Nillumbik Climate Action Team

Newsletter November 2026

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1. Climate Cafe 2026: The Fight to Save our National Parks



The state of our national parks was the topic for our most recent climate cafe, presented by **Jordan Crook** from the Victorian National Parks Association.

The battle to provide protection for nature has been long and bitterly fought. And it still continues. Victoria has the distinction of being the most cleared state, with only 18% protected on land, and 5% marine protection. This year saw the creation of three new national parks in the west of the state, the first in over two decades, after a 47 month long-drawn-out process.

Threats in the form of funding cuts, logging under the guise of bushfire risk mitigation,

feral deer explosion, weed invasion and abolition of environment bodies continue to stymie the efforts of paid national parks staff and unpaid community environment groups fighting for more protections for national parks. An anti-nature culture pervades our state Labor government.

But Jordan did not leave us without hope, and invited us to get on board with a recent campaign (see Item 2 below) to put pressure on our elected representatives ahead of the coming election to provide more protections for national parks, and nature in general.



Click here for a summary of Jordan's presentation.
Jordan's presentation slides can be viewed here.

Our next climate cafe will be on **Getting off Gas**, presented by **Ben Russell**, local electrician and now founder and CEO of Goodbye Gas.

This will be the final climate cafe for the year.

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 6:00pm onwards if you can, or come at 7.30pm for the speaker event.
nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/ncat-climate-cafe/

2. Email your MP - Stop the F*ckery

With a state election looming, now is the time to send an email to your local MP to put pressure on them to get serious about protecting nature. As we heard at our recent climate cafe, our environment is struggling under the weight of years of underfunding, neglect, and damaging practices, and all this in the context of a global climate and biodiversity crisis.



Victorians for Nature have made it easy for you - just enter your postcode to select your local representative and sign the prepared form letter, which will then be sent to your MP.

Click here to sign the letter to your MP, asking them to put ‘nature on the priority list, so communities, habitats and wildlife can recover and thrive’.

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3. Victorian State Election 2026



Just a few weeks to go until the Victorian state election. Bookings are steadily climbing for our online **Candidates Forum** for the electoral districts of **Eltham**, **Yan Yean** and **Eildon** on **Thursday 12 November at 7:00pm (online),** where we will be asking candidates for their policies on a range of issues related to climate and environment, including renewable energy infrastructure, transport, biodiversity and ecosystem

protection, household electrification and renters equity, local climate adaptation funding and more.

To date, the following candidates have accepted our invitation to present at the forum:

Rachel Busbridge, Greens, Eltham
Maeve Riches, Victorian Socialists, Eltham

Chloe Bond, Animal Justice Party, Eildon
Cindy McLeish, Liberal Party, MP for Eildon
Kevin Gibson, ALP, Eildon

Gufran Mohammed, Greens, Yan Yean
Sinan Okatan, Animal Justice Party, Yan Yean

As other candidates accept our invitation, we'll add them here.

Those underlined have also signed the Cheaper Power Pledge, which commits candidates to publicly support cleaner, cheaper energy.

Register now for the online Candidates Forum here.

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Can you help us hand out Candidate Scorecards!

Candidate Scorecards are currently being prepared, and will be handed out at public locations and at pre-polling centres in the coming weeks. These are cards which rate candidates on their climate and environment policies. They can provide useful information to the public on which candidates and/or parties will best support strong action on climate.

We are looking for people who would be willing to hand out Candidate Scorecards at pre-polling venues and other locations ahead of the forthcoming state election (thank you to those who have already offered their support!). Pre-polling voting centres will be open from **Wednesday 18 November to Friday 27 November** from 9am-6pm every day except Sunday 22 November. Locations will be announced closer to the time. Click here for more information about voting options.

If you are interested, and have some time available in the lead-up to the election, please email Elizabeth at info@nillumbikclimateaction.org and you will be contacted when the cards are ready to be distributed.

More about the candidate scorecards here:
nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/nillumbik-candidate-scorecard/

4. Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) annual summit meeting



The three year strategy (2026-2029) of Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) centres on a just phase out of fossil fuels

Nillumbik Climate Action Team is a member of Climate Action Network Australia, and NCAT President Mitzi Tuke attended two days of the three-day annual summit meeting that took place via Zoom over 20-22 October.

The summit was a great opportunity for connection, discussion and collaboration and the speaker sessions were at turns inspiring, despairing, intriguing. All were packed with information and were delivered by terrific speakers. There were breakout sessions where we reflected on what we'd heard and gave us opportunities to make suggestions and work together.

The summit sessions (three sessions with breaks per day) looked at aspects of the strategy with speakers on coal and gas expansion plans and the campaigns against them, different perspectives on the transition out of fossil fuels, opportunities and solutions at scale for the clean economy, and global responsibilities in the areas of finance, regional energy trade and opportunities for action in the lead up to * COP31 and beyond.

* COP 31, the United Nations annual international summit for negotiations to address climate change, takes place shortly, from 9-20 November in Turkiye, with Minister Chris Bowen as President of Negotiations.

5. Climate win in High Court



Photo: Zoe Lonergan

In a major win for climate accountability, a landmark court case on 7 October has rejected the appeal of coal company MACH Energy for expansion of the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine. Led by a local community group, Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group (DAMSHEG), the High Court upheld the NSW Court of Appeal's binding precedent requiring planning authorities to specifically consider the local climate damage caused by fossil fuel projects seeking approval.

This judgement has huge implications for how fossil fuel project approvals consider and manage global emissions and local climate change. It confirms that Australian state and federal governments can no longer ignore that our coal and gas exports are harming the climate while Australian communities are paying the price through floods, fires, heatwaves and droughts that are pushing up the cost of living.

Read more...

Since that landmark court case, in an act that has been described as 'reprehensible' and 'disgraceful', the Minns government has attempted to rush through legislation to circumvent the High Court's decision by legally re-approving 32% higher output to 2032.

The proposed legislation will be tabled in November.

Read more…

6. Fighting misleading ideas of liberty

Saul Griffiths has taken up arms to contest the 'right to choose', a slogan currently being pushed by certain political parties and the gas industry to justify continued use of expensive and damaging gas.

As Saul goes on to explain, the phrase comes from Locke and Mill, two of liberalism's founders, but those men were precise about where liberty ends. Locke's natural liberty stopped at harm to another's life, health or property. Mill's harm principle said the same: your freedom runs to the point where it costs someone else. **Burning gas in a kitchen puts nitrogen dioxide into a child's lungs and carbon into everyone's atmosphere**. A 'choice' that quietly harms your neighbours is not the liberty Mill defended. It is a convenience for one household, paid for by everybody else, including all future generations.

Read Saul's post here.

7. Petition - Duty of Care for young people and future generations

Remember Anjali Sharma? Back in 2021 she initiated a landmark class-action lawsuit against the Australian federal government to protect young people from climate change. Unfortunately her court win was later overturned on appeal.

She has continued to campaign for this cause, and is now calling on candidates to commit to acknowledging their **Duty of Care to young people and future generations** if elected.

Please help Anjali and future generations - and add your to the petition to add your name to the growing call for decision-makers to recognise their responsibility to young people and future generations.

8. Radical hope for the future by looking to the past

“A bunch of mildly clever, highly social apes broke into a cookie jar of fossil energy and have been throwing a party for the past 150 years. The conditions at the party are incompatible with the biophysical realities of the planet. The party is about over and when morning comes, radical changes to our way of living will be imposed.”

This quote, from Nate Hagens, ecological economist and former Wall Street trader, appears in Roman Krznaric's recent publication History for Tomorrow: Inspiration from

the past for the future of humanity. In this comprehensive sweep of the past, the author draws from examples in humanity's history to find solutions for the most pressing problems of today, including breaking our fossil fuel addiction, restoring democracy, avoiding civilisational collapse and much more.

Hear Roman talk with Big Ideas host Natasha Mitchell about challenging the 'tyranny of the now', offering an exciting view of history as a source of radical hope.

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9. Eco-imaginarium: imagining an ecologically just future



Image: Floodwater Woorong Nucko by Lin Onus 1995, currently on display at Ngarn Wa'ngal Art of the Gum Tree, Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, Parkville Victoria.

Early in October I (Elizabeth Doig) attended an intriguingly titled workshop called an Eco-imaginarium, a space in which we were invited to imagine an eco-centred world. The program drew on ideas, inspiration and ecological practices from a range of disciplines and initiatives, including Rights of Nature laws, bioregionalism, multi-species justice, Indigenous knowledge and practices, and was co-hosted by Australian Earth Laws Alliance, Planetary Civics Inquiry, RMIT Regenerative Futures Institute and others.

During the course of the workshop we were prompted to share our own eco-centred practices and explore how we might think about governing ourselves as part of the non-human world, not as managers of nature, but embedded in nature. Questions posed included:

- Who speaks for the natural world?
- What are the limits of ecological decision-making?
- How do we shift from ownership to stewardship?
- How do we encourage collective responsibility for the planet?

Following a session on ecocentric practices in and around Melbourne, the day closed with an exploration of what ecocentric governance could actually look like in Victoria. It is proposed that a working paper will be produced based on outcomes from the workshop. Stay tuned!

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10. Quote of the Month

Earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need,
but not everyone's greed.

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~

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11. Voting for Climate



Image: [Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group (BCCAG)]

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12. Humanity continues to foul its fragile nest



Seven of the nine planetary boundaries have now been crossed as human pressure on the Earth accelerates, yet Australia continues to expand fossil fuel extraction while presenting itself as a climate leader.

The window to a safe environment is closing rapidly.

Read more...

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13. Creating biodiversity-friendly cities

Much can be done to plan and build cities that are welcoming for non-humans. Wildlife corridors, reduced lighting, 'peckable' architecture, possum-friendly roof cavities - small shifts in housing design and in our attitudes to the flora and fauna we share our living spaces with can not only make a world of difference to the wildlife, but can create happier, healthier humans as well.

Radio National's Life Matters talks to Bethany Kiss and Sarah Bekessy about designing common spaces with critters in mind.

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14. Tell ANZ not to frack the Beetaloo

Right now, ANZ is the only big bank that might bankroll a massive fracking expansion in the Northern Territory.

Fracking is an existential threat because 90% of the NT's water supply comes from groundwater sources, which would be placed at great risk if fracking companies are allowed to frackhundreds or thousands of wells. And while fracking has recently started in the NT, these operations are relatively small because they supply gas only to the local NT market.

What the frackers really want is to be able to export this fracked gas.

And that's where ANZ comes in.

Send a message to ANZ - Don't finance the APA pipeline.

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15. Satellite technology measures eucalypt flammability



Photo: Australian National University

As bushfires become more frequent and intense, satellite data has become a critical tool for bushfire planning and response.

But with no Earth-observation satellites, the nation depends on foreign-owned satellites for information during emergencies.

Scientists at the Australian National University are developing what could be Australia's first national satellite mission for Earth observation, with world-first technology to monitor the flammability of eucalypt forests from space.

Read more…

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16. The last snowgum



It's hard to imagine the Australian Alps without snow gums - those exquisitely beautiful twisting trees with their softly gleaming multi-coloured bark. But the ravages of **too frequent and intense fires, hotter drier summers and insect attack** are denuding the high country of these iconic trees, and **changing landscapes dramatically**.

In their book, The Last Snowgum, Anna Langford and Anthony Sharwood plead the case for the snow gum, and argue that Australians need to urgently wake up to what is happening in our high country. These trees and landscapes are the canary in the climate coal mine - starkly reminding us of the losses that are taking place now and to come if we don't act.

Click here to hear David Marr talking with Anthony and Anna about their book.

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17. Cartoon of the Month



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18. 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 plus coming up with new ideas for this work!

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

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19. Upcoming Events

Rally: Reject new coal and gas, save our reefs!
Saturday 7 November 11am-1pm, Fed Square



Join ACF and many other climate and environment organisations (including NCAT) for a rally in the city to take a stand against new coal and gas, and protect our reefs. Drilling at Scott Reef is imminent, putting at risk irreplaceable reefs and marine life. Meanwhile, the government at COP31 will be telling the world we're a climate leader, in spite of 37 new fossil fuel projects approved since 2022.

Hope to see you there with your signs and banners.
Click here for more information.

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People for Nature Citizen COP - online and in person events nationwide Oct/Nov 2026
Forums, workshops, citizen science days and locally-led action projects all running alongside the official COP 31 (Climate) and COP 17 (Biodiversity) negotiations.
Click here to view the full program of climate and biodiversity events.

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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.

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For **Nillumbik Council sustainability and environment events** and activities, including reveg. working bees, installing home batteries and many more, click here.

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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.

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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.

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 here



nillumbikclimateactionteam.org/