



2015 Annual Report



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.

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Acknowledgments:

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

The report covers the period of
1 Jan 2015 to 31 Dec 2015.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an amazing year we had in 2015! With the critically important UN climate negotiations anticipated in Paris, faith leaders globally spoke out more emphatically than ever. From the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change to Pope Francis' Laudato Si' to the Indigenous Elders and Medicine Peoples Council Statement, ARRCC did our best to amplify these messages. We supported Yeb Sano's pilgrimage organised by OurVoices globally and the People's Climate Marches here. The global environmental movement was finally able to celebrate a positive outcome in December.

With the support of the Sunrise Project and Holdfast Communications, ARRCC managed to get considerable media coverage on Pope Francis' encyclical with our distinctive emphasis on its messaging on the need to shift away from fossil fuels. Our five Seminars reached hundreds of new people, particularly in the Filipino community. Collaboratively with our supporters, we achieved a profile which has attracted further invitations to speak. As part of the same project, a number of ARRCC members and friends have been laying the groundwork for further work on fossil fuel divestment by Catholic decision-makers.

The Eat Less Meat campaign spread their message through two more meat-free cooking workshops, a Food Faith luncheon for faith leaders and a number of speaking engagements for Vijai Singhal. New promotional materials are now available. The ideas have been gaining increasing traction in the wider community.

We've worked on building skills and capacity at a local level for ARRCC's members and faith-based networks. Four community organising workshops were provided to groups of 12 – 25 participants in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. In each case, the feedback was very positive.

All up, we worked hard and achieved great outcomes in 2015! All of this was only possible because literally hundreds of people contributed, as volunteers, donors, spokespersons, Management Committee members, ARRCC members, supporting organisations and providers of skilled services. There are really too many people to thank individually here but I've tried to acknowledge as many people as possible in later sections of this Annual Report. I might just say, however, a huge THANK YOU to a number of individual private donors who made donations of \$5,000 to \$8,000 each!

Looking forward, ARRCC plans more advocacy with governments for a rapid shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewables and to offer capacity-building for faith communities in different parts of Australia. We will be promoting the Climate Action Kits, sustainable food choices, fossil fuel divestment and, more generally, the protection of land, water and future. For people of faith who want to make a difference, this is the place to be involved!

Ever onwards!

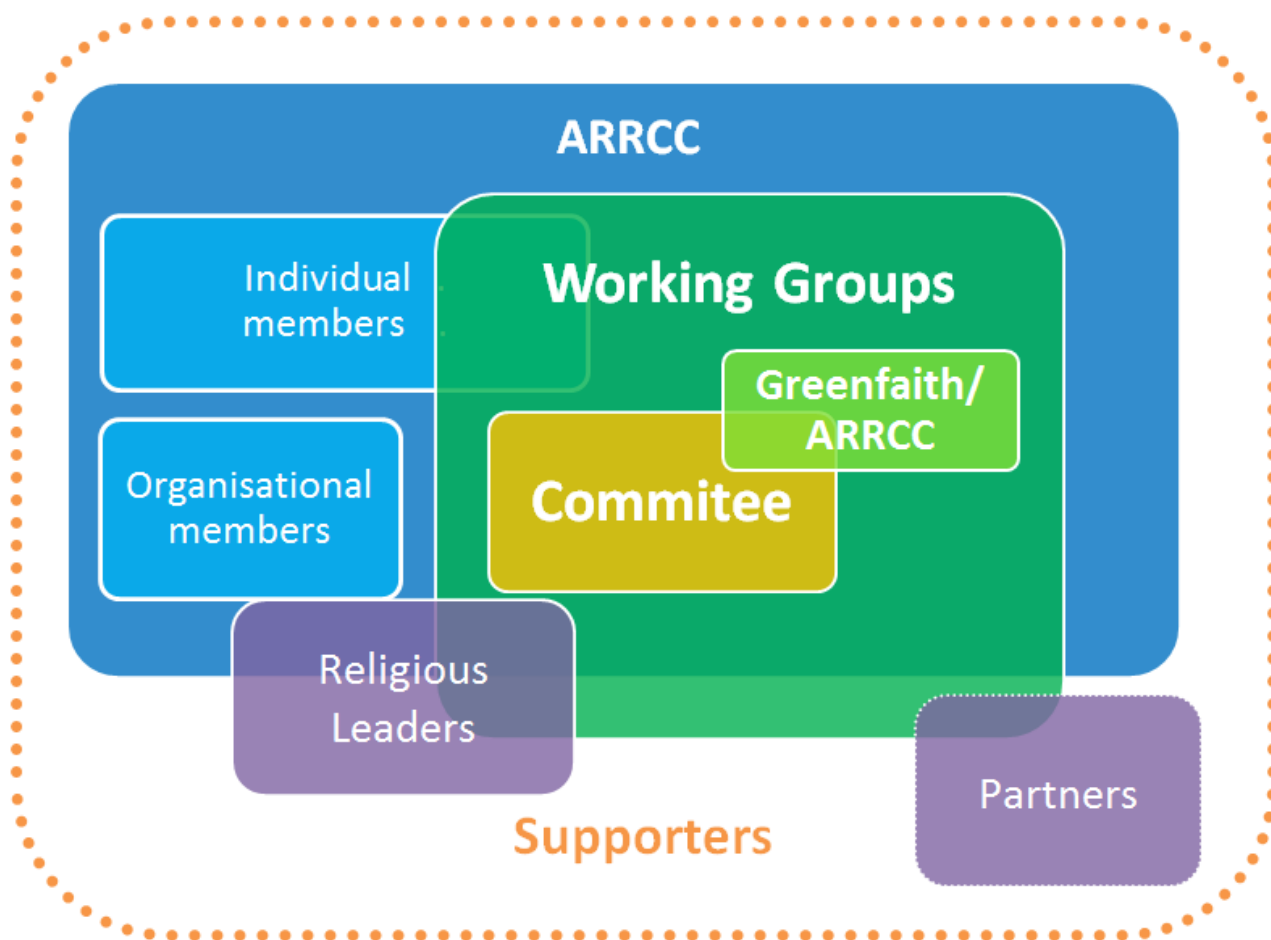


Ms Thea Ormerod
ARRCC President

WHO WE ARE

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, at times, organisational member representatives who meet monthly for 3 hours to make decisions around the work of ARRCC. They also have a full day planning day at the beginning of each year. Members are elected at an Annual General Meeting held in the first half of the year, following nomination. Where vacancies exist following the AGM, the committee may appoint additional members at any time through the year.

2015 was a year of change of the membership of the Management Committee. Those who provided continuity this year were Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Murray Lobley from rural Victoria and President Thea Ormerod.

At the 2015 AGM, a number of members stepped down after long years of service. Miriam Pepper has been the face of ARRCC to many, so her leaving the Committee left a big hole. The Uniting Church now has the benefit of her many skills. Miriam is a visionary, a talented campaigner, a details person and a peacemaker. We miss her integrity, clear thinking and capacity to heal conflicts between people.

We can celebrate Jenni Downes' contributions over time, the very professional "look" of our website, action kits, banners, leaflets and annual reports. She's taken responsibility for the agendas and the minutes of our committee meetings, and helped with the bookkeeping.

Sr Geraldine Kearney stepped down after three years representing Catholic Religious Australia. She's a warm, calming presence at meetings. We bid a grateful farewell also to Dan Skehan who had to resign due to other commitments. He's been a strategist and another support with bookkeeping.

After seven years of serving on the ARRCC Management Committee, most of the time as our trusted Treasurer, Vijai Singhal resigned in October. He will continue with the Eat Less Meat campaigning, which is what he is most passionate about, but he is otherwise having a well-earned rest. ARRCC has been very blessed to have such a diligent person attending to our accounts and liaising with the Auditors. Thank you, Vijai, for serving in your role with such distinction for so long!

A number of new volunteers stepped up – Rhonda Itaoui from the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy, Sr Suzette Clark from the Sisters of Charity and Julie Macken, a Catholic with extensive experience in campaigning for climate justice. There was also Kathy Mehta, a Hindu with IT and management experience, and Johann Le, a Buddhist with Marketing and IT expertise.

Suzette and Rhonda were not as able to fulfil the role as fully as they envisaged, but enthusiastic new people joined the team – John Carroll with experience as a Pastor in an Evangelical Christian Church and Lucy Osborn, a Catholic with experience as a climate campaign volunteer with Greenpeace.

The committee aims to represent a range of traditions, to reflect with integrity the multi-faith nature of the organisation. We are pleased to say that in 2015 the Committee had members who are Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist or Christian.



Thea Ormerod
(President)



Jonathan Keren-Black



Murray Lobley



Kathy Mehta



Julie Macken



John Carroll



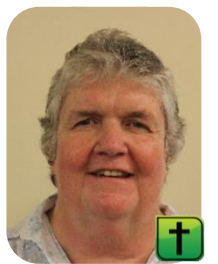
Johann Le



Lucy Osborn



Rhonda Itaoui*



Sr Suzette Clark*



Vijai Singhal*



Jenni Downes**



Miriam Pepper**



Dan Skehan **



Geraldine Kearney **

** Stepped down in 2015*

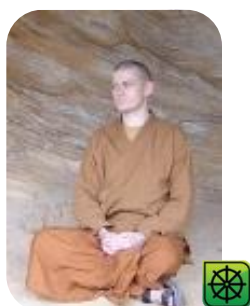
*** Retired at 2015 AGM*

Religious Leader Ambassadors

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

The group currently consists of community leaders from the Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and Jewish traditions. In 2015, the group organised an open letter on Australia's emissions reduction targets, spoke at a Press Conference in Canberra and organised signatories to the no new coal mines open letter organised by the Australia Institute. We welcome interest from other religious leaders.

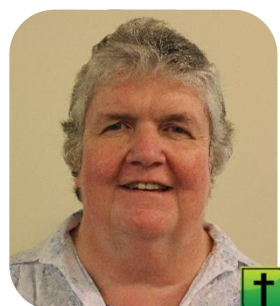
After deeper engagement of certain leaders in faith communities in the work of ARRCC in 2014, more people have agreed to become Religious Leader Ambassadors for ARRCC: Suzette Clark, Kim Hollow, Raja Jayaraman and Stephen Pickard.



Bhante Sujato



Bishop George Browning



Sr Suzette Clark



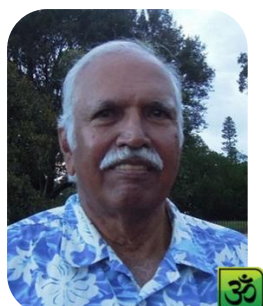
Sr Geraldine Kearney



**Right Rev'd Professor
Stephen Pickard**



Mr Kim Hollow



Prof. Raja Jayaraman



Mr Kanti Lal Jinna



Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins

Supporters

Key volunteers

Gill King, contact for Canberra, Policy & Advocacy working group
Jan Barnett, facilitator
Miriam Pepper, finances /operations
Professor Neil Ormerod, theologian
spokesperson on Papal Encyclical
Robert Iacopetta, website
Rod McLeod, editor
Simon Grosser, convenor of GreenFaith/ARRCC
Sue Taylor, contact for WA
Terry Sussemilch, contact for Tasmania
Ven Annya Sameneri (aka Annie Keating), drafting of Buddhist Climate Action Kit

Consultants

Paul Boundy, memberships
Nicole Thornton, Marketing and Comms
Jocelyn Edge, accounting
Jenni Downes, website development
Cyrilla Almeida, graphic design
Flavio Meoli, Auditor

Partner organisations

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
Catholic Earthcare Australia
Faith Ecology Network
Hindu Council of Australia
350.org Australia
Filipino Chaplaincies Coordinating Council
Holdfast Communications

Supporting organisations

ARRCC has been enormously blessed with substantial support from a number of organisations:

For over eight years, **The Climate Institute** has faithfully offered office facilities and administrative support for which we remain ever grateful. Thank you especially to CEO, John Connor, who is personally very supportive.

In the last year, the **Change Agency** generously included Thea Ormerod in their Community Organising Fellowship, which provided professional training in community development and campaigning skills. This has been very strategically important for ARRCC. We are excited that two more ARRCC volunteers will be included in the Fellowship this coming year!

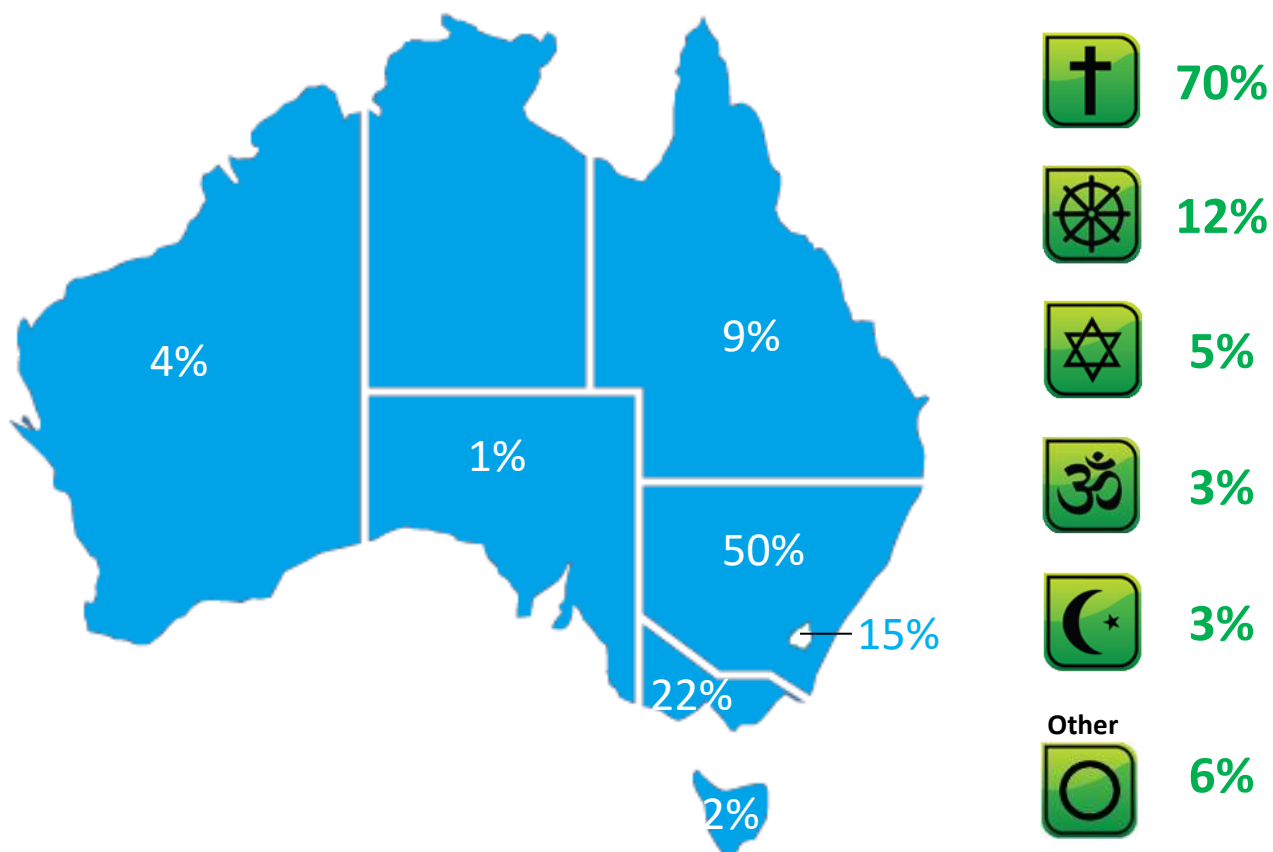
The **Sunrise Project** made available a grant of \$8,600 so ARRCC could work with 350.org to make the most of the release of Pope Francis' encyclical. With appreciation, we made that dollar stretch a long way with the help of dozens of volunteers! (See Policy and Advocacy report.)

Holdfast Communications made available the services of their media and communications consultant, James Lorenz, which meant much more extensive media coverage than we could have attracted ourselves.

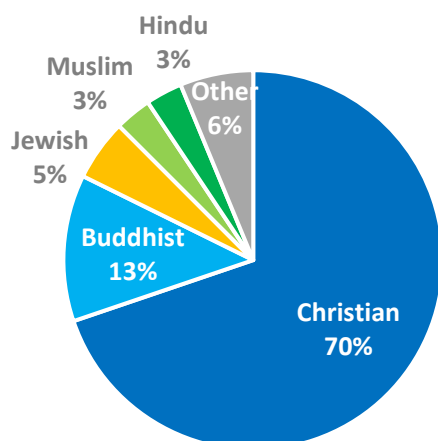
Our Members

As at December 31st, 2015, our membership stood at a total of 151, comprising 112 individuals and 39 organisations. This is an increase of 33 members from 118 in 2014. In addition, ARRCC has over 1000 subscribers to our monthly e-newsletter.

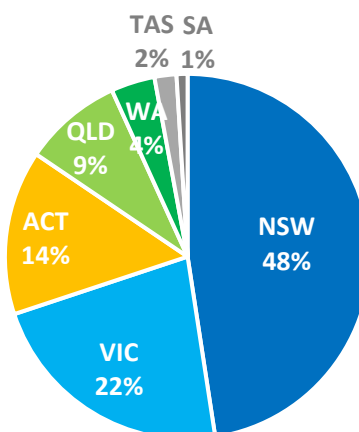
Summary of individual members



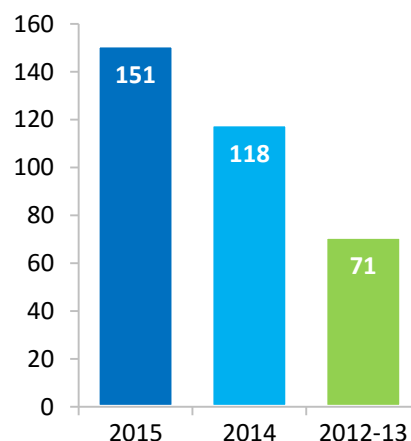
ARRCC Members by Religion



ARRCC Members by State



Annual growth in membership



Organisational members








National organisations

-  Anglican EcoCare Commission
-  Australian Christian Meditation Community*
-  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
-  Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils*
-  Franciscan Friars
-  Hindu Council of Australia
-  Islamic Sciences and Research Academy*
-  Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO)
-  Marist Sisters
-  Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
-  Sisters of Charity Australia*
-  Sisters of St John of God
-  Sisters of St Joseph*
-  Sisters of the Good Samaritan
-  Union for Progressive Judaism
-  Uniting Justice Australia*
-  Uniting Mission and Education*

State-based organisations

-  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 2015

WHAT WE DO

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 publically 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

ARRCC as an organisation

Website: A key change in 2015 was the transfer of the ARRCC website to NationBuilder as a platform. We were advised that this is the option of choice for a people's organisation which aims to mobilise a broad base of supporters. It is an integrated platform for the website, data management, social media, petitions, accepting donations, e-newsletters. The platform allows for supporters to be "tagged" with respect to their location, faith connection and how they have participated, etc, so further contacts can be made more relevant to them. A number of ENGO's have moved to Nation Builder, including Common Grace, 350.org Australia and GetUp!

Special thanks go to Johann Le, Jenni Downes and David Cohan for their various contributions to making the new site a reality. The Committee is particularly grateful, too, for a small grant made available by a donor to The Climate Institute for the purpose of building the new website.



Promotional materials: ARRCC organised for a new ARRCC promotional leaflet to be designed and printed, as well as new Eat Less Meat flyers and brochures. There was some discussion about printing T-shirts but the Committee felt it was more environmentally responsible to make iron-on ARRCC badges available instead.

Joining the United Religions Initiative: ARRCC has joined the [United Religions Initiative](#). URI is an international multi-faith network which is focussed on peace-building, interfaith harmony and environmental protection. Our organisation has become one of their Co-operation Circles, which links us with larger multi-faith networks in Australia and elsewhere. Nivy Balachandran is URI's Melbourne-based worker, and will be working most closely with GreenFaith/ARRCC.

Small grants for local initiatives: The Committee finalised a small grants policy, intended to help make possible local initiatives by individual or small organisational ARRCC members. The first small grant was provided to two ARRCC members to facilitate a Creating Meaning workshop held at the Sydney Mechanics School of the Arts.

Capacity building work: In 2015 we ran four community organising skills training workshops. While ARRCC has long sought to design campaigns that can be taken up at a local level, in practice we have mainly been operating as a campaigning organisation. With Thea Ormerod receiving training from the Community Organising Fellowship, it was felt we now have some basic resources to empower people at a local level to mobilise their communities. We noted that skills training is offered quite routinely in the broader environmental sector, but that such training is not usually available to faith communities.

The purpose of the workshop was to affirm people's work in their own faith communities, nurture more local connections and build skills. Thea provided community organising training to ARRCC members and interested others in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The feedback was very positive.

Altogether 78 people attended the community organising workshops, including those from the Uniting Church, Quaker, Anglican and Catholic Churches and from the Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim traditions. Participants particularly appreciated meeting others, like themselves, who were passionate about faith-based climate action.

ARRCC is grateful to a generous private donor for a grant of \$6,800 to run more such training sessions in 2016.



L to R: Max Wright, Les Hetherton, Murray Lobley

Greenfaith/ARRCC

The small Melbourne nucleus has moved our monthly meetings to Sunday evenings over the past year, and they include short business/planning session, a BYO dinner and a short talk, usually from a member. Topics have included Permaculture, Divestment and the Impacts of dewatering coal mines.

We have also organised a meat-free meal in the year and were part of the faith group planning and leading the Melbourne March prior to the Paris talks in December, which commenced with a 'Funeral for Coal' ceremony which some of our members planned or participated in.

We have been working on a job description for a part time worker to develop our activities and impact in Melbourne, and we are hopeful in the coming year to launch our 'Faith Voices on Environmental Responsibility' travelling exhibition.

Simon Grosser was the Chair of GreenFaith/ARRCC during 2015. Two of our members, Murray Loble and Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, are also on the ARRCC organizing committee, and, aside from the President, Thea Ormerod, have this year become the longest-serving members, participating via Skype, and travelling to NSW for the annual planning meeting. We congratulate ARRCC on another busy year and thank Thea in particular for her inspiring vision and energy!



Religious Leaders Ambassadors

Letter to MP's on targets: The Religious Leaders Ambassadors group co-ordinated letters, signed by prominent religious leaders, which were sent (with the in-kind help of Greenpeace) to all Labor and Coalition MP's and Senators. Our organisation is enormously honoured to have sent the electronic signatures of the Anglican Primate (Archbishop Philip Freier), President of UCA (Rev Prof Andrew Dutney), President of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils (Kim Hollow), Chair of the Hindu Council of Australia (Prof Nihal Agar), Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia (Jacqui Remond), Venerable Ajahn Brahm and Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins. The main ask was that the Government should put to the UN a 40% emissions reduction target on 1990 levels by 2025.

With the help of Holdfast Communications, we managed to get considerable media around this, including [Religious leaders on targets - ABC](#) and [Religious leaders urge carbon cuts - SMH](#).

Press Conference: Many thanks to the participants in the Press Conference which was held in Parliament House, Canberra, after the release of *Laudato Si'*: Bhante Sujato, Bishop Prof Stephen Pickard, Swami Dr Shailesh Diwedi, Prof Neil Ormerod, Diana Abdul-Rahman, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black and Thea Ormerod.

And this quote was offered from Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, Grand Mufti of Australia:

"Australian Muslims welcome this letter from Pope Francis. We share his concern about our current ecological crisis and the need for urgent action. Protecting the environment is a moral imperative and not acting to address this problem is a form of moral pollution."

The press conference was held a few days after the release of *Laudato Si'* to allow the leaders to have time to read the encyclical, but it meant less coverage. However, one ARRCC member gave this feedback: "Congratulations for making it into the news tonight. It was great to see you and ARRCC in Canberra on TV, condemning Tony Abbott and his insane policies on renewable energy and climate."

We were on SBS radio a few times, and we received a mention on the AAP's [Daily Mail](#). Journalists especially favoured Diana Abdul-Rahman's and Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black's comments: [SBS radio report](#). Diana Abdul-Rahman was extensively quoted in *The Australian* the next day, critiquing the Federal Government's marginalisation of Muslim people.



Neil Ormerod, Thea Ormerod,
Swami Dr Shailesh Diwedi,
Hon. Julie Owens (Parramatta,
Labor), Bhante Sujato,
Bishop Prof Stephen Pickard,
Diana Abdul-Rahman,
Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black

Policy and Advocacy

Revised Policy Positions

The Policy and Advocacy working group continued the 2014 consultation with members and stakeholders regarding ARRCC's Policy Positions Paper into the early part of 2015. A huge thank you to Gill King who integrated the outcomes of various discussions into the paper, before it was finalised by Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black and Thea Ormerod.

As well as up-dated policy positions and references, and more thorough arguments for existing content, the new Policy Positions Paper now covers new areas. It includes material on Coal Seam Gas mining, public transport and the position of the fossil fuel lobby that energy poverty is best addressed through coal-fired power generation. While we considered carefully arguments put in favour of nuclear power generation, our position against nuclear remains for the time being. The new document now forms a more solid groundwork for ARRCC's advocacy work.

Papal Encyclical Project

The project's goal was to take maximum advantage of the expected Papal Encyclical on the environment, leveraging faith constituencies into taking more robust action on climate change.

Special note of thanks: Two outside organisations provided invaluable support to enable ARRCC to achieve our goal. Holdfast Communications made available the services of James Lorenz who was an excellent consultant, and the results below would not have been so spectacular without his dedicated input. The other organisation, the Sunrise Project, made the work possible via a grant of \$8,600, for which ARRCC is very grateful!

Seminars on 'Laudato Si'

Three Seminars on the Pope's Encyclical and faith-based ways of responding, were held in August and subsequent invitations led to three further speaking opportunities. There were around 50 people at the first Seminar in the City, and the second was attended by around 60 people in Mt Druitt. A third Seminar on Pope Francis' encyclical was held at Pennant Hills where 100 people attended. All were received enthusiastically by participants, and more people wanted to receive the ARRCC newsletter or wanted to become involved in ARRCC.



Neil and Thea Ormerod were subsequently invited to speak in two more communities, St Brigid's, Marrickville and Kiama Catholic Parish. In both Kiama and Marrickville, people identified themselves as wanting to join the local social justice group. Thea Ormerod also spoke on *Laudato Si'* at Pitt Street Uniting Church.

Altogether, at the six Seminars on the encyclical:

- 315 people attended.
- 135 signed up to the e-newsletter list.
- Over \$1,000 was collected in donations.



There remains around \$1,500 left from the Sunrise Project grant.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the various Seminars, most notably: John Carroll, Gabrielle Fogarty, Peter Jenkins, Robert Iacopetta, Maggie and Tony Borger, Nick Grosfeld (scientist), Neil Ormerod, Vijai Singhal and members of the Filipino Chaplaincies Coordinating Council.

ARRCC also helped organise a Vigil on the day the Papal Encyclical was released, along with 350.org, World Wildlife Fund and GetUp!

Finally, as part of the project, ARRCC sent a letter to each of the 45 Bishops who would attend the November Plenary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Expecting that the principle of fossil fuel divestment would be the subject of a decision, we urged each of them to support it. Thea Ormerod also visited Archbishop Mark Coleridge personally in Brisbane in September to talk about this.

Outcome of Media Strategy:

- Neil Ormerod "Encyclical may add to UN progress" in the [SMH](#), also published in the [Brisbane Times](#), [Canberra Times](#), [The Age](#), and online [One News Page](#), [Wn.com](#), and elsewhere
- Thea Ormerod "Australia out of step with Pope's climate action mission" on divestment and the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in [Eureka Street](#)
- Neil Ormerod "Getting ready for Pope Francis' environmental Rerum Novarum" in [Eureka Street](#)
- Thea Ormerod "Environment status report", in the Winter 2015 edition of Jesuit online publication, [Australian Catholics](#), which highlighted the engagement of the Catholic Church as a whole in environmental action before the encyclical was released. It forms a kind of "baseline" with which to compare Catholic environmental action after the encyclical. *Australian Catholics* has a circulation of 150,000 mostly to Catholic schools and parishes
- Neil Ormerod "The Pope's environmental encyclical promises to shake up the climate debate" in [The Conversation](#)
- Neil Ormerod "The Pope's environmental encyclical promises to shake up the climate debate" in [ABC Religion and Ethics online](#)
- Neil Ormerod's views were mentioned in an article by Tom Arup published in [The Age](#), the [Canberra Times](#), and [SMH online](#).

- Neil Ormerod published an [opinion piece in The Age](#): “Pope Francis’ views on global warming cold comfort for Canberra”, 18/6/15 where Neil compares and contrasts Pope Francis’ teachings with the policies of the Australian Government. The piece also appeared in the [Canberra Times](#), the [Brisbane Times](#) and the [Skeptical Science online bulletin](#). It was also referred to on a Catholic website, [Social Spirituality](#), where readers were provided a link to it.
- On 18/6/15, Neil Ormerod was interviewed on radio a number of times, eg, by SBS, and was shown on ABC TV 24 hour news. Neil Ormerod was interviewed on [SBS radio](#): “..... Abbott now face a choice between caring about The Creation, which the Pope calls it - including the environment and the climate - or caring for his vested interests, says Professor Neil Ormerod, who is Catholic spokesman in the organisation Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, which has a number of major Catholic organisations as members.
- Neil Ormerod had mentioned as an example that one consequence could be that the government must stop subsidising the oil-gas-coal industry. Currently the Australian government subsidises the fossil fuel industries with close to \$12 billion a year, according to the Australian Conservation Foundation...”
- Thea Ormerod’s article appeared in [Sight Magazine](#), “Analysis: Pope Francis’ call for action on the “ecological crisis”, 22/6/15 and appeared in *The Melbourne Anglican*, *Aurora* in Newcastle (Catholic) and the *Brisbane Catholic Leader*.
- Neil provided comment which was published in the Catholic publication, the *Brisbane Leader*: <http://catholicleader.com.au/news/popes-great-work-lauded>
- Julie Macken has also written a great piece on the encyclical which will be published in *Compass*.
- Neil Ormerod wrote again for [Eureka Street](#): “Coal Warriors targeting Pope Francis”, 14/7/15
- A Press Conference was held 22/6/15 in Parliament House, Canberra, using some of the Sunrise Project funding. (See Religious Leader Ambassadors report.)

Advocacy letters

Emissions reduction targets: As well as initiating the letter on targets signed by prominent leaders in various faith communities, the ARRCC Board wrote to the Prime Minister in our own right. We put the case for much stronger emissions reduction targets to be put forward by Australia to the UN.

Julie Macken then drafted a brief sample letter which could prompt individual members and friends of ARRCC to write personalised letters on the topic to their MP’s. This was sent out with the e-newsletter at the start of August.

Lock the Gate statement: ARRCC became a signatory to the Lock the Gate statement calling for much stronger regulation of the coal and gas mining industries in NSW. We join with those advocating that mining should not be allowed on agricultural land, near population centres nor in water catchments and areas of high conservation value. Furthermore, Thea successfully invited signatures from the Sisters of St Joseph, Bishop William Wright, Bishop George Browning, Pax Christi, Columban Mission Institute, Social Justice Around the Bay and Catholic Earthcare.

Thea later participated in visits with George Woods and others in Lock the Gate, to the Secretary of the NSW Minister for Planning and later to the Planning Minister, Rob Stokes.

Renewable Energy Target: ARRCC signed the World Wildlife Fund letter to the PM arguing for a strong RET.

Support for DGR status for Greenpeace: ARRCC wrote in support of Greenpeace as they faced questions by the Review on Registered Environmental Organisations in November. There is a threat to their DGR status which, if they lost, would dramatically reduce their capacity to protect the environment.

No New Coal Mines open letter: ARRCC members and friends became signatories to another letter organised by The Australia Institute. This one was directed to the French President Francois Hollande, asking for support in Paris for a moratorium on new coal mines and on coal mine expansions. Signatories were Bishop George Browning, Bishop Prof Stephen Pickard, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Prof Nihal Agar, Prof Neil Ormerod, Julian Robertson (Quakers), Prof Colin Butler, Anne Lanyon, Patrick McInerney and Thea Ormerod.

The No New Coal Mines open letter was published on page 9 of the SMH on October 27th, and an article written on the issues raised [landed on page 2](#). This received considerable news coverage, including internationally.



ARRCC members protest against the building of a coal port on the Great Barrier Reef as part of the 'Don't Risk The Reef' campaign.

People's Climate March

A number of ARRCC members in various cities collaborated with faith-based and other ENGO's (Environmental Non-Government Organisations) to mobilise participation in People's Climate March (PCM) before UN climate negotiations in Paris in December. Along with other groups, we aimed to send a message to Canberra that politicians will need to have a credible and strong policy platform on addressing global warming if they hope to be voted in at the next Federal election.

The strong and visible faith presence at the various climate marches, was at least in part down to the dedication of ARRCC volunteers. Gill King (Canberra) devoted herself to this pretty much full-time. Other active volunteers included Simon Grosser (Melbourne), Terry Sussmilch (Hobart), Philippa Rowland (Adelaide), Harry Creamer (in Port Macquarie) as well as Gill Burrows (Sydney) and Meredith Knight (Sydney). A further eight volunteers participated in a banner-painting day in Sydney.

The negotiations were the most significant since those at Copenhagen. It was essential that they be successful in establishing a strong platform for generating the ambition necessary to prevent 2 degrees C warming and preferably 1.5 degrees C. There had been a series of national decisions in

the previous few months which had escalated ambition at unprecedented levels, and the marches helped build pressure on Australia to step up its level of commitment.

The PCM was hugely successful with Australia's numbers participating around 25% of the world's total, and the pressure adding to the pressure for a positive outcome. At the Sydney PCM, where crowds left the Domain in separate sector-based groups, estimates are that there were somewhere between 4,000 and 8,000 people from the faith sector. ARRCC had promoted the PCM at each of our public Seminars on Laudato Si'. For example, a sizeable contingent came with Migrante, a Filipino organisation whose members attended the Marrickville Seminar.

Check out the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/peoplesclimateAU/>



Go Fossil Free

Congratulations to the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia who announced their decision to divest from fossil fuels in January. At the same Yearly Meeting, the organisation decided to join ARRCC as an organisational member. Earth Song (a member organisation) and the Presentation Sisters of Queensland had the courage, also, to make public their decisions to divest from fossil fuels.



ARRCC participated in the Global Divestment Day events, with Claire Dawson organising her own event in Frankston, Victoria. Wies Schuiringa spoke at an event in Beecroft. Congratulations to all those who threw their weight behind these excellent campaigning efforts! In August, the Commonwealth Bank indeed finally ruled out investing in Adani's coal-mining project in the Galilee Basin.

With the publication of the Papal Encyclical in 2015, several campaigning efforts were directed to Catholic decision-makers. Thea Ormerod worked with 350.org Global, putting them in touch with key Catholics internationally to attempt to influence Pope Francis to publicly support divestment from fossil fuels. This did not lead to Pope Francis explicitly talking about fossil fuel divestment, either in his Encyclical or in his public statements. However, he did state clearly certain principles which could readily lead to the conclusion that it is unethical to continue investing in fossil fuels.

ARRCC wrote to the Catholic Church Insurances Investment Committee to challenge them to divest their fossil fuel investments, and encouraged a range of organisational stakeholders to write also. So far the CCI Investment Committee have decided that it's too complex and that dialogue/engagement is a better way to go. Work continues.

Thea Ormerod is collaborating with people in ARRCC's networks, with Caritas and with Catholic Earthcare to put a case for endorsing fossil fuel divestment to the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Finally, work is also ongoing in relation to the Australian Catholic University, in partnership with 350.org, ACU staff and the ACU student body.

Eat Less Meat

Recognition of importance of reducing meat: 2015 has been a watershed year as far as the recognition of the impact of meat consumption and livestock farming on Climate Change and human health is concerned. More and more people are becoming aware of this issue and there are increasing number of articles appearing in mainstream media, as well as programmes appearing on the national TV about the impact on health of consuming red and processed meat.

In late 2014, an ABC TV Catalyst programme featured a very successful two-part series on “Gut Reactions” by Dr Graham Phillips about the effect of unhealthy food on our gut bacteria. After this there have been a number of programmes touching on this issue, for example, one which was presented by the science reporter, Robyn Williams, entitled “Reduced red meat consumption aids health and environment” on 7th March 2015.

“Meat the future – how cutting meat consumption can feed billions more,” the book published by the Nicolass G Pierson Foundation was launched on 3rd March at UTS by Prof Stuart White, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures. This launch was widely attended.

On the issue of health and well-being, the World Health Organisation published a report on 26 Oct 2015. It linked processed meat like bacon, sausage and ham and, probably, red meat to increased incidence of cancer, recommending the exercise of caution and reduction in meat consumption. This report was widely covered in print and electronic media, most notably in the *TIME magazine*, with an article entitled “War on Delicious” in their November 9th issue.

Pope Francis issued an encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, in June 2015 on the care of the Mother Earth against the effects of the climate change. In this encyclical the Holy Father made very strong statements against cruelty to animals, like e.g. “Every act of cruelty towards any creature is ‘contrary to human dignity’”. He himself observes “Meatless Fridays” regularly. Following this old tradition, Catholic Earthcare Australia has introduced abstinence from meat on Fridays under the “Fasting for the Climate” initiative.

The year culminated with the United Nations COP21 climate summit in Paris, and an historic agreement to combat climate change and unleash actions and investments towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future. It was signed by 195 nations on 12th December 2015.

Although no direct mention was made of the need for reduction of meat consumption to reduce global warming, Arnold Schwarzenegger, former governor of California was there to argue for that cause. He pointed to the rapid development of nonmeat protein products which have the smell, taste and texture of meat, developed by companies like Beyond Beef and Impossible Foods who are developing lot of plant-based food substitutes for meat. It is absolutely necessary to reduce meat production to achieve the desired goal of keeping the global warming below 2° C.

ARRCC 'Eat Less Meat' activities: ARRCC partnered with the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) UTS and Meat-Free-Week group to launch a FOODFAITH initiative at the Bodhi Restaurant in Sydney City on 17th March, 2015. At the luncheon, religious leaders of all major faiths joined with academics and sustainability groups. The event was covered by Dr Rachael Kohn of ABC Radio National. Thea, Vijai helped with invitations and ARRCC contributed \$300 towards costs.



Participants in FoodFaith luncheon in February, 2015, Sydney (left); Mr Vijai Singhal speaking (right)

ARRCC organized a set of 3 forums in Sydney to emphasize the Pope's strong support of taking positive action by all Christians to mitigate the effects of climate change. This included presentations by Vijai Singhal about the benefits of eating less meat and living a balanced sustainable healthy life style, as well as the distribution of a new flyer on "Food & Faith" which included quotations from the Pope.

ARRCC continued to organize vegetarian Cooking Workshops to promote meat-free food for sustainable living. A couple of workshops were organized: one at the Sorrell Lane Community Garden in Parramatta and the other at the Arts Studio. The participants were presented with the recipe booklet and shared the food that had been prepared.

A number of presentations on the benefits of eating less meat and living a sustainable healthy life style were made by Vijai Singhal at the following venues:

- **Food & Faith** - talk at the Ramakrishna Sarada Vedanta Society's Vedanta Hall on 15th March
- **Our Food Choices – are they healthy and ethical** – talk at the Blue Mountains Interfaith group meeting on 25th April. This was followed by a panel discussion on the Radio Blue Mountains 89.1 FM about the impact of food on Body, Mind and Spirit on 27th April.
- **Food & Faith** – a visit and a talk at the Southern Highlands Community Farm at Canyonleigh, NSW run by a spiritual group called Shanti Mission on 9th August.

An article on *Hindu Faith principles and values for food sustainability* was written for the annual issue of the MEDHA magazine, published by the Sydney Sanskrit School.

A letter was written to Dr Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens, to apprise him of the "Eat Less Meat" campaign and to request his support to promote this issue, as it impacts so many aspects of our living.

Faith Community Footprints

The Buddhist Climate Action kit was completed with the generous help of Venerable Anna Samineri (aka Annie Keating) of the Western Australian Dhammasara Monastery. We are pleased to say that it is now available on the ARRCC website along with kits in the Jewish, Hindu, Christian and Muslim traditions.

After discovering that the social justice group in Caloundra Catholic parish had used the Christian Climate Action kit to move the community onto a more ecologically sustainable basis, this was written up as a case study. The group made numerous copies of the kit and followed the steps in a way which showed great determination and spirit. Congratulations to the group! It is hoped that their example, now on display on the ARRCC website, will inspire others!



Caloundra Catholic Parish Social Justice Network. L to R: Grant Allen; Peter Ryan; Dawn Wilson; Bob Cullen (Chair); Chris Milligan; Ken Mewburn; Helen Crook

Other events and activities

Talks on ARRCC: Thea Ormerod gave talks about ARRCC's work on a number of occasions and to varying groups:

1. A group of teachers/social justice advocates, including some Sisters in the Loreto Order, in Kirribilli
2. Year 7 and 10 students at St Joseph's, Lochinvar, outside of Newcastle
3. A public meeting in the Maitland Newcastle Catholic Diocese, skillfully organized by ARRCC member, John Hayes. This was attended by around 150 people.
4. A Bible and Environment Conference held in Shanghai

Thea and Neil Ormerod were both sponsored by the Bible Society to attend the Bible and Environment Conference in Shanghai. This started a strong relationship with the CEO of the Bible Society, Dr Greg Clarke, who is the Chief Editor of *Eternity* magazine. Our intention is to write for the magazine on environmental issues, starting with an article on *Laudato Si'* in the February edition. Some relationships were also established with key people in La Rocha, a Christian Conservationist NGO, based in London.

One of the Chinese academic conference participants was inspired enough to say that he wanted to start an ARRCC equivalent in China! We were surprised to learn that there are 35,000 NGO's in China, working on some form of environmental issue.

Standing with the Gomeroi: Early in 2015, the Gomeroi requested ARRCC support for a Vigil they wanted to hold. They had finally been allowed by Whitehaven onto their land in the Leard Forest (near Narrabri) for ceremony, but this was then withdrawn. Rev John Brentnall and Pastor John Carroll were there to pray with them in a way which was inclusive.

People's Parliament action: Six members of ARRCC participated in the People's Parliament in early December, which received extensive media attention. Rev John Brentnall was one of the key speakers.

Humanity at the Crossroads letter: The Multi-Faith Association of South Australia wrote a letter to all religious leaders in Australia, urging them to prioritise action on climate change. In particular, they urged divestment from fossil fuels. The MFASA held an official launch of the letter in Adelaide. Further events relating to the letter are likely to be organised in other States.

Summary of Achievements in 2015

Papal Encyclical Project

In the dozens of mainstream media opinion pieces and articles we published, ARRCC focussed on those sections of *Laudato Si'* which were about the need to move away from fossil fuels towards a low emissions future. Our media profile and the five Seminars at which we presented led to further speaking opportunities. We were particularly pleased to outreach to the Filipino community in Sydney who were not familiar with an environmental perspective based on faith. One of the further speaking opportunities involved presenting papers to a Conference on the Bible and the Environment in Shanghai.

Religious Leader Ambassadors

Archbishop Philip Freier, Primate of the Anglican Church, joined with a number of other religious leader Ambassadors as a signatory to a letter urging a much more ambitious emissions reduction target. This was sent to all Coalition and Labor MP's and Senators and received good media coverage. Religious leaders also held a Press Conference after the publication of *Laudato Si'*.

Go Fossil Free

At their Yearly Meeting early in 2015, the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia decided both to become members of ARRCC and to publicly divest from fossil fuels. We successfully encouraged Earth Song (a member organisation) and the Presentation Sisters of Queensland to make public their divestment decisions. The release of *Laudato Si'* invigorated our efforts to encourage particular Catholic organisations to support the principle of fossil fuel divestment. This work is ongoing.

Policy and advocacy work

After a consultation with members, ARRCC's Policy Positions were revised. We sent letters to the Prime Minister and Hon Greg Hunt, signed open letters and encouraged leaders in faith communities to become signatories to letters urging policy shifts. A well-publicised example was the No New Coal Mines open letter organised by The Australia Institute. We encouraged our members and supporters to write to their local MP.

ARRCC members assisted in drawing altogether thousands of people of faith to Marches in Canberra, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Perth and Adelaide as well as regional centres such as Port Macquarie. Dozens of us also participated in other, separate peaceful protests.

Eat Less Meat

Vijai Singhal spoke to a range of groups during the year and wrote an article for the Hindu MEDHA magazine. ARRCC organised two vegetarian Cooking Workshops in Western Sydney, and partnered with the Institute for Sustainable Futures UTS and Meat-Free-Week group to launch a FOODFAITH initiative. The event, attended by religious leaders of all major faiths, academics and sustainability groups, was covered by Dr Rachael Kohn of ABC Radio National. There is some evidence that recognition is increasing of the link between climate and humanity's need to consume less meat.

Faith Communities Footprints

A Buddhist Climate action Kit was published, as well as a case study on the use of the Christian Kit.

Looking Ahead – Plans for 2016

After Australia signing the Paris Agreement, we have a clear and public set of promises, goals and processes by which to hold our Federal Government accountable and pursue stronger action that is needed to deal effectively with the climate change problem. In the lead-up to the election, ARRCC will be making public the extent to which the policies of various parties, members of parliament and candidates measure up to the Paris yard-stick.

We will be facilitating a more public stand by prominent religious leaders on policy issues relating to global warming.

As we campaign in collaboration with other organisations, ARRCC will be especially oriented to the social justice dimensions of the work, eg, keeping us all mindful of the rights of traditional owners of country and of communities in transition.

We want to strengthen ARRCC as an organisation. In particular, we want to offer opportunities for supporters in various parts of Australia to meet each other, encourage each other and develop their skills in animating their own communities.

ARRCC plans to outreach to Interfaith networks and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.

We want to publicise the five Climate Action Kits, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu.

Through talks, articles, radio interviews, cooking workshops and so on, ARRCC will continue to encourage people to reduce their meat consumption.

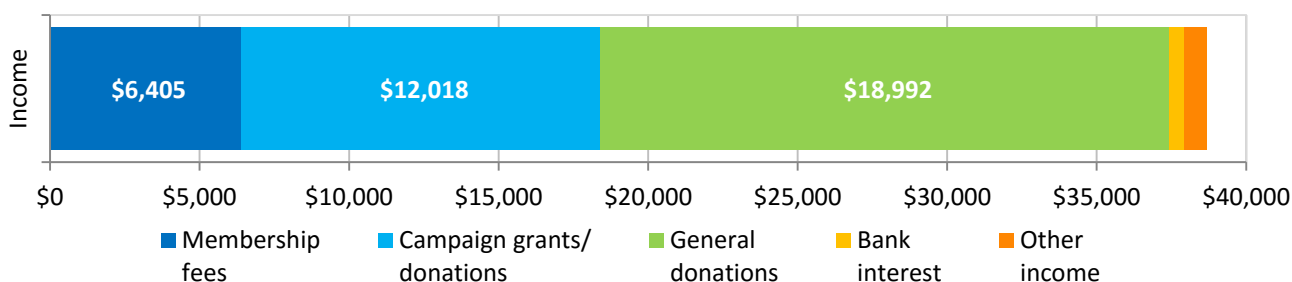
We plan to continue to encourage individuals to switch to a fossil free Super Funds and faith-based organisations to switch to fossil free Banks and Funds (or at least question them about risks associated with climate change and stranded fossil fuel 'assets'). We would like to make public the fossil fuel divestment decisions of particular faith-based organisations to divest from fossil fuels.



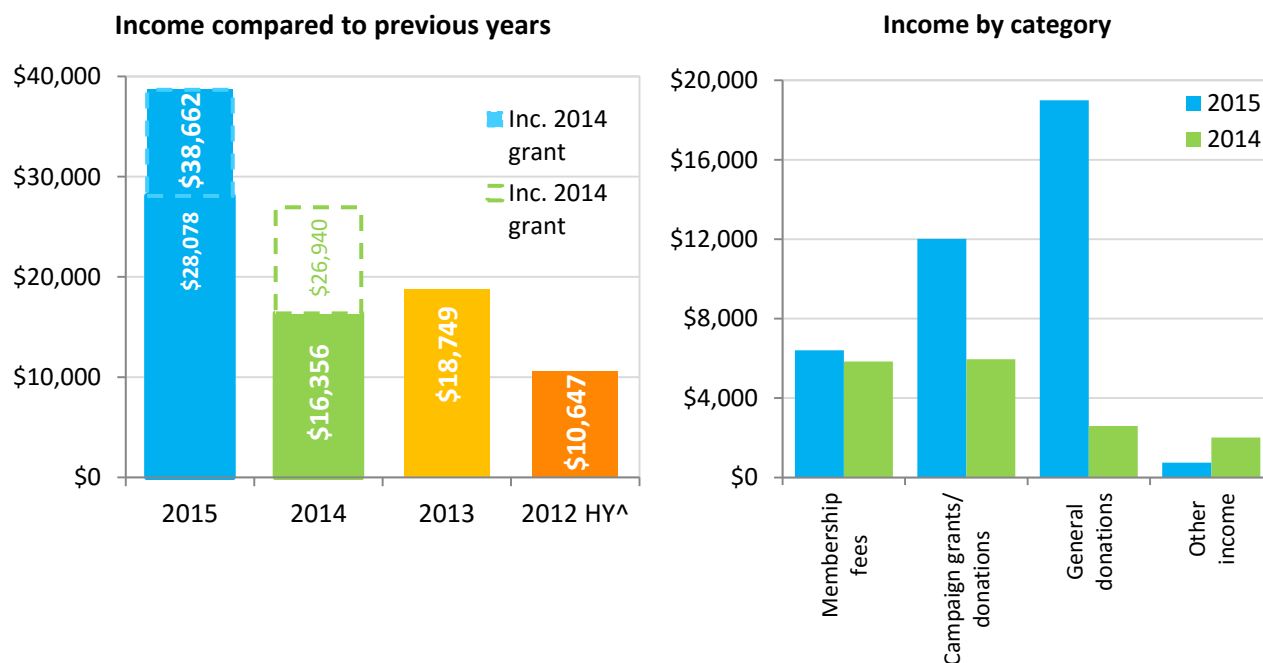
2016 Management Committee: Susy, Thea, John, Jonathan, Lucy, Gill, Murray (apologies Kathy, Julie)

FINANCIALS

Income \$38,165

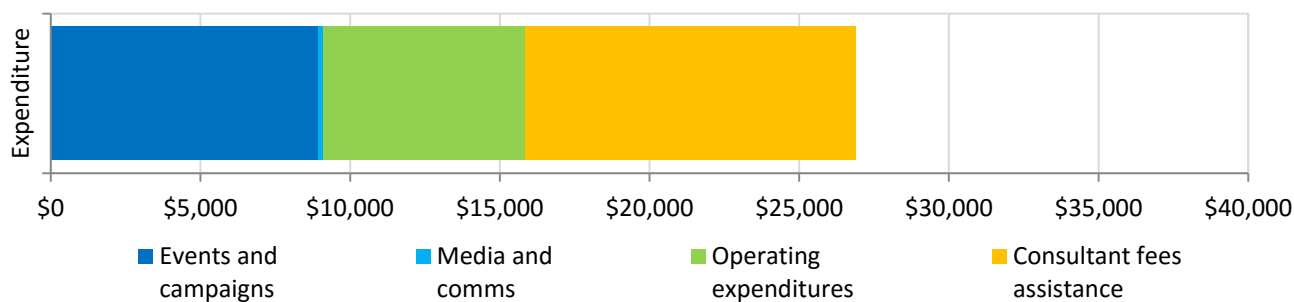


Income in 2015 is up substantially from 2014, mainly due to some 2014 grant income in 2015*. The largest source of income was general donations, which included \$5,000 from one family. The next largest source of income was campaign grants/donations, which included \$5,000 for building the new website and just over \$7,000 for running skills workshops. ARRCC also greatly appreciates the financial support of our members, which covers our general operating expenses.



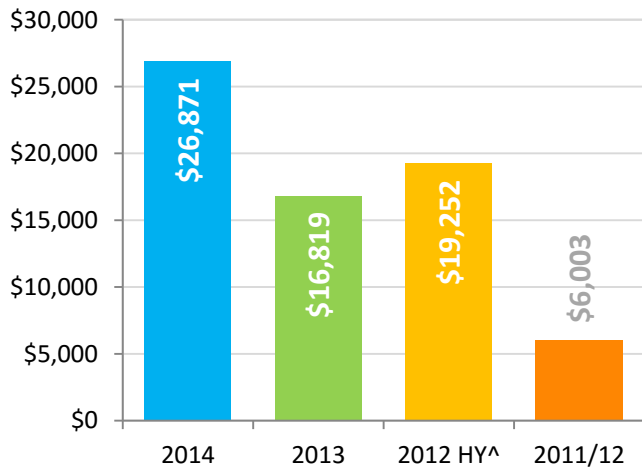
* ARRCC received \$10,584 of grants in 2014 for activities to be carried out in 2015. These amounts were therefore deferred and reported as 2015 income. Without this adjustment, income for 2015 would have been \$28,078 and \$26,940 in 2014, as shown in the graph above.

Expenses \$26,871

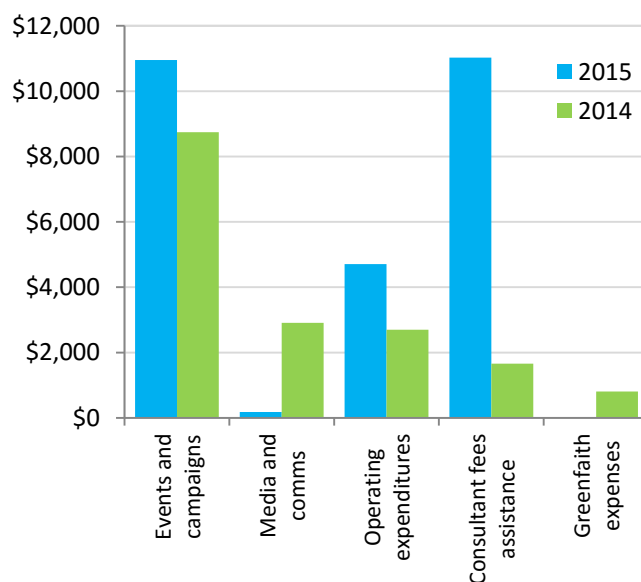


Expenses in 2015 are up by 60% from \$16,819 in 2014. This is predominantly due to a substantial increase in consultant fees, for example, for administrative assistance and construction of the website. In addition, campaign expenses have increased somewhat due to increased number of activities, as has ARRCC's operating expenses, due to an increase in reimbursements for committee member equipment and telecommunications.

Expenses compared to previous years



Expenses by category



Financial statement

ARRCC Incorporated
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

	31 Dec 15	31 Dec 14
Income		
Bank Interest	\$496.95	\$54.65
Campaign Donations	\$12,017.82	\$5,885.76
Donations	\$18,992.01	\$2,895.10
Membership	\$6,405.00	\$5,845.00
Other Income	\$253.00	\$1,730.25
Total Income	\$38,164.78	\$16,410.76
Expenses		
Advertising	\$180.00	\$912.40
Bank Fees	\$163.68	\$155.93
Consulting Fees	\$11,026.75	\$1,659.00
Equipment	\$583.45	\$441.43
Event Costs	\$2,352.07	\$6,606.61
Grants to other Orgs	\$300.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$842.60	\$832.26
Logistics	\$770.00	\$0.00
Office Expenses	\$177.76	\$1,611.38
Org Development - Seed funding for member activities	\$4,400.00	\$150.00
Postage	\$151.75	\$0.00
Printing & Stationery	\$1,649.35	\$1,600.04
Subscriptions	\$756.48	\$2,095.00
Telephone & Internet	\$384.31	\$0.00
Training	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Travel Costs	\$2,033.14	\$705.00
Total Expenses	\$26,871.34	\$16,769.05
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$11,293.44	-\$358.29

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

ARRCC Incorporated
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2015

	31 Dec 15	31 Dec 14
Assets		
Current Assets		
MECU bank account	\$21,207.34	\$15,341.07
Paypal account	\$1,138.77	\$481.14
Term Deposit Account 1	\$5,186.27	\$5,041.13
Term Deposit Account 2	\$5,174.99	\$5,000.00
Term Deposit Account 3	\$5,174.99	\$5,000.00
Greenfaith	\$0.00	\$2,937.59
Total Current Assets	\$37,882.36	\$33,800.93
Total Assets	\$37,882.36	\$33,800.93
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$3,372.39	\$0.00
Funding in Advance	\$0.00	\$10,584.40
Total Current Liabilities	\$3,372.39	\$10,584.40
Total Liabilities	\$3,372.39	\$10,584.40
Net Assets	\$34,509.97	\$23,216.53
Members' Funds		
Current year surplus (deficit)	\$11,293.44	-\$358.29
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	\$23,216.53	\$23,574.82
Total Members' Funds	\$34,509.97	\$23,216.53

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act. The committee has determined the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

b) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated inclusive of goods and services tax (GST).

c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Association is not registered for GST.

d) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act. Accordingly, no provision for income tax or income tax expense appears in the financial statements.

e) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in profit and loss upon utilisation of the service or at the date of origin.

Note 2. Related Party Transactions

ARRCC had no related party transactions during the financial period.

Note 3. Contingent Liabilities

There have been no contingent liabilities incurred by ARRCC during the financial period.

Note 4. Economic Dependency

ARRCC relies on membership fees and donations to ensure the continuance of their advocacy and campaigning work.

Note 5. Post Reporting Date Events

No adjusting or significant non-adjusting events have occurred between the reporting date and date of authorisation.

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.

