

Welcome

This forum is held on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and we acknowledge them as Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may attend.

Our focus for today

The topic is critically important, as the 2019 report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made clear. The report offers a global perspective that is very difficult for any individual or nation to develop for themselves:

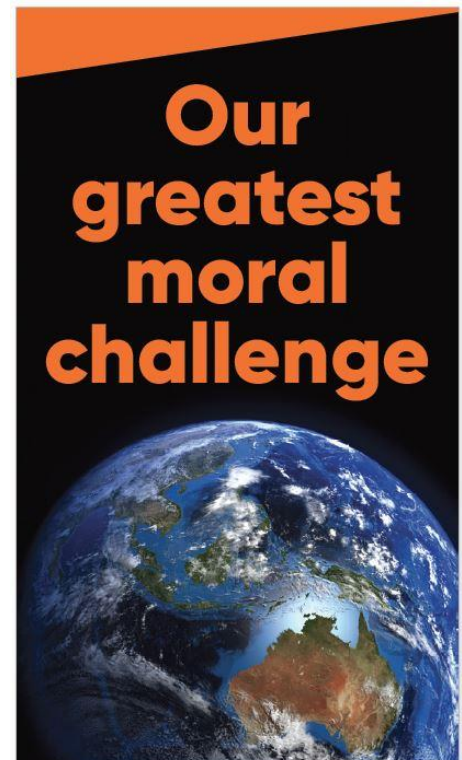
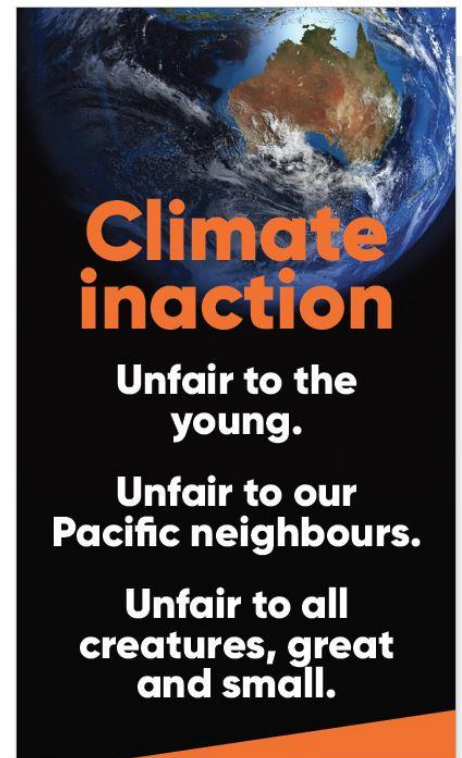
- Human life is affecting Earth in unprecedented ways, making dramatic changes to its systems.
- The scale of land use and loss of biodiversity are previously unknown in human history, with about two-thirds of the world's ice-free land now devoted to human use.
- Rapid increase in agriculture means that ecosystems, both forested and unforested, only account for about 16 per cent of Earth's land today.
- Earth's atmosphere continues to heat up, affecting the moisture carrying capacity of air, leading to extreme rainfall events and, in drought prone areas, heatwaves and increasingly severe drought.
- The current global temperature already puts us in the moderate to high risk zone, in categories such as water scarcity, soil erosion and permafrost degradation, increasing the likelihood of serious impacts such as food scarcity.

Our theme is that failure to act in response to the best scientific information available is socially unjust: it means ignoring the impact on young people whose futures will be deeply affected, disregarding the needs of poorer and more vulnerable communities, and treating other forms of life as expendable.

Thank you for attending. We hope you will be able to contribute to the discussion with our panel members and will gain something positive from the forum.

Recording and sharing

The event will be recorded and streamed on Facebook. For the purposes of our documentation, photographs may be taken. If you do not wish to appear on videorecording or in photographs, please let our staff know.



Banners on the front of All Saints Northcote: Johanna Villani Design

The Rev'd Alexandra Sangster

The Rev'd Alex Sangster has been working as a Minister of the Word with the Uniting Church in Australia for over 15 years and as an actor and facilitator for over 20. She has taught at the National Theatre, The Center for Theology and Ministry and Whitley College and has facilitated many retreats and workshops, in both corporate and community sectors, designed to awaken, inspire and challenge. She is passionate about breaking open Story in ways that liberate, inspire and awaken and in ways which create connections with the emerging church and those who are spiritually hungry but culturally anti-institution. Alex is an actor and facilitator with Melbourne Playback Theatre Company, and is the author of *The Mystic Bible*, a theologically progressive Gospel for children published and sold by both the Victorian and American Progressive Christian networks. She is a dynamic and powerful worship leader and preacher, and the creator of Progressive Pods, available at www.emergingchurch.net.au/progressive-christian-podcast/



Dr John Hewson AM



Educated in Australia, Canada and the US, John Hewson is one of Australia's most distinguished economists and finance experts, with a career spanning academia, business, politics, the media, and charitable activity. Formerly a Professor of Economics at UNSW and Professor of Management at Macquarie Graduate School of Management, he is now a Professorial Fellow at the Crawford School, ANU. Before and after politics he pursued extensive business activity, including consultancy to major banks and financial institutions and chairmanship/directorship of a large range of companies, including Macquarie Bank. After some years as Chief of Staff and advisor to two Federal Treasurers and Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, his political career took him to the leadership of the Liberal Party and the Federal Opposition. His media activities as columnist, contributor and radio and television commentator have stretched over nearly forty years. He is founder or patron of a number of major charities. He has received numerous forms of professional recognition, including Member in the Order of Australia, for service to business and economics, to the Australian Parliament and politics, and to the community. Since 1993, when his Fightback policy included a 20 per cent target for emissions reduction, Dr Hewson has championed sustainable development and recognised both the seriousness of the climate challenge and the opportunities for response, starting enterprises in recycling, energy efficiency, alternative fuels, batteries and heat storage. He has been Chair of the National Business Leaders' Forum on Sustainable Development, was a member of the SA Expert Panel on the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy, is Patron of the Solar Council and Chair of BioEnergy Australia. He has argued that climate change is a moral issue that calls for behavioural change – in individuals, in businesses, and across the whole society.

Anjali Sharma

Anjali Sharma is a youth climate striker who was involved in organising this year's incredibly successful School Strike 4 Climate that saw 150,000 people take to the streets to call on the government for concrete action and plans to tackle the fast-approaching climate crisis. She has been a lifelong advocate for climate action and is particularly concerned with the matter of climate justice and ensuring that those less equipped to deal with the effects of global warming receive sufficient assistance and support. Anjali's role within the School Strike 4 Climate organising team is to lobby politicians and have discussions about the impacts of climate change on Australia as well as marginalised countries, and to try to find common ground and work towards solutions. This has led to her meeting with many politicians, including Richard di Natale, the leader of the Greens.



Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black

Jonathan has been the Rabbi at the Leo Baeck Centre in East Kew, Melbourne, since 2003. Thirty years ago he was considered a maverick when giving sermons about climate change! He built an 'Earth-Sheltered' (underground) house in London – cool in summer, warm in winter, light and bright and quiet and secure. He drove a compressed natural gas-powered (CNG) car (which never worked properly!). In Melbourne he built a seven star 'energy showhouse' and ran regular tours. Since 2003 he has driven hybrid cars but now has a 'plug-in hybrid' which, he explains, is a fully electric car for the first 30 km per



day and then an efficient hybrid, and the best car he's ever had. He feels it is important to put 'prayer into practice' and is strongly committed to Environmental and interfaith action. He co-founded the Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO), was a Board member of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), and has been very involved trying to stop Adani and working to switch to renewables. He was part of an hourly 'Funeral for Coal' ceremony outside Josh Frydenberg's office, leading to a meeting with him and other faith leaders. In 2016 Jonathan received a Diploma in Social Change and Sustainability.

Professor David Karoly

Currently Leader of the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub in the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program, based in the CSIRO, Professor David Karoly is an internationally recognised expert on climate change. He was a member during 2012–2017 of the Climate Change Authority, which advises the government on responding to climate change, including targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and is currently a member of the National Climate Science Advisory Committee. He contributed in several roles to the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, at the time the IPCC shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, and has received many forms of recognition for his outstanding contribution in the field of earth and climate sciences within Australia and internationally.



Dr Susan Ennis



Sue has taught English to newly arrived adult refugees/immigrants in Melbourne for several decades. Since teaching in 1989 in China and observing its then uncontrolled development, she has taken steps to reduce her carbon footprint. In 2012 she obtained a PhD then published a closely related book on *Religion, Spirituality and the Refugee Experience in Melbourne*. Her refugee research caused her to realise that many religious people across the world will probably view climate change via their religious meaning system and use their particular religious coping strategies. Beginning life as a Methodist, Sue later moved to the Uniting Church. At 19 she joined a social justice house church in Richmond and then Quakers. For nearly a decade she has been the secretary of Religions for Peace Victoria and/or Australia. Currently two State branches/affiliates and Sue in Victoria are presenting the ARRCC's Living the Change Initiative to religious groups: for more about this visit <https://religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au>

Organisers

This project was supported by funding from the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and organised by the Inner North Anglican Network, a collaboration between three local churches:

All Saints Northcote
www.allsaintsnorthcote.org.au

St Mark's Fitzroy
www.stmarksfitzroy.com

St Philip's Collingwood
www.stphilipscollingwood.org.au

Participating groups

A number of organisations have been invited to distribute information in association with this event, from information tables located at the rear side room of the venue. These include:

Australian Conservation Foundation Darebin
Australian Conservation Foundation Fitzroy
Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
Climate Choir
Darebin Climate Action Now
Extinction Rebellion – Darebin
Friends of the Earth
Stop Adani Cooper
Transition Darebin
Yarra Climate Action Now

Follow-up material

Unless you advise us otherwise, the email address you provided at the time of registration may be used to send any follow-up material offered during the forum. Your address will not be used for any other purpose and will not be shared with any third party. Please let the registration desk know if you do not wish to receive any follow-up material.

Refreshments

Vegan and vegetarian food is provided by the catering enterprise of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, along with soft drinks, tea and coffee. The ASRC provides training and employment for those who have sought refuge in Australia.

Health and safety

In the case of illness or accident, there is a First Aid officer in attendance to render assistance: please alert the nearest person identified as Staff. In an emergency, follow the instructions of the fire warden (yellow hard hat and hi-vis vest) and people identified as Staff, who will direct you to the assembly point. There are adequate Fire Exits and these are clearly marked.

