Ballarat Roadshow: Women Leading Climate Change Action

18th July 2023, Ballarat Hospice Care Building

Harvest

Action	Proposal /Discussion	Action arising from comments
2	● Black Summer bushfires were a call to action. ● It's important to elevate FN voices in discussing Climate Action Plans. Cr Belinda Coates can influence this. NB there is a Caring for Country document in Wadawurrung Country. ● Low carbon burial choices are limited – can we change this?	● CHECK OUT and SUPPORT the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. Their plans for caring for country are available on this website. ● SUPPORT Cr Coates in her efforts to elevate FN voices. ● WRITE TO councillors requesting low-carbon burial options.
3	● As a prelude to the National Unified Action Plan, can we unify different sectors – e.g. cemeteries, butchers, farmers etc – and then bring representatives of those groups around the table? Bringing these groups together is useful because they have something in common. Work at a local level, then regional, then national.	● GATHER TOGETHER people in your sector to talk about climate change and agree on how to move forward in your sector.
4	● Keep building connections with FN people by welcoming them onto my property and having conversations. ● WCC must contact Traditional Owners before coming onto their country with a Roadshow. FN people are busy and may not be interested in attending but this is an important courtesy.	● FIND ways to yarn with FN people, by yourself or with friends. ● WCC will contact traditional owners every time we are coming to a place for a Road Show.
5	● Disrupt the status quo – Monique Ryan is an example of this. o Write to supermarkets and ask them not to sell e.g rat poison that kills owls o There needs to be a duty of care exercised by the Minister, and climate change needs to be one of the factors taken into account.	● Are you aware of a product that's harming the environment? WRITE to the shop that sells it and ask them to withdraw it. ASK your friends to support you. ● WRITE to your federal MP and ask that legislation be passed stating Ministers have a duty of care to future generations when making decisions.

	○ Declare a Climate Emergency. Local governments and states have done this. ○ The Labor government needs to be spurred on to greater action. It's not only the "Loony Left" who think they're not doing enough. ○ ("It's like thanking a man for putting his plate in the dishwasher.") ● Facilitate connection to land to respond to climate grief and inspire climate action. How to do this? Farmers collectively have the worst mental health. There will be no collaborative change overnight. How does the younger generation have access to land to experience it? ● Free and green space creates opportunities for growing plants, building and monitoring nesting boxes, etc. There are also relationships with childcare centres and farmers etc which allow children to experience the natural world.	● BRING TOGETHER a group of friends and neighbours and CALL ON your council to declare a climate emergency. Here is information about the Climate Emergency declared by Strathbogie Shire and here is information about the South Australian State Declaration. ● How can you CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY for children to connect to the natural world?
6	● Compassion in Government ○ Apply a compassion lens ○ Apply the Charter for Compassion – e.g. to refugees. As climate change worsens and climate refugees come to our shores, how will we treat them? ○ Support The Voice ○ Legislate measures to uphold integrity at all levels. Keep an eye on ICAC	● READ the Charter for Compassion. ● ENGAGE with Compassionate Ballarat. ● WRITE to your federal MP about the need to develop a compassionate policy for climate refugees. ASK your friends and community to join you. ● LEARN as much as possible about The Voice. ● HOLD your local, state and federal representatives to a high standard of integrity.
7	● I look for opportunities to express myself in music and create opportunities for others to do likewise or join me. ● Better understand FN people by engaging in cultural activities.	● FIND WAYS to express your creative self, ● ENROL in a class or workshop to discover more about FN cultural activities.
8	● Join WILPF ● Read "How to Fix a Broken Planet." Meet and discuss. It argues that we can actually achieve this!	● JOIN, READ, SHARE

	• 10 Steps to Resilience – Empowerment in a Chaotic Climate". Find a place to express your "enfranchised grief". It's possible to find communities that do this, including online. • Let's Talk Peace Ballarat • Share FB groups with young people – this is one way of getting their attention and participation. • Build respect in small children by embedding the "Think Equal" program into Kindergarten curricula. It builds social awareness and emotional management. • I Million Women is encouraging women to have kitchen table conversations in July. The focus will be lobbying politicians, transforming our homes and making our money count.	• Can you CHAT with an early learning service near you to inform them about Think Equal and ENCOURAGE them to adopt it? • Host a conversation on the weekend on July 28-30th.
9	Elevate discussion around economic models, the messages they send and the ways they shape our economy. Do they value the right things? Amplify message Priorities (NB Commonwealth Games were just cancelled this morning).	
10	• Who has power? What is the role of regulation? • There is need for action from leaders and also at grassroots. • How do we move forward rapidly in the face of different thinking? • Invite people who aren't at the table to participate and shape the process. NB the Regional Sustainability Accord.	• How would you like to participate in decision making in your community? Who could join you?
Climate Grief	• Taking effective action helps manage climate grief • Share experience of climate grief – it's often difficult at work or amongst your own social group. • It's important to support each other. Some people have difficulty finding space to talk about climate change – let's create these spaces. • Young people also experience climate grief but aren't expressing it in ways that are clearly visible.	• How can you and your community create supportive spaces for talking about climate grief?

Conclusions and Possible Actions.

We thank you again for participating in this meeting. It was great to hear your thoughts and the ideas that are floating around in people's minds.

We hope that you will take on some of these ideas that came up, and make them happen. At WCC, we'll review this discussion and decide what action we can take to realise some of these proposals, then let you know.



WHICH ACTION INSPIRES YOU?