

Koi Tū News: June/July 2020



**KOI TŪ:
THE CENTRE FOR
INFORMED FUTURES**



Over the past few months Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures has explored New Zealand's post-Covid future through a series of conversations with more than 100 industry leaders, policy makers, scientists and stakeholders.

The conversations explored the issues raised in our flagship paper [*The Future Is Now*](#), which examined the long-term issues affecting sectors and society. We've produced subsequent papers including [*food and the primary sector's journey to sustainability*](#), [*the environment*](#), [*mental health and wellbeing*](#), and [*New Zealand's place in the world*](#) which are featured in this issue.

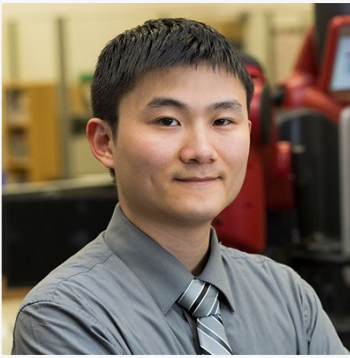
Contact tracing has also been a hot topic. Dr Andrew Chen, our digital tracing expert, has a thought-provoking **Digital Technologies for Contact Tracing** public lecture this Friday.

All of these and other insightful pieces are on our website www.informedfutures.org

Ngā mihi nui,

Sir Peter Gluckman, Director, Koi Tū

Koi Tū Webinar: Digital technology for contact tracing



As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, part of the discussion has been about using modern technologies to help with contact tracing - finding the contacts of infected people so that we can cut chains of transmission.

What are the technology options that can assist? How do the data flows work? Why is it so hard to get it right? **Kōi Tū Research Fellow Andrew Chen** is giving a public Zoom lecture on **Friday 3 July at 12pm**.

If you want to learn more about the complexity behind the scenes, this will be a good introduction. Andrew will cover the technical elements of tracing systems, the policy considerations such as privacy, usability, and effectiveness, and provide some short international case studies. Registration required.

[Register here](#)



Food for thought - long-term strategy needed

New Zealand's food and primary industries need to capitalise on our rising international reputation with a long-term food strategy that supports sustainability and can adapt to new technologies and consumer demands, says the [The future of food and the primary sector: The journey to sustainability](#) report.

Kōi Tū deputy director Anne Bardsley says discussion about sustainable, safe-food systems is taking greater prominence around the world as a result of increasing awareness of environmental impacts and climate change. Consumer demand for high quality is food growing, as is interest in food's provenance and attributes such as safety, nutritional value, animal welfare, carbon footprint and environmental protection.

[Read more](#)



Environment central to NZ's future

New Zealand needs a common vision to achieve greater economic, social and environmental sustainability that has aligned goals and activities across Government, industry, iwi and communities. [The Environment is Now](#) report says environmental sustainability is no longer a 'nice to have' – it is now a 'must have' that needs to be embedded into decisions about New Zealand's future.

[Read more](#)



Mental health and wellbeing a priority

[*Protecting and Promoting Mental Wellbeing: Beyond COVID-19*](#) focuses on mitigating the threats posed by COVID-19 to the mental wellbeing of New Zealanders – both the already vulnerable sectors of society, as well as newly at-risk individuals facing major, unexpected disruptions in their lives.

Written by Professor Richie Poulton, Sir Peter Gluckman, Rochelle Menzies, Dr Anne Bardsley, Professor Tracey McIntosh and Dr Monique Faleafa (on behalf of the Koi Tū mental health expert advisory group), the paper calls for mental health services to be fundamentally changed from an outdated, centralised system to a devolved community-led model that responds to the needs of community and iwi.

[Read more](#)



New Zealand's place in the world

New Zealand needs to leverage its high international standing for economic and diplomatic advantage. The geostrategic paper, [*New Zealand's place in the world*](#), recommends re-energising our relationship with China, working closely with Australia, building coalitions with other small advanced countries, re-orienting our economy and investing in innovation.

The report, led by John Allen (former chief executive and Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade), captures the insights of more than 20 domestic and international trade, diplomatic and strategic experts.

[Read the report](#)



How do we maintain social cohesion?

[*He Oranga Hou: Social cohesion in a post-COVID world*](#) examines the critical issue of how New Zealand's strong national unity during lockdown will become increasingly tested as economic consequences are more acutely felt. In mapping out the paths to return to the 'new normal', how do we ensure that social cohesion is maintained?

[Learn more](#)

Insights and opinion

- [Rebooting science diplomacy in the context of COVID-19](#): by Sir Peter Gluckman and Dr Vaughan Turekian, Koi Tū international affiliate and Executive Director of policy and global affairs at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- [Experiences of another island state: Jamaica and its response to the COVID-19 national epidemic and pandemic](#) by Prof Terrence Forrester, Director of SODECO (Centre for Solutions for Developing Countries), University of West Indies, Jamaica, International Affiliate Member, Koi Tū
- [Challenges of contact tracing in Pacific communities](#) by Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Associate Member, Koi Tū
- [On facial recognition, police, and regulation of new technologies](#) by Professor Colin Gavaghan, Associate Professor Alistair Knott, Professor James Maclaurin, Kristiann Allen, Dr Andrew Chen
- [Good information is required for good decision making: why transdisciplinarity matters](#) by Professor Matthias Kaiser, Dr Tatjana Buklijas, Kristiann Allen, Dr Anne Bardsley, Professor Cynthia Kiro and Sir Peter Gluckman
- [On fragmentation of digital contact registers](#) by Dr Andrew Chen
- [Reflections on the evidentiary-politics interface](#) by Sir Peter Gluckman

About Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures

Koi Tū is as an independent, non-partisan think tank and research centre at the University of Auckland. We generate knowledge and tools to address long-term issues that challenge our future arising from rapid and far-reaching social, economic, technological and environmental change.

Help create an informed future

We work with individuals and organisations focused on the long-term development of New Zealand. We focus on issues where trustworthy and robust analysis can make a real difference.

To discuss how you can work with or support us, please contact:

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