



Responding to climate change in partnership with our Pacific Island neighbours

Patrons: Mrs Bonita Mabo and Most Rev Bishop Peter Ingham

Video a testament to the “Resilient Leaders from Kiribati.”

Nate Palmer is a documentary filmmaker from Washington DC, whose work focuses on issues of social justice, often through the lens of sports and arts. He has been living and working in Sydney for the past two years and is a volunteer at the Pacific Calling Partnership. Below, he introduces [his video](#) made to celebrate the resilient leaders from Kiribati.

In February, the Pacific Calling Partnership hosted eight professionals from Kiribati for the Australian Awards Fellowship Program, which was funded by the Australian Government. [This short video](#) documents a snippet of the leadership program, ‘Resilient Leaders: Leading in Challenging Contexts.’ Sitting in on sessions with the group was a privilege and gave me the chance to get to know the Fellows.

The group visited Canberra to meet with Members of Parliament and went to Newcastle to see the coal mines that have contributed to the challenges the people of Kiribati and these leaders face at home. The group also toured Sydney Harbour and went to a talk on Climate Change at the Opera House.

Each fellow constructed an action plan that they would carry out upon returning to Kiribati. Their projects ranged from working to improve English proficiency in schools to developing more efficient systems of managing waste to getting more women involved in sports. It was inspiring to hear the creative ideas that were aimed at one goal: to improve the quality of life for the people of Kiribati. I hope [this video](#) serves as a testament to the hard work that these fellows did during the program and continue to do on the ground in Kiribati.

[You can watch Nate's video here.](#)



A good news story

On May 30 the Australian Government signed a AU\$12 million dollar agreement with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). In signing the agreement, the government formalised its ongoing commitment toward providing core support for SPREP's sustainable development programs for its 21 Pacific island Members over the next three years.

The new agreement builds on Australia's current support to the regional organisation's practical programs in the Pacific which are aimed at protecting island and ocean ecosystems, encouraging sustainable development, assisting in climate change adaptation and improving the management of solid waste.

SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, said "Australia has maintained a strong partnership with SPREP and its Pacific Island Members, ensuring that SPREP is able to continue to support and provide key services to the region. SPREP applauds and thanks the Australian Government for its commitment in the environment and livelihoods of the Pacific people."

The PCP congratulates the Australian Government on its renewed commitment to SPREP and its programs in the Pacific.

Hope for Whole An ebook by poets who speak up to Adani

Ah Goldman Sachs, the iron grip of incessant
barter, money, shiny pieces. Ah the confluence
of degradation and entitlement.
See this ecstatic ocean, its birds, swells,
sea air that was essence, sweet with perfect salt,
washing living coral, breathing.

See these misguided leaders, floundering,
ethics washed away in a mounting tsunami
of dollars and disgust, pallid, unseasoned.

By Linda Stevenson

This poem is taken from the *Hope for Whole* eBook which arises from the [Poets Speak up to Adani Day of Action](#) and includes the poets who took part that day and many more. It is edited by Anne Elvey from <https://plumwoodmountain.com/hope-for-whole-ebook/>

Notes from a festival of minds

Inspiracy 2 17 -20 May

A climate for change. A festival of imagination and hope for the common good.

Reported by Ellie Johnston and Tebeio Tamton



Tebeio speaking at Inspiracy 2 with Thea Omerod, left and Dr Mick Pope, right.

Phil Glendenning and Tebeio Tamton were invited to speak and present at Newcastle's second annual *Inspiracy Festival*. Phil was a key note speaker and spoke on the Festival theme "Working for the Common Good – the challenge and hope for Australia and its citizens".

The Festival represented a great diversity of people interested in exploring the themes of justice, climate change and spirituality. PCP team member Tebeio Tamton, a Kiribati man in Australia studying a Masters in Food Science participated in a panel discussion alongside Thea Omerod, President of ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change) and Dr Mick Pope who lectures in Meteorology and Climate at Monash University.

Tebeio's personal experiences and powerful story amplified PCP's calls and pleas from people in Kiribati and Tuvalu that are most vulnerable to impacts of climate change.

Tebeio also presented a workshop *Pacific Climate Change Responses* where he highlighted the challenges for his island nation Kiribati. Interestingly, attendees had little prior knowledge about climate change in Kiribati. The workshop gave them knowledge and a greater understanding of the effects of climate change on Pacific island nations such as Kiribati:

- change in weather patterns, sea level rise, increased storm activity, all of which affect the environment and the people of Kiribati,
- and more importantly, the actions and works that have been done by the government and local community to cope with the effects of climate change such as adaptation and mitigation measures. These included works associated with building resilience to the devastating impacts of climate change such as rainwater harvesting, mangrove planting, solar energy usage and maintenance of essential infrastructure such as causeways and seawalls.



Margaret Tekiau, Tebeio Tamton and Ellie Johnston at the Festival



Copyright © 2018 Pacific Calling Partnership, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

