

**CREATION, CRISIS AND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE
AUCKLAND – FEBRUARY 2005**

Welcome Address

David Pattemore

Welcome, distinguished guests and delegates to Creation, Crisis and Conservation. Thank you for joining us this weekend for what promises to be a really exciting time.

My name is David Pattemore, and I am on the conference organising committee, a small offshoot from the Science and Faith Forum of Vision Network New Zealand.

Many would say that New Zealand is well overdue for a conference of this nature

Conservation and environmental issues are close to the heart of many New Zealanders, and it is certainly part of our international reputation. Yet how much of an environmental ethic do we actually have as a nation? A question even more pertinent in the Church.

There have been a number of notable attempts to start a Christian environmental movement in New Zealand. Undoubtedly the greatest champion of solid Christian input into this field came from Professor John Morton, known to many of you personally. Prof. John Morton is an excellent example of a man who has gained enormous respect as a thorough scientist and conservationist while maintaining a firm and visible Christian conviction. Unfortunately, Prof. Morton is unable to be with us this weekend, but he is certainly here in spirit and sends his apologies

The aim of this conference is to challenge and inspire you, ultimately into action, at whatever scale in whatever forum that fits your giftings. This conference is merely a beginning, an event that will hopefully provide impetus to Christian involvement in environmental issues in this nation. As a committee, from the start we identified two discrete goals for this conference: to nurture the development of a structured Christian environmental movement in NZ, and to initiate a Christian statement of environmental concern. We welcome your participation and input into both of these.

We are privileged this weekend to have two world-class keynote speakers: Dr Simon Stuart, currently residing in Washington DC, welcome, and Dr David Given, from Christchurch, welcome. Both will be speaking this morning. Not only that, but our other speakers are all world-class as well. Mention Dr John Flenley, Dr Carolyn King, Rahiri Bennett.

Just quickly on some house keeping matters. Make sure you wear your badge around the conference so we know who you are. I thoroughly recommend making the most of our meal options, as this will enable us to spend the maximum amount of time together over lunch and dinner. Meals will be served at St Andrews on Symonds St, but morning and afternoon teas will be served here. Bathrooms are... Please check the timetable carefully as the timings are different on the two days. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to approach us. All the conference committee are wearing a bright red dot on their name badges.

Key highlights: Panel tonight will discuss interesting questions that come up during the day. Feel free to come to me if you have a question you would like to ask the Panel. (Simon S, David G, John F, Nicola HG, Richard S, Rob Y). Saturday night. Worship Service (10am) & Field trip.

Conferences like this are never free to run, and we are certainly not aiming to make a profit from this. However, if you get a lot out of this weekend, and believe it is a worthwhile function to sow into, we would gratefully accept any donation towards the expenses of this conference.

The fundamental reason I am here, is because of my relationship with Jesus Christ, and my desire to follow his will for my life, a sentiment most of you will share. So without further delay I will call on Dr. Richard Storey, fellow conference committee member, to open our conference in prayer and chair the first session. Thank You.