

Care of Creation Blog – June 2018

Dr. Nicola Hoggard-Creegan is a member of the Care of Creation Committee, Anglicans CAN, and NZ Christians in Science, all of which are groups this blog aims to report on monthly to give an indication of what Anglicans in the Diocese of Auckland are doing. Sometimes it is not easy to find out what is going on. Early this month she was in Portugal, along with ARANZ co-directors, Kristel Van Houte and Andrew Shepherd, at an A Rocha International Forum, and reports on how wonderful it was to meet with A Rocha representatives from many countries in the world. There were Canadians doing fish studies, Kenyans protecting elephants, people continuing the bird tracking in Portugal which started the whole movement years ago. A Rocha is a Christian organisation but not always directly connected to a church. The UK eco-churches project impressed our people and it may be possible to adapt it to NZ conditions. In Auckland it is a while since we did a beach study but on September 15th A Rocha in Raglan is to do a beach clean up and look for nurdles (small pieces of plastic used in the industry to mould into forms required).

Anglicans Climate Action Network continues its work of urging in Synods and in teaching (see Cherished Earth – Papa-tū-ā-nuku) that people do something about the climate by not investing in oil companies, by planting trees, by employing people like John Allen to show how changes can be made in working the soil to capture carbon and lock it in. Connections are made also with other groups in churches or the community. An online publication passes on news of discoveries.

Go to the Maclaurin Chapel for one of their meetings and you will find NZCIS people having friendly arguments and lectures on how to deal with what people believe about God and what they find in God's creation now and reason what must have happened in the past. There are strange things in the Bible that come alive when put alongside strange things that are discovered in the universe. We have a lot to learn, living in a three-dimensional world inside time.

Now that there is more of a Green element in Parliament and our news media report more regularly on companies providing alternative power and new discoveries people in every walk of life know something of how recycling, choice of foods and exercise can affect our lives and that of others. It is all part of coming to realize that we human beings are only one of many life forms in God's creation. We have a place that no other creature is able to fill, but we have made mistakes in the use of fossil fuels and plastics made from them. Rivalries and fighting are distracting world attention from our proper work. Nations in danger spend more on armaments than on climate action or care of needy people let alone living species being lost. Divisions in the church leave people looking to sports heroes to be examples of moral life.

On the other hand scientists are learning of microbial and fungal life forms which can be used or adapted to help us clean up the planet just as we continue to learn how to keep ourselves healthy and try to rescue those who have become addicted to something harmful. There is now a process to treat wood that makes it stronger than steel, and Kyoto Institute of Technology has people working on something that eats the kind of plastic we make into water bottles. It is a wonderful world! God help us to treat it properly.

- Jim Hunt, for Care of Creation Committee.