

Care of Creation Blog – February 2020

This blog comes very late in the month, but I must tell you what A Rocha Auckland has been doing along with the Swanson Forest and Bird group and other enthusiasts. One Saturday, planting was done on a wetland and all were assured that as the trees like kahikatea grew, they would overshadow and suppress the present weeds in the area. I could not be there but invited guests from our local church have asked members who worked that day to give a special thanksgiving.

NZCIS is planning a meeting on 18 March about the big questions in science and faith, and a new website is to be launched soon, as well as partnerships with several churches.

ACAN people have been very busy preparing for their big meeting at Pukekohe on Saturday 22 February. This follows on from a motion at Synod by the late John Allen and involves a day-long workshop that aims to help people from parishes who have put their hands up to be sustainability champions, or who are interested in becoming one. This is a fancy name for perhaps two people in every parish who will tell their fellow parishioners what they could be doing about climate change and report back to ACAN on what is being done in their parish. So far, meetings have involved people from the Cathedral and some city parishes. Saturday's workshop will also look at the diocesan Zero Carbon Plan – another outcome from Synod 2019.

Why 'sustainability champions'? John Allen put a lot of time into making questionnaires which would help people work out what their carbon footprint was and what changes they should make. Easy enough at first glance, you would think – just change to electric cars and bicycles. In practice, though, a lot of energy is used to break up an old car, or truck; and when fuel for aircraft is made from wood, for instance, a complicated and expensive factory is needed. Who pays? It is all very well to be 'green', but change has to be made carefully.

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