



A Rocha in Auckland: March 2010 Newsletter

*The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.
Psalm 24:1,2*

Hi Everyone,

We hope 2010 is going well for you. This newsletter is to let you know what is happening with A Rocha in Auckland.

Firstly, we have completed the application process to A Rocha Aotearoa NZ (ARANZ), and we are now an official local group, which means we can organise events and practical projects as a fully recognised part of A Rocha. Our overall goal is:

“To build a community of A Rocha Supporters and a wider network of people in the Auckland Region to encourage and enable each other to care for creation and live sustainably through our every day choices, actions, and lifestyles, and through our involvement in environmental education, research, practical conservation, and sustainability projects.”

We have been developing ideas for various projects, and we warmly welcome your involvement in these. These projects include:

Environmental Information and Education

We want to explore the Biblical basis for care of creation and living sustainably. We intend developing short presentations on the theology and ecology of caring for creation, and raising awareness of the many inter-related issues which are causing widespread loss of species, habitats, and ecosystems.

Also, this year has been designated as the **International Year of Biodiversity**. One of the key events is the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May which has the theme of “Biodiversity, Development, and Poverty Alleviation: Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-being.” Whether we are rich or poor, it is the complex diversity of life and the associated ecosystems which provide the essential food, water, and clean air which we all need for healthy living.

We are planning an A Rocha Auckland event to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity, with the possibility of a guest speaker on **either Saturday 22 or 29 May**, and/or an event later in the year closer to Conservation Week in September. We will keep you posted about these plans.

Practical Conservation

We are looking forward to working with the “Friends of Oakley Creek- Te Auaunga” to help with re-planting an area of the walkway along the creek near Kodesh Christian Community in Avondale. This will involve 4 working bees per year. Other possibilities include helping with water quality monitoring, seasonal bird counts, and possum trapping.

Attached is a newsletter from the Friends of Oakley Creek which provides an excellent description of the project, and also includes some information about A Rocha’s involvement. Our first working bee to help with the Oakley Creek project will be on **Saturday 17 April**, and the second working bee will be on **Saturday 03 July**. We will send more information closer to these dates.

Also, we are working with Kodesh Community to re-plant areas of the community property, and will help with sustainability projects such as vegetable gardening, recycling, solar power.

Other possibilities for practical conservation include helping with track maintenance and bait-lines at “Matuku” which is a Forest and Bird reserve near Bethells Beach. This reserve is managed by one of our committee members, who is also involved with “Ark in the Park” in the Waitakere Ranges.

Living Lightly

One of our goals is to encourage each other to *live sustainably through our everyday choices, actions, and lifestyle*. In this regard, we would like to highly recommend the Living Lightly programme developed by A Rocha UK which has helpful information on sustainable living. Inspired by Psalm 24, we need to live each day remembering that the Earth belongs to God. You can sign up for a monthly “Eco-Tip” email from the Living Lightly website: <http://arochalivinglightly.org.uk>

More Information

We will get in touch again soon about the working bees and other events. In the meantime, please let us know if you would like any further information about A Rocha in Auckland (email: drurymailbox-ark@yahooextra.co.nz)

Shalom,

Clare and James Drury
On behalf of the A Rocha Auckland Committee

