

Faith and Ecology: Diversity and Dialogue

FAITH
ECOLOGY
NETWORK





- Trunk founded on deep roots in the soil built up over millennia
- Common Home for multiple communities
- Community of communities
- Interconnected as ecosystems and interdependent on natural planetary elements of earth, air, fire, water

The Faith Ecology Network



An Australian network of networks which aims :

- To share mutual appreciation of religious traditions regarding ecological insights
- To discern and foster religious reasons for environmental advocacy
- To strengthen the dialogue of science and religion between different faith groups, professionals and the community
- Currently Aboriginal, Anglican, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Hindu, Islamic, Quaker, and Uniting Church faith traditions plus various scientists.

“Our Earth is talking to us and we must listen and decipher its message if we want to survive.”

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 2007
(speaking to seminarians).

Now every major religion has statements on connecting religion with caring for our common home.





Began in Sydney in 2003 by the Columban Mission Institute, Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice with a public forum, "Wonder and the Will to Care."

Established an e-group to grow the network

Began to hold annual event

Facilitated by the Columban Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice with a tiny budget.

Supported by committed volunteers.

Other Examples

- Held annual forums on an agreed topic but always with input from a cross-disciplinary expert:
- Topics: **Water of Life, Pathways to Peace, Safe Food, Climate · Faith · Change, Earth: Our Common Home, Fasting and Feasting, Faith in Mining, Healthy Earth – Endless Growth: Are they Compatible?**
- **Film Nights – Renew, Journey of the Universe**
- **Enrichment Days**
- **Public Prayer Vigils**
- **Rallies with the FEN banner**



- <http://www.faithecolony.net.au/videos>



Examples from Scripture

- **CHRISTIANITY/JUDAISM:** “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world? Tell me if you understand“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades? Can you loosen Orion’s belt? Job 38: 4, 31.
- **JUDAISM:** “See to it that you do not spoil and destroy my world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it.” – Midrash Kohelet Rabbah 1 on Ecclesiastes 7:13
- **ISLAM:** "There is not an animal on earth, nor a bird that flies on its wings – but they are communities like you." - (Qur'an, 6:38)
- **BUDDHISM:** It is the responsibility of the government to protect trees and other organic life. Sutta on Buddhist Polity named ‘The Ten Duties of the King’ - (Dasarajadhamma)
- **HINDUISM** "Let there be peace in the heavens, the Earth, the atmosphere, the water, the herbs, the vegetation, among the divine beings and in Brahman, the absolute reality. Let everything be at peace and in peace. Only then will we find peace.“ - Atharva Veda

**Science of ecology:
Relationship of living things**

**Language of ecology:
Communities, mutuality**

**We recognise religious pluralism
and social complexity,
We uphold diversity,
We respect individual autonomy
We foster respectful dialogue
while recognising difference.**

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Faith and Ecology Network (FEN)



The logo for the Faith Ecology Network (FEN) is located in the top left corner. It features a stylized circular emblem with two leaves, one green and one yellow, and a brown shadow below it. To the left of the emblem, the words "FAITH", "ECOLOGY", and "NETWORK" are stacked vertically in a sans-serif font.

FAITH
ECOLOGY
NETWORK

New Period for FEN – Time of Transition

- Australian Catholic University Faculty of Theology is now the auspicing body for FEN.
- Takes FEN to a new level of maturity which among other opportunities this initiative will bring: will take advantage of scholarship, build connections between learning and community engagement, improve the website and other media, and grow the network nationally and internationally.