

Activity Report on Oceania

ACRP Associate Secretary-General for Oceania - Dr. Susan Ennis

As I mentioned when accepting the position, I would not be able to dedicate a lot of time to this area until we have set up the Multifaith Council of Australia.

Despite this, RfP Australia has discussed and planned for two matters, both of which have been deferred. Firstly, the planned Online Terrorism Conference between Australia and New Zealand was agreed to by Professor Paul Morris RfP NZ, Prof Greg Barton Deakin University, and Dr. Adis Duderija from Griffith University. This has been deferred as it is felt to be too sensitive at this time. Also, we have deferred the visit to Fiji to see if RfP Asia could establish a branch there. Both Dean Saku Kahn, Kanti Jinna, and Philippa Rowland have been assisting us with this coming visit, particularly by having informal meetings with Fijian Officials in Australia.

In addition, I have attended online one or two of the Religious Diversity Centre's (a centre which is closely associated with RfP NZ) climate sessions. Also in November 2023, Des Cahill and I attended online and gave papers at the Association of Practical Theology in Oceania Conference [Home \(apto.asn.au\)](http://apto.asn.au) which was in New Zealand. One of the most interesting sessions was on the Pacific Climate Warriors <https://www.nz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/501365/pacific-youth-activists-present-forum-with-climate-demands> - and the theology behind their actions. A spin-off was that I met some of the participants at the meeting were from of the Religious Diversity Centre in Wellington

This past year, I have been in contact with Prof. Paul Morris several times via email and a zoom meeting. This included linking him and others in RfP Asia to participate in the 2023 Prayers and Meditations on Hiroshima Day https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A51_v3ZEMeE. Recently, RfP NZ and Australia have linked with Japan (and plan to talk to India and AYPIN etc.) about two Zoom sessions in August 2025 to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the dropping of the Atomic Bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Tentative dates are for Session 1) Sunday 3 August 2025 - Victims of nuclear weapons, and Session, 2) Sunday 10 August 2025 - Religions and nuclear disarmament.

On practical Oceania issues, Rev. Chris Pamell has suggested setting up an RfP Oceania website. He is currently discussing this issue with the Tokyo Secretariat.

Sadly, Paul has not been able to attend in person the 2023 or the upcoming 2024 RfP Asia meeting.

To date, we have spent none of the 4k US that we were given for Oceania but we plan to spend some for our visit to Fiji in 2025.