

# Robert M. Carter

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## Robert M. Carter



Robert Merlin Carter

**Born** 1942  
[England](#)

**Died** January 19, 2016 (aged 73–74)

**Other names** Bob

**Citizenship** [British](#), [Australian](#)

**Nationality** English

**Fields** [Earth Science](#), [Geology](#), [Paleontology](#)

**Institutions** [University of Otago](#), [University of Adelaide](#),  
[James Cook University](#)

**[Alma mater](#)** [University of Otago](#), [University of Cambridge](#)

**[Thesis](#)** *The Functional Morphology of Bivalved Mollusca* (1968)

<b>Doctoral advisor</b>	M.J.S. Rudwick
<b>Notable awards</b>	Hochstetter Lecturer, <a href="#">Geological Society of New Zealand</a> (1975), Honorary Fellow, <a href="#">Royal Society of New Zealand</a> (1997)

**Robert Merlin "Bob" Carter** (1942 – January 19, 2016<sup>[1]</sup>) was an English palaeontologist, stratigrapher and marine geologist who is perhaps best known as a prominent Australian [climate change skeptic](#). He was professor and head of the School of Earth Sciences at [James Cook University](#) from 1981 to 1998.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

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## Early life and education[\[edit\]](#)

Carter was born in England and emigrated to New Zealand in 1956.<sup>[4]</sup> He obtained a B.Sc. (Hons) in [geology](#) from the [University of Otago](#) in 1963 and returned to England to complete a Ph.D. in [paleontology](#) from the [University of Cambridge](#) in 1968.<sup>[2]</sup> His doctoral thesis was titled *The Functional Morphology of Bivalved Mollusca*.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Career[\[edit\]](#)

Carter began his career as an assistant lecturer in geology at the University of Otago in 1963 and advanced to senior lecturer after obtaining his Ph.D. in 1968. He was professor and head of the School of Earth Sciences at [James Cook University](#) from 1981 to 1998, an adjunct research professor at the Marine Geophysical Laboratory at James Cook University from 1998 to 2005 and a visiting research professor in geology and geophysics at the [University of Adelaide](#) from 2001 to 2005.<sup>[2][5][6]</sup>

He has published over 100 research papers on taxonomic palaeontology, [palaeoecology](#), the growth and form of the molluscan shell, New Zealand and Pacific geology, stratigraphic classification, [sequence stratigraphy](#), [sedimentology](#), [the Great Barrier Reef](#), [Quaternary geology](#), and [sea-level](#) and [climate change](#).<sup>[6][7]</sup> Carter has published primary research in the field of palaeoclimatology, investigating New Zealand's climate extending back to 3.9 Ma.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

Carter retired from James Cook University in 2002, maintaining the status of "adjunct professor" until January 2013, when Carter's position of adjunct professor was not renewed. He maintains an association with several think tanks that disagree with some aspects of the [scientific consensus on climate change](#). He is a founding member of the [New Zealand Climate Science Coalition](#),<sup>[10]</sup> an emeritus fellow and science policy advisor at the [Institute of Public Affairs](#),<sup>[11]</sup> a science advisor at the [Science and Public Policy Institute](#),<sup>[12]</sup> and the chief science advisor for the [International Climate Science Coalition \(ICSC\)](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

He has served as chair of the Earth Sciences Discipline Panel of the [Australian Research Council](#), director of the Australian Office of the [Ocean Drilling Program \(ODP\)](#), and Co-Chief Scientist on ODP Leg 181 (Southwest Pacific Gateway).<sup>[2][13][14]</sup>

Carter has been a member of the [American Geophysical Union](#), the [Geological Society of America](#), the [Geological Society of Australia](#), the [Geological Society of New Zealand](#) and the [Society of Sedimentary Geology](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

## Global warming controversy[[edit](#)]

Carter is critical of the [IPCC](#) and believes statements about dangerous<sup>[15]</sup> human-caused global warming are unjustified.<sup>[16]</sup> In April 2006, he argued against climate change being "man-made" by asserting that the [global average temperature did not increase](#) during the eight years since 1998, while the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increased.<sup>[17]</sup> [Chris Mooney](#) refers to this article as an early example of statistically misleading use of the short period from the exceptionally strong [El Niño](#) year of 1998 which had set a temperature record.<sup>[18]</sup> In 2007, Carter participated in an expert panel discussion after the airing of *[The Great Global Warming Swindle](#)* documentary on [ABC](#).<sup>[19][20]</sup>

His position on global warming has been criticized by other scientists such as [David Karoly](#),<sup>[21]</sup> James Renwick<sup>[22]</sup> and Ove Hoegh-Guldberg.<sup>[23]</sup>

He has published several critiques of global warming in economics journals.<sup>[15][24]</sup> In 2009, he co-authored a paper in the [Journal of Geophysical Research](#), which argues that the [El Niño-Southern Oscillation](#) can account for most of the global temperature variation of the last fifty years.<sup>[25]</sup> A comment criticizing this paper was published by nine other scientists in the same journal.<sup>[26]</sup>

Carter appeared as a witness before the 2009 select committee on climate policy of the [Parliament of Australia](#),<sup>[27]</sup> and testified before the [United States Senate](#) <sup>[28]</sup> on the issue of climate change. He is a contributor and reviewer of the [Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change \(NIPCC\)](#) 2009 report *Climate Change Reconsidered*, and lead author of the 2011 interim report.<sup>[29][30]</sup>

In 2012, documents acquired from [The Heartland Institute](#) revealed that Carter was paid a monthly fee of \$1,667 ([USD](#)) "as part of a program to pay 'high-profile individuals who regularly and publicly counter the alarmist [anthropogenic global warming] message'."<sup>[31]</sup> While Carter did not deny that the payments took place, he declined to discuss the payments.<sup>[31]</sup> Carter has emphatically denied that his scientific opinion on climate change can be bought.<sup>[32]</sup>

## Awards and honors[[edit](#)]

- 1964 - Commonwealth Scholarship Award, [British Council](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- 1974 - Travelling Fellowship, [Nuffield Foundation](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- 1975 - Hochstetter Lecturer, [Geological Society of New Zealand](#) <sup>[2][33]</sup>
- 1992 - Bennison Distinguished Overseas Lecturer, [American Association of Petroleum Geologists](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- 1997 - Honorary Fellow, [Royal Society of New Zealand](#) <sup>[2][34]</sup>
- 1998 - Special Investigator Research Award, [Australian Research Council](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- 2005 - Outstanding Research Career Award, [Geological Society of New Zealand](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Selected publications[[edit](#)]

- Carter, Robert M. (1998). *"Two models: global sea-level change and sequence stratigraphic architecture"*. *Sedimentary Geology* **122** (1-4): 23–36. *Bibcode:1998SedG..122...23C*. doi:10.1016/S0037-0738(98)00111-0.
- Carter, Robert M. (2005). *"A New Zealand climatic template back to c. 3.9 Ma: ODP Site 1119, Canterbury Bight, south-west Pacific Ocean, and its relationship to onland successions"*. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* **35** (1-2): 9–42. doi:10.1080/03014223.2005.9517776.
- Carter, Robert M.; de Freitas, Chris; Goklany, Indur M.; Holland, David; Lindzen, Richard S. (2007). *"Climate Science and the Stern Review"*. *World Economics* **8** (2): 161–182.
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- Carter, Robert M. (2010). *Climate: the Counter Consensus*. *Stacey International*. ISBN 1906768293.
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## External links[[edit](#)]

- [Robert Carter's personal homepage](#)
- [Robert Carter's Research Publications](#)
- [Robert Carter's Publications at the James Cook University Repository](#)
- [Robert Carter's Presentations, Opinions & Articles](#)
- [Bob Carter - The Misrepresentation of Science in the Public Domain on YouTube, International Conference on Climate Change 22 May 2012](#)