

Nillum**bik** news

February 2006



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all other days and on public holidays.
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Nillumbik News is available in
alternative formats upon request. Contact
Communications on 9433 3105 or email
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A large format Word version is available
on CD by request to the Customer Service
counter at Nillumbik Shire Council offices,
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at Diamond Valley and Eltham libraries.

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Nillumbik welcomes 'our' three Queen's Baton Relay carriers! From left Margaret U'ren, Janice Crosswhite and Peter Stevens.

Nillumbik's Queen's Baton Relay carriers

Margaret U'ren

'Actually I'm extremely nervous!'

Hard to believe that was Margaret U'ren, Principal of Hurstbridge Primary School, speaking when commenting to us about her 'absolute huge honour' of being a Queen's Baton Relay carrier on Monday 20 February.

'As I'm reading more about it now it's landed in Australia – it's pretty overwhelming but really a huge honour.'

The Hurstbridge community – school and general community lined the streets cheering for their school principal – the woman who has led the rebuilding of their school and its move back to its original location in the heart of the township.

Janice Crosswhite

Janice, who lives in Panton Hill, received a 'lovely surprise' when told her daughter, Cara, had nominated her to be a Queen's Baton Relay carrier for her lifetime's passion to encourage physical activity for all women at all stages of their life.

'I was at the Diamond Valley gym today and saw an 80-year-old woman working with weights,' she said, 'that's the sort of thing I love seeing!'

Janice is the President of the Australian Women's Sport and Recreation Association, and a member of Council's Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee.

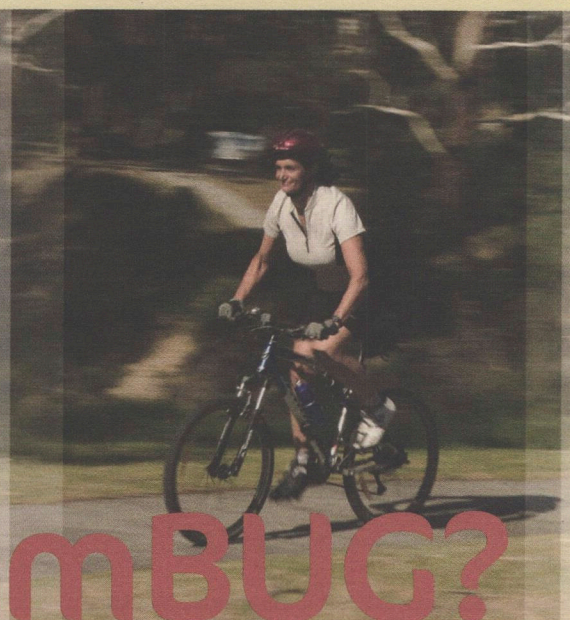
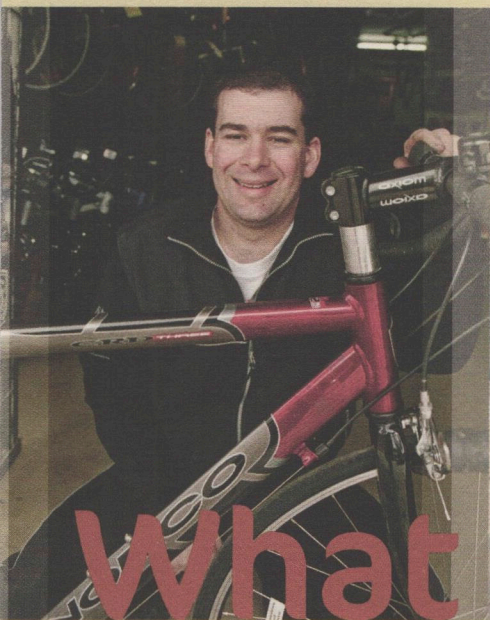
Peter Stevens

Peter put his name into a hat to win his place ahead of other colleagues working with Games sponsor, De Bortoli.

'There were only 10 places available – I didn't really expect to get picked,' he said. 'I'm looking forward to it – I played tennis for 15 years and in my younger days I was really into athletics.'

We're sure he's enjoyed his 400 metre run through Hurstbridge on Monday 20 February.

Front cover: Lisa from NillumBUG



What is NillumBUG?

NillumBUG is a new Bicycle User Group aiming to represent cyclists who live in the Shire of Nillumbik. It is a community based group and it is still in the process of becoming established.

The motivation for forming a new bicycle group in Nillumbik initially occurred in response to several Diamond Creek residents, who were frustrated at the slow progress of the design and construction of a bicycle path from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge. It soon became apparent that other cyclists had additional concerns they wished to have addressed.

Many road cyclists believe that the Windy Mile is dangerous for cyclists, yet is the main access between Diamond Creek and Greensborough. Other cyclists are keen to be involved in organised rides around Nillumbik.

Bicycle User Groups are able to:

- provide a forum to discuss the concerns of cyclists
- campaign for more cycle paths, lanes and improved facilities
- provide social rides and other cycling events.

NillumBUG development so far

Several Nillumbik residents met on a few occasions in the latter part of 2005 to begin forming NillumBUG. During this time the following progress has been made:

- the selection of the group's name!
- A simple website was formed (www.nillumbug.ellis.net.au), which is likely to be expanded over time. NillumBUG hopes to use this site to announce planned rides, events, campaigns and membership information.
- NillumBUG now has a representative on the Nillumbik Shire's Recreational Trails Advisory Committee and on the Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge Recreation Trail Focus Group.
- NillumBUG made a submission to Council regarding the Diamond Creek Activity Centre Transport Issues and Options Paper (Diamond Creek twenty20).
- planning a public meeting
- distributing flyers around Nillumbik
- consideration is currently being given to becoming incorporated and applying for a Community Grant.

The public meeting is planned for Sunday 26 February at 11am at the Diamond Creek East Primary School. It is hoped that anyone with an interest in cycling is able to attend this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- find out what cycling issues concern Nillumbik residents
- hold an open discussion of local issues
- invite others to join NillumBUG
- seek out cyclists interested in organising and participating in social rides
- nominate and elect positions in NillumBUG
- plan a subsequent meeting.

If people wish to attend the meeting but are unable to do so, they are encouraged to contact NillumBUG at www.nillumbug.ellis.net.au. Other Bicycle User Groups around Melbourne have been successful in achieving funding for bicycle paths, bicycle lanes and lockers. Campaigns to improve facilities for cyclists may involve working with Council, making representation to VicRoads and state government.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of people owning bicycles, and yet as a society we are becoming increasingly overweight and car dependent. It is hoped that by encouraging more people to cycle, both for recreational and commuting reasons, that the general health of people will improve. More people are likely to cycle if conditions for cyclists are improved. It is hoped that many Nillumbik residents get behind this new bicycle group. NillumBUG is dependent on attracting members in order to achieve its aims. So, please contact NillumBUG today!

Health and wellbeing

Library on the road

Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service can be doubly proud entering 2006 with new branding, a state-of-the-art, brand new 19 metre mobile library and a new Outreach Services Van.

Funding for the fabulous mobile library was provided through the state government via the Department for Victorian Communities with a grant of \$177,000 and the Cities of Whittlesea and Banyule and the Shire of Nillumbik provided the balance of \$217,000.

Because of its size, the new mobile library is now able to hold story time for children, while the addition of a kitchenette means staff can provide mobile morning teas for community members. On board are three computers with Internet access, including one stand up PC for young library goers located in the children's section.

Over 6000 items including an extraordinary range of books, videos, DVDs, magazines,



The new mobile library van launched in January.

talking books and large print publications are able to be carried – it's a full service vehicle for our outlying and rural communities.

The new Outreach Services van visits residents in 32 retirement villages and aged care institutions and in December began delivering to 17 new locations throughout the service area.

The new vehicle provides:

- wheelchair lift
- face-out shelving to display stock
- seating for the public
- easier access
- public noticeboard
- large print and talking books, CDs, DVDs and magazines.

The service provided by the Outreach Library Service is highly valued by recipients and their institutions and the library service aims to continue providing this service to the seniors in the community. Through this new outreach library service vehicle people resident in cared accommodation, retirement villages and independent living units have access to recreational and educational resources, activities and the associated social interaction this provides.

For further information on all aspects of our marvellous library services, please visit www.yprl.vic.gov.au or call Eltham Library on 9439 9266 or Diamond Valley Library on 9434 3809.

part in the success of KSL by providing them with a performance space to enable them to showcase their talent, music, stage and promotional skills.

Nillumbik Shire Council Youth Services engages two local groups, Fruitbowl Productions and Rock the Hill Productions, which both have strong and committed youth committees to manage and stage the FReeZA events across the region.

We wish KSL all the best at the State Battle of the Bands coming up on 13 March 2006 at Luna Park.



ABS area supervisors and collectors perform an important national role in a local environment

The 2006 Census is coming ... the ABS needs you!

Every five years the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts the Census of Population and Housing. The next Census, the fifteenth conducted by the ABS, is scheduled for Tuesday 8 August 2006. It aims to accurately measure the number of persons in Australia on Census Night, their key characteristics, and the dwellings in which they live.

The community plays a major role in helping the ABS obtain the quality data which is vital to effectively plan Australia's future. So the call is out for all community-minded people with the required credentials to apply for the 12 Area Supervisor (AS) positions on offer in the Nillumbik region. Nillumbik AS will be required to train and manage a team of up to 65 collectors and play an important role in ensuring all visitors and residents across the region are counted on Census Night.

The period of employment is from late April 2006 to early October 2006 and is on a part-time basis. Salary is contract based.

Advertisements for 26,000 collector positions across Australia will appear in April 2006.

If you would like to be involved as an Area Supervisor, please log on to abs.gov.au/recruitment or call 1300 CENSUS (1300 236 787) – applications close 3 March 2006.

Local band wins regional final

Nillumbik Shire Council Youth Services wish to congratulate local band KSL for their win at the FReeZA Regional Battle of the Bands final. And Nillumbik Youth Services are proud of the role they play in administering the FReeZA program.

The FReeZA program aims to attract, involve and cultivate a strong and vibrant music scene for young people and bands. The FReeZAmusic program has played a large

Environment (natural, built and cultural)

Middle Yarra Sustainable Gardening Awards 2005

Once again the Middle Yarra Sustainable Gardening Awards of 2005, an initiative of Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik councils with support from Sustainable Gardening Australia, celebrated the ways in which local gardens make a positive difference to the environment.

ABC TV and radio gardening personality Jane Edmanson judged the Awards and Award winners were congratulated by the Mayors from each of the three participating municipalities – Nillumbik's Mayor Cr Greg Johnson, Manningham's Mayor Cr Bill Larkin, Banyule's Mayor Cr Greg Ryan.

Winner Best Sustainable Rural Property – Wendy and Ross Mather of St Andrews. For the second year the Mathers won with their self-sufficient, productive food farm. They produce compost and use mulch to

build up raised garden beds to organically grow over 100 varieties of fruit, vegies and herbs all year round.

Encouragement Award Sustainable Rural Property – Julia Gibson of Arthurs Creek for her large scale indigenous tree planting.

Co-winners Best Sustainable School Garden – Apollo Parkways Primary School and Strathewen Primary School. Apollo Parkways Primary School won for their great all-round sustainable garden and Strathewen Primary School won the award for their well demonstrated sustainable ideas.

Encouragement Award Sustainable School Garden – Eltham High School for their excellent indigenous planting and student enthusiasm.



Strathewen Primary School, co-winners of the Best Sustainable School Garden.

Learn about our environment



New publications now available for residents include the *Sustainable Gardening in Nillumbik* booklet which shows informative ways to conserve water, energy

and other resources, reduce waste and protect and enhance biodiversity.

Also available is a suite of five stormwater sensitive homes fact sheets which provide simple and easy-to-follow advice on rainwater tanks, raingardens,

porous paving and site layout and landscaping. By making your home stormwater sensitive you are helping to improve the water quality and flow in local waterways and protect valuable stream and riparian habitat.

Get hold of a copy of the six-month *Environmental Events* program where you will find a range of mainly free workshops, talks and courses including topics such as: The Long Yarra Quilt story; Troubleshooting for worm farming and composting; Living with snakes; Property management planning; Planning your indigenous plant garden; Planning a frog bog for your backyard and Weeds and how to tackle them.

For a copy of any of the booklets or programs please contact Rebecca Petit, Environment Officer, on 9433 3216.

All publications and brochures are also available from the community information stands around the Shire or as downloads from Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Environment.

Community assets

Park masterplans – have your say

Early 2006 finds Council developing masterplans for two of its major open space areas – Eltham North Reserve and Plenty Park.

The reasons Council produces masterplans for its parks and reserves are many, but one of the most important is that they are used to guide the future development of the open space in accordance with community needs and priorities.

December saw the first community information bulletin about the progress of the Eltham North Reserve Masterplan issued. This introduced the reasons Council is undergoing a masterplan, some key issues which need to be addressed and asked if members of the community would like to be involved.

Some issues to be addressed include safe access, appropriate car parking, standard of the playing surfaces, standard of existing facilities including lighting, pavilions, hall, public toilets and signage, and the accommodation of future growth and development.

Council is looking for residents to be involved in this process. Please contact Amanda Allen, Leisure Services Development Officer on 9433 3130.

Plenty Park Masterplan is in the final stages of presentation to Council. It has just been released to the public for comment.

Work on the Eltham Lower Park Masterplan will commence this month.

It will be available on Council's website under For public consultation, or contact Darren Bennett, Leisure Services Coordinator, on 9433 3162.

Eltham Central Park pavilion

Local MP, Steve Herbert, was instrumental in gaining vital funding of \$170,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria to upgrade the pavilion used by the Eltham Football Club and the Eltham Cricket Club.

Works are continuing with expected completion date being March 2006. Already the new changeroom has taken shape on the back of the original sports pavilion – both clubs are looking forward to using the new facilities.

Council has provided \$15,000 to upgrade the separate changeroom building and the clubs themselves have contributed \$10,000 in-kind support to improve landscaping around the facility – regrading the races and providing seating are part of the improvements.

This facility will be well used by Eltham and visiting clubs for many years to come.

Did you know? >> This may save your life!

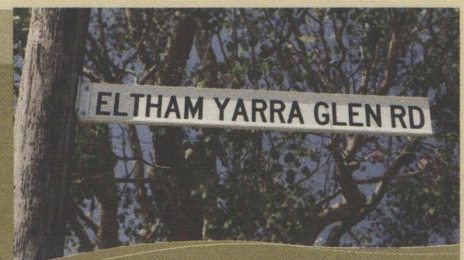
Council has been advised about recent instances of Pantom Hill residents ringing 000 and giving the street address of the emergency incidents as Main Road, Pantom Hill.

Residents, especially long-term residents, need to understand these days emergency operators use electronic maps complete with the gazetted street names. This means for them the road which runs through Pantom Hill is actually the Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road. They won't be able to find a Main Road, Pantom Hill on their system. In one of the

instances above, assistance was sent to the Heidelberg-Kinglake Road.

Similarly, the road which runs from Wattle Glen through Hurstbridge and up to St Andrews is the Heidelberg-Kinglake Road. And, the road which runs through Kangaroo Ground, turns right up past the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower and through Watsons Creek and Christmas Hills to access Sugarloaf Reserve and beyond to Yarra Glen is the Eltham-Yarra Glen Road.

You will be asked to give a cross road too, an essential tool in pin-pointing the correct location of an incident,



Find out the correct name of your main road, and nearest crossroad for swift emergency assistance.

especially on a major road which could be 20 kilometres long. What the emergency operators are seeking is the nearest cross road to your incident – even if this is quite a long way away. A Melway reference is also of major assistance. Teach your children the Melway reference of your house tonight!

Wildfire Management Overlay is extended

Council and the Country Fire Authority are working together to improve safety and fire protection for all residents of Nillumbik.

A significant step towards this goal was achieved when the Minister for Planning approved the revised Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO) in December 2005. The WMO now applies to approximately 28,000ha of the Shire.

The WMO was developed in conjunction with Country Fire Authority (CFA) to ensure the design of new subdivisions, siting and design of buildings and the use and management of land pays particular attention to fire issues. Land affected by the WMO has been identified as being an area (or part of an area) where, under severe weather conditions, fires may occur which pose a significant threat to people and property.

The purpose of the Overlay is to ensure:

- water is available to defend the property from wildfire
- safe access is provided for emergency and other vehicles at all times
- the design and siting of buildings and works improves protection for life and minimises the impact of fire
- ground fuel and scrubs are managed to reduce potential fire intensity in the vicinity of buildings.

Many areas of wildfire risk are also areas of environmental significance and a new local policy has also been added to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme to reconcile issues of fire safety and vegetation management. Council is encouraging residents to take a holistic approach to fire safety including using appropriate building materials and the siting of buildings rather than focusing on vegetation removal as the sole way of minimising fire risk.

The Wildfire Management Overlay will only affect you if you are within the designated WMO area and are constructing a new dwelling or extending an existing dwelling by 50% or more. (A permit is also required for specific uses within fire areas such as education, hospitals, child care etc.) It is important to note that clearing vegetation for fire is not necessarily exempt from requiring a permit and all residents are encouraged to check with Council before removing any vegetation.

If you have any questions regarding this Overlay please contact the Strategic Planning Unit on 9433 3210.



The new Withers Way bridge.

A bridge over troubled waters

Eltham students are now able to use the new Withers Way bridge to cross the Diamond Creek. The new bridge was recently constructed by Nillumbik Shire Council.

Each time Nillumbik experienced a flood, the Withers Way bridge was damaged or destroyed. So this time, as Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Greg Johnson explains, the Council has fixed up the problem and rebuilt the bridge at a higher level.

'The Withers Way bridge is used by many students, walkers and bike riders. It connects some of Eltham's most popular parks and is an integral part of the Shire's trails network.

'Each time we experience floods the bridge is inaccessible and left damaged or destroyed. After the November 2004 and February 2005 floods, Council decided to rebuild this bridge at a higher level,' said Cr Johnson.

The \$200,000 cost of the new bridge was funded through Natural Disaster Relief Funding which Council received from the state government after the February 2005 floods.

Governance and community engagement

Crime in Nillumbik

Community safety is a key issue for all municipalities and ours is no different. This column is written by Don Boyd, District Inspector – Nillumbik, Victoria Police.

You may have read about crime rates and how Victoria's is the lowest per capita in Australia, but what does it really mean and where does Nillumbik fit in?

Crime refers to reported crime and each report is counted as one crime, whether it is a burglary involving a large amount of property or damage to a letterbox. It is safe to say that nearly all serious crimes are reported but it is entirely up to individuals whether minor crimes are reported. Police will investigate all crime but obviously the more serious offences are prioritised. In the metropolitan area

each Local Government Area is regarded as a Police District and crime is usually recorded under Districts (Nillumbik) and local Sub-Districts (Eltham, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge). For comparative purposes crime rates are expressed per 100,000 residents.

Crime is measured from 1 July to 30 June under offence headings (Assault, Theft from Motor Car) and divided into four groups (offences against the person, against property, drugs and behavioural offences). The majority of offences in Nillumbik are against property while offences against the person and drug offences are quite low. The top four offences are property damage; theft (other); theft from motor car and burglary (residential). In 2004-2005 the Nillumbik crime rate decreased by 10.7%. Significant decreases were achieved in property damage (21%); residential burglary (32%); theft from motor car (24%) and theft of motor car

(49%). Assaults rose by 34% - this is due mainly to the increased reporting of domestic violence which is encouraged by police.

For the half year ending 31 December 2005, the Nillumbik crime rate decreased by 19%, with assaults down 30% and theft from motor car down 6%. Property damage is up by 18% but this is due to the ongoing 'graffiti offensive' which has seen several offenders charged with more than 100 offences.

In summary, Nillumbik is a very safe place to live, but the whole community need to continue to work in partnership with local police to further reduce crime.

If you witness a crime or see anything suspicious ring 000. If you wish to discuss a crime, safety or traffic issue contact your local police station.



VICTORIA POLICE

Have your say about the future of Nillumbik

At a recent series of community workshops Council spoke with community members about what they feel are the most important issues Council should be focusing on over the next three to four years.

Two workshops were held in Hurstbridge and Eltham in early December. An initial analysis of what people said at these workshops is available from Council's website.

The remaining eight workshops will be at various locations around the Shire in late February and early March 2006.

Date	Time	Locality	Venue
Thursday 23 February	10am-12.30pm	Greensborough	Council Offices
Thursday 23 February	7.30pm-10pm	Diamond Creek	Diamond Creek Bowling Club
Sunday 26 February	12.30pm-3pm	Hurstbridge	Hurstbridge Community Hall
Monday 27 February	7.30pm-10pm	Kangaroo Ground	Emergency Operations Centre/ Kangaroo Ground Hall
Wednesday 1 March	7.30pm-10pm	Panton Hill	Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre.
Thursday 2 March	7.30pm-10pm	Eltham	Eltham Community & Reception Centre
Friday 3 March	12noon-3.30pm	North Warrandyte	Warrandyte Community Centre
Wednesday 8 March	7.30pm-10pm	Yarrambat and Nutfield/Cottles Bridge	Yarrambat Golf Club

If you cannot attend any of these workshops, an online survey will be posted on the Council website providing people with the opportunity to add their thoughts and opinions to this consultation process. The survey can be accessed from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au on the Home page under News.

The survey has also been inserted into this edition of *Nillumbik News*. If the survey is not included in your copy, please call Megan Andrews on 9433 3210 to obtain one.

Outstanding Nillumbik citizens

Nillumbik residents celebrated their outstanding citizens and community groups by nominating those known to them for this year's Australia Day Awards.

A selection panel – consisting of three Councillors: Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Greg Johnson; then Deputy Mayor, Councillor Warwick Leeson and Councillor Helen Coleman; Youth Services Project Officer, Deb Ruiz-Dove; Living & Learning Nillumbik Coordinator, Jenny Baker; Community Events Officer, Sally Hansen and previous award winner Carol Jenkinson – had the job of sifting through the applications. These people were uplifted by the stories of sheer goodness and of the energy expended by these many outstanding citizens.

'Everyone who was nominated donated their time to the betterment of the people of Nillumbik in a way and in an area which ignited their own passion – for this we thank them all and acknowledge the time and dedication of our winners for this year,' said Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Greg Johnson.

The winners in each category are as follows:

Mick and Margaret Woiwod are the **2006 Nillumbik Citizens of the Year**. The Woiwods have made an outstanding local contribution to the environment, community and education. For decades they have been active in many community groups, including Andrew Ross Museum, Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower and Remembrance Park, Bend of Islands Conservation Association and the Christmas Hills Fire Brigade. Mick is a published local historian, with Margaret acting as his researcher. They have several books to their credit. Mick and Margaret's contribution to the Reconciliation movement will endure for many generations with the development of the GAWA resource trail in Watsons Creek, the Wurundjeri Resource Kit and the William Barak Short Story Competition. The Kit and Competition have been acknowledged as a benchmark indigenous education tools for primary schools throughout Victoria.

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the great contribution the above people and groups have made to the values of the Shire, and thanks them for their dedication.

Tayah Landman is the **2006 Nillumbik Young Citizen of the Year**.

Tayah completed year 10 at Eltham High School in 2005. During her years at the school she has been an outstanding member of the school community and an inspiring community figure. She has shown leadership and a great sense of community spirit in all that she has done.

One shining example of this is her leading the establishment of an animal rights group at Eltham High School, raising awareness of this important issue.

Tayah is also the local correspondent for the youth newspaper S-press. In this capacity she attends and reports on youth events. This gives the events, often run by young people, much needed publicity and her writing and understanding of her audience makes for some great stories. Tayah is a born leader and an excellent role model for young people who wish to have a voice and achieve change.

A **Special Mention** was awarded in the **2006 Nillumbik Young Citizen of the Year** category this year.

This went to **Akshay Naidoo**, a 2005 year 10 student at St Helena Secondary College. Akshay can list an impressive array of school achievements including student representative councillor, house leader, sports coach (cricket), actor (college play 2005), debater and he is also the recipient of many academic and school awards.

These achievements are complemented by those made in the wider community. Akshay is a founding member of the Diamond Creek Junior Rotary Club and coaches a local community junior cricket team. Akshay has demonstrated excellence in a wide range of activities and is certainly a role model for his peers at St Helena Secondary College and in the wider community.



Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Cr Greg Johnson, celebrates with our outstanding citizens for 2006 – from left Tayah Landman, Leighton Boyd, the Mayor, Mick and Margaret Woiwod.

Hurstbridge Wattle Festival Committee is the **2006 Nillumbik Community Group/Business of the Year**.

This group is a remarkable example of a community working together to organise a highly successful community event. It provides a wonderful focus for the people of Hurstbridge to enjoy a day celebrating the heritage, environment and community spirit of the town. It also showcased the town's attractions and businesses to visitors and tourists.

David Sloan, the convenor or the Committee, is to be particularly commended for his leadership; as is the Hurstbridge Traders Association for auspicing the Festival.

Leighton Boyd is the **2006 Nillumbik Volunteer of the Year**.

Leighton's community service has extended over many years. Leighton is a tireless worker for the disabled and he has contributed to achieving many service and access improvements for people with a disability here in Nillumbik and across Australia. Leighton is vision-impaired. Leighton has willingly given his time and expertise to local disability advisory committees, recreational trail and sensory trail committees, and is a member of the Apollo Parkways Primary School Council. Leighton has also contributed to the Retina Australia Council, Blind Citizens Australia and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. Leighton is an inspiration.

Calendar of events

The following is just a small sample of what's happening in the Shire of Nillumbik over the next couple of months. For detailed information, pick up a free copy of the new Calendar of events brochure from your local community information stand or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > What's on.

Saturday 4 March

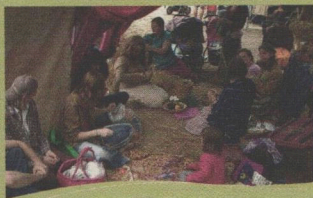
Welcome Platypus Festival

This Festival is a celebration of community, arts and environment within the Shire. The event features many creative make-and-do areas for adults and children. This year, the Festival features *The Wisdom of Murrin-Mooroo (the Platypus)* – an evening puppet show and performance by local artists and children. Murrin-Mooroo is an aboriginal dreamtime story which carries a message that is relevant to our times.

Allwood Neighbourhood House and Fergusons Paddock, Main Road, Hurstbridge

Contact: Vicki Kaye 9718 2717

Cost: gold coin donation for the puppet show; all other activities are free
Email: allwood@hurstbridge.org.au



Sunday 5 March

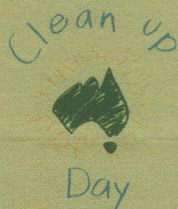
Clean Up Australia Day

It's time to put on your gloves and make a difference! Help the environment to help itself and get a bit down and dirty in the best possible way! Various locations around the Shire need a bit of TLC, and now's your chance to provide it.

Contact: Tamara Johnson 9436 3555

Cost: Free

Email: Tamara.Johnson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Sunday 12 March

Diamond Valley Railway Community Day

A special Community Day is being held at the Eltham Lower Park. It's a great opportunity to re-discover the rich heritage of the traditional Victorian Railways. This is the only time during the year the miniature trains run at night. The railway's character changes at nightfall with coloured light signals beckoning the little trains as they hurry through the night hauled by powerful scale locomotives shining their headlights along the polished steel track! Bring the children along to experience the romance of the railway age in miniature.

Eltham Lower Park, 570 Main Road, Eltham

Contact: Brian Coleman 9439 1828

Cost: \$3 per ride

Email: brianblocko@yahoo.com



Thursday 16 March

Nillumbik HomeBiz Network

The Nillumbik HomeBiz Network provides a friendly, informal forum for local home-based businesses to meet and get to know each other, and share information and issues of mutual interest. March's meeting will take the form of a speed networking night. This was one of the most popular nights held in 2005 and is a fun and effective way of getting to meet a lot of new contacts in a short space of time. Bring lots of business cards!

Bridges Bar & Restaurant, 1075 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge
Contact: Julie French 9433 3315

Cost: \$15 to non-members, no cost to Network members

Email: Julie.French@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Sunday 26 March

Identification of local indigenous plants

Would you like to know which local indigenous plants are suitable for your backyard? Then this workshop is for you! Council's Nursery Officer, based at Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, will outline the types of plants that are suitable for residential gardens in the Nillumbik area and conduct a tour around Edendale to view a range of plants in a garden setting. The session will also include a visit to the nursery to select a plant to take home. Bring a hat if the weather is hot.

Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham
Contact: Megan Andrews 9433 3210

Cost: Free

Email: Megan.Andrews@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Saturday and Sunday 8 and 9 April

Warrandyte Village Festival

The annual Warrandyte Village Festival is a fantastic community event for the whole family. Come along and enjoy the street parade on Saturday morning, the free entertainment in Stiggants Reserve, browse through the market stalls and enjoy a great family day out.

Stiggants Reserve, Stiggants Road, Warrandyte

Contact: Mary Ann Gibson 0400 984 433

Cost: Free

Email: ma.gibson@unimelb.edu.au

Wednesday 26 April-Tuesday 16 May

Artists Open Studios

A group exhibition by Nillumbik artists, this exhibition showcases the artists participating in the Nillumbik Artists Open Studio program, which opens the studios of thirty artists around the Shire on the weekend of 8 and 9 May. The exhibition provides visitors with an opportunity to view examples of artists' work before touring the studios of their choice.

Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham

Contact: Katrina Rank 9433 3126

Cost: Free

Email: Katrina.Rank@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



In brief...

Home-based Business Network goes from strength to strength

After the successful home business expo held in October 2005, the Nillumbik home-based business network has really taken off. Over 40 people attended the November meeting and a similar number enjoyed a very relaxed Christmas celebration, renewing old contacts and making new ones.

This year's networking program will begin with a presentation by Telstra on the latest in communication technology. The March meeting will take the form

of a speed networking night. This was a popular event last year and is a great and fun way to make new business contacts and find out more about the ones you may have already met.

Membership of the Nillumbik home-based business network is \$77 per business and the application form can be downloaded from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Business & Tourism> Home based business. Members can attend monthly networking meetings at no cost, are included in the business directory and are eligible to participate in the 2006 Business Expo.

Prime Time activity

Come and join us for a friendly intro to physical activity especially tailored to the over 50s.

Tai Chi – Tuesdays 1pm-1.45pm, commences Tuesday 7 February
Exercise to Music – Thursdays 9.15am-10am, commences Thursday 9 February

Hurstbridge Community Hall, 975 Main Road. Hurstbridge
\$4 per session
No classes during the school holidays, 13-26 March.
Wear comfortable clothing; bring own water bottle and towel.
Contact Marnie at Eltham Leisure Centre for more information 9439 2266.



Panton Hill fire brigade members make good use of the new water tank in Motschalls Road.

Eltham District Historical Society (elthamhistory.org.au)

New water tank for Panton Hill

Early in January a 120,000 litre water tank was installed at the corner of Long Gully and Motschalls Roads in Panton Hill to assist the local fire brigade and residents prepare for the long, hot summer.

The location for the tank was selected in consultation with the Panton Hill Fire Brigade, Council's Emergency Risk Coordinator and an Environmental Officer.

The installation of tanks such as this is important in the rural areas of Nillumbik as they provide access to reliable water sources and a reduced turnaround time in the event of a bush or house fire. The installation of this tank brings the total number of tanks in the Shire to 45 with a combined storage capacity of 1,601,000 litres.

The water tank cost \$20,470 – funded by Council (\$6,823) and CFA (\$13,647).

From the Mayor...

Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Greg Johnson, congratulates our Australia Day Award winners, thanks the community for their response to the Kinglake fires and encourages all residents to have their say on the priorities for Council in the lead up to the budget discussions:

It's Australia Day. The weather was hot and humid, the Kinglake fires were burning, we were on high alert at Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre at the Shire offices, but we were still able to celebrate residents and community groups who have made an outstanding contribution to the Nillumbik community through the Nillumbik Australia Day Awards in Eltham on Australia Day. Please take a moment to read their stories on page 9 – truly inspiring.

I am sure we were all very much relieved when the weather changed

Eltham District Historical Society (elthamhistory.org.au)

As the bushfires struck very close to home this month, I am reminded of the courage and commitment of our emergency service members, locals who are part of community fireguards and feel we must pay tribute to the volunteer spirit which is very much part of the Aussie character. So thank you.

As promised when setting the 2005-2006 Budget, we are going out to the community to ask what the priorities for Council should be. Having your say will help us get a balanced picture of what you want for your family and where you live. We will take this information and use it to agree on our work plan and budget for 2006-2007. I encourage you to complete the enclosed survey, attend one of our community workshops or have a chat to your ward Councillor. Details on page 8.

I applaud and encourage those who make the time to take an active role in the Nillumbik community, so whether it is making your home and neighbourhood safe, volunteering



Walking at Night by Melissa Peacock, from her *Ode to Carmellorlea* exhibition.

Plan your exhibition visits for 2006

You've already missed two of the Eltham Library Community Gallery exhibitions! However, until 14 March Claire Nailer will enchant you with her *Window on Victorian Skies* exhibition of cloudscapes in pastel. And from then on, every three weeks new works emerge – Echo Chai, Artists Open Studios artists, Melissa Peacock, Rose Saleeba, Julie Tipene-O'Toole and the artists of the Nillumbik Art Collection are just some of the artists who will follow Claire.

Visit the Library to pick up your copy of the calendar – or copies can also be obtained at any of the community information stands located throughout the Shire. For more information, contact Katrina Rank, Team Leader Arts and Cultural Services, on 9433 3126.

The Eltham Library Community Gallery is