

ARANZ December 2010-January 2011 e-news



About that time some wise men ^{¶9} from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ^{¶10}"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, ^{¶10} and we have come to worship him."
(Matthew 2: 1b-2).

Wherever we are this holiday season, may we draw aside from the crowds for a while, and like the wise men of the east... seek out the King of Kings, and pay him our tribute of worship and adoration... for He came to be the light in our darkness, the hope for all people, the truth that sets us free. **What a miracle... Immanuel, the Servant King!**

A BIG WELCOME!

A Rocha in Dunedin (by Selwyn Yeoman)

Following a well attended meeting in late July a group has been working towards the establishment of a Dunedin branch of A Rocha. Please pray for us as we finalise an initial six month program designed to engage people with Creation Care and the worship, theology, and community that are its Gospel foundations. Our plan is to visit, explore and work with a number of different projects in the Dunedin area, concluding each event by worship with a nearby church. This introductory program will culminate with a weekend camp on St Martin's/Quarantine/Kamau Taurua Island. We already have invitations to contribute to some church events, and we're exploring with others the possibility of a project to reintroduce Rifleman Wren to St Martin's Island. So we're very hopeful and prayer support would be greatly valued: that busy people will be able to give the necessary time and creativity, that particular responsibilities will be shared around and done well, that a realistic local project can be developed, and that a wide constituency will be introduced to and inspired by the A Rocha vision for the healing of Creation."

Once the program is finalized we'll put it on the A Rocha website and circulate it widely.

A Rocha in Auckland (Jim and Clare Drury)

We had a further working bee in Oakley creek on Sat 25th September, weeding and replanting some plants along the edge of the creek that had got washed away in some high water. We had a good group there again, approximately 20 people - each time we have some different people come which is encouraging.

On Saturday 16th October, several of us did the 'Arocha' baitlines in Ark in the Park, under the guidance of John Staniland. We enjoyed walking through the kauri to get to the lines and meeting a researcher sounding for the kokako on the way. We think we may be able to take on 4 lines in the future to be the A Rocha lines that we will do twice a year or so.



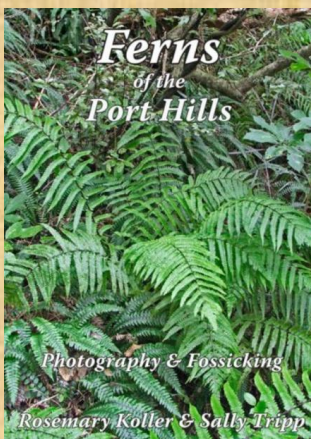
The Auckland Committee met in late October and we are delighted to have Isabel and Sarah join the Committee. At this meeting, we started thinking about plans for 2011 which will be the International Year of Forests.

On 20 November, some of the A Rocha Auckland committee joined in with Forest and Bird members for a visit to Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve which is a kauri/podocarp forest in Orewa. This reserve has a small group of dedicated volunteers carrying out weeding and predator control.

Our last event for the year was a guided walk down Oakley Creek on 27 Nov with Wendy John, the wonderful leader of Friends of Oakley Creek, with picnic afternoon tea by the waterfall. Good to appreciate the history of the stream and all the work being done by many people in different areas of it. There are some great photos of the Creek taken by Kennedy Warne (founding editor of NZ Geographic) which were on display at a local cafe at the time and now can be seen on the website <http://thecreekabides.co.nz>

We give thanks for the year that has been and the A Rocha activities that have taken place, and the fellowship together, and we are looking forward to 2011.

A Rocha in Christchurch



Sally Tripp has recently published book on ferns on Banks Peninsula which has lots of great photos and info on the incredible variety of ferns around the area.

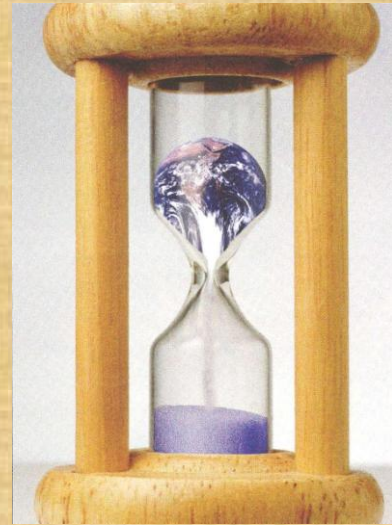
Possum control work at Kennedys bush has been going to schedule this year and the bird life is flourishing. We joined up with the City Council and a few people from the Servants retreat at Living Springs in October and had a good time doing the weeding at Greenwood Gulley, Evans Pass.



Numbers from the wider group who get involved is generally low, so it would be good to get more people being active in our activities.

It was good to have Richard and Rob down for a visit to our November meeting. Steven picked them both up from the airport on the tandem & folding bikes on what started out to be a balmy warm Canterbury summer evening, but by the time we went to their motel and got to the

meeting an hour or so later it was a brisk southerly and rain.



An entertaining video on plastic bags at <http://www.wimp.com/plasticbag/>.

A Rocha in Wellington and Palmerston North

Our hearty thanks to the Wellington group for sending some very creative cards to be sold and given away at TREES at the METEOR in Hamilton!

A Rocha in the Waikato (Kristel van Houte-Howes)

TREES AT THE METEOR celebrates Christmas different. Why? Because Kiwi-ness is in. King Charity is in. Rejoice as Pinus Radiata meets Pasifika. Create Aotearoa avant gardens. Subvert the tree, decorate a tree. Make art. Make festivity. And help make a festive forest.

INCEDO, organizers of the TREES event, is committed to core values of 'generosity' and 'service'. They have chosen A Rocha as a worthy cause of TREES AT THE METEOR profits as they are a mothership that looks after earthmother papatuanuku.:

Thanks to the *Wellington group* for making cards to be sold and given away that week and for all the super efforts and super Waikato volunteers that made this week happen! We had a stand there every night.

From Richard: Tongariro EcoAdventure will be running again this summer from 9-14 Jan. A joint project between A Rocha and Scripture Union, EcoAdventure brings senior teens together for a week to explore birds, plants, volcanoes, stars, rivers and what they reveal to us about our loving Creator. Registrations are still open, so please pass on the word! And please pray for us too - for safety, good weather, a great programme and young people inspired to appreciate and care for God's creation. More details are at http://www.scriptureunion.org.nz/camps/summer_2010/tongariro.html

From the National Director:

Hi Teams,

Its been a crazy full on year - busy - but exciting stuff too! Its been wonderful having Jenny (a private consultant) to help ARANZ develop plans, strategy, apply for funding, and work on our marketing strategies too... more about that early next year...

Thank you to YOU - thank you so much for all your hard work, smiles, emails, love for God's creation and your perseverance as you develop your local groups. Welcome to the Dunedin-based A Rocha Team developing their plans for a local group down, way down south! ... Wow - awesome - great work Selwyn and co (selwyn.yeoman@clear.net.nz).

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a refreshing New Year!

Talk to you early next year,

Aroha, Kristel



PS: Local group leaders – don't forget to start using your local A Rocha email addresses! :) any problems contact Julio (International) or myself..x

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www.arocha.org
(click on NZ/Aotearoa)

