



**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*

## PCP Newsletter - September 2020

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Dear PCP Supporters,

Wherever you are on this planet, we hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and well. These have been challenging times, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society.

With Pacific nations remaining closed to Australia and vice-versa, the PCP team is working hard to adapt to a brave new world where the impacts of climate change, now and in the future, continue to be very real.

Below are a few of our recent activities. There will be more in coming weeks, particularly with regard to the Pacific Islands Forum Virtual Retreat on 28 October, which Australian PM Scott Morrison is expected to attend. Watch this space.

As always, feel free to contact us via reply to this email with questions or input into our work. We would love to hear from you.

In kindness,

Corinne Fagueret, Coordinator Pacific Calling Partnership, and all of us on the PCP team

### **Webinar "Climate Emergency in the Pacific"**

On 19 August, the PCP organised a webinar with Bishop of Parramatta Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM and former President of Kiribati His Excellency Anote Tong, to discuss the Australian response to the climate

emergency in the Pacific. If you missed this excellent webinar, you can still watch it [here](#). More than 250 people registered for the event and were given an opportunity to ask questions following the two presentations.

### **Opinion Piece by Hon. Enele Sopoaga PC**

To mark the anniversary of the [Kainaki II Declaration](#) at last year's Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the PCP worked with then PIF host, former Prime Minister of Tuvalu Hon. Enele Sopoaga, to publish an Opinion Piece in the Canberra Times. You can [read it here](#).

### **A Synod for the Pacific?**

The Edmund Rice Centre and Pacific Calling Partnership were delighted to hear Australia's new Ambassador to the Vatican, Chiara Porro, recently supporting the push for a Synod for the Pacific region. You can read more about our position in the Catholic News [here](#).

### **Australian Pasifika Climate Leadership Program**

Despite some difficulties recruiting participants due to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on Pacific communities in Australia, we are persevering with this initiative. Over the next 6 weeks a young Samoan woman who lives in Western Sydney will meet on Zoom with our PCP mentors to participate in the course. The student is very enthusiastic and it is hoped that she will be able to share the knowledge she has gained with her community.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Online event tomorrow (Saturday 26 September)**

World Youth for Climate Justice is organising a powerful event tomorrow, Saturday 26 September (9am AEDT), on the Pacific-based campaign to seek an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice, which would be a profound legal circuit breaker for urgent climate action across the globe. Speakers will include youth climate activist Alexandria Villaseñor, Vanuatu opposition leader Hon. Ralph Regenvanu and UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment Dr. David R. Boyd. The event will be livestreamed on Facebook [here](#).

#### **Webinar on COVID-19 & the climate challenge on Oceania**

This event, organised by GreenFaith International, will feature Rev. James Bhagwan, Secretary-General of the Pacific Conference of Churches, and Thea Ormerod, President of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change.

When: Monday 28 September, 5pm AEST, 7pm Fiji/Aotearoa

Registrations essential- [click here](#)

## **Please support the Torres Strait Islander human rights/climate change UN case**

We have written about this case before but if you haven't heard of it, you can read more about it [here](#).

On September 29, the Torres Strait Islanders involved in this case will submit their reply to the UN. This is a critical moment to show the mana (power) of this campaign. Let's support the claimants and send a strong message to the Australian government - the voices of the Torres Strait will not be silenced and those on mainland Australia and even in the Pacific support them.

We encourage you to sign up to take action [here](#).

## **A FINAL NOTE OF HOPE**

Today was a wonderful day of action across Australia organised by the School Strikers for Climate, which saw over 600+ COVID-safe actions implemented to tell our Prime Minister Scott Morrison to #FundOurFutureNotGas. To end your week on a positive note, treat yourself and have a look and [some of the photos being uploaded](#) from the range of events held across the country. Even better, share them on your Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account!

Until next time,

Corinne and all of us on the PCP team.



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*We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia as the traditional owners and custodians of the land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside them for reconciliation and justice. We pay our respects to our Elders; past, present and future. As we take our next step we remember the first footsteps taken on this sacred land.*

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