

# ACT JUSTLY

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### ***A Pilot Program to Soar in the Future: the Kiribati Australia Tuvalu Exchange Program*** by Edmund Rice Centre

The pilot project for the Kiribati Australia Tuvalu Exchange Program (KATEP) took place in Sydney and Canberra between May 19 to June 4 2014. The young leaders met with parliamentarians, church and community leaders, and school groups. Their powerful testimonies presented in word, song and dance were covered extensively on national radio, television and in newspapers.

The young leaders arrived home on World Environment Day June 5th, relevant because the theme this year raises a call for solidarity with Small Island Developing States in the face of their vulnerability to climate change.

Spokesperson for the group, Maina Talia from Tuvalu said “The highlight of our time in Australia was the trip to Canberra where we met with many members of Parliament and presented our cultures and stories to the media”.

“The advocacy and media training really prepared us to meet the politicians and will help us with future advocacy for climate justice”.

“We did not come here to put the blame on Australians. We came to ask Australians as our neighbour and big brother to be a sign post to other industrialised countries.”

Now we are leaving Australia we want to ask the Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, to rethink his Government’s climate change policies, and take the lead on climate change action,” Mr Talia said.

“We ask all the Australians who have heard us to remember our stories. Please do not forget our nations of Kiribati and Tuvalu. These are our homelands. We were born there and we want to die there, in the place of our family and ancestors. We want our children to grow up as we grew up.

“However without urgent action internationally the future for our children is uncertain. Relocation of our people will not solve climate change”.

Coordinator of the Pacific Calling Partnership, an initiative of the Edmund Rice Centre, Jill Finnane said, “These young leaders have moved the hearts and minds of all the people they have met in Australia, not just through their powerful message about what is happening on their islands and their fear for the future but also with the refreshing dignity and heart they have shown to all”.

For more information about the program visit <http://www.erc.org.au/> or email [erc@erc.org.au](mailto:erc@erc.org.au).



*The first group to go through the Edmund Rice Centres new program. Provided*



# National Energy Efficiency Network - by Catholic Earthcare

Catholic Earthcare Australia was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in May, 2002 and received its present Mandate in May, 2003. It is an agency of the Catholic Bishops Commission for Justice and Development, Catholic Earthcare Australia's mission is to help promote understanding among people that Creation is sacred and endangered, and must be protected and sustained for present and future generations yet unborn.

To play its part in helping protect the integrity of creation and the health of Earth's inhabitants and life supporting ecosystems, Catholic Earthcare Australia is mandated, through the activities of research, education, advocacy and outreach, to give leadership in responding to Pope John Paul II's call for an "ecological conversion" of the world's Catholics.



*Catholic Earthcare director Jacqui Rémond and Brisbane's Archbishop Mark Coleridge at the NEEN launch in Brisbane on June 18.*

This year, Catholic Earthcare is launching the National Energy Efficiency Network (NEEN) to New South Wales not-for-profit & faith-based community organisations. The purpose of NEEN is to support small to medium sized community organisations in responding to the demands of a changing energy landscape.

The launch event includes an energy efficiency seminar, learning community workshop and a networking light lunch - providing guests with the opportunity to connect, share information and collaborate around energy efficiency & sustain-

ability opportunities. NEEN is a new initiative empowering faith-based and not-for-profit community organisations across Australia to become more energy efficient, resilient and sustainable into the future. To achieve this, NEEN is providing free access to:

- Energy efficiency information – relevant to the needs of the not-for-profit sector & unique industry profiles
- Audit tools and resources that inform & support change at an operational level
- A community of peers with whom you can share questions, strategies, outcomes or collaborate on energy efficiency projects

*Take good care of creation. St. Francis wanted that. People occasionally forgive, but nature never does. If we don't take care of the environment, there's no way of getting around it. - Pope Francis*

The #NEENNNSW Community launch will be held on Wednesday, 16th July 2014, from 9am to 2pm. The launch event will be held at Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street, Everleigh, NSW, 2015. Representatives from faith-based and not-for-profit community organisations, government & council representatives & energy industry professionals will be present. Supported with funding from the Department of Industry's Energy Efficiency Information Grants program, the purpose of NEEN is to inform and support the energy efficiency journey of organisations that nurture and service the community. Through increased efficiency the team hopes to reduce the power consumption of these organisations, in turn reducing emissions and freeing up funding for delivery of core programs.

Faith community representatives are welcome to register here for the launch event in Sydney on the 16th July. To attend, simple follow the link to the website: <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/neen-community-launch-sydney-tickets-11801054271> For more information about Catholic Earthcare Australia, visit [www.catholicearthcare.org.au/](http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au/)



## Civil Society 20 Report - by Phil Jones

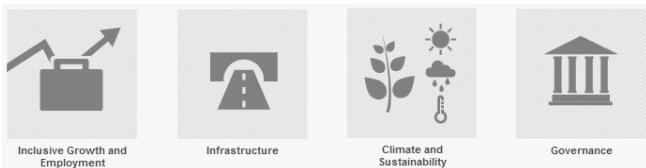
The C20 has completed its deliberations at a two day summit in Melbourne and passed its communiqué on to the Prime Minister, Mr Tony Abbott as part of the lead-up to the G20 to be held in Brisbane in November this year. The C20 (or ‘Civil Society 20’) is a platform for dialogue between the political leaders of G20 countries and representatives of civil society organisations. Through the C20, aid and development agencies, social service organisations, environment groups, volunteer organisations, faith based communities and carers can all have their say on what decisions they would like key world leaders to make. In many ways, the concerns of those present reflected those of the Church in its social justice mission.

Care for the voiceless and marginalised was the clear focus of the delegates and the recommendations of the communiqué. They included long-term sustainable growth, in ways that increase employment opportunities, alleviate poverty through the provision of social services, improve income distribution and not be at the expense of any sector of the population including women, people with disability, youth, Indigenous Peoples, children, long-term unemployed, low-skilled workers, single parents, LGBTI people and older members of the community. (Pope Francis would have been impressed).

At the end of the conference Dr Heather Smith, the Australian G20 Sherpa, (the high level government official charged with supporting the elected national leader through the G20 meeting), pointed out to the delegates that the world and national economies were still struggling to return to former levels of growth and that national governments had been given the task of presenting growth

strategies. She highlighted the need for tax reform to combat tax evasion and the need for transparency to mitigate corruption in finance so that inequalities and social inclusion can be improved. She paid tribute to activists who have brought these two issues to the attention of governments. In Australia the leadership of Mark Zirnsak from Uniting Justice and Claire Spores from Publish What You Pay (Oxfam), should be commended. She stressed the need, as did Tanya Plibersek, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development, for continued advocacy on the part of ordinary citizens to ensure the implementation of some of the more politically difficult decisions.

The call for “inclusive”, “sustainable” economic growth was echoed by representatives of the B20 (Business), Y20 (Youth), L20 (Labour) and the T20 (Think).



The notion that it is impossible to have unlimited growth on a finite planet was raised at the Conference, (a concern of some environmental groups), as was the need to plan for a transition to the Steady State Economy, however, it was not included in the final communiqué. What will happen as a result of the C20 only time can tell.

This report was contributed by Phil Jones – Convenor (but not spokesperson for) SJ Around the Bay

The C20 (or ‘Civil Society 20’) is a platform for dialogue between the political leaders of G20 countries and representatives of civil society organisations. Through the C20, civil society can have a say in the discussions shaping our global economy. Find our more here: [www.c20conversations.org.au/](http://www.c20conversations.org.au/)

## What's on around Sydney

### 14 July, SYDNEY IDEAS: GREEN SOCIAL WORK

**6:00pm—7:30pm, Law School Lecture theatre 026, Law School, Eastern Avenue, The University of Sydney.** Professor Lena Dominelli, Durham University, author of Green Social Work: From Environmental Crises to Environmental Justice, talks about her recommendations for transformative social change that upholds social work's commitment to equality, human rights, indigenous perspectives, social and environmental justice, and the equitable distribution of the earth's resources. Free event. RSVP 02 9351 2943.

### 22 July, THE POLITICAL ORIGINS OF GLOBAL JUSTICE

**6:00pm—7:30pm, Law School Foyer, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney.** Professor Samuel Moyn, James Bryce Professor of European Legal History, Columbia University, examines why philosophers today consider our social contract a potentially global affair: in a sharp break with the earlier theory of the social contract. Free event. RSVP to The University of Sydney on 02 9351 2943

### 25 July, THE MEDIEVAL WORLD OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**6:00pm—8:30pm, David Stewart Room, WEA Sydney, Ground Floor, 72 Bathurst Street, Sydney.** Almis Simans explores the world of Francis Bernadone and visits the hilltop town of Assisi. St Francis answered the call of Christ, "sell all you have and follow me" and was environmentally concerned, preaching to birds and befriending a wolf. Cost: \$48.00. Book at WEA Sydney on 9264 2781

### 19 August, AGEING, DEMENTIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**12:30pm—1:30pm, Australian Human Rights Commission, Lvl 3, 175 Pitt St, Sydney.** Professor Henry Brodaty AO, Scientia Professor of Ageing and Mental Health, Director of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre and Director of the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing at the University of NSW, speaks on ageing, dementia and human rights. RSVP at Australian Human Rights Commission on 02 9284 9600



### A MESSAGE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 28 September. This year's Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation'.

The Statement celebrates the place of sport in our national life, especially the way in which it brings individuals and communities together and contributes to our health and wellbeing. At the same time, the Statement challenges to look at sport's darker side – the potential for violence, abuse and corruption that blemish its image and disillusion those who love it most.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website [socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call 02 8306 3499.

We're looking for volunteers! If you are interested in offering your time and talents to the work of the office, contact our Justice and Peace Promoter, Fr. Peter Smith at [fr.peter.smith@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:fr.peter.smith@sydneycatholic.org)

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