

## Care of Creation Blog, September 2018.

This month some key people are away and what is going on politically is catching the eye more than the interests of what some of our Auckland Anglican groups are doing. We should be glad of that. Church people may think they have a sound reason for protecting plants and animals so wonderfully created by God as a loving Father, but others too love their pets, hate to see senseless destruction, and want to help clean up. The big thing around Auckland just now apart from housing and traffic deaths is Kauri dieback. The local activists like Mels Barton and Forest and Bird complain about weak City Council control of visitors to forests and too little money being paid by the Ministry of Primary Industries for proper research into what can be done about the cause of the dieback. It is known to be a *phytophthora* - a tiny creature which has a tail allowing it to swim to roots and kill them. Its spores are spread by people and animals and causes dieback of Jarrah and other plants in Australia. No one knows how to stop it but injections into trees, drying around the roots and some applications of biodynamic preparations to bark have helped some trees. Kauri can also be helped by companion planting and there is a chance that some fungus may help, but these need to be investigated.

Climate action is something that follows naturally from an appreciation of nature, but involves us in things like exchange of heat and the carbon cycle which we do not understand until we understand the chemistry, even if most of the things we need to do are quite basic. Forestry is being highlighted this month as a job for young people but taking for granted machines and diesel power with no mention of how wood can be used to generate power, and wood waste turned to biochar to capture carbon and hold it in the soil.

Nicola Hoggard-Creegan and her fellows of the NZCIS at the Maclaurin Chapel have had a series of lectures from professors and doctors as part of the August Winter Lectures. Ruth Lawson-McConnell talked about trauma and healing as it relates to attachment issues, and the grounding of attachment in the tri-unity of God. Helen Saunders talked about the different and sometimes more intuitive mode of healing that must be done among refugees and asylum seekers. Brian Broom traced his life from medical immunologist to psychotherapist and finally to the world of mind and body, giving many remarkable stories from his life at Auckland Hospital. All different models and types of healing, and different modalities of spirituality. I have had my doctor refer me to a surgeon twice to deal with small cancers on my ear and lip, but at other times if I cut myself shaving the skin heals in a day or two BY ITSELF. Now there is a book launch by Dr. Creegan entitled Creation and Hope. The Universe or universes that we are learning about are so vast that it is no wonder only a smattering is shown to us in the Bible, but hope and fear are reactions of people. Are we listening and learning and doing our bit, or not? See the October Blog for more.

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