

# ACF Prom Area Climate Action joins School Strike for Climate

ON September 25 you may have noticed photos streaming in to your social media from protests around the world for the School Strike for Climate. Despite Covid-19 limitations there were more than 600 protests across Australia coordinated by young people, including across South Gippsland! School strikers marched under the banner 'Fund our Future Not the Gas Industry', demanding no public money be spent on the climate destroying gas industry and instead public money be spent on creating sustainable jobs in renewable energy.

Students had to be more creative and included public art installations, small socially distanced actions, and teach-ins where the classroom was taken over by students to educate themselves on the climate emergency and what we need to do to stop it. These actions built on the protests last year that were some of the largest protests Australia has ever experienced – all organised by young people!

South Gippsland was also active. School student Abbey from Korumburra Secondary College reached out to Prom Area Climate Action (PACA, a local group of the Australian Conservation Foundation) to organise a Q and A on what we can do about the climate emergency for her school. So, on the last day of term 3, PACA members Elizabeth Collins and Maddi Moore did a presentation to more than 50 students. We started by presenting some of the general science behind what is going on before then turning to what we can and must do about it,

highlighting the importance of collective action and the need to be noisy!

Elizabeth and I were very impressed by the knowledge and depth of questions from the students, and came away feeling hopeful that the next generation of climate warriors are clued on, and ready to make noise. Good work Abbey and everyone else at Korumburra Secondary College who made the event a success and keep up the fight!

We also organised a Covid-safe action in Fish Creek with nine protesters and two dogs. Pots and pans were banged whilst we marched from the Fishy pub to the community garden holding signs that read 'Our Future not Gas' and 'Don't be a Fossil Fool.' Although not a super busy day in town, we got multiple honks in support from passing cars.

The mass national mobilisation of the school strike fills me with hope and I hope it helps the federal government to open its ears to the community – these young people will be 18 before too long and if our governments do not stop acting like fossil fools, they will have no (political) future.

Members of PACA also took part in the region wide event Act4ClimateGippsland on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to remind our political representatives that Gippslanders are experiencing the effects of climate heating through bushfire, changes in the season, reduced rainfall and farm production, and want action from our governments.

Our next two events focus on farming. We showed the film "Kiss the Ground", about the way farming can be adapted to draw down carbon from the atmosphere and store it in soil. The Federal Government's Technology Roadmap to lower carbon was released

recently, and includes making the measurement of carbon in soil less expensive so farmers can use it as a tool in managing their farms.

Our next webinar, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, features regenerative land management advisor Stephanie Hildmann talking about its role in reversing climate heating. Stefanie is well known to readers of the Mirror and if you want to hear her speak, please contact us at [promareaclimateaction@gmail.org](mailto:promareaclimateaction@gmail.org) or register through our website [www.promareaclimateaction.org](http://www.promareaclimateaction.org).

- Maddi Moore, Fish Creek.



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