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Date: Mon, 16 Nov 2020, 5:25 p.m.
Subject: Creation, Country & Climate: Thank You's and Next Steps...
To: Doing Justice <contact@doingjustice.org.au>

Peter Branjerdporn has shared a OneDrive for Business file with you. To view it, click the link below.

 [Creation Country Climate Intentions.docx](#)

Dear friends (if I may),

This email is to follow up the recent event 'Creation, Country and Climate' at St John's Cathedral. The email contains some belated public 'thank yous', and some links to things the speakers shared. At the end of the email there is also information about the ongoing Christian Climate Conversations which we invite you to be part of. The attached document includes some of the intentions you shared, and the recording from the night can be viewed and shared here: <https://youtu.be/G65fdom1r3E>

Thank You

First of all, thank you to Aunty Rose Elu, Aunty Alex Gator and Larissa Baldwin for storying with us. The organising team, which was made up of people from St John's Cathedral, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Tearfund Australia and myself, reflected afterwards how moving the event was. We noticed the clarity, courage, generosity of spirit, and the way the speakers gently but firmly challenged us to care for country and creation. At a time when our common home is imperilled – and when the work of healing Australia from ongoing colonisation and historical invasion remains undone – walking with First Nations people, drawing closer to place, and together caring for creation and country is surely core to following Christ? We pray we all have the courage and determination to continue to walk on the journey.

The organising team would also like to acknowledge the following groups who sponsored the event: Anglican Board of Mission; Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane; Common Grace; St John's Cathedral; Anglican Church Southern Queensland Social Responsibilities Committee; Angligrreen; Tearfund Australia; Queensland Churches Environment Network; Queensland Churches Together; Ecumenical Social Justice Group, Edmund Rice Centre, Five Leaf Eco Awards, St Francis Theological College and QARRCC.

While on the subject of thank you, a big thank you to all of you who participated. We had over 120 people join us online and in person. You came from across Queensland, from different parts of Australia, and even from overseas. Thank you for your patience as the team tried to make sure the tech was working. I know that for some of you the interface between the online and face-to-face event was less than ideal. We are sorry about that. We also had a team of facilitators standing by to facilitate small group conversations which we hope were enriching for most people. We are all on a steep learning curve as we experiment to make zoom and webinars more inclusive and participatory.

For people interested in learning more about what the speakers shared you might be interested in the following links:

1. The Torres Strait Islanders human rights claim against the Australian government over its inaction on climate: <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/press-office/press/climate-threatened-torres-strait-islanders-bring-human-rights-claim-against-australia/> . To support the claim and petition the Australian Government visit: <https://ourislandsourhome.com.au/>.
2. Wangan and Jagalingou Family Council's fight to protect their country from Adani's proposed Carmichael Coal mine: <https://wanganjagalingou.com.au>. Aunty Alex Gator is a member of the Council. Uncle Adrian Burragubba and his son Coedie McAvoy, who are also part of the Family Council, are currently on Jagalingou Country defending their land; land which has

never been ceded, not the Queensland State government or Adani. For more visit: <https://standing-our-ground.org> .

3. Larissa Baldwin's work as Campaign Director of Get Up's First Nations Team: <https://www.getup.org.au/media/releases/2020/07/getups-first-nations-justice-team-launches-ambitious-electoral-effort-in-the-nt/> To sign the petition visit: https://www.seedmob.org.au/ban_fracking. See also SEED Mob, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth climate network, which Larissa helped set up: <https://www.seedmob.org.au>

The attached document contains some of the intentions shared, many of which include concrete actions. Speaking of concrete actions, we would also like to encourage people to:

- Sign up to Common Grace who have programs on both climate, and justice with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. To become a member of Common Grace, a movement of people pursuing Jesus and justice, you can sign up here: <https://www.commongrace.org.au>. Common Grace's CEO, Brooke Prentis, is a proud Wakka-Wakka woman.
- Read Laudato Si by Pope Francis and to check out the work underway in Brisbane, as Roman Catholics (and universal catholics) seek live out Laudato Si and reconcile with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. For more visit: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/living-laudato-si/> .
- For those who feel drawn to taking nonviolent direct action with fellow followers of Jesus, please visit the recently formed Faith in Climate Action Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Faith-in-Climate-Action-103265781538302>
- Check out Tearfund Australia's excellent group learning resources on living faithfully in a changing climate: <https://www.tearfund.org.au/living-faithfully-in-a-changing-climate>
- Join Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) as they launch of the biggest-ever global faith-based "Sacred People, Sacred Earth" Day of Action for the Climate. Calling for a post-COVID recovery that delivers justice to the most marginalised and solutions to the climate emergency, the "Sacred People, Sacred Earth" Statement will

be launched on Wednesday 18 November 6pm Brisbane
Time: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/greenfaith-international-launch-day-of-action-australia-and-oceania>

Next Steps...

For those who have been part of the Christian Climate Conversations in, and for those who are interested, the next part of the journey will involve small group conversations about the ways in which the Church invests in and supports fossil fuels and damages our common home. For those who want to help understand and 'remove the lumps of coal in our own eyes' before 'removing the speck of dust in the eye of others' please contact me for a draft copy of our 'pillars' document. We welcome your input before it is finalised. As part of that process we will also be exploring small group conversations with leaders from different Christian churches. Do contact me if you are interested in being part of that.

The next large group Christian Climate Conversation will use Cynefin®, a framework for sense making developed by Dave Snowden. The intention is to observe what Christians in Queensland are doing on climate, discuss what needs encouraging, strengthening, and explore what is emerging that we need to pay attention to. The date of that event will be announced shortly.

For those curious about Cynefin® this short video by Jennifer Garvey Berger is helpful: <https://youtu.be/epXqgrm2hs4> . For people interested in a more technical explanation by Dave Snowden, who mostly developed cynefin you may want to visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7oz366X0-8> .

In peace and solidarity; and in love for our common home and the creator,

Jason MacLeod, on behalf of the organising team
(Quaker, Catholic and facilitator currently consulting with St John's Cathedral)

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I acknowledge the Yagarabul Nation as the First Peoples of the land I live, work and walk on.

I acknowledge their continued survival and spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky, water and sea.

And, I pay my respects to their Ancestors and Elders, past and present.



