

## Care of Creation – March 2020

It has taken a long time for some groups to get moving after the holidays but full marks for those working in ACAN, ADJust and the Social Justice Group for writing up policies and getting started. They met together on Saturday 22 February with a room full of sustainability champions and were welcomed to Pukekohe by the vicar of St Andrew's, Jan Wallace, and her hospitable parishioners.

Here we learnt that Cathy Bi-Riley is the person to take over the position of Sustainability Fieldworker held by the late John Allen. She will get to know the sustainability champions and put time into publicity and sharing of information, receiving financial support from the diocese for her work as did our previous fieldworkers. Cherished Earth is the name of the programme explaining what ACAN teaches.

Sarah Woodfield is busy planning dates for A Rocha activities for the year: planting, weeding, and hosting educational gatherings at supporting churches. Some people volunteer to lay bait in places where predators need to be removed. Their newsletter tells of work in other parts of the country and in about 20 countries worldwide.

NZCIS has reported on speakers over the last year and its plans for 2020. Nicola Hoggard-Creegan and Graeme Finlay are directors, and the group receives donations locally and from an overseas fund that supports academic work. This enables the group to work locally at the Maclaurin Chapel and in Dunedin and other places. Nicola is to speak at Auckland Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincies on the afternoon of 10 March. On Wednesday 18 March there will be a meeting with Professor Jeff Tallon and a panel discussing big questions on science and faith.

Living now at Selwyn Village, Point Chevalier, I meet with a philosophy group to discuss the history of scientific thinking going back to the ancient Greeks, and there is some mention of ancient and modern religions. Not far away are community gardens where people learn about composting and grafting and the use of biochar, as well as bees and harmful insects.

It is not possible for me to go to a lot of evening meetings and still continue with my ministry to care homes. It would be good if someone younger would join our Care of Creation committee. We report on groups in the Anglican and other churches and follow news about the work of DOC and other groups working in various islands and in the sea around us. Climate Action looks at things a living Christ is prompting us to do to in turning away from the careless use of fossil fuels and chemicals to a better way.

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