

Spring 2011
September - November



Nillumbik

NEWS

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Being *practically green* this spring!



Solar panels being installed at Living & Learning Nillumbik Eltham.

Being *practically green* this spring!

Council continues to deliver on its commitment to environmental sustainability by maintaining Nillumbik's Green Wedge and leading by example.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability

'Our Environment' is a key goal area of the Council Plan 2009-2013. It details how Council promotes and manages sustainable natural and built environments in Nillumbik.

Part of this work included the recent review of Council's Carbon Management Strategy. The review identified opportunities to improve Council's energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Managing carbon

In previous years, Council has purchased GreenPower™ under contract to offset carbon emissions generated from electricity use in its buildings.

The contract ended in December 2010. Council now purchases a mix of Green Power™ and other types of carbon offsets at a cheaper market rate under short-term contracts throughout the year.

This will allow Council to redirect around \$140,000 each year into its ongoing energy efficiency program.

On top of the \$80,000 already allocated through Council's annual budget, this will enable significant reductions in electricity, gas and water use across Council facilities and reduce the quantity of offsets required on an ongoing basis.

To get the ball rolling, three installations of solar power systems were completed in June and July which will generate approximately 25,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year.

Other projects include the replacement of any inefficient public lighting around car parks, playing fields and on building exteriors; research into the suitability of some newer technologies and the installation of energy saving measures at Council's older buildings.

Retrofitting

Council has completed a five year program to retrofit buildings with water efficient products.

Flow control valves and aerators, dual flush toilets and efficient showerheads and taps have been installed in all facilities that use a significant volume of water.

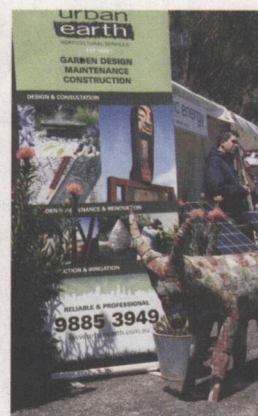
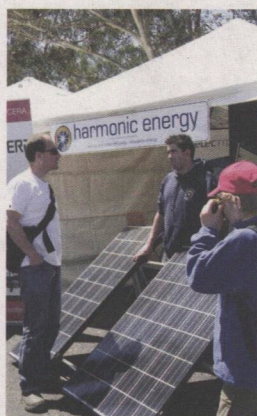
Water tanks have also been installed at a large number of buildings and a new program to fit gutter protection to these buildings is commencing this year.

Two significant wetland projects have enabled the collection of a large amount of stormwater runoff at Alistair Knox Park in Eltham and Coventry Oval in Diamond Creek. The water is now captured, treated and used partly to water parkland and playing fields and partly as environmental flows back into the Diamond Creek.

To complement the work to date, Council is developing an Ecologically Sustainable Development Policy.

This policy will ensure that new and refurbished infrastructure works – buildings, pathways, roads, trails and other structures – are carried out in line with the Environmental Goals contained in the Council Plan. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Building, renovating or 'greening' your home? Let us show you how!

Sunday 23 October
10am-5pm

Edendale
Gastons Road, Eltham
(Melway 22 A1)



Make your way to Eltham this spring and celebrate sustainable living and everything green at the Practically Green Festival!

Council hosts the Practically Green Festival at Edendale – Council's Environmental Education Centre in Eltham – to offer free, practical and simple eco building and lifestyle ideas to help you and your family live sustainably.

Come and see the very best in sustainable building technologies – all in a fun festival-style, family atmosphere complete with food, children's entertainment and music.

Get tips on eco building, renovating and retrofitting; watch as local builders make mudbricks and construct a wall and get handy tips on how to be green around your home and garden!

As the Festival is all about sustainability, we encourage you to travel there sustainably too. Edendale is conveniently located on the Diamond Creek Trail and is just a short walk from Eltham train station.

So jump on your bike, catch the shuttle bus from Eltham station or pop your walking shoes on – and come and experience the Practically Green Festival!

Festival highlights


- Composting and worm farms.
- Eco building displays
- Food swaps
- Furniture and joinery
- Greywater recycling
- Landscaping
- Local indigenous plant sale
- Mudbrick building
- Rainwater tanks
- Recycling, recovering and reusing
- Renewable energy
- Retrofitting resources
- Solar hot water
- Sustainable living products
- Strawbale building
- Wastewater treatment systems.

Plus...

- Music
- Kids' activities
- Food and wine
- Live entertainment

Like to know more?

Contact Council on 9433 3111 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au > Environment. ■



Eltham Mudbrick House Tour, 10am-4pm

See the famous Eltham-style for yourself on this fascinating tour of local mudbrick homes. Speak with the home owners to hear what history their 'muddie' yields and learn all about the mudbrick hallmarks which characterise Nillumbik's unique and celebrated architectural landscape.

Cost: \$15/\$10 concession
Tickets available on the day (cash only) from the Practically Green Festival Stall and Eltham Library. (Photo ID required)



IN BRIEF

Fire prevention

Spring is the time to start preparing your property for summer. Fires need fuel, i.e. plants, shrubs, trees and garden waste (or vegetation), to burn. Managing vegetation around your home and property is important.

It's also important that you think about your community. If you have an elderly neighbour, ask if they have plans for fire safety in summer and make sure that they are okay.

In terms of your home, from 5 May 2011, a wider range of planning permit exemptions were introduced in the Shire for the removal of vegetation for environmental and bushfire purposes. Before removing vegetation on your property, seek advice from Council as to whether you require a permit, as conditions can vary.

For further information on fire prevention and to find out what Council is doing to prepare for summer, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Nillumbik awarded best 'MobileMuster' promoter!

Council has won the MobileMuster 'Best Promoter' (Local Government) Award for the campaign which saw mobile phone recycling satchels mailed out to residents with *Nillumbik News*.

MobileMuster, the official recycling program of the mobile telecommunications industry, introduced the national awards in 2007 to recognise the outstanding efforts of local councils in collecting mobile phones for recycling.

Nillumbik residents helped recycle some of the estimated 19 million disused mobile phones stored away in cupboards and drawers throughout Australia. Good on you!

If you didn't get to recycle your phone, Council has permanent MobileMuster collection stations around the Shire.

Like to know more?

Contact Council: Michelle Martin, Waste Projects Officer, on 9433 3516 or Michelle.Martin@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



from the mayor, 2011

It's spring, my favourite time of year. I can't think of a better way to spend a day than at one of the festivals taking place throughout the Shire over the coming months.

It's festival time in Nillumbik!

It has already started with the **Hurstbridge Wattle Festival** where colour and vitality was brought to the village along with lots of visitors!

I also enjoy the **Practically Green Festival** where you can learn about the new and innovative ways of building and improving your home and living sustainably.

For the pet owners amongst us a great way to spend the day is at the **Pet Expo** which regularly attracts over 5,000 pet owners each year. There are demonstrations, pony rides and local vets on hand to offer advice about responsible pet ownership.

Panton Hill also gets in on festival season with the **'On the Hill'** event in October where you can enjoy music, entertainment and children's activities.

Then there are the two big festivals – **Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair** and the **Rotary Eltham Town Festival**. The Rotary clubs work very hard to raise much needed funds to help a variety of people and every year these two events are very well supported. I encourage everyone to come along to these enjoyable events that will be taking place this spring. For all the details, see page 8.

Budget

The challenge around setting the 2011-2012 Budget was to continue our work on bushfire recovery and prevention, invest in major capital works projects, plan for

our community's future needs and manage cost pressures due to declines in revenue from State and Federal Governments. We believe that this year's budget has been a sensible response to those demands.

This challenge has been further exacerbated by the Natural Disaster Funding concluding at the end of June 2011 which has meant that Council has had to provide \$1.5 million for projects such as fire prevention works, erosion control, bushfire management planning, continued support for Community Recovery Committees and keeping the Bushfire Projects Office in Hurstbridge open.

The State Government's landfill levy this year increased by 46% to \$262,000 and we face a \$293,000 increase in our contribution to the regional library service. In addition, our insurance premiums increased by \$74,000, mainly due to floods across Victoria, and our borrowing costs for large capital projects increased by \$312,000.

Also, although 90% of Nillumbik is rural land, we are designated as a metropolitan council. This means that we are ineligible for many grants that are specifically for rural and regional communities.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Nillumbik News* which is packed full of things for you to do and news about what Council is doing.

Mayor, Councillor Helen Coleman

september calendar

Spring has sprung – it's time to get out and about in Nillumbik! Get to a festival, hop on your bike or spend time in your garden!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 <p>Spring</p>				<p>2</p> <p>10.30am-11.30am Tasty food for Spring Sample spring flavours at this morning tea. Bookings: 9439 9266. Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham. www.yprl.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Detox your home Drop off hazardous chemicals at Council's Recycling & Recovery Centre for FREE today! www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Fathers Day Hurstbridge Farmers' Market www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au</p> 
		<p>9 September – 5 October <i>Wishing for a Cold Climate</i> Exhibition 2009 Laughing Waters artist- in-residence, Jacqueline Felstead's photography references decorative illustrations, Japanese woodcuts, packaging and weather patterns. <i>Wishing for a Cold Climate (4)</i>, Jacqueline Felstead, 2009, C-Type print</p> 		<p>9</p> <p>Get your copy of Council's Environmental Events Program today! Visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 September Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair www.diamondcreektownfair.org.au</p>	
<p>12</p> <p>11am-12noon Improve Your Memory With Alzheimer's Australia. Bookings required: 9434 3809. Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough. www.yprl.vic.gov.au</p> 	<p>13</p>		<p>15</p> <p>7.30pm, Courthouse Readings: Overload Poetry Festival \$5 entry includes drinks and door prize. Contact Helen Lucas: 9439 9732, Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Road, Eltham</p>		<p>18</p> <p>9.30am-12noon Planning an indigenous garden Cost: \$20. Edendale Farm, Gastons Road, Eltham. Bookings: 9433 3744</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>7pm-8.30pm Youth sci-fi book discussion Bookings: 9439 9266. Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham. www.yprl.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7pm Ordinary Council Meeting For more Council meeting dates and details, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7pm-8.30pm Green cleaning Learn to achieve sparkling results with enviro friendly cleaning products. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham Bookings: 9433 3316</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>23 September, 3pm-4pm Grand Final Fever Party Dress in your team colours and be in the running to win a prize. Bookings required: 9434 3809. Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough. www.yprl.vic.gov.au</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>What's happening at Edendale Find out these school holidays! www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>	
<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1pm-3pm Our bushland animals and birds Look, touch and learn! Cost: \$5 per family. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Bookings: 9433 3711</p>	<p>30</p> <p>30 September 1st rates instalment due www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>		

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au 5

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS |

\$1.5 million in bushfire recovery, fire prevention and emergency management:

- Fuel reduction works: \$650,000
- Rehabilitation and erosion control works along roadsides: \$470,000
- Free green waste drop offs: \$70,000
- Support to rural property landowners in bushfire-affected areas in land management plan implementation: \$102,000
- Bushfire management planning, including specific fire prediction modeling: \$50,000
- Support to Community Recovery Committees renewal programs \$142,000.

\$12.4 million for capital works including:

- St Andrews Community Centre: \$500,000
- Edendale building and landscaping: \$225,000
- Hurstbridge Family Centre: \$2 million
- Community Bank Stadium, Diamond Creek: \$450,000
- Civic Centre: \$400,000
- Plenty and Kangaroo Ground landfill rehabilitation: \$454,000

\$500,000 for planning and other initiatives:

- Diamond Creek Community Centre precinct Masterplan \$80,000
- Bell Street Land Masterplan: \$60,000
- Eltham and Diamond Creek parking plans: \$150,000
- Economic Development Strategy implementation: \$77,000
- Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System vegetation management: \$45,000
- Cultural Plan implementation: \$30,000
- VALID Green Homes Program: \$58,000
- Nillumbik Volunteers coordination: \$46,000
- Community visioning and community plan development: \$80,000
- Eltham Leisure Centre feasibility study: \$100,000



Budget 2011-2012

Council adopted its 2011-2012 Budget on 28 June.

The challenge was to set a minimal rate rise while committing to bushfire recovery and prevention, continuing our investment in major capital works projects, planning for our community's future needs and managing cost pressures due to declines in revenue from State and Federal Governments.

The 2011-2012 rate increase of 5.95% will allow Council to meet existing commitments and continue bushfire recovery and emergency management projects.

Rates

In Nillumbik, and all other Victorian municipalities, rates are calculated per property.

Importantly, however, Nillumbik has the highest number of people per property of any Victorian municipality.

On average, Nillumbik has 2.8 people per property, where the average across

Victoria is 1.9 people per property. This means that rateable properties in Nillumbik need to fund services for 50% more residents than the state average.

While rates per property in Nillumbik are high, the rate per person of \$709 is in line with the Victorian state average of \$686.

Nillumbik residents also have a high socio-economic status – the equal highest in Victoria. This makes Nillumbik ineligible for many of the grants offered by other levels of government.

In 2011-2012, Nillumbik will receive just 12% of its revenue from grants – rural councils will get 34% and metropolitan councils 20%.

To improve this situation, Council is working hard on behalf of residents advocating to other levels of government for more funding.

RATE PRICE PER PROPERTY/PER PERSON



There are 44 other councils with higher rates per person than Nillumbik. More people mean more demand for services. Source: Victorian Grants Commission.



It's nearly there! Community Bank Stadium™

Excitement is building in Diamond Creek and throughout Nillumbik as work progresses on Council's biggest ever project – the Community Bank Stadium™.

The \$10.5 million Stadium, located between Diamond Creek East Primary School and Diamond Valley College, will be completed before school starts next year.

The Stadium boasts three indoor sports courts, a performance space with retractable seating for 900; a 1200 square metre gymnastics space; café; viewing and programming areas and a community meeting space.

All major building and electrical works have been completed, now, over the next few months finishing touches and landscaping works just need to take place!

Like to know more?

Contact Council: Gavin Jordan, Leisure Facilities Coordinator on 9433 3152 or Gavin.Jordan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



Official Opening

Stay tuned for the official Community Bank Stadium™ opening with Nillumbik Councillors and representatives from the Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek and Eltham Community Bank™ branches, residents, sports clubs, community groups and the State and Federal Governments early next year.

A major part of Council's work is around engaging with both Victorian and Federal Governments to address issues affecting Nillumbik residents. More recently, Council has been advocating to Government Ministers on some of our major projects and issues.

Hurstbridge Family Centre

In July 2010, the Victorian and Federal Governments provided Council with funds to build an integrated family centre for residents in Hurstbridge and its surrounds.

During the design phase of the new Centre, flood issues affecting the location were identified. As the design of the new Centre must take the flood issues into account, this will increase the cost.

Council has since requested to the Victorian and Federal Governments for further funding to overcome the shortfall and ensure Hurstbridge gets the contemporary and fully integrated family centre it deserves.

Child care funding

Funding for the Federal and Victorian Government funded Take a Break occasional care program for parents and guardians of children aged 0-6 years has been terminated. Council has written to both Victorian and Federal governments calling for the reinstatement of funding or for new support so that families facing disadvantage can continue to access these vital services.

Council's playhouses cater for more than 170 families each year and continue to be needed by Nillumbik parents and their children.

Five Council-run childcare centres and playhouses will be affected by the withdrawal of funds – Diamond Creek, Eltham and Panton Hill will lose an annual total of \$15,000 in funding.

Hohnes Road Playhouse in Eltham will lose \$4,000 per year of funding and Diamond Creek Occasional Care, which has been hit the hardest, will lose \$30,000 which has supported families in need of subsidised care.

It's festival time in Nillumbik!

Council hosts and supports a number of community festivals throughout spring. Be sure to make the most of it and get along to one, two or all of the fun festivals near you!



Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair

10 September, from 10am
Main Hurstbridge Road,
Diamond Creek
www.diamondcreektownfair.org.au

Dust off your boots and help break Australia's biggest 'line dancing' record; take part in the egg and spoon, sack and cricket pad races and the good old gumboot throwing competition. Carnival rides, craft stalls, food, free entertainment, spectacular fireworks display, plus more!

On the Hill Festival

9 October, from 11am
In the Township of Pantom Hill
www.ntatourism.com

Well known for its fabulous program of music, roving entertainers, wandering minstrels and performers; free kids' activities, horse and cart rides, multicultural food and local wines. There is even a 'scarecrow' theme this year! Celebrate Pantom Hill's apple heritage with 'Made on the Hill' showcasing apple-based arts, crafts and cooking.

World Matters Festival

14-15 October
Montsalvat, Hillcrest Road,
Eltham

World Matters celebrates ideas that can make a difference to the world in which we live. Literature, politics, human rights, climate change and social justice are the centrepiece for discussion at this Festival. See seminars, panel discussions and book launches by journalists, poets, novelists, essayists, satirists, research fellows and academics over two days.

Practically Green Festival

23 October, from 10am
Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham
www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

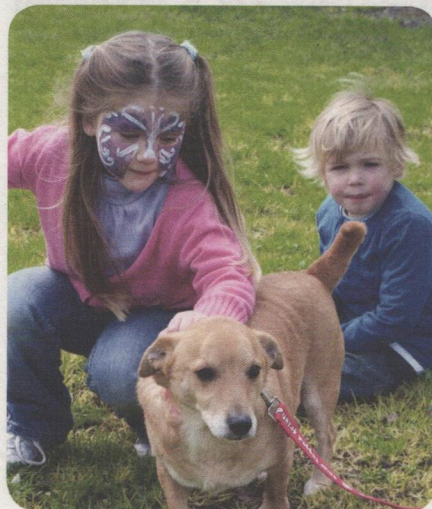
A showcase of simple and practical ways to help you live sustainably. Come and get tips from dozens of green traders on eco building, renovating and retrofitting – all in a fun festival-style, family atmosphere complete with food, children's entertainment and a great list of music. We encourage you to travel there sustainably too – you can ride, walk or catch a bus to Edendale!



Nillumbik Pet Expo

6 November
Marngrook Oval, Diamond Creek
www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Join around 5,000 people and their pets at Council's largest and longest-running event, the Nillumbik Pet Expo! This fun, family event features displays, competitions and demonstrations; lure coursing, fly ball, animal and reptile nursery; pony rides, face painting and live entertainment. Local vets, training instructors and Council officers will be there to offer advice on responsible pet ownership too.



Rotary Eltham Town Festival

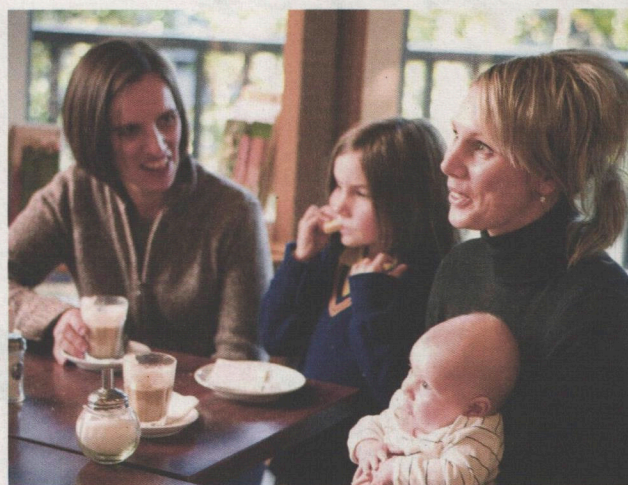
12-13 November
Township of Eltham
www.rotaryeltham.org.au

The Rotary Club of Eltham brings the community together over a huge weekend of family fun with music and entertainment, children's activities, carnival rides, food and wine, community group displays, market stalls and last but not least, the famous Saturday night fireworks display!

October calendar

We're celebrating this October – it's Children's Week and Senior's Week – there's something for everyone! The arts scene is buzzing with Lauren Lee Williams' Courthouse Readings and the latest exhibiton at the Eltham Library Community Gallery.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		<p>6 October-1 November Decay and Renewal Exhibition Inspired by the journeys which led her to Nillumbik, Lynne Johnstone's work is influenced by colour, unexpected patterns and textures found in the natural environment. Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham. Contact Council: 9433 3111 <i>Reflection 2</i>, Lynne Johnstone, 2007, Cotton homespun and rust</p>		<p>2 October, 10am-12pm Gardens for Wildlife Create a friendlier garden for local wildlife by learning to control common garden pests using organic and chemical free techniques. Limited to 50 participants. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham Bookings: 9433 3316</p>	 <p>2 First Sunday of the month www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au</p>	
<p>3 3 October, 7pm-9pm Evening walk: the sugar glider experience Learn about local nocturnal wildlife, including micro bats, tawny frogmouths, brushtail and ringtail possums, and with a bit of luck, watch sugar gliders take flight at dusk! Wingrove Park, Main Road, Eltham Bookings: 9433 3316</p>	<p>4 3 October, 7pm-9pm Evening walk: the sugar glider experience Learn about local nocturnal wildlife, including micro bats, tawny frogmouths, brushtail and ringtail possums, and with a bit of luck, watch sugar gliders take flight at dusk! Wingrove Park, Main Road, Eltham Bookings: 9433 3316</p>	 <p>6 2-9 October, Seniors Week Celebrate Senior's Week throughout October! See www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au for details.</p>	<p>7 10.30am-11.30am Fun and Games Scrabble, chess or cards and morning tea provided. Bookings: 9439 9266. Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham. www.yprl.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>8 10am-11am Indian Myna Trapping Learn to trap these pest birds which threaten native animals. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham Bookings: 9433 3316</p>	<p>9 On the Hill Festival, from 11am Township of Panton Hill (more details below)</p>	
<p>10 School term 4 begins</p> 	<p>11 11 October 11am-12.15pm or 7pm-8.15pm Living & Learning Nillumbik information session 739 Main Road, Eltham. Bookings essential: 9433 3744 www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>	 <p>living & learning nillumbik</p>		<p>14 15 October, 1pm-3.30pm Attracting birds to your garden With the right design, indigenous plant selection and plant density you can attract birds of various species to your garden. Cost: \$20 (includes afternoon tea). Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Bookings: 9433 3744</p>	<p>15 It's Children's Week! Council is celebrating Children's Week by hosting fun events! See www.nillumbikfamilies.com for details.</p>	
<p>18 18 October, 11am-12noon National Nutrition Week Learn about good nutrition. Bookings required: 9434 3809. Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough. www.yprl.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>19 7pm-8.30pm The platypus Guest speaker Josh Griffiths talks about our local waterways and platypuses. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Bookings: 9433 3316</p>	<p>20 7.30pm, Courthouse Readings: Lauren Lee Williams \$5 entry includes drinks and door prize. Contact Helen Lucas: 9439 9732. Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Road, Eltham</p>		<p>23  Practically Green Festival Eco building and lifestyle</p> <p>23 October, 10am-5pm, Edendale www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p> <p>Celebrate sustainable living and everything green at Council's Practically Green Festival! Get free, practical eco building and retrofitting ideas to help you live sustainably – all in a fun festival-style, family atmosphere complete with food, children's entertainment and music.</p>		
<p>25 7pm Ordinary Council Meeting For more Council meeting dates and details, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>		<p>9 October On the Hill Festival, from 11am Township of Panton Hill Get along to this community festival with a 'scarecrow' theme for free activities; horse and cart rides, sand sculpting, roving entertainment, local musicians, multicultural food and local wines.</p>		<p>9 www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>		



You're welcome! Family Friendly Places and Spaces

Have you seen this sticker? A number of venues, places and spaces around Nillumbik are now accredited with a 'family friendly' status.

This means the place is welcoming to families with young children, is safe and accessible, has tolerant staff, is equipped with appropriate facilities and is breastfeeding friendly.

So look out for the Family Friendly Places and Spaces sticker at your favourite Nillumbik venue and know that you are welcome!

For the full list of participating venues, visit www.nillumbikfamilies.com > programs.

The Family Friendly Places & Spaces program is funded by Nillumbik Best Start.

Like to know more?

Contact Council: 9433 3111

Are you a local business owner?

We encourage you to take part in making your place family friendly. Once accredited, you will receive a sticker to display at the venue and be listed on the online directory.

In-home family mentoring

In-home mentoring provides long-term, one-on-one parenting support for families with children under six.

This program teams families with a volunteer mentor to support parents experiencing isolation, post natal depression, illness, disability or multiple births to become more confident in their role and connect them with other parents and community networks.

This program is funded by Nillumbik Best Start.



PROFILE | Volunteer Mentor

In-home family mentoring program volunteer, Chris Martin, (pictured) is married with three adult daughters and has lived in Nillumbik for 32 years.



"I provide practical support with the children, offer assistance to the parents so they can attend medical appointments and provide information about other support and services."

"While contemplating retirement, I was looking for ways I could volunteer locally that suited my experience and interests."

"Late last year, I saw a request in *Nillumbik News* for parents with an interest in becoming in-home family mentor volunteers. I applied and completed my training in April."

"I enjoy supporting a young family; assisting them to achieve a better balance in their lives through listening and understanding."

"My role has given me the opportunity to develop my mentoring skills and allowed me to meet fellow volunteers. I would definitely recommend this program to other parents who are looking to give something back to their local community and to families who are feeling the pressures of parenting young children," Chris said.

Like to know more?

Contact Family & Children's Services: 9433 3165 or familyservices@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Learning Tree branches out to rural families

Free activities for rural families with children under five.

Young families living in rural areas now have access to high quality, accessible family friendly activities, close to home and at no cost thanks to the program that visits Arthurs Creek, North Warrandyte, Pantom Hill and St Andrews each week.

The Nillumbik Learning Tree is a free activity for you and your children to enjoy learning literacy and numeracy skills through play, artistic expression and music together with early childhood educators and specialists.

The program visits:

- **Pantom Hill Primary School**
on Tuesday at 10.30am-12noon
- **St Andrews Community Centre**
on Tuesday at 1.30pm-3.30pm
- **Arthurs Creek Primary School**
on Thursday at 10am-11am
- **North Warrandyte Family Centre Hall**
on Wednesday at 10.30am-12noon.



Kids: Join the Tree House Club!

Become a member and receive a free scrapbook, bag, badge and art materials along with activities and information to take home each week!

This program is funded by Nillumbik Best Start and delivered by Council in conjunction with Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service.

Like to know more?

Contact Family & Children's Services: 9433 3135 or familyservices@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Four-year-old preschool enrolment has changed

Registrations now open on the first business day in March each year, two years before your child is eligible to attend four-year-old preschool.

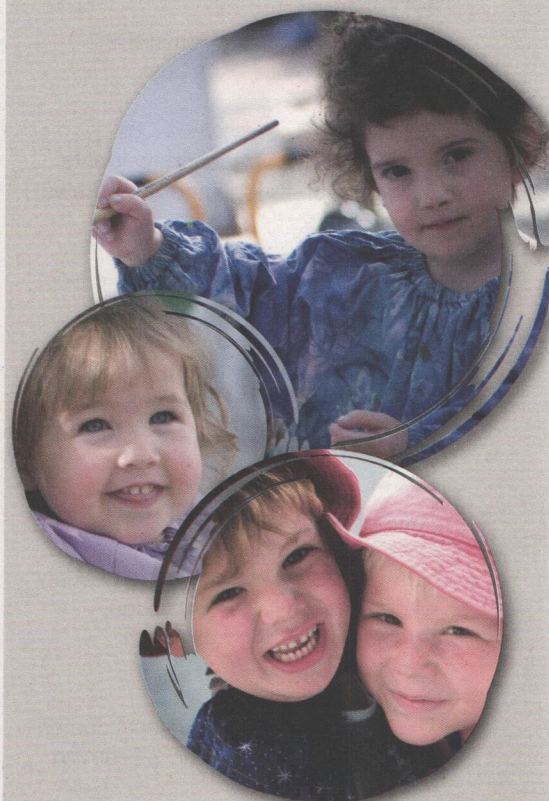
To maximise your chances of getting a place at your preferred preschool it is important to register within the first week of March or as soon as possible thereafter.

Registration forms are available from preschools, maternal and child health centres and the Civic Centre or can be downloaded from www.nillumbikfamilies.com

For your convenience, registration is now available online.

Like to know more?

Contact Family & Children's Services: 9433 3161 or preschool@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



FIND OUT FIRST! Join our email list for the latest children's and family events, activities and programs in Nillumbik. Email your details to familyservices@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Making your way around Nillumbik Local transport options

Did you know there are a number of community transport options available for Nillumbik residents?

FREE SATURDAY BUS: **St Andrews • Smiths Gully** **• Panton Hill • Hurstbridge** **service**

Going to St Andrews Market this week? You can take the bus!

This community bus service runs every Saturday to **transport residents between Hurstbridge and St Andrews** free of charge.

Get your timetable from the bus driver, from the St Andrews, Smiths Gully and Panton Hill General Stores or from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

FREE THURSDAY BUS: **Local trips service**

This free community minibus service is currently being trialled to provide eligible older residents and those with a disability living in **Panton Hill, Hurstbridge, Smiths Gully, St Andrews** with transport for local trips.

The bus can travel to your local doctor; train station; shops, Living & Learning

Nillumbik centre; library; friend's place, general store or post office around the Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Greensborough and Eltham areas.

The bus is equipped for wheelchair access.

WEEKDAY BUS: **Out and About service**

LINK Community Transport and Council offer the LINK 'Out and About' door-to-door service Monday to Friday to transport eligible older Nillumbik residents and those with a disability to **locations both within and outside of Nillumbik.**

This service is tailored to individual's needs rather than running to a timetable and can be used for any purpose; to get to shops, appointments or social gatherings.

Like to know more?

Contact LINK: 9355 8484 or visit www.linkcommunitytransport.org.au.

Volunteers needed

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer community bus driver?

Driving a community bus can be great fun and lets you make a difference every time you get behind the wheel.

Nillumbik's community bus services provide transport for Nillumbik residents with a disability, who are isolated, older or unable to drive.

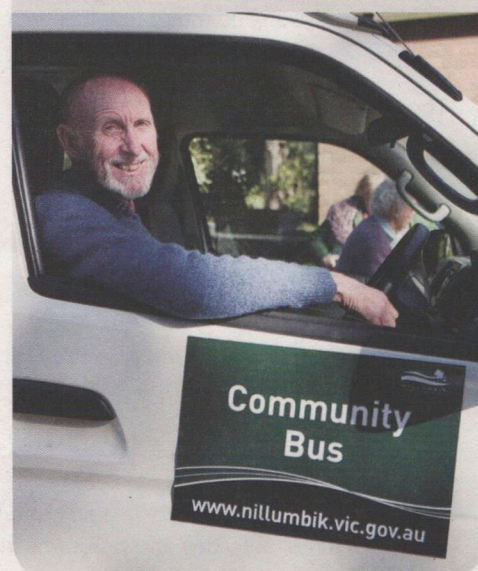
Your work will enable them to get involved in their communities.

No special licences are required for you to drive a community bus. The cost of medical and police checks for all volunteer drivers will be covered.

Like to know more?

Contact Council: Carol Peterson, Transport Connections Project Officer on 9433 3156 or Carol.Peterson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

TTY users: 133 677
Telephone: 1300 555 727
Internet Relay: www.relayservice.com.au





Learner driver volunteer mentor, Bob Mietus, and learner driver, Sarah Hill.

L2P learner driver mentors wanted!

Nillumbik's L2P learner-driver mentor program is up and running but more learner driver volunteer mentors are needed.

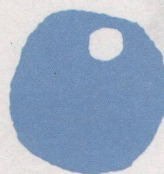
Currently, 15 eligible young people are waiting to be paired with a mentor so they have 120 hours driving practice before getting their P plates.

The L2P Program aims to assist learner drivers (aged 16-20) facing barriers gain adequate driving practice with the assistance of a volunteer mentor.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in making a difference in your community?

Volunteers just need a minimum of one hour a week spare and all training is included.

L2P
LEARNER
DRIVER
MENTOR
PROGRAM



Like to know more?

Contact Council: Suzzan Eral,
L2P Project Officer, on 9433 3329 or
Suzzan.Eral@nillumbik.vic.gov.au .

PROFILE | L2P Learner

Diamond Creek resident, Sarah Hill, 19, is one Nillumbik L2P learner participating in the program.

"I found out about L2P after my mum and I saw an ad in the local paper. L2P has given me the ability to get my driving hours back on track without the hassle of having to wait for supervision and an available car."

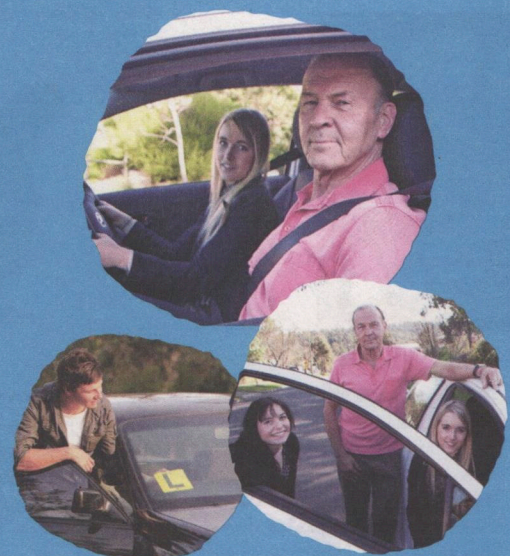
"My mentor, Neville, and I drive two to four times a week, depending on how busy we are."

"Neville has plenty of driving experience and after completing the L2P mentoring training he has plenty of tips to help me along the way."

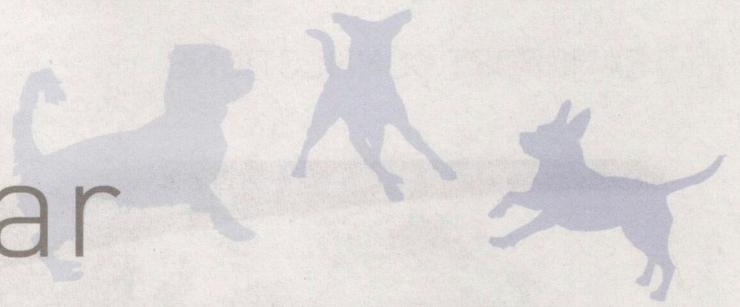
Sarah said she would definitely recommend the L2P program to others.

"It gives you the focus, motivation and the materials to complete the 120 hours and eliminates disadvantage as I now have access to driving."

"I am hoping to sit my test towards the end of the year. With this timeline in mind I am thoroughly motivated to reach my goal by the end of the year," Sarah said.



november calendar



As we near the end of spring in Nillumbik make sure you get to the Pet Expo, sample the fresh, local produce at the **Hurstbridge Farmers' Market on Sunday 6 November** and make the most of the finer weather in your garden!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Springtime in your garden Inspire your springtime planting at Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery. Get excellent advice on local indigenous species and buy from a wide-range of quality local indigenous plants in tubes and pots. You can also set up your worm farm or compost bin, also available at the Nursery – just ring beforehand to order the worms. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Enquiries: 9433 3711</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>5</p> <p>1pm-4pm Rabbit Control Field Day workshop Develop an effective rabbit control program. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Bookings: 9433 3316</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Nillumbik Pet Expo from 10am Marngrook Oval, Diamond Creek See page 8 for details!</p> 
	<p>8</p> <p>6 November, 9.30am-12noon Attracting butterflies to your garden Learn how to entice butterflies into your garden and give them a reason to stay. See that any garden can provide essential habitat and attract many species of beautiful indigenous butterflies. Cost: \$20 (includes morning tea). Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Bookings: 9433 3744</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p>	<p>12-13 November Rotary Eltham Town Festival Great entertainment, carnival rides, food, wine and markets, plus the famous Saturday night fireworks display. www.rotaryeltham.org.au</p> 	
<p>4-30 November Artists Open Studios: Nillumbik artists Exhibition See works from the Nillumbik Artists Open Studio program exhibition before visiting their studios later in the month. Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham. Contact Council: 9433 3111 Image below: Wendy Hicks' Studio, 2010</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm-8.30pm Fair Trade Use your purchasing power to promote freedom and sustainability. Cost: Gold coin donation. Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Bookings: 9433 3316.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>17 November, 7.30pm Courthouse Readings: Warrandyte Writers Group An Open Section is also held for anyone to read their latest writing. \$5 entry includes drinks and door prize. Contact Helen Lucas: 9439 9732. Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Road, Eltham</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>20</p> 		
	<p>22</p> <p>22 November, 7pm Ordinary Council Meeting For more meeting dates, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au for details on how Council says no to violence.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>White Ribbon Day</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>19-20, 26-27 November, 11am-5pm Artist Open Studios Explore the studios of Nillumbik artists over two weekends; works for sale and commission. Call: 1300 660 072 www.artistsopenstudios.com.au</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Nillumbik Artists' Open Studios</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Spring is a great time to visit Edendale! See the farm animals – the Toggenburg goat kids and Ryeland lambs, <i>Maisy</i>, the Jersey calf, <i>Guinevere</i>, the Belted Galloway calf, the guinea pigs and ponies! Take a handful of grain and feed our happy chooks! Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham. Enquiries: 9433 3711</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>30 November Paying your rates: 2nd instalment due Visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>International Day of People with Disability</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>First Sunday of the month www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au</p>
<p>14 nillumbik news – spring</p>			<p>December calendar</p>	<p>3 December International Day of People with a Disability (IDPwD) www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>		

ARTS & CULTURE

Experience | Red Chair Artist Talks @ Montsalvat

Join the Red Chair family for an engaging, entertaining and informative evening exploring the arts scene.

7 September, 7pm
Jacqueline Felstead

2010 Laughing Waters Artist-in-Residence, Jacqueline Felstead, discusses analogue photography and alternative photographic methods in a digital world. This talk coincides with Jacqueline's exhibition at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, 8 September to 30 October.



Wishing for a Cold Climate (4), Jacqueline Felstead, 2009, C-Type print

5 October, 7pm
Rosemary Cameron

Rosemary Cameron from Arts Management Advisory Group presents her Real Arts Business Planning & Strategy for Small Arts Organisations workshop. Learn the critical elements of successful arts business planning with focus on building strategies and making your arts organisation sustainable from a professional with extensive experience in leading arts management roles across the nation.



Rosemary Cameron



Jeanette Davison

2 November, 7pm
Jeanette Davison

Local arts blogger, Jeanette Davison, will be Laughing Waters Artist-in-Residence from 21 September to 2 October. Jeanette presents a Red Chair Talk as part of her community engagement component of her Laughing Waters residency. See Jeanette's website www.isiid.com.au

Red Chair is run by Council in partnership with Montsalvat.

The Barn Gallery, Montsalvat
7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham
(Melway 22 A8)

Bookings: Montsalvat on 9439 7712 or montsalvat@montsalvat.com.au

It's your time |

Exhibit at Eltham Library Community Gallery in 2012

The Eltham Library Community Gallery hosts a varied and exciting range of exhibitions. Artists are invited to submit proposals to participate in the 2012 Exhibition Program.

To be eligible, artists must live, work or study in the Shire of Nillumbik or be able to demonstrate strong, ongoing links to the Shire.

For information, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au; applications close 4pm, Friday 21 October 2011.

Like to know more?

Contact Council: 9433 3359 or artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

CALLING ALL ARTISTS |

Laughing Waters Artist-in-Residence program 2012

Council, in partnership with Parks Victoria, invites contemporary artists to apply for a live-in residency of up to four months during 2012.

This exciting opportunity allows artists to develop their practice in one of two inspiring bushland properties near the Yarra River in Eltham.

For information, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au; applications close 4pm, Friday 7 October 2011.

Like to know more?

Contact Council: 9433 3359 or artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Have you thought to Learn Local?

Each year, more than 110,000 Victorians choose to learn through Learn Local organisations such as Living & Learning Nillumbik.

Some popular Vocational Education & Training (VET) qualifications offered at Living & Learning Nillumbik in 2012 are:

- Certificate III Aged Care
- Certificate III Home and Community Care
- Certificate III Children's Services
- Certificate IV Disability
- Certificate IV Training and Assessment
- Diploma in Children's Services

Come and find out about these and other great courses on offer!

Information session

11 October, 11am-12.15pm or 7pm-8.15pm
Living & Learning Nillumbik
739 Main Road, Eltham
Bookings essential: 9433 3744
www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Nillumbik Volunteer Expo

I thank Council and Volunteers of Banyule very much for their support in helping promote 'Boots For All*' at the Nillumbik Volunteer Expo. Thank you also for the Volunteer Appreciation Evening. It was great to meet with other volunteers in the area and catch up on their achievements.

It was also very inspiring to hear what guest speaker, Helen Legg, and the team at the Hurstbridge Bushfire Support Centre was able to achieve with lots of hard work and goodwill. When there is so much despair in the daily news, it is great to hear how individuals can work together to make a positive difference to the community.

Joanne Rockwell, Boots for All Inc.

**'Boots For All' provides improved access to sporting equipment for disadvantaged Australians.*

Final issue of Bushfire Bulletin

I would like to thank Council for the wonderful Bushfire Recovery Community Bulletin. It has kept us up-to-date (having moved out of the area in the year following the fires) and been reassuring for us to read how people we know have been busy rebuilding and going ahead with their lives. The information provided for those dramatically affected has been fantastic!

Gayle Pohl



To share your experience with Council, contact us on 9433 3111 or nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



NILLUMBIK
THE GREEN WEDGE SHIRE

Civic Drive, Greensborough
PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088
Telephone 9433 3111 Facsimile 9433 3777
Website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Email nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Do you know who your Councillor is?

Contact Customer Service

☎ 9433 3111
🌐 www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Postal address for all Councillors

✉ Nillumbik Shire Council
PO Box 476
Greensborough VIC 3088



Mayor, Councillor Helen Coleman
Wingrove Ward

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



Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ken King
Sugarloaf Ward

Mobile: 0427 549 759 Fax: 9433 3777
Email: Ken.King@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Councillor Belinda Clarkson
Blue Lake Ward

Mobile: 0429 430 977 Phone/fax: 9438 5645
Email: Belinda.Clarkson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Councillor Lewis Brock
Bunjil Ward

Mobile: 0428 561 753 Phone/fax: 9718 0325
Email: Lewis.Brock@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Councillor Michael Young
Edendale Ward

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



Councillor Peter Perkins
Ellis Ward

Mobile: 0437 455 064 Phone: 9433 3781
Email: Peter.Perkins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Councillor Chris Chapple
Swipers Gully Ward

Mobile: 0428 376 942
Email: Chris.Chapple@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

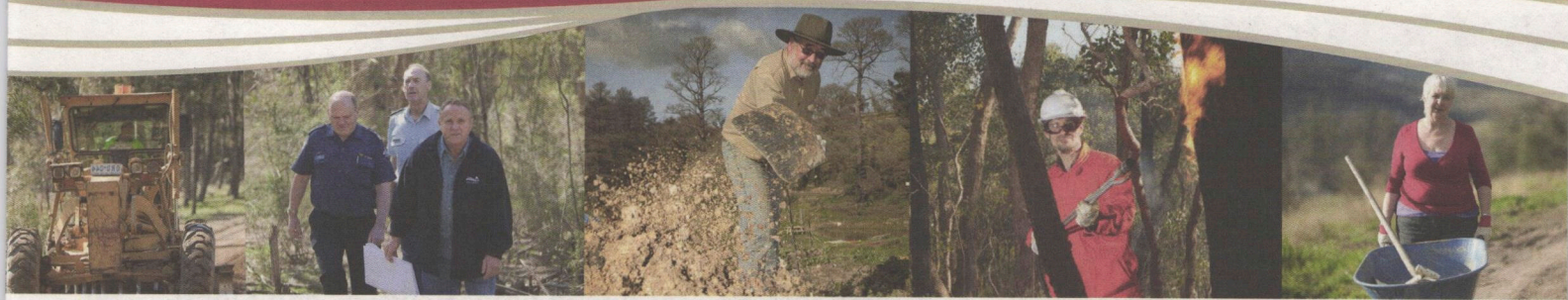
Cover image: Local residents being practically green in the garden.

Printed in Nillumbik, using vegetable inks on 100% Australian-made recycled paper.

Getting ready

Preparing for summer in Nillumbik

2011



What is Council doing to get ready for summer?

A comprehensive program of bushfire prevention works on Council-owned roadsides and reserves to prepare the Shire of Nillumbik for the next fire season is underway.

In total Council has allocated \$650,000 for fire prevention on roadside and Council reserves this year.

The schedule involves works such as box clearance, slashing and vegetation removal at various locations across the Shire. This program of works and its development has involved consultation with the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee and local fire brigades.

It identifies work that needs to be undertaken this year in addition to the ongoing annual maintenance schedule. Work has already begun and residents will soon see contractors and Council staff across the Shire carrying out this important work.

The schedule of works identifies priorities for additional fuel reduction recommended by the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee and through feedback from local CFA brigades. It also includes existing annual fire prevention works.

The program has been scheduled into high, medium and low priority based on proximity to residential properties; topography; current fuel loads; ecological values, use and proximity to services. This is augmented with local input from CFA brigades on priorities for access for fire fighting purposes.

There has also been consultation with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), the Municipal Association of Victoria and VicRoads in relation to a State-wide process and consistency around developing priorities for roadside works.

While a hazardous tree inspection was conducted in 2010-2011, further inspections will be conducted this year based on the roadside assessments and recommendations from the CFA.

Regrowth is an issue for parts of our Shire and some of the budget has been allocated towards managing regrowth in the fire-affected areas and while a lot of the growth is young, the density of it needs to be addressed.

As the weather starts to get warmer we all need to think about our responsibilities for fire prevention works.

Council has limited resources but through this strategic plan the most appropriate work is being done in the most fire-prone locations.

Whilst managing vegetation is an important part of managing fire risk it is

not the complete answer. The CFA advise that when the fire danger rating is at Severe or higher, fires that start and take hold may be uncontrollable. Residents should consider this and their own situation when developing their fire plans.

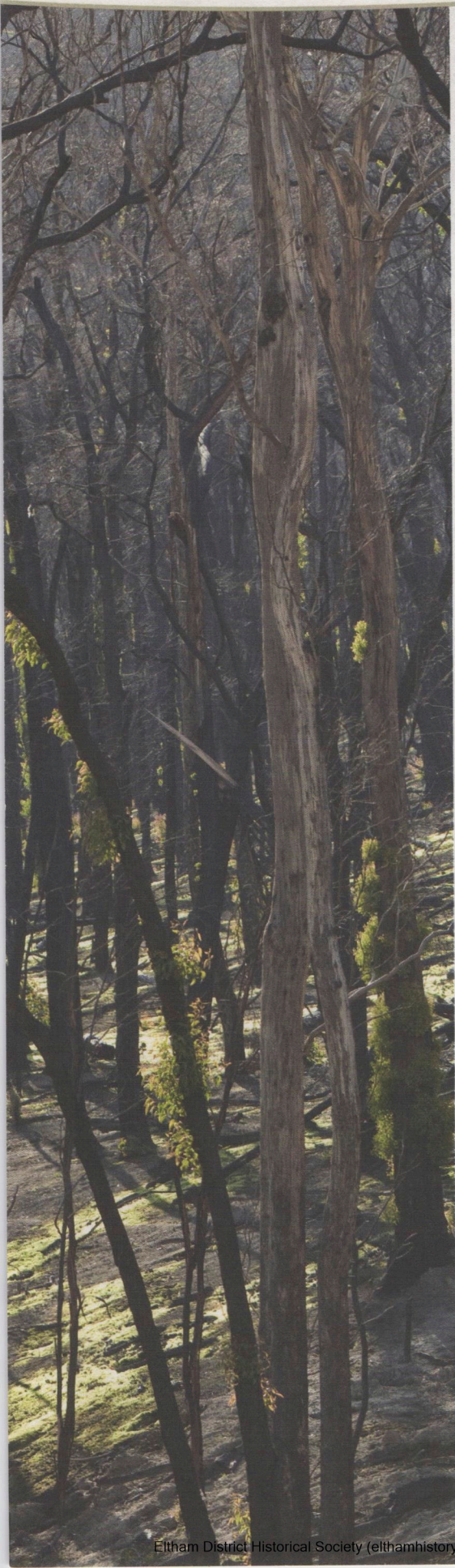
Our bushfire-affected areas

Work continues in the fire-affected parts of our Shire. Council is fixing eroded table drains in Strathewen, St Andrews and Christmas Hills and technical support and coordination is being given to landowners of rural properties in bushfire areas.

Weed control continues to be a problem in these areas and funds are being given to assist landowners with blackberry control.

Check out the CFA website to know when the Fire Danger Period is being declared.





Message from the Mayor

The rainfall over the past 12 months has had some positives, the dams are now full and the grass is greener than it has been for a long time. However don't let this lull you into a false sense of security.

This year we have been informed by the Bureau of Meteorology that there is a threat of grass and scrubland fires with warm summer days and the temperature not dropping much overnight.

Now is the time to start getting ready for those drier summer months ahead and making sure our gardens and properties are prepared as best as they can be.

It's important to think about the bushfire risk that we all face and the CFA has an online 'FireReady' Quiz to help you test your knowledge about fire and fire preparation. Answer 10 simple questions and you'll be on the road to being Fire Ready. They also have a new Fire Ready Smartphone App which includes; real-time alerts, fire distance from user, status of fires and planned burns info. You can also take advantage of a home visit where CFA officers will let you know what work you can do around your property – you can call them on 9262 8501 to make an appointment.

There is also the CFA Household Bushfire Assessment tool which talks you through a process of identifying the topography of your property, your vegetation levels and other issues that will help you determine whether or not your home could be at risk.

Over the past 12 months or so, Council has employed trained emergency staff and also ensured that other staff are able to assist in the event of an emergency. Council officers have also taken part in emergency exercises and developed their understanding of Council's role during an event.

We all need to think about the level of bushfire risk we face and take steps to minimise that risk. The best way to do this is to make educated and informed

decisions about how to best prepare yourself, your family and your property for summer.

Last year we received more calls than we ever have before about the height of the grass on Council roads and reserves. Council has two different programs: one for maintenance and one for specific fire prevention work.

There are many roads and reserves managed by Council and we have to prioritise our work based on the risk that they pose to our residents. Not every road or reserve will be managed from a fire prevention point of view. They will still be maintained as part of our general program but they may not receive specific bushfire prevention work.

While we work as quickly as we can, sometimes the weather provides challenges that can be difficult to manage. We will continue with our maintenance program with the resources available however we may not be able to achieve as much as we would like.

Finally, I hope you find this *Getting ready* bulletin informative. If you would like more information about fire prevention or vegetation removal, please visit: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

When it comes to being fire ready, everyone has a part to play. From the Victorian Government, CFA, Nillumbik Shire Council and you. It's important that as a community, we are each getting ready.

**Councillor Helen Coleman
Mayor**

Removing vegetation from the roadside

It's important that Council strikes the right balance both legally and with community expectations when managing the vegetation along roadsides.

Under the *Roads Management Act 2004*, consent from the coordinating roads authority is required before undertaking any works on a roadside.

Council is the manager of local roads and we administer this consent through Local Law No. 5. This details what types of vegetation can be removed from Council land without permission and what requires a permit.

How do I know if I need a permit?

The need for a permit depends on the type of land. Most of Nillumbik's roadside vegetation has been mapped into categories according to its environmental significance. Whether a permit is required or not depends on the nature of the works to be carried out and on whether the roadside is of **low or high environmental significance**.

To find out if your adjoining roadside is of **High or Low Environmental Significance**, please call Council on 9433 3111.



What can I do without a permit?

Under Local Law No.5, if you live directly adjoining roadsides which have **low environmental significance**, you can do the following **without** a permit:

- remove fine ground fuels (grass, leaves, twigs, loose bark)
- remove regionally controlled weeds and those weeds listed in Council's publication *Live Local Plant Local* which can be found on Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
- maintain and mow any part of the road reserve containing exotic vegetation abutting your property
- remove vegetation that has fallen onto the road from your land
- remove vegetation that is the subject of a fire prevention notice
- participate in works undertaken by Friends groups, Landcare groups and community fireguard groups in accordance with an agreement approved by Council.

Under Local Law No.5, if you live directly adjoining roadsides which have **high environmental significance**, you can do the following **without** a permit:

- remove regionally controlled weeds and those weeds listed in Council's publication *Live Local Plant Local* which can be found on Council's website
- maintain and mow any part of the road reserve abutting your property comprising exotic vegetation
- remove vegetation that has fallen onto the road from your land
- remove vegetation that is the subject of a fire prevention notice
- participate in works undertaken by Friends groups, Landcare groups and community fireguard groups in accordance with an agreement approved by Council.

When do I need a permit?

If you live adjacent to roadsides with **low conservation significance** or **high conservation significance**, you need to apply for a free Local Law permit to be able to remove fallen trees, logs, branches and dead shrubs up to 1.5m high.

How do I apply for a permit?

You can apply for a permit online at Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or you can request a hardcopy permit application form by calling Council on 9433 3111. Permits or notices are issued free of charge.

What if I had a permit in the past?

In 2009, Council provided permits to approximately 4,200 residents living adjacent to roadsides with **low conservation significance**. This enabled them to remove fallen trees, logs, branches and dead shrubs up to 1.5m high.

Residents living adjacent to roadsides with **high conservation significance**, were invited to apply for a free permit of which 39 were issued. Residents who had a permit in 2009 or 2010, can simply contact Council and a permit will be reissued.

This will enable them to remove fallen trees, logs, branches and dead shrubs up to 1.5m high in 2011-2012. Permits can be promptly reissued by phoning Council on 9433 3111.

What about main roads?

Main arterial roads in the Shire are the responsibility of VicRoads. If you wish to cut, collect or remove live, dead or fallen timber or vegetation from the road reserves, you need to contact VicRoads on 131 171 or visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au for their consent.

Your personal safety must be your top priority. The safest Bushfires can be deadly and the only way to ensure your

Bushfires can be deadly

The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommended that the Victorian Government consider a range of bushfire shelter options. **Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort** are one of these options and a number of locations have been identified across Victoria and here in Nillumbik.

While these locations have been identified as Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort in Nillumbik, these locations cannot be guaranteed as 'safe'. They should not form part of your Bushfire Survival Plan and should only be used if all other plans have failed.

There is only one safe option for many of our residents on high risk days – leave and leave early. On a Code Red day it is preferable to leave the night before.

In certain locations across our Shire, the message from the CFA is that on Code Red days when fire risk is at its most extreme you should not plan to defend your property.

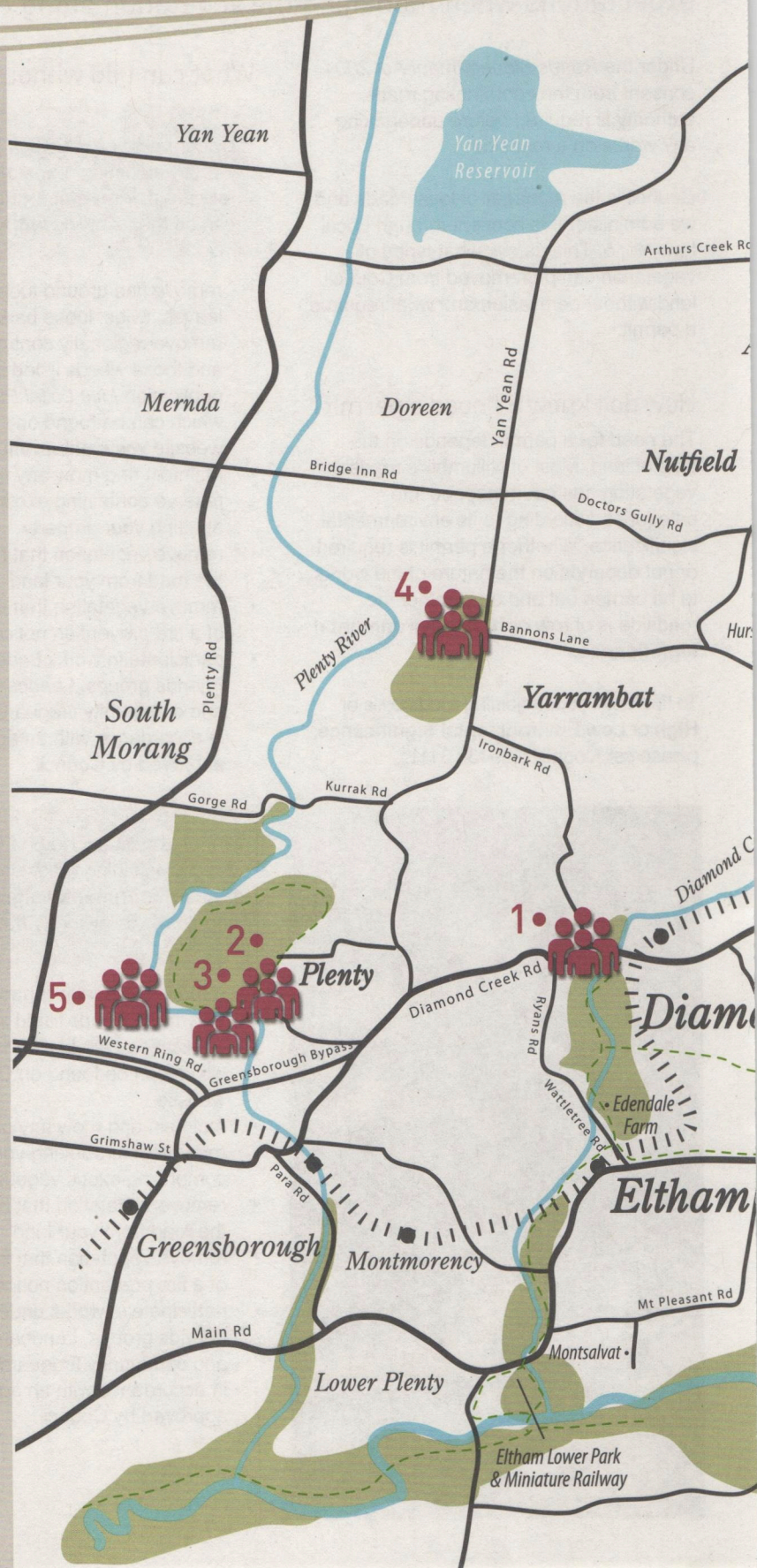
Know where you are going and plan your journey allowing plenty of time for the problems traffic congestion can cause.

Our hope is that Nillumbik, and indeed the whole of Victoria, remains fire free this summer. But the only way to ensure your safety and that of your family is to plan ahead and be fire ready.

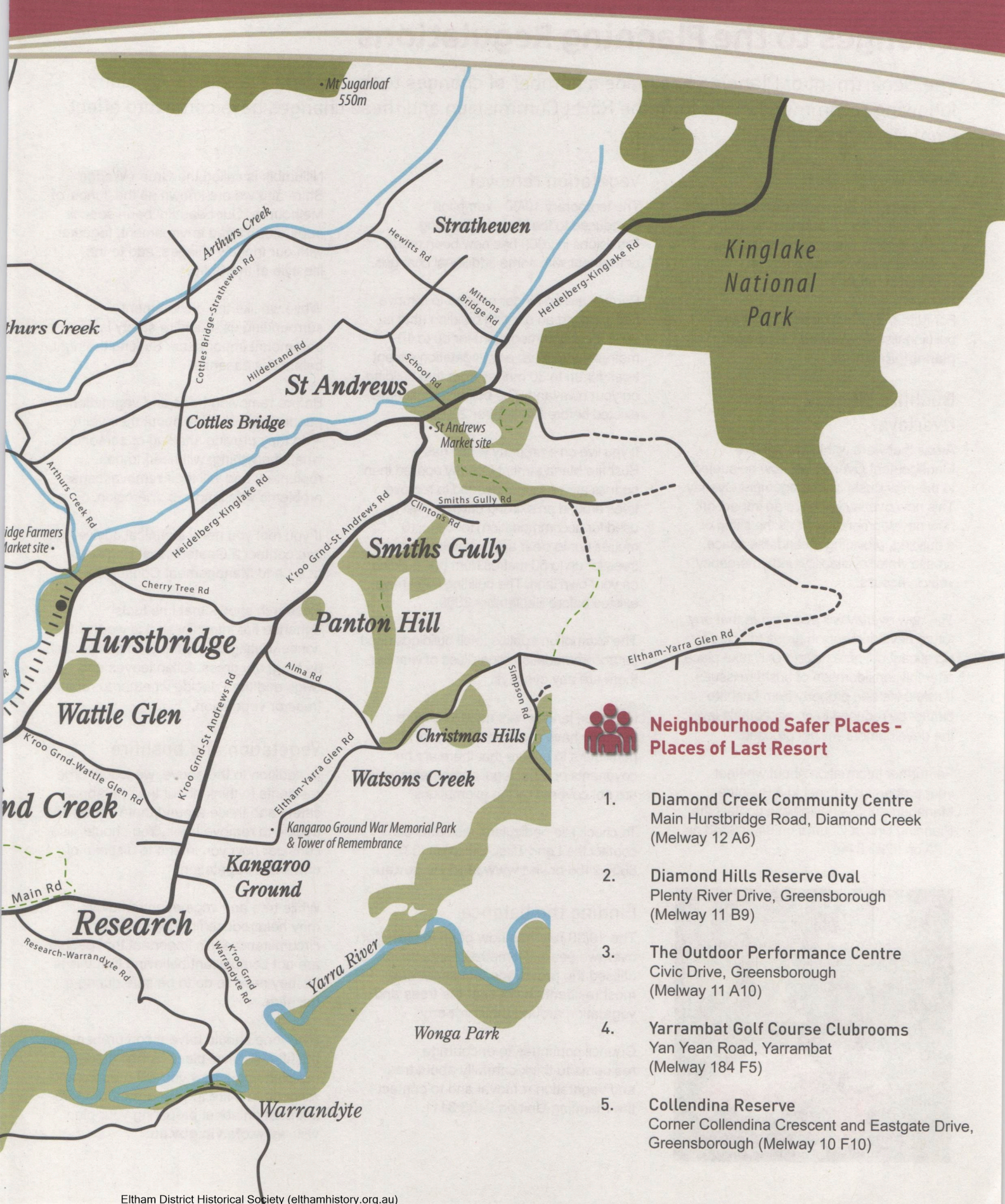
Council and the CFA continue to identify and assess possible Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort locations.

This map is current at the time of printing but please refer to the CFA or Council website for an up-to-date listing.

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
www.cfa.vic.gov.au



option is always to leave before bushfire threatens.
safety is to be well away from the threat.



Changes to the Planning Regulations

The Department of Planning has made a number of changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions following recommendations from the Royal Commission and these changes have come into effect from November 2011.

These changes apply to

- the amount of vegetation that can be removed from around a property;
- the Wildfire Management Overlay,
- building regulations and
- bushfire shelters.

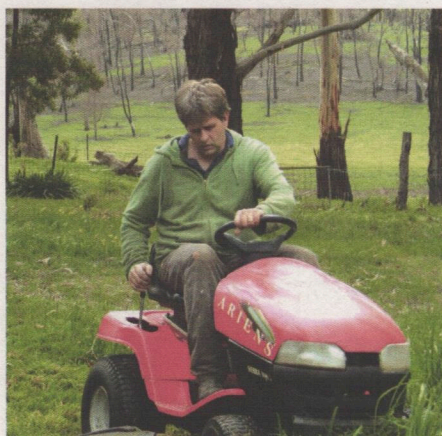
For further information about bushfire building visit www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/bushfire

Bushfire Management Overlays

Areas that were within the Wildfire Management Overlay will now be subject to the new Bushfire Management Overlay. This new overlay will have an impact on new developments such as the siting of a building, providing defendable space, on-site water availability and emergency vehicle access.

The new overlay will also ensure that any future developments in areas affected by significant bushfire hazard only take place after full consideration of bushfire issues. If risk to life and property from bushfire cannot be reduced to an acceptable level the development will not proceed.

For further information about whether your property is subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay please contact the Planning Unit at Council on 9433 3343 or CFA on 9262 8444.



Vegetation removal

The temporary 10/30 exemption introduced to the Victoria Planning Provisions in 2009 has now been made permanent with some additional changes.

Permits are no longer needed to remove trees around an existing building (that is used for accommodation) for up to 10 metres nor to clear any vegetation except trees for up to 30 metres from that building on your own land. The building must have existed before September 2009.

If you live on a property which has a Bushfire Management Overlay applied then permits are no longer needed to remove trees around an existing building (that is used for accommodation) for up to 10 metres nor to clear any vegetation except trees for up to 50 metres from that building on your own land. The building must have existed before September 2009.

The exemption applies to all buildings used for accommodation regardless of whether there are any overlays.

However, landowners need to ensure that they have checked their Land Title particulars to ensure that there are no covenants or other legal agreements which are not covered by the exemptions.

To check title particulars, residents can contact the Land Titles Office on (03) 8636 2456 or visit www.land.vic.gov.au.

Finding the balance

The 10/30 rule has now been in place for over two years. Some residents have utilised the provisions, but in general, most residents have kept the trees and vegetation around their property.

Council continues to encourage residents to think carefully about tree and vegetation removal and to contact the Planning Unit on 9433 3111.

Nillumbik is called the Green Wedge Shire and we are known as the 'lungs' of Melbourne. Our beautiful open spaces and natural treed environment, together with our friendly villages, add to the lifestyle of the Shire.

While we like the environment surrounding us, bushfire safety is of paramount importance. Striking the right balance is essential.

Before removing trees and vegetation, people need to think about their value – do they provide shading or screening; what, if anything, will need to be replanted, and will their removal cause problems with land slip or erosion.

If you feel you need technical advice, you can contact a Geotechnical Engineer or a Land Management Consultant.

Research shows that fine fuels enhance fire intensity so it is worthwhile concentrating on cleaning up things such as long, dry grass, fallen leaves and twigs and then decide whether to remove trees or vegetation.

Vegetation and bushfire

In addition to the above, we would urge residents to think about their personal safety and those around them if they do decide to remove trees. You should also consider how you intend to dispose of unwanted vegetation.

While tree and vegetation removal may help reduce fire risk in certain circumstances, it's important that people are not complacent believing that this is all they need to do to be safe during a bushfire.

Everyone should have a comprehensive bushfire survival plan – a well thought out plan about how you will prepare and respond to a fire in your area. For more information about preparing your plan visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Managing Burgan for fire protection

The Nillumbik Planning Scheme has been amended to allow the removal of Burgan within the Shire for **fire protection purposes** without a permit.

If you feel your property is at risk of bushfire and that Burgan is contributing to this risk, it can be removed without a planning permit.

What is Burgan?

Burgan is a native shrub or small tree two to ten metres high, with small leaves and many small white flowers. It commonly colonises disturbed areas i.e. land used previously for pasture.

What is the problem with Burgan?

Burgan can invade land and potentially increase fire hazard. Shrubby fuels near houses can have a dramatic impact on survival of houses during bushfires due to the effects of flame contact and radiant heat.

What do I need to consider before I remove Burgan?

Removing Burgan is very labour intensive, requires ongoing maintenance, can increase weed invasion and if inappropriate methods are used can increase your vulnerability to bushfire.

You need to:

- check that there are no covenants or other legal constraints on your land which protect native flora, such as a Section 173 Agreement (this will be referenced on the certificate of title on your land)
- ensure that during the removal of Burgan, you do not destroy any other native species protected by the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

How far from the house should I remove Burgan?

Calculate appropriate setback distances using the Wildfire Management Overlay Workbook at www.cfa.vic.gov.au, then use a tape measure to determine how far you need to go.

How can Burgan be removed?

Preparing a **land management plan** will help you plan the removal of Burgan over the next few years to ensure that the removal is effective. A land management plan will help you manage issues associated with removal such as erosion, the removal of other indigenous vegetation and further weed infestation.

For detailed information on removing Burgan, see Council's *Managing Burgan for fire protection* fact sheet available from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or contact Council on 9433 3111.



Burgan in flower.

Further information

For further information on Burgan, contact Environmental Planning on 9433 3210. For information on planning permits, contact Statutory Planning on 9433 3343.

Did you know that Victoria is one of the top three most fire prone locations in the world?

Are you new to Nillumbik?

If you have recently moved into Nillumbik Shire you need to be aware that this is a bushfire prone area.

In 2009, North Warrandyte was designated as one of the 52 most fire risk areas in Victoria and with Victoria being one of the top locations in the world prone to bushfire this means we must take the threat of fire very seriously.

While the Victorian Government, Council, CFA and many other organisations are working towards minimising the risk of bushfire, you must also be responsible. Be alert and aware of the weather conditions. Prepare your home and yourselves by ensuring that you have a plan.

On Code Red days you are advised to leave and leave early – this may be the day before. Do not wait to see smoke before you have made your decisions – this may be too late and could be a fatal decision.

Be aware of traffic congestion – particularly in the North Warrandyte area.

Be a good neighbour. If you are aware of elderly or vulnerable neighbours check to see if they have made a plan.

Make a plan

If you are new to Nillumbik it's important that you develop a bushfire plan and then practice it. If you have never made a bushfire plan before, there are plenty of places where you can get help.

Start by visiting the CFA website and test yourself on how prepared you would be or download their app. You may also want to attend a CFA hosted Community Meeting, check their website for details of when and where.

Defending your home will require enormous reserves of physical and mental stamina. It may require many hours and sometimes days of active patrolling and defence of your property. This will be exhausting. It can only be done with two or more fit adults in residence and must not be attempted if there are children or elderly present.

FREE garden green waste drop-offs

Free Garden Green Waste drop off dates for 2011-2012 have been scheduled for the following dates:

- Sunday 11 December 2011**
- Sunday 8 January 2012**
- Sunday 12 February 2012**
- Sunday 11 March 2012**

Recycling & Recovery Centre
290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty
(Melway 11 D1)

Open: 8am-4pm



Why have a garden clean up?

"Fires need fuel to burn in the form of plants, shrubs, trees and garden waste. The path a fire takes depends on where the fuel is. This means you need to prepare your land before the fire season to lessen the fuel load.

"Managing the shrubs, plants and trees (known as vegetation) around your home and property, gives your house a fighting chance of survival."
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

The CFA website has some great information about cleaning up your garden and some tips to reduce your fire risk.

It provides information about:

- understanding your risk
- using the layout of your property
- reducing fine fuels
- trees, lawns, removing weeds and mulching
- plant selection.

www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Burning off on your property

If you would like to burn-off at home for fire hazard reduction purposes some conditions apply. Residents with more than one acre (0.4 ha) of land can burn-off all year round except during the Declared Fire Danger Period and Total Fire Ban days. Residents on less than one acre must get a permit to burn. There is more information on burning-off safely on Council's website.



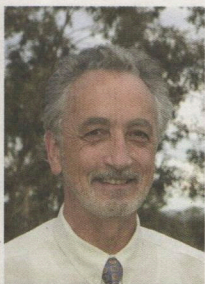
Mayor,
Councillor
Helen Coleman
Wingrove Ward
☎ 0437 940 930



Deputy Mayor,
Councillor
Ken King
Sugarloaf Ward
☎ 0427 549 759



Councillor
Belinda Clarkson
Blue Lake Ward
☎ 0429 430 977



Councillor
Lewis Brock
Bunjil Ward
☎ 0428 561 753



Councillor
Michael Young
Edendale Ward
☎ 0437 840 866



Councillor
Peter Perkins
Ellis Ward
☎ 0437 455 064

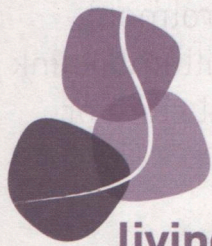


Councillor
Chris Chapple
Swipers Gully Ward
☎ 0428 376 942

Civic Drive, Greensborough | PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088
Telephone 9433 3111 | Facsimile 9433 3777
Website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au | Email nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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Summer Program preview February-April 2012

**GIFT
VOUCHERS
AVAILABLE!**

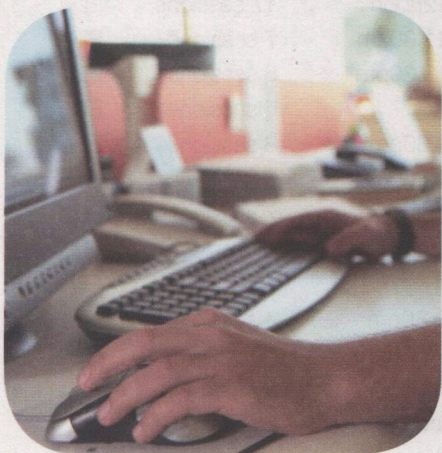
**Short course enrolments open
Monday 5 December!**

For all course details, fees and conditions of enrolment visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

**Nationally recognised
qualifications 2012 now enrolling!**



- Diploma in Children's Services CHC50908
- Certificate IV in Disability CHC40308
- Certificate IV Training and Assessment TAE40110
- Certificate III in Aged Care CHC30208
- Certificate III in Children's Services CHC30708
- Certificate III in Home and Community Care CHC30308



Eltham

739 Main Road
Eltham 3095
Melway 21 J7
Phone: 9433 3744

Panton Hill

18 Bishops Road
Panton Hill 3759
Melway 263 K9
Phone: 9433 3799

Diamond Creek

119 Cowin Street
Diamond Creek 3089
Melway 12 A5
Phone: 9433 3766

**To book your child into
a Playhouse, phone:**

Eltham: 9433 3755
Panton Hill: 9433 3795
Diamond Creek: 9433 3766

To see further details of these and other courses, fees and conditions of enrolment, please visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au and click on the Living & Learning Nillumbik link at the bottom of the page or pick up a Program at your local library, general store or Council information stand.

A year in the studio – a celebration!

Come and be inspired by this exhibition of art works created by our participants in 2011.

Thursday 1 December-Monday 19 December, 2011
Eltham Library Community Gallery,
Panther Place, Eltham



Venue: DC – Diamond Creek ED – Edendale Farm EL – Eltham PH – Panton Hill W – Warrandyte

Art and clay

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Monday	Pottery for beginners	6 February	9.30am-12noon	17 sessions	EL
	Art workshop	13 February	9.30am-11.30am	7 sessions	PH
	Women's arts for health	13 February	9.30am-12.30pm	6 sessions	EL
	Learn to paint	13 February	7pm-9pm	6 sessions	EL
Tuesday	Art open studio	7 February	9.30am-4.30pm	8 sessions	EL
	Pottery open studio	7 February	9.30am-4.30pm	8 sessions	EL
	Leadlight for beginners and beyond	14 February	7pm-9.30pm	7 sessions	EL
Wednesday	Leadlight for beginners and beyond	15 February	9am-12noon	7 sessions	EL
	Leadlight co-op	15 February	1pm-4pm	7 sessions	EL
	Mandala magic	7 March	6.30pm-9.30pm	4 sessions	EL
Thursday	Men's arts for health	9 February	12.30pm-3.30pm	19 sessions	EL
	Life drawing co-op	9 February	1pm-3pm	8 sessions	EL
Friday	Botanical illustration	10 February	10am-12noon	8 sessions	EL

Computers, digital imagery and design

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Monday	Computer intro – beginners	13 February	10am-12noon	1 session	ED
	Computer intro – advanced beginners	13 February	1pm-3pm	1 session	ED
	How to use your digital camera	13 February	7.30pm-9.30pm	6 sessions	EL
	JUMP START computers level 1	20 February	9am-12noon	7 sessions	ED
	JUMP START computers level 2	20 February	12.30pm-3.30pm	7 sessions	ED
	JUMP START computers level 1	13 February	6pm-8.30pm	8 sessions	ED
	Buying and selling on eBay	20 February	10am-2pm	1 session	DC
	Buying and selling on eBay	19 March	10am-2pm	1 session	DC
Tuesday	JUMP START computers level 3	6 February	6pm-8.30pm	8 sessions	ED
	Digital photography for beginners	14 February	12.30pm-2.30pm	7 sessions	DC
Wednesday	Digital imaging introduction	8 February	12.30pm-2.30pm	8 sessions	DC
	Facebook introduction	22 February	9.30am-12.30pm	1 session	DC
Thursday	Build your own hobby website	15 March	7pm-9.30pm	2 sessions	DC
	MYOB module 1	15 March	9.15am-12.15pm	7 sessions	ED
	MYOB module 1	15 March	6.30pm-9.30pm	7 sessions	ED
	iPhone – introduction	16 February	7pm-9pm	1 session	DC
	iPad – introduction	23 February	7pm-9pm	1 session	DC
	Skype communications	15 March	12noon-2pm	1 session	DC

Careers and employment

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Wednesday	Green your business, grow your business	7 March	7pm-9pm	1 session	EL
Thursday	Manual bookkeeping for beginners	16 February	9.15am-12.15pm	4 sessions	ED
	Manual bookkeeping for beginners	16 February	6.30pm-9.30pm	4 sessions	ED
Saturday	Responsible Service of Alcohol	17 March	10am-2pm	1 session	EL
	Basic food safety level 1	24 March	9am-2pm	1 session	EL
	Supervising food safety level 2	24 March	3pm-5pm	1 session	EL

Crafts and textiles

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Monday	Flower design	19 March	9.30am-12.30pm	2 sessions	EL
	Sewing group	6 February	1pm-3pm	7 sessions	EL
	Hand made books	13 February	9.30am-12noon	5 sessions	PH
	Knitting and crochet for beginners	20 February	1pm-3pm	5 sessions	PH
	Knit, natter and nosh	20 February	7.30pm-9.30pm	6 sessions	PH
Tuesday	Needle natter	14 February	9.30am-11.30am	7 sessions	PH
Wednesday	Patchwork in progress/UFO's	8 February	9.30am-11.30am	7 sessions	DC
	Machine quilting for beginners	15 February	1pm-3pm	4 sessions	PH
	Sew in to it	8 February	7pm-9pm	9 sessions	DC
	Soy candle making	7 March	1pm-3pm	2 sessions	PH
Thursday	Just Christmas crafts	16 February	9.30am-3pm	5 sessions	PH
Friday	Mosaic co-op	17 February	9.30am-12noon	7 sessions	PH
	Patchwork projects	17 February	9.30am-12noon	5 sessions	PH
	Patchwork for beginners	24 February	9.30am-12noon	5 sessions	PH
Saturday	Fantasy silk scarves	17 March	10am-3pm	1 session	DC
	Ink stamping come and try	11 February	10.30am-12.30pm	1 session	DC
	Teacosy tales	18 February	10am-12noon	various	PH
	Ink stamping colourful creations	3 March	9.30am-12.30pm	1 session	DC
	Garden ornaments	3 March	10am-12.30pm	1 session	PH
	Craft for a cause marathon session	17 March	10am-10pm	1 session	PH
	Ink stamping everything faux	24 March	9.30am-12.30pm	1 session	DC
	3D felting wool sculpture	24 March	10am-3pm	1 session	PH
	Sewing for beginners	11 February	9am-11.30am	7 sessions	DC
Sunday	Introduction to mosaics	19 February	9.30am-12noon	2 sessions	PH

Dance, drama and music

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Monday	Guitar, various levels	13 February	7pm-8pm	6 sessions	PH
Tuesday	Line dancing	7 February	10.30am-11.30am	8 sessions	DC
	Guitar for beginners	7 February	8pm-9pm	8 sessions	DC
Thursday	Discovering dance	23 February	9.45am-10.45am	6 sessions	EL
	Dance for beginners	23 February	10.50am-11.45am	6 sessions	EL
	We can all sing	9 February	1.15pm-2.30pm	8 sessions	DC
	Nia holistic movement	23 February	7.30pm-8.30pm	6 sessions	EL
Friday	Folk singing and guitar	17 February	1pm-3pm	7 sessions	PH
Saturday	Piano/keyboard	4 February	From 10.30am	9 sessions	DC

Genealogy

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Monday	Introduction to genealogy	13 February	1pm-3pm	1 session	DC
	Finding families online	5 March	1pm-3pm	1 session	DC
	The story of your ancestor's voyage	26 March	1pm-3pm	1 session	DC

Social events and activities

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Tuesday	Serendipity	14 February	9.30am-12noon	10 sessions	EL

For the family

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Monday	Cooking for kids	6 February	4pm-5.30pm	5 sessions	DC
	Art for kids	13 February	4pm-6pm	6 sessions	EL
	Guitar for kids	13 February	from 4pm	6 sessions	PH
Tuesday	Dancing together	7 February	9.30am-10.30am	8 sessions	DC
Wednesday	Hairdressing at home level 2	15 February	1pm-3pm	6 sessions	DC
Thursday	Creative dance for kids	23 February	4pm-5pm	6 sessions	EL
Saturday	Art for kids	18 February	10am-12noon	6 sessions	EL
	Wildlife Victoria workshop	25 February	10am-12noon	1 session	PH
	Wildlife wonders for kids	3 March	1.30pm-4pm	1 session	PH

Health, fitness and wellbeing

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Tuesday	Yoga, relaxation and meditation	7 February	7.30pm-9pm	8 sessions	DC
	Qi Gong	14 February	9.30am-11am	7 sessions	PH
	Yoga breathing	21 February	7.30pm-8.30pm	6 sessions	EL
Wednesday	Tennis for fun	15 February	9.30am-12noon	7 sessions	PH
	Tai Chi and Qi Gong beginners	8 February	10am-11am	8 sessions	DC
Thursday	Tai Chi and Qi Gong advanced	9 February	10am-11am	8 sessions	DC
	Bodymind yoga and meditation	9 February	10.30am-12noon	7 sessions	EL
Friday	Yoga	17 February	9.45am-11am	7 sessions	PH
Saturday	The five Tibetans	25 February	10.30am-3.30pm	1 session	DC
	Basic skills for home and family massage	4 March	10am-3.30pm	1 session	PH
Sunday	Make your own natural skin care products	25 March	10.30am-4pm	1 session	DC

Kitchen, house and garden

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Tuesday	Foodie tour	27 March	9.15am-2.30pm	1 session	DC
Wednesday	Thai food shopping tour	TBA	10am-2pm	1 session	PH
	Home brewing secrets	21 March	7pm-9pm	1 session	DC
Thursday	Tea blending	22 March	10am-12noon	1 session	W
	Feng Shui for 2012	31 May	9.30am-12noon	1 session	EL
Saturday	Perfect pasta	25 February	10am-1pm	1 session	PH
	Gnocchi making	10 March	10am-1pm	1 session	PH
	Flavours of Sicily	24 March	10am-1pm	1 session	PH
	DIY double glazing	24 March	10am-12noon	1 session	EL
	Becoming an owner builder	31 March	10am-4pm	1 session	EL
	Thai cooking for beginners	17 March	10am-1pm	1 session	PH
	Thai cooking workshop	21 April	10am-1pm	1 session	PH

Words and language

Day	Course	Start date	Time	Sessions	Venue
Monday	Creative writing	6 February	1pm-3pm	7 sessions	DC
Tuesday	Book club	14 February	10am-11.30am	5 sessions	PH
	Spanish for beginners	14 February	7pm-8.30pm	7 sessions	EL
	French for beginners	14 February	7pm-8.30pm	7 sessions	EL
	Italian for beginners level 1	7 February	12noon-1.30pm	8 sessions	DC
	Italian level 2A	7 February	10am-11.30am	8 sessions	DC
Wednesday	Second Wednesday book club	8 February	7pm-8.30pm	5 sessions	EL
	French level 2	22 February	7pm-8.30pm	6 sessions	EL
Thursday	Italian level 2B	9 February	10am-11.30am	8 sessions	DC

Living & Learning Nillumbik reserves the right to change information contained in this publication. All information was correct at the time of printing.

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Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority

