



## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 May 2023

Welcome to the MAY 2023 newsletter for both Environment Groups at Wesley and Western Heights UC. We believe that responding to climate change is an essential part of our responsibility to safeguard God's creation. Our campaign exists to enable ourselves and others to address — in faith, practice and mission — the issue of climate change. The intention is to publish this newsletter on occasion and for it to include items of interest and encouragement, as well as offering practical suggestions as to how we can deal with climate change.

*We acknowledge that the land on which we are standing is the land of the Wadawarrung people of the Kulin nation and we thank them for their wise stewardship of this vast, ancient and fragile land. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging. We wish to spread the good news that our Aboriginal brothers and sisters are inviting us to walk with them in a movement of Australian people for a future in which together we look after the lands and look after each other.*

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>



Eternal God,  
whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep  
bringing forth light and life;  
by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and  
restore your image in your people.  
Turn us from careless tenants to faithful  
stewards,  
that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure  
water and rich earth  
may be the inheritance of everything that has  
the breath of life  
and one generation may proclaim to another the  
wonder of your works;  
through Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed.  
Amen.

(Rt Rev Libby Lane, Derby Bishop)

### CREATING A CLIMATE RESILIENT CHURCH

This is about churches in the UK, but  
plenty of helpful information for ourselves  
on this site.

[Climate resilient church | The Church of  
England](#)



## AN END TO NATIVE FOREST LOGGING IN VICTORIA

### Did you help with this decision?

Tuesday May 23, the Victorian Government announced **native forest logging will end this year, bringing it forward from 2030**. This decision helps safeguard nature, communities and our climate. Our forests will be allowed to grow old, to filter the air we breathe and the water we drink, to give homes to vulnerable animals, and to capture carbon pollution.

Victoria's greater gliders, Leadbeater's possums, and towering mountain ash forests breathe a sigh of relief today.



To everyone who wrote letters to decision makers, signed petitions, took to the streets and to our forests to protest, and had conversations to spread the word – thanks for making this incredible outcome possible.

This decision demonstrates that when people come together and raise their voices for nature, incredible change is possible.

## TREES AS WITNESSES, OR AS ALERTING HUMAN BEINGS TO THEIR INTERCONNECTION WITH NATURE AND THE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE.



Authors Richard Powers, Hannah Kent, Elif Shafak and Michael Christie all use trees in their fiction to touch on themes of roots and connections, growth and rebirth and the family tree.

But as our climate changes, is the way novelists use trees also changing to make the natural world the star of the story?

Listen to this radio programme to learn more:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-book-show/richard-powers-hannah-kent-elif-shafak-michael-christie/102315210>



## **ACHIEVING GLOBAL CLIMATE GOALS BY 2050: ACTIONABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS DECADE**

ClimateWorks Global Intelligence's recent publication is an excellent information source to prioritize emissions reductions across various sectors

[CWF Achieving Climate Goals 2050](#)

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## **NEED SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY?**

### **TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT OUR OWN SYNOD HAS PRODUCED.**



[Climate justice resources for congregations - Uniting Church in Australia. Synod of Victoria and Tasmania \(uca.org.au\)](#)

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## **The New Joneses?**

### **Have you heard of them?**

For 10 years, The New Joneses have been touring with their TINY HOUSE showing simple ways we can all lighten our impact on our beautiful planet.

With events in covid-hibernation, they took an EV ROAD TRIP!

They have produced heaps of programmes. Take a look at some of them now.

[The New Joneses - Road Trip 2023](#)

I recommend Episode 21 where he has a list of 10 things we can do in our homes.

## **PENTECOST V WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

When Jesus was asked to describe how the Spirit of God works, he told his friend to listen to the wind, see how it affects things, like the leaves on the trees, the sound of it, the flow of it, but even though it's there, and you live because of it, you don't control it. It just is. And it's mystery; you accept it, live off it, can't survive without it... but you have no control either.

I reckon it's great that World Environment Day follows straight on after Pentecost. They share a lot in common.

A lot of the time, people talk about Christian faith as though it's all about saving people's souls. But gee, listen to how often we are told that Jesus came to "save the world". Maybe human beings like to think they are the bit that matters. But that's egotistical rubbish. We are simply a part of God's creation, and Jesus came to tell us we have a job to do, a part in saving the world.

We know Christian faith is about compassion, but hey, compassion doesn't stop just for creatures that look like us.

We know it's about truth and justice, but hey, there is a lot of truth being denied out there in the corporate and private world that denies justice to a lot more species than just us.

We know God so loves the world that he sent Jesus, but somehow that gets forgotten sometimes while we try to think of ways of keeping our churches going.

I have a suspicion that Pentecost is about a lot more than just speaking in the languages of lots of ethnic groups. I think that the Acts Pentecost reading focusses on hearing too.

We need to hear the pathos of the cry of creatures and eco-systems that speak other languages, languages that we only hear when we are at one with the Spirit of God, like the wind, blowing through all creation.

*Written by Bruce Waldron*