

## Care of Creation Blog August 2018

A Rocha Auckland did planting of trees at Unsworth Heights on July 14. They regularly share with non-church groups, Nicholas Mayne, being politically Green, being a prime mover. Not long ago Sarah Woodfield went to an A Rocha conference in Queensland. Now John Staniland, normally a leader in care of birds and running traplines in the Waitakere forests, being a bit limited by Kauri dieback rules, is telling us he and his wife are off to an International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver staying with A Rocha friends and doing trips to all sorts of places. This is an international movement. The whole matter of relations with creatures is becoming a matter for public debate, from destruction of feral cats to the importance of pets to lonely people and proper care of farm animals.

Sometimes new inventions present us with new problems. For instance there is D2W. Plastic is being banned in some places, recycled wherever possible. D2W mixed into some plastic things ensures that they will degrade into their basic molecules after a certain time. Sounds good! But not for a bird or fish that swallows some. They will be dead long before the degradation time.

AnglicansClimateActionNetwork has its own website <https://cherished-earth.org.nz> and continues its work through Rod Oram in Synod and John Allen at Pukekohe and other parishes improving gardens soils also working on ways for households to reckon up their carbon and energy use. This sort of thing is more and more in the public domain and media today. Not only the Green party but groups of companies and C40 cities are concerned. Some reckon we will not make it, but there are new discoveries all the time. Yet while we plant trees here some tropical countries continue to lose forests to illegal felling.

NZ Christians in Science meet mostly at the Maclaurin Chapel, and had Dr. Carolyn King from Waikato to argue the case for faith in God, and another day a practising medical doctor whose main message was the importance of love as children grow. She said that in Sweden, children do not start school until aged seven so that they have more time in the family atmosphere.

So where are we now? As I see it Christ is risen, alive and well, and quietly showing us things we can do to make the world a better place and correct our mistakes, but not all of us are listening. My own family history is revealing. When my father was a boy the first cars were coming into the country. In those days there were electric cars, steam, alcohol, petrol, no hydrogen, but an inventor named Diesel. In America they had Prohibition, which turned people against alcohol, but in Texas there were oil wells. We have had a good run with fossil fuels, but it is time to change.

Down on the farm my grandfather looked for land which needed no fertilizer and did not find any. My father got the message and used superphosphate, and cobalt where needed. Now we know that chemicals which help plants sometimes destroy the bacterial and fungal life in the soil which would be better for the plants, need to be cared for, and do not upset things. It is time to change.

Jim Hunt, for the Care of Creation Committee. <njimihunt@outlook.com>