



Responding to climate change in partnership with our Pacific Island neighbours

Patrons: Mrs Bonita Mabo and Most Rev Bishop Peter Ingham

Welcome to our October email newsletter full of interesting articles and stories from the front line of climate change both here in Australia and overseas. This is our last newsletter before our delegation heads to Cop 23 in Bonn, Germany.



The PCP delegation to COP 23, the UN Climate Conference in Bonn, Germany in November 2017 is excitedly preparing to attend the conference. This year the conference is co-hosted by the Fiji Government so the Pacific presence will be very visible and outspoken about the effects of climate change on their islands.

But we need your help.

There are significant costs involved in making this happen, such as flights, accommodation, transport and meals. Any donation you can make will help support the delegation.

You can donate:

- Online via our [secure website](#) or secure [crowdfunding page](#);
- By making a **cheque payable to Edmund Rice Centre for Justice**; or
- Making a direct deposit to: Account Name ERC for Justice **BSB 062 128 Account**

Help sponsor the Pacific delegation

Our delegation this year consists of the following people:

- **Aso Ioapo**, from Funafuti, Tuvalu. He is the Program Officer for Peace and Justice with the Congregational Church of Tuvalu. *“This is a great opportunity to learn and share my experiences on climate change as a boy who grew up in the Pacific Islands.”*
- **Kuata Taumaheke**, mother of 4 who works for the Tuvalu Media Department. *“I am so glad that I am representing my people back home. Climate change is Tuvalu’s worst enemy. After Tropical Cyclone Pam, entire islets just vanished. The hungry sea took it away and I believe that in years to come more islets will vanish. During a strong wind or strong surge a wave can come from the ocean side all the way to the lagoon side, which is very dangerous. We don’t want to relocate. We want to stay in Tuvalu.We were born there and raised there.”*
- **Vasiti Tebamare**, is an inspirational ambassador for her island nation of Kiribati. Vasiti founded the Kiribati Health Retreat Association (KHRA) with Tinaai Teaua and works closely with KiriCAN (Kiribati Climate Action Network).
- **Erietera Aram**, from Tarawa, Kiribati, is a volunteer coordinator for the International Coastal Cleanup in Tarawa, Kiribati. *“I have two children, a son and daughter. Every year my wife and I talk about leaving Kiribati and moving to another country, to give our children more opportunities. But we and our children are i-Kiribati, Kiribati is our home, it has our language, traditions, culture and we don’t want to lose it.”*
- **Father Martin Everi**. Father Martin is a MSC chaplain and assistant parish priest at St Paul's Catholic Communications Centre, Tarawa, Kiribati. *“Since climate change has been considered the most threatening ecological issue of our time, this should be integrated in an emerging eco-spirituality in the Pacific.”*
- **Phil Glendenning**, Director, Edmund Rice Centre
- **Maria Tiimon Chi Fang**, Pacific Outreach Officer for Pacific Calling Partnership
- **Jill Finnane**, Coordinator of PCP
- **Vincent Sicari**, Project Officer PCP.

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Tuvalu leader responds to Tony Abbott

Following Tony Abbot's outrageous assertions about climate change, the President of Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga has responded by describing climate change as like a weapon of mass destruction and telling Mr Abbott "Come see for yourself".

[Read Mr Sopoaga's comments](#)

[Read our Media Release](#)



Kiribati delegation July/August 2017

Dr Usha Harris, *media and communication academic at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia* was a participant in a PCP delegation of key people to Kiribati in July/August. She writes “In July this year I had the opportunity to visit Kiribati for the first time as part of an Australian delegation organised by Pacific Calling Partnership and hosted by KiriCAN (Kiribati Climate Action Network).

[Read the report](#)

Anote Tong

The former President of Kiribati, Anote Tong wrote recently in The Spinoff , a NZ online magazine “No country or people are immune to the impacts (of climate change) of what is happening. There is no negotiating with nature on how it should respond to the abuses we continue to pile upon her fragile system. The diversity of the landscapes for which New Zealand (and Australia!) is so blessed and the source of her unique beauty are without doubt being threatened.

[Read the article](#)

USA Intern Connor Fair



Connor Fair who was a recent USA intern with PCP has composed, performed and produced a music video to promote awareness of climate change.



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