

Feedback Tim Flannery in conversation



“I DO HAVE A DEEP faith in human nature, I do have a deep faith that we’ll deal with this issue when we understand what’s at stake,” said Tim Flannery, the scientist and writer who spoke at the first of two “Anne Summers Conversations” events held on 17 February at Melbourne Town Hall. He spoke again with Anne Summers the next night at Sydney’s City Recital Hall, Angel Place.

Both venues were packed with people anxious to know whether Flannery thought we had reached a “tipping point” or “the point of no return” when it came to the impact of climate change on our environment and our planet. Flannery was surprisingly upbeat despite his sober assessment of the damage already done to our planet.

Flannery’s two appearances were the second in our series of “Anne Summers Conversations”. These conversations bring to the stage people who have already featured in the magazine and give audiences the opportunity to hear them in person.

“Arguably the best part of the night came as Anne Summers finished her interview and allowed the audience to question Flannery,” [wrote one reviewer](#) of the Melbourne event. We plan to have several more such Conversations in 2014. The next one will be announced soon. Make sure you subscribe to *ASR* to receive advance notification of our next conversation.

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JULIA GILLARD (ASR#3)

"Around the world the debate about climate change is being distorted by popular doubts about the science. This is truly incredible when the normal reaction of people to scientific conclusions is to accept them.

"To give an Australian example, much research and public campaigning has been done about our high rates of skin cancer. Scientists tell us that sun exposure causes cancer. People wear hats, use sunscreen. Even those who like to be brown, do not justify their tanning by saying the science is wrong, they just accept the risk and play mental games with themselves to bolster their self belief cancer will never hit them.

"But with climate science, sensible conduct has been overwhelmed by the campaigning of right-wing eccentrics. It is my contention that progressives have not done enough to respond to the new protest culture activism on the right and to dominate campaigning in the new media environment. Or put more simply, letting the facts speak for themselves is so last century."

➤ [ADDRESS TO THE BROADBENT INSTITUTE, OTTAWA, CANADA, 29 MARCH 2014](#)