



# 2017 IMPACT REPORT





CLIMATE  
JUSTICE  
NOW



**Australian Youth Climate Coalition** is Australia's largest youth-run organisation with over 150,000 members. Our mission is to build a movement of young people to solve the climate crisis before it's too late. Our vision is for a just and sustainable world, with a safe climate for our generation and future generations. We educate, inspire and mobilise young people to win campaigns for a safe climate, to keep fossil fuels in the ground and build a future powered by clean energy. We do this through:

**SEED INDIGENOUS YOUTH CLIMATE NETWORK:** Led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, Seed is a branch of the AYCC that is empowering Indigenous young people to lead climate justice campaigns.

**NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS:** We work together as a movement to make a difference through campaigns that reduce climate pollution, move Australia beyond fossil fuels and supercharge the transition to 100% renewable energy.

**NATIONAL GRASSROOTS NETWORK:** We support volunteers through one-to-one mentoring and local groups to be part of national campaigns that protect our climate.

**SWITCHED ON SCHOOLS:** Each year we educate thousands of high school students about how to make a difference on climate change, and empower them to start their own campaigns in their school or community.

**TRAINING PROGRAM:** We are building the leaders of today with training programs that give young people the skills they need to create change, including understanding climate change, campaigning, communication, organising and leading a team.

AYCC turned 10 this year. From a hand full of young people who believed we could change the world, to a movement of thousands of

young people who are changing the world every day, AYCC has grown and matured to be one of the biggest climate change organisations in the country.

We know that we can have a better world - with clean energy that never runs out, sustainable food production, fair and connected communities, and restored ecosystems and biodiversity. We're working towards a world where all people live in a safe climate and healthy environment, and affected communities are empowered to transition and adapt.

It is only through a huge, diverse and committed social movement, led by those with the most at stake, that we will see just and sustainable solutions to the climate crisis realised. Decision makers in governments, businesses and our communities will only make the changes required if there is a strong social movement demanding it.

It is young people who will inherit the consequences of decisions made today. Through history, young people have demonstrated how we have the creativity, passion and innovation to lead social change movements. This is why we are building a movement of young people, standing in solidarity with those on the frontlines of climate change, to lead solutions to the climate crisis. We are empowering our generation to make sure history is not written for us, but by us.



# 2017 WAS MASSIVE



**JANUARY**

Seed crashes the Adani roadshow



**FEBRUARY**

10 year anniversary, launched Land Rights campaign



**MARCH**

State training camps, NT Fracking Inquiry begins, Schools Summit in Frydenberg's electorate



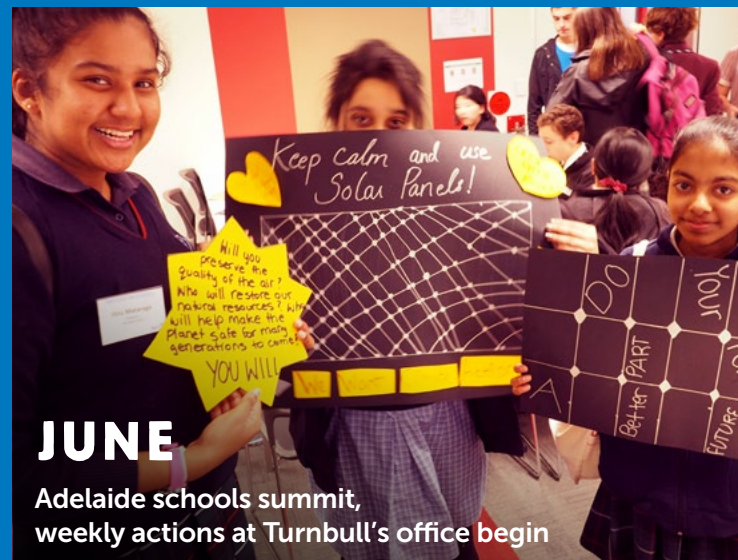
**APRIL**

We won the Westpac campaign, Student Climate Leadership Program launches



**MAY**

Land Rights Not Mining Rights action at Parliament House, Borroloola community fracking survey begins, Commitment from SA government of \$15 million for solar and energy efficiency for schools



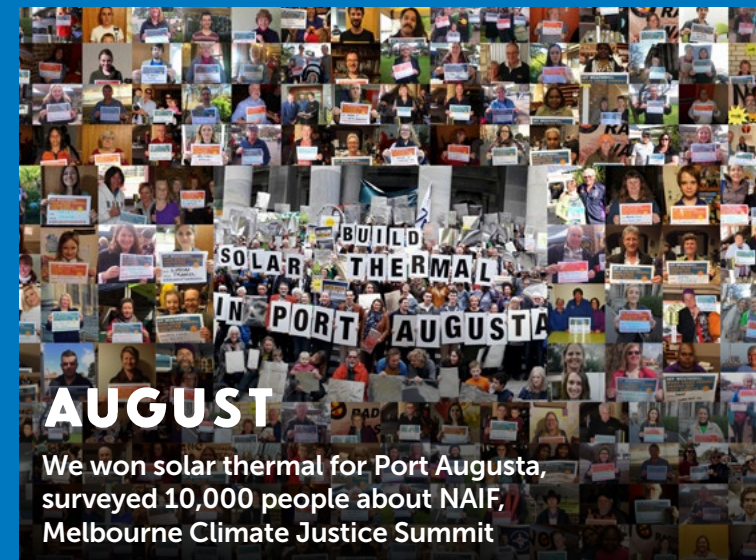
**JUNE**

Adelaide schools summit, weekly actions at Turnbull's office begin



**JULY**

Power Shift, NAIDOC week, First Nations tour to the NT



**AUGUST**

We won solar thermal for Port Augusta, surveyed 10,000 people about NAIF, Melbourne Climate Justice Summit



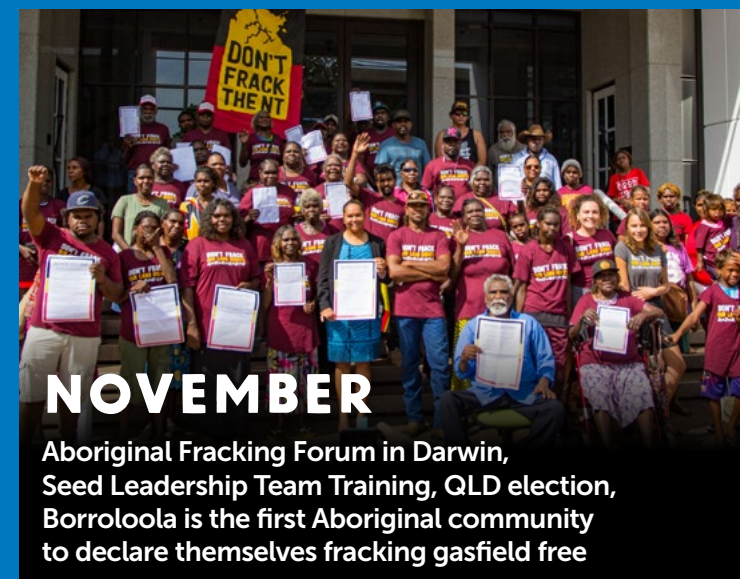
**SEPTEMBER**

State training camps, 150 MP meetings, Perth Schools Summit



**OCTOBER**

For the love of the Reef, National Day of Action to #StopAdani,



**NOVEMBER**

Aboriginal Fracking Forum in Darwin, Seed Leadership Team Training, QLD election, Borroloola is the first Aboriginal community to declare themselves fracking gasfield free



**DECEMBER**

Stop Adani shake up creative community actions, QLD Government veto to Adani loan, Seed builds team





## MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

From coral bleaching, record droughts, raging wildfires, to huge floods and destructive hurricanes - 2017 has been a stark reminder of the dangerous impacts we face in a warming world, and a constant reminder for what the future could hold for young people.

As we witness this, young people all across the country are busy building a powerful movement of people that will transition Australia to 100% renewable energy.

As we look back at everything we've achieved together this year, we have so much to be proud of.

For us, we will remember 2017 as:

The year we stopped Australia's big four banks from investing in Adani's Carmichael coal mine, shifting the future of thermal coal investments forever.

When we finally got a commitment to build Australia's first solar thermal plant bringing 24-hour solar power to South Australia, positioning the state as the nation's renewable energy superpower.

And the year that the first Aboriginal community declared itself fracking free, standing with tens of other Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory voicing their opposition to fracking on their country so loudly that the Government has to redo their entire consultation process for Aboriginal communities, and that's not even the half of it.

We brought AYCC and Seed together at our first Power Shift in four years. It was a huge 850 person, three day summit focussing on everything from understanding climate science, climate justice and Indigenous resistance to the many interconnected

issues perpetuated by the climate crisis and ending with making plans in our local communities to take action and win our campaigns.

This is my first year as the new National Director of the AYCC, stepping into the big shoes of Kirsty Albion and the many powerful women who have led before me. It's an absolute honor to work for an organisation building a better future every single day.

Over the next few years, we're going to supersize our power on the ground, growing our national volunteer network to 2000 volunteers, training over 1000 people per year across our programs, giving young people a voice no matter who they are or where they come from. Giving them the skills, confidence, networks and support they need to be part of campaigns that win in their communities that will change the course of history forever.

I'm so excited to be on this journey with you and I'm filled with so much hope and determination that this powerful climate justice movement led by young people will achieve big things in the next few years.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, our staff, supporters and funders for your unwavering support of our vision for a better future.

**GEMMA BORGO-CARATTI**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

What an enormous year it has been for AYCC. This year we've had three major campaign victories dramatically shifting the climate landscape in Australia.

We've been fighting to keep the coal in the Galilee Basin in the ground for five years, but in 2017 the Stop Adani campaign cemented itself as the biggest and most powerful environmental campaign in Australia's history. Through our work we've seen Westpac rule out their involvement in the project, joining 26 other banks around the world who refuse to bank on this reckless project, and we're finally seeing a shift in the politics of coal as the Queensland Government make vetoing the NAIF loan to Adani the first order of the newly elected Government.

We secured the final piece of the contract to see Australia's first solar thermal plant built in Port Augusta, giving strength to a thriving South Australia positioning itself to export renewable energy to the rest of the country and lead the transition to 100% renewables. This was a long five year campaign, led by the very powerful and determined Repower Port Augusta community group - and together, we won!

Alongside AYCC, the Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network have led a powerful campaign which has seen widespread outrage over plans to frack thousands of gas wells across the NT, led by Traditional Owners, and young people in remote communities. Seed's powerful and strategic campaign has put the voices of Aboriginal people front and centre of the territory gas debate, without which the stories of opposition from these communities might never have been heard.

These campaign wins are only possible because of our volunteer network across the country of over 750 volunteers. This year we trained over 1000 young people through our programs to lead action on climate change in their communities.

As always AYCC has ambitious plans for the future. I would like to welcome Gemma Borgo-Caratti to the role of National Director. Gemma led AYCC's campaigns for the past few years and brings to this role a deep understanding of the organisation's mission and a big vision to grow our network to ensure we can achieve the action on climate change we know we need.

I'd also like to welcome some new staff and Board members, our new staff members: Harry Cossar-Gilbert, Matt Curry, Corina Ritchie, Jasmine Hocking, Jordan Wimbis, Tallara Gray, Zareen Syed, Nick Carter and Board members: Saffron Zomer and Brooke Greenwood. I would also like to thank Claire Snyder for her leadership as chair of the Board for the last three years.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, staff and generous supporters. We look forward to all that will be achieved in 2018.

**BRONWYN LEE**





- **218 ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG MOB AT POWER SHIFT**
- **OVER A MILLION PEOPLE REACHED ONLINE**
- **+100 MEDIA STORIES**

## SEED INDIGENOUS YOUTH CLIMATE NETWORK

This year Seed has had a huge impact which would not have been possible if it weren't for our **deadly volunteers and staff across the country!**

In 2017 we doubled the size and reach of our grassroots network to over 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and to keep up with this growth we also grew our Seed staff team who will lead our campaigns and programs into 2018.

As a branch of the AYCC, Seed is committed to working with our mob to protect country from the causes and impacts of climate change.

In 2017, we continued to lead the powerful campaign to ban fracking in the Northern Territory, we ignited outrage over the attack on Land Rights and are proud to have launched our first Seed high schools program. In 2018, we'll continue to grow and skill-up our network of young people working together to lead campaigns that protect our land & culture and build strong, resilient, sustainable communities.

- **OVER 50 LOCAL MEETINGS**
- **1ST ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA TO DECLARE THEMSELVES FRACKING GASFIELD FREE**

## NORTHERN TERRITORY BAN FRACKING CAMPAIGN

2017 started with a newly elected NT Government who promised a moratorium on gas fracking for 18 months. After pressure from the gas industry, the NT Government launched an inquiry into fracking with the hope of lifting the moratorium earlier than promised. Currently 83% of the NT is under oil or gas exploration license and if burnt, it would end our chances at keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees.

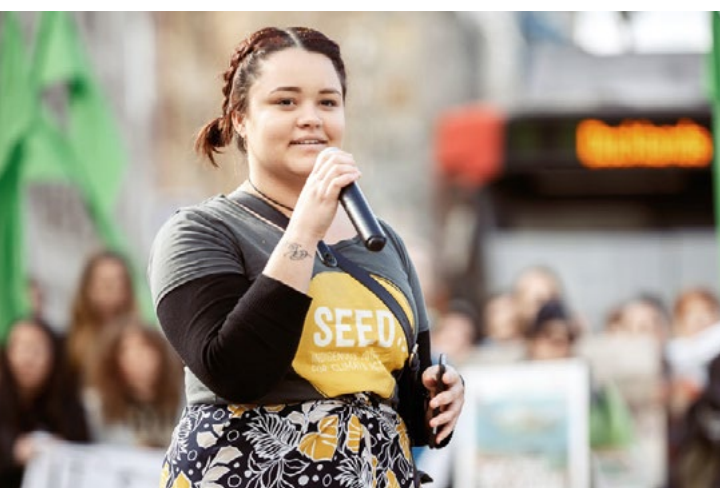
That's why this year we focused our work on ensuring that Aboriginal communities and young people all across the NT who would be the most impacted by fracking, could have their voices heard during the inquiry process. Although we worked with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people across the whole Territory, we concentrated our efforts in communities across the Beetaloo basin such as Mataranka, Borroloola and Elliot which is the region most at threat.

Seed volunteers from across the Territory worked together to organise community meetings and forums to discuss the impacts of fracking on country. Throughout the year we had over 5,000 conversations across the Territory in local communities.

In particular we worked with the Borroloola community, a community we've been working with on this campaign for over two years. We supported young people to conduct a survey as to whether they wanted fracking or not. There was a huge response, with 97% of the community deciding they didn't support fracking. They have now declared themselves the first Aboriginal community in the country to be fracking gasfield-free.

As the inquiry was completing their final consultations we brought together over 60 Traditional Owners from across the Territory in Darwin, who wrote a statement to the NT Government with their concerns about the impacts of fracking on water and country. We held a rally and then lobbied politicians with community members getting statewide media for the campaign.

We are so excited to continue supporting our incredible young leaders in the Territory to voice their opposition to fracking as we push for a Territory-wide ban. We won't give up until there is justice for Aboriginal communities across the Territory.







# LAND RIGHTS NOT MINING RIGHTS

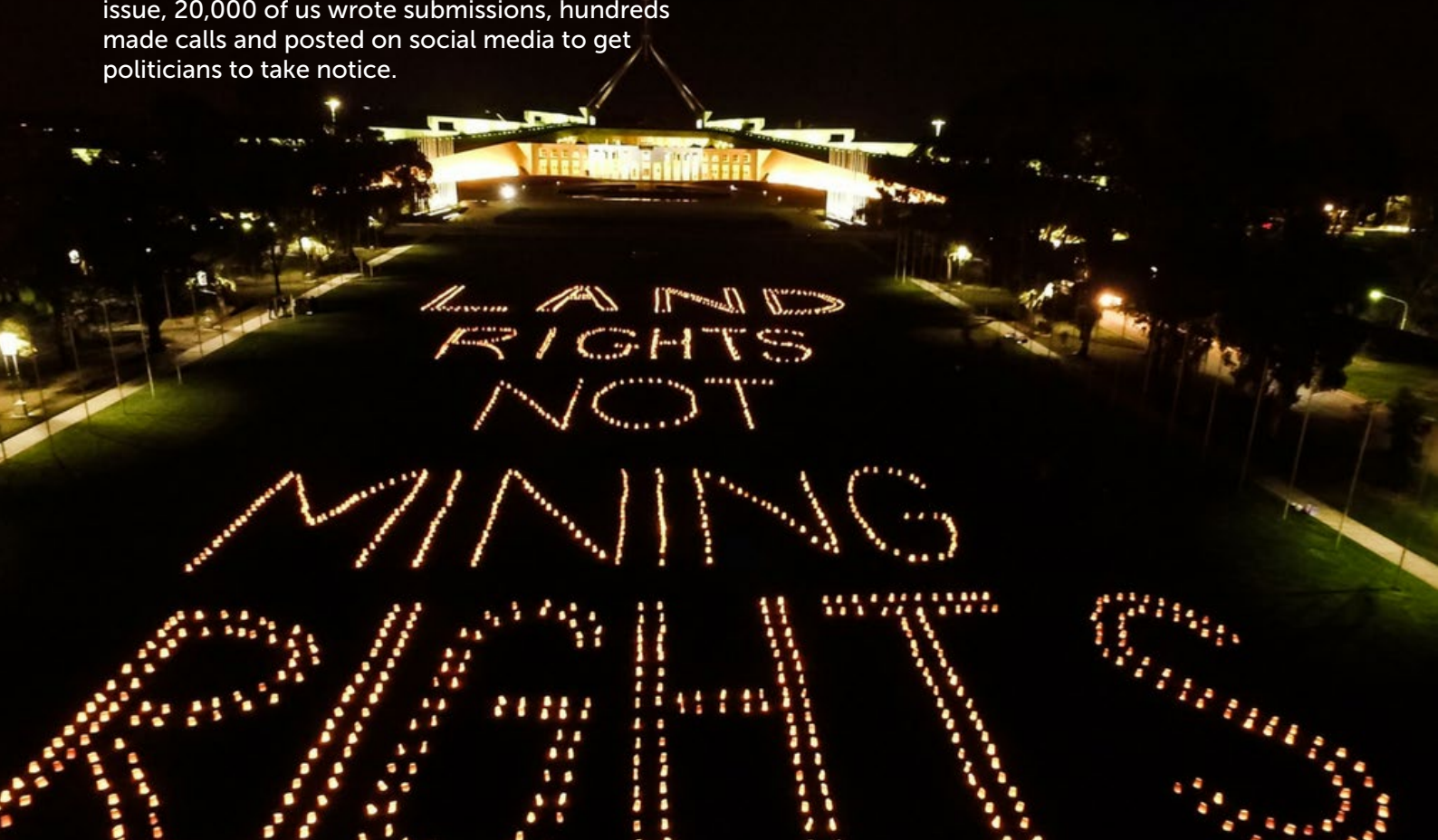
In February we learnt that our land rights were under attack. The Federal Government had introduced new legislation to amend the Native Title Act without consulting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at all, for the benefit of the mining lobby, namely Adani.

We launched a rapid response campaign with the goal of getting a consultation period for Aboriginal communities before any amendments were put to the Parliament. Together we made this a national issue, 20,000 of us wrote submissions, hundreds made calls and posted on social media to get politicians to take notice.

- 20,000+ SUBMISSIONS
- HUNDREDS OF CALLS TO MP'S TO SUPPORT LAND RIGHTS
- TENS OF MEDIA ARTICLES IN MAJOR OUTLETS

Our action on the lawns of Parliament House the night before the vote put our campaign and our message for 'Land Rights not mining rights' in every major news outlet in the country.

Our fight for land rights and strengthening Native Title continues as we know there is no climate justice without land rights. In 2018 Seed will continue to fend off attacks by our Government and opposition and fight to protect land rights for our communities.



## SEED SCHOOLS PROGRAM PILOT, VICTORIA

This year we turned another idea sparked by a volunteer into reality - we launched the Seed high schools program pilot in Victoria. Throughout 2017, we developed and delivered climate justice presentations reaching over 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students across the state. Through this program, we not only built the capacity of Seed to engage high school students across the whole country, but we also trained up an inspiring team of Seed volunteer leaders to support Indigenous youth to take action protecting country and the climate.

Our climate presentation was developed by Indigenous young people for Indigenous people. The unique content of the presentations takes students on a journey that starts with their own experiences of climate change and environmental destruction and then moves towards learning about the facts and science regarding the issue and how it is disproportionately impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture, which is then followed by the

solutions and what we can be doing about it in our homes, schools, communities. Through the use of stories that focus on the unique and important role that young people play in creating social change, students are then inspired and encouraged to make plans for what they can do to take action.

A highlight of this program is that Seed is now building local volunteer groups in regional and rural areas of Victoria such as Mildura, Shepparton, Warrnambool and Sale where we delivered presentations in schools with a high number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students.

The relationships that we built with students, teachers and community members in these places will act as the foundations for our ongoing work and we expect to see the impact of this program in years to come. We now look forward to increasing our engagement with high schools nationally throughout 2018, particularly in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and of course Victoria.

### MEET JESS VAN GENT

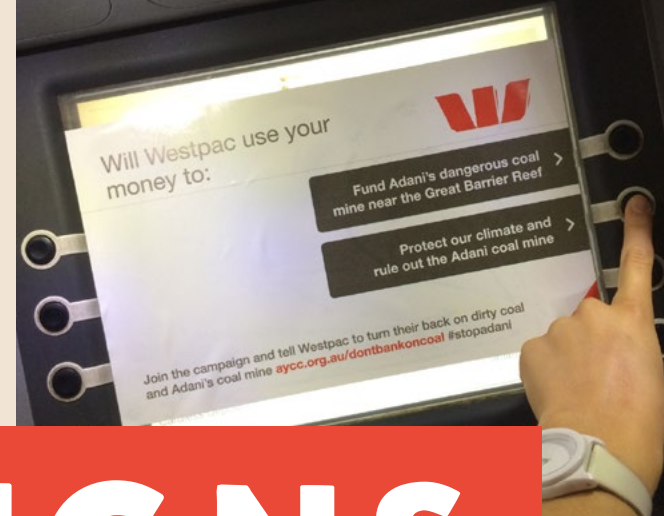


Jess is a 19 year old Aboriginal woman who has been volunteering with Seed since April 2015. Since finishing high school in 2016, Jess started to come along to more Seed events and started to take on responsibility but it was when we launched the Schools Program that Jess really stepped up as a leader and was able to empower others to get involved.

Jess is incredibly passionate about engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students, because for her, connecting with Seed whilst she was at school gave her the confidence and support that she needed to be able to take action on issues she cared about. Jess has just taken on the volunteer role of State Co-Coordinator for Seed in Victoria.

This is what Jess has to say: "One of my highlights of being involved in this program has been the training weekend down in Anglesea earlier this year, where I was able to gain skills and knowledge about how to run the in-school presentation and how to support high school students to take action in their communities. I think that Seed having their own high school program has and will continue to make such a difference in the lives of high school students. Being apart of Seed and the School's Program has changed my life. I have learnt so much and met so many young, amazing and inspirational people who have become some of my best friends."





# CAMPAIGNS THAT WIN

AYCC had a big year of campaign wins in 2017, and made huge headway on our major campaigns.

**Our work to keep fossil fuels in the ground and build big renewables was put into action through our campaign to stop Adani's Carmichael mine in Queensland, ban fracking in the NT, build solar thermal in Port Augusta and keep pressure on the government for their woeful energy policy.**

To build their coal mine, Adani needs Australian finance. For the last 3 years, AYCC has been running a consistent campaign to pressure the big 4 banks to rule out funding Adani's mine. In 2015/16 we successfully moved CommBank, NAB

and ANZ to rule out funding the coal mine, along with 26 financial institutions internationally. Then, after a concerted effort to push Westpac to rule out coal investments, we won in April!

And so the government intervened, offering up \$5 billion of taxpayer money to projects through the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund - essentially a slush fund for mining companies, with a focus on Queensland, and their eyes were set on billionaire Adani. But with the new Queensland Government blocking the NAIF loan, it's looking more uncertain than ever how Adani will finance this mine.

- 3000 ACTIONS TARGETING WESTPAC
- OVER 150 ACTIONS PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE NAIF LOAN
- MEETINGS WITH 150 MP'S AND DECISION MAKERS ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGNS ON ADANI AND PORT AUGUSTA

#STOP ADANI!

## BANKS CAMPAIGN

After 3 years of campaigning to get the big 4 banks to rule out funding Adani's coal mine - we won! With an incredible 2016 moving NAB, ANZ and Commbank to do the right thing, the last bank to fall into line was Westpac.

### OUR STRATEGY HAD 3 KEY ELEMENTS:

**Brand jamming** - Westpac markets itself as "the world's most sustainable bank" so we used cheeky stickers, posters and billboards for months on end to show that this wouldn't fit with funding Adani's mine.

**Build staff support** - Westpac has 30,000 employees, and they really want them to be happy. AYCC volunteers held 3000 actions, branch visits and HQ engagement sessions to build awareness with staff about the Adani mine, and found in a staff survey that 85% didn't want Westpac to invest in Adani.

**Convince the leadership** - We went to the top, having regular meetings with senior staff about their climate policy, and putting pressure on their board at their AGM by talking to shareholders and asking questions inside.

Because of unrelenting pressure from young people across the country, and the power of our decentralised grassroots network, we were able to pressure the last big bank in Australia to walk away from Adani's coal mine.

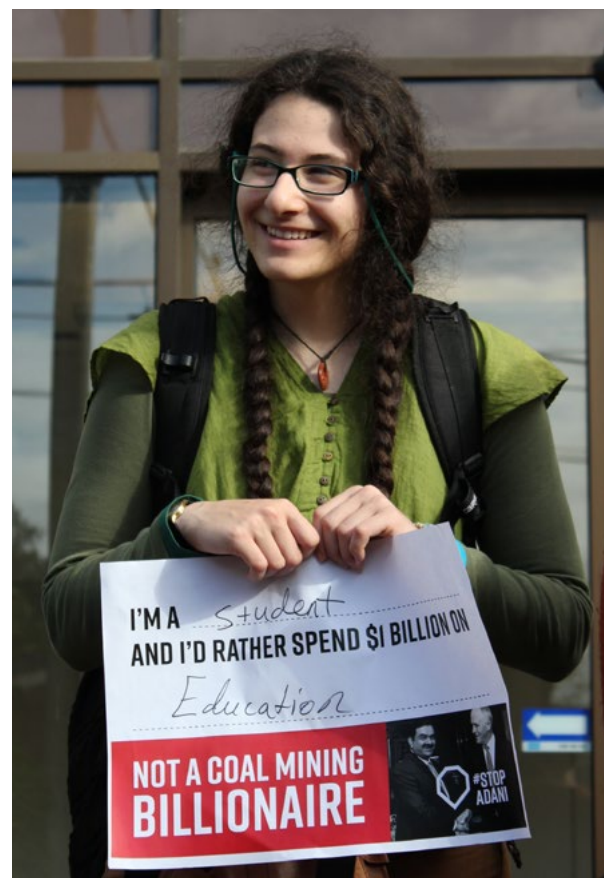
26 banks and financial institutions around the world have now ruled it out. Now, Adani are calling for a taxpayer funded handout of \$1 billion which we will not let happen.





# STOP ADANI CAMPAIGN

2017 saw the campaign to leave the coal in the Galilee Basin in the ground explode to become a household conversation and Australia's biggest ever environmental campaign. AYCC is a founding partner of the Stop Adani Alliance that now has over 180 local groups and organisations across the country, and has made this campaign impossible for politicians to ignore.



To stop Adani's dangerous coal mine from wrecking the climate, Reef, groundwater and riding roughshod over Traditional Owners' land rights, our strategy had 3 arms:

**STOP THE MONEY** - if you haven't got any money you can't build a mine. Once the big 4 banks were out of the funding picture, the Australian government became the target after conditionally offering \$1 billion in taxpayer funds to prop up the Adani mine - whether through NAIF or other taxpayer funds.

**SHIFT THE POLITICS** - volunteers across the country held weekly actions out the front of key decision makers like Turnbull and Frydenberg's offices calling on them to stop Adani in new and cheeky ways. We surveyed over 10,000 people and delivered the results to key MPs, and held several creative actions at Parliament House and the Press Club in Canberra. It also became clear through this campaign that the Queensland Government were under immense pressure from Adani to backflip on their previous election commitment of no special treatment for Adani. AYCC QLD held hundreds of actions throughout the year targeting the government, and eventually Palaszczuk committed to blocking the NAIF loan upon re-election.

**BUILD THE MOVEMENT** - to do this we recruited for the Stop Adani roadshow, held our three day youth summit - Power Shift, supported widespread screenings of the 'Guarding the Galilee' documentary, created tactics that brought people together like the Stop Adani Day of Action bringing together 10,000 people in capital cities and regional towns to spell it out for politicians, it's time to #StopAdani.







# SWITCHED ON SCHOOLS

The Switched on Schools program is an integral part of achieving AYCC's mission of building a generation wide movement to solve the climate crisis.

The approach of the program and its focus on giving high school students the skills, tools and networks to lead long term change provides the opportunity for building long term power, and a grassroots organising model that creates a variety of volunteer pathways to ensure sustainability and strength of the movement.

The strong focus on climate justice and community organising have provided AYCC with the opportunity to position our program as a leading *Education for Sustainability Program* for high school students across the country, and has allowed students to make a difference on each of our campaigns.

- **20,000 STUDENTS ENGAGED THROUGH 120 WORKSHOPS, 6 SUMMITS AND THE STUDENT CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK**
- **80 STUDENTS ENGAGED WITH THE STUDENT CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK ACROSS AUSTRALIA**
- **6 SUMMITS, 3 REGIONAL ONE DAY WORKSHOPS**
- **\$15 MILLION COMMITMENT FOR SOLAR AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR SA SCHOOLS, AS A DIRECT RESULT OF STUDENTS MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND IN-SCHOOL REPOWER OUR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGNS**



## CASE STUDY

The most recent school to have adopted the Repower Our Schools pledge is Wiley Park Girls in Western Sydney, just 3 months after students attended a Switched on Schools Summit. These passionate students not only organised to commit their school to install 100KW of solar and transition to LEDs, they also organised a celebration event which the NSW Education Minister attended. They got local media for their Repower Our Schools pledge event, and invited 5 high schools from the local area to attend and celebrate their commitment to renewable energy!

## REPOWER OUR SCHOOLS

In its second year, Repower our Schools has been supersized into schools across the country. Through our summits and in-school workshops, over 120 schools are now taking on the Repower Our Schools pledge to make their school more sustainable and powered with renewable energy.

**Schools can be renewable energy hubs for the whole community - bringing down power prices and being part of the solution to climate change. 60% of schools across the country are already powered by renewable energy, but we want 100% of schools to be leading the way where our politicians are failing.**

So this campaign gives high school students the tools and skills they need to lead a winning campaign. By starting a petition on the Switched on Schools website, students then influence decision makers and invite their local MP to be part of the process.

This year 52 schools have already repowered, 2 with huge 100KW systems, and a further 120 have started a campaign.

The students go beyond the school gate, to working with state governments to get policy outcomes for solar schools. This year students with the AYCC in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland helped secure policies that would see funding for hundreds of schools to go solar.





# STUDENT CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

This year we launched our inaugural Victorian Student Climate Leadership Program, a 6 month leadership and skill building program, including 6 intensive workshops, experience in facilitation and public speaking, and organising the Victorian Climate Justice Summit.

The program provided 20 high school students with the skills, networks and tools to lead climate action in their communities, connecting them to the broader AYCC volunteer network and providing them with opportunities to step up as leaders. The development of the program came as a result of feedback from key stakeholders in our program wanting a more targeted and structured program for active high school students, to deepen their knowledge and skills to fight for climate justice.

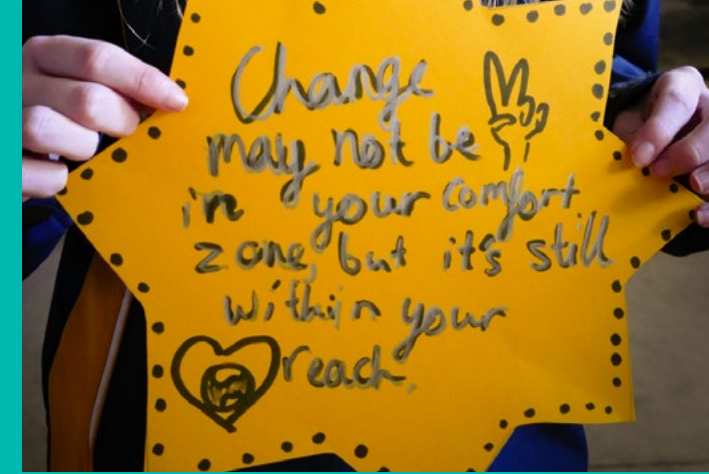
Throughout the program, students learnt a variety of valuable skills in campaigning, effective communication, event management, leadership and building groups, with over half of the participants building environment teams at their school since being involved, and two thirds now active volunteers with AYCC's national campaigns.

In September, over 50 people attended a graduation celebration, including parents, siblings, teachers, AYCC volunteers and staff, to recognise the commitment and dedication of the students to leading climate action, and their involvement in the program over the past 6 months. We are so proud of our graduates!

Given the success of the 2017 Student Climate Leadership Program, we are excited to announce that we will be running the program again in Victoria in 2018, as well as looking towards expanding to other states in the near future.



- **20 STUDENTS IN INAUGURAL PROGRAM**
- **70% FROM LOW SES SCHOOLS AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS**
- **5 NEW ENVIRONMENT TEAMS CREATED**
- **MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT WITH 3 STUDENTS ABOUT STOP ADANI**
- **RECRUITED 225 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO POWER SHIFT**



## CLIMATE JUSTICE SUMMIT

This was our third year running the Melbourne Climate Justice Summit, and were pleased to give 275 students the opportunity learn about climate change in a new way, with a tangible path for action. In addition to this we reached 1200 students directly through in-school workshops and over 5000 indirectly through student sustainability campaigns. We recruited and trained 35 AYCC volunteers and had a 90% success rate of students undertaking Repower Our Schools campaigns following the summit.

- **275 STUDENTS ATTENDED FROM 25 SCHOOLS**
- **25 WORKSHOPS AND CAMPAIGN PLANNING SESSIONS**
- **20 NEW REPOWER OUR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGNS**







**WE WON!**  
**REPOWER**  
**PORT**  
**AUGUSTA**

- 5 YEARS WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
- 328KM WALKED FOR SOLAR
- 650 NEW JOBS
- 24-HOUR SOLAR POWER FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA
- BI-PARTISAN COMMITMENT AT LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS
- 3 OTHER SOLAR AND BATTERY PROJECTS IN THE REGION
- 500 SOUTH AUSTRALIANS RALLYING FOR SOLAR IN ADELAIDE
- 7500 PETITION SIGNATURES THIS YEAR



## WHAT AN INCREDIBLE PEOPLE-POWERED VICTORY!

Port Augusta in South Australia is now the solar capital of Australia because of the efforts of a small group of committed locals, and a whole bunch of people like you who have backed them every single step of the way in their campaign to replace the old coal power stations with concentrated solar thermal with storage.

The 150 megawatt solar thermal with storage plant set to be built in Port Augusta is the largest of its kind worldwide. It will mean clean, solar power is available for South Australians, saving on bills and reducing emissions by the equivalent of 200,000 cars every single year. It will create 650 jobs during construction and another 50 ongoing jobs. Importantly, the project will protect the health and livelihoods of local people who have struggled with the impacts of coal-fired plants in the town and the unplanned closure of these plants in 2016. The campaign had the unintended consequence of turning the region into a smart energy hub with huge renewable energy projects like a solar thermal tomato farm and a 300MW solar array.

The Repower Port Augusta local group worked so hard to make this solar thermal tower possible - congratulations to Lisa Lumsden, Gary Rowbottom and everyone else for your commitment. Congratulations to the many generations of AYCC SA activists who fought so hard and never gave up on this campaign. Thank you to Solar Citizens and 100% Renewables who helped push this campaign over the line this year, thank you to all the South Australian activists who pushed for so long to make it happen, and thank you to everyone who donated to make this campaign impossible to ignore for the last 5 years.





## WORKING WITH YOUTH IN THE LATROBE VALLEY

**As Australia moves to 100% renewables, and away from coal burning power stations, there are communities who will feel the impacts of the transition more than others - namely, coal communities.**

Throughout the transition, young people rarely get a word in for what their community should look like into the future. AYCC has been working with young people in Victoria's Latrobe Valley for 2 years now.

This year the old Hazelwood coal station shut down, leaving a big hole in the local economy. But young people weren't going to play into the negative press. AYCC supported the development of a new local group - A New Power. 10 young people from the Valley have been holding events, doing local media, and speaking with MPs and coal companies about how they can be involved in planning what their region looks like beyond coal.

This was possible because AYCC has held local trainings in the region bringing together like-minded young people from many different backgrounds to give them the skills, knowledge and connections they need to carve out a positive vision for the Valley.



- **KNOCKED ON 1500 DOORS**
- **SECURED A PROMISE FROM PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT TO VETO THE ADANI NAIF LOAN**
- **FOLLOWED THE LEADERS WHEREVER THEY WENT**
- **ADANI WAS THE NUMBER 1 ELECTION ISSUE**
- **IN THE MEDIA OVER 150 TIMES**

## QLD STATE ELECTION

The Queensland election was a key pillar of the campaign to stop Adani. We know that Queensland has to approve any loan of taxpayer money from the Federal Government. At the last state election, Palaszczuk promised to lend no public money to Adani and so we got to work holding her to that promise.

Palaszczuk called a snap election for the end of November, however AYCC volunteers had already been working hard all year to pressure the government to come out against the Adani coal mine.

Volunteers worked in 3 electorates, talking to thousands of voters, chasing the leaders around with our Stop Adani message, and hosting actions every day to put pressure on the leaders.

With just 2 weeks to election day, Palaszczuk made the announcement that if elected her new Government would block any taxpayer money for Adani's coal mine and veto the NAIF loan - this was a huge win on the campaign just before Queenslanders headed to the polls.



## WA STATE ELECTION

**The March WA election was fought on a transition away from the intrusive gas industry, an economy transitioning away from the mining boom, and over the destruction of wetlands at Roe 8 to build a highway.**

AYCC WA pushed into the electoral landscape to show that young people support renewable energy and wanted a Government that supported clean energy and 21st Century jobs. With the Renew WA alliance, the AYCC team had 1,000 conversations in key electorates close to the city, posterized the leaders' electorates, met with federal and state MPs, and built the narrative of the viability of renewable energy in WA. We are still working to push the WA Government to set a renewable energy target for the state.





# BUILDING A MOVEMENT

## EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

**Empowering young people is at the heart of AYCC and Seed. Ensuring young people have the knowledge, skills and confidence to change the world for the better has dual benefits - it means that young people are committed to change-making for the long term, and it means that our campaigns and projects are effective and broadscale.**

2017 was a big year for training at AYCC and Seed, with a big focus on shared moments across the country, and building our local community and uni campus groups.

O-weeks kicked off the year with a huge recruitment push for state training camps, and an epic Westpac week of action with hundreds of actions at branches, and towns well and truly covered in our brand-jam material.

We held our first Power Shift in four years, bringing together 850 young people from across the country - including 218 Indigenous young people, over 200 high school students, uni and TAFE students, long term volunteers and brand new people.

Local trainings are how we build our state teams - we held 15 state training camps where young people can meet their peers, get the skills they need to win campaigns, and create plans for the coming months. 400 people were trained through this unique program.

Nationally, 30 "Climate Leaders" were trained as our cohort of volunteer state coordinators who led their states in AYCC and Seed campaigns. Through weekly webinars and 2 national retreats, these young people are the heart of what we do.

Over the past twelve months we completed an extensive review of our grassroots model to analyse our approach to organising and provide ideas to grow and strengthen our network. In 2017 we tested new ways of training, volunteer support and communication which will allow our network to grow much faster into 2018.

- OVER 1000 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED
- 30 NEW CLIMATE LEADERS
- 1 MASSIVE POWER SHIFT
- 250 EVENTS HELD
- 750 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



### MEET ANGIE JUDD



**I decided to get involved with the AYCC after attending Power Shift, where I witnessed first hand the immense passion and energy that the people in this space have for climate justice. It was my first time being around so many young people actually acting on climate change, and I quickly knew that I wanted to be a part of it.**

Since then, I've been fortunate enough to immerse myself in all things AYCC as one of the new Victoria state leaders. From being part of an incredible human sign at the Stop Adani National Day of Action, helping organise fun events to raise funds for the love of the Reef, getting the opportunity to contribute to campaign plans for 2018, to just meeting a heap of old and new volunteers at AYCC,

the experience so far has definitely exceeded all of my expectations. Having 3 other wonderful state leaders to learn with and from has also made coming into the AYCC as a new volunteer that much easier, so I'm super keen for all of the hands-on work I'll get to do with them over the next year!





# POWER SHIFT YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Power Shift was AYCC and Seed's joint youth climate justice summit held from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of July for 850 young people in Melbourne. AYCC has run Power Shift in the past, but not for four years, and it was the first Power Shift jointly held with Seed.

The program was jam-packed with incredible speakers - we had Indigenous speakers from Australia, Canada, the US, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, and leading change-makers from across the country teaching everything from community organising, to video making, to communicating effectively and so much more.

**DAY 1** took people on a journey of understanding climate justice, with a big focus on Indigenous resistance and increasing people's understanding of climate science and solutions.

**DAY 2** was all about people power and how to use it. Participants learnt about campaign strategy, organising, how other movements are changing the world. People got fired up about the campaigns to Stop Adani and ban fracking in the NT.

**DAY 3** was all about action, as all participants took part in the March for Climate Justice led by Indigenous people through the streets of Melbourne. 'Hope is the greatest form of resistance' was the theme of the day, as we made plans for making an impact back in our home states.

- 850 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EVERY STATE AND TERRITORY
- 218 YOUNG ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE
- 225 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
- 96 SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS
- 350 NEW VOLUNTEERS COMMITTED TO AYCC





# FOR THE LOVE OF THE REEF

This year's For the Love of campaign was our most successful yet. Over 1000 people raised grassroots funds for AYCC and Seed to run campaigns to protect our Reef and climate from Australia's largest coal and gas projects.

**The Reef was chosen for this year's campaign because the Reef suffered the impacts of back-to-back coral bleaching. Global warming and the burning of fossil fuels directly cause sea surface temperatures to rise and mass coral bleaching to occur.**

That's why Reef lovers from all across the country went without something they love - coffee, chocolate, avocado or something else for 2 weeks in October, to protect the things and places we love from the effects of climate change.

We launched For the Love of the Reef at Power Shift to 850 young people and built momentum leading up to the campaign using recruitment tactics both on the ground on uni campuses and online through ads, emails, influencers and social media.



Our For the Love of the Reef campaign is a great way to reach new audiences and continue to build our movement of young people fighting for climate justice. Nicole, our Seed Campaigner first got involved with Seed after taking part in For the Love of 2 years ago:

"Before I knew anything about Seed and the AYCC I saw For the Love of on Facebook and decided to take the challenge. Then I got involved with Seed as a volunteer and since then I've been working with young mob as an organiser and campaigner. This year I went without pancakes for 2 weeks and raised \$500 to supercharge our campaigns to protect country and ban fracking in the NT"

Thank you to everyone who took part in For the Love of the Reef this year.



- RAISED \$190,000 FOR CAMPAIGNS TO STOP AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST COAL AND GAS PROJECTS INCLUDING \$40,000 RAISED FOR SEED
- 1000 FUNDRAISERS
- 5000 DONATIONS
- AVERAGE DONATION \$36
- AVERAGE AMOUNT RAISED PER PERSON \$217
- REACHED OF OVER 1 MILLION SUPPORTERS ONLINE





- REACHED 17 MILLION PEOPLE ONLINE
- GREW TO 150,000 MEMBERS
- 50,000 FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK
- RAISED \$120,000 IN ONE OFF SMALL DONATIONS
- GREW OUR PRESENCE ON INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER BY 30%
- FEATURED IN APPROX 300 MEDIA ARTICLES AND RADIO INTERVIEWS

## MEDIA AND ONLINE

AYCC's reach has been growing steadily over the past year. By investing in video production in house we have been able to tell more stories of our campaigns, volunteers and programs to reach a wider audience more regularly.

The Communications Team grew in 2017, bringing on a Digital Campaigner and a Fundraising and Communications Officer to grow our presence online. This has allowed us to take on more projects, grow our membership and create more content.

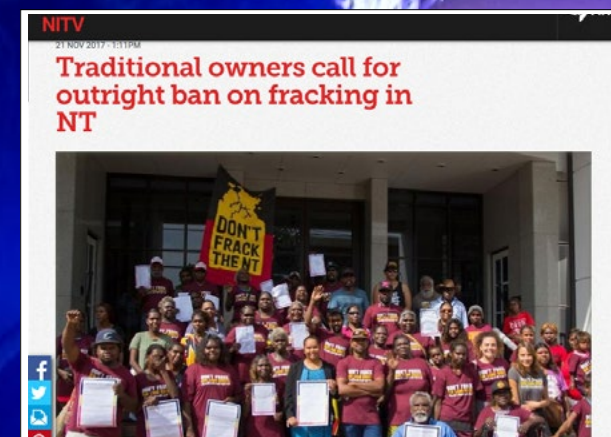
At a grassroots level, volunteers are taking ownership over their state social media and growing their local voice and recruiting volunteers. In 2018 we hope to set up a network of communications volunteers who take ownership over social media, photos and videos in their state, and who support each other horizontally.



AYCC social media content.



Seed's Land Rights not mining rights action on the front page of the Koori Mail. 17/05/17



NITV article covering the NT Aboriginal Fracking Forum organised by Seed. 21/11/17



Seed's Join the Fight for Land Rights video went viral with over 250, 000 views.



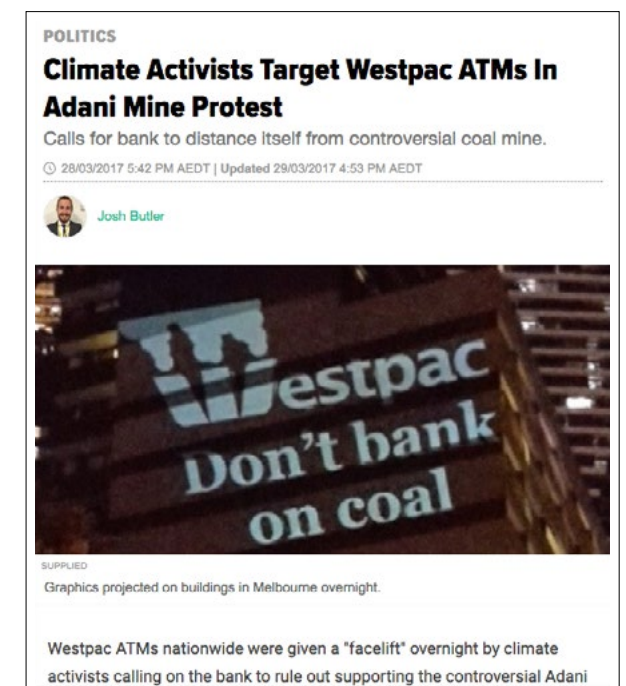
AYCC National Director Gemma on Sky News. 23/07/17



Repower Port Augusta campaign in The Advertiser. 01/05/17



In the media over 150 times during the Queensland state election campaign.



Huffington Post article covering AYCC's Westpac campaign actions. 28/03/17



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

AYCC volunteers go on to do incredible things with the skills they learned at AYCC. We call them 'Old Mates' because they're always a friend of AYCC, with many supporting with training and on the ground actions.



**DAVID CAZZULINO** - "Last year I was AYCC QLD State Coordinator. Now I work with the Australian Marine Conservation as a Great Barrier Reef Community Campaigner based in Cairns. Here in the Gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, we're on the front lines of climate change. Our Reef has experienced unprecedented back-to-back bleaching events and I'm privileged to work with community members and tourism operators passionate about securing the future of our Reef. I would not be in this position if it weren't for the opportunity and training AYCC provided me to develop the necessary skills in leadership, organising and campaigning."

**EMMA HORSBURGH** - "I'm a Community Organiser for Environment Victoria, working on the #Repower campaign to create a fair and fast transition to 100% renewable energy in Australia by 2030. AYCC has had a massive impact on my life, and it's hard to imagine my university days or my current career without AYCC's strong presence. AYCC gave me the support and training to rapidly build my skills in so many areas, including organising, project management, campaign strategy, and relationship building. These skills have been critical not only in setting me up for my current career, but also in building my confidence and abilities in other areas of life, from academic to social. Because AYCC actively trusts and empowers young people to get hands-on experience and take genuine ownership over creating change, it has opened so many doors for myself and others. AYCC has given me an invaluable set of skills, experiences, and friends, and I hope to support AYCC to continue this work for future generations."



**JORDAN WIMBIS** - "I am a young Wakka Wakka, South Sea Islander man from the Wide Bay region in QLD. In 2015 I attended AYCC & Seed's national volunteer summit in Sydney, fast forward 2 years and I'm now the Seed Grassroots Organiser based in Brisbane where I can put my passion for protecting country into action and am able support other young people to be a part of creating change with Seed. I've always been passionate about the environment and the effect we have on it but it wasn't until I joined Seed, that I found a like-minded group of people dedicated to the same cause. Seed has given me the support and training to rapidly build my strength in so many areas, including community organising, leadership, campaign strategy, and community engagement. I'm so excited for the prospects of Seed and how I can be apart of that."

# THANK YOU

## THANKING VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

Every year we seem to say, 'what a big year', but this year, not only have we been able to achieve incredible campaign wins, but we've done this whilst also growing substantially and strategically and embedding and living our values of climate justice.

None of this could have been achieved without the amazing leadership of AYCC and Seed staff, whose numbers have also grown this year. AYCC and Seed staff work tirelessly to grow our impact and support our volunteers and are without doubt the most passionate, ambitious and committed employees in the climate movement.

A big thanks goes out to our new Coordination Team, led by Gemma of Kelly, Amy, Tracey, Larissa and Millie T for their creative and visionary leadership. Our talented and fun Fundraising Team; Liv, Harry, David and Remy have fundraised enormously this year, helping to finance our campaigns and enable them to go from strength to strength. Our chatty and tireless regular giving team lead by Remy and Elle including; Milly, Annie, Amina, Kiki, Correa, Bridget, Jacquie, Natalie, Jess, Jesse, Rosanne, Holly, Raymond, Angie and a special thanks to Alicia for building an amazing program and team. Our passionate and skilled organising, campaigns and schools team have grown our network and led our campaigns including; Laura M, Laura S, Millie A, Sally, Nick and Zareen have empowered volunteers around the country and grown the breadth and depth of our grassroots movement. Our brilliant comms team of Kelly, Luke and Matt who have communicated the complexities of our issue with creativity and finally, our deadly Seed mob; Millie, Riss, Nicole, Corina, Jordan, Tallara and Jasmine who are leading the way in organising mob around Australia to protect country.

Of course, none of what we do would be possible without our incredible volunteer teams in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia. This year, they have been lead by;



James, Ilana, Serena, Josh, Marie, Indira and Angie in Victoria for AYCC alongside Jess and Bridget for Seed.

James Dagher, Mika, Kalina, Emma, Georgia and Maddie in New South Wales for AYCC alongside Kyle and Jason for Seed.

Hannah, Nick and Margot in Queensland for AYCC alongside Lia, Landon and Will for Seed

Katherine, Frances and Aaron in Tasmania for AYCC alongside Zac and Madeline for Seed

Holly, Liz, Correa, Chris and Joelle in Western Australia for AYCC alongside Seed mob.

Maddie and Carrie in South Australia for AYCC alongside Seth.

Violet, Lily and Laura in Australian Capital Territory for AYCC alongside Staycee and Krystal for Seed.

Each of our volunteers, throughout our network, is committed to a vision of climate justice and doing everything we can to achieve a safe climate future. We cannot thank them enough for their commitment, passion and enthusiasm.

## PARTNERS IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

AYCC and Seed are part of a broader climate movement with a common goal of solving the climate crisis. The Stop Adani campaign and the campaign for 100% renewables have seen unprecedented collaboration in 2017. Thank you for your comradery, for your willingness to share and your people power: Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Victoria, Solar Citizens, GetUp, CANA, 350.org, Australian Marine Conservation Society, Market Forces, Australia Institute, Friends of the Earth, and many more.



## THANKING PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

As a growing and ambitious youth-led movement, we are always deeply appreciative of the generosity shown from our donors and supporters both big and small. This generosity allows us to carry out our mission and resource our campaigns and programs. As seen in this report, we have had some incredible wins and want to say a heartfelt thank you to:

**The Purves Environmental Fund** for generously backing our movement for ten years. Your continued support and advice is deeply valued, our movement would not be this powerful without you by our side. Thank you for being a dedicated supporter and friend of AYCC, we are forever grateful.

### PRINCIPAL FUNDERS

Thank you for continuously choosing to support our work. Knowing that you back our movement allows us to confidently implement our strategic campaigns and programs for climate justice. Thank you for your continued advice, time and dedication: 5point Foundation, Margaret Henderson, Diversicon Foundation, Stephen Whately, Diana and Brian Snape A.M, Pace Foundation, the Duggan Foundation, Oxfam Australia, Mullum Trust, the NR Peace and Justice Fund, the McKinnon Family Foundation, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, and the Fairer Futures Fund and Melliadora fund, as sub-funds of the Australian Communities Foundation.

### SUPPORTERS OF SEED

Thank you for backing Australia's first Indigenous youth-led climate network. Your support has allowed Seed to grow in size, strength and impact giving voice and power to hundreds of Indigenous young people across the country: Reichstein Foundation, the McKinnon Family Foundation, Stephen Whately, Oxfam Australia, Action Aid Australia, Patagonia, John Skipper Kelly (JSK) Fund - a sub-fund of the Sydney Community Foundation, Debbie Dadon AM and family, Phillip Cornwall, Thomas Delaney, Max Smith, Climate Action Network Australia, the Robert Hicks Foundation and The Water Dragon Endowment - sub-funds of the Community Impact Foundation and Perpetual - Rowe Family Foundation, The Isabel Sims Endowment, Estate of the late Paul Edward Dehnert Bridge Business College Gift Account and many more.

### SUPPORTERS OF SWITCHED ON SCHOOLS

Thank you for supporting this unique peer-to-peer schools program, allowing high school students across the country to step into their power and become the leaders of today: City of Boroondara, Oxfam Australia, City of Cockburn, City of Adelaide and Moreland City Council.

### SUPPORTERS OF OUR NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND CLIMATE LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAM

Thank you for investing in the leaders of today, and supporting the change we need for a safe climate future. Your continued support allows us to implement strategic and impactful campaigns, whilst ensuring young people gain the skills, networks and confidence needed to lead them: Planet Wheeler Foundation, the Garry White Foundation, Norman Pater, ACME Foundation, the Kimberley Foundation, Ann Miller, Insight Foundation, Ross Knowles, Robert Tickner, Koorabup Trust, Myer Foundation: Sustainability and Environment Committee.

### REGULAR GIVERS- CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

Thank you for your consistent and generous support which allows us to remain an independent and sustainable movement. You are truly champions of change, and we are so grateful that you choose to contribute towards our work.

### PARTNERS OF AYCC AND SEED

It's a pleasure working alongside valued-aligned organisations to help each other reach our missions. Thank you to the following partners for standing with us in this fight for climate justice: Future Super, Lush Cosmetics Australia, Cherry Energy Solutions, KeepCup, Dumbo Feather and Solar Calculator.

As a movement focused on climate justice, we only accept funding from sources and individuals that align with our values, as we ensure that we practice what we advocate. We hold these relationships very close and want to thank everyone for their commitment to building a youth-led movement for climate justice with us.

"The PEF has been a long-time supporter of AYCC because of its unique and effective ability to empower and connect those that would be most impacted by the decisions and actions taken and not taken today in the climate change frontline, and to nurture the next generation of leaders in the environmental movement."

### PURVES ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

"I support AYCC because climate change is the biggest challenge that my, and previous generations, are imposing on future generations. The AYCC is an incredibly focussed and strong organisation of young people changing the future, and is one of the most proactive and effective organisations in this space that is making a difference."

**GERARD DWYER, REGULAR GIVER**





# CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW



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