

2022 New Zealand  
Hamilton Award Lecture

# The Survival of our Coral Reefs



**Dr Christopher Cornwall**

Te Herenga Waka —  
Victoria University of Wellington

Ocean warming and acidification threaten the future growth of coral reefs. Ocean warming causes marine heatwaves which in turn cause mortality to resident corals, and alters reef growth rates. The global-scale effects of ocean warming and acidification on coral reef growth rates remain poorly understood.

Dr Christopher Cornwall will present the first global estimates of projected future changes in coral reef growth under the influence of ocean warming and acidification. The findings highlight that the world's coral reefs are unlikely to maintain their functional roles unless atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations stabilise very soon.

How could coral adaptive capacity buffer these impacts, and how would future coral reefs function without corals?

**Come and find out more and have the opportunity to ask Dr Cornwall questions after his presentation.**

Wednesday 31 May 2023  
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Royal Society Te Apārangi  
11 Turnbull Street Thorndon,  
Wellington

[Please register with Eventbrite](#)

*All welcome. Free admission.*

*Views expressed at these events may not reflect those of Royal Society Te Apārangi*



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