

Raising climate change awareness from Waiheke to Wellington

Lindsay Jeffs, one of the founders of Waiheke's Carbon Neutral initiative, decided that at the age of 70 he is going to bike to Wellington to bring awareness of climate change and in support of New Zealand's Zero Carbon Bill.

Fellow members of the Carbon Neutral New Zealand Trust as well as friends and family are gathering in support of the project.

Lindsay and others plan to take 25 days to complete the 1200 km trip from Waiheke stopping at Miranda, Cambridge, Whanganui and Palmerston North and other towns along the route to talk with local people as they go.

Lindsay hopes to demonstrate the feasibility of cycling as a real alternative to fossil fuel modes of transport.

Carbon Neutral New Zealand Trust was set up in 2017 by Rolf Mueller-Glodde and Inge Bremer in Kerikeri and Lynda and Lindsay Jeffs on Waiheke.

Rolf, a passionate climate activist, is also cycling and supporting Lindsay.

"This journey from Waiheke to the Beehive in Wellington is to support the Zero Carbon Bill in its strongest form. We use e-bikes and push-bikes to emit a minimum of CO2 and our support trailer has solar panels to recharge the e-bike batteries overnight."

Many of Lindsay's friends hope to ride part of the way with him including Terry and Ali Goodall from Carbon Neutral Kerikeri. They say they are trying to help get the public to focus on the deepening climate crisis by encouraging every Kiwi to join in creating a solution, in as many ways as possible.

"By meeting at the Beehive, we're hoping to promote public support for the rapid adoption of the Zero Carbon Bill expected to go through Parliament soon."

Inge of Carbon Neutral Kerikeri believes climate action should be fun and inclusive

and has been involved with fellow Kerikeri resident Bronwyn Porter in developing an educational Dr Seuss-style video to help kids and parents understand the build-up of CO2 gas in the atmosphere.

"The video demonstrates that holiday adventures are possible in New Zealand without a huge carbon footprint: no fossil fuel, no plastic, no waste, respect for nature with utmost enjoyment."

Kaitiaki is the main character and the group feel it is fitting that she comes along for the ride.

The video encourages children and their parents to use the free - and easy - carbon footprint calculator and website that the volunteer IT team of Cliff Mail and Kevin Lewis have created on the Carbon Neutral website.

The information required to complete the calculation includes the household's electricity consumption, waste output, vehicle use, travel and dietary choices and, on the 'positive' side, an assessment of how much carbon emissions are being 'balanced' by tree planting, composting and other mitigation measures.

Feedback indicates that completing the calculator can be an engaging family activ-

ity, provoking thought about low cost or no cost methods to reduce net emissions and, in the longer term, considering investing in low carbon technologies.

Lindsay and the other riders and support crew leave Waiheke this Saturday 23 March and hope to end up at the steps of the Beehive in a huge gesture of support for the Carbon Zero Bill.



Carbon Neutral's Lindsay Jeffs will bike from Waiheke to Wellington.

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