



Care for Our Common Home

RNDM News

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide news of RNDM involvement in actions and activities related to our ministry of Caring for Our Common Home.

Good news story from Aotearoa New Zealand and Samoa Province

Sr Cynthia Kearney's Story:



Greetings from Gisborne, called Tairāwhiti, by the local Maori people (58% of the population).

We are situated on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand. It is isolated because of the poor roads surrounding the area. This isolation has helped to create a caring community.

I have learnt a lot from the Maori people who have a strong spiritual bond to the land, Papatuanika, the Earth Mother, who provides unity and identity to her people and sustains them. The people have gone to court to give a river and a mountain, person status.

Driving distance between Gisborne and Napier is 213 km. Napier is the first RNDM foundation in New Zealand.

The local community has **Second Hand Sunday** where we put out on our berm (strip of land outside the place people live, outside their property) anything that we want to share. Even though it is only once a month many do it regularly. I share my plants. I grow vegetables, flowers and fruit and share these with others and they share with me. *WITH MY BASKET AND YOUR BASKET WE WILL LIVE.* (Maori Proverb)

Where I live the ground is mostly sand so I build up the soil by using natural fertilisers such as waste food, seaweed and coffee grounds.

I am the only RNDM here. I have created two communities. One is for those who are retired, the other for those who work during the day. We pray and do spiritual reading together focussed on the Earth. At present we are reading 'Veil Over the Light' by a New Zealand writer, Joy Cowley.



We do a creation-centred liturgy at the Sunday

Mass once a year. We give input into the hymns at Mass. One of our

group even wrote some of these hymns.

I take opportunities to speak to Vincent de Paul groups, the Catholic Women's League, the Sea of Faith, Presbyterians and U3A. (University of the Third Age).

The flowers that greet visitors at Cynthia's front door.

