#### Friends Groups in the Shire of Nillumbik

Nearly every weekend volunteers from across Nillumbik Shire work together to protect our natural environment as part of one of sixteen Friends of Groups active within the Shire.

A Friends Group is a group of volunteers with an interest in a particular park, reserve or species of native plant or animal. Members are involved in activities such as planting, weed control, mulching, plant and animal monitoring and water quality monitoring.

With these groups doing over 2000 volunteer hours of work in Council bushland reserves each year, they play a vital role in protecting threatened natural environments, as well as making Nillumbik, a more beautiful place to live.

Joining a Friends group is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and contribute to the protection and enhancement of our significant bushland reserves. Groups are always looking for new members. Most Friends Groups hold their working bees monthly on Sundays (10am -12noon). The following groups meet regularly for work:

* + - * Friends of Barak Bushlands, Eltham
      * Friends of Eltham Copper Butterfly, Eltham
      * Friends of Eltham Lower Park, Eltham
      * Friends of Karringal Yalloc, Eltham
      * Friends of Woodridge Linear Reserve, Eltham
      * Friends of Macmahon Ball, Eltham
      * Friends of Fabbro Fields, Eltham
      * Friends of Grove St Reserve, Eltham
      * Friends of Yarramie, Research
      * Friends of Swipers Gully, Research
      * Friends of Challenger St Wetlands, Diamond Creek
      * Friends of Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge
      * Friends of Darrabi Gardens, Hurstbridge
      * Friends of Watery Gully, Wattle Glen
      * Friends of Plenty River Walk, Greensborough
      * Friends of Moor-rul Reconciliation Grassland, Kangaroo Ground
      * Friends of The Gawa Trail, Kangaroo Ground
      * Friends and Relations of Queenstown Cemetary, Smiths Gully
      * Friends of Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System, Panton Hill
      * Friends of Heard Avenue Reserve, Plenty
      * (Montmorency Field Naturalists)

If there isn’t a Friends Groups in your area you can establish your own group. To set up a group talk to Council; all you will need is a contact person and a number of like-minded people in your area, along with an idea of the work that the group would like to do.

For more information on Friends Groups contact Council’s Environmental Works Unit on 9433 3121 or visit the Nillumbik Council [website](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Help_improve_your_local_Environment/Friends_Groups)