

# 0.17

*By Neville Barlow*

This is the percentage of the World's total emission that New Zealand contributed to last year. Our total was 750,000 tonnes. The five countries with the Highest CO2 Emissions in the world, are:

- 1 China 11,680 billion tonnes**
- 2 USA 4,535 billion tonnes**
- 3 India 2,411 billion tonnes**
- 4 Russia 1,674 billion tonnes**
- 5 Japan 1,061 billion tonnes.**



I must make a note here that I do not believe Russia's total. I find it incredible that I have not read one single article, nor seen any mention on TV about the monstrous emissions Putin and his War has inflicted on our planet.

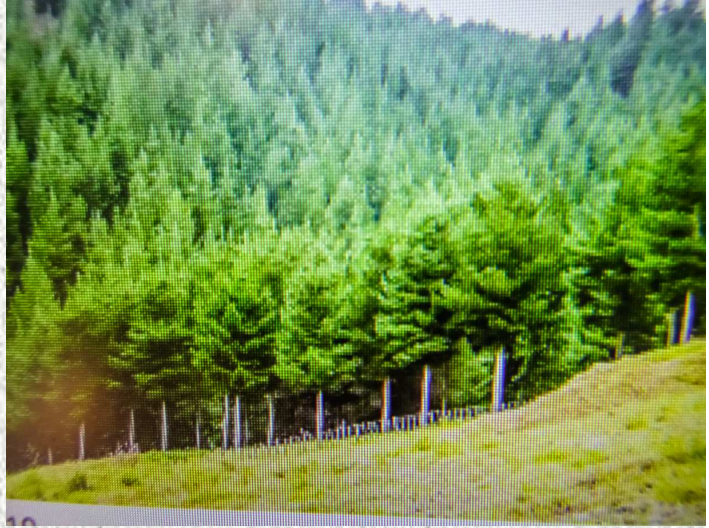
There are 71 countries that produce more emissions than us. Those are Supposedly the facts, but now are some of the things I find unbelievable. Did you know that forestry is the only carbon sinks that are recorded in New Zealand. Having toured extensively around New Zealand I am amazed at massive forests that we have, both in the North and South Islands. I have asked people who should know, how many trees there are in our forests, and they cannot tell me. I think there is a lot of guessing going on here. I have read that in California their grasslands are included in their carbon sinks.

On 13<sup>th</sup> of September this year an article written by Harry Lock, said "Greater Wellington Regional Council wants non-forest carbon sinks to be include in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)". Another interesting article written by Isobel Ewing, entitled 'Scientists uncover how "blue carbon" can help New Zealand's fight against carbon emissions. Blue carbon refers to coastal ecosystems like salt marshes, mangroves and seagrass. It is now known that they hold the equivalent of 26,000 cars worth of emissions every year.



Having, been a farmer I know how essential carbon in the soil is. Grass is a huge storer of carbon. Trees of every kind are carbon sinks as is the lawn around your house. Maize paddocks, vineyards, lucerne, wheat etc are all consumers of carbon. So, how is it that they are not included. A recent episode on Country Calendar showed how an organic farmer grew a paddock of various grasses and sunflower plants. He waited until they were about a metre high then fine chopped them up and ploughed them into the ground where his next vegetable crop was to grow. He knew the grass he ploughed and the sunflower grass etc he ploughed in gave him a double blast of carbon.

A few years before I sold our farm, I planted 1,200 Pinus Radiator trees on a waste area that we had never been able to use. At the time I didn't think about it too much as I was more interested in stabilizing the land the trees were planted on. Unfortunately, after much planting, protecting and pruning it was not ready to harvest, when we left. I cannot believe that these trees are not included in the Emission trading scheme.



I have always thought “Mother Nature” was a clever girl. For many years I collected rainfall figures and deduced for 20 years we had pretty much a similar total every year but often spread around at different times.

Also, when I was very young, I can remember temperatures in the summer reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius. Hotter than we have now. CO<sub>2</sub> is necessary in reasonable amounts, but scientists tell me when it is produced in overpowering quantities the climate is altered.

So, where does this extra carbon emissions come from? I think it can be laid at the door of the vast number of electric cars that have in a very short time been produced in the Northern hemisphere. The latest figures I can find are in 2021 when there were over 16.5 million cars already on the roads and I surmise that that figure is well past 25 million by now. Every electric car produces tonnes of emissions before it has moved a solitary metre. An example is a Tesla model S produces 17.5 tonnes of emissions and even a lowly Nissan Leaf produces 8 tonnes of emissions.

If my calculations are right, that means these cars have contributed between 250 million tonnes to 300 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. Had they been Internal combustion engine cars the total would have been some 50 million tonnes. To my mind that means electric cars have produced 6 times more carbon emissions than petrol or diesel cars!





I believe many people who have bought electric cars, have done so in the belief that they are saving the planet. It interests me that electric cars used to be called Zero emission vehicles, but now they are Low emission vehicles.

They have of course forgotten that in the future their car will need a new battery. In many cases this could cost well north of \$20,000

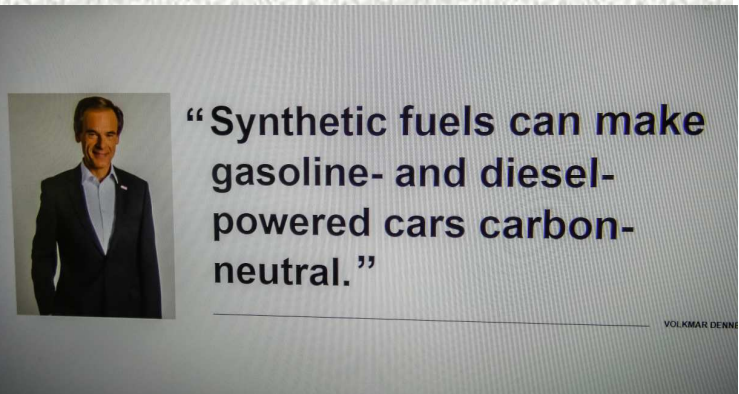
and of course dump another 5 to 10 tonnes of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Many companies have talked about re-cycling these batteries but even in countries such as China, there appears no appetite to do so. Looks like we might have to take Jule Anne Genter's advice and dig a big hole and bury them!! Another factor to be considered is the higher cost of electric vehicles. For example, a Jaguar I Pace new costs \$160,000 compared to a Jaguar XF at \$120,000. \$40,000 buys a lot of petrol or diesel!

England has just admitted that their policy of placing a ban on the further production of Internal Combustion Cars has been pushed out another 5 years. This is said to be because of the problem of continually producing the electricity to power these vehicles and a hesitation at this time to purchase electric cars. Several EU countries such as Germany, Spain, Italy are also suggesting that the time has come to look again at the place in the future for cars especially with ICE cars becoming more emission friendly.

Toyota has already guaranteed that 30% to 40% of their production will be Internal Combustion vehicles. Formula One motor racing has also said it will not go electric but will use only synthetic fuels.

If you look in our Jaguar Club Magazine produced for February 2022 you

will find an article I wrote entitled "Carbon Dioxide Emissions- There is hope". It is mainly about Carbon capture and what is happening mainly in Europe. I was therefore nicely surprised to see a headline "Carbon Capture- a real World solution to the climate crisis" appear in the N Z Herald on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. It said, Carbon capture has emerged as one of the key solutions that could make a big impact due to its wide applications, promising real results in our transition to a low-carbon economy. The Norwegian company Aker Solutions operating off Norway's west coast, has implemented state-of-the-art carbon capture systems next to industries such as steel, cement, and power generation, and that is to reduce its carbon footprint.





Akers have found that they can scrub the carbon using special materials and solutions and compress it and transport it to be injected into depleted oil and gas wells. These wells are then sealed to prevent it from escaping, essentially returning carbon to its source.

Carbon dioxide has always been regarded as a “bad Boy” but with the closure of the Marsden Point Refinery (a real disaster that the Labour Government said nothing to do with us!) left the only remaining domestic source of liquid and other food grade CO<sub>2</sub>, at a production plant attached to Todd Energy’s Kapuni gas field in Taranaki. Carbon Dioxide is used as a preservative for meat, cheese and ready-to-eat meals, as well as to make fizzy beverages, such as beer, bubbly and soft drinks. Tegel chicken warned that they may not be able to produce many



chicken products because of a shortage of carbon dioxide gas. Go into any winery and you will find many gas bottles of carbon dioxide.

If we are to believe that carbon dioxide is ruining our planet, then why is the manufacture of electric cars allowed to continue. It seems to me there is a parallel between our change in the climate and the advent of the electric car.

*Neville*