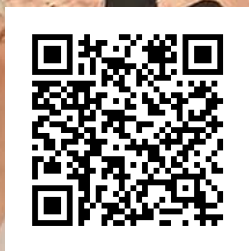
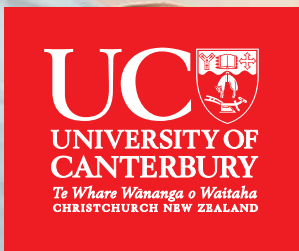


Hei Puāwaitanga

Research Group for Future generations, Sustainability and Civic Imagination 2023 Annual Report

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY





Launch of Hei Pūawaitanga as a multidisciplinary international research charity and 'civics-lab', under the University of Canterbury, Foundation at Tūranga, Christchurch, NZ. 2 March 2023.



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Professor Bronwyn Hayward MNZM, FRSNZ



**“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.”
My success is not mine alone but the success of a collective”.
This whakatauki/ proverb is particularly apt this year.**

We are extremely grateful to our donors and funders. Hei Puāwaitanga, to flourish and live well into the future, is a vision that inspires our collective research programmes which support citizenship and participation in sustainability decision-making for children and future generations.

This year Hei Puāwaitanga became a charitable organisation under the umbrella of the UC Foundation and thanks to 2023 donations **we were able to support three Civic and Sustainability student scholarships, and co-host an event for schools of Canterbury with the Welsh Commissioner for Future Generations**, in addition to our research work also reported here. This simply would not be possible without our wonderful donors investing in young people as change-makers, thank you!

Ngā Mihi Nui! Grateful thanks to our donors for making the following activities possible in 2023!

We were able to support three student scholarships and co-sponsor a citywide civic event for students with the Welsh Commissioner for Future Generations.

Hei Pūawaitanga Student Sustainability Awards 2023:

In 2023 Hei Pūawaitanga partnered with Bridget Williams of Bead and Proceed, a social enterprise that aims to educate people about the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inspire action towards them through creativity. We sponsored two students from the UC Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability to take part in a Bead and Proceed sustainability leadership course.

- Scarlett Buckenham has just completed her second year of the Bachelor of Environmental and Social sustainability.

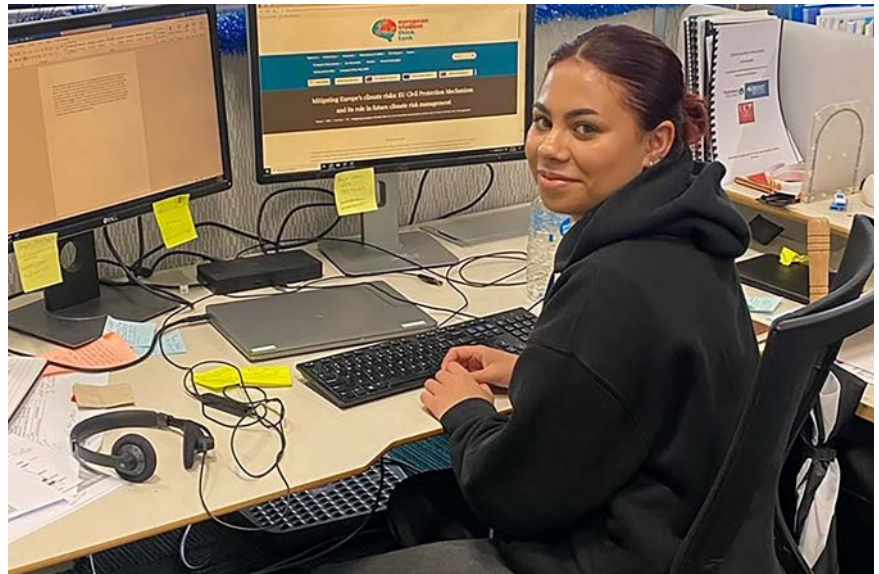


“The Bead and Proceed sustainability leadership programme broadened my understanding professionally and personally, with its focus on self-empowerment, nurturing creativity, and on resources, skills and values that can support me as a leader in sustainability”.

- Cora Davison has just completed her first year of the UC Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability,



majoring in policy, governance and social justice. “In the future I hope to have a career that contributes to protecting our planet for future generations and creating an environment where everyone is treated fairly. I got so much out of the Bead and Proceed Leadership programme. I learned about the importance of taking time for myself, and being inspired by so many people who make a positive impact on our communities. Overall the scholarship opportunity helped change my perspective in ways I believe will have a life long impact for my future.”



**Georgia Moke Harvey
Hei Pūawaitanga Student Scholarship Award 2023:**

This scholarship helped me financially and provided an opportunity for me to gain skills working as a research assistant for the Mana Rangatahi project. I found that I was able to support youth facing similar challenges to myself and help empower them to lead in futures they deserve. The experience and insight I have gained from my role helping facilitate discussion and transcribing insights from students for such an important initiative has given me a greater understanding of what my community needs. In addition to this I was also given the chance to intern on the scholarship for Jessica Halliday’s Te Putahi Centre for Architecture and City Making further expanding my experience by working alongside other professionals and developing practical skills I will need for the future like using excel to create databases. Having the ability to see the work being done for the issues that are most important to me was a liberating experience that gave me confidence I will have a place in my field and can make the positive changes I am passionate about. The skills and experience I gained on the Hei Pūawaitanga scholarship enabled me to then take up a Christchurch City Council Summer Studentship working with the Coastal Hazards and Adaptation Planning Team.

Youth Futures: a workshop for senior students with the Welsh Commissioner for Future generations

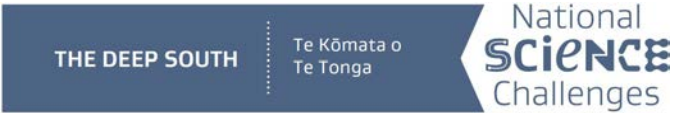
On Wednesday 26 July 2023, 64 high school students came together for a workshop at the University of Canterbury to meet Sophie Howe the world’s first Future Generations Commissioner, to learn about actions that people can take collectively to make a difference for the future. Students were introduced to futures thinking and the tools/ strategies with futurist and workshop host Cheryl Doig and Think Beyond and Grow Waitaha. Hei Pūawaitanga Civics lab was pleased to support this capacity building activity and involve some of our research students as facilitators too.



High school students across Canterbury attended Youth Futures at UC hosted by Grow Waitaha, Future Thinking and supported by Hei Pūawaitanga. Photo credit: Erica Austin, Peanut Productions.

MANA RANGATAHI: YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP

This year thanks to a research grant from National Science Challenge a major project for our team has been our cultural-strengths based action research project with rangatahi/youth aged 10-14 years with two Canterbury schools in communities impacted by flooding, to support student capability for decision-making and leadership.



Step one: Community-action research work for Mana Rangatahi began in earnest in August 2023 with the first of 12 wānanga and talanoa between students listening to matua/elders in their communities to learn about how their communities have faced challenges in the past and to understand the power of a variety of models of leadership.

Step two: Through the wānanga and talanoa students/ākonga identified stories, people and resources and cultural practices that they value and which can be sources of support for the community through times of stress.

Students/ākonga then learned more about climate change through Pacific and Māori researchers who helped braid Indigenous knowledge and Western science to explain the problems communities face.

During this step students identified local issues they wanted to address and actions they wanted local government and communities to take.

Kura asked for assistance in learning how to lobby for change and with Tagata Moana Trust we were able to provide one school with recycled laptops to assist their learning and process of documenting community strengths and change.

We are now seeking a second partner to provide recycled devices to 12 students studying with our other partner kura .

Step three: In October we held a regional hui to celebrate and share our insights and ākonga watched digital stories made for the project by Paora Crump and Wensislaus Fatubun.

(continues overleaf...)



Thanks to the support of The Deep South we were able to present students and kura with an educational scholarship to the value of \$1000 per ākonga at school prize giving events.

MANA RANGATAHI: YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP

Next steps

Following a generous grant by UC Child Wellbeing Trust for term 4, the project hasn't stopped there! Having identified changes to make, the students wanted to go further and put their ideas into practice. Te Aratai college made presentations to the local council calling for action on local sports field flooding, an electric van for transport to and from events, a Pacific cultural space and Pacific community garden. The students at Te Pā o Rākaihautū kura visited Tūhaitara coastal park to learn from ECAN councillor Greg Byrnes and Niwa science teams about how other places manage flooding so they can create biotic diversity nodes and develop māra kai in their community. We now look to implementing action with both schools next year!



Mana Rangatahi Research team

University of Canterbury: Associate Professor Yvonne Crichton-Hill, Renae Cocking, Professor Bronwyn Hayward; Associate Professor Sacha McMeeking, Georgia Harvey Moke, Dr Kate Prendergast, Professor Steve Ratuva, MahMah Timoteo.

NIWA: Sam Dean and Melanie Mayall-Nahi.

Advisors

Professors Niki Harre, Sarah Tolbert and Bronwyn Wood.

Mana Rangatahi Research Collaborators

- Te Aratai College: Naomi Faga
- Te Pā o Rākaihautū: Ripeka Paraone
- Tokona Te Raki: Tonee Kana Fakahau; Briana Te Haara-Barr; Irihapeti Pitama-Uta'l, Dr Eruera Tarena
- Tagata Moana Trust: Nina Olberg Humphries and Hannah Shadwell
- PYLAT Pacific Youth Leadership: Josiah Tualamali'i
- Tangata Atumotu Trust
- Koi creatives: Paora Crump
- Wensislaus Fatubun UC



Thanks to

Christchurch City Council: Jane Morgan, Danielle Endacott
ECAN: Greg Byrnes, Dr Fiona Shanhun
UC: Dr Christina La'ala'ai-Tausa, Gingerlei Petelu

Looking for A free Ride? New Zealand Budget Insights from our CYCLES Longitudinal Study

It isn't often people get a free ride, but the New Zealand Labour Government's 2023 budget offered just that: free public transport fares for children aged five to 12 and permanent half-price fares for people under 25.

The free public transport, along with other initiatives outlined in New Zealand's 2023 budget, are part of a growing effort to join the dots between financial decision making, community wellbeing and climate resiliency. It is a good start – but young people want more.

As part of a global study into the lives of young urban citizens, we lead called CYCLES (Children and Youth in Cities

Lifestyles Evaluation and Sustainability) we had heard from local Christchurch children who “hoped” buses could be free but “never imagined it could happen”. This budget makes that hope a reality.

Christchurch is one of seven cities in the study which explores the lives of young urban citizens aged between 12 and 24. The study, led by Prof Bronwyn Hayward and research manager

Dr Kate Prendergast is funded by the UK Economic and Social Research council through CUSP, the UK's Centre for understanding Sustainable Prosperity, chaired by ecological economist and collaborator, Prof Tim Jackson.

The aim of the CYCLES study is identify and share young people's experiences and ideas for living well within environmental limits.



Photo credit: "A day in my life" CYCLES photo diary project.

Better decisions start with better information

This is about more than just curiosity. Urban areas cover just 2% of the world's land area, but they account for up to 72% of global carbon emissions. Given that by 2050, seven out of ten young people will live in an urbanising area, it's vital we understand and anticipate how that might play out in reality.

Investment in young people's use of public transport is a transformative step. But the impact of free public transport for children is less about an immediate increase in bus patronage and more about the far-reaching effect such policies have on family budgets and long-term behaviour change.

There was more good news for climate in what was a deceptively simple budget. It signals a long-term shift towards thinking that connects wellbeing, equity and climate policy. The budget allocated a sizeable NZ\$1.9 billion to the climate, alongside the \$1 billion pledged for cyclone recovery.

This funding, as well as the support for warmer homes and for school lunches, contributes to the social infrastructure that young people and their communities badly need when facing ongoing climate risk.

Public transport investment makes a difference

Policy initiatives that support free bus and train travel can make a big difference. Some 72% of the Christchurch youth we surveyed were worried about money.

Participants spoke of wanting more affordable, accessible and independent ways to move around their city.

They expressed frustration with an "unaffordable" and "unreliable" bus service that left most "relying on parents" to chauffeur them around the city in private cars. Not only does car dependence "lock in" high carbon travel but many participants also viewed this dependence as "quite isolating".

Overseas research shows scrapping youth bus fares increases social connections and independence, helping youth access the people and places that support their wellbeing. Free fares also enable youth the freedom to shape their own travel, facilitating the development of new skills, increasing confidence and providing friends a way to travel together.

In the longer term, shifting dependence away from car travel helps reduce carbon emissions and improves air quality, leading to improved health and wellbeing. But moving away from cars will also require ongoing central and local government investment in public transport, safe footpaths and protected cycleways.

The 2023 Budget offered some additional positive environmental measures although critics will argue that it fell short of delivering climate resilient futures. Initiatives that increase access to decent housing matter for our collective wellbeing, and Budget 2023 sets aside funding for improved housing. But during our focus groups it was disheartening to hear young people talk about the serious

housing problems they face. Some told us their homes had been "flooded more than once", while others said their houses were "still earthquake damaged". Interviewees also described the struggles of their families to heat their homes. Unaffordable heating left some families relying on "blankets and stuff", wearing "puffer jackets inside", and using "hot water bottles" to keep warm.

These housing challenges, especially when combined with climate-related events, have the potential to disrupt home life and risk affecting the relationships young people value for their wellbeing.

Youth want greater climate action

Investing in transport and housing is an important step, but critics will argue Budget 2023 fell short of delivering climate-resilient futures. The reality is that the wellbeing of youth now and in the future also depends on bolder, wide-reaching investment in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Research shows young people around the world are increasingly anxious about climate change. For many, failure by governments to respond to the climate crisis increases that distress. In Christchurch, an earlier survey of youth indicated a third of all respondents had joined School Strike 4 Climate protests calling for more action from the government on climate change.

So, while the 2023 budget made steps towards a resilient climate future there are many more actions required before young people's futures are secured. What is needed is a long-term plan that really addresses the impact of our agricultural industry and the need for wider reductions in urban-related carbon emissions and investment in long term climate adaptation that secures warm, safe housing and meets social, and health needs which are under increased risk from climate change.

(By Kate Prendergast & Bronwyn Hayward, first published in *The Conversation* 24 May, 2023)

Reports and Presentations

Woods, A, Hayward B, McManus R and McMeeking S (2024 forthcoming) *Young People, Citizenship and Climate Justice in Bessant*, J., Collin, P., and O’Keeffe, P., (ed.) (Forthcoming), Research Handbook on the Sociology of Youth, Edward Elgar Publishing, London.

Prendergast, K., & Hayward, B. (2023a, 24 May). *Free public transport is a great start – but young people won’t give NZ governments a free ride on climate change. The Conversation.* <https://theconversation.com/free-public-transport-is-a-great-start-but-young-people-wont-give-nz-governments-a-free-ride-on-climate-change-205989>

Prendergast, K., & Hayward, B. (2023b). *Urban youth wellbeing, citizenship and sustainability: An Ōtautahi Christchurch case study.* In A. Kamp, C. Brown, T. McMenamin, & V. O’Toole (Eds.), *Wellbeing: Global Policies and Perspectives* (pp. 161-183). Peter Lang.

Prendergast, K. (2022a, Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August 2022). *How can cities support children and youth to flourish? A study of young people’s wellbeing in seven international cities.* George Abbott Symposium 2022: Challenges for Children and Youth, University of Otago, Christchurch.

Prendergast, K. (2022b, 29 September). *Towards sustainable flourishing in cities – prioritising young people and the planet in urban policy-making and local democracy.* Towards 150 years of Political Science & International Relations at University of Canterbury Public Seminar Series, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

Hayward, B., Tolbert, S. (2022). *Conversations on Citizenship, Critical Hope, and Climate Change: An Interview with Bronwyn Hayward.* In: Wallace, M.F.G., Bazzul, J., Higgins, M., Tolbert, S. (eds) *Reimagining Science Education in the Anthropocene. Palgrave Studies in Education and the Environment.* Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-79622-8_22

Hayward Bronwyn, (2022, 13 July) Keynote address: ‘Our children’s climate and how we can make a difference’, The 2022 Annual Thomas Cawthron Memorial Lecture, Cawthron Institute, Nelson.

Hayward, B. (2022, 6 May). *Rethinking Climate Education: Strong ecological citizenship and children’s rights in chaotic climate change* 12th International Conference: Code red, the planet is burning! Children’s rights to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment in the midst of a climate crisis? 5-6 May 2022 Villa Jeantet, Geneva, Switzerland

Prendergast, K. (2023, 2 March). *How cities can support youth wellbeing in low-carbon ways: Insights from a study of 7 cities.* Launch of the UC Foundation: Hei Puāwaitanga: Future Generations, Sustainability, Civic Imagination Research Group, Tūranga, Christchurch. <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/research/scci/>

Prendergast, K. (2023, 10 May). *Youth in our cities - How can cities help our young people to live well and thrive?* Te Papa Hauora: we’re talking health, Manawa Health Precinct, Christchurch. <https://www.healthprecinct.org.nz/health-research-talks-2023/>

Civics lab Community engagement

Hayward B (2023) Contributed to official consultation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child towards producing General Comment 26 on the children’s rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change

Hei Puawaitanga: 2023 Co-Sponsored the Youth Futures workshop with Sophie Howe wed 26 July with Grow Waitaha and Cheryl Doig of Think Beyond

Hayward B, 2023 Election special with Tūranga Christchurch and UC: Make your vote count! 23 August

Hayward, B (2022) Gave evidence for the Independent Electoral review supporting lowering the youth voting age in NZ Thursday, 13 October 2022

Hayward B (2022) Advised Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on civics and citizenship education opportunities in Aotearoa, 22 October 2022

IPCC reports 2022-2023

Bronwyn Hayward was co-ordinating lead author/writing team member for two intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports: *Cities and Infrastructure* (2022) and *The AR6 Synthesis Report* (2023)

Visiting Research Fellow

Congratulations to Dr Ana T. Amorim-Maia who was a research fellow with Hei Puāwaitanga in 2022-2023 and recently graduated with her PhD from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. While with us she gave a public seminar on her latest paper, Ana T. Amorim-Maia, et al. (2023) *Seeking refuge? The potential of urban climate shelters to address intersecting vulnerabilities, in Landscape and Urban Planning, Volume 238.* Her paper examines why in a rapidly changing climate, shelters are critical forms of urban infrastructure to protect vulnerable communities including children, the elderly and the poor from extreme heat or cold weather. Green shade of parks, the regulated temperatures of libraries, and civic centers offer spaces where residents can take refuge during episodes of extreme temperatures. In her presentation Ana talked about the impact and limitations of the over 200 public spaces now designated as “Climate Shelters”, in Barcelona, Spain.



THANK YOU! Our work was made possible by private donations and grants and we are very grateful to you for making a difference to young leaders. If you would like support the research of the Hei Puāwaitanga team, and strengthen the capacity of young people to lead sustainable futures please scan the QR code or contact ucfoundation@canterbury.ac.nz or call +64 3 369 3839 and mention Hei Puāwaitanga: Research Group for Future generations, Sustainability and Civic Imagination.

Front cover photo: Tapa making workshop in Mana Rangatahi with Tagata Moana Trust and students of Te Aratai College.