



Annual General Meeting

18 November 2017

President's Report

Carol Ride

The main challenge of the past year has been to match our energy to the range of possibilities we have considered in our work on climate, emotion and psychology. We discovered that what stood out for us as invaluable in the work of the core active members of PSC was the provision of a space for ourselves to reflect with each other on the climate reality. We know we ourselves need the nurture of a supportive group at this most challenging of times, so it is with great confidence we can continue to give priority to the provision of a similar opportunity to members of the climate movement, as often as we can.

We have run workshops since last AGM in October 2016 for AYCC leaders, and their members at their conference, for Climate for Change facilitators and another workshop for their supporters, and for collections of members drawn from the climate movement. We have been invited to speak at various events, such as on a panel at the Sustainable Living Festival, for a climate change special of the magazine Dumbo Feather, to RMIT students of sustainability leadership, for a few press interviews on country radio and had a couple of articles published - again in country -in Fairfax papers. We have a talk next week to the Sustainable Engineers Society.

The focus of our work remains the twin roles of helping people think about and understand the difficulty of engagement with climate change, and supporting those who so, so, get it!

This year the climate movement is at its most united and focused, particularly with the demands of defeating the mad Adana plan. Did you know that the Federal government's plan to facilitate the funding of the rail line from the Adani mine to the coast amounts to a subsidy of \$680,000 per projected job for 1500 people!! That is insanity. Sadly this is the context in which we are working.

At this time, only one week ago 15,000 international scientists signed a letter warning to humanity of catastrophic dangers facing our planet. This was an update of an original warning from the Union of Concerned Scientists 25 years ago. This week Australia was ranked fourth worst in the world for inaction on climate change, and received a fossil fool award twice at the UN talks in Bonn, to rub in the point.

Clearly in Australia as the mounting evidence backs the climate predictions we see a profound shift into denial from some of our powerful leaders, offering relief of a form to some in the community. Our task is ever more urgent.

As Susan Murphy so poignantly put it recently: We need to bear to be open – to not look away from reality and to bear to be in state of not knowing of answers. She implores us to find our capacity to think radical thoughts, by turning things around from our first response.

She then challenges us to reflect on '*what can this moment discover in us?*' While she acknowledges that this moment asks a lot of us, she turns it around with a comment that '*it's a privilege to be asked*'. I must say I find her words extremely challenging. And you?