

September 2006

Nillumvik

news

A woman with long, wavy, light brown hair, wearing a bright pink long-sleeved button-down shirt, is smiling warmly. She is standing in a greenhouse, surrounded by various plants. In the foreground, there are green leafy plants and several ripe, red tomatoes. The background shows the metal frame of the greenhouse and more foliage. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an indoor garden setting.

What goes around comes around
pages 2 and 3

Meet Nillumvik's first
5-star Sustainable School
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Do you visit Eltham Lower Park?
page 8

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Website: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

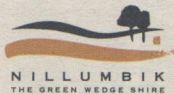
Shire offices:
Civic Drive, Greensborough
Monday 8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday to Friday 8.30am-5pm

Recycling & Recovery Centre
hours of operation:
290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty
Friday-Monday 8am-4pm, and closed
all other days and on public holidays.
Telephone: 9436 3555

Nillumbik News is available in
alternative formats upon request. Contact
Communications on 9433 3105 or email
Barb.Whiter@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.
A large format Word version is available
on CD by request to the Customer Service
counter at Nillumbik Shire Council offices,
Civic Drive, Greensborough.

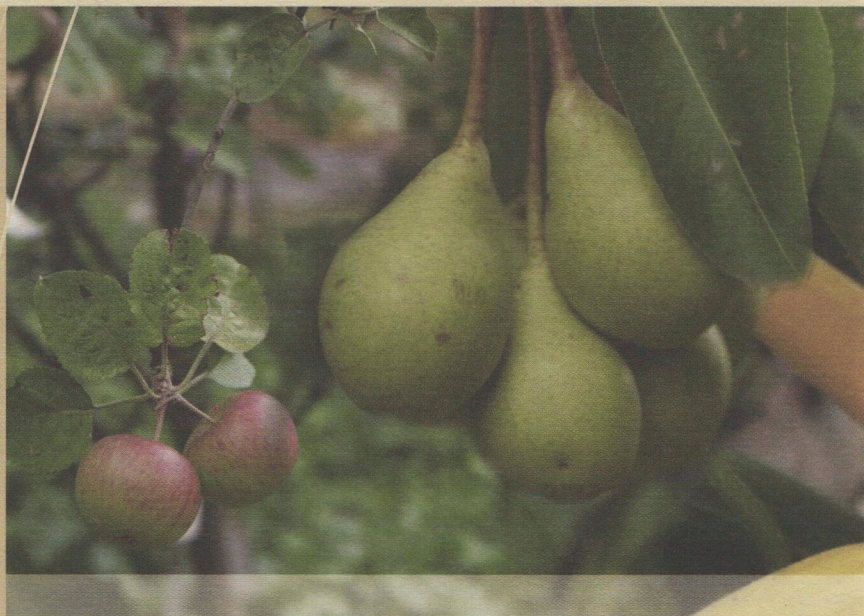
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communication and consultation with
residents. This publication is published
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request). It is also available at libraries
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What goes around comes around

'When Ross and I came to St Andrews over twenty years ago and wanted to create a self-sufficient food garden to nurture our family – we knew the only way we'd get this poor soil to produce enough for us was to make compost first and feed the soil. We now have excellent soil and excellent, fresh, organic crops – and we still make mulch and compost every day,' explained Wendy.

'This offer of discounted mulch and compost from Nillumbik and the other councils is fantastic because it can give busy people that head-start and inspire them to create mulch and compost themselves – while seeing the benefits in their gardens this summer.'

Nillumbik is one of six northern region councils offering quality recycled mulch and compost at heavily discounted prices until 4 December to promote recycling, water saving and sustainable gardening.

By buying products produced from residential green waste and using them on your garden, you are helping the environment and closing the loop on recycling. Using recycled green waste is the most natural and environmentally friendly way to improve your soil, which in turn makes your plants stronger and healthier. In addition, using recycled mulch can reduce your garden's need for water by 30 per cent!!

Residents who spend more than \$100 on mulch, compost and other water

Open Day at The Food Farm

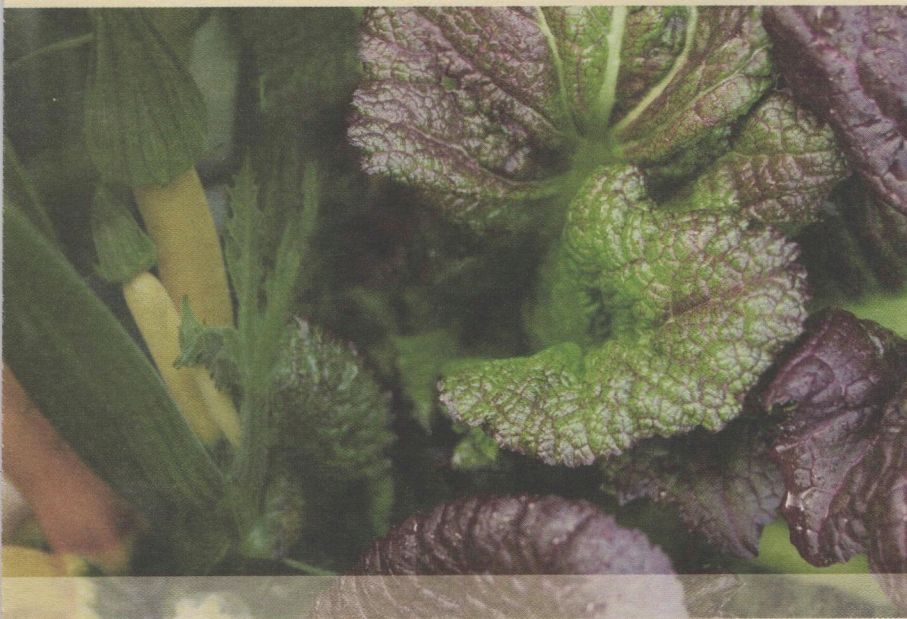
Sunday 26 November, 11am-3pm

Come for a wander through a remarkable sustainable garden which includes over 200 varieties of fruit and vegetables, with Wendy and Ross Mather as your guides. View environmentally-friendly watering systems including

greywater systems and drip irrigation, and see a composting system in action.

Cost: \$5 per person

Bookings: Wendy and Ross Mather – 9710 1361 or email foodfarm@hotmail.com



Wendy Mather, from The Food Farm in St Andrews, is Nillumbik's experienced voice when it comes to mulch and compost and she wouldn't have it any other way!

Front cover: Wendy Mather at home in her productive garden at St Andrews; from left to right this page – produce from Mathers' The Food Farm.

es around

saving measures can claim a \$30 rebate off their next water bill through the Victorian Government's Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate Program.

Cr Peter Yates, who is Nillumbik's Councillor delegate to the Northern Regional Waste Management Group, the organisation which has delivered this offer, said:

'This promotion supports the Victorian Government's *Our Water Our Future* water conservation program which has the aim of reducing the amount of water used on gardens by encouraging many of our residents to use water-saving organic mulch or compost.

'We also expect the people who try the recycled organic material being offered will see for themselves the value it can add to their garden soils. As well as being very dry, Nillumbik has some of the poorest soils around Melbourne. Putting quality organic material back into our soil can only be a good thing. And it's a great way of closing the loop on recycling which in turn places less pressure on our natural resources,' added Cr Yates.

For more information contact Tamara Johnson, Waste Services Coordinator, on 9436 3508 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Waste and Recycling.

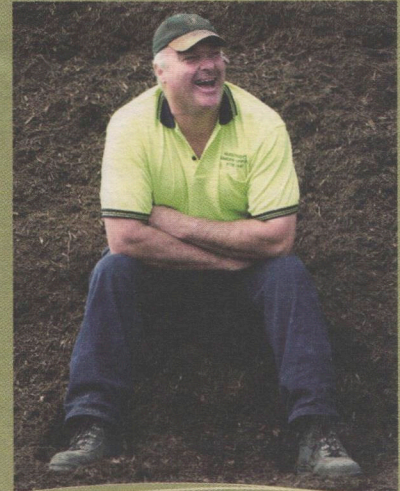
As well as providing discounted rates for mulch (\$25 per cubic metre) and compost (\$30 per cubic metre) participating Councils are offering free delivery of mulch or compost for the first 200 residents who place an order to either of the Nillumbik retailers. Your Nillumbik retailers are:



Diamond Valley Garden Centre
170 Yan Yean Road, Plenty
9432 5113

It is a pleasure to be involved in encouraging reuse in our community. These products make good use of green waste materials which are recycled for use in home gardens. With summer coming, the benefits are enormous – less watering, less weed growth and better plant growth.

Mark



Hurstbridge Garden Supplies
998 Main Road, Hurstbridge
9718 2831

We wanted to be involved because both the compost and mulch are good organic products, at a great price, which will help our customers reduce their water usage and improve their garden's soil. They'll grow great plants!

Peter

Environment (natural, built and cultural)



Council's display at forthcoming community festivals will have an environmental theme. The aim is to show that everyday actions from everyone in the community can reduce their impact on the environment.

The WaterWatch and solar trailers have many intriguing displays.

Festivals display highlights environmental sustainability

Come and meet our Environmental Officers, who will be available to talk with residents and festival patrons.

The overall display will replicate a home, by using painted backdrops representing each room in a home. The backdrops will indicate how to retrofit your home with environmentally-friendly products, while the outdoor landscaping will include an indigenous garden and GRO bins. As part of the exhibit there will be a number of interactive displays and short presentations, including the following:

Indy-Solar shuttle

Short presentations relating to creating an energy-efficient home and the cost of converting your home to solar electricity will be held during the day. These talks will provide visitors with some smart ways to minimise household energy use.

Top two things to save greenhouse emissions >>

- 1 Join Greenpower (contact your retailer or visit www.greenpower.gov.au) and save 100% of your household electricity emissions.
- 2 Join Greenfleet (visit www.greenfleet.com.au) and save 100% of your greenhouse emissions from your cars.

Key features of the solar trailer include:

- solar electric panel (photovoltaic)
- solar hot water
- wind turbine
- hydro power system
- hydrogen energy system
- energy-efficient technologies
- features of sustainable building design.

Composting display and workshop

Nillumbik gardening celebrities, Ross and Wendy Mather from The Food Farm, will have a composting display to show visitors how to establish their own compost heap. A short presentation will cover troubleshooting for great compost and provide visitors with composting recipes to get started.

WaterWatch trailer and display

The North Eastern WaterWatch Coordinator will be available at the WaterWatch trailer which features an opportunity to look through microscopes at the aquatic life from Diamond Creek. In addition, participants can try their hand at identifying local water species and learn simple water testing techniques.

Stormwater trailer

This display shows a typical stormwater trip: water is poured into the interactive display which then shows the journey of water from drains to the bay.

Top five things to do to save energy >>

- 1 install or top up insulation in ceilings
- 2 switch off the second fridge
- 3 take shorter showers – keep under five minutes, instead of the average eight minutes
- 4 switch appliances off at the power point wherever possible
- 5 set the heater thermostat to 18degC-20degC in winter and 26degC in summer.

Council displays also link into a Victorian Government campaign to encourage people to save energy and water. The *You have the power. Save Energy* campaign is encouraging all Victorians to save energy at home. Each black balloon featured in the advertising represents 50 grams of greenhouse gas. Every Victorian household produces over 12 tonnes (240,000 balloons) of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

Come along to Council's displays and learn how each household can reduce their impact on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. For more information contact Paul Brown, Greenhouse Officer, on 9433 3219.



Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Greg Johnson, assists residents plant some of the 2000 plants at Challenger Street Reserve Wetlands on National Tree Day.

2000 plants in the ground

On 30 July, approximately 130 people celebrated Planet Ark's National Tree Day at a community planting day organised by Nillumbik Shire Council at Challenger Street Reserve Wetlands in Diamond Creek. Together we planted 2000 indigenous trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers to provide habitat for a variety of bird, reptile and frog species.

Originally constructed by Council to treat stormwater runoff, the Challenger Street Reserve Wetlands is integral to the ecological wellbeing of the Diamond Creek, and is a significant wildlife corridor linking Kinglake National Park and the Yarra River.

Approximately twenty voluntary Friends of groups undertake works to protect reserves within the Shire and the Friends of Challenger Street Reserve Wetlands are looking for new members to become involved in the ongoing care of these beautiful wetlands.

For further information on joining a Friends of group close to you contact Nicole Drever, Environmental Works Officer, on 9433 3359.

Sustainability leaders

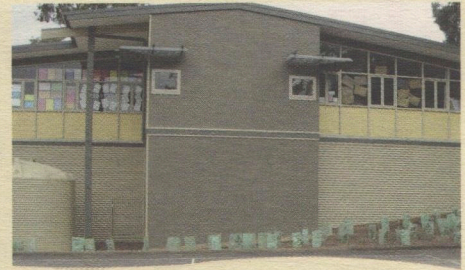
Since 2003, Eltham North Primary School has been working hard to achieve full accreditation with the Sustainable Schools Program. They are the tenth Five-Star Sustainable School in Victoria and the first within Nillumbik. Congratulations!

Sustainable Schools is a five-star program that requires schools to reduce their environmental impact on the planet. Schools complete a resource audit and develop a four-year plan which focuses on the areas of water, waste, biodiversity and energy.

The Sustainable Schools Program is not just about environmental learning experiences for the children, it's about the whole school undertaking environmental best practice through its entire operations. Eltham North Primary School has demonstrated how schools can save money in waste disposal, cleaning, excess water use and energy bills.

Other positive outcomes include:

- improvements to the image and appearance of the school
- empowerment for students and teachers to work on real-world problems and positive outcomes for their future



Some of the energy-saving techniques at Eltham North PS include eaves to shelter classrooms from hot, summer sun while allowing winter sun in; rainwater collection from the roof into rainwater tanks; and dense planting and mulching around the school buildings.

- partnerships with Nillumbik Shire Council, through Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, community groups, local businesses, CERES and other schools
- networking and support for teachers through the Nillumbik/Banyule Teacher's Environment Network.

For further information on the Sustainable Schools Program contact Dominique Pomeroy, Environmental Education Officer, on 9431 6308.



Tony Trembath, Council's Visual Arts Project Officer, with detail from the huge ceramic mural – *Wall of the Moon, Homage to Miro* – which measures 2.4 metres by 6 metres.

Art Collection gift

The mural, *Wall of the Moon, Homage to Miro*, has been donated to the Nillumbik Art Collection by artist Tom Sanders – it was made by Tom in 1965 in his Eltham studios.

We recently took the mural out of storage and, with supervision from Tom and assistance of artists Hilary Jackman and Jephrey Neale, have assembled it, replaced missing tiles and photographed it for future installation in the Shire. *Wall of the Moon* is one of those special works that provides a core for our collection development. It acknowledges our heritage artists, puts Tom Sanders squarely on the national map and complements contemporary ceramics of our region.

The process has been a terrific experience for all involved and we are certainly very fortunate to receive such an important gift. We would like to thank former Nillumbik Shire Council Art Collection Curator Chris Marks and also Gwen Ford for their early involvement and, of course, Tom Sanders for his generosity and acknowledgement of the Nillumbik Art Collection.

Recent acquisitions for the Collection will be exhibited in the Eltham Library Community Gallery from 21 September. Enquiries to Jessica Neath, Arts Officer, on 9433 3126.

Health and wellbeing

Sporting club improvements

Council congratulates the Research Cricket Club and the Diamond Valley Archers who have been successful in obtaining funding through the Community Facility Funding Program (administered through DVC) to undertake projects at their clubs.

Research Cricket Club Wicket relocation and lighting

Currently the cricket run ups encroach onto the playing field and the alignment of the nets to nearby houses provides safety concerns. The project consists of the installation of a 15m x 10m concrete pad, fully covered with synthetic. Fixed cyclone netting will be installed along the south, east and west sides of the pad to create a net. Permanent cables will run between the front and the rear of the nets as well as along the back of the net which will mean the netting can move to form a straight curtain. When the nets are no longer required they will be pushed back against the rear fence and secured in a lockable cage. Four 8m light poles will be installed at each corner of the facility.

- Community Facilities Fund contributed \$21,780
- Research Cricket Club contributed \$7,260
- Nillumbik Shire Council contributed \$7,260

Diamond Valley Archers Accessibility, usability and safety enhancement

This project includes erecting a weather shade at the starting line for the target range, constructing a safe all-weather pathway to the target line and installing lighting in the car park. These improvements will extend the times when the facility may be used and improved lighting will provide increased security for members and visitors. The all-weather pathway from the clubrooms to the target line will ensure people with disabilities, those with mobility issues, older adults and the elderly can join in all club activities.

- Community Facilities Fund contributed \$19,008
- Diamond Valley Archers contributed \$6,336 (including \$4,336 in-kind support)
- Nillumbik Shire Council contributed \$6,336

Get out in your Shire!



Wondering what to do this weekend? Visitors coming to stay and you've run out of ideas? With petrol prices forever on the rise there's even more of a reason to consider the leisure and tourist attractions on your Nillumbik doorstep.

The new *Nillumbik Destination Guide*, in an attractive DL-sized booklet, is arranged according to the various townships in the area and lists local wineries, artists' studios, bed and breakfast accommodation, parks and reserves, cafes and restaurants, specialty shops, our iconic attractions such as the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway, Montsalvat and St Andrews Market and much more. The Guide will be delivered to residents in Nillumbik in early September, if you miss out, call 1300 660 072 for a copy.



Last year's inaugural Expo exceeded everyone's hopes – Nillumbik's home-based businesses look forward to seeing you this year.

Nillumbik HomeBiz Expo

You will notice an insert in this *Nillumbik News* which draws your attention to the Nillumbik HomeBiz Network and the Nillumbik HomeBiz Expo in October.

The annual Nillumbik HomeBiz Expo, which is sponsored by Bendigo Bank and Nillumbik Shire Council, is a great opportunity for you to come and see the incredible diversity of services offered in Nillumbik by home-based businesses. There will be over 40 businesses on show including computer services, graphic designers, gift hampers, counsellors,

financial services, artists, wedding planning, natural health services, trainers and more.

The Expo opens at 12.30pm on Wednesday 18 October at Ashton Manor in Diamond Creek and entry is free.

For further information contact Julie French, Tourism and Business Coordinator, on 9433 3315 or email her via Julie.French@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au >Business and Tourism > Nillumbik HomeBiz Network.

Governance and community engagement



Two exciting projects in the Eltham town centre will be undertaken by Council during the coming year – construction of Stage 1 of the new circulatory road, and preparation of a detailed masterplan for the Youth Road precinct. Both projects arise from Council's Eltham Major Activity Centre Structure Plan, which included a wide range of recommendations on land use, transport, community facilities and urban design.

Revitalising Eltham town centre

The circulatory road project involves the construction of a new access road linking Arthur Street and Pryor Street, immediately east of the Safeway supermarket. This is the first section of a two-stage project, with construction of the remainder of the link (Arthur Street to Dudley Street) to be funded in 2007-2008. This new road will provide easier access for shoppers driving around the centre, and improved all-weather parking spaces. The road will also create opportunities for new investment in the centre, with medium-density housing and commercial office sites facing the new road. This will give us an opportunity to turn the one way section of Commercial Place into a pedestrian precinct. This project was a key recommendation from the Structure Plan. A concept design is currently being prepared which will form the basis of community consultation over coming months.

Another key redevelopment site is the Victorian Government-owned land between Eltham Station and Youth Road. The Structure Plan recommends the redevelopment of this area for

a substantial amount of new commuter parking, some medium-density housing and consolidation of community facilities. The project is quite complex due to the need to reconcile the railway operational requirements with the initiatives recommended in the Structure Plan. With this in mind, Council and the Victorian Government have jointly funded the preparation of a detailed masterplan. Initially, Council is obtaining base data for the site from the government from which it will develop the masterplan; first consultation will be with Youth Road community groups, and then with the wider community.

These major projects are key commitments by Council to implement recommendations from the Structure Plan, which will lead to a more vibrant and sustainable town centre. For more information, please contact Andrew Port, Manager Economic Development and Major Projects on 9433 3129 or Neville Slade, Property Management Officer, on 9433 3119.

Call for nominations

Can we ask you to put your thinking caps on? Think about how many people you know who volunteer their time, skills and general good humour to the benefit of others in our community. To celebrate them, every year we call for nominations for Nillumbik Shire Council's Australia Day Awards. Please, this year, tell us about that marvellous man or woman who you think makes a fantastic contribution to your local community.

There are four different categories:

- Nillumbik Citizen of the Year
- Nillumbik Young Citizen of the Year
- Nillumbik Community Group/Business of the Year
- Nillumbik Volunteer of the Year

Each nominee must meet specific selection and eligibility criteria. This information is available on the nomination forms, which are available to download from our website at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au; pick one up from customer service at Council's Civic Drive, Greensborough offices; from the community information stands around the Shire; or contact 9433 3111 to have one posted to you.

Do you visit Eltham Lower Park?



If you use the facilities at Eltham Lower Park, walk your dog there or ride on the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway you'll realise there are some areas which could be improved. Become involved in Council's Masterplan consultation for the Park, which is bounded by Main Road, Homestead Road, Diamond Creek and the Yarra River, by having your say.

Council has established two working groups (Project Steering Group and Technical Working Group) to guide the progress of the Masterplan. The working groups consist of a range of people including Councillors, Council staff and community representatives from several of Council's already established Advisory Committees including sport and recreation, environmental, early years, disability and recreation trails.

Phase 1 Project establishment (June-July 2006)

- Establish working groups and key stakeholders

Phase 2 Current analysis (July-August 2006)

- Distribution of first Project Bulletin
- Review of existing strategies, relevant issues, relevant demographic characteristics

Phase 3 Assessment of opportunities (August 2006)

- Analysis of existing site, uses and existing recreational opportunities in the area

Phase 4 Consultation and identification of key issues (August-September 2006)

- One on one interviews with key stakeholder groups

Phase 5 Development of Masterplan options (October-November 2006)

- Distribution of second Project Bulletin – Issues and Options Paper
- Community Workshop to discuss Issues and Options Paper

Phase 6 Draft Masterplan (December 2006-February 2007)

- Distribution of third Project Bulletin – Draft Masterplan
- Community Workshop to discuss Draft Masterplan

Phase 7 Final Masterplan (March-April 2007)

- Preparation of final Masterplan considering comments from the community and stakeholders
- Present final Masterplan to Council for consideration.



Eltham Lower Park is a great asset for our community – have your say about what you want!

- toilets
- traffic circulation
- condition of assets
- appropriate car parking.

There will be many opportunities for the local community and stakeholders to contribute to the plan, including:

- three Project Bulletins being distributed to assist with clear communication and facilitate opportunities for input
- individual interviews being held with key stakeholders
- community workshops being conducted in November 2006 and March 2007 (see box at left for details).

If you would like to know more about the Eltham Lower Park Masterplan please contact either Donna Oakley, Leisure Planning Officer, on 9433 3139 or Darren Bennett, Leisure Services Coordinator, on 9433 3162 – email nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or visit Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Community workshops

- 30 November 2006 – to discuss Issues and Options Paper
- 1 March 2007 – to discuss the Draft Masterplan

Bookings essential for both workshops which are to be held at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre – please contact Sharon Frosi, Leisure and Community Services Administration Officer, on 9433 3161 or Sharon.Frosi@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Some key issues identified so far include:

- balance environment with other active and passive users
- recreation trail alignments
- trail conflict
- waterway at the front of the park
- pine trees at the front of the park

Who you going to call?

No, not Ghostbusters! Our customer service operators often get requests for assistance for electricity, water, phone and gas supply problems, among many other queries – but Council can't help with everything!

The following list is a useful reference for a quick contact for local problems – keep it on your fridge!

Problem	Company/agency	Contact details
Reporting faulty streetlights and streetlight power failures	TRUenergy	13 17 99
Reporting leaking water mains Obtaining a permit to fill a swimming pool or spa	Yarra Valley Water	13 27 62
Reporting broken or missing Telstra pit lids Free directory assistance	Telstra	1300 368 387 1223
Need to dispose of needles used on animals. Or, alternatively, collect a Sharps container (free) from Council's Civic Drive, Greensborough office.	Local vet clinics Council	Yellow Pages directory 9433 3111
Any problems or queries about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gas leaks • gas and electric hot water systems • gas ovens and cooktops • gas space and central heaters • general plumbing and water pipe repairs • domestic and commercial appliances • switchboard and general wiring • installation of power points, fans, lights, etc. • safety switches, smoke detectors and security lights. 	Origin Energy AGL TRUenergy	13 24 61 13 17 66 13 17 99
Providing assistance and advice about neighbours rights and responsibilities on fencing matters	Dispute Settlement Centre	9603 8370
Reporting litter and rubbish scattered around train stations or the railway line	Connex	1800 800 705
Asbestos removal	WorkCover	1800 136 089 or 9641 1444
Queries about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pollution • disposing of asbestos, paint and old chemicals • smoky vehicles • water reuse or wastewater 	EPA	9695 2777
Missing or damaged bus stop signs	Dysons Panorama	1800 686 442 13 16 38 or TTY 9619 2727

Calendar of events

The following activities are some events run by or supported by Council, including those provided from members of Nillumbik traders' groups and the Nillumbik Tourism Association. For detailed information pick up a free copy of the Calendar of events brochure from your local community information stand or visit

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > What's On. Organisations can also list an event on the website – the information required is date and time of event; description in 20-30 words; venue address; any costs involved and a contact name and phone number for public enquiries; a website and/or email address can also be included.

Thursday 21 September – Sunday 29 October

Exhibition of the Nillumbik Art Collection

Nillumbik Shire Council holds an important Art Collection of approximately 170 works of art of contemporary and historical interest, including site-specific sculptures located throughout the Shire. This exhibition will feature acquisitions made over the past two years.

Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham; open library hours

Contact: Jessica Neath, Arts Officer, 9433 3126

Cost: free

Email: Jessica.Neath@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Sunday 15 October

Panton Hill Community Festival – On the Hill

This festival combines a full day of music in the park with food and craft stalls, children's games and activities, a variety of workshops and talks, local history exhibitions, roving performers and the delicious Apple Festival desserts, horse and cart, rides, skate ramps and much more. The emphasis is on the great musical talent available locally and they begin the day with the local church's Gospel Service in Memorial Park – a stunning opening event!

Various venues throughout township of Panton Hill; 11am-6pm

Contact: Dave Moore on 0407 506 532

Cost: free event

Email: anicholson@vtown.com.au

Sunday 22 October

Open Cellars of Nillumbik

Local winemakers will be sharing their passion for their quality wines – visit boutique cellars which are not always open to the public... taste handcrafted wines that are not always offered by the glass... meet the winemakers, and enjoy a day of art, music and food.

Various locations; 11am-5pm

Contact: Nillumbik Tourism Association 1300 660 072

Cost: free

Website: www.nillumbiktourism.com.au

Sunday 22 October

Nillumbik Pet Expo

Who is the happiest pet in Nillumbik? The biggest, the smallest or the fastest at fetch? Why does Nillumbik have a cat curfew? Why are there specific off-leash areas? These questions and more will be answered at the Nillumbik Shire Council 11th annual Pet Expo.

Marngrook Oval, Chute Street, Diamond Creek

Contact: Mick Keetch, Municipal Laws Officer, 9433 3352

Cost: free

Email: Mick.Keetch@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Website: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Sunday 12 November

Brocky's Armorial Big Day Out

Come and join Peter Brock for a Big Day Out and enjoy a vast range of superbly-presented motor cars on display including race cars, immaculate road cars, motorcycles and boats. Trade displays, children's activities, a charity auction and a wide variety of entertainment will take place on the day. Proceeds will go to the Hurstbridge-Diamond Creek Bicycle Trail. For all car entry enquiries, please contact Peter Denman on 0413 015 990.

Hurstbridge Pony Club, 1041 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Hurstbridge; 10am-4pm

Contact: Danees Denman on 9718 2469

Cost: adults \$10, family \$20, concession \$7

Email: peterbrock@peterbrock.com.au

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November

Rotary Eltham Town Festival

The annual Rotary Eltham Town Festival is on again, with many of the old favourite features, including carnival rides, market stalls, food, wine and entertainment. Everyone is invited to participate in the festival and to enjoy the whole weekend's events.

Alistair Knox Park and Eltham Town Square

Contact: Rob Kilcullen, Festival Director on 9431 4241

Cost: free

Website: www.elthamtown.com.au

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November
and Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 December

Artists Open Studios

Studios scattered throughout Nillumbik will open their doors providing a rare opportunity for the public to talk with, and see, artists at work. Thirty artists in 20 studios cover many disciplines including painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, textiles and photography. Most of the work on display is for sale or you may wish to commission a special work. Bookings are also available for workshops at many studios.

Contact: 1300 660 072 for a free full colour 48-page booklet

Cost: free

Website: www.artistsopenstudios.com.au

Top to bottom: Nillumbik Pet Expo; Open Cellars of Nillumbik; *Untitled* (detail), Lindsay Edwards, 1994, Nillumbik Art Collection; Artists Open Studios; On the Hill, Panton Hill Community Festival; Peter Brock at Brocky's Big Day Out in Hurstbridge; Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Cr Greg Johnson, at the Plenty Valley FM live broadcast van at the Rotary Eltham Town Festival.

In brief...

Your hard waste collection is coming!

All residents will be notified by mail and through the local media as soon as the dates have been finalised – it is anticipated the collection will occur in the month of October.

Alternatively, hard waste can be brought every week to the Recycle & Recovery Centre, 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 8am-4pm – call 9436 3555 for further information. Charges do apply. Visit Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au >Waste and Recycling .



Weed Spotter Information Session

Come along to an introductory session on spotting serious potential weeds and new and emerging weeds in Victoria and find out what to do about them. Penny Gillespie from the Department of Primary Industries Weed Alert Program is looking to train people in the community to recognise these plants and alert the department. No special expertise required, just an interest in plants.

Two sessions available:

2pm-4pm, Tuesday 3 October at Rethink rear Banyule Council Depot, enter via Banksia Street along bikepath opposite Osney Avenue, Heidelberg West (Melway 31 E4). Use gateway intercom system to be welcomed by a Rethink Guide.

7.30pm-9.30pm, Tuesday 3 October at Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melway 22 A1)

Bookings essential: Penny Gillespie 9785 0111 or email penny.gillespie@dpi.vic.gov.au .

Weed Spotters are on the lookout for Horsetails (Equisetum species), a State prohibited weed, often found in gardens and offered for sale at local markets.

Control Bridal Creeper and Boneseed

New entries included in the Community Weed Control Program are Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), often called Smilax, and Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*).

Bridal Creeper is one of Australia's Top 20 Weeds of National Significance. This climbing plant grows over autumn and winter, flowers in spring, fruits in early summer then dies back as temperatures rise and soils become dry. The plants can produce more than 1000 berries per square metre which are then spread by birds. The plant can establish in undisturbed bushland, making it difficult to control using herbicide.

Boneseed is a Regionally Controlled (Noxious) weed in Nillumbik. It is another plant which can invade bushland, where dense infestations can eliminate native understorey and reduce regeneration of native species generally.

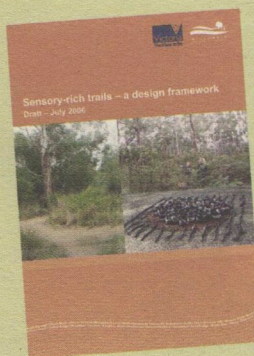
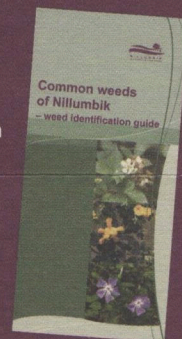
For more information contact Lisa Pittle, Land Management Officer, on 9433 3211 or send an email to Lisa.Pittle@nillumbik.vic.gov.au .

Hot off the press!

Council has recently produced a new weed identification booklet for residents: *Common weeds of Nillumbik – weed identification guide*. The booklet has been developed to assist residents to identify those plants which have the potential to invade natural conservation, agricultural and urban areas of the Shire. It contains information about 80 weeds including common and botanical names, flowering and seeding times and control options.

Copies of the booklet are available at the Shire offices or by calling Council's Environment and Strategic Planning Section on 9433 3210.

Supported by the Victorian Government's *Tackling Weeds on Private Land* initiative



Sensory-rich trails: a design framework

Recently, Steve Herbert MP, Member for Eltham, and Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Greg Johnson, launched a limited print run of the document entitled *Sensory-rich trails: a design framework*. This joint publication was developed and produced by Council in partnership with Sport and Recreation Victoria and is now available for distribution and comment.

Victoria has few or no dedicated public sensory trails – trails which incorporate sites and features to engage and satisfy people's needs for sensory stimulation and interaction with nature in outdoor settings. This framework aims to encourage and guide the development of such trails.

The publication, although officially launched, is a draft document and we invite your feedback and comment on the publication and its contents. Comments will be gathered and the draft revised during October and November 2006, with a final version being printed in December 2006. This allows our steering committee to spend some further time ensuring we have got it right for the various people who will make use of the document.

Written feedback on the draft publication can be submitted by email to Sharon.Frosi@nillumbik.vic.gov.au ; by fax 9432 9559; by post to Nillumbik Shire Council, PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088 or online www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au .

Copies of the publication can be obtained by contacting Sharon Frosi, Leisure and Community Services Administration Officer, on 9433 3161 or it can be downloaded from Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > News. It is a large document so may take a while to download on a dial-up Internet connection.

Inside...Councillor Bronnie Hattam, Coleman Ward

- ...third generation local – brought up in Research and Eltham
- ...mother of three – all at local schools
- ...secondary teacher with background in law and arts
- ...enjoys painting, reading, current affairs and cycling with her children.

Passionate about

'I am passionate about Eltham's tree canopy and would like to see it recognised along with preservation of remnant bushland and our beautiful Green Wedge areas.

'I would love to see Nillumbik become a leader in good design, including accessibility

for all abilities, and environmental best practice.'

'I am able to announce some good news from VicRoads with funding granted for a righthand turning lane to be created at Andrews Street, Eltham in September.'

How do I find being a Councillor?

Most difficult is finding a balance between competing demands of Council, family and work. I enjoy being on the Planning and Building Committee. I'm able to contribute in part because of my legal background. It ties in with my concerns about neighbourhood character, tree canopy, heritage and design.

The results from VCAT, however, are at times contradictory to our local policies. I am lobbying for change at VCAT to ensure greater recognition of our

neighbourhood character. An example of this lobbying is the opinion I gave at a recent Forum on Planning Issues held by the Victorian Local Government Association. I am Council's delegate to this body – they have more clout than a single Council would in working with the government for change.

Bronnie is also Chair of the Disability Advisory Committee and Chair of the Arts Acquisition Committee.

Ward roundup

- Traffic/transport and safety issues are concerning residents especially along the stretch of Main Road from Wattletree Road through to the Research shops.

- Recreation trails – I have succeeded in gaining funding for safety improvements

along the Main Road/Swipers Gully Trail at road intersections.

- Research shops – I am happy to have had a win for the shopping precinct with a January 2007 commencement for the beautification program.
- Research Park – the oval has been resurfaced with couch grass to minimise water use, and funding has been granted to improve the cricket pitch, with additional funds for traffic calming and working out a way of stopping the cliff area eroding.



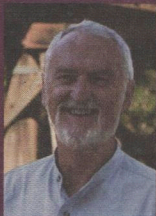
- Balmoral Circuit – I have been approached to lobby for a safe crossing over the railway line near Balmoral Circuit in Eltham. It's a long walk for children to use the crossings.

'I am thrilled to be the Coleman Ward voice.'

The future

Bronnie is also on the Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre Committee – there is funding for a masterplan regarding the future of this great asset for the community and she's keen for this consultation to begin.

Bronnie is looking forward to the next two years representing the interests of the Shire and the residents of Coleman Ward.



Councillor Greg Johnson (Mayor)

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Phone/fax: 9439 4236

Don't know who your Councillor is? Call customer service on 9433 3111 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Postal address for all Councillors: Nillumbik Shire Council, PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088



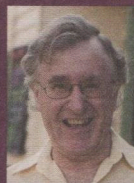
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