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## Nillumbik Youth take the prize

What would you think of a company that proposed a Waste Transfer Station be established within the Nillumbik Shire, persuaded Council to sponsor a 28-week business training program for 14 of its staff, researched the project and found it to be a winner, prepared a detailed report...then sold their report back to the Shire?

### ***Cheeky? Enterprising?***

The Young Achievement Australia (YAA) Program considered it...

### ***Award Winning!***

Which company did this? Yuriah, that's who!

Yuriah was established as part of the YAA Business Skills program and is comprised of 14 enthusiastic year-11 students from St Helena Secondary College, Eltham High, Eltham College and Diamond Valley College.

The YAA program is designed for students interested in learning about the business environment by developing, producing and marketing a product or service.

At a ceremony held at Government House last month, Yuriah won the Environment Management Award for their feasibility study 'Developing a Waste Transfer Station in Nillumbik'. Earlier this

year, Yuriah won awards for the best personnel and presentation, and came third overall for their retail display at the Westfield Shopping Centre.

This is the fourth year Nillumbik Shire has sponsored a YAA company, and the students, community and Council have been rewarded again for this investment.



*Yuriah Company directors and advisors*

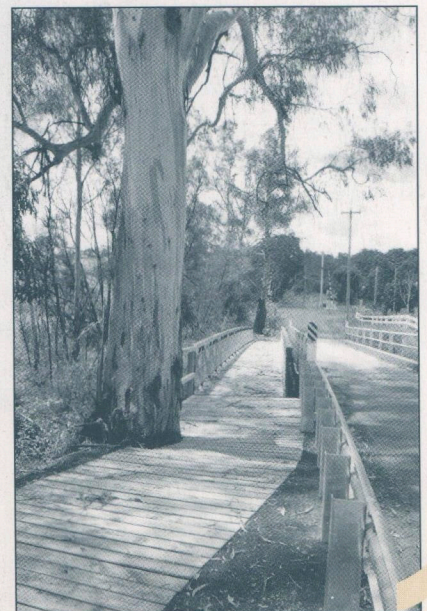
## Safer bicycle and pedestrian access at Allendale Road

Council has completed a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Diamond Creek adjacent to Allendale Road, that provides safer carriage for cyclists and motorists alike.

With the completion of the bridge early this month, cars and cyclists no longer need to compete for space on the single lane bridge.

The new bridge completes a 'missing link' in the bike and pedestrian trail that runs between Diamond Creek and Eltham. Although users of the path will still need to cross Allendale Road, they can do so now from safe crossing spot.

Take the family on a bike ride and have a look!





## Mayor's Message

1999 has been a very busy year for your new Council. During the year Council implemented a range of policies that will ensure the sustainable future of Nillumbik for years to come. In the new year we will build on these achievements by undertaking a range of projects that add detail to these policies.

Among the projects for the new year is a major upgrade to the **internet web site**, to include access to Council agendas, minutes and other Council documents and projects. It will include reports from many different council and community committees and will be a source of reference for all council contacts and activities.

A **Nillumbik Housing Strategy** will be developed which considers housing needs across the municipality. This strategy will address such issues as changing populations and how this impacts on housing type and locations. Other studies will look at the **built and natural character** of residential areas of

the Shire in order to define what type of development is suitable for a range of areas. The outcome of this process will be a set of Guidelines to assist developers and residents understand Council's expectations in terms of preferred household design. These guidelines will be published widely and encouraged through advertising, training and enforcement.

A draft of a new **Environment Strategy** will be submitted to Council early in the new year. This strategy will draw on your responses to the survey distributed with the last edition of this newsletter and will identify initiatives to reduce waste and energy usage both by Council and within the community. The environment is the major reason for the beauty of this area and our tourist industry is just beginning to recognise the uniqueness of the "Green Wedge".

Council is committed to pursuing a theme of **Community Health and Well Being** in the new year. Projects include implementation of the Municipal Public Health Plan, the Disability Access Policy, and the Youth Services review,

along with further progress in the area of Reconciliation.

We have set ourselves an ambitious program for the New Year but with your help and support we can look forward to success in achieving our goals. We will advise you of all our actions and the progress throughout the year.

Christmas is a busy time on our roads, so please be careful when travelling around Nillumbik and beyond. Look out for wildlife such as kangaroos and wombats, which can be more common during the summer months, especially in the early evening. We would not like to see you or the animals hurt, not to mention the damage to your car.

Christmas is a time for family, friends and a quiet contemplation of our purpose in life and I hope that you have a happy and safe Christmas break.

Best wishes

Cr. Bill Penrose, Mayor

## 1999 Eltham Festival celebrates community

This year's Eltham Festival, the twenty-fifth, featured a variety of events that showcased the area's reputation as a home to artists, craftspeople and environmentalists. The 1999 Program weaved together events incorporating the arts, reconciliation, eco-sustainability and a wide array of musical styles.



*The Waggles at Traders Traffic, Saturday*

Events at Edendale Community Farm and Alastair Knox Park were well attended and featured a range of family-focussed activities that were particularly popular with younger members of the community.



*Unique Creatures perform at Edendale Community Farm*



*Vika and Linda Bull performing at Alistair Knox Park*



*MC Paul French (Unique Creatures) entertains the crowds on Sunday*



This is the first in a series of Councillor profiles for Nillumbik News.

## Love where you live

**Cr Diane Bullen**  
Mt. Pleasant Ward

"I was invited to a street party last month, and during the evening I had a moment to look around. Some guests were discussing the street's latest batch of home brew, others their last book group meeting - an impromptu poetry reading had happened earlier - and I thought 'yes, this is what living in an Eltham community is all about'."

Cr Bullen says she is concerned that Eltham is losing its identity through the building of inappropriate developments, but is reassured by moments like these.

It is this desire to protect a sense of community and Nillumbik's unique environment that persuaded Cr. Diane Bullen to stand for Council.

A buoyant Cr Bullen says: "The spirit of Eltham IS alive and well in the community and I will do everything in my power to protect it."



Cr Bullen launching Nillumbik's Disability Access Policy

Living and working in Eltham, Cr Bullen is the owner/operator of Victorian Artist's Supplies. She considers herself very lucky to be working in a business that is also her passion and in such a beautiful spot.

"I love art, artists, art shops, all kinds of stationery and old hardware shops. Local kids interested in art are my favourite customers."

Cr Bullen believes there is a synergy between the arts, carefully-managed tourism and the environment in Nillumbik. She says Nillumbik has excellent resources in these three areas and is keen to see them properly managed. Tourism, she says, could play a significant role in the economic development of the Shire.

Cr Bullen's children have acquired her passion for the arts. Her son, Jarra (27), has degrees in language and literature and loves to write and to design. He is happily employed in multi media. Her daughter, Mia (25), has a Diploma in Ceramics and divides her time between working with the good earth at Kuranga Native Nursery and shaping pottery clay at her home studio....it would appear that Mia just loves getting her hands dirty!

Cr Bullen's passion for the area has been long held. Growing up in Ringwood East, she would visit school friends in Eltham and Warrandyte. A turning point in her life came, as a 15 year old, whilst visiting one of her friends in Eltham when she walked into a magnificent mud brick home with artworks of Boyd and Percival on the walls and thought to herself: "I want to be part of this community."

## A natural enthusiast

**Cr Phillip Hughes**  
Diamond Ward

"Driving home along Diamond Creek Road, past Aqueduct Road, just over the hill and I see the green valley and the hills...aaah, I'm home".

This is the feeling Cr Phillip Hughes gets every time he encounters that view, and he says the sense of wonderment and satisfaction hasn't diminished over the years.

"I love this area and I care about what happens to it.

"What I like about being a Councillor is that I can make a difference. Councillors have the capacity to change things in the community", he says.



Cr Hughes talks with local Diamond Creek Traders Scott and Julie Barber from Diamond Valley Family Footwear

He explains that the changes can be as small as getting the blackberries sprayed in a council property next door for a resident, or as large as having significant input into planning policy.

"I like the immediacy of local government and its role in looking after communities. The higher up you go in government, the more removed you get from your neighbourhood."

Cr Hughes says he is enjoying his second stint as a Councillor. He also served on the former Diamond Valley Council in its final year before Council amalgamations.

He believes Nillumbik Shire has great potential and that Council is now evolving into a smooth functioning unit after its difficult early days. Council, he says, now has clear plan for the future that will see Nillumbik truly become THE 'Green Wedge' at the forefront of environmental care in Australia. He is particularly keen to see Nillumbik pursue ecotourism and artists trails, perhaps a regional gallery and even a performing arts space.

Councillor Hughes says that strategic planning in the Shire is exceptional. "We have developed town concept plans that deliver townships that the community want, not what others think is good for them," he says.

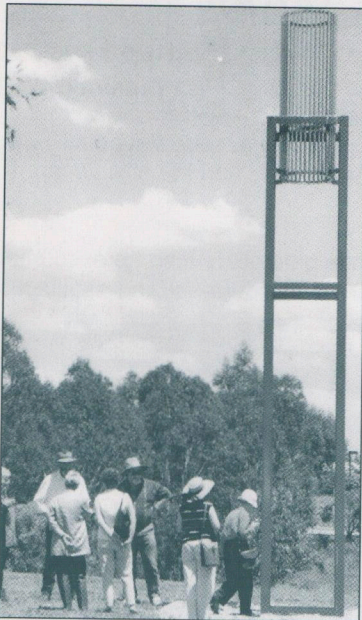
Cr Hughes' has two daughters, Amanda (14) and Bethany (12) and a partner Cheralyn, who are proud of Philip and his work.

He is a physiotherapist working in Diamond Creek. This involvement with local people allows him to tap into the mood of public opinion. In Phillip's rare spare time of leisure he likes to go sailing, ballroom dancing and has been learning to play the cello and to speak Italian.

He has evident enthusiasm for life which is reflected in his philosophy to life as a Councillor: "You only get out of Council what you put into it!"



## Sensory Integration...



*"This work is confident, challenging, and reflects contemporary intellectual art practice to a world standard, while still maintaining a strong local grounding. As jurors we felt it continued the trajectory of the collection into the next millennium by its contemplative approach to the local environs, while also looking upward, outward and over the horizon".*

Marie Sierra and Robert Owen - Selectors

The latest acquisition for the Nillumbik Art Collection was launched and officially handed into the care of the local community at Fergusons Paddock in Hurstbridge on Saturday November 28, 1999.

'Sensory Integration Invention A' by Cathy Smith was acquired through the biennial Nillumbik Art In Public Places Award. The work is a six metre tall red tower with a stainless steel cylinder insert suspended five metres above the ground. The insert, constructed of vertical hollow pipes, protrudes above the tower and is designed to capture wind and produce sound.

Council officers worked closely with a community reference group during the co-ordination of the Award. Members of the group include artists who reside in the local community and have a knowledge of the Award and can assist Council on arts-related matters.

## Gyuto Monks come to Nillumbik

The Gyuto Monks are world famous for their unique form of harmonic chanting and for their mastery of the tantric arts.

Their art includes beautiful six-foot diameter sand mandalas and twelve-foot high butter sculptures. Their chanting sounds feature on recent film soundtracks and the Monks regularly fill Carnegie Hall in New York. They have been invited to make a return visit to the Sydney Opera House.

The Tibetan Buddhist monks from Gyuto Tantric University are living in exile in northern India and are recognized as supreme masters of the tantric arts within the Tibetan Buddhist system.

Since 1994, several Gyuto monks have made annual visits to Australia to demonstrate the 2500 year old sacred

culture of Tibet which is so rich in art, philosophy and spiritual awareness.

The Monks will spend eight days in Nillumbik Shire from February 26 to March 5. They will be based at the Eltham Community Centre where they will conduct performances, demonstrations and workshops including chanting and music, meditation, public talks, calligraphy, mask making, mandala art, Tibetan cooking, ritual hand mudras and the creation of the spectacular sand mandala.

They will also conduct a series of workshops at Volumes Cafe and a spectacular musical performance at Montsalvat.

Complete programs for the visit will be available from Volumes Bookshop and Cafe, the Eltham Library and Eltham Community Centre from late January. For further enquiries, or to be placed on the mailing list for the Monk's tour, please call Council's Cultural and Community Services Administration Officer, Suzanne Rouvray, on 9433 3127.

## Eltham Library Community Gallery

Panther Place, Eltham

Coming exhibitions...

### New Objectivity



An exhibition of portraits and life drawings by Monty Osewald

Exhibition showing  
Until Tuesday January 11, 2000

### Encounters With The Sacred

by  
Gayle Knight



An exhibition of photographs from recent travels in Cambodia, Ireland, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Exhibition showing:  
Wednesday January 12 - Tuesday  
February 1, 2000

#### Gallery opening hours:

Tues-Thurs: 10.00am-8.30pm  
Fri-Sat: 10.00am-5.00pm  
Sun: 1.00pm-5.00pm

Proudly supported by Nillumbik Shire Council



## Agriculture and the new Planning Scheme

In launching the new Nillumbik Planning Scheme, our community newsletter will take a look at a different aspect each edition. This month we feature the impacts on existing agricultural uses within the Shire.

Under the new Planning Scheme, most areas currently zoned Landscape Interest A and Landscape Interest C will be zoned 'Environmental Rural'. This zone generally applies to rural areas, excepting those in the north-west of the Shire around Arthurs Creek and Doreen, which are to be zoned 'Rural'.

The purpose of the Environmental Rural Zone (ERZ) is to provide for use and development which is consistent with conservation, environmental management and land capability practices.

A new provision in the zone is that newly establishing agricultural uses will require a planning permit.

### Alternative Farm wins Award

The winners of the 1999 Nillumbik Alternative Farming Award, Robyn and John Harris from Diamond Valley Violet and Lavender Farm, show off a field of lavender.

The Award is sponsored by Nillumbik Shire Council and is presented each year at the Whittlesea Show.

### Existing agricultural uses operating at the time the new scheme takes effect will continue unaffected.

Therefore, under the new Planning Scheme the requirement to obtain a planning permit in order to use the land for agriculture purposes only applies to:

- newly establishing agricultural uses; or
- land where a previous agricultural use has stopped for a continuous period of two years, or has stopped for two or more periods which together total two years in any period of three years.

*(In the case of a use which is seasonal in nature, a permit will be required if the use has not taken place for 2 years in succession).*

Should you have any questions regarding the ERZ, call Council's Environment and Land Use Strategic Planning Officer, John Panozzo, on 9433 3218.



### Sustainable farming practices

Doreen farmer, Alec Sutherland, is employing 'Cell Grazing' techniques in order to enhance the sustainability of his farm.

Cell grazing involves the regular rotation of herds within defined areas in order to more efficiently graze and in so doing to maximise pasture recovery time.



## Look out for our wildlife

Nillumbik Council is advising motorists who injure wildlife on the Shire's roads to call its 24-hour emergency line to ensure speedy assistance to the injured animal.

Council's Municipal Laws Coordinator, Phil Lovelace, said: "If a kangaroo or other native animal is injured by a vehicle, we advise motorists to contact Council and request our Rangers attend the scene.

"Our trained officers will tend to the injured animal, check for joeys in the pouch, and make arrangements to transfer the animal to an animal shelter."

Please call Council's after hours emergency number **9483 8895**, or call Help for Wildlife on **0417 380 687**.

## Greening Australia at Panton Hill

**Fifteen landowners from across the Shire participated in a Property Management Planning Course conducted by Council and Greening Australia in October/November.**

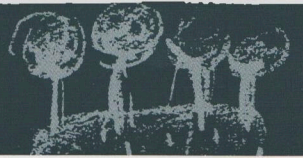
The course, which was held at Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre, ran for five weeks with each participant developing a five-year plan for their property using an aerial photograph.

Habitat management, remnant vegetation protection, sites of significance, integrated weed control, land-use classes, land-management issues, implementing improvements and resourcing the plan were discussed.

Council's Project Officer, Megan McCarthy, said: "All participants gained valuable knowledge for the long-term management of their land.

"They were able to interact with other landholders who had similar land management issues and formalise their thoughts into an action plan."

For further information about future courses, call Council's Environment and Land Use Project Officer, Megan McCarthy on 9433 3214.



## Eltham goes underground

Works are progressing well to underground the powerlines on the western side of Main Road in Eltham.

The project has been made possible by Council meeting the State Government's funding criteria as set out by the Power Relocation Committee.



By early next year, the eyesore powerlines on the left hand side of this photo will be underground, reviving the streetscape

The schedule of works is as follows:

### To date:

Construction of Main Street conduits complete.

### January/February:

Arthur, Luck, Dudley, Prior Street and Commercial Place conduits to be completed.

### March:

Powerlines to be placed underground and poles removed.

## Hurstbridge township on show

Community response to the draft Hurstbridge Township Strategy has been very positive with many residents attending the two information sessions held at the Hurstbridge Community Centre last week. Locals were invited to 'walk in' and view the strategy and maps on display. Council officers were on hand to explain the draft strategy and answer questions.

Council's Strategic Planning Officer, Fiona Austin, said: "This consultation process is about putting the plans on the table and letting people have their say. We learn a lot from this process and in turn can keep everyone informed."

Copies of the draft strategy are still available at local libraries and the Shire office. Council welcomes written feedback until January 7, 2000.

## RMIT helps design Falkiner Street Environmental Reserve

Two RMIT Environmental Engineering students have been employed by Nillumbik Shire as part of a work placement program to develop concept plans for Council land in Eltham.

The students, Jessica Mock and Kristian Turner, are developing plans for the creation of an environmental reserve in Falkiner Street.

Jessica and Kristian are currently reviewing background information including:

- storm water management;
- catchment issues;



Kristian and Jessica inspect the Falkiner Street site

## Nillumbik Environment Strategy

Nillumbik Council has conducted five community workshops, facilitated by Terra Forma Pty Ltd, as part of the Nillumbik Environment Strategy consultation process. A final issues report is now being produced.

Council, at its December 14 meeting, appointed seven community representatives to form a Community Consultative Group. Twenty-three nominations were received.

Over 700 responses were received to the questionnaire published in the last edition of Nillumbik News. Forty-three percent of respondents asked to be contacted in future regarding the development of the strategy.

Council's CEO, Catherine Dale, thanked the community for the terrific response.

A draft strategy will be released for community discussion and comment early in 2000. For further information please contact Council on 9433 3210.

- past proposals; and
- water quality.

The plan will add significantly to the existing network of parkland around Diamond Creek at its junction with the Yarra River.

As part of the process of developing plans for the site, Jessica and Kristian will be undertaking community surveys and workshops in the New Year.

# Gyuto Monks of Tibet Sounds of Global Harmony

The millennium tour of Australia 1999-2000

Participate in an extensive program of Tantric art classes, meditation, Buddhist teachings, harmonic chanting and culture for kids.



Visiting Eltham  
Saturday 26 February  
to Sunday 5 March, 2000

Program available in January 2000

For further details, call Council's Arts Officer, Tina-Marie Pizel, on 9433 3127



ELTHAM TOWN



Everything you need.

Proudly supported by Nillumbik Shire Council and Eltham Traders Association

# NILLUMBIK

NILLUMBIK SHIRE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## News

### TO THE HOUSEHOLD

NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
PO Box 476  
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

CIVIC DRIVE, GREENSBOROUGH

TEL: 03 9433 3111

FAX: 03 9432 9559

EMAIL: NILLUMBIK@NILLUMBIK.VIC.GOV.AU

### Christmas hours

#### Council Office:

Monday 27 December	Closed
Tuesday 28 December	Closed
Monday 3 January	Closed

#### Depot:

Monday 27 December	Closed
Tuesday 28 December	Closed
Wednesday 29 December	Closed
Thursday 30 December	Closed
Friday 31 December	Closed
Monday 3 January	Closed

### Councillor contacts

Cr Diane Bullen (Mt. Pleasant Ward)  
0413 277 426

Cr Phillip Hughes (Diamond Ward)  
0413 277 425

Cr Margaret Jennings (Wattle Ward)  
0413 277 429

Cr Sigmund Jørgensen (Shire Wide)  
0413 277 432

Cr Penny Mullinar (Arthurs Creek Ward)  
0413 277 424

Cr Bill Penrose, Mayor (Shire Wide)  
9719 7468

Cr Tony Raunic (Shire Wide)  
0413 277 431

Cr Neil Roberts (Sugarloaf Ward)  
0413 277 428

Cr Alex Rosovick (Shire Wide)  
0413 277 430

In the event of an emergency, phone Council's after hours number on 9483 8895.

Printed on Recycled paper



## Eltham Festival Committee

Council is seeking expressions of interest from Nillumbik residents to assist in the organisation of the Eltham Festival for the year 2000.

For enquiries, please contact Council's Communications Office on 9433 3105.

## Nillumbik Community Guide

The year 2000 Community Guide is currently being updated by Council's Communications section. The new edition is due for release in February 2000.

If you wish to have your club or association listed, or your contact details have changed, please mail your updated details to Nillumbik Shire Communications before December 31.

***Do you know of any Nillumbik resident who has made an outstanding contribution to this community and deserves recognition?***

**Nillumbik Council is seeking nominations for its Australia Day community awards to be announced on January 26, 2000.**

Each year, Nillumbik Shire Council presents awards to its:

- Citizen of the Year;
- Young Citizen of the Year; and
- Community Group/Business of the Year.

Nomination forms are available by telephoning Council's Communications office on 9433 3315.

Nominations will be accepted until close of business on Friday, December 31, 1999.

## Tourism news....

The Nillumbik Tourism Association enters the year 2000 with a strong membership of over 80 operators and supporters.

Achievements during 1999 include:

- the setting up of four visitor information centres throughout the Shire;
- the publication of an informative visitors' guide *Discover Nillumbik*;
- the establishment of an artists trail; and
- excellent exposure through Tourism Victoria's jigsaw marketing campaign.

So if you are entertaining family or friends over Christmas, why not call in to one of our Visitor Information Centres, listed below, and collect a copy of the 'Discover Nillumbik' brochure. Be proud of your region.

- Wellers Restaurant in Kangaroo Ground;
- Hurstbridge Nursery in Hurstbridge;
- Do Lunch at the Eltham Library; and;
- Rivers Nursery and Cafe in Yarrambat.

PS: If you see visitors needing a little help, say 'Hi' and offer assistance. Feel free to recommend your favourite shop, walk or activity...chances are they will love it too.

## Full Rate Payment due 15 February

*Just a quick reminder..*

Full payment of the 1999/2000 rates is due to be paid by February 15, 2000.

Third Instalment is due February 28, 2000.

## Brougham Street Bridge closed

The Brougham Street bridge in Eltham has been closed following a recent engineering report that found it had deteriorated at a greater rate than expected and was unsafe.

Council has placed signs advising of the closure on the Main Road and Brougham Street corner and is liaising with the Eltham Leisure Centre and Eltham High School in relation to the closure.

## Retail workshops

Retail expert Nigel Flannigan from Melbourne University, is hosting a short course on revitalising strip shopping centres. Nillumbik traders are invited to attend.

The cost for five half days is \$300. Dates - 15/2 to 23/2. Call Council's Grant Meyer on 9433 3212 for more information.

## Nillumbik chosen for Reconciliation Study

PhD student Haydie Gooder, has chosen Nillumbik Shire as a case study on community involvement in Reconciliation. Work on the her doctorate will commence in February, 2000.

The Australian community has been encouraged to set up reconciliation study circles to learn more about Aboriginal culture and Australian history. In addition to these, many reconciliation projects have emerged through local councils, schools, religious organisations, arts ventures and business.

Ms Gooder said: "The concept of Reconciliation has become increasingly important to the way in which Australians think about the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous people in this country.

I am interested in speaking with people who are involved in grassroots reconciliation - in particular those who have taken (or are taking) part in reconciliation learning circles."

Participants in this research will be invited to participate in a half-hour interviews in February 2000.

If you are interested in taking part in this research, please call Council's Community Development Officer, Daryl Taylor, on 9433 3136.



## Radiant heat - the killer in a bushfire

Every summer, people try to survive bushfires wearing light summer dresses, shorts, singlets, even swimsuits. It may be obvious that they are at serious risk of being burned, but what is not generally realised is that people can die without the flames even touching exposed skin.

Radiant heat can kill. You need to cover up - dress to protect yourself - take refuge from direct heat.

Radiant heat cannot pass through solid objects. If you put your hand near an open flame or an electric heater or even a light bulb, you can feel the radiant heat. Draw your hand away and the amount of heat you feel on your skin decreases. Put something between your skin and the heat source and your skin will immediately feel cooler. That's all you need to remember about radiant heat from bushfires - distance and shielding protect you from dangerous exposure.

Radiant heat from the flame front of a bushfire scorches vegetation well in front of its path. Unhappily it kills animals in the open. People can also die if they do not seek protection.

Protect your exposed skin areas, cover up to shield yourself from radiant heat. Firefighters wear protective gear to survive - you should too.

Put on natural fibre long pants and long-sleeved woollen jumpers or close weave cotton shirts or overalls. Never synthetics. Wear good solid footwear and a sturdy hat. This is your survival suit.

As the fire front passes, radiant heat levels may become extreme so take cover inside your house.

Your clothing may not be sufficient to protect you for the five or ten minutes it takes for the fire to pass. But radiant heat cannot penetrate through solid objects. This means your best protection is inside a well prepared house or behind another solid object such as a brick wall.

For further information about preparations for the fire season, make a freecall to the CFA, on **1800 240 667**.

*Thank you to Victoria Gibbons from the Plenty Urban Fire Brigade for providing this article.*

Eltham District Historical Society (elthamhistory.org.au)

## New National Road Rules take effect December 1, 1999

Changes to the national road laws agreed to by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments take effect from December 1 1999. The new laws are designed to reduce confusion and improve road safety.

Council's Municipal Laws Coordinator, Phil Lovelace, said it is important that the community are aware of the changes as Council officers will begin issuing fines relating to the new laws from early in the new year. He said Council officers will continue to enforce current laws in the meantime.

Brochures explaining the changes are available from the Council office in Greensborough and local libraries.

Old Road Safety ( <i>Traffic</i> ) Regulations 1988	New Road Rules-Victoria after 1 December 1999
Was not an offence to park on a nature strip as Council had the authority to allow vehicles to do this	It will be an offence to park on any nature strip as there is no provision to allow Council to exempt it.
Stopping was prohibited for 18 metres on the approach and departure sides of a school crossing.	Stopping is prohibited within 20 metres of the approach side and 10 metres of the departure side of a school crossing.
Stopping was prohibited within 9 metres of intersection. (Intersection was determined by the property line.)	Stopping will be prohibited within 10 metres of the intersection. (Intersection is taken from the kerb).
Parking in a No Parking area was allowed for 15 minutes.	Parking in a No Parking area will be two (2) minutes.
Could park next to a continuous yellow line.	No stopping next to a continuous yellow line.
	Horse riders must wear helmets

## You and the millennium bug

A booklet prepared by the Commonwealth Government titled "You and the Millennium Bug" is available from Council to assist with community understanding of this complex issue.

The booklet explains what impact the so-called Y2K bug might have on banking, air travel, utilities, home computers and other services.

To obtain a copy of the booklet, please visit the Council office in Greensborough or one of Council's libraries or Living and Learning Centres. Alternatively, telephone 9433 3127 and we'll send you one in the post.

## Can you help over the Summer holidays?

Nillumbik Shire desperately needs 15 volunteers over the summer break to help run its meals on wheels and community transport programs.

If you have three or more hours to spare over the next month and a desire to be involved in this service to your community, please call Daryl Taylor on 9433 3136 for details.



## Disability Access Policy launched

**Nillumbik Shire Council's Disability Access Policy was launched by Cr Diane Bullen on December 3 - the International Day of People with a Disability.**

The Disability Access Policy was developed following consultation with Council's Disability Advisory Committee and a working group of Council staff.

Cr Bullen said the Policy is designed to give effect to the spirit and intent of the Disability Discrimination Act (1992).

She said the policy seeks to clearly outline Council's roles and responsibilities in relation to the Act and associated disability access issues.

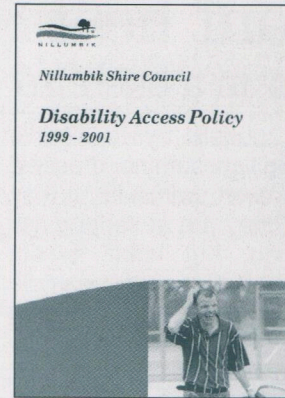
"Council will develop an Action Plan to ensure the effective implementation of the policy. The Policy and Action Plan will be integral to Council's strategic and economic planning and best management practice", Cr Bullen said.

"Through the Policy, Council pledges to develop appropriate conditions to enable people with disabilities to participate in services, programs and facilities which are accessible to all other community members."

Cr Bullen said Nillumbik Shire will ensure that residents with a disability are treated fairly in relation to other users of Council services.

"This means that Council will address existing and potential physical, social and cultural barriers to equal access and participation."

Cr Bullen said: "Most importantly, the implementation stages of the policy will provide learning opportunities for Council and staff and this experience will improve Council's capacity to fulfil its responsibilities to people with disabilities, their carers, families and visitors to the Shire."



Copies of the Disability Access Policy are available from the Council office

in Greensborough or by telephoning Council's Human Services Administration Officer, Kerrie Bernhard, on 9433 3146.

## Council responds to youth issues

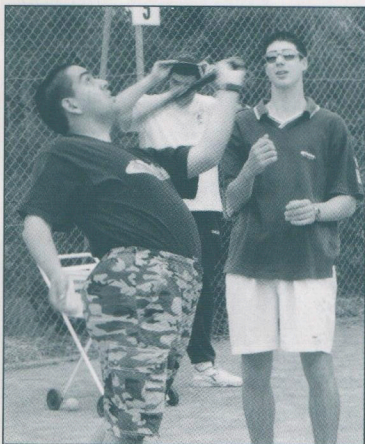
A series of community forums were held in St Andrews, Eltham, Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge earlier this month as part of Council's Youth Services Review designed to set priorities for youth in the Shire for the next three years.

Issues discussed at the forums included:

- What are the general needs of youth in Nillumbik Shire?
- What does living in Nillumbik Shire offer young people?
- What are the issues for families with young people?
- Are there particular groups within the youth community which have particular issues not being addressed?
- What should we as a community be doing about these needs/issues?
- What role should Council play in responding to these questions?

Council's Manager Human Services, Julius Peiker, said: "The focus of the Review is to develop a policy framework and strategic plan for the delivery of Council services to young people".

For more information about the review, please call Council's Youth Planning and Development Officer, Michael Smith, on 9433 3150.



## Anyone for Tennis?

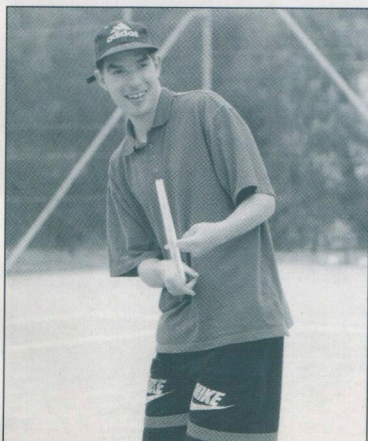
Fifteen young adults recently participated in one month's tennis coaching under a Shire sponsored program, designed to provide sporting opportunities for people with an intellectual disability.

The 'Access for All Abilities' (AAA) Inclusive Tennis Clubs project was held at the Diamond Creek Uniting Church Tennis Club, with coaching provided by Tracey Banes and Harry Ioannou.

Participants will continue to receive one-to-one or small group coaching and local tennis clubs will be provided with support in their efforts to include people with a disability in social or team competitions.

Community Development Officer, Mr Daryl Taylor, said "The Inclusive Tennis Clubs project was the first in a series of projects supported by the Shire to include people with a disability in a local mainstream sport, leisure or artistic pursuit of their choice."

Nillumbik Shire is partnering Banyule and Whittlesea City Councils in the project. For more information on 'Access for All Abilities', please contact Council's Community Development Officer, Daryl Taylor on 9433 3136.





## Bend of Islands a State Landcare winner

Minister for Environment and Conservation, The Hon Sherryl Garbutt, announced the winners of the 1999 Victorian Landcare and Farm Management Awards last month, and Nillumbik's Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA) has won the Bushcare Nature Conservation Award.

At the presentation ceremony, the Minister said the awards recognised the best models of landcare work in Victoria. She said winners are to be congratulated and thanked for their commitment to improving our land and water resources.

The Bushcare Nature Conservation Award is made to a community organisation, a group or a person for excellence and innovation in implementing nature conservation activities.

The Bend of Islands Environmental Living Zone is a unique example of how people can live in a natural bushland setting and protect biodiversity at the same time.

Council's Acting Manager Environment and Land Use Strategies, Stuart Menzies, said the Environmental Living Zone covers 400 hectares of bushland adjacent to the Yarra River at Christmas Hills.

"The land is zoned 'Environmental Living' under Nillumbik Shire's Planning Scheme and residents manage their own and other land for conservation purposes.

"The zone is of high biological diversity and residents make valuable contributions to the knowledge required to manage this type of bushland."

Resident Alan Bonny says the Bend of Islands could have been just another pleasant treed place to live, but "the commitment of the Bend of Island Conservation Association to maintain the environmental integrity of the area over many years is what makes it so special".

"Over the years, nearly all residents have served on the committee or on working parties."

Mr Bonny says the commitment that started 20 years ago is still strong today.

"The association is very active...We are involved in community weeding, roadside plantings, clean-ups of the Yarra River and Watsons Creek, propagating local native plants, monitoring flora and fauna and constantly being aware of the threats to the zone and taking action to stop them."

Mr Bonny said he valued the support of Nillumbik Council and the close working relationship between it and BICA.

BICA and the other state finalists will now progress to the national Landcare awards to be presented next year.



Carol and Alan Bonny with Felicity Faris (middle) after the award presentation

## Tribunal orders reinstatements of native vegetation

Nillumbik Shire Council has successfully obtained an enforcement order through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to reinstate vegetation removed illegally by a property owner in Eltham.

Council's VCAT application related to a medium-sized property from which a substantial amount of vegetation had been removed, including many mature trees.

Nillumbik's Manager Development Approvals, Michael Bismire, said Council could have applied for a financial remedy through the courts, but decided instead to pursue the matter through the VCAT because of the possibility of tree reinstatement as a remedy.

He said: "When you see environmental devastation on this scale, there is only one truly effective remedy and that is to replace the lost trees."

VCAT upheld Nillumbik Council's application for reinstatement of the trees. The Tribunal ordered the property owner to reinstate the vegetation over a three to five year period under the direction of a professional arborist, at the landowners cost.

Mr Bismire said "It is always necessary to ask the Council if planning approval is required before commencing any work as the remedies can be considerable."

"Works undertaken without planning approval are subject to review by the VCAT and/or the courts and prosecution may result."



## Community pressure achieves results

Pressure from a Nillumbik community group has resulted in a federal government grant to construct a roundabout at an accident Blackspot in Wattle Glen.

Concept designs for the roundabout to be located at the corner of the Main Hurstbridge Road and the Wattle Glen-Kangaroo Ground Road in Wattle Glen have been submitted to VicRoads for approval. Work on the project is expected to commence in the New Year.

The federal government allocated \$260,000 through its Blackspot funding program for construction of the roundabout in response to a proposal developed between the Wattle Glen Residents' Association, Nillumbik Council and VicRoads.

Council's Manager Infrastructure Development, Greg Scott, said the federal government understood the need for the roundabout and associated intersection works due to concerns about safety at the location.

He said there have been several accidents at and near the intersection in recent years and there is a need for improved pedestrian access across the Main Hurstbridge Road to the Wattle Glen railway station.



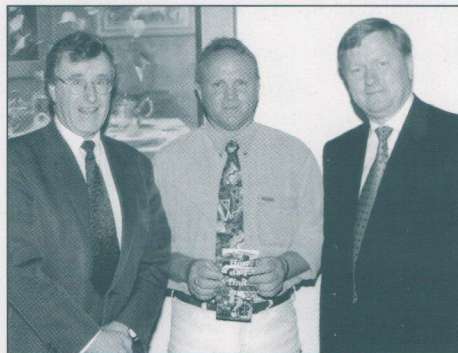
Wattle Glen Resident's Association President, Chris Doherty, and Wattle Glen Fire Brigade Captain, John Munday, at the trouble spot

## Minister launches brochure

Local MP and State Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Andre Haermeyer, launched Nillumbik Council's 'How Do I Find You' brochure at a function held last month.

The brochure, which has been distributed with this newsletter, is part of Council's community education campaign which aims to raise awareness of emergency procedures and assist emergency services in identifying property numbers.

In launching the brochure, the Minister praised Nillumbik for its emergency management program and developing the brochure. He said he hopes that other Councils will follow the Nillumbik initiative.



Mayor Bill Penrose and Emergency Risk Coordinator, Norman Golgerth with Local MP, Andre Haermeyer at the launch

## Council to spend \$624,000 on road resealing

As part of Council's Capital Works program, the following roads will undergo patching and/or resealing works during the summer months:

### Eltham

Bible Street, Dalton Street, Pitt Street, Luck Street, Allendale Road, Beard Street, Grove Street, Arthur Street/Davies Drive, Kerby Street, Porter Street, Godalmin Street, Ryans Road, Nathan Road, Zig Zag Road, Dudley Street;

**Diamond Creek:** Broadgully Road;

**Research:** Main Service Road (past Candelbark Court), Bells Hill Road, Mount Pleasant Road;

**Wattle Glen:** Wilson Road, Warrington Crescent, Bateson Road, Lorimer Road, Pretty Hill Lane, Millers Road;

**Hurstbridge:** Arthurs Creek Road/Haleys Gully Road junction; Wattletree Road, Acacia Road, Flatrock Road, Cherrytree Road;

**Strathewan:** Cottlesbridge Strathewan Road;

**Yarrambat:** Worns Lane;

**Nutfield:** Bannons Lane North;

**Smiths Gully:** Smiths Gully Road;

**Warrandyte:** Danita Drive, Pigeon Bank Lane, Menzies Road.

Please contact the Environment and Engineering Customer Services Officers on 9433 3234 for any further information.

In other roadworks programs, Nillumbik Shire Council has been successful in obtaining \$799,000 in State and Federal roads funding for the 1999/2000 year.

Major projects to benefit from this funding include:

- Shoulder sealing on sections of the Eltham-Yarra Glen Road \$190,000
- Guardrail on Ryans Road \$62,000
- Roundabout at Heidleberg-Kinglake Road/Kangaroo Ground-Wattle Glen Road \$260,000
- Roundabout at Yan Yean Road/Kurra Road \$260,000.