



Auckland Sat: 22°/17° Sun: 22°/14°	Hamilton Sat: 22°/15° Sun: 20°/9°	Wellington Sat: 18°/13° Sun: 19°/9°	Christchurch Sat: 27°/12° Sun: 17°/8°	Queenstown Sat: 21°/9° Sun: 13°/5°	Dunedin Sat: 16°/10° Sun: 14°/17°
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NIWA takes another hit

EXCLUSIVE

By Ian Wishart

A devastating scientific study that casts doubt on much of the world's climate change temperature data has been unearthed in New Zealand, thirty years after being published and forgotten.

The study, by NZ Meteorological Service scientist Jim Hessel, discovered that much of New Zealand's official temperature record was not worth the paper it was written on, because of limitations with the "Stevenson Screen" temperature sensors, and bad siting of weather stations.

What makes the study so interesting is not only that the problems found in New Zealand are likely to be similar worldwide, but also that the study rubbished the conclusions of a then junior scientist named Jim Salinger, who has since used his own conclusions to claim New Zealand temperatures are rising faster than the global average, because of global warming.

Back in 1975, Salinger published a thesis on climate change in New Zealand, but this 1980 study by a senior colleague suggests Salinger, and others named in the Climategate emails, simply got it wrong.

"At first sight the ten year moving averages of mean annual temperature appear to have suffered unreversed upward trends over the period 1945-1960 in New Zealand as represented by the four major cities," wrote Hessel in his study. "Apparent trends of mean temperature in New Zealand since 1930", published by the NZ Journal of Science in 1980, Vol 23, 1-9.

"These have been commented on by [Kevin] Trenberth (1977), as have those for the five and twenty year running means by Salinger and Gunn (1975)."

Hessel notes that his colleagues "mainly attributed" the warming to climate changes "in the vicinity of New Zealand".

But clearly Hessel wasn't impressed by that – not so much because it isn't possible (because of course it is), but because a much simpler explanation exists – urban heat effect in the temperature station enclosures:

"In this paper a close examination of the conditions under which the observations were made leads to considerable doubt as to whether the warmings recorded were representative of the surrounding districts, suggesting that at most sites they were due to changes in the micro-climates of the enclosures and/or screen interiors."

What Hessel is talking about there is one of the discoveries that makes this study relevant around the world. Thermometers are housed in screened enclosures to prevent direct sunlight from striking the equipment. But Hessel found evidence many of the Stevenson Screen units and similar types had suffered wear and tear leading to incorrect temperature readings, and that the design could still cause warmer readings in some circumstances.

"This investigation [has] found that the widely held view that the mean temperature over New Zealand is presently about 1C warmer than in 1940 is very probably erroneous."

This comment, made in 1980, is highly relevant given Jim Salinger's ongoing claim in 2009 that weather station records show a 1C increase between 1908 and today. Salinger is the scientist Hessel was debunking back in 1980.

And here's something else to consider. If temperatures had risen by 1C by 1980, and NIWA is still claiming a 1C rise to today, then technically that would imply there has been no significant warming since 1980 in New Zealand.

Interestingly, the Hessel study also decided to



ignore some sites because they were considered "unworthy of investigation" in 1980 due to "periods of unsatisfactory records". Sites listed as unreliable for the purposes of measuring historical temperature included Hokitika and Dunedin, which both feature in NIWA's latest PR release backing up its claim of record warming.

That NIWA release is based on Salinger's work, so on the one hand we have Salinger claiming the data can be trusted, yet it was not considered reliable by a more senior colleague back in a time when climate change was merely a matter of academic debate, not highly politically charged.

The full Hessel study is available at [this link](#), and makes fascinating reading. It is certain to raise fresh questions about the integrity of NIWA's NZ temperature data, and with its revelations about shortcomings in the Stevenson Screen stations, will undoubtedly provoke further international discussion about the global temperature records used by the UN IPCC.

Climate skeptics turn the tables on Greenpeace, by raiding the Rainbow Warrior at Copenhagen to highlight Greenpeace's misleading statements about climate change. CFACT

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TVNZ lays down the Laws – with an 'H'

WELLINGTON, DEC 18 – Wanganui Mayor Michael Laws took umbrage tonight at TVNZ's decision that it would go with the "H".

He condemned a TV One News editorial decision – announced during its primetime bulletin – that it would spell Wanganui as "Whanganui" and pronounce it as "Faa-ganui" – as "anti-democratic, PC garbage".

Lands Minister Maurice Williamson announced today the name of the city, a subject of hot debate,

could be spelled with or without an "H".

"My intention to assign alternative names for the city allows people to choose the name they prefer," he said.

"My expectation is that all official documents will be able to use either form of the spelling as the official city name. However, Crown agencies will be expected to move to the name Whanganui over time."

Mr Laws said TVNZ's decision was the problem

he had raised with Mr Williamson.

"That unelected liberals will deliberately subvert the democratic will of Wanganui people. Instead of respecting the duality, TV One intend to ignore it," he said.

"Given that the 'h' is practically silent, to introduce an 'F' to the pronunciation is

wholly wrong. Did TVNZ consult the Wanganui community? It most certainly did not. Neither local Maori nor non-Maori use the 'F'."

Mr Laws said that road signage remained an issue.

"If there is to be signage then it should reflect the intent of allowing both spellings. At the moment, the council will resist the intended legislation if it does not clarify that matter.

"There are two heritages here, not one," Mr Laws said.

"I had hoped this issue might be settled, but TV One News rather proves that it is not."

– NZPA

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