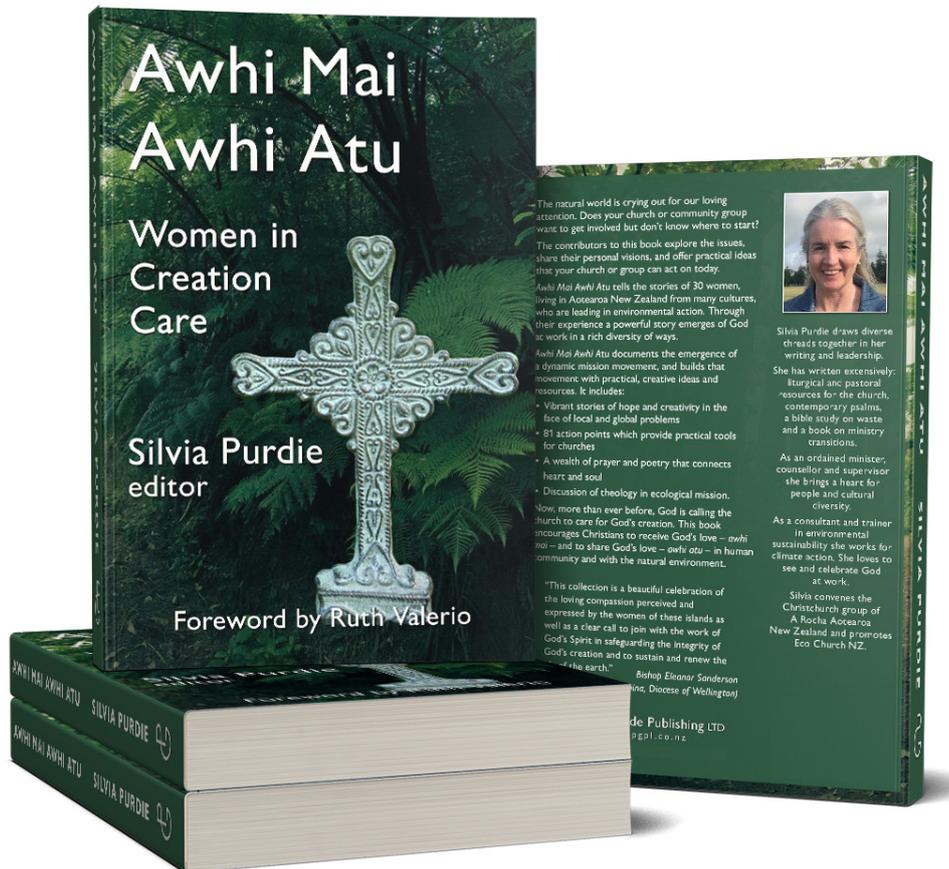


Awhi Mai Awhi Atu

Women in Creation Care

Silvia Purdie, editor

Action Points Supplement



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section of the Northern Walkway, Wellington
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Empowered to Serve: Amy Ross

Action Point 1: Become an Eco Church

A growing network of thriving ecologically active churches around Aotearoa who are growing in faithful mission.

- Get the support of church leadership
- Click the ‘Connect’ button at Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz
- Work through the Eco Church Self Assessment
- Set goals and make an action plan
- Share stories and be part of the network

Action Point 2: Help young families live sustainably

Families growing in confidence in sustainable living with babies and young children.

- Run workshops on eco parenting
- Gift re-usable nappy starter packs when a new baby is born, or start a nappy library
- Cut out single-use non-compostable items such as wet wipes at church
- ‘Sustainable Parenting’ blog, Oma Rapeti:
www.omarapeti.net.nz/blog/post/49464/Sustainable-Parenting
- ‘Eco Living’ OHbaby magazine:
www.ohbaby.co.nz/lifestyle/eco-living
- ‘Nurturing Eco Kiwis’ Kidspot:
www.kidspot.co.nz/parenting/nurturing-eco-kiwis
- Join ‘Zero Waste in NZ!’ on Facebook

Action Point 3: Serve creation together as a congregation

Get your hands dirty! People working together across generations doing an environmental service activity.

- Use congregational worship time to do a practical project, e.g. planting, weeding, stream clean-up
- Include fellowship, fun and food
- Amy: “This is brilliant for time-poor families, to do church and creation care at the same time!”

Action Point 4: Celebrate eco mission initiatives

The whole church getting in behind environmental action.

- We are great at celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; let’s also celebrate our creation care actions: e.g. sharing time in worship for people to say their own steps to sustainability.
- Interview a person or family each month about an initiative they have taken
- Use existing communications, e.g. newsletters, including a regular column about sustainability
- Commit to doing this regularly
- Share stories with the Eco Church NZ community, and join on Facebook.

Creation Spark: Ana Lisa de Jong

Action Point 5: Nurture creativity

Release gifts of creativity in ourselves and others to inspire creation care.

- Workshops and creative space. Invite an recycled arts team such as Rangiwahia Environmental Arts Centre Trust (React):
www.rangienviroartscentre.org
- Include creative options in creation care events and worship services, especially on special Sundays such as St Francis day
- Celebrate poetry, writing, photography, art, drama etc. through displays, websites & social media, etc.
- Join Track Zero 'Arts inspiring climate action': www.trackzero.nz
- Explore online resources such as the Centre of Contemporary Art¹

Action Point 6: Slow down, rest and pray

Sustain resilience and wellbeing with rhythms of rest and contemplative prayer.

- Hold a Quiet Day, or Art Retreat.
- See a Spiritual Director, or invite one to preach.
- Spiritual Growth Ministries, for prayer resources and retreats:
www.sgm.org.nz
- Centre for Contemplation: www.cac.org

At the Forefront: Angela Pennington

Action Point 7: Go Zero Waste

Significantly reduce the amount of church waste going to landfill, and inspire families to reduce waste at home.

Improve rubbish systems in your church buildings, reduce the number of landfill bins and increase recycling and green-waste bins

- Set up Zero Waste systems for church events
- Join the Eco Church Zero Waste for Churches Programme:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/zero-waste-programme
- Para Kore: www.parakore.maori.nz
- The Story of Stuff Project, videos on Youtube:
www.youtube.com/c/StoryofStuff

Action Point 8: Choose what you buy

Everything we purchase reflects our values and keeps waste to a minimum.

- Don't buy junk! Choose to buy things which will last. Don't buy for the bin
- Develop a purchasing policy for your church
- Consider the life-span of what comes into your home or church
- Purchasing resources, Eco Church NZ:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/purchasing

Action Point 9: Social events with a creation focus

- Fun events that build friendship and community as well as inspiring sustainability.
- Movie nights with popcorn and discussion
- Church picnics or bike trips
- Home-grown food competitions and bake-off
- Celebrating enviro-friendly products such as cleaning products or skin care

All That God Has Given: Ani Kartikasari

Action Point 10: Talk about hope

Grow in confidence in your Biblical theology about the ultimate destiny and hope of the universe.

- Book edited by Nicola Hoggard Creegan and Andrew Shepherd, *Creation and Hope: Reflections on Ecological Anticipation and Action from Aotearoa New Zealand* (Wipf and Stock, 2018)

Action Point 11: Support social enterprises

Thriving businesses, both here and in developing countries, that lift people out of poverty, are environmentally sustainable, and empower vulnerable communities.

Find out about social enterprises in your local area and support them

- Explore innovative ‘green’ church-based enterprise that can bring financial, social and environmental benefits
- Shop (and volunteer) at Trade Aid: www.tradeaid.org.nz
- Joyya (previously Freeset – Baptist fair trade mission): www.joyya.com
- The Impact Initiative, working to develop social enterprise in NZ: www.theimpactinitiative.org.nz
- Social Enterprise, Enterprise North Canterbury:
www.northcanterbury.co.nz/business-support/resources/social-enterprise

Action Point 12: Buy enviro friendly products – even if they cost more

Ani challenges us to fully commit, before God, to be part of the solution as environmentally aware consumers.

- ‘Ways to buy better and shop less’ GenLess:
www.genless.govt.nz/for-everyone/everyday-life/shop-sustainably

To Come Home: Anna Baird

Action Point 13: Commit to a local place and people

Mission flows from a long-term commitment as you build relationships, partnerships and ways to improve the local community.

Action Point 14: Workshops on sustainability

Host and promote practical workshops. Find people who can pass on practical skills to equip people for living sustainably. Connect with people in the community and build friendships as you learn new skills together.

- Tap into the skills of church members, especially retired folks
- Training and resources at Future Living Skills:
www.sustainableliving.org.nz
- Host a Repair Café or Repair Fair, to help people mend clothes and toys, fix computers, small appliances, furniture etc. Find Repair Café Aotearoa NZ on Facebook, or folks like Repair Riverlution in Christchurch²
- Bike repairs; find folks in your community keen to help people fix their bikes³
- Make reusable menstrual pads; find Divine River on Facebook
- Clothing repairs and upcycling fabric; connect with community initiatives such as Stitch Kitchen in Otago: www.stitchkitchen.nz
- Talk to your local Men's Shed, e.g. making 'DIY' bird feeders or possum traps: www.menzshed.org.nz

Problem Solvers: Ava Carter, with Liz Horn and Mandy Cleave, Rolleston Christian School

Action Point 15: Support a school's Enviro programme

Growing partnerships between churches and schools nurturing environmental projects and relationships and empowering children to be fabulous enviro problem solvers!

- Support your local school with gardening, planting and other projects
- Find an Enviroschool or kindergarten and explore ways to encourage them: www.enviroschools.org.nz

Action Point 16: Grow native trees

A thriving network of native forest patches and corridors across Aotearoa, so that birds can travel freely.

- Get advice as to the best trees to plant to feed the birds year-round.
- Ara Kākāriki, Greenway Canterbury Trust: www.kakariki.org.nz

Action Point 17: Use an action learning process to tackle any problem

People empowered to take positive action on difficult issues through a systematic method of reflection and action.

- 'Tools for Environmental Action' Department of Conservation, NZ⁴
- 'Creating Catalysts for Change' Waikato Enviroschools⁵
- 'Inquiry and action learning process' using the 'Rivers and Us' Science Learning Hub⁶
- 'What is Action Learning?' NSW⁷

The Change that Love Demands: Cathy Bi-Riley

Action Point 18: Creation in worship

Connect scripture and mission with faith through a focus on creation in worship.

- Have a creation theme in worship services on a regular basis and festivals such as Harvest. Visit the Season of Creation website:
www.seasonofcreation.org
- Encourage intergenerational engagement in worship, including creative and experiential elements
- Preach on themes related to creation. Sustainable Preaching:
www.sustainable-preaching.org. Sermons, At Your Service:
www.atyourservice.arochoa.org/en
- Conversations (Silvia's website) Creation worship resources:
www.conversations.net.nz/worship-resources
- Iona Community worship material:
www.ionabooks.com/product-category/books/care-for-creation
- Prayer resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/prayer

Action Point 19: Plant fruit trees

Grow food for the community and to honour God by bearing fruit (literally!)

- Use church-owned land to plant and maintain fruit trees, especially when there are any changes to church property landscaping
- Build partnerships with the local community to grow and distribute food
- Involve children, young people and older people
- 'Growing fruit trees' Wellington City Council: www.wellington.govt.nz/climate-change-sustainability-environment/sustainable-living/sustainable-food-initiative/how-to-grow-food-sustainably/growing-fruit-trees
- Fruit tree information, New Zealand Tree Crops Association:
www.treecrops.org.nz/tree-information/fruit

Coming Alive: Courtney Wilson

Action Point 20: Include 'all creatures of our God and King'

Value the animals who are part of our local community, both pets and wild, and to include care for them in our mission.

Invite pets to worship (e.g. on St Francis' Day)⁸

- Learn about and pray for the animals native to your area; include photos of them in worship and church newsletters; support projects to protect their habitat.

Action Point 21: Read

- Develop your church library with books about nature and eco-theology
- Encourage book clubs and home groups to read about creation and climate change
- BWB Texts are short books, several on climate topics, such as Living with the *Climate Crisis: Voices from Aotearoa*, Tom Doig, ed., 2020: www.bwb.co.nz/texts
- Check out the Book List at the end of this book.

Action Point 22: Linger over food

People connecting and being present to God and each other by slowing down, eating simply, and sharing from the heart.

Hospitality-based evangelism happens when we share a meal together. Get to know people in your neighbourhood. Encourage and support those involved in conservation. Share about why we care for the world around us.

Connected to the Earth: Diana Johnston

Action Point 23: Restore beauty

Be involved over time with a local place, planting and tending native trees.

- Grow a partnership with your local Council or a conservation group.
- Plan a planting day in the winter time, or a weeding or watering day in the summer time.
- Practical Conservation resources, Eco Church NZ:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/practical-conservation

Action Point 24: Nature-based children's ministry

Nurture children's faith, wellbeing and leadership through including natural spaces and materials and conversations about sustainability.

- Children's ministry Curriculum resources, Eco Church NZ:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/curriculum
- 'What a Wildly Wonderful World' resource for children, A Rocha UK:
www.atyourservice.arocha.org/en/wildly-wonderful-world-2010-resource-pack
- Check out other groups doing outdoor programmes with kids, such as Conscious Kids: www.consciouskids.co.nz

Action Point 25: Encourage outdoor adventure

Young people growing in fitness, confidence, knowledge, wellbeing, faith and relationships in outdoor environments.

- Adventure Specialties Trust works alongside schools and community groups using outdoor adventure and adventure therapy programmes to nurture growth: www.adventurespecialties.co.nz
- Scripture Union run camps for children, youth and young adults, including E3 which is an expedition journey in ecology, faith and leadership run in partnership with Arocha and Adventure Specialties Trust. Scripture Union also work with churches in numerous ways including facilitating children and young people to experience creation: www.sunz.org.nz

Action Point 26: Form a Creation Care team

An active group of eco champions in every church.

- Start an enviro team in your church by forming relationships, inviting people to talk, and giving things a try. This is important to sustain momentum and lead the church in practical action.

From a Mother’s Heart: Eliala Fihaki

Action Point 27: Support global mission partners addressing climate change

Resource communities around the world to respond to climate change with resilience and capacity.

- Fund an environmental project in a developing country.
- Share stories of mission work around the world connecting poverty and environmental action.
- Pray for mission partners.

Action Point 28: Think further ahead

Climate change preparedness involves long term climate adaptation planning. Eliala is challenging mission agencies to think beyond a short-term mindset of what can be achieved in a couple of years. The people want breadfruit! This is also a great challenge for churches. In pandemic times, we don’t know what next month will be like, let alone next year or next decade. But what are we building towards? What breadfruit trees are we planting, that we won’t see fruit from this year, or maybe not even in our life-time?

Action Point 29: Use less water

- Do an audit on your church’s water use.
- Water resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/water
- ‘What you can do’ Water For Life: www.waterforlife.org.nz

Keep Showing Up: Elise Ranck

Action Point 30: Partner with local groups

Local churches connecting with local communities in service and mission.

- Research community and environmental groups in your area; explore on Facebook, talk to City Council staff and sustainability organisations.
- Go along to community events, get to know leaders, find out what their goals and values are.
- Report to church leadership and choose which groups to partner with.

Action Point 31: Enable people to have a say

Local churches aware of current issues and finding easy and enjoyable ways to contribute.

- Find out about submissions processes and issues.
- Experiment with creative strategies, such as photos, signs, banners, prayers.
- Advocacy resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/advocacy

Action Point 32: Prepare for times of trouble

Every church prepared for the worst, with emergency plans, supplies, and people aware of these plans and ready to respond when needed.

- Identify climate change disaster risks for your area. This information will be on your City/Regional Council website.
- Meet with your local Civil Defence group:
www.civildefence.govt.nz/find-your-civil-defence-group
- Review and update your church (and home) disaster plan, e.g. stored supplies. Do people know where they are? Are they fresh? Who can open the church? What if there are no communications? Where is the nearest generator?
- Work with church leadership on disaster policies and planning.
- Have practice runs.
- Get Ready NZ: www.getready.govt.nz

See Where God Takes Us: Honey Thrupp

Action Point 33: Do a community garden

Be part of a community garden to grow skills in growing food, build relationships, and help connect people with the land.

Many communities already have community gardens that your church could assist with. If your church has land, or if there is some unused land nearby, explore developing this as a community garden.

- Community Gardens resources, Eco Church:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/community-gardens
- Sustainable Food Initiative, Wellington City Council:
www.wellington.govt.nz/climate-change-sustainability-environment/sustainable-living/sustainable-food-initiative

Action Point 34: Set up a community food cupboard

A way for people in our communities to share surplus food and to receive extra food when our cupboards at home are bare.

Taneatua has a 'Pataka'. Rakaia has a 'Sharing Shed'. The Mamaku Centre church runs the 'Inglewood Community Fridge'. Churches put a food sharing box out on the footpath, and it is an open-access, no-questions asked. During Covid lockdowns these cupboards found a whole new place and importance. Mamaku pastor Jen Ferry explained that these pantries work because, "It takes out the stigma ... people saying we need to see community. You can't do life outside of community."

- Pātaka Kai open 'street pantry' movement: www.patakai.co.nz

Action Point 35: Pray into every plan

Prayer is a natural normal part of our creation care as we rely on God's guidance, surrender our hopes and plans, uphold each other, and return praise and thanks for God.

Receive the Gift: Ira Schelp

Action Point 36: Regenerate bush and wetlands on farmland

Most farms and lifestyle blocks have some areas of unproductive land, especially in gullies where bush can quickly regenerate. Keeping stock out, removing invasive weeds, and local native planting restores the quality of streams and promotes diversity of life.

Churches can celebrate and support these actions in a range of ways.

Action Point 37: Get out and about together

Church life and family life that gets us out into nature, for our physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and communal wellbeing.

- Church picnics
- Worship services outside
- Community walking groups
- Book by Catherine Knight: *Nature and Wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand: Exploring the connection* (Totara Press, 2020)

Action Point 38: Baptism outside

In the Bible, baptism was outdoors event, originally in the River Jordan. The early church starting meeting indoors or underground to hide from persecution, and found ways to create channels of flowing water for baptism. The medieval church invented the font inside the church, but this is more a ‘temple’ model of infant dedication than the New Testament practice of baptism. Let’s experience again the richness of baptism, with birds swooping and trees waving and the wind blowing. Let’s baptise our kids (and grown-ups!) into the wildness and wonder of God’s church including creation.

The Trees Are Our Neighbours: Iris Lee Fountain

Action Point 39: Share your creation care online

Is care of creation part of your church’s mission? How does your church community celebrate signs of the kingdom for all of creation? Share it on your website and celebrate the stories on your social media.

Is your church community organising events that promote care of creation in the local community? Share it! Let your local community know that your church takes seriously the call to care for people and the environment.

Do you have a creation care team? Feature the team and their work on your church’s website. Give them a voice to share on social media. Grow an online community.

- A social media toolkit for nonprofits, CommunityNet Aotearoa:
www.community.net.nz/resources/nz-navigator-trust/a-social-media-toolkit-template-for-nonprofits

Many Christian mission organisations like Interserve, NZCMS and OMF now embrace care of creation as part of their mission. Check out some examples of what they include on their website:

- Interserve, Loving our neighbour – care for creation:
www.interserve.org.nz/stories/loving-our-neighbour-care-for-creation
- NZCMS, Integral mission: www.nzcms.org.nz
- OMF, Creation care: www.omf.org/our-ministries/creation-care/about

Action Point 40: Give to environmental mission

Churches give generously towards outreach; ensure that giving is also supporting environmental action.

Talk to your church's finance team about your goals and projects. Get in the budget, and explore alternative sources of funding.

- Fundraising Plan, CommunityNet Aotearoa:
www.community.net.nz/resources/community-resource-kit/fundraising-plan/

**He Kākano Ahau: Jacynthia Murphy:
I am a seed**

Action Point 41: Reduce carbon emissions

Whānau and churches choosing to live and work in ways that reduce our carbon emissions.

- Carbon Calculator resources, Eco Church NZ:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/carbon-calculators
- The Aro Project for local projects and partnerships to off-set carbon emissions: www.aroproject.nz
- As individuals, most of our carbon emissions come from getting from 'A to B'. Do the 'Transport' small group study:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/transport
- Do a Carbon Fast for Lent. Anglican Youth Ministry NZ:
www.anglicanyouth.org.nz/resources/worship/seasonal/carbon-fast-for-lent Lent Calendar, St. Francis Xavier Environment Ministry: www.saintanastasia.org/documents/2021/2/SFX-EnvMin-Lenten-Calendar-2021.pdf
Eco Faith Recovery: www.ecofaithrecovery.org/carbonfast

Action Point 42: Buy local

Support local farmers and businesses through a commitment to 'buy local'.

- Promote and shop at local farmers' markets.
- Identify items that your church needs on a regular basis, and find local ethically-sourced suppliers.
- Host an eco market at your church.

**Titiro Whakamuri, Kōkiri Whakamua:
Jenny Campbell**

Action Point 43: Write submissions

Be aware of, and have input into, decisions being made about the environment.

- Advocacy resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/advocacy
- 'Our Climate Mission' Anglican Movement, Diocese of Wellington: www.anglicanmovement.nz/climate

Action Point 44: Value administration

Ensure all creation care projects are well administered, recorded and communicated, and all financial systems and transactions are competent, accountable and transparent.

Heaps of resources at Community Net NZ on administration and good management for not-for-profits: www.community.net.nz

- NZ Navigator Trust: www.nzntrust.org.nz
- Hui E! Community Aotearoa: www.huie.org.nz
- Global Trust Partners is dedicated to helping church mission organisations to have healthy biblical-based strategy and governance: www.gtp.org

Action Point 45: Divest from financial investment in fossil fuels

All church and whānau funds free from fossil fuel investment.

- Ask your church financial managers to report on ethical investment and fossil fuels.
- Review your financial managers and trust funds' performance on divestment.
- Ethical Investment resource, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/ethical-investment
- Mindful Money: www.mindfulmoney.nz

Action Point 46: Connect with Māori

Find a reason to connect and work with your local iwi – perhaps this might be around environmental projects – and learn more about the Te Ao Māori way of doing things.

- Visit a local marae: join in a community event or organise a hui for your church.
- Learn Te Reo. There are heaps of easy-to-access websites such as:
 - MāoriLanguage.net: www.maorilanguage.net
 - Kupu Māori: <https://kupu.maori.nz> (sign up for a word a day!)
 - Tōku Reo: www.tokureo.maori.nz
 - Te Whanake: www.tewhanake.maori.nz
- Learn some karakia (Māori prayers). Karakia and bilingual prayers collated at Conversations: www.conversations.net.nz/bilingual--te-reo
- Do a workshop on The Treaty/Te Tiriti o Waitangi.¹⁰
- Learn harakeke flax weaving.¹¹
- 'Māori Understandings of the Environment' Silvia Purdie: www.conversations.net.nz/maori--the-environment.html
- 'Indigenous Māori Knowledge and Perspectives of Ecosystems' Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research¹²

Absolutely Abundant: Jill McDonald

Action Point 47: Explore solar power

Find out about solar power generation in your area.

- Energy resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/energy
- Find Manaaki Energy on Facebook

Action Point 48: Use less electricity

Review and reduce power consumption, at church and at home.

- EnergyMate is a free consultancy service: www.energymate.nz
- Consider switching power companies for more renewable energy provider.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, NZ Government (EECA runs the GenLess website): www.eeca.govt.nz

Action Point 49: Find out about local poverty

How do whānau in your area experience poverty, including energy poverty?

- Explore projects with low-income families to build relationships and support creative solutions.
- Talk to a local Christian social service agency in your area about working together on an environmental project to benefit the community.

Action Point 50:

Praise God with creativity and bring creation in to church and home.

- Expand beyond traditional floral arrangements (and ban plastic flowers!) to use plants, fruits and flowers.
- Celebrate festivals with natural elements: festivals of the seasons, e.g. Spring flowers or Harvest; traditional festivals such Christmas and Easter and Pentecost; and personal celebrations such as weddings.
- Use symbols in tangible ways in worship and prayer, with children and all ages, e.g. stones, sand, water, seeds.
- Encourage creativity with natural objects, photography and art work.

It Matters to Me: Kristel van Houte

Action Point 51: Join A Rocha

Individuals can:

- Subscribe to a range of email newsletter lists: www.arocha.org.nz/enews
- Like the A Rocha Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ARochaNZ
- Join a local group in your area: www.arocha.org.nz/contact-us
- Become a financial supporter: www.arocha.org.nz/donate
- Volunteer in Raglan with Karioi Project: www.karioiproject.co.nz
- Explore volunteering overseas with A Rocha International: www.arocha.org

Churches can:

- Invite an A Rocha speaker to preach or take a seminar: www.arocha.org.nz/people
- Connect with Eco Church: www.ecochurch.org.nz
- Sign up for the Zero Waste Programme: www.ecochurch.org.nz/zero-waste-programme

Action Point 52: Trap predators

Work towards the goal of being predator free.

Less mammal pests means more bird life and healthy forest, which absorbs more carbon dioxide and makes a very significant contribution to achieving our greenhouse gas reductions.

- Connect with your local Predator Free group:
www.predatorfreenz.org
- Join your local A Rocha group and learn how to set traps.
- Biodiversity resources, Eco Church NZ:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/biodiversity

Action Point 53: Citizen Science

Do some citizen science as a great way to observe nature and contribute to gathering important information.

- Science Learning Hub: www.sciencelearn.org.nz/citizen_science
- Department of Conservation: www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved
- For children - Educational Resources, Department of Conservation: www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources/
- Biodiversity citizen science, Eco Church NZ:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/biodiversity

Sing About Everything: Lala Simpson

Action Point 54: Worship outside

Praise God in creation!

- Take chairs outside onto the lawn or in the courtyard or sit on the grass
- Children or youth only or the whole congregation
- Guitar-led acoustic-style singing
- Communion is very beautiful in natural surrounds
- Plan into periods of the year, especially the Season of Creation (in Spring), summer service and picnic.

Action Point 55: Worship God with all creation in song

Sung worship that opens our hearts to praise, and to lament, in company with all things.

- Find songs that include references to nature in more than just symbolic ways.
- Use natural objects and images in worship.
- There are a host of worship resources online, including hymns and songs.

Action Point 56: Celebrate a diversity of culture in worship

Grow beyond mono-cultural worship and be enriched by the insights, words and rhythms of other cultures.

- Start with those cultures represented within your congregation; work with families to enable minority cultures to find a voice in worship.
- Use new resources, e.g. video.
- Invite a choir from another church, and invite them to sing in their own language/s.

It Will Be Spring: Marg Fern

Action Point 57: Grow food

People skilled and equipped to create vegetable gardens, both at home and at church.

- Run workshops to encourage gardening, provide gardening buddies, teach kids, build planter boxes, have working bees or a veggie competition.
- Hold a Harvest Festival service and other ways to celebrate wholesome home-grown food in church life.
- Food resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/food

Action Point 58: Cycle

Biking as a normal way to get around, including getting to church.

Marg: “A biking lifestyle brings you closer to a rhythm that is sustainable and maintains joy and connection.”

- Have a social event on bikes.
- Install a cycle rack at church.
- Biketober and ‘Bike to Church Sunday’: www.biketoberchch.nz
- Cycling resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/cycling

A Tribe of Enthusiasts: Marie Preston

Action Point 59: Eat healthy – for you and the planet

How might you use the talents of the people in your church to promote healthy eating? Maybe...

- Put together a church recipe book
- Run cooking classes for the community
- Have a vegetarian shared meal, or celebrate diverse cultures’ food
- Involve all ages!
- Food resources, Eco Church NZ: www.ecochurch.org.nz/food
- More recipes and tips at Love Food Hate Waste: www.lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz
- ‘Eat Low Carbon’ GenLess: www.genless.govt.nz/for-everyone/everyday-life/eat-low-carbon
- Research report ‘Healthy and Climate-Friendly Eating Patterns in the New Zealand Context’ Environmental Health Perspectives, January 2020: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/pdf/10.1289/EHP5996>

Tiakina te Taiao, Tiakina te Iwi: Mina Pomare-Peita

Action Point 60: Connect with young people

Take every opportunity to build relationships with young people. Send them messages to remind them that you care. Go walking or cycling together, nurture their love of nature. Encourage an interest in creation through science, art and conservation. Share with them what motivates you. But mostly, just love them!

Action Point 61: Join Caritas

Subscribe with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to be part of their action for environmental justice: www.caritas.org.nz

Unveiling Nature: Nicola Hoggard Creegan

Action Point 62: Explore eco-theology

Deepen faith and thinking by exploring theological questions around Creation and mission.

- There is a growing wealth of videos, lectures and online resources on creation theology, such as ‘Contours of an Ecological Theology’ webinar by Andrew Shepherd, University of Otago,¹³ and ‘Women and Interconnectedness: Ecological interpretations of scripture’ by Emily Colgan: <https://youtu.be/eCH0At1BlcQ>
- ‘A Brief Theology of Creation Care’ Rick Faw, A Rocha Canada: www.arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/theology-of-creation-care.pdf
- ‘At Your Service’ resources, A Rocha International: <https://atyourservice.arocha.org/en/>¹⁴
- Check out the Book List at the end of this book.

Action Point 63: Engage with science

Creation care that is informed by science and in conversation about contemporary issues.

- Invite Christian scientists to speak about their work and the links they see between faith and science.
- Encourage and support people (especially young people) to study science.
- Join New Zealand Christians In Science: <http://www.nzcis.org/>

Pray With Hands and Feet: Olivia Yates

Action Point 64: Pray for climate action

Pray with voice, hands and feet for climate justice.

- Join Karakia for our Climate, and share in prayer vigils, either online or in person.¹⁵
- Include prayer about climate action in regular services of worship and intercessory prayer
- Join Anglican Advocacy Wellington on Facebook: www.facebook.com/anglicanadvocacywn
- Climate Intercessors global network: www.climateintercessors.org
- Join a climate action network such as Extinction Rebellion, 350.org, or Generation Zero.

Action Point 65: Hear the stories of communities affected by climate change

Build genuine, mutually-beneficial relationships with people different to oneself (e.g. Māori, Pacific peoples, low-income, youth, people with disabilities or gender-diverse). Talk about the impacts of climate change.

Support the policies which influence their wellbeing; for instance, submit in support of policies that welcome people from Pacific nations affected by climate change.

- Book, edited by Helen Clark, *Climate Aotearoa: What's happening and what we can do about it* (Allen & Unwin, 2021)

Take Jesus Out from the Church: O'Love Uluave

Action Point 67: Look after a green space

Every child in Aotearoa needs safe places to play outside.

It is all very well to care for our local community. This is an important ecological principle. But if we stay in our middle-class neighbourhood we miss the harsh realities of social and environmental inequality. A central Bible principle is God's heart for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40). Faith-based environmental action pushes us literally out of our comfort zone, across town.

How?

- Let God take us to places we are unfamiliar with, places of poverty, rubbish, graffiti and worse.
- Explore ways to work with local people and councils to improve public parks and playgrounds, drains and walkways. Make them safe and beautiful for kids to play in.

Action Point 68: Rescue food

No food going to waste.

- Love Food Hate Waste campaigns against food waste, in partnership with Councils around the country. Their website includes recipes, advice and information about local events: www.lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz
- Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance co-ordinates and supports food rescue partnerships: www.afra.org.nz
- Zero Food Waste Challenge is a new initiative aimed especially at young people: www.zerofoodwastechallenge.com
- 'Eat the change we want to see' radio interview, RNZ: www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/audio/2018821513/food-eat-the-change-we-want-to-see

I Relate Therefore I Am: Robyn McPhail

Action Point 69: Read the Bible through ecological eyes

Hear the Holy Spirit speak true through the words of scripture as we push beneath our human-centred assumptions and listen for God's heart for the land.

- Include a creation perspective in Bible study and preaching; notice and highlight Bible references to land, animals and natural features, and honour these as central rather than purely symbolic.
- The Earth Bible Project¹⁶
- Book edited by Norman Habel and Peter Trudinger, *Exploring Ecological Hermeneutics* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2009)

- Book by Ellen F. Davis, *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- *Tui Motu Interislands* has regular articles on sustainability and scripture.¹⁷

Action Point 70: Strengthen rural churches through networking

Rural communities feeling encouraged and supported by the church; spaces to talk and work together on environmental action.

- Build relationships between urban and rural churches: visit, build on existing connections.
- Invite speakers from a farming perspective.
- Robyn's article 'Building Bridges in Aotearoa' on the rural-urban divide.¹⁸
- Rural church networks and resources, such as the International Rural Churches Association.¹⁹ Past conference material contains a variety of treasures and the Resources page is for rural and eco-churches around the world.²⁰
- Prayers and liturgies for rural churches: book by Bill Bennett, *The Shepherd's Call – Te Karanga o te Hēpara* (Philip Garside Publishing, 2018)
- Support sustainability initiatives within farming, e.g. New Zealand Farm Environment Trust²¹
- Report on sustainable farming: 'Farm planning for a sustainable future'²²

Action Point 71: Listen patiently

Robyn talks of the importance for learning and ministry of 'just being'. In the 'action' of ecological mission we must not forget the value of taking time to sit and listen 'hearing others to speech to find their way forward'.

- Attend to others, especially quieter people, in ways that communicate 'I want to hear what you have to say'.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Video: 'The Secret to Talking about Climate Change'²³
- 'Courageous conversations about climate change' facilitated process²⁴
- Brené Brown – a beautiful video on the difference between empathy and sympathy²⁵

Tiddlywinks: Rosemary Biss

Action Point 72: Reuse, Reduce and Recycle everything you can

- Find out which organisations in your area take which products for recycling.
- Set up easy to access collection points, and educate people how to clean and sort items.
Rosemary: "You want people to see that it's easy to do. I recommend a line of paper bags along a table, clearly labelled with what you collect in each one."
- Get others involved in a collaborative system to deliver items to where they can be re-used.
- Keep records and celebrate what is kept from the landfill!
- More information on your City Council website, e.g. Christchurch: www.ccc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/lookupitem

Action Point 73: Involve older folks

Involve older church members, and residents in retirement villages and rest homes, in environmental action that they can manage, e.g. recycling or potting up seedlings.

Meet for coffee and chat, listen to stories, share ideas, plan, encourage and support each other. Send a newsletter to celebrate achievements and plans.

Expanding Vision: Silvia Purdie

Action Point 74: Pastoral care that addresses climate anxiety

All those offering pastoral care, especially with young people, reflecting on their own emotional responses to climate change, and able to engage in constructive conversation about this with others.

- ‘Climate Change and Mental Health’ webinar by Silvia:
www.conversations.net.nz/mental-health
- Eco-Anxiety and Wellbeing resources, Eco Church NZ:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/eco-anxiety-wellbeing
- Book by psychiatrist Dr Hinemoa Elder: *Aroha: Māori wisdom for a contented life lived in harmony with our planet – whakataukī (proverbs) for emotional and environmental healing* (Penguin Books, 2020)

Action Point 75: Host seminars on environmental topics

Invite the wider community to events where they hear a range of perspectives and are able to discuss, network and inspire action.

- Find a speaker on the A Rocha website, or ask for help from the Eco Church NZ team.
- Invite New Zealand Christians in Science: www.nzcis.org

Action Point 76: Encourage eco funerals

Natural burial as a normal way of honouring a life and returning a body to the earth.

- Visit your nearest Natural Burial cemetery: www.naturalburials.co.nz
- Discuss natural burial in your church.
- Find out which funeral directors in your area do natural burials.

It is helpful for a family to have already made this decision prior to a death, as it is a very different approach, e.g. no embalming, which may have implications for such things as the timing and process of a funeral.

Action Point 77: Compost

All food and garden waste, as well as compostable paper, rots down and is transformed into food for the earth.

- Composting resources at Eco Church NZ, including tips for setting up composting or a worm farm at church:
www.ecochurch.org.nz/compost
- Video of Silvia’s husband Chris (The Compost Master!) on how to make compost, The Rubbish Challenge (Step 5):
www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge

In God's Will: Skye Finlay

Action Point 78: Wear your ethics

Stop supporting the 'fast fashion' industry, with its massive pollution, waste and unethical employment practices.

- Provide a repair service so that clothes last longer.
- Celebrate second hand clothing, with fashion parades, clothes swaps etc.
- Find and promote local and ethical clothing sources.
- Learn more about environmental issues in the clothing industry.
- 'Ethical Fashion Guide' Tearfund NZ:
www.tearfund.org.nz/ethicalfashionguide
- 'Choose Slow Fashion' GenLess:
www.genless.govt.nz/for-everyone/everyday-life/choose-slow-fashion
- With a bit of research you can find out if clothes are being made by people who are underpaid, businesses that don't have good work ethics, e.g. Good On You: www.goodonyou.eco

Action Point 79: Support Christians in business and sustainability in business

Christians leading in environmentally friendly business practices across the full range of businesses.

- 'Join the Low-Carbon Economy' GenLess:
www.genless.govt.nz/for-business
- 'Embedding sustainability into your business model' New Zealand Trade and Enterprise:
<https://my.nzte.govt.nz/article2/why-sustainability-matters-to-business>

Action Point 80: Integrate evangelism and concern for the environment

People invited into faith in Christ that directly connects with their worries for the world.

Action Point 81: Teach 'you are enough' and 'you have enough'

Strong Biblical faith teaching that confronts consumerism's drive for 'more' and 'new'.

- 'Lead us not into temptation: Christian responses to consumerism' PhD thesis by Christchurch Anglican priest Carolyn Robertson: <https://ourarchive.otago.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10523/8361/RobertsonCarolynJ2018PhD.pdf>
- 'Responding To Consumerism In The World And The Church' by Glen Marshall, Freshstreams: <https://freshstreams.net/wp-content/uploads/Consumerism-Glen-Marshall.pdf>
- There is a host of books, blogs and sermons online about the spiritual practice of Simplicity, such as 'The Discipline of Simplicity' Prayer and Possibilities:
www.prayerandpossibilities.com/spiritual-discipline-of-simplicity

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Endnotes

- 1 'Precarious Nature' exhibition by Toi Moroki: https://coca.org.nz/exhibitions/precarius_nature
 'Poetry and the Environment' Poetry Foundation:
www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/146462/poetry-and-the-environment.
 'Wild Creations' a joint project between Creative NZ and DOC:
www.creativenz.govt.nz/news/wild-creations-combines-art-and-environment-to-tell-conservation-story

- 2 'Connecting communities one repair at a time' Inspiring Communities: https://inspiringcommunities.org.nz/ic_story/connecting-communities-one-repair-at-a-time
- 3 Community bicycle maintenance groups include Bike Hubs in Auckland: www.ecomatters.org.nz/on-bikes/bike-hubs, and the Aranui Bike Fixup in Christchurch (on Facebook)
- 4 'Tools for Environmental Action' DOC:
www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/in-the-environment-series/tools-for-environmental-action.pdf
- 5 'Creating Catalysts for Change' Waikato Enviroschools:
<https://waikatoenviroschools.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/catalyst-for-change-resource-2017.pdf>
- 6 'Inquiry and action learning process' Science Learning Hub:
www.sciencelearn.org.nz/image_maps/92-inquiry-and-action-learning-process
- 7 'What is Action Learning?' Family and Community Services, New South Wales: www.ngolearning.com.au/files/Others/learningseries/WhatisActionLearning.pdf
- 8 'Tips for a Blessing of the Animals Service': Five Leaf Eco-awards, Australia: <https://fiveleafecoawards.org/resources/tips-for-holding-a-blessing-of-the-animals-service>

- 9 'Community pantries filling the gap for the 'have nots' in Taranaki communities' Taranaki Daily News, 14 October 2019.
- 10 Several organisations around the country offer Treaty training, such as Network Waitangi Ōtautahi: <https://nwo.org.nz>
- 11 Harakeke weaving: Te Wānanga o Aotearoa offers courses. Find a workshop near you. Watch online tutorials and join NZ Flax Weaving:
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3viv_wougoI9e2MqSVGk1h1DFh-pcSrx
- 12 'Indigenous Māori Knowledge and Perspectives of Ecosystems' Harmsworth & Awatere, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research:
www.landcareresearch.co.nz/uploads/public/Discover-Our-Research/Environment/Sustainable-society-policy/VMO/Indigenous_Maori_knowledge_perspectives_ecosystems.pdf
- 13 'Faith Thinking' University of Otago:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDH5AZ9mNsU
 Also in the series 'A Thowaway Society':
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmZHKxPBwHM
 Andrew teaches 'Theology and the Environment' at 200 or 300 level.
- 14 Also 'Faith Distinctives' A Rocha International:
www.arocha.org/en/theology-churches/faith-distinctives
- 15 Karakia for our Climate: www.ecochurch.org.nz/karakia-for-our-climate

- 16 Earth Bible Project:
www.webofcreation.org/Earthbible/earthbible.html
 The Earth Bible Series is available to borrow from the Hewitson Library or the Kinder Library.
 Article about the Earth Bible Project:
www.sbl-site.org/publications/article.aspx?ArticleId=291
 Six books form the Earth Bible Commentary (T&T Clark, 2017-2020).
- 17 Tui Motu InterIslands: <https://tuimotu.org>

18 Robyn McPhail 'Building Bridges in Aotearoa':
www.chirmac.co.nz/publications

19 The International Rural Churches Association: <https://irca.online>

20 Please share resources by emailing: ircaprayernews@gmail.com.

21 NZ Farm Environment Trust: <https://nzfetrust.org.nz>

22 'Farm planning for a sustainable future' Rural Leaders: <https://ruralleaders.co.nz/farm-planning-for-a-sustainable-future-turi-mcfarlane-2018>

23 YouTube video: 'The Secret to Talking about Climate Change' by Action for Climate Emergency: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkklaXhbTuA

24 Courageous conversations:
www.umcyoungpeople.org/lead/courageous-conversations-for-youth-climate

25 Brené Brown: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ewgu369Jw