

## A vibrant, stylized illustration of a balcony scene. In the foreground, a wooden balcony railing is visible. Behind it, a clothesline stretches across the frame, holding a pair of blue jeans, a pink sock, and a pink t-shirt with a heart design. A white tote bag hangs from the clothesline. To the right, a purple coffee cup with a heart design sits on a small wooden table. The background is filled with various potted plants, including a large green leafy plant on the left and a smaller one on the right. The scene is set against a light green background with vertical lines. Large, stylized letters are overlaid on the image: 'CRA' at the top and 'CCUM' at the bottom, forming the word 'CRAZY'. The letters are white with a dark purple outline.



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# StudentCard

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# The Existential Climate Crisis

Like many women, Papatūānuku is frequently underappreciated, overlooked, and taken for granted—even more so perhaps because she is indigenous and a woman of colour. We often acknowledge how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful country—and rightfully so, Papatūānuku is an absolute stunner. But what's often left unacknowledged is that we live on indigenous land, and it was forcefully taken from Māori through colonisation. When we have discourse about sustainability and the environment, it is essential that in Aotearoa New Zealand, we prioritise the voices of our indigenous peoples, as our Te Ao Māori editor Omni Arona discusses on page 17.

But for some, it's hard to even hear the news on climate change and the destruction of the environment, let alone talk about it. Can you blame

them? We're literally living in a world on fire in the midst of global turmoil—we have been for quite some time now; it's easy to forget that after years of desensitisation and the normalisation of these crises (for more on defeatist EcoMedia, see page 24 by our Staff Writer Arela Jiang).

In our moments of awareness, our own problems can sometimes feel silly and miniscule compared to all the shit that's going on in the rest of the world. But whatever you're feeling is totally valid.

Because what's becoming increasingly obvious about climate change is that it's super complicated, and we can't undo it overnight. It's wrapped up in the intersection of many cluster-fucks that have combined to become one big knotty cluster-fuck, like the culture of production, consumerism, and—surprise surprise—colonialism; after all, the modern economy was built on slavery and imperialism.

So, while it's nice to remember your keep cup and supermarket bags, you're not a bad person for forgetting every so often. Because let's remember that disposable coffee cups are free, and not everyone has the time, energy, or petrol money to get to their local farmers market 40 minutes away.

That's all to say that the systems of production we have in place make it cheap and convenient to damage the environment, and these same systems create a time-poor, financially-strained majority who are labelled personally irresponsible for that environmental damage. Olivia Bird writes more on the individual vs systemic argument on page 34.

So, for everyone else who doesn't have time to hand-milk oats, it's okay. We know most of us are doing our best, and that's all we can hope for. There are also many ways to contribute to climate change activism, including but not limited to: petitioning local and national government; making space for people and women of colour in environmental discourse and change; doing personal work to unpack social narratives that drive consumerism (do you really need a treadmill, a standing desk, and a smoothie-maker to be That Girl?); having those conversations with whānau; and finally, taking care of each other and ourselves—which sometimes means giving yourself a break.

**XOXO**

**Arohanui**

**Flora Xie (she/her) and Naomii Seah (she/her)**





# Is it Possible it's Compostable?: UoA's Proposed Compost Hub



CHARLIE PARKER (SHE/HER)

Edible Earth, a not-for-profit project creating sustainable waste management solutions, is proposing to put a composting hub on the University of Auckland campus.

In 2021, the Ministry for the Environment estimated that 17.49 billion tonnes of waste is produced per year in Aotearoa, with 12.59 million tonnes estimated to be sent to the landfill. Rotting organic waste creates methane-producing bacteria, which emits a more potent gas than carbon dioxide. Members on campus aim to create a circular and sustainable system to help improve the University's climate action engagement, by introducing a composting hub that will regenerate healthy foods within campus.

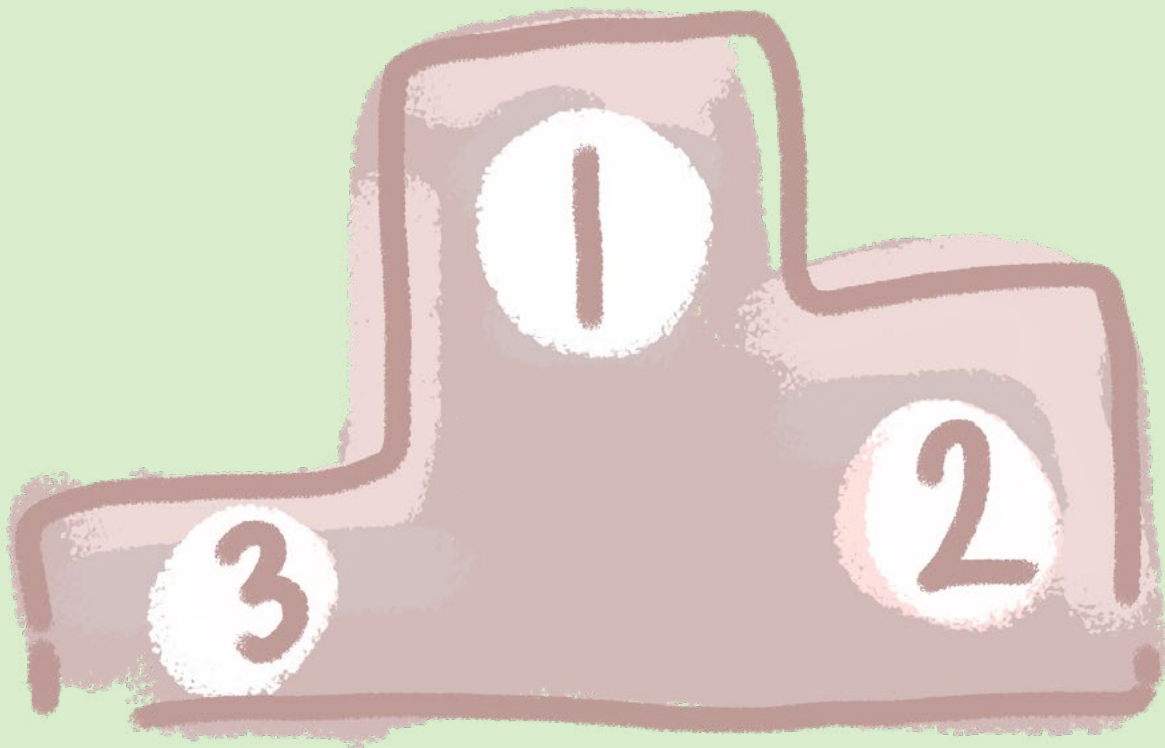
The recommended site for the compost hub is by Old Government House on the Auckland central campus, and would see food waste and compostable packaging being

collected on a regular schedule in order to make the compost. Each batch of compost will take around four months to be made, and once ready would go into a vegetable garden on campus that can provide ingredients for local on-campus stores.

Currently, the University ranks as one of the top ten in the Global Times Higher Education Sustainability rankings, however it doesn't make the top 100 in climate action. Mike Mead from Retail Services told Craccum that sustainability is the biggest issue that the University should be focusing on for the future, and that the compost hub is a quick and simple way to positively impact the University's carbon footprint. With sustainable changes being made to new infrastructure being built on campus, for example the new B201 building will have the top carbon rating star, a compost hub can also complete the aesthetic inspiration for sustainability the University needs.

Mike also told *Craccum* that some staff already have their own small composting system. Students will be key to this project though, as volunteers are welcomed, and the project has potential to be included in the Environmental Sciences curriculum. However, for now, student voices will be crucial in supporting the idea and making it become reality.

**Each batch of compost will take around four months to be made, and once ready would go into a vegetable garden on campus that can provide ingredients for local on-campus stores**



# Getting Opinionated: PPC's Policy Competition



CHARLIE PARKER (SHE/HER)

The University of Auckland Public Policy Club (PPC) is hosting their first Op-Ed Competition.

Any member of the PPC can enter the competition by adhering to the following brief. Contestants will write a 750-800 (+/- 10%) opinion column on any public policy they care for. A compelling argument is necessary, with sources, statistics, and solid evidence to back up their opinion.

Policy opinion allows students to discuss their views on important policy matters, whilst also gaining research skills related to their chosen topic. A strong stance on a particular area of public policy is key to gaining in-depth knowledge to help them create an argument that can hold its own.

1 News Political Editor, Jessica Mutch McKay, will be reading and guest

judging entries to the competition. Monetary prizes are first place, \$125; second place, \$75; and third place, \$50. The PPC wants to recognise the hard work of contestants, so *Craccum* will be publishing the first place winner. Participants will be judged on which argument is most compelling, not the topic itself.

There hasn't been another competition run by PPC quite like this, and allows for a high level of freedom as the student writer gets to decide on their chosen policy. The most recent PPC competition prior to this one was a policy brief competition on the topic of housing.

The Public Policy Club describe themselves as "a non-partisan club with two aims: Access to Policy and Member Development". There are currently 140 members that participate in events

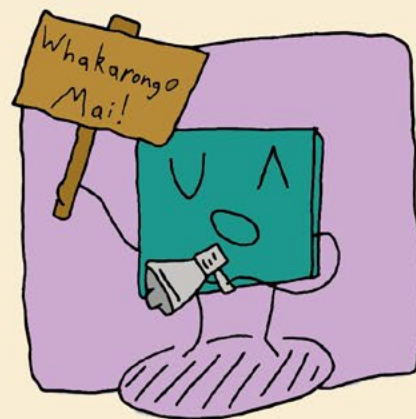
and initiatives that are organised by the 19-member executive committee.

To join PPC and enter the Op-Ed contest, go to their Facebook page to sign up.

**The PPC wants to recognise the hard work of contestants, so *Craccum* will be publishing the first place winner. Participants will be judged on which argument is most compelling, not the topic itself.**



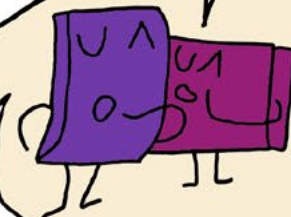
I've gone from topping up \$40 a week to just \$20. I've saved a bit of money that I can use for other things, and I don't have to stress about topping up all the time.



It's more of an incentive to take public transport now than having to pay full-price, but I mostly prioritise convenience above all else, and public transport isn't super convenient. Sometimes it's not worth the few dollars you save for the time it takes.



Going back and coming home on the bus can add up to quite a lot, and it helps to be able to use that extra money for something else.



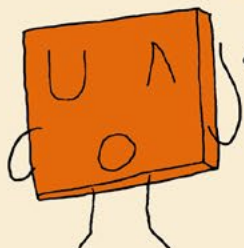
If they could keep the half-price going, it would really help students because many don't have the luxury to get a job while studying because they're here full-time. Money-wise, it's hard for students to get to campus.



... it's nice I guess. I come in for lectures every day, so it does add up.



Whakarongo



MAH





# How do Students Feel About Public Transport Incentives?



JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER)

At the beginning of April, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced half-price fares on public transport for three months.

This policy comes as inflation in Aotearoa reaches its highest level in 30 years at 6.9%. According to the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures, petrol prices have increased 32% compared to this time last year, the largest annual increase since the June 1985 quarter. Oversized blazers and mullets aren't the only 80s trends making a comeback in 2022.

The Green Party of Aotearoa, organisations like the Aotearoa Collective for Public Transport Equity have called for the Government to go further, recently launching a petition to make public transport fares free for everyone. The Government has said further announcements on affordable public transport will be made as part of the 2022 budget.

With classes returning in person, *Craccum* asked students what mode of transport they will use to get to and from campus and whether public transport incentives, rising petrol costs, sustainability, or something else motivated their decision. They also weighed in on the free-fares debate and whether measures to make public transport more affordable have helped them.

## Atelina: is feeling less stressed about topping up

"I take the bus and it (half-price fares) has made a huge difference. I've gone from topping up \$40 a week to just \$20. I've saved a bit of money that I can use for other things, and I don't have to stress about topping up all the time. I think it should stay at half-price, but free would be nice."

## Qistina: says affordable public transport is essential to help students get to campus

It's so much easier to use the bus to get to the city from where I live, and driving isn't ideal since the city is such a busy place. As uni students, we base our expenses on not only personal but uni life as well and having public transport costs cut in half makes a lot of difference. We don't have to think about having enough money just to go to uni.

"If they could keep the half-price going, it would really help students because many don't have the luxury to get a job while studying because they're here full-time. Money-wise, it's hard for students to get to campus."

## Liam: will catch a lift with Mum when possible

"I'm lucky that my mum works in town and can transport me back and forth most days. As we go back to uni, I'll probably be taking the train more often. But I'd rather wait around a few hours at mum's work until I can go home with her. It's more of an incentive to take public transport now than having to pay full-price, but I mostly prioritise convenience above all else, and public transport isn't super convenient. Sometimes it's not worth the few dollars you save for the time it takes."

"The wider community effects it (free public transport) would have extends beyond me. It would be much better for the environment to make public transport more accessible and useable. In other countries I've visited like Germany their public transport system is so easy. The interior of the trains were also really nice. It's the most Gen-Z thing in the world, but it was a really good vibe."

## Sophia: Auckland Transport regular

"It's (half-price fares) not that big of a difference for me because I was going to take the bus anyway. But it's nice I guess. I come in for lectures every day, so it does add up."

## Yang: takes two buses to get to campus

"I loved the half-price fares when I first heard about it since I take the bus quite often. I got to the Epsom Campus, so I have to take two buses, and it's quite costly. I would take the bus less often when it's full-price, and if it gets higher, I will probably get my restricted ASAP."

## Naomii: recent grad

"Personally, my fare went from \$8 to \$4 a day so that's still \$20 a week if I was to take public transport every day, which is probably the same as or more than my petrol costs. It takes me around a month to use a tank of petrol and with current fuel prices it's about \$100 a tank, so the public fare price cut doesn't do much for me. It's probably just keeping my costs consistent because I'm trying to use more public transport out of climate guilt. Then again I don't get the student concession so maybe if I was still a young'un it would make a difference."

## Natchida: might watch lectures at home if bus fares increase

"My weekly costs have been reduced by a lot. Going back and coming home on the bus can add up to quite a lot, and it helps to be able to use that extra money for something else. If the bus prices increase again, I will probably just watch my lectures at home. I'm happy with half-price but free public transport would be more helpful."

# A Sexy New Tart on Campus



JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER)

Tart Bakery has arrived at the University of Auckland's city campus, giving students a fresh new food option as they return back to in-person study.

Vegan bakery Tart is moving into the quad food court from Monday 2 May and will be open on weekdays from 9am to 4pm.

Tart currently has two other locations on Great North Road and Commercial Bay, Queen Street, and is known for its bread, pies, doughnuts, sandwiches, and other baked goods, all free of animal products.

The bakery told *Craccum* that to celebrate their first week on campus, they are giving away 50 free doughnuts every day at their new store from Monday 2 May to Wednesday 4 May, between 9am and 1pm.

Halina from Tart Bakery says they are excited for UoA students and staff to visit their new store.

"We are so thrilled to be opening up at Auckland Uni and to be making affordable, healthy, and delicious food for some of the brightest minds in Auckland that also happen to be vegan! We are passionate about making tasty food while saving the planet."

We're not sure if UoA students can claim to be the "brightest minds in Auckland," but perhaps the hungriest. Students in the Quad told *Craccum* that they had been disappointed with the food options available during the first half of the Semester when they came in to study.

"It seems like construction or COVID has shut down a lot of retailers. And

the places that are open all shut before 3pm," said one student, Sam. "It's just not the same as it used to be."

Another student, Tori, says that while Uni Sushi, Hollywood Bakery, and other retailers are good, she is excited to see more vegan and vegetarian options being introduced.

**The bakery told *Craccum* that to celebrate their first week on campus, they are giving away 50 free doughnuts every day at their new store from Monday 2 May to Wednesday 4 May, between 9am and 1pm.**

# UoA's student enrollments in 2021 hit a record high



JESSICA HOPKINS (SHE/HER)

The University of Auckland enrolled a record number of students and made a multi-million-dollar surplus last year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, according to its 2021 annual report.

You might not have seen it while on Zoom at home, but Waipapa Taumata Rau enrolled a historic 36,748 students in 2021, 2500 more than it had before the pandemic in 2019. This figure includes 5391 international students, 500 more than they had in 2020 and only 63 less than pre-COVID.

According to the University, the tertiary sector overall experienced high demand from domestic students during the pandemic, who were unable to study overseas because of border restrictions. UoA was also able to retain some of its existing

international students, despite 30% of UoA's international student population studying offshore in 2021, many at learning centres in China and Vietnam.

The annual report shows the University made a surplus of roughly \$133 million in 2021. This is despite spending \$44 million on voluntary redundancies involving about 300 staff. The University has said that its high domestic student numbers in 2021 did not make up for the financial impact of losing hundreds of international students.

Record high student numbers are not likely to repeat in 2022. UoA, AUT, Waikato, Massey, Victoria, and Canterbury universities have all reported that both domestic and international student enrolments have seen a decline compared to this time

last year.

Tertiary Education Union president Tina Smith also said that domestic enrolments are down around 10% across universities and polytechnics this year.

**The University has said that its high domestic student numbers in 2021 did not make up for the financial impact of losing hundreds of international students.**





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# Tantalising Trips for Tenacious Trampers

The best one-day and overnight tramps near Auckland



KATE STEDMAN (SHE/HER)

I'm really not the best person to tramp with. Most of my tramping friends are faster than me. I complain about my blisters and groan every time I see a flight of steps. I'm not super fit, I don't have a sporty background, and I hate insect bites and extreme heat or cold.

Yet I guess I've discovered that tramping does have a few things going for it. Firstly, I'm a gorpcore goddess. Secondly, nature is alright. Have you guys seen mountains? Waterfalls? Yes, you can see them without sweating and panting for hours to get to them, but I reckon they're better that way. Call it masochism or my dedication to the grind. I've also heard that it's good for your body to get exercise and sunlight? Huge if true.

With a few multi-day tracks all over Aotearoa now under my belt—some marked expert-level by the Department of Conversation, mind you—I now consider myself *very* advanced and

**Yes, you can see them without sweating and panting for hours to get to them, but I reckon they're better that way. Call it masochism or my dedication to the grind. I've also heard that it's good for your body to get exercise and sunlight? Huge if true.**

ready to unleash my sage advice to those inexperienced beginners out there. What's the difference between walking and tramping, you ask? If a track is hard and/or long and marked by those classic yellow-and-green Department of Conservation signs,

**The views from that last section are absolutely incredible and possibly terrifying if you have a fear of heights.**

that's tramping. Is 'hiking' a valid word to use instead? No. Without further ado, here are the best one-day and overnight tramps near Auckland that I've done ('near' = you can drive there in under half a day).

## Cape Brett Track, Bay of Islands

Did you see RPattz and Willem Dafoe in *The Lighthouse* and think, "Damn, I wish that was me"? Well, for the low, low price of \$15 per night, you can live the dream and stay in the old Cape Brett Lighthouse keeper's house at the end of the Cape Brett track.

I've done Cape Brett twice, each time as a day walk, so I haven't had the pleasure of staying in the hut

and reenacting that iconic movie, but I would highly recommend it either as an overnight or day tramp. The section just before you get to the lighthouse is quite exposed and at the hottest times





of the year the water at the hut has been known to run dry, so be prepared and bring plenty of water. The views from that last section are absolutely incredible and possibly terrifying if you have a fear of heights.

## Kauaeranga Kauri Trail, Coromandel Forest Park

I hit the jackpot and did this track as an overnigher when only three other people were staying at the normally extremely popular 80-person hut. I experienced both the sunset and sunrise from the Pinnacles, at great cost. I hope my tale of woe will save others from suffering the same fate. My tramping companion was so desperate to catch the sunset at 6.50pm that I

was made to *run* (run!!) up the steep incline from the hut to the Pinnacles platform to get there in time. When we reached the platform, the sun suspiciously still high in the sky, our legs like jelly, and eyes blinded by sweat, my companion cheerfully informed me that he'd gotten the times mixed up! We were early for sunset and 6.50am was actually tomorrow's sunrise time. We are no longer friends. The attention I got on Instagram for my incredible golden hour pics made it almost worth it.

## Mount Manaia, Whangārei Heads

This is a long walk up what is basically one massive staircase to

a stunning view of the entrance of Whangārei harbour. At two to three hours in total, it's nice and short. The walk is almost entirely shaded by the bush, so it didn't feel too hot even when I did it on a warm summer's day.

GOD!!

## Te Whara Track, Whangārei Heads

Another track in the Whangārei Heads area is my favourite coastal walk that I've done in the North Island so far, mainly thanks to the views from Bream Head Summit. There are a number of different day tracks that can be done in this area, at varying levels of difficulty. I'd love to go back to do the easier Peach Cove track and Smuggler's Bay Loop Tracks.

## Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Tongariro National Park

I did this tramp in April in terrible weather. It was cold, cloudy, and windy with intermittent rain. Despite that, it is one of my favourite tramping memories. I probably climbed the

Devil's Staircase so much faster than I normally would've thanks to the howling wind and almost horizontal sleet—I just wanted to get outta there! The clouds parted for one brief minute for a perfect view of Emerald Lakes, Ngā Rotopounamu. I'm definitely going back for the guided winter experience sometime.

I'm kinda cheating putting this one on a list of tramps 'near Auckland', since it's a four-hour drive to get to quite a long and hard day tramp. It's a good idea to plan to stay a night or two in a nearby town to give yourself maximum time to complete it. That being said, my relatively slow arse *did* finish it in less than DoC's estimated time. So.

I'm frothing to see where my tramping adventures will take me. Perhaps I will conquer the harsh, beautiful wilderness of the Lake Waikaremoana Great

Walk, or that famed, formidable Te Pahi Coastal Track. If this pampered, sedentary queen can find bliss in walking and tramping, you can too.

**It's a good idea to plan to stay a night or two in a nearby town to give yourself maximum time to complete it. That being said, my relatively slow arse did finish it in less than DoC's estimated time. So.**

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# From Code Decaying to Code Thriving: Plants You Can Actually Keep Alive

When the IPCC issues a Code Red, it's time to start growing the Amazon from home (but only with low maintenance plants please)



GRACE BURTON-MCKEICH (SHE/HER)

Are the state of your beloved house plants a metaphor for how humanity has treated the world since—well, forever? Never fear: now's your chance to mitigate global warming by counteracting deforestation and cultivating your very own Amazon in your bedroom.

Not to brag, but I currently have two thriving house plants. I used to have three, but one got sucked off my window-sill during an extreme weather event that was definitely made more severe by human-induced climate change. My mum said that if I could keep them alive for at least a year, I would be able to look after a child. I guess that explains a lot—just joking. But kids?! Disgusting. They are one of the worst things to happen to the climate. Research estimates that, in developed countries, having one less child reduces a person's lifetime carbon emissions by, on average, 60 tonnes.<sup>1</sup> That being said, this estimate assumes that governments (and other multinational organisations) won't implement more effective policies that could offset the strain increasing populations put on the climate.<sup>2</sup>

Anywho, since I can't actually tell you what species my plants belong to (I bought them based on looks—okay), I asked my friend who works at Bunnings for a list of plants that are hard to kill #journalism.

## Snake plant\*

Snake plants do not require much light to thrive. They even do better if they're left to dry out from time to time, so you don't need to worry if you forget to water them for a month or two. Despite what their name suggests, they won't be able to slither out of their pots as easily as UoA slipped from number one to number nine in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. In a matter of two years, the Uni somehow became comparatively less sustainable. The THE Impact rankings measure how well universities are delivering on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. UoA seems to have thrown the towel in regarding SDG 13: Climate Action. We're ranked somewhere between 101st and 200th—it's too embarrassing to be more specific, I guess.<sup>3</sup> While the Uni might be increasing the likelihood of a mass-extinction event, you can rest easy knowing your little Kaa or Nandini will probably outlive the polar bears.



## Heartleaf philodendron\*

If the fact that you have plants wasn't enough to prove you love Earth, the heart-shaped leaves of this philodendron will. Like snake plants, heartleaf philodendrons do not need much light to be happy. If you don't tie the vines to something solid,

**Despite what their name suggests, they won't be able to slither out of their pots as easily as UoA slipped from number one to number nine in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.**

like a pole, they will grow in any old direction—think vines trailing over shelves or hanging plant vibes. It does require watering more often, but I reckon, if you live in a house with single glazing—because your landlord loves burning extra fossil fuels—just pop that baby next to the window and put that condensation to good use. Although, take heed of my experience and move it before you open the window.

## Pothos\*

The pothos plant can also grow to have that trendy dangling effect. There are many different varieties of pothos, and their care requirements are very similar to heartleaf philodendrons. Different species of pothos are endemic to different parts of the world, including French Polynesia. French Polynesia is a collection of low-lying islands in the Pacific Ocean that are at high risk of becoming partially or fully submerged due to rising sea levels.<sup>4</sup> While national and international policymakers continue to ignore or at least fail to act

on the threats sea-level rise poses to coastal communities and species—you don't have to.<sup>5</sup> By getting as many pothoses as possible, you can ensure that our stagnant carbon footprints won't cause a decrease in biodiversity as well as landmass.

## Monstera deliciosa\*

I don't think this will be very deliciosa unless perhaps you're vegan. Don't come for me—I hate myself for saying that too. But maybe the crushing weight of climate change (or inflation) is pressuring you to dabble in a plant-based diet. Even David Attenborough isn't a "strict" vegetarian, so there's no need to be too hard on yourself, especially because the monstera deliciosa requires watering every one to two weeks. More water for your plants means less water in the ocean—I think this means you can counteract sea-level rise while eating cheese.

## Zamioculcas Zamiifolia (ZZ plant)\*

Being from Eastern Africa, the ZZ plant is used to surviving droughts. It hardly requires watering and is slow-growing, so you don't need to worry about re-potting it (who knew that was a requirement of plant parenthood?). Even though many things might not be able to withstand an increase in global temperatures between 1°C, in the best case, and almost 6°C, in the worst case

**It does require watering more often, but I reckon, if you live in a house with single glazing—because your landlord loves burning extra fossil fuels—just pop that baby next to the window and put that condensation to good use.**

over the next 80 years, the ZZ plant probably will.<sup>6</sup>

## Uni Pot Plant (you know, those ones in the Quad)

Those babies have survived atmospheric, light, noise, and Lord knows what other kinds of pollution. They're so good at distracting us from the construction that they can definitely distract you from your eco-anxiety. I couldn't tell you what sort of plants they are, but the Uni isn't going to notice if a few stems go missing. And really, helping to purify the air in our spaces is the least they could do for our wellbeing.

## Fake plant

Guess what? Nature improves our mood, and the Pinterest-ability of our room, regardless of whether it is fake

**More water for your plants means less water in the ocean—I think this means you can counteract sea-level rise while eating cheese.**

or alive. For those of you who really do not give a shit about climate change because they plan to be dead by 2100, just go to Kmart and buy the least biodegradable-looking fern you can find. The benefit of a fake plant is that you can choose when to take care of it. And by taking care of it, I mean throwing it in the bin and buying a new one when you get sick of it. Even though the people working on the fake plant's production line probably didn't receive a living wage, at least you didn't invest in an oil company.

**\*This plant can be toxic to pets—so consult Google before you accidentally kill your dog**



## Resources

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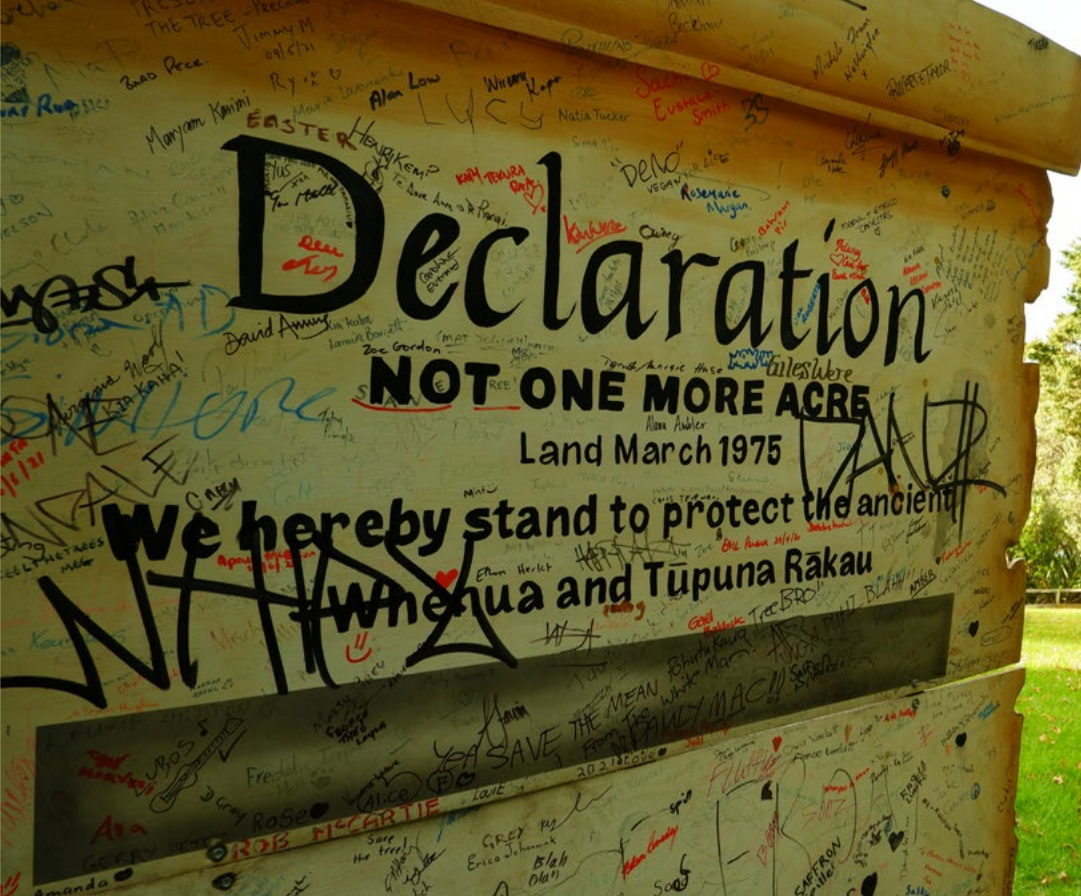
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# The Need for Indigenous Climate Action: A kaitiakitanga Guided Future

“Learn our histories, listen to our stories, honour our knowledge, and get in line or get out of the way”—India Logan-Riley

CW: THIS ARTICLE BRIEFLY MENTIONS SUICIDE.



OMNI ARONA NGĀPUHI, NGĀTI WAI (HE/HIM)

April 22nd marked the 52nd anniversary of Earth day, a day to demonstrate support for environmental protection. With the United Nations releasing the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports on climate change mitigation and its impacts, it is clear our planet is slowly dying from the effects of capitalism and a half-hearted effort by our governments to take real climate action.

The IPCC report on emissions noted that Asia and the Pacific had an 83% net growth in greenhouse gases since 2010, with New Zealand, Australia, and Japan having some of the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita. Currently, New Zealand fails to

make good on its promise to reduce emissions. Western approaches to environmentalism continue to show that they do not outweigh the effect of capitalism, colonialism, and climate change on our environments.

**Western approaches to environmentalism continue to show that they do not outweigh the effect of capitalism, colonialism, and climate change on our environments.**

Climate change continues to disproportionately affect indigenous peoples worldwide compared to non-indigenous people. Pacific Indigenous people are one of the first populations to experience the consequences of climate change first-hand. Low elevation and insular coastlines with rising sea levels mean our islands face the immediate risk of sinking. For Pacific Islanders, the land and ocean have economic and cultural significance. They are essential elements of our people. They inform our history, spirituality, and mythology. It is where we gather our kaimoana, bathe, and rest. The very essence of our culture is eroded by virtue of climate change and the apathy towards taking real climate action. Climate activist

Wynn Bruce passed away on April 22nd after setting himself on fire. The event being completely ignored by most politicians served as a microcosm of our world leaders' general indifference toward climate change.

A report in 2017 identified Māori as among the most vulnerable groups to climate change in New Zealand due to their "significant reliance on the environment as a cultural, social, and economic resource". Our people commonly work in primary industries, and many Māori communities exist on the coasts of Aotearoa, making them almost as vulnerable as our distant whānau in the islands. Like them, our culture and customs are threatened as coastal iwis report many of their urupā (cemeteries) and marae becoming flooded.

Māori are one of the most affected populations when it comes to the adverse effects of climate change, and yet, our voices tend to be the least heard. The importance of our knowledge and systems continues to be dismissed. Yet, mātauranga Māori, a traditional system of understanding the natural world, could help take people from awareness to action. Our people are plagued by savage race stereotypes, but a historic analysis shows our people weren't just warriors but guardians who tended to the environment and land that was so core to our psychology and belief system. As the late Moana Jackson once said: "Where did the author Alan Duff get the idea to call his book *Once Were Warriors*?... a clear and objective analysis of our society would have shown that the book could more properly have been called *Once Were Gardeners*."

Indigenous approaches and traditional ecological knowledge are key to changing the current apathy many have toward climate change. Although indigenous approaches are frequently associated with ontological and spiritual concepts, they are gradually but surely becoming recognised as proof of practical sustainability. Western academia (including the University of Auckland) needs to start recognising the value of mātauranga Māori in environmental management. Last

year's attack on mātauranga Māori by UoA staff members is just one example of how our knowledge is dismissed. This, coupled with UoA being the only New Zealand university to take no stance on climate change during the 2019 climate protests, displays a dangerous apathy prevalent in many New Zealanders.

For our young people, it weakens our hope for the future. Doomscrolling news regarding climate change can have negative psychological effects. It can make us anxious, stressed, fearful, depressed, and isolated as we know we do not have the power to make substantial change. And those who possess the power choose to do the bare minimum, if anything at all. It is one of many factors contributing to New Zealand's ever declining mental health.

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Ngaio, a second-year environmental science student at UoA, shares her opinion on current climate action efforts and the danger rising sea levels have on their home. "The land and sea are so important in our culture, and it's being destroyed for the benefit of those with no foresight". Ngaio laments the unjust nature of climate change, saying, "It is not us (the youth) who are at fault for climate change, and yet we are the ones fighting for climate action, we are the ones it will affect the most". The importance of the land to Ngaio and her iwi is potent, with Tūhoe having programmes that teach traditional environmentalism:

"Our people have used mātauranga Māori to save our wildlife. I can't

say I know enough to fully explain mātauranga Māori, but I can speak on its use. It strengthens our bond with the land. I think this is a fundamental aspect that is ignored. People need to have that connection to the environment and then we'll be able to fight for it. Here, at home, we are Kaitiakitanga, guardians of land, ocean, and sky".

Regarding Te Tiriti, Ngaio laments the political aspects of New Zealand's climate inaction. "I can only speak from what I've learnt at uni, but I know particular regard is placed on Kaitiaki according to the resource management act (RMA)". Despite this, Kaitiaki voices and knowledge continue to be dismissed. It comes as no surprise that our governments continue to ignore Mātauranga Māori in legislation despite the benefits it can bring to Aotearoa.

Along with Ngaio, wāhine look to be leading the way for climate action in Aotearoa. Youth continue to be the voice for climate action. Wāhine rangatahi continue to fight for a rights-based approach to landscape development. Doing so means restoring our understanding of our sacred responsibilities at Kaitiakitanga. Māori archaeology student and climate activist India Logan-Riley helped form the rangatahi led climate action initiative Te Ara Whatu. The group seeks to "create relationships from a place of whakapapa and shared values, on a domestic, national, and international level" in hopes of working towards climate action and indigenous sovereignty.

India spoke at the opening of the COP-26 Summit. There, she called on world leaders to recognise the power of indigenous communities in the fight against climate change. "We're still not seeing the appropriate acknowledgement of indigenous sovereignty as a solution to climate change". In her final statements to our world leaders, India sums up our feelings as young Māori students.

"This is an invitation to you. Learn our histories, listen to our stories, honour our knowledge, and get in line or get out of the way."













## EXHIBITION

### NATURE BOY: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF OLAF PETERSEN AUCKLAND MUSEUM



MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY (SHE/HER)

If you've befriended a West Aucklander in your time at university, or entered into university as a West Aucklander yourself, it's likely you have become familiar with the phrase 'West is best'. I might be known for boasting about washing machine waves at Muriwai, or the salty crumble of a Piha pie. Perhaps due to awe-inducing scenery, like the thundering Karekare waterfall or rolling Te Henga dunes, locals draw a strong regional pride from the cinematic landscapes of West Auckland. Making city friends carsick on a drive to the beach is one of my favourite weekend activities.

In the work of the photographer Olaf Petersen, who spent much of his artistic career scrambling over the sandy mountains of Te Henga, this admiration for the rugged region is clear. *Nature Boy* features 60 of his best competition images taken between 1930 and 1980. In two cosy rooms on the Museum's top floor, Petersen's striking black and white images are complemented by soft, cloudy lighting. The collection catalogues an ever-changing environment, and also calls attention to



OLAF PETERSEN. 1952. I'M LATE. AUCKLAND MUSEUM. ©OLAF PETERSEN ESTATE.

the relationships between people and the natural world. He's concerned not only with our blessing to exist within it, but our responsibility to treasure it.

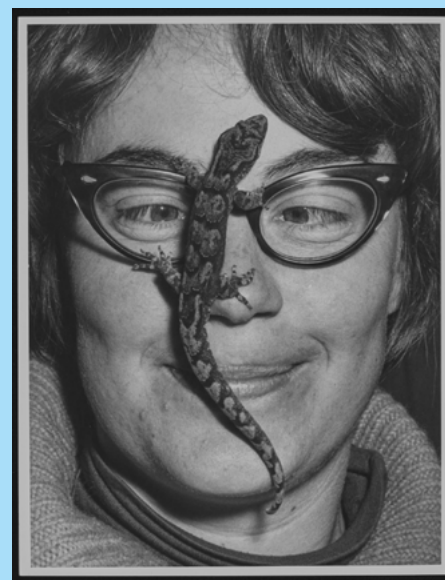
Through his work, Petersen almost always centres the landscape. If people, or people-made objects, are included, it is usually for scale, or as a means of comedy. The photographer seems to enjoy making us seem small and intrusive in the face of defiant natural wonders. In *Go Home*, Petersen plays with perspective, making a gnarled piece of driftwood tower over a figure in the distance. Similarly, he creates dark contrast between twisting branches and a teeny silhouette in *Late Afternoon*. In one of his most playful and famous images, a small, wobbly gull chick runs across the sand, assuming a delicate stance.



OLAF PETERSEN.CA.1970.LATE AFTERNOON. AUCKLAND MUSEUM. © OLAF PETERSEN ESTATE.

A couple of the photographs are more overtly political. The 1968 piece *Through the Maze* shows a man riding his bikes over deep truck tyre tracks buried in the sand. This addresses the issue of over-exploitation of toheroa beds at Muriwai, which was banned in 1976. In a similar focus, *Toxic Waste Kills Kids* captures a young child next to the titular protest sign during the Waitakere Protection Society Picnic Day at Te Henga. With a child in frame, the strong message of the signage becomes all the more powerful.

Though the various striking photographs would be enough to hold your attention, the exhibition offers a peek into some of Petersen's field albums, which make you feel much closer to his patient and scrupulous process. A short film also details his



OLAF PETERSEN. 1968.FIELD CLUB MEMBER. AUCKLAND MUSEUM. © OLAF PETERSEN ESTATE.

experiences with interview clips. Petersen's care and wonder with the environment becomes obvious with these additions, and provide more context to the taking of these hard earned photographs.

Something that struck me while viewing *Nature Boy*, and something I couldn't stop thinking about in my visit to Te Henga later that day, were the efforts of conservation and care that have continued throughout the west coast and Waitākere Ranges since the 1980s. Efforts to protect the biodiversity and native birds of Te Henga wetlands have included community action, with focus on pest control, restoration planting, and various educational and advocacy forms. Rāhui has also been placed over the wider Waitākere forest by Te Kawerau ā Maki, to prevent the spread of kauri dieback. Petersen documented a history of care that continues on today.

It's bit of a humbling experience for the boastful West Aucklander. Capturing small nuances and changes, and the vulnerability we share with the land, Petersen bows before Te Henga, and encourages the viewer to do the same.

**Petersen often represented humans as intrusive beings in the natural environment, and *Nature Boy* pulls viewer attention to the fragility and beauty of the west coast.**





PHOTO BY OMNI ARONA

## EXHIBITION

## NOT ONE MORE ACRE!

### AUCKLAND MUSEUM



**OMNI ARONA**  
NGĀPUHI NGĀTI WAI  
(HE/HIM)

A new space opens up in Auckland Museum's Māori Court. *Not One More Acre!* documents one of the most important political and indigenous events in New Zealand history.

The exhibition tells the story of the occupation at Takaparawhau (Bastion Point). The photos span two different occupations on the land during 1978 and 1982. The exhibition is shown, in part, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1982 occupation.

The display showcases the lives of those who came and went throughout the 506-day occupation. Candid photos tell the story of a living kaupapa-based Māori community fighting for their land. Iconic imagery illustrates our people's fight for land stolen from them. Photos show houses and marae built alongside gardens that would nourish the occupiers. A sustainable community built on foundations of solidarity and aroha as the occupiers fought against a Muldoon government.

*Not One More Acre!* allows young Māori to place themselves in the historical past of their ancestors while allowing non-Māori to learn the cultural history and historical injustices Māori have faced.

**A poignant reminder of the hardships our people have confronted in the face of adversity.**

*Not One More Acre! can be seen at Auckland War Memorial Museum. Entry is free for all NZ citizens.*



©MANDY BARKER

## EXHIBITION

## SHELF-LIFE

### AUCKLAND MUSEUM



**MADELEINE CRUTCHLEY**  
(SHE/HER)

The images of *SHELF-LIFE* are simultaneously hypnotising and terrifying. Various pieces of plastic and other bits of waste are stacked against a black backdrop, and look like they're floating in an endless, hopeless, underwater abyss. The plastic pieces range from microscopic to huge, and the affect of searching the ten pieces like magic eye tricks is pretty severe.

To create these pieces, British photographer **Mandy Barker** travelled with a group of scientists to Henderson Island, an uninhabited island in the larger Pitcairn Island Group. On the 2019 visit, she collected various pieces of plastic that had washed up on shore. In these images the range of polluting items is evident. There's everything from toothbrushes, to toy soldiers, to a broken toilet seat. While the plastic is arranged in entrancing and fascinating compositions, there's no escape from the suffocating volume of rubbish used to make them.

To make more direct critiques, Barker uses barcodes from the rubbish as the titles for each piece. There's no mystery to the source of this disturbing pollution. To make more corporate critiques, colourful brand names occasionally take centre stage. *SHELF-LIFE* is a worrying and captivating exhibition that has the potential to move viewers towards action.

**Dizzying political photography.**



- 1. Lycra Cyclor**  
**Feat. The Bard**  
Dead Famous People
- 2. In Spirit**  
Popstrangers
- 3. Easier**  
Fable
- 4. Loving You**  
Wet Leg
- 5. SKINCARE**  
P.H.F.
- 6. Holy Fury**  
Jang
- 7. Hovering At Home**  
Ben Woods
- 8. Roman Holiday**  
Fontaines D.C.
- 9. Air 98**  
Satin Sheets
- 10. Tuwhitia Te Hopo**  
Te Kuru Dewes & Troy Kingi



# On Deaf Ears and Closed Eyes: EcoMedia Won't Save You Now

Seeing environmental destruction, hearing environmental destruction, keep doing environmental destruction



ARELA JIANG (HE/HIM)

Troubled times give us the best art. And there's never been anything more troubling than how fucked our planet is—need I go on about all the wildfires and mass extinctions these days? So naturally, more of our media is name-dropping the environmental messes we're facing. EcoMedia is on the rise—pop culture is increasingly littered (pun intended) with mentions of climate change, sand-headed politicians, and our impending environmental apocalypse. The ecological crisis has never been so bookable for a feature!

But what does this growing environmental emergency PR actually do? Does it do anything at all? Maybe the better question is, do we need it to?

Even though movies about environmental doom ain't new, they've never been so “we're fucked my guy” explicit until now. I

remember seeing *The Lorax* as a kid in 2012 and identifying an obvious environmentalist theme. That's the one where Danny Devito voices a moustached ETA's Cheese Ball who defends the environment from a white boy twink trying to introduce capitalism to the new world. Sure, the 'save the environment' messaging was a bit heavy-handed—there's

**Even though movies about environmental doom ain't new, they've never been so “we're fucked my guy” explicit until now.**

literally a musical number featuring a human glow stick from swimming in pollution—but very easily understandable for the dumb 12-year-old I was. Still, the movie didn't leave much of a lasting impression on me or transform me into a recycling god. It is a kids' movie after all, and there's only so much education you can stuff in them before brats start acting up and asking for *Cars 2* or something.

Maybe climate crisis movies need a bit more of a bite to move people. And that's exactly the promise of *Don't Look Up*. If there's ever a movie that could convince the masses to do something about climate change, it's one starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Meryl Streep, and Timothée Chalamet. *Don't Look Up* is a satire about humanity's refusal to deal with climate change. Using an incoming meteor as a placeholder for climate change, director Adam McKay

takes the piss out of our governments, our politics, our celebrities, and our media circuses—some of the major players ignoring the Earth-sized elephant in the room, denying its existence, and distracting everyone by complaining about a stain in the carpet suspiciously shaped like China. It's big-budget stuff, packing heat with an ensemble cast, \$75 million production cost and a promo song by Kid Cudi and Ariana Grande.

However, *Don't Look Up*'s been criticised for under-delivering on its environmentalist agenda—and rightfully so. Sure, the film is pretty dead-on about society's indifference to the climate crisis. It hits the nail on the head with the 'ignoring climate experts even though they know what's up' thing. But instead of holding up a mirror for people to internally reflect, *Don't Look Up* deflects from the issue with mere Hollywood spectacle. The satire gives watchers enough of a reality check to see the uncomfortable parallels between the movie and real life, but keeps it tame enough that people can shrug and say, "That sucks, but what can you do?" Its exaggerated climate crisis allegory and big-name performers make for an entertaining watch, but after the credits roll, that's all it is—entertainment. If the film had at least tried to mitigate the environmental costs of production or at least donated some of their profits to an environmental action group, rather than leave it to the efforts of individual cast members, then I could've believed

**We're experiencing a collective anxiety where coping day-to-day means you numb yourself and hope for a miracle. As a song about "processing that dread" of climate change, 'A Real Thing' provides that much-needed emotional release.**

those involved in *Don't Look Up* actually gave a shit about our planet burning. Small acts of performative activism, sure, but it's better than what *Don't Look Up* is giving... nothing.

"But hold up Arela," you might be saying, "It's not the people's fault! It's the clowns-in-charge's who are responsible for our environmental fuck ups. They're the ones with the power to actually do something about climate change, so get fucked if you're gonna blame the average guy." Okay, I'll take the L on that—yeah, it's our leaders who pull the strings that could solve climate change. But if a movie like *Don't Look Up* can't convince people to act, what's it gonna take for us to remember we're the ones who decide the decision-makers? It doesn't look like we can rely on our media to bridge the psychological distance we feel from climate change: people still feel as far away; therefore, they're unaffected by the ecological devastation we're all experiencing.<sup>1</sup> So, what are we supposed to do with defeatist media that is defeatist that doesn't give us an alternative?

As the voiceless masses, we trust in music to speak truth to power. People want to believe a song can rile up and rally the crowd to grab their pitchforks. And climate anthems look no different, right? They can be educational, satirical, and a banger all in one—it's what makes them appear so effective for change. Just look at Billie Eilish's 'all the good girls go to hell': it takes examples from our world to paint a dire picture of the mess mankind has made of the planet, all while God and the Devil stand by and mock. Billie doesn't fuck around with this one. The sarcasm is spot-on; the beat is addictive—no wonder it peaked at number 46 on the US Billboard Hot 100, all while the number of California's wildfires peaked in the thousands. But all it is is just another pretty voice singing into a mainstream echo-chamber. It's not Billie Eilish stans that need a reality check—I doubt old mate Chris is playing 'all the good girls' for the National caucus. And it's not like Billie is telling us anything new. People already know we're making a mess of things, and the reality is we've made it clear we won't be shamed into changing our ways.

**In whatever form it takes, movie or music, outrage or humour, we're all just looking for a way to express our grief for the world.**

So, how do we make sense of this recent rise in the prevalence of EcoMedia? Probably in the most human way we can. At this point, all media can do is help us come to terms with our emotions as we own up to our inaction. The Beths confirmed their song 'A Real Thing' is about climate anxiety, conceived when lead singer Liz Stokes was "just marinating in dread" during the 2020 elections. It's a feeling many of us shared and continue to share as our politicians distracted us with "talofas" so the climate crisis could fall through the cracks in their political commitments. In Stokes' own words, "It's not a super helpful song". But I respectfully disagree (up my pay if you want me slagging off a Beths' song, *Craccum*). We're experiencing a collective anxiety where coping day-to-day means you numb yourself and hope for a miracle. As a song about "processing that dread" of climate change, 'A Real Thing' provides that much-needed emotional release. It's an outburst of anxiety in a way we can relate to. The song doesn't try to educate, shame or inspire people—but being able to process our feelings helps.

I'm not an environmental fatalist. But we've passed the point where our media can turn things around. In whatever form it takes, movie or music, outrage or humour, we're all just looking for a way to express our grief for the world. In the words of Ariana Grande: "Celebrate or cry or pray, whatever it takes; to get you through the mess that we made". Not a bad dirge for the planet's final send.

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# The Three Rs and Artistic Practice

Exploring sustainability within creative fields



YASMIN DULLABH (SHE/HER)

Reduce, reuse, recycle. These are three words ingrained into our brains from a young age. I remember being in primary school and being told to think about the “three Rs” when it came to our waste products. We often think about this mindset regarding everyday items, in our use of glass jars or plastic bags. We’re familiar with the process and it seems to most of us, hopefully, to be second nature. However, how often do we think about the three Rs in reference to our artistic and creative practices?

Art is, at least for me, something that is hard to define. Art has a highly contested definition, the intention of the creator impacts whether or not something is art; however, the perspective of the audience also influences whether or not something is considered art. This umbrella term of art captures a large variety of creative practices, with complete diversity of subject matter. Art can include design, architecture, music, painting, craft, and dance (to name only a few). What is and isn’t art is genuinely up to individual interpretation. I am not here to argue about the definition of art but rather to further expand how we think about

art and the mediums we create, and more importantly, how sustainable practices come into play. Does our opinion on whether or not something is considered art depend on the creative process itself?

Sustainable art practices challenge the way we think about not just art but also waste. There are two ways of thinking about sustainable creative practices. The first is creating artwork made from sustainable materials or using products that are usually considered to be ‘waste’ or ‘rubbish’. The second is creative thinking when repurposing and repairing items for functional and everyday purposes. It can be argued that the latter is not a creative practice, but I believe that it is.

**However, how often do we think about the three Rs in reference to our artistic and creative practices?**

**I believe that when we think about resourceful or functional creative projects, we often don't think of them as artworks.**

Practices such as visible mending are prime examples of functional, sustainable art. The fact that this act of repair is apparent and striking highlights a creative and artistic approach. It showcases the history of the item, shows that it has been loved, and this mending process is a part of its story, both ergonomically and aesthetically. This is also seen through Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending pottery where gold, silver, or platinum is used to repair the piece. It brings about a new form of beauty, acting as an aesthetic embellishment while simultaneously serving a functional purpose. I feel that this is a form of creative practice, regardless of whether or not this is conventionally considered to be an art form. While in these two cases, there is a clear aesthetic and artistic purpose for these mending





practices due to the intense visibility of the repair. However, if this was done in a less obvious manner, who is to say that this is not a creative, artistic practice?

I like to think about things that we do everyday that can be seen as artistic and creative. The ways that we fix things and the way that we go about things. I believe that when we think about resourceful or functional creative projects, we often don't think of them as artworks. They are deemed 'crafty' or 'thrifty'. This relates to how art and the definitions of art and the creative process are subject to gatekeeping through arbitrary and classist definitions, checklists, and qualifications. Only certain people and processes are legitimised through the title of an 'artist' or a 'designer'.

As creatives, the intention as to why we are making something is integral to our process and the final product. Incorporating the three Rs into creative processes, whether this be through directly reusing waste materials, or just thinking about the environmental impact of our work is not only just a good way to think about art, but it also adds more to the narrative of the piece. In a way, this moves us away from a capitalist mode of creative production, with our reliance on new materials

**In a way, this moves us away from a capitalist mode of creative production**

and continuous innovation, rather than allowing for things to naturally evolve with different approaches.

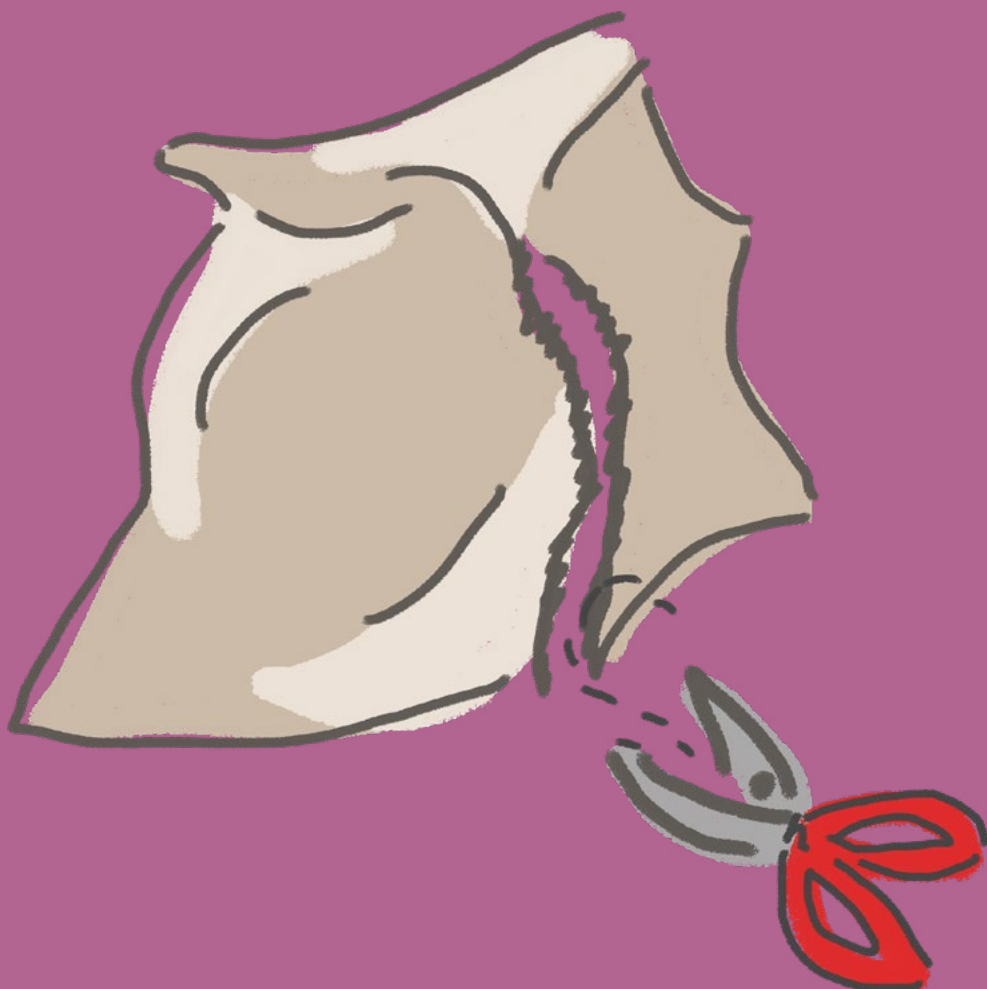
Capitalism has definitely fucked with our creative process; conscious of it or not, we create with profit as an incentive. This means we are drawn away from engaging with the key environmental or societal impact, ignoring key contexts that make art important and interesting. Sustainable art processes allow us to be more innovative with the materials around us, and also allows for us to connect to our environments better. This creates an inclination towards an engagement with our complex and important social and political situations. Moving away from a capitalist mode of creative production is one way we can strive towards a more sustainable creative practice, which pulls valuable and interesting materials from the world around us, to encourage more nuanced aesthetic forms.

Prime examples of profit incentivised art and it's prevalence today is seen with the rise of the creation of and buying and selling of NFTs. Despite

**...it allows for us as creatives and as observers to rebel against normative consumption processes to create something valuable and meaningful.**

arguments of this being beneficial in regards to access to art, it removes the element of creating art for art's sake. Not to mention the environmental impact that NFTs have on the planet.

We need to shift our approach to creative work. It should at least consider *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* in some way. Making art that follows sustainable practices like these is not simply thrifty. Rather it shows an awareness of one's context and an openness for change, it allows for us as creatives and as observers to rebel against normative consumption processes to create something valuable and meaningful.







# Four Lessons from Hayao Miyazaki

How Studio Ghibli weaves tales of fantasy and environmentalism



SARAH MOHAMAD

When one imagines a Studio Ghibli film, images of beautifully drawn landscapes and mythical creatures come to mind. There are rolling lush green hills, river streams flowing with crystal-clear water, and talking creatures gifting a word of wisdom or two to the characters. These images

**What I find fascinating about Miyazaki's approach is that he almost exclusively portrays environmentalist messages through his films. In his interviews, Miyazaki rarely explores his own identity as an environmentalist.**

alone give the viewers a glimpse of how Hayao Miyazaki looks at nature and its surroundings.

Stunning visuals aside, avid fans of Miyazaki's works would likely notice the themes of ecological preservation in most of his films. I had to admit that I didn't catch on to these messages when I first started watching them back in my high school years, but as I grew older and got more involved in beach clean-ups, I started noticing the messages of habitat conservation while rewatching his works. What I find fascinating about Miyazaki's approach is that he almost exclusively portrays environmentalist messages through his films. In his interviews, Miyazaki rarely explores his own identity as an environmentalist. Instead, the influential animator reserves this focus for his films, emphasising these themes through colourful settings and inventive characters. The works of Studio Ghibli often highlight the importance of preserving the environment so that future generations will get to enjoy

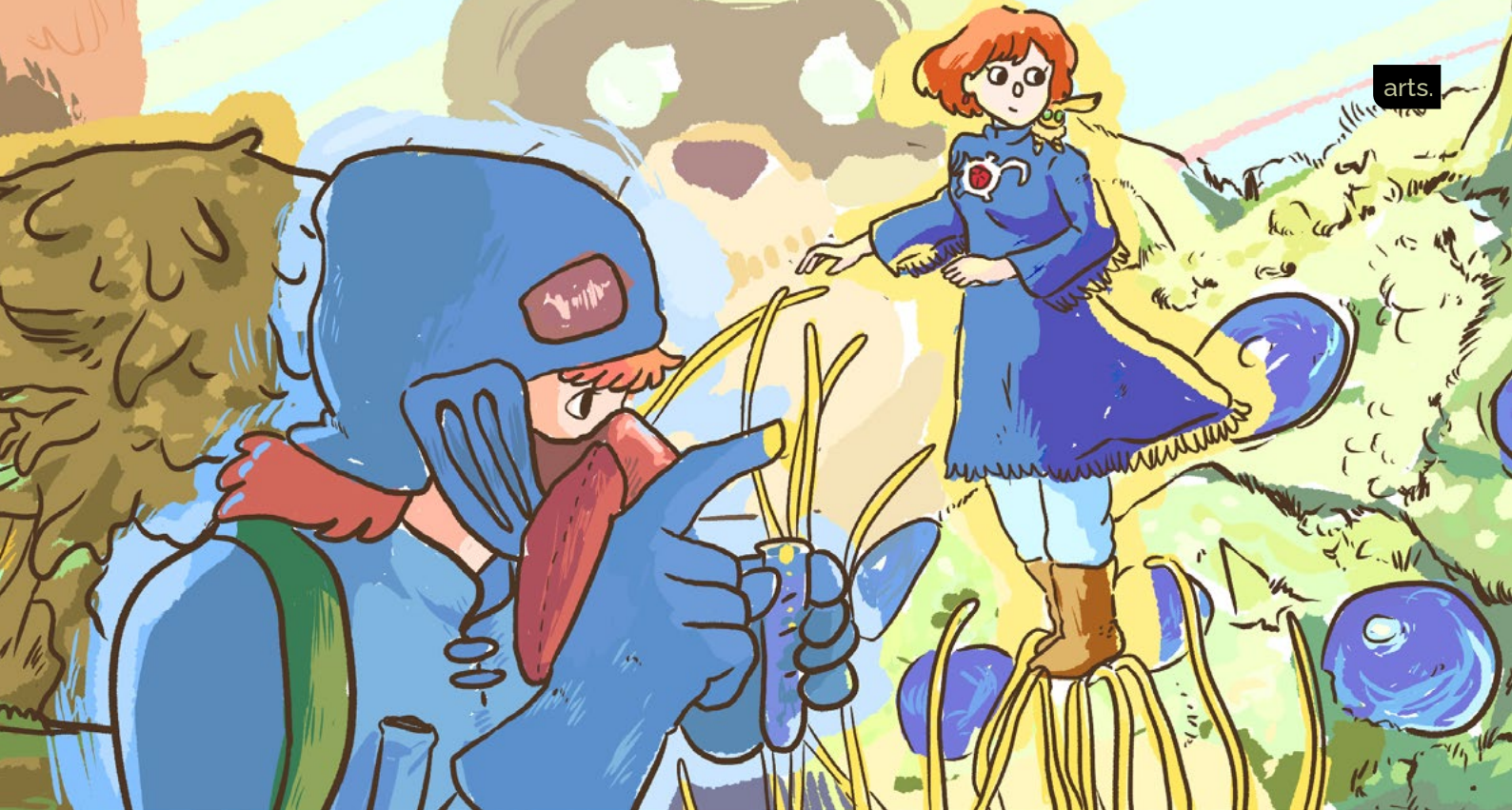
**Only with empathy can the circle of hatred and destruction be put to an end.**

these landscapes for years to come.

## *Princess Mononoke* (1997)

An exiled prince ravaged by the curse of an avenging deity and a girl raised by wolves work together to save a vulnerable forest from eradication. This film explores the consequences of greed and desire, and the resulting loss of humanity. This clouding of judgement is illustrated through Lady Eboshi and Jigo, with these character arcs creating a valuable moral lesson. *Princess Mononoke* shows that we should respect our fellow humans, as well as the planet and the life that it contains, while trying our very best to





live side by side with one another. Every decision that we make will have an impact on the next set of events. Only with empathy can the circle of hatred and destruction be put to an end.

**A thought-provoking work encouraging self-reflection.**

### ***Pom Poko* (1994)**

Don't let these cherub raccoons fool you. I watched this film thinking I'd have a good laugh and came out of it with swollen eyes. Narrated in the form of a documentary, *Pom Poko* tells the story of a group of shape-shifting raccoons who are trying to prevent urban development from destroying their homes. This film forces viewers to empathise with animals who are directly suffering from the

**This film forces viewers to empathise with animals who are directly suffering from the consequences of deforestation; many of them driven to extinction every year.**

consequences of deforestation; many of them driven to extinction every year. How would we feel if we see our homes taken away without our permission?

**Raccoons teach us how humans and nature can co-exist peacefully. Get tissues ready!**

### ***Spirited Away* (2001)**

This is the film that earned Studio Ghibli their first Academy Award in 2003. *Spirited Away* was not very in-your-face about environmentalism. Much of the characters were inspired from tales of Shintoism (indigenous Japanese faith), and how human consumption devastated the natural ecosystem of their once idyllic habitat, such as the river dragon spirit Haku. Much like *Princess Mononoke*, *Spirited Away* explores how greed and self-interest continue to destroy our homes. While it is inevitable that human population will continue to grow and we will have to use the Earth's resources, perhaps we can find better ways to utilise them wisely.

**How much is too much, before it's too late?**

### ***My Neighbour Totoro* (1988)**

Contrary to the other works, which

**While it is inevitable that human population will continue to grow and we will have to use the Earth's resources, perhaps we can find better ways to utilise them wisely.**

centre on capitalism and its devastating effects for Mother Nature, the main message of *My Neighbour Totoro* is that when children are taught from a young age to love Earth and the life it provides, they are more likely to care for the environment. This is portrayed through two sisters, Satsuki and Mei, discovering a camphor tree and meeting its mythical spirits. The film also paints the sad relationship between city urbanisation and the declining health of its inhabitants, revealed as the sisters' family moves to the countryside in hopes of improving their mother's health.

**Cultivating the importance and love for Mother Nature in children will have long-lasting impacts on the longevity of Earth and its population.**

# Studying environmentalism in a sea of plastic

The University of Auckland's motto is "never stop", so why have they stopped implementing sustainability initiatives on their own campus?



ALYSHA JURGELEIT

Step into the quad and look around. There's plastic everywhere. Plastic-wrapped food, plastic takeaway containers, bins overflowing, plastic wrappers drifting in the breeze. We are surrounded by a sea of plastic. I can hear the baby turtles crying as we speak.

I am studying environmental science here at UoA because I am passionate about saving our planet; yet the institution teaching me is making some piss poor efforts to save it themselves. On the UoA website it says, "Think carefully about any purchases you feel compelled to make, and avoid unnecessary consumption". But what is the University doing to provide more sustainable food and beverage options for its students?

## The UoA greenwash spiel

According to the University: we are a "global leader in sustainable and ethical practises". And the UoA's Code of Conduct states that "we aim to be a *kaitiakitanga*: this means we recognise our responsibilities as kaitiaki (guardians) to protect and respect our environment". Sounds like a lot of corporate greenwashing BS.

The University is ranked #9 worldwide for performance against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and may claim they are already doing well in "sustainability". But do not allow yourself to be misled. This is because they are doing well in some areas such as peace, justice, and economic growth. There is VAST room for improvement in other goals such as SDG13 climate action; in this goal we rank far worse than other universities in New Zealand.

## The problem

In 2019 the University of Auckland claims it sent 16,471m<sup>3</sup> of waste to landfill (enough to fill more than six Olympic-sized swimming pools). 'Side note, whoever decided it was a good idea to just chuck all our rubbish in a big hole, then cover it over when it gets full and start a new hole?'

A large proportion of this waste is single-use takeaway food packaging and organic waste, yet this is completely avoidable. Currently, the majority of the packaging used in the quad/eateries is single-

**I am studying environmental science here at UoA because I am passionate about saving our planet; yet the institution teaching me is making some piss poor efforts to save it themselves.**

use. And there are no compost bins for our food scraps.

Single-use takeaway food packaging is especially noxious. Designed to be used for a few minutes, thrown away, and destined to sit in a landfill for thousands of years. Not all this food packaging makes it to landfill either. Single-use plastics (straws, plastic bottles, cutlery, etc.) make up 77% of plastic pollution found on Kiwi beaches. Worldwide, up to nine in ten sea birds and one in three sea turtles have ingested plastic. In Aotearoa, seven of eight of our most common fish have consumed plastic.

## Food in landfill = bad

The food and organic matter don't just sit there chillin' in the landfill either; it produces methane emissions that contribute to climate change. We should be composting this material instead. The latest International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report makes it clear that we have a very short window to limit catastrophic







methane. Or ends up in recycling, contaminating that waste stream.

## We are behind other universities

The University of Otago, Victoria University and Lincoln University are all single use coffee cup free; and many other universities have

composting facilities on site. UoA is far behind! Universities should be held to a high standard because they have a statutory role to be the critic and conscience of society. Part of this role must involve critically reflecting on the way we do things. Surely this institute of "higher learning" is not saying it is too hard to wash some cups and plates and put our food scraps into a different bin?

warming; we need to drastically reduce emissions in the next ten years. If you've seen *Don't Look Up*, you'll see what happens when we don't listen to the scientists.

## BUT recycling??!

Plastic cutlery, straws, sushi trays, and many other plastics are not recyclable. Even if the right item makes it into the recycling bin, much of the plastic recycling from New Zealand is sent overseas to developing countries like Malaysia and Thailand. The plastic is often dumped in illegal landfills, into the ocean, or burned under the cover of darkness. This is poisoning the people, animals, and ecosystems in these areas.

## What about compostable packaging?

Compostable packaging is still single-use and wastes energy and resources. Most compostable packaging doesn't end up in the bin anyway, it goes in the bin and ends up in landfill, producing

**UoA is far behind! Universities should be held to a high standard because they have a statutory role to be the critic and conscience of society**

## What can we do?

There are plenty of people on campus that want to see change happen and are trying to implement it, both staff and students. These schemes require funding to get off the ground. But fast change at a meaningful scale will only come with the support and budget provided by senior management.

Head to <https://www.change.org/endsingleuseatUoA> to sign the petition and let the University leadership know that this is important to us and we demand better sustainable options on our campus.

Imagine a different future. Stepping onto the campus you are hard pressed to see any plastic; students sip from a variety of reusable cups and there are compost bins dotting the grounds for your food scraps. Life is good. The University has made it easy to be sustainable and you feel proud to attend a university that takes the future of the planet seriously.





# Dinner & A movie



## Vegan Chicken Noodle Soup

XZADIA JOHNSON

Summer was a movie! But now, reality is setting in... Uni is getting tougher, routines are back in order, and your relationship may be getting... boring? Are you in your first year of uni, holding on for dear life to that high school romance? Is the summer fling you met on New Years starting to present some red flags? Is your long-term partner slowly drifting into the friendzone? It could be time for a good old fashioned breakup! This can be tough, or it can be empowering! Lucky for you, I have a movie recommendation for both frames of mind!

### 6 Years (2015)

DIR. HANNAH FIDELL

*6 Years* is an uncomfortably realistic depiction of an unravelling long term relationship. Melanie and Dan aren't ready to come to terms with the fact that their relationship is dying, but when unsavoury decisions are made by both characters, it is clear that they need to distance themselves once and for all. It's kinda depressing, but real. Toxic behaviour portrayed in the film will remind you of why it ended, and the importance of keeping it that way!

**Laughs vs Tears:** Tears will be shed, based on the relatability to your own situation. 6/10.

### How To Be Single (2016)

DIR. CHRISTIAN DITTER

*How To Be Single* follows Alice as she attempts to find happiness and independence in a new city, after having ended things with her long-term college boyfriend. After a brief change of heart and an attempt to rekindle their relationship, Alice is forced to move on and figure out what fulfils her on her own. Left me feeling like a strong independent woman! Will make you wish you had been single earlier, and possibly inspire a hoe-phase and/or a long hike...

**Laughs vs Tears:** Feel-good movie all the way through! 8/10.

Once making the masochistic decision to even watch a breakup movie in the first place, you must choose which of these two films is best for your post-breakup spirit! The 20 minutes it takes for you to select your film is the perfect time to whip yourself up a comfort meal!

On tonight's menu: **Vegan Chicken Noodle Soup!**

If, unlike those of us revelling in our singledom, you are happily in a relationship, then I suppose you too can enjoy this refreshing plant-based meal with your \*gag\* partner.

#### Ingredients:

1 cup cooked pasta  
1 block firm tofu  
3 carrots  
1 large white onion  
1 tsp tamari sauce  
4 veggie stock cubes  
Thyme  
Mixed herbs  
Fresh coriander (optional)  
Garlic powder (or fresh)  
Nutritional yeast  
Chilli flakes  
Salt & Pepper

#### Recipe:

1. Boil pasta as per instructions on the packet.
2. Drain and pat tofu dry, then cut into cubes and drizzle tamari until evenly coated. Add thyme and herb blend, and spread onto the baking tray. Fan bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, tossing occasionally until all cubes are golden brown.
3. In a pot, add diced onion, peeled and chopped carrots, and as much garlic as desired. Crumble in 4 stock cubes with 3.5 cups of boiling water to create a broth, then add broth to the pot. Once combined, add the pasta and tofu. Sprinkle 2 tbsp (or more) of nutritional yeast, then add thyme, herbs, garlic, salt, pepper, and chilli to taste.
4. Top with fresh toppings of your liking, and enjoy!

Serves 4 (or yourself 4x). @ChefXzadz for more recipes!

# Pre-Loved Clothing: The Only Fashion Trend That Is Built To Last

We may girlboss and gaslight, but we DON'T gatekeep where we get our clothing from



NANCY GUO (SHE/HER)

The rampant consumerism shoved down our throats by fast fashion corporations and lifestyle influencers has indoctrinated us to spend, spend, and spend. With trend cycles moving on faster than your toxic ex, it's virtually impossible to keep up with what's in without breaking the bank or the environment. But, buying second-hand allows us to reduce the relentless demand for new clothing that causes the revenue of fashion giants to soar, while also finding one-of-a-kind pieces that'll allow you to feel like you're at a Woodstock festival in 1969 or the love interest of an 80s music video.

Here are some of your *Craccum* Editors' favourites!



**Nancy's Picks: Old People Suburbs and Depop**

I love old people. As much as Gen Z loves to shit on the Boomers, I think they're the best to have fat chats with, even if they're a bit condescending or problematic. The other great thing about old folks is that their closets are full of vintage gems! Hit up the second-hand and charity shops in your local senior-citizen-saturated suburb, I promise that amidst all the granny-perfume smelling and moth eaten knitwear are funky pieces you'll

treasure forever. Notable purchases I've found in "old people" stores include many grandpa-core cardigans and thermals made of varying expensive but baby butt soft materials like merino and alpaca, all for cheap-as-chips prices too!

Although this is hardly an underrated gem, I really dig Depop. Look, physically thrifting is really exhausting and sometimes finding the fifth used tissue in the pockets of an old coat is the last straw. But with Depop you can scroll and buy second hand clothing from the comfort of your bed, or even give your neglected, "omg I own that?" stuff a new home. It's also a great platform to wean off online shopping addiction because you still get the novelty of opening a package, without inflicting as much environmental damage as you would with fast fashion outlets.



**Flora's Pick: @welcomeback\_slowfashion**

Ever wondered where our *Craccum* Editor Flora, who's always dressed-to-the-nines gets her closet from? The Instagram vintage clothing seller @welcomeback\_slowfashion is her sustainability pick! Boasting an array of vintage items from the 1930s to the early 2000s, there's definitely something for every decade and for everyone. Flora's notable purchases include a stunning red Dior dress from the 80s and a teal silk coat from

the 50s, which she names as one her favourite clothing items all time!



**Naomii's Picks: Wairau Valley and just venturing outside of Auckland**

The queen of mirror fit pics herself has bequeathed *Craccum* readers with her top places for thrifting! Within Auckland, she suggests hitting up Wairau Valley, or more specifically the "two big ass warehouses on Ellice Road, St Vincent's, and a massive Hospice". But that's not all, along the main stretch of Ellice Road there are also a bunch of other smaller shops like St John's, Red Cross, Re:store, and a smaller Hospice. Naomii has found that because the sweet (but naive) ladies who run these shops don't recognise brand names, the prices are low. For example, she scored a 100% linen Assembly Label jumpsuit for \$10.

For those who have the means to venture out of Auckland, Naomii also rates checking out second-hand clothing shops in small towns. She named Dunedin as a prime spot for pre-loved goodies, noting that she's thrifted an abundance of cashmere, wool, leather, and vintage items from her thrifting trips there.



# Not Your Fault, Definitely Our Problem

Why you need to challenge both the system and yourself



OLIVIA BIRD (SHE/HER)

The oil industry and other major corporations have been doing some not great things lately (like, oh I don't know, destroying living beings and our entire world for money). But I think it's important to talk about something else that they also secretly love to do: making us believe that the climate crisis is our fault.

Okay sure, you probably know that you aren't responsible for how much oil BP has extracted from the earth today. But have you ever thought about your personal carbon footprint? Well, fun fact: the carbon footprint calculator was released by an advertising firm working for BP in 2004 (maybe that wasn't really a fun fact... sorry for lying, maybe I could become a big oil CEO though?). This cunning tool was designed so that everyday people would be preoccupied with trying to reduce their relatively tiny impact on global warming, rather than pushing BP to reduce their massive one.

Other major corporations do the exact same thing. For example, the Coca Cola Foundation funds recycling campaigns and community clean ups. Cool, right? Not really. Coca Cola Limited uses fossil fuels to package and sell 1.9 billion drinks of coke per day, has been the world's worst plastic polluter for three years in a row, and plans to expand its production three-fold in the next year. But sure, we'll be sweet if everyday people pick up rubbish once a year and 'recycle' their bottles (around 90% of the world's recycling ends up in landfills).



If big oil and other major corporations started acting morally the world would definitely become a better place. But does that mean that I'm going to let you off the hook easily? I often hear people say, "there is no ethical consumption under capitalism". Even though that is undoubtedly true, it often implies, "the system is exploitative but I'm going to use that to justify consuming whatever I want anyway". You will never be able to become an ethically *perfect* consumer and your consumption habits will not single-handedly save the world, but that doesn't mean you should give up entirely. If you have the means (access, ability, time, or money) then you have a moral obligation to become an ethically *better* consumer.



Leena Norms, a YouTuber I love, used an analogy about bullying to illustrate this idea perfectly: "You don't see a kid on the playground intervene with another kid being bullied, pull them away by the ear and be like, 'I know that kid got punched and I know that you're trying to be really cool here. But you're not going to solve the international problem of bullying, so simmer down, okay?'"

The same goes for whatever behaviour someone may choose to do to reduce their negative impact on the planet.



These choices don't make them perfect anti-capitalist heroes who have solved a global crisis—but they have made a positive impact. And when one third of the needed reduction of consumption to prevent ecological collapse can be achieved through individual lifestyle changes, any contribution has to count for something.

These corporations have underestimated us. They think we will believe the climate crisis is our own fault, and either collapse into complete eco-anxiety or obsess over our own impact on the environment, forgetting all about theirs. But I think we are intelligent enough to understand that we need to change our own individual behaviours *and* pull a massive middle finger to them at the same time.

We can catch buses instead of driving cars while signing petitions to defund fossil fuels. And we can take keep cups to small cafes while on the way to protest single-use plastics. We need to challenge the system and ourselves at the same time because even though the climate crisis is not your fault, it is definitely our problem.

# The Only Man-made Thing About Climate Change Is That It's a Man-made Hoax

Let the old farts of society toot in peace!



NANCY GUO (SHE/HER)

Global warming, "saving" the planet, and the anthropocene, are all buzzwords part of the elaborate scam that is climate change. Devised and propagated by the liberal snowflakes in our government and media, the "climate crisis" (god, aren't they dramatic?) is an elaborate hoax designed to snatch more taxpayers' money and suppress our individual rights to wreck the planet. Fortunately, the comprehensive and unbiased research funded by big oil companies easily debunks and exposes the many logical inconsistencies of this conspiracy.

A focal grievance of sea-turtle-fanatic discourse is the supposed impact of greenhouse gases on our environment—namely carbon dioxide and methane. However, anyone that passed Year 10 Science would tell you that the presence of carbon is vital for photosynthesis. Therefore, the plants should be thanking us for the supposed abundance of this element in our atmosphere. But are we surprised that these ignorant Gen Zers fail to grasp basic scientific concepts? Given they're a generation that has been intellectually atrophied and brainwashed by TikTok, it's no shock that all they do is complain.

The hypocrisy of their grumblings is further illustrated with the rhetoric around methane. For a demographic of people that are so passionate about "rights", it's hypocritical that they want to strip away the moral right of cows to toot! The next thing you know, they'll be lobbying for fines against any human that lets it rip. Lactose

intolerant people, IBS sufferers, and baked bean eaters, be prepared to hand over your hard-earned money to the government as compensation for your illegal bowel movements.

We've all seen those dramatic placards held up by kids looking for an excuse to wag school reading "our home is on fire". Luckily, the reputable intellectual Donald Trump has a scientific rebuttal to this ridiculous claim. His tweet in May 2013 reads: "it's freezing in New York, where the hell is global warming"? This tweet clearly exhibits another logical fallacy of the climate change scam—how can the earth be "burning up" when we continue to experience cold weather? The last time I checked, the Swiss Snow Alps were still booming with tourists. I even had to wear socks to bed the other night because of how chilly Auckland was. Myth busted!



Even the supposed "countless" statistical graphs and research studies produced by metal-straw-fetishists are hoaxes. Notice how all these wannabe Greta Thunbergs grew up in air-conditioned environments? As their bodies are naturally acclimated to the cool temperatures of aircon, they're evidently going to think it's boiling hot when they step outside. Case closed!

Let's unpack the idiocies surrounding renewable energy. Environmental activists' demonisation of fossil fuels blatantly dismisses the implications of switching to these unreliable "green"

energy sources. Be sure to kiss the eco-warriors when your *Shortland Street* cuts out in the middle of an episode because it wasn't windy

enough that day! Ever wondered why Elon Musk is the richest man on earth? Thank the incense-waving flower children and their endless bashing of petrol for propelling Tesla sales. And they say climate change deniers are corrupt!



Even worse, when the ozone layer is finally left alone, get ready for the entire human population to shapeshift into Caspar the Ghost. I'd love to see how the peace-loving and elephant-pants-wearing tree-huggers justify the wars that'll inevitably breakout between companies when they battle for market share in Vitamin D pills and self-tan lotion...

SAFEGUARD YOUR PLASTIC STRAWS AND TRIM MILK FROM THE HIPPIES! SAY NO TO TOFU! TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY WE CAN PROTECT OUR RIGHTS TO DESTROY THE PLANET!





**MAY THE FOURTH  
BE WITH YOU**

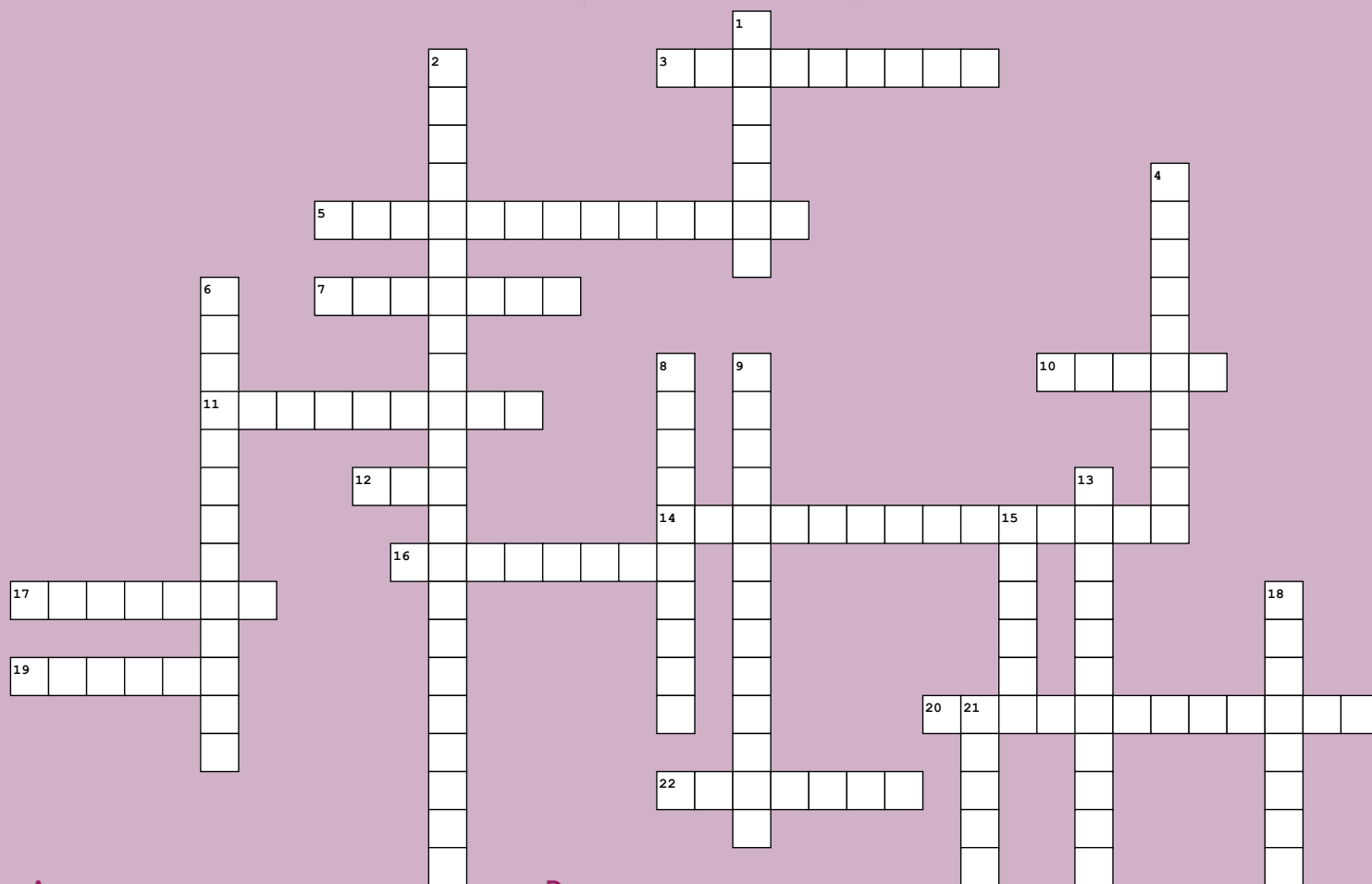
# **STAR WARS**

## **Binger**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 4TH // 7PM  
SHADOWS BAR // R18  
FREE ENTRY**



# PUZZLES



## Across

3. a Māori system that emphasises taking an intergenerational approach to combatting climate change
5. the removal and loss of trees and vegetation
7. this substance takes 20 - 500 years to fully decompose
10. to use something more than once
11. second hand shopping
12. earth is losing 1.2 trillion tons of this every year what happens to coral when the ocean warms
16. new zealand's most climate polluting company
17. a greenhouse gas commonly associated with the dairy industry
19. an action we can take to minimise our consumption
20. the preservation of our biodiversity and natural landscapes
22. a type of vegetable oil that drives deforestation
23. the process of converting waste into reusable material

## Down

1. an industry that constitutes 10% of all human carbon emissions
2. an international school student climate strike movement
4. a natural process of recycling organic matter
6. a prominent swedish environmental activist
8. the amendment the government passed in 2019, which promises to reduce new zealand's greenhouse gas net emissions to zero by 2050
9. a programme in new zealand schools aimed to support young people in designing and implementing sustainability actions
13. the variety of life on earth
15. dioxide the most prominent green house gas in our atmosphere
18. an international treaty created in 2015 that seeks to combat climate change
21. the layer in our atmosphere that absorbs uv radiation from the sun



# HOROSCOPES

*There are only three things in this world that truly aggravate Polly Prophet: Leos, litterers, and Nosy Nellies who try and guess (unsuccessfully) what star sign she is. Don't even bother investigating folks, that's one secret Polly will never tell! However, she is happy to reveal the antics the universe has lined up for you this week...*

## ARIES

Now that your season is over, you might be feeling a comedown from the main character energy vibe you were riding before. Given that the world does not revolve around you, take this week to rein in your superiority complex before it's too late.



It may be tempting to give up, throw in the towel and surrender to the universe's challenges, but hang tight my Cancers! From here I promise it is upwards and onwards, or at least that is what my thrifted tarot cards are telling me. Get ready to strut through campus with an extra pep in your step.



## LIBRA

Hot mama! Just like the sun, it seems like you are on the verge of burning out. To avoid complete combustion, protect your hot girl energy by prioritising your wellbeing. Some personal suggestions include (actually) watering your plants, flossing, and acquiring a squishmallow.



## CAPRICORN

Your ability to remain down-to-earth will prove virtuous as life continues to shake things up. Standing your ground during this tumultuous time is key to protecting your stone cold bitch energy.



## TAURUS

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag? Drifting through the wind, wanting to start again? Although the hectic mid-sem break has got you feeling like a sea animal killer, the second half of the Semester heralds fresh beginnings. Trust in yourself. After all, plastic bags—just like your stubbornness—take almost 1000 years to break down.



## LEO

My lovely Leos, you will be swept off your feet this week by a tall, dark, and handsome rubbish removal truck. Don't worry, your elopement with this new pungent lover will see the two of you building the forever home you've always needed.



## SCORPIO

The mixed signals you've been dishing out left and right are more confusing to navigate than corporate green-washing. Your authenticity has been greatly undermined by flashy appearances and misleading first impressions, so don't be surprised if you're called out on being plastic.



## AQUARIUS

The world's many, many troubles have been bogging you down recently. Rather than resorting to your usual angsty emo tendencies, take this time to channel that bitterness into something productive. Start a strike! Hug a few trees! Planet Earth needs more people who actually care.



## GEMINI

With your social battery fully charged and ready to go, my social butterflies, you are going places this week! But be wary of going too far with your wit and charm. It is okay to turn on your filter every now and then.



## CANCER

## VIRGO

We all know that the three golden 'r's are reduce, reuse, and recycle. However, there is another 'r' you need to add to the list—'read'. Learning to read the room will stop you from pissing everyone off.



## SAGITTARIUS

Things are heating up! Sizzling starts are ablaze for you. But every fireboy needs his watergirl, so don't get too ahead of yourselves. The universe can and will humble you when necessary.



## PISCES

Although your hippie energy leads people to underestimate you, the rest of us wish we could be half as sensitive and calm. But, beware of those that take advantage of your soft nature. People are sadly nowhere near as benevolent as your daydreams.





MAY 2022  
NEW ZEALAND  
NATIONAL  
QUALIFIER  
ONLINE



BE IN TO WIN A SEAT AT THE WORLD FINAL  
AND A PC GAMING SET UP FROM PBTECH

REDBULL.CO.NZ/SOLO-Q

ONE vs ONE

PBTECH

logitech G

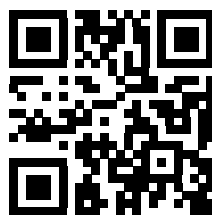


# Campus Calling

Games  
Food  
Competitions  
Music  
Hangouts

Monday 2 May - Friday 6 May

Join  
in the  
fun  
on campus



SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS

