

## Care of Creation – November 2019

Last month I commented on confusion over what is being planned concerning climate change. There is still a lot of difficulty about this, even among those who want action. Greta Thunberg and her supporters around the world very properly complain that not much is being done. Those like John Allen of our Auckland Diocese, who calculate the carbon footprint of families and individuals in our modern society, see the difficulties we face in actually moving from our present situation towards a less damaging future.

It is a move forward to have sustainability champions in every parish, but what will they be teaching people to do? To ask every family needing a car to sell their petrol-powered vehicle and buy an expensive electric one would not be practical. Cars are expensive enough and recycling them involves manpower and energy. In our country, most electricity is generated from water power. When we have to use coal power, an EV is not helping.

Then there are those whose work involves air travel. It is a complicated business calculating what trees need to be planted to counter the tons of carbon dioxide poured into the atmosphere by a jet-powered aircraft. One needs to ask which trees should be planted and how the forests will be managed. People need to understand that the use of fossil fuels and certain chemicals affects conditions in the upper atmosphere, producing global warming and upsetting the climate. It takes time and careful planning to correct this.

Yet there are many good things happening already: people ride bicycles; plant local gardens instead of buying food from distant producers; cook with charcoal and even sunlight; use hydrogen to power vehicles; and farm with no-till methods using compost. I have just been reading about a man who has developed aluminium/air batteries which could be used for cars, trucks, ships and even propeller-driven aircraft.

Other scientists have developed an “artificial leaf” – a process which works more efficiently than a natural plant to produce syngas from carbon dioxide and sunlight. Today there is news of an MIT scientist named Sahag Voskian who has developed a way to extract CO<sub>2</sub> from the air using a kind of electric battery, and he has set up a company called Verdox to do it. Such discoveries take time to patent and attract investment and begin to have an effect. People who understand the problem are finding ways to deal with it.

Meanwhile, our local Auckland A Rocha branch organises planting days and plans a teaching day in November. NZCIS has plenty to talk about at the Maclaurin Chapel, and ACAN continues to have monthly meetings and try to keep up with John Allen and his growing team of enthusiasts while developing connections with other environmental groups.

I continue to ask folk in these groups to keep me informed, as I cannot go to every meeting and work day. I’m looking for someone to take over this blog and see that people using the diocesan website are told about what is being done.

Jim Hunt, Care of Creation Committee

[njimihunt@outlook.com](mailto:njimihunt@outlook.com)