

## Care of Creation Blog December 2017

Here in New Zealand the greens now have support from government. Trees are to be planted, electric vehicles encouraged, rivers cleaned up. Politicians can get support over things voters understand. Is it enough? I have an idea that God is greener than the greens.

There is a plan to plant millions of trees. Good, but what sort of trees, where, and will you look after them? Papa Tu a Nuku or Mother Nature does not actually exist. It is God who created the trees in all their variety. People fuss about Eve eating from the tree of life but forget that she and Adam were meant to be looking after the garden. Native forests in our country are cared for by removing foreign growths like wilding pines and removing deer and pigs and possums but no one thinks a patch of kauri seedlings growing too close together or replaces flammable shrubs by greener kinds on dry Piha hillsides liable to catch fire. Human beings take a while to catch on, but we do not see angels on this job. We are the ones meant to do it.

We have made mistakes using fossil fuels, chemical derivatives like plastics, and some weed and insect killers. We are slow to turn to more sustainable sources. We must not think of only one alternative. I am having fun driving an electric car, but hydrogen, ethanol, steam, compressed air and other means are available. Energy can be stored in a number of ways and we need to plan for variety. Also we need to be open to new ideas as scientists discover new wonders in the way God's world is made. In New Zealand we have arguments about bottled water. Did you see the advertisement for Kona Deep – pure artesian water brought up from the deep sea floor off Hawaii? Amazing!

Then there is waste. That is something modern cities are taking seriously, although we are hampered by our past mistakes. Auckland's sewage system was designed when "human waste" was poured into the sea. No one understood the chemistry. Animals live on plants, plants need animal products, but in proper amounts. History tells us much about nations which did not learn.

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November people from various groups met with young people of the Zero Carbon movement at the Tearfund building in Mt Roskill. A man from Tuvalu spoke of islands going under the waves. Others told of plans to move people. Nothing much was said of the great range of things people now know we can do. I hope to return to that subject in future blogs.

Jim Hunt, Care of Creation Committee.