

Dr Dave Lowe



Adjunct professor Antarctic Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Director LOWENZ Ltd, a small company focussed on science education and sustainability

NIWA Emeritus Researcher Atmospheric Chemistry

Visiting scholar, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California

Dave Lowe spent his early life in small town, Taranaki, New Zealand in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He grew up surfboard riding there and this led to an early interest in the environmental, atmospheric and oceanographic sciences.

After completing Physics honours and Masters degrees at Victoria University Wellington in 1972 he worked at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California on a project aimed at the precise measurement of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. These and similar measurements of methane and other atmospheric trace gases at Baring Head, New Zealand help underpin current international knowledge of the effects of industrial and agricultural impacts on the properties of the atmosphere.

He spent from 1978 to 1982 in Jülich Germany working on a PhD in atmospheric chemistry at the University of Cologne (grade Magna Cum Laude), a rewarding experience which he credits with changing his life for ever. After completing his PhD, Dave worked at several international scientific institutes including the Kernforschungsanlage, Jülich, NIWA in Wellington New Zealand, the US National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder Colorado, University of California in San Diego where he is a visiting scholar and for University of Heidelberg's Institute of Environmental Physics.

From 2004 to 2007 he was one of two New Zealand lead authors on the United Nations IPCC 4th assessment report on climate change working group 1 "The physical science basis" For ground breaking contribution to human knowledge on climate change science, contributors to this report were jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel peace prize.

Dave is now active in a small family company (LOWENZ ltd) specialising in science education. Projects have included driving the research needed by Gareth Morgan for a popular book on climate change, teaching atmospheric chemistry and climate change science and the relevance of renewable energy systems for sustainability. He acted as New Zealand's science ambassador and coordinator with Germany from 2012 to 2018 promoting a wide variety of bilateral science and engineering projects.

During his career as an atmospheric scientist, Dave has personally witnessed a more than 30% growth in atmospheric carbon dioxide driving the current climate emergency.

In 2019 and 2020 he worked on book and documentary film projects aimed at informing the public of his personal experiences and ideas on reducing carbon emissions. His book *'The Alarmist Fifty Years Measuring Climate Change'* was published by Victoria University Press in May 2021, is receiving excellent reviews and has become a good seller for the publisher. It's being promoted at writers' festivals around New Zealand is available internationally on [bookdepository.com](https://www.bookdepository.com), was shortlisted for the 2022 NZ general non-fiction book awards (Ockhams) and at the NZ book awards ceremony in Auckland, May 2022, won the E.H. McCormick award and prize for NZ's best first general nonfiction book.

In March 2021 Dave received the 'Wellingtonian of Year Environment Award' for his decades long service promoting public awareness of the dangers of continuing carbon emissions. In November 2021 NZ Geographic released a short documentary entitled 'Counting Carbon' with his thoughts on emissions (link here: <https://www.nzgeo.com/video/counting-carbon/>) and in December 2021 Netflix began streaming a four part documentary series 'Stories of a Generation' featuring the inspiration provided by the stories of 70+ year olds and their interaction and impact with younger generations – Dave's story appears in the second episode, 'Dream'

A few web links:

Wellingtonian of the Year Environment Award: <https://wellys.co.nz/>

<https://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards/2022-awards/winners/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/10/humans-already-have-the-tools-to-combat-climate-change-but-we-lack-leadership>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Lowe_\(atmospheric_scientist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Lowe_(atmospheric_scientist))

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/audio/2018724130/climate-pioneer-dave-low-we-only-have-one-atmosphere>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/115040931/kiwi-dave-low-found-measurable-proof-of-climate-change-50-years-ago--hes-watched-in-horror-ever-since>

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/nz/de/ueb/40n/spe/22053718.html>

<https://teherengawakapress.co.nz/the-alarmist/>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Alarmist-Dave-Lowe/9781776564187>

Taranaki engineers talk Sep 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJieO80wnyU>

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/books/18-05-2021/near-collapse-a-young-glaciologist-on-climate-crisis-memoir-the-alarmist/>

<https://www.ketebooks.co.nz/all-book-reviews/review-the-alarmist-fifty-years-measuring-climate-change>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/books/300455280/what-im-reading-climate-change-author-david-lowe>

<https://www.nzgeo.com/video/counting-carbon/>

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/victorious/issues/victorious-2021/sounding-the-alarm>

<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/blogs/post/best-book-covers-of-2021-my-pick-of-new-zealands-finest/>

<https://www.netflix.com/nz/title/81306329>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/tv-radio/127346232/nz-climate-scientist-stars-in-netflix-series-alongside-pope-francis-martin-scorsese-jane-goodall>

<https://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards/2022-awards/longlist/>

Euroscola address through European parliament

https://www.meinbezirk.at/deutschlandsberg/c-politik/ein-virtueller-tag-im-eu-parlament-mit-euroscola_a5160133

<https://ayalde.com/una-propuesta-de-nuestras-alumnas-es-la-segunda-mas-votada-en-el-congreso-de-euroscola-2022/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG2vnZn6yWY>

<http://www.kopernik.czest.pl/?p=11514>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/the-ockham-nz-book-awards-16-finalists-announced/ZWBSLWVPHLEENDOAXL4RYTYK3DA/>

<https://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards/2022-awards/shortlist/>

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/books/02-03-2022/surprises-ahoy-presenting-the-2022-ockham-finalists>

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/the-making-of-an-alarmist>