

Climate Emergency Correspondent 2024, No. 1, Kohitātea

Nga iwi e! Nga iwi e! Kia kotahi ra te Mo-a-na-"nui"-kiwa

All you people! All you people! Be united as one, like the Pacific Ocean (Charlotte Gordon - thank you for your waiata teaching)

Inspiration – Catherine Spencer’s Dunedin home in the [Toiora co-housing](#) project where, among other things, they have effective passive heating and, one lawnmower between 24 houses.



[Catherine Spencer's inspiring co-housing home](#)

Kia ora f/Friends

We are on the 2024 journey. Michael Harcourt’s began his Ministry on Sunday quoting Jesus’ **“Do not be afraid”**.

George Fox would be 400 this year. What would he say? He would see a mess in Gaza; hear that 2023 was the hottest on record; encounter water restrictions; wonder why there was so little water in the Canterbury rivers; witness distraught-ness around Te Tiriti o Waitangi; hear one year old concerns from flood affected people in Tāmaki Makarau; and, put up with me virtuously telling him I am saving my shower water in plastic buckets to pour on Husband’s tomato plants. He may quote Jesus too.

Read This Bit

Help shape a Climate Weekend for Quakers – Thanks to Margy-Jean and Marion, we are planning a weekend for July. What would you want out of a participatory learning climate seminar for Quakers at the Settlement? What would/ could you bring or give? All suggestions / offers welcome by 12 Feb 2024. Thank you.

An overview to start the year - **Dealing to Climate Risk**, Fabian Society, **January 31st 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm** **YouTube link [here](#)**, featuring Rod Oram, specialist writer on climate; Sophie Handford, Kāpiti Councillor, and founder of School Strike 4 Climate; and, Rutger Keijser, leader in the management of climate-related risks – thank you Deborah

How do we know?

Numerous Friends are drawing links between [war and environmental damage](#) (Thank you Liz, Gray, and Richard). Peace and justice issues abound, but with artificial intelligence, so much being written about so many things, and our human tendency to exaggerate, it is getting harder to be sure of reliable information – even amongst the good stuff.



Our little home at Summer Gathering

[Towards an Unliveable Planet](#) is written by well credentialled scientists, but its title outruns the evidence (thank you Gray). There are the more [emotive pieces](#) (thank you Jillian). The [World Economic Forum Global Risks](#) report lists misinformation and disinformation as our most significant short term global risk; extreme weather events come second.

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.

People were naming things that haven't been named before - Lindsey Fielder Cook

Sincere thank you to Lindsey Fielder-Cook for joining us on Zoom at Summer Gathering and QUNO involvement in the UN Conference of the Parties ([COP 28](#)). Some of her main points follow:

- Watch QUNO's side-event on [shifting money and power](#); the [Talanoa Interfaith Dialogue](#) (Lindsey at 1 hour 42 minutes); Lindsey talking about [Challenges, Hope, and Resilience](#) (see 12 minutes in).
- The **Global Stocktake** shows we are behind, both globally and nationally, and global greenhouse gas emissions need to be [cut by around 43%](#) to reach the 1.5 degree Paris Agreement 2030 goal.
- **COP 28 news includes:** [Colombia](#), the largest Latin American producer of oil and gas joining the call for a Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty. 154 Heads of State and Government agreeing to operationalise the [Loss and Damage Fund](#) with commitments of over USD 700 million (much smaller than the global 2.2 trillion military spending). Calls for [\[t\]ransitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, ... so as to achieve net zero by 2050 \(28 \(d\)\)](#), and to [triple renewable energy capacity](#) globally by 2030 (28 (a)).
- **Issues to keep an eye on** include: a possible race to money-spinning technological 'quick fixes'; carbon trading (does not reduce emissions); geo-engineering to maintain the status quo; tree planting used to look like we are doing something; and, the growth in litigation around climate issues.

Implications For Aotearoa NZ Quakers:

- Quaker testimonies are a powerful response to what is primarily a spiritual and wealth crisis.
- Peace, justice, climate/ environment are aligned and require an economics of sufficiency – economics is the big 'elephant in the room' and we need better approaches here.
- Help our Aotearoa NZ representatives do well and encourage a cross-party approach. This means us connecting with them. Kay Harrison, our Climate Change ambassador has expressed interest in meeting with us.
- How can we help our Pacific neighbours and let them know they have our support?
- Local energy solutions help challenge the wealth structure and build local resilience.
- Loss and damage is a failure of adaptation; and, adaptation is a failure of mitigation
- Everything we do counts.

New Zealand remains resolutely focused on transitioning to a low-emissions future; to supporting Pacific resilience and collectively decarbonising the global economy

Simon Watts, Climate Change Minister, [COP 28 National Statement for NZ](#)

Finally, It is summer, enjoy this piece from [Planet Local Summit](#) or a [Very English But Very Restorative Book](#)



Other people's homes at Summer Gathering



Kānuka - home for many creatures



Fletcher household bathroom ceiling - home for Daddy Long Legs Family - pekepeke-haratua

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.