

# Why do we care? - Yvonne Curtis

Notes prepared for talk Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at St Luke's Anglican Church, Wadestown.

Life is a script and we live (write) it out with others on a world stage

How I am going to tell my story tonight has been guided by these two books and the fact that I was born in New Zealand.

- "Extraordinary Anywhere – Essays on Place from Aotearoa New Zealand" - Editors Ingrid Horricks & Cherie Lacey VUW Press 2016
- "Becoming Bicultural" – By James Ritchie - Huia Publishers & Daphane Brasell Assoc Press 1992 edition

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**Now to the question – Why do we care? A short answer as to why I care is that I am human and my experience of life leads me to believe that caring for each other and the planet has good outcomes for all.**

Tonight I am going to share my experience as a futurist and a Christian that I think help me find actions to take that show others that I care for them, myself and a healthy planet.

From a futurist's perspective

I would begin by questioning the very basic assumptions being made as a basis for the questions asked and any solutions developed.

e.g the definition and understanding of the word "*majority*" in different settings and the possible different future consequences particularly when applied to human groups rather than numbers in a mathematical sense.

In a political sense and also ethnically the New Zealand population can now be better described as a majority of significant minorities (eg 30%, 35%, 25%, 10%) rather than a majority of 70 – 80% with a number of small minorities of 10% or less. The infrastructure and processes needed for effective governance and management of the country may not be the same for both.

Considering the issue of "climate change" (or as George redefined it as we were preparing for this seminar – "climate disruption") to define those aspects of climate change now that can be clearly associated with human activities and therefore as a caring Christian in a Christian Community I want to help as a member of that community.

This is a global issue, and as part of a New Zealand community I want to play my part as a member of the global community in ways that technology and our imagination have made us "superhuman" and have made what would have been regarded as "super natural" some generations ago, natural and ordinary today.

Bluntly we need, all of us, to co-operate and to do what is needed. i.e. we will no longer need the word “enemies” in our vocabulary or even “strangers” as all will be members of the world family.

- “Living without Enemies – Being Present in the Midst of Violence” - By Samuel Wells & Marcia A Owen, IVP Books, Illinois. 2011

We are also told that the economy, people and environment are very important– usually in that order but I would like you to consider a different order, beginning with the environment and a different way of understanding their relationship.

Consider:

**Environment** is The Playhouse – the living globe including the atmosphere

And Stage Backdrop - the other natural elements that we share planet with.

Props – a mix of natural artefacts and human made tools

**People** – the directors and players

Script – the narrative of the interactions and relationships between the players, the props and the living backdrop and the resulting changing story and props which is the **economy**.

The **economy** is a human artefact.

A simple **model for Community Visioning** that I have used for many years is based on:

- “A Guide to Community Visioning – Hands-on Information for Local Communities” editor Steven C Ames, Oregon Visions Project, 1992

The questions are:

1. Where are we now? (Community profile based on descriptive information and community values) *Aside – I also tend to do a historic profile looking back at least as far as you want to plan forward. It can help to understand why this is the future that became the present from all possible futures imaged in the past.*

2. Where are we going? (Trend statement based on trend information and probable scenario)

3 Where do we want to be? (Vision Statement based on a preferred scenario developed from community vision)

4 How do we get there? (Action Plan that includes agreed goals, strategies and actions, with action agendas and priorities)

When answering these questions it is important to be as neutral as possible, so that positive and negative aspects, and advantages and disadvantages, are considered fairly. Also to understand that they can be interchangeable. I have found that Joy Cowley's reflections give me the guidance I need to be able to seek answers to these questions.

I found the reflection cited below a help in preparing for this evening, particularly in understanding that there can be blessings in the shadow, that faith can give hope even in the darkest moments and courage as we walk into the unknown.

### **HOLDING IT ALL TOGETHER – MAPS AND JOURNEYS (Joy Cowley) -**

<https://www.joycowley.com/holding.shtml>

#### **To sum up**

I find that when I face the unknown future, my faith, my creativity and my science help me go more confidently into the future. It is also a great help and comfort to face it in the company of family and friends.

Another key learning for me is that, in going into the unknown, it is good to have several plans in your mind and be curious about what is ahead, not too frightened.

My life story will be continued. As a hint of what to watch for and groups, I have links with:-

- At the international level I am still an active member of the World Future Studies Federation and keep in touch via e-mail. [www.wfsf.org](http://www.wfsf.org)
- UN nations Association –Sustainable Development Goals - [www.unanz.org.nz/](http://www.unanz.org.nz/)
- From the New Zealand Futures Trust - Futuresonline  
<http://igps.victoria.ac.nz/futuresonline.html>
- Wise Response [www.wiseresponse.org.nz](http://www.wiseresponse.org.nz)
- Living Economies [www.livingeconomies.nz](http://www.livingeconomies.nz)
- Festival for the Future <http://www.festivalforthefuture.org.nz/>
- Live the dream <http://livethedream.org.nz/>
- Akina Foundation <http://akina.org.nz/>
- Hui E! <http://www.huie.org.nz/>
- Community networks Wellington <http://www.cnw.org.nz/>
- Inspiring Communities <http://inspiringcommunities.org.nz/>
- Royal Society of NZ, Wellington Branch <http://wellingtonrsnz.org.nz/>
- Island Bay Residents Association – Love the Bay project  
<http://www.lovethebay.nz/have-your-say/#/back-on-track/>
- Trinity Union Parish
- Sea of Faith <http://sof.org.nz/>
- Ephesus <http://www.ephesus.org.nz/index.htm>