

# Nelson coast vulnerable to rising threat

JOANNA SANTA BARBARA

**OPINION:** Recently, the climate action group, 'Extinction Rebellion', held a demonstration (in the truest sense of the word) of where the sea will lap the streets of Nelson with a one metre rise in its level. One hundred supporters held up a long blue banner to mark the line, along Trafalgar and Bridge Streets.

Sea level rise is perhaps the most palpable and comprehensible of climate change impacts. We can see on maps or in our imaginations where the sea might reach in 2050 and in 2100, if we don't drastically cut our emissions. Even if we do cut, sea level rise is occurring now and will continue, but we might avoid the worse scenarios.

Nelson has a 70km coastline and Tasman a 700km one. From north to south, particularly vulnerable areas are Pakawau in Golden Bay, Abel Tasman beaches, Motueka's shoreline houses, Mapua, Ruby Bay and Nelson's central business district.

Behind these stark facts, there is a large amount of scientific study. Some of this is summarised by journalist, Neville Peat, in a book called *The Invading Sea* (The Cuba Press, Wellington, 2018). He lists the possible responses in rank order of desirability as avoid (by cutting greenhouse gas emissions), accommodate (eg by not building on potentially inundated land), defend (eg by building a boulder wall), retreat. It is accepted by those involved in the issue that for some areas retreat will be necessary. This leads us to the difficult

**"The thought of losing our beloved beaches in the Abel Tasman is enough to bring tears to the eyes."**

issues of the insurability of houses at risk of erosion or flood effects, and of who will pay for managed retreat. There is much discussion on these issues.

On the topic of defending land from sea incursion, experts point out the futility of long term defence ('You can't hold back the sea'). In the shorter term, natural or 'soft' defences are preferred, such as building up and stabilising sand dunes with planting. Rip rap walls - large boulders, sometimes stabilised with special fabric, at a 30 degree angle to horizontal - are a 'harder' response.

New Zealand expert on the management of coastal hazards, Dr Judy Lawrence, chairs a Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group set up by the central government. This group strongly recommends national coordination of adaptation to the many impacts of climate change, including coastal hazards. Also recommended to local councils is a process of consultation with communities called Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning (DAPP).

Our two councils, Nelson City and Tasman District, are highly aware of the need to engage in adaptive planning and implementation. Designated staff members



Climate action group 'Extinction Rebellion' used a blue banner to mark the line where the sea will lap the streets of Nelson.

BRADEN FASTIER/STUFF

focus on developing responses. Community consultation is planned. Action by the councils will be at all levels including avoidance of the worst scenarios by action on cutting carbon emissions, accommodation by not permitting development on hazard-

prone land, defending certain areas with rip rap walls. The latter is an expensive option.

This is an issue that involves all of us, not just those who live next to the sea.

The thought of losing our beloved beaches in the Abel Tas-

man is enough to bring tears to the eyes. We'll need to engage more closely with our councils as we face this, and decide together on thoughtful community responses.

*\* Joanna Santa Barbara lives in Motueka and is a member of Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman.*

# Taking the slow road to stepping out in style

ELIZABETH BEAN

**OPINION:** Our daughter Katie, who went to University in Wellington earlier this year, was recently home for a two-week holiday. Two months of living away has given her a new appreciation for Nelson's beautiful natural environment, home cooking and our great shopping.

To satisfy her outdoor cravings we indulged in an overnight tramp to Nelson Lakes National Park and went on many walks in the Grampians and along the Maitai River. To meet her foodie desires we simply encouraged her to cook us a different dessert every night that she was home. For retail therapy she and I spent an afternoon visiting Nelson's op shops.

Being a student has given her an increased awareness of thrift.

She has always had a strong environmental and ethical conscience, so she was looking forward to our day out making 'good' purchases.

Katie told me that approximately 75 million people work to make our clothes and 80 per cent of them are women aged under 35 years.

The majority live in poverty, are subject to exploitation, verbal and physical abuse, work in unsafe conditions, and receive very little pay.

Recently, activist Yasmeen Maria Jones-Chollet sewed for eight 16-hour days on Nelson's Trafalgar St, in protest of consumerism and exploitation within the fashion industry. She has blogged about her experience at [enslavedbydemand.com](http://enslavedbydemand.com). Her story,



Katie Greenaway looking and feeling good in her new outfit.  
ROB GREENAWAY

and those of women working in the clothing industry, deserve to be heard.

We had a great afternoon shopping in the Nelson CBD. Katie ended up with a perfect outfit for Wellington that comprises a stylish pair of woollen and fully lined Ketzke trousers (\$15), brown leather Country Road shoes (\$30) and a merino jersey from my wardrobe that sadly no longer fits me (\$0).

I reckon if she had bought this outfit new it would have cost around \$400.

Buying pre-loved clothing extended the life of three items and decreased our carbon footprint.

My daughter explained that her new clothing was needed (Wellington is much colder than Nelson), fitted properly and made her feel attractive (being 18 and gorgeous means that everything looks good).

The purchases provided an additional 'feel good' factor because she potentially saved items from going to landfill and donated to charity. As I was paying, her student-self felt even

better.

I took the gold star for the most responsible purchase, as I came home with nothing new for my wardrobe.

Apparently, the best purchasing decision we can do for the planet is to buy fewer things.

My daughter and I aren't alone in discovering pre-loved clothes.

The industry is booming and could overtake fast fashion, according to research by international reseller thredUP.

They report that, over the past

three years, resale clothing has grown 21 times faster than traditional apparel retail. Increasingly, people are more willing to buy secondhand as the negative perceptions associated with used clothing disappear.

Millennials and boomers do the most secondhand shopping, but Gen Z'ers (18-24) are the fastest-adopting group.

Most exciting is that this exploding market is stealing revenue from fast fashion, a disgracefully unsustainable industry.