

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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



Tēnā koutou katoa

Plastic waste is the growing pollution issue facing our planet. Many plastics do not make it into recycling schemes and a lot fill up our rubbish dumps very quickly or find their way into our streams and rivers that ultimately make their way to the oceans where they are quickly becoming an ecological disaster. Earth Day (April 22nd) is about trying to end plastic pollution.

Good news, recently is that our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has declared that NZ will not issue any new permits for oil and gas exploration. The time has come to look urgently for new alternatives to oil and gas. The difficulty lies however that every facet of our lives has oil or oil by-products in them. Textiles, paints, clothes, electronics etc. all have components that are oil based. There is a need for science and technology to look at new alternatives, that do not harm the planet we are a part of.

I encourage you to reflect on how much plastic and/or oil-based products shape your lifestyle. It will surprise you how much we are surrounded by these products and thus highlight the challenge in front of humanity to come up with environmentally safe alternatives.

THIS MONTH'S
NEWS

EARTH DAY 2018

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THE LUMADS**

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EARTH DAY 2018

END PLASTIC POLLUTION

The theme for this year's Earth Day (April 22nd) campaign is 'End Plastic Pollution'. Plastic pollution is an ever-growing issue in New Zealand and around the world.

Large gyres, in the world's ocean are natural collecting points for the vast amount of plastic that is washed in to the sea. The accumulation of the discarded plastic at these points have grown large enough to be called plastic floating islands.

Plastic pollution is affecting all life on the planet and the campaign to end plastic pollution is an attempt to mobilise action in cleaning up the waste but also to try and foster global change in how we use plastic.

For example, single use plastics, is the biggest contributor to plastic pollution. Items like plastic bags, plastic straws, small microbeads in cosmetics---which are used once then discarded. There are campaigns around the world calling for a ban on plastic bags and microbeads. Education around these types of plastics is also growing to encourage consumers to send messages back to retail and manufacturers that we (society) do not want them anymore.

The Earth Day network is the world's largest environmental movement.

Go to www.earthday.org and learn how you, your community or social group can join the campaign to end plastic in your area.



Photo credit : Lloyd DeGrane, Alliance for the Great Lakes; www.ijc.org

5 Simple Steps to Reduce Plastic Pollution

1. Don't use throwaway packaging.
2. Always bring a reusable bag to the shop.
3. Avoid microbeads.
4. Recycling
5. Demand your government take action to reduce plastic pollution.

Source: www.metamag.org

Waste Colonialism

"Tying plastic pollution into issues of social justice, decolonisation, and food security, presenter Dr. Steph B. Borrelle said "If we are serious about addressing plastic pollution as a global crisis, then we cannot ignore the issue of waste colonialism.

Countries of privilege burden others with their consumerism then turn their backs on the consequences".

Sylvia Frain
Asia Pacific Report, Feb 14, 2018

Worth Viewing

The Story of Stuff website

(storyofstuff.org) has some excellent short movies on a number of global issues. In particular their movie on microfibres is worth watching but take the opportunity to have a look at their other feature films



TED TALK : David Katz (founder & CEO of the Plastic Bank 'The surprising solution to ocean plastic' (www.ted.com/talks/david_katz_the_surprising_solution_to_ocean_plastic)

The nearly 12 min video clip of David Katz solution to plastic pollution looks at this ever growing issue and offers a market based solution that also provides a monetary solution to some of the poorer people on the planet.

A Conversation with the Lumads

by Kevin McBride

It was a small group which came to the Peace Place on Wednesday 4 April to share an opportunity to learn about the situation of the Lumad people of Mindanao but fortunately those present represented a number of organisations which can take the message on board and spread it among their constituents.

The Lumad are the un-Islamized and un-Christianized Austronesian peoples of Mindanao. The name, Lumad, simply means indigenous. Their main objective is to achieve self-determination for their member-tribes or, put more concretely, self-governance within their ancestral domain in accordance with their culture and customary laws. They live in hinterlands, forests, lowlands and coastal areas.

The name Lumad grew out of the political awakening among tribes during the

martial law regime of President Ferdinand Marcos. It was advocated and propagated by the members and affiliates of Lumad-Mindanao, a coalition of all-Lumad local and regional organizations which formalized themselves as such in June 1986 but started in 1983 as a multi-sectoral organization.

The gathering was addressed by Fritzi Junance Magbanua, an indigenous educator and administrator for the Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation. She told us of the struggle of the Save Our Schools organisation to preserve the indigenous language and culture of their people against pressure from the central government of the Philippines to become fully integrated into the national system. The Lumad see this as part of their defence of their indigenous lands, forests and other resources from multinational forestry and mining interests seeking to exploit them for financial gain. The schools are also a means of protection against drug-dealers who prey on their people.

The meeting was held in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Coalition which, together with Pax Christi, will continue to follow the situation in Mindanao and advocate for the Lumad in New Zealand and regionally.



Lorena Sigua (left) & Fritzi Junance Magbanua. Photo by Del Abcede/PMC

Tri Checks Out

By Kevin McBride

Veronika Triyariyani Kanem first came to New Zealand in 2007 to study English at Unitec/AUT. She quickly endeared herself to many here with her cheerful, bubbly manner and proved to be a very useful contact for Pax Christi and other groups seeking updates on the situation in her homeland. On 6 April, she showed the results of her study here in her presentation of the theme of her Masters thesis at Waikato University: “Indigenous women traders in the negotiation of space, place and identity in the Merauke Regency, Papua Province, Indonesia”. It was a clear and systematic analysis of the way in which a seemingly unrelated activity – the selling of traditional foods and crafts – might act as a means of non-violent resistance to an oppressive cultural and economic takeover. Although Tri’s presentation didn’t take sides in the political, social and cultural attack on her people and their way of life, it was clear that the human right of people

to survive as themselves in their own land was represented in her work. What we saw echoed the situation of all indigenous peoples resisting past and present colonisation and gave heart to those who maintain non-violent resistance to the takeover of their land and traditional values. Although she has returned to West Papua, Veronika will continue to be a key link into the situation there and also a reminder that, in the words of Maori leader Hone Harawira to West Papuan exile, Rex Rumakiak: “I cannot be free until you and your people are free”



Veronika Triyariyani Kanem.
Photo, B Crisp

Pax Christi Promotion tour

Towards the end of the month, Kevin & Barbara McBride along with Bridget Crisp rsm will be visiting the dioceses of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The purpose is a two-fold task to promote collaboration with existing social justice groups within the dioceses and to report on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Consultation that happened November/December 2017 as well as the proposed visit of the Secretary General in October/November 2018.

Our first meeting will be in Palmerston North on the 27th April, followed by a meeting in Wellington on the 30th April. In May we will be going to Christchurch and Dunedin and Hamilton (at the end of the month). The meetings are primarily with the social justice co-ordinators of their respective dioceses... however we have arranged to meet the Bishops of Christchurch and Hamilton also to talk over possible future collaboration.

In next month's newsletter we hope to share the fruits of our promotion tour.

Bill McKibben coming to NZ.

350.org founder Bill McKibben is coming to New Zealand in early May and will be talking in Wellington (6th May) and Auckland (7th May) as part of his Fossil Free Acceleration Tour. Bill is known internationally on his commentaries about climate change. Contact 350.org.nz to get information regarding tickets.

Diary Dates

22 April Earth Day

29 April

(UN) Day of remembrance of all victims of chemical warfare

1st May May Day
(Workers Day)

2nd May World Tuna Day

8-9 May

(UN) Time of remembrance and reconciliation of those who lost their lives during WWII