

East Gippsland Climate Action Network



Notes & Action Items: EGCAN Meeting – Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Thank you to everyone who attended our August meeting at The Hub (and via Zoom). Below is a summary of the presentations, reports, and upcoming actions discussed.

Meeting

Date & Location: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 | The Hub (and Zoom)

Chair: Phil

Note taker: Angela

Present: Robyn H, Tony P, Ro G, Gillian C, Jenny B, Nola K, Royal C, Peter N, Mendy U

Zoom: Judy I, Peter G

Apologies: Louise, Don, Kerry, Gail, John and Susan

Guests: Liza Gelt & Rosie Tran (Collaborative Consulting Co.), Wayne Burton & Caroline Love (East Gippsland Shire Council), Aleah (Clifton Creek Primary School ~Junior Rotary Community Awards Program)

Key Presentation: Climate Risk Communication Project

Liza Gelt and Rosie Tran (Collaborative Consulting Co.) joined us alongside Wayne Burton and Caroline Love from the East Gippsland Shire Council.

- **Project Scope:** The Shire has engaged consultants to develop effective community communication strategies for emergency preparation. utilizing the Shire's Emergency Dashboard and an upcoming Climate Risk Assessment Tool.
- **EGCAN Involvement:** The group agreed to collaborate on this initiative. Liza and Rosie will work through **Nola K** (principal contact) to set dates for upcoming community consultations.

Documents and Powerpoint presentation attached

(Shire representatives and consultants departed at 6:45 PM.)

General meeting commenced at 6:50 PM with an Acknowledgment of Country for the Brabralung people of the Gunaikurnai Nation.

Reports & Strategic Updates

- **Finance & Admin (Ro on behalf of Louise):**

Sincere thanks for recent donations: **\$200 from Alistair Mailer**, as well as ongoing substantial support from **Black Rainbow** during printing services. Ro contacted *Black Rainbow* expressing our heartfelt gratitude.

Various routine business accounts have been settled and petty cash banked.

Admin update: The Annual Insurance application has been submitted to Environment Victoria.

- **Strategic Planning:** Don will be available to continue leading our strategic planning process starting in mid-October.

Campaigns & Actions

- **2026 State Election Actions (Tony P, Ro G Nola K):**
- Great social media engagement following Nola and Royal's photobombing campaign. (**Poster Photos In Iconic Places**) **Get Involved:** Paint a sign and take a photo in a recognisable location (e.g., in front of an EV charger, solar panels, or a battery bank. Be creative/humorous/topical). Send your photos to **Tony P** for publication on EGCAN social media channels
- **Display Cabinet** Bairnsdale Library booked 17-30th August. Display will support John Gwyther talk and 1Million Women ShePowers: Women Gather project (below)
- **1 Million Women "ShePowers:Women Gather Bairnsdale"**project - **Renewable Energy Focus**

Topic: How communities & households thrive in the renewable energy transition
(feedback from sessions will be relayed back to Govt)

Format: Kitchen table conversation

When: Wed, Aug 26 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Bairnsdale Library, Meeting Room 2

Action: Contact **Nola** for your formal invitation(s).

- **Rising Tide Campaign Update (Ro G):**

Strong momentum following Sybil's demonstration outside ANZ and the Rising Tide performance at the Bairnsdale Rotunda.

Stickers for the ANZ campaign are arriving soon. Talk to **Ro G or Louise** if you can assist with ongoing actions.

- **Native Forests vs. Wind Farms (Peter N):**

Peter highlighted concerns regarding renewable energy developments occurring at the expense of native forests in Queensland and has written to relevant authorities. Contact **Peter N** for details.

- **Environment Victoria – "Bridging the Gap":**

EV has released a framework booklet and guidelines to guide incoming state politicians on climate policy. **Jenny B** will coordinate our local engagement with **Ro G's** assistance.

- *Approved Initiative:* Group members approved inviting potential State election candidates to informal morning coffee meetings.

Upcoming Events & Workshops

1. **"Yes to Renewables" Workshop:**

Ro G is working with Wendy Farmer to host a workshop on navigating information and countering misinformation regarding renewable energy. Dates and details to follow.

2. **John Gwyther Energy Transition Talk:**

Date&Time: Thursday, 27 August 2026 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Room 7, The Hub

Help Needed: Please contact **Jenny B** if you can assist with catering/refreshments.

3. **Paynesville Market Stall:**

Markets return mid-September. **Ro G and Louise** are planning an Education Stall focused on voting guides for the November 28 state election. Sing out if you can volunteer at the stall.

4. **Film Night:**

Special thanks to **Mendy U** for hosting a wonderful screening of *The Bentley Effect* last month.

Regular Updates & Working Groups

- **Coffee Mornings:** Bookings at *The Stables* remain ongoing though subject to occasional staffing/supply adjustments. Check WhatsApp on the day for updates.
- **Fridays for Future, Social Media, & Canopy Trees:** All continuing. Social media goes from strength to strength with new members joining each week. **Tony P** continues to monitor responses and, as necessary, dispatches some.
- **Dealing with Climate Distress (Youth Focus):** **Nola K** is investigating a new project to support young people experiencing climate-related distress. (Project proposal appended)

Volunteers & Network Contacts Needed: If you know friends, teachers, or local professionals who can help identify the level of youth need and existing support networks, please get in touch with **Nola**.

Background & Context: Polling by Orygen, Australia's youth mental health think tank, highlights the urgency of this initiative:

76% of young people are concerned about climate change, with 30% "very concerned."

Climate distress is having an escalating impact on youth mental health, driven primarily by perceived government inaction

- **General Approvals:** **Tony P** received approval to order custom EGCAN stickers suitable for badges and campaign materials. **Angela C** was given approval for John Gwyther talk promotion requirements. Meeting approved and agreed that supporting "**Dealing with Climate Distress**" (youth focus) project was appropriate. **Nola** following up.

Next Meeting

- **Date:** Tuesday, 1 September 2026
- **Chair:** Ro G
- **Note-taker:** TBA
- **Meeting Closed:** 7:45 PM

Appendix Dealing with Climate Distress with a focus on supporting youthon next page

Possible EGCAN project

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2026

Dealing with Climate Distress : Help for our Young People

Preamble:

Australia's youth mental health think tank, Orygen, commissioned polling that found 76% of young people are concerned about climate change and 30% were "very concerned". The results showed that climate distress is having a significant and escalating impact on the mental health of young Australian's, and government inaction was the most frequently identified factor impacting this.

In a 2025 survey young people responded positively to the statement about Collective Efficacy - "When people come together to fight climate change I feel we can make a difference". One of the recommendations emanating from this research was to "Increase opportunities for environmental action in communities and educational settings".

One young person made the following statement "I have no future to look forward to. I fear the collapse of civilisation, I fear natural disasters like those seen increasing in frequency and severity already. This is the reality we have been told is coming, and yet nobody seems to care".

East Gippsland is possibly a difficult environment in which young people feel safe to acknowledge the climate concerns that may be impacting their well-being.

Aims:

1. For EGCAN to engage young people in a positive and helpful way.
2. To make a useful contribution to the East Gippsland community.
3. To learn more about how climate change is impacting our local young people and how our group can work to support them.

Proposal:

To hold a forum specifically for young people about dealing with climate distress, and use this as a start to the formation of a Climate Cafe for young people. Support and mentor this cafe through the initial establishment stages and then partner with the newly formed - "East Gippsland Climate Action Youth Network", or whatever name they may choose.

How to proceed:

1. Investigate existing level of need for climate distress support for young people in EG.
2. Investigate existing supports available in East Gippsland and identify gaps.
3. Run a Public Forum specifically aimed at education and support for young people in dealing with climate distress. This could involve sponsoring an expert public speaker, experienced in this area, and who is relatable to young people. The forum could also include 2 or 3 local young people who are prepared to speak briefly about their own concerns, as well as a brief presentation from appropriate service providers who have experience in this area and may be able to offer individual support. Stalls with information about how to cope, and actions to take, could also be available. This could include some that provide volunteer opportunities to contribute to a better future eg. Far East Gippsland Landcare, or Rising Tide where participants can be told about some activities available. Teenage appropriate food and drinks provided. The last speaker could raise the idea of forming a regular Youth Climate Cafe for those interested young people to meet regularly with like-minded peers.
4. If there is interest in the formation of a Climate Cafe this could initially be sponsored by EGCAN until the group is sufficiently established. This "coffee catchup" concept has proved useful for older activists and could provide a secure and nurturing environment for young people to share their common concerns. It could also be a great place for nurturing inspiration and fostering active hope.

Contacts:

1. Headspace - there is one in Bairnsdale - 171 Main Street.
2. Psychology for a Safe Climate have an online climate cafe for young people - this could give some ideas for development of such a thing.

3. Lucy Van Sambeek at Metaphorically Speaking runs/or has run, a Climate Cafe in Sale.
4. Cova Psychology - Melbourne based have experience in eco-anxiety.
5. Dr Jarrod White - Melbourne based - extensive experience in this area, previously engaged by Far East Victoria Landcare.
6. Young people - Banjo Jackson, Scott and Suzie's daughter, Xavier Evans, three young men from Nagle, ???
7. Suzie Bady - previously ran workshop for EGCAN on this topic.
8. Australian Youth Climate Coalition - have grassroots leaders and do "in school" workshops.

ITEMS FOR SEPT AGENDA

Finance & Admin

Election inc - PPIIC poster photos in iconic places

- Wendy Farmer workshop
- guests invited to coffee chats
- JohnGwyther Energy Transition talk
- 1million women ShePowers Women Gather Bairnsdale
- Paynesville Market October
- Bridging the Gap ~conversations with state politicians locally

Paul's Report

Climate Risk Communication Project

Rising Tide

Climate Distress support for youth

Strategic planning held over till October mtg

Regular Actions/Updates/Tweaks

*Coffee mornings *FforF *social media *other