



ARRCC

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

2014 Annual Report



Acknowledgments:

ARRCC would like to thank Jenni Downes and Nicole Thornton for putting together this report. Thanks also to the Management Committee and volunteers who contributed.

The report covers the period of 1 Jan 2014 to 31 Dec 2014.

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ABOUT ARRCC

ARRCC is a multi-faith, member-based network committed to taking action on climate change. As an organisation we engage with faith communities, run campaigns, produce resources, and undertake research and advocacy to fulfil our mission and realise our vision.

Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

We envisage our nation embracing a sustainable future, one which is based on a more ethical understanding of human prosperity and the flourishing of all.

To help achieve this vision, ARRCC hopes to see religious communities of all kinds, and all across Australia, actively reflecting religious values in their lifestyle choices.

Our Mission

- 1. To promote ethical, sustainable, healthy and contented lifestyles which respect the Earth's precious natural resources.*
- 2. To advocate from a faith perspective for public policies which contribute to climate justice.*

Our Values

Compassion

We are challenged by our compassion towards the other people and beings with whom we share this Earth.

Respect

We show respect for people regardless of their views – treating them with kindness and gentleness.

Truth-telling

Though we recognise that people find it difficult to hear our messages, we maintain a commitment to truth-telling.

A focus on what really matters

We believe happiness comes from a focus on those aspects of life that really matter: relationships and mutual caring, a sense of purpose, and connectedness with the natural environment.

President's Report



Ms Thea Ormerod
ARRCC President

For those of us who care about climate change, signs of hope are springing up everywhere. People of faith have more reason than anyone to be hopeful. We are able to draw strength from our various faith traditions, each with their own richness and beauty. We are also moved to action by compassion for those most vulnerable in our world. We are spurred on by climate-related disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the more slow-moving disaster of sea level rise threatening the homes of our brothers and sisters on low-lying Pacific islands.

For ARRCC 2014 was a time of growth and increasing energy within the organization. For example, we increased our membership base significantly and doubled the number of people subscribing to our e-newsletter. There was much closer collaboration with other faith-based partners and new partners in the broader society. The most striking result was probably our various visits to Maules Creek, where a number of individuals chose to challenge the moral legitimacy of coal mining.

With partners 350.org and Catholic Earthcare especially, we have strongly encouraged individuals and organisations to move their money out of Funds and Banks that continue to invest in the fossil fuel extraction. ARRCC members across the country have been key drivers of divestment decisions in faith-based organisations including the Jewish Moetzah, Anglican Dioceses, Religious Orders and Quaker communities. Two grants have enabled us to more effectively assist communities to reduce their carbon footprint. With the UnitingCare NSW/ACT grant we produced Climate Action Kits in various faith traditions, comprehensive tool-kits for faith communities readily available online. Hundreds of people have downloaded the kits so far. With a grant from Parramatta Council we organized a series of vegetarian cooking workshops.

Another grant helped with advocacy work in the lead-up to the G20. Religious leaders associated with ARRCC published a powerfully-worded open letter and held a press conference in Brisbane.

There are so many people to thank. We are most grateful to all those who have generously made donations, and to the hundreds of volunteers who have come forward in that time to make things happen. The management committee is made up of volunteers who make time for meetings amidst their numerous other commitments. Thank you to those religious leaders who stepped up to our advocacy work in Canberra in March and Brisbane in November. We're very grateful to the various volunteers who have helped with all manner of things.

Ordinary people cannot wait for international negotiations or governments to address global warming. We as individuals and communities of faith can make choices which add impetus to the change effort. Each of you reading this is no doubt doing your own bit. Please keep up the great work.

Help us increase our influence by becoming a member of ARRCC, and let's press ever onwards!

Thea Ormerod,
President, ARRCC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thea Ormerod'.

WHO WE ARE

Our Structure

ARRCC is a not-for-profit association incorporated in NSW, under the Associations Incorporation Act, and an Australian Registered Body, under the Corporations Act. Our Constitution and Statement of Objects are available on our website, under About Us. Our headquarters are in the office of The Climate Institute, Level 15, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

ARRCC has both individual and organisational members from across Australia. It is guided by a management committee that is responsible for ARRCC's broad strategic direction and for driving key programs and initiatives. Work is carried out by various working groups which comprise management committee members, ARRCC members and other supporters/volunteers. Greenfaith/ARRCC is a regional working group of ARRCC based in Melbourne.



Management committee

The Committee is comprised of up to 10 individual members and organisational member representatives that meet monthly to oversee the work of ARRCC.

Members are elected at an Annual General Meeting held in the first half of the year, following nomination. Where vacancies existing following the AGM, the committee may appoint additional members at any time through the year.

The committee aims to represent a range of traditions, to reflect with integrity the multi-faith nature of the organisation. In the years since ARRCC's incorporation, it has had members from the Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Uniting Church and other traditions, each with a history of active engagement with environmental and/or justice issues.

At the 2014 AGM, 8 individuals were re-elected and one new person appointed. The committee comprised 7 Christian members, one Jewish, and one Hindu member, with 6 based in Sydney .



ARRCC's principles are for committee members to:

- be practising or have deep familiarity with religious tradition(s)
- have connection with religious networks
- have expertise or knowledge in climate change-related matters .

There is currently no formal process for evaluating the management committee's performance.

Religious Leader Ambassadors

This group brings together community leaders from different faith backgrounds in Australia. It takes on advocacy roles to urge members of parliament to adopt policies that best reflect care for the earth and for those who stand to lose most from climate change.

The group currently consists of representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish faiths. Members of the group have some formal recognition of leadership in their respective communities and have responded to ARRCC when invited to participate in advocacy efforts. We welcome interest from other religious leaders.



Working Groups

ARRCC's main work is carried out through working groups, which are led by representatives from our Management Committee and include members and volunteers.

Current working groups include:

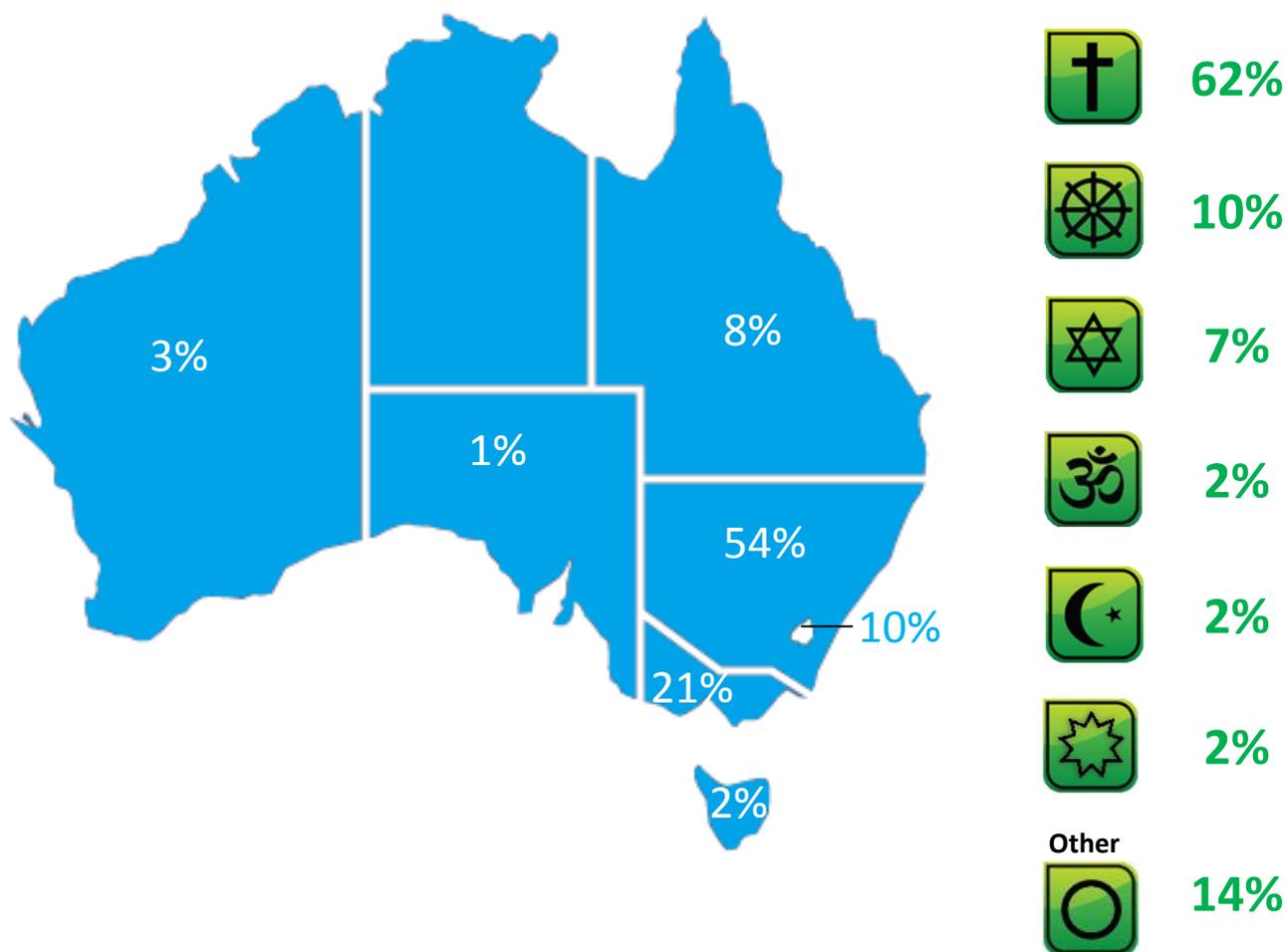
- Policy and Advocacy, incl Go Fossil Free
- Faith Community Footprints
- Walk or Ride to Worship
- Eat Less Meat
- Greenfaith/ARRCC.

Details of our members, management committee, religious leader ambassadors and working groups are detailed over the following pages.

Our Members

As at December 31st, 2014, our membership stood at a total of 118, comprising 87 individuals and 31 organisations. This is an increase of 47 members from June 2012. In addition, ARRCC has over 900 subscribers to our monthly e-newsletter.

Summary of individual members



Organisational members

National organisations

-  Anglican EcoCare Commission*
-  Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
-  Australian Jesuits
-  Brahma Kumaris Australia*
-  Caritas Australia*
-  Catholic Earthcare Australia
-  Catholic Mission
-  Catholic Religious Australia
-  Columban Mission Institute
-  Earthsong
-  Edmund Rice Centre
-  Franciscan Friars*
-  Hindu Council of Australia
-  Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO)
-  Marist Sisters
-  Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia*
-  Sisters of St John of God
-  Sisters of the Good Samaritan*
-  Union for Progressive Judaism

State-based organisations

-  Amitabha Buddhist Association of New South Wales*
-  Multifaith Association of South Australia*
-  Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) NSW Regional Meeting *
-  Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)- Victoria Regional Meeting*
-  UnitingCare NSW.ACT

Local organisations

-  A GRAND STAND for the Environment
-  Anglican Media Melbourne*
-  Interfaith Climate Project*
-  Pitt Street Uniting Church*
-  Rahamim Ecological Learning Community
-  SeekersHub Sydney
-  St Barnabas Anglican Church, West Leederville

* New in 2013 or 2014

Our Management Committee



Ms Thea Ormerod
(President)

Thea is a social worker and a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Kingsgrove. She is a member of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network and has been actively involved in peace, justice and ecology for 20+ years.



Mr Vijai Singhal
(Treasurer)

Vijai is a Director of the Hindu Council of Australia and has been involved in the climate change movement since 2007. His background is in information technology and business management.



Ms Jenni Downes
(Meeting Secretary)

Jenni is a research assistant at the Institute of Sustainable Futures, UTS. Prior to joining ARRCC she was actively involved in coordinating Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History poverty and climate change campaigns in Sydney.



Dr Miriam Pepper
(Membership Secretary)

Miriam is a founding member of Uniting Earthweb, a Uniting Church ecology network, and involved in the Faith Ecology Network. She has a PhD examining Christianity and consumerism.



Mr Daniel Skehan

Daniel works for a Christian development agency, coordinating projects in Asia and Africa. Dan has a background in agricultural science and environmental management.



Sr Geraldine Kearney

Geraldine is with the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and has ministered as a teacher and principal. She recently returned from five years of ministry in Kiribati.



Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black

Jonathan is Rabbi at the Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism in East Kew, Victoria, a founder member of JECO (the Jewish Ecological Coalition) and GreenFaith Australia



Mr Murray Lobley

Murray is an elder of the Church of Latter Day Saints with long experience in the interfaith field, and is a Greenfaith/ ARRCC representative on the management committee.



Ms Donna Ellis

Donna is a horticulturalist, author, radio presenter and educator active in the sustainability movement for many years. She has undertaken Al Gore's Climate Reality leadership training.

Our Religious Leaders Ambassadors



Bhante Sujato Bikkhu



Bishop George Browning



Sr Suzette Clark



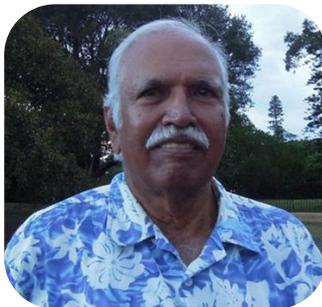
Steve Denenberg



Stephen Pickard



Kim Hollow



Prof. Raja Jayaraman



Kanti Lal Jinna



Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins

Biographies of our Religious Leaders ambassadors are provided on the ARRCC website:

www.arrcc.org.au/religious-leaders-representatives

Our Volunteers and Consultants

ARRCC would not be nearly as effective without the help of many members and supporters who volunteered throughout the year.

General volunteers

- Armi Pobre – provided assistance with the ARRCC website
- Gill King – policy and advocacy working group
- Harry Creamer -policy and advocacy working group
- Heather Fagan - drafted the faith specific content of the Islamic Climate Action Kit
- Ling Halbert – facilitated ARRCC’s meat free/sustainable food cooking workshops
- Neil Ormerod - writing
- Priyanka Rai – drafted the faith content of the Hindu Climate Action Kit and organised the launch
- Rod McLeod – provided editing assistance for the Climate Action Kits
- Simon Grosser – helped to edit the faith specific content of the Jewish Climate Action Kit
- Sue Taylor - WA contact person

Consultants

- Paul Boundy, Administrative Assistant
- Sophie Trevitt, Media and Communications
- Nicole Thornton, Resource Material Production

Our Partners



350.org Australia



Greenpeace
Australia Pacific



Australian Centre for
Christianity and Culture



Holdfast
Communications



Faith Ecology Network



Pacific Calling
Partnership

WHAT WE DO

Our Objectives

The objects of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) Incorporated are:

- (1) To assist faith communities to make the link between their faith and caring for the Earth;
- (2) To raise awareness specifically about climate change issues within faith communities;
- (3) To assist and inspire faith communities to be respectful of the Earth's natural resources by transforming their consumption practices and reducing wastage,
- (4) To advocate for public policies which protect the Earth's biodiversity and promote justice, especially towards people most adversely impacted by climate change, including future generations;
- (5) To facilitate interfaith dialogue and collaboration in relation to climate change;
- (6) To work co-operatively with others in the broader community who are active in meeting the above objectives.

Our Goals

ARRCC's focus areas are:



OURSELVES
ARRCC's internal capabilities
and reputation



PEOPLE OF FAITH
Individuals and faith communities,
plus the religious structures that
oversee and support them



THE EARTH



GOVERNMENT
The federal government and
the public policy debate

Our Campaigns

Curbing climate change requires transformation at every level of society – from individuals, to communities, institutions and businesses.



Policy and Advocacy

ARRCC believes that individuals, faith communities and religious leaders have the power to speak out publicly for government and business policies and practices that care for the Earth. We also recognise that people can make a significant impact by simply sharing about climate change with family, friends and their local communities.

This campaign conducts faith-based political advocacy on climate change through direct engagement with politicians, and supports individuals and faith-based organisations to speak out.



Go Fossil Fuel Free

ARRCC believes that to protect life on earth, Australia must leave most of our coal, oil and gas in the ground. Individuals and faith communities can play a powerful role in moving Australia's economy out of fossil fuels and into clean and renewable energy.

This campaign encourages and provides the tools to individuals and communities to take action in their role as members, beneficiaries and customers of institutional investors including banks, super funds and insurance companies to divest from fossil fuels.



Faith Community Footprints

ARRCC believes in empowering individuals and faith communities to take practical steps to reduce their environmental footprint and protect and nurture our planet.

This campaign develops resources such as Steps2Sustainability and the Climate Action Kits to provide guidance to individuals and faith communities, and then works with communities to make lasting changing and celebrate their achievements.



Eat Less meat / Meat Free Day

All of the world religions, from their various perspectives, encourage protection of the environment, serving the needs of the poor, kindness towards animals and healthy living.

In addition to being a large contribution to climate change, meat consumption connects with issues concerning global justice in relation to food, the compassionate treatment of animals, nonviolence, and health.

ARRCC believes that our religious values call us to consciously consider the amount of meat we eat, how much we actually need, and what the effects of our meat consumption are. This would, ARRCC believes, lead to a desire to eat less meat.



Walk or Ride to Worship

We are entrusted with caring for the earth. Driving cars less is one way that individuals of faith and their faith communities can respond – minimising their contribution to climate change and its effects on the poor. Cycling, walking or taking public transport can make a positive difference to our health, save money and provide relaxation and leisure time.

This campaign therefore works to increase the use of cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable transport (eg. car sharing, public transport) in faith communities and religious groups throughout the year and particularly in Walk or Ride to Worship Month held in October each year.



Greenfaith/ARRCC

Greenfaith Australia formed as a grass-roots interfaith organisation in Melbourne with broad representation across different religious, age, gender, geographic and cultural groups in Melbourne. After working in partnership with ARRCC for some time, in 2013 Greenfaith merged with ARRCC to become a Victorian-based local chapter

With ARRCC's headquarters in Sydney and GreenFaith's in Melbourne, ARRCC is now better equipped to reach out to faith communities across Australia.

Activity Reports

Religious Leaders

A big THANK YOU to our religious leader Ambassadors who helped organize two major actions in 2014. In March twenty-five clergy and leaders in faith communities visited forty MP's and Senators in Canberra, urging the phasing out of coal exports, contributions to Climate Finance for developing countries and retaining the Clean Energy legislation. We held a prayer vigil outside the Minerals Council of Australia and hand-delivered a letter to the CEO, Brendan Pearson.



In the lead-up to the G20 Summit, the group organized an open letter and press conference. The visionary open letter, endorsed by distinguished signatories, was published as a full-page ad on page 10 of the *Courier Mail*. The Press Conference in Brisbane was covered on TV news on three stations and forty other print and online media outlets. We advocated for the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, the rapid take-up of renewables and more substantial commitments to Climate Finance.

Key people: Raja Jayaraman, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Stephen Pickard, Bhante Sujato, Geraldine Kearney, Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins, Suzette Clark, Kim Hollow, Graeme Lyall.

Policy & Advocacy

The group has substantially re-drafted ARRCC's policy positions document which will be finalized after the consultation with members currently underway. The new policy document offers fuller and more up-to-date substantiation for existing policies, and for the first time considers coal seam gas mining, soil sequestration and long-term emissions reduction targets.

The policy and advocacy group drafted ARRCC's submission to the Warburton Review of the Renewable Energy Target, arguing of course that it should be much stronger. On a number of occasions we have encouraged ARRCC members and friends to sign an online petition or write to their local MP in support of the RET. We provided a template letter.

At other times we encouraged people in our networks to participate in WWF's #onmyagenda campaign, the Anglican Oceans of Justice online petition and other petitions. We continue to encourage people to sign up to "Our Voices", an international multi-faith campaign for a strong climate treaty at the end of 2015.

Key people:

Gill King, Jonathan Keren-Black, Harry Creamer, Daniel Skehan, Thea Ormerod



Go Fossil Free



The “Go Fossil Free” campaign has been taken up with vigor not only by the policy and advocacy working group, but also members of ARRCC in various parts of the country. Heeding research by the Carbon Tracker Initiative and others, we have been readily persuaded by Bill McKibben’s famous words, “If it is wrong to wreck the climate, then it’s wrong to profit from that wreckage.”

We have partnered with 350.org and Catholic Earthcare Australia to widely promote the idea. We advocate that individuals and organisations move their money out of fossil fuel intensive industries, starting with fossil fuel exploration, extraction and infrastructure. To that end, we have supported several National Divestment Day actions and the Divest the Vatican Campaign.



During 2014, various ARRCC members courageously championed divestment from fossil fuels in their own organisation. Some of these people are in organisations which do not wish to make their decisions public, but those who can be named are:

- Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black and Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins in the Jewish Moetzah (the Rabbinic Council of Progressive Rabbis of Australia, Asia and New Zealand)
- Sr Anne Boyd in EarthSong, Melbourne
- Kate Rigby in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
- Rev Evan Pederick in the Anglican Diocese of Perth
- Beth Heyde, Gill King and Pamela Phillips in the Anglican Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn.

New organisational member, Religious Society of Friends, Quakers in Australia, had already chosen the Go Fossil Free path in 2014 before joining ARRCC. Congratulations to all! These victories do not come easily.



Key people: Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Miriam Pepper, Anne Boyd, Claire Dawson, Bishop Tom Wilmot, Wies Schuiringa, Kate Rigby, Rev. Evan Pederick, Beth Heyde, Gill King, Pamela Phillips, Thea Ormerod.

ARRCC's association with 350.org led some individuals to become more directly involved in civil disobedience at the Maules Creek site of Whitehaven Coal's new open-cut coal mine. Three groups have gone to Maules Creek during 2014 visibly taking a stand against coal mining and some participants have made choices that led to arrest. We applaud the courage of the arrestees in particular, as these decisions have not been taken lightly and have been costly for those concerned.

These trips to Maules Creek have, in turn, led to deeper engagement with the Gomeroi Traditional Custodians. ARRCC subsequently joined the calls of the Gomeroi to various authorities for protection of, and access to, their sacred sites. This took the form of letters to Environment Minister Hunt, Minister for Indigenous Affairs Senator Scullion, the CEO of Whitehaven Coal, the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and the NSW Minister for Planning, the Hon. Pru Goward.

After much persistence on the part of the Gomeroi and supporters, finally the Anti-Discrimination Board brokered a deal with Whitehaven to allow the Gomeroi to hold ceremonies at sacred sites in the Leard Forest. However, the company later found reasons not to allow these."



Eat Less Meat report

Since we launched the “Meat-Free Day” multi-faith campaign jointly with the Hindu Council of Australia on 2 October 2008 a lot of awareness about this issue has been built up in the Australian community. In recent years a number of similar initiatives have been launched, for example: the “Meat-Free Mondays”, the “Meatless Mondays” and the “Meat-Free Week”. We have co-operated with the organisers of these campaigns and have participated in a number of their events.

Cooking workshops

In 2013 we obtained a grant of \$5,000 from the Parramatta Council to conduct Vegetarian Cooking Workshops to promote the issue of meat reduction and sustainable food choices more generally. The following workshops were organised as part of the grant and conducted by ARRCC’s Cooking Facilitator, Ling Halbert:

- November 2013 @ Granville Men's Shed
- October 2013 @ Parramatta Nan Tien Vihara temple
- May 2014 @ Harris Park Community Centre
- June 2014 @ Parramatta Art Studio
- July 2014 @ Granville Men’s Shed
- August 2014 @ Harris Park Community Centre



In these workshops we made an informed presentation on the topic of sustainable food choices to the participants emphasising why it is good to eat a balanced diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables for own health and the environmental considerations. The participants were asked to fill-in a questionnaire to do an audit of how their own food intake in the previous week had fared on the individual environmental footprint basis. The meal prepared was then shared by all the participants. The participants were also provided with a printed copy of the Recipe Booklet. These booklets are available on ARRCC website for downloading.

Talk Presentations

A breakup sessions talk was presented by Vijai Singhal to a group of attendees on the topic of “Faith in Food” at the “Achieving Peace with Justice” Forum organized by the NSW Ecumenical Society on 29 August 2014 at the Santa Sabina College, Strathfield, NSW. This generated a considerable interest amongst the high school students who attended that session.

Interviews by University Research Scholars

Vijai Singhal was interviewed by Ms Tasmin Dilworth, a Macquarie University graduate research scholar. The topic for the research project was: Bringing Justice to the Table- Investigating how issues of food justice are implicated in ethical food behaviours in Australia. Vijai Singhal was also interviewed by Ms Jane Daly, PhD Candidate - Beyond Behaviour Change Research Program, RMIT University, Centre for Urban Research, Melbourne for her research project.

Key people:

Vijai Singhal, Jenni Downes, Ling Halbert



Faith Community Footprints report

In 2014, both the Jewish and the Islamic Climate Action Kits were finalised and then launched in Melbourne, along with the kits in the Christian and Hindu traditions. GreenFaith/ARRCC held the launch as part of the Sustainable Living Festival in April, with Moss Cass as a guest speaker.

The Sydney launch of the Islamic kit took place at the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy in late October, as part of their Monthly Intellectual Lecture Series. The lecture topic was “Climate Change and Islam”.

Climate Action Kits continue to be downloaded from the ARRCC website on a regular basis. Probably the most exciting example of a local faith community using the Christian Climate Action kit so far is the Catholic Community in Caloundra, on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. Copies were distributed widely in the parish and a number of the suggestions implemented, mainly through the active commitment of their Social Justice Network.

Key people:

Priyanka Rai, Heather Fagan, Ven. Aññā Samaneri, Jenni Downes, Miriam Pepper, Jonathan Keren-Black, Rod Benson



Walk or Ride to Worship report

A short film clip was produced to promote Walk or Ride to Worship, adapting material used in the original Ride to Worship clip, with the help of Greenpeace.

The number of communities participating was lower than in previous years but some communities held a successful event, mainly where there was support from leaders in those communities.

Key people:

Thea Ormerod, Miriam Pepper



Greenfaith report

GreenFaith Australia, an Interfaith Environmental group established in Melbourne about the same time as ARRCC, officially joined ARRCC in 2014 (as GreenFaith/ARRCC), and effectively became the Victorian ARRCC working group. Two of its members, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black and Murray Lobley, have joined the ARRCC Board and participated monthly via Skype, demonstrating that Board members can indeed be anywhere in the country! (They also travelled to Sydney in January 2015 for the annual Board Planning Meeting).

GreenFaith/ARRCC organised various events during 2014, starting with a presence at the Sustainable Living Festival in February, and participating in the meat free meals program with several gatherings, including for ARRCC's AGM, in which they also participated (along with a group from Tasmania) via a Skype link-up. An Israeli speaker explored whether the Bible allows us to plunder the earth. The group participated in the Climate action rally, and in November they arranged an evening for the Boroondara Interfaith Network where David Karoly was the main speaker, on 'Faith Responses to Natural Disasters'.



If you are in Melbourne for a Monday lunchtime, why not join us at a monthly meeting? Contact Murray Lobley on jm.lobley@bigpond.com

Key people:

Jonathan Keren-Black, Murray Lobley, Simon Grosser

Summary of Achievements in 2014

Launch of the Climate Action Kits

ARRCC and Greenfaith launched the Jewish, Islamic, Christian and Hindu Climate Action Kits in Sydney and Melbourne at various events throughout the year.

Prayer Vigils and Actions

ARRCC held or attended the following prayer vigils and actions:

- Attended a prayer vigil to stop mining fossil fuels which was held outside the Minerals Council of Australia's headquarters in Canberra in March
- Earth Hour prayer vigil and phone catchup in March
- Organised visits and prayer vigils in March, June and November at the Maules Creek open-cut mining site in the Leard State Forest.

Meat Free and Sustainable Food cooking workshops

Ling Halbert from ARRCC organised four workshops (May, June, July and August) in Sydney on how to create delicious meat-free meals for older men, multicultural communities and young people. In November, Jenni Downes from ARRCC talked about making sustainable food choices.

Walk or Ride to Worship

Walk or Ride to Worship was held in October. A short, 1-minute promotional film clip was produced. Communities and individuals were free to choose any day which best suited them in the month of October, to participate in this national event.

Letters and Submissions

ARRCC made a submission in January to the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee inquiry on the Government's Direct Action Plan.

ARRCC, GreenFaith and the New Zealand campaign coordinator for Aotearoa/New Zealand Anglican Church divestment sent a letter to Pope Francis in February asking the Pope to support the global fossil fuel divestment campaign.

Engagement with Members

ARRCC held two annual member engagement events: the AGM in May and the Fundraising Dinners in September. For the first time the AGM was a truly national event with people video conferencing from Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth. The fundraising dinners were held in Sydney and Melbourne.

Looking Ahead – Plans for 2015

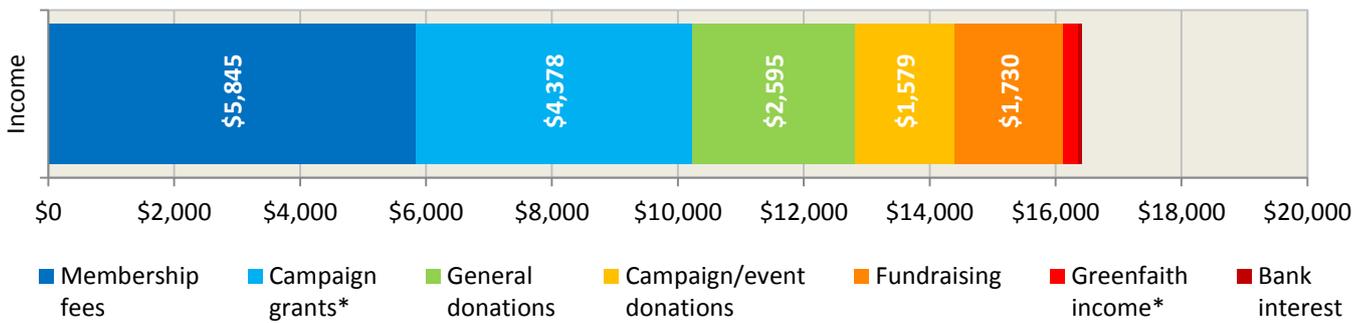
At the time of writing, some of these plans are already being actualized:

- ☑ Capitalising on the publication on Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment and climate change, with a media campaign, public meetings and ongoing engagement with people of faith, especially Catholics, encouraging climate action.
- ☑ Support for ARRCC members as champions of action on climate change in their respective communities, especially Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities.
- ☑ In collaboration with 350.org Australia and Catholic Earthcare, promotion of Go Fossil Free with organizational trustees and individuals.
- ☑ Continuation of the Eat Less Meat initiative, including a number of meat-free events.
- ☑ Publication of Buddhist Climate Action Kit and active promotion of the use of all the Kits to communities in the various faith traditions.
- ☑ Collaboration with other civil society and faith-based organisations, around Divestment Days, actions at Abbott Point and international meetings such as the Paris COP21.
- ☑ Finalising of up-dated policy positions, ready to be a reference point for (1) communication with members of parliament, (2) government inquiries (3) the media and (3) our membership, thus empowering grassroots advocacy.
- ☑ Strengthening of ARRCC's strategic partnerships, resource base, our multi-faith identity and networks across Australia.



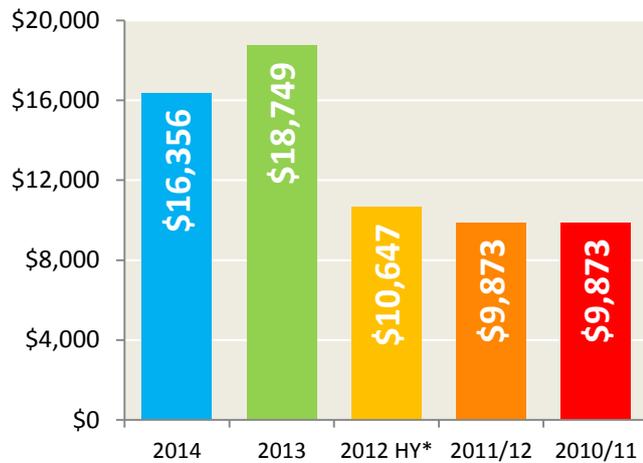
FINANCIALS

Income \$16,356.00

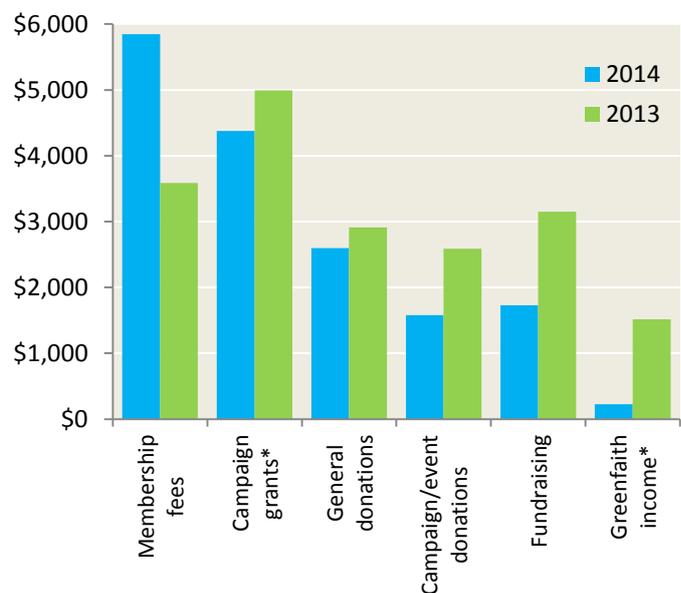


Income in 2014 is down by 12%* from \$18,749 in 2013. The largest source of income was membership fees, up quite substantially from 2013. All other sources of income were down slightly from the previous year. Campaign grants for specific activities and general donations were the next largest sources of income.

Income compared to previous years



Income by category compared to 2013



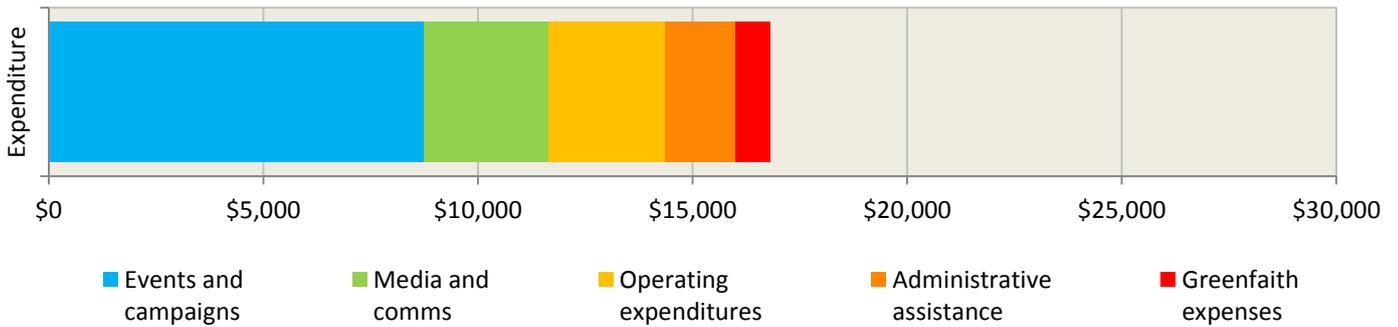
* ARRCC received a grant of \$8,584.40 and Greenfaith a grant of \$2,000 for activities to be carried out in 2015. These amount has therefore been deferred and will be reported as income in the following financial year.

Financial support

ARRCC greatly appreciates the financial support of our members, which covers our general operating expenses. We aim to cover all additional expenditure through grants, donations and in-kind contributions.

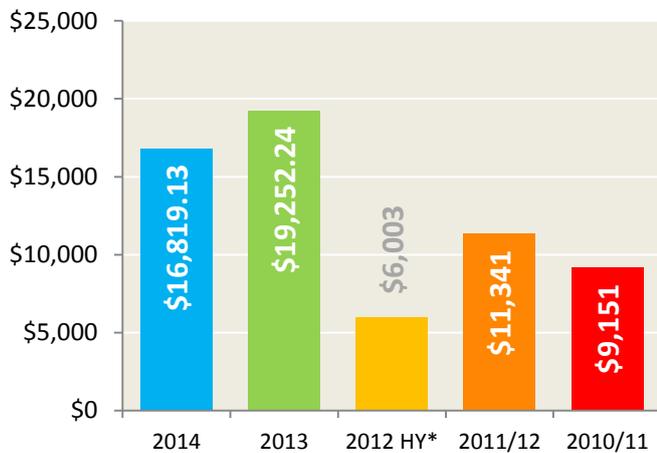
Our main supporter in 2014 was Holdfast Communications who provided in-kind and financial assistance for media work at the G20.

Expenses \$16,819.13

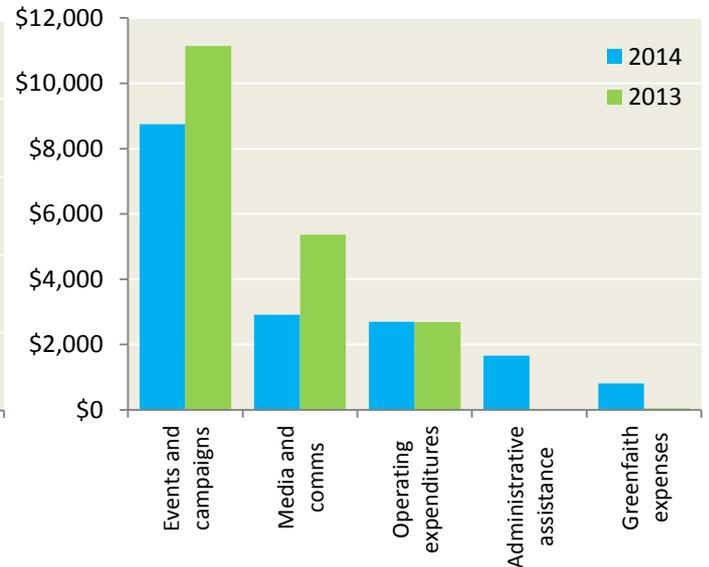


Expenses in 2014 are down by nearly 13% from \$19,252 in 2013. This is predominantly due to less spending on events and campaigns. The decrease in media and communications expenses was offset by administrative assistance which included some online communications assistance. Operating expenses remained the same from the previous year.

Expenses compared to previous years



Expenses by category compared to 2013



Financial Policies

We are committed to continuing to encourage faith communities to take action against climate change, and to undertake truth-telling to the government and business sector on policies that are needed for climate justice. To this end, we are in the process of developing a financial strategy to ensure we have the resources to sustain our work and our independence for at least the next ten years.

To date, ARRCC has been largely reliant on seed funding provided by The Climate Institute and a small number of large one-off donations. To provide financial sustainability, this strategy aims to:

- strengthen processes for regular financial planning, and
- expand our sources/way of generating income.

Principles

While we are committed to continuing our work, we do not believe that “survival at all costs” is a justifiable position. We therefore premise our financing strategy on the following principles:

- We will not undertake any work which compromises our independence, the quality of our work or our integrity and commitment to truth-telling;
- We believe we are accountable to the wider community of people in our country and on our continent for the responsible use of all resources which are put at our disposal;
- We respect donor relationships, but are prepared to challenge and be challenged on important issues.

Ideally, our fixed costs will be met by members’ annual subscriptions. We will seek donations and grant funding for projects and current campaigns, and will aim for cost-neutrality with respect to events and other activities.

Financial Statements

ARRCC Incorporated

ABN 26 255 139 331

Income and Expenditure Statement For the year 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

	12 months to 31-Dec-14 \$	12 months to 31-Dec-13 \$
Income		
Campaigns - 2015 events income	0.00	0.00
Campaigns - Canberra advocacy event income	710.00	0.00
Campaigns - Cooking Workshop Grant	0.00	4,994.00
Campaigns - G20 event income	4,378.22	0.00
Campaigns - Greenfaith Income	228.48	1,516.83
Campaigns - Misc events income	244.06	0.00
Cooking Workshop	325.00	1,786.15
Donations - Action Kits	300.00	800.00
Donations - Campaigns/Events	0.00	0.00
Donations - General	2,595.10	2,915.00
Fundraising - Sale of Diaries	60.00	996.00
Fundraising - T-Shirts	0.00	66.50
Fundraising- Dinner Income	1,670.25	2,085.70
Interest received	54.65	31.43
Membership fees	5,845.00	3,588.86
Total income	16,410.76	18,780.47
Expenses		
Advertising and promotional material	912.40	689.65
Bank Fees And Charges	0.00	0.00
Campaigns - Climate Action Kits expenses	1,600.04	5,125.00
Campaigns - Canberra advocacy event expenses	705.00	0.00
Campaigns - G20 event expenses	3,757.19	0.00
Campaigns - seed funding	150.00	0.00
Campaigns - misc costs	441.43	0.00
Campaigns - Greenfaith expenses	757.62	50.10
Cooking Workshop expenses	1,221.80	3,989.79
Fees & charges	0.02	0.00
Fundraising - Diaries and Calendar	0.00	1,200.00
Fundraising - General	0.00	85.00
Fundraising- Dinner Expenses	870.00	1,178.91
Insurance	832.26	777.87
Membership fees	100.00	88.00
Merchant Fees - Paypal	155.91	141.47
Ride to Worship - DVD etc	0.00	594.50
Office/committee admin assistance	1,659.00	0.00
Office/committee expenses	1,611.38	399.00
Website hosting & maintenance	1,995.00	4,675.00
Youth Embassy expenses	0.00	172.95
Total expenses	16,769.05	19,167.24
Net surplus (deficit) attributable to the association	-358.29	-386.77
Total changes in equity of the association	-358.29	-386.77
Opening accumulated surplus	23,574.82	23,961.59
Net surplus (deficit) attributable to the association	-358.29	-386.77
Closing accumulated surplus	23,216.53	23,574.82

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ARRCC Incorporated

ABN 26 255 139 331

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014

	12 months to 31-Dec-14 \$	12 months to 31-Dec-13 \$
Current Assets		
<i>Cash Assets</i>		
Cash at Bank - St George	0.00	3,528.92
Cash at Bank - MECU Bank	15,341.07	15,532.57
Cash at Bank - MECU Bank Term Deposit	15,041.13	0.00
Cash at Bank - Bendigo Bank (GFA)	2,937.59	1,466.73
PayPal Account	481.14	3,046.60
	<u>33,800.93</u>	<u>23,574.82</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>33,800.93</u>	<u>23,574.82</u>
Total Assets	<u>33,800.93</u>	<u>23,574.82</u>
Current Liabilities		
<i>Funding in Advance</i>		
Campaigns - 2015 events income	8,584.40	0.00
Campaigns - Greenfaith Income	2,000.00	0.00
	<u>10,584.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>10,584.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>10,584.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Assets	<u>23,216.53</u>	<u>23,574.82</u>
Members' Funds		
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	23,216.53	23,574.82
Total Members' Funds	<u>23,216.53</u>	<u>23,574.82</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Chartered Accountants



Chartered Accountants

Flavio Meoli B.Com., F.C.A.

Sarina Meoli B.Bus., F.C.A.

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARRCC INCORPORATED

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of ARRCC Incorporated (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the financial year ended 31 December 2014.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of ARRCC Incorporated are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ARRCC Incorporated as at 31 December 2014 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act .

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist ARRCC Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act . As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Mr Flavio Meoli - Partner,
Meoli & Co - Chartered Accountants

Burwood NSW

Dated: 15th April 2015

ABN: 93 466 745 204

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ARRCC

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