

May-June 2007

Nillumvik

news



Community consulted on future
Civic Centre needs
pages 2 and 3

Diamond Creek stadium gets the nod
page 8

Have your say – Domestic Animal
Management Plan survey
pages 9, 10, 11, 12

Council contacts:

Nillumbik Shire Council
Civic Drive (PO Box 476)
Greensborough 3088



Telephone: 9433 3111
Facsimile: 9432 9559
Operations Centre: 9436 3555
Email: nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Website: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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

Operations Centre:
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.

Nillumbik News is published as part of Council's commitment to improving communication and consultation with residents. This publication is published five times per year and is delivered to all ratepayers (and other residents by request). It is also available on Council's website, at libraries and in community information stands throughout the Shire.

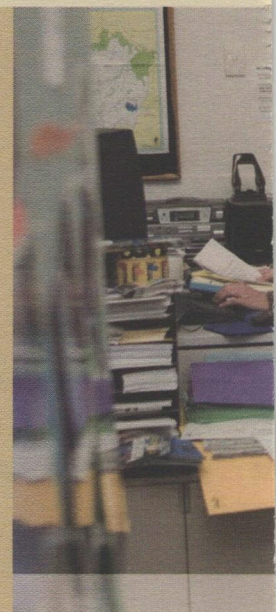
This publication is printed in Nillumbik with vegetable inks on 100% recycled paper.

Contents

Council contacts	2
Community consulted on future Civic Centre needs	2, 3
Environment (natural, built and cultural) stories	4, 5
Health and wellbeing stories	6, 7, 8
Have your say – Domestic Animal Management Plan survey	9, 10, 11, 12
Community assets stories	13, 14
Governance and community engagement stories	15, 16
Calendar of events	17
In brief...	18, 19
From the Mayor...	20
Councillor contacts	20

Nillumbik Shire Council will embark on a community consultation process to determine a long-term solution to its Civic Centre requirements.

Front cover and this page: the existing Civic Centre in Civic Drive, Greensborough is outdated and overcrowded; and has an energy efficiency rating of less than 1 star.



Community consult

At the April Ordinary Council Meeting, Council voted in support of an extensive consultation program to take place over the next few months during which all members of the community will have a chance to contribute to this important decision.

Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Warwick Leeson, said the existing Civic Centre in Civic Drive, Greensborough is outdated and overcrowded; is not located near the main population centres of the Shire; is not easily accessible by public transport and has an energy efficiency rating of less than 1 star.

'The age and size of the existing building, which was built in 1972, and its equipment, means that Council needs to take some action. The decision facing us now is how to address this issue in a sustainable and responsible way.'

Cr Leeson said the adequacy of Civic Centre facilities is fundamental to the effective and efficient delivery of Council services to the community.

'Civic Centre facilities are also important for the governance, ceremonial and community engagement activities of the Council and the existing facilities are unable to effectively meet these requirements,' he said.

As part of the consultation process, a Discussion Paper has been released which details three options for Nillumbik's future Civic Centre requirements. They are:

Option A: Remain centralised at Civic Drive and expand the existing building.

Option B: Remain at Civic Drive, expand the existing building and decentralise some services in new buildings at other locations.

Option C: Establish a new centralised facility on Council-owned land at 895 Main Road, Eltham (former Shire Office site).

All options involve a major cost which could potentially be funded mostly or wholly through land sales at the existing Civic Drive site. These land sales would involve vacant land, and potentially the existing Civic Centre building. Under all options the library and the sports centre would remain.



Decision on future Civic Centre needs

Council has developed a number of criteria which are fundamental to any future Civic Centre decision. Council wants the community to provide input and comment regarding the relevance and priority of the criteria and to use them to evaluate each of the three options.

The main issues associated with the existing building at Civic Drive, Greensborough, are:

- the age of the facility and its associated plant, equipment and internal fittings
- the lack of office space and the limited functionality of the Council/civic areas
- the impact on customer service levels, occupational health and safety, and staff productivity
- the high cost of refurbishing and/or extending the building to cater for long-term growth
- the building is not located near the main population centres and major activity centres of the Shire, and is not conveniently accessible by public transport for most residents
- the existing building has an estimated energy efficiency rating of less than 1 star.

Cr Leeson said a decision on the Civic Centre represents a major investment by Council and the community, and needs to be responsible in terms of financial management and asset stewardship.

'It also needs to be consistent with Council's vision to lead the Green Wedge Shire in environmental best practice and foster a healthy, engaged and culturally vibrant community.

'Such a decision also needs to be considered in light of worldwide trends regarding climate change and environmental sustainability, and community expectations that governments will take a leading role in addressing these challenges.'

The community consultation process will include:

- a Discussion Paper and a Response Form which is available on Council's website. Written submissions (letters or emails) can also be lodged.
- two independently-facilitated workshops in which interested members of the community can take part by registering
- writing to all local community groups providing a copy of the Discussion Paper and offering for a Council

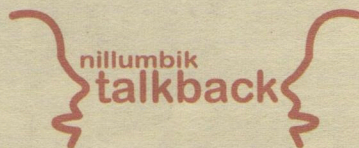
representative to attend a future meeting of the group to explain the project

- a specific workshop with Apollo Parkways residents to gain an understanding of the important issues for those living close to the existing Civic Centre site
- using the recently established Nillumbik Talkback panel of residents to provide feedback on this project.

'Council's overall objective with this consultation process is to gain the broadest possible understanding of the community's views in regard to this project, before deciding how to proceed,' Cr Leeson said.

The Nillumbik community is invited to contribute to this important decision by participating in the consultation process. Further information is available by calling Neville Slade, Property Management Officer on 9433 3119; Andrew Port, Manager Economic Development and Major Projects on 9433 3129 or Customer Service on 9433 3111, or via Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au. The consultation process is open until the end of July and Council expects to consider responses in September.

Environment (natural, built and cultural)



A community panel of 1000 voices working with Council to make Nillumbik a better place for you and your families.

The Nillumbik talkback panel is in full swing. More than 200 panel members celebrated the launch of Nillumbik talkback at Montsalvat in February. Comedians Denise Scott and Rod Quantock entertained guests with an abundance of audience participation in a mock Council meeting.

A pilot group completed a **Green Wedge Management Plan** survey, which has since been completed by our 400 panel members. Results of the survey will be reported at a later date.

Some 20 panel members took part in a focus group for Nillumbik's Domestic Animal Strategy in March. Everyone



Comedians Rod Quantock (left) and Denise Scott (centre of panel), combined with Nillumbik's CEO, Bill Forrest (far right), to entertain, amuse and encourage audience and panel member participation at a mock Council meeting.

is now encouraged to comment on the Domestic Animal Management Plan, found as a centre lift out in this edition of *Nillumbik News*.

talkback panel members have also been involved in consultation on the future Civic Centre requirements which has included a pilot survey and focus groups. All panel members will receive a survey as part of the extensive consultation process which

includes the wider community. (For more information see the cover story.)

It's not too late to become a member of the panel, simply register online by downloading the form from our website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > News > Nillumbik talkback or contact Emma Riordan, Communications Officer, on 9433 3188, or via email talkback@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

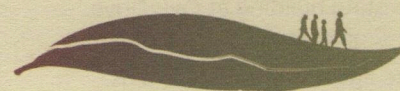
Edendale Masterplan progressing

Things are moving along with the preparation of a Masterplan for Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre.

A Background and Issues Paper has been completed – which identified a range of challenges facing Edendale including:

- protecting and sustaining natural values
- managing and promoting cultural heritage (including considering management and appropriate uses of the historic homestead)
- ensuring appropriate uses of facilities on site
- enhancing environmental education programs
- resolving access and circulation.

Community visioning workshops were undertaken in March 2007. Outputs from these will help to establish a five-year vision for Edendale and to explore how Edendale can become a vibrant community centre and focus of environmental education programs. Participants in the workshops strongly supported the continued focus of Edendale on the delivery of environmental sustainability messages, and identified current issues such as water management and climate change as relevant. Importantly, the celebration of local environment and culture at Edendale was also encouraged.



edendale master plan

It is anticipated that public comment on the Draft Masterplan will be sought later in 2007. It will build on the community's visions and the challenges outlined in the Background and Issues Paper, and will be underpinned by a Strategic Development Plan to guide the future decision-making of Edendale.

For further details contact Rachel Haynes, Manager Environment & Strategic Planning, on 9433 3213 or email Rachel.Haynes@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



The Indigenous Nursery was developed at Edendale in 2001 to provide a place for Friends of groups to propagate their plants. Since then the nursery has expanded to produce plants for Council works, as well as for landscape gardeners and residents.

Rain + indigenous plants = great gardens

The plants produced come from seed and stock within the Shire, which makes them even more suitable to local conditions. There are over 740 indigenous plants found in the bush within the Shire of Nillumbik: 100 of the more popular species are produced at the Edendale nursery.

You can still have a fantastic and healthy garden without using large amounts of water! At Edendale the waterwise demonstration gardens show you how.

Established in July 2006 under a Victorian Government's Our Water Our Future grant, they use simple waterwise strategies and design principles.



Top: There's sure to be something suitable for all landscaping purposes among the indigenous variety of plants available at Edendale nursery. Above: Seedlings and tube stock are a cheaper way of buying plants.

The waterwise gardens display a range of styles – a courtyard, contemporary, bush and cottage garden bed – all created with native and indigenous plants.

The rain garden (semi-aquatic filter pond) looks like a regular home garden with one major difference – it has rainwater directed into it from downpipes or paved areas.

The nursery, waterwise and rain gardens provide a great opportunity to see different stages of plant growth, learn about the benefits of indigenous plants and how to save water as well as showcasing sustainable gardening practices.

Edendale is open daily, so you can buy plants and look at the gardens every day, but if you would like advice, please drop into the nursery between 9.30am and 4.30pm on Thursday to Sunday, when there will be staff to assist you, and:

- visit the two hot houses and the shaded growing-out area to view the propagating process and see some of the stages of growth
- walk around the Edendale gardens to see what indigenous plants will look like at a more advanced stage (height, form, flowers, etc.)
- visit the nursery retail area to ask questions and purchase plants of interest.



Seeds and cuttings are nurtured by nursery volunteers in this great propagating area.

Interested in doing more?

Volunteers play a critical role at Edendale. Their experience and work means the nursery can successfully produce quality plants. We currently have about 10 volunteers per week who undertake tasks including propagation, watering, weeding and mulching. They stay between two hours to all day.

Did you know >>

For further information about indigenous gardening, including obtaining your free copy of the booklet *Live Local Plant Local*, purchasing plants or volunteering call 9430 6222, or visit Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham daily between 9.30am and 4.30pm, or visit the website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Health and wellbeing

Structure, Space and Place

16 May - 10 June 2007

Structure, Space and Place is a major exhibition at two heritage attractions, Montsalvat and the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower. Ten contemporary artists from the Nillumbik region and beyond will install artwork that responds to the structure and space of specific sites including the attic above Montsalvat's Great Hall, the cottage at the Tower, Montsalvat's glass house and the Tower itself.

Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower (1926) is situated on Garden Hill, the highest hill in the district and subsequently one of the windiest spots in Nillumbik. Artist Cameron Robbins has created art work for the top level of the tower where the wind blows through the open windows. Wire rhizome structures frame the windows suggesting a capture of draughts and an alternating blowing and sucking across the tower interior.

Cameron's previous work has been largely based on the interaction

between natural forces and the elements. Last year he brought his wind drawing machine to Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower.

Over several weeks Cameron's machine collected random wind energy and translated it into a strangely readable format of ink drawings on paper, which themselves took on the form of the storm. The drawings have become part of the Nillumbik Art Collection as a visual document of the break of spring and the Tower's eightieth anniversary year.

We encourage you to visit both attractions and experience this exciting work by Cameron and other works by Sue Boucher, Lloyd Godman, Susan Jacobs, Penelope Lee, Bridie Lunney, Leanne Mooney, Jephrey Neale, John Nixon and Robbie Rowlands.

For more information contact Arts and Cultural Services on (03) 9433 3127 or email artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



Cameron Robbins tuning his wind drawing machine, August 2006, Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower.

Locations:

Montsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham (Melway 22 A8)

Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower, Garden Hill, Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground (Melway 272 D5)



Wider, safe pavements, along with new street furniture make the Research shopping centre a friendlier place to shop.

Research renewal project

Research shopping centre now has a new look. Streetscape works carried out through the heat of January and February have resulted in a safer, more accessible and customer friendly precinct – and it looks good too!

Funding for the project was achieved through the strong support of Coleman Ward Councillor, Bronnie Hattam, who has worked closely with the traders on this project. The purpose of the works was to improve traffic management, parking, safety, security and landscaping works.

Realignment of car parking bays has made it easier and safer for customers to park. Wider and more attractive

pavements, along with street furniture and shade trees, have made the centre a friendlier place for locals to shop and meet. Lighting has also been upgraded to improve the security of the precinct.

Traders are now working together on ways to enhance the presentation of their own businesses. They are also collaborating on a campaign to promote the friendly, personal service provided by traders in the Research shopping centre.



A group of young people is teaming up to act as a voice for young people across the Shire to help forge a strong bond between Nillumbik Shire Council and young people within the community.

First meeting of Nillumbik's Youth Ambassadors included (from left) Sarah, Mia, Lisa Said, Youth Project Worker, Melissa, Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Warwick Leeson, and Edwin.

Wanted! Nillumbik Youth Ambassadors

Each member has agreed to a 12-24 month term of involvement as a Nillumbik Youth Ambassador. Towards the end of this period they will assist in mentoring and training future Ambassadors.

There are still some spots left!

Requirements to be a Nillumbik Youth Ambassador:

- you are between the ages of 12-25
- you live in the area you represent
- you are able to network with a range of different stakeholders in your area
- you are involved in local groups and are happy to represent young people's opinions and ideas
- you are willing and able to work with your local Councillor/s.

Who do you represent?

According to the 2001 Census the Ambassadors will represent:

- Eltham area – 4847 young people
- Diamond Creek area – 3781 young people.
- Hurstbridge and beyond – 3395 young people.

'The Ambassadors will represent around 12,000 young people – those aged between 12 and 24 years of age – throughout Nillumbik. This is a huge number of people to reach but what better way to communicate and inform our young people than through the help of other young people?' said Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Warwick Leeson.

'Our Youth Services team will provide the group with ongoing training including communication skills; facilitation of groups; public speaking; conflict resolution and consultation. This will enable the Ambassadors to be equipped and confident in their role, while also gaining useful life skills.'

The Ambassadors will meet monthly to discuss what concerns/issues have been identified and addressed by the group. The Youth Services team hopes the members will create ongoing relationships where young people are given opportunity to not only express

their opinions but also to give them real involvement in the decision-making processes.

The other aim of this program is to equip this group of young people to be a local resource for all young people in their community. This local, on-the-ground knowledge will be especially useful to other young people and could range from what is the best local fish and chip shop, to where pay phones are in the township, to which shop owners are looking for casual work, through to what is happening

'You feel valued more if your opinions are listened to. We are giving other young people a voice in the community.'

to local dirt jumps. Our Nillumbik Youth Ambassadors live and breathe their locale.

For further information contact Lisa Said, Youth Project Worker, on 9433 3327 (Tuesday) or 0400 827 400; or Lindsay Round, Youth Services Coordinator, 9433 3150.

Diamond Creek stadium gets the nod

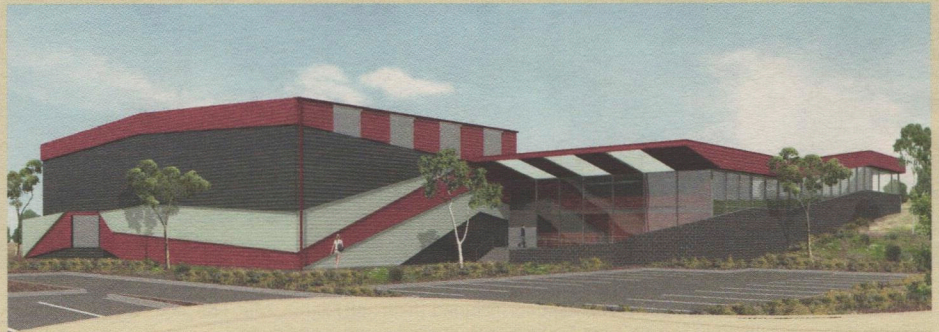
At the April Ordinary Council meeting, Council voted in favour of committing \$3.33 million towards a \$10 million multipurpose sports stadium at Diamond Creek and will seek matching funding from both the Victorian and federal governments.

'Residents of Diamond Creek are among the most active in the state in terms of their participation in sport and this multipurpose sports stadium has been identified as a high priority for the local community,' said Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Warwick Leeson. 'It will address an unmet demand for indoor sports venues in the area.'

'Council has met with local Victorian and Federal Members of Parliament – Danielle Green and Fran Bailey – and they have both expressed their qualified support for this proposal.'

The proposed stadium will include:

- three sports courts
- retractable seating for 900 which enables court two to be used as a show court
- the same space can be used for assembly/speech night purposes
- Olympic standard gymnastics space
- circulation, café and reception areas
- office space, change and toilet facilities



An artist's impression of what the Diamond Creek stadium could look like.

- storage facilities
- viewing/programming areas.

A feasibility study for a proposed Diamond Creek stadium was an outcome of a specific recommendation in the Diamond Creek Major Activity Centre and Leisure Facilities Plan (Diamond Creek twenty20) adopted by Council in September 2006.

The feasibility study was guided by Council officers and a Community

Steering Committee chaired by Councillor Bo Bendtsen. The project has also received support from local sporting and school communities, as well as a petition from 2729 local residents.

Council will submit applications for the balance of funding to the Federal government through the Regional Partnerships Fund and to the Victorian government through a number of funding programs.

Rest in peace Chris Marks

It is with great sadness Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the passing of Chris on 19 April 2007 after such a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Chris resigned from Council in August last year to devote herself full-time to her health. She spent over 14 years working at both Nillumbik and Eltham Shire Councils – making many friends along the way – friends who miss her joyous and unique slant on the world. She held the position of Art Collection Curator and brought with her a high level of professionalism and care to the work of Council's Arts and Cultural Services Unit.

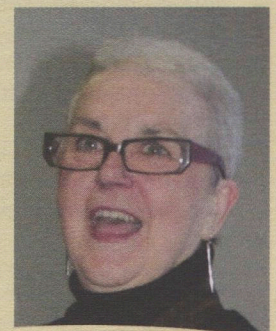
Chris raised the profile of arts both within the local community and Council.

Her work on the Nillumbik Art Collection was exceptional. Under her direction the collection has grown both in stature and size to play an important role in mapping the history of the Shire, local and national arts practice. Chris also led the development of a contemporary edge to the collection.

She was a respected curator whose commitment to artists in our region leaves a legacy of projects which have brought innumerable opportunities to artists. At the same time she continued her work as a practising artist – many friends joined her husband John at the packed opening of her joint exhibition in a city gallery in late February this year. Unfortunately, Chris was too ill to attend.

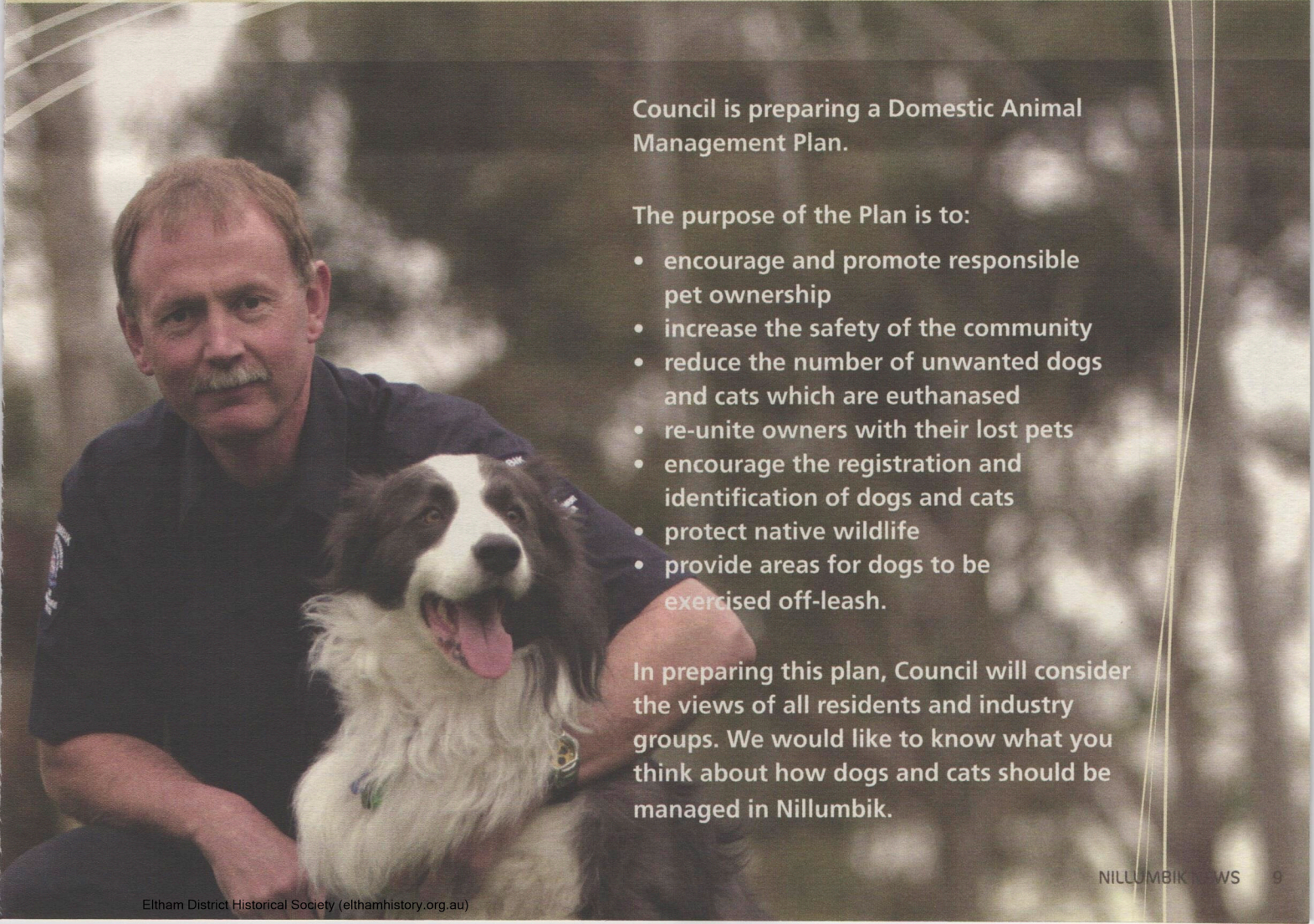
As a tribute to Chris and her life, an exhibition of her work is on show in the foyer of the Civic Centre in Greensborough – it will be on display until 20 June.

As we grieve the loss of a greatly respected colleague and friend, our thoughts are with Chris's husband John, her daughter Bianca, son-in-law Toby and their son Sam, and her son Ben and his wife Ysolt.



Have your say!

Domestic Animal Management Plan survey



Council is preparing a Domestic Animal Management Plan.

The purpose of the Plan is to:

- encourage and promote responsible pet ownership
- increase the safety of the community
- reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats which are euthanased
- re-unite owners with their lost pets
- encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats
- protect native wildlife
- provide areas for dogs to be exercised off-leash.

In preparing this plan, Council will consider the views of all residents and industry groups. We would like to know what you think about how dogs and cats should be managed in Nillumbik.



Please complete this survey and return to Council using the enclosed Reply Paid envelope, or if no envelope is enclosed, post to Nillumbik Shire Council, Reply Paid 476, Greensborough VIC 3088, or bring into the Civic Centre in Greensborough, or fax to 9432 9559. Further information about the Plan can be obtained from Phil Lovelace, Manager Municipal Laws, on 9433 3231.

Surveys must be received by Friday 15 June 2007.

Ownership

Do you own a cat?

Yes

No

Do you own a dog?

Yes

No

What is the postcode of your normal place of residence?

Desexing

A large number of dogs and cats are euthanased in council pounds and animal welfare shelters. This is due to the number of unwanted dogs and cats in the community. To reduce this, councils may require all dogs and cats to be desexed, with the exception of dogs and cats owned by an approved domestic animal business.

Do you think Council should require all dogs and cats to be desexed?

Yes

No

Unsure

Don't know

Do you think Council should require dogs and cats to be desexed only when they are registered for the first time?

Yes

No

Unsure

Don't know

Would you like to explain your reasons?

Pet identification

Pet identification assists with reuniting pets with their owners if they become lost. Microchips are the best form of identification for dogs and cats as they cannot be removed. After 1 May 2007 all dogs and cats registered for the first time must be microchipped. Council may also require all currently registered dogs and cats to be microchipped.

Do you think Council should require all dogs and cats to be microchipped?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Don't know

Would you like to explain your reasons?

Confinement

Domestic cats are subject to injuries or the spread of disease if they are involved in a cat fight or car accident. Domestic cats also attack and kill native wildlife. In 2002, Council introduced a cat curfew. Cats are now required to be confined to their property between 7.30pm and 6am.

Do you believe Council should introduce a permanent 24-hour cat confinement order?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Don't know

Would you like to explain your reasons?

Community education

Council is committed to educating the community about responsible pet ownership. Apart from events such as the annual Pet Expo, Council produces a number of brochures, media releases and programs to educate the community on pet related issues.

What priorities do you think Council should focus on?

(Please number in priority from 1 being the highest to 20 being the lowest.)

Dogs

- having their dog desexed
- microchipping their dog
- registering their dog
- excessive barking
- dangerous dog information
- training their dog
- wandering at large
- dog attack/rush information
- keeping their dog leashed in on-leash areas
- effective control in off-leash areas
- picking up dog poo
- providing for their dog's welfare
- how to control their dog
- other

Cats

- having their cat desexed
- microchipping their cat
- registering their cat
- confining their cat
- providing for their cat's welfare
- other



Dog off-leash areas

Dog off-leash areas are designed to allow dogs to exercise and socialise with other dogs. These areas also provide an excellent social opportunity for dog owners.

Do you visit any of Council's off-leash parks for dogs?

Yes

No

If so which park or parks and how often?

How satisfied are you with Council's off-leash parks for dogs?

Very satisfied

Satisfied

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Very dissatisfied

General comments

Do you have any comments to make about Council's management of domestic dogs and cats?

Is there anything specific you would like the Domestic Animal Management Plan to consider?

Do you wish to be kept informed about the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan? If so, please provide us with your details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Mobile number: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Community assets

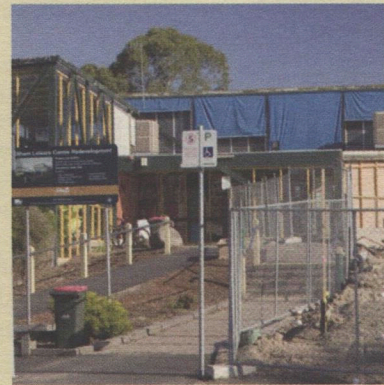
Here are details of the progress of some continuing projects around the Shire – for further information contact Council on 9433 3111.



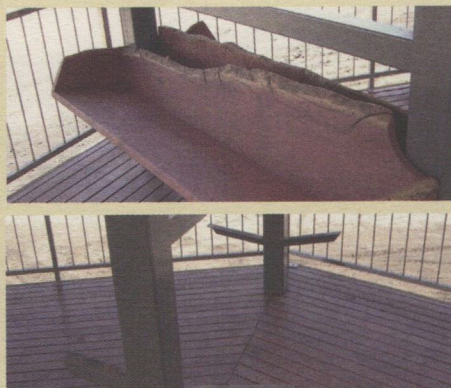
Eltham Central Oval the first of the four Nillumbik sportsgrounds to be redeveloped under the \$2.6M WaterSmart Sportsgrounds Initiative, is one step closer to completion with the delivery of 15,500m² of instant couch turf and three 22,000 litre water tanks which were filled with Class B recycled water from Yarra Valley Water. All three tanks were filled daily for an initial eight days, providing approximately 528,000 litres of recycled water to water in the turf. Council is working with Yarra Valley Water regarding possible ongoing access to recycled water. The ground is expected to be ready for use for the beginning of the 2007-2008 summer season.



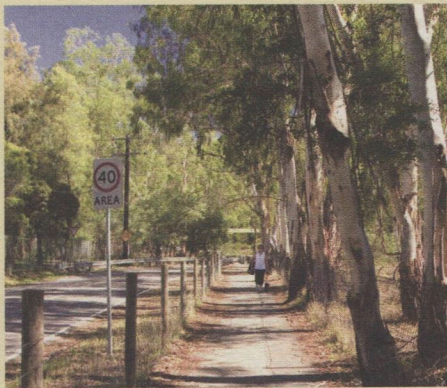
Real progress at the site of the **Kangaroo Ground Family Centre!** This project has been a long time coming but following funding from the Department of Education of \$189,500, plus Council contribution of \$293,500, the Centre, behind Kangaroo Ground Primary School, should be welcoming students in Term 3.



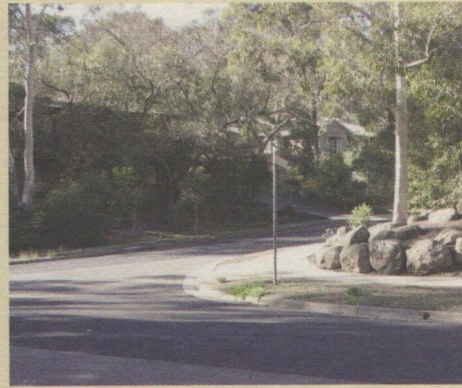
We reported in the last edition of *Nillumbik News* that demolition activity had begun for the \$3.95M Stage 1 redevelopment at the **Eltham Leisure Centre** – now there is much evidence of the project progressing well. It has been funded with \$3.45M from Council and \$500,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria. The construction schedule will minimise disruption to users and allow the crèche to stay open.



We reported on this stunning project – the **Kangaroo Ground Viewing Platform** – in our last edition of *Nillumbik News*. However, as has been reported in the local press, a setback to the project occurred in March when four locally-designed Australian redgum bench seats were stolen from the platform. If you have any information at all, please contact the Eltham Criminal Investigation Unit who are investigating the theft.

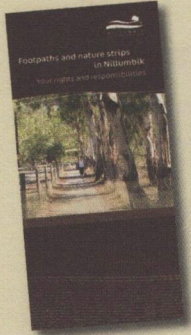


Council has built many footpaths throughout the Shire this year at a total cost of around \$300,000. Projects have included Yan Yean Road and Ironbark Road, Yarrambat; Ryans Road from Moray to Allendale Roads; Bolton Street from Bridge Street to Main Road; and Diamond and Silver Streets in Eltham.



Around \$900,000 has been spent this year on road maintenance throughout the Shire including this section of Valonia Drive in Eltham. Other roads which have had significant maintenance include Cottles Bridge-Strathewen Road north of Eagles Nest Road; Lambert Street and Stone Street in Diamond Creek and Gum Tree Road in Research.

Footpaths and nature strips



A new brochure is available on resident's rights and responsibilities regarding these important assets – these are some of the points covered.

Footpaths are provided to allow residents and visitors safe walking or wheelchair access to community services and facilities. Council is primarily responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the

Shire's footpaths, however there are exceptions to this, which include:

- footpath bays which lie within a vehicle crossing and one bay to either side of a crossing are the property owner's responsibility: this applies to both private residences and commercial properties
- footpaths damaged by vehicles accessing properties not using the approved vehicle crossover
- footpaths damaged by tree roots coming from vegetation planted within a private property boundary.

Trees growing on private property which overhang the footpath are also the responsibility of the resident. Council requires residents to keep all vegetation clear of the footpath itself as well as clear to a height of 2.5 metres above the footpath.

Vehicle crossover is the technical name for the extension to the driveway which goes into your property or a commercial property from a road. Because a crossover is part of a property's driveway, it is your responsibility to maintain the crossover in a safe and serviceable condition.

Nature strips are part of our Shire's Green Wedge environment. They are designed to complement the neighbourhood's natural setting and are public land, not part of a residential property. However, it is accepted practice residents maintain the nature strip(s) abutting their property as an



Trim foliage to measurement shown

extension of their garden, with the exception of street trees which are maintained by Council.

For further information or for a copy of the new brochure to be mailed to you, please contact Council's Infrastructure Services Unit direct on 9433 3234 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

In brief... waste education update

- Hurstbridge launches its own Frequent Shopper Card with monthly prizes donated from your favourite shops in an aim to encourage shoppers to bring their own bag or buy one for \$1 from the Traders. Pick one up!
- Green waste bins are for garden clippings and food scraps wrapped in newspaper, but still no plastic bags (not even biodegradable).
- Clean Up Australia Day another huge success thanks to all the volunteers and community groups.
- Nappies – alternatives include new washable nappies, nappy services, biodegradable and disposable - find out more!
- E-waste – do you have an old computer or mobile phone you don't use? Have you thought about recycling or donating them?

Check out Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au for more information on any of the stories above or call Dominique Pomeroy, Waste Education Officer, on 946 3555.

Did you know >>

As a result of the ongoing drought, the Commonwealth Government recently made an interim declaration of Exceptional Circumstances for the whole of the Shire of Nillumbik. This means that eligible farmers, and farming-related businesses, can potentially receive income support and other assistance. Applications must be made directly to Centrelink by calling 13 23 16.

Governance and community engagement

Greenhouse Action in Nillumbik (GAIN) workshops and progress

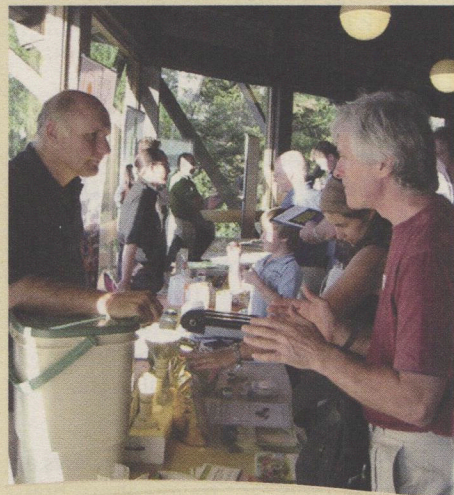
The Nillumbik community emits approximately 700,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. This means every man, woman and child produces enough gas to fill 250,000 balloons – every year! The impacts of climate change are becoming more evident and the need for action more urgent. There are a number of ways each person can reduce greenhouse gas emissions – both as an individual and as a community.

During February and March two workshops were held to capture residents' interest in greenhouse action within the Shire and to ensure everyone who attended came away with a better idea of the problems and how they could be part of the solution.

The forums were very successful with over 70 people attending the first workshop in Eltham. This workshop

included sustainable business displays, speakers talking about household action, school transport issues and ethical investing, and brainstorming sessions for the community to put down their ideas on what should be done locally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Council is in the process of reviewing the Greenhouse Action Plan and the information collected at the forums will inform the revised plan.



Participants in the GAIN workshops were able to talk to sustainable business owners and experts during the day.

Breaking news:

Two community groups have been established to take action on climate change following on from the forums. One group is based in Warrandyte and the other is currently non-location specific.

For further information on the forums, Councils actions and targets, and how you can take action on greenhouse emissions as an individual or group, contact Paul Brown, Greenhouse Project Officer, on 9433 3219.

Eltham Lower Park Masterplan progress

The Draft Issues and Options Report has been out for public comment – submissions closed on 31 January 2007. We received high interest in the report and are currently analysing the feedback.

It has become evident through the research and consultation conducted to date there are still a number of issues which require further investigation and consultation with relevant stakeholders. Further technical advice is also required regarding some issues.

The timelines for the Masterplan have consequently been pushed back to allow for further investigation to occur prior to the development of the Draft Masterplan. A workshop is to be scheduled in the coming months to gain feedback on the next phase of the Masterplan. This will be advertised on Council's website and through the local media.

For further information please contact Donna Oakley, Leisure Planning Officer, on 9433 3139 or via email Donna.Oakley@nillumbik.vic.gov.au ; or Darren Bennett, Manager Leisure Services, on 9433 3162 or via email Darren.Bennett@nillumbik.vic.gov.au .

Ward boundary review on way

The Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC) review of ward boundaries within the Shire of Nillumbik will begin in January 2008. The VEC has undertaken 39 municipal reviews in the past two years.

Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Warwick Leeson urges residents to take an active interest in this matter.

'Nillumbik residents are most passionate in relation to how they want their local council to work,' Cr Leeson said.

'Nillumbik has had the highest number of candidates of any council in the State at the last two elections (excluding the City of Melbourne). In addition, Nillumbik has the highest voter turnout of any council in the State.

'It is critical the VEC hears your views as to what is important to you about how your Council functions.'

At present, Nillumbik Shire Council has nine wards, each represented by one councillor. Council does not make the decision in relation to ward structures. The VEC will make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government based on its review. Cr Leeson said there are two examples which suggest there could be a change to Nillumbik's electoral structure.

'Firstly, the VEC has used standardised ratios of voters to councillors, which would suggest the number of councillors in Nillumbik should be reduced from nine to seven,' Cr Leeson said.

'Secondly, prior to this round of reviews, 19 councils elected one member per ward. The outcome of the reviews has reduced this to four councils. The remaining councils have had their structure changed to wards with multiple councillors or to a combination of wards with single and multiple councillors.'

Council will ensure interested community members and groups are kept informed about the process. In the meantime you can visit the Victorian Electoral Commission's website www.vec.vic.gov.au/rrfaqs.html for answers to Frequently Asked Questions, or call them on 13 18 32.

2007-2008 Grants

The next round of grants closes at 5pm on Friday 29 June 2007. These grants are for community-based projects being undertaken between August 2007 and June 2008.

Community Development Grants:

To assist with the development of new, innovative programs, opportunities and services by local community groups and organisations within the Shire.

Cultural Development Grants:

To encourage individuals, community groups and organisations in the Shire to develop arts and cultural activities that benefit the community.

Youth Support Grants:

To assist local community groups to develop new after hours programs, events and opportunities for young people to strengthen community access and increase youth participation.

Each of the three community grant streams offers the opportunity to receive a maximum \$2,000 per grant from the total \$10,000 allocated to each grant pool. Guidelines and application forms for all grants are available on the Council website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Grants and volunteers.

A grant information session is being held at the Eltham Library, Multi-purpose Room, Panther Place on Friday 1 June at 6.30pm. The hour-long session will provide an overview of all grant categories and advice on the selection criteria. Attendance at this session and/or contacting Council officers prior to your application is highly recommended.

Funding for Biodiversity Enhancement Works

Council invites landowners to apply for grants of up to \$500 to undertake biodiversity enhancement works on their property. The grants, part of Council's Biodiversity Enhancement Program, aim to protect and enhance Nillumbik's native vegetation and fauna habitat. Priority will be given to properties with good quality native vegetation and habitat for fauna or in areas of environmental significance.

Grants can be used for:

- revegetation projects using local indigenous plants
- fencing to protect remnant vegetation and revegetated areas
- environmental weed control.

For more information and to obtain an application form and program guidelines, contact Julie Edwards, Land Management Officer, on 9433 3192 or email Julie.Edwards@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Environment. Applications must be received by Thursday 31 May 2007.

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 are welcome to list an event on the website – go to www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au >What's On and click on the Add event button on the top right-hand side. 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.

Structure, Space and Place 2007 until Sunday 10 June 2007

Ten contemporary artists from the Nillumbik region and beyond have installed artwork that responds to the structure and space of specific sites including the attic above Montsalvat's Great Hall, the cottage at Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower, Montsalvat's glass house and the Tower itself. Experience work by Bridie Lunney, Cameron Robbins, Jephrey Neale, John Nixon, Leanne Mooney, Lloyd Godman, Penelope Lee, Robbie Rowlands, Sue Boucher and Susan Jacobs.

Two locations: Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower, Garden Hill, Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground (Melway 272 D5) and Montsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham (Melway 22 A8)

Contact: Arts and Cultural Services 9433 3127
Email: artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Green Gardeners Training Course Wednesday 6 June or Wednesday 13 June 6.30pm-9.30pm

Landscape gardeners, horticulturalists, nursery staff and gardening industry professionals in Nillumbik are invited to free TAFE-accredited training on waterwise and environmentally sustainable gardening. The course provides practical information on sustainable garden design and maintenance. Presented by Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA), the Green Gardeners Training Course is jointly funded by the Victorian Government's Stormwater and Urban Conservation Fund and Melbourne Water.

Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre,
Gastons Road, Eltham
Bookings: Sustainable Gardening Australia 9850 8165
Email: elaine@sgaonline.org.au

Red Chair – artists and arts: Hannah Bertram Wednesday 13 June 2007 7pm-8.30pm

This is a new series of talks introducing artists and art issues on the second Wednesday of each month. Hannah Bertram is the Laughing Waters Artist in Residence for the autumn period. Hannah will discuss her work using the heritage mudbrick dwelling Birrarung as the site for temporary installations made from dust collected from around the building. Like a sand mandala, Hannah's delicate and beautiful works take days to install and after being experienced by the public are swept away to become seemingly nothing again.

Eltham Library Multi-Purpose Room, Panther Place, Eltham
Contact: Arts and Cultural Services 9433 3127
Email: artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Create an energy-efficient home

Thursday 14 June 2007

6.30pm-9pm

Architects, energy-efficiency professionals and building practitioners can help you create an energy-efficient home. From very simple actions to more complex renovations through to building a new home, come and see how clever our homes can be if we want them to. Ask about Government rebates for solar hot water and photovoltaics.

Cost: free

Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre,
Gastons Road, Eltham

Bookings: Megan Frye 9433 3210

Nillumbik HomeBiz Network Inc. networking night

Thursday 21 June 2007

June's networking night will focus on the financial and tax aspects of running a small business. The guest speaker will be local accountant Phil Ciravalo. The Nillumbik HomeBiz Network Inc. provides opportunities for professional and personal development, mutual support and knowledge exchange. Networking nights are friendly and informal.

Cost to non-members: \$20, includes light supper.
Ashton Manor, 49-55 Main Street, Diamond Creek

Contact: Lucinda Flynn 9433 3332

Email: info@hbb.org.au

Website: www.hbb.org.au

Courthouse Readings: Paul Mitchell and Fiona Sievers

Thursday 21 June 2007

7.30pm for 8pm start

Join in the monthly reading featuring poets and performers from Melbourne and beyond held the third Thursday of each month.

Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Road, Eltham

Contact: Helen Lucas 9439 9732

Cost: \$5 entry including refreshments

Pruning workshop

Sunday 24 June 2007

9am-4.30pm

Demonstrations and practical experience in pruning deciduous fruit trees to maximise the health and productivity of your trees – the why, when and how. Participants should bring gloves, secateurs and their lunch.

Cost: \$20 (includes morning and afternoon tea)

Facilitator: Graeme George

Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre,
Gastons Road, Eltham

Bookings: Living & Learning Nillumbik, 9430 1313

Top to bottom: Cameron Robbins and his wind drawing machine; practical information on all aspects of gardening is available at the Green Gardeners Training Course; detail from *Swept Under the Rug*, 2006, dust and dry paint pigment on

gallery floor by Hannah Bertram; energy-efficient home; Home Biz Network networking nights really work!; Eltham Courthouse – great venue for poetry; experience pruning at our Pruning workshop.

In brief...



Waterwatch has monitoring water quality down to a tea!

Members of Arthurs Creek Landcare and Friends of Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge are now able to monitor and improve water quality after recently receiving a Dilmah water quality grant.

The groups have used the grant to purchase water

testing equipment to allow them to continue to test the water quality of the Arthurs Creek and the Diamond Creek. Monitoring began over 12 months ago with tests including

salt levels, pH, turbidity (muddiness), dissolved oxygen and nutrient levels, as well as establishing the presence of aquatic macroinvertebrates, or water bugs. Through this monitoring, Waterwatch groups can help to identify pollution sources, determine issues facing their local waterways and establish what needs to be done at a local level to improve their health.

Julia Vanderoord, North East Melbourne Waterwatch Coordinator, said that the equipment is a major boost for Nillumbik's Waterwatch program.

"The Dilmah grants are a huge help to schools and community groups like us who normally could not afford to get the equipment.

Further information about the water testing grant is available on the Landcare Australia website www.landcareonline.com or by telephoning Landcare Australia on 1800 151 105.

Do you nyp?

Council's Youth Services staff, in conjunction with young people and web designers, Mint Leaf Studio, has developed a new website for young people (12-25 years) in the Shire of Nillumbik. Click www.nyp.com.au to discover the new features for yourself.

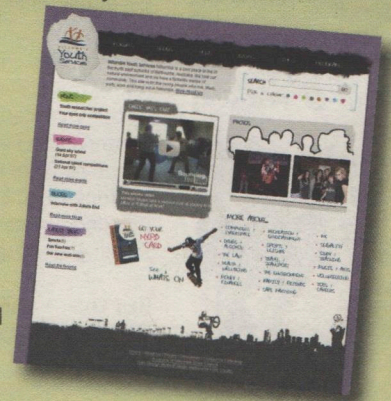
The website is youth-friendly and uses technology such as forums and blogs. It will provide Nillumbik young people with a link to Council and to information on the environment; family and friends; health and wellbeing; jobs and careers; study and training; sport and leisure; money and finances; the law; music and arts; travel and transport; sexuality; volunteering; drugs and alcohol; and much more. The website will also include a calendar of events and give young people advice on the range of agencies and services available to them.

A new feature is a forum section where young people can have online discussions around a range of topics. The forum section will be moderated by Council staff to ensure appropriate language and behaviour is being used. While a roving reporter will use the blog section for reviewing events, movies and music, as well as interviewing young people and bands.

Council's Youth Services aims to run a number of competitions for young people via the website, with a video competition to be the first. This will be a great opportunity for young people to showcase their artistic talents. More information is available on the website.

Please encourage your children and other young people you know to have a look at the website. Why not check it out yourself too! We welcome any feedback; either through the online form or by contacting Nillumbik Youth Services on (03) 9433 3349.

The Nillumbik Young People's outreach team will also be giving away lanyards with the new web address printed on them. Find out where they will be by visiting the programs section of the website!



Launch of Nillumbik HomeBiz Network Inc.

Home-based businesses in Nillumbik now have an independent incorporated business association to represent them and provide them with professional support. The Nillumbik HomeBiz Network Inc. was officially launched by Fran Bailey on Thursday 19 April. The launch was attended by members of the Network, representatives of other Nillumbik business associations, Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Councillor Warwick Leeson and other Nillumbik councillors.

With Council, plus state and federal support, the Network has gradually evolved over the past two and a half years into



a strong association. It prides itself on its friendly and supportive ethos and offers a range of benefits to the home-based business sector.

These include: monthly networking nights, fortnightly breakfast meetings and professional development activities. The Network also hosts a website and an annual business expo.

For more information about the Network and its upcoming events, go to www.hbb.org.au.

Applaud the winners!

Nillumbik Shire Council is pleased to extend an invitation to attend the announcement of the winners of the 2007 Alan Marshall Short Story Award on **Saturday 2 June** from 6pm-8pm. This event will be held at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham. An RSVP to Arts and Cultural Services on 9433 3127 or email artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au is essential.

The Alan Marshall Short Story Award is an annual national short story competition held in memory of acclaimed Australian writer and former resident of Eltham, Alan Marshall. The Shire of Eltham initiated the Alan Marshall Short Story Award in 1985 and the competition has long been considered a prestigious event in the literary calendar year, particularly for emergent writers.

The Open and Local Sections of this literary prize is for a short story of up to 2500 words, written in any style. The Young Writers Award is for a short story up to 1000 words, also written in any style. This year saw record numbers enter –

504 entries – much higher than the previous high of last year's 379 entries.

Actor Dennis Coard has agreed to again act as the Master of Ceremonies and will read the winning stories alongside fellow actor Debra Lawrence, and this year's judge, John Button, will speak of his experience judging the award.

Former leader of the Senate in the Hawke and Keating governments, John Button is greatly admired as one of Australia's outstanding public intellectuals. John has had a long association with the Melbourne Writers' Festival and is author of *Flying the Kite - On the Loose* and *As It Happened*. His essay *Beyond Belief* won a Premier's Literary Award and he will be one of the judges of the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards in 2007. John famously supports The Cats whatever their position on the ladder.



Getting involved in Nillumbik

The Access for All Abilities (AAA) program has been delivered in partnership with Banyule City Council and Whittlesea City Council for the past four years.

The AAA program is designed to:

- increase the number and range of sporting clubs that are inclusive of people with disabilities
- support and encourage clubs to be more inclusive of people with disabilities
- inform our local community of the recreation activities available for people with disabilities
- promote clubs that are inclusive by listing them in the AAA directory
- distribute the inclusive club directory to people with disabilities
- link people with disabilities to local clubs if required
- support both people with disabilities and any club to solve any issues which may arise
- partner clubs with disability services for joint programs
- create, design and trial new recreational programs
- write grant applications with community recreation providers and disability services for developing inclusive programs or new accessible infrastructure
- influence program development of sport and recreation providers.



If you are interested in signing up for the AAA newsletter, require assistance to join a sporting club, want more information about inclusive groups in your area, or, if you are a club interested in becoming more inclusive to people with a disability, please call Fleur Messina, Access All Abilities Officer, on 9433 3136 or email Fleur.Messina@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Guide to local government

Local Government Victoria (LGV) undertook a project to create a web-based resource guide about local government.

Launched in November 2006, the Guide to Local Government provides information about local government responsibilities, how councils work and make decisions, the services they deliver, how they are funded and much more.

To visit the Guide – go to www.theguide.vic.gov.au.

Nillumbik Sports Awards and Forum

You are invited to attend the Nillumbik Sports Awards and Forum to be held on **Thursday 7 June** from 7.30pm-9.30pm. Come and be inspired by our wonderful guest speaker – ex-champion football coach and player Tom Hafey!

This great night for our sporting clubs will be held at Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham.

RSVP is essential by 30 May 2007, to Suzanne Rouvray, Leisure Services Project Officer on 9433 3183.

From the Mayor... Councillor Warwick Leeson

A new vision for sustainability was discussed by all Councillors at a recent planning workshop. Developing the new vision will involve widespread community consultation through the preparation of the 2007-2011 Council Plan and the Green Wedge Management Plan.

Council's real challenge is to balance its aims in different areas of sustainability:

- environmental - minimising the impact of our lifestyles on the natural environment, protecting local flora and fauna, reducing greenhouse gases and conserving water
- social/cultural
 - supporting the connectedness within and between our communities, addressing intergenerational equity and protecting those good things about our lifestyles
- economic - ensuring that we are strong enough economically and financially to do all the important things our communities need;

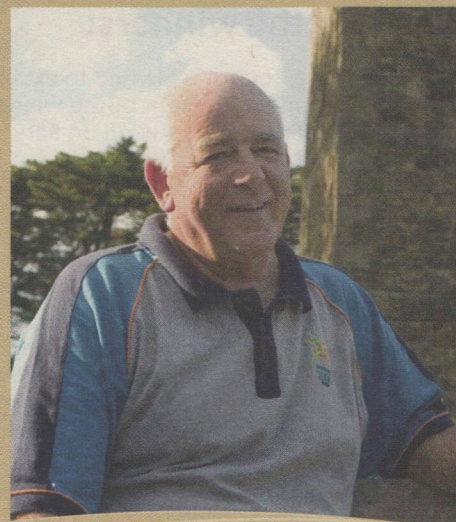
implementing Council's Strategic Resource Plan through reducing rate increases down to a sustainable level; supporting the creation of more local jobs

- governance - having a vision for the future and the leadership and good governance to deliver it.

Many sustainability initiatives have multiple benefits. For example, the priority Council has given to rezoning to create more commercial land in the Eltham and Diamond Creek Structure Plans will facilitate more local employment, broaden Council's rate base and assist with financial sustainability.

'I believe sustainability is about more than just the environment – it needs to integrate social, economic and financial issues.'

It will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions as three out of four Nillumbik residents leave the Shire each day for work, mostly in cars. It also has social benefits for families as people spend less time commuting.



In developing our Green Wedge Management Plan and Council Plan the Nillumbik community – both urban and rural – needs to debate what economic, financial, social and environmental sustainability will look like, and what costs and benefits are attributed to initiatives arising in the plan.

I urge all Nillumbik residents to take an active interest in the development of the Council Plan and Green Wedge Management Plan.

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



Councillor Warwick Leeson
Mayor
Yanakie Ward
Mobile: 0439 347 797
Email: Warwick.Leeson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Phone/fax: 9712 0976

Postal address
for all Councillors:

Nillumbik Shire Council
PO Box 476
Greensborough 3088



Councillor Bronnie Hattam
Deputy Mayor
Coleman Ward
Mobile: 0437 460 363
Email: Bronnie.Hattam@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Phone/fax: 9439 5743



Councillor Bo Bendtsen
Ellis Ward
Mobile: 0437 455 064
Email: Bo.Bendtsen@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Fax: 9438 5756



Councillor Bill Penrose
Allwood Ward
Mobile: 0438 277 427
Email: Bill.Penrose@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Phone: 9719 7468
Fax: 9719 7370



Councillor Helen Coleman
Lenister Ward
Mobile: 0437 940 930
Email: Helen.Coleman@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Phone/fax: 9439 0063



Councillor Peter Yates
Cottle Ward
Mobile: 0437 581 360
Email: Peter.Yates@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Phone/fax: 9714 8698



Councillor Howard Bulmer
Sutherland Ward
Mobile: 0439 347 351
Email: Howard.Bulmer@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Fax: 9438 4835



Councillor Michael Young
Edendale Ward
Mobile: 0437 840 866
Email: Michael.Young@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Phone/fax: 9431 1972



Councillor Greg Johnson
Wingrove Ward
Mobile: 0438 277 425
Email: Greg.Johnson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Phone/fax: 9439 4236