

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

KIA TAU TE RANGIMARIE KI A TAATOU KATOA /WORKING FOR PEACE FOR ALL EVERYWHERE



THIS MONTH'S NEWS...



Climate Change / Global Warming: What does the future hold?

Haiku:
Birds of Aotearoa New Zealand by Helen Doherty

A 6 point plan for buiding a sustainable future.

Tēnā koutou katoa

The month of September is the Season of Creation. The season finishes on October 4th - the feast day of St. Francis. Here in Aotearoa New Zealand. we are seeing the signs of creation and new life visually expressed in the signs of Spring - blossom, daffodils, birds reappearing as warmer weather means an abundance of food.

As we celebrate the colours of spring we are equally reminded of the effects of climate change. As this is written Cyclone Florence is making impact on the Carolina coast of the U.S.A. and Typhoon Mangkhut has wreaked havoc in the Philippines. What is significant about both these storm events is the size of both - they are extremely large.

Humanity has a lot to answer for - particularly in our love affair of fossil fuels. Devastating tropical cyclones are becoming all too common whereas twenty years ago, such devastating events were less frequent.

As we celebrate spring and reflect on creation, let us remember those lifes lost from such weather events - and look at ways we can reduce our consumption of fossil fuels.

Climate Change / Global Warming: What does the future hold?

According to Christiana Figueres (former UN Climate Chief), the next three years is crucial to stopping the worst effects of global warming.

Globally we have seen, in the news media, multiple stories on extreme weather, most currently Cyclone Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut. Storm surges, landslips and flooding has taken life. These patterns will continue as most of the world's population live in coastal areas. Surprisingly, while many communities are coping with more extreme weather events, the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have remained relatively flat.

Although emission levels have been flat, this is no time for complacency in lowering emission levels.

If we can continue to make a concerted effort in continuing to lower emission levels in Carbon Dioxide, then irreversible and runaway warming can be avoided. Society need to be more proactive in moving away from fossil fuel sources of energy towards more renewable sources. Incentives need to be implemented by policy makers to encourage people to turn toward electric cars, as well as public transport systems that are also electric. Yet for this to happen an investment in infrastructure that supports electric transport must be established first, so

that the 'buy-in' for electric alternatives is taken up more quickly.

As the demand for electricity grows, renewable sources of energy generators need to also grow.

New Zealand has a high proportion of hydro - electric dams. To have more can be detrimental to our existing freshwater ecosystems which are already under threat. Investment to create more wind and solar generated power need to be considered, as well as tidal generated energy.

An area of concern, in New Zealand, is our methane emission levels from agriculture. New Zealand has some of the highest rates of methane output in the world. Work is being done, in exploring different pasture mixes to help lower methane output. Other possibilities in capturing methane and using it as a energy source is also being studied. What does the future hold, within the agriculture industry in New Zealand? Are changes in our diet preferences both on a national and international level needing to change also? As the world's population continues to struggle with erratic weather...the answer is likely to become a definitive yes.

Bridget Criisp

Source material:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/28/world-has-three-years-left-to-stop-dangerous-climate-change-warn-experts>:

Rise for Climate Event, 8th September 2018 outside Auckland Museum. Photo, B Crisp



Birds of Aotearoa/New Zealand

White-bibbed Kereru
Shining plumage, blue pink green
Flight of whirring wings

Iconic Kiwi
Flightless bird comes out at night
Long beak probes for worms

Tui, white- collared,
Glossy feathers, green-tinged black
Cackles, squawks and trills

Piwakawaka
Cheeky fantail flies above
Searching for insects

Little black robin
Balancing on matchstick legs
Beady eyes alert

Kokako, blue crow
Grey feather, bright blue wattle
Song so pure and true

Kotuku so white
Long legs march across wetland
Wings outstretched in flight

Helen Doherty

Food for thought...

A 6-point plan for building a new carbon economy.

An article appeared earlier this month proposing a 6-point plan for implementing a new carbon economy. A key to it's success is to make any or all changes positive, inspiring and transparent. In summary, the points are:

1. Making the story of a new carbon economy accessible and inspiring.
2. Enable investors to see climate opportunity as well as risk.
3. Close the gap between economic and environmental policy.
4. Equip companies to monitor and manage progress toward "climate positivity".
5. Evolve disclosure standards and practices.
6. Forge close links between companies and the academic R & D community.

To read this article , written by Richard Roberts, go to :
<https://www.fastcompany.com/90233607/a-6-point-plan-for-building-a-new-carbon-economy>



Photo: Patrick Doherty

Worth Reading...

Tui Motu InterIslands Magazine for September 2018 deals with the issue of *Climate Action, Manaakitia te Taiao*.

Climate Change is an issue that affects the entire planet, particularly as the biggest influence to climate change comes from human action. Thus, we need a concerted effort in climate action to help address to help alleviate some of the stress that our atmosphere is facing. There are many great articles in this edition. (and all editions of Tui Motu). If you don't receive Tui Motu, I encourage you to contact the magazine at admin@tuimotu.org for information about their subscriptions).



Pax Christi News Snippets...

We had our first book study meeting on Aug 30 where we looked at Chapter 2 of the Book **'Choosing Peace' edited by Marie Dennis**. We will be continuing to study this book into the near future. The next meeting will be in the evening of **Friday October 5th**. Contact Bridget (bridget.crisp@xtra.co.nz) for more details.



Photo: B Crisp. All Book Club attendees gave their permission for their image to be used.

The **David Wakim Lecture** is happening **27th September** at St Columba Centre, Ponsonby. **Deborah Manning** has been confirmed as speaker. The topic will be **'The J Word - NZ law, is justice our starting point?'**

The **Peace Foundation** is hosting a film premiere **"New Zealand Nuclear - Free Peacemaker"**, produced by Laurie Ross on **Wednesday 26th September at 6pm**. Special guest speaker is the **Hon. Wayne Mapp** former Defense Minister on the topic of **"Demilitarization and Development of a Peaceful Pacific: New Zealand's options...."**. This will be followed by pizza and a discussion afterwards. To reserve your seat (and Pizza) contact peace@peacefoundation.org.nz. The venue is 78 Pitt Street, Auckland.

Pax Christi

Aotearoa New Zealand

Pax Christi is an independent Catholic social justice organisation. We work hard to address issues of peace and justice at a local, regional and global level.

If you want to know more about Pax Christi, to join meetings, or to set up group meetings in your area, please contact paxnz@xtra.co.nz or ring 09 377 5541.

Pax Christi relies on volunteers & donations to enable the work to continue.

To make an online donation our a/c name and number is:

Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand

03-01730353-867-00

Please contact us for a receipt.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Diary Dates

Sept 1st - Oct 4th Season of Creation

Sept 26th Peace Foundation: Film Premiere "New Zealand Nuclear - Free Peacemaker"

26th Sept World Day against Trafficking of Persons.

27th Sept David Wakim Lecture: Deborah Manning

Oct 5th Book Study "Choosing Peace" Emily Place. 6.30 pm

Oct 28th Signing of NZ Declaration of Independence.



Photo: B Crisp Whanganui River

Next Month's newsletter will focus on Homelessness and Food Security. Any contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Please email paxnz@xtra.co.nz