



**Nillumbik
Climate
Action
Team**

Newsletter August 2025

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1. Climate Cafe 2025



With a rapidly changing climate, we need to rethink the way we garden. **Dr Peter May** addressed this topic at our recent climate cafe, **Gardens for a Warming Climate**. In his talk, 'Some musings on gardens and climate change', he investigated what will need to change in our plant choices and gardening style with the changed climatic conditions we are facing.

The traditional English garden with its high water use will no longer be able to be sustainably maintained (nor is it ethically appropriate to do so). Some plant species will be more at risk than others, and tree species will need to be carefully considered. His thoughts were supported by research studies on climate science predictions, and the effects of a changing climate on exotic and indigenous species.

A full summary of Peter's talk is available [here](#).
Click [here](#) to view Peter's presentation slides.

Our **next climate cafe** will be presented by **Dr Tim Davis**, on **The Science Behind Climate Change**. Tim became motivated to explore the science behind climate change after hearing people claiming that climate change was not happening, or was not caused by human-induced carbon dioxide emissions.

He asked himself these questions: What evidence is there for global warming? If so what could be causing it? What is causing the energy imbalance? Could it be more energy from the sun? Is it more heat from the Earth's interior? What role does the atmosphere play in upsetting the Earth's energy imbalance? By following the science **it became clear that excess CO2 from human activity was the cause.**

In this talk he will investigate the logical arguments and the science that leads to this conclusion, which debunks some of the anti-climate change rhetoric. He will then discuss the ramifications of a warming planet and how it affects our climate in Australia.

Tim obtained a Ph.D. in experimental physics from the University of Melbourne. He then spent 29 years working for CSIRO, with the first three years from 1986 at CSIRO Atmospheric Research researching issues related to global warming. He now spends several months each year doing research into optics with colleagues at the University of Stuttgart in Germany where he continues to publish papers in high profile journals such as Science and Nature Physics.

The program for the remainder of the year is as follows:

August 28

The Science behind Climate Change - Dr Tim Davis

September 25

The North West Shelf/Browse Basin Gas Project - Mitzi Tuke

October 30

Novel Crops - Chris Williams

November 27

Flying in the Face of Climate Change: The Aviation industry and climate change
- Geoff Collis

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/

2. Community Resilience Mapping Workshops, 7 September 2025 (Eltham) and 13 September 2025 (Hurstbridge)



How will **future extreme weather events** affect our area? What can we do as a community to prepare for future disruptions, and recover better?

You are invited to come along to a **Community Resilience Mapping in Nillumbik workshop**. Together, we will explore potential local climate impacts, who and what is most at risk, community strengths, and what's needed to adapt together.

Two session options - one at **Eltham on 7 September**, one at **Hurstbridge on 13 September**. Choose which location suits you best!

ELTHAM

Sunday 7 September, 1:30pm – 5:00pm

Edendale Community Farm, 30 Gaston's Rd, Eltham

[HURSTBRIDGE](#)

Saturday 13 September, 1:30pm – 5:00pm
Hurstbridge Community Hub, Greysharps Rd, Hurstbridge

Free to attend. **Gold coin donations** welcome.

Refreshments will be provided.

Everyone participates equally - **no experience needed**. Your voice matters, whether you are new or have lived in the area for years.

These community workshops are brought to you by **Nillumbik Climate Action Team (NCAT)** with support from **Nillumbik Shire Council**. The sessions will be facilitated by an experienced team from **Friends of the Earth's Act on Climate**.

Come along! Let's map what matters - together.

Book now for [Eltham](#) or [Hurstbridge](#).

For more information about **Community Resilience Mapping**, click [here](#).

3. How are Australians adapting to climate change? Here are 729 ways

A recent project is looking at **the ways in which Australia is adapting to climate change**. The [Australian Adaptation Database](#) is gathering information about climate adaptation initiatives. It shows climate adaptation is happening in Australia, but we are **lagging behind other countries**, and there's plenty of room for improvement. The project notes that the more society can do now to prepare for change, the better off we'll be in the long run.

Some examples from this first national stocktake include [Ramblers Reef](#) on the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria – an artificial reef of rocks and shells 500 metres offshore that has helped reduce coastal erosion. In Adelaide, urban [cooling and greening](#) projects are transforming the city and suburbs [across 17 councils](#).

Other examples include:

- [changing land use](#) on the Sunshine Coast and building levee banks to better manage [flood risks](#) in Roma, Queensland
- [restoring and rejuvenating](#) the environment to reduce the impact of drought in Mulloon, New South Wales or flood risk in Brisbane

- [moving houses and businesses](#) from hazardous locations such as Grantham in Queensland's Lockyer Valley, and [land swaps](#) in South Murwillumbah.

Read more [here](#).

4. Vigil for No More Coal and Gas: Action outside Kate Thwaites office



NCAT's regular fortnightly actions are continuing outside **Jagajaga MP Kate Thwaites' office in Burgundy Street Heidelberg** to protest against Environment Minister Watt's decision to conditionally approve **Woodside's gas processing facility at WA's North West Shelf** to operate to 2070, and Woodside's proposed destructive gas expansion at **Scott Reef** (Browse).

Future actions will focus on other issues as they arise, for example the **2035 emissions reduction target** due for a decision in the coming months and a bold plan to achieve it, or much needed **nature law reform**.

The next action will be held at **37 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg**, on **Thursday 7 August, 12-2pm**. Please contact Mitzi at tukemitzi@gmail.com if you would like to be involved, and added to the **Rapid Action Response mailing list** for notification of future actions.

5. Meeting with Eltham MP Vicki Ward



On 11 July, NCAT members met with state **Eltham MP** and **Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery Vicki Ward MP** to present to her the report prepared by **Friends of the Earth's Act on Climate Collective**, [Vic Climate Resilience Inquiry Analysed: The leading concerns and adaptation solutions](#). The findings of the report were discussed, and Minister Ward was urged to **advocate for increased funding of climate adaptation and climate adaptation solutions**.

The minister listened to our concerns about the need for **regular, ongoing and consistent funding for community-led climate resilience initiatives**, and about the importance of a **timely release of the state climate risk assessment report** so that communities are fully informed of the risks that they face in the future, and can prepare accordingly.

The following issues were raised at the meeting:

1. The need to ensure ongoing and adequate **funding of, and investment in, climate adaptation**. The state government is urged to support a **Victorian Community Climate Adaptation Fund**.
2. The call for the state government to publicly release a **Victorian climate risk assessment** in order to provide consistent, up to date data on the risks climate impacts pose to Victorians - transparency and clarity around forthcoming impacts is vital for Victorians to prepare
3. The provision of **education and information on climate impacts and risks** to communities, as well as training as required
4. **Updating legislation, policies and standards** to ensure all development and building, new and upgrades, takes into account climate risk to infrastructure and individuals.

5. Some legal wins!

Some **significant legal wins** for the climate have occurred in the past couple of weeks, which have been cause for celebration among climate and environment circles.

The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** has ruled that countries have **binding obligations under international law to protect the climate and reduce emissions in line with the 1.5°C temperature goal set out in the 2016 Paris Agreement**. The ruling confirms that wealthy countries like Australia cannot continue to delay action or dodge responsibility. They must act.

Environment Justice Australia (EJA) states, 'It's a major legal win that will likely shape global climate action for years to come, and a moment of hope for communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis.'

The implications for Australia, as the Climate Council points out, are that ongoing support for fossil fuels - including production, subsidies and granting licences - could be a **wrongful act under international law**.

Read more from EJA [here](#), and from the Climate Council [here](#)...

2. In another exciting breakthrough, the NSW court of appeal has **overturned the approval of the largest coalmine expansion in the state**, the Mt Pleasant coalmine in the upper Hunter valley, after a community environment group successfully argued the planning commission failed to consider the impact of all of the project's greenhouse gas emissions.

The decision is a significant blow for MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant coalmine expansion, and one that climate advocates say could have **wider implications for future fossil fuel project proposals in NSW**.

It seems that, for this decision, we are partially indebted to the recent discovery of the **Hunter Valley delma** (a legless lizard) which is now listed as a threatened species.

Read more about this decision [here](#).

7. Fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty

The **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative** is a global movement calling on governments, organisations and individuals to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation

Treaty to protect people from the threat fossil fuels pose to our climate, our health and our future.

A bloc of Pacific Nations spearheaded by Vanuatu and Tuvalu are asking governments to support their call for this treaty, which would complement the Paris Agreement by providing the global roadmap needed to **halt the expansion of fossil fuels, manage an equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas**, and lay the foundations for a **true, just energy transition** in which no worker, community or country is left behind.

Click [here](#) to pledge your support for the treaty, and join the global network calling for a fossil fuel treaty to manage the **transition to a safe, renewable and affordable energy for all**.

8. 4.6 billion years on, the sun is having a moment



In the past two years, without much notice, **solar power has begun to truly transform the world's energy system**. The following article by [Bill McKibben](#) investigates this amazing transformation.

'People have been telling stories about **renewable energy** since the nineteen-seventies, when the first all-solar-powered house opened on the campus of the University of Delaware, drawing a hundred thousand visitors in 1973, its first year, to marvel at its early photovoltaic panels and its solar hot-water system, complete with salt tubs in the basement to store heat overnight.

But, even though we've got used to seeing solar panels and wind turbines across the landscape in the intervening fifty years, **we continue to think of what they produce as "alternative energy,"** a supplement to the fossil-fuelled power that has run Western economies for more than two centuries.

In the past two years, however, with surprisingly little notice, **renewable energy has suddenly become the obvious, mainstream, cost-efficient choice around the world**. Against all the big bad things happening on the planet (and despite all the best efforts of the Republican-led Congress in recent weeks), this is a very big and hopeful thing.'

Read the full article [here](#).

9. Quote of the month

"Saying those who accept climate science are extreme when they call for more ambitious and urgent action is like criticising a drowning man for being impatient about the delay in launching a rescue boat."

- Dr Richard Denniss

10. Report: How to build a gas empire

[Jubilee Australia](#) has recently published a new report titled [How to Build a Gas Empire](#), in collaboration with **ACF** and the **Fossil Free Japan coalition**.

This report shines a light on:

- The **political and corporate interests in Korea and Japan** that are **underwriting and profiteering from the expansion of Australian gas**
- The **power these interests exert in Australian politics** to keep the government pro-gas
- The buildout of the LNG supply chain and how (despite industry claims) it is **locking developing economies out of renewables**, rather than transitioning them into renewables.

The report concludes with a **series of recommendations for the Australian government**, including:

- A plan for fossil fuel phase out
- An end to new long-term LNG supply contracts that require new gas
- Diplomacy with Japan and Korea to end their taxpayer financing of Australian gas
- Exclusion of fossil fuel lobbying and sponsorships at COP31.

In the lead up to the highly anticipated **COP31 decision** the report seeks to demonstrate that the global climate, environment and human rights movements **expect the Australian government to take real, tangible action towards fossil fuel phase out**.

Read the **full report** [here](#).

Read **Renew Economy's explainer** on the above [here](#).

11. The climate change scenario that could leave Australia 'unrecognisable'



Australians are already living with the consequences of climate change, and **every fraction of a degree of global heating matters**, according to a new report recently released by the [Climate Council](#), [Stronger Target, Safer Future: Why Australia's 2035 Climate Target Matters](#).

The following **SBS article** explains why.

'The report examined climate change globally, with a focus on **Australia's 2035 climate targets**, which are yet to be announced.

The Climate Council said climate pollution has led to **average global temperatures increasing by 1.3C**, driving more ferocious and frequent extreme weather.

In 2025, communities in parts of Australia have experienced cyclones, flooding, marine heatwaves, fires and droughts, with **climate-fuelled disasters costing Australia more than a billion dollars this year**.

The future scale and severity of these issues will depend on how quickly governments reduce global climate pollution, according to the Climate Council report.'

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

12. Ken Henry urges nature law reform

Former Treasury secretary Ken Henry did not hold back his criticism of the current government's failure to reform Australia's nature laws. His **National Press Club**

speech on 16 July was a damning indictment of **government inaction on the environment**. He described Australia's failure to steward our natural resources as '**an intergenerational tragedy, as intergenerational theft, and a wilful act of intergenerational bastardry.**'

He called for **sweeping changes**, drawing on **Graeme Samuel's 2019-20 review of the EPBC Act**. The changes include:

- genuine cooperation across all levels of government, industry and the community
- high-integrity evidence to inform decision making
- clear, strong and enforceable standards applied nationwide
- an independent and trusted decision-maker, in the form of a national Environment Protection Authority
- a natural capital market, which – if well-designed – could provide a financial incentive for nature restoration and carbon storage in the form of tradable credits.

For a **summary of his speech**, click [here](#).

To view a **recording of the entire speech**, click [here](#).

13. Video - Guilt Trip: Pilots torn between flight and the fight for the planet



Commercial pilots **George Hibberd** and **Tod Smith** grapple with the reality of their dream jobs, torn between childhood ambitions of flying and the impact of their industry on the world beneath them. From the cockpit, they witness first-hand **the climate crisis unfolding below** and decide to take drastic measures. As part of **Safe Landing**, a community of aviation workers who want the industry to do better for the climate, they begin to transform their eco-anxiety and guilt into action. With an estimated 1.2 million passengers in the sky at any time, they ask **when will society confront the urgent need to reimagine aviation - before its too late.**

Click [here](#) to watch the video.

Click [here](#) to read how Easyjet pilot George Hibberd thinks the aviation industry can be transformed.

14. Webinar recording - Making Peace with the Forests



In this thought-provoking **Victorian Forest Alliance** webinar, **Making Peace with the Forests**, **Prof. Phil Zylstra** explores the deeper **cultural and ecological dynamics of bushfire management in Australia**. He examines whether current burning practices truly reflect Aboriginal tradition, or if they represent a departure shaped by colonial interpretations.

Phil also **unpacks the science behind bushfire risk**—what drives it, and how human intervention can either worsen or reduce it. Central to his talk is the idea of **cooperation with Country**: how we can begin to reconcile with Australia’s forests and support their natural resilience. He also addresses one of the biggest barriers to change, **confronting the ongoing impacts of colonisation culture** and the distortion of science in shaping land management policy.

Click [here](#) to view the recording.

15. Vale John Englart 1955-2025 by Mitzi Tuke

The environment movement has just recently lost **John Englart**, who was a **passionate and dedicated environmental campaigner**, known to so many locally in both Melbourne and beyond. He came from a background of keen activists, who agitated for change and engaged in the issues of their day. John was a **prolific writer on a wide range of environment, climate and social justice issues**, and his writings are a valued

source of information and commentary for campaigners. Here is an obituary to John: [A life of honesty, integrity and social conscience - Brunswick Voice](#)

16. NCAT membership

We warmly invite all newsletter readers to become **members of Nillumbik Climate Action Team**. We welcome all members to become involved according to their capacity. Some of the ways you can be involved include: tuning in to monthly meetings (online via Zoom where we catch up, plan and review); helping to promote events and activities (e.g.photos, social media, distributing flyers); or, helping with events when we hold them.

Membership of NCAT is free. **If you wish to become a member, please fill in the [membership form](#) and return to info@nillumbikclimateactionteam.org.**

17. Upcoming Events

FREE UTAS Online course: The Climate Shift - Exploring Science, Empowering Action

Deepen your understanding of climate change, and learn how you can take meaningful steps towards making a difference in your community and beyond.

For more information, [click here](#).

Webinar: Stronger Target, Safer Future: Why Australia's 2035 Climate Target Matters - And What You Can Do to Help, Thursday 7 August, 6-7pm

The Federal Government is due to decide on Australia's 2035 climate target by September - a decision that will shape the future of every Australian.

A stronger 2035 climate target will keep Australians safer from climate disasters like floods, fires and heatwaves. A weaker target means more disasters and more danger.

So, what does the science say Australia's 2035 climate target should be? And what will it take to secure the strongest possible target?

Hear from the Climate Council's experts as they unpack these questions and more in this upcoming webinar, on Thursday 7 August, 6-7pm.

[Register here](#) for this event.

Nillumbik U3A talk 'Is the Yarra/Birrarung River alive?', Wednesday 20 August 9.30am

Nillumbik U3A is hosting a free talk by Emma Barnett from the Yarra Riverkeeper Association on the topic, 'Is the Yarra/Birrarung River alive?', at 9.30am on Wednesday 20 August. This talk is open to non-U3A members. For more information click [here](#).

Rethink Nillumbik - Efficient heating and cooling, Saturday 16 August, 2.30-3.30pm, Diamond Valley Library

Join the REthink Nillumbik team for an informative one hour session focusing on the most efficient ways to heat and cool your home. They will explore reverse-cycle heating and cooling systems, explain why they are so efficient, and look at the pros and cons of individual, multi-head and ducted reverse-cycle units.

[Click here](#) to register.

REthink Nillumbik - Energy literacy for women and gender diverse people, Saturday 23 August, 9am-4pm, Edendale Farm Eltham

An informative and comprehensive session on all things home energy efficiency and electrification, tailored specifically for women and gender diverse people.

[Click here](#) to register.

Energy and Sustainable Living Advice

Nillumbik Council offers a personalised advisory service for Nillumbik residents and businesses, on how to navigate the confusing world of energy and sustainable living. [Click here](#) for more information.

Edendale Repair Cafe, 10am-12pm, 16 August 2025, Mummery Room Edendale Farm

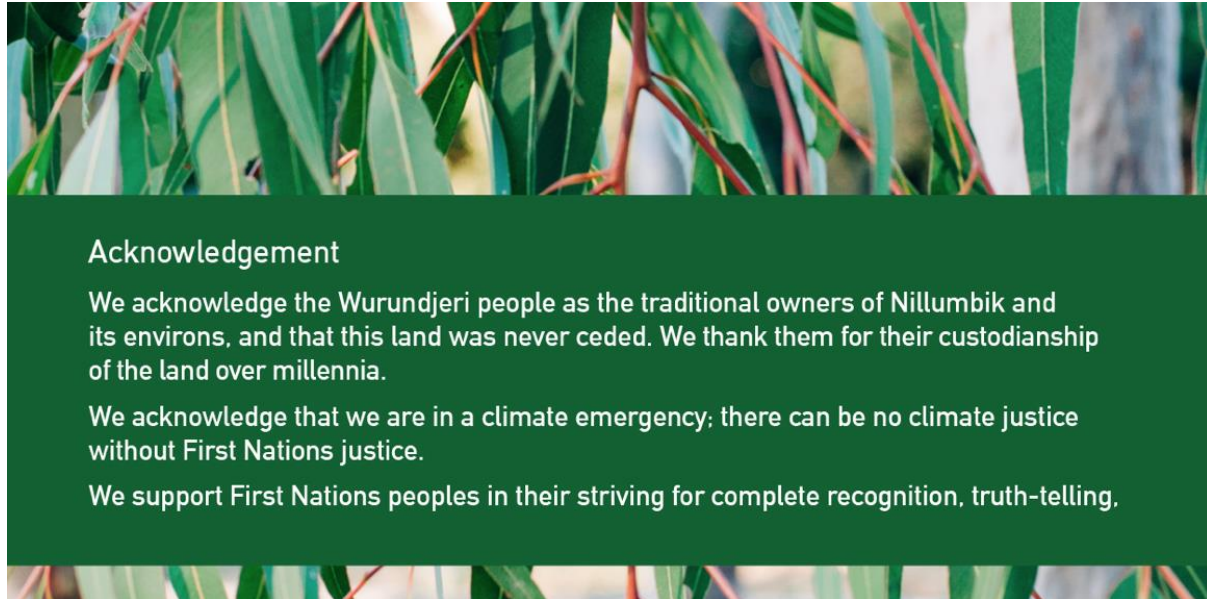
Get your household items repaired for free by our team of volunteers. Our aim is to help you fix things, learn new skills and keep waste out of landfill. Repair cafes are held on the third Saturday of every month. For more information and to book, [click here](#).

Support us

[Nillumbik Climate Action Team \(NCAT\)](#) is a small volunteer organisation. We rely on donations to support our work. **Thank you** to everyone who has donated to date. We

couldn't do it without you!

If you are able to [support us](#), even in a small way, we'd be very grateful.



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