

Climate Correspondent 2025 no. 2, 28 Huitānguru

Arohatia te Taiao: Love for the Environment

Kia ora dear f/Friends

Black walls are trendy. Our wall is non-trendy creamy yellowish on our side and trendy black on the neighbours' side. Both sides have a green stripe at the top. The black side gets noticeably hotter than the creamy yellowish side, making us wonder about all the other trendy black walls?



Thank you, John Michaelis, for the treasure trove of summer goodies: drones delivering parcels; net zero will be easier than you think; and tree planting at speed. Thank you also, Jillian and Marion for the conversation starter about aerosols and global warming. The idea is reduced air pollution is making global warming worse. Aerosols in air pollution appear to have a cooling effect; but there are all sorts of aerosols and with all sorts of impacts, and all sorts of literature. The simplest explanation I found comes from [NASA](#).

Things to do

Due 28 Feb – Forest and Bird Conservation Land campaign – thank you Joel

Petition - Stop the proposed public transport fare hikes petition – - thank you Climate Club

War and the Environment course – 6 weeks online starting March 24, thank you Deborah



Highly recommended viewing – What really makes us safe? Peace, climate finance and climate action in an existential time Thank you QUNO

Join an organisation – Aotearoa NZ Climate organisations for every interest are [here](#)

A tree is growing out of the pavement around the corner. Elsewhere, companies are abandoning climate goals, Federated Farmers Meat and Wool Council are writing to the Climate Change Minister, glaciers are shrinking and the IPCC has begun a new meeting.

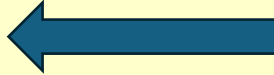


Anyone else confused? Overwhelmed? Try this attempt to understand:

1. Aotearoa New Zealand is still committed to its Paris Agreement goal *to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels* (Zero Carbon Act 2019 –full title in link).
2. Aotearoa NZ recently re-stated its commitment - *to meeting our climate targets and doing our part to reduce the impacts of climate change*. (Conference of the Parties (COP) 29)
3. We (ANZ) have agreed to reducing net emissions by 51-55 percent below 2005 gross levels by 2035 (our much criticised recently announced Nationally Determined Contribution). The Climate Change Commission argued that a 66 percent decrease would be attainable without 'shrinking the economy'.
4. We are not on track. Gross levels were 86,615.38 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2005 and net levels in 2022 were 59,156.57 – a 32% decrease so far. Most of that decrease is due to the difference between 'gross' and 'net'. Total greenhouse gas emissions rose by 0.5 percent in the year to September 2024. Electricity, gas, water, and waste services industry emissions rose by 27%, and transport, postal, and warehousing industry emissions rose by 5.9%.
5. Data is hard to find and understand. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment agrees. Insurance companies want better information.



6. We are turning towards adaptation rather than mitigation. Budgeted climate adaptation spending increased by \$666 million in the last year, but spending on emissions reduction activities decreased by \$370 million, environmental management system decreased by \$139 million and pollution and waste decreased by \$25 million.



Mr Husband is growing very good tomatoes

Climate change has many tentacles which relate to day-to-day life realities. Below is my little story-telling attempt to spot some of the links:

You are the Government; You sit musing by a river near Christchurch with your sleeping granddaughter:

- a. Debt Is freaking you out. You need Growth. Growth equals more dollars which means you can do more things. Growth means increasing Gross Domestic Product (GDP). More GDP = More Growth. You know **GDP = Consumption + Investment + Government expenditure + (Exports minus Imports)**.
- b. Voilà. Trade! NZ exports around \$19 billion per year in dairy products, and imports around \$8 billion in vehicles and accessories and \$10 billion in mineral fuels.
- c. More dairy equals more export dollars. Which is probably why we have 4,701,596 cows (2023/24)?
- d. That fast track legislation will help get us more export dollars by digging up more minerals needed for clean energy (and besides, the USA needs them for munitions). (You recollect those Quaker visitors at Parliament last week saying humanity spent US\$2.4 trillion last year on military stuff).
- e. Now you worry about global conflict disrupting supply chains, ... so reverse the oil and gas ban and ANZ gets more self-sufficient in energy? After all, fossil fuels make up about 60% of Aotearoa New Zealand's energy. Those Quakers said something about military producing around 5.5% of global emissions?
- f. Moving on to droughts. Droughts are very expensive (agricultural exports fall). Canterbury cows are at a growing risk of drought and Canterbury has more cows per hectare than anywhere else (3.39) But cows need grass, and grass needs water, and cows need water. Water equals irrigation, and, ... oh no.
- g. Granddaughter wakes and wants to play in the river, but there is a No Swimming notice. You buy ice creams instead. Kai Tahu rings up. The aerospace stuff is going well, but they are taking the Attorney-General to Court to get their rangatiratanga over freshwater (wai Māori) recognised. Granddaughter still wants to play in the river. You now have a major headache and toss Granddaughter a package.
- h. Granddaughter opens the Quaker visitors' gift. Out falls a little book. It is called **A Government Official's Toolkit: inspiring urgent, healthy, equitable and available-at-scale climate action**. Apparently, Quakers have an office at the United Nations, and this is a publication featuring scientific findings from IPCC Reports presented to and approved by governments around the world. It mentions water.



Quakers call on every person in Aotearoa New Zealand to bring about whatever changes they can to enable us to live in harmony with one another and with the planet (YM 2020).

Biodiversity video here. Little otter here – thanks Jillian Relaxing bird sounds - here

Ngā mihi nui, Philippa (suggest going outside and sitting watching anything – particularly bugs)



Note: this newsletter is not an official Quaker publication. It aims to assist Aotearoa NZ Quakers' knowledge of action and thinking around climate change and therefore reflects a variety of views.