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A Rocha Australia ENEWS

Winter 2019

We are a Christian organisation engaging communities in nature conservation

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Chair's report...

Thanks for your support to A Rocha Australia, we are very thankful for the growing network of supporters of Creation care. Thanks to God's grace, your support and the hard work of our volunteers we have had a busy few months since our Autumn ENews.

Roger Jaensch has commenced part-time as our Executive Officer, thanks to a donation from the estate of John Rymer. We hosted a Creation care conference in Sydney, which brought a very diverse group of people together. We have also commenced planning for ecological restoration events in the Blue Mountains and regional Victoria in spring, and our second annual A Rocha national beach clean-up on Saturday 21 September. Last year we cleaned up and collected data on rubbish from eight beaches, including on nurdles (micro-plastics) that pollute beaches worldwide.

Roger visited board directors and regional coordinators in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Goulburn and Braidwood in July to support development of local networks of A Rocha Australia members and specific conservation projects. Keep an eye on our [website](#) or...



Most of our directors met before the Sydney conference to enjoy fellowship and do some business. We took an early morning bush walk through Blue Gum High Forest. This reserve contains half of the remaining 1% of this critically endangered ecological community.

Chair's report continued...



....[Facebook page](#) for details of upcoming landcare and restoration events. If you would like to support the development of local networks, please make contact with Roger: roger.jaensch@arocha.org

Along with back-office work on administration and financial management to fully establish the organisation, our Executive Officer has also been visiting or talking with partners from our associated projects at Capernwray Bible College on the NSW Southern Highlands, and Cassinia Environmental in regional Victoria.

I am very thankful to the presenters, supporters and participants of the conference 'Christ, the Cross and Creation Care' which was held at Christ College, Sydney, in June. The event attracted 90 people from across Sydney and regional NSW. People also came from Adelaide, Melbourne, regional Victoria, Darwin, Hobart and Ngarrindjeri country at the Murray Mouth. The proceedings are being prepared for release by Christmas. If you would like to watch some of the talks again, they are available for viewing on the A Rocha Australia website. Perhaps you could show one at your church or Bible study group, university Christian group, or other event?

Would you like to hold a Creation care event at your church, in your community, or at your university? We would love to hear from you. There is a range of A Rocha materials and resources available. Or perhaps you are hoping to set up a local A Rocha group? We are developing protocols to support and guide new networks.

We will also soon start considering where to host a conference, workshop or regional event in 2020. If you would like to offer assistance, please get in contact.

There's a new Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network resource *The Pollinator* to help facilitate Creation care activity around the world, on [Facebook](#), on the [web](#) and in your inbox by subscribing to the [monthly newsletter](#).

Lastly, I urge supporters to consider becoming a member of A Rocha Australia and prayerfully consider supporting our ministry in Creation care. Members are important for good governance, electing the board of directors and hold them accountable. More details are [here](#).



Dr Stuart Blanch

President (Chair, board of directors)



Christ, the Cross and Creation Care

22nd June 2019 at Christ College, Burwood, Sydney



Over 90 people attended our conference in Sydney in June. There were four excellent theological talks in the morning followed by a great range of presentations in the afternoon, with opportunities for networking and yum food in between. We would like to thank all those involved in making this conference a success.

This conference in particular received a lot of cross-promotion and we are pleased to see A Rocha becoming better recognized in Australia. We are also pleased to assist in developing Australian-based resources for Creation care.

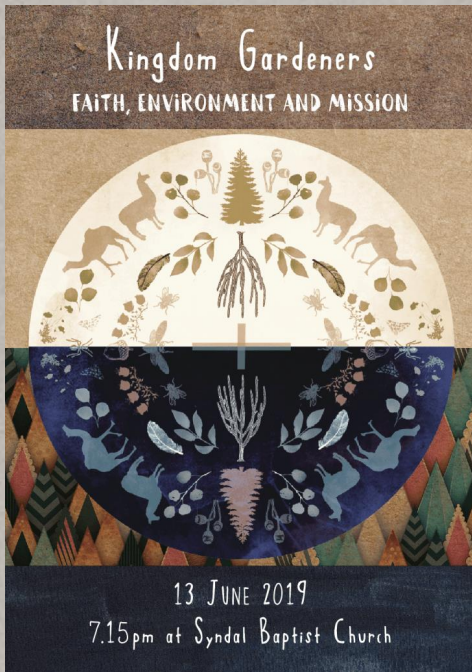


We received some encouraging feedback from some attendees, including this:

"I thoroughly enjoyed listening to all the talks and the different ideas and perspectives. The broad range of topics reflected the many aspects of Creation care that need to be addressed. It was great to have the depth of bible study relating to the topics. It was great to be talking about these issues amongst God's people."

You can watch these talks from our [website](#)





Evening with Interserve, VIC

Mission and caring for the environment can go hand in hand – this was the focus of this well-attended conference with Interserve recently in Glen Waverley.

"Thank you everyone who attended our 'Kingdom Gardeners – Faith, the Environment and Mission' evening. There was a great vibe and energy, and lots to think about and apply.

One of my take-always was from Gillian's interview on zero-waste – to make one change, and when that becomes 'easy' tackle another. Oh, and not to run the shower too hot if washing your hair with an egg!

– Julia Jardine, A Rocha director

Here are some details about the main speakers:

Jonathan Cornford – Keynote Speaker: Jonathan and his wife Kim co-founded Manna Gum as the culmination of ten years working and campaigning on development issues in Laos and Cambodia, working with the homeless and drug-dependent in Melbourne, leading Bible studies and exploring Christian expressions of responsible living in the inner city. Jonathan has a PhD in Political Economy/ International Development. Manna Gum seeks to communicate about the implications of the Gospel for the way we live. mannagum.org.au

Gillian Asquith – Zero Waste: A world without waste – is this even possible? Gillian, a Melbourne School of Theology Faculty Member and Lecturer, shared about her zero waste journey. <https://www.mst.edu.au/faculty/>

Christine Gobius – Christine is the National Director for Interserve Australia. She is also qualified as a Vet. Christine shared about how Interserve has been involved in caring for God's creation through mission for over a hundred years.

Visit our [Latest News webpage](#) to see these videos.



Cassinia collaboration tree planting event – Victoria



A big "thank you" to everyone who came to Freshwater Creek, VIC to help with tree planting in July. 520 endemic trees were planted along Taylor's Gully, helping to create a wildlife corridor linking up other blocks of vegetation. It will be interesting to see how quickly they grow. This was a great day out and thank you Zoe for organizing the day, inviting A Rocha to participate, and for the delicious vegetarian curries, daal, roti and Indian desserts provided for sustenance. Loved by all!



Upcoming event: Capernwray Focus Day

For the last two years Capernwray Torchbearers Australia has run an environmental [project](#) with A Rocha Australia at their Bible school and conference centre in the Southern Highlands of NSW. Capernwray is hosting a "Christians, Conservation and Creation Care" day on Saturday 2 Nov, 9:30am – 3:00pm onsite at 596 Moss Vale Road, Burradoo NSW. In addition to a session on the biblical basis for Creation care, A Rocha Australia members and friends will be giving presentations and leading workshops on subjects such as environmental advocacy, regenerative agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable living. There will also be a tour of the property, conservation project and adjacent Nature Reserve.



More details [here](#).

Credit: <https://capernwrayaustralia.org/>

Upcoming event: International Coastal Cleanups

Join us in the International Coastal Cleanup in September!

The global A Rocha family works throughout the year on the issue of plastic pollution, but is focusing efforts to join in the International Coastal Cleanup events held the third weekend of September each year. In 2018 eight countries in the global A Rocha family held clean up events or participated in events organized by others locally – emphasizing our commitment to partnerships. A Rocha in Australia held eight events in 2018. Would you like to host an event or join one?

Visit this [webpage](#) to see details of planned coastal cleanups, and to register your own.



Upcoming event: Katoomba Bushcare working bee

Are you willing to spend a day or a weekend with other A Rocha people helping to control weeds and restore native bush and swamps on the edge of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area? A Rocha Australia has teamed up with Katoomba Christian Convention Centre to offer this event on Saturday 14 Sept. Volunteers will be provided with morning and afternoon tea, and free accommodation is available for Friday and Saturday night. Check out this [webpage](#) to find out more.



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Send feedback and suggested events or articles for the Spring ENews by 6 Nov to australia.comms@arocha.org

