

Uniting Church in Australia – Queensland Synod

GREEN CHURCH NEWS

GreenChurch Advocate: Rev Dr Clive W Ayre

GreenChurch Associate: Rev Judith Dalton



Issue No 5

May 2011

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

Leonardo Boff

The Earth is sufficient for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed.

Mahatma Gandhi

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Welcome to another edition of Green Church News to let you know some of what is happening around the Church and wider community in caring for God's creation.

Please do contact us with your insights and activities, and any comments or suggestions about Green Church News and the website. We'd love some honest and constructive feedback. And to know if anyone is reading them!

How can we help encourage each other become a Green Church, "Together on the Way, enriching community" towards our 2020 Vision of "Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace for all creation"?

Judith Dalton

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2011

- UN International Year of **Forests**
- International Decade for Action: **Water for Life**
- Education for **Sustainable Development**



June 4 ***Cry of the Earth Eco-Conference***
West End Uniting Church, Brisbane
www.tendashoot.net.au

June 5 Sunday World Environment Day

- Theme: Forests – Nature at your service
- Resources for worship, education and activities from UnitingJustice



<http://unitingjustice.org.au/resources/world-environment-day.html>

June 7 **The Religious' Response to the Queensland floods**
Dr Sylvie Shaw, Dr Aaron Ghiloni: Tuesday 7 June, 7:15pm-8:30pm,
Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University Nathan Campus

June 8 World Oceans Day

June 12 Pentecost Sunday

June 17 Combat Desertification Day

July 3 NAIDOC Week

July 11 World Population Day

July 19-23 **6th World Environmental Congress, Brisbane**
Explore, Experience, Educate
<http://www.weec2011.org/Home.aspx>

July 31 National Tree Day

Aug 1-2 **Fire and Rain Conference, Melbourne**
Social Innovation and Community Leadership
in Natural Disaster Management and Emergency Services
<http://www.civilsociety.org.au/FireandRainConferenceFlier.htm>

Aug 8 Hiroshima Day

Aug 22 Keep Australia Beautiful

September Creation Day/ Season of Creation

<http://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/series-a-the-spirit-series-2011/>

Sept 22-25 **Australian Association of Mission Studies Conference, Sydney**
Mission in a Globalised World: A New Vision for Christian Discipleship (including Ecology and Mission)
<http://groupsthatclick.com/aams/index.php?type=page&ID=3515>

Further Dates for your Diary:

Invitations from Earth Link/ Four Winds <http://www.earth-link.org.au/>

- **Thursday, 9 June, Ethical Issues in the light of the Earth Link Principles**
(4.30-5.30pm, in meeting room at the Chermside Library)

How are we interacting with Mother Nature in this time of fire, flood and cyclone? Is Mother Nature friend or foe? If you are interested in exploring this topic and identifying the values underlying various perspectives, please join us (Earthlink). No cost, but please RSVP to 3425 3138 by Monday 6 June.

- **11-13 June Tracking the Brisbane River**

Beginning and ending at St Vincent's Centre, Queen's Rd, Nudgee, this will be a delightful way to spend the long weekend in June. We (Earthlink) will be tracking up the Brisbane River and its tributaries via Woodford, Linville, Kingaroy, Bunya Mountains, Yarraman, Kilcoy, Somerset Dam, Esk, Ipswich, Indooroopilly and then to Lytton. While detailed costing cannot be done until we know the numbers, the upper limit will be \$300 which includes motel standard accommodation for 2 nights, petrol for the bus, and a contribution to the costs of the tour leaders. You will pay for your own food along the way. **ONLY A FEW PLACES LEFT:**
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE NOW DUE ALONG WITH A DEPOSIT OF \$50.

- **Saturday 16 July, Ecology and Christian Faith**

(10am-3pm at Four Winds, 104 Robinson Road South, Ocean View, Qld 4521)

We at Earth Link have taken up the challenge of looking at the connection between ecospirituality and our Christian tradition, especially as it relates to the interconnectedness between earth, human and the Sacred. Join us in this beautiful and restful place for a time of immersion in nature, reflection and interesting conversation. . Price is \$65/\$60 conc includes Morning Tea and Lunch
RSVP to Four Winds 3425 3138 by Monday 11 July.

(You can follow up this day with the longer retreat being offered in August. However, you can also attend just one or the other.)

2. SEASONAL FOCUS: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, JUNE 5



Since 1972 World Environment Day has been a focus for the United Nations Environment Program. This year the focus is on *Forests: Nature: at your service*.

India's 1.2 billion people continue to put pressure on forests, especially in densely populated areas where people are cultivating on marginal lands and where overgrazing is contributing to desertification.

India, with one of the fastest growing economies in the world is embracing the process of transition to a Green Economy, and will be the centre for hosting World Environment Day 2011 on 5 June, challenging us to move towards a Green Economy too.

UnitingWorld has been supporting our partner Church, the Church of South India, in assisting the Adivasi forest people, in education and community development. <http://unitingjustice.org.au/images/pdfs/resources/wed2011/whatcanyoudo2011.pdf>

This year World Environment Day is on a Sunday. Clive and I have been working with people in other States to develop special worship and education resources. They have been produced through the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, and UnitingJustice. Please use these resources on 5 June, and throughout the year.



<http://www.unitingjustice.org.au/resources/world-environment-day.html>

3. GREEN CHURCH STORIES

PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO CARE FOR CREATION!

Email: green.church@ucaqld.com.au

We'd love to hear from individuals, congregations, Presbyteries and Agencies of the Queensland Synod.

- **CENTRAL QUEENSLAND PRESBYTERY – MINING IMPACTS**



As mentioned in the last Green Church News (4), a Task Group in the Central Queensland Presbytery has been addressing mining issues and controversies in their communities.

Under the leadership of Rev Dr David Ferguson their Mining Impact Summary (March 2011) gives a helpful overview of mining methods, and impacts on the environment. It also identifies aspects which should be carefully watched in order to protect people and the whole environment.

Please read it on the GreenChurch website to inform yourself on this important public issue, and think and pray about how your faith responds to this cry of the Earth, and cry of the poor.

http://www.greenchurch.ucaqld.com.au/files/file/Mining_Taskgroup_Summary.pdf.

For further information please contact Rev David Ferguson:

david.ferguson@dovenetq.net.au

- **CALOUNDRA CONGREGATION**

- i. **FAIR TRADE AND GREEN MARKET, CALOUNDRA**

Caloundra Church held its second Fair Trade and Green Market on Saturday 14th May, a date which appropriately coincided with Fair Trade Fortnight.



As an initiative of its Social Justice Group, it set out to encourage responsible trading and sustainable living. There were 35 stalls in all, including a large range of Fair Trade groups selling items as crafts, jewellery, toys, clothing, coffee and much more. Some groups were focussed on issues such as slavery or the sexual exploitation of women, while eco stalls related to such matters as energy conservation, energy-saving lighting, or action concerning the Pumicestone Passage.



In addition there was some fun activity for the children, including a chocolate fountain and face painting, and of course food for all. This Market was rather larger than last year, and it is clearly starting to make its mark in the Caloundra, although anecdotal evidence suggested that numbers may have been down a little. Such a Day is an excellent opportunity for a congregation to showcase its social and eco-justice mission agenda.

- ii. **GREEN CALOUNDRA**

The Caloundra Weekly has reported that “Caloundra has cemented its position as Australia’s greenest city after a Clean Energy Council study found it boasted the highest percentage of household solar installations.” It adds that “The figures, released as part of Clean Energy Week, debunks the myth renewable energy is more popular in the city latte set than it is in rural and coastal areas.” Of the nation’s top 20 postcodes, Caloundra came in first with 12% of homes powered by solar energy.

Congratulations to all 9 Queensland Postcodes in the Top 20!

	Percentage of households
Caloundra City	11.98
Samford/Mount Glorious/Enoggera Reservoir	9.98
Jimboomba	9.03
Burpengary	9.03
Buderim	8.83
Ormeau/Jacobs Well, Gold Coast	8.74
Maroochydore, Sunshine Coast	8.58
Kelso/Condon (Townsville)	8.27
Fraser Island/Hervey Bay	7.83

Source: <http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/cec/newsletters/MR-solar-data.html>

- **GREEN CHURCH STORIES: INDIVIDUALS**

- **REV DR CLIVE AYRE- GREEN CHURCH ADVOCATE**
ECUMENICAL ECO-MISSION

Rev Dr Clive Ayre has been working with Prof Norman Habel and Jacqui Remond from Catholic Earthcare to develop an ecumenical national Eco-Mission Project group associated with the National Council of Churches in Australia.

This has now been established, and Clive has been appointed to it, along with Bishop Tom Wilmot (WA), Prof Norman Habel, Mrs Jacqui Remond, Rev Paul Hannola and the General Secretary. Little will be available in the way of funding, so the success of the Project will rely heavily on the commitment of the participants. The Eco Mission Project group will seek to raise the profile of eco-mission nationally, and to develop links and resources for eco- mission around Australia.

- **CRAIG HOSMER AND DARYL REINKE - MONTVILLE CONGREGATION**
REVEGETATION OF UPPER ECHIDNA CREEK, MAPLETON

They had planted over 22,000 native plants by 2006 on their property, according to Land for Wildlife South East Queensland, January 2007, pages 6-7.

<http://www.seqcatchments.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=24735>

(To be updated at Cry of the Earth Conference!)

4. **ECO-MISSION DEVELOPMENT**

- **CRY OF THE EARTH ECO CONFERENCE**

Saturday 4 June, 9.30am-4.00pm
West End Uniting Church, Brisbane
www.tendashoot.net.au

As part of Green Church activity for World Environment Day I have been working with **Helen Beazley** to put on this eco-conference supported by the Queensland Government represented by the Department of Environment and Resource Management. We are also working with the **Rev Miriam Nyrene**, the Chairperson of AngliGreen in the Diocese of Brisbane. People of other churches have also expressed interest as Christians wanting to integrate faith with environmental concern and action.

We are looking forward to hearing an indigenous perspective from **Uncle Joe Kirk**, and **Dave Andrews** will help us move from concern into action. **Judith Dalton** will focus on “Loving God, loving Earth” as an integral part of radical Christian discipleship and church mission.



CRY OF THE EARTH
An *eco-conference*
FOR Christians
wanting to integrate
their *faith* with
ENVIRONMENTAL
concern and action

Sat 4 June 2011
9.30am to 4pm
(registration and cuppa from 9am)

West End Uniting Church Hall
Cnr Vulture and Sussex Streets
West End, Brisbane

\$45 (\$35 early bird & concession)

For information and registration
www.tendashoot.net.au
or ring Helen on 07 3846 3832

Run by Community Initiatives Resource Assoc.
Assisted by Green Church and AngliGreen.
Supported by the Qld Government represented by the
Department of Environment and Resource Management.

We have several people, active in different fields, who are happy to share their experiences in various Electives. I think it will be a really encouraging time to see what people are doing to respond to the “Cry of the Earth and cry of the poor”.

Please come and join us if you can. Don't let cost keep you away. For information and registration phone Helen on 07 3846 3832 or www.tendashoot.net.au.

Any questions, email me at green.church@ucaqld.com.au.

Judith Dalton

- **INTER-FAITH: RELIGIOUS RESPONSES TO THE BRISBANE FLOODS**

Tuesday 7 June, 7:15pm-8:30pm

Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus

In the immediate aftermath of the January floods, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other South-East Queensland religious institutions reacted with practical assistance and pastoral care. Dr Sylvie Shaw and Dr Aaron Ghiloni, religious studies researchers from the University of Queensland, are currently engaged in a qualitative analysis of religious responses to the floods. This funded project is part of a larger study on The Greening of Religion in Australia, and will provide a theological and sociological interpretation of the blend of pragmatic activities and spiritual explanations prompted by the floods.

Aaron Ghiloni

- **ECO-MISSION PAPERS FOR MISSION CONFERENCE**

Sept 22-25, Sydney

Australian Association of Mission Studies Conference

Mission in a Globalised World: A New Vision for Christian Discipleship

<http://groupsthatclick.com/aams/index.php?type=page&ID=3515>

Prof Ernst Conradie(South Africa) Keynote Address

Norman Habel	Towards a Rainbow Covenant: A Model for Eco-Mission
Clive Ayre	Christian Faith and the Earth: a Regional Response to a Global Issue
Miriam Pepper	Church-based Community Gardening: where Mission meets Ecology in Local Contexts
Richard Mallaby	Ecological Mission: Children encountering God in gardening care of animals and play in natural surroundings
Mick Pope	A Pauline Ecomissiology from his letter to Rome
Matthew Seaman	Red, yellow, blue and green: Eco-mission within the Salvation Army.
Amy Ross	Integrating ecological mission into mainstream mission: Can it be done?

5. NEW RESOURCES - TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

<http://www.trinity.qld.edu.au/index.php?page=content&idcon=4663>

Membership of Trinity Library is now free for members of the Uniting Church, and anyone can explore the library catalogue on-line!

Here are 4 new arrivals, with their "publisher descriptions", to give you a quick look at what's in the catalogue.

1. Walker-Jones, Arthur

The Green Psalter: Resources for an Ecological Spirituality.

Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009.

(Library Reference: 261.88 AL)

Concern for the earth and biblical faith have had an uneasy relationship: ecological theologians have often cited biblical themes of dominion or "mastery" over the land as contributing to our present environmental crisis.

Walker-Jones explores Psalm genres and important metaphors in the Psalms for earth, the environment, and living things, while tracing their influence in contemporary culture, for example in recent films. He shows that the Psalms, like the earth that is our home, can be dangerous but also provide wonderful resources for life.

Contents:

"Like a tree planted"

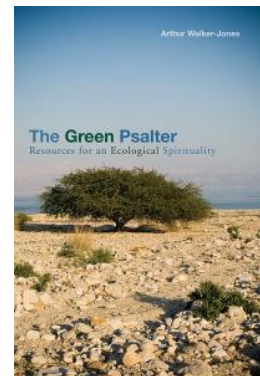
"God my rock": individual laments

Making peace with Leviathan: community laments

Creation and its importance

Hymns and liberation

"Let earth rejoice": eco-justice in hymns



2. Horrell, David G., Cherryl Hunt and Christopher Southgate

Greening Paul: Rereading the apostle in a time of ecological crisis

Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.

(Library Reference: 261.88 HOR)

A remarkable, wide-ranging attempt to read the Pauline literature from an ecological perspective, *Greening Paul*, the first book of its kind, traverses carefully between extremes claiming to present Paul's narrative world and simply subjugating the Bible to a contemporary set of ethical values. Skillfully the authors craft their reading of Paul according to the cutting-edge insights of narrative criticism and tackle burning questions which assail Christians in the present ecological crisis: Does the biblical tradition inculcate an anthropocentric worldview that gives humanity license to exploit the earth for our benefit? Does biblical eschatology imply that the earth is of only passing significance for the elect? *Greening Paul* is a timely and adroit re-reading of the apostle Paul that provides a potentially very fruitful ecological vision, all the while staying true to the biblical text.

Contents:

- Pt. I. Toward an ecotheological hermeneutic
 - A survey of ecotheological approaches
 - The role of hermeneutical lenses for an ecotheology
 - A narrative ecotheology?
- Pt. II. The ecotheological "mantra" texts
 - The groaning and liberation of creation (Rom 8:19-23)
 - The reconciliation of all things (Colossians 1:15-20)
 - The construction of a Pauline hermeneutical lens
- Pt. III. Pauline ecotheology and ecoethics
 - An ecological reading of Pauline theology
 - Pauline ethics through an ecotheological lens



3. Martin-Schramm, James B.

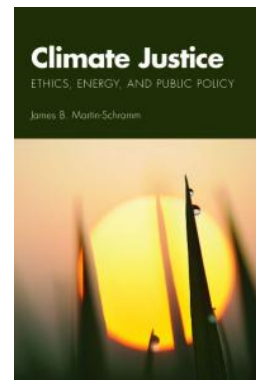
Climate Justice: Ethics, Energy, and Public Policy

Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010

(Library Reference: 241.691 MAR)

Energy issues and climate change have loomed up from issues at the horizon to confront humanity directly and vitally. They are now pressing public policy challenges of monumental scale and import. James Martin-Schramm draws on decades of involvement with ethics, public policy, and environmental ethics to provide this lucid and astute analysis of the problems and options for addressing energy and climate change.

Martin-Schramm argues that reliance on fossil fuels has produced grave threats to justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. Addressing these threats requires of Christians not simply new individual sensitivities and sacrifices but a new way of living in harmony with the earth and an earnest search for policy that fosters sustainability, reflects values of equity and fairness, and operates on a scale commensurate with the problems. Martin-Schramm proposes a full analysis of the problems and causes of our situation and real principles for an ethic of ecojustice. He also provides specific assessment of norms, policy options, and recommendations in the areas of energy and climate change and a glimpse of what a workable alternative might look like, globally and locally.



Martin-Schramm's work combines solid analysis with genuine commitment to effective policy, all driven by a Christian imperative to understand and tackle this deepest challenge to life itself.

4. Robb, Carol S.

Wind, Sun, Soil, Spirit: Biblical Ethics and Climate Change.

Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010

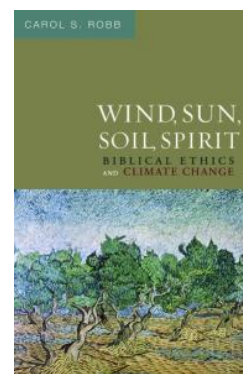
(Library Reference: 220.836373874 ROB)

How can Christians contribute to the debates about climate change and global warming? What ethical criteria do they bring to the conversation? How does the Bible figure in their deliberation?

Carol Robb brings together the several dimensions of this one overarching issue of our lifetimes: hers is an ecological ethics in theological perspective, and it integrates economic theory, environmental policy, and most distinctively New Testament studies. Alongside deliberation on scenarios for the future in light of climate change and assessing criteria for ethical policy in this area, she reflects on implications of the New Testament worldview for ethics now. Relating Jesus' life, ministry, and teachings to the resurrection, then probing how Paul and other early followers of Jesus related to the empire, Robb provides a surprisingly fruitful fund of ideas for Christian responsibility in this area.

Contents:

Climate change policies: these are moral matters
Climate change and climate treaties: the context for deliberation
Moral dimensions of climate change: four formulations
Choosing our future: a fifth formulation
Reading the Bible and doing ethics
The Bible and ecological ethics
Jesus, Torah, and temple
The reign of God: alternative to empire
Paul's challenge to Caesar
Biblical social ethics and the kingdom of oil
The atmospheric global commons



6 CONTACT THE GREEN CHURCH OFFICE

If you have any questions or suggestions for how we may be able to help creation care become an integral part of Christian discipleship and the church's mission, please contact the office, preferably by email as we are not often in the office.

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