



Newsletter Issue 2 – March 2007

A Rocha Aotearoa NZ initiative group at Parachute 2007

Parachute was an amazing event with some 30 000 people attending the 3 day music extravaganza ... With our own stall and a team of seven volunteers we talked and talked and talked, sharing our vision with hundreds of people and lost count! - youngsters, teenagers and the young at heart...for 2 half days and 2 full days from 8.30 in the morning until 10 at night! Wow! The weather was hot; the work exhausting but ever so rewarding...It was a mammoth effort by all those involved...

Interested visitors to our stall were asked to answer a short questionnaire (a few of the results are shown in the pie graphs to the right), about 100 people participated and went into a draw to win one of three \$30 music voucher from Manna Music store. Congratulations to the winners!

A deluge of rain hit us on Sunday midnight, in the middle of the Dave Dobbyn performance (!) but that failed to slow things down, in the morning a watery warm sun greeted everyone and things dried well before we packed up. Thank you to all that passed by for a chat and shared ideas and dreams, we really appreciate your support and encouragement! *Kristel van Houte-Howes*

Third meeting of the A Rocha Aotearoa NZ Initiative Group

On Sunday 4th March, the Initiative Group for A Rocha Aotearoa NZ held its third planning meeting. We reviewed activities that we had been involved with since our last meeting (notably a display at the Parachute Christian music festival in January), and advanced planning for other future activities (such as a colloquium to be held in May). We also held discussion around two key areas for the future of AR-Aotearoa.

One central issue was the question: "how seriously will we, as an organisation, take bi-cultural issues?" After lengthy discussion, we were forced to conclude that the topic is very complex! We want to maintain our original vision of partnering with Tangata Whenua, however, the outworking of this is a "work in progress" – something we will continue to explore.

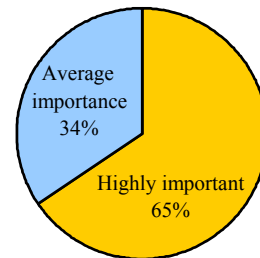
Another key discussion revolved around our application for official adoption by A Rocha International at their April 2007 leaders meeting. For this, we further clarified our "Objectives, Activities and Timelines for the First Year" (concentrating on (1) education and developing resources, (2) practical projects and (3) developing our "community" linkages); We also discussed our organisational structure (trust board and operations), and fundraising needs and potential revenue streams out to about 3 years - by which time we expect to be fully operational (independent of AR-International).

Ingrid Shepherd

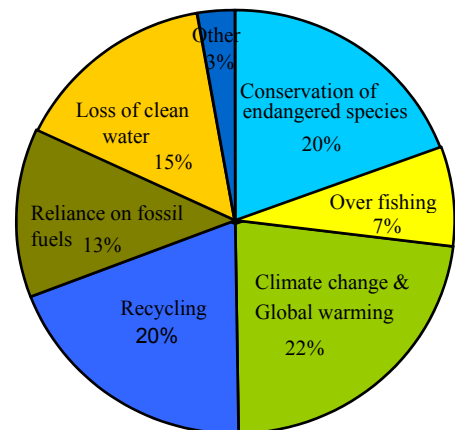
We are an independent Initiative Group that is in the process of applying to become an A Rocha National Organisation. We are currently building up a network of supporters and clarifying our objectives with the aim of being adopted by A Rocha International in due course.

What do Kiwi Christians think about looking after God's planet?

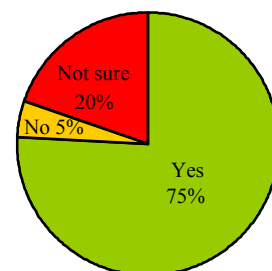
How important is looking after our environment?



What environmental issues are the most important in NZ today?



Are these issues relevant to Christian faith or the church?



Two key needs that we identified was (1) Someone with trust law legal skills. If that description fits you, and you would be willing to donate some time and wisdom please contact Richard (2) **Prayer support! Would you like to start an A Rocha NZ prayer support group?** Please contact Kristel (emails below)



A Rocha Aotearoa NZ
 PO Box 19104
 Hamilton
 Enquiries to: Kristel@creationcare.org or Richard@creationcare.org
www.arocha.org

