

Nillumbik Youth Strategy 2022-26 Annual Wrap Up 2022



YOUTH

Nillumbik Youth Strategy 2022-26

Annual Wrap Up 2022

This year Council launched the Nillumbik Youth Strategy 2022-2026. The strategy sets out a four-year strategic commitment detailing how Council will support and respond to the needs of young people aged 12-25 years of age who live, work, study, volunteer or play in our Shire.

This report presents the milestone achievements for Year 1 implementation of Nillumbik's Youth Strategy 2022-2026.

Thank you to the following funding partners who have supported the delivery of actions in Year 1 of the Strategy.



Our Vision:

Young people in Nillumbik feel heard, empowered and equipped to thrive in a community where they are healthy, safe and welcomed.

A Message from our Youth Council Mayor

Being involved in the Nillumbik Youth Council has been an opportunity of a lifetime. Not only have I made new friends with like-minded people, I have also made a tangible impact on the community I live in.

I've had the chance to co-design our first Youth strategy alongside Council, MC and host many local events, participate in Council's first Youth Summit, help write and produce a 16 Days of Activism campaign video and lead my own community project which saw more than thirty young people discover alternative career pathways within the sports industry.

These opportunities don't come around often, and I've enjoyed advocating for our young people of Nillumbik in various areas of interest. I'm so proud of what the Youth Council have achieved in the space of two years and I'm excited to see the legacy we leave behind for the next group of young people.

Youth Council Mayor
Brianne Keogh



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People. We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.



Inclusion Statement

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to creating a fair, equitable and inclusive community. We value diversity in our community and support the rights of all people regardless of age, gender, ability or background.

Priority Area Highlights 2022

Healthy and Well



- Delivered **17** school workshops across **9** local high schools engaging over **850** students
- Over **860** parents and carers of young people engaged in Nillumbik Parenting Hub training sessions. Topics included gaming, road safety, autism, cyber safety, LGBTIQA+ and more
- **49** young people participated in Skate and BMX competitions
- **39** youth workers participated in our Hitting the Ground Running induction program

Empowered and Engaged



- **64** young people participated in the inaugural Youth Summit
- **15** Youth Council Members met monthly to advocate for opportunities, barriers and issues impacting on young people in Nillumbik, and consulted on **14** Council projects, policies and strategies
- Launched a new monthly youth LGBTIQA+ social group
- Successfully received **\$150,000** across three years through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Engage! Grant Program
- **19** young people participated in the Youth In Action Program to create youth led initiatives addressing key issues impacting local young people.

Access to Safe Spaces and Places



- **14** young people participated in a forum to share their feedback and ideas for a Youth Hub in Nillumbik
- **Nine** diverse young people shared their stories in the We Know Your Name But Not Your Story storytelling program
- **18** Council staff completed youth disability training to learn how to be more accessible and inclusive of young people with a disability
- **30** L2P Mentors participated in trans and gender diverse inclusive practice.

Equipped and Employed



- **Two** Daily grind youth employment programs were delivered with Living & Learning Nillumbik with **10** participants
- **Three** job readiness sessions provided to **14** young people looking for employment
- **Three** upskilling workshops for **48** young creatives to provide an opportunity to increase their marketing, song writing and technical skills.
- **55** paid opportunities provided for young people through music, arts, photography and workshop delivery
- **30** young people attended a Youth In Basketball Summit led by Youth Mayor in partnership with Diamond Valley Basketball Association.

Welcome and Connected



- **10** FReeZA events with a combined total of over **1400** attendees
- **110** Learners supported through the L2P program
- **27** learners received their license through the TAC L2P program
- **16** school holiday activities and events delivered
- Showcased **10** artworks at the Creative Collective youth art exhibition at Montsalvat
- Successfully received **\$105,000** across three years through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing FReeZa Grant Program.



Program Spotlights

Youth Council

The Nillumbik Youth Council is made up of 15 young people aged 15-25 who act as a peak advisory group to Council; advocating for opportunities, barriers and issues impacting young people in Nillumbik, as well as developing local initiatives and projects. Following its establishment in early 2021, the Youth Council undertook community engagement to develop the Youth Strategy 2022-2026 which was adopted in late 2021.

Throughout 2022, the Youth Council's focus has been on implementing actions in the strategy, including hosting the inaugural Nillumbik Youth Summit and exploring opportunities for a Youth Hub in the Shire.

The Youth Council also provided advice on the following Strategies, Policies and projects:

- Recreation and Leisure Strategy
- Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy
- Neighbourhood Character Strategy
- Diamond Creek Major Infrastructure Plan
- Municipal Planning Strategy
- BMX Dirt Bike Jump Consultation
- Mental Health Advocacy
- This Girl Can Campaign
- We Know Your Name But Not Your Story Project
- Climate Action Projects
- Youth Focused Place Making Projects
- And more.



All Ages Tour

The Eltham All Ages Tour saw our FReeZa team partner with The Push to host a large scale all ages music event.

The event provided an opportunity for young people to see upcoming artists in a local context whilst providing local employment and volunteer opportunities to young people within the music and events industry.

The event consisted of four live music performances; a local young artist, a young winner of the triple J Unearthed competition and two big name headliners (Alice Skye and Sycco).

The event was well attended and gave six of our committee members the chance to develop their event production skills.



Nillumbeats

The Nillumbeats FReeZA committee is a group of 14 young people aged 15 to 25 years old who organise music, art and cultural events for young people in Nillumbik.

In 2022 these events included the Eltham All Ages Tour, stage takeovers at Diamond Creek Town Fair and St. Andrews Community Festival as well as a skate, scooter and BMX competition at the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival.

"The best bit of the All Ages Tour was working with all the bands, managers, and seeing the light and sound set ups. Having the opportunity to explore this kind of work has led me to pursue further opportunities in the events industry."

2022 Nillumbeats FReeZA team member



Youth Summit

Students from across the Shire came together for the inaugural Nillumbik Youth Summit to discuss topics that matter most to them.

54 students from five local schools joined the Youth Council for the summit to discuss key local issues impacting young people.

Keynote speakers included writer and transgender rights activist Nevo Zisin, Australian Paralympian Jaryd Clifford and founder of local charity Hayden's Helping Hands, Hayden Rujak.

Table discussions centred on the topics of Climate Action and Sustainability, Gender Equity, LGBTIQA+ Inclusion, Mental Health, Physical Health and Wellbeing, and Social Connection.

Participants demonstrated incredible insight and enthusiasm for creating change in the community, working with Council to make their ideas achievable.

100 percent of attendees felt confident that they now better understand the challenges and issues impacting young people.

Council is committed to continuing to work closely with young people to deliver on each of the recommendations put forward at the Youth Summit.

Some of the recommendations achieved in 2022 include:

- Establishment of a LGBTIQA+ social group
- Community screening of the film 2040
- A social media campaign for 16 Days of Activism co-designed with young people
- Youth Hub forum
- LGBTIQA+ education sessions



Young Women Leaders of Nillumbik Awards

In March 2022, we acknowledged the contributions of some of Nillumbik's most outstanding young women through the Young Women Leader Awards, presented at Councils International Women's Day event.

Young Woman of the Year was awarded to Fieke van Der Kamp, a passionate member of the Nillumbik Youth Council who has dedicated her time to empowering and inspiring other young people in the community.

Other award recipients included:

- Young Creative Leader Abigail Wilson, recognised for her incredible impact in the film industry, highlighting community stories through her short films.
- Young Sport Leader Jessica Alpen, a volunteer assistant coach for the Research Eltham Collegians All Abilities cricket team who demonstrates leadership and is an exceptional role model for the team.
- Young Creative Young Business Leader Orianna Edmonds, is the proud owner of a organic goats milk skincare business. Her proactive approach has had a significant impact on the Nillumbik community by supporting other local farms, producers, retailers and consumers.
- Young Gender Equity Leader Brianne Keogh, recognised for her continuous advocacy for the young women of Nillumbik across her work with Youth Council and local sporting clubs.



TAC L2P Program

The Nillumbik L2P program had 34 volunteer mentors and helped 110 learners become safe, confident drivers while working towards their 120 hours of practice driving. 100 percent of participants in the program would recommend the program to a friend.



"When the suggestion of the L2P program came up it sounded amazing, in particular because it would take the pressure off my dad in trying to find time to teach me while he was working full-time, and also trying to readjust to life without my mum.

Getting my licence was important to get to work and university more easily, as well as other commitments without needing to ask people to give me a ride home all the time.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Jamie who drove all those hours with me. Thank you for all your time and energy and encouragement. I truly believe I am a safer and more capable driver because of it."

Monique, 2022 L2P Program participant

Nillumbik Shire Council

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