



## Women's Climate Congress: e-Update #4

September 2020

### In brief

- We are officially registered – and now have a logo and a loose organisational structure.
- We've followed up on our contact with the National Covid-19 Coordination Commission and note with appreciation the broader representation of women on the new NCC Advisory Board – although we know this is just one small step of many needed to achieve the aims of the Women's Climate Congress.
- We'd love you to read and comment on our paper describing our approach to promoting a broader, more inclusive style of engagement and to find common ground. It's available on our [website News page](#).
- We have been reaching out to women in many places – from virtual morning teas with our members to conversations with women leaders across different professional and political spheres. The response to our call for climate balance and the inclusion of women's leadership has been exciting. Please feel free to suggest contacts we should follow up.
- Our founder, Janet Salisbury, is in increasing demand as a speaker in a range of forums
- We need help to manage all this – the workload of our small group of dedicated women is growing by the day! If you would like to assist in any way please contact Lyn Stephens at [lyn\\_s@iinet.net.au](mailto:lyn_s@iinet.net.au).

**It's been a while since we have been in touch and a lot has been happening.**

**Read on for the details**

### We are 'official'

We have registered the Women's Climate Congress with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as a company limited by guarantee ('Women's Climate Congress Ltd'). We are now registering as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). Thank you Kirsten Anker for all your hard work on this.

### We have a logo



We have created a logo for our Congress! It combines original artwork by Rhiannon Glasser and graphic design by Helen Ferguson (artspirit).

The overall image is a flower. This relates to our vision for the nurture of life to be at the heart of all important decisions. We also want women's voices to bloom, for individuals to cultivate their strengths, and for conversations and connections to grow in the rich soil of communities.

At the heart of the logo flower is the globe – our precious planet Earth. The natural world is threatened by the changing climate, and the vast weight of

scientific opinion tells us we humans are bringing about this change. Our congress of women wishes to protect the planet by bringing the climate back into balance. We advocate for nurture of life and care for the Earth to lie at the heart of all important decisions so that today's children and future generations have the opportunity to wonder at the beauty of the world and marvel at its diversity and complexity.

The petals of the flower are women. They are of different shapes, sizes and colours. They face in different directions but they are all standing on the Earth. This reflects the diversity that we aspire to in our membership, our common grounding, and our joint responsibility to protect the natural environment for future generations.

### **We have set up a structure to support our work**

While we like to keep things as informal as possible we have now established a loose organisational structure to support our work.

It comprises a **Core Governance Group** (in line with our ASIC obligations) which includes 4 directors:

Janet Salisbury, Founder, supported by  
Barbara Baikie as Secretary  
Kirsten Anker as Treasurer and  
Lyn Stephens

This core group works closely with all of our active members and supporters who form the **WCC Working Group** which directs the work of the Congress and meets every two or three weeks.

Branching out from the Working Group we have established 8 interconnected **Action Groups** that meet as required:

- Membership and outreach
- Fundraising
- Indigenous relationships
- Advocacy and relationships
- Communications and marketing
- Organisational alliances and networking
- Integrating the arts
- Policy and research

We need help in all of these areas and also some general admin support.

Our Congress operates on an 'offer what you can' basis so your involvement can be as great or as little as suits you. Feedback so far is that we are friendly and welcoming, and willing to listen to different perspectives. We would love to have you join us.

If you are interested to become involved or you just want to know more about the possibilities, please contact Lyn Stephens at [lyn\\_s@iinet.net.au](mailto:lyn_s@iinet.net.au)

<p><b>We have followed up our meeting with the Chair of the NCCC</b></p>	<p>As Janet reported in our email update in July, three Congress members met with Neville Power, Chair of the National Covid-19 Commission (NCC) Advisory Board at the end of June.</p> <p>The brief we sent ahead of the meeting and a report of the meeting are on our <a href="#">website News page</a>.</p> <p>Since the meeting we have followed up with a paper on issues relating to women’s participation and a list of women from a diverse range of backgrounds who we felt would be appropriate appointees for the Commission, and whose participation would increase public confidence in their work. We are pleased to report that the recent appointments to the <a href="#">reconstituted NCC Advisory Board</a> announced by the PM at the end of July include three women from diverse backgrounds. These women and the other new appointments go some way to creating a more diverse board. However, we note that the gender balance (4/12) still falls well below our government target of 40% and other government decision making bodies in relation to COVID-19 recovery are dominated by men.</p> <p>We have also continued work to promote a broader, more inclusive style of engagement to bring people together around common ground. <a href="#">Our paper on this topic</a> is on our website. We have started discussions with professors Will Steffen and Alan Finkel about the issues of energy generation and firming that we discussed with Mr Power. Creating opportunities for more transparent conversations that can lead to united action to achieve climate balance are at the heart of our vision and we feel empowered to continue these conversations.</p>
<p><b>We have made an initial foray into the media</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Our first media release</a> resulted in Janet giving a 30-min interview on local Canberra Radio station (2XX) about the Congress and our meeting with Neville Power. <a href="#">You can listen here</a>.</p>
<p><b>We are making alliances across different perspectives</b></p>	<p>Recently, we received a letter from Catherine Tanna, Managing Director of EnergyAustralia, who has now completed her tenure on the NCC. In part she said:</p> <p>‘I’m deeply appreciative, of the ideas, suggestions and insights you’ve provided. Your thinking has influenced the Commission’s activities and planning ...’ ‘I would encourage you to keep in touch with the Commission’s CEO, Peter Harris and to offer up your good thinking.’</p> <p>We asked Catherine to recommend other women to contact to start conversations across a range of perspectives and she has recommended a very diverse list of women, opening up opportunities for conversations across the political spectrum (see below).</p> <p>We proceed with caution and with great optimism that women’s voices can unite to safeguard the future,</p>
<p><b>We are continuing our networking with other women and organisations</b></p>	<p>We are continuing to make contact with other women’s organisations, including the <a href="#">National Women’s Alliances</a> (our registration now allows us to formally join these groups).</p> <p>We have connected with Trish Bergin, Co-director of the <a href="#">50/50 by 2030 Foundation</a> and she helped us with our submission about women’s representation to the NCCC.</p>

	<p>We also connected with Bonnie Millen, a policy advisor with <a href="#">Advocacy and Inclusion</a>. And through Janet’s other project with Honey Nelson and the <a href="#">New Dreaming collective</a>, we are building relationships with First Peoples women.</p> <p>We are delighted that the SA Branch of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom has collectively joined us. They join with Philippa Rowland, President of the Multifaith Association of SA and long-term community leader for climate action, and others to build an active presence in that state.</p> <p>Last week, Janet, Lyn and Kirsten had a lively and productive Zoom get together with the women members of the board of the <a href="#">Commission for the Human Future</a>: Leigh Dayton, Alison Leigh, Arnagretta Hunter, Sharon Friel, Judith Healy, Rachel Hay and Hannah Ford, We are all keen to continue this association probably starting by collaborating to cohost an event together.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Cristina Talacko, Chair of the Board of <a href="#">Coalition for Conservation</a> has joined the Congress and we look forward to meeting and collaborating with her and the C4C.</p> <p>And we are also following up some overseas connections — watch this space for more news on expanding our influence internationally.</p>
<p><b>We have held two members’ morning teas</b></p>	<p>Our working group is mainly based in (or near) Canberra (Australian Capital Territory). Recently, we have held Zoom morning teas to connect informally with members. The first was for members from outside of the ACT and the second was for ACT members.</p> <p>Both these gatherings we had lively discussion about the vision of the Congress, and shared ideas and resources.</p> <p>To be included in these events in future, please fill out the ‘Join us’ form on our website home page.</p>
<p><b>We need you to get involved</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ‘Join us’ on the home page of our <a href="#">website</a> and invite others to do the same.</li> <li>● See our website <a href="#">Get involved page</a> for links to our information kit and templates. Follow the steps described there to start conversations and activities in your area. Let us know how you go.</li> <li>● Join us on <a href="#">Facebook</a> and invite your friends; follow us on Twitter <a href="#">@WomensClimateC1</a></li> <li>● Contact us to join the activities of the <a href="#">Working Group (see above)</a></li> <li>● Introduce us to other women’s groups or other organisations working on climate change.</li> <li>● Let us know your ideas for how to achieve our vision</li> </ul> <p>To get involved, please contact Lyn Stephens at <a href="mailto:lyn_s@iinet.net.au">lyn_s@iinet.net.au</a> Or send your comments and ideas to: <a href="mailto:womensclimatecongress@gmail.com">womensclimatecongress@gmail.com</a></p>