

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

*I cannot do all the good that the world needs,
but the world needs all the good I can do.*

Spring 2018

Greetings from the JPIC team

In this Newsletter we hear from Christchurch & Otago as well as the Bay of Plenty – sharing how they are getting on with JPIC activities.

Waikato reports some of them are taking getting rid of plastic bags very seriously. Some now avoid using plastic to put veges and fruit in in the supermarket, instead using paper bags or small cotton bags. If everyone did simple things like this we would be making a good start. We should lobby supermarkets to look at reducing all plastic packaging!

Thank you to those who have shared some of what is being done around the regions. Please consider writing about the small or big things you are doing. Every story could be that little bit of inspiration for someone else to get started.

Pip Colgan (convenor), Peter Bargh, Marion Fairbrass, John Heberton,

Carolyn Hughes, Blair Matheson, Br Damian Kenneth ssf

JPIC Report — BOP

Our group is an absolute pleasure to animate! We have focused mainly on the use of plastic, particularly single use plastic bags. We are aware of how the production of all this plastic is contributing to global warming, the landfills and polluting moana. We thought about what we could do to make a difference and ... we have committed as a group to work towards using only recyclable shopping bags and recyclable fresh produce bags. This is some of the feedback I have from our members

I take the Countdown black bags when I shop - I have a tendency to forget to take them - so I buy another one or two and now have about 8 -10 in the car and elsewhere.

I use them for my library visits too and for taking clothes etc. to the drop-in.

(HOT TIP – worked for me, put your purse into one of your shopping bags when you get into the car)

I talked with my pharmacist the other day, and I have arranged to take in my previously used plastic pill bottles to be used again when I get a repeat dispensing of tablets/capsules. The plastic pill bottles are number 5 plastic and cannot be recycled.

We are working hard on using our reusable supermarket bags. That has seriously reduced the amount of plastic bags in the house.

I'm working on eliminating all plastic bags and nearly there. Just bin liners to go.

We identified bread bags as one of the most difficult to eliminate and to this end, we have written a letter to Goodman Fielder New Zealand Limited, the company who produces Vogel's bread, asking that they consider different packaging. We are waiting for their response. One of our members has undertaken to write to Mitre 10 regarding excessive amounts of packaging used on one of his purchases.

Our members continue to support the local Foodbank but each bringing a food item to meetings.

We all have copies of The Rich Living booklet published by A Rocha Aotearoa NZ which was recommended in the last JPIC newsletter and will be discussing how best to use it.

Ethique – check out this awesome Christchurch based company. They produce face, body, pet and laundry products all in bars packaged in cardboard boxes – no more plastic bottles! Using a bar to shampoo your hair takes a bit of mental adjustment but it does really work! Also – no Palm Oil!

Our next focus will be looking at how palm oil production is affecting the natural habitat of so many animals. This video clip narrated by Dame Emma Thompson is well worth a watch, <https://youtu.be/TQQXstNh45g>

Sheila Tippett

Pizza & Submissions

The Zero Carbon Act

This intriguing notice attracted a fellow parishioner and me to attend an event put on by Anglican Advocacy here in Christchurch. After introductions and pizza, the group of mainly older Anglicans settled to listen to a presentation.

The Rev'd Jolyon White introduced the topic and talked briefly about the theology behind why caring about matters such as global warming is part of being a Christian. Previously I had only heard people talk about caring for the world because it is God's creation. Jolyon had a different message. If justice and care for the poor and vulnerable has any part in our Christian belief, then being involved in action to care for the planet follows naturally. Care for people requires care for creation. The impact of loss of land, homes, income generation – and even of life – is felt strongest by the most vulnerable both across the globe and in our local community. Jolyon stated that global warming is the biggest social issue facing us today.

Rosalee Jenkin, a member of Generation Zero and Anglican Advocacy, then explained the Zero Carbon Act. Generation Zero is campaigning so that the proposed Act in New Zealand is along the same lines as the one recently passed in UK. The main points of their proposal/submission to government are:

- A firm goal of zero net omissions by 2050;
- International carbon credits should not be part of the scheme;
- Plans for adaptation as well as mitigation;
- Setting up an independent Climate Commission.

For New Zealand we must also include consideration of the following:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- Our place in the Pacific. We are a leading nation in the Pacific and our near neighbours are some of the most at risk from climate change.
- A just transition that does not burden some parts of society or some individuals unfairly.

Generation Zero and Anglican Advocacy have two goals in this matter. The first is to get the best possible Zero Carbon Act for New Zealand and the second is to ensure that the Act is passed with cross-party support.

Following the talk those present could choose to use the laptops which were available to make a personal submission. We were able to use one

of the templates which Generation Zero has prepared, changing the comments to what we wanted to say.

Although there was little over a week before submissions closed, I felt it was a good opportunity for the JPIC Steering Group to make their first submission. I gained permission from Generation Zero to use their template as the basis for ours submission. A few of us who had the time that week contributed, read the draft and made changes. There was just time to send it to Area JPIC Animators to ask for signatures. Thank you to those who managed to get back to me in time to have their name added to the submission. As there was not time to gain permission from all members in New Zealand, it was submitted by "The Justice, Peace and Integrity (JPIC) Committee, and other members of the Third Order, Society of St Francis, Pacific Province."

Now that we have made one submission, I am sure we will have the courage and determination to make more. I would encourage all of us to be on the lookout for such opportunities. We can't speak out about everything, but hopefully will choose one or two issues a year to respond to.

Marion Fairbrass



Christchurch with Otago

Using A Rocha study resources.

This year, those of us who meet in Christchurch every month made a decision to use the study guides from the Rich Living series produced by A Rocha. So far we have nearly completed the four studies on Climate Change and will go on to complete the studies on Water.

The blurb on the back of the booklets states:

"The existing Western lifestyle is unsustainable – our consumption habits impact on the wellbeing of our human and non-human neighbours. But Christian faith communities have the potential to be agents of hope..... Designed for small groups, each booklet consists of four studies designed to assist communities make sustainability integral to their lives of faith."

Each of the four studies in the booklet has a generous amount of information to read, questions for reflection, scripture to read together and possibilities for action. To be honest, not all of the scriptures were found to be helpful, but on the whole we appreciated the studies.

So, have we changed? There is a greater appreciation of how big the problems are, but at the same time a determination that each of us will make changes as we are able. More of us are taking re-usable bags when shopping; using cloth bags for fruit and vegetables; using waxed cloth instead of glad wrap; checking for sustainable ingredients in products; thinking about air-miles on products and generally being more aware of our impact on the environment. Some of us have investigated using bamboo tooth brushes. Others have made or bought cloth veggie bags for family and friends, thus widening the influence of our studies beyond those attending the group.

Jan Brodie (Novice) is Chaplain to Bishop's Park retirement complex and has introduced the study to a group there, who are enjoying it and making changes in their lives. She has also passed information on to the Secular Franciscans in our area who are beginning to use the study.

Small steps? Yes, indeed. But if many people take small steps, then it can have an impact. We are looking forward to moving on to the study on Water next month.



