

Climate Correspondent 2024, No 7, Matariki

He waka eke noa – we are all in this together



Don't subsidise pollution petition presentation – Common Grace. Alex Johnston, 2023 Loxley Award winner, is the tall person at the back (spot 2 Quakers, 3 MPs, and an archbishop)

Kia ora koutou dear f/Friends

Matariki. New Year across the Pacific. Time to join with our families, reflect, and think about the year ahead.

Joining with our Quaker families

Quakers and Climate weekend 19 – 21 July

Concerned about the environment and climate? Join us in this major opportunity to strengthen and deepen our connections across the country. The Quakers and Climate weekend, 19 – 21, July provides a vehicle for us to come together, reflect and inspire each other – either at the Settlement or online in our own homes or with others in our local meetings.

Thank you to 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 12 July. Contact Margy-Jean for further information at margyjean.malcolm@gmail.com

Quaker World Plenary 5-12 August – online – [register here](#). Care of Creation online – 7 August. Resources [here](#)

Seven Matariki reflections:

1. “Wear your sword as long as you can”, [George Fox](#) advised William Penn. Quakers little kindnesses help me get over my steak and chips self and just get on with trying to keep us all up to date. You will have parallel stories.
2. Friends join around twenty thousand people who [Marching for Nature](#) in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. Quakers also join [Common Grace](#) in presenting the [Don't Subsidise Pollution](#) petition to Parliament. Chloe Swarbrick says **she wants to meet with Quakers**.

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3. [Nasdaq investor advice](#) promotes [Siren Gold's](#) Reefton antimony plans. Antimony is used for solar panels, wind turbines, generators, batteries, nuclear reactors, smartphones, computers, semi-conductors, and automotives.
4. Parliamentary Commissioner of the Environment, Simon Upton tells the [Environmental Defence Society Conference](#), that *barring something of a spiritual awakening, the reality is we're likely to continue to worship at the church of consumption for some time yet.*
5. Peter Gluckman, ex Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, and now head of [Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures](#) tells [Our Climate Declaration](#) 'there is a balance between extracting from the planet for welfare ... and not extracting to sustain the planet ...
6. *In the context of governments and those in power we were encouraged to be strategic, innovative and joyful in an holistic approach to raising issues and advocacy on critical climate change issues.* ([Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa ... 2024](#)).
7. Reality today: I hug the wood burner with a mug of kawakawa tea made by plonking a couple of kawakawa leaves in a teapot with ginger and boiling water. My tea is good. Rising flood waters in Wairoa, Tairāwhiti and Hawkes Bay are not good.



Protesters Todd Energy Offices, Taranaki. Spot the Quaker

Looking ahead

1. **Community pressures** - [Timaru](#) and [Waimate](#) have great resources (thank you Justin); [Kāpiti](#) is running into controversy; [Wairoa's clean up](#) could cost \$40,000,000. Around 750,000 New Zealanders, and 500,000 buildings worth more than \$145 billion are near rivers and in coastal areas already exposed to [extreme flooding](#).
2. **Links between climate issues, environmental rows, and peace** – (thank you Ronis). [Antimony](#) (see above) is also used in [military applications](#), including *night vision goggles, explosive formulations, flares, nuclear weapons production, and infrared sensors*. Most antimony comes from [China and Russia](#). The US relies on antimony [imports and recycling](#). Are we a future supplier?
3. **Supply chain issues** - Aotearoa NZ is a small trading-dependent Pacific nation a long way from its markets. [Shipping](#) and shipping costs increase import costs and reduce export receipts. International conflicts (e.g. Gaza and the Suez canal), and the weather (e.g. low water levels in the Panama canal) are expensive for us. We can either sell more or buy less.
4. **Sell more?** – We are good at producing food (therefore watch out for [techy solutions to the methane problem](#)). Demand for [minerals](#) for renewables is rapidly increasing; so, it is not surprising we are looking at digging up and selling more of ours.
5. **Buy less?** - Worries about import costs, self-sufficiency, and the trade deficit may underpin government's desire to reinvigorate our [oil refinery](#) and go back to drilling in [Taranaki](#)?
6. **Digital transformation?** - Tech companies have displaced oil companies in the [list of public corporations by market capitalization](#). Hence Reefton, antimony, critical minerals, and ... [Africa](#)?
7. **Opportunities** - [Draft minerals strategy- Submissions](#) close on 31 July.
MFAT update on [June Climate Change Conference in Bonn](#) 10 July 4.45 pm (thank you Gray)

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Gifts and inspiration

Frances Moutier is a 20+ years environmental activist and is our 2024 Loxley Award recipient. May she forgive me for shortening her message to us:

I am very grateful to be the Loxley Award recipient, looking into the pātai "Is it time for a Climate Justice Union for Aotearoa?" This involves kōrero (often online) with people from across the motu, and regional hui in Ōtautahi, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, and Tāmaki Makaurau. I hope to bring together unionists, mana whenua, tangata whenua, activists, community organisers, parents etc to workshop the idea. If you have any thoughts or would like to be in touch about this project, please email me frances.moutier@gmail.com

The dream is a national organisation supporting local organising groups to build strong communities that tackle the economic, workplace and day to day impacts of climate change. I hope that the conversations themselves will encouraging those in the climate space to think more about class and economic justice, and those in the union space to think about extended ways to fight together for climate justice.

Thank you Dot for bringing us [Good News](#); Mary Rose, Marion, Jillian, and Peg for the climate change info in our June Aotearoa NZ Friends newsletter; Joel for why [biodiversity in our living environments](#) is a good idea; Jillian for a [whole food approach to chocolate](#) and EU decisions about [rehabilitating nature](#).

Learning

George Marshall (2014) *Don't Even Think About It!* The video is [here](#). Thank you, Kay, N Nenquimo, M Anderson, (2024) [We Will Not Be Saved](#) – Amazon rainforest. Thank you, Jillian, A Rae, [All Hail the Planet](#), Al Jazeera – undermining global action on climate change. Thank you Murray.



It all comes," said Pooh crossly, "of not having front doors big enough." "It all comes," said Rabbit sternly, "of eating too much. ..." A. A. Milne, 1926.

Nice cup of tea instead? How to make 'proper' kawakawa tea – lesson [here](#). Go well everyone.

Ngā mihi nui, Philippa

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