

# Climate activists converge on Canberra

by Chibo Mertineit

In federal parliament’s first week back, the People’s Climate Assembly held a programme of events on the lawns of Parliament House.

The Assembly ran from Sunday 2nd to Thursday 6th February, and featured live performances, workshops and music every day.

“We’re a coalition of concerned citizens and action groups gathering in Canberra to raise our national voice and demand the federal parliament declare a climate emergency now, and take immediate action on climate change,” a statement from the organisers said.

“The people of Australia will no longer accept complacency and denial of the truth.”

Talks featured scientists, healthcare professionals and infrastructure specialists.

On Tuesday 4th, around 100 people with signs and costumes were at Parliament House from 7am to meet and greet politicians on their way in to the first sitting day.

Lots of cars tooted when passing on main road at the turn-off to Parliament House.

A large Climate Emergency Rally was held later, attended by about 2500 people, a great improvement on the 500 last year.



Bob Brown addressing the rally  
Photo: Martin Ollmann



There were lots of people from all over Australia, mostly over 50, and many with elaborate props and costumes.

Benny Zable and Graeme Dustan, 75 and 77 years old, were impressive



The first thing Adam Bandt did as Greens leader was to join the rally

one-man acts with their flags and signs.

A peaceful encirclement of Parliament House was accomplished by about 2000 people.

Dr Karl Kruselnicki was an effective MC for the speakers, including newly-elected Greens leader Adam Bandt, and at the end had fire chiefs speaking, which was a positive, empowering moment.

A feature of the four-day Assembly was the presence of the Red Rebels, who converged from Adelaide, Armidale, Bangalow, Brunswick Heads, Lismore and elsewhere, doing slow walks or frozen poses in red on the streets, parks and shopping malls.



Photos courtesy peoplesclimateassembly

Under an Extinction Rebellion logo, their poster reads: “We are a chorus enacting the tragedy of decisions made and opportunities lost.

“We wear red to symbolise the blood we share with life on earth. We act as if the truth is real.”

See: [www.peoplesclimateassembly.org](http://www.peoplesclimateassembly.org)



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