

Care of Creation Blog – March 2019

This month we have news of some action in our Auckland church groups but a lot more things happening in the work-a-day world increasing interest in alternative energy.

A Rocha can always do some weeding when it is too dry to plant, and meet with Forest and Bird improving their wetlands planting and showing it off. I could not go to the work day last Saturday but I think the unexpected rain allowed some planting. Some members on overseas trips have enjoyed meeting with A Rocha groups in various countries sharing ideas and learning. In Auckland the concern about Kauri Dieback has got several organisations arranging meetings where scientists can explain what is known about the disease and why restrictions on visitors are needed to prevent its spread. As owner of a kauri grown faster than usual because of a legume growing alongside I am waiting to see if this living example is any help.

Anglicans Climate Action Network is working on ways to keep touch with those who have heard presentations in parishes and recognise people in other churches and religions, people young and old. I am told of a Professor Allen from Cambridge University who will give an evening address at the Owen Glenn Centre on March 19th teaching about Climate Action and how New Zealand is well placed to do some real work.

NZChristians in Science tells of visitors like Professor Sarah Coakley from Cambridge University, and on May 1st Brother Consolmagno the Vatican Astronomer. As I understand it there is not so much emphasis in the summer on lecture courses, but midday discussions at the Maclaurin Chapel. All this is opening eyes to the vastness and complexity of God's Creation and our ignorance in so many ways. But we are being shown things to do. There is action beginning.

So much for activity of a Christian nature in Auckland which this blog tries to describe. The new things are threats of school strikes, the formation of a Biochar Network NZ, rental electric scooters, rental Nissan Leaf (Blue Cars), and extension of electric rail. Television and newspapers give more space to reporting such things. This is all good. But the children and the Tuvalu people are right. There is a lot of talk but action is slow coming. It costs time and money. We live in one of the countries where fossil fuels, chemical sprays, and chemical fertilisers, together with heavy machinery have become the norm on the farm, and we use all sorts of plastics which are harmful when thrown away. There is a better way, more respectful to God and fairer to less "developed" countries.

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