



**Nillumbik
Climate
Action
Team**

Newsletter

September 2025

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1. Climate Cafe 2025



Last Climate Café in August the presentation and discussion of our climate cafe delved into the **scientific arguments and reasoning behind the case for anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change**. Our speaker Tim Davis's comprehensive analysis of the physics behind climate change was clear and irrefutable - he systematically demonstrated that the **steady rise in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere** that has been measured over the past 100 years is the **direct cause of global warming and climatic instability**. He further linked the rise in CO₂ to the **increase in the burning of fossil fuels**. He debunks some of the contrary arguments that have been put forward by climate sceptics, and offers suggestions for further actions.

A full **summary of Tim's talk** is available [here](#).

Additional resources created by Tim include:

- a video on the topic of [The Science Behind Climate Change](#)
- a compelling [simulation](#) of the inundation of the lower reaches of the Yarra by a 5 metre wave, illustrating what might occur if global warming continues at its present rate.

Our next climate cafe will be presented by **Mitzi Tuke**, on the topic of **Woodside's Gas Project - the North West Shelf**. After a six year assessment process by the federal government, Woodside has recently been given conditional approval to operate the WA North West Shelf gas processing facility for an **additional forty years from 2030 to 2070**. This approval will help pave the way for the development of a future huge gas project at Browse. At stake are **vastly increased emissions**, the **destruction of Scott Reef**, and the **50,000 year old Murujuga rock art** that stands to be defaced by emissions from the gas plant.

Mitzi is a member of the co-ordinating committee of **Beyond Gas Network**, a community group that advocates against expansion plans by the gas industry, with a focus on Australia's gas exports. In addition to being a **committee member of Nillumbik Climate Action Team**, Mitzi is an active member of several other climate and environment groups.

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

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/

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



Don't forget to book your place for our **Nillumbik Community Resilience Mapping Workshops** this month. Take this opportunity to have your say on what is needed in our community to help us prepare for **future extreme weather events**, recover better, and support each other in the process.

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

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

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

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

3. Strong 2035 emissions reduction target - NCAT action in Heidelberg



For NCAT's regular fortnightly action on Thursday 21 August, we called for a **strong 2035 emissions reduction target**, and a plan to get there - **no more coal and gas**. The action took place at the intersection of **Rosanna Rd and Burgundy Street in Heidelberg**.

This month, the Federal Government is expected to decide Australia's 2035 target, which will guide all other national climate policies for **ten years** - shaping the safety, security and prosperity of our communities and environment for decades to come. The action was held to demonstrate to the public that we need **bold action** from the government now.

Future actions will focus on other issues as they arise, for example much needed **nature law reform**.

The next action will be held at **37 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg**, on **Thursday 4 September from 12-1pm**. This will be another **banner/poster street action** on the theme of a **strong 2035 climate target**, including a march from Kate Thwaite's office to the intersection of Burgundy St and Rosanna Rd and back again.

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.

4. Dr Saul Griffith is coming to Eltham!

You're invited to

THE FASTER AND FAIRER TOUR

with Dr Saul Griffith

Join Dr Saul Griffith as he launches his latest book **'Plug In: The Electrification Handbook'** and hear how we can ensure electrification happens fairer and faster.

 **Catholic Ladies College, Eltham**

 **October 13, 6:30PM**

 rewiringaustralia.org/events

 Rewiring Australia

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Clean Energy Nillumbik, NCAT and Eltham Bookshop put up their hands to host a local event as part Dr Saul Griffith's **Fairer and Faster tour**. He's coming to Eltham on Monday **13 October**!

Dr Griffith will be speaking about his new book, *Plug In*, an electrification handbook for householders and tradies who are on the front line of Australia's energy transition, at **Catholic Ladies College** on the **13 October at 6.30pm**.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear what the **engineer, inventor and author** has to say about all things home electrification-related and how we can all have cheaper energy.

Click [here](#) to book your place. Book early, as this event is likely to be popular!

More from [Rewiring Australia](#)

Renew Economy on [Saul Griffith's Call to Arms](#)

5. Fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty initiative - meeting with Nillumbik councillors

1. The [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty \(FFNPT\) 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.
2. 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.
3. On 14 August, Nillumbik Climate Action Team met with the Mayor **Cr John Dumeresq**, Deputy Mayor **Cr Naomi Joiner** and **Cr Kate McKay** to put the case for Nillumbik Council to endorse the FFNPT initiative, and advocate to other municipalities and higher levels of government to do the same.
4. It was pointed out that while numerous LGAs, including Nillumbik, are already taking substantive local climate action, including a Declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2022 and [putting in place many measures to reduce emissions at Council and community level](#), nevertheless their efforts are being undermined by the **expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and production**, e.g. the **North West Shelf and proposed Browse Basin gas project**, and many others. Local actions, however necessary and effective, are not sufficient globally, and we need a treaty to put pressure on higher

levels of government to take **stronger action to reduce fossil fuel emissions** and work on the problem directly.

6. Return to Abbott-era climate politics

The following piece, by **Amy Remeikis** of [The Australia Institute](#), warns us of a return to Abbott-era climate politics. She refers to a campaign by right-wing lobby group [Advance](#) to persuade Liberal MPs to abandon their party's previous climate commitments in the lead-up to the announcement of Australia's 2035 climate targets.

'Advance – **a cashed up, far-right lobby group** – just launched its latest campaign to **“Dump Net Zero”**, claiming abolishing climate targets is the “single most important issue” facing the nation.

This is no fringe group. Advance played a central role in undermining the Voice referendum, and is rapidly becoming an influential electoral force. **Now, they're hellbent on dragging Australia backwards to Abbott-era climate policies.** Just this past weekend, they bombarded 'weakling' Liberal MPs with nearly 20,000 threatening emails in a bid to ensure the party abandons previous climate commitments.

The timing is no accident.

Right now, the Albanese Government is preparing to announce Australia's 2035 climate targets. **This is a pivotal moment to announce policies that will *actually* reduce emissions** – like no new coal and gas projects. Or it could see Labor take the 'middle road': offering a target on paper, but bowing to political pressure and allowing the continued use of dodgy carbon offsets to protect fossil fuel interests.

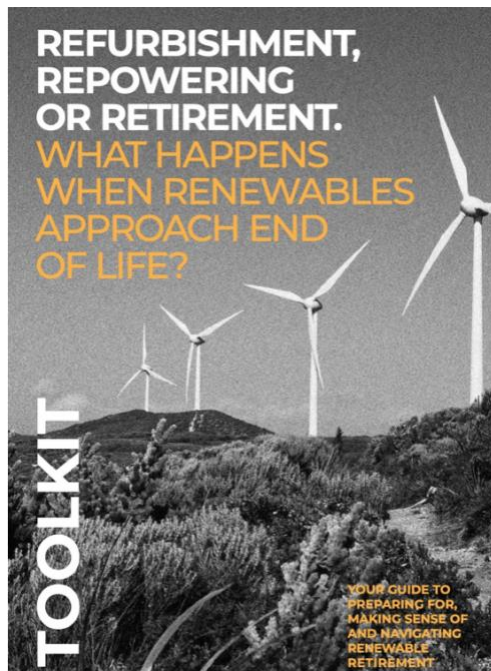
The Australia Institute's research shows that the process of exporting coal and gas overseas is responsible for nearly one-fifth of Australia's domestic emissions. And these exports don't benefit regular Australian households, they boost the profits of multinational fossil fuel corporations.

The easiest way to reduce Australia's emissions? **Stop approving new gas and coal projects.**

The government knows this too. But with the Liberal Party now openly considering walking back even its modest climate commitments, **Australia's climate policy risks becoming nothing more than a political football** – a tool used to scare Labor into a weak target and derail or delay precious progress.'

Edited extract from an **Australia Institute** email by **Amy Remeikis**, dated 18 August 2025.

7. What happens when renewables approach end of life?



Renewable energy has been part of Australia's energy mix for decades. After nearly 40 years, some of these earliest projects are approaching retirement age, with more set to follow in the coming years. This presents an important opportunity for Australia to consider how we manage the next chapter.

As interest in renewables continues to grow, communities and landholders want to know **what happens when a project reaches retirement age**. They're right to ask: this infrastructure becomes part of their landscape and livelihoods for decades, and locals want clear information about what will happen when the project's life ends.

[Australian Renewable Energy Alliance](#) has developed a toolkit: [Refurbishment, repowering or retirement. What happens when renewable approach end of life?](#) It provides clear, factual information to help landholders, communities and local councils understand what happens when renewable energy projects reach retirement age.

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](#).

8. Climate target malpractice

Ever wondered how **how carbon emissions are measured?** How **'net-zero' is achieved?** Why **2005 was chosen as the baseline year for the measurement of carbon emissions reduction?** In a sobering article in The Saturday Paper, extract below, **Polly Hemmings of The Australia Institute** reveals the dodgy accounting practices behind Australia's climate targets, and how our governments have **'cooked the books'** when it comes to calculating our agreed-upon national commitments under the Paris Agreement.

At present, the measurement of carbon emissions reduction **relies heavily on the land sector** – known as LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry). Reduced land clearing, with a corresponding higher carbon storage than expected from the trees that were not cut down, can result in a misleadingly higher emissions reduction figure. This disguises the fact that **direct carbon pollution from industry, transport and domestic sources has barely fallen.** Polly points out that if you exclude the land sector, Australia's emissions across the rest of the economy have only dropped by about **3 percent since 2005**, and are projected to reach about 23% below 2005 levels by 2030, falling considerably short of the government's target of 43% by 2030.

'As the Albanese government prepares to announce Australia's 2035 climate target, pressure is mounting to show greater ambition. **A cut in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 75 per cent below 2005 levels would broadly align with the science** – and strengthen Australia's bid to host the 2026 United Nations climate conference.

Announcing a bigger number is one thing, though. How the government reaches it is another.

Australia's current target under the international treaty on climate change, the Paris Agreement, is a 43 per cent cut in emissions by 2030. Progress is tracked through a set of climate accounts called the "inventory" and reported annually. Emissions from across the economy – including energy, transport, industry and land – are recorded, added up and presented as a single figure.

The Australian government claims emissions for the year to December 2024 were 27 per cent below 2005 levels. But **Australia's emissions inventory is riddled with loopholes and unverifiable modelling that paint a misleading picture of progress.**

Understanding how Australia has cooked the books to create the illusion of climate progress is technical and headache-inducing. It's important, though, in order to see that **raising ambition without raising integrity won't necessarily cut emissions.** A higher target could simply entrench the same tricks successive governments have used for decades to avoid genuine decarbonisation.'

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

9. Quote of the month



Vale Joanna Macy 1929 – 2025

Reprinted from [Parents for Climate](#) FB post

10. Australia's First National Climate Risk Assessment

Australia's first **National Climate Risk Assessment** (NCRA), soon to be released, will be focussed on **domestic climate risks**. Australia has never had a comprehensive climate risk assessment. It has been a glaring omission because such assessments are a necessary basis for **effective climate mitigation and adaptation policymaking**. Originally initiated by the government in 2023, the initial project was poorly conceived, and eventually scrapped. Crucially, climate mitigation was excluded from the terms of reference.

The present assessment has also been fraught with shortfalls and limitations, as outlined below by **David Spratt**.

'**Australian Security Leaders Climate Group** (ASLCG) concerns about the NCRA may be found in the [Too hot to handle](#) report. It was revealed in Senate estimates that the scenarios were too conservative (1.5-2°C by 2050), and had to be revised. When a draft report went to the government there was some more shock and awe and concern about the severity of the findings and that it could not be put out without a robust adaptation plan response, which would be alarmingly expensive. Surprise! The first version of the adaptation plan was rejected as not up to scratch and had to be redone. And the NCRA release was delayed till after the May 2025 election.

Now, finally, nine months late, the NCRA is about to be released. Media reports say it is "dire" on future impacts, but that is not unexpected since these things have never been said to any Australian Government before in this manner, except the **Office of National Intelligence** (ONI) report which few have seen and cannot be discussed. In fact, the NCRA may **underestimate the risks** if it fails to recognise that impacts are occurring faster than forecast, that [1.5C has arrived 15 years earlier than forecast by the IPCC](#), and that **large-system tipping points have already been reached**.'

To read **David Spratt's full analysis about the NCRA and the ONI reports**, printed in CANAchat on 18 August 2025, click [here](#).

For further information on the NCRA report, described in this article from The Guardian as 'intense and scary', click [here](#).

11. Five ingenious things trees do that human designers can learn from



Large old trees demonstrate fascinating design features. Top left: mosses and 'air plants' or epiphytes growing on the bark purify both air and water, providing food and habitat. Top right: broken branches and stringy bark support insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. Bottom left: basal hollows offer habitat and nourishment. Bottom right: fallen limbs release nutrients as they decompose. Deep Design Lab

Tasmania's **mountain ash** (*Eucalyptus regnans*) is the world's tallest flowering plant. It can grow 100 metres tall and live for more than 600 years.

These trees play a **crucial role in their ecosystems**, providing habitat, sequestering carbon, filtering water and contributing to the overall health of the shared living world. But their [numbers are dwindling](#) due to logging, land degradation, fire and climate change.

This sad situation is indicative of a much bigger problem: **humans consistently undervalue plants**, despite having much to learn from them.

In this article, founder of **Deep Design Lab Stanislav Roudavski**, outlines his top five reasons why urban planners, designers and the public should study trees' **unique design characteristics**.

Read the full article [here](#).

12. Our broken nature laws - what can we do to fix them?



Photo: Environmental Justice Australia

Australia's nature laws are in urgent need of reform. The environment is not getting the protection it needs; our national legislative instrument designed to protect nature, the **Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation (EPBC) Act**, is not fit for purpose.

But how to fix Australia's most important nature laws is **hotly contested**: from AI fast-tracking and streamlined approvals, to stronger standards, and an independent watchdog.

Environment Minister Murray Watt has said he wants a bill before Christmas. That means the decisions made in the next few weeks will likely lock in how nature is protected — or neglected — for decades.

On 20 August, **Environment Justice Australia** hosted a webinar which thrashed out the issues around nature laws reform. The webinar described the **reform of the EPBC Act** as one of the **most urgent opportunities of our time**. For those who were unable to attend the webinar, EJA has provided a [briefing](#) of the main points.

While there are many problems with the current law in need of reform, EJA's senior specialist lawyer **Ellen Maybery** set out **four top reforms** that must be in the new laws:

- **Strong, enforceable National Environmental Standards** – rules to stop unacceptable, irreversible harm and set clear expectations.
- **End deforestation loopholes** – closing exemptions that let native forest logging and outdated approvals continue unchecked.
- **Protect nature from climate harm** – no more green lights for high-emitting projects that fuel destruction.

- **An independent Environment Protection Australia** – a national watchdog to make decisions and enforce the rules, not politicians.

She also emphasised the need for **Free, Prior and Informed Consent from Traditional Owners**, ensuring major projects cannot proceed without genuine consultation and respect for cultural rights.

Industry voices dominated the recent **Economic Roundtable**. EJA stresses that it's therefore important that government decision makers hear from the people they represent, and urges constituents to **write directly to their local Labor MP or Senator**, calling for reforms that actually protect nature – with strong standards, clear rules for climate and deforestation protection and independent oversight.

Email your local Labor MP or Senator to ask for strong nature laws. A template has been provided [here](#).

13. How to get rid of your unsellable clothes

If you think decluttering your wardrobe and sending unwanted clothes to an op shop guarantees that they are going to a good home, think again. Click [here](#) to read a guide about **how you can get rid of your unsellable clothes and belongings without sending them to landfill**. From Better Homes & Gardens Australia.

14. 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

2025 Healthy Soils Competition

Attention Teachers, parents and secondary students!

2025 Healthy Soils Competition is now open! 🦋

Calling all Aussie students, schools, preschools, specialist schools & home schoolers!

This year's theme is:

"The World Beneath Our Feet – Its Importance to Our Food and Environment" 🌍🌱

We're looking for creative entries that celebrate the vital role of soil in our food and environment. Tell your soil story through:

🎭 Plays | 🎤 Songs/Raps | 💃 Dance | 📺 Videos | 🎨 Artwork | 📝 Poems
(Digital entries only)

Fantastic prizes up for grabs!

1st Prize (7 school categories): \$500

2nd Prize (7 school categories): \$100

Secondary students: Two categories- 1st Prize \$500 & 2nd Prize \$100

Home schoolers: (all categories) \$50 JB Hi-Fi voucher

Every participant receives a printed certificate!

Enter now — don't miss out! It's free, fun, and a great way to engage with science and sustainability.

Entries close 15 October 2025

Click [here](#) for more information, and to join the competition!

Bunjil Wildflower Walk, Sunday 14 September
10am-12pm at Bunjil Reserve, Panton Hill

Join Council Biodiversity officers on **Threatened Species Day** for a very special walk to look at some of the region's most threatened plant species.

The walk will highlight threatened flora, help you ID more common wildflowers in the reserve, and teach you how to record these as a citizen scientist.

Book [here](#).

Family Night Walk, Friday 19 September 6-8pm, Eltham Lower Park

Join Council Biodiversity officers for a **free family friendly night walk** to listen for frogs, spot ripples from Platypus, and search the trees for Gliders and Owls.

Book [here](#).

Rethink Nillumbik - Efficient heating and cooling, Tuesday 9 September, 6.30-7.30pm, 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.

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.

Repair Cafes in Nillumbik

Get your household items repaired for free by a team of volunteers. Their aim is to help you fix things, learn new skills and keep waste out of landfill.

Two cafes to choose from.

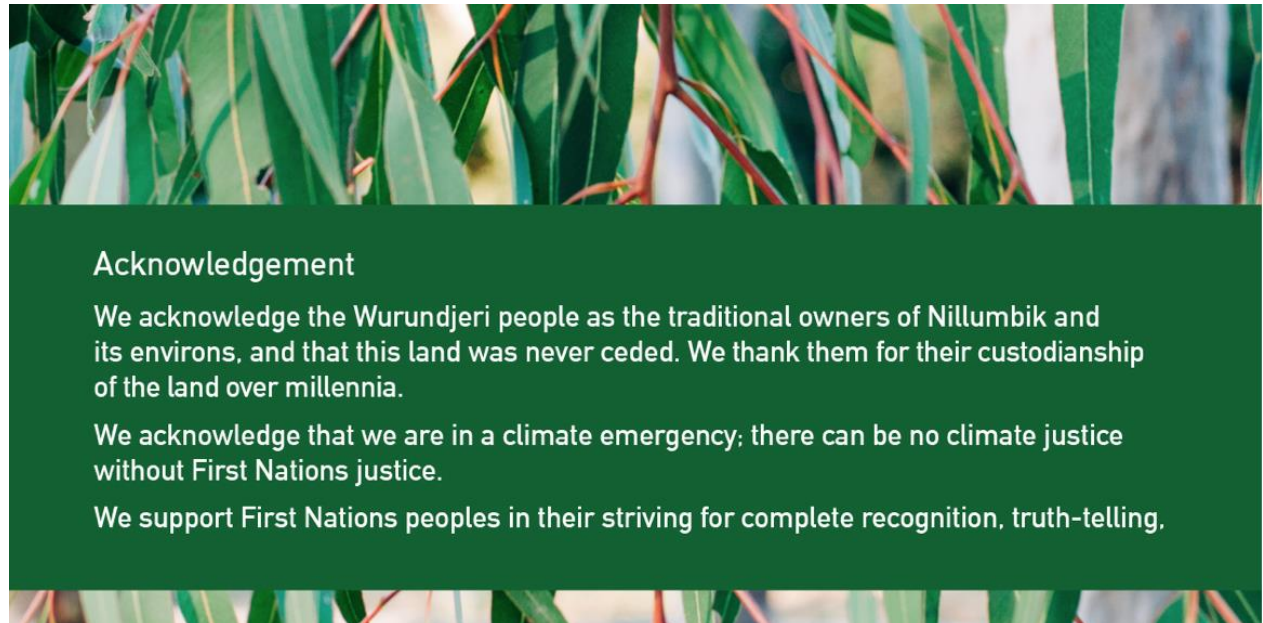
Edendale repair cafe is held at Edendale Farm on the third Saturday of every month. **For more information click [here](#).**

Nillumbik repair cafe is held at the Hurstbridge Hub on the second Saturday of every month. **For more information and to book, click [here](#).**

18. 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.



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.

nillumbikclimateactionteam.org