

Care of Creation Blog – January 2020

I notice that in this holiday period the local Auckland Anglican groups we usually report on are not active except for setting dates in February when they can meet. I have also seen some interesting material which I'm prompted to share it with readers.

New Zealand consists of a few islands above the water surrounded by a great area of undersea mountains and great deeps all belonging to the same structure. Maritime New Zealand¹ is the agency concerned with the safety, security and environmental protection of coastal and inland waterways and the Ministry for the Environment² also looks after the marine environment.

I urge readers to look up these websites and learn more because it is important, and protection of the marine environment is somewhat overlooked in the groups we have been reporting on. Even the wonderful new scheme of having sustainability champions from every parish meet and spread information in their own area is land-based. On land we are concerned about things like plastic waste going into rivers and out to sea, but we are not learning about what is going on in the study of marine life and the new forms being discovered week by week.

Another issue is the pollution from ships of all sizes and how shipping companies are beginning to explore different fuel sources. Who would think that fuel could be produced from sea water, for instance? Since there is more CO₂ in the water than in the air, it is claimed that a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier could suck up water and produce a fuel made of carbon and hydrogen atoms which its aircraft would use!³ This would upset a lot of krill, and simpler things like biofuel from used cooking oil and waste wood are more likely solutions for merchant shipping.

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¹ www.maritimenz.govt.nz

² www.mfe.govt.nz/marine

³ <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20121019-turning-the-oceans-into-jetfuel>