

## Report of Meeting BDSJC April

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met on April 27 in Ballarat. All members were present except Felicity Liston and Stacey Atkins who were apologies.

The meeting began with a time of prayer and reflection. As it was World Earth Day the focus of the prayer and reflection was on environmental issues and how the changing climate and commercial concerns are impacting on the Diocese in areas of water, earth pollution and climate change. The Commission brainstormed how we can promote active response within the Diocese.

With a national election coming up, Rachel has put on the web site the Australian Bishops' Statement and the responses the different political parties have made in regard to social justice issues. All members of the Diocese are invited to visit the web page and read and reflect on where the political parties stand before you cast your vote later in the month. <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=119> and scroll down the page.

After discussion and research on the continuing indecision over international boundary between Timor Leste and Australia that continues to disadvantage Timor Leste's oil rights, the Commission has decided to express concern to the Government.

The Commission expressed pride in the work Catholic Schools are doing in the area of using alternative, environmentally responsible sources of power and in their fund-raising for social justice issues. The Commission looked at the CEO policies and were pleased to see how these promoted Catholic Church Social Outreach and the process of SEE, JUDGE, ACT.

Great News: Tony Fitzgerald of Centacare has secured a short visit to Ballarat from author/speaker Chris Lowney. This is very exciting and we invite you to keep an eye out for the event in September.