

# COUNCIL OF REFERENCE

*"A Rocha is one of the Gospel's most significant and dedicated responses to the care of God's creation at this crucial time in the life of our planet. A Rocha is an inspiring and effective response by Christians to the dramatic needs of God's earth, our home, as we face the dangers of pollution and environmental decay. We are called to renew the face of the earth by the Spirit of God."*

**DAVID J MOXON**

ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF THE NEW ZEALAND DIOCESES

*"I seek to support A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand in its commitment to care for creation in a manner that also achieves sharing and co-learning between participating cultures."*

**DR ANTHONY COLE**

KAIHAUTU OF TE PUNATE WANANGA-O-RAUKAWA

*"A Rocha, with its commitment to Christian community and practical conservation projects, has moved the agenda for us from eco-theologising and talking about 'Creation Care' to actually doing it together."*

**REV. GEOFF STEVENS**

CO-FOUNDER OF THE INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF 'ORAMA' ON GREAT BARRIER ISLAND AND 'KODESH' IN AUCKLAND.

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# A ROCHA: AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

## DEMONSTRATING GOD'S LOVE FOR THE EARTH



**A ROCHA**

*Christians in Conservation*

## FIVE CORE COMMITMENTS

### CHRISTIAN

Underlying all we do is our biblical faith in the living God, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.

### CONSERVATION

We carry out research for the conservation and restoration of the natural world and run environmental education programs for people of all ages.

### COMMUNITY

Through our commitment to God, each other and the wider creation, we aim to develop good relationships both within the A Rocha family and in our local communities.

### CROSS/TRANS-CULTURAL

We seek to work together in shared partnership with kaitiaki and all cultures, both locally and around the world. As a Christian faith community we celebrate cultural diversity and seek to transcend cultural boundaries so that (i) shared partnership in caring for creation may be achieved and (ii) God's love for creation and humanity may be freely expressed and made manifest in all the earth.

### COOPERATION

We work in partnership with a wide variety of organisations and individuals who share our concerns for a sustainable world.



**A ROCHA**

*Christians in Conservation*

# A ROCHA: WHAT IS IT?

A Rocha is an international conservation organisation working to show God's love for all creation. Since 1983, A Rocha has grown from one project in Portugal to a family of national organisations in eighteen countries around the world. Each gives practical expression to A Rocha's commitments in its own local context.

"A Rocha" in Portuguese means "The Rock", referring to Jesus who is the foundation of all we are and do. We are committed to protecting and restoring God's creation in ways that also foster the welfare of people and communities. This is identified in our five core commitments and the practical outworking of each.

# A ROCHA: AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand (ARANZ) became part of the A Rocha International family in April 2007.

ARANZ believes God's love extends to all creation and because of this is worth conserving. We believe that stewardship of the earth is an essential outworking of the Christian faith.

We are taking up the challenge to care for creation through a national network of practical conservation and environmental education projects in churches and communities around New Zealand. Local A Rocha groups are establishing throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

Local groups live out the A Rocha vision of caring for God's earth by engaging with local communities through partnerships with existing conservation projects and/or through establishment of their own projects.

*"God loves creation. A Rocha provides practical ways for us to show that We love it too. We are proud to be part of this initiative and give thanks for those who have worked to bring it to New Zealand and continue to offer leadership and expertise. If you're not already involved in creation care, get in touch with A Rocha."*

## GLYN CARPENTER

NATIONAL DIRECTOR, VISION NETWORK  
(ARANZ Council of reference)



# WHAT WE DO

## A ROCHA ANZ GETS INVOLVED IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

Partnering with environmental organisations on practical conservation projects that engage people in ecological restoration and sustainable living.

Developing resources for teaching and practical action.

Encouraging all people to live more responsibly towards God's earth.

## RAISING AWARENESS AMONG CHURCHES BY:

Teaching in churches about caring for creation.

Running workshops on "green" theology.

Promotional displays at events like Parachute music festival, environmental themed gatherings and community outreach events.

In most countries A Rocha's work is focussed around a national field study centre and ARANZ is working towards establishing a field study centre sometime in the near future.

# HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Become an ARANZ supporter or volunteer.

Get involved in a practical conservation project by joining a local group or through the wider ARANZ network.

Inspire your church, hapu or community with our vision.

Commit to an earth-friendly lifestyle.

Visit and volunteer on an A Rocha project overseas.

Help with promotional events like Parachute music festival.

Become part of the ARANZ team - developing resources, educational materials and/or practical initiatives.

Join us as we connect with a wide variety of churches and community groups and tell them about A Rocha.

Make a donation or become a regular donor.

Join our prayer network.