



News & Notes

Vol 29: Special Edition - Climate Summit Editor: Peter Airey



The UNAA World Environment Day Climate Summit

“One must care about a world one will not see.”

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)*

The Summit is a contribution to the UN World Environment Day; to the UN 70th Anniversary Seminar Series on Climate Change; and to the UNAA Climate Campaign 2015.

The Scientific Consensus

*The human influence on climate change is clear and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems - UN Climate Report 2014**.*

The Views of World Leaders and Heads of State (Page 2)

The Climate Summit

8:30 am to 4 pm Fri 5th June; Sydney Mint 10 Macquarie St Sydney

Opening: The Summit will be opened by a representative of Government (tbc)

Keynote Speakers: The following exciting speakers have accepted:

- ★ Mr Geoffrey Cousins AM, Chairman Australian Conservation Foundation
- ★ Mr Hugo Llorens, Consul General USA
- ★ Mr Kevin Petrini UNDP Regional Climate Change Specialist for the Pacific
- ★ Professor Leslie Hughes, Councillor, Climate Council
- ★ Holley Somerville-Knott brilliant young 11 year old environmentalist and artist

The Conference will conclude with an Open Discussion in which your views will be canvassed. The Report will comprise recommendations for Australia's negotiating position at the UN Climate Conference in Paris.

COSTS: \$155 (incl. a UNAA(NSW) membership); \$95 UNAA members, students, pensioners
The event is fully catered by the Mint.

BOOKINGS: Tribooking <http://www.trybooking.com/131744> (Other payment options: page 4)

Background: The build up of Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu March 2015.

* Quoted in "Convenient Action; Gujarat's Response to Climate Change" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

** "Climate Change 2014" UN Int Panel for Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report. Summary for Policy Makers SPM 1 (first observation). http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

Statements from World Leaders and Heads of Government

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

“This is the moral challenge of our generation. ... (S)ucceeding generations depend on us. We cannot rob our children of their future.”

“Our atmosphere can't tell the difference between emissions from an Asian factory, the exhaust from a North American SUV, or deforestation in South America or Africa,”

<http://www.global-greenhouse-warming.com/climatequotes.html>

His Holiness Pope Francis

“The effective struggle against global warming will only be possible with a responsible collective answer, that goes beyond particular interests and behaviour and is developed free of political and economic pressures” ... [On climate change], “there is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical imperative to act”... [The establishment of an international climate change treaty] “is a grave ethical and moral responsibility”.

<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-teachings/pope-francis/>

US President Barak Obama

Someday, our children, and our children's children, will look at us in the eye and they'll ask us, did we do all that we could when we had the chance to deal with this problem and leave them a cleaner, safe, more stable world?

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/energy/climate-change>

Chinese President Xi Jinping

“We agreed to make sure international climate change negotiations will reach agreement as scheduled at the Paris conference in 2015 and agreed to deepen practical co-operation on clean energy, environmental protection and other areas.”

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/12/china-and-us-make-carbon-pledge>

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Please refer to the book written by Mr Modi 'Convenient Action: Gujarat's Response to Challenges of Climate Change'

Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga

Climate Change is “already like a weapon of mass destruction, and the indications are all there .. We are not dealing with sovereignties any more - there are no boundaries to the effects of climate change. We are dealing with saving human lives - and therefore saving Tuvalu is also saving the world.” (Editor underlined)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-15/an-tuvalu-president-is-climate-change-27like-a-weapon-of-mass-/5672696>

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim

The World Bank Group works on climate change because it's a fundamental threat to development in our lifetime. We know that if we don't confront climate change, there will be no hope of ending poverty or boosting shared prosperity. Furthermore, the longer we delay in tackling climate change, the higher the cost will be to do the right thing for our planet and for our children.

<http://www.cfr.org/climate-change/world-bank-president-jim-yong-kim-economic-development-paris-climate-agreement/p35803>

Acknowledgments

The UNAA(NSW) is pleased to acknowledge the following:

The **Conference Coordinator** Amber Ferguson for her months of dedication to the Event;

All the speakers who so generously donated their time and expertise;

The **Volunteers** without whose help we could not have a Conference;

The Mint for the discount rate for the magnificent venue;

The **United Nations Information Centre** UNIC for a grant under the 70th Anniversary

UNAA Summit: Draft Program (subject to change)

- 08:30** Registration
- 09:00** Opening Ceremony
- 09:30** Keynote Lecture
Mr Kevin Petrini UNDP Regional
Climate Change Specialist/Pacific
- 10:15** Keynote lecture
Mr Geoffrey Cousins AM, Chairman
Australian Conservation
Foundation (ACF)
- 11:00** Morning Tea
- 11:15** Keynote lecture
Professor Leslie Hughes, Councillor
Climate Council
- 12:00** Keynote lecture
Mr Hugo Llorens, Consul General
United States
- 12:45** Lunch
- 13:30** Keynote Presentation
Holley Somerville-Knott, Young
Environmental activist and artist
- 14:15** Panel discussion
- 15:00** Afternoon Tea
- 15:15** Recommendations for Conference
report
- 16:00** Closing ceremony
- 16:15** Disperse

An informal get together for drinks and further discussion after the Conference is being organised.

Hope for the Future



In the words of 'One Green Planet' Holly Knott a highly talented 11 year old is on a Mission to Save the Planet. She has already raised funds and enhanced awareness for Rainfall Rescue, Australian Seabird Rescue, Wires and Rise of the Eco Warriors.

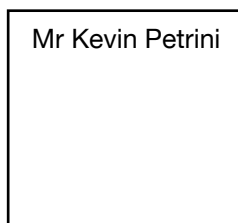
Keynote Speakers



Mr Geoffrey Cousins is President of the ACF. He is well known as a community leader, businessman, environmental activist and writer. He successfully opposed the Gunns Paper Mill in Tasmania. He founded the Starlight Children's Foundation in Australia and is currently Chairman of the St James Ethics Foundation.



Leslie Hughes is a Distinguished Professor within the Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University and an expert on the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. She is a Lead Author on the UN IPCC Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports; A Councillor of the Australia Climate Council; a Board member of WWF Australia; and a Board Member of 'One Million Women'.



Mr Kevin Petrini

Mr Kevin Petrini is the UNDP Regional Climate Change Specialist for the Pacific and is supporting the development of a Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific. He has worked widely throughout the Pacific most recently supporting the Government of Fiji in their climate negotiations. Kevin holds a Master of Science in Chemical Engineering and served for two years as US peace Corps Volunteer in rural Samoa.



Mr Hugo Llorens is the United States Consul General for NSW. He is a distinguished diplomat who has previously served at senior levels in Afghanistan, Latin America and Canada as well as at home.

**Pathway to Paris: Dec 2015
UN Climate Change Conference**

- 1979:** First global climate conference
- 1990:** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC releases first assessment report
- 1992:** Rio Earth Summit: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC signed
- 1997:** Kyoto Protocol adopted
- 2005:** Kyoto Protocol ratified. Encourages countries to reduce emissions by 5% over the period 2008 - 2012
- 2007:** Australia ratifies Kyoto
- 2009:** Copenhagen accord recognised the scientific view that any increase in global temperature should be kept below 2 deg C. The accord did not commit countries to a binding successor to the Kyoto Protocol.
- 2012:** Doha amendment extending the Kyoto Protocol to 2020; not yet ratified.
- 2014:** UN Climate Summit of world leaders
- 2014:** US-China deal (negotiated in secret) to reduce carbon emissions
- 2015:** Papal encyclical (foreshadowed)
- 2015:** UN Climate Conference, Paris with the goal of:

binding national commitments to limit a global temperature rise to less than 2 deg C

Observations on Climate Change

*Extracts from the UN IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: Technical Summary
http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5_TS_FINAL.pdf*

Global surface temperature: Each of the past three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any the previous decades in the instrumental record. There is high confidence that annual mean surface warming since the 20th century has reversed long-term cooling trends of the past 5000 years in mid-to-high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere (NH).

Sea level rise: It is virtually certain that over the 20th century sea level rose. The mean rate of sea level increase was 1.7 mm per year between 1901 and 2010 and this rate increased to 3.2 mm per year between 1993 and 2010.

Extreme climate: There is high confidence that the intensity of extreme precipitation events will increase with warming, at a rate well exceeding that of the mean precipitation.

Carbon dioxide The distribution of observed atmospheric CO₂ increases clearly shows that the increases are driven by anthropogenic emissions that occur primarily in the industrialised countries north of the equator.

Glaciers: There is very high confidence that glaciers world-wide are persistently shrinking.

Ice sheets: There is high confidence that the Antarctic ice sheet has been losing ice during the last two decades. The average rate of ice loss is likely increased from a sea level equivalent of 0.08 mm per year over the period 1992–2001, to 0.40 mm yr⁻¹ over the period 2002–2011

UNAA Climate Summit: Payment Options

1) Tribooking: <http://trybooking.com/131744>

2) Cheque or money order: Make payable to the UNAA(NSW) and post to the address below.

3) Credit card (Visa or Mastercard only)

Amount: \$.....

Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: __ / __

Name on card.....

4) Direct bank transfer: account name: United Nations Assoc of Aust NSW: Bank: Commonwealth

BSB: 062 734 account number: 2812 2520 Branch: 48 Martin Place Sydney NSW

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