

Getting a Grip on COP 28

Quaker Climate Emergency Correspondent 13: 20 Whiringa-ā-rangi 2023

He waka eke noa We are all in this canoe together

Kia ora f/Friends

“We need to strengthen your grip.” I obediently squeeze the rude-looking pink plastic sausage thing the physiotherapist passes me before wrapping it in plastic wrap. “Weird substitute for old socks,” thinks Quaker me self-righteously musing that socks come without either dye leakage or plastic wrap issues. I keep the pink plastic-wrapped plastic sausage safely in a plastic box.

COP 28 is here. So the local information is a bit limited this time.

Numerous [contradictory themes](#) around climate issues are likely to underpin COP 28 (the United Nations International Climate Change Conference), and I have tried to get a grip on some of these for us.



Need to know:

COP 28 - Dubai, 30 November – 12 December. Online classes are [here](#).

- Join COP 28 via the [citizens link to COP 28](#) or join faith voices at the [Faith Pavilion](#).
- [Interfaith dialogue](#) (the Talanoa Dialogue) - 12.30 am (i.e. very early) December 1 NZ time. Register [here](#). Register for small online group discussions [here](#).
- Connect with the Australian's interfaith prayers / meditation for COP 28 each Thursday at 4.30 – 5.00 pm NZ time <https://zoom.us/j/98905456344> Passcode: 082143. (It will be every day during COP 28).
- [COP Quakers and the Climate COPs: A Report-Back and Follow-Up](#) 8.00 am Thurs 21 December NZ time.

Other - Quaker webinars

- [Not Just Smarter — Wiser! A Quaker Approach to Artificial Intelligence as Part of Earthcare](#) 1pm NZ time, Friday December 1
- AWPS [Webinar Indigenous Peoples' Initiatives on Climate Change Mitigation](#), Yoggie Lasimbang, December 2, 8pm.

Inspiration here:

Jillian Yorke has been elected Secretary of [Protect Karangahake](#) working to prevent gold mining from restarting on their local mountain; see Alex (Loxley winner) on [Common Grace Activists' video](#) and Cathy and others at the [Climate Club](#) keeping Kiwis up with local info; sign the *Keep public transport affordable, for climate and community* [here](#); Webinar on [behavioural crisis driving ecological overshoot](#) **29th November, 2023 Time: 7 to 8:30 PM**, thank you Margy-Jean.

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.

Gritty (grippy) stuff here: My attempt to fairly reflect some tricky issues which relate to Aotearoa NZ Quakers and underpin COP 28 follows. (See easy to read [BBC info](#) from a UK researcher).

1. **Reducing emissions to limit global warming:** The central concern inspiring different actions around the world. See Tuvalu and others (including Quakers) call for a [Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation treaty](#).
2. **Low lying places like Tuvalu cannot wait so are making deals:** Enter climate help from [Australia](#) in exchange for a security and defence agreement which is not limited to defence, but also *includes policing, border protection, cyber security and critical infrastructure, including ports, telecommunications and energy infrastructure*. Expect more of this?
3. **Fossil fuel producers like Australia are still increasing exports:** “Australia’s [metallurgical coal] exports are [forecast](#) to lift from an estimated 163 Mt (metric tonnes) in 2022–23 to 175 Mt in 2024–25 *as several new mines open [emphasis mine],*” and “... Australian thermal coal exports rise from 178 Mt in 2022–23 to 202 Mt in 2024–25”. The [owners of fossil-fuel resources](#) have the power over price and production. Will less demand by some countries reduce production or increase demand by others?
4. **Which fossil fuel emissions are we phasing out?** Will there be a focus on phasing out [‘unabated’](#) fossil fuels, with fossil fuels being ok if they can be [‘abated’](#) – i.e. use technology to capture the resulting emissions?
5. **Backtracks:** The UN Secretary General is [not pleased](#). This COP includes a [Global Emissions Stocktake](#) which will show our progress on achieving emissions goals.
6. **Helping those worst affected:** COP 28 includes working out who will benefit from and who will pay into an estimated \$100 billion annual [Loss and Damage fund](#); the irreparable damage from climate-fuelled drought, floods and rising sea levels. The amount sounds huge until we compare it with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimate that [2022](#) global military budgets were [\\$2,200 billion](#) or \$2.2. trillion.
7. **Mitigation and/or Adaptation?** *I am struggling with roots [of climate change], for we are so far along the trunk and branches of climate change* (Aotearoa NZ Quaker). Adaptation is needed. [Niue](#) has done all the mitigating it can do. How do we balance mitigation/ adaptation issues?
8. **The renewables debate:** Some say [renewables will not solve the problem](#). Too many of us are focused on [acquisition, status, and having too much stuff](#); and /or the big problems are [economic growth, marketing, and pronatalism](#)
9. **Language, meaning, trauma, and listening crisis?** [Climate change alarmism is a cult?](#) or, [No Climate Crisis](#) but big problems with pollution, or, are we talking past each other, about the wrong issues, and getting [paralysed by trauma](#)?



Mother from Hanuabada

Aotearoa NZ at COP 28: Our yet-to-be Government may [bring back oil and gas exploration](#). Aotearoa faces: being a small global player, agricultural emissions, cyclone affected people and communities, coastal properties, insurance, flooding, trees and carbon trading, equity issues particularly around land and Māori, regional employment, and what on earth do we tell our children. [Te Ao Māori](#) has much to offer if we are able to listen. So does [young inspiration](#).

Ngā mihi nui, Philippa

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