

## Care of Creation Blog

November 2017

Now that the work of organising the Consecration of the Cathedral is over I am hoping attention can return to things people are doing and working towards from that very building. Archbishop Philip ended his sermon with the hope that our Cathedral will serve for hundreds more years. As with the hopes of our new government, Climate Change could make it impossible to do the things of which we dream. In this blog I look at some of the Christian groups that are working to help with care of creation, and to abate climate change, and to change attitudes towards science.

A Rocha Auckland plans another baitline job in the Waitakere Ranges soon, and an end of year visit to Waiheke. A Rocha started with a Christian couple, Peter and Miranda Harris, in Portugal. They began by restoring a beautiful ecosystem and by helping ornithologists study birds migrating between Africa and Europe. In New Zealand A Rocha has hubs in Raglan and Makarora. It is an important part of the Karioi Mountain Project in Raglan, killing stoats and rats, and welcoming the oia back to its ancient habitat. A Rocha is also involved in education advocacy work. From A Rocha New Zealand we have the study booklets written by Dr Andrew Shepherd and available free because of support from TEARFUND. See their new series, Rich Living, with booklets on Water and Climate Change, <http://www.arochoa.org.nz/education-advocacy/rich-living/>

AnglicansCAN, (Climate Action Network), previously known as DCCAG, having worked to educate people on matters of energy to do with lighting and heating of buildings, has now turned to seeking support for work to do with carbon capture and soils. John Allen, of Pukekohe, has been working with schools and parishes, as well as with interested farmers, showing what is being learned about growing fruit and other plants with the use of compost and incorporating charcoal made from dry wood and twigs and other vegetable waste which people would otherwise burn. The study of this biochar has been going on in recent years since people have seen in the Amazon Basin the remains of remarkable villages where many people were able to live on otherwise poor soil because they only partially burned wood waste and somehow put the charcoal into their soil where it held water in dry times and became a home for soil microbes.

Another aspect of AnglicansCAN is that, as wanting to be a network, receiving news and feedback from ministry units in the diocese, it has no process for doing this. I am beginning by approaching people who have been receiving our newsletter in the past.

NZCIS, New Zealand Christians in Science, meets from time to time in the Maclaurin Chapel beside the University of Auckland. A recent speaker there described how in the early days in our country we had clergy well versed in scientific studies and less of the antagonism between atheistic scientists and the Church than occurred in England. See the blog on this topic at NZCIS.org. Today this group is important as some church people hesitate to listen to evidence of climate change and take action simply because they do not see that in many situations the scientists and the scriptures are saying the same thing. Read what Job had to say and understand how NZCIS came to have a conference on the Wonder of Creation! We see more of it today than ever before.

Jim Hunt.