

NZCLIMATE TRUTH NO 235

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THE NOBLE PRIZE

The 2010 award of the Noble Prize for Climate Ingenuity has been announced.

The Awards Committee has unanimously awarded this year's prize to the World Meteorological Organisation and the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research of New Zealand (NIWA). The awards will be presented at the next meeting of the United Nations Climate Summit in Mexico in December this year.

The citation reads as follows:

These two organisations have carried forward the essential principles of Climate Ingenuity recently revealed in the 'Climategate' emails, They have developed new ingenuity principles which will be invaluable for future developments in Climate Ingenuity.

The World Meteorological Organisation has made its statement at:

<http://www.infonews.co.nz/news.cfm?l=1&t=0&id=46607>

It has developed the custom which was illustrated in the Climategate emails of issuing a forecast for the whole year, towards the beginning of December to avoid a later pronouncement by Greenpeace and to avoid the possibility of a cold December by announcing that:

"The year 2009 is likely to rank in the top 10 warmest on record since the beginning of instrumental climate records in 1850"

We note the prudent use of the word "likely" which will cover their posteriors if December really did turn out bad, and it helps draw attention from the climate disaster that is currently sweeping the Northern Hemisphere.

Their prime task was described well in Climategate, it was to "Hide The Decline" wherever it was to be found. In this case, the decline that had been publicised was the lower global temperatures since 1998, as illustrated by the results from the NASA satellites (UAH, attached) .

They tackled this in two ways.

First, they were able to work out "The current nominal ranking, which does not account for uncertainties in the annual averages, places 2009 as the fifth warmest year"

We note the customary use of "which does not account for uncertainties" This is a wise move because of the very large uncertainties attached to temperature records recently revealed by Anthony Watts. If they did take account of uncertainties they would be lost.

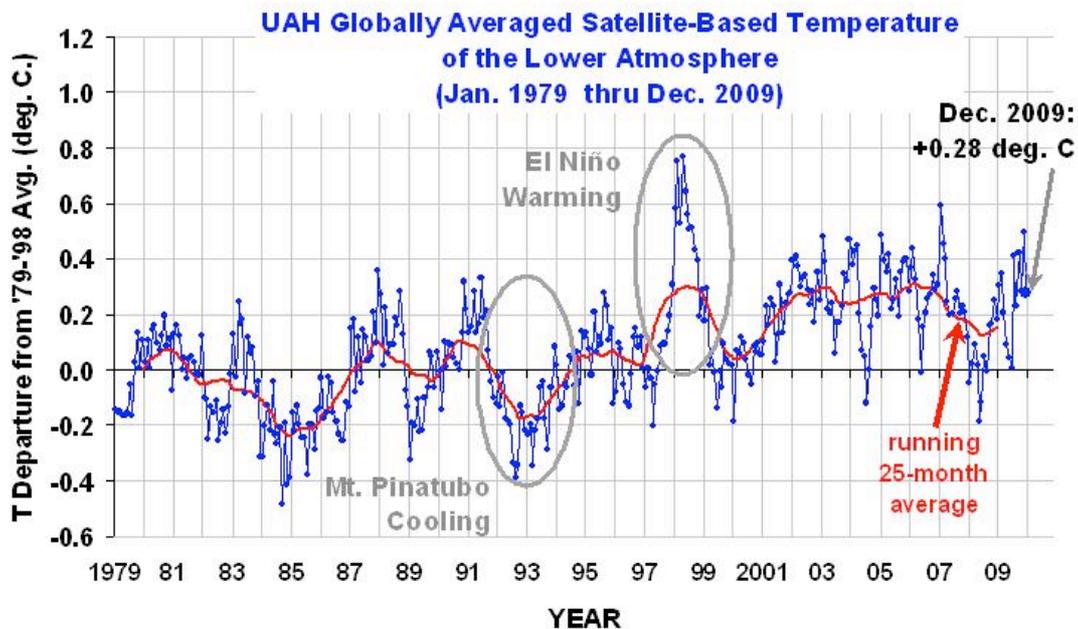
Then they have applied the next most important principle after "Hide the Decline". It is "Buck the Trend."

"Trends" are a particularly useful tools for Climate Ingenuity practitioners, as they can be made to go any which way by careful choice of beginning and end points.

The WMO display their mastery of trend manipulation skill in this statement

"The decade of the 2000s (2000-2009) was warmer than the decade spanning the 1990s (1990-1999), which in turn was warmer than the 1980s (1980-1989)."

The subtlety of this discovery can be appreciated from the following UAH graph:

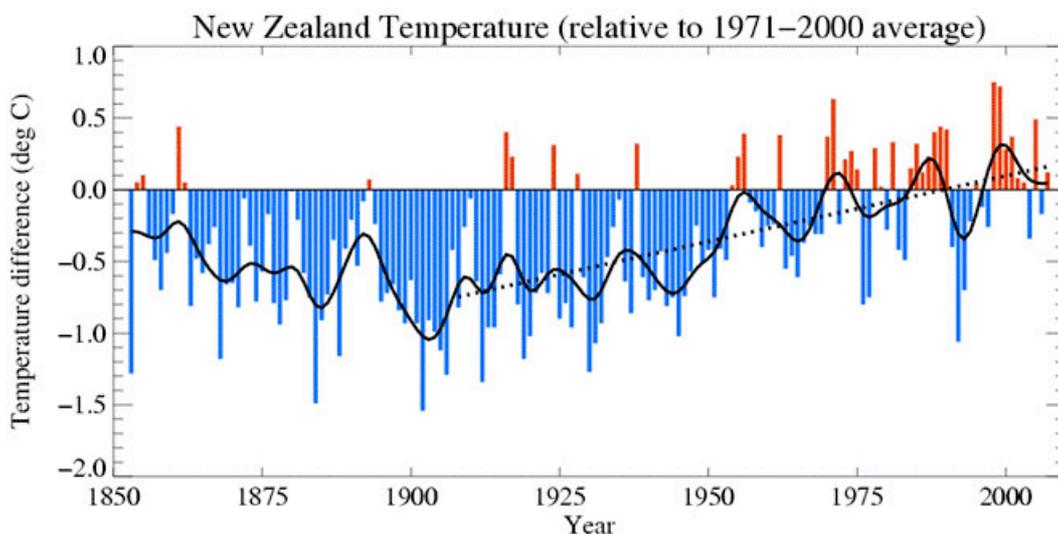


It can be seen that the decade 1990-1999 included the climate disturbance caused by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991. This caused a temperature drop which influenced the years 1991-1995. However, this was compensated for by the abrupt and short-lived temperature rise in 1998, caused by the exceptional El Niño event of that year. Between them, these two entirely natural events were able to provide a higher average for 1990-1999 than 1980-1989 which was cooled by the volcanic eruption of Mount Chichon in 1981. The decade 2000-2009 had a remarkably constant temperature record from 2001-2007 and the decade did seem to be a few tenths of a degree above the previous two decades.

Then, of course, comes adherence to the other maxim of climate ingenuises, Conceal the Uncertainties. All weather forecasters know that decimals of a degree are meaningless, as they never use them. But for skilled Climate Ingenuity they are essential.

The National Institute of Water and Air, New Zealand (NIWA) has shown that it is a worthy companion in Climate Ingenuity to the WMO

Their New Zealand Temperature Record (nztemp, immediately below) gives a typical "Buck the Trend" straight line, conveniently begun in 1900 to give the greatest slope, and able to conceal the fact that the record shows no warming since 1970.

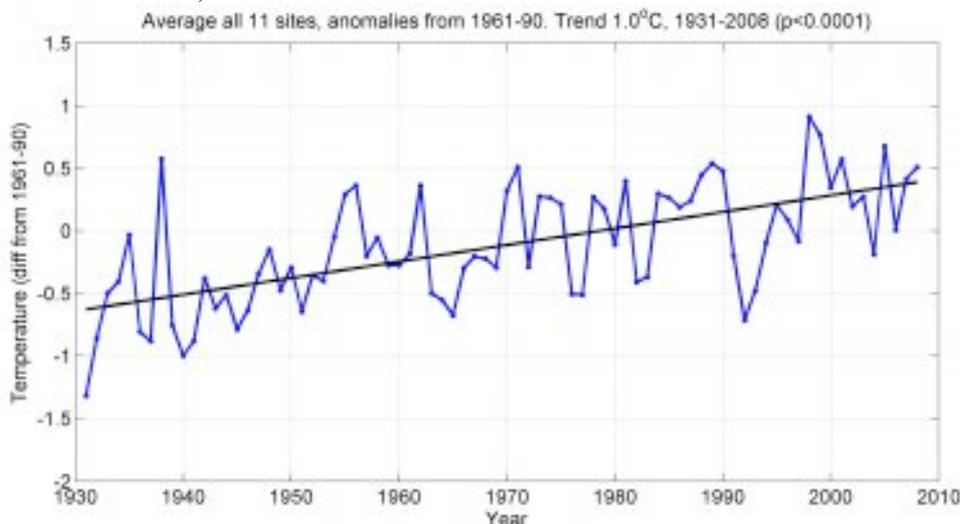


For many years, the records from which this graph was produced could only be obtained by payment and strict conditions of use. After public objections, the records have been made

available and when they are combined according to the claimed procedures used by NIWA, they give a completely different result (New Zealand unadjusted, attached) without significant trend.

NIWA responded with a masterpiece of Climate Ingenuity a <http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate/news/all/nz-temperature-rise-clear/temperature-trends-from-raw-data>

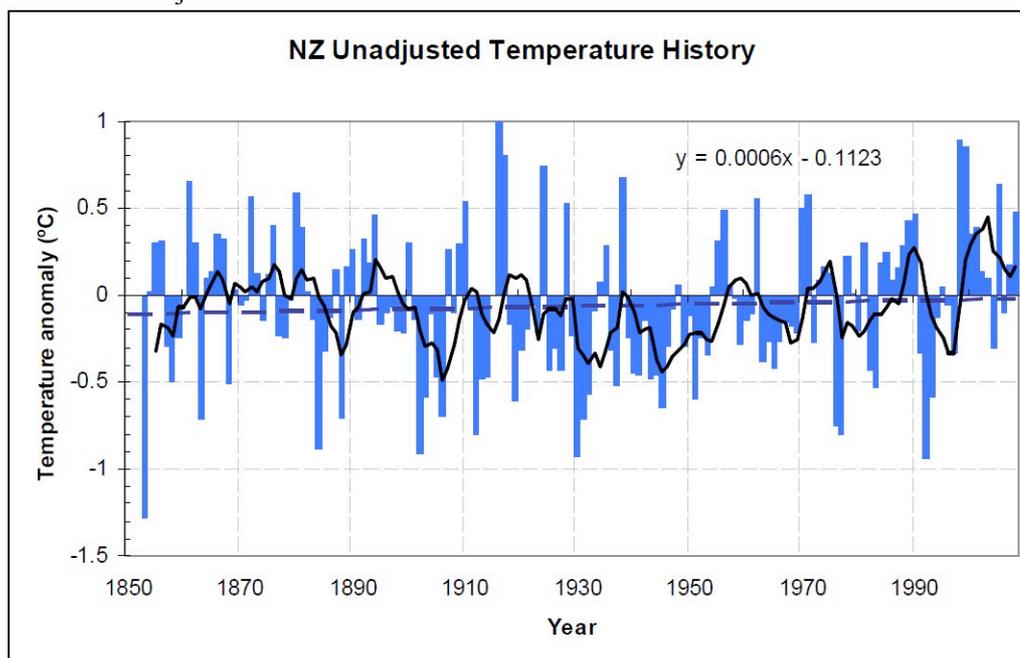
This showed that raw data could be manipulated to provide the desired upwards trend. (NIWA Raw Data here):



They did this by selecting 12 stations with long-term records, and beginning the records in the year 1930, because this left out all of the stations but four. Of these four, two were unusually cold. Queenstown is one of the furthest south in New Zealand, and Mount Ruapehu, is a volcano in the North Island, but also cold.

They explained the difference between the chart which used the correct raw data and their published chart by claiming that the raw data had to be "corrected". However, they have not been able to give details of how these corrections were done, and it is thought probable that the current staff do not even know the answers.

Here is the unadjusted New Zealand data:



Their latest statement is at

<http://www.infonews.co.nz/news.cfm?l=1&t=0&id=46607>

is also a model of Climate Ingenuity.

They claim "The decade of the 2000s are the warmest on record for New Zealand"

This should be commended for courage in the face of the disastrous winter in the North, and the coldest winter in Wellington for many years.

There is even an admission that "This result is caused by a combination of natural variability and a background warming trend" and "The year 2009 was slightly colder than the 1971-2000 average", where they are careful, as always, not to say how much is "slightly"

The "decade" gimmick results in their opinion that the recent decades can be placed in the following order, starting with the coldest. 1990s, 1970s, 1980s and 2000s with the last being the champion. A glance at their chart shows how they have done this, providing an extremely effective way of concealing the absence of any trend since 1970

We are confident that our supporters will agree that this award carries on a proud tradition of winners of the Noble Prize for Climate Ingenuity, which have included such worthy recipients in the past as Ben Santer (1995) for his excellent work in revising the Final Draft of the IPCC Report of that year, and Michael Mann (2001) for his innovative invention of the "hockey stick " temperature record ".
