

Care of Creation – July 2020

Now that we are used to using Zoom for meetings it is easier to keep up with what our Auckland groups are doing. Some, like A Rocha, have begun weeding and planting in person again and only have to restrict their activities in the bait line area because of the danger of kauri dieback.

AARCC presented its work on a sustainability plan to the Diocesan Council in May and this has now been approved as a framework for the diocese. AARCC has also produced a resource on the 'Season of Creation' for use in September. The recent Ministry Conference via Zoom was on the theme of ecology, and Sustainability Fieldworker Cathy Bi-Riley continues to encourage local champions to share ideas and pass them on to their parishes.

New Zealanders are invited to join the Climate Conference 2020, hosted online from 30 July to 1 August by the Uniting Church in Australia and featuring speakers and workshops on topics such as climate pastoral care, communication and church action. ADJust will host a group Zoom session at Neligan House for parts of the conference. Show your interest via [Facebook](#) if you'd like to join them.

NZCIS is doing more online too, by using Zoom and webinars to present scientific research and stimulate discussion on a whole range of topics. The living creatures with which we share the planet come in a great variety – plants and animals, birds and fish, fungi, and microbial life of all kinds. Scientists study these things and some of them, as Christians, marvel at the wonder of it all, but also have all sorts of questions about how God wants us to relate to them.

All this is bringing us together in a new way which is useful to those of us with computers who can share ideas without travelling. It is interesting to see how universities and schools are divided on the value of remote versus face-to-face teaching. More important than the ways we do it, though, is getting on with the practical things to do. We and other countries are still using fossil fuels, poisonous chemicals, and plastics, clothes and fishing gear made of artificial fibres which will not rot. Greta Thunberg and other young people have plenty to complain about when, as soon as lockdown is over, people go off in their cars and crowd on to football grounds. We listen to scientists about the pandemic but are slow about the care of creation.

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