



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 August 2019 Newsletter



# The Pacific Islands Forum

Pacific Calling Partnership is delighted to report that the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, Phil Glendenning, will be attending this year's Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) together with Dr. Simon Bradshaw of Oxfam and Claire Anterea (pictured above) of the Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN). This year's meeting will be in Funafuti, the capital of Tuvalu, and will be hosted by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Mr Enele Sopoaga. The meeting, beginning on 13<sup>th</sup> of August, will again highlight the challenges facing the region especially in relation to what has been described as "the existential issue" of climate change. It will be a test for Australian climate policy as the Pacific is likely to seek additional commitment from Australia to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and to limit the mining and export of coal. Recently [a strong declaration](#) was signed by members of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, requesting more action on climate change from Australia.

The urgency of the matter for the world as a whole was recently highlighted by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which painted a dire picture of a future world impacted by rising seas and other climate related natural disasters. The paper emphasised that limiting warming to 1.5°C would require "unprecedented" action by the world community and would require immediate action for deep cuts to greenhouse gas emissions. The leaders of the Pacific Islands have repeatedly said that they regard climate change as "the single greatest threat" to the well-being of their people and have sought assurances from the Australian government that they will do everything in their power to provide the leadership the region so desperately requires.

Phil will be meeting with our recent Tuvaluan KATEP (Kiribati Australia Tuvalu Exchange Program) participants, Litia Homasi and Nipah Lusama, who are working through TuCAN (Tuvalu Climate Action Network) to put together an event focused on climate change alongside the PIF. It is also hoped that Phil, Simon and Claire will have the opportunity to engage with Australian and Pacific leaders and the international press. Pacific Calling Partnership will keep you informed. Follow our [facebook page](#) for

regular up-dates heading into, and during, the PIF.

## A New Volunteer Position Created

As a result of increasing work-loads (and ambition!), the Pacific Calling Partnership has recently advertised for a volunteer to join the team at the Edmund Rice Centre. We are excited at the prospect of expanding the team which will give us the additional resources needed to more adequately confront the challenges of the climate emergency as it affects our most vulnerable neighbours in the Pacific.

We are looking for a volunteer Project Officer 2 days/week that can help with the many tasks that we deal with on a day to day basis including awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives, writing media briefings, helping with PCP fundraising activities, and delivering adult education programs on climate leadership and advocacy. If you have passion in your heart and time on your hands, you might like to check out the full position description at [ethical jobs](#) or on our [facebook page](#).

## The Global Climate Strike

The Edmund Rice Centre, including Pacific Calling Partnership, will be shut on Friday 20 September 2019 in solidarity with the young people at [School Strike 4 Climate](#) who have organised the Global Climate Strike. This will enable our staff to attend the strike in Sydney CBD.

You may have heard of this movement, founded by Greta Thunberg, a young Swedish student, who has been at the forefront of the fight to preserve a liveable planet for coming generations. This is a global event and there will be rallies across Australia, including all major cities. We encourage all our supporters to join us. Let us know if you wish to join our group or if you would like to travel with us to Sydney (location to be confirmed).

