

Rural Bulletin

August 2008



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

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Consultation

Reform of NZ's Tribunal System

A discussion paper called "Tribunals in NZ: the Government's Preferred Approach to Reform" has been published for your comment.

Tribunals are specialist bodies that determine people's rights in relation to decisions of the State, resolve disputes between individuals, and maintain occupational and professional standards and discipline. In the 2006/2007 year alone about 52,000 cases were filed in tribunals, the vast majority of which were filed in the Tenancy and Disputes tribunals (23,402 and 23,049, respectively). Other tribunals only had a few cases - or none.

Tribunal users have indicated they consider tribunals to be the most appropriate way to settle a dispute. However, issues with the tribunal system that have developed over many decades include:

- there is a lack of overall guidance or leadership of tribunals;
- training for tribunal members varies widely and can be insufficient;
- there is duplication of resources;
- there are inconsistencies in how tribunals do their work, and in the kind of powers they have; and
- too often users don't get the information they need to let them participate effectively in hearings.

The discussion paper proposes new legislation that would apply 47 tribunals - written flexibly to recognise the necessary differences between tribunals. Twenty-two tribunals would come under a structure called the Tribunal Service which would provide administrative, training, information technology and case management support. This service would be located as a new unit within the Courts structure. Four tribunals would be disestablished because they hear few cases and the District Court can carry out their functions. They are the Copyright Tribunal, Maritime Appeal Authority, Land Valuation Tribunals, and Health Act Boards of Appeal.

Submissions close 29 August 2008. They go to tribunalreform@justice.govt.nz or to Tribunal Reform Consultation, Ministry of Justice, PO Box 180, Wellington. A copy of the submission document and other information is at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/tribunal-reform-programme/index.html>

Environment Standard for On-site Wastewater?

A proposed National Environmental Standard (NES) to improve the environmental performance of domestic on-site wastewater systems has been published for comment.

On-site wastewater treatment systems treat household wastewater to varying levels before the water is released back into the environment - they usually serve one household. If they are not well-maintained they can affect human health and the environment, and lead to lakes, rivers, estuaries and beaches becoming unfit for swimming, gathering seafood and marine

farming. They can also cause sickness and disease in people from the effluent overflowing.

Under the proposed standard, regional councils would identify "hotspot" areas where owners of properties would be required to hold a current warrant of fitness that confirms their on-site system is functioning properly and being maintained appropriately.

These areas could include:

- locations with a history of problems with on-site wastewater disposal;
- areas identified in plans or strategies as locations for intensification of land use, long term growth or development;
- communities with a high proportion of on-site systems that use shallow groundwater for drinking water; and
- areas of highly seasonal occupation (relevant especially in attractive tourism spots).

Submissions close on 26 September 2008. They go to MfE, PO Box 10362, Wellington, email standards@mfe.govt.nz. The discussion paper - Proposed National Environmental Standard for On-site Wastewater Discussion Document - is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/nes-onsite-wastewater-systems-discussion-jul08/index.html>, or email publications@mfe.govt.nz, tel 04 439 7467. MFE will be running a series of public workshops to explain the standard for septic tanks. To express an interest in attending a workshop send your name and contact details to standards@mfe.govt.nz

Electricity Market Design: New Options Paper

The Electricity Commission has published an options paper called "Market Design Review". This considers five areas that have been of concern in the electricity industry, and offers options for ways to address them. The five are:

- pricing and competition, especially in the retail market;
- energy affordability issues;
- the effectiveness of the energy-only spot market design;
- demand-side participation (the ability of consumers to make decisions about the quantity and timing of their energy use); and
- availability of market information.

The Commission is looking at alternative ways of paying electricity generators, at strengthening retail competition to put downward pressure on prices, at making it easier for customers to find and switch to lower cost suppliers, at monitoring the revised Guideline on Arrangements to Assist Low Income Customers, and at continuing to support ways of improving electricity efficiency that result in lower energy costs for households.

It also has indicated that at winter's end it will review the way dry year risks are managed, including the performance of current arrangements in the lead up to winter, the market responses once it became evident that supply would be tight, and the operation of the reserve energy scheme.

Submissions on the paper close on 1 September 2008. They go to submissions@electricitycommission.govt.nz. The paper is at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/consultation/MDROptions>

Traceability of Genetically Modified Crops: ERMA

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is consulting on proposed new regulations to deal with the segregation and traceability of genetically modified (GM) crops.

The regulations are aimed at improving the processes for applications to the organisation, while not limiting opportunities for innovation and use of beneficial new organisms.

They could require people wanting to conditionally release GM crops to provide ERMA with information on the segregation and traceability schemes they might use to manage those crops. ERMA would then take that information into account when it considered applications for conditional releases, and would also use the information to identify the controls that might be needed.

Submissions close on 15 August 2008. They go to GM Crop Management, c/o ERMA NZ, PO Box 131, Wellington, fax: 04 9140433, email: gmsubmissions@ermanz.govt.nz More information is at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/consult-gmcrop.html>

Veterans' Entitlements Need Updating

The Law Commission has published a discussion paper on the War Pension Act 1954. It says the Act is in need of a review because the needs of veterans have changed, the introduction of ACC had an impact, and society has also changed. As well the statute has been changed many times over the years in attempts to try to keep it up to date, and it is not written in plain English.

A major problem is that it focuses on physical injuries in a war environment, so the problems faced by modern veterans, especially those affected by such things as post traumatic stress disorder or environmental hazards, are not adequately dealt with under it.

Any new legislation needs to meet the needs of service personnel who have served in these modern conflicts, and at the same time honour the veterans who are now becoming elderly, particularly the veterans of World War II.

Submissions close on 28 November 2008. They go to L Seales, Senior Legal and Policy Adviser, Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6011, email veterans@lawcom.govt.nz. The paper is at <http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/ProjectIssuesPaper.aspx?ProjectID=151>

Tangata Whenua Input into Fisheries Management

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) has been working with iwi to develop ways for tangata whenua to have better participation in sustainability decisions, and to manage customary catch and traditional fishing grounds.

The Ministry has released a related discussion paper, and a number of hui are currently being scheduled around the country between August and October to outline MFish's consultation proposals and hear the views of tangata whenua.

Submissions close on 31 October 2008. The discussion paper is available on the MFish website at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/TS+input+and+participation/default.htm> or by emailing mfish.policy@fish.govt.nz. Written submissions go to mfish.policy@fish.govt.nz or to: Treaty Strategy Project, Policy team, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington

Maori Aquaculture Claims Settlement: Progress Plan

The Ministry of Fisheries is also calling for submissions on a plan for measuring progress on the obligations to iwi under the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004. These obligations are:

- that iwi be provided with 20% of all new aquaculture space created after 1 January 2005; and
- that they also receive the equivalent of 20% of the existing aquaculture space that was created between 21 September 1992 and 31 December 2004.

The plan is to be released for consultation to iwi organisations and Te Ohu Kaimoana Trustee Limited, as well as regional councils and members of the aquaculture industry.

Submissions close Friday 31 October 2008. They go to: Aquaculture Settlement Advisor, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 19747, Avondale, Auckland, email aquaculture.settlement@fish.govt.nz. The plan is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/Maori+Aquaculture+Settlement+-+The+Ministers+Plan/default.htm>

Outdoor Recreation Discussion Paper

As part of a review of outdoor recreation in NZ, a discussion paper called "Creating a Healthy State for Outdoor Recreation in NZ" has been released. This indicates there is a need for greater coordination across the outdoor recreation sector, and for more research into participation rates, club membership, volunteers and the environment. Also that:

- the sector needs to improve coordination, collaboration, capacity and capability to enable it to meet current and future challenges and to make the most of opportunities, benefits, investment and resources;
- a current duplication of roles and efforts contributes to some uncoordinated and competing responses to sector needs, and to the sector sometimes sending contradictory messages to government;
- pressures on outdoor environments are frustrating attempts to co-operate;
- other factors that need consideration include an aging club membership, increasing trends for people to participate in recreation activities that are not organised by clubs, competing demands on volunteers, and gaps and overlaps in the qualifications that can be obtained; and
- stakeholders think that the government has a key role to play in developing a plan for recreation (currently there is no agency responsible for promoting outdoor recreation across government or throughout the whole sector).

Once the review is completed a national strategy for the outdoor recreation sector will be developed (it's hoped to have this strategy in place by early 2009).

Submissions close 29 August 2008. The discussion paper is available to be downloaded at www.sparc.org.nz/research-policy/policy/key-policy-projects or can be obtained by emailing outdoorrec@sparc.org.nz

Proposed Changes to Company Tax Return

Inland Revenue (IRD) is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the company end-of-year income tax return. The aim is to design a new income tax return that is: easy to complete and file electronically, and is streamlined so it gives IRD the information it needs to administer the tax system, advise government on tax policy - and target only those customers who may not be meeting their tax obligations. IRD proposes to:

- rationalise the income tax forms companies are required to complete (these include the Company income tax return (IR4), Annual imputation return (IR4J), Accounts information (IR10) and other related forms and disclosures);
- tailor information requirements to different sized companies to reduce overall compliance costs for most companies;
- rely more on financial information compiled by companies for financial reporting purposes; and
- enhance electronic filing systems to reduce common errors.

Under the proposals, smaller companies will be required to provide IRD with less end-of-year financial information than currently is the case. On the other hand some large companies - which contribute a substantial proportion of NZ's tax revenue - will need to provide IRD with slightly more.

Submissions close 30 September 2008. The consultation document is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/public-consultation/>. Email submissions to: public.consultation@ird.govt.nz or to: Team Manager, Technical Services, Office of the Chief Tax Counsel, National Office, Inland Revenue Department, PO Box 2198, Wellington

Sale of Liquor (Objections to Applications) Bill

Public submissions are now being invited on the Sale of Liquor (Objections to Applications) Amendment Bill. This bill seeks to amend the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 to make more provision for objections to applications for on-licences and off-licences. It allows any person to object to an application if they can provide evidence of adverse impact on them, and requires an applicant to carry out an evaluation of the social impacts on the community, if the licence were to be granted. The bill also provides for the Licensing Authority to take some other matters into account where an application is opposed.

Submissions close on 15 August 2008. The Go to the Social Services Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2008/0230-1/latest/versions.aspx>

Standards NZ: Regulating Use of Human Tissue

In 2004, the Ministry of Health consulted the public on a review of the regulation of human tissue and tissue-based therapies, and it was generally agreed that a standard was needed in this area. The purpose of the proposed standard is to ensure that where a person, or their family, has given consent to the use of human tissue for non-therapeutic purposes (e.g., research or education) that correct processes are followed for collection, storage, use, and disposal of tissue.

Submissions close on 18 August 2008. They can be made online, or you can send them to: Standards NZ, Private Bag 2439, Wellington, tel 04 495 0918, fax 04 498 5994, email jillene.everett@standards.co.nz. The standard is at <http://shop.standards.co.nz/drafts/DZ8135-DZ8135HTPublicCommentDraft.PDF>

Reprinting Acts & Regulations: Consultation

Printed copies of acts and regulations that are published in pamphlet form are called Reprints. Reprints include all the amendments made to the main act/regulation. Each year a reprinting exercise is carried out in consultation with the people who use the legislation. This survey from the Parliamentary Counsel Office is a major part of the consultation because it establishes which legislation users would like reprinted, and how often (for example, after lots of amendments).

Submissions close on 15 August 2008. You can fill out the survey online at <http://www.pco.parliament.govt.nz/legislation/reprintssurvey.shtml#survey>, or print it and send it to: Parliamentary Counsel Office, PO Box 18 070, Wellington, tel 04 472 9639, fax 04 499 1724, email contact.pco@parliament.govt.nz

Electricity Commission: Locational Price Risk Issues

The Electricity Commission (EC) is seeking feedback on a discussion paper called "Issues for Managing Locational Price Risk".

Locational prices for electricity come from the cost of serving electricity loads that are located away from where the electricity is generated, and locational price risk refers to the instability of the locational prices. Locational rental allocation involves giving interconnection rentals to spot electricity market purchasers in proportion to their locational price risk on imported power flows.

The paper outlines the Commission's preferred approach to addressing locational price risk, assesses the effect of this approach on market participants, offers a cost-benefit analysis, and considers the alternatives. The information gathered will be used to decide if work on the Locational Rental Allocation (LRA) initiative should continue.

Submissions close on 8 September 2008 (electronic format is preferred). Emails should have "Consultation on Issues for Managing Locational Price Risk". They go to submissions@electricitycommission.govt.nz. The consultation paper is at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/pdfs/opdev/wholesale/pdfsconsultation/lra-consultation.pdf>

What Matters Most to NZers?

Anew NZ and Statistics NZ are beginning a nation-wide consultation on "What Matters Most to NZers" to explore what is meant by "wealth", "wellbeing", "sustainability" and "progress" - and how these would shape a vision for NZ.

Statistics NZ is also seeking comment on a sustainability indicator that it is developing, that would encourage community action and development of new policy.

The consultation is being held during the last week of August and the first two weeks of September 2008. Dates available at time of going to press are: Auckland 29 August, and Wellington 9 September 2008. More about the consultation is at <http://www.anewnz.org.nz/page.asp?id=2>

About Anew NZ

Anew NZ is an independent network of NZers that seeks to create a better nation based on the following principles:

- democracy and self-determination;
- respect for people, justice and equity;
- informing and inspiring people in the search for wellbeing and sustainability; and
- seeing the world as an interconnected whole: socially, culturally, economically and environmentally.

Depression Self-Help Programme Seeks Volunteers

The trial of a web-based self-help programme, Recovery via the Internet from Depression (RID), has been successfully launched, and at least 700 people are now needed to join a trial testing on-line self-help programmes. It is hoped that the RID programme will encourage people in NZ experiencing emotional distress to help themselves improve their well-being. The trial, carried out by the University of Otago's Injury Prevention Research Unit in collaboration with the Australian National University, is based around an already existing and proven programme.

Find out more at www.otago.ac.nz/rid

Meat & Wool NZ Consultation

Meat & Wool NZ (M&WNZ) has published a discussion paper, and is holding meetings around the country, as it consults on the next year's levy expenditure in its annual consultation round. Farmers can talk directly to staff about the organisation's plans for investing in on-farm, market driven tools, and in research to optimise performance.

Submissions close on 22 August 2008. They go to M&WNZ, Freepost 29, PO Box 121, Wellington (no stamp required) or email them to consultation@meatandwoolnz.com. The consultation paper is at www.meatandwoolnz.com, or tel 0800 696 328

Rural

Greenhouse Gas "Footprints" of Primary Products

Greenhouse gas footprinting (which is also referred to as carbon footprinting) calculates the total emissions of greenhouse gases (in carbon equivalents) that are associated with a product (or service) during its lifecycle. Footprinting products/services in this way is considered to be a more valid way of checking the impact of a product on the environment than just calculating "food miles" (the distance a product travels) - because it includes all greenhouse gases produced during the production, supply, use and disposal of the product.

New Zealand has in place a "Greenhouse Gas Footprinting Strategy for the Land-Based Primary Sectors". This includes work in two main areas:

- internationally - to make sure NZ is at the forefront of any work on greenhouse gas footprinting; and
- locally - to find ways for primary producers to measure the greenhouse gas footprints associated with their products, by developing greenhouse gas footprinting methods for a specific industry (e.g., kiwifruit) that can then be adapted to meet the needs of the wider sector (e.g., horticulture).

The strategy will also enable NZ to:

- be more involved in the development of fair international rules for measuring product-related greenhouse gases, and also in developing fair greenhouse gas labelling systems for products;
- address gaps in the information that is available on greenhouse emissions; and
- capitalise on business opportunities for low carbon-intensity products.

Greenhouse Gas Footprinting: Workshop & Funding Opportunities

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is holding a one-day workshop in September on the Greenhouse Gas Footprinting Strategy for people working in the primary sector. It is for people working on current footprinting projects, and also for those working in industries not yet undertaking greenhouse gas footprint work who may wish to consider doing so.

A new round of funding of \$500,000 is now open to other sectors who are seeking funding to develop greenhouse footprinting skills. Applications close on 19 September 2008. More information on both the strategy and the workshop is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/slm/ghg-strategy/>, or contact Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), PO Box 2526, Wellington, tel 0800 CLIMATE (254 628)

Are SUVs Dangerous Vehicles?

NZ and Australian researchers investigated 17,245 injury-related crashes involving passenger vehicles in NZ in 2005 and 2006 and found that SUVs are not generally dangerous, possibly because of the way they are driven, and the people who own them.

However the study, which was reported in the international journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, identifies three key factors which do compromise their safety record - which have been established by research both here and overseas:

- they are dangerous in the hands of young drivers, and this is likely to be because of their inexperience as drivers and the instability of 4WDs;
- they are more prone to rollover crashes which lead to particularly severe injuries for drivers and passengers; and
- they are more dangerous to other motorists, particularly pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists who are harmed by the high bonnets and rigid structures.

The researchers believe that SUVs are less involved in accidents than other vehicle types because of how they are driven and how they are used. They found that sports cars have the worst safety record of all vehicles, with the greatest injury to users and other people on the road, with drivers of these vehicles tending to take additional risks when provided with high levels of performance and acceleration.

NZ's Women in Farming Programme: New Report

The Women in Farming (WIF) programme was set up in 2002 by farming and professional women with the aim of facilitating sheep and beef discussion groups for rural women. The programme has grown from an initial core of eight to 16 self-funding groups around the country working independently as special interest branches of Rural Women NZ. The original concept has also been adapted to also meet the needs of women involved in agribusiness and with small blockholdings.

The WIF groups were recently surveyed in a follow-up to an earlier evaluation commissioned in 2005. Both surveys have shown that:

- these discussion groups fill an important gap in terms of both learning and networking for women farmers;
- there is a high degree of enthusiasm, expectation, confidence and satisfaction with them;
- WIF groups will continue to have a positive impact on farm productivity; and
- they will continue to make a contribution towards the social cohesion of rural areas.

A report on the 2008 evaluation of WIF groups is on the RWNZ website at <http://www.ruralwomen.org/farmdiscussions-information.htm>

Organics Industry Gets Funding Boost

Organics industry umbrella body Organics Aotearoa NZ is to receive \$1.04 million in government funding over the next three years to help it become self-funding.

The value of the organic export market increased from \$70 million to \$120 million between 2005 and 2007, and the domestic market is now valued at \$209 million per annum.

Predicting Changes in Soil Quality

A Land Management Index (LMI) computer programme to help farmers predict the consequences of management decisions on soil quality and future productivity is about to be rolled out around the country. The LMI helps predict changes in soil quality based on soil and crop management information. For example, it can help farmers to make decisions about the length and composition of their crop rotations and the intensity and frequency of tillage practices used to establish crops. It can also help farmers calculate the benefits of incorporating winter cover crops into traditionally winter fallow systems, and to think more strategically about the effect of management decisions on soil quality.

The programme was developed by a team of Crop & Food Research soil scientists with backing from a wide range of farming organisations and funding bodies, including MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund.

Farmers and growers can register for a series of nationwide workshops between 11 and 22 August. More information is available from E Lawrence, Crop & Food Research, email lawrencee@crop.cri.nz, tel 03 3259364, fax 03 3252074

Environment

Climate Change Statement: Royal Society

The Royal Society of NZ's Committee on Climate Change has made a statement about the evidence for climate change. In summary, the statement says: "The globe is warming because of increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Measurements show that greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are well above levels seen for many thousands of years. Further global climate changes are predicted, with impacts expected to become more costly as time progresses. Reducing future impacts of climate change will require substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions."

On the role of humans it says: "Human activities have increased the concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide since the mid-1700s. More than half of the carbon dioxide concentration increase has occurred since 1970. Human activities have also increased concentrations of aerosols (small "air pollution" particles) in the atmosphere. These may have partially offset the heating effect of the greenhouse gases by scattering some sunlight back to space."

The statement also notes climate has always varied because of natural causes (e.g., the tilt of the Earth's axis, the shape of the Earth's orbit, the energy output from the sun, and dust from volcanic emissions), and that these natural causes will continue to play a role.

Global projections for the 21st century include:

- an increase in globally-averaged surface temperature of 1.1 to 6.4°C by 2100;
- a globally-averaged sea level increase of 18 to 59 cm by 2100;
- more heat waves, fewer frosts, and more heavy rain events are very likely;
- the area affected by droughts is likely to increase through the 21st Century; and
- increases are likely in the peak wind and rain intensity in tropical cyclones.

Projections for NZ based on these global projections suggest:

- a NZ-average warming of 0.2 to 2.0°C by 2040 and 0.7 to 5.1°C by 2090;
- fewer cold temperatures and frosts, and more high temperature episodes;
- a stronger west-east rainfall gradient (wetter in the west and drier in the east) in winter and spring, and an increasing risk of extreme rainfall as the century progresses;
- increasing drought risk during this century in areas which are currently drought-prone;
- natural year to year variations in NZ's climate will be superimposed on top of these projected human-induced changes.

You can read the Statement in full at <http://www.rsnz.org/news/releases/clim0708.php>

Primary Sector Views on Climate Change

The NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development (NZBCSD) recently carried out a survey of 3,124 people working in the agricultural, forestry and fishing sectors to obtain primary sector views on climate change, emissions trading and water issues. Amongst the findings:

- 45% of people in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector support emissions trading, 22% oppose it, 26% are neutral and 4% don't know. Across the whole country 44% support emissions trading, 22% are neutral, 25% oppose and 6% don't know;
- when asked whether taxpayers or emitters should pay for emissions, the primary sector votes 69% to 1% in favour of emitters paying, and 26% don't know. The national result showed 84% in favour of emitters paying, 1% taxpayers with 13% saying they don't know;
- 37% of those in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors said there should be no free assistance for agricultural emitters in the next five years, 10% said agricultural emitters should get 20% of their emissions free, 7% voted for 40% free, 10% for 50% free, and 5% voted for 80% free.;
- the primary sectors are concerned about climate change: 82% think it is an urgent problem or a problem to be dealt with now (compared with 78% of all NZers); and
- in responding to climate change, 47% would prefer the country to become a global leader, 38% want to move at the same pace as other countries, only 5% say "do a little but not worry too much, and 2% said it's not a problem. 4% say they

don't know. This compares with 48% of the national sample wanting to become a global leader and 35% wanting to move at the same pace as other countries.

NZBCSD commissioned the poll using its ShapeNZ research service.

Sustainable Forestry: New Contact Centre

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has established a new contact centre to answer questions relating to the proposed NZ Emissions Trading Scheme.

Contact centre staff will be able to answer general questions from foresters and the public about what is currently proposed in relation to forestry in the ETS under the legislation currently before Parliament. Information is available on for example, the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (which enables private landowners to receive Kyoto compliant carbon units from the establishment of new permanent forests), and the Afforestation Grant Scheme (which aims to encourage more forestry, particularly in small forests and on farms).

Call 0800 CLIMATE (254 628)

Animal Ethics Board: Annual Report

This report shows that a significant feature of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee's (NAEAC) work in 2007 was the review of a number of the codes of ethical conduct that govern the use of animals in research, testing and teaching. Nine codes were recommended for renewal and one new code was approved.

There was a decrease of 22.6% in the number of animals manipulated in 2007 (to 246,667). Main reasons for manipulation in 2007 were: veterinary research, which almost exclusively used farm animals and rodents; basic biological research; and medical research for which rodents made up over 90% of animals manipulated. Some 17.2% of the total animals manipulated were used for testing.

In all projects all possible steps, including a high level of veterinary care, and pain relief, are taken to prevent pain and suffering.

The report is available at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/animal-welfare/pubs/naeac/naeac-ar-07.pdf

New Marine Reserve for Wellington

A new Taputeranga Marine Reserve in Wellington takes in Owhiro, Island, Princess and Houghton Bays, and extends 2.3 km out to sea and 3.3 km along the south coast. Last year over 551 species were seen in the area, which will be an attraction for divers and snorkellers.

The reserve is located where three oceanic currents meet, bringing together warm, cold, temperate and sub-Antarctic waters. It surrounds, but does not include, Taputeranga Island. Moorings of fishers in Island Bay remain, and commercial fishers can have rock lobster holding pots within the Bay.

ERMA Reassessing Methyl Bromide

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is reassessing methyl bromide to determine if it can continue to be used in NZ. Methyl bromide is a broad-spectrum fumigant that kills a wide range of pests, including soil-borne fungi, nematodes, weeds, insects, mites and rodents. Its use is currently a biosecurity requirement for some of NZ's export markets, particularly for logs.

In 1992 methyl bromide was listed as an ozone depleting substance under the Montreal Protocol, and developed countries such as NZ were given until 1 January 2005 to phase it out except for critical uses and for quarantine and pre-shipment (QPS) fumigation. Currently it can only be imported into NZ for QPS purposes.

The reassessment is expected to take up to 18 months, after which the public will be invited to make submissions on the application.

Tourism

Hostelling Increasing for Real Grown-Ups

Recent surveys conducted by hostel network YHA NZ and guidebook publisher Lonely Planet; suggest that getting away for a reasonably priced break is now a priority for many senior travellers, with YHA NZ hostels experiencing a 13% increase in 50 plus travellers over the past year. YHA's mature guests have jumped from 14% in 2007 to 27% in 2008, with 8% of them being over 65 years of age. The figures are supported by the most recent Lonely Planet Traveller's "Pulse" survey, which found that one in six backpacking travellers were aged 50 and over.

Visitor Arrivals in June Down

An upcoming US election, rising fuel prices and growing global economic concerns have impacted on visitor arrivals in June. Visitor arrivals were down 2.1% to just over 140,000 visitors in June compared to a year earlier. Details include: Australia 64,904 (up 1.9%); UK 9,785 (up 2.2%); USA 12,616 (down 12.4%); Canada 1,577 (down 3.5%); China 5,054 (down 24.0%); Korea 6,042 (down 17.6%); and Japan 7,030 (down 4.4%).

Tourism Funding for Nine NZ Regions

Nine regions are to receive government funding for sustainable tourism. They are: Auckland; Central Otago; Coromandel; Hawke's Bay; Marlborough; North Canterbury; Queenstown; Wairarapa; and Wellington.

Each region will receive \$88,000 over three years through the Sustainable Tourism Advisers in Regions (STAR) Project for them to employ an adviser who will work one on one with tourism operators to help reduce their business' impact on the environment.

Health & Welfare

Nursing Support in Police Stations - Pilot Scheme

Police and Canterbury District Health Board have launched a new two-year pilot scheme under which nurses are based in the Manakau and Christchurch Central police station watch houses. They screen people who have been detained, and, if appropriate, refer them on for treatment.

In the first month of the scheme's operation:

- nurses saw 90 of the 839 people who came through the watch house;
- 22 of these people were given advice on their identified issue; and
- 14 were referred to another agency such as psychiatric emergency services, an NGO or the District Court Forensic Nurse.

Rural Community Access to Health Care

The Professor of Primary Care at the Waikato Clinical School has written a report for the Health Research Council on rural isolation and access improvement. Excerpts:

"Access to health care for people living in rural areas is a key issue for NZ. We have an economy that is based on primary production - at the moment led spectacularly by the dairy industry. Other major contributions from the rural sector include the wine industry, forestry and tourism. So in many instances we are looking to provide health services to the major breadwinners of the NZ economy. But there is another side to life in rural areas. Many communities are shrinking and those left behind are often the most disadvantaged..."

Consequently many of our rural communities are high need but paradoxically with relatively low demand. When we look at the needs of rural patients at a national level we often confuse the picture by combining the health needs of wealthy rural communities ...with high needs communities ...

Further confusion has been caused by the expansion of the peri-urban environment with wealthy townies living on small lifestyle blocks and being counted as rural dwellers...

The challenge to district health boards is to take a leadership position on primary care developments rather than leave this to small and often inadequately resourced primary health organisations. If health boards improve access to primary care and ensure proper integration with secondary care then they should soon see the financial benefits"

This report is at: <http://www.hrc.govt.nz/assets/doc/Ross%20Lawrenson%20Rural%20access%20June%202008.doc>

Healthline Freephone Helps Thousands

Healthline received over 70,000 calls between January and March this year, and the Well Child Advice Service received more than 10% of all calls to its 24-hour free phone service.

Healthline was set up so people around the country could have access to the medical care most appropriate to their needs. All calls to Healthline are handled by registered nurses who will assess the callers' needs and provide them with advice on what to do. They ask a series of questions to find out what type of care is required and then advise on the best course of action. The nurses do not diagnose over the phone.

Healthline, including the Well Child Telephone Advice Service, is free and operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week by phoning 0800 611 116

Labels on Children's Nightwear: New Regulations

New regulations for labelling on children's nightwear will be phased in over the next eight months and be fully in place by 1 April 2009.

The most commonly available nightwear will carry a new label in an easy to see orange colour saying "Caution Not Heat or Flame Resistant Wear Snug-Fitting to Reduce Risk". This label must be used when nightwear is made of a higher fire risk fabric but is styled to fit snugly to reduce fire risk. Nightwear in this category includes cotton and flannelette pyjamas.

Until this time nightwear will still be available with the white "Low Fire Danger" label. It is important to note that this label in many cases means the garment is made of higher risk materials such as cotton, flannelette and cotton-synthetic blends, but the garments are styled to fit snugly. In other words low fire danger does not mean no fire danger.

After 1 April 2009, only garments made from a lower fire hazard fabric will be allowed to carry the white "Low Fire Danger" label.

The red labels for garments made from higher fire risk fabric, which carry the "Warning High Fire Danger Keep Away from Fire", will continue.

Work & Income NZ: Update

The following changes have been made to the Work and Income NZ's (WINZ's) Job Search Service and employment and training programmes:

- all clients now receive a service that helps them plan for their future, whether it is about work, or participating in their community;
- there is now one medical certificate for people applying for Sickness and Invalid's Benefits, and people receiving an Invalid's benefit don't have to re-establish their condition at regular intervals if it is unlikely to change;
- specialist health and disability advisors work alongside case managers and clients, health and disability co-ordinators support health practitioners, and there are more staff working directly with employers in their workplace;
- from 11 August 2008, many WINZ clients will no longer be required to provide information to complete an annual review of their circumstances if nothing has changed in their lives. Instead, they will receive ongoing case management focused at helping them to achieve their goals. This will reduce compliance activities for approximately 300,000 clients;

- from 30 September 2008, a new job matching system will help match clients (regardless of benefit type) to appropriate job opportunities. This will be online in late 2009.

Air Ambulance Report Published

An Air Ambulance Reference Group (AARG) has reported on ways to provide air ambulance services for NZ that are safe, sustainable, and meet the needs of NZ's diverse communities.

The group supports the development of a national plan with a clear purpose and principles reflecting reasonable service expectations. Its proposals include:

- establishment of a lead Crown funder, and also a sector advisory group;
- development of a funding partnership between government and communities;
- an analysis of medium- to long-term funding needs, and developing a long-term funding plan for government and for community funding streams; and
- parallel contracting arrangements for primary rescue/recovery and inter-hospital transfers, as the first step towards fully-coordinating Crown (including DHB) contracts for all emergency helicopters and fixed wing air ambulance services.

Membership of the Reference Group includes representatives from the Air and Health sectors, other Emergency Services, Local Government, Road Ambulance, Civil Aviation Authority, Corporate Sponsors and Ambulance NZ.

You can read the full report at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmhr/report-air-ambulance-reference-group>

Fireworks Safety: New Code of Practice

Professional firework displays are now covered by a new code of practice which aims to improve operator and public safety at displays.

The purpose of the Outdoor Pyrotechnic Display Code of Practice is to ensure the safe and practical management of outdoor fireworks displays. It provides for approved handlers of fireworks to be certificated according to the skills and knowledge required for different types of display and the types of fireworks being used. It was developed by the Environmental Risk management Authority (ERMA) in consultation with the fireworks industry.

The code is on ERMA's website at: <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/HSNOCOP30-1.pdf>

Call for Nominations: National Breastfeeding Committee

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is seeking nominations for membership of a National Breastfeeding Committee (NBC). The role of the NBC is to advise the Director-General of Health on breastfeeding issues in NZ, and to work with the MoH to implement the National Strategic Plan of Action for Breastfeeding.

The Committee's term of office will be for one year and members will be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred through attendance at face-to-face meetings. The Committee, accountable to the Director-General of Health, will meet four times during its term of one year with the expected time commitment being five working days.

The NBC's objectives are:

- providing advice and guidance on the implementation of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Breastfeeding;
- providing information and guidance to support specific programmes and interventions under the plan, Healthy Eating - Healthy Action and other relevant strategies;
- contributing to increased breastfeeding rates, including a reduction in inequalities of breastfeeding rates across the population;
- fostering improved collaboration and coordinated planning and practice within and between relevant sectors; and
- making an active contribution to the establishment of a breastfeeding culture in NZ.

Nominations close 10 September 2008. For more information about the nominations process/a copy of the nomination form email bborlase@allenandclarke.co.nz or tel 04 890 7305

Medicine Funding Up \$17 Million

The Minister of Health has approved an increased community pharmaceuticals budget for the 2008/09 financial year. The budget of \$653 million is a \$17 million increase on 2007/08. PHARMAC manages pharmaceutical spending on behalf of DHBs, who hold the funding. PHARMAC and DHBs make a recommendation on the budget to the Minister of Health, who approves the budget level for each year, along with an indication of the forward funding path for coming years.

Pathways to Inclusion: Positive Evaluation

The Minister for Disability Issues has released an evaluation of the Pathways to Inclusion Strategy which was launched in 2001. The findings over the past six years show that in the services coming under the strategy and funded by the Ministry disabled people are entering the workforce and using community resources in increasing numbers.

Providers of vocational services have reported that between 2001 and 2007, the number of disabled people using their services who have gained or retained employment, increased from around 1200 to over 9000.

The report is available at www.msd.govt.nz/publications

Fresh Produce: Results of Residue Tests

Results from season two of the annual Food Residue Surveillance Programme (FRSP), which looks at chemical residues found in fresh, unwashed produce, were released recently. The survey,

conducted by the NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), looked at the same range of produce that was investigated in season one. Although some samples showed residues slightly over the permitted level, they are an improvement on previous seasons' results.

In total 108 produce samples were tested in season two. There were no non-compliances among the 12 strawberries samples and the 24 courgette samples. There were instances of non-compliance in the following:

- of 24 capsicum samples, one non-compliance was found;
- of 24 fancy lettuce samples, one non-compliance was found; and
- of 24 mushroom samples there was one non-compliance.

NZFSA also did a "dietary intake assessment" of the non-compliant results. This revealed that the residue levels found in this season's samples pose no health risk to consumers as they are well below those needed to produce any human health effects.

Background: NZFSA's Monitoring Programmes

The surveys carried out by NZFSA, when taken together, give a picture of what NZers are exposed to through their food:

- A Food Residue Surveillance Programme targets between four and eight types of produce each season with the choice of crop determined by a range of factors. These are often foods that authorities overseas have found to contain higher residue levels, or minor crops where growers may lack access to specific information about use of a particular agricultural compound on that crop;
- It sits alongside the Total Diet Survey, which is carried out every four or five years to assess the public's exposure to a range of agricultural compound residues, selected contaminants and nutrients (e.g. iodine) through analysing foods "as consumed";
- A National Residues Programme randomly samples animal products at the point of harvest for a wide range of contaminants and agricultural compounds; and
- a Dairy Residue Monitoring Programme tests raw (unpasteurised) milk at the farm and before it's transferred to the tanker or dairy factory.

Dealing with Self-Stigma - Fighting Shadows Report

A research report called "Fighting Shadows: Self-Stigma And Mental Illness: Whawhai Atu te Whakama Hihira" explores the issue of self-stigma (often called internalised stigma) from the perspective of people with experience of mental illness. The findings show that self-stigma is closely associated with discrimination. If people are encouraged to challenge discrimination when it occurs, if anti-stigma and anti-discrimination programmes are set up, and if people with experience of mental illness challenge their own attitudes and behaviour, self-stigma will be reduced.

The paper is at <http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/resources/Fighting-Shadows.pdf>

Education

Health Services to be Set Up in Schools

Over the next four years \$17.2 million will be spent to set up health services in all decile one, two and three secondary schools, in teen parent units, and in alternative education facilities.

School-based services will differ depending on each school's needs, but are expected to be mainly nurse-led, may include regular GP clinics, and will be developed in consultation between the school, primary health organisations and the local District Health Board (DHB).

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/40000+receive+school-based+health+services>

Boys' Educational Achievement

A report called "Boys' Achievement: a Synthesis of the Data" indicates that show that educationally boys still lag behind girls in some areas. Amongst the findings:

- from year 11 boys are leaving school at a faster rate than girls;
- there is no difference in the rate of truancy for boys and girls, but significantly more boys, are suspended, excluded or expelled, and boys gain more early leaving exemptions;
- at 6 years old boys are twice as likely as girls to be entered into Reading Recovery;
- there are no systematic gender differences in mathematics and science achievement;
- there is evidence that the reading gender gap reduces over time but increases for writing;
- girls tend to stay at school longer and leave school with higher attainment levels than boys; and
- boys are more likely than girls to leave school with little or no formal qualification but this difference has decreased over recent years.

The report is at <http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/schooling/25052/24895>

Latest School Leaver Statistics

The annual Ministry of Education School Leavers Statistics (that is, for 2007) show that 66% of students leaving secondary school in 2007 achieved level 2 NCEA or above, up from 60% in 2006.

The proportion of students gaining little or no formal attainment halved, from 11% in 2006 to 5% in 2007.

Other findings in the report are that:

- more students in all ethnicities achieved NCEA level 2 or above, with Maori making proportionately the biggest gains, followed by Pasifika and European/Pakeha students;
- for the first time, more than half of Pasifika students achieved level 2 NCEA or above; and
- the rate of Maori students leaving school with little or no formal attainment more than halved.

The report is at: http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/school_leavers2/school_leavers/28964

Scholarships and the Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Commission Scholarships says that scholarships offered to women, men and other groups by charitable trusts are exempt from the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1993. The Commission's clarification follows coverage of a query about the justification for women-only scholarships from an academic from the University of Victoria.

New University Campus Coming

A new university campus is planned for Counties Manukau, and is due to be opened in 2009. Situated in the heart of Manukau City near the Rainbow's End park, the new campus will be developed at the site of the former Carter Holt Harvey headquarters. The site has been purchased by Auckland University of Technology (AUT) with a \$25 million capital investment from the government.

Housing

First Shared Equity Home Loans Approved

A Shared Equity loan has been approved for 26 potential home owners, who now receive loan pre-approval certificates in the mail, and then have 90 days to buy a home.

A Shared Equity loan is an interest-free loan from the government. It tops up a Kiwibank home loan and the home buyer's own deposits, and it means people don't have to borrow as much from the bank.

Under the two year pilot scheme Housing NZ will allocate up to 700 of these loans. The \$35 million scheme will operate in Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Queenstown because these areas have the highest house prices.

June 2008 Property Prices (REINZ)

Median (middle point) prices fell by 2.15% in June - from \$345,000 in May to \$340,000 according to official Real Estate Institute (REINZ) numbers. This latest fall follows on from last month's drop of 1.42%.

Regional details are as follows:

- Northland: price eased to \$302,750 from \$310,000 in May (June 2007: \$315,000);
- Auckland: price eased to \$435,000 in June, from \$447,500 in May (June 2007: \$445,000);
- Waikato/Bay of Plenty/Gisborne: house price rose to \$316,000 in June (June 2007: \$325,000);
- Hawkes Bay: price eased to \$261,000 (May 2008: \$265,000; June 2007: \$268,100);
- Manawatu/Wanganui: house price fell to \$213,750 in June, from \$224,500 in May (June 2007: \$248,000);
- Taranaki: price fell to \$255,000 in June, from \$285,000 in May (June 2007: \$265,000);
- Wellington: price eased to \$366,500 in June, from \$389,500 in May (June 2007: \$375,000);
- Nelson/Marlborough: price eased to \$335,000 in June, from \$337,000 in May (June 2007: \$335,000);
- Canterbury/Westland: price rose to \$299,000 from \$296,000 in May (June 2007: \$305,250);
- Central Otago Lakes: price rose to \$514,000 in June from \$490,000 in May and \$420,000 in June 2007;
- Otago: price eased slightly to \$225,000 from \$240,000 in May (June 2007: \$230,000); and
- Southland: price eased to \$182,500 from \$200,000 in May (June 2007: \$177,750).

Is Home Affordability Improving?

The latest Wizard Home Loans Affordability report shows June's improvement in affordability was the biggest seen since it began in 2002. This monthly report measures the proportion of a median after tax income needed in each part of NZ to service an 80% mortgage on the median house price in that region.

In June 2008 it took 78.5% of the median take-home pay to service the mortgage on the median house in June, down from 80.6% in May and down from a peak of 83.8% in November last year. The previous best level of affordability was in February last year when the affordability ratio stood at 74.7%.

Despite the June results, home affordability remains much worse than before the housing boom took off in late 2003 and before interest rates rose from less than 7% in 2003 to over 9% last year. House prices rose 64% between November 2003 and November 2007. Most home-buyers still need to pool around two median incomes to afford a mortgage on the median house.

New Housing and Migration Research

Research commissioned by the Department of Labour has found while there was an association between NZers returning home and local house price increases, there was no evidence to suggest that the arrival of new immigrants had had an impact on local house prices.

Research findings in "Housing Markets and Migration: Evidence from NZ" indicate that both the flow of migrants - both new immigrants and returning NZers - and house prices are affected similarly by other common factors, which could include a strong economy, high income and employment expectations.

Another research paper called "The Economic Impact of Immigration on Housing in NZ 1991-2016" says that recent migrants are more likely to rent homes than the NZ-born population, but that longer-term, rent/ownership levels are similar to the NZ-born population. It also found that the capacity of the building industry appears to be adequate to meet the level of housing demand to 2016. This report noted that in Auckland in particular there may need to be a shift in the type of new dwellings being built because of growing demand for flats and apartments.

"Housing Markets and Migration: Evidence from NZ" is at <http://dol.govt.nz/publications/research/migration-and-housing/summary.asp>.
"The Economic Impact of Immigration on Housing in NZ 1991-2016" is at <http://dol.govt.nz/publications/research/immigration-on-housing/summary.asp>

Transport

Hand-held Phone Ban for Vehicle Drivers?

Watch out for consultation scheduled for this month on a proposal to amend the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 to ban the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving a vehicle.

As well as hand-held phones being banned, the use of Blackberry devices (these hand-held devices keep you connected to email) and Personal Digital Assistants (hand-held computers) would also be banned under the proposed amendment.

Drivers would still be able to use hands-free devices under the proposed ban, and there would be an exception made for 111 calls made in genuine emergencies, when would be unsafe or impractical to pull over to make the call.

The proposed penalty for transgressors would be a \$50 fine and 25 demerit points.

Between 2002 and 2007 there were 411 injury crashes and 26 fatal crashes where the use of mobile phones or other telecommunication devices was identified as a contributing factor.

Note: Hands-free sets range from under \$30 for the simplest option, which is sometimes provided free when mobile phones are purchased, to up to \$200 for a more sophisticated kit.

New NZ Transport Agency: Contact Details

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is now in business. It's formation brings together the functions of Land Transport NZ and Transit NZ. The new agency will focus on users of the transport system.

Contact details for NZTA are - National Office: Victoria Arcade, 44 Victoria Street, Private Bag 6995, Wellington 6141, tel 04 894 5400, fax 04 894 6100, email format is firstname.surname@nzta.govt.nz, web address is www.nzta.govt.nz

2008/09 State Highway Plan

Transit NZ has released its 2008/09 State Highway Plan and Forecast that details planned state highway maintenance and capital improvements. The plan sets out in detail Transit's programme of work for the current year, and for the remaining years covered by the Government's funding guarantee. It also includes a forecast out to 10 years. Transit plans to start construction on around 45 new road improvement projects around the country in 2008/09, ranging from large projects like the SH2 Waipukurau Overbridge Realignment (Hawke's Bay) or SH1 Akerama Curves Realignment (Northland) to new passing lanes, seal widening projects, safety improvements, walking and cycling projects and many other improvements.

The State Highway Plan and Forecast 2008/09 to 2017/18 is at <http://www.transit.govt.nz/planning/forecast/forecast-08-09.jsp>

Used Car Safety Ratings

According to the results of the 2008 Used Car Safety Ratings (UCSR) issued by Land Transport NZ and the Automobile Association, owning a safer car doesn't mean breaking the bank. The findings show that Kiwi motorists can buy a used vehicle which provides good protection to occupants and other road users in a crash for less than \$5,000.

The ratings measure the relative safety performance of used cars based on over 3.2 million actual crashes on NZ and Australian roads from 1986 to 2006.

The relative safety of 349 popular used vehicles, ranging from light cars to large 4WDs and vans is assessed. Many of the better performing vehicles are newer models, showing the benefits of modern safety technology like airbags, side intrusion beams, seatbelt pre-tensioners and crumple zones. The majority of the worst performing vehicles are pre-1990 models, demonstrating the gains made in occupant protection in newer vehicles.

Some of the safest vehicles in the 2008 UCSR include:

Class	Vehicle	Year	Starting price (\$)
Small	VW Golf	1999 to 2004	8,000
	Mazda 3 (import version Axela)	2003 to 2006	13,500
Medium	Holden Vectra	1997 to 2003	4,000
	VW Passat	1998 to 2005	6,000
	SAAB 9-3	1998 to 2002	9,000
	Subaru Legacy	1999 to 2003	7,000
	Mazda 6 (import version Atenza)	2002 to 2006	13,000
Commercial Van	Ford Transit	2001 to 2005	13,500
People Mover	Mitsubishi Nimbus	1999 to 2003	8,000
Compact 4WD	Honda CRV	1997 to 2001	7,000
	Subaru Forester	1997 to 2002	5,000

Copies of the 2008 Used Car Safety Ratings are free from AA Centres, and you can order them from Land Transport offices. Results are also at www.landtransport.govt.nz/vehicles/used-cars/ and www.aa.co.nz, or call 0800 699 000

Trading Old Vehicles for Public Transport Passes

A report is available on a six-week trial carried out in Auckland last year in which owners of old vehicles were offered two months worth of free public transport in return for unwarranted vehicles and vehicles that wouldn't pass their next warrant. The vehicles had to be running and they had to have a current warrant of fitness.

The aim of this exercise was to see whether removing older vehicles from the road could, over time, help to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and encourage public transport use.

Almost half of those who responded to a follow up survey said the trial had encouraged them to make more use of public transport, and almost a quarter of respondents said their opinion of public transport had changed - the vast majority for the better.

A total of 253 vehicles were scrapped in the scheme.

The report is at <http://www.transport.govt.nz/vehicle-emissions-index>

Energy

NZ Energy Data File June 2008

Highlights of the latest quarterly edition include:

- total energy consumption has continued to grow at a lower rate than GDP growth;
- wind generation capacity almost doubled during 2007;
- there has been large growth in domestic oil and gas production as a result of the Tui and Pohokura fields performing strongly; and
- petrol and diesel prices remain low relative to other OECD countries.

The NZ Energy Data File is available online at: www.med.govt.nz/energy/edf/

Global Wind Energy Map...

NASA has published a map showing the world's most promising regions for offshore wind farms, based on nearly a decade of satellite data. The northern US, Canada, UK, Japan and Eastern Russia have most potential in the northern hemisphere, while NZ, southern Australia, South Africa and Argentina have the best winds in the southern hemisphere.

The best ocean areas could potentially produce 500-800W of wind power per square metre. This is slightly less than peak solar power, which is about 1000W/sq m.

Source: NZ Energy & Environment Business Week 16 July 2008

...& More Wind Farms on the Way

- Contact Energy has filed resource consent applications for its Hauauru ma raki wind farm of up to 540MW. The \$1billion-plus project will be located on around 17,000ha of isolated farmland to the south of Port Waikato. Contact plans to build the wind farm in stages, with the first electricity expected in 2012 or 2013 and completion by 2015 or 2016; and
- Wanaka-based Wind Prospect CWP (NZ) is pressing ahead with plans for a wind farm near Wyndham in Southland. The company expects to apply for resource consents for the \$390 million project in early 2009.

CWP has set up a website www.slopedownwindfarm.co.nz about its project

Finding the Cheapest Power Deal....

Since 2002, consumers have been able to compare deals relatively simply using online calculator PowerSwitch. However, recent UMR research released by the Electricity Commission found just 13% of respondents had heard of the website. For residential customers with average power use and on the most common tariff, the study found potential savings of shopping around varied from nothing to about \$265 a year - or more if they could change to a more suitable plan.

Find out more at <http://www.consumer.org.nz/powerswitch/Default.asp?bhcp=1>

...& Home Energy Advice Centre Freephone

Call the Home Energy Advice freephone for independent advice on home energy use, e.g., information on subsidies and grants, insulation, heating options, ventilation, appliances... aim of the service is to encourage warmer, healthier, more environmentally friendly homes.

Call 0800 388 588 between 10am - 4 pm, Monday - Thursday

Employment

Unemployment Up & Employment Numbers Also Up

Statistics NZ figures show that after falling throughout 2007, the unemployment rate has increased over the first two quarters of 2008 - by 0.2% to 3.9% - over the June 2008 quarter. Male unemployed increased by 0.4% to 3.9%, while female unemployed increased by 0.1% to 4%.

At the same time the number of people employed increased by 26,000 (1.2%) over the June 2008 quarter. This is the second highest level of employment ever recorded by the Household Labour Force Survey - and it follows a fall in employment of 1.3% over the March 2008 quarter.

There have been some fluctuations in full-time employment recently, with full-time employment increasing by 17,000 (or 1%) over the June 2008 quarter. There was an increase in female full-time employment of 15,000 (which followed a decrease in female full-time employment of 23,000 over the March 2008 quarter). Part-time employment increased by 8,000 (or 1.6%) over the June 2008 quarter.

The working-age population grew by 0.2% over the quarter. Moderate population growth coupled with the strong growth in the labour force of 1.5% resulted in a labour force participation rate increase of 0.9%, to 68.6%. Both the male and female labour force participation rates increased over the June 2008 quarter, to 75.4% and 62.1%, respectively.

Top 10 Checklist for Employers of Migrants

Employers of skilled migrants in NZ have identified a top ten check list for successful workplace relations. The check list, which includes zero tolerance of racial discrimination through to accommodating religious diversity at work, is in a new publication "Brain Gain: Migrant Workers in NZ".

The ten point check list is:

- changing recruitment attitudes and practices to give migrants a go;
- talking to prospective employees before they come to NZ;
- a good training and induction system for new migrants as well as other employees;
- different religious beliefs can be accommodated through good communication and workplace flexibility;
- languages other than English can be spoken where it does not compromise health and safety and essential work practices;
- helping migrants improve English language competencies helps boost business productivity;
- diversity of staff can be seen as an added value for co-workers in understanding different cultures;
- migrant workers can offer competitive advantage to new clients and customers;
- migrant workers approach employment with appreciation rather than expectation and exhibit a strong work ethic; and
- zero tolerance of racial discrimination in the workplace must be led from top management.

The list is at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/newsandissues/thebraingaintop10checklistforemployersofmigrants.php>

New Skills Strategy Action Plan

The idea behind a new joint government-industry Skills Strategy Action Plan is to raise NZ's competitiveness and productivity. For 2008 the four areas for action are aimed at:

- improving management and leadership in organisations;

- increasing the literacy, language and maths skills of the workforce;
- creating a better match between workers' skills and industry and regional needs; and
- supporting young people currently in the workforce to increase their skills and engage in relevant training.

Find out more at <http://www.skillsstrategy.govt.nz>

Job Interviews: Questions to be Avoided

A few examples of where not to go in an interview... "Are you going to have kids?" "Do you have NZ experience?" "How old are you?" "Can I get the cops to check you out?" "What are you going to do for me if I give you the job?"

The Human Rights Commission has published new guidelines for employers and employees called "Getting a Job: an A-Z of Pre-employment Guidelines". The guidelines were compiled from frequently asked questions, enquiries and complaints made to the Human Rights Commission. They are aimed at helping employers, recruiters and job-seekers conduct interviews that comply with the Human Rights Act 1993.

The guidelines are at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/newsandissues/jobinterviewquestionstobeavoided.php>

KiwiSaver Changes

The Employment Relations Act is to be amended to address situation that has seen some employees paying their employer's contribution to their KiwiSaver account. The Act's amendments will make it clear that this will be illegal.

Nearly a Third of NZers Work Long Hours

A profile of NZers who work long hours has been developed using research commissioned by the Department of Labour (DoL) and the Families Commission. Based on data from the 2006 Census, the research shows that a significant proportion of the total workforce works 50 hours or more per week. Of the more than 1.4 million NZers who work full-time, nearly one-third said that they worked 50 hours or more a week.

The information will be used to help DoL identify and target particular groups of employers and employees, with a view to improving productivity, standards of health and safety, and the work-life balance of NZers.

For further information on the report, please visit <http://www.dol.govt.nz/worklife/research/work-life-balance.asp>

Work Stoppages Decrease

Statistics NZ says there were 26 work stoppages ended in the March 2008 year. This compares with 40 stoppages for the March

2007 year. Stoppages in the March 2008 year involved 3,664 employees, and losses of 11,049 person-days of work and \$1.8 million in wages and salaries.

In comparison, the 40 stoppages in the March 2007 year involved 8,698 employees, and losses of 25,589 person-days of work and an estimated \$4.9 million in wages and salaries.

Twenty-two complete strikes, two partial strikes and two lockouts ended in the March 2008 year. In the March 2008 quarter, three work stoppages ended - all were complete strikes. These involved 118 employees, and resulted in losses of 178 person-days of work and an estimated \$24,000 in wages and salaries.

Second Small Business Road-show Underway

A second series of events offering practical assistance to people who run their own companies, and outlining government information and services for small business is currently underway.

A new publication called "Start, Manage and Grow your Business" is also available at the meetings. This includes case studies of business people who solved their business problems with help.

At time of printing the roadshow was still to visit the following venues: Rangiora (12 August); Greymouth (13 August); Wanganui (18 August); Hutt Valley (20 August); Whakatane (26 August) and Gisborne (27 August). To find more about venues go to <http://www.avenues.co.nz/startmanagegrow/index.html> or call the Ministry of Economic Development on 04 472 0030 and ask for the Small Business team

Justice/the Law

Public Defence Service Now Permanent

The Legal Services Agency (LSA) is to employ permanent salaried staff to provide the Public Defence Service (PDS) legal services that have been piloted in Manukau and Auckland courts since May 2004. In the pilot the LSA employed legal professionals to work alongside private practitioners, the first time that a mixed private-public model of legal aid service delivery had been trialled in NZ. Currently the PDS employs 28 staff and handles approximately 2,400 criminal cases a year.

Supporting Victims of Abuse in State Care

A new Listening and Assistance Service (based on a similar service established for the Confidential Forum for Former In-Patients of Psychiatric Hospitals established in 2004) is to be set up over the next few months. It will be open to all people who allege abuse or neglect or have concerns about their time in State care in the health, child welfare or residential special education sector prior to 1992.

Once the Service is operating, it will:

- provide the opportunity for participants, along with their families if participants wish, to talk about their concerns and/or experiences with a panel of suitably qualified people;
- help participants and their families identify their needs and get assistance to access services on a non-preferential basis compared to other members of the public;
- enable participants to access information held about them by the State, in an environment where they can ask questions and seek corrections to the information held; and
- help participants to come to terms with their experience and achieve closure.

The Service is not intended to determine liability or the truth of participants' experiences or stories, nor provide for the payment of compensation.

Giving Immigration Advice: Licensing Changes

Under the new Immigration Advisers Licensing Act, immigration advisers in NZ will have to have a licence by 4 May 2009, and offshore advisers giving advice on NZ immigration matters will have to have one by 4 May 2010. To obtain and hold a licence, advisers will have to meet competency standards, adhere to a code of conduct, and be "fit" to practise. Licences and the code of conduct will have to be displayed at the adviser's place of business.

An Immigration Advisers Authority will keep a public online register of licensed Immigration Advisers.

Those exempt from having to be licensed include people providing immigration advice informally to family members; members of Parliament/staff whose job it is to provide immigration advice; foreign diplomats; public service employees who are employed to provide immigration advice; lawyers; people working for community law centres; Citizens Advice Bureaux staff; and people overseas who advise on student visa and permit applications.

More information is at www.iaa.govt.nz

Births, Deaths, Marriages Registers: New Act

The main aim of the recently passed Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationship (BDMR) Registration Amendment Act is to maintain access to birth, death, marriage and civil union registers while at the same time making sure that people's personal information is protected.

The Act (which is due to come into force in about six month's time) will provide better access to these registers, for example, by allowing historical information to be accessed through a web-based service. Researchers will also be able to request a greater range of information, including identifying information, about groups of individuals, and historical researchers will have access for the first time.

Personal protection safeguards in the Act include:

- applicants for certificates and printouts will be required to present identification;
- an "access register" will be set up so people can find out who has applied to access their records; and

- people will be able to request that their records not be publicly disclosed.

Other provisions are aimed at reducing identity fraud, providing better management of personal information, and enabling follow-up of parents with unregistered children, so they become registered.

Not-For-Profits

New Report on Not-For-Profits

A new survey report into the not-for-profit sector has been released by business advice and chartered accounting firm Grant Thornton NZ. Its findings include:

- the three most challenging issues for the Not for Profit sector are financing and fundraising, governance and the retention and motivation of key staff;
- over half of survey respondents continue to be concerned about the sustainability of their key sources of income. However most organisations are confident about the funding they have in place for the next 12 months with 86% budgeting to make a surplus or at least break-even;
- 60% of respondents believe that their organisation will benefit from the Taxation Changes on Donations announced in the 2007 Budget;
- not-for-profit organisations define success in terms of making a real difference to users, and building a financially sustainable organisation with sound leadership and management; and
- performance monitoring is largely seen as the domain of the CEO. Not-for-profits are coming under increasing scrutiny and pressure to demonstrate that their activities are delivering "best value", whether they are competing for the public's charitable donations, grants or public sector service contracts.

The full report is available (in .pdf format) free of charge at: www.grantthornton.co.nz

Business

Manufacturing Activity in June

According to the Bank of NZ - Business NZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI), the seasonally adjusted PMI for June 2008 stood at 45.7, which was 2.2 points down from May. A PMI reading above 50.0 indicates manufacturing is generally expanding; below 50.0 that it is declining. PMI values for June in the years 2002-2007 ranged from 52.6-62.4, with an average score for all months over the history of the survey standing at 54.1.

A notable outcome of the latest survey was the reports of soaring raw material costs. It seems that raw material costs were trumping ongoing rises in staffing and other costs as the topical concern for many manufacturers (globally as well as in NZ). These increasing material costs are squeezing profitability, at a time when sales are stalling.

Imports and Exports in June

In June 2008, merchandise imports were valued at \$3.8 billion, the highest value for a June month, up 16.9% from June 2007. This increase was led by crude oil with the price of crude up substantially since June 2007. Merchandise exports were valued at \$3.6 billion in June 2008, up 30.9% from June 2007. This is the largest percentage increase from the same month of the previous year since January 2001. The increase in exports was dominated by crude oil and milk powder, butter and cheese.

IRD Develops Tax Program for SMEs

Inland Revenue (IRD) is developing software that will help small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) meet their tax obligations. The Department has awarded Christchurch software firm The Small Business Company a contract to develop the interactive tool, which will follow the life-cycle of a small to medium-sized business.

It will be free to use, and will take businesses through setting up their business, record-keeping, how tax and general sales tax work, and employer obligations, including KiwiSaver requirements.

The software, which will include Flash animation and should be available from September this year, will also link to other government agencies that provide useful knowledge to businesses, including the Labour Department and ACC. (Flash is software used to design animated graphics, websites, video games, movies and advertisements on the Internet.)

Launch of Capital Market Development Taskforce

The recently launched Capital Market Development Taskforce aims to see government and the private sector work together to develop NZ's capital markets. The rationale behind developing capital markets is that for NZ firms to create wealth and jobs, they need ready access to affordable capital. It's the Taskforce's job to identify ways to make this happen.

The Taskforce will be looking at the current state of our capital markets, the international context, future risks and opportunities, and key changes necessary to deliver the best possible financial system for NZ. It aims to develop a blueprint and action plan for release in late 2009.

The Taskforce is made up of 10 members representing the private sector, supported by officials from the Ministry of Economic Development (MED), Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the Inland Revenue Department (IRD).

Further information about the Taskforce can be found at www.med.govt.nz/cmdtaskforce

Business & Sport Partnerships: Up and Running

A NZ "Business and Sport Partnership Initiative" has been set up to provide more support to sports bodies, including mentoring and providing advice on governance, management and financial administration. In return the sports organisations can help better connect businesses with their communities and help develop teamwork principles within the business environment.

Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC) will act as a broker, bringing business and sport together to explore relationships beyond the traditional sponsorship model with the idea of entering into a formal agreement.

Five businesses and sport organisations partnerships are already in place. They are: DHL and Surf Life Saving NZ; Contact Energy and Triathlon NZ; BankLink and Rowing NZ; TVNZ and Netball NZ, and Kiwi Rail and Yachting NZ.

Dairy's Economic Contribution

A report prepared by Statistics NZ for Fonterra shows that Fonterra now accounts for a quarter of the country's export earnings. In the latest figures dairying's contribution has risen by more than 3% to a total of 27% of NZ's export revenues, and Fonterra's contribution alone is 25%. Much of this increase has been driven by record high commodity prices. If NZ hadn't had the drought this year, which saw milk production drop by around 4%, the figure could have been even higher.

Money Matters

Snapshot of the NZ Economy

Credit information provider Veda Advantage has released its first biannual snapshot of the NZ economy, based upon information collated from its Credit Bureau. Key indicators from January to June 2008 were compared with the same 6-month period in 2007. The main findings include:

- *Hire Purchase and Personal Loan Applications.* Total consumer credit enquiries for the first six months of 2008 are down 10% on the same period last year, making 2008 the third consecutive year of decline in consumer credit applications. Personal loan applications are also down 16%;
- *Credit Card Inquiries.* Applications for credit cards, however, were up 10% overall, with Generation Y in particular turning to cards as an alternative form of unsecured credit; there has been a 13% increase in applications amongst those aged between 18 and 27;
- *Mortgage Inquiries.* The first half of 2008 has seen a 21% drop in mortgage applications over the same period in 2007;
- *Consumer Defaults.* The total number of consumer defaults is up 7% on the first 6 months of last year. Figures show the largest portion of this growth came from the Generation Y group whose defaults increased by 8% when compared to the

same period in 2007. Defaults have noticeably increased in certain sectors, with sharp jumps in the number of people defaulting in basic bill payments such as phone (148%) and internet (100%); and

- *Commercial Defaults.* In the commercial sector, defaults for January to June 2008 have leapt 24% on January to June 2007.

Consumer Price Index: June 2008 Quarter

According to Statistics NZ, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 1.6% in the June 2008 quarter, the highest since the June 1990 quarter (1.8%).

For the year to the June 2008 quarter, the CPI increased 4.0%, following a rise of 3.4% for the year to the March 2008 quarter. The last time the CPI increased by more than 4% for the year was the June 1995 quarter (4.6%).

Higher prices for petrol (up 25.9%) made the most significant individual contribution to the increase in the CPI for the year to June 2008. If petrol prices had remained constant from the June 2007 quarter, the CPI would have risen 2.7% for the year to the June 2008 quarter.

National Qualification for Financial Advisers.

The NZ Qualification Authority (NZQA) has approved a new National Certificate in Financial Services, a Level 4 qualification. This has been developed by the financial services sector industry training organisation, ETITO, in consultation with industry and it is the first national qualification for the financial services sector.

ETITO is also developing training and assessment systems to enable financial advisers to undertake the new Level 4 national certificate through accredited providers from 2009.

Details are on the NZQA website (www.nzqa.govt.nz)

Free Off-peak Travel for Senior NZers Coming

The SuperGold Card directory has been updated and now contains more than 850 business partners offering a variety of discounts across a wide range of goods and services. Included shortly will be free off-peak travel for senior NZers. Land Transport NZ is currently working with regional councils on the concession.

For more information visit the SuperGold Card website www.supergold.govt.nz or phone 0800 25 45 65

Trans-Tasman Retirement Savings Portability?

Officials in Australia and NZ are to finalise the text of a deal by the end of October that will ease the movement of private retirement savings across the Tasman. The move follows the first for-

mal bilateral talks between the two Finance Ministers, who are confident that KiwiSaver and complying Australian superannuation accounts are mutually compatible.

Angel Industry Group Established

Angel investor groups have formed a new industry body - the Angel Association NZ - to advocate for and to promote best practice within the investment sector. The Association's members consist of 15 angel groups from around NZ.

An angel investor is an individual who provides capital and, often, expertise to early stage businesses which can't source traditional sources of business funding. Angels typically invest their own capital, and often provide valuable management advice, mentoring and access to important contacts and markets.

Typically, angels are ex-entrepreneurs and successful business people looking to add early stage companies to their investment portfolio. By taking an active role in their investments, they provide not only governance by serving on boards, but also assist companies with relationships, strategy, team building, and future fundraising.

Angel investors are exposed to high risks and expect that some investments will fail. If an angel invests in ten companies, the rule is that four will fail, three will tread water, two will return 2-5 times the initial investment, and one will result in a return of five to ten times the original investment over a 5-10 year period.

Assessing Your Personal Finances with Sort Me

The Retirement Commission's new online financial check, Sort Me, lets you sit down and take the pulse of your financial health. It takes you through eight areas of money management: your goals and dreams; income and making ends meet; your borrowing; saving and investing; protecting your assets; keeping your affairs sorted; big life changes; and your retirement. It then analyses your answers to a series of simple multi-choice questions about your financial fitness.

Once you've submitted your answers, Sort Me gives you a rundown on how you're doing in each area of your personal finances, telling you where you are sorted, where you might need to take some action, and how you might do that.

Sort Me is available at www.sorted.org.nz

Treaty Matters

Ngai Tuhoe & Crown Sign Terms of Negotiation

Ngai Tuhoe and the Crown have signed Terms of Negotiations, which set out how the Crown and Ngai Tuhoe will negotiate Ngai Tuhoe's claim, and indicate the subjects to be discussed.

The Waitangi Tribunal held hearings into Ngai Tuhoe's claims in 2004. These claims included the loss by Ngai Tuhoe of land and lives as a result of Crown actions, the execution of unarmed prisoners by Crown forces during the NZ wars, and the Crown's 1916 raid on Maungapohatu and arrest of Rua Kenana.

In June this year, Ngai Tuhoe signed the Central North Island Collective Deed of Settlement. The Collective Settlement settled Ngai Tuhoe's claims to central North Island forest land but left the settlement of their remaining historical claims to be negotiated. The redress provided under the Collective settlement is on account (i.e. is partial payment of a debt) against such a settlement.

Closing Date for Historical Treaty Claims Looms

In December 2006, the Treaty of Waitangi Amendment Act set a deadline of 1 September 2008 for the submission of all new historical claims to the Waitangi Tribunal. The Tribunal will not be able to register or inquire into any new historical claims submitted after that date.

Historical claims relate to legislation, policies, practices, acts or omissions of the Crown that occurred before 21 September 1992.

Waitangi Tribunal Report: Te Tau Ihu Claims

The Waitangi Tribunal has released a pre-publication version of its report on the Treaty claims of iwi and hapu of Te Tau Ihu (northern South Island). The eight recognised iwi are Ngati Apa, Ngati Koata, Ngati Kuia, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama, Ngati Toa Rangatira, Te Atiawa and Rangitane.

The Tribunal found that many acts and omissions of the Crown breached the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. In particular, the Tribunal concludes that ownership of all but a tiny fraction of land in the Te Tau Ihu inquiry district was lost to Te Tau Ihu Maori without first gaining their free, informed and meaningful consent to the alienations. Nor did the Crown ensure that fair prices were paid. It says that the Treaty breaches are serious and have caused significant social, economic, cultural and spiritual prejudice to all iwi of Te Tau Ihu. These breaches, the Tribunal considers, require large and culturally appropriate redress.

It has made several recommendations for remedies, and also recommends that financial and commercial redress be divided equally between the eight iwi.

It also says that Te Tau Ihu iwi have lost the ability to recover their interests in lands within the takiwa, which have been vested in Ngai Tahu as a result of earlier Crown settlement. The Tribunal recommends that the Crown take urgent action to ensure that these breaches do not continue. It also recommends that the Crown negotiate with those Te Tau Ihu iwi identified in the report as having customary interests within the statutorily defined Ngai Tahu takiwa to agree on equitable compensation.

The report highlighted a number of shortcomings with respect to the current "offer-back" regime under the Public Works Act 1981, and it recommends amendments to the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 and the Public Works Act to address these issues.

Fishing

Blue Cod Fishing in Marlborough Sounds to Close

The blue cod fishery in the Marlborough Sounds is to be closed for the next four years to protect its long-term future. There has been an average decline across Marlborough of 57% of juvenile blue cod from 2004, with the inner Queen Charlotte Sound reporting no blue cod at all.

The closure will come into effect on 1 October 2008 and will expire on 1 October 2012. It will be illegal for recreational fishers to take blue cod caught within the enclosed Marlborough Sounds Area. This includes all "enclosed waters" of Pelorus, Kenepuru, Queen Charlotte Sounds and Tory Channel. Fishing for other species within the Sounds will still be allowed but blue cod caught unintentionally must be returned to the water immediately.

A high resolution map of the closed area is available on the Ministry of Fisheries website www.fish.govt.nz

Bill to Legalise Current Fisheries Practice

A Bill to make current ways of allocating fish stock legal has been introduced into Parliament. It will be hurried through the House to legalise current practices, so new catch limits can be set before the start of a new fishing year on 1 October.

Earlier this year a High Court ruled that before a Total Allowable Catch allocation can be made, estimates of the current stock level of the fishery must be received as well as its target stock level. However, the information needed to produce the estimates is not available for virtually any of NZ's fisheries, and the Ministry says it would be difficult and expensive to get. The Bill would amend section 13, so that it can be used to set catch limits using the standard practices that have been followed since the Fisheries Act was passed in 1996. The Primary Production Select Committee has been asked to report the Bill back to the House by 25 August, so that it can be enacted by mid-September.

The Elections

New Electoral Rolls Open for Public to View

The Electoral Enrolment Centre is asking people to check just released electoral rolls, as another milestone towards the 2008 general election is reached. Preliminary electoral rolls with the details of everyone currently enrolled are now available for viewing at local PostShops, public libraries, Registrar of Electors' offices and district courthouses.

The final electoral rolls to be used on Election Day will close about a month before the Election.

Everyone who enrolls in time to go on the final printed electoral rolls will get an EasyVote information pack in the mail, which will make voting easier.

If you are not enrolled - or you are on the roll but your details are incorrect - you can fill in an enrolment form and send it to the Electoral Enrolment Centre. You can obtain an enrolment form by freetexting your name and address to 3676, going online to www.elections.org.nz, going to any PostShop, emailing enrol@elections.org.nz, or calling 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56). Contact details for the Centre are: Electoral Enrolment Centre is PO Box 190, Wellington, NZ, tel 4 801 0700, fax 4 801 0709

"Third Party" Registrations

Any group not standing for election, but planning on spending more than \$12,000 (incl. GST) between 1 January 2008 and election day (no later than 15 November 2008) on advertisements encouraging or persuading electors to vote or not vote for a candidate or party must apply for listing as a third party.

Third parties may not spend more than \$120,000 (incl. GST). The spending limit is \$4,000 if your campaign is concerned with an electorate. The following organisations are currently listed as third parties:

Finsec Incorporated; Foundation for Economic Growth Inc; Free Speech Coalition Trust; HealthCare Providers NZ Inc; Health Cuts Hurt Inc; Maritime Union of NZ Inc; National Union of Public Employees Inc; NZ Amalgamated Engineering, Printing & Manufacturing Union Inc; NZ Conservative Party; NZ Dairy Workers Union; NZ Council of Trade Unions; NZ Meat Workers and Related Trades Union Inc; NZ Public Service Association; NZ Union of Students' Associations; and Service and Food Workers Union Nga Ringa Tota.

More is at <http://www.elections.org.nz/rules/thirdparties/apply-list-third-party.html>

NZers Get Chance to Rate Politicians

A new website is giving NZers a chance to rate and review their politicians. Professional research, review and networking site HowGood has launched a new page titled "HowGood is my politician?" which will run for the length of the election campaign.

Kicking off with "How Good is my party leader?" it includes not-entirely-serious profiles of the leaders of all the parliamentary parties. Voters can review and rate the leaders on qualities such as leadership, integrity, charisma and intellect. As well, they can write a brief review of each party leader's performance.

For more go to www.howgood.co.nz

Internet/ICT

NZers' Internet Use: Report

The World Internet Project is a study which aims to track the trends of the Internet and its impact around the world by surveying both users and non-users. As a part of this study AUT University (with the National Library of NZ) surveyed 1430 NZers in September/October 2007. The findings show:

- 78% of NZers use the Internet. 6% are ex-users; 16% have never used it;
- 15% of users are online at home for at least 20 hours a week;
- 66% of users with a connection at home have broadband, compared to 31% with dial-up. The younger, wealthier and more urban people are, the more broadband access they have;
- Internet usage is age-graded. The younger people are, the more likely they are to use it, the better their ability, the more important they rate it, the more they create content and socialize online;
- higher household income clearly promotes greater Internet access, usage, ability and everyday reliance;
- gender is mostly not a significant indicator of Internet usage and attitudes;
- socialising is a major Internet use, especially among the young: 77% of users check their email every day. Every week 28% participate in social networking sites like MySpace or Facebook;
- most users say the Internet has increased their contact with other people, especially overseas (65%), few believe there has been a decrease;
- the Internet has increased contact overall with friends (according to 64%) and with family (60%), but 22% say they now spend less time face-to-face with the family they live with;
- concern about children's safety online is high. Over 80% of households with under-18s have rules for their Internet use;
- NZers who use the Internet rely on it heavily. 61% think it would be a problem if they lost access, while only 2% think this would make life better; and
- as a source of information, the Internet is rated important by more users (71%) than are family and friends (56%), newspapers or television (52%).

Download the report from: www.wipnz.aut.ac.nz

Telecommunications Service Obligation: TCF Report

The Telecommunications Carriers' Forum (TCF) has completed its report on the Telecommunications Service Obligation (TSO), and has submitted its recommendations to Government. The service obligation, once known as the Kiwi Share Obligation, is

the main way of making sure all NZers have free local calling, as well as ensuring the expansion of Internet access into rural areas.

The report says there is a strong case for the current TSO arrangements to be reformed given the significant changes in technology and the competitive environment since the TSO was first established. It also recommends that the TSO be opened up to competition by allowing other companies to tender to be the TSO provider. It notes there are a range of telecommunications companies, employing a range of technologies including wireless, who are now in a good position to provide TSO services to the more difficult to serve areas of NZ. Other recommendations include:

- continuing with free-local calling in TSO areas;
- moving to a funding model based on general taxation;
- moving away from obligations to industry codes of practice for matters like call quality and emergency services call handling; and
- maintaining a clear separation between the TSO and any initiatives to increase the uptake of broadband.

For more information contact the TCF, tel 09 414 9713, fax 09 414 5532, email: info@tcf.org.nz, web www.tcf.org.nz

Telecommunications Markets: OECD Comparisons

The Commerce Commission has released its March quarterly monitoring report which offers statistics about telecommunications markets in NZ and overseas. The statistics compare the total number of broadband connections in NZ with the rest of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries as at 31 December 2007.

The OECD estimates that there are 18.3 broadband subscribers per 100 of the population in NZ (92% of the OECD average) to give NZ a rank of 19 out of 30 in the OECD. This is up from the OECD estimate for December 2006 of when estimated that there were 14 NZ broadband subscribers per 100 (77% of the OECD average) - when we ranked 21 out of 30.

New Zealand ranked sixth in the OECD for broadband growth in 2006-07.

The March quarterly report - together with other information on telecommunications - is at <http://www.comcom.govt.nz/IndustryRegulation/Telecommunications/MonitoringandReporting/DecisionsList.aspx>

Techsoup: Software Donation Programme

The Techsoup NZ Programme is a software donation programme for not-for-profit organisations provided in partnership with Community Information Strategies (CISA). Under the scheme donated software from companies such as Microsoft and companies upgrading their IT equipment is recycled to community organisations. Techsoup is registered as a charitable organisation under the NZ Income Tax Act 2004.

More information is at <http://www.techsoup.org/>

Email Etiquette

The following list of email dos and don'ts is one of many lists on the subject:

- be concise and to the point;
- answer all questions;
- use correct spelling, grammar & punctuation;
- make it personal;
- use templates for frequently used responses;
- respond quickly;
- do not attach unnecessary files;
- be careful with structure, layout and formatting;
- do not overuse the high priority option;
- do not write in CAPITALS;
- don't leave out the message thread;
- add disclaimers to your emails;
- read the email before you send it;
- do not overuse "Reply to All";
- mailings: use the bcc: field or do a mail merge;
- take care with abbreviations and emoticons (which visually express how a person feels);
- take care with rich text and HTML messages;
- do not request delivery and read receipts;
- do not ask to recall a message;
- do not copy a message or attachment without permission;
- do not use email to discuss confidential information;
- use a meaningful subject;
- use active instead of passive tense (i.e. "they all had a good time" v "a good time was had by all);
- avoid using "URGENT" and "IMPORTANT";
- avoid long sentences;
- don't send or forward emails containing libellous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks;
- don't forward virus hoaxes or chain letters;
- keep your language gender neutral;
- don't reply to spam; and
- use cc sparingly.

The list is at <http://www.emailreplies.com/>

Arts and Culture

New Scheme to Boost Kiwi Film and Television

A new NZ Screen Production Incentive Fund designed to boost NZ film and television is now in place following approval of a five-year pool of funding of 68.5 million.

The fund will provide a 40% grant on qualifying NZ feature film production expenditure, and a 20% grant on qualifying NZ television and other screen production expenditure - primarily drama/comedy, documentary and animated content. It will be administered by the NZ Film Commission on behalf of the Government.

Further information, including details of eligibility criteria is available on the Film Commission's website: www.nzfilm.co.nz

2008 Montana NZ Book Awards Winners

- Montana Medal for Fiction or Poetry winner and Fiction category winner: Opportunity by Charlotte Grimshaw (Random House);
- Fiction runner-up: Edwin & Matilda by Laurence Fearnley (Penguin Group (NZ));
- Poetry winner: Cold Snack by Janet Charman (Auckland University Press);
- Montana Medal for Non-Fiction winner and Environment category winner: Wetlands of NZ - A bitter-sweet story by Janet Hunt (Random House NZ);
- Biography winner: The Life and Times of James Walter Chapman-Taylor by Judy Siers (Millwood Heritage Productions Ltd);
- History winner: Te Tau Ihu O Te Waka Volume II: Te Ara Hou - The New Society by Hilary and John Mitchell (Huia Publishers);
- Reference and Anthology winner: A Nest of Singing Birds: 100 years of the NZ School Journal by Gregory O'Brien (Learning Media Ltd);
- Lifestyle & Contemporary Culture winner: Mau Moko: The World of Maori Tattoo by Ngahua Te Awakotuku with Linda Waimarie Nikora, Mohi Rua and Rolinda Karapu (Penguin Group (NZ));
- Illustrative winner: Bill Hammond: Jingle Jangle Morning by Jennifer Hay, with Ron Brownson, Chris Knox and Laurence Aberhart, designed by Aaron Beehre (Christchurch Art Gallery);
- 2008 Montana Medal for Non-fiction: Wetlands of NZ - A Bitter-Sweet Story by Janet Hunt;
- Maori Language Prize Te Tu a Te Toka: He Ieretanga no nga Tai e Wha by Piripi Walker and Huriana Raven;
- NZSA Hubert Church Best First Book Award for Fiction: The Blue by Mary McCallum (Penguin Group -NZ). The Blue also won this years Reader's Choice Award;
- NZSA Jessie Mackay Best First Book Award for Poetry: Incognito by Jessica Le Bas (Auckland University Press); and
- NZSA E.H. McCormick Best First Book Award for Non-Fiction: The Great Sacred Forest of Tane - Te Wao Tapu Nui a Tane: A Natural Pre-History of Aotearoa NZ by Alan Clarke (Reed Publishing).

Midnight's Children Named Best of the Bookers...

The reading public has chosen Salman Rushdie's 1981 novel *Midnight's Children*, which centres on a gifted Indian boy born just after partition, as the best Booker Prize winner of all time. The one-off Best of the Booker award marks the 40th anniversary of the Booker Prize, with the shortlist of six prize winning authors chosen by a panel of experts.

The five other shortlisted books, chosen from the list of 41 Booker Prize and Man Booker Prize winners, were: Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road* (1995), Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda* (1988), JM Coetzee's *Disgrace* (1999), JG Farrell's *The Siege of Krishnapur* (1973) and Nadine Gordimer's *The Conversationist* (1974).

...& Billie Jean the "Best Dance Track Ever"

Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" has been voted the greatest dance record of all time. BBC Radio 2 listeners were invited to vote for their favourite song from a shortlist of 20 tracks selected by a panel of experts. Shortlisted songs in the poll were selected for their musical merit and importance in the progression of UK dance music. They had to have been released between 1966 and 2001.

The BBC Radio 2 top 10 Greatest Dance Records Of All Time are: 1. "Billie Jean" - Michael Jackson; 2. "I Feel Love" - Donna Summer; 3. "Get Up (I Feel Like Being A) Sex Machine" - James Brown; 4. "Strings Of Life" - Rhythm Is Rhythm; 5. "Where Love Lives" - Alison Limerick; 6. "Keep On Movin'" - Soul II Soul; 7. "Can You Feel It" - Fingers Inc.; 8. "Big Fun" - Inner City; 9. "Theme From S-Express" - S-Express; and 10. "Key To My Happiness" - The Charades.

General

And the World's Happiest Country is...

Denmark, with its democracy, social equality and peaceful atmosphere, is the happiest country in the world, researchers said on recently. Zimbabwe, torn by political and social strife, is the least happy, while the world's richest nation, the United States, ranks 16th.

Overall, the world is getting happier, according to the U.S. government-funded World Values Survey, done regularly by a global network of social scientists. It found increased happiness from 1981 to 2007 in 45 of 52 countries analyzed.

The survey, first done in 1981, has kept to two simple questions: "Taking all things together, would you say you are very happy, rather happy, not very happy, not at all happy?" And,

“All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days?”

Find out more at <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>

New Insights into NZ's Initial Colonisation

Radiocarbon dating of Pacific rat (kiore) bones and rat-gnawed native seeds have provided new evidence into the timing of NZ's colonisation. The dating project, in one of the largest studies of its kind, has shown that the country was not visited by humans over 2000 years ago, as some previous research (published in the "Nature" magazine in 1996) suggests.

An international team of researchers led by a Landcare researcher have spent 4 years on the project which shows conclusively that the earliest evidence for human colonisation is about 1280-1300 AD, and no earlier.

All of their new radiocarbon dates on kiore bones are no older than 1280 AD. This is consistent with other evidence from the oldest dated archaeological sites, Maori whakapapa, widespread forest clearance by fire and a decline in the population of marine and land-based fauna.

The research also has implications for present-day NZ as well:

- firstly, as rat predation only began after 1280 (a much shorter period than previously implied) this makes the risk to currently declining populations of rat-sensitive species more pressing as they could be diminishing faster than previously assumed; and
- secondly, colonisation did not involve a big delay between initial discovery and subsequent colonisation, an idea implied from earlier theories.

The researchers are now turning their attention to other islands in East Polynesia where similar controversies exist over the timing of initial human settlement. Dates on rat-gnawed seeds and rat bones are likely to be just as helpful in resolving controversies on other Pacific islands where rats were also introduced prehistorically.

Maori Language Dictionary Now Online

I-Papakupu is a free electronic version of the first Maori monolingual dictionary developed by Te Taura Whiri/the Maori Language Commission. Developed over several years the printed version of Papakupu will include 25,000 word entries with definitions, and include synonyms, passives and nominals.

The dictionary is now available online on Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Maori's website www.koreromaori.co.nz. Print copies of the dictionary will be available from retail outlets in September 2008

Media Reporting About Maori: Research...

Auckland-based media research group Kupu Taea has published a research report about how television and newspapers handle

news about Maori and the Treaty of Waitangi. Based on media coverage in 2007, the report follows an earlier study published in 2005 which covered 2004 reporting. Amongst the findings:

- Maori formed a minority of sources in newspaper stories about the Treaty and Maori resources;
- newspaper use of te reo Maori had not changed since 2004;
- many newspaper stories in the 2007 sample were written from a Pakeha perspective and represented Maori as a source of problems or conflict;
- Te Kaea and Te Karere used fewer politicians as sources and a much wider range of Maori sources than mass TV news;
- newspapers quoted twice as many Maori men as women and three or more times as many Pakeha men as women in 2007 and 2004. In 2007, mass TV news used more than three times as many male as female sources in 2007, compared to Maori programmes, where women made up nearly half the sources; and
- mass media items continued to provide little or no background explanation or context about the Treaty or Maori issues in 2007.

The report is at <http://www.trc.org.nz/resources/media.htm>

...& Revamped Pacific Media Watch

Pacific Media Watch, which monitors media in the Pacific region, has been re-launched as a digital database by AUT's Pacific Media Centre. The revamped service reports on Pacific media freedom, ethics and education, and it includes daily updates. The database also contains research reports and audio and video clips.

Visit www.pmc.aut.ac.nz

Asians in NZ: A Changing Profile

For the past 20 years, successive NZ governments, as well as the business community and the education sector, have been seeking to position NZ as an active participant in Asia. An important component of this has been the opening up of NZ to immigration of talent, capital and visitors from Asia. A new Asia NZ Foundation report, "Asians in NZ: Implications of a Changing Demography", explores the way NZ's profile is changing as a result of this closer engagement with the Asian region.

The report suggests that the number of Asian people wanting to live in NZ will continue to increase, as it has over the past 20 years. It concludes that inevitably, NZ's population will continue to become more Asian beyond 2026 and that component will grow to exceed the Maori population. It also notes that as the NZ-born Asian population increases both in size and share of the total in this country, larger shares of the Asian population will be of mixed ethnicities and counted in more than one population in the Census.

The report emphasises that while it is still common for people here to refer to the country's Asian population as one single group, this practice needs to be viewed in light of the great diversity of peoples coming here from Asia. Statistics NZ, for instance, defines Asia to be from Pakistan in the west to Japan in the east, including Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics.

For a copy of the report contact the Director, Research and Policy, Asia NZ Foundation, tel: (04) 470 8705, email: abutcher@asianz.org.nz

Conferences/Festivals

NZ Diversity Forum

This year's NZ Diversity Forum "Finding Common Ground", is to be held on 25-26 August in Auckland. NZers with a commitment to fostering harmonious race relations are invited to attend. Also includes presentation of the NZ Diversity Awards.

Register at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/introduction/2008newzealanddiversityforum/registration.php>. More information is at http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/01-Aug-2008_12-14-58_2008_Diversity_Programme.html

NZCOSS Nationwide Conference - 2008

Being held from 1-3 October, at Lincoln Green Motor Lodge, Lincoln Road, Henderson, Waitakere City. The theme is "Our Voice in Social Change".

More information: NZCOSS Chair tel 09 276 9599, email vtlabour@ihug.co.nz, or NZCOSS Executive Officer, tel 04 472 3364 email ros@nzcss.org.nz

National Council of Women of NZ 2008 Conference:

This has the theme of "Towards a Sustainable Future". It is being held in Masterton from 2-5 October.

More information: National Council of Women of NZ, 10 Park Street, Wellington. P O Box 12 117, tel 04 473 7623, fax 04 499 5554, email ncwnz@ihug.co.nz, www.ncwnz.co.nz

Safe Food is Your Business - NZFSA Conference

NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) is holding its annual conference on 17 - 18 September 2008 at the Distinction Hotel, Rotorua. Conference topics include: Stepping up to export; Voluntary implementation of Food Control Plans; Campylobacter Territorial Authorities' role in food safety; Marae food safety; and Emerging issues in food safety.

For more information/registrations go to <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/events/conference-2008/index.htm>, or contact NZFSA, 68-86 Jervois Quay, PO Box 2835, Wellington, tel 04 894 2500, fax 04 894 2501

3rd International Asian Health and Wellbeing Conference

This is being held from 8-9 September in Auckland. The 2008 theme is "Building Healthy Communities: North and South".

More is at www.health.auckland.ac.nz/population-health/cahre/

4th Australia-NZ Climate Change Business Conference

This is being held on 18-20 August at the SKYCITY Convention Centre in Auckland. Sponsored by the NZ Ministry for the Environment and the Australian Federal Government, it will focus on

NZ Ambassador to be Appointed to ASEAN

NZ is to appoint an Ambassador to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is made up of 10 countries in South East Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Opportunities for New Science...

An Agenda for Research, Science and Technology (the Agenda) has been developed by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) with input from research organisations, government agencies and business.

Setting the direction of public investment in research, science and technology (RS&T) for the next decade, the Agenda indicates that high-technology businesses, renewable energy, future foods, health delivery, environmental sustainability, and great cities and towns all offer opportunities for new science.

Extra attention is given to accelerating research for renewable energy, which is believed to be essential if NZ is to become a low-carbon country. NZ is fortunate to have a range of renewable energy resources available - wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and marine resources.

Visit www.morst.govt.nz for more information.

World Rural Women's Day - 15 October

The theme for the day set by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers based in France is "Climate Change - Rural Women are part of the solution".

More information is at <http://www.ifap.org/en/issues/documents/RecommendationsfromRuralWomen.pdf>

Committee to Review NZ Rugby League

A new committee has been set up to carry out an independent review of NZ Rugby League (NZRL). The scope of the review will include consultation with NZRL directors, staff and contractors, affiliates and clubs, sponsors and partners including gaming trusts, the NZ Warriors, and the Australian Rugby League.

The review committee will commence work in August and it is expected to present its findings in November to the NZRL Board and the Government.

risks and opportunities posed to business by climate change. Emissions trading, both regulated and voluntary, are a focus, as are other complementary measures to drive emissions reductions.

More is at <http://www.climateandbusiness.com/program>. A registration form is at http://www.climateandbusiness.com/pdfs/CCBC_Registration_Brochure.pdf

3rd National Stopping Sexual Violence Conference 2008

Entitled "Hurt - Hope - Health" this one runs from 24-26 September in New Plymouth.

For more information go to www.safercentre.org.nz/index.php?page=conference-2008

He Mana to ia Tamaiti/Every Child Counts

This conference is being held from 10 - 11 September, in Wellington. The theme is "For our children: a better today, a better tomorrow. What's it going to take?"

For more information/to register email D Morris-Travers at children1st@xtra.co.nz

Religious Diversity Forum

The annual NZ Diversity Forum will be held in Auckland on 25-26 August. The focus of this year's religious diversity forum is on the principles of safety and freedom from discrimination set out in the Statement on Religious Diversity.

Details are at http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/11-Jul-2008_14-25-35_2008_Diversity_Programme.html

Autism NZ 's 2008 Conference

"Making the Connections" is being held in Christchurch from 12-14 September. Keynote speakers include Professor Tony Attwood, Steven Shore and Professor Patricia Howlin. Post-conference seminars will be held on 15 September 2008.

For more information: Website: <http://www.autismnz.org.nz/conference.php>

Mental Health Services Conference - TheMHS...

This is being held at the Auckland Convention Centre, from 2-5 September. Its theme is "Be the change you want - workforce ingenuity". Winners of TheMHS Achievement Awards and Media Achievement Awards will be announced at this conference.

More is at <http://www.themhs.org/p.aspx?n=GHOUG-FSNSC-QELGP-OEFBT-ANEYV>

...& Facing the Challenges of Mental Illness

This National Mental Illness Summit, being hosted by SF NZ at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington from 6-7 September, will focus on the role of family/whanau in the recovery process.

More information/registration details is at www.sfnat.org.nz/nationalMentalIllness.php

Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics Conference

This is being held at the InterContinental Hotel, 2 Grey Street, Wellington on 13-14 August. The conference theme is "Building Skilled Communities".

For more information/to register go to: www.itpnz.ac.nz/bsc.htm

Some Funding/Awards Opportunities

Lottery National Community

There is one Lottery National Community Committee and also 11 Lottery Regional Community Committees. These committees make grants for projects that enable or encourage community self-reliance, capacity building and stability, opportunities for social, civil or cultural participation and reducing or removing barriers to such participation. They consider applications for developmental or preventative projects, welfare and support services, or projects that help to improve the wellbeing of people in the community.

Lottery National Community funds: activity, resource and programme costs; administration costs; care and support; domestic travel; projects encouraging people to participate in their communities; salaries (up to \$30,000); training and supervision; feasibility studies; one-off projects and new initiatives; regional and national gatherings; volunteer costs and expenses; community awareness; and minor capital works (up to \$30,000).

Submissions to the Lottery National Community Committee close on 29 August 2008. For application forms/more information go to http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.NSF/wpg_URL/Services-Lottery-Grants-Lottery-Community?OpenDocument

Lottery Environment and Heritage

Lottery Environment and Heritage grants are for projects which promote, protect and conserve NZ's natural, physical and cultural heritage, such as: native regeneration projects/establishment of native plant nurseries; captive breeding programmes including animal release to enhance indigenous fauna; pest and predator eradication programmes; historical publications; museums, whare taonga and art galleries; and conservation of historic buildings, structures, rolling stock, archeological sites and waahi tapu sites.

Applications close on 25 August 2008. More information/application forms are at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Lottery-Grants-Environment-and-Heritage?OpenDocument

Lottery Health Research

The Lottery Health Research committee funds research projects that will improve the health status of NZers. It distributes grants to fund research into the cause, prevention and treatment of disorders affecting the health of NZers; research that will lead to advances in health and bio-medical science for the ultimate benefit of all NZers; and the development, maintenance and retention of a highly skilled workforce of health and bio-medical researchers in NZ.

Submissions close on 1 September 2008. For application forms/more information go to http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.NSF/wpg_URL/Services-Lottery-Grants-Health-Research?OpenDocument

Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme

The NZ Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme develops emerging agribusiness leaders to help shape the future of NZ agribusiness and rural affairs. The programme includes residential workshops, seminars and personal study over an 11-month period for 24 men and women who live and work in rural NZ. The aims are to:

- develop solid leadership skills;
- learn how political, cultural, social, economic and physical forces impact on NZ agribusiness; and
- establish networks with leaders from NZ and beyond.

Applications close on 23 October 2007. More, including an application form, is at <http://events.lincoln.ac.nz/kelloggs/Default.htm>. Note that Meat & Wool NZ is sponsoring two Rural Women NZ (RWNZ) members to attend this programme in 2009. Applications for these sponsorships close earlier - on 6 October 2008. Forms for these sponsorships are at/ applications go to RWNZ National Office, 30 Hawkestone St, Thorndon, Wellington, tel 04 473 5524, email belinda@ruralwomen.org.nz. You can also download a form at www.leaders.ac.nz

DIA: Community Development Worker Scheme

The Department of Internal Affairs' (DIA) has a community development scheme that enables local organisations to employ a community development worker for three years. Community Development Workers support and facilitate projects that help communities to help themselves by developing solutions to issues that are identified by the local community.

In 2008/09, funding is available for 13 new projects. Successful applicants will receive \$80,000.00 (ex-GST) per year to pay the salary and associated costs of a community development worker.

Organisations that are based in the 2008 priority territories can apply for funding. Priority territories are: Chatham Islands, Hauraki/Franklin/Waikato, Kawerau, Whakatane/Opotiki, Manukau, New Plymouth/Stratford, Rotorua/Western Bay of Plenty, Selwyn, South Waikato/Taupo, Tararua/Central Hawke's Bay, Wairoa, Waitakere, West Coast/Queenstown and Whangarei.

The 2008 / 09 funding round closes on 30 September 2008. More information is at: www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.NSF/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Community-Development-Scheme?OpenDocument

Community Post: Free Postage for Community Groups

Community Post is a NZ Post donation scheme which offers free postage-included envelopes to community groups that can

demonstrate how they will help them perform a community service. The donations are made under five categories: education; health and welfare; sport and recreation; arts and culture; and environment. They are allocated by regional Community Post boards made up of members of the local community and NZ Post staff.

Applications close on 31 August 2008. You can apply online at <https://www.nzpost.co.nz/Cultures/en-NZ/AboutUs/SupportingCommunities/CommunityPost/ApplicationForm/>, or pick up an application form from any PostShop. You can also email communitypost@nzpost.co.nz for more information

AsiaNZ Young Leaders Network: Applications Open

AsiaNZ's Young Leader Network is for talented young people with Asia-related skills and experience who are likely to become leaders of NZ's future relations with Asia. Application to join this network are now open. All applicants must be aged between 20-35 years old as of November 2008 to be eligible to apply. Ten places will be open for non-Young Leaders Network members.

Applications close on 22 August 2008. Criteria/an application form are at <http://www.youngleaders.org.nz/forums/eligible> for more information tel 04 470 8709, or email mcrawford@youngleaders.org.nz

Save the Children Small Grants Fund

This funds local projects advancing the rights of NZ children that create lasting benefits by building their capacity to reach their full potential. Projects need to focus on child participation, protection and poverty, and developed by or with children and young people as appropriate. The Small Grants Fund committee will consider applications for research, project development, start-up costs, training, and appropriate resources, conferences and meetings. The maximum Small Grants Fund award per project is \$10,000.

Applications close on 15 September 2008. More information is at http://savethechildren.org.nz/new_zealand/nz_programme/small_grants_fund/main.html

Hillary Expedition Grants

Government agency Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC) makes Hillary Expedition grants available every two years, and this year up to six groups of inspiring adventurers will be offered grants between \$10,000 and \$30,000. To qualify, expeditions have to include any one of, or a combination of, outdoor activities such as tramping, mountaineering, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, white water and/or sea kayaking, mountain biking, and sailing.

Applications close on 26 September 2008. Application criteria/application forms are at www.sparc.org.nz

Reporting Diversity Journalism Award

Entries are open for the first NZ Excellence in Reporting Diversity Award. Journalists working in print, broadcast or web media can enter, but must have less than five years' experience working in the NZ news industry. Entries must have been published or broadcast after January 2007 and have as their chief theme, ethnic diversity in NZ.

The winner will be awarded an Asia NZ Foundation scholarship.

Entries close on 15 August 2008. They go to: Diversity Journalism Award, c/o J Tucker, Whitireia Journalism School, Private Bag 50910, Porirua City. For entry details and conditions contact: J Tucker, Journalism Programme Manager, Whitireia Journalism School, email jim.tucker@whitireia.ac.nz

NGO Social Work Study Awards

Applications for a study award are invited from social workers employed by a non-government organization (NGO) enrolled in, or intending to enrol in, a social work course that is recognised by the Social Workers Registration Board. The awards are worth up to \$32,750, and are administered by Family and Community Services, Ministry of Social Development.

Applications close on 3 October 2008. More information is at www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/community-development/ngo-study-awards/index.html, or you can freephone 0508 346376

Drought Support Meetings: Funding Available

Many communities are still dealing with the savage effects of the 2008 drought. Rural Women NZ (RWNZ) has funding available of \$150 per event for small community or neighbourhood drought support events decided by local people.

More information: RWNZ Executive Officer, tel 04 473 5524, email noeline.holt@ruralwomen.org.nz

AsiaNZ: Big Issues Research Grant

A grant of \$8,000 is available for research on contemporary or emerging issues relating to NZ's future with Asia. Research may address culture, business, public policy, international relations, education or the media. The grant will support timely, innovative and original research that will promote debate and discussion on matters relating to Asia and NZ, or research that has implications for policy and/or business. New or established researchers may apply.

Applications close on Friday September 19, 2008. more information is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/grants/research>

Appointments

NZ's next *Ambassador to China* will be career diplomat Carl Worker, and our next *Consul-General to Hong Kong* will be career diplomat Adele Bryant. Martin Matthews, currently CEO of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, has been named as the *CEO of the Ministry of Transport*. John Ombler has been appointed as *Deputy State Services Commissioner*.

Dr Chris Eichbaum has been appointed to the *Reserve Bank Board*. *Board members for the NZ Transport Agency* (made up of Land Transport NZ and Transit NZ which were disestablished on 1 August) are: Brian Roche, Garry Moore, Paul Fitzharris, Bryan Jackson, Grahame Hall, Alick Shaw, Mike Williams, and Christine Caughey. Terry Snow has been reappointed to the *Creative NZ Arts Board*. Three new appointments to the *Board of Te Waka Toi* (which operates under the Arts Council of Creative NZ) are

Kura Te Waru Rewiri, John Huria and Te Kahautu Maxwell. Marina Sciascia has been reappointed to the Board. The latest reappointments and one appointment to the *Charities Commission* are: Sid Ashton (Chair); Kerry Ayers and Amohaere Houkamau (Board Members); and Patricia McKelvey (new Board Member). New appointments to the *NZ Conservation Authority (NZCA)* include: Don Ross, chairperson, and Mike Browne, Bob McDowall, Louise Savage, Yvonne Sharp, and Brian Stephenson. Reappointments are Kay Booth, Linda Conning, Charles Crofts, Basil Morrison, John Nankervis, Hally Toia, and Waana Davis. Dianne Yates has been appointed to the *Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ) Board* for four years. Ngaruma (Ruma) Karaitiana and Sara Lunam have been appointed to the *Board of ACC*. Sue Piper has been appointed to the *Board of Te Papa*. Christine Grice has been appointed as *chair of Radio NZ's Board of Governors*. Paul East and Yvonne Sharp are appointed as *governors*. Shona Smith has been appointed to the *NZ Qualifications Authority Board*. Timothy Castle and Kihī Ngatai are new appointments to the *Waitangi Tribunal*, and Joanne Morris, Joseph Northover and Dr Monty Soutar are reappointments. Lawrence Yule, Mayor of Hastings and Kerry Prendergast, Mayor of Wellington, has been elected *President and Vice-President of Local Government NZ*. Keitha Dunstan and Mai Chen have been reappointed as *members of the Securities Commission*. Colin Giffney has been appointed as the *Takeovers Panel Deputy Chair-elect* and Peter Scott is a *Panel member*. Ralph Simpson is a new *member of the Accounting Standards Review Board (ASRB)*. New *Members of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers (PGD) Board* are Stephen Parker, Hazel Armstrong, Robin Hapi, Craig Maxwell-Crawshaw, Mark Whitehead; and reappointed members are Anthony Salisbury and Marjorie Noble. Dr Ian Lambie, Judith Fyfe and Andrea Haines have been appointed to the *Film and Literature Board of Review*. Andy Hamilton is the inaugural *chairperson of the Angel Association NZ*. Mary Richardson has been appointed to the *Gambling Commission*. Judge Carolyn Henwood has been appointed as *chair of the Listening and Assistance Service* set up to support victims of abuse in state care. Dr Jonathan Fox has been elected *Chair of the Council of Medical Colleges*.

Kathryn Edmonds has been appointed to the *Board of Inquiry on the Proposed NZ Coastal Policy Statement*. Judge David Sheppard has been appointed as *chairperson of the Freshwater Fisheries Board of Inquiry* and Kevin Prime, Jenni Vernon and Dr Jon Harding have been appointed as members of this board. Private sector members of the *Capital Market Taskforce* are: Rob Cameron (chair), Franceska Banga, Jonathan Ling, Rob McLeod, Gareth Morgan, Adrian Orr, Cathy Quinn, Scott St John, Mark Weldon and Nigel Williams. Twelve new members have been appointed to the Government's *Growth and Innovation Advisory Board (GIAB)*: Jo Brosnahan, Andrew Ferrier, Prof Roger Field, Bryan Gould, Sam Knowles, Dr Peter Lee, Jonathan Ling, Prof Philip McCann, Nick Main, Jon Mayson, Sue Suckling, and Mark Tume. Those *reappointed to GIAB* for another three years are: Stephen Tindall (*GIAB chair*), Rick Christie, Dr Brian Easton, Helen Kelly, Jeremy Moon, Phil O'Reilly, Sam Robinson, and David Shand. *Rugby League Review Committee members* are; Sir John Anderson (chair), Howie Tamati, Don Mackinnon, Wayne Scurrah, Elizabeth Coutts, Graeme Sole, Cameron McGregor, and Peter Wilson.

Craig Matthews and Paddy Twist
Editors
Rural Bulletin

Rural Bulletin is a free publication produced by Rural Women New Zealand. Its aim is to build community capacity by circulating relevant information, so people in rural and other communities have an opportunity to make informed decisions about, and have their say on, issues and changes that may affect them.

Rural Bulletin may be copied in full and circulated, and individual items may be reproduced providing the source is acknowledged.

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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the information in Rural Bulletin is accurate, Rural Women New Zealand does not accept liability for error of fact or opinion which may be present, nor for the consequences of any financial decision based on the information. Any views or opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of Rural Women New Zealand.

Rural Women New Zealand has the aim of strengthening rural communities. It is a forum for the exchange of information on rural health, education, social issues and land issues. It advocates for legislative change that improves the wellbeing of rural families by making submissions and representations to the government of the day. The goals of the organisation are:

- to promote informed public debate on issues affecting rural communities;
- to participate in the formulation and evaluation of public policy that impacts on rural families and their livelihoods;
- to promote research and disseminate knowledge relevant to the wellbeing of rural NZers ;
- to support and encourage the development of a trained and effective rural workforce; and
- to be a strong and informed advocate for rural issues.

Membership of Rural Women New Zealand is open to all people who are interested in issues affecting rural communities.