



## Call for climate action gets louder

**A large group of Waiheke students, teachers, supporters and caregivers marched down Ocean View Road on Friday calling for urgent action to safeguard the planet. Rebecca, Ruby and Phoebe - three Waiheke high school students and leaders of the school's sustainability group - discuss why they're striking and how people can make small changes to reduce their carbon footprints.**

**Rebecca:** "On 27 September we joined 170,000 other New Zealanders striking for climate justice. These strikes continue to break history, as we hold the record for not only the largest New Zealand lie-in protest, but the largest protest ever in New Zealand history. As youth, we feel

that these strikes are incredibly important for our future. It is a chance for everyone to have their voice heard and that is why we want more people to take part.

"I always find the strikes so inspiring. It's a chance for everyone to put their differences aside and fight for the same thing. The strikes always create such an amazing sense of unity, so it leaves people feeling inspired that positive change will come."

**How many times have you been involved in strikes for climate action?**

**Rebecca:** "I have been to all three strikes in Auckland city. The strikes get bigger and more inspirational each time, as the fight for climate justice becomes more and more urgent. Along with the strikes in Auckland city, I have been involved with two of the youth strikes on Waiheke."

**Ruby:** "This was my third School Strike for Climate in Auckland and my first beach clean-up and strike on Waiheke."

**Why do you think it's important to strike?**

**Phoebe:** "We all know that the current climate crisis is the most substantial problem the human race has had to face to date. It's important to strike as we are

striking for the future of our planet, showing the government and large businesses in New Zealand that they need - with our support - to make active change."

**"Catch that bus, use that keep-cup, compost your food waste and eat that spinach!"**

**Year 12 student Phoebe Harris**

**What do you think is a significant factor contributing to climate change?**

**Rebecca:** "The use of fossil fuels and the exploration of fossil fuels is a massive factor that contributes to climate change. One of our four demands when striking is to end fossil fuels. This means stopping all new extraction and exploration of fossil fuels."

**Ruby:** "I think there are a lot of factors that are contributing to climate change. One of the major contributing factors in New Zealand is our agriculture companies. There are 10 major companies in New Zealand that produce more than two-thirds of all of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions. The primary producer is Fonterra."

**Phoebe:** "The transport we choose to use daily also impacts the rate at which climate change occurs and affects our lives, through the release of CO<sub>2</sub> into our atmosphere."



**P** 09 372 2954  
**F** @daisychainfloristwaiheke  
**E** flowers@daisychainfloristwaiheke.com  
**W** www.daisychainfloristwaiheke.com  
 8a Miami Avenue, Surfdale, Waiheke Island



Above – High school climate activists Rebecca Campbell, Phoebe Harris and Ruby Ross Hayes say they are striking for the future of the planet, and to show the government and large businesses that they need to change. Opposite page – The group started off with a beach clean-up at Little Oneroa on Friday morning, then wound their way through the village to Matiatia where many caught the ferry to the city to join thousands of protesters in Aotea Square. Photo Sophie Boladeras

**How do you think people can adjust their daily habits to help the environment?**

**Rebecca:** “Don’t underestimate the power of individual change! Lots of people we have met often think ‘what difference am I really going to make’, but your choices as an individual really can have a significant impact. The climate strikes are a powerful example of this. Greta Thunberg started the strikes by herself. She decided to make an individual change and strike from school every Friday. Soon more and more people joined her every Friday, and her idea is what started the climate strike movement everyone knows today.

“Every person who takes part in the strike is making a personal change by striking from school or work, that all contributes to this movement. So every time you have the choice between a plastic bag or a reusable bag, or a plastic straw or no straw, just remember that your actions do matter as they contribute to something much bigger.”

**Phoebe:** “Now more than ever change in personal habits is easy to make. We live in a hyper-informed world and it’s so easy to take advantage of this. Reliable information on making a positive change in our communities is at our fingertips. Though we can’t force a meat-lover to go vegan, simple changes are easy to make. Catch that bus, use that keep-cup, compost your food waste and eat that spinach!”

**What do you do to try to reduce your emissions?**

**Ruby:** “I try to reduce my emissions by catching public transport or walking when I can. I’m also a vegetarian and drink plant milk, which is much better for the environment because of the massive carbon footprint that is associated with the agricultural industry. This year I have been trying to be a more conscious consumer and, instead of just impulsively buying things, buying things when I need them and trying to purchase reusable items or from op-shops or local businesses.”

**“There are 10 major companies in New Zealand that produce more than two-thirds of all of New Zealand’s greenhouse gas emissions.”**  
Year 11 student Ruby Ross Hayes

**Phoebe:** “I have become much more environmentally aware and consumer conscious this year. I am dairy-free and my family is flexitarian. I catch the bus and walk on most days. Simple things like picking up small pieces of rubbish and putting my rubbish in the right bin make me feel accomplished. Who knew saving the world felt so good!” •

New Zealand  
**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## A FRESH APPROACH ON WAIHEKE

Our high calibre and knowledgeable Sales Associates have the expertise and connections to achieve the premium result your home deserves.

Call us to experience the difference.

---

**151 Oceanview Road,  
Waiheke Island  
+64 9 372 5115**

---

[nzsothebysrealty.com](http://nzsothebysrealty.com)

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated. Browns Real Estate Limited (licensed under the REAA 2008) MREINZ.