



**Nillumbik
Climate
Action
Team**

Newsletter August 2026

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1. Climate Cafe 2026: How Sustainable Macleod tackles the climate emergency



At the July Climate Cafe we heard about that wonderful organisation, **Sustainable Macleod**, that Paul and Robin Gale-Baker have established. Much more than just a community garden, Paul and Robin have created a community-focussed climate and environment hub that not only grows delicious food but builds climate awareness in the community, promotes sustainable practices, reduces waste and provides a strong voice for advocacy on local issues that impact the Banyule community.

Robin also told us about her work getting the **Alphington Community Battery** up and running. A **summary of Paul and Robin's** talk can be found [here](#).



Alphington Community Battery.
Photo: Sustainable Macleod

Our next climate cafe in August will be a dual presentation on the topic of Nurturing Biodiversity: Caring for Country in our local patch here in Eltham. Two well-known local figures, Vicky Shukuroglou and Jill Kellow, will share how they nurture and care for their respective remnant patches of bushland, with the help of a band of committed volunteers.

Vicky will talk about how local communities make a meaningful difference to biodiversity conservation and revitalisation. She will explore the power of community-led stewardship through the work of Friends of Biodiversity Hohnes Hill. Drawing on practical experiences in ecological restoration, citizen science, habitat enhancement, and collaborative conservation, Vicky reflects on how local action can strengthen biodiversity while fostering deeper connections between people and place. The presentation considers the challenges and opportunities of caring for remnant ecosystems and demonstrates how creativity, curiosity, and community participation can help support thriving landscapes for the future.

Vicky Shukuroglou's work connects **creativity, ecological awareness, education, and community participation**. Her practice fosters curiosity and care for the environment, nurturing more sustainable and meaningful relationships between people, other forms of life, and the places they inhabit. Vicky leads diverse local initiatives, including **Nillumbio** and **Friends of Biodiversity Hohnes Hill**.

Jill Kellow is the convenor of two friends' groups: Friends of McMahon Ball Paddock in Eltham and Friends of Moor-rul Grassland in Kangaroo Ground. Jill will outline the special ecological characteristics of these three patches of remnant bushland, and the work that goes on in each to restore and revitalise the vegetation and create habitat for mammals, birds, fungi and invertebrates.

Jill is a former lecturer in horticulture at the University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus, where she continues to edit the Friends of Burnley Gardens newsletter. In addition to being convenor of the two Friends groups mentioned above, she is an active participant in many community groups in the Eltham area, including Nillumbik Climate Action Team, Nillumbik U3A and Nillumbik Reconciliation Group.

The program until October 2026 is as follows

August 27: Nurturing Local Biodiversity/ Caring for Country - Jill Kellow and Vicky Shukuroglou

September 24: Talking to Kids about Climate Change - Dr Aimee Maxwell

October 29: The Fight to Save Our National Parks - Jordan Crook, Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA)
Hope to see you there!

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. Forest Country Screening and Phil Zystra presentation. Wednesday 12 August, 7pm Hurstbridge Hub



Nillumbik Friends of the Forest, together with **Warburton Environment**, and supported by **Patagonia**, will be screening **Forest Country**, a film by Lewi Haskins, exploring the impacts facing local forests and the growing community concern across the region. Filmed over the course of a year alongside activists, conservationists and ecologists, the documentary bears witness to the ongoing pressures on native ecosystems, biodiversity loss, and the deep connection communities have to these forests.

Following the film, **Dr Philip Zylstra** will present current research on planned burning, forest disturbance and bushfire risk. Research shows that broadscale planned burning is not only damaging to climate, human health and the environment, but is also ineffective in reducing extreme bushfire risk. Studies have shown that the flush of shrubs that follows prescribed burning can increase long-term fire severity.

After the presentation, filmmaker Lewi Haskins and Warburton Environment President Nic Fox will join Dr Zylstra for a **panel discussion** exploring forest protection, fire management and community action.

[Click here to book your tickets](https://events.humanitix.com/forest-country-screening-and-fire-science-with-dr-philip-zylstra) for this important event.

<https://events.humanitix.com/forest-country-screening-and-fire-science-with-dr-philip-zylstra>

3. Nillumbik Climate Fresk, Saturday 5 September 2-5pm, at Edendale Farm Eltham



Come along to our **Climate Fresk** coming up in September!

This is a bit of a departure from our usual events, offering an interactive game format in which to increase your knowledge base about climate facts and figures (based on IPCC data), and how they all fit together in the big picture.

Climate Fresk represents an opportunity to learn about climate change in a supportive, non-judgemental and non-polarised environment, and to connect with others about these important issues. There will also be a chance to debrief at the end of the workshop. It is open to everyone, beginners and experienced climate campaigners alike, and all will come away from this event feeling more informed, engaged and empowered to take action.

Led by experienced facilitators from People for Nature and supported by Nillumbik Environment and Climate Action Hub (NECAH), we at Nillumbik Climate Action Team are very excited to be bringing you this informative and fun activity. Be sure to book early to avoid missing out.

Book your tickets here. <https://events.humanitix.com/climate-fresk-melbourne-september-2026>

4. Energy Crossroads: Why managing fossil fuel decline is key to Australia's green export future

We are at a pivotal transition point in the Australian and global climate story at the moment. A webinar hosted by World Wildlife Fund **Energy Crossroads: Why managing fossil fuel decline is key to Australia's green export future**, explored the hypocrisies and inconsistencies of Australia's energy policy, in particular, the government's 'hedged bet' approach of pursuing a renewables superpower vision whilst expanding its role as a fossil fuel exporter.

In a CANAchat email discussing the webinar and a WWF report, Rob Law from WWF noted, 'Although many politicians like to keep the focus on clean in, they can't just keep talking about clean in without also addressing dirty out, as the two are very much connected.' He also notes that 'Australia's fossil fuels are declining whether politicians/policymakers choose to accept it or not, and so they need to start managing its exit as a risk strategy.'

On the global scene, Kathryn McCallum from CANA, in response to the disheartening news that Climate and Energy Minister Chris Bowen had ruled out a fossil fuel phase-out for COP 31 agenda, had some positive comments to make about world-wide movements on the fossil fuel phase-out front.

While observing that we have a battleground on how Australia's coal and gas exports sit amongst global momentum on a fossil fuel phase-out, she goes on to say that nevertheless the 'global conversation about roadmaps to transition away from fossil fuels is well and truly alive, mainly thanks to leadership from Colombia, Brazil, Pacific Nations, and campaigners, who have pushed forward plans, solutions and processes out of the formal COP negotiations, but still with connection points. The highest track of ambition is the Fossil Fuel Treaty campaign, which is slowly building support for a binding global equitable phase-out treaty. '

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the webinar Energy Crossroads: Why managing fossil fuel decline is key to Australia's green export future.

Click [here](#) for the report, Energy Crossroads: Why managing fossil fuel decline is key to Australia's green export future.

5. Why is 1.5 degrees important?

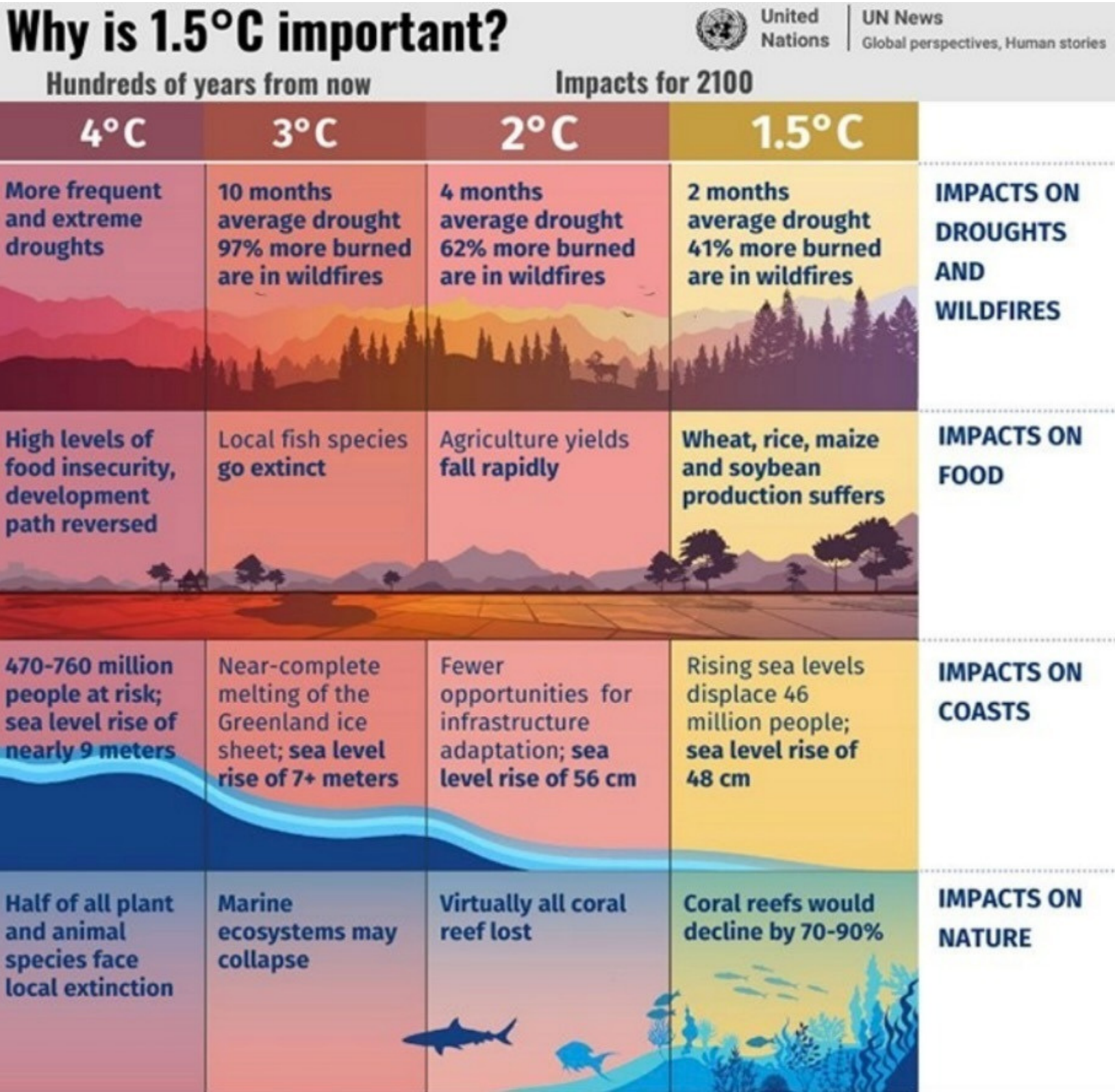


Image: UNEP (2017,2021) Emissions Gap Report (2021), Adaptation Gap Report, SEI (2021) Production Gap Report, IPCC (2021) Sixth Assessment Report

A handy graph to remind us of why its crucial that we contain temperature rises to as close to 1.5 degrees as possible.

5. Waste-to-energy in Australia: Energy Solution or Problem?



Image: [Smart Energy Council](#)

The Smart Energy Council's report *Waste-to-energy in Australia: Energy Solution or Problem?* was released last month. The report tests claims that burning rubbish to make energy is renewable, low-emissions, and a circular economy, and concludes that none of these claims stack up. [To read the report, click here.](#)

6. Good news for wind turbines

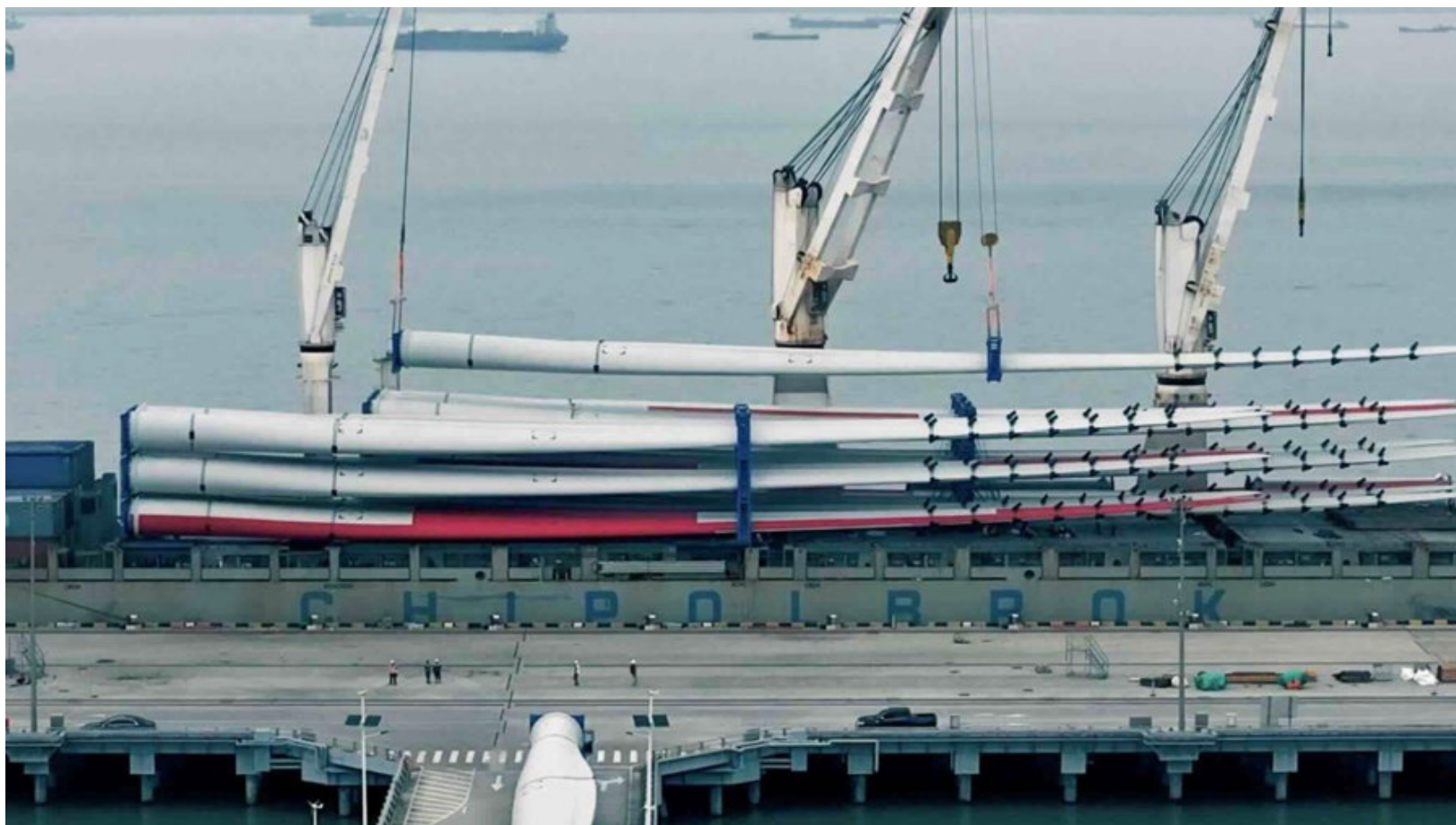


Image: Envision Energy

The imminent arrival of some of the biggest and lowest cost wind turbines is stirring life into Australia's moribund wind energy sector.

For some time the wind industry has been stranded in a holding pattern, dominated by a handful of big turbine suppliers and beset by rising civil construction costs, along with planning and social licence issues. Few of the huge pipeline of projects seen the light of day.

That could be about to change, at least for one part of the equation. The dispatch from a Chinese port this week of the biggest and most powerful turbines to be seen in Australia, and likely its lowest cost in the current market, could herald a sea-change for the industry.

The turbines are being delivered by China's **Envision Energy**, which has landed contracts with two of the most influential players in the Australian market – Andrew Forrest's iron ore mining giant **Fortescue** and the French-based renewable energy developer **Neoen Australia**.

[Click here to read the full article from Renew Economy.](#)

7. Our kids are not for sale



A recent [report by Comms Declare](#) has uncovered some disturbing information about the influences our children are exposed to in their everyday lives.

Australia's six biggest coal and gas companies, Woodside, Shell, Chevron, Santos, BHP and Glencore are running 260+ programs across the places our children grow up: early learning centres, classrooms, teacher training, museums and science centres, sporting clubs, scholarships, youth wellbeing programs and career pathways. From their earliest years right through to adulthood. But there is no register, no watchdog and no independent oversight at all.

Parents for Climate are calling for a **Senate inquiry** into coal and gas companies targetting children.

Click [here](#) to sign the petition.

8. Quote of the month

“Never underestimate the power of kindness,” he said. “Because what may seem like a small action to you can become the difference between hope and despair for someone else.”

The Afghan family who are safe at last and full of hope, thanks to an Australia Pauline Hanson will never know.

From [The Guardian 19/6/26](#)

9. Remembering our wins, and looking after each other

This email popped into my inbox the other day, and was a wonderful reminder of what climate groups and dedicated individuals have achieved in the last few years. Sent by Denise Cauchi, CEO of Climate Action Network Australia, it was a timely call to stop and consider the positive impacts of all the work that is happening in the climate space, and how the combined efforts of all of us are gaining traction!

'This is a hard time to be campaigning for climate. Rules-based diplomacy is declining worldwide, the war in the Middle East is causing energy shocks everywhere, the genocide in Gaza continues, and conflicts are worsening in DRC, Sudan and other countries. All this alongside worsening climate disasters. Here in Australia, racism is reaching a crisis point and Pauline Hanson is taking a very big axe to the foundations of our multicultural society. Cost of living and housing pressures are crowding out concern about climate for most people.

At times like this, it's easy to feel like nothing we do is working, and to start chasing quick fixes for problems that are neither quick nor simple to solve. So I wanted to take a moment to remind us all of what our movement has actually achieved, and how the long arc of advocacy and change usually works.

I see **three big things that we have achieved as an Australian movement.**

The first is that **Australia's transition to clean energy now has real momentum behind it.** Batteries exceeded gas in the eastern grid in May, renewables make up around 46.5% of domestic electricity production, EV sales are up 111.0% in the last quarter (year on year), and 1,250 to 2,000 homes a day are installing batteries. There's still a great deal to do to make this transition both fast and fair, but renewables are now winning on price as well as on being clean, and that trajectory is real.

Second, our **advocacy has stopped, and continues to stop, many new and expanding coal, gas and oil projects** because of the harm they'd do to communities, the environment and climate. That work has kept huge tonnages of pollution out of the air and protected large areas of farmland and bushland, along with the people and animals who live there.

Third, we've **seen off federal Coalition governments and their anti-climate policies**, both in the lead-up to the 2022 election and again through 2025, building on work that goes back to 2019 and earlier.

These are massive outcomes, and they happened because you, your organisations, and so many others in this movement have fought for climate action for 30 years. We created the political space that made the funding, the policies and the targets possible.'

To read Denise's full email, [click here](#).

10. Legal challenge to Woodside's North West Shelf gas hub



Image: Jay Kogler/AAP PHOTOS

Landmark hearings began on Tuesday 21 July for the Australian Conservation Foundation and Friends of Australian Rock Art's Federal Court challenge to Environment Minister Murray Watt's decision to grant a 40 year extension of Woodside's North West Shelf gas hub.

The Minister has been accused of bias in his decision to grant this extension to Woodside. The development in WA's Pilbara region is one of the largest liquefied gas projects in the world, with more than \$34 billion spent since it opened in the 1980s.

NCAT's Mitzi Tuke was at the forefront of action in Tuesday's demonstration outside the court. She and other protestors were expressing their concern at the massive environmental, climate and cultural damage that the project will cause.

The hearing is now finished. The court is yet to hand down its decision on this case. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

11. The Case for Pricing Pollution: Reducing emissions, strengthening the economy and delivering a fair share for Australians

Last month's [Professionals Advocating for Climate Action](#) webinar tackled the issue of **pricing pollution**, a topic which is rapidly gaining momentum on several fronts at the moment.

The webinar featured speakers Baethan Mullen from [The Superpower Institute](#), and Thom Woodroffe, author of '**Power, Prosperity & Planet: Climate and Energy Policy for All**'.

The Superpower Institute is proposing a Polluter Pays Levy (PPL) which would result in a tax on carbon emissions for around 140 extraction sites (responsible for around 80% of emissions) and would deliver an extra 10 million tonnes reduction in emissions annually after ten years (by 2036), representing about a quarter of current emissions. A package of household compensation and support would be funded by the levy, to help minimise increases in energy costs to households.

Thom Woodroffe's book covers three key transitions needed in Australia: clean power, new economic prosperity and national resilience. The book emphasises the importance of framing climate policies in terms of the immediate economic benefits for middle-income households rather than starting with legal or scientific imperatives.

[Click here to listen to the webinar.](#)

12. Flight Free news

(By Geoff Collis) Mark Carter from [Flight Free Australia](#) and myself had a presence outside the SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuels) conference in Melbourne on July 9, handing out flyers to attendees, outlining the limitations and problems with SAF.

We could not help but notice the irony of the fairground that was set up next to the conference centre, SAF being but a sideshow in relation to the aviation industry's climate science-denying growth model.

Image: Geoff Collis. Mark Carter at the SAF conference



And on the topic of e-fuels for aviation, former coordinator of [Biomass Action Network](#) Peg Putt had this to say in a CANAchat about the recent announcement from the government to allocate \$32 funding for developing so-called 'green' methanol production from forest 'waste'.

'Not simply another subsidy to logging, this will not alleviate carbon emissions and it may damage forests and entrench logging in the face of campaigns for further forest protection. It is important to understand that methanol contains carbon that goes to the atmosphere when combusted as a fuel, whichever way it is produced. Just like with fossil fuels. In this case the carbon to be extracted from large volumes of wood 'waste'. And it's proposed at a time that the export woodchip market is losing a substantial part of its customer base. So this is a rescue plan for the woodchip industry, more than it is a rescue plan for the climate.'

[Click here to read Peg's briefing on e-fuels.](#)

In other flight free news, and although targetted to a European audience, where travelling by train to holiday destinations is an eminently feasible option, this podcast can nevertheless provide some inspiration to those of us in Australia who are attempting to reduce our dependence on air travel.

[Click here to hear Anna Hughes](#) from Flight Free UK talk about her experiences living flight free.

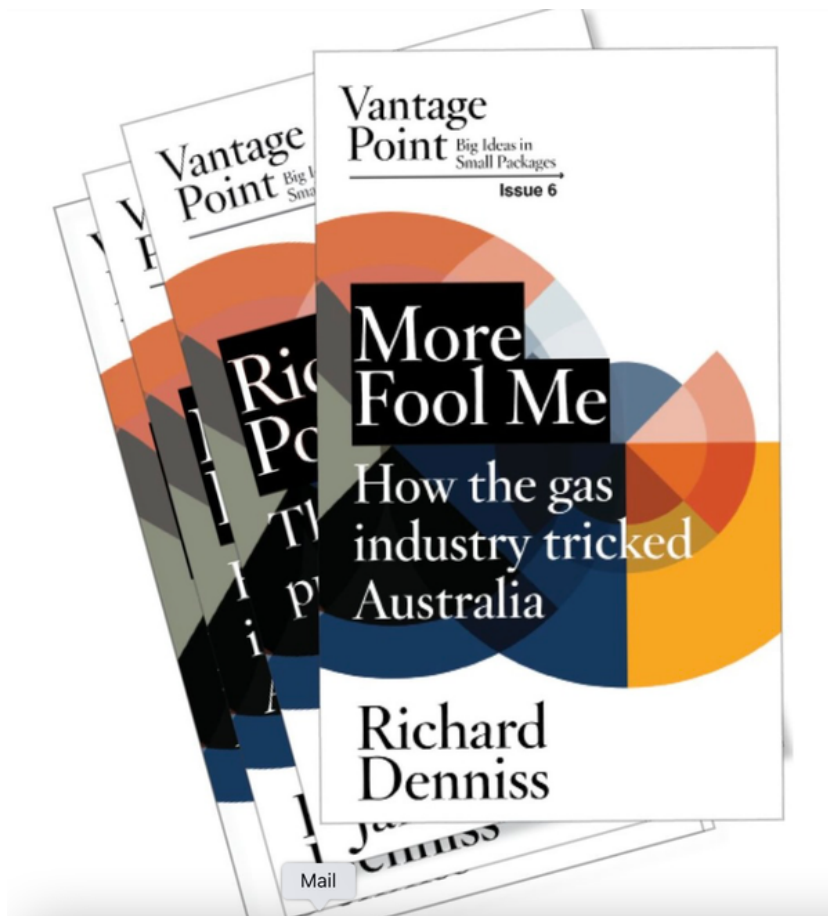
13. In Conversation with Prof Tim Flannery



In this webinar, Professor Tim Flannery and the Climate Council's CEO Amanda McKenziediscuss humanity's history of trying to alter the climate. They dive into the many attempts our species has made to tinker with nature, drawing on Tim's new book, Climate Folly. While many of these 'solutions' border on the hilarious or absurd, Tim unpacks those that may provide genuine answers to the massive problems we have created on the planet, giving reasons for hope while not denying the reality of what we are facing.

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

14. Essay: More Fool Me: How the gas industry tricked Australia



Richard Denniss's new publication from the Australia Institute, *More Fool Me: How the gas industry tricked Australia*, is in his usual straight-talking style, and pulls no punches.

In this essay, he describes how the global gas industry has pulled off the greatest con in Australia's history, and we're living with the consequences.

Australia is one of the richest countries in the world, but we have been made to feel so poor that we no longer even expect the high quality, freely available public schools and hospitals we used to have.

And while we are told we can't afford to have good services, Australian governments give away billions of dollars' worth of gas, for free, to multinational companies each year.

Richard Denniss pulls back the curtain to show how the gas companies performed a long con in Australia, and spells out the simple steps we need to take to fix it.

[Click here to order this latest Vantage Point publication](#) from the Australia Institute.

15. NCAT Membership: New members always welcome

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.

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.

[Donate](#)



Deep Listening to Nature with Andrew Skeoch - three events

EVENING IMMERSION, 7pm Friday 21 August, Hurstbridge Hub

Join acoustic ecologist Andrew Skeoch, author of Deep Listening to Nature, for immersive explorations of the sounds that surround us. Through evocative field recordings, spectrogram analysis, and insights developed through decades of attentive listening, Andrew reveals hidden dimensions of the acoustic world. From the voices of individual species to the complex soundscapes of whole habitats, we will explore how listening can change our understanding of the living world. Andrew's work invites us to move beyond hearing as a passive act — to become more attentive listeners, recognising communication, relationships, and the intricate connections that sustain ecosystems. This evening will include recordings from diverse environments, visualisations of sound through spectrograms, and ideas from Andrew's 30 years as a wildlife sound recordist and acoustic ecologist.

MORNING LISTENING WALKS

Step into the bush with Andrew Skeoch for a small-group walk — no recordings, no screens, just the landscape and its sounds. Moving slowly and mostly in silence, you'll be invited to experience the natural world through deep listening and attentive observation. Together, we'll immerse ourselves in nature's soundscape, noticing what is often overlooked and exploring the rich connections that shape the living world. Throughout the walk, Andrew will help interpret what we're hearing, identifying species by their calls, explaining vocal behaviours, and sharing insights drawn from decades of listening, recording and observing birds, insects, wind and other voices of the natural world.

Signed copies of *Deep Listening to Nature* will be available for purchase at all events.

Andrew Skeoch is an educator, naturalist, environmental thinker and one of Australia's best-known nature sound recordists. Over the last twenty years, he has journeyed to remote locations in Asia, India, America, Europe, Africa and the Pacific in search of some of our planet's most beautiful and fascinating sounds. Combining his areas of expertise with a deep curiosity, Andrew explores the crucial role of sound and communication in nature and evolution. He weaves the latest scientific understandings into a fascinating celebration of the natural soundscape around us.

His intriguing presentations are supported by audio recordings made over 20 years in wild habitats the world over, and will have you appreciating nature from an entirely fresh perspective.

Signed copies of *Deep Listening to Nature* will be available for purchase at all events.

All events hosted by Nillumbio

Register for these special events here: <https://www.nillumbio.org/events>

Evening immersion

Listening walk - 8.30am session

Listening walk - 10.30am session

Four native plant events

1. Australian Plant Expo, Saturday 12 Sept 9.30am-3pm, & Sunday 13 Sept 9.30am-2pm, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham.

Wide range of Australian native plants for sale.

[Click here for more information](#) and for plant lists closer to the time.

2. Kuranga Nursery opening in Warrandyte

Kuranga Native Nursery has acquired the former Beasley's Nursery site in Warrandyte and will be opening a second store there on 1 August at 8.30am.

[Click here for more information](#).

3. Free indigenous plants at Edendale

Nillumbik residents are invited to collect a free indigenous plant (one per household) from Edendale's indigenous plant nursery, and help build a greener, cooler and more wildlife-friendly future. Registrants can also receive a 20% discount (off the single tube price) on the next 20 plants that they buy.

[Register for your free plant here](#).

4. Request a street tree

Nillumbik residents can apply for a street tree to be planted on their nature strip. Offer open until the end of January. [Click here to apply](#).

The **REthink Nillumbik Program** is a series of fun, interactive workshops designed to create a more sustainable and liveable Nillumbik. Sessions include a range of activities to help local residents reimagine our collective approach to energy and waste.

REthink events are collaborative, hands-on, and can help people take small actions that can lead to serious, positive change. They include practical demonstrations, creative activities, and simple ideas for rethinking everyday choices and behaviours.

[Click here for more information about upcoming REthink Nillumbik events for 2026](#).

For **Nillumbik Council sustainability and environment** events and activities, including introduction to bee keeping workshops, reveg. working bees, plastic free July activities and many more, [click here](#).

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 here for more information](#).

Edendale Community Environment Farm events calendar

[Click here to view the wide range of events](#) on offer from Edendale Farm, including Waterwise wicking beds, Basic bike maintenance, Repair, restore and upcycle furniture, Edendale repair cafe, Food, fibre and medicine plants of the local area, and many more.



Acknowledgement of Country

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.



Nillumbik Climate Action Team

Advocates for stronger, faster action on climate heating

 Nillumbik Climate Action Team /