

Annual Report of Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman 2019 October to 2020 November.



2019-2020 has been an enormously busy year for Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman. Our small group gave birth to a large and fast-growing child, the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, which has absorbed a great deal of energy. However, while each member of ZCNT works hard on the Climate Forum, this group has maintained its distinct purpose, style and programme of activity. As a small, close-knit group we can be agile, make decisions quickly and benefit from personal relationships with significant actors in the field of climate action in Councils and in nongovernmental groups.

We became an incorporated society on June 4th, 2020.

This was the year of the pandemic, COVID19. Being unable to meet in person made little difference to our level of activity or possibly increased it, as we became accustomed to the convenience of Zoom meetings. We were very happy to be able to resume meetings in person, but have maintained a schedule of alternating in-person and online meetings in order to reduce our carbon emissions.

Membership remained stable over this year: Alistair Munro, Bruce Gilkison, Carolyn Hughes, Jack Santa Barbara, Jenny Easton, Joanna Santa Barbara, Julie Nevin, Olivia Hyatt, Yuki Fukuda. Joanna has been convener and facilitator, minutes have been taken by Julie, Yuki and Olivia.

Guests at our meetings have been numerous, sometimes joining us in shared purposes, sometimes educating us in specific areas. We have decided at this point to limit the membership of our Board of Directors to the number who can comfortably meet in a living room.

ZCNT occupies a 'niche' in a climate action 'ecosystem'. We have a strong supportive relationship with the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum. Our relationships with the Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council are important to us and are mainly relationships of advocacy of issues, cooperative work or actual assistance (work on climate-aware procurement policy, climate messaging, concept of climate lens). We have mutually supportive relationships with Businesses for Climate Action, the Sustainable Business Network, Fridays for Future, Students' Strike for Climate, Active Transport Forum, Better Future Forum, Te Tau Ihu Intergenerational Strategy, Wellbeing Economy Alliance, the Climate Change Commission, Make It 16, Extinction Rebellion, Millions of Mothers (Parents for Climate Aotearoa), Our Climate Declaration, 350 Nelson Tasman, Coal Action Network Aotearoa, Resilienz (Lindsay Wood).

Most of our work falls into four areas - policy development and advocacy; raising broad awareness of climate threats, mitigation and adaptation options; pursuit of specific issues and self-education.

Our policy development and advocacy work covered every climate-relevant bill produced by central government in the last year, especially the Zero Carbon Bill. We submitted or are in the process of submitting input to the annual plans, long term plans and environmental plans of both of our local government bodies. We were active in local elections and by-elections in highlighting climate policies (or their lack) in candidates. Julie Nevin ran as a candidate for TDC.

Our efforts to raise awareness of climate issues have taken several forms:

Presentations: We ourselves have presented to a Rotary Club (on climate threat and action), Motueka community Board (on active transport), Active Transport Forum, Nelson Transport Strategy Group, a class at Waimea High School (on active transport), a street demonstration (on participatory government), a workshop by Engineering NZ and NZ Institutes of Architects (on managed retreat), to the two councils (on climate action and on sea level rise) and to the public (on deep adaptation and resilience). We have organised presentations by Rod Oram (on 'Regeneration trumps Recovery'), Terrence Loomis (on obstruction of climate action by fossil fuel companies), Greg Hart and John King on regenerative farming, conversation with Gerald Haefner of the German Bundestag, European Parliament and co-founder of Germany's Green Party, Rod Oram's visit in August, arranged by Carolyn and Alistair, was a particular highlight, leading to invitations for him to present to five local audiences.

Podcast: To Australian and New Zealand accountants on climate threat and action.

Webinar series: The Economy of Enough - a series of five (to date) discussions to honour the work of Jeanette Fitzsimons, who died in March 2020.

Handout card: to introduce ZCNT.

Festival stalls: at Sarau and Riverside Festivals.

Mass media: Throughout the year we have maintained fortnightly submission of articles to *The Leader* on climate or environment-related topics. By special arrangement with TDC, we have supplied input for articles in the council publication *Newsline*. We have published articles in *Acuity*, an Australasian magazine for accountants, and *Peace Magazine*, a Canadian magazine for activists.

Radio: We have maintained twice weekly spots on climate and environmental issues.

In institutions where there is an egregious lack of awareness or acknowledgement of the importance of climate threat and action, we have sought to raise it. Over this year we focussed on Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. - unsuccessful so far.

Pursuit of specific issues

Burning coal. We have offered encouragement and assistance to 15 schools to convert from fossil fuelled space heating to renewable energy use, with some success. We have used persuasive means to urge McCashins Brewery to make the same conversion, with no success to this point.

We have investigated the use of coal in space heating in Nelson Hospital to understand the potential of future conversion.

Sea level rise and managed retreat. We have had some focus on the Motueka and Nelson Libraries plans, and the Nelson Civic Buildings plans, all of which are planned for areas which will be affected by sea level rise.

'Green Recovery' from the impact of pandemic lockdown on the economy. We have engaged with the planning consortium, Project Kokiri, to try to ensure that the financial stimulus for economic recovery is spent on essential investment in a decarbonised economy.

Future energy scarcity. We have used available opportunities, especially in activist advocacy contexts, to point out the importance of this issue.

Legal liability of Councils in the light of climate change and sea level projections. We were assisted in our preparedness on this issue by Lawyers for Climate Action NZ Inc..

Active Transport. In addition to raising public awareness of this issue, there has been specific engagement regarding an area of Richmond with TDC/NZTA's Innovative Street Project.

Protection of mature trees. We have had specific engagement regarding trees in Mapua.

Impact of climate change on mental health.

Self education. Members of ZCNT have a strong commitment to knowledge development in our complex arena. Most of this is done individually, but we spend a little of our joint time on advancing and sharing our knowledge. Some of our areas of pursuit are regenerative agriculture, community energy, energy descent, economic and social inequality, deep adaptation, measuring emissions, wellbeing economy, population.

In summary, members of ZCNT, working individually, in clusters and as a whole, have maintained a pace of activity in the past year fully appropriate to our recognition that we are living in a Climate Emergency. While we never forget this, we take enormous pleasure in our fellowship and delight in our working together.