Effects of climate change already being seen in New Zealand, warns new book

Amongst the vast amount of information on the global impacts of climate change, little has been published on how New Zealand in particular will be affected.

In her new BWB Text, award-winning science broadcaster and author Veronika Meduna zeroes in on how climate change is transforming life on these islands.

In *Towards a Warmer World: What Climate Change Will Mean for New Zealand's Future*, Meduna assesses evidence from palaeo-climate studies by scientists working in Antarctica and New Zealand, collates recent examples of weather extremes and relates these to changing climate conditions, describes the impacts on flora and fauna, and charts the effects of warming ocean temperatures and rising seas. These case studies, often little-known, reveal climate change not as a theoretical future occurrence but as a rapidly developing phenomenon that is studied and documented every day across New Zealand.

To her credit, and the credibility of her short book, Meduna does not oversimplify climate change and its consequences, instead locating the scientific certainty of measurable and observed impacts within a 'complexity of possible outcomes'. As she points out, these can become 'overwhelming, even paralysing' and, according to Victoria University psychology lecturer Marc Wilson, a sense of powerlessness hinders our commitment to action, as does the challenge of uncertainty.

Rational, calm and refreshingly void of rhetoric, Meduna presents a compelling case as to why, ahead of the looming December climate summit in Paris, actions to tame emissions and to adapt to climate change are essential for our future. We are at a historic juncture, Meduna argues: how will the world of 2100 assess our actions in the months ahead?

What are BWB Texts?

BWB Texts are short books on big subjects by great New Zealand writers. Commissioned as short digital-first works, BWB Texts unlock diverse stories, insights and analysis from the best of our past, present and emerging New Zealand thinkers.

For more information please contact:
Hannah August
+64 4 473 8128 | hannah.august@bwb.co.nz

Bridget Williams Books
PO Box 12474 | Wellington 6144 | New Zealand
+64 4 473 8128 | info@bwb.co.nz | www.bwb.co.nz

BRIDGET WILLIAMS BOOKS

Towards a Warmer World

What Climate Change Will Mean for New Zealand's Future

Veronika Meduna

2014 was the hottest year since record keeping began back in 1880. July 2015 was recently confirmed as the globe's hottest month ever recorded, both on land and in the oceans. This December a major international meeting, to be held in Paris, seeks a new agreement to address climate change.

Against this historic backdrop, acclaimed Radio New Zealand science writer Veronika Meduna explores our future in a warmer world. Beginning with lessons from our ancient geological past, this BWB Text draws on current observations and increasingly sophisticated climate models to explain a range of climate change impacts and possible end-of-century scenarios for New Zealand. Distorted ecosystems, extreme weather, new landscapes and adapted foods are just some of the likely changes that amount to a radically different future for our country.

Author information

Veronika Meduna is both a science broadcaster with Radio New Zealand, producing and presenting *Our Changing World*, and an award-winning writer. Veronika trained and worked as a microbiologist before becoming a science journalist and has spent time at Oxford University, as a Chevening David Low Fellow, studying the media's role in communicating scientific risk and uncertainty.



RRP: $14.99 paperback | $4.99 e-book
180 x 110 mm | 92 pages
ISBN: 9780908321735
ISTC: A022015000000547
Publication: 9 November 2015

Published by Bridget Williams Books
www.bwb.co.nz/books/towards-a-warmer-world

Veronika Meduna is available for interview.

For interviews and review copies, please contact Hannah August: 04 473 8128; hannah.august@bwb.co.nz

For more information please contact:
Hannah August
+64 4 473 8128 | hannah.august@bwb.co.nz

Bridget Williams Books
PO Box 12474 | Wellington 6144 | New Zealand
+64 4 473 8128 | info@bwb.co.nz | www.bwb.co.nz