

# KAWERONGO

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## CLIMATE HEALTH AOTEAROA

### NGĀ MIHI O TE WĀ PŌHUTUKAWA

GREETINGS IN THE SEASON OF  
THE PŌHUTUKAWA

Tēnā koutou,

This newsletter provides a summary of recent initiatives and upcoming projects within Climate Health Aotearoa (CHA). We'll be introducing two researchers from our network and sharing our enthusiasm for several recent publications. Wishing you a rejuvenating summer break and eagerly anticipating collaboration with you in the coming year, 2024.

If you're interested in joining our research network, please send us a message at:  
[climatehealthaotearoa@otago.ac.nz](mailto:climatehealthaotearoa@otago.ac.nz)

Ngā mihi nui,  
Katy Carlson, CHA Coordinator

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# Ō MĀTOU TĀNGATA OUR PEOPLE



## **MERATA KAWHARU** *RESEARCHER - TANGATA WHENUA CAUCUS*

Merata (Ngāti Whātua and Ngāpuhi) is currently a Research Professor at the Centre for Sustainability at Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo (Otago University) and will soon be transitioning to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori at Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki (Lincoln University). Since writing her DPhil on kaitiakitanga at Oxford University, her research activities have encompassed the themes of supporting Māori leadership, community, and education. Recently, Merata has been involved in a 5-year MBIE Endeavour project working on hapū climate resilience kaupapa. This has allowed her to work with a number of hapū communities around the motu, including her own Oromahoe and Waitangi in the Bay of Islands.

The project aims to help kāinga to 'front foot' their own climate plans. The plans will be a first step to help them identify priority issues across all realms of importance to them between Ranginui and Papatūānuku including whenua, marae, papakāinga, ngāhere, awa and for some takutai and moana. All communities are concerned about oranga

across and within their rohe and of course the oranga of their people. These are very big tasks, but a first step was to begin kōrero and engagement on climate change kaupapa because it is Māori who are often the most vulnerable in terms of climate effects. We are already seeing this in communities with flooding, as well as droughts, coastal inundation, plus other issues such as energy-inefficient homes, difficulties transitioning to e-transport and much more. Communities also speak about the demise and loss of biodiversity and habitats across lands and water within their rohe and fears that things will worsen in a changing climate.

While the project only touches a part of the needs, it plays a critical role in supporting kāinga on their journey to developing their first kāinga climate plans based on their identified priorities. It identifies key challenges and risks in each poupu, such as forests, freshwater, marae or papakāinga. It then brings together kōrero from the kāinga on each of these poupu. The team brings together the best of kāinga knowledge, mātauranga and western sciences to support the plans with achievable goals and action. They will be living documents that will need to grow with the people, with councils and other external agencies. The project has already seen the collective involvement of hundreds, from the keen under-ten-year-olds asking their matua if they could fill out the surveys, to kuia and kaumātua sharing their stories growing up and seeing things change.

# TORD KJELLSTROM

## RESEARCHER - TANGATA TIRITI CAUCUS

Tord Kjellstrom is a former Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Auckland, Australian National University and University of Sydney. He is now Director of the Health and Environment International Trust (HEIT) in Mapua.

Tord can be contacted at [kjellstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:kjellstrom@yahoo.com)



## CLIMATECHIP.ORG: A WEBSITE CREATED IN AOTEAROA FOR ANALYSIS OF EFFECTS OF GLOBAL HEATING

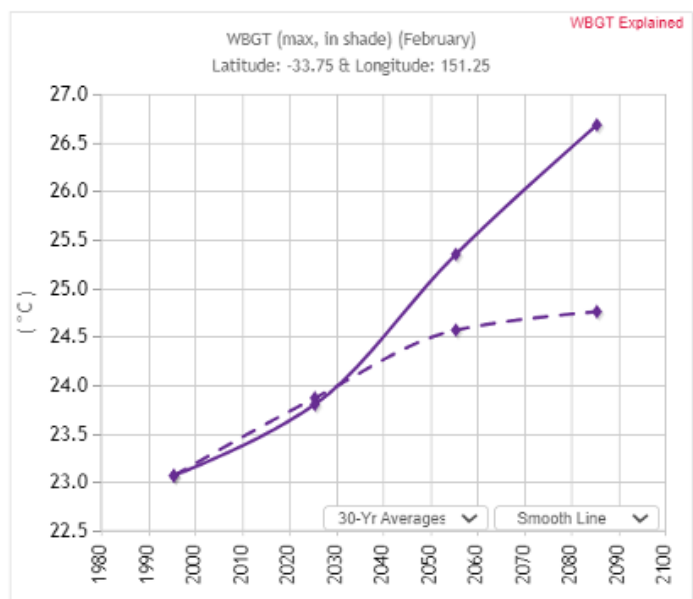
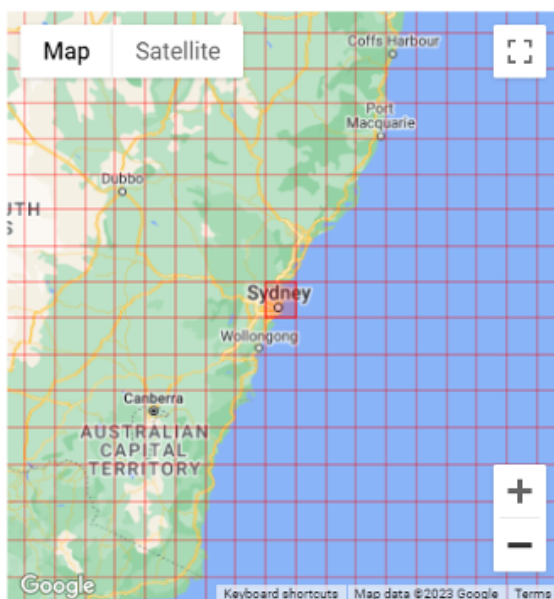
The [HEIT team](#) created this website after developing methods to calculate the effects of increasing environmental heat due to climate change. The aim of the website is to provide detailed heat information in a user-friendly manner for researchers, administrators, government agencies, enterprise staff and community groups in any location around the world. The local data are easily available on the website and can be downloaded for health impact analysis. CHA members are welcome to use the data and the HEIT team is happy to provide additional data and advice (we have country-based estimates for all countries).

Climate data from 1980 to 2100 was acquired from the Potsdam Institute in Germany and population data from the [GWP dataset](#). The website uses Google Earth maps to show locations in the screen graphics. See an example of future Sydney data on heat stress index levels below. The site has been updated with the latest internationally approved climate modelling data in 2023. Further descriptions of the site and its potential use is available in the [Guidance Document](#).

### Your Area: Tomorrow (switch to: Today or WorkHeat)

Type a location in the left box below (e.g. "Delhi, India" or "29, 77" for lat/long) and click Search. You can scroll around and zoom the map below, click on a grid-cell and select climate parameters to suit.

Vauluse, Australia    Search    Grid-Cell Centre Latitude: -33.75 Longitude: 151.25    Parameter: WBGT (max, in shade)    Chart Type: February    Temperature Unit: Celsius



- SSP 126 - - - -
- SSP 370 ———
- UKesm ●
- GFDL ■
- MidPoint ◆

Note: When interpreting charts that display dew-point temperature, or values derived from it, i.e. WBGT and UTCI, note that dew-point temperatures below 0°C are often not reliable.



# Ō MĀTOU MAHI OUR WORK

**TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE  
CRISIS, WE NEED TO  
TRANSFORM SYSTEMS  
ACCORDING TO ANCESTRAL  
ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS**

CHA co-director, Rhys Jones has published a BMJ piece explaining that deep process of decolonisation and transformation of social, cultural, political, and economic systems are needed to address the climate crisis. The broader climate crisis poses risks to health and equity and tackling it requires understanding its historical roots, in particular the disruption of essential relationships. It also requires us to re-centre Indigenous knowledges and ways of being to dismantle exploitative systems and rebuild connections.

[Read this article here.](#)



**OVERCOMING RESISTANCE  
AND REBALANCING POWER:  
SHIFTING GEARS FOR CROSS  
SECTORAL COLLABORATION  
ON TRANSPORT AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Our co-director, Alex Macmillan and CHA member Caroline Shaw also published a BMJ piece this spring. [Read it here.](#)

**"WE NEED TO FOCUS OUR EFFORTS  
ON UNDERSTANDING HOW  
COMMERCIAL INTERESTS ARE  
HOLDING THE CURRENT SYSTEM IN  
PLACE. WE NEED TO BETTER  
ACCOUNT FOR THE HEALTH HARMS  
OF DECISIONS TO DELAY ACTION OR  
PERPETUATE THE CURRENT  
SYSTEM."**



## CLIMATE CHANGE, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND THE RELEVANCE OF THE CONCEPT OF SOLASTALGIA FOR PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

In these two recently published articles, CHA members [Tina Newport](#), [Jemaima Tiatia-Siau](#), [Alistair Woodward](#) and their colleagues delve into the profound impact of climate change on the mental health and wellbeing of Pacific communities.

Both articles underscore the importance of prioritising Pacific perspectives and identifying suitable ways to convey the nuanced mental distress experienced by Pacific peoples. Click on their titles above to read them.

### Quantifying the greenhouse gas emissions of New Zealand households' food purchases: An analysis by demographic variables.

In [this study](#) published in December, CHA steering committee member Cristina Cleghorn and colleagues analysed data from a representative sample of 1,775 households to reveal that red and processed meat (35%) and dairy products (19%) were responsible for 54% of dietary greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. Additionally, the study identifies demographic factors, such as the age of the primary shopper and household size, as predictors of per capita dietary emissions, suggesting interventions to encourage the purchase of lower-emitting foods.



## TAUTOKO | SUPPORT FOR CHA COLLABORATION

CHA aims to generate new, member-led research. CHA can help with:

- administrative support
- peer-review
- networking opportunities
- collaboration opportunities
- dissemination in our newsletter or listserv

Contact us and we will help where we can!





## NEIGHBOURS AND NAVIGATORS: PREPARING FOR CLIMATE MOBILITY FROM TUVALU AND KIRIBATI TO AOTEAROA

In the policy brief and research report, "Neighbours and Navigators: Preparing for Climate Mobility from Tuvalu and Kiribati to Aotearoa", Olivia Yates, Sam Manuela, Shiloh Groot and Andreas Neef draw from their studies with the Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Climate change is already causing wide-ranging and devastating impacts in Tuvalu and Kiribati. While most people do not want to leave their ancestral lands, some are travelling to other countries, including Aotearoa, to secure their futures. Their policy brief presents a novel case for a just approach to climate mobility. Specifically, it advocates for a three-pronged approach, which includes:

- Making the journey easier
- Supporting communities to regrow roots
- Rewriting the narrative

## THE CASE FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

In his 7 October 2023 article in the Otago Daily Times, CHA steering committee member Jim Cotter discusses the differences between physical activity and exercise and why they matter. (Hint: one is more sustainable and equitable than the other.)

“The re-envisaging of physical activity as exercise would not be problematic if it wasn’t so deeply inequitable.”

Lifestyles which necessitate exercise are a newer development for humans. Cotter explains the disadvantages of this and suggests where we might turn to for solutions.



Tēnā, whakapā mai.  
Get in touch. Ngā mihi!

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