



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome to the SEPTEMBER 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



Seen on a great forest walk taken recently.

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 \(uca.org.au\)](https://uca.org.au)

Here is the vision statement of the UCA Justice and Mission team:

We seek the flourishing of the whole of God's Creation and all its creatures. We act to renew the earth from the damage done and stand in solidarity with people most impacted by human-induced climate change. Government, churches, businesses and the wider community work together for a sustainable future.

GOOD NEWS

Thanks to collective people power - Australia's biggest bank has essentially ended fossil fuel finance for good.

After over a year of campaigning, our efforts have seen CommBank rule out lending to all new and expanding oil and gas projects, and by 2025 will stop lending to companies who refuse to transition away from fossil fuels.

This is what people power looks like, and wouldn't have been possible without your voice, and the voice of our friends in the movement like Market Forces.

This sets a precedent for other Australian banks to follow suit, and if they do it would make it much more difficult for gas corporations to secure finance for their climate-wrecking projects like fracking in the NT, massive gas rigs off WA and pipelines across the country.

Over the past year, we've visited 80 CommBank branches, spoken to staff, held stunts at major offices, put ads in newspapers, crashed major banking summits and AGMs, and so much more.

Thank you to those of you who signed the postcards that Bruce and I handed to the Belmont branch.



ELECTRIC HOMES PROGRAM BY GEELONG SUSTAINABILITY

Electrifying your home benefits your wallet, your health and the climate and we are seeing the community saying a big resounding 'Yes' to this transition. The program offers you the opportunity to install solar, batteries, EV chargers, heating and cooling and hot water systems. If you haven't already, you can submit an expression of interest and speak directly to one of the specialists.



The Geelong launch of the program sold out but they have opened registrations for a Queenscliffe event on Tuesday 12th September as well as a webinar on Thursday 21st September. You may like to join them and you can book your spot for free here:

[Register for Geelong Sustainability Electric Homes Program | Sustainable Living](#)



The aim is for the region to be leading the way in the transition away from gas to an electric renewable powered future, and by being a part of this program you become part of this movement. This program is community led and is designed to give back to the community, so every system installed through this program contributes to community donations of solar and hot water systems to community housing.

SAMOA TRIP

In June this year, a combined group of members from both Wesley and Western Heights churches had a great time visiting Samoa. One of these members shared this photo of some care and actions being taken by that community.



How can the Synod Reach Net Zero Emissions by 2040?

Read the report submission from the Synod Climate Action Task Group in answer to this question.

[Reports – Just Act](#)

MORE GOOD NEWS

Woolworths, Australia's biggest supermarket, **announced their commitment to 100% electric delivery trucks by 2030.**

5,000 people emailed Woolworths to tell them to electrify their cars and trucks. Maybe you were one of them.

NOVEMBER 1 BRINGS IN THE CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME IN Victoria.

Read up on it here:

[Container deposit scheme | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](http://www.vic.gov.au)

LOOKING FOR IDEAS FOR YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY?

Take a look here:

[Christian Climate Action kit 2017.pdf \(d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net)

COP 28 IS COMING

November 30 – Dec 12 in Dubai

This is what they are saying:

UNITE. ACT. DELIVER.

We are at a halfway point. It has been 7 years since Paris, with 7 years to go to 2030.

We must respond to the facts. We need to reduce emissions by 43% by 2030 and course correct on adaptation, finance, and loss and damage.

We will deliver a transformational COP of action. A COP for all

Let us pray for its success!

