



We Mercies

Care for Creation

As you take the next step, remember the traditional custodians of the land

What does the last Chapter Statement say about our priority areas?

What will we say at our next Chapter?

September
2013

ADVOCACY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

GetUp!

Action for Australia

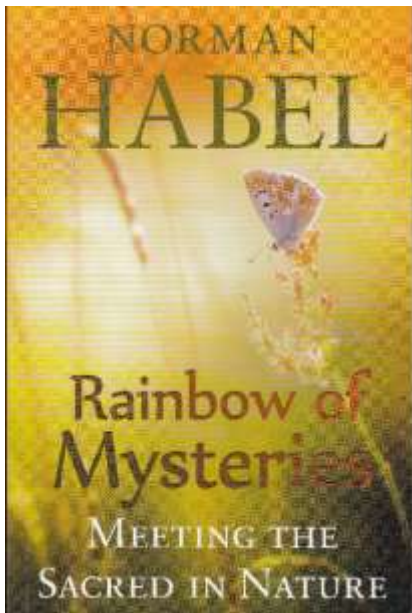
One of our main concerns is Climate Change, the environmental issue of our day. We urgently need advocacy on behalf of the environment.

In the lavender articles distributed last month that summarised the recent LCWR article on the challenges facing leadership today, we read that we need to learn from all kinds of organisations (not talk just to ourselves or others like us). We are called to look beyond ourselves and recognise the leadership being exercised by other groups and ask how we can participate in it.

People power is definitely on the rise. One Australian not-for-profit organisation that is advocating for climate change (among other issues) is GetUp. (www.getup.org.au) It is an independent grass-roots community advocacy organisation which aims to build a progressive Australia and bring participation back into our democracy. It seems to be the brainchild of a number of young people and uses the internet to spread its message and organise its action. Some of their environmental-focussed campaigns had been to Stop Coal Seam Gas Mining, Save the Tarkine, Protect the Great Barrier Reef, No Hunting in NSW National Parks, Save the (Murray-Darling River) Basin, No Pulp Mill (Tasmania), No Compulsory Acquisition in the Kimberley (for a gas processing plant), and Climate Action Now.

One very encouraging aspect of such people power is the involvement of younger people. **Powershift 2013** was a Youth Climate Summit, in Melbourne in July, which saw between 1,500 and 2000 young leaders taking action on climate change and holding MPs to account.

Get Up have also set up www.communityrun.org to help individuals and groups run their own campaigns.



Norman Habel is based in South Australia. He has long been involved in issues of biblical interpretation and social justice. He is editor of *The Earth Bible*, a five volume international project reading the Bible from the perspective of justice for Earth. He has written several other books dealing with the Bible and Creation. His theological tradition is Lutheran.

His current book, *Rainbow of Mysteries Meeting the Sacred in Nature*, invites us to reject the dualistic separation of earth and spirit, and to re-discover and embrace Earth as holy. He experiences a Presence everywhere in nature, from the reds of the sunset to the colourful soils of the Australian landscapes. He challenges our assumptions about ourselves and our relationship with the rest of Earth.

In this book he explores seven spiritual dimensions of nature and describes how he meets the sacred therein. He begins by exploring the mystery of Presence permeating our planet and seeks to discern the Wonder that evokes wonder in us and in nature. He investigates the mystery of Impulse that initiates life, and the mystery of Wisdom encoded within the rhythms and laws of nature. He listens for the Voices of Earth, and, finally, asks the question *Is there Compassion in the Universe?* He connects these steps with the colours of the rainbow, the sign of covenant.

The Mystery of

Presence	~	Red
Being Earth-Born	~	Orange
Wonder	~	Gold
Life	~	Green
Voice	~	Blue
Wisdom	~	Indigo
Compassion	~	Violet

When you explore the mystery of Compassion permeating the universe may you discover that the cosmos has soul.