



### **August - September 2024 Pānui**

Kia ora, welcome to our latest newsletter. This pānui shares an update on OraTaiao activities over the last two months and opportunities to get involved.

As this was being drafted, we were deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of our friend, colleague, and recent OraTaiao Executive Board member, Dougal Thorburn. Those whose lives he touched as a father, partner, colleague, athlete, and huge environmental advocate will remember his wit, intelligence, energy, and dedication. Our hearts go out to his whānau.

These are difficult times in the healthcare and climate community, look out for yourselves and each other.

Ngā mihi nui,

Dermot & Summer,

Co-convenors, OraTaiao: Aotearoa NZ Climate & Health Council

**Moe mai Tukara, moe mai e te Rangatira**



Image: Photo from [NZ Doctor \(16/12/2022\)](#)

We are deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected death of our beloved friend, whanaunga, and colleague Dr Dougal Thorburn (Ngāti Pou). [Dougal upheld](#) and embodied the words "*Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua ko au (I am the land, the land is me)*." No one who met Dougal will be able to forget his positive energy and integrity. Athletically gifted, in 2013 he held the [World Record](#) for the fastest 10 km pushing a pram (32 minutes 26 seconds), characteristically accompanied by a message about sustainable transport. Dougal served faithfully on our Executive, alongside his work as a GP and Public Health Specialist, and in revegetation projects around the South Wellington coast. We know he will be deeply missed by his whānau and friends. We do not yet know of Dougal's funeral arrangements but at the time of writing, he is at Takapūwāhia Marae, Porirua, in the arms of Ngāti Toa who he served from the practice at [Ora Toa Health](#).

Let's all reflect on how we as OraTaiao can honour Dougal's memory and aspirations. Ko au te whenua, ko te whenua ko au. Haere, e hoa, haere e te waetea toa, i runga i tēnā ara tapu e ārahi ana ki ngā ringa āhuru a o Tūpuna. Te mihi aroha ki a koe e te tuahine e Tess. Te manaakitanga ki te katoa.

Ngā mihi aroha

**Endorse our 2024 - 2026 Strategy**



We invite our members to review our [refreshed 2024-2026 strategy](#) and **respond with whether or not you endorse it [here](#)**. The deadline for responses is the 20th of September.

### Regional working groups

A reminder to [get in touch](#) if you are interested in participating in a working group for your region. With the repeated anti-climate and anti-health actions of the central government in Wellington and the local elections already looming in 2025, the importance of local action is growing. Whether or not these groups are active depends on member interest and numbers. They are essential for building capacity in our collective mahi.

These meet-ups facilitate member connection and support. The Tāmaki Makaurau working group is actively collaborating on local projects and actions. We love hearing about the different interests and experiences of our members and what we are mobilising at a regional level.

We also have working groups for transport, kai and food systems, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in being more involved!

### Te Tiriti rōpū update

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is foundational to our mahi. The OraTaiao Te Tiriti rōpū met with [Melanie Nelson](#) to discuss the [draft Treaty Principles Bill](#). This mahi is underpinned by our core kaupapa of climate justice, health and intergenerational equity, and the well-being of tangata and taiao. A big focus for us over the next few months will be coalition and partnership-building to mobilise against this bill.

If you are interested in being part of this rōpū organising our collective response, please [email us](#). The next hui will be on the 19th of September at 4.30 pm on this [Zoom link](#).

### Essential reading:

- [Treaty Principles Bill: Smokescreen for sweeping change?](#)

- [Treaty Principles Bill: Painting over Te Tiriti | E-Tangata.](#)
- [Treaty Principles Bill: Open letter to the Coalition Government of Aotearoa New Zealand from professional translators of te reo Māori 1 July 2024](#)
- [Anne Salmond: What's the matter with the Treaty Principles Bill - Newsroom](#)

## Submissions

OraTaiao continues to advocate for health-enhancing climate action through engagement in the government consultation process. We provide credible health professional advice, expertise, and commentary toward these aims. If you are interested in being involved in upcoming submissions, please [contact us](#).

- [Proposed regulatory regime for Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage](#)
- [New Zealand's second Emissions Reduction Plan](#)
- [Media Release - Stop Pharmac funding genocide and apartheid](#)

We support the submission on the second emissions reduction plan made by the [Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment](#).

Review the [EDS news](#) for further important updates.



Image: [Tania Malréchauffé on Unsplash](#)

## Take action

OraTaiao exists to unite consciousness, voice, and action for climate health. One of our key values is ***whakatauirā - leading by example.***

**Here are a few initiatives we encourage you to take part in:**



Image: [Take the Jump website](#)

Sign up to [Take the Jump NZ](#). These shifts are a stepping change to collective action, and incredibly joyful. We will share a webinar invite to explore these actions and green prescriptions shortly.

Another great way you can stay up to date with positive life-affirming action is by signing up for the [Climate Club Aotearoa Newsletter](#). We love that they make it easy for busy people to take meaningful climate action.

#130: Be the trojan horse you want to see in the world  
On swaying political opinion and horsing...  
AUG 27 • DHANYA HERATH

#131: What is enough?

**Most Popular** VIEW ALL

- #111: Hello Officer? I'm reporting a climate crime  
APR 16 • JENNY SAHNG
- #99: Climate solutions for New Year's resolutions  
JAN 16 • EMILY MABIN SUTTON
- #81: Okay, doomer  
AUG 15, 2023 • JENNY SAHNG
- #100: 100 small steps  
JAN 23 • JENNY SAHNG
- #114: Fun fact: MPs get peer pressured too

Image: [Climate Club Substack](#)

One of the key actions highlighted recently is signing [this letter](#) calling for industry to withdraw from the [Fast Track approvals process](#). Whilst there have been some suggested changes floated in the media to [the Fast Track Bill](#), it remains a [terrible piece of legislation](#) and we must continue public resistance.

# STOP THE FAST TRACK

At the centre of the Luxon Government's War on Nature is the Fast Track Bill. This damaging new legislation shortcuts environmental protections and sidelines both Te Tiriti and democracy. It could see the forests and oceans of Aotearoa reduced to open-cast mines, rivers and lakes turned to sewers, and precious wildlife condemned to extinction.

Australian miner Trans Tasman Resources has already said it will use the Fast Track to gain access to the South Taranaki Bight where they plan to rip up 50 million tonnes of the seabed every year for over 30 years.

Image: [Greenpeace petition](#)

Join the [2024 Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum](#), showcasing health sector leaders who are decarbonising their operations, strengthening climate resilience, and improving health equity. The forum is happening online throughout November. The forum organisers, [Climate and Health Alliance](#) and [Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Pacific Region](#) are [seeking submissions](#) for presentations, posters, and workshops. **Information on submissions can be found [here](#) - closing on 12 September.**



Image: [Climate and Health Alliance EOI](#)

The vision of OraTaiao is **climate healing, people healing**. The below initiatives align with our mission and manaakitanga values of caring, compassion, and support in sharing health-climate voices and experiences:

The [Aotearoa Climate Mental Health Network national meeting](#) is happening on Monday 30 September, at noon. We encourage our members to join and support this kaupapa.

The most recent Climate Mental Health Network lunchtime chat featured [Psychology For A Safe Climate](#) (Australia-based). They run online workshops, the next of which is happening [this month](#).



Image: [Psychology for a safe climate](#)

**For parents and caregivers:** Alicia Hall from AcademyEx and [Parents for Climate Aotearoa](#) is surveying the experience of parenting in a changing climate. This research will grow understanding of what support parents need to engage in climate action. [Take & share the survey before it closes on 1 October](#).





Image: [Francesca Di Pasqua on Unsplash](#)

This newsletter was written by Danielle Newton.

OraTaiao: New Zealand Climate and Health Council

[OraTaiao](#)

OraTaiao: New Zealand Climate and Health Council comprises health professionals in Aotearoa/New Zealand calling for urgent and fair climate action - with real health gains now and for our future.