



Newsletter Issue 8 – December 2008

Sharing the A Rocha Message

The fourth of A Rocha’s “Five core commitments” is to work across cultures. In New Zealand we now have a wide diversity of nationalities, and the National Team and Board have been reflecting on what this might mean for ARANZ. Liza Storey is from South India, and has opened a door for ARANZ into a vibrant Christian community right here in NZ – the Mar Thoma church, which is native to South India and traces its roots to Thomas the apostle. In October Liza and Richard Storey were invited to teach on creation care at their annual youth group camp in the Hunua Ranges, South Auckland. Every one of the 30+ young people at the camp had been born outside of New Zealand, and most had never been into the NZ bush before.

We decided that the creation itself can speak to people far more eloquently than we can, so after discussing some of the Bible passages about creation, the group went on a bush walk. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and talked about it for the rest of the weekend. The walk also helped fulfill another of ARANZ’s objectives, “to re-connect people with God’s creation”. ARANZ hopes that Liza and Richards contact with the Mar Thoma church will be the start of an ongoing relationship with this Indian community and might encourage us to connect with communities of other nationalities too.



Trees at the Meteor

In December ARANZ is celebrating Christmas in partnership with INCEDO (formerly Youth for Christ) in a Christmas Art Competition and exhibition called “Trees at the Meteor”, at the south end of Victoria St, Hamilton. The TREES will present the message of Christmas in a new way – consumerism? Help make a difference, a forest, think environment and charity. Trees entered in the competition will be auctioned later, alternative Christmas displays and the A Rocha promo stand will feature every night from 16th-20th Dec, free coffee included! All profits will go to ARANZ, for which we are hugely grateful! For more info or if you want to help out? - go to www.arocha.org/newzealand - We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a hugely joyful New Year!



14th - 21st December

Would you like to find out more about A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand, what is happening in your local area or want to get involved? Check out www.arocha.org – New Zealand/Aotearoa pages.

Made by Ruth Ivey, Hamilton (Kirikiriroa).

PRAYER

Greetings! It’s a pleasure to write to you, to say hello, and to share with you a few thoughts on prayer. THANK YOU so much to all of you who do support in prayer. Prayer is our acknowledgement of God in everything, as we give Him the glory, honour, praise and thanksgiving for who He is and all He does. It is also our acknowledgement of our dependence and need for God in everything. As we pray for one another our lives are woven together (just like the flax weaving pictured), we are transformed, and we can see transformations in the world we pray for. “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18). Please check our Prayer Calendar at: <http://www.arocha.org/nz-en/3678-DSY.html>. If you would like to become a prayer supporter please contact me at: liza.storey@arocha.org. Love to hear from you! Thank you and God bless.

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