

Climate Correspondent 2024, No. 9, Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Arohatia te Taiao : Love for the Environment

Kia ora koutou f/Friends



Four hyenas were eating a huge elephant with perfect toenails. The elephant lay there almost intact, but its trunk was missing, and its eyes were gone. It was a beautiful animal even in death. Vultures were circling waiting their turn. Our guide said the elephant had died of old age. Here was a dead animal providing food for the living who in turn would provide food for others. I pictured myself being eaten by hyenas.



While I was fantasising about being eaten, you were sharing contributions. Thank you Peg and Deborah for inspiring news about [river regeneration](#); Peter for how to conduct [Earth Listening Circles](#) – Summer Gathering?, Jillian for how [trees remove methane](#), and Gray for news of American investors' interest in [net zero emissions](#).



Thank you also Francie, for helping us understand about government [subsidised carbon emissions](#); to Richard for his Aotearoa NZ Friends Newsletter articles on [Climate Science and Denial](#) and on [Quakers Climate Weekend](#); and, to Stephen for sharing the Oxfam and World Vision Report on Aotearoa NZ' [climate finance obligations](#).

Regeneration and Sustainability – what is the difference?

Lindsey Fielder Cook from Quaker United Nations Office talks about regeneration. **Regeneration** means doing more good stuff; for example, in Aotearoa NZ, [regenerative agriculture principles](#) are about *restoring or enhancing natural ecological systems and improving environmental outcomes*(p.2). **Sustainability** focuses on doing less bad, for example, producing fewer emissions or waste, or using less energy to sustain the world for future generations.

Need to know

[Fossil Fuel Free Treaty](#) events (online for night owls) until 27 September. Sign petition [here](#).

School Strike for Climate 27 September – details are [here](#)

International

[Quaker Earthcare Witness](#) (QEW) wants to map Quaker Meeting earth care activities. Find out more [here](#).

Asia West Pacific region

Thank you Liz Bridgeman for telling us about [Antarctica](#) magazine and the [cryosphere](#) (portions of Earth where 'water is in solid form, including sea, lake or river ice, snow, glaciers, ice caps, ice sheets, and frozen ground (including permafrost)'). The [State of the Cryosphere](#) 2023 report explains why a 2°C increase in global temperatures causes big problems.

Thank you, Anne and Alistair, for updates on the call for a [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) which Aotearoa NZ Quakers signed last year, and Pacific peoples are championing. Pacific voices are easily forgotten, yet Pacific peoples are at the forefront of climate change. We can:

- Encourage our Government and local councils to support the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). Kāpiti and Wellington have both signed, so have London, Montreal, Canberra, Lima, Warsaw, Kolkata, and others.

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- Know why it is important for Pacific peoples and why it needs [support from Aotearoa NZ](#).
- Learn more about the ecumenical Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October): video [here](#) and information [here](#).
- Learn about Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa’s call to recognise [ecocide](#) as a crime against humanity
- Join other faith communities in strengthening our Pacific voices. We have links with [Christian World Service](#) (CWS); the [Religious Diversity Centre](#); [United Nations Association](#); and Quakers [Asia West Pacific](#).

Aotearoa NZ – Catching up on emissions policies

Government says we are [on track to meet our 2030 emissions targets](#) via the following policies. I’m confused.

- **Energy policies** - *Electrify NZ and incentivising Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage, including renewables through Fast-track*. How realistic is carbon capture? How does it tackle the International Panel on Climate Change identified over-production/ over-consumption problem? Currently 18% of Fast Track applications are for [renewable energy projects](#).
- **Transport policies** - *10,000 public EV charge points by 2030, [Clean Car Standards](#), and supporting public transport in our main cities*. NZ has a lot of cars - 3.627 million [light passenger vehicles](#) in August 2024 compared to 3.607 million a year ago. Of these, 75,000 (2.1%) were battery operated compared to 64,000 in August 2023 (1.8%). Seventeen [roads of national significance](#) are being prioritised and Government funding for [rail](#) is being cut from \$1,844m in 2024/25 to \$219 m in 2027/28 (2024 Budget, p.26) .
- **Agriculture and forestry policies** - *agricultural emissions pricing and mitigation technologies, limits to land use change to forestry on high value land uses; and Crown Land afforestation*. Aotearoa NZ is [relying on technology](#) to reduce agricultural emissions. We are also relying on the [Emissions Trading Scheme](#), but the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, [Simon Upton](#) (an ex-National Party Cabinet minister) is concerned that this only covers about ‘43 per cent of emissions, because methane and nitrous oxide from farming are not covered’. ‘The government also gives permits to "trade exposed" polluters like NZ Steel’ (see Francie’s info above). [Forestry](#) is not a short cut solution. The Commissioner explains that ‘polluting companies [being allowed] to offset all their emissions with forestry [does not make sense] when planting trees would always be cheaper than cutting emissions, and companies would [have no reason to] cut pollution’. ‘Forestry offsets should only be used to buy us time.’ (Full submission [here](#))
- **Waste policies** - *the Waste Minimisation Fund, organic waste and landfill gas capture*. All I know is that in 2021 Kiwis were producing 692 kg of municipal waste each. People in Costa Rica produced less than half that amount (313kg) and the Japanese managed on 326 kg each ([OECD](#)). Does that include the waste we export?

Finally - Enjoy Te Reo Māori

Let’s go to the ____ (beach, river)

Kia haere tātou ki tātahi / Kia haere tātou ki te awa

Want to go for a swim?

Kei te hia kaukau koe?

Who wants to get ice cream?

He aihikirimi mā wai?

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

Philippa



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