


July - August 2009

Nillumbik

news



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Civic Centre:

Civic Drive, Greensborough
Monday 8.30am-6.30pm
(except January – close at 5pm)
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.

Nillumbik News is published as part of Council's commitment to improving communication and consultation with residents. This publication is published six times per year and is delivered to all households. It is also available on Council's website, at libraries and from community information stands throughout the Shire.

This publication is printed in Nillumbik, using vegetable inks on 100% Australian-made recycled paper.

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Front cover: Julie Sharp, Hurstbridge CFA volunteer, at Council's volunteer family day on 15 May 2009. Photo taken by Silvi Glattaeur.

Photographs on page 2-3: Volunteers share their inspirational stories and spend the day with their families and friends. Photos taken by Silvi Glattaeur.

This business powered by



On target for a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions this year.



Volunteers share

In appreciation of the extraordinary volunteer efforts in Nillumbik, particularly following the Black Saturday bushfires, Council held a volunteer family day on 15 May in Hurstbridge.



The event coincided with National Volunteer Week, 11-17 May; and gave Council the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts made by Nillumbik individuals, organisations, emergency services volunteers, groups and businesses, both generally and throughout the relief and recovery periods, following Black Saturday.

Volunteers who have been working tirelessly as a result of the bushfire tragedy were thanked for all their ongoing support and were given a custom-made *Nillumbik Bushfire Volunteer 2009* badge.

Volunteers were encouraged to share their stories in the Council marquee by recording their memories – by writing, through visual art; or by recording their story in the audio or video booths.

Many inspirational stories including the excerpts featured in this article were shared on the day, and will help create a rich tapestry of the volunteer effort in our great community. Council aims to use these stories, and others collected at future celebrations and volunteering events in Nillumbik to encourage volunteerism in the Shire.

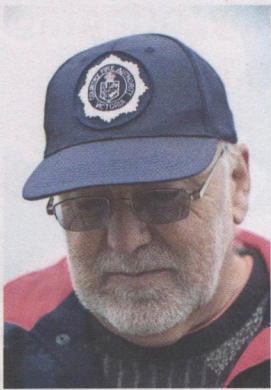
If you have been involved in the bushfire volunteer effort and didn't make it to our family day, you can fill-in your volunteer details, record your experience and collect your commemorative volunteer bushfire badge from the following locations:

- Council's Civic Centre Customer Service counter, Civic Drive, Greensborough
- Living & Learning Nillumbik – Eltham, Diamond Creek and Panton Hill.

Our sincere thanks to everyone in our community who continues to go the extra mile, your efforts are invaluable!



their inspirational stories



'...It was a hard, emotional time for us all, but we were happy to sacrifice our spare time to help people who didn't deserve to go through such a tragic time in their life. It could've happened to any one of us - we were the lucky ones...'

'...Meeting people who had been affected and helping them collect goods was sad but rewarding. It was interesting to hear how each person felt that there were a lot of people worse off than them, even though they too had lost everything...'

'...Having attended as a Red Cross volunteer at the Red Cross Emergency Centre on the night of the fires, and after experiencing the distress first-hand and witnessing the devastation and shock caused to those personally affected, my only response was that I just had to do whatever I could to assist them in any way possible...'



'...I am very lucky to live in this community and to be part of the recovery after the fires. I'm reminded of the fires every time I drive

past the road signs to Kinglake, but as the memories of fear and shock I felt during the fires is starting to leave me, these are replaced by feelings of gratitude that I live in a community as sharing and caring as this...'

'...There was, and still is, an overwhelming need (unlike anything I have felt before) to be able to do something to help those affected by the bushfires. The ability to contribute in a small way, by making sandwiches and sorting goods, was a truly fantastic experience that filled me with a true sense of purpose and community spirit...'



Council continues to publish its bushfire recovery community bulletin. To obtain your copy, please contact Council's Recovery Coordination Centre (RCC) on 9433 3111, or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Bushfire recovery information, where you can download the latest bulletin.

Alternatively, pick up a hard copy from the Civic Centre, St Andrews Recovery Centre, Strathewen Recovery Centre, Eltham Food Bank, St Andrews General Store or

Hurstbridge post office. If you have something you would like to contribute to the bushfire recovery community bulletin, please contact the RCC on 9433 3111.

Council receives monthly reports at its Ordinary Meeting of Council - held on the last Tuesday of each month - detailing actions in relation to policy reviews, clean-up work and preparations for the next fire season. These reports can be accessed from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > About Council > Agendas 2009.

Our People and Communities

Diamond Creek project comes closer to reality

A total of \$2 million of Victorian Government funding towards the Diamond Creek multipurpose facility was announced in May, bringing the much-needed \$10.3 million stadium one step closer to reality.

Early in May a surprise \$1 million State Budget allocation for the project was revealed by the Minister for Sport and Recreation, James Merlino, and State Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green.

Several weeks later the Minister for Community Development, Peter Batchelor visited Diamond Creek to announce that Council's \$1 million application to the Community Support Fund had been successful.

Nillumbik Shire Mayor, Cr Bo Bendtsen said: 'This is fantastic; we are only \$1 million away from our \$10.3 million target.'

'It has taken four years to get to this point, but we are 90 per cent of the way there. This \$2 million funding means we are one step closer to getting this stadium built.'

The announcement brings the state government's cash contribution to \$2.5 million. Council has committed \$3.3 million towards the project, with the federal government providing \$3.5 million.



An artist's impression of the Diamond Creek multipurpose facility.

Located on the Main Road between Diamond Creek East Primary School and Diamond Valley College, the facility will feature a multi-use design incorporating performance and auditorium space to be used by sport, education and community groups.

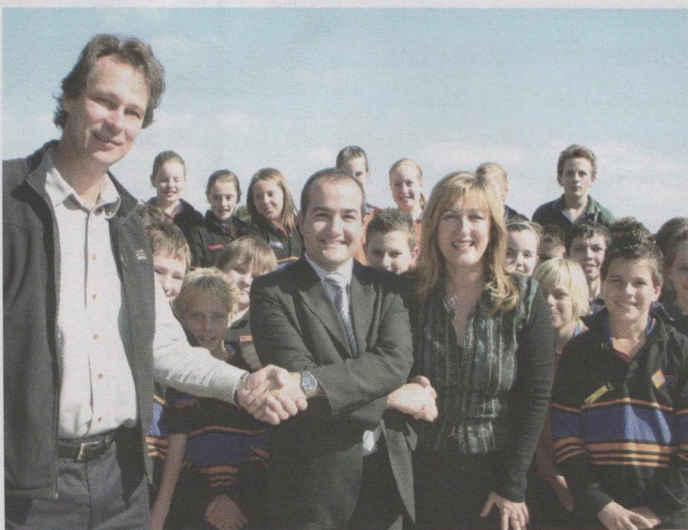
Council has been negotiating with the Hurstbridge/Diamond Creek **Community Bank®** branches to secure major sponsorship for the proposed facility.

A fundraising campaign has been developed by a local committee to raise the remaining funds through donations and a community banking model which involves individuals and households pledging to move their banking business to the Hurstbridge/Diamond Creek **Community Bank®** branches. Profits from the banking business services loans will be taken out for community projects.

Mr Barry Henwood, Chairman of Valley Community Financial Services Hurstbridge/Diamond Creek, said the local branch was happy to support local projects.

'We're always happy to get on board for local projects with benefits to the local community and the Diamond Creek Multipurpose Facility clearly fits that criteria.'

Davis Langdon Pty Ltd has been appointed the Project Manager for the stadium to provide Council with assistance and advice on design, procurement, tender acceptance and construction of the stadium.



From left: Mayor Councillor Bo Bendtsen, Minister for Sport and Recreation, James Merlino, and State Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green; joined by Diamond Creek school children who celebrated the funding announcement last May.

Completed leisure projects



Drought-proofed tennis courts at Wattle Glen

In 2008, Council was successful in obtaining a \$60,000 grant as part of the *Community Facilities Funding Program* from Sport and Recreation Victoria towards a project to convert two red porous courts to sand-filled artificial grass at Kangaroo Ground Tennis Club, Wattle Glen Tennis Club and Eltham Tennis Club. Transforming these courts has eliminated the use of drinking water which was required to maintain red porous courts. The project was jointly funded by the Victorian Government, Nillumbik Shire Council and the three local clubs. Works at Wattle Glen Tennis Club has recently been completed with the additional assistance of a \$20,000 sponsorship grant from the Hurstbridge/Diamond Creek **Community Bank**®, which has now finalised the combined project at all three clubs.



New shelter at Diamond Hills Reserve

The recently constructed shelter is the latest project to be completed at Diamond Hills Reserve. The shelter improves the reserve's amenities with an additional *Access for All* rest room; storage room for resident clubs – Plenty Cricket Club and Apollo Park Auskick – and a shelter area overlooking the oval and playground areas. The Plenty Cricket Club contributed \$8,000 towards the project, with Council pledging the remaining \$79,500.



Netball courts resurfaced

Council has recently completed resurfacing courts five, six, seven and eight at the Diamond Creek netball courts. The works included the installation of a subsurface cushioning system to reduce the hardness of the court surface, in an effort to reduce the impact of injury. The latest works complement courts one, two, three and four which were completed in early 2008. The total cost of the project was \$74,000 with the Diamond Creek Force Netball Association contributing \$7,400 and Council contributing \$66,600.

Funding boost for local sports facilities

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, James Merlino made two grant announcements under Sport and Recreation Victoria's 2009-2010 Community Facility Funding Program in Eltham in May, giving local sports clubs the opportunity to improve their facilities.

Members of Eltham Rugby Union Club, Eltham Lower Cricket Club and Eltham Lacrosse Club, joined Mayor Cr Bo Bendtsen, State Member for Eltham, Steve Herbert and the Minister, where the clubs were awarded the funding boost from the state government under the *Minor Facilities* category within the funding program.

Eltham Rugby Union Football Club received \$60,000 from the state government, along with \$65,000 from Council to install new floodlights at the Bridge Street Ground. The club has raised \$15,000 to make their \$140,000 project a reality.

A \$195,000 multipurpose training facility will benefit Eltham Lacrosse and Eltham Lower Park Cricket Clubs. Council has contributed \$75,000; the state government has committed \$60,000 of funding toward the project; and the clubs have made a combined contribution of \$60,000 to see the multipurpose training facility come to fruition.

Council received a \$30,312 grant from the Victorian Government under the *Rural Seasonal Pool Renewal* category. Matched by Council, this project will see the installation of pool blankets and a shade structure for the main pool at the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool.



The shade structure will provide a safer environment, by reducing UV exposure to all patrons. The pool blankets will reduce water evaporation and retain heat in the pool considerably reducing the facility's energy consumption.

Along with members of each of these sports clubs, local school children, families and the entire Nillumbik community will benefit from the improvements to these local recreation facilities.



From left: Minister for Sport and Recreation, James Merlino and Member for Eltham, Steve Herbert, joined by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Helen Coleman and Mayor, Councillor Bo Bendtsen at Eltham Lower Park.

Listening systems keep residents in the loop

Council recently introduced a hearing loop system, which supports individuals who have a hearing disability, to take part in Council meetings and events in the Council Chamber.

The hearing loop complements a range of assisted listening devices now available for use within and outside the Civic Centre. These include a Hearing Loop Pad which is installed at the Customer Service counter; portable devices suitable for one-on-one meetings; and a Phonic Ear Kit for group meetings where one or more people attending have difficulty hearing. All of these devices work for people who currently use hearing aids which have T-switch (telecoil switch), or for individuals who find it difficult to understand speech over background noise. The Phonic Ear Kit is also available for use by registered community groups for specific meetings and events.

For more information about the range of assisted listening systems available to Nillumbik residents, or to book the Phonic Ear Kit, please contact Ellen Naismith, MetroAccess Project Officer, on 9433 3361; or contact Council by accessing the National Relay Service – if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment – on 133 677 (TTY users), or 1300 555 727 – if you use a regular handset but sometimes find it difficult for others to understand you. Once you are



Jacqui demonstrates how easy it is to stay tuned with the personal Audio Maxi device.

connected to the National Relay Service, ask to be connected to 9433 3361 and ask for Ellen Naismith.

Swine flu update

Cases of Human Swine Influenza (H1N1 Influenza 09) virus have been identified throughout the world, including Australia. The H1N1 Influenza is a respiratory disease caused by a new Influenza virus.

What is H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu)?

The Swine Flu virus is contracted the same way as common seasonal flu viruses. Flu viruses spread from person to person through coughing, sneezing or by coming into contact with something infected with the flu virus and then touching your mouth or nose.

Symptoms of Swine Flu are similar to those of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Like seasonal flu, Swine Flu may increase the severity of underlying chronic medical conditions. People with Swine Flu are considered potentially contagious as long as symptoms persist, and for up to a week following the onset of illness.

What can I do to prepare and protect myself?

If you have been diagnosed with Human Swine Flu, you are required to quarantine yourself at home for at least three days.

The Emergency Pantry List is a suggested listing of foods that may be required for an extended stay in your home. The list is available from www.pantrylist.com.au.

Personal hygiene remains vital in reducing the risk of contracting Swine Flu. As a precaution, everyone should follow common seasonal flu hygiene procedures.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw the tissue in a plastic lined rubbish bin after you use it.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze, and before meals. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- If you have Influenza, avoid public places and close contact with others, especially children.

Further information about Swine Flu can be obtained by contacting the National Influenza Hotline on 180 20 07, or by contacting Council's Public Health Unit on 9433 3340.

Threads of Friendship

A warm gift for Nillumbik's bushfire survivors from our neighbours across the border

As a gesture of friendship across state borders, members of the community from Bega Valley Shire in New South Wales, have made and donated more than 100 beanies for bushfire-affected residents in Nillumbik.

The project was established by Gaye Epstein, of the Alice Springs Annual Beanie Festival, and Bega Valley Shire Council's Cultural Services Coordinator Penny Amherst; who recently exhibited the touring 10th Anniversary Alice Springs Beanie display in their regional gallery.

To coincide with the exhibition, individuals and groups created hand-crafted, decorated beanies which were on display at Council libraries in Bega, Merimbula and Eden during May. At the end of the exhibition, the beanies were packaged up and sent to Nillumbik where they will be on display at Diamond Valley Library during July and at Eltham Library during August.

Free workshops will be held to create another 100 beanies for distribution.

Felting workshop: Wednesday 15 July, 12.30pm-2pm
Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough

Knitting workshop: Saturday 15 August, 2pm-4pm
Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham

For workshop details, contact Diamond Valley Library on 9434 3809 and Eltham Library on 9439 9266.



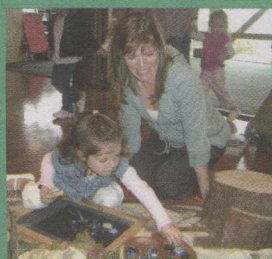
Bill Ducker and Cathy Blake of Brogo, wore their beanies to the opening of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery of the travelling exhibition, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival.

To donate a hand-made traditional or fun wearable-art adult's or children's beanie to the *Threads of Friendship* Project, contact Irene Pagram, Coordinator Arts and Culture, on 9433 3132.

Hey kids, look at what's coming to St Andrews, Panton Hill and North Warrandyte each week

In addition to the mobile library service to St Andrews, Panton Hill and North Warrandyte each week, there will be activities for children – which have a focus on numeracy and literacy – using inexpensive, recycled, natural and open-ended materials. *Reverse Art* supplies will be available for families to fill a bag free of charge.

Come along and get some ideas on how to create interesting, engaging and educational play spaces for your children in your own home with limited fuss and mess! There will be a free take home activity kit for children each week.



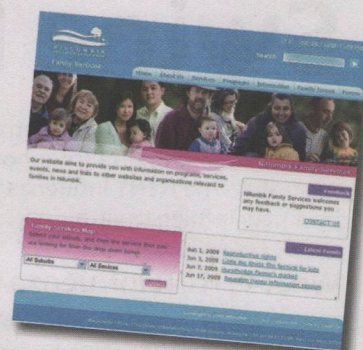
For more information about any of these Family Services programs, contact Narelle Hart, Family Services Project Officer, on 9433 3135 (Tuesday and Wednesday) or Narelle.Hart@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

New website for families

Council's Family Services Unit is pleased to announce the launch of a new website for families in the Shire of Nillumbik.

The new website www.nillumbikfamilies.com will provide information on programs, current news and events, things to see and do, support services and resources around family issues and links to other websites and organisations relevant to families. Also featured is an events calendar, a community directory and map of local services; and a forum section for online discussions around a range of topics.

Please take a look at our new website and let us know what you think! The site will be regularly updated and further developed based on community need and feedback. Visit www.nillumbikfamilies.com or phone Kerrie Bernhard, Community Services Support Officer on 9433 3149 and tell us how we can improve this resource for you.



Pram walking groups

Are you a parent with young children who wants to get out of the house, get energised, chat with other parents and improve your health and fitness? Then join one of our hassle-free pram walks in Nillumbik.

Walks leave at 9.15am for one hour from:

Hurstbridge (Tuesday)

Hurstbridge Community Centre, Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge (Melway 185 J9)

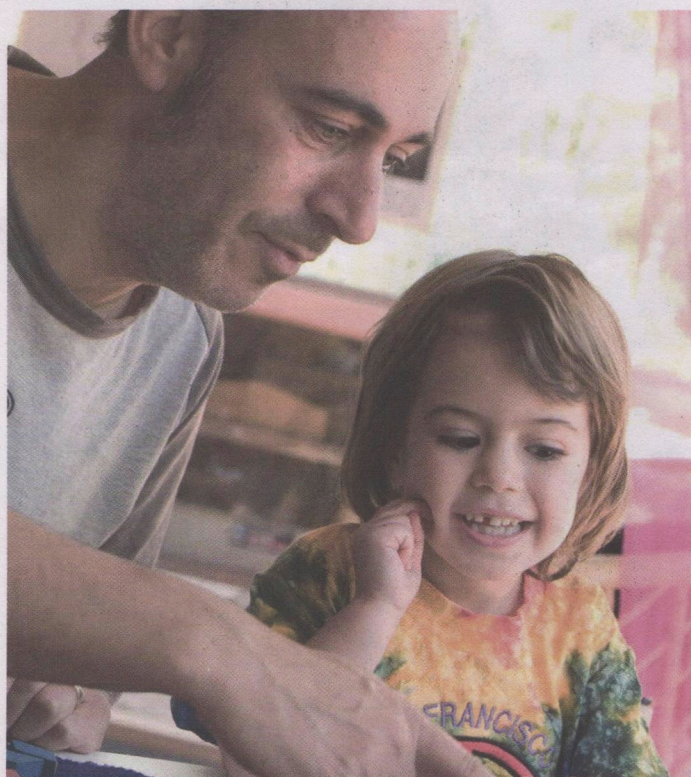
Eltham (Friday)

Eltham Library steps, Panther Place, Eltham (Melway 21 J 5)

Diamond Creek (Thursday)

Playgroup carpark, Diamond Street, Diamond Creek (Melway 11 K6)

If you are interested in other days or areas; or would like more information about this program please contact Narelle Hart, Family Services Project Officer on 9433 3135 (Tuesday and Wednesday).



Playgroup for dads

A playgroup for dads and their children runs every Tuesday from 9am to 12noon at Hohnes Road Playhouse in Eltham. If you're at home with your children on a Tuesday, come along and meet other local dads and their children.

Please contact Narelle Hart, Family Services Project Officer on 9433 3135 (Tuesday and Wednesday) for further information.

Rock the Hill Committee

Rock the Hill is looking for people who are interested in:

- helping book new bands
- doing artwork and design for posters
- promoting our events across the Shire and beyond
- helping with budgets and funding applications
- assisting with sound and lighting
- being a backstage manager and organising the bands
- taking charge on stage and being the official MC
- sharing your ideas for future R.T.H events.

For more information please contact Denzil Bentley, Outreach Worker, on 9433 3327, or Denzil.Bentley@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



Our Environment

Plant a tree for Nillumbik

For the past 14 years National Tree Day has been held annually and is a dedicated day for all Australians to actively contribute towards their natural environment by planting native trees and shrubs at a Tree Day site in their local area.

Join Council and enhance the vegetation of the Diamond Creek, in Hurstbridge, to establish habitat for native birds and wildlife, while providing a great opportunity for our community to improve their local environment.

When: Sunday 2 August 2009 from 10am-12noon, followed by a barbecue lunch.

Where: Fergusons Paddock (West bank of the Diamond Creek), 14 Arthurs Creek Road, Hurstbridge (Melway 185 J8).

Anyone is welcome to take part. Simply turn up to the site, fill in your details and start planting! Please bring along a pair of gloves, hat and sunscreen.

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in association with Toyota and AMP Foundation.

Planet Ark is calling on schools, community groups and individuals in Nillumbik to get involved in National Tree Day on Sunday 2 August, planting indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses on the day.

For further information, contact Tim Krasevac, Environmental Works Officer, on 9433 3715.



Sign up for *Fringe Focus*

Fringe Focus is Council's environment newsletter, which features articles about sustainability, biodiversity and land management; and provides updates on Council's projects, community groups, and upcoming environment events. If you would like to receive *Fringe Focus* via email, along with regular

updates on environment events and grants, please contact Alison Hickey, Environmental Planner, on 9433 3328 or Alison.Hickey@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

You can also download *Fringe Focus* from Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Environment > Education/Programs > *Fringe Focus*.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can contact Alison to request a printed version of *Fringe Focus*. A limited number of copies are also available from our community information stands.

Free Sustainable Design Assessment for bushfire-affected homes

Council is offering a free sustainable design assessment on the design of new homes being built following the bushfires.

The assessment will be undertaken by Council's Sustainability Officers using the STEPS tool.

A STEPS assessment provides an analysis of the environmental sustainability of your house design, by analysing material selection, appliances, water and energy use of your design. Through the STEPS assessment you will be able to compare the environmental sustainability of your planned home with environmental standards.

Council can provide a summary report on your design in terms of environmental sustainability and offer some design considerations.

The assessment and report will be undertaken in line with relevant Building Commissions Guidelines and Australian Standards for bushfire-prone areas.

This will be a unique opportunity to have your house design assessed for environmental sustainability while ensuring appropriate building materials are selected.



Further information can be sourced from Council's Sustainability Officers Kim Wright or Jess Rae on 9433 3214.

Kangaroo Ground War Memorial restorations

Council has received \$4,000 from the Victorian Government to restore the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park and Tower of Remembrance.



Council, a newly-formed Friends Group and the existing Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower Advisory Committee will restore and maintain the Memorial Park.

The government funding adds to the \$10,000 pledge from Council, the estimated \$10,080 worth of labour from the Friends Group and \$1,200, which has been donated by the Eltham Rotary Club.

The funding towards this project will improve access to the Memorial Park, address landscaping and maintenance needs, including the replacement of ageing cypress trees. Damaged fixtures, facilities and signage will be repaired or replaced and interpretative panels, positioned inside the tower will be replaced.

Works are expected to be completed by Armistice Day, 11 November 2011.

Our Economy

Support for bushfire-affected businesses

Many businesses in Nillumbik have been impacted by the fires. This may have been directly through loss of equipment, stock, crops, storage and records among other things. It may have been indirectly resulting in a loss of trade.

Nillumbik Shire Council is facilitating a project which aims to match practical assistance available from other Nillumbik business people, with the needs of businesses recovering from the fires. The project also assists business owners with information on appropriate support services specifically catering to small business recovery.

Any business which has been negatively impacted in any way by the recent fires is encouraged to contact Council's business mentor, Daryl Brooke, to discuss their particular issues. Daryl can be contacted on 0433 948 258.

Any business that would like to offer support to bushfire-affected businesses is also invited to contact the mentor. Relevant assistance can include, but is not limited to:

- temporary portable storage space (e.g. shipping containers)
- business consulting services
- work space
- staff
- office facilities
- business network support.

A forum for fire-affected businesses will be held in late July. The forum will provide information, access to business support agencies and an opportunity to discuss issues. For more information including details of all support services available, go to www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Business & Tourism > Bushfire assistance for businesses or call Julie French, Coordinator Tourism and Business Development on 9433 3315.

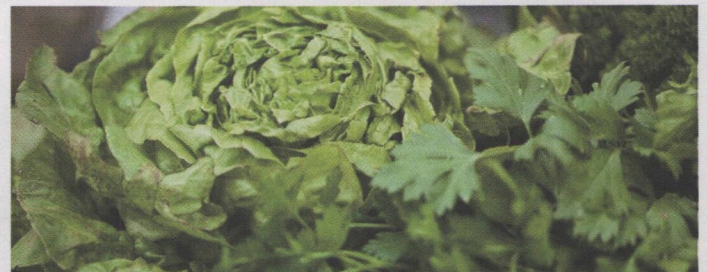
Council's Economic Development Strategy

Council is about to start extensive public consultations to develop an Economic Development Strategy for the next four years.

The current strategy expired on 30 June 2009 and while some actions will be ongoing during the next period, a major review of the whole strategy is about to begin.

The review process will involve a series of workshops together with extensive public consultation and any member of the community, businesses and trader groups may participate in the consultation process that will draw on a number of recent economic studies that are relevant to Nillumbik.

Calls for registrations of interest are expected to occur during July 2009; however leading up to this, enquiries may be directed to Julie French, Coordinator Tourism and Business Development, on 9433 3315, or Neville Slade, Manager Major Projects and Business Services, on 9433 3129.



Farmers' market goes from strength to strength

The Hurstbridge Farmers' Market has grown from its successful launch in April. It now includes more than 30 stalls selling a delicious range of fresh seasonal produce. Market dates for the rest of 2009 are:

2 August
6 September
4 October
1 November
6 December



Opening times: 8.30am to 1pm
Fergusons Paddock, Arthurs Creek Road, Hurstbridge
Enquiries: 0414 703 186
www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au

Our Council

Financial relief for bushfire-affected residents and business owners

Nillumbik Shire Council has decided to waive rates, building and planning fees for those residents and businesses that were severely affected by the February bushfires.

Council will waive rates on a pro-rata basis for the five months up to 30 June 2009 for individuals and business owners whose residence or business premises was destroyed by the fires. The waiver only includes properties that were uninhabitable following the fires. Properties with minor damage only are not eligible for the waiver.

The Victorian Government has made changes to the planning schemes for all Victorian councils since the February bushfires. If you are a resident or business owner who lost your home or business premises in the fires and want to rebuild you do not require a planning permit from Council.

The new provisions introduced by the state government only affect the planning process, not the relevant building approvals. It is recommended that you speak with your building surveyor about your building proposal, as the appropriate Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) may affect where and what you want to rebuild.

Residents and business owners are required to prepare a Site Plan (instead of a planning permit) to be discussed and later assessed by Council's Bushfire Rebuilding Team. The team is made up of a Town Planner, Building Surveyor, Environmental Health Officer, Environmental Planner and Development Engineer. The team will also discuss the new BAL building regulations and provision of septic tanks.

There are no fees associated with the assessment of a Site Plan. To meet the new planning exemptions (among other requirements), your Site Plan must be submitted to Council by 30 April 2012 (after this date normal planning permit requirements will apply).

To find out whether you are eligible for a rates waiver; or a building or planning fee exemption, please contact Council on 9433 3111.

Upgrade for Civic Centre

Council has received \$3 million from the Australian Government's *Community Infrastructure Program* to upgrade the Civic Centre in Greensborough, with Council contributing an additional \$1.5 million to the upgrade.

Adequate facilities are imperative to the effective and efficient delivery of Council services, governance, ceremonial and community engagement activities for the Nillumbik community.

The refurbishment and extension project will include:

- an extension of the main office areas and civic/public functions areas
- the installation of additional air conditioning, as well as relevant plant and equipment
- re-plan and refurbishment of the existing office accommodation
- improvements to the environmental performance of the building.

The Civic Centre was constructed in 1972, and does not meet modern-day standards. Council needs to upgrade the building to ensure that it provides a safe and productive workplace for its staff. Throughout its history, the building has been reconfigured and adapted in an ad-hoc manner as the staff population has increased – now doubling its original 1972 population.

The design phase is expected to be completed late September 2009, with construction works beginning in late November to early December this year.

Council recently called for submissions for the design of the project, and has appointed Spowers Architects.

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. Further details of these, and more events are listed on www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au >What's On. Organisations are encouraged to add their events – click on the Add event button on the top righthand 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 and image can also be included.



Sharing experiences of Black Saturday

Come and share your experiences and photos from Black Saturday with others at Diamond Valley Library. Learn how to record your stories online on the Wikinorthia website.

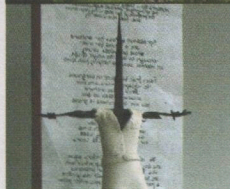
Until Friday 17 July
Diamond Valley Library
Phone 9434 3809 for booking details.



Fruit tree pruning workshops

Watch demonstrations and gain practical experience in pruning deciduous fruit trees and berry vines to maximise their health and productivity. Learn the why, when and how of pruning. Bring along your gloves, secateurs and lunch.

Saturday 18 July, 10am-3pm
Edendale Farm, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melway 22 A1)
\$20 (includes morning tea)
Phone Living & Learning Nillumbik on 9433 3744 to book your place

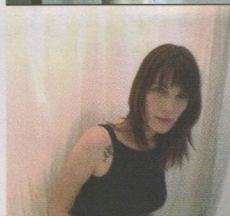


Ekphrastically Yours by Synergy

(Fee Sievers, Brett Ditchfield, Ona Henderson, Syd Tunn)

This exhibition is a collaboration between poet and writer Fee Sievers, sculptor Brett Ditchfield, and visual artists Ona Henderson and Syd Tunn. The project seeks to revive the ancient Greek practice of *ekphrasis*, where poets wrote in direct response to visual art and craft.

Until 2 August
Eltham Library Community Gallery,
Panther Place, Eltham
(Melway 21 J5)



Booklovers Festival

This festival celebrates the launch of Yarra Plenty Regional Library's inaugural Bedside Reads program. If you're a booklover who would like to get together with a group of like-minded people and well-known, award-winning authors on a regular basis to chat about your favourite read, then this program is definitely for you! For more information visit the Yarra Plenty Reads blog at <http://yarraplentyreads.blogspot.com>.

Monday 27 July – Thursday 30 July
Eltham Library and Diamond Valley Library



Red Chair – arts and artists: Lindy Allen, Regional Arts Victoria

Lindy Allen is the Director of Regional Arts Victoria, the peak Victorian agency resourcing, supporting, initiating, facilitating and celebrating the arts in regional Victoria. Lindy will talk about the role of RAV in light of the recent bushfires, as well as give an overview of funding available through RAV. Wine and cheese provided.

5 August, 7pm
St Andrews Reserve Hall, Proctor Street, St Andrews – opposite St Andrews Hotel (Melway 394 F11).
Entry is free.
RSVP essential to 9433 3359 or artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



Aspects by Anne Melloy

Anne's love of the immediacy and liquidity of watercolours is certainly apparent in her land and seascapes presented in this exhibition. A sense of great tranquillity pervades her work.

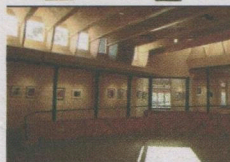
Exhibition Opening: 8 August, 2pm
6 August – 6 September
Eltham Library Community Gallery,
Panther Place, Eltham (Melway 21 J5)



Earthworks by Claydreamers

Earthworks presents a diversity of pottery works including abstract and functional forms that display textures embellished in rich glazes, as well as *Raku* and wood fired pieces in earthenware, stoneware and porcelain.

Exhibition Opening: 15 August, 1pm
6 August – 6 September
Eltham Library Community Gallery,
Panther Place, Eltham (Melway 21 J5)



Call for entries currently open

Eltham Library Community Gallery 2010 exhibitions program

The gallery at Eltham Library features regular three-week exhibitions of artwork by Nillumbik artists. Application forms and guidelines are available from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Contact Catherine Dinkelmann,
Cultural Development Officer, on
9433 3126 or Catherine.Dinkelmann@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.
Entries close 11 September, 4pm.



Call for 2010 entries currently open

Laughing Waters Artist-in-Residence Program

Nillumbik Shire Council in partnership with Parks Victoria invite contemporary artists to apply for a residency to live and work in either *Birrarung*, a heritage mud brick house, or *River Bend*, a newly launched residence with spectacular views of the Yarra River. Application forms and guidelines are available from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

For more information contact
Catherine Dinkelmann, Cultural
Development Officer on 9433 3126
or email Catherine.Dinkelmann@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.
Entries close 11 September, 4pm.

Business as usual at Council's major leisure centres

Council recently tendered for the management and operation of its major leisure centres – Eltham Leisure Centre, Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre and the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool.

Following a thorough tender process, Council awarded the management contract for Eltham Leisure Centre to the YMCA, for a five year term beginning 1 July 2009.

The YMCA has managed Eltham Leisure Centre for Council since 1996. The Centre recently received a \$4.5 million facelift, \$4m of which was contributed by Council and \$500,000 from the state government. The revamp involved a redevelopment of the health club, creche, cafe, reception area and the addition of new health suites.

The Centre is an integral leisure and recreation facility for Nillumbik and will continue to offer a wide variety of programs and services aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of our community.

Council has awarded the management of the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre and the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool to Belgravia Leisure.

Belgravia Leisure has over 20 years experience in the development and operation of sports centres and will



One of Eltham Leisure Centre's longest serving members, Lyla Brown of Research, enjoys her weights class.

commence their contract with Council on 1 July 2009 for a five year period.

Nillumbik and Banyule join forces for Bolton Street safety

Nillumbik Shire Council and Banyule City Council have jointly funded the installation of pedestrian operated signals in Bolton Street Eltham.

The traffic lights provide a significant increase in safety for pedestrians, particularly for students walking to Eltham High School who regularly cross busy Bolton Street.

Around 20,000 vehicles travel on Bolton Street daily. The new traffic signals will ensure pedestrians can walk safely from Banyule to Nillumbik and will improve connectivity, providing them with safer access to facilities such as Eltham Leisure Centre, sporting fields, shops, community facilities and local schools.

Nillumbik Shire Council contributed \$85,000 of Commonwealth *Roads to Recovery* funding towards the \$170,000 project.

Nillumbik and Banyule Council's next joint road safety project will be the installation of pedestrian-operated signals in Aqueduct Road, St Helena.

Customised emergency cards

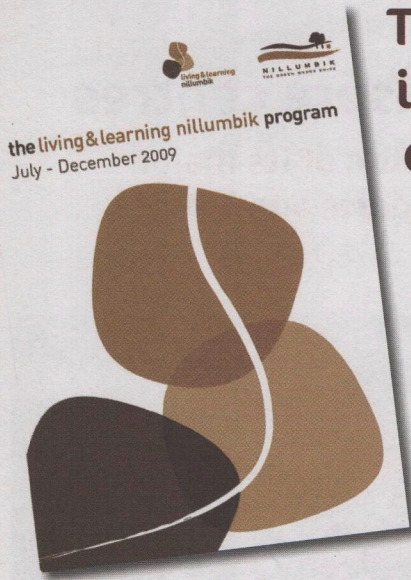


Customised emergency cards have been developed by Council's MetroAccess and Inclusion Unit. A range of cards are available and can be customised to meet individual requirements, such as displaying large font or picture-based emergency information.

The ID card is the latest addition to the card range, particularly useful for parents or carers who have children with a disability or for people with limited communication. These cards are business card-size, made from durable plastic and contain information specific to the individual. Bag tags are also available for school bags, wheelchairs or walking frames.

If you or someone you know would benefit from a free customised emergency card, please contact Jacqui Pasinis, MetroAccess and Inclusion Project Officer, on 9433 3223 or Jacqui.Pasinis@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Living & Learning Nillumbik - Eltham, Panton Hill and Diamond Creek



The new Living & Learning program is out now, offering a huge variety of courses, workshops and activities.

If you have not received your copy in your letterbox you can pick one up from Diamond Valley or Eltham libraries; your local store, or online from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Living & Learning Nillumbik.

Get creative at Eltham in our jewellery making workshops, or felt a unique, tailored wool vest. Model magical fairies, dragons and butterflies, or learn to draw, paint in oils, or join our life drawing group. A new course in botanical illustration is also being offered, using both pencil and watercolour.

For something different for Christmas, have a look at our huge range of Christmas craft and cooking classes offered at all of our centres.

Panton Hill is offering a number of fitness programs including Pilates, Pilates in pregnancy, yoga, group fitness, aerobics, dance and more. There are also a number of new kid's fitness and craft classes available.

If you want to be your best when under stress, Diamond Creek is offering a one-day workshop to show you how. The Diamond Creek program also features an introduction to a new needle felting class and sculpting with carded wool to create unique teddy bears, animals and fantasy figures.

Childcare is available subject to availability at all three centres. For further information about any of the courses at Living & Learning Nillumbik, contact your local Centre.

Eltham
739 Main Road
(Melway 21 J7)
9433 3744

Panton Hill
18 Bishops Road
(Melway 263 K9)
9433 3799

Diamond Creek
119 Cowin Street (Melway 11 K5)
9433 3766

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



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