

## How you can help

- Retain, restore and plant native vegetation on your property, especially Sweet Busaria
- Keep dogs on a leash in reserves
- If landscaping, do not disturb your existing native vegetation
- Do not dump rubbish in the reserves
- Participate in a larvae count
- Remove invasive weeds from your garden so they don't spread into the reserves.

You can join the Friends of the Eltham Copper Butterfly by contacting Wayne Kinrade on **9439 1482** or via email at [waynekinrade@hma.com.au](mailto:waynekinrade@hma.com.au)

### Want to know more?

**Nillumbik Shire Council can support and assist you in enhancing Eltham Copper Butterfly habitat on your property**

For further information contact Nicole Drever, Environmental Works Officer **9433 3202**  
[nicole.drever@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nicole.drever@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

Or visit the website  
[nillumbik.vic.gov.au/copperbutterfly](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/copperbutterfly)

# The Eltham Copper Butterfly

Protecting a threatened species on your property



## Nillumbik Shire Council

Civic Drive (PO Box 476)  
Greensborough Victoria 3088  
03 9433 3111

[nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

[nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



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## About the Eltham Copper Butterfly

The Eltham Copper Butterfly is a small and attractive butterfly with bright copper colouring on the tops of its wings which is visible during the summer flight season.

It is an unusual species due to its remarkable close relationship (symbiosis) with a group of ants from the genus *Notoncus* and the shrub Sweet Busaria (*Busaria spinosa*).

## Vulnerable

The butterfly was assessed and listed as 'endangered' in 2016 under Federal Legislation, *The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the Australian Government's key piece of environmental legislation.

As a landholder adjoining one of these reserves, you can play an important role in the survival of this protected, threatened species.



## Where the Eltham Copper Butterfly occurs

The Eltham Copper Butterfly only occurs in a few locations in Victoria; Eltham, Greensborough, the Central Goldfields and Kiata.

In the Eltham area, Nillumbik Shire Council own and manage five bushland reserves established for the conservation of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

### These reserves include:

- Western Colony Eltham Copper Butterfly Reserve
- Eastern Colony Eltham Copper Butterfly Reserve
- Diosma Road Reserve (Yarra Valley Water)
- Woodridge Linear Reserve
- Pitt Street Environmental Reserve

Parks Victoria owns and manages the Pauline Toner Eltham Copper Butterfly Reserve in Eltham, and populations of the Eltham Copper Butterfly are known to occur on at least two private properties in the Eltham area.

## Community conservation

There is a long history, spanning more than thirty years, of community conservation of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Nillumbik Shire Council, Parks Victoria, the Friends of the Eltham Copper Butterfly and the Friends of Woodridge Linear Reserve work in partnership to protect and enhance these last remaining refuges for the Eltham Copper Butterfly in Eltham.

These groups work together to undertake a range of on-ground works including controlling weeds and pest animals, revegetation and ecological thinning, as well as monitoring the populations of the Eltham Copper Butterfly within these reserves.

## Get Involved

Come along to an Eltham Copper Butterfly larvae count held every October. Keep an eye on Council's website for details.



Ants shepherding an Eltham Copper Butterfly caterpillar