

Climate Emergency Correspondent 2024, No 5, 17 Haratua

He waka eke noa – we are all in this together

When we think we know people, we can fall into the trap of not listening and not asking questions. We can be tempted to write people off as intransigent or even irrational. We must practice good discipline or listening, asking, and reflecting. Kay Harrison, Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador, Yearly Meeting, 2024

Kia ora f/Friends

Apologies, I think I got submerged in the great email muddle up. If I have forgotten you, please contact me again.

Lindsey Fielder Cook (Quaker United Nations Office) and Kay Harrison (Aotearoa NZ Climate Change Ambassador) came together to meet with us at Yearly Meeting – and learnings from our time together are here.

But first the '**need to knows**':



1. **Climate Commission: [Emissions reduction target and emissions budget consultation information webinar](#), Tuesday 21 May, from 12.00 to 1.30 pm.** Submission programme is as follows:

- Draft advice on the fourth emissions budget (2036–2040) [here](#) - **Closes 31 May**
- Review of the 2050 emissions reduction target [here](#) - **Closes 31 May**
- Review on whether emissions from international shipping and aviation should be included in the 2050 target [here](#) - **Closes 31 May**

2. **Quaker climate weekend 19-21 July** - An opportunity for everyone to bring their issues/ opportunities/ interests and join with others with mutual interests. Thank you Margy-Jean, Ronis, Marion; and panelists Cathy Breed ([Climate Club Aotearoa /WMM](#)); John Michaelis ([Nelson Tasman Climate Forum / NRM](#)); [Mike Joy](#) (Te Herenga Waka Victoria University Wgtn). More information [here](#). Register [here](#) by 14 June. Contact Margy-Jean for further information at margyjean.malcolm@gmail.com

3. Ministry for the Environment reports which tell us [Gross emissions fell by around 4% in 2022](#) (the chief reason was higher rainfall replenishing our hydro schemes); and, their report on the state of [Our Land](#) which tells us we have lost 67% of our indigenous forest, 80% of our sand dunes, and 90% of our wetlands (p.24).

4. The **OECD's recent [Economic Survey of NZ](#)** telling us that our population has grown by over 18% in the last decade and includes recommendations that we:

- Need for good data around climate related modelling and hazards – e.g. flooding
- Monitor the price and availability of insurance for climate related disasters
- Improve the planning system
- Need to reform the Emissions Trading Scheme
- Improve on-farm emissions measurement in preparation for pricing

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Yearly Meeting discussion with Lindsey Fielder-Cook (QUNO) and Kay Harrison, Climate Change Ambassador for Aotearoa NZ

Sincere thanks to both Lindsey and Kay for taking time with us. Issues raised by different people included the following:

The situation

1. **We are well below where we need to be** and are heading to a 3+ degree temperature increase 'above pre-industrial levels'.
2. **Limiting temperature change to a 1.5 degree increase is increasingly viewed by scientists as unlikely** due to insufficient national policies worldwide. Despite calls for urgency and the devastating consequences expected under higher temperatures, Governments in aggregate, still plan to produce more than double the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C. The highest expected increases in oil and gas production are in the USA. We do have the technology and ability to do what is needed – just not the will. (See report and clear diagrams [here](#)).
3. We are not doing well with the **root causes of climate change**. [Our overall levels of production and consumption are not sustainable](#) (IPCC language). However, we are increasingly recognising issues associated with agriculture and energy globally. Often issues around production and consumption are seen as taboo, maybe because of associations with old capitalism / socialism Cold War divisions etc. New, life-enhancing sustainable economic approaches are needed. "Some cities/countries are leading on this, and the results are promising." [Unfortunately, I am not sure what examples to provide us]
4. **Systemic attacks on multilateralism** – supportive multilateralism is never a given, but recent challenges are increasingly 'attacks' on the institutions themselves, from systemic underfunding to efforts to downgrade reputations (International Court of Justice) or destroy agencies (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East - UNRWA).
5. **Politicians are afraid of push backs globally** - there is anger in populations. Policies need 'buy in' to be implemented. Human rights-based approaches have a higher chance of avoiding mistakes that lead to senses of unfairness and then protests and, in turn, political retreat. The challenge is everyone looks over the fence and thinks another should be acting (i.e. "we are insignificant"). Politicians have pressures to act on present issues and that makes investing in acting now to avoid greater cost and impact in the (near) future difficult to sell.
6. New Zealand has **historical responsibility** for 18 billion tonnes of carbon emissions [remember all those forests we got rid of?]. As a comparison, China emits around 12.3 billion tonnes per annum and India emits roughly 4 billion tonnes per annum.
7. **Loss and damage** - A small amount of money (US \$700 million) has been pledged for loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. It is not nearly enough – more significant financial flows could come from options beyond pledges – see other options in [QUNO document on fair sources of finance](#).
8. **There is a global North/ South divide** – this is where Aotearoa NZ has an important opportunity to provide an example of crossing the divide by supporting Pacific Islands peoples and countries.

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9. **Leadership** is coming from young people, the Pacific Islands, legal cases, and it can come from NGOs, and faith groups too.

What would help?

1. **Importance of simplicity** – our Quaker testimony
2. **Positive approaches** - doom and gloom approaches do not work – they may raise attention in the short term but often lead to feelings of disempowerment and despair.
3. **Recognition of our shared humanity; He waka eke noa** - we are all in the same boat; but the boats are different sizes and that is experienced as unfair.
4. **Co-operation, collaboration; and, urgent action this decade**
5. **Listening, asking questions, and reflecting**
6. **Financial flows** going in the right direction (not around US\$500 billion in fossil fuels subsidies and billions for the military) – see (7) above.
7. **Recognition of hurt and loss**
8. **Leadership on finance and mitigation** - this is key; current global policies on fossil fuels, military and deforestation/consumption appear suicidal, at a time when transformation and resilience building is key.
9. **Trillions of dollars are needed**– money can be found, after all, global military expenditure is at an all-time high of US\$ 2.4 trillion per year.
10. **Just transition**– example of a human rights-based approach
11. **Assess extraction of resources**- what are we extracting? How? Why? Who is affected? Who benefits? Where? etc.
12. **Support for poorer people** – inequity is not only between states, but also within states and that discussion is taboo in the climate negotiations. Globally, households with income in the top 10% contribute about 36–45% of global greenhouse gas emissions (robust evidence, medium agreement) - IPCC finding in their Technical Summary. See also [QUNO toolkit for Government Officials](#) - footnote 119.

What can ANZ Friends do?

1. **Engage** with interfaith groupings.
2. **Support Pacific voices** - e.g. film making, storytelling, internships. Support things which are already happening, e.g. Aotearoa NZ provides support for negotiators to attend meetings. We fund a Pacific pavilion and an office for delegations to meet and work at the COP. We have supported film-making and story telling to help bring the Pacific reality into the consciousness of the rest of the world.
3. Spiritual, financial, connections with **QUNO**. We know that QUNO Geneva is short of funds and A/NZ financial support would be much appreciated (donations via QPSANZ)
4. Support our **Aotearoa NZ international meeting representatives** to 'do the right thing'.
5. **Send people to QUNO summer school** – maybe offer two annual bursaries to enable a young person from A/NZ Friends and a Friend from a less developed country in the Asia West

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Pacific Section to participate? Students at summer school often become Programme Assistants, and their experience inspires care for multilateralism, peace and justice worldwide.

6. **Keep talking /engaging with people we don't agree with**
7. Take part in **submission writing, online webinars, consultations** etc.
8. Recognise **climate change issues rest beyond one Minister** - e.g. agriculture, transport, resources, energy.
9. Recognise we need a **whole of government approach**.

Thank you:

Murray Efford for the beautiful photograph of Kōhahai Bluff on our new publication.

Joel Hildebrandt for info about [climate actions we can all take](#); Vermont passing a Bill designed to make [big fossil fuel companies pay for damage](#) from weather disasters fueled by climate change; and, [Wellington getting its birds back](#).

Richard Milne alerting us to the latest climate skeptic movie [Climate: the movie](#) and a review [here](#)

Peace Movement Aotearoa for drawing our attention to the [open letter on Te Tiriti and protecting the environment](#)

Jillian Yorke for [recycling polyester into yarn for new clothes](#), beautiful film on the caves beneath the [Nullabor Plains](#), and, [What the Mind has to do with the Climate Crisis](#)

Jonathan Fletcher for how [plants can help stop landslides](#)

Adrian Glamorgan for [plastics and the Galápagos Islands](#)

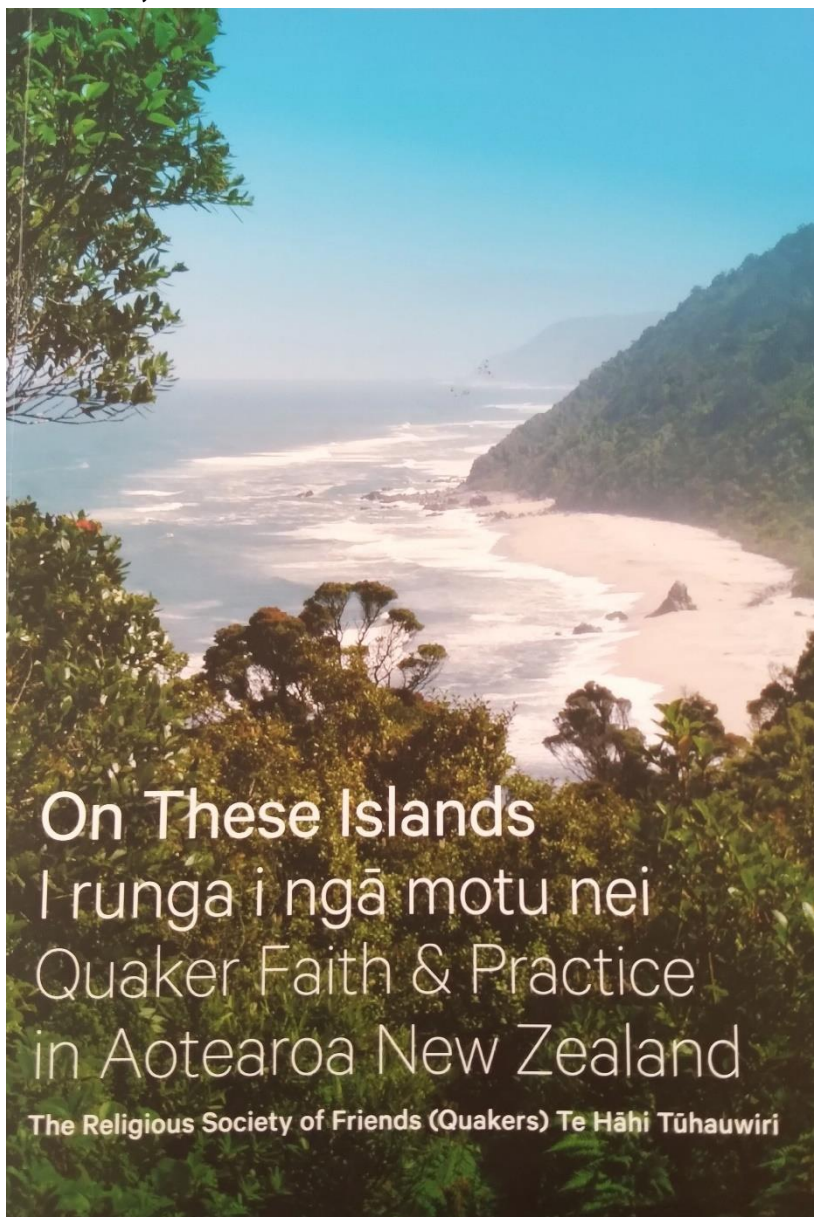
NIWA for info on [understanding climate change in Aotearoa NZ](#)

Inspiration here:

[World Localization Day](#) video – thank you Jillian

[Aurora Australis \(Southern Lights\)](#) or beautiful pictures and explanation of colourful skies

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Go well everyone. See you soon.

Ngā mihi nui,

Philippa