

they say ten thousand years.

SOURCES

It is claimed that nuclear waste will remain dangerous for ten thousand years. Although this simplifies and understates the danger, ten thousand years is still almost impossible to imagine. The difficulty suggests a need for caution. Ten thousand years is also the span over which we've had climate stability, allowing civilisation to develop.

'They Say Ten Thousand Years' looks back at the strategies of New Zealand's Nuclear Free movement through the lens of the current struggle to avert catastrophic climate change. The exhibition considers cultures of protest alongside warning signs for nuclear waste, and investigates the role which visual insignia play both in conveying danger and in mobilising political opposition.

This project draws on the work of photographer Gil Hanly - including depicting her archives, which chronicle the centrality of the women's movement, the rise of the Maori sovereignty movement, and the participation of trade unions, churches and countless other peace groups, to the success of the Nuclear Free Movement in Aotearoa.

Amy Howden-Chapman,
November 2014

it is not the earth I will miss,
it is you I will miss.

Louise Glück, From the poem
'Crossroads' in A Village Life (2009).

IF IT IS SAFE;
DUMP IT IN TOKYO,
TEST IT IN PARIS,
STORE IT IN WASHINGTON,
BUT KEEP MY PACIFIC
NUCLEAR FREE.

'One of the most popular slogans of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement' - Peace Power & Politics. Maire Leadbeater, (2013).

Profitability is considered a sufficient answer to every objection.

'Mother Country: Britain, the Welfare State and Nuclear Pollution'. Marilynne Robinson (1989).

It was a time when people saw we had a collective responsibility to save the globe, to save the planet, if we were going to have the honor of living on this planet we have to take action ...

Tamsin Hanly

...To make people look at it in a very personal way, what they had at stake was their lives, their children's lives, grandchildren's lives and so on. And that activated a whole layer of the population that hadn't formerly been political

Maire Leadbeater discussing Helen Caldicott's 1983 lecture in Auckland.

I remember that people would walk out crying from her sessions, because it painted such a dark picture of what could happen to the world, what had happened.

Luise Brandt

None of us expected any support at all really - the more pessimistic of us - me

Jimmy Keogh

Women were at the forefront of the movement.

Jane Cooper

On that day there were 20,000 women marching, which was enormously profound for all of us... Women from every range of life in this country. It wasn't just radical people.

Tamsin Hanly

Artists - we're the ones with the vision - we should form ourselves into a more organized body.

Margaret Lawlor Bartlett

Auckland was just alive with people sharing information, getting motivated, putting pressure on the government.

Luise Brandt

We were all physically exhausted because we had kids and jobs, we had a life to get on with and our life was being consumed.

Jim Chapple

We had an intense sense of outrage.

Jane Cooper

David Lange was on the radio and they were broadcasting a debate from parliament, and he said, if we don't pass this law ...we will have anarchy, we will have anarchy on the harbours and in the streets. They would never have got to that if it wasn't for the mass movement supporting these actions.

Anna Home

They drafted a People's Charter which began: "The Pacific peoples and their environment continue to be exploited because Pacific Islanders are considered insignificant in number and inferior as peoples".

Peace Power and Politics. Maire Leadbeater, (2013)

An eighth of the surface of the globe tied up in a zone of sanity, that's a marvelous opportunity to declare where we stood. It was symbolic.

John Hinchcliff Speaking in 'Mururoa 1973', A film by Alister Barry.

We as Maori women relate these two issues, because of the colonial powers and how we have been threatened both here in Aotearoa and in the Pacific. We know that by joining in solidarity, we build a strong basis of networking in the Pacific.

Grace Robertson

Not everyone will meet their Copenhagen pledges. Japan, which unplugged its nuclear energy following the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, will fall behind.

'Drawing China into the carbon-cutting picture'. New York Times International, July 2nd, 2014.

She described it all in graphic detail leaving nothing at all to the imagination.

Maire Leadbeater discussing Helen Caldicott's 1983 lecture in Auckland.

I just felt a normal person's indignation... I think I share a normal person's revolution.

Colin Marshal Speaking in 'Mururoa 1973', A film by Alister Barry.

And the movement grew, it was the combined effort of many people... In those days we had peace groups meeting regularly in over three hundred New Zealand cities and towns.

Jim Chapple

We sent letters and telegrams, we just bombarded the politicians.

Maire Leadbeater

My writing has perhaps taken too much of the stain of my anger and disappointment.

'Mother Country: Britain, the Welfare State and Nuclear Pollution'. Marilynne Robinson (1989)

What we're dealing with here.. is an exercise in planning for a nuclear catastrophe that is fundamentally rhetorical. It's theatrical security, because the preparations that are being made by the Department of Energy have no real chance of succeeding. They satisfy the public, however, because they're a symbol of control. [TEN THOUSAND YEARS] sounds like a long time, right? But in terms of actually doing what that mountain needs to do, ten thousand years is useless. This waste is going to be deadly for tens of millions of years.*

...we could see 'Forbidding Blocks'. Or we may see 'Rubble Landscape'. We may see 'Irregular Grid', 'Spikes in a Field', 'Landscape of Thorns', 'Tall Leaning Stones' ... But what we are likely to see instead, according to recent reports from the Department of Energy, is a small series of twenty-foot-high monuments at the site. They'll be carved in the shape of [PYRAMIDS] and made from local granite. On their surfaces will be inscriptions in English about the site, plus the date the waste was buried, the date it will be safe, and a small engraved image in the apex of each stone that reproduces the anguished face from Edvard Munch's 'The Scream.'

[TEN THOUSAND YEARS] ago the Pleistocene was ending. Sheets of ice were stretched over Greenland and Canada and Oregon and Michigan and Ohio and New York and Maine. They covered Finland and Russia, Germany and Britain. The Andes were fully covered, and the Caucasus were fully covered, and even the Himalayas, to their peaks, were covered up. Between these sheets were 5 million scattered human beings, living in small groups in which they mainly hunted, gathered, and had just begun to farm. They had dogs but no sheep. Goats, but not cows. Among them were woolly mammoths, as well as sabertooths. There were bears that could stand almost twelve feet tall. There were brand-new species of firs in the ground. There was prairie grass in deserts. A sea inside Iraq... Back then we spent time making knives out of stones. Spears and harpoons and arrows and bows... There wouldn't be any paper for for 6000 years. No coffee beans or tea for 7000 years. No soap for 8000 years. No glass or books or currency for more.*

From John D'Agata's 2010 book 'About A Mountain', First quote from Bob Halstead, a nuclear waste consultant for the state of Nevada

*Speaking in 'No Nukes are Good Nukes; The Legacy of New Zealand's Anti-Nuclear Movement. A documentary by Claudia Pond Eyley.

*John D'Agata's 2010 book 'About A Mountain', investigates Yucca mountain in Nevada as a proposed storage site for nuclear waste. D'Agata includes the search for a sign - the pyramid forms are eventually chosen - that will attempt to communicate to visitors up until ten thousand years into the future of the danger of the site. Due to intense opposition the Yucca mountain storage facility was never built. However, the high-level radioactive waste it was designed to house remains, and is currently stored on-site at various nuclear facilities around the US.

'Peace Power and Politics' by Maire Leadbeater. Published 2013 by Otago University Press.

The Image overleaf is taken from a list of peace organisations that appear in the back of the book 'Peace is more than the absence of war'. Photographs by Gil Hanly, Text by Sonja Davies ... [et al.] 1985, published by New Women's Press.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Mc Cahon House Trust
Nic Brooke
Rachel Forman
Gil Hanly
Joe Hoyt
Claudia Pond Eyley
Biddy Livesey

te
uru
WAITAKERE
CONTEMPORARY
GALLERY

under which all people may live in peace and justice, without distinction of sex, race or creed. W.I.L.P.F.'s methods include research, publications, distribution of information, organisation of seminars, conferences, public forums, demonstrations, appeals and petitions. It co-operates with other groups in activities and provide an effective lobby for women.

NORTHLAND

C.N.D.,
P.O. Box 1637, Whangarei.

Hibiscus Coast Peace Group,
563 Whangaparoa Road,
Whangaparoa.

Kaipara Nuclear Disarmament Group, P.O. Box 87,
Helensville.

Kaipara Peace Group, 1 Gow
Street, Helensville.

Kaitaia Peace Group,
17a Archibald Street, Kaitaia.

Kaiwaka Peace Group,
Pukearoro Trust, RD2,
Kaiwaka, Northland.

Mahurangi Anti-Nuclear Peace Group, Sharon
Demeulemeester, Lothlorien
Farm, Ahuroa, RD1,
Warkworth.

Nuclear Free Northland,
M. Nash, RD3, Kaitaia.

Peria Peace Group, G.R.
Webb, Honeymoon Valley,
RD3, Kaitaia.

Society of Friends, 42 Mill
Road, Whangarei, or 122
Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka,
via Whangarei.

AUCKLAND

Anglican Pacifist Fellowship,
332 West Tamaki Road, Glen
Innes.

Auckland College of Education Peace Group, Terry
Goodall, Private Bag, Symonds
Street, Auckland.

Auckland Friends Centre, 115
Mt Eden Road, Auckland, 3.

Auckland Peace Office,
P.O. Box 5510, Auckland.

Avondale Peace Group, 17
Bentleigh Avenue, Auckland.

Architects Aainst Nuclear Arms, 42 Wynyard Road,
Auckland, 3.

Birkdale College Peace Group,
Birkdale College, Birkdale
Road, Auckland, 10.

Birkenhead-Northcote Peace Group, 231 Onewa Road,
Birkenhead.

Blockhouse Bay Peace Group,
14 Lynnbrooke Avenue,
Blockhouse Bay, Auckland, 7.

C.N.D., P.O. Box 8558,
Symonds Street, Auckland.

Christians for Peace,
78a Lake Road, Devonport, 9.

Computers for Peace,
P.O. Box 8671, Auckland.

CORSO,
74 Pitt Street, Auckland, 1.

Churches and Peace Committee, The Chapel,
Auckland University, Private
Bag, Auckland.

Devonport Peace Group, 37
Stanley Pt Road, Devonport,
9.

Devonport Methodist Peace Group, 193 Victoria Street,
Devonport, 9.

East Coast Bays Peace Group,
11 Moorgreen Heights, Torbay,
Auckland, 10.

Eastern Suburbs Peace Group,
21 La Trobe St, Pakuranga.

Engineers for Social Responsibility, P.O. Box 6208,
Wellesley Street, Auckland.

Environmental Defence Society, P.O. Box 5496,
Auckland.

Epsom Peace Group,
54 Empire Road, Epsom, 3.

Friends of the Earth,
P.O. Box 39-065, Auckland.

Glenfield Peace Group,
19 Moriggia Place, Glenfield.

Green Bay High School Peace Group, Godley Road,
Titirangi, 7.

Greenhithe Peace Group,
37 Roland Road, Greenhithe.

Greenpeace, Private Bag,
Wellesley Street, Auckland.

Henderson Peace Group,
8 Divich Avenue, Te Atatu.

Inner City Peace Group, 206
Richmond Road, Ponsonby, 2.

International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War,
P.O. Box 6289, Wellesley
Street, Auckland, 1.

Kare Kare/Piha Peace Group,
Mrs Witten-Hannah, Lone
Kauri Road, Kare Kare, New
Lynn.

Kumeu Peace Group,
D. Wallace, RD2, Kumeu.

Mairangi Bay Peace Group,
469 East Coast Road, Browns
Bay.

Manurewa Peace Group,
21 Lincoln Road, Manurewa.

Massey Peace Group, Mike
Cundy, Sei Bel Road, RD1,
Henderson.

Meditation Network for World Peace, P.O. Box 7222,
Wellesley Street.

Mobile Peace Van,
63 View Road, Mt Eden, 3.

Mt Albert Peace Group,
P.O. Box 77039, Mt Albert,
3.

Mt Eden Nuclear Disarmament Group, 40
Croydon Road, Mt Eden.

Mt Roskill Peace Group, 44
Winstone Road, Mt Roskill, 4.

NZ Christian Pacifist Society,
11 Nikau Street, New Lynn, 7.

NZ Council for World Peace,
P.O. Box 1083, Auckland.

NZ Foundation for Peace Studies, P.O. Box 4110,
Auckland.

North Shore Peace Group,
P.O. Box 85-098, Sunnynook,
Auckland, 10.

Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific Coalition, 194 St Johns
Road, Meadowbank.

Nuclear-Free Register, 514
Dominion Road, Auckland, 3.

Peace Action Onehunga,
3/29 Symonds Street,
Onehunga.

Peace Council (Trade Unions), P.O. Box 1083A,
Auckland.

Pacific Peacemakers,
P.O. Box 47399, Auckland.

Papakura Peace Group,
1 Victoria Street, Papakura.

Parnell Peace Group, 12
Scarborough Terrace, Parnell.

Peace Forum,
P.O. Box 5510, Auckland.

Peace Group, Bible College of
NZ, Lincoln Road,
Henderson.

Peace Group,
8 Divich Avenue, Te Atatu.

Peace Group, 39 Galaxy
Drive Mairangi Bay.

Peace Group,
44 Hogans Road, Glenfield, 9.

Peace Group,
20 Kiwi Road, Pt Chevalier, 2.

Peace Group,
68 Rama Road, Greenhithe.

Peace Group, 671 Riddell
Road, St Heliers, Glendowie,
3.

Peace Group, 5 Staffson Lane,
Te Atatu North.

Peace Projects,
11 Francis St, Grey Lynn, 2.

Peace Squadron, 18 Kingsley
Street, Grey Lynn, 2.

Pharmacists Against Nuclear Arms, P.O. Box 34-030,
Birkenhead, 10.