

	<p>volumes with biodiversity outcomes; behaviour change to encourage active transport; 15-min town planning; consultation methods on Integrated Transport Strategy; and wildlife road strikes.</p> <p>Noted that Council's transport team has recently joined the same department as its environment teams, under a single manager.</p> <p>Discussions on topography, cycling, speed limits, how to get cars off roads, behaviour change to reduce car use in urban areas, future opportunities regarding new and emerging technologies such as EVs, electric bikes and electric scooters.</p> <p>Topics of interest to ESAC for further discussion: Shire wide walking and pedestrian strategy (including cycling); need for environment/biodiversity to be considered in all actions; safe pedestrian crossing plan; Shire wide bus network review; and other relevant actions of the new Council Plan.</p> <p>Action: Officers to send presentation and link to Integrated Transport Strategy to ESAC members.</p>	
6	<p>Update on Urban Tree Canopy Strategy</p> <p>Progress against indicators and targets to date; and what's happening in 2025/26.</p> <p>Nillumbik Urban Tree Canopy Strategy 2024-2040 - Nillumbik Shire Council</p> <p>Key issues raised: street tree planting requirements; planting with consideration to climate change; suitability of community plantings on National Tree Day; tree maintenance programs; criteria around tree health assessments; feedback was provided on promotion videos around caring for street trees; discussion around projected tree declines across the next 10 years at activity centres and need to take action to maintain existing trees; and discussion on the need to review existing nature strip planting guidelines (which is an action of the new Council Plan).</p>	Kirsten
7	<p>Good news re Domestic Animal Management Plan and Cat Curfew</p> <p>Update on cat curfew. 24-hour cat curfew will come into place with a 2 year transition period.</p> <p>Committee discussion recommended that clear measures of success should be developed for the curfew, with reduction of complaints and number of cat registrations being examples.</p>	Chair
8	<p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of ESAC for 2026-28 term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EOI for new ESAC committee is expected to open in the March/April 2026. New committee expected to commence in June 2026. ○ Request for ESAC members to fill out a feedback survey to help inform new committee Terms of Reference and processes. • Wildlife roadstrike update – most recent report • Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty – At the October 2025 Council meeting, Council voted to endorse this treaty. • Good news – Eltham Leisure Centre electrification grant success – Council has been awarded \$2.5million in federal funding to co-fund this major upgrade, which will enable emissions to be eliminated from this facility – marking a major step towards achieving Council's target of net-zero organisational emissions by 2030. 	Kirsten & Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many environment and sustainability events are happening all the time. Advertised in monthly e-news, Nillumbik News, social media etc. Please help to on-promote the events. Environment and Sustainability - Nillumbik Shire Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning for 2026 events is happening in the next month, please submit ideas to environment@nillumbik.vic.gov.au and/or get in touch with the Environment and Climate Change Officer (Grace). The suggestions already provided by ESAC will also input into this planning process. • Proposed Challenger Street BMX track - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Various ESAC members expressed that they had received questions about the project and so requested to discuss the matter. Concerns raised by a community member related to the potential for environmental impacts to the reserve, including its wetland and fauna. ○ Discussion held about the project and the site; and the degree of scope/role of ESAC members to advocate or act based on their Terms of Reference. ○ Confirmed that whilst it is outside of the committee scope to be directly consulted on operational matters, it is appropriate for members to be a conduit to bring community environmental or sustainability concerns or questions to meetings. ○ Discussion points included that there is a grant requirement for the BMX track to be situated in Diamond Creek and there are a lack of alternative site options; the importance of environmental assessments; the need for mitigation options to be explored such as fencing of wetlands; and a recommendation was made that a materials sensitivity analysis should be undertaken (if it hasn't already) due to wetland proximity, to understand the likelihood and any potential impact of leeching of microplastics. <p>Other Business Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers to send ESAC survey to members for feedback. • Officers to provide a link to the issues report released this week as an outcome of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into wildlife roadstrikes. • ESAC members to provide officers with any additional suggestions for possible 2026 sustainability or environment education / nature exploration topics and events within next 2 weeks. 	
Next meeting: 18 February 2026		

Table of Open Actions

Meeting date	Action	Owner/s	Status	Comment
19/11/2025	Circulate a copy of the transport presentation and link to the Integrated Transport Strategy to ESAC members.	Officers	Complete	Sent with minutes
19/11/2025	Circulate survey to ESAC members for feedback to help inform ESAC term in 2026-28	Officers	Complete	Sent with minutes
19/11/2025	ESAC members to provide officers with any additional suggestions for possible 2026 sustainability or environment education / nature exploration topics and events.	ESAC		
19/11/2025	Circulate link to findings report of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Roadstrikes.	Officers	Complete	Sent with minutes

Meeting date	Action	Owner/s	Status	Comment
20/08/2025	Urban Tree Canopy update to be presented at next meeting.	Officers	Complete	Agenda item for this meeting
16/04/25	Request by ESAC to discuss Bushland Reserves management and enhancement at an upcoming ESAC meeting. Officers to follow up.	Officers	Deferred	Agenda item postponed to February meeting

Youth Council Meeting

Minutes



Date:	Monday 1 December 2025
Time:	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Venue:	Nillumbik Youth Hub
Chair:	Tahlia Edmonds
Minute Taker:	Yasmin Green
Committee Members:	Aashini Rastogi, Alexandra Laidlaw, Ang Gartland, Anushka Gupta, Eleanor Risley, Gianna Andreoli, Jessica Brown, Kris van de Kamp, Lucas Fox, Rose Jarvis, Samuel Lochner, Soren Kean, Tahlia Edmonds
Councillor Representative	Cr Kate McKay
Other:	Nichole Johnson, Krystle Kalomakaefu, Frances Biggar
Apologies:	Corrienne Nichols, Samuel Lochner, Soren Kean, Gianna Andreoli, Kris van de Kamp

Order of business

1. **Welcome (2 minutes)** - *completed by Tahlia*

Observers are reminded their role is to observe only, unless called upon by the Chairperson to participate.

2. **Acknowledgment of Country (2 minutes)** – *completed by Alexandra*

We respectfully acknowledge and recognise the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung as the Traditional Owner of the land on which Nillumbik is located. We pay tribute to all First Peoples living in Nillumbik Shire, give respect to Elders, children, and young people of past, present, and future generations.

We honour their enduring strength, continuing connection and care for the land and waters, and the truth that sovereignty was never ceded. We acknowledge all Bubups – children and their right to play, learn and have a voice on Country.

We acknowledge the past and walk together for our shared future.

3. **Ice breaker (5 minutes)**

The icebreaker question of the meeting everyone responded to was: "If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?"

4. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meetings of Councillors Record

Conflict of interest provisions are contained in sections 126-131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Councillor Code of Conduct, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Advisory Committee Members Code of Conduct.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors Record must be completed at the meeting in accordance with Item 19 of Council's Governance Rule - Meeting Procedure.

No conflicts of interest declared.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held 6 October 2025 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Minutes moved by: Alexandra

Minutes seconded by: Eleanor

6. Outstanding Action Items

Nil outstanding items.

7. Item of business 1: Libraries and engaging young people - YPRL

*Aviva Elijah, Coordinator Programs & Engagement Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries
Jackie Moroney, Coordinator Programs & Engagement Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries*

Aviva and Jackie from YPRL delivered a comprehensive presentation (**Attachment 1**) on services and programs available to young people across the YPRL network, including youth-dedicated spaces at Diamond Valley and Eltham libraries, mobile and click-and-collect services, extensive digital platforms, makerspaces, research tools and technology access. They also outlined recent youth-focused programs and encouraged the group to provide ideas for future activities. Alexandra was acknowledged as the winner of the "Love Your Library" challenge.

Youth Council Feedback (from the live poll and discussion):

- Interest strongest in creative spaces and study spaces.
- Desire for comfortable seating, quiet and peaceful areas, study nooks and collaboration spaces.
- Interest in snacks, practical school/life resources and more charging points.
- Favourite aspects included free Wi-Fi, books, study areas, Eltham Library architecture, printing and art displays.
- Requested future events included movie nights, author workshops, VCE support, job skills programs, first aid and barista training, networking events and work-readiness workshops (e.g., RSA, White Card, tax file, interview skills).

8. Item of business 2: Youth Development Updates

Krystle Kalomakaefu, Team Leader Youth Development

- Currently interviewing for new Youth Hub Engagement Officer, will soon interview for Casual Youth Program Officers.

- **Short Film Festival** – very well attended. Team will work on providing links for Youth Council to watch submitted films.
- **16 Days of Activism Campaign** - Youth Council were thanked for their support of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, which resulted in 75 support bags being successfully delivered to Eltham Bunnings. Great result.
- **Summer holiday program** – see attached
- **Meeting Schedule for 2026** - Dates have now been set for 2026. April meeting clashes with Easter public holiday – sought Youth Council advice to cancel or shift the meeting. Youth Council opted to move the meeting to Monday 30 March 2026. Sought Youth Council permission to share emails via calendar invites for each meeting. Present Youth Councillors agreed to this.
- **Youth Hub Closure** - Youth Hub will close from 24 December 2025 and will reopen on 5 January 2026. Krystle reinforced that staff will be available via phone and email throughout the closure period.

ACTIONS:

- Krystle to seek permission from Youth Councillors not in attendance to share email addresses
- Krystle to send calendar invites for next year's meeting.

BREAK (5 minutes)

9. Item of business 3: Youth Summit planning

Frances Biggar, Youth Hub Engagement Officer

Frances provided an update on the 2026 Youth Summit, noting strong interest from local schools, with 8 of the 12 committed to participating. The proposed structure for the day will guide students through three rounds; exploring ideas for positive change, providing feedback on Council projects, and developing formal recommendations for Council consideration (see **Attachment 2**).

The Summit is scheduled for Wednesday 3 June 2026, from 8:30am–2:30pm at Eltham Community and Reception Centre (ECRC), with Frances continuing to liaise with schools regarding timing and logistics.

Planning roles have been allocated, and further program development will occur, with those available to attend a planning meeting on 12 or 19 January 2026.

Planning roles:

- Warm-ups: Ang & Rose, Aashini
- Guest Speakers: Eleanor & Alexandra
- Lunchtime Activities: Jess & Tahlia
- Catering: Anushka & Lucas

The Youth Councillors worked in groups to provide ideas for the Summit, this information was captured on 'butcher's paper' and provided to Frances.

ACTION: Krystle to send calendar invite to Youth Summit

10. Item of business 4: Council Meetings and Updates

Deputy Mayor Cr. Kate McKay

- The group received an update on recent Council meetings, including discussion of the State Government's Better Decisions Faster Bill. The Bill aims to speed up housing development by reducing planning barriers; however, concerns were raised about the potential for inappropriate development, reduced Council oversight and the risk that approvals may not translate into actual construction. Based on these issues, Council is unlikely to support the proposed changes.
- Cr McKay advised that she now has a role on the Audit and Risk Committee. When there is a clash with Youth Council and the Audit and Risk Committee, Cr Brooker will attend in their absence.
- BMX Park Proposal consultation now closed and data being considered by Council.

ACTION: Cr McKay to provide a link to details of the Bill.

11. Other Business

Lucas enquired as to whether individual photos could be made available to Youth Councillors. Frances advised that they would be.

ACTION: Frances to forward individual Youth Council photos to each of the Youth Councillors.

12. Next meeting date and location

Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting Monday 2 February 2026, 4:30 – 6:30pm
at Nillumbik Youth Hub – 32-34 Elizabeth Street, Diamond Creek

Recreation Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting 4 – Minutes



- Date:** Wednesday 10 December 2025
- Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- Venue:** Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Greensborough
- Chair:** Cr John Dumaresq
- Minute Taker:** Chris Gipps, Recreation and Community Infrastructure Project Manager
- Committee Members:** Cr John Dumaresq (Chair)
Cr Kim Cope (Deputy Chair)
Louise Barry
Andrew Chau
Andrew Bakos
Cathy Giles
Graham Jackson
Andrew McMahon
Julie O'Connell-Seamer
Bill Penrose
Daryl Snowdon
- Apologies:** Serena Marriott
Cath Giles
Louise Barry
Julie O'Connell-Seamer
Mark Hood

Order of business

1. Welcome (Chair)

- 1.1. Introduction of new RTAC Chair, Cr John Dumaresq
- 1.2. RTAC members shared their background and representative interest groups as part of a general introduction.

2. Acknowledgement of Country (Chair)

- 2.1. Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians present.

3. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meeting of Councillors Record (Chair)

3.1. Conflict of interest provisions are contained in sections 126-131 of the Local Government Act 2020, the Councillor Code of Conduct, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Advisory Committee Members Code of Conduct.

3.2. There were no disclosures declared.

4. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting (Chair)

4.1. As some items from previous minutes are unresolved, confirmation of minutes from meeting on 22 October 2025 will be held over to a future meeting once resolved.

5. Actions from previous meeting (Chair)

5.1. Review of RTAC Meeting 2 Minutes.

5.1.1. Background provided around this matter which is in regard to the recording of minutes from RTAC Meeting 2 – 27 August 2025.

5.1.2. With key members required to resolve this not in attendance, this item was carried over to a future meeting or out of meeting discussion.

5.2. Requested update on potential realignment of the Diamond Creek Trail at Diamond Street, Eltham.

5.2.1. Chair provided historical context to this opportunity.

5.2.2. RTAC group discussed possible realignment opportunities whilst reviewing aerial mapping.

5.2.3. Chair advised complexities around the realignment which will require amendments to the Planning Scheme.

5.2.4. Planning for this improvement opportunity is ongoing.

6. Trail mapping working group update (Andrew Bakos)

6.1. Background provided on the intention of what this working group is aiming to achieve.

6.2. No further updates at this time.

7. Diamond Creek to Greensborough Trail Extension project update (Chair)

7.1. Council has committed to undertaking a feasibility assessment on the Maroondah Aqueduct Trail Extension which considers a potential connection of the Diamond Creek Trail and Plenty River Trail.

7.2. A specification is being prepared to appoint a consultant to undertake the feasibility assessment. The consultant will be responsible for working with relevant authorities and key stakeholders—including Melbourne Water, the Department of Transport and Planning.

7.3. It is expected that the consultant will be appointed early in the new year.

7.4. Chair advised that discussions have been had with Vicky Ward MP who has made it clear that there would be no funding made available to construct, if the trail is not shared use and unable to be utilised by all cohorts of the community.

7.5. Andrew Bakos raised the opportunity to utilise land that was held for the proposed Eltham hospital site.

7.6. Chair added that it is unlikely for any funding to be attribute to the Hospital project in the near future.

7.7. Andrew Bakos re raised gates on private property that is restricting access to the Plenty River Trail.

7.8. Chair advised that this will captured as part of the feasible study.

7.8.1. This opportunity will included in the RFQ specifications for this assessment.

7.9. Andrew Bakos re raised the matter of gates restricting access at 208 Plenty River Drive, Greensborough (Melbourne Water site), and questioned whether there is an opportunity to request Melbourne Water provide community access to provide a trail connection between Sugar Gum Boulevard and Plenty River Drive.

7.10. RECOMMENDATION from RTAC to Council (through the Chair) to seek approval from Melbourne Water to provide public access to this area (removal of gate). The Chair and Deputy chair will consider this recommendation and action accordingly.

8. Capital Works Updates (Chris)

8.1. Four new bench seats have been installed along the Aquaduct Trail between Godber Street Diamond Creek and Main Road, Eltham.

8.1.1. These were installed on the back of requests from U3A and a local resident, to service older adult walkers to provide rest spots and regular intervals.

8.2. Update provided regarding the trail upgrade works occur along the Diamond Creek Trail at Eltham Rugby Field.

8.2.1. Works are scheduled to commence late January.

8.2.2. Discussion around optimal detours whilst works are in progress.

8.2.3. Discussion around future opportunities for new bridge to cross Diamond Creek in this precinct.

8.2.4. Chair advised that there is upcoming funding opportunities for sustainable travel projects.

9. Other business

9.1. Andrew Bakos raised the Hurstbridge Rail Corridor Active Transport and Open Space Feasibility Study (Banyule City Council). Refer to attachment 1

9.2. Bill Penrose requested a status update on Council's Trail Action Plan.

9.3. The Trail Action Plan (2021) is used to guide priorities for Trail Upgrade projects, funded through Council's Capital Works Plan.

9.3.1. A status on project statuses will be provided at a future RTAC meeting.

9.4. Bill Penrose referred to three documents previously shared with RTAC.

9.4.1. 'Maroondah Aqueduct Trail Master Plan' (Nillumbik Shire Council),

9.4.2. 'The case of the Maroondah Aqueduct Trail-July 2025' (Bend of Islands Conservation Association - Trails Sub-committee)',

9.4.3. 'Maroondah Pipeline and Aqueduct Masterplan Final Summary Report'- September 2025 (Bend of Islands Conservation Association - Trails Sub-committee).

9.4.4. Bill proposed that RTAC commit time to determine a collective position on the preferred route of the Maroondah Aqueduct Trail extension (Kangaroo Ground to Yarra Glen), priority two project of the Northern Regional Trails Strategy 2022.

9.4.5. Andrew Chau reminded the group that this matter was discussed last meeting, and that this is not a short/medium term project and that the focus of the RTAC's time may be better spent on the current extension project (Greensborough to Diamond Creek).

9.4.6. Andrew McMahon advised that he was on the Bend of Islands Conservation Association - Trails Sub-committee who developed the two documents produced by Bend of Islands Conservation Association - Trails Sub-committee.

9.4.7. Chair- At this stage there is no funding likely available for this project.

9.4.8. Chair put Bill's proposal (9.3.4) to a vote:

2 For, 3 Against.

9.4.9. Chair: ACTION: Consideration will be given to the proposal, based on decision making/trigger points for 'active' projects to help determine whether the project timeline is within a reasonable timeframe.

9.4.10. An update on this matter will be provided in the next RTAC meeting.

10. Meeting close

10.1.1. The next RTAC meeting will 25 February 2026.

10.1.2. Meeting closed at 8:24pm.

Minutes

- Date:** 12 December 2025
- Time:** 10.00am – 12.00pm
- Venue:** Mummery Room, Edendale Farm, 30 Gastons Road, Eltham
- Chair:** Cr Perkins
- Minute Taker:** Julie-Anne Grech, Business and Program Support Officer
- Committee Members:** Michelle Molinaro, Jade McAlear, Gina Lloyd-Thomas, Linda Kelly, Naomi Bishop, Seane Cumming (Different Journeys), Brandi Rutherford (Araluen) and Debbie Anderson (Brotherhood of St. Lawrence)
- Other:** Narelle Hart (Manager Community Programs), Angela Lampard (Disability, Inclusion and Volunteer Coordinator), Nazish Khan (Disability Inclusion Officer, Kate Jewell (Coordinator Strategic Planning), Richard Rowe (Coordinator Edendale Community Environment Farm), Jo Skuse (Visitor, Safety and Volunteer Officer), Julie-Anne Grech (Business and Program Support Officer) and Karen McAlear (Carer)
- Apologies:** Cr Joy, Aaron Williams (Brotherhood of St Lawrence), Kirsten Bate, Jenny Johnsen, Brendan Dozzi, Courtney Walsh (St John of God), Chantel Blitenthall (Yarra Plenty Regional Library) and Silvana Scibilia

Order of business

1. Welcome

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was read by Cr Perkins

3. Apologies

4. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meetings of Councillors Record

Nil

5. Minutes of previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held 24 October 2025 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Seane Cumming

Seconded: Linda Kelly

Carried

Minutes

6. Outstanding Action Items

Nil

7. **Dependent Person's Unit (DPU)/Small Second Dwelling, presentation by Council's Coordinator Strategic Planning (who also has qualifications in Statutory Planning), Kate Jewell**

Nillumbik Shire Council's Coordinator of Strategic Planning provided the Committee with an overview of Small Second Dwellings (SSD); definitions and key components of planning and applying for an SSD within the Nillumbik area. These included:

- Definitions of an SSD, most importantly a building with a gross floor area of 60 square metres (including eaves and verandas)
- Requirements of Planning and Building permits including overlays which trigger a permit requirement
- Details pertaining to inclusions, designs and must haves such as parking, garden areas, subdivision and compliance with other planning schemes i.e. bushfire and flood
- How to apply / enquire about an SSD

Lived experiences raised several issues for Committee members throughout the presentation. These included:

- The upgrade of systems i.e. septic and the cost involved for potentially one toilet
- Miscommunication / contradictory concerns between client, builder and Planning Officer – issues of clarity
- Consideration of Human Rights pertaining to persons with disability in the Planning and Building process
- The need for an SSD to cater for an overnight carer i.e. a larger SSD than 60 square metres to provide a second bedroom and to comply with the work health and safety of carers and occupants
- The need for empathy and understanding throughout the planning and building process from Planning Officers – personal journey's have had a very high negative emotional impact
- The need for support from not only the Planning Team but also the Environmental and Disability Inclusion Teams during the planning process

Coordinator of Strategic Planning supported:

- Preapplication meetings: Families providing as much information as possible about the needs of the potential occupant of the SSD to the Planning Officer in the first instance to assist with decisions made during the process
- Additional training/support for Planning Teams to foster understanding and empathy for people with disability, families and carers
- The development of a Council run service, similar to the Business Concierge, that supports families applying for an SSD. Assistance regarding all areas of planning, requirements, next steps etc. Advertising this new service so families know it is available

Minutes

- Tracking SSD numbers built outside the original scope of 60 square meters that support people with a disability. Figures over time should increase with increasing support

Recommendation:

Council to investigate and report back to the IAAC our unanimous recommendation to provide a Disability Concierge System for new planning applications and enquiries in a similar way a Business Concierge is currently provided to support planning applications or enquiries for the Business community.

Moved: Michelle Molinaro

Seconded: Linda Kelly

8. **Edendale overview, presentation by Council's Coordinator, Edendale Community Environment Farm, Richard Rowe and Edendale's Visitor, Safety & Volunteer Officer, Jo Skuse**

The Coordinator of the Edendale Community Environment Farm highlighted the physical aspects, online supports and ethos of the farm including:

- Core infrastructure and plans for improvement
- Community connectivity to the farm; it's programs, the environment and the animals. A welcoming, sensory, tactile and safe space that is becoming a sought-after space for visitors and events
- Website provides a quick link to the 'Accessibility' page: description of facilities and maps of the Farm which can be downloaded to provide the visitor with path options, available ramp locations, easier to navigate paths/surfaces and quiet spaces
- Visual stories to help plan before arrival
- Audio guide which will soon include different language options
- Collected stories outlining visitor experiences

The online digital concierge in partnership with Cergé was highlighted. This partnership provides visitors with information and resources to help plan their visit to Edendale and maximise the experience. A Cergé phone app is also available, aimed to specifically support people with a disability, parents, carers and support workers. Please refer to the website for further information: [Accessibility - Edendale Community Environment Farm](#)

Edendale Farm is excited to also be working on Auslan signage and Communication Boards. It is designed to be an educational tool for all visitors but will be of particular benefit to people who are non-verbal and/or deaf.

Edendale's Visitor Safety and Volunteer Officer provided the Committee with an overview about the Edendale Volunteer Program. Edendale Farm currently coordinates over 100 volunteers spread over 6 or 7 different volunteer roles including animal, nursery and grounds and gardens chores. The Farm has created more opportunities for people with disability by creating more personalised roles, with greater flexibility. Tailored roles also consider adjustments based on conditions of the day i.e. a busy day might mean adjusting tasks based on the noise factor.

Volunteers and work experience students with a disability usually attend with a support

Minutes

worker. Edendale has established strong partnerships with local support organisations and support workers to help them understand the safety and risk issues/protocols on a working farm.

Materials/instructions have been produced in easy-to-read formats, including pictures to help volunteers and work experience students perform their role. A take home pack reminds volunteers/work experience students what they need to do, tasks they need to complete, what to bring, safety, safe work instructions, how to work the radio etc. Each support worker also goes through a full induction including safety. Students can keep information sheets to assist and remind them of what they need to do; the idea is to have the work experience student take the lead rather than the support worker. Work experience participants receive a certificate at the end of their program and if there is availability, can transition into a volunteer role.

Action: Committee members invited to provide any feedback to enhance the visitor experience at Edendale

9. Other Business:

Nil.

10. **Meeting closed:** 12.00pm

11. **Next meeting:** 10.00am – 12.00pm; Friday 27 February 2026 – Council Chamber, Nillumbik Shire Council, Civic Drive, Greensborough

Youth Council Meeting

Minutes



Date:	Monday 2 February 2026
Time:	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Venue:	Nillumbik Youth Hub
Chair:	Tahlia Edmonds
Minute Taker:	Yasmin Green
Committee Members:	Alexandra Laidlaw, Ang Gartland, Anushka Gupta, Eleanor Risley, Gianna Andreoli, Rose Jarvis, Samuel Lochner, Tahlia Edmonds
Councillor Representative	Cr Grant Brooker
Other:	Frances Biggar, Nichole Johnson, Yasmin Green, Krystle Kalomakaefu, Jim Connor, David Taylor, Bianca Manfre
Apologies:	Cr Kate McKay, Jessica Brown, Lucas Fox, Aashini Rastogi, Kris van de Kamp, Corrienne Nichols,

Order of business

1. Welcome (2 minutes) 4:30pm

Observers are reminded their role is to observe only, unless called upon by the Chairperson to participate.

2. Acknowledgment of Country (2 minutes) 4:32pm

Alexandra provided an acknowledgement of Country:

We respectfully acknowledge and recognise the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung as the Traditional Owner of the land on which Nillumbik is located. We pay tribute to all First Peoples living in Nillumbik Shire, give respect to Elders, children, and young people of past, present, and future generations.

We honour their enduring strength, continuing connection and care for the land and waters, and the truth that sovereignty was never ceded. We acknowledge all Bubups – children and their right to play, learn and have a voice on Country.

We acknowledge the past and walk together for our shared future.

3. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meetings of Councillors Record

Conflict of interest provisions are contained in sections 126-131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Councillor Code of Conduct, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Advisory Committee Members Code of Conduct.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors Record must be completed at the meeting in accordance with Item 19 of Council's Governance Rule - Meeting Procedure.

Nil conflicts declared.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held 1 December 2025 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Minutes moved by: Alexandra

Minutes seconded by: Anushka

5. Outstanding Action Items

Nil

6. Item of business 1: Presentation – Eltham District Historical Society (40 minutes) 4:40pm

Jim Connor, President Eltham District Historical Society

David Taylor, Executive Committee Member Eltham District Historical Society

Jim accompanied by David shared a presentation on the history of Eltham and Nillumbik Shire. Jim introduced himself as a former Councillor and spoke about the importance of connection between council and community, specifically the important role that the Youth Council, and young people can play in shaping their community.

The presentation explored Eltham's history as an early meeting place for the Wurundjeri people, the arrival European settlers, and the development of Eltham as a village in the 1850s. Jim discussed how early communities connected through churches and sporting activities, which served as early forms of 'social media', and explained how early road infrastructure and subdivision shaped the area.

A range of historical photos, maps and aerial images were shared, showing how Eltham had changed over time, including open spaces, buildings and environmental features. The group were able to recognise familiar spaces and places in the images. Jim discussed examples of how the community has worked to protect and enhance local heritage.

The presentation finished with a brief overview of the 1994 council amalgamations that formed Nillumbik Shire (formally the Shire of Eltham and Diamond Valley Shire).

[Eltham District Historical Society Inc. | Our Society encourages interest in and the sharing of stories about the local history of the Eltham district in Victoria, Australia](#)

7. Ice breaker (5 minutes) 4:34pm

The icebreaker of the meeting is: Pride trivia

Frances facilitated Pride trivia activity with Youth Councillors working in small teams to answer questions.

Alexandra and Giana were the winners with 9 out of 15 answers correct - woo!

BREAK (5 minutes) 5:20pm

8. Item of business 2: Northern Business Achievement Awards 5:25pm

Bianca Manfre, Economic Development and Tourism Project Officer

Bianca provided an overview of the Young Business Achiever category of the 2026 Northern Business Achievement Awards. The Awards recognise outstanding businesses across Melbourne's northern councils, including a Young Business Achiever award for individuals under 30 years of age who are part of an innovative business or demonstrate leadership and inspiration.

Youth Council was invited to provide input on potential nominations and effective ways to promote the opportunity to young people across the Shire.

Group discussed promotion opportunities and suggested the following:

- Sharing through schools and existing youth and business networks
- Promoting awards through local community and business social media groups (Facebook and Instagram – using advertising and boosts to increase reach)
- Consider sharing information about awards and previous award winners using engaging visual content.

Nominations are now open and will close on 2 March 2026.

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Business/Marketing-support/Northern-Business-Achievement-Awards>

Item of business 3: Youth Summit planning updates (15 minutes) 5:40pm

Frances Biggar, Youth Development Officer

Frances recapped discussions from previous planning session and confirmed notes (via presentation - attached) aligned with the group's intentions, particularly table topics and their alignment to new Youth Priorities. Group clarified that the topic of 'Youth Voices' relates to leadership, speaking out and participation in youth-related issues.

Group discussed opportunities for Council to seek feedback from Summit participants. Suggested topics include Youth Hub, Council's communications and advocacy priorities and environmental issues. Frances asked the group to consider any individuals and/or groups that should be contacted to provide input. Tahlia indicated that she would give this further thought and follow up where required. The group was encouraged to continue developing ideas and provide additional details at the next meeting.

Frances acknowledged that Project Rokit had been identified as a potential keynote speaker for the Summit and sought feedback from the group on speech themes. Group agreed that "Passion to Purpose" would best fit intention of Summit.

Warm-ups and lunchtime activities were confirmed and finalised (sadly without including a bouncy castle).

Frances will reach out to schools to support Youth Council members who will require the day off school.

[Project Rokit | KEYNOTES](#)

9. Item of business 4: Youth Development updates (5 minutes) 5:55pm

Krystle Kalomakaefu, Team Leader Youth Development

- The Youth, Social Planning and Equity Team welcomes Patrick as the new Youth Hub Engagement Officer
- New programs will be running in Term 1
 - Art Club – Tuesday 2.00pm-3.30pm (18-25 years) and Tuesday 4.00pm-5.30pm (12–17-years)
 - Boardmasters (boardgames) – Wednesday 3.30 – 5.30pm (alternating age groups [week 1: 12 – 17 year olds; week 2: 18 – 25 year olds])

Flyers attached

- Midsumma Pride March – What a great day! Those that attended reported having a fantastic day, lots of fun and the event fostered a great sense of belonging.
- Nillumbik Community Fund – the fund offers grants of up to \$5000 to community groups, organisations and clubs to deliver community-led local initiatives. People who live, work, study, volunteer or play in Nillumbik are eligible to apply.

[Nillumbik Community Fund - Nillumbik Shire Council](#)

- Nillumbik Community Awards now open for nominations – encouraged group to nominate someone they know or consider nominating each other.

[Nillumbik Community Awards - Nillumbik Shire Council](#)

Item of business 4: Council Meetings (5 minutes) 6:00pm

Cr Grant Brooker

Upcoming Council Briefings, Meetings and PCC speaking opportunities.

- Suggested Recreation and Leisure present about the BMX park project at Youth Summit
- Council meetings have not resumed for 2026.

10. Other Business (2 minutes) 6:05pm

- The group discussed the option of moving the meeting back to 5pm and agreed to trial this at the next meeting.

11. Next meeting date and location

Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting Monday 2 March 2026, 5.00pm – 6:30pm at Nillumbik Youth Hub – 32-34 Elizabeth Street, Diamond Creek.