

## To change everything we need every one... So – who is everyone?

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As Naomi Klein has brought up with her significant book – “This Changes Everything” we are in the midst of a climate crisis that is fueled by capitalism.

And so, with such urgent problems facing us, we need to work differently, and more effectively than ever, across issues, in new coalitions.

She exhorts us – to change everything we need everyone.

So, at our Melbourne Campaigners Network meet at the end of June we decided to ask – Who is everyone?

We wanted to discuss who is currently close to us, in our networks, who have we got good relationships with, and who is missing... where do we need to build the bridges to the groups that we know of, doing good work, but we aren't closely connected to.

So on a June afternoon in a chaotic session with a few small people running around, we started to unpack a small piece of the picture of where our movement sits.



Firstly, to share who was in the room – we have a group of core folks who are regular attendees of Melbourne Campaigners Network... an ongoing series of events and a loose network that has been operating in Melbourne over the last few years – initially convened by Holly Hammond – and then joined by Naomi Blackburn, and myself more recently.

We have a range of attendees, drawn from progressive politics, the union movement, a strong contingent of environmentalists, and folks from across the social justice sector... and typically the audience fluxes and changes depending on the topics which are varied and diverse.

This event, focused as it was on climate and extended networks, naturally drew an audience weighted more towards an interest in those issues – but we also had a number of graduates of “The Change Course”, a series of workshops I run for grassroots activists, in attendance as well as folks from the union movement, animal rights and various political parties and groups that work across issues, like GetUp.

We started with some initial discussion and reflection, and shared the preview for the upcoming documentary which is related to the book.

We essentially wanted to map “degrees of separation” to a range of both grassroots groups and nongovernment organisations in the environment and social justice sectors.

The rough areas we grouped people into (there could be many ways of doing this) were

- Environment/Climate
- Health and community
- Human rights and social justice
- Unions and workers rights
- First nations and international solidarity campaigns
- Animal rights
- Other

**The “first degree” was mapped with a yellow/orange sticky note.**

These are groups we were directly involved with or members of.



**The “second degree” was mapped with a pink sticky note**



Here are notes about our “degrees of separation” to each of these sectors, as well as some of the challenges and opportunities that relate to working in coalition or collaborating on climate related campaigns.



## **HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SECTOR**

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### **First degree of separation (Orange) Organisations we are involved in**

- Healthy futures
- Community radio Geelong

### **Second degree of separation (Pink) Organisations we work closely with or have positive links to**

- Australian Medical students association
- Doctors for the Environment
- Health promotion association
- Climate and Health Alliance
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Heart foundation
- Vic health
- St Vincents hospital lifestyle centre
- United Voice
- Trade unions for energy democracy

### **Third degree of separation (Blue) Organisations we don't have strong connections to**

- Womens Health in the North
- Australian Nursing and midwifery association
- Australian Medical Association
- Doctors against nuclear power (Note: I think this might actually be Medical Association for the Prevention of War)
- Australian Greek welfare service
- Community Health Centre
- Australian Indigenous Doctors Association
- Royal Australian college of physicians
- All unions

### **Barriers**

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- Some activists engage in unhealthy behaviours (eg: alcohol, cigarettes, other drugs) and may not feel very connected with health care workers
- This is difficult for people to recognize
- Government funding for many health groups makes it difficult to lobby government
- Health professionals as "service providers" ie, they like to maintain neutral relationship with government (or corporates or other power holders)
- Groups that identify enemies vs groups that don't want enemies or adversarial campaigning an obstacle (In this space)

### **Opportunities**

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- Health and environment are inextricably linked
- Lancet Climate change & health launch 2015
- Lots of research and literature, lots of research
- Research on behaviour change
- Learning from health campaigns
- Can create a vision: healthy environments eg: public transport, bikes etc are the same goals as the climate movement
- Unions, ie: nurses
- Opportunity to broaden the conversation
- Pulls messaging out of environmentalism and into health
- Self interest
- Attracting a different segment
- Inadvertently already doing work in this space

### **UNIONS AND WORKERS RIGHTS**

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#### **First degree of separation (Orange) Organisations we are involved in**

- National union of workers

- Earthworker
- Search
- Media Entertainment Arts Alliance
- Australian Education Union
- Australian Institute Employment rights
- Unimelb student union (UMSU)
- Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
- Professionals Australia
- Earthworker

**Second degree of separation (Pink) Organisations we work closely with or have positive links to**

- Australian Council of Trade Unions
- National tertiary education union
- Lots more unions

**Third degree of separation (Blue) Organisations we don't have strong connections to**

- Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union
- Siloed, transactional relationships

**Barriers**

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- Club mentality
- ACTU
- ALP affiliations

**Opportunities**

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- Take up debate of what is the purpose of unions
- Green jobs and green thinking
- Support and develop co-ops

**FIRST NATIONS & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENTS**

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**First degree of separation (Orange) Organisations we are involved in**

- Australian Feminists Against Detention
- Australian Jewish Democratic Society

**Second degree of separation (Pink) Organisations we work closely with or have positive links to**

- Seed
- LASNET – Latin American Solidarity Network
- WAR
- Local Indigenous Groups Working on Country
- Land & Sea Ranger Organisations

- Anti-Recognise
- Reconciliation Australia
- Save Kimberley groups
- Anti-nuclear dump groups
- NAILSMA

### **Third degree of separation (Blue) Organisations we don't have strong connections to**

- NATSIWA
- Congress?
- Pacific Climate Warriors
- NACCHO
- Land councils
- MILDRN
- AIATSI
- INCITE Radical Women of Color
- Queer & gender diverse groups in UK, US & elsewhere
- Podemos

### **Barriers**

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- Hard
- Racism/Colonisation in our groups/movements
- Lack of direct involvement
- Fear of failing
- Lack of connections to existing groups/communities
- Class
- Gender

### **Opportunities and solutions**

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- Humility
- Solidarity work without expecting reward
- Support to assist not use
- Have conversations
- Listen
- Learn from others
- Make the time to build relationships
- Actively deconstructing colonisation etc

## **ANIMAL RIGHTS**

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### **First degree of separation (Orange) Organisations we are involved in**

- Animal Liberation Victoria
- Melbourne Vegan Project
- Sea Shepherd

### **Second degree of separation (Pink) Organisations we work closely with or have positive links to**

- Animal Justice Party
- Animal Activists Victoria
- Coalition Against Duck Shooting
- Animals Australia
- Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses
- Vegetarian Victoria
- Oscar's Law
- Darebin Pet Save

### **Third degree of separation (Blue) Organisations we don't have strong connections to**

- Justice for Animals Canada

## **HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

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### **First degree of separation (Orange) Organisations we are involved in**

- Earth Worker
- Flat Out
- Melbourne Feminist Network
- Our Watch
- The Big Issue
- Australian Jewish Democratic Society
- Mums for Refugees
- Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees - letter writing group
- Get Up

### **Second degree of separation (Pink) Organisations we work closely with or have positive links to**

- Climarts
- Queer Greens
- Ygender
- Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby
- Oxfam
- Voices of the Valley
- No one is Illegal
- Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

- Amnesty
- Brunswick Amnesty Group

**Third degree of separation (Blue) Organisations we don't have strong connections to**

- Wikileaks
- Whistleblowers, Activists and Citizens Alliance
- CLCs
- Chilout
- Grandmothers for Refugees

**ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE**

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**First degree of separation (Orange) Organisations we are involved in**

- YOUNGO Youth NGO Movement – Climate
- Friends of the Earth
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Greens
- The Wilderness Society
- Fossil Free Unis (350)
- Lock the Gate
- Lock the Gate Melbourne
- Yes 2 Renewables
- Protect Sydney Water Alliance
- WHAM Western Highway Alternative Mindsets
- Fossil Free Melbourne University
- Victorian Climate Action Network (VCAN) – 100 grassroots climate groups
- Fossil Free Monash
- Less Meat Less Heat
- Surf Coast Air Action
- Climate movement Organising Hub
- FLAC Frontline Action on Coal
- ASEN
- Climate 4 Change
- Hume Enviro Champs
- Darebin Climate Action Now
- Sunbury Cycle Space
- Earthworker
- Enviro Show on Geelong Community Radio
- GECO Goongerah Environment Centre (East Gippy Forests)
- Surf Coast Energy Group
- Quit Coal
- Get Up Geelong
- 350.org
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Frack Free Geelong

- Sustainability Educators Network

### **Second degree of separation (Pink) Organisations we work closely with or have positive links to**

- Places You Love
- WWF
- Environment East Gippsland
- Pacific Climate Warriors
- Direct Action Melbourne
- Livewell Yarra
- Knitting Nannas
- BZE
- Solar Citizens
- PTUA
- Public Transport Not Traffic
- WHAM
- Still Wild Still Threatened

### **Third degree of separation (Blue) Organisations we don't have strong connections to**

- LEAN
- GFNP Great Forest National Park
- Leadbetters Possum & other forest groups
- Anti-Nukes
- ACE
- Kimberley groups
- Fukushima etc
- Solar Council
- Wind industry
- Wind Alliance
- Hepburn Wind
- EDOs (EJA)
- South East Forest Rescue
- Transition Towns
- Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
- UNPA
- Doctors for the Environment

## **OTHER**

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This group was established to catch all the other organisations that didn't neatly fit into our very broad categories. It resulted in a range of organisations that worked across issues, political parties, and movement support/multi focus organisations, and some others, such as business, community media and other areas.

### **First degree of separation (Orange) Organisations we are involved in**

- Uni of Melbourne
- Monash Association of Debaters (Alumni)
- The Australia Institute
- The Climate Institute
- Labor
- Greens
- Australian Progress
- Power in Numbers; Plan to Win; Counteract & other social movement support projects
- Whistleblowers, Activists and Citizens Alliance
- Australian debating community
- School of Social Entrepreneurs
- (not sure if these are all appropriately coded orange)

### **Second degree of separation (Pink) Organisations we work closely with or have positive links to**

- Jewish Youth Movements
- ARRC – Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
- Musicians & artists & electronic music labels who fundraise
- Monash Grassroots
- Social enterprise
- RRR; 3CR; Community Radio
- Solar Council
- Solar companies
- IKEA
- LEAN

### **Third degree of separation (Blue) Organisations we don't have strong connections to**

- All Energy Conference (Renewable Industry)
- Sustainable Business Alliance/Council
- Farmers' organisations
- CWA
- Vic Farmers' Federation
- Catholic Church
- Foundation for Young Australia
- Melbourne Alliance
- Open Labor
- Melbourne City Council and other councils
- Anti-Fascist Action

*Just a note: these small group discussions were informed by whoever was in the groups at the time, and as such don't necessarily reflect accurately the experience of the entire group. For example, some groups which are characterised as being quite removed from our community, are actually closely connected in some instances. We also had the challenge of transcribing information, a casual chatty Saturday afternoon where detailed notes weren't taken, too many acronyms and there is some missing information that people never got back to us...but it's a start!* Nicola Paris – CounterAct, Aug 2015