

Pax Christi Australia (NSW)

Convenor's Report

September 2018

September 6 Launch Social Justice Statement Cathedral Hall Parramatta. Present were Bishop Vincent Long, Jack De Groot and Netty Horton. ***Launch Addresses were excellent:***

- [Netty Horton](#) (Word)
- [Jack de Groot](#) (Word)
- [Bishop Vincent Long](#) (Word)



[The Australian Bishops' 2018-2019 Social Justice Statement is titled *A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land*.](#)

September 7 Mercy College, Chatswood students for Social Justice day at Edmund Rice Centre

Claude was to see two groups of students but only a smaller group arrived. The students were very impressive in that they focused very much on justice rather than merely charity and were very attentive.

September 9 Scattering of Ashes for Kim Hill at La Perouse (Frenchman's Beach)

KIM HILL

Much loved Leader of
the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Sydney
2015-2018



September 10 Opening of the Australia Pacific India Asia (APIA) Conference at Sacred Heart Monastery Kensington. Claude opened with the Acknowledgement of Country.



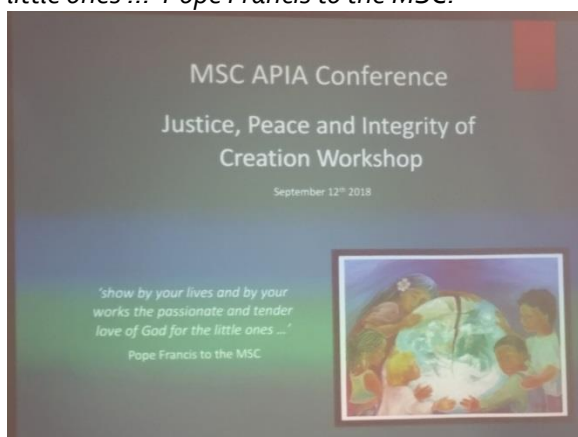
To be on Earth the Heart of God

It is 40 years since this gathering in various part of the region has taken place. Two confreres from Union of Francophone Africa (Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Congo Kinshasa and Senegal) also attended. The gathering includes people involved in Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation, those working in Formation of religious, Brothers which is then followed up by a meeting of Provincials and Regional and Union Superiors

September 11, 2018 Orientation Day for delegates for the MSC Conference

September 12, 2018 Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Spirituality Day with input on Spirituality of Justice by Claude Mostowik

The gathering began with a day of reflection led by Alison McKenzie 'show by your lives and by your works the passionate and tender love of God for the little ones ...' Pope Francis to the MSC.



September 13, 2018 The second day of the MSC JPIC began with a morning visit to the Church of the Reconciliation at La Perouse which is only one of two such churches in New South Wales that are the responsibility of Aboriginal people themselves. The Church of the Reconciliation comes under the Archdiocese of Sydney but its services are organised by the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (Sydney). We were graciously welcomed by Auntie Elsie Heiss and ACM Executive Officer Lisa Buxton. Elsie and Lisa shared the difficulties of being Aboriginal in Australia and also of being Catholic Aboriginal.

The pain, suffering, violence and genocide suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people was palpable and touched the hearts of the MSC present. The resilience of the people was also felt.



'Aunty' Elsie Heiss



The second day was also taken with sharings by Sr Anne Jordan pbvm and Ms Julie Sneddon from the CANA Communities on their work of rehabilitation of people who have been abandoned by society in many ways. The CANA community was founded about 30 years ago by Sr Anne and Father Brian Stoney sj. This took place at the Chevalier Resource Centre. Following this, all the JPIC participants traveled to by public transport to Darlinghurst to De Porres where many people who have the least options gather for friendship and a meal. Our participants joined these people – shared with them and learned from them before and during the meal. This was then followed with a Eucharist around the meal table. This consisted of a total of about 48 people. The visit to CANA and also to the Church of the Reconciliation it emerged how many MSC have been engaged with both ministries over the years.



Sr Anne Jordan pbvm and Julie Sneddon



Julie Sneddon

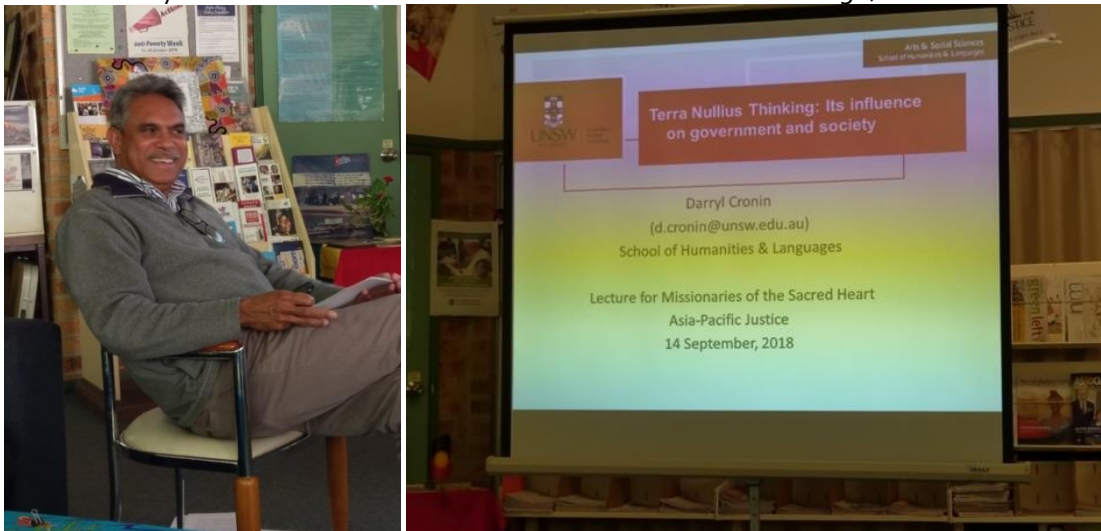


MSC APIA JPIC delegates sharing dinner with people of the Cana Community at De Porres House

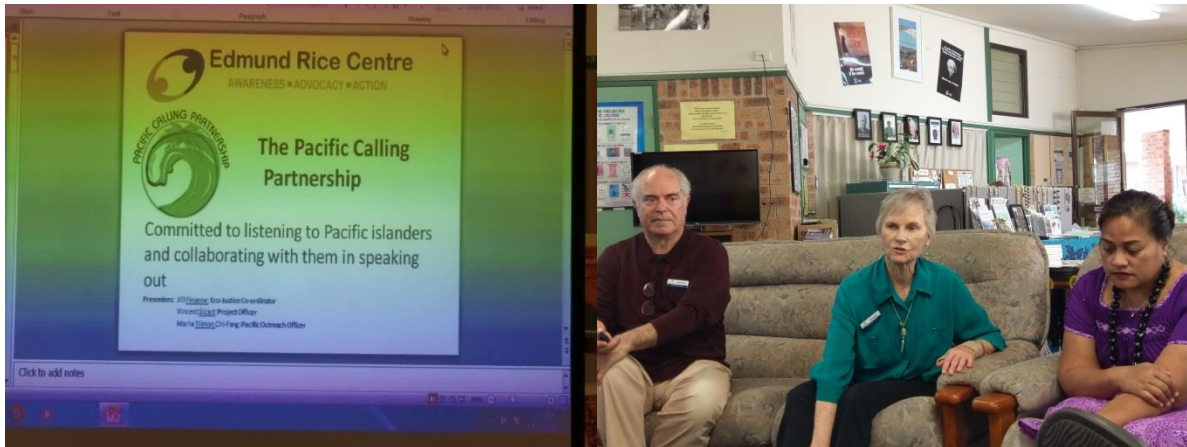


MSC APIA JPIC delegates sharing Eucharist with people of the Cana Community at De Porres House

September 14, 2018 On the third day, the whole group traveled to the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education at Flemington. The whole day was spent here being with the people who work at the centre, meeting the Brothers who were founded the Centre 22 years ago, and then sharing of the work of the Centre with the First peoples of this land (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people), the Last people (Asylum seekers and refugees) and then the Next people (Pacific Calling Partnership which is responding to the calls for assistance from the peoples of the Pacific as they face the loss of their island nations due to climate change).



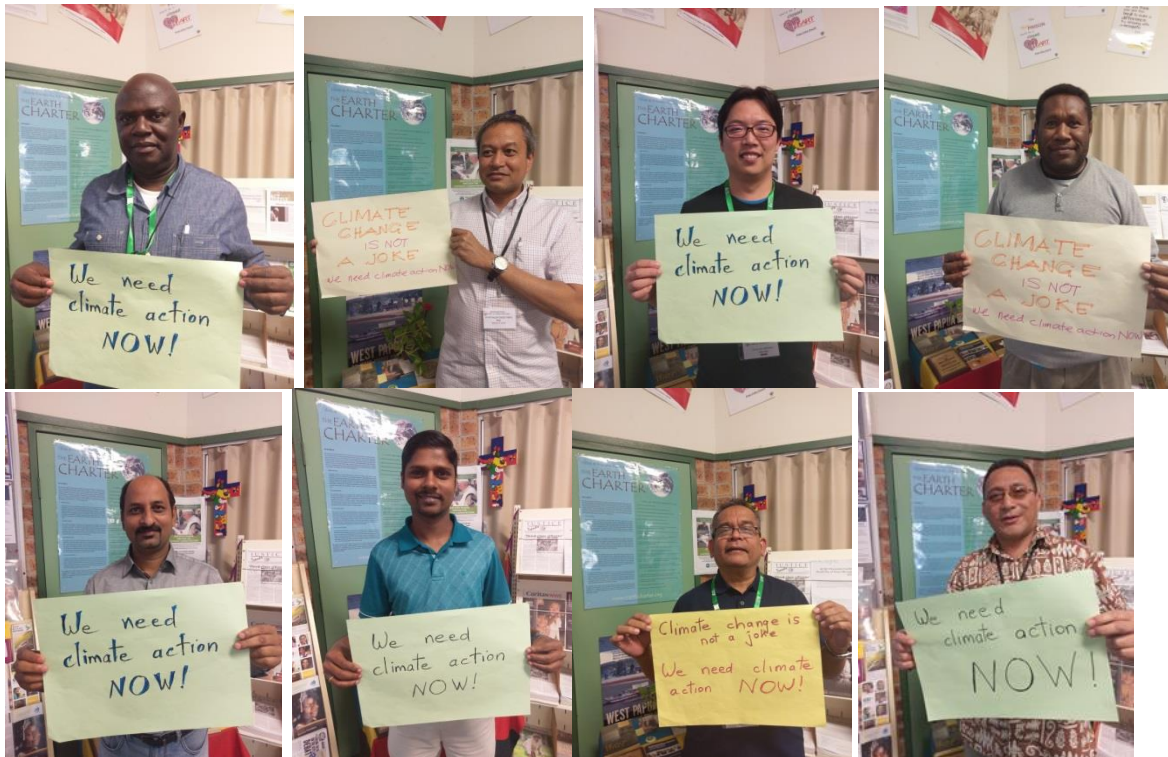
Dr Darryl Cronin who spoke to the group of the impact of Terra Nullius mentality in the past and continuing to the present.



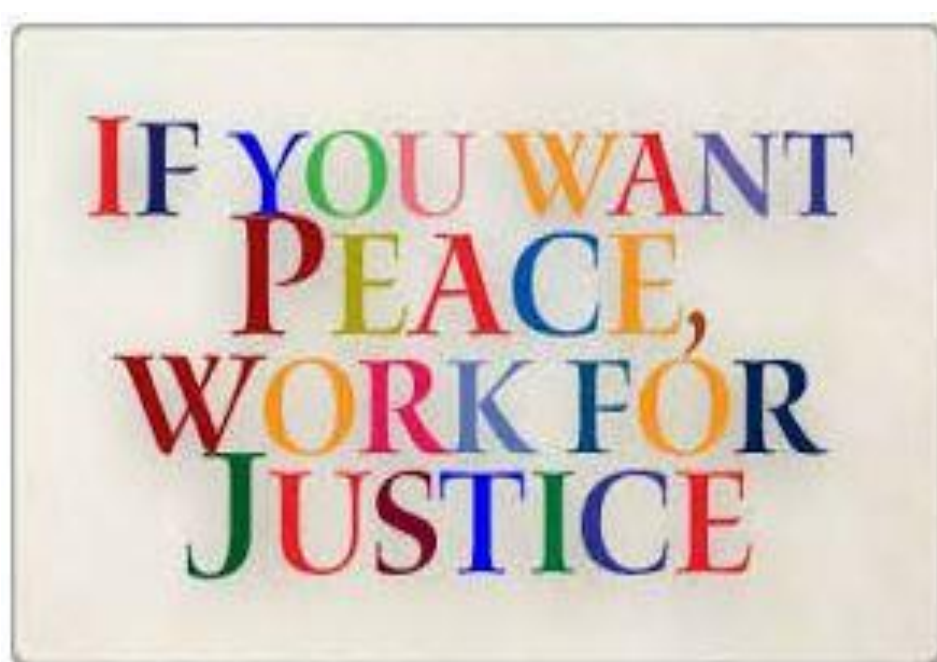
Mr Vince Sicara, Ms Jill Finnane and Ms Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang, Pacific Calling Partnership Team at Edmund Rice Centre.

Members of the Pacific Calling Partnership shared aspects of the science of climate change, the impacts on the lives of people in the Pacific and the work of the Inter-congregational Voice on Climate Change in the Pacific Islands.

MSC delegates also posed with posters about the ***Climate Change is No Joke Campaign*** for the Pacific Climate Watch Website and Facebook on the



Pacific Calling Partnership 'Climate Change is no Joke' campaign

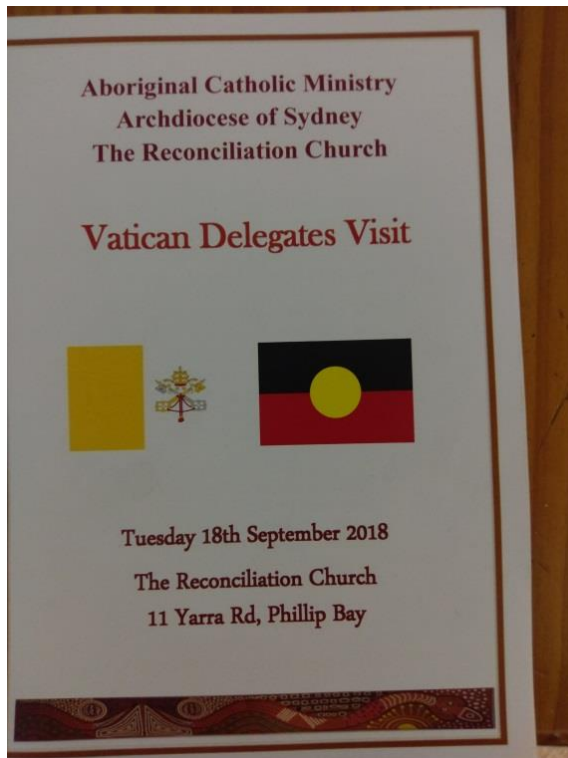


Dr Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre and President, Refugee Council of Australia reflecting with MSC APJA JPIC participants on the day and what they learned and what they will take with them to their ministry.



The day concluded with conviviality (choir practice) and then dinner at a local restaurant.

September 18, 2018 Attendance at Aboriginal Reconciliation Church , La Perouse, for the visit of a Vatican delegation of bishops and clergy working in the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development who are engaged in Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu dialogue organised by the Vatican.



Booklet for liturgy



Vatican delegate Bishop Ayusa



Richard Campbell, Aboriginal artist



Ceremony of smoke, earth and water
Julie Manson, Lisa Buxton, Kelly Wyld.

September 21, 2018 World Day of Prayer for Peace, Parramatta Mission. 16 religious groups were present to offer prayers for peace.



Rev Manas Ghosh, Pastor at Leigh Memorial Church welcomes people to the service for the 15TH time (10 previous ones at Lindfield and 5 at Parramatta)



Marita McInerney caught up in the fervour of the event.

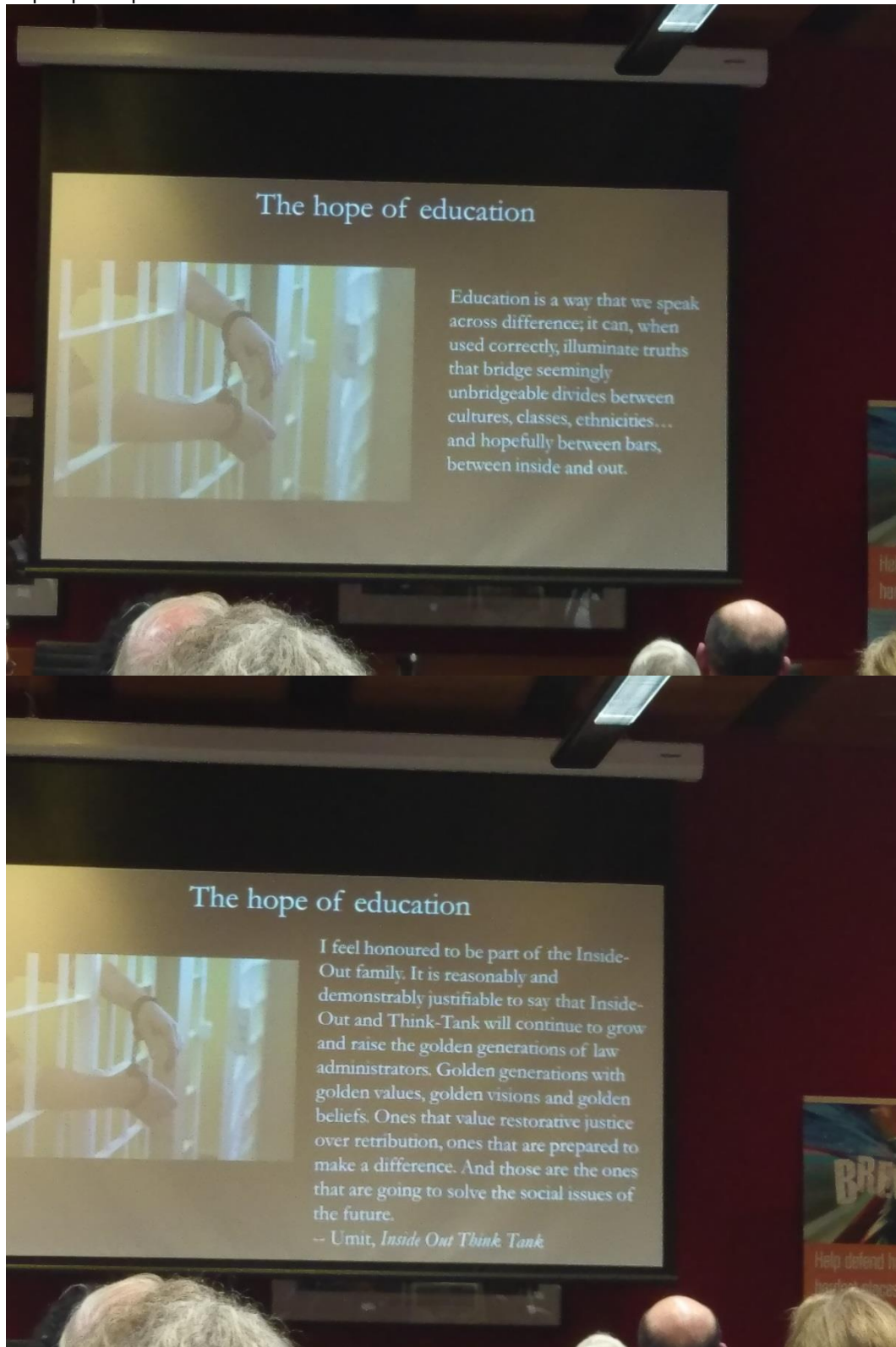


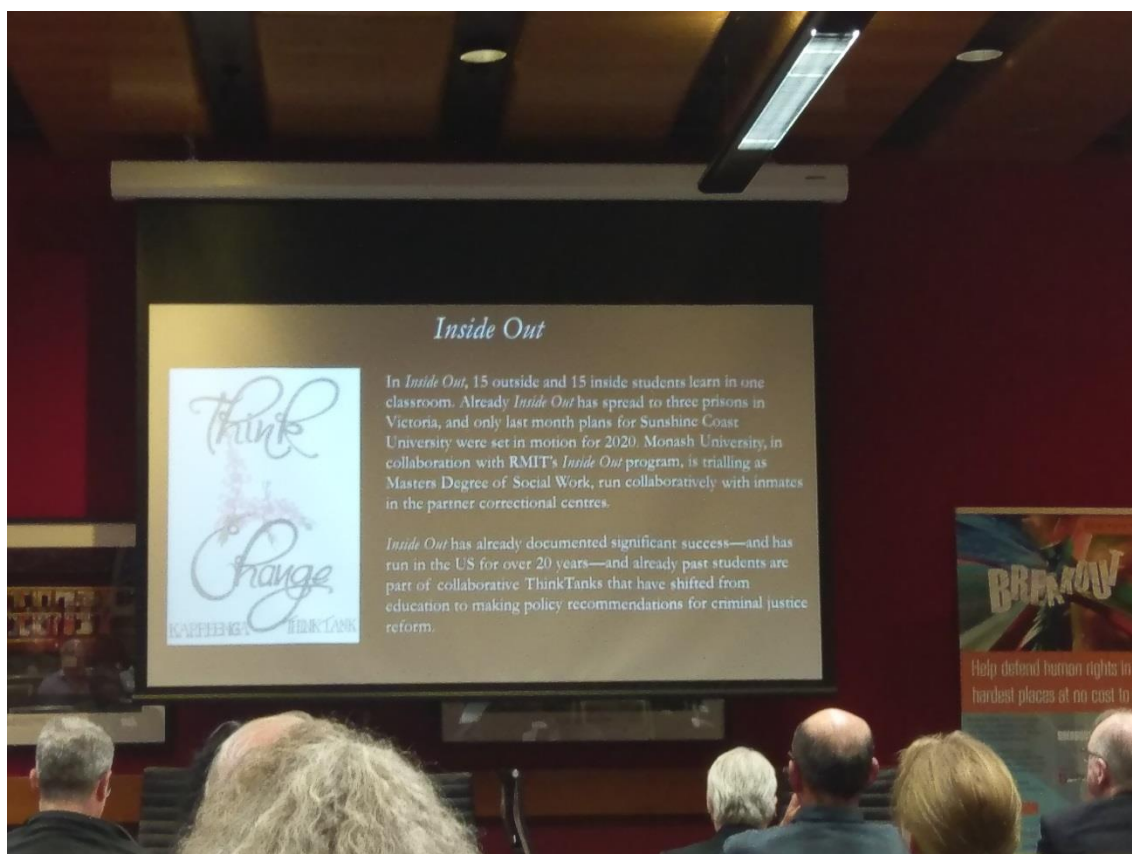
September 24, 2018 Community Justice Coalition meeting. Planning for forum at Parliament House on September 26.

September 26, 2018 NSW Ecumenical Council Peace and Justice Commission at Edmund Rice Centre.

September 26, 2018 Community Justice Coalition Public Forum, NSW Parliament House.

Examining recent downgrading of prisoner education and presenting new educational opportunities. Most of the talks very passionate and interesting making the case for professional teachers to be involved rather than consultants who are not trained in education. Education is absolutely necessary for people in prison to find ways of reintegrating into society post-release. People in prison can pass courses just by attending classes. The government came in for a lot of criticism for sacking professional teachers who were able to gear education to the individual needs of people in prison.





Speakers:

Dr Anne-Marie Martin Assistant Commissioners Corrective Services

Mr Guy Zangari MP Shadow Minister for Corrections

he Hon David Shoebridge MLC The Greens Justice and Police Spokesperson

Ms Maxine Sharkey Deputy Secretary NSW Teachers Federation

Stephen Seymour Digital Life Lab University of Southern Queensland

Dr Jedidiah Evan Australian Catholic University

Organised by: [The Community Justice Coalition](#) and the [International Commission of Jurists](#)

September 27, 2018 Pacific Climate Watch Inter-congregational Voice on Climate Change in the Pacific islands at Edmund Rice Centre. Much of the meeting was taken up with the upcoming visit of former president of Kiribati, Anote Tong, to various capitals in Australia in October. 24 he will participate at a forum at the University of Sydney and on October 25, he will give a talk at the Good Samaritan Centre, Glebe. Both events are free but registration is essential especially for the latter event.

The monography that a subgroup is preparing for the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is progressing and we spent some time discussing and making suggestions.

September 28, 2018 Social Justice Day for teachers and students at Edmund Rice Centre. Claude to speak to them on Justice issues.