



**Nillumbik  
Climate  
Action  
Team**

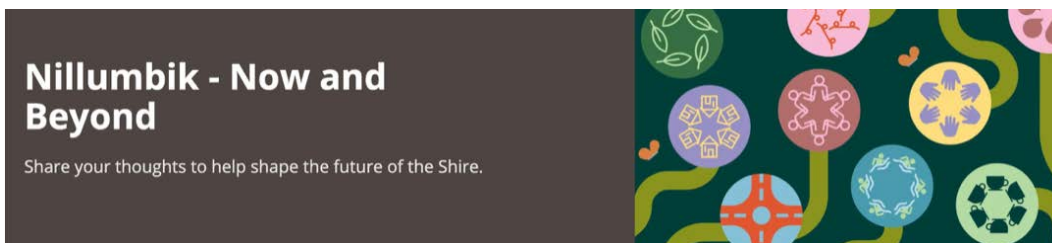
## **Newsletter March 2025**

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### **In this newsletter**

1. Nillumbik - Now and Beyond
  2. Climate Cafe - Housing and Development in Nillumbik: climate change implications
  3. Book Event: 365+ Ways to Save the Planet and Your Money at the Same Time
  4. Edendale Film Night: The True Cost - Who pays the price for our clothing?
  5. Other NCAT actions
  6. The Americanisation of Australian Politics: Watching the Atlas Network
  7. They Vote for You
  8. Quote of the Month
  9. Assessing the impact of a nuclear pathway on Australia's emissions
  10. A Price on Pollution
  11. How climate change drives up Victoria's cost of living
  12. Upcoming events
- 

### **1. Nillumbik - Now and Beyond**



Nillumbik Council is seeking feedback to assist them in developing their Council Plan 2025- 2029, Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 -2029, and to help review the existing Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 and the Financial Plan.

These are important, overarching documents that will help to lay the foundation for the Council's work over the next four years, and into the future.

The feedback is in the form of a questionnaire, due on Sunday 2 March, as well as in-person pop-up sessions (Hurstbridge - 920 Heidelberg-Kinglake Rd - Saturday 1 March 9am-2pm).

For some suggestions on how to complete the survey, [please click here](#).

## 2. Climate Cafe 2025



Our first climate cafe for the year, on Thursday 27 February, was on the topic of Housing and Development in Nillumbik: climate change implications with Anne Nielsen from Eltham Community Action Group (ECAG).

Our next climate cafe, on 27 March, will be presented by Sonia Rhandawa from the Sortition Foundation. Sonia will speak on the topic of Rebuilding Democracy to Solve the Climate Crisis.

Globally, representative democracy is falling seriously short of providing effective solutions for deep seated problems like the climate and biodiversity crisis. These systems are being gravely undermined by powerful lobby groups of vested interests and corporations, and their decisions are hampered by pervasive mis- and disinformation. In Australia, we need to rebuild democracy along the lines of a more community participatory model, an approach that has been effective elsewhere. Learn more about how we can rebuild democracy to be more inclusive and effective.

The program for the following two months is as follows:

- April 24 Active Transport, Urban Planning and Sustainability - David Collis
- May 29 Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design - Sarah Bekessy (RMIT)

Where: Platform 3095 Cafe, 965 Main Rd, Eltham

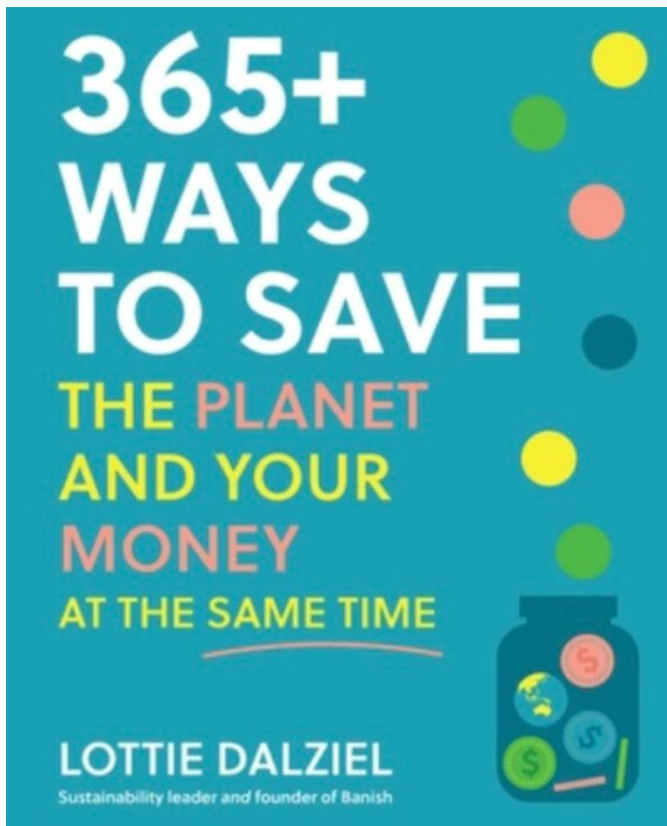
When: 7:30pm last Thursday of the month February to November

As always, you are welcome to join us earlier for a meal from 6pm onwards if you can, or come at 7.30pm for the speaker event.

[nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/ncat-climate-cafe/](https://nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/ncat-climate-cafe/)

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**3. Book Event: 365+ Ways to Save the Planet and Your Money at the Same Time, 6 March  
6.30-8pm, Eltham Bookshop**



Nillumbik Climate Action Team and Eltham Bookshop warmly invite you to a special evening to discuss practical ways in our daily lives to help change the course of the climate crisis.

Develop a new sustainable skill every day of the year with Lottie Dalziel's easy and effective guide. If you find that sustainability and cost-effectiveness often clash, Dalziel resolves these issues with simplicity. Learn about 'the mighty four' of the less-is-more mindset, how to swap 'n' save in your kitchen, the keys to avoiding food wastage, and other life-changing tips. With Lottie, you can 'build a thriving garden and a blooming bank account.'

Entry: Single \$45, Couple \$55, includes one copy of the book or a \$30 gift voucher.

**Prepaid bookings are essential.** Call 9439 8700 or [click here to book your ticket](#).

**4. Edendale Film Night: The True Cost - Who pays the price for our clothing**  
**Thursday 13 March 2025 7pm- to 9pm, Edendale Farm**



**Join us in a showing of: The True Cost - Who pays the price for our clothing**

This is a story about clothing. It's about the clothes we wear, the people who make them, and the impact the industry is having on our world. It invites us on an eye-opening journey into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes.

After the film there will be a facilitated discussion to explore issues raised and ideas for personal and community action.

[Book here for your ticket.](#) \$5

This event is co-hosted by Nillumbik Climate Action Team (NCAT) and Nillumbik Environment and Climate Action Hub (NECAH)

## 5. Other NCAT Actions

- **Rapid Response Actions outside Kate Thwaites office.**

We welcome anyone who is prepared to sign up for rapid response actions in front of Jagajaga MP Kate Thwaites' office to protest against more coal and gas projects. These actions take place periodically, and are part of similar actions that take place at other MP electorate offices. An email is sent out when an action is called, and the more people who come to an action, the more effective is the message that people want progress on emissions reduction.

Please email Mitzi to go on the list: [tukemitzi@gmail.com](mailto:tukemitzi@gmail.com).

Every action counts to keep pressure on the government for more action on climate.

- **Get your Climate Sign!**

With the federal election coming up, we are ramping up the action on strong climate advocacy. Solutions for Climate Australia—the Federal political advocacy project of CANA—is supporting a mass rollout of climate signs. The initiative will demonstrate to all parties there is an electoral advantage in adopting strong climate policies. No More Coal & Gas, Solar Saves and Nuclear Costs will be key messages. Pick up your Climate Sign at our stall 'Climate Action in Nillumbik' at the Eltham Farmers' Market on Sunday 16 March (next to the band rotunda).

- **Help us hand out Candidate Climate Scorecards**

We are looking for people who would be willing to hand out Candidate Climate Scorecards ahead of the forthcoming federal election. These are cards which rate candidates on their climate policies. They can provide useful information to the public on which candidates and/or parties will best support strong action on climate.

If you are interested to help out, please email Elizabeth Doig on [contactnceat@gmail.com](mailto:contactnceat@gmail.com) and you will be contacted when the cards are ready to be distributed.

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## 6. The Americanisation of Australian Politics: Watching the Atlas Network

Although the following article was written in late 2023, the trend that it describes can be observed with increasing frequency in the current political climate leading up to the forthcoming federal elections, as well as worldwide. The need to call out the organisations that are responsible for the mis- and disinformation about the climate crisis is becoming ever more urgent, as the effects are in evidence in the climate and environment policies of both major parties.

*'It is no accident that the Australian "conservative" movement has transformed into an echo of the toxic American Right. Fossil fuel money and a giant international network of junktanks bear much of the blame.'*

Dr Jeremy Walker's research into the Atlas Network's Australian partners brought that American body to prominence over the referendum campaign. The [media coverage](#) of his [academic study](#) into the [influence of "think" tanks](#) such as the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) and the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) carrying Atlas strategies into the Australian civic discourse raised Atlas's profile.

The latest attack by Atlas partner organisations, including (unofficially) News Corp, is a strategic campaign against offshore wind farms.

The model, as Walker reports, for the supposedly grassroots campaign against offshore wind farms on coastal NSW is derived from a [related campaign](#) in the United States. Researchers into climate disinformation at Brown University's IBES first noticed local groups springing up with high production value visual material and matching talking points. While some figures acting in local Facebook groups seem to be authentic (if misled), others seem suspiciously strategic in their interaction.'

Reprinted from The Australian Independent Media Network: The Americanisation of Australian Politics: Watching the Atlas Network, by Lucy Hamilton, 18 Dec 2023.

For the full article, [click here](#).

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## 7. They Vote for You



Image: Parliament of Australia

Ever wondered how your local MP actually votes on issues in Parliament? The website [They Vote for You](#) tells you exactly that. Forget what politicians say. What truly matters is what they do. And what they do is vote, to write our laws which affect us all. A quick and easy reference in the lead-up to the elections.

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## 8. Quote of the Month

'We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.'

Native American Proverb

From [BCCAG](#) February 2025

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## 9. Assessing the impact of a nuclear pathway on Australia's emissions



Photo: The Climate Change Authority

The [Climate Change Authority](#) has released a new media release which states: "New analysis shows pursuing the deployment of nuclear in Australia's grid could add at least 2 billion tonnes to national emissions, equivalent to 200 years of Australia's emissions from aviation."

'Delaying the overhaul of Australia's grid risks adding at least 2 billion tonnes of emissions

New analysis shows pursuing the deployment of nuclear in Australia's grid could add at least 2 billion tonnes to national emissions, on a global path that is consistent with 2.6°C of warming.

The Climate Change Authority has compared published modelling by the Australian Energy Market Operator and Frontier Economics to understand how a nuclear pathway could impact national efforts to reduce emissions.

The analysis finds that a nuclear pathway could see Australia miss the legislated 43% emissions reduction target for 2030 by five percentage points, and still not achieve this level of reduction by 2035.

Australia would not reach 82% zero emissions electricity until 2042 – more than a decade later than current national plans.'

For the [full media release](#), click here. For the full report, [click here](#).

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## 10. A price on pollution

Yes, it's been tried before, but it really is a no-brainer - make the fossil fuel industry pay for the pollution they are responsible for creating. [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) are promoting their new campaign - [priceourpollution.com.au](http://priceourpollution.com.au) which argues for pollution pricing, not only as a means to reduce emissions but also as

- a human right
- a way to phase out fossil fuels
- a means to reduce dangerous levels of inequality
- a way to lower the cost of living for all but the wealthiest citizens
- a vital health measure.

The webpage includes a short video [Price Pollution - Pay People - Cool the Planet](#). Sign the letter and put pressure on our government to reintroduce a price on pollution.

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## 11. How climate change drives up Victoria's cost of living

Here is how climate change is increasing cost of living:

- Extreme weather events damage and reduce food from agriculture, which will push up food prices ([ABC](#)) See Farmers for Climate action 2022 report: [Fork in the Road](#) PDF
- Extreme weather events can disrupt transport of food and other items. For example, Bananas from north Queensland won't be able to get to market due to the North Queensland Floods washing away essential bridges, causing banana prices to rise. This can also disrupt delivery of other goods and services.
- Extreme weather damages are causing Insurance premiums to rise. Between 2022 and 2023, the average home insurance premium in Australia rose by 14%, the biggest rise in a decade. International climate disaster events like the [LA fires will impact the large re-insurance](#)



[companies](#), which will put up their re-insurance rates to retail insurance companies. Of course, many people in bushfire or flood zones have already found they are now effectively uninsurable.

- Approving new coal and gas projects reduces labour availability to work in housing construction, making construction costs higher, exacerbating housing affordability and housing crisis. ([Australia Institute](#))
- Energy prices have risen and are a major contributing factor to the cost of living crisis in all sectors of the economy. Reliance on coal and gas for electricity and energy with aging infrastructure has fuelled cost of living increases and inflation while [renewables in the medium-long term](#) reduce energy prices. In 2023 energy cost increases were driven initially by temporary 'shock' increases in global coal and gas prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. CSIRO continues to show in the annual [GenCost report](#) that Firmed renewables are the cheapest energy source, and AEMC projects [electricity price falls](#) over the next decade with renewables and electrification.

Reprinted from Climate Action Merri-bek 11 Feb 2025.  
For the full article, [click here](#).

## 12. Upcoming Events

You are invited to a Public Meeting  
to hear & meet the new Nillumbik Councillors  
When: **Wednesday 12th March 7.30pm**  
Where: **Eltham Community & Reception Centre**  
Main Road Eltham opposite the hotel

**Eltham  
Community  
Action  
Group**





The Nillumbik Wards and current Councillor are:

- BLUE LAKE - **Cr Grant Brooker** Attendance Confirmed
- BUNJIL - **Cr Naomi Joiner**, Deputy Mayor Apology (pre-existing work commitment)
- EDENDALE - **Cr Kelly Joy** Attendance T.B.C.
- ELLIS - **Cr Peter Perkins** Attendance T.B.C.
- SUGARLOAF - **Cr Kim Cope** Attendance Confirmed
- SWIPERS GULLY - **Cr Kate McKay** Attendance Confirmed
- WINGROVE - **Cr John Dumaresq**, Mayor Attendance Confirmed

[elthamcag@yahoo.com](mailto:elthamcag@yahoo.com) | [www.elthamaction.com.au](http://www.elthamaction.com.au) | PO Box 4 · Eltham, VIC 3095 | [www.facebook.com/ElthamCommunityActionGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/ElthamCommunityActionGroup/)

**Meet your Councillors**, Wednesday 17 March 7.30pm, Eltham Community and Reception Centre

[Eltham Community Action Group](#) is hosting a 'Meet the Councillors' evening, which will be an opportunity to listen to a brief talk by each councillor, followed by a chance to ask questions on topics of interest to the Nillumbik community. Don't miss this important community event.

# GO ELECTRIC!

FREE info about electrification  
and home efficiency



Info & bookings



## Power up Nillumbik

(online) 20 March, 7pm to 8pm

A brief webinar to help make an informed decision about electrifying your home



## Heat pump hot water systems

(online) 27 March, 7pm to 8pm

Info on how they work, different models, financial rebates, and avoiding problems.



## Reverse cycle air conditioning

(online) 3 April, 7pm to 8pm

A short webinar about the efficiency and benefits of reverse-cycle air conditioning.



## Window thermal efficiency

(online) 10 April, 7pm to 8pm

Ways to boost the thermal efficiency of your windows on any budget.



## Draught proofing your home

(online) 23 April, 7pm to 8pm

Techniques to identify and prevent draughts for a warmer, more comfortable home.



## Electrification masterclass

(in person) 3 May, 10am to 1pm

Information and advice on powering your home for the future.



## Energy Heroes

(in person) 10 & 17 May, 9am to 4pm

Become a community leader in energy efficiency and electrification.



## Electrifying for winter

(in person) 15 May, 7pm to 9pm

How to maximise comfort while minimising energy bills.



A comprehensive lineup of electrification events to cover all your electrification needs!

- [Riddells Creek Cool Changes Enviro-Energy Expo](#), Saturday 15 March 10am-3pm  
This is a free event showcasing practical, affordable solutions to help homes, the planet and our pocket. Click here for more info.
  - 
  - [Boroondara Sustainable Living Festival](#), Saturday 15 March 2025 8am-12.30pm
  - [Monbulk Repower Festival](#), Sunday 23 March  
Learn how you can save money, reduce your energy bills, access Government rebates and live more sustainably by attending Repower Festival 2025. The first of its kind in the Yarra Ranges, this event aims to be family-friendly with loads of information and entertainment for the entire family.
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## Support us

[Nillumbik Climate Action Team \(NCAT\)](#) is a small volunteer organisation. We rely on donations to support our work, and thank you to everyone who has donated to date. [Further details here](#). We'd be very grateful if you are able to support us, even in a small way.

Note: you can now [donate online](#).

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## Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners of Nillumbik and its environs, and that this land was never ceded. We thank them for their custodianship of the land over millennia.

We acknowledge that we are in a climate emergency; there can be no climate justice without First Nations justice.

We support First Nations peoples in their striving for complete recognition, truth-telling, treaty and justice, and we are sorry for the hurt and injustice we have caused.