



**Nillumbik
Climate
Action
Team**

Newsletter October 2025

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1. Climate Cafe 2025



The North West Shelf/Browse Basin gas project



Last Thursday we heard from NCAT committee member **Mitzi Tuke** about the **North West Shelf/Browse Basin gas project**. Midway through last month, the government announced its decision to give the green light to expand the operations of this massive pollution-emitting project until 2070, which will also pave the way for the development of a future huge gas project at **Browse Basin**. Mitzi took us through the process of approval for the North West Shelf project, the overwhelming scale of the climate damage from its emissions, the implications for the Murujuga rock art heritage site, and the potential risk to the environmentally sensitive Scott Reef as a result of the Browse Basin proposal.

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

A full **transcript of Mitzi's presentation**, including **resources**, can be found [here](#).

Mitzi's presentation **slides** can be found [here](#).

Our **next climate cafe** will be presented by **Dr Chris Williams** on the topic of **Novel Crops**. His presentation will focus on his **Novel Crops project** with an outline of various crops that can now be grown successfully in Melbourne in a warming climate. Chris will also talk more broadly about the **role of urban agriculture** as part of an adaptive resilience strategy for ensuring food security into the 21st century and beyond.

Dr Chris Williams is **Lecturer in Urban Agriculture** at the **Burnley Campus of the University of Melbourne**, where he coordinates subjects in the Master of Urban Horticulture program, including Food Production for Urban Landscapes and Plant Production and Establishment. Since 2014 Chris' Novel Crops project has investigated the potential for non-mainstream crop species to be grown in Melbourne's warm temperate climate, especially those with links to culturally and linguistically diverse communities producing culturally appropriate food. He has developed substantial partnerships for production of crops such as Sweet Potatoes, Taro, and Yams with FareShare, FarmRaiser, and the United African Farm. Chris provides advice on landscape management and horticulture to government, community and business. He is a member of the Committee of Management of the Collingwood Children's Farm, the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee, and formerly the Boards of Sustainable Gardening Australia and Cultivating Community.

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

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



In early September NCAT hosted two **Nillumbik Community Resilience Mapping Workshops**, one in Eltham and one in Hurstbridge. These events were ably facilitated by an experienced team from **Friends of the Earth Melbourne's Act On Climate Cooperative**. Both events drew enthusiastic and engaged participants, and a wealth of ideas and initiatives emerged about ways we can work together to strengthen our communities against the certainty of increasingly severe climate impacts.

A common thread running through both sessions was the need for **more communication and information dissemination** about how to prepare for, and respond to, emergency situations or extreme weather events. Some possible solutions that were proposed to address this included:

- short videos outlining basic emergency preparation/response information which could be distributed to the community via existing community networks
- the creation of Neighbourhood Watch-style guardians to take on the role of communicating information to their neighbourhood, and checking in at the local level.
- the importance of building on existing groups/networks, e.g. sporting groups, school groups.

A practical takeaway was the concept of a 'survival pack' – a kit to provide essentials for households to survive power outages of up to 72 hours, containing water, non-perishable food, torch with batteries, radio with batteries.

The **full report of the findings from the workshops** will be made available soon, including follow-up actions that individuals and communities can get involved in.

3. Labor is sleeping on climate! Action outside Sarah Witty's office



As part of a nation-wide series of coordinated actions, this well-attended event was organised by a coalition of grassroots climate groups led by **Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC)**, and was held on 22 September outside MP Sarah Witty's office in Fitzroy. The purpose of the action was to protest against the government's recent announcement of its weak 2035 climate targets (62-70%). NCAT and supporters, along with other climate groups and the Climate Choir, dressed in pajamas and held banners and placards urging the government to wake up to the risks to all Australians of inadequate action on climate.

NCAT's **Mitzi Tuke** gave a stirring speech to an enthusiastic crowd.

'We are appalled by the government's announcement of its **inexcusably low climate targets for 2035**. This is straight after the release of a climate risk assessment report, which gives us an insight into the near future of the sea level rise, heat, environmental destruction and socio-economic chaos that we can expect from a 1.5, 2, and 3 degree rise of average global temperature. It's as if the government is playing into this future and doing what it can to fulfil this destiny.

How did we get this dangerously low emissions reduction target? **This is a weak decision by a timid prime minister**. It is the culmination of a long road where governments have been joined at the hip to the fossil fuel industry. Economic considerations have always been given priority over environmental protections, even when we started to realise that greenhouse gases were destroying the balance of climate systems. When we should have been phasing out fossil fuels, we went hell for leather in the opposite direction. **We accelerated our**

addiction to fossil fuels and went by the fossil fuel playbook. Now we are paying the consequences with the effects of **accelerating and intensifying extreme weather events** - floods, fires, droughts, storms, all of this driven by the rising greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.'

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

4. Vigil for Scott Reef, Thursday 2 October 2025

To participate in the national **Scott Reef Week of Action**, 29 September to 3 October, NCAT will be holding a vigil on Thursday 2 October outside MP Kate Thwaites office, 37 Burgundy St, Heidelberg, 12-2pm. The ecology of Scott Reef will be heavily impacted by the activities of Woodside's proposed mining for gas in the Browse Basin.

We will have the crochet coral reef on display, and posters and fliers will be available.

Please bring a fold-up chair and wear dark clothing. Bring snacks/lunch

Suggested wording for signs: Vigil for Scott Reef, Vigil for Threatened Species of Scott Reef

RSVP: Mitzi on tukemitzi@gmail.com if you can attend.

5. Dr Saul Griffith is coming to Eltham!

FREE TALK
**ELECTRIFY
YOUR LIFE**
with Dr Saul Griffith
in conversation with Helen Oakey, CEO Renew

Join Dr Saul Griffith as he launches his book
'Plug In: The Electrification Handbook'
Hear how you can electrify your life and
ensure the move to cleaner, cheaper
energy happens fairer and faster.

 **Monday 13 October, 6:30PM**
 **Catholic Ladies College, Eltham**



Books available to buy
at event - supported
by Eltham Bookshop



rewiringaustralia.org/events

YARRA ENERGY FOUNDATION

Sustainability Victoria

Clean Energy Nillumbik

VICTORIA State Government

Rewiring Australia

The **Fairer and Faster tour with Dr Saul Griffith** is coming to Eltham on 13 October. Dr Griffith will be promoting his latest book **'Plug In: The Electrification Handbook'** at **Catholic Ladies College** on the **13 October at 6.30pm**. Don't miss this opportunity to hear what the electrification guru has to say about all things electrification-related.

This event is delivered by **Clean Energy Nillumbik** and supported by the **Community Electrification Engagement Program**. The Program is delivered by **Sustainability Victoria** on behalf of the Victorian Government. This event is also supported by **Nillumbik Climate Action Team** and the **Eltham Bookshop**.

'My motivation is to help us solve the climate crisis as fast as possible, because **every fraction of a degree counts**. But this **Electrify Everything** movement could be the start of something bigger – a new social contract, with healthier air, cleaner living and revitalised, local economies.' - Dr Saul Griffith in an extract from his book **Plug In! The Electrification Handbook**. The extract, [Rewiring Your Life](#), reprinted from **Good Reading Magazine**.

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

6. 'Cascading, compounding, concurrent disasters' - the National Climate Risk Assessment report



August has been a heavy month for the climate, and climate groups have been left reeling. Hot on the heels of the government's approval of the massively-emitting North West Shelf project out to 2070, and the release of the long-awaited **National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA) report** outlining 'cascading, compounding and concurrent' climate risks to people, infrastructure and ecosystems, we are hit again with the government's announcement of its **2035 climate targets** - a range of 62 to 70% - way below the figure recommended by climate scientists to keep us within 1.5-2 degrees of warming.

Some of the risks Australia is set to face in the future include:

- In major cities, deaths due to intensifying heat waves could *quintuple* by the end of the century
- The loss of as many as 2.7 million work days a year in sectors like mining, construction and agriculture where work can't safely be done during extreme weather
- By 2050, more than 1.5 million people could experience sea level rise and coastal flooding risks with sea waters inundating coastal infrastructure, homes and drinking water supplies
- Extreme weather events – including heatwaves, bushfires, flooding and tropical cyclones – will intensify safety and security risks, especially in the Northern Territory and Northern Queensland
- Australia may no longer support systems such as alpine ecosystems, tall open forests and ancient Gondwanan rainforest.

As usual, when it comes to analysing the repercussions of the NCRA report, we can rely on **Richard Denniss** of the **Australia Institute** for a bit of straight talking in his direct, cut-to-the-chase style. In his [presentation to the Senate Environment Committee](#) on 16 August, he laid out the issues at stake. He pointed out that the report is actually the best case scenario, and **does not take into account second order (flow-on) impacts** of extreme climate events

including health and mental health impacts, food insecurity, geopolitical implications, ecosystem collapse, sociopolitical unrest etc. Other issues he raised include:

- **1 million homes becoming uninsurable**, and thus un-mortgagable, by 2050
- who will **foot the bill for the damage** (call for a tax on fossil fuel companies to meet this cost)
- flaws in the **government's rhetoric around net-zero** ('the government isn't trying to get off fossil fuels, it's moving towards them'), the Safeguard Mechanism and carbon offsets.

To read the full **National Climate Risk Assessment report**, click [here](#).

To read the **Climate Council explainer**, click [here](#).

For the media release from **Australian Security Leaders Climate Group (ASLCG)**, click [here](#).

7. Quote of the month

In 2018 we lost our home in a day of catastrophic weather. When we talk of loss it's the dollar figure that is often discussed but we are different people now, sleepless nights, anxiety, PTSD. All through this we have worked, paid taxes and tried to minimise our footprint on the planet while fossil fuel companies post record profits pay minimal tax and increase the risk of us losing our rebuilt home. It is families just like mine who are shouldering the burden of climate change and we are close to breaking.

Jan Harris, bushfire survivor, Reedy Swamp, NSW

Source: [Make Big Polluters Pay Alliance](#) media release

8. It's time to make big polluters pay



Everyday people are paying the price of climate change, while big coal, oil and gas corporations are making huge profits.

These corporations, who are responsible for 75% of Australia's climate pollution, are taking billions in government handouts and often pay less tax in Australia than our teachers or nurses.

Meanwhile, communities and government budgets in Australia and the Pacific are paying the price for climate change through increasing insurance bills, food prices, and huge recovery costs from more severe storms, drought, bushfires and floods.

It's unfair and unjust.

[Sign the petition](#) to make **big polluters pay**.

9. Local climate activism leads to remarkable gains

In a good news story, a recent report out of the USA showed how **local climate activism can lead to some positive outcomes for the climate**. The report demonstrated how efforts to pass laws and advance clean energy projects could significantly reduce emissions, and at a low cost. Published in Grist, the analysis quantified how much carbon a given law, protest movement, or clean project would keep out of the atmosphere. It also calculated the amount spent on the local efforts advancing each campaign to determine the cost of preventing each metric ton of CO2 equivalent from being released.

'The numbers really did show that these had meaningful impacts and a good return on investment,' said Sam Greenberg, a director at Redstone Strategy Group and a coauthor of the report. 'The benefits are not limited just to the quantifiable carbon impact - even

though that's what we were focussing on - but also understanding the full picture of all the other co-benefits we saw coming out of this.'

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

10. The Rubicon is in the rearview mirror

A thought-provoking article by Matt Orsagh from Degrowth is the Answer about the point of no return...

'We have crossed the Rubicon...

The point of no return as far as climate change, overshoot and collapse are concerned is in our rearview mirror.

Scholars in the future will argue about when exactly that was, but there was no one day when that happened, just a cascading collection of poor decisions, deliberate misinformation and lack of leadership that led us here - to a place where some level of ecological, economic and societal disaster is already baked into our future. Pinpointing when that moment was is a waste of time, but it's clear that it is back there somewhere, now fading further and further into our rearview mirror.

We have crossed 7 of 9 planetary boundaries. Our leadership, whether political, corporate or cultural sloughs off alarming climate and ecological collapse evidence as an inconvenient annoyance. It is reported, but rarely and with no sense of urgency. Just another story between celebrity gossip and political intrigue.

...but everyone talks as though we haven't.'

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

11. What on earth is a climate cafe?



Here, an article from the **Oxford Clarion** about a climate cafe with a different flavour...

'How do we cope with anger, grief or shame and the other difficult emotions thrown up by climate change?

Most people are concerned about the climate crisis and ecological emergency, and many are anxious and often scared about what the future holds. A young person, angry and frustrated at the lack of progress to protect their future, may find it hard to talk to older people who may feel blamed and attacked. Grandparents may feel shame and grief at their generation's responsibility for major damage to our world which should be their grandchildren's future.

Getting involved in groups who alert the world to climate change, or simply getting on with building resilient communities, can offer solace and some practical impact. But not everybody wants to or has the space in their lives to take action. Climate cafés offer something different – a place to focus on feelings, which is known to strengthen our capacity to face what is happening.'

Read the full article [here](#).

12. Cooling or Collapse? Might forests and oceans be the key?



In this fascinating and potentially planet-saving webinar from **David Spratt** and **Jane Morton**, they explore several questions:

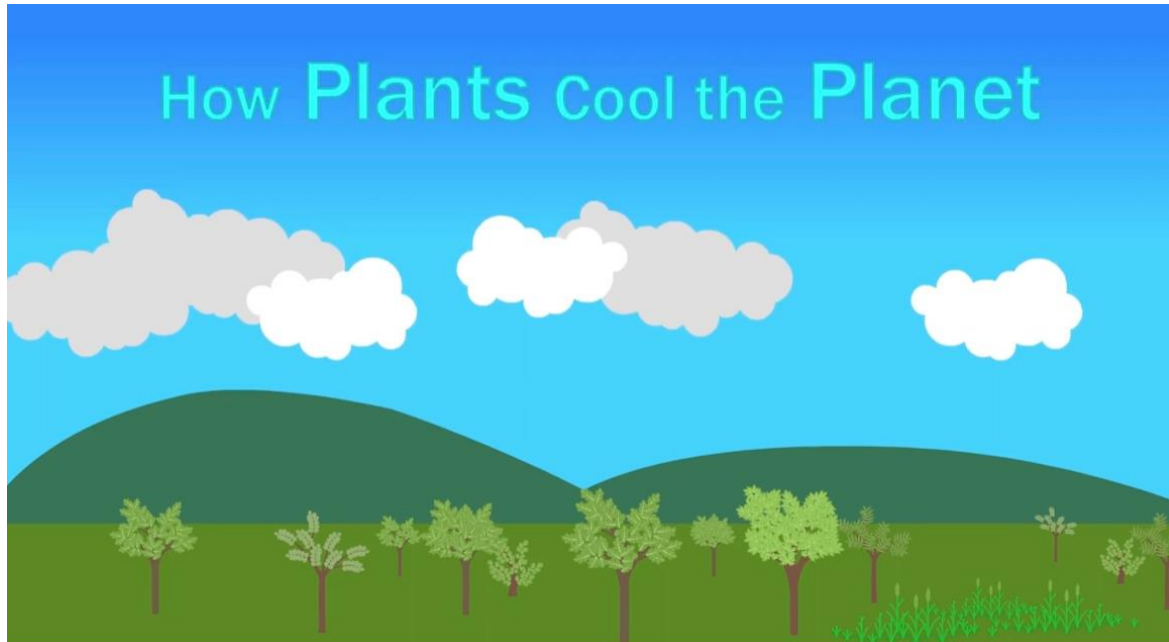
- Is it time for the climate movement to join James Hansen in acknowledging that the **1.5 degrees goal is 'deader than a doornail'**?
- Is it too late for emissions reductions alone to save us? Should we be campaigning for **drawdown and cooling** as well?
- Might **caring for forests and oceans** be central to providing the drawdown and cooling we need to avoid climate collapse?
- Should climate campaigners give **nature-based solutions** as much emphasis as we give to ending fossil fuels?

David takes us through why it is **too late to rely on emissions reduction alone to restore a safe climate**, while Jane focuses on nature-based solutions to climate change. She discusses how forests draw in moisture from the oceans and regulate the water cycle, thereby helping to stabilise the climate and cool the atmosphere. She also describes the role of **iron ocean fertilisation** in ecosystem restoration and large-scale drawdown.

Click [here](#) to watch the **webinar recording**, and [here](#) to view Jane's **presentation slides**.

Further **resources** can be found [here](#).

13. How Plants Cool the Planet



And while we're on the topic of forests and climate, here is yet more proof of why we need to prevent land clearing, and protect and reinvigorate our mature diverse forests and woodlands at all costs. The **role of forests in stabilising the climate** has often been ignored in favour of reducing fossil fuel emissions, but this short video explains very clearly how vital forests are, not only in delivering a huge suite of ecosystem services such as sequestering carbon, preventing floods, reducing erosion, reducing bushfire risk and purifying our water, but in their **critical role in cooling the planet**. Furthermore, the more biodiverse the forest or woodland, the more resilient it is, and the better it does this job of planetary cooling.

Click [here](#) to watch the video, **How Plants Cool the Planet**.

14. Film clip - Regenerators

Another gem from filmmaker **Damon Gameau** - a quick clip (from the film 2040) on the benefits of regenerative farming as he chats to regen ag farmer **Col Seis**. Hear how regenerative agriculture has saved Col's farm \$2 million.

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

15. A win for nature!

In a recent court case, **Environment Justice Australia**, acting for the **Wilderness Society**, has had a spectacular win for the environment and threatened species.

As a result of this landmark court case, the Federal Court has ordered the Federal Environment Minister to finally make **long-overdue recovery plans** for:

- Greater gliders
- Australian lungfish
- Ghost bats
- Sandhill dunnarts

For the very first time, these threatened species will get legally binding roadmaps to help them survive and recover. In addition, the Federal Environment Minister also **confirmed that recovery plans for seven other threatened species remain in force and cannot just expire**. That means clearer, ongoing protections for these seven other species.

Beyond just these species, the government has now updated its own webpages to state clearly that **recovery plans remain in force until and unless the species is removed from the threatened species list**.

Read more about this important case [here](#).

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

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!

Environmental and Human Health, Thursday 9 October, 7-9pm, Lwr Templestowe Community Centre

Hosted by Menzies for Climate, this seminar will examine the relationship between the health of the environment with that of humans. The two expert speakers are:

- **Dr Peter Johnston** has a PhD in Human Genetics and a Masters in Nutrition, and is on the advisory council of Doctors for Nutrition.
- **Dr Karen Kiang** is a Consultant Paediatrician, including in international child health, and is an active member of Doctors for the Environment.

Delicious multicultural supper provided!

Click [here](#) to book tickets for this free event.

AlterCOP 30 Australia, 17-20 November, Brisbane and around Australia

Tickets for **AlterCOP 30 Australia** are now available.

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

Join people from all walks of life for four days of inspiring climate discussions, connect with like-minded people, explore climate innovations, learn about the link between planetary and human health, and so much more.

Volunteer-powered. Locally grounded. Globally connected.

Click [here](#) to book tickets. **The Precinct**, Brisbane with satellite events around the country, and online.

VFA Webinar: The Planetary Importance of our Giant Trees, Thursday 9 October, 6.30-7.30pm

For over 35 years **Brett Mifsud** has been exploring the tall, wet forests of Victoria and Tasmania, searching for, measuring, photographing, (and occasionally climbing!) the largest and tallest of our eucalyptus trees. He'll be speaking about the **planetary importance of these trees** and his extraordinary adventures getting to know them and dealing with governments!

Register [here](#) for this online event.

Rethink Nillumbik - Intro to induction cooktops, Tuesday 7 October, 7-8pm, Diamond Valley Library

Join the **REthink Nillumbik** team for a demonstration and discussion about induction cooking and cooktops. Ideal for those thinking of switching to induction from either gas or a standard electric appliance.

Click [here](#) to register.

Rethink Nillumbik - Installing solar at home, Tuesday 16 October, 2-3.30pm, Diamond Valley Library

Thinking about installing rooftop solar panels? Join REthink Nillumbik for an essential information session designed to demystify the process.

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.

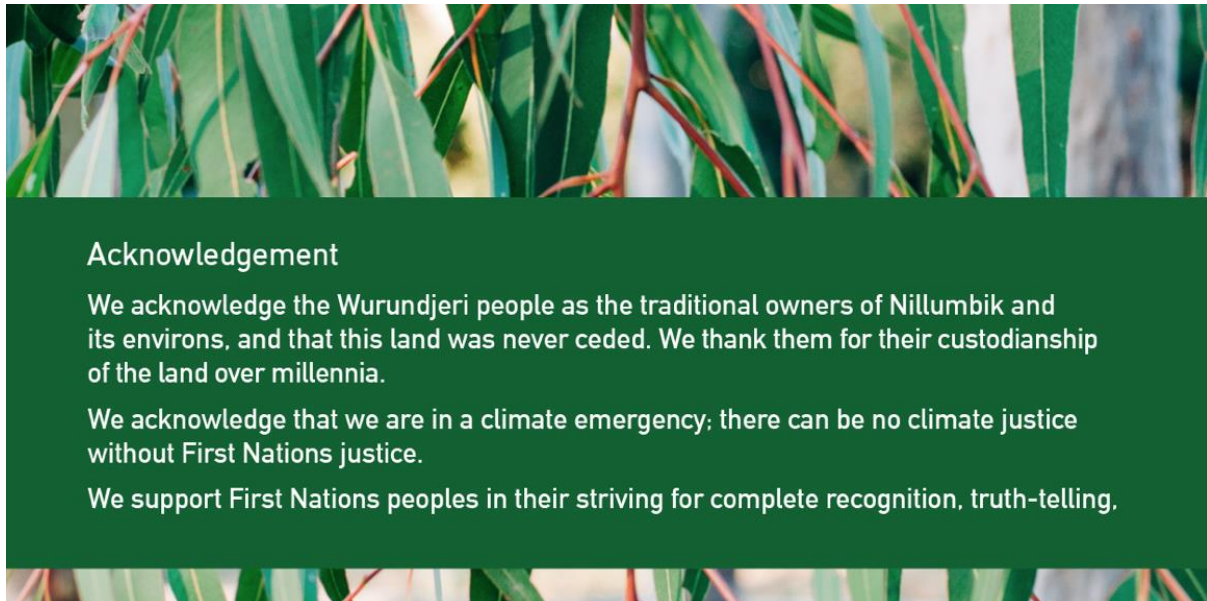
Edendale repair cafe is held at Edendale Farm on the third Saturday of every month. **For more information click [here](#).**

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

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