

The Impact of COVID on our communities and lives

Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association
(WACRA)

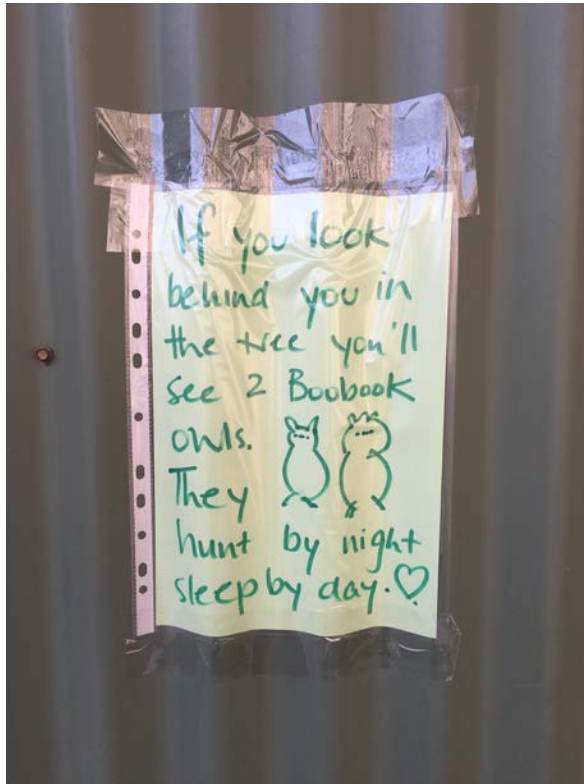
Annual General Meeting, 1 September 2020

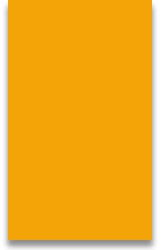
BARBARA POCOCK
EMERITUS PROFESSOR, UNISA

A pandemic totem....?

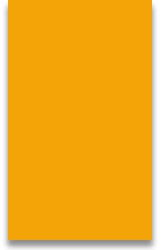


What makes community?









WACRA

- ▶ 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'
- ▶ She might have been watching a site on Western Adelaide's beaches sometime in the past fifty years to arrive at this conclusion.
- ▶ Margaret Mead

Mid-March 2020.....

- ▶ Some good things: we all slowed down
 - ▶ Even WACRA
- ▶ Pollution fell in northern hemisphere
- ▶ People could stop racing so hard – to work, school, commuting
- ▶ Much more street walking, riding life of groups, families, individuals
- ▶ Concern for each other through action
- ▶ Revolution in working from home, workplace flexibility.
- ▶ Quick massive government spending response putting \$ in pockets



But a different world ahead for 7 reasons

Firstly, this recession is going to be longer and deeper




2. A pandemic-caused recession is different



3. A third of workers now don't have full citizenship rights



4. We face more than one crisis: a climate emergency



5. Jobs are being lost in different places

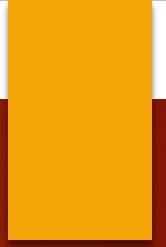
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6. Women now hold up half the
working sky



7. We can spend a lot!





The Government has done some things

- ▶ 'Shovel ready' roads, infrastructure, 'granite benchtops'
- ▶ But they are not job rich
- ▶ They don't reach women, many young people, students, refugees, casuals, arts,
- ▶ They don't address our care deficits and failure
- ▶ They don't address climate and environment - Helping gas industry mates
- ▶ They are likely to exacerbate climate change

Instead we should be focusing on:

- ▶ **Our care system** (we underinvest chronically cf OECD averages)
 - ▶ Early childhood education and care with the triple wins of
 - ▶ Allowing women back to work, Improving the welfare of children, Creating jobs.
 - ▶ additional \$5 billion alongside existing \$8billion will buy almost free childcare for most
 - ▶ Extend high quality preschool to all, free
 - ▶ Aged care
 - ▶ We need \$10-20billion for publicly-run aged care – urgently, much of it will go to women's employment
- ▶ **Our environmental crisis**
 - ▶ Greening our country, remediating bushfire damage, supporting renewables, transport
 - ▶ Both Job rich, and likely to employ both women and men, youth

We can do so much better

