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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

What about climate change if you live in Whangarei, in the northern part of Aotearoa New Zealand?



No matter in which province we live, we are aware that climate change is touching our lives in ways we never envisaged. In March 2025, we had 10 mls of rain, very little and very bad news for farmers and gardeners. In April 2025, we had half a metre of rain, quite good news for dry land, but the strong winds that accompanied the two cyclonic storms that descended on Northland from the tropics further north, meant power outages and falling trees.

The bad news included the death of three kiwi, our national bird. As you can see, kiwi have long beaks that enable them to dig into the earth and find grubs and worms. When the ground dries out because of lack of rain, the poor kiwi begin to starve as grubs and worms go down deeper where there is moisture. Three kiwi were found dead and when autopsies were carried out, they discovered that the three kiwi had eaten the very poisonous karaka berry which killed them. No rain also means more bush fires which also destroy struggling native flora and fauna.



Does climate change ever mean good news for us who live in Northland?

What is really fascinating is that some people are now growing:

Bananas – friends are currently supplying us with bananas grown in their garden

Pineapples – I have tasted the pineapples and do not find them as sweet as those imported from Ecuador in South America and the Philippines

Peanuts – the heavy rainfall has created some problems for those attempting to grow peanuts commercially

We usually plant tomato seedlings in October, which we did in 2024, and we had a wonderful harvest. Then in March, a friend gave us three seedlings to plant, which we also did although we were doubtful as to whether there would be fruit. There are little green tomatoes looking quite good. Will they ripen? That is the question.



*Thanks to Susan Smith
for this article.*