



Watermark

Photo: bom.gov.au

Countering 'alternative facts'

This issue of *Watermark* looks beyond the apparent global plague of “fake news” that is attempting to undermine traditional information sources. “Alternative facts” are not new but when it comes to environmental and climate change, we have to challenge the climate change deniers and convert the sceptics. Time for conversations as the *Talanoa* program from the Pacific region encourages us to do.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

IFLA
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Graphic available from
International Federation of Library
Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
as a free download [here](#)

Embracing complexity to find solutions

Nigerian-born author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie introduced the concept of the “single story”: the tendency to uncritically embrace received wisdom, in a popular [TED talk](#). This influential talk has raised awareness that the “single story”, and its **inherent risks of limiting perspective**, applies to many of our beliefs.

Writing in [The Guardian \(3 April 2017\)](#), Judith D. Schwartz calls for a shift from focused despair over fossil fuel when it comes to slowing and stopping climate change.

“The more complex – and complete – story is that **water** can also have an effect on climate. And that this is activated by plants.” Schwartz quotes Australian farmer and author, Peter Andrews: “**Plants manage water. And in managing water, they manage heat.**” She adds that “we have de-vegetated a quarter of the planet, including destroying most of our natural forests.”

Managing our ecology better, creates opportunities. “We can envision solutions that better reflect the realities of climate and how the natural world processes heat” writes Schwartz.

Talanoa – Pacific term for “conversation” or “dialogue”

Talanoa4Climate is all about having conversations and learning about climate change.

Talanoa4Climate is a program that is being used to facilitate intentional conversations and learning around climate change to involve people with those involved in the Pacific Climate movement in their cities.

Pacific community members are offering to facilitate the *talanoas* for interested groups.

Talanoa4Climate can be as formal or as informal as you want and can fit any venue space.

The **Talanoa4Climate** format uses three levels of education to deepen understanding on climate change in our region; through

- Story telling – the lived experience
- Scientific facts
- Theological reflections.

Talanoa4Climate is a space where all participants can share their experiences and values around climate change.

A **Talanoa4Climate** will always close with a Call to Action, with opportunities to do more.

The climate change *talanoas* have enabled leaders from communities to emerge and become more involved in climate advocacy through advocacy training.

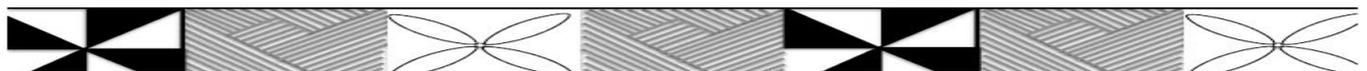
Talanoa4Climate Resource Network can provide speakers to share a story of impact and an expert to present on climate science to groups that want to host a conversation.

Faith is a strong pillar that is central to the Pacific identity and the **Talanoa4Climate Resource Network** can provide assistance with appropriate reflections.

Climate change isn't a joke.

We need climate action now.

For more information about being a Host, go to Facebook or email talanoa4climate@gmail.com



Parramatta Talanoa 4 Climate on 5 April 2017

The CLRI (NSW) Social Justice Committee hosted a **Talanoa 4 Climate on 5 April 2017** using the team from Edmund Rice Centre.

The Convent of Mercy in Parramatta provided a venue and it was set up with a Pacific flavour. After Acknowledgement of Country, each person was asked to turn to the next and share the answer to the question: **“Why do you care about climate change?”**

Maria was invited to describe the impacts of rising sea levels on her home nation of Kiribati and showed photos. After reflection, small table groups discussed what we thought. There was a **sense of urgency for action.**

Vincent provided a very clear presentation on the **science of climate change** and the effects of a warming earth on the ocean and how that affects the heating and cooling of our land masses.

Table groups discussed the great opportunity to see the research data and graphs that explain the trends and **urgency of halting emissions.**

Jill led the reflection on the links between faith and climate change. The great contribution of *Laudato Si'* to our theological understanding of care of Earth was discussed and that **the encyclical exhorts us to action** in response to climate change particularly for the vulnerable and our Pacific Island neighbours.

We commend the program to Congregation and school groups.

Take Climate Action Now

You are invited to take part in a campaign(s) towards a Congregational voice on climate change and the Pacific Islands.

Facebook campaign

1. Create a poster (hand written or typed) with the wording

**Climate change isn't a joke.
We need climate action now.**

You can make it specific by adding a location.
For example:

**"Climate Change isn't a joke in PNG.
We need climate action now."**

2. Take a photo of yourself or others holding the poster.
3. Send the photo to info@pacificclimatewatch.com.au
4. It will be posted on the Pacific Climate Watch Facebook page and website. See [here](#)

Video

1. Create a 30-100 second video
2. Topic: **Climate Change isn't a joke. We need climate action now.**
3. Send the video to info@pacificclimatewatch.com.au
4. It will be posted on the Pacific Climate Watch Facebook page and website (please see our Facebook page for recently posted videos).



Photo: Cardinal John Ribat msc
(Archdiocese of Port Moresby, PNG)

Climate change isn't a joke.
We need climate action now.



Inter-Congregational Voice on Climate Change in the Pacific

Member Congregations include: Institute of the Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea; Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and Solomon Islands; Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary; Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education; Caritas Australia; Missionaries of the Sacred Heart; Congregation of the Christian Brothers; Franciscan Friars; Marist Fathers; Sisters of St Joseph; Good Samaritan Sisters; Marist Sisters; Society of Jesus; Presentation Sisters; Little Company of Mary.

Documentary Films to Watch

'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power' (2017)

is the follow-up to Al Gore's award-winning 2006 documentary, 'An Inconvenient Truth'.

Official - Paramount Pictures Trailer watch [here](#) (02:31)

Opening in cinemas 28 July 2017.

Read more [here](#). Official [website](#)

'Before the Flood' (2016)

Free download from **National Geographic TV** [here](#)

The film captures a three-year personal journey alongside Academy Award-winning actor and U.N. Messenger of Peace Leonardo DiCaprio as he interviews individuals from every facet of society in both developing and developed nations on what must be done today and in the future to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.

'Guarding the Galilee' (2017)

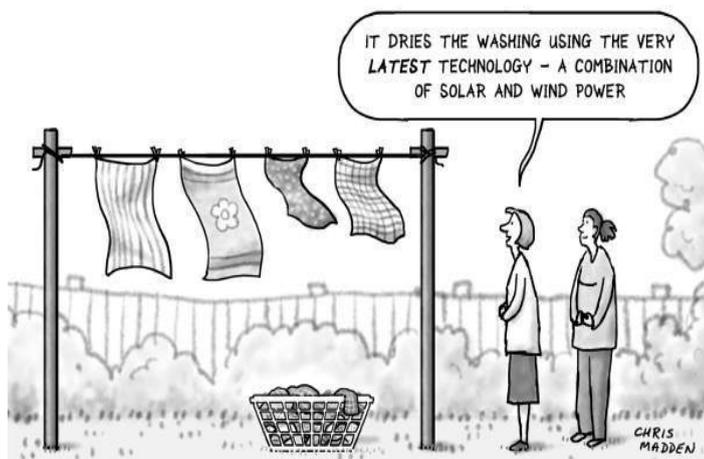
Presented by actor Michael Caton, this is a 30 minute documentary on the battle to stop the biggest coal mine in Australian history, Adani's Carmichael project.

Watch the trailer [here](#)

Find out how to host a screening [here](#)

**Watermark is a regular publication of the
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in NSW**

Latest Technology



Article to Read

'Care for the environment demands a vision of one another and of the world as inextricably linked so that we take personally the exploitation of the environment and of vulnerable people.'

- Andrew Hamilton sj, [Pope calls for intellectual conversion over climate](#),
(Eureka Street, 1 June 2017)

Laudato Si' turns 2

The second anniversary of the release of *Laudato Si'* falls on **18 June 2017**.

People and communities may wish to pray the two prayers in *Laudato Si'*:

"A Prayer for Our Earth" is a call for greater care of the Earth and of each other. Available in an adapted 'call and response' version. Download [here](#)

"A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation" calls for greater stewardship of the Earth. Also available in an adapted 'call and response' version. Download [here](#)

"Someday, after mastering the winds,

the waves, the tides and gravity

We shall harness for God

the energies of love and then,

for a second time in the history of the world,

hu(man) kind will have discovered fire.

... Trust in the slow work of God."

(Teilhard de Chardin)