



## **Eco-Justice and Pacific Calling Partnership Annual Report 2015**

*The Eco-justice program seeks to address the present and future well-being of the human family and the planet as a whole. The Eco-Justice approach is underpinned by the Earth Charter and its principles, the UN Human Rights Charter, Catholic Social Teaching and The Edmund Rice ethos.*

*As the name suggests, the ethos at the core of the **Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP)** is working in partnership and responding to calls from the Pacific. PCP strives in all its dealings to develop constructive working relationships. Our approach has been to ensure that before the campaign, comes authentic relationship and true knowledge of how people feel and live.*

*Wherever possible PCP seeks out and provides opportunities for Pacific Islanders to tell their story to help people understand the impacts of climate change on Pacific Island homelands and take action. These stories are also used as indicators of what could happen in Australia if people do not start to respect and value our planet.*

### **International Outreach**

#### **Human Rights Council**

Two full-days of discussion on specific themes related to human rights and climate change were held during the 28th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC). In the lead up months during 2014, through Edmund Rice International and Franciscans International PCP lobbied to ensure that an invitation went out to President Tong of Kiribati to address the Council. On 6 March, President Tong and Prime Minister Enele Sapoaga from Tuvalu, told the Council that climate change threatens the progress made with the promotion of human rights. <http://www.climatechangenews.com/2015/03/10/climate-change-threatens-human-rights-kiribati-president-tells-un/>. They also lobbied for Pelenise Alofa, President of Kiribati Climate Action Network, to address the Council which she did calling for a Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human rights.

#### **Pelenise Alofa visits Sydney**

PCP arranged for Pelenise to visit Sydney from 9-14 March on her way home from the Human Rights Council Meeting.

- 11 March attended CLRI (NSW) Social Justice Meeting
- 12 March attended Inaugural Pacific Congregations Meeting
- 12 March Interview with ABC Radio Jon Cleary
- 13 March Meeting with Anthony Albanese in Electoral Office
- 13 March Meeting with Simon Bradshaw Oxfam Australia

## **Building stronger Pacific Island Links**

### **Kiribati Australia Tuvalu Exchange Project, (KATEP)**

#### ***Grabbing the heart of Australians: speaking out loud in the fight for climate justice***

- In May the Pacific Calling Partnership brought two young climate change leaders from Kiribati: Tiiringatea Iataake and Meteka Raoi, and two from Tuvalu: Merineta Kitara and Walter Esela to Australia for a two week educational package aimed at developing their experience and confidence in climate change advocacy. This is the second of PCP's Kiribati-Australia-Tuvalu Exchange Programs (KATEP) run in conjunction with Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN) and Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TuCAN) and funded by donations from PCP's dedicated supporters.
- The program is truly an exchange. The PCP team and KATEP young people share



KATEP group meet with Phillip Ruddock

many of the workshops and outreach experiences together. Team members of the PCP and the church, school and community members they met with learnt about the every-day lived experience of dealing with and planning for climate change that the young people and their homelands are facing.

- At the end of the program, during their final reflection and evaluation process they explained how proud they were to have touched the hearts of the Australians they spoke with and were heartened to know that many were inspired to action on their behalf.
- On returning home, Tiiringatea sent the following message:  
*“Thank you for everything. Now I know what am I going to do for the climate change. I can speak louder, I cannot shy anymore. So now I can do the best if I have a chance. thank you”*  
For separate detailed report Email: [jillf@erc.org.au](mailto:jillf@erc.org.au)

### **Follow up to KATEP**

In June/July Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang went to Kiribati where she worked on a project supported by the John Wallis Foundation. Maria conducted follow up workshops and discussions on advocacy and media skills for the young leaders that PCP had brought to Australia for training earlier this year and in 2014. She also met with the KiriCAN committee and with the two I-Kiribati delegates who will be going to Paris with the PCP delegation Mr Itinterunga Rae and Ms Tinaai Teaua.

### **Facilitating OXFAM AUSTRALIA Visit to Kiribati**

Phil Glendenning took Helen Szoke, Chief Executive of OXFAM Australia, and Kelly Dent, OXFAM's Economic Justice Coordinator to Kiribati from 19 – 23 July in order to give them first-hand experience of the climate change pressures on low-lying atoll nations and to enable them to meet with government and civil society leaders. Kelly and Helen wanted to make the

trip as part of their preparation for their roles as key advocates for OXFAM at COP 21 in Paris. A most moving experience for them was meeting with members of the Ton Matoa – the ‘Strong Warriors’ a the disability group that is active around climate change – of their struggle to be safe as the waters lapped into their Maneaba (communal sleeping meeting and sleeping place). They were inspired by the powerful simplicity of his message when they met with President Tong “it is a test of humanity. It’s not such a difficult test”. Helen Szoke said on returning, ‘...*the leadership shown by the people we met with provides some optimism and also reinforces the importance of Oxfam working with partners in the Pacific and aligning our work globally with the need on our own doorstep.*’

### **Further follow-up to KATEP**

Jill Finnane visited Kiribati at the same time as the OXFAM visit in order to meet with KiriCAN committee members to explore their thoughts on the future of the KATEP leadership program and to hear about the recent initiatives of KiriCAN. Out of this meeting came an invitation from KiriCAN for PCP to supplement the KATEP program in 2016 by conducting a lead up course for a larger number of young people from a range of organisations. She also discussed with them the aims of the Pacific Calling Partnership delegation to the Paris talks and met with the two delegates that KiriCAN had chosen. These two young people also attended meetings the whole delegation had with government officials and the President.



Phil Glendenning, Jill Finnane and Helen Szoke with President Anote Tong of Kiribati

### **Tuvalu Immersion 21.10-28.10**

Jill and Michael Finnane, Phil Glendenning and Marita McInerney undertook this visit with the aim of building a closer relationship with TuCAN and the KATEP participants, to meet and listen to relevant governments and civil society representatives and to meet with the 2014/15 KATEP participants and also to plan some of the strategies for the COP21 meeting in Paris.

Jill was the only one of the delegation that had previously been to Tuvalu. Jill made the observation: “When I visited Tuvalu in 2011, I was shocked to see the huge boro pits dug out by the Americans during World War 11 so they could build the runway as part of their war in the Pacific against the Japanese and then, despite numerous promises to restore and remediate the land, left it to become fetid mosquito- breeding, land-depleting eyesores. The poorest of poor squatters chose to live on these unhealthy pits”. During this visit we discovered that the NZ Government has funded the filling of these boro pits and an Australian company is restoring to Tuvalu its precious land area.



Phil Glendenning, Jill Finnane and Marita McInerney with Prime Minister Enele Sapoanga of Tuvalu and Maina Talia of Kirican

'People are amazed, birds are coming back, we can hear the singing, green grass has started to grow. People will gradually be able to build houses on the filled area.' (Prime Minister). Another observation we encountered everywhere we went was the enthusiastic comments about the leadership of Prime Minister Enele Sapoaga.

Overall the trip was a very worthwhile excursion. Meetings were held with the Prime Minister, the Governor General, the Metrological Office, the Environment Minister and the Church Women's Fellowship Group with whom we met twice. They told us the fellowship existed to empower the women. They believe more people are facing up to climate change now. After the cyclone which affected the outer islands badly – the women were facing huge problems including water acquisition and growing food for the family. They would like a program like KATEP for the older women so they can pass the information onto the younger generation. A highlight of the trip was a visit to one of the 28 islets which surround the lagoon, Fuelefa or 'Island of Stone. Sam, who guided the boat through tricky conditions, spear-fished for our lunch, and then cooked it, climbed the coconut tree, and then prepared the coconuts for drinking and eating, could only be described as 'at one with the sea'.

### **Further Political Lobbying**

18 and 21.11: Round Table Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP and President Anote Tong attended by Jill and Phil Glendenning.

### **UN Paris Climate Change Conference: COP21 25.11 - 13.12**

A delegation from the Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP) attended the international climate conference COP21 in Paris in December 2015. The delegation consisted of Maina Talia and Pulafagu Toafa from Tuvalu, Tinaai Teaua and Rae Bainteti from Kiribati, Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang formerly from Kiribati – now from Australia, and Phil Glendenning and Jill Finnane from Australia. Island delegates were chosen by KiriCAN and TuCAN and PCP organised all logistics.



Phil Glendenning with President Anote Tong and Prime Minister Enele Sopoanga

The delegation's main role was to find opportunities for the five Pacific islanders to speak out and be heard by the international community while at the same time developing their experience and expertise as international climate justice ambassadors. It also aimed to cooperate with Kiribati and Tuvalu government delegations and help raise the profile of the Coalition of Atoll Nations (CANCC).

**Achieving the aims of the delegation** proved easier than we expected. Even before we arrived in Paris we had been asked to take part in several key Side Events, a television show, a film and had received offers from two big organisations to help with getting us access to the media. Every day, emails arrived asking for people to be available for media interviews, another Side Event or to meet with us for further planning.

Within the first few days the island delegates had already worked with French, US, Germany, Chinese, UK and Canadian Media. There were regular requests too from members of the Coalition of Atoll Nations to attend and support events, media conferences and other initiatives they were putting on.

**Examples:**

**TV session** filmed at COP21 featuring Maria Tiimon, Maina Talia, Tinaai Teaua and Robert Kay. Dr. Robert Kay is a scientist specialising in Climate Change in Coastal Regions. The topic Kiribati-Tuvalu Miami-Beach focuses on what is happening now in these countries.

<http://climatematters.tv/kiribati-tuvalu-miami-beach/>

**UNHCR Panel:** Rae Bainteiti was asked by the UNHCR to present on a panel explaining climate change displacement from a Pacific perspective.

**'Movement of Peoples' Side Event:** Rae and Tinaai were asked to contribute to this.

**Joint NGO Side Event:** Tinaai Teaua was a youth representative at an international NGO function and Side Event in the second week of COP convened by the French NGO 'Acting for Life'

**Tuvalu Side event 'It's about our very survival'.** Maina organised this Side Event for TuCAN and Phil introduced the two heads of state Mr Enele Sapoaga, Prime minister of Tuvalu and Mr Anote Tong President of Kiribati.

**Loss and Damage who should pay?** Maina was a presenter at this Side Event organised by the Climate Justice Program.

**Documentaries:** Maria Tiimon and Pula Toafa will appear in a documentary being shot by an international media organisation regarding the experience of being in Paris for COP. Several of us especially Tinaai also contributed to another documentary being filmed by a British film maker. Rae starred in a short film being shot by a US film maker.

**PCP put out two media releases during the COP:**

Sydney, Tuesday, 1st December 2015

COP21 Paris: Australia fails on real increase in support for most climate-vulnerable neighbours.

Sydney, Thurs, 3rd December 2015

"At Paris COP21 Australians stand with Leaders of Pacific's most climate-vulnerable nations."

**Radio and Newspaper:** Delegation members were interviewed several times by international media during the COP and by Radio National after the end of COP.

**Meeting Bill Shorten:** PCP members met the leader of the Australian Opposition Mr Bill Shorten who was also attending the COP21.

## **Maria's Germany Trip Post COP 13.12. – 19.12**

Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang was invited to do a speaking tour of Germany following the COP in order to raise awareness about the effects of climate change on low-lying islands and to update people on the outcomes of the Paris COP21 from the perspective of the Pacific Islands.

The Pazifik-Netzwerk were the hosting group and the first day in Bremen Maria met with four members who had visited the Pacific, and one of them had been to Kiribati and conducted research on 'migration with dignity'.

Maria presented to a Regional Group of Pazifik-Netzwerk and to a Berlin member group. In the discussion following the Regional Group Maria discovered that a lot of Germans were very skeptical about the outcome of Paris. Germany is a developed country that has more positive policies towards climate change and a lot of actions on the ground to combat climate change.

Maria presented at both the University of Hamburg and the University of Munster. At Munster University the room was packed and more than 30 students were keen to learn about Kiribati and the Pacific. After the workshop, they told Maria that they are now thinking about



Maria Tiimon in Germany with the Pacific Network

forming a German youth climate movement. Maria found this group very inspiring and it was the highlight of her trip.

Maria was interviewed by Greenpeace media followed by a discussion with Greenpeace Germany on the outcome of Paris. Maria was also interviewed by European News and the National News. The article in the National News was published after she left.

Maria feels that the most significant achievement of her week in Germany was being able to help German people understand the perspective of the Pacific Islands on the Paris Declaration.

## **Campaign to Support the Candidacy of President Anote Tong for the Nobel Peace Prize 2015**

The Campaign to Support the Candidacy of President Anote Tong from Kiribati for the Nobel Peace prize continued into 2015. Regular meetings were held to further the campaign both internationally and here in Australia. Through our letter writing campaign and through the Tong campaign web site and Facebook page we enlisted the support and endorsement of people both here and overseas including politicians, NGO's, church groups and the general public. Media coverage towards the end of the campaign was stepped up with feature articles and news items covering the story.

The announcement of the successful candidate/s was made on 9 October and although President Tong was unsuccessful PCP felt that we were able, through the campaign to

promote and highlight the devastating real life consequences of climate change for Pacific Island Nations such as Kiribati and Tuvalu. Together with this we felt we were able to raise the profile of President Tong internationally. As President Tong himself stated in his 2012 address to the annual UN General Assembly in New York “**We need compassionate, visionary and responsible leadership at this time to direct our path towards a more secure and just future. We owe it to our children and their children's children to act and to act soon.**”

## **Pacific Congregations**

### **Towards achieving a congregational voice on climate change and Pacific Islands - especially the most vulnerable.**

This year several Catholic religious congregations that have strong ties with Pacific Islands began coming together under the banner of the Pacific Calling Partnership to explore ways towards achieving a congregational voice on climate change and Pacific Islands- especially the most vulnerable. They first met in March and had six meetings in the lead up to an October event.

The event entitled ‘**Pope Francis, us, and our common home in the Pacific**’ was held on the Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Del Monte School Hall. The event was an overwhelming success with over one hundred enthusiastic people attending.

Opening Prayer by Jill Shirvington, Acknowledgement of country. Ken Ralph OP (Dominican Laity), Facilitator Jan Barnett rsj, speakers Claude Mostowik msc, Joanne Fitzsimons osc, Tereaa Tebaia OP (Solomon Islands), OLSH Congregation ‘One Congregation’s New Climate Change Direction and Stories from Pacific Islands- Kaitakke FDNSC, Maria FDNSC, Bina FDNSC, Phillipa FDNSC and Lorraine FDNSC, Maria from PCP, Geraldine Kearney sgs.

Congregations included: Dominican Sisters, Missionary Sisters of Mary, Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Marist Fathers, Franciscan Friars, Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and PNG, Christian Brothers, Presentation Sisters, Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

## **Edmund Rice Centre Green Team**

The Green Team which currently has five members meets on an irregular basis and aims to ensure the practices of the Edmund Rice Centre are maintained in a sustainable fashion.

In 2015 one of the main achievements was the research and persuasion of ERC Management to change Electricity Suppliers. The company Simply Energy was the supplier and this was transferred to Diamond Energy effective as from April 2016. Diamond Energy supplies energy from 100% renewable sources.

Other tasks that the Green Team monitor are:

- Encouragement of recycling
- Compost and worm farm
- Electricity use: Air-conditioning and lights use controlled

## **Intern Involvement**

Keenan Willis was an American Intern from Oberlin College in New York State who worked with PCP for three weeks from 26 October till 20 November. His paper submitted following his time at the Edmund Rice Centre entitled: ‘Climate Justice for Pacific Islanders: A Practicum with the Pacific Calling Partnership’ was a wonderful example of what can be

achieved in an internship if you are motivated. The following is an excerpt from his paper's abstract:

*I worked on spreading awareness and education about the effects of climate change in the Pacific Islands. I also did research on the Pacific Calling Partnership to learn about how the organization works and to see how I could apply my findings back home in the U.S. The main focus of my study was to examine ways to promote climate justice in the Pacific Islands. I did background research on the effects of climate change in the Pacific, controversies with the term "climate change refugees," principles of climate justice, and Pacific and international action to combat climate change. During my practicum, I mostly worked on spreading awareness through the Pacific Catholic Partnership's Facebook page. I posted articles, photos, and videos from various sources, including the PCP, to bring people's attention to issues of climate change in the Pacific. I did research on the viewpoints of Kiribati and Tuvalu, two Pacific Island nations, for the upcoming Paris Climate Conference in December, COP21. I also went to workshops and did my own talk at the Edmund Rice Centre about the connections between environmental justice in America and climate justice in the Pacific Islands'*



### **Community, School, University and Professional Education**

- **In the wake of the Pope's encyclical Laudato Si'**, PCP was invited to address important bodies in Catholic circles and to take part in networking meetings. The work of PCP is encouraged by the whole encyclical but especially its message that 'Today, however, we have to realise that a true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*' LS 49
- 15 August Australian Catholic Social Justice Council presentation by Maria, Jill and Tibareu
- 17-19 August ACU Conference Melbourne; Maria's presentation 'Tread Lightly on the Earth'
- 17 August PCP was invited to attend a CARITAS event at Parliament House Canberra. Sr Tibwau Matia sgs, Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang and Jill Finnane attended. As a key speaker, Maria provided a most moving speech to the Papal Nuncio and a large number of Catholic leaders (including members of congregations), some other Christian leaders, and the seven Members of Parliament (6 Labor and 1 Green): <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/newsroom/news-detail?ID=203a5513-9632-47eb-8e6f-0649ab0db545>.
- 20 August Edmund Rice Schools Middle Managers- presentations by Jill and Maria at ERC
- 28 August Mercy College Chatswood students- presentations by Vincent and Maria at ERC
- 24 August Jill and Marita Meeting with Isaac and Blair 350.org
- 25 August Jill attended talk at Town Hall entitled: 'The Politics of Climate Change'
- 2 September Pius X students Maria presentations on Climate Change in the Pacific at Chatswood
- 7 September consultation with PCP Team by Robert Vincin entitled: 'Emissions Sinks'
- 12 October Maria's presentation at ParraCAN
- 15 October CANA AGM Maria and Jill attended



- 16 October Independent Education Union Conference. Vince attended and had a stand advertising School Workshops
- 17 October Lochinvar Seminar Jill Finnane – Keynote speech and workshops on perspectives on ‘Laudato Si’ Pope Francis Encyclical Letter on Ecology and Climate.
- 12 November St. Edwards College Maria, Keenan Willis and Vincent “Global Warming and the Pacific ‘.
- 28 November Vincent Sicari, Ellie Johnston and Marita McInerney of Pacific Calling Partnership attended the great Sydney climate march in solidarity with our Pacific brothers and sisters. Some 50,000 people attended.
- 1December Human Rights and Arts Film Festival Melbourne. Maria and Phil Glendenning on Panel.

## **Cooperation with Other Agencies**

- Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TuCAN)
- Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN)
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC)
- Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes NSW (CLRI) - Social Justice Committee
- OXFAM Australia.
- Schools: In particular Mercy and Edmund Rice Schools
- Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)
- Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)
- Edmund Rice International (ERI)
- 350.org
- One Million Women
- NSW Council for Pacific Communities
- Edmund Rice Centre New Zealand

## **Media and Communications**

### **Media and Media Releases**

- **27 April** A delegation of young Pacific Island leaders visit Wollongong
- **6 May** Pacific island leaders journey from Kiribati and Tuvalu to southeast Sydney for climate change action *Southern Courier, Daily Telegraph City East*  
<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/city-east/pacific-island-leaders-journey-from-kiribati-and-tuvalu-to-southeast-sydney-for-climate-change-action/news-story/035f73216a537c8538da7d4c6d84491d>
- **7 May** A delegation of young Pacific Island leaders meet with local member of parliament Craig Laundry
- **14 August** Shocked Pacific Islander fears for the future of her country in the wake of Australia’s minimalist approach to climate commitments
- **17 August** Maria was interviewed on Radio 666 Canberra. Maria worked with Caritas Negaya Chorley (advocacy) and Nicole Clements (Media).
- **18 August** Interview with Maria entitled: *'Will Australia rescue the sinking Pacific countries?'* on Radio National Breakfast and that evening on the Religion and Ethics Report.

- **1 December** COP21 Paris: Australia fails on real increase in support for most climate-vulnerable neighbours.
- **3 December** At Paris COP21 Australians stand with Leaders of Pacific's most climate-vulnerable nations.

## Digital Media

- **Facebook**  
The Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP) has one page which has had almost 691 '*likes*' and a group which has had almost 2000 '*members*'. Facebook is useful for PCP to put out important documents or articles on climate change in the Pacific. Facebook is an easy way for young Pacific Islanders who are passionate on climate change to voice their concerns and share their stories on how climate change in the Pacific is affecting their livelihood.
- **PCP Mailing List** continues to receive fortnightly updates, news and calls to action.
- **Website:** Under Review
- **You-tube:** At COP21 23-year-old PCP delegate Tinaai Teaua from Kiribati talked on YouTube about the impacts climate change is already having on her home:  
<http://youtu.be/tYfoNFBRZqs>
- **You-tube:** At COP21 a video featuring PCP delegate Itinterunga Rae Bainteiti of KCCN was published on Dec 4, 2015 on what happens when you cannot adapt to rising sea levels. Youth leaders are recognizing that mitigation and adaptation may not be enough. Rae calls upon world leaders to support a robust loss and damage mechanism in the final text of the COP21 Paris Agreement:  
[https://youtu.be/MszU\\_PJxEs8](https://youtu.be/MszU_PJxEs8)
- **You-tube** Reflections on COP21, Paris as seen through the eyes of the PCP's delegation  
Phil Glendenning [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_9bdZ76g3Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_9bdZ76g3Q)  
Jill Finnane <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiqWI9cn988>  
Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXPuubQbGdA&feature=youtu.be>

**Thank you sincerely to all our supporters, donors and partners and all of our team, many of whom are volunteers.  
A special thanks to all our Pacific Island partners and contacts.**