



What Can I Do?

(Fonda, Jane; HQ/Harper/Collins, 2020)

The relentless march of public opinion and social awareness about climate change is trailed by a concern, a desire, for a personal response. Both out in the street, and within our churches, the oft-voiced question has become "What can I do?"

This timely publication addresses that very question in a number of ways. The text by Jane Fonda (yes, indeed, *that* Jane Fonda, she of *Barbarella* fame, and daughter of Henry) interweaves the personal, documentary account of a programme of action in the US during 2019 with background information on a range of issues related to climate change. Each chapter then rounds up with a directive headed, "What can I do?". These round ups specifically outline actions which can be taken by individuals or groups in relation to the issue addressed in the foregoing chapter.

Most enlightening of all is the range of issues which Fonda incorporates as she works through the Fire Drill Fridays programme. Certainly some of these issues challenge even the most dedicated climate change devotee to question their relevance.

Consider:

- oceans and climate change
- women and climate change
- wars, the military and climate change

to name but a few.

One valid argument in favour of these wide categories is that concerned people with a variety of backgrounds, skills and environmental passions can all be seen to have a common centre: our planet. Who better to speak out for the abuse of our seas than a dedicated surfer?

It must be pointed out that this book is primarily aimed at the American market. Even so, many of the websites to which readers are directed in each chapter outline the work of global organisations, or contain direct links to related websites in other parts of the world, including Australia.

A recommended read.