save important contact numbers in your mobile phone. Include family, friends and the VicEmergency Hotline. Have a spare mobile phone that you keep fully charged for emergencies. Download the VicEmergency app if you have a smartphone.
- Set aside protective clothing (long-sleeved, made from natural material such as cotton, and sturdy footwear such as leather boots) for each member of the family.
- Put woollen blankets in your car for protection in case you get caught on the road.
- Practise packing your car so you know how long it will take.
- Make arrangements with anyone you plan to visit or stay with.
- Remove any materials that could burn easily from around your home.
- Mark your main routes, including back up routes and petrol stations on hard copy maps. Check [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) to see if your town or suburb has a Community Information Guide map.
- Talk to neighbours or nearby friends about ways you can help each other.

### Remember to prepare for your pets as well.

Make sure your pet is wearing an identification tag and add the following items to your Emergency Kit:

- suitable transport carriers or leash
- any medications
- dietary supplements
- food and drinking water
- a familiar item (toy, bed, treats) to help reduce stress
- spray paint phone number on your horse.



## On fire risk days

- Stay updated by using more than one source of information so you will know if a fire has started near you.
- Move livestock to a safe area and put your pets in a safe place ready for loading in the car.
- Pack personal items such as a change of clothing for each person, toys for children and pets, and put them in the car.
- If your car is behind an electric garage door or gate, take it out and position it in the driveway facing out or on the side of the road.
- Remove any materials that could burn easily from around your house, on decks, verandahs and pergola areas, this includes mats and outdoor furniture.

### Last things to do before you leave:

- Add final items to your Emergency Kit such as medications, prescriptions, mobile phone chargers, pet food and water for everyone.
- Pack the car, remembering your most important items such as wallet, cards, keys, banking, medical and insurance documents (these should be easily accessible on a USB stick or in an expanding file).
- Turn off the gas supply.
- Block the downpipes and partially fill the gutters with water, only if you have time.
- Make sure everyone is wearing or has access to protective clothing – long pants, long-sleeved shirts and sturdy shoes such as leather boots (not sandals or runners). Clothes should be loose fitting and made from natural fibres like pure wool, heavy cotton drill or denim. Do not wear synthetics.
- Tell people you are leaving.
- Close all doors and windows and lock doors.
- Leave the front or access gate open.

## Warnings and updates

Warnings are issued when a fire has started and you need to take action. It's your responsibility to understand the different types of warnings and how to access them.

You should never wait to receive an official warning before you leave. Bushfires can start, spread and become uncontrollable quickly.

### Levels of warnings

There are three different levels of warnings – **Advice**, **Watch and Act** and **Emergency Warning**.

Don't expect warnings to be issued in any particular order. The first warning issued could even be an **Emergency Warning**.



#### ADVICE

An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.



#### WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)

An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.



#### EMERGENCY WARNING

You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted.

## Know your daily Fire Danger Rating

The Fire Danger Rating predicts fire behaviour (should a fire start) and how dangerous it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire season.



### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

<b>CODE RED</b>	These are the worst conditions for a bush or grassfire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high-risk bushfire areas.	<b>SEVERE</b>	Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable. Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.
<b>EXTREME</b>	Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions. Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety.
		<b>HIGH</b>	Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk. Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits or conditions apply.
		<b>LOW-MODERATE</b>	



## Stories worth a read

### Congratulations to the winners of the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing 2020

The new biennial Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing builds on the Shire's strong tradition of supporting contemporary Australian writing. The prize maintains the beloved Alan Marshall Short Story Award and introduces an exciting new changing genre category.

The 2020 winners were announced during an online event in June. This year's genre was Creative Non-Fiction and for the first time, the prize included a Mayor's Choice Award.

The winning works have been published in an anthology available to download from Council's website [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/npcw](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/npcw).

The anthology can be borrowed from the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service [ypri.vic.gov.au](http://ypri.vic.gov.au) or bought online in a paperback or eBook.

You can watch a recording of the event at [facebook.com/pg/NSCArts/videos](https://www.facebook.com/pg/NSCArts/videos)

This year's judges were Melanie Cheng, Claire G. Coleman, Sarah Schmidt and Jeff Sparrow.

### And the winners are...

**Alan Marshall Short Story Award (Best work of fiction – open category)**  
Dominic Amerena – *Show Don't Tell*

**Best work of fiction – local**  
Catherine Padmore – *Work Experience*

**Best work of fiction – youth**  
Irene Lu – *Hiraeth*

**Best work of creative non-fiction – open**  
Anna Jacobson – *Songs from the Vault*

**Best work of creative non-fiction – local**  
Alessandra Prunotto – *The Things We Leave Behind*

**Mayor's Choice Award**  
Catherine Padmore – *Work Experience*

## Apply now for 2021 art prize

Expressions of interest are now being sought for the 2021 Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art.

The prize is a biennial acquisitive art prize open to emerging and established artists working in any medium across Australia:

- Open Prize – \$20,000
- Local Prize – \$10,000
- People's Choice Award – \$500.

The prize will be presented in association with Montsalvat in May – June 2021.

For more information go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/nillumbikprize](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/nillumbikprize) or phone 9433 3131.



Best work of fiction – local and Mayor's Choice Award winner Catherine Padmore.



Young Woman of the Year 2020 award winner Libby Fisher.

## Celebrating young women leaders

Following the inaugural Young Women Leaders of Nillumbik Awards held earlier this year, we are proud to announce that nominations for the 2021 awards will open on Monday 2 November.

Tying in with International Women's Day celebrations, these awards recognise and celebrate the contribution of young women in Nillumbik to their communities.

Awards are presented across five categories: Young Woman of the Year, Young Environment Leader, Gender

Equity Advocate, Excelling in Arts or Sports, and Young Business Leader.

Women and those who identify as female, and groups of women aged 12-25 who live, work, study, volunteer or play in Nillumbik and have made an outstanding contribution to our community are invited to nominate in one or more categories.

Friends and family can also nominate a deserving individual or group.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/young-women-leaders](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/young-women-leaders)

## YOUR COUNCILLORS



**Mayor Councillor Karen Egan**  
**Bunjil Ward**

☎ 0408 058 899

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

Thank you to everyone for your efforts to keep our community safe during this pandemic. Please keep supporting each other and our local businesses.

In spite of COVID-19, it is exciting to see so much activity happening in Bunjil Ward.

The long-awaited extension to the Diamond Creek Trail has been started with Stage 1 from Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen and should be finished later this year or early 2021.

Two exciting projects – a new Hurstbridge skate bowl and outdoor furniture and landscaping works for the Hurstbridge Hub – will proceed with the help of Commonwealth grants.

A new Yarra Plenty Library Hub has been established at the Hurstbridge Hub. Residents will be able to order books online and then collect them at the Hub.

A preferred site for a permanent home for the Hurstbridge Men's Shed has been identified at 4 Hurstbridge-Arthurs Creek Road. Council is now working through the necessary process.

I hope you all continue to stay safe and healthy.



**Deputy Mayor Councillor Peter Clarke**  
**Wingrove Ward**

☎ 0401 100 141

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

The Eltham Lower Park Masterplan update has been completed and I am looking forward to works being implemented, commencing with an upgrade to the front entrance landscaping this year.

Following the completion of the stunning new Eltham Central pavilion, Council will reconstruct the road around the oval, and parking in the vicinity. The footpath to the library precinct will be sealed, improving access and parking for the childcare co-operative.

To make our roads and paths safer for all residents, \$250,000 has been secured from the Federal Government for new or upgraded footpaths around Eltham.

In addition, the sealing of Fordhams Road will occur late 2020 under a "special charge scheme". Rockliffe Street in Eltham is proposed to follow in early 2021.

I fought hard for no increase in Council rates for a second year, which was adopted by Council in the 2020-2021 Budget with a narrow majority. Depending on your property value, rates for the majority of properties in Wingrove Ward will actually decrease.



**Councillor Peter Perkins**  
**Ellis Ward**

☎ 0437 455 064

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

The new Diamond Creek Playspace is looking great. I look forward to seeing families enjoying this tremendous facility, and having a coffee at the Diamond Creek Rotary Club's new Tram Café when current COVID-19 restrictions are eased. A fantastic collaborative effort and I thank everyone involved for all their hard work.

In other exciting news, Diamond Creek netball will undergo extensive court resurfacing and lighting works to the value of approximately \$2.3 million, thanks to Council's successful bid for Victorian Government grant funding through its Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program

Works on the Marngrook Oval pavilion have been completed and those on the Diamond Creek Netball pavilion and Stage 1 of the Diamond Creek Trail are making good progress. Hopefully we will be able to test it out in the warmer months.

Works for additional parking in Elizabeth Street, will also shortly commence.

I will continue to actively pursue funding for the much-needed upgrades of the Diamond Creek outdoor pool and Ryan's Reserve.



**Councillor Jane Ashton**  
**Sugarloaf Ward**

☎ 0409 177 500

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

The Equine in Nillumbik plan was endorsed by Council on 23 June and is now available on Council's website.

This plan recognises the history of equine activities in Nillumbik, captures the level of participation, the economic benefits to rural Nillumbik, while also planning for future needs and ensuring a safe environment for both equine and road users.

A concept to guide the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park master plan is currently being prepared, and will be shared on completion prior to commencement of the master plan.

I would also encourage you to get involved in our fantastic Practically Green series of interactive online events, which will be held from September to November to celebrate Nillumbik's commitment to sustainability, including Sustainable House Day and Speed Date a Sustainability Expert.

We can all do something, no matter how small, to make a difference.



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

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

COVID-19 restrictions have left no aspect of our normal lives untouched, including Council meetings, which have been held virtually and streamed live.

The plantings around Yan Yean Road Stage 1 duplication have established with their upkeep to be the responsibility of the agency delivering the project for three years – one year longer than standard in such projects. A very pleasing outcome.

Another very pleasing outcome is the grant funding that will see floodlights installed at Diamond Hills Reserve.

There are now 10,510 registered dogs in Nillumbik, highlighting the need for a new dog park in Blue Lake.

The annual community survey identified traffic management and roads as the most important issue. More resources must be allocated to this area.

The former Plenty Church has been given to the community after restoration by Major Road Projects Victoria.

Council also recently asked for community feedback on the proposed solar farm at the former Plenty landfill site, which will support Council's climate change actions and targets.



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

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

At the time of writing we are in a COVID lockdown. I look forward to when it is over and we can gather again as a community. Stay safe, stay in contact and look after one another.

The recently announced dog park in Dansey's paddock will make a great addition to the Edendale precinct. The designs are being completed and work is hoped to start early next year.

The community landscaping project to create an indigenous seasonal garden at the Eltham North Adventure Playground is looking amazing. Working with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Council is assisting in the project's delivery in partnership with the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group and the Pick My Project Community Reference Group.

The second stage of the upgrade to the Eltham Central Pavilion has been finished and construction is due to start at the Eltham Tennis Club in Andrew Reserve with three new all-ability, multi-sport courts.

Following extensive community feedback, Council has decided to pursue a neighbourhood character strategy to inform any eventual housing strategy.



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

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

As our community has dealt with the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has listened to what residents have had to say and acted accordingly. We were therefore one of only a handful of councils to adopt a zero per cent rate increase; yet again below the State Government-mandated rate cap.

We remain committed to responsible financial management without compromising our high level of service delivery. And while these past few months have undoubtedly been tough for our sporting clubs, we have worked to ensure our grounds and facilities are in the best condition for a return to activity.

While facing greater pressure for more development, Council is committed to managing such expectations while ensuring the unique character of our beautiful Shire is protected.

The safety of our community is paramount, and I have long advocated for the installation of traffic lights at the Leanne Drive and Main Road intersection. Originally part of Council's 2018-19 Budget, the State Government included the lights as part of the bigger Fitzsimons Lane upgrade project, but this is something that cannot wait. It must be completed separately before another person is injured.

**KEY**

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



**Postal address for Council and all Councillors:**

✉ Nillumbik Shire Council PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

## Advice for landowners

Property management can sometimes feel overwhelming or just plain confusing. Council's environment team is here to help.

We can provide you with land management advice over the phone, by email or we can make a free visit to your property. In some instances, we may even be able to offer grants or rate rebates, if you live within the Green Wedge Zone, Rural Conservation Zone, or have an Environmental Significance Overlay.

These are some of the topics we regularly assist landholders with:

- Pest animals and weeds
- Sustainable agriculture
- Pasture management for horses and other livestock
- Property management planning
- Revegetation and supplementary planting
- Erosion issues.

Email [environment@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or phone 9433 3141.



**We have again partnered with Solar Savers to help Nillumbik residents access affordable, high-quality solar via a bulk-buy program.**

Reliable, accredited and certified installers have been contracted by Solar Savers to install high-end systems at an affordable rate. The program aims to help residents reduce their energy bills and future-proof against increasing energy costs while reducing their household carbon footprint.

[solarsavers.org.au](http://solarsavers.org.au)



MRPV Program Director Damien Afxentis, Cr Grant Brooker, Mayor Karen Egan, Rev Dr Fiona Hill and Plenty Historical Society President Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice.

## New life for historic church

### Restored building a symbol of renewal for Plenty

An historic Plenty church, which was saved from demolition during the Yan Yean Road upgrade, has been restored by Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV), and returned to the Nillumbik community.

The Plenty Church, which is almost 100 years old, was in the path of the Yan Yean Road Stage 1 upgrade.

MRPV relocated the church from River Road to the Plenty Heritage Park in 2018 and following extensive restorations, has given the building to Council for community use.

Nillumbik Mayor Karen Egan said the church would provide a new home for the Plenty Historical Society.

"This church is an important tie to the history of Plenty and Council is pleased it has been saved for future generations," Cr Egan said.

Blue Lake ward Councillor Grant Brooker described the church a symbol of renewal for the Plenty community.

"What we now have is a community asset that preserves the history of Plenty but also heralds a new chapter for the future of the area," Cr Brooker said.

Plenty Historical Society President Kerry Fitzmaurice said the building had been thoughtfully and beautifully restored.

She said the church was significant as it was representative of the Home Mission-led Methodist revival and played an important role in community life.

"It has an interesting history, built in 1925 when Plenty as a town was starting to develop," Dr Fitzmaurice said.

The building later became part of the Uniting Church before being decommissioned and used as a café and florist shop.

Rev Dr Fiona Hill, from the Diamond Valley Parish of the Uniting Church, said the church was thrilled the building had been saved for future generations.

## The path towards reconciliation

Visitors to the Eltham North Adventure Playground might have seen the beautiful new mural that takes pride of place in the gathering space of the community-led Pick My Project seasonal garden honouring the Wurundjeri.

The mural by artist Tom Civil is inspired by the Wurundjeri Seasons, the Diamond Creek, billabongs and local wetlands and symbolises time since creation and the longevity of Wurundjeri culture.

Working with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Council is assisting in the project's delivery in partnership with the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group and the Pick My Project Community Reference Group.

Planting of the seasonal garden by the NARRAP team and Indigenous Design will take place soon, with further works continuing.



# What's on

## Art a sign of COVID times

New works reflect on life during the pandemic

Council is proud to support our vibrant arts and cultural community with our Art in the Time of COVID-19 program.

As part of the program, 36 artworks responding to the theme of Art in the Time of COVID-19 have been commissioned from 40 local and national artists. The works, in a variety of mediums including painting, printmaking, drawing, textile, sculpture, installation,

dance and video, will be shared with the community as part of an exciting exhibition at Montsalvat in February and March 2021.

In May, artists of all mediums were invited to apply for commission opportunities through Art in the Time of COVID-19, Live-streaming in the Time of COVID-19 and Written in the Time of COVID-19.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-art](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/covid-art)



## 16 Days of Activism

**Council is proud to once again lead the Shire in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.**

The campaign starts on 25 November to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and concludes on International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Council's ongoing involvement in this important campaign is supported by our commitment to promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women.

Each year, small grants of up to \$500 are available to support awareness-raising and community-led projects during the 16 Days of Activism. In 2019, 10 grants were awarded to projects that included promotion and installation of an artwork challenging the issue of catcalling, funding a robotic coding toy to encourage kindergarten girls to get involved in STEM subjects, and drumming workshops to facilitate conversations about gender equity.

St Andrews Primary School applied for a grant to purchase books that challenge gender stereotypes. Principal Hayley Styles said the program was received positively by students and teachers and has been included as part of the ongoing curriculum.

"The discussions have been outstanding – challenging gender roles and expectations that affect children of all ages. We've seen so many positive impacts," she said.

Applications for the 2020 grant program close on 18 September.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/16-days-of-activism](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/16-days-of-activism)



Image courtesy Michelle Hamer

## Learn more about deer

Are deer an issue in Nillumbik?

The responses we have received so far from our community deer management survey indicate that they are a problem for many residents.

Join Environment Project Officer Michelle Hanslow in a free webinar on Saturday 12 September, 2pm-4pm, to learn more about deer in Nillumbik, find out some of the management options available, and hear from a panel of deer experts.

We will also have a Q&A session to answer your questions.

To book your free spot, please go to [nillumbik-deer-info.eventbrite.com.au](http://nillumbik-deer-info.eventbrite.com.au) To complete the Community Deer Management Survey go to [participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



Due to COVID-19 restrictions many regular events have been cancelled or postponed and we are not running our usual calendar. For up-to-date information on events, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events) or follow us on Facebook @nillumbikcouncil



# What's on

## Join our online classroom

Classes go virtual at Living & Learning Nillumbik

It is fair to say that 2020 hasn't been the year many of us imagined, and has required us to be adaptable, resilient and resourceful. This has been true for Living & Learning Nillumbik. Where possible, courses have been transitioned to online delivery, with great results. Students studying qualification courses have access to video classroom sessions and digital learning and assessment resources.

Living & Learning Nillumbik (TOID 3989) is currently taking enquiries for the following accredited courses:

- **Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care** (CHC30113)
- **Diploma of Early Childhood** (CHC50113)
- **Certificate III in Individual Support – Ageing, Home and Community** (CHC33015)

Thanks to funding from the Australian Centre of Further Education, the following short courses will be available to eligible students for free or at low cost:

- **Auslan Australian sign language** – six online sessions
- **Mental health for work and study** – six online sessions
- **Introduction to freelance photography** – eight online sessions.

[livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au)  
or call 9433 3744.

LIVING & LEARNING  
NILLUMBIK



## Walk with us

Beginning in October, Nillumbik's Place Activation team will present a series of 'Know your Place' walks, connecting the community with their local environment.

With a focus on the characteristics that make each of Nillumbik's townships and locations unique, the walks are designed to build a sense of pride and belonging to the places we live, in a social and physical way.

Walkers will be joined by an experienced guide who will provide information and context specific to the walk's purpose and audience.

Planned events include a Seniors Week walk during October, with an emphasis on accessibility and connection between older people and the landscape, a women's walk during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence week in November, and more.

In the event that COVID-19 restrictions still apply, these events will be presented virtually.

For more information, please see the online events calendar on Council's website, which will be updated as additional walks are scheduled.

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



Gardening Australia presenter Jane Edmondson (centre) visits Edendale Community Environment Farm.

## Council's starring role in fruit fly fight

Nillumbik's efforts to stop the spread of the Queensland fruit fly are being highlighted on the ABC TV program *Gardening Australia*.

Presenter Jane Edmondson and the program's production crew visited Edendale Community Environment Farm to film a segment for the show, which is expected to go to air in September.

With spring upon us, home growers need to be vigilant in protecting their harvest from the invasive species.

Council has produced a series of videos with some top tips to assist, which you can access from home at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/qff](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/qff)

Our website also has plenty of information and useful resources to help manage the pests in your garden.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions many regular events have been cancelled or postponed and we are not running our usual calendar. For up-to-date information on events, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events) or follow us on Facebook @nillumbikcouncil

# What's on



Daryl and Natalie's Urban Earth House in Hurstbridge will be featured during Sustainable House Day. They are pictured with architect Craig Byatt.

## Green living re-imagined

Practically Green is back with a series of exciting sustainable events

Re-imagine, Re-think and Re-energise is the theme for Practically Green, which is run by Clean Energy Nillumbik and funded through Council.

Many people want more action to address climate change and Clean Energy Nillumbik is demonstrating practical ways to help make a difference.

You can look forward to some fun new events and ideas, as well as programs you can join.

Sugarloaf Ward Councillor Jane Ashton was inspired to make her home more sustainable after attending last year's Sustainable House Day and speed dating event.

"We had thought about improving our home's energy efficiency, but didn't know where to start, seeing what other locals had done inspired us," Cr Ashton said.

"The speed dating allowed us to drill down and make a plan. We started by insulating the walls, installing an incredibly efficient wood heater and improving our roof installation. This halved our electricity bill, even with us all now working from home. We still have work to do, but have the contacts and knowledge to keep going.

'Act local, think global, resonated with us and Sustainable House Day is a great way for people to get started with local knowledge and support.'

Join these great events online:

### Sustainable House Day Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September

*(possible change of event dates and structure TBC)*

**RE-imagine** the possibilities for your home. Join video tours and live online Q&A sessions with home owners to gather inspiration about simple actions you can take to make your home more comfortable and inexpensive to run.

For registration and more information:  
[sustainablehouseday.com](http://sustainablehouseday.com)

### Speed Date a Sustainability Expert Sunday 18 October

**RE-think** ways to make your home more sustainable. For free, personalised advice from the experts in sustainable design and building materials, heating and cooling, energy and water efficiency and more, see the list of experts and book your free 20-minute online appointments at [sdse.ata.org.au](http://sdse.ata.org.au)

**RE-energise** with additional events and programs celebrating sustainability including an electric vehicle webinar, children's and youth activities, waste art sculpture and a bulk purchase project at dates to be confirmed.

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/practically-green](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/practically-green)

## Spring Outdoors

Get some spring inspiration and connect with nature as part of the annual Spring Outdoors program.

The annual regional program across Nillumbik, Banyule and Manningham offers a series of mostly free events to help people engage with the environment in the warmer months.

Like everything this year, the program looks a little different, but now more than ever the benefits of getting outdoors and the power of connecting with nature are significant.

The events range from composting for beginners to backyard beekeeping.

Some of the featured online events are listed below:

### Queensland Fruit Fly and the Backyard Gardener Wednesday 5 October 7pm – 8.30pm (online)

The Queensland fruit fly (QFly) has arrived in Melbourne and could impact your fruit or veggie harvest next season. This webinar is for the home gardener and will introduce you to QFly, its life cycle, how it could impact your edible garden, how to minimise the risk it visiting you and what to do if it does make a home in your harvest.

### Basic Wildlife Injury Awareness Monday 16 November 7pm – 8.30pm (online)

Do you know what to do if you come across injured or orphaned wildlife? Join Kim Davies, a wildlife rescuer, rehabilitator and Edendale Community Environment Farm educator as she talks about what you can do as a first responder if you come across injured wildlife.

For booking details and to see the full program, go to [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/spring-outdoors-2020](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/spring-outdoors-2020)



Due to COVID-19 restrictions many regular events have been cancelled or postponed and we are not running our usual calendar. For up-to-date information on events, visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/events) or follow us on Facebook @nillumbikcouncil

# Service dashboard

Nillumbik Shire 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.

Restrictions put in place since March in response to the COVID-19 virus have greatly impacted our services to the community.

Although some facilities have closed, and some services are operating differently, Council staff continue to work hard to deliver a wide range of high-quality, important services to our community.

Service performance from the April to June quarter is below.

Council's Annual Community Survey results continue to reinforce that residents rank core service delivery as important. The key service indicators on this dashboard provide a comparison between current and previous performance.

## Opening hours

### Customer Service

Phone 9433 3111  
8.30am-5pm  
Monday to Friday except  
public holidays

### Recycling and Recovery Centre

290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

Closed during Stage 4  
COVID-19 restrictions.

Normal operating hours:  
8am-4pm  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
and Monday

Closed Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday and public holidays

#### COVER

Purple Coral Pea,  
*Hardenbergia violacea*

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nillumbik.vic.gov.au



## Service improvement highlight

### Council introduces expanded range of kerbside waste collection options

In response to community feedback, an expanded range of kerbside bins are now available for households in Nillumbik.

While we would continue to encourage residents to reduce household waste wherever possible, larger households and those with additional needs (such as families with children in nappies) may appreciate the options for a larger fortnightly landfill bin or a weekly landfill bin collection. More information is available on page 4 of this edition of *Nillumbik News*.

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

There are conditions and charges associated with the new options. Residents can upgrade their green waste bin for free, but there will be extra charges for the weekly landfill collection and larger landfill bin options, and the new options can be taken up at any time throughout the year.

To order a new bin or for more information go to our website at [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bins) or contact us by phone on 9433 3111.

