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**Responding to climate change in partnership with  
our Pacific Island neighbours**

*PCP patrons, His eminence Cardinal John Ribat (MSC),  
Dr Richard A O'Brien and Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann*

## **DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

Dear PCP Supporters,

On behalf of the entire PCP team and the Edmund Rice Centre, I would like to wish you a restful, safe and joyous Christmas and New Year ahead. We live in very challenging times but together I know that our actions are sustaining hope and making a difference.

This year your support has been invaluable in enabling us to sponsor young climate leaders from Kiribati and Tuvalu to visit Australia and attend the United Nations Climate Conference in Madrid. Your donations have also allowed us to continue our climate leadership training program in Kiribati and Tuvalu and attend the Pacific Islands Forum held in August 2019.

We have big plans for 2020 and your donation towards our work would be greatly valued. To donate, please click [here](#) and let us know that your donation is for the PCP via reply to this email.

I hope you enjoy reading our last newsletter for 2019. Thank you again for your wonderful support and see you in 2020!

Warm regards,  
Corinne Fisher  
Coordinator Pacific Calling Partnership

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### **Attendance at COP 25 in Madrid**



Mr Enele Sopoaga [being interviewed](#) at the [Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion](#) at COP 25 in Madrid.

Pacific Calling Partnership has jointly sponsored Anna Nuariki from Kiribati and Maina Talia from Tuvalu to attend the United Nations Climate Conference (COP) in Madrid. Both Anna and Maina are graduates of the PCP KATEP (Kiribati Australia Tuvalu Exchange Program) and are eminently qualified to tell the stories of their islands.

This year they are attending the COP in Madrid to help get the Pacific voice heard. They will tell the stories of the people of the Pacific who are now fighting for the future of their low lying islands which the United Nations has identified as being among the most vulnerable nations in the world. The former Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enele Sopoaga, and former President of Kiribati, Anote Tong, are also attending the COP.

At a COP side event, [Anna had the opportunity to address an international audience](#) saying: *"Kiribati is only 2-3 meters above the sea level, which makes Loss and Damage the biggest threat for my people. Our livelihood, well-being, culture and security are all threatened by Climate Change. How would you feel if your country was in that situation?"*



Anna with other Pacifika attendees in Madrid

The key issues seeking resolution at this COP are:

- Funding for loss and damage - the worst impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations, particularly relevant for our Pacific neighbours.
- The rules for carbon markets in the Paris Agreement (Article 6) which Australia is trying to use to get through its carry over units from the Kyoto Protocol.
- Whether there will be commitments from countries to increase ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the lead up to COP26 in Glasgow next year.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) is managing the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion which is providing a platform for discussion, debate and knowledge-transfer on issues important to the Pacific, including options for enhancing mitigation and resilience, and amplifying the Pacific's call for ambitious global action by all.



Tusi Finikaso of the [Tuvalu Climate Action Network](#) and Maina Talia at the COP (together with another Pacific participant).

## Pacific Calling Partnership participates in School Strike for Climate



PCP supported the School Strike for Climate event on 29 November 2019. The School Strike for Climate (SS4C) organised a peaceful 'sit-in' outside Liberal party HQ in William St, Woolloomooloo. This student led and coordinated event saw thousands of people, including a number of PCP staff, participate.

The organisers showed solidarity with bushfire communities by hearing from a young student

and another speaker of their horrific experiences of losing their homes to bushfires and the far reaching impacts this has had on them and their communities. Organisers also used the event as a fundraiser for bushfire relief.

The morning started with a welcome to country followed by a number of impassioned pleas for action from indigenous leaders. Several school students also spoke with great passion and clarity urging the government to act on climate change now. We were then treated to a moving performance of John Lennon's song "Imagine" by a student. To conclude the event, pieces of coloured material were passed out for people to write their own climate message on, to be sewn together like prayer flags. Above are PCP staff, Jill Finnane and Maria Tiimon Chi Fang, with their message: "For Kiribati and Tuvalu climate is a matter of SURVIVAL."

## Australian Religions Response to Climate Change ([ARRCC](#)) Carols against Coal.



A group from ARRCC, including PCP staff, held a peaceful carol singing event outside insurance company Lloyds in Sydney on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. The event contributed to "Stop Adani" by calling on Lloyds to rule out insuring the mine. Well known Christmas carols had their words cleverly altered to reflect our message including: "Deck the State with Solar Panels" and "Silent Night, Smoky Night". The singers attracted a lot of attention from the lunchtime crowd, spreading the word about the climate crisis.



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