

Rural Bulletin

June 2007



Rural
Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

Contents

Consultation	2	Free Business Statistics Available	10
Police Consultation Paper	2	Employment	10
NZ Tourism Strategy: Have Your Say	2	Latest Employment/Unemployment Figures	10
Real Estate Industry: Proposals for Change	2	Housing	11
Real Estate Agents' Licensing Board: Appointments Made	3	More Certainty for Leaky Home Claimants	11
Estate Agents' Code of Ethics Coming	3	Insulating Floors? Be Careful!	11
Babies' Pre-Birth Testing: Have Your Say	3	Internet	11
Helpers are Sought	3	NZ's Top Web Sites Named	11
Waka Umanga (Maori Corporations) Bill Consultation	3	Treaty Claims	12
Reducing Vehicle Emissions: Consultation	4	Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui Report Released	12
Education (Tertiary Reforms) Amendment Bill	4	Waikato River: Draft Treaty Agreement	12
Commerce Act Price Controls Review	4	Turanganui-a-Kiwa Claimants Begin Negotiations	13
Commerce Act Review No 2	4	Fishing	13
Electricity Transmission Statement: Consultation	4	NZ and Solomon Islands: Fishing Agreement	13
Rural	5	Southern Squid Fishery: Fewer Sea Lion Deaths	13
Public Walking Access: Principles	5	Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill: Update	13
2007 Wine Harvest: a Vintage Year	5	Arts and Culture	13
New Deer Code of Welfare	5	NZ School of Music Gets a New Home	13
RWNZ Campaign for Leptospirosis Research	5	New NZ Poet Laureate Award	13
Resolving Issues: Sharemilking Conciliators	6	Creative NZ/Te Waka Toi Funding Opportunities	13
Rural Mediators, Arbitrators, Conciliators	6	General	14
Petrol Handling Requirements for Farms Relaxed	6	National Climate Summary - Autumn 2007	14
New Website Promotes Sustainable Farming	6	NZ Ranked No 2 in World Peace Survey	14
Udderly Amazing: Low-Fat Milk Herd	6	Snapshot: NZers - Who Are We	14
Environment	6	Ethnic groups in NZ	14
Plans for NZ Carbon Market	6	Languages spoken in NZ	15
Predicting Climate Change: Top Research Focus	6	Religious Affiliation in NZ	15
New Water Management Research: Bridging Rifts	7	NZ's Population Growing, Getting Older	15
Solar Hot Water Heating: Grant Available	7	Non-Profit Organisations: Economic Contributions	16
International Financiers Earning Carbon Credits in NZ	7	Contraband in Prisons - Proposed New Legislation	16
Tourism	7	NZ Standards System Streamlined	16
Permanent and Long Term Migration: Easing	7	UNESCO Statement on Religious Diversity	16
Health	7	Maori Language Week/Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori 2007	16
NZ Food Safety Authority to Stand Alone	7	Newspapers in Education: Maori Focus Month	17
Developing Mental Health Policies with Service Users	8	YouthLaw: Resources for Asian Communities	17
New Prisoner Health Facilities	8	New Navy Vessel	17
Education	8	Some Funding Opportunities	17
Changes to NCEA	8	Rates Rebate Scheme: More Ratepayers Eligible	17
The NCEA System	8	EECA EnergyWise Awards 2007	17
Hi-Tech Treaty 2U Programme Touring Schools	9	Lottery Grants: Lottery Community Facilities	17
"Roots of Empathy" to be Trialled in NZ Schools	9	Community Action Fund (Stopping Family Violence)	17
Human Rights Conventions Teaching Tool	9	Community Organisation Grants Scheme	18
2007 Youth Development Programmes	9	Asia NZ Cultural Grant Programme	18
Business	9	Families Commission Research Fund	18
NZTE: Expansion of Asian Operations	9	Conference/Workshop Brief	18
Nextspace: Holding Hands with Right Hemisphere?	10	Appointments and Departures	18
Business Mentors NZ Gets Funding Boost	10		



Consultation

Police Consultation Paper

The NZ Police (NZP) wants its governing legislation overhauled (describing the 1958 Police Act and 1992 Police Regulations as "outdated, prescriptive and confused") starting with a new Policing Act at the end of the year. A consultation paper from the NZP identifies a range of weaknesses in its current legislative framework, which include:

- a lack of statutory principles to guide policing;
- unclear responsibilities and confused lines of accountability;
- constraints on being able to place the right people in the right jobs;
- an overly prescriptive system for managing staff performance and discipline issues;
- little guidance to work with partner agencies, domestically or internationally;
- few supports to enable the use of modern policing tactics; and
- inadequate legal protections for some Police staff and for Police as an organisation.

Ways in which legislation could support the Police's effectiveness could include:

- reinforcing clear command and control of Police;
- improving the allocation of powers to members of Police;
- sharing information to improve the chances of preventing re-offending;
- supporting frontline policing: this section includes a suggestion that police use of minimal restraint (including, if appropriate, the option of handcuffing) be a reasonable use of force;
- enabling modern policing tactics to fight serious and organised crime;
- assisting with the recognition and status of members of Police; and
- upping penalties for impersonating police and unauthorised use of Police's name.

Among the requirements of new legislation would be:

- defining the process for settling the appointment, terms of engagement and tenure of the most senior Police personnel, as well as delegation arrangements;
- clarifying the respective roles of the Commissioner of Police and Minister of Police, and the constitutional relationship between the Commissioner and Minister;
- strengthening the Commissioner's accountability for Police performance; and
- widening the ability for arms-length inquiries into any issues of concern.

The NZP also suggests establishing a supervising body which would monitor/offer advice on how to improve the performance of other policing agencies like the Department of Internal Affairs, the NZ Customs Service, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, and the Department of Conservation.

Submissions close 31 July. You can download the consultation paper from: <http://www.policeact.govt.nz/policing-directions.pdf> An online submission form is at <http://www.policeact.govt.nz/consultation/> or you can email: policeact@police.govt.nz, fax a submission to 04 498 7400, or post one to Police Act Review, Police National Headquarters, PO Box 3017, Wellington.

NZ Tourism Strategy: Have Your Say

In 2001 a NZ Tourism Strategy to 2010 was developed in a partnership between the private sector, Maori and Government.

Since it was written, new challenges have emerged for tourism (which has become NZ's largest export sector) and big changes have occurred in the domestic and global environments we operate in. In the next eight years there will be more changes, e.g., pressure from climate change, rapid evolution in consumer attitudes and expectations, and more challenges to NZ's security and biosecurity. The extent to which NZ and the tourism sector can transform these challenges into opportunities will have a big impact on NZ's future prosperity.

A draft paper on the NZ Tourism Strategy to 2015 has now been developed and public feedback has been requested on the following:

- whether the direction proposed in the draft NZTS 2015 is the right one to ensure NZ's tourism sector is as successful as it can be;
- if you think the issues and priorities for the tourism sector identified in the draft are the most important ones;
- if there is anything important missing;
- whether the recommended actions address the identified issues;
- what you think are the most important of the large number of wide ranging actions;
- what your response to the challenge laid out by the Minister of Tourism is, and what might need to be changed in the draft NZTS 2015 to address it; and
- whether there is anything else you would like to comment on.

Submissions close on 27 June. You can download the Strategy at http://www.nztourismstrategy.com/files/DRAFT_Tourism%20Strategy%20FINAL.pdf An electronic template for comments is available at <http://www.nztourismstrategy.com/> or you can email comments to info@nztourismstrategy.com

Real Estate Industry: Proposals for Change

Currently, the real estate industry regulates itself under the Real Estate Agents Act 1976. Since the introduction of this Act, there have been substantial advances in consumer protection regulations for, for example, lawyers and conveyancers, and motor vehicle traders. The real estate industry currently lags behind these and other occupations in terms of consumer protection.

A recently released paper called "Preferred Options for Reform of the Real Estate Agents Act 1976" sets out Government proposals for changing the licensing, complaints and disciplinary system for real estate agents and salespeople.

Amongst the proposals:

- establishing an independent Real Estate Licensing Authority responsible for investigating and resolving complaints. The Authority would have wide investigative powers, and be able to order a wide range of penalties and remedies, including compensation and de-licensing of agents;
- a public register of real estate agents and salespeople that would include any breaches of the industry standards against the names of agents or salespeople involved;
- real estate agents no longer being required to be members of REINZ, but having to be licensed by the Authority;
- the new structure being funded by the industry; and
- the new complaints system being at little or no cost to the consumer.

A Bill to amend the Act is to be introduced into Parliament within the next few months, and legislation will be in place late this year or early next year.

Submissions on the proposals close on 10 July 2007. Copies of The Government's Preferred Options for Reform of the Real Estate Agents Act 1976 are available on the Ministry of Justice website - <http://www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/2007/real-estate/question.html>. You can make a submission online at the same address, or you can email a response to realestatereview@justice.govt.nz

Real Estate Agents' Licensing Board: Appointments Made...

The Real Estate Agents Licensing Board (REALB) is an independent statutory body that hears and determines applications for real estate agent's licences and grants renewal of salesperson's certificates. The Board also has disciplinary powers and can cancel or suspend a real estate agent's licence or a salesperson's certificate, as well as impose fines.

Hon Bill Jefferies, a former Minister of Justice, was recently appointed chairperson of the Licensing Board effective from 1 July this year, with Murray Giera and David Russell also becoming board members. The new board members join existing Board members Joan Harnett-Kindley and Paul Dudding, both of whom have significant real estate experience.

...& Estate Agents' Code of Ethics Coming

David Russell, the former chief executive of the Consumers' Institute and a newly appointed REALB board member, was recently appointed by REINZ to chair a review of the industry's Code of Ethics. Work on the Code of Ethics will be completed before the new REALB board members take up

Babies' Pre-Birth Testing: Have Your Say

Toi te Taiao: the Bioethics Council is currently examining the issue of pre-birth testing. Most babies born in NZ are tested when they were fetuses during their mother's pregnancy. Some IVF babies are tested when they were embryos outside the mother using pre-implantation genetic diagnoses (PGD).

There are pre-birth tests for identifying all sorts of possible illnesses, diseases, and physical disorders such as cystic fibro-

sis, Down syndrome and HIV. Many of these tests are well known, for example, amniocentesis and ultra sound. Other tests, such as pre-implantation genetic diagnoses (PGD), are less well known.

The range of conditions able to be tested for is expanding. The questions that now arise are:

- how far pre-birth testing should go;
- who has the right to decide; and
- what the consequences might be.

Helpers are Sought

In order to help with these issues the Bioethics Council is looking for people who can spend a day with 8-10 others to help identify all the possible points-of-view the public might have on pre-birth testing. Each group will take these points-of-view and build them into a framework of 3 or 4 approaches. The Council will then consult the wider public about the approaches.

Framing exercises are planned for the second-half of July in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, as well as in the lower North Island and the Hawkes Bay.

The Council is also looking for people for a public deliberation of the issues in October or November 2007, when meetings will be held around the country. There will also be an opportunity to consider the issues using a new online forum.

To register your interest in taking part in a pre-birth testing framing exercise in late July; the public deliberation in October/November; or both the framing exercises and the public deliberation, send a message to John Pennington at PO Box 10 363, Wellington, email john.pennington@mfe.govt.nz, or tel 04 439 7673.

Waka Umanga (Maori Corporations) Bill Consultation

During June and July, Te Puni Kokiri (TPK) and the NZ Law Commission are consulting with tribal and other Maori groups, as well as legal and business interest groups, on the Waka Umanga (Maori Corporations) Bill. This Bill provides a legal entity (waka umanga) which would meet the organisational needs of Maori tribes and other groups that manage communal Maori assets.

Existing legal structures like trusts, companies, and incorporated societies do not cater well for the cultural norms of Maori groups. The members are not investors, shareholders, or passive beneficiaries, and there may be fluid groupings, changing membership, and multiple functions. Members of these groups are entitled to full rights of participation and contribution to the governance of the communal assets for the benefit of the whole group, and to maintain Maori cultural identity.

Under the legislation a tribal group or Maori association will be able to:

- adopt an accountable waka umanga structure for protection of assets;
- gain corporate status and perpetual succession; and
- design a charter for their particular social and business operations.

The entity would have the standard accountabilities and it would also provide certainty and protection for people who deal with Maori groups.

More information about the consultation process: E Merito at Te Puni Kokiri:
PO Box 3943, Wellington, tel 04 819 6069, email
Edwina.Merito@tpk.govt.nz

Reducing Vehicle Emissions: Consultation

Your views are sought on a draft Land Transport Rule called Vehicle Exhaust Emissions [2007] Rule 33001/2. This aims to help improve air quality by reducing vehicle emissions that contribute to air pollution.

One of the main changes would see the minimum emissions standards for new vehicles entering NZ updated. Another would introduce minimum emissions standards for used vehicles brought into the country, and also a compulsory emissions test for these vehicles.

Submissions close 9 July. They can be emailed to info@landtransport.govt.nz, you can also submit them through the Land Transport NZ website at: www.landtransport.govt.nz/consultation/vehicle-exhaust-emissions, or you can post them to: Exhaust Emissions Rule, Rules Team, Land Transport NZ, PO Box 2840, Wellington. Questions & answers are at <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/consultation/vehicle-exhaust-emissions/qas.html>

Education (Tertiary Reforms) Amendment Bill

Public submissions are now being invited on the Education (Tertiary Reforms) Amendment Bill. This Bill sets up the Government's system for planning, funding, and monitoring the tertiary education system. Its purpose is to make sure that tertiary education outcomes are closely aligned with NZ's social, economic, and environmental interests.

The committee requires two copies of each written submission. People wishing to appear before the committee to speak to their submissions should state this, and provide a daytime telephone contact number. Please supply your postcode and an email address, if you have one.

Submissions close on 29 June. They go to the Education and Science Committee, Parliament House, Wellington, tel 04 4719560, fax 04 499 0486. More information is at <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/SubmCalled/9/3/b/93bba3b6ba0241ab8ddf1e69d7dd412.htm>. Print copies of the Bill can be ordered online from Bennetts Government Bookshops.

Commerce Act Price Controls Review...

The Ministry for Economic Development (MED) has published a discussion paper on the review of the price control provisions in Parts 4, 4A and 5 of the Commerce Act.

Part 4 of the Act allows goods or services to be placed under price and quality control where competition is limited and control would be in the long term interests of consumers. Part 4A applies specifically to electricity lines businesses, and allows the Commerce Commission to place them under regulatory control if they breach the thresholds set by the Commission. Part 5 requires the

Commerce Commission to authorise the prices of controlled goods and services.

Submissions close on 6 July. They go to: Commerce Act Review, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington, Delivery address: Level 8, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington, email: commerceactreview@med.govt.nz More is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary____22451.aspx

...& Commerce Act Review No 2

A second MED discussion paper reviews the clearance and authorisation provisions under the Commerce Act.

It is a companion paper to the price controls discussion paper (above) and it looks at Part 5 of the Act (except for sections 70-74). Part 5 allows the Commerce Commission (the Commission) to clear a merger if it considers that the merger is not anticompetitive, or authorise a merger or trade practice on the grounds that it is of benefit to the public.

The paper is not questioning the actual clearance and authorisation systems: instead, it examines whether some possible changes could make them more effective and efficient. Of the issues discussed, five relate to mergers, six to trade practices, three to legal process affecting both mergers and trade practices, and five to the framework for assessing costs and benefits.

Submissions close 10 August. They go to: Commerce Act Review, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington (Level 8, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington), email commerceactreview@med.govt.nz More information is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC____27162.aspx

Electricity Transmission Statement: Consultation

The Minister for the Environment has prepared a proposed national policy statement on electricity transmission and has appointed a Board of Inquiry (see Appointments section) to inquire into and report on the proposal.

The policy statement, which proposes that electricity transmission is recognised as a matter of national significance by decision-makers, sets out objectives and policies for managing the national grid under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The statement has been made to help ensure the benefits of operating and developing the network of pylons, conductors (power wires) and substations across the country are recognised when decisions are being made about the local effects. At the same time, local authorities would continue to have responsibility for ensuring all relevant environmental effects are appropriately considered.

A recently appointed independent Board of Inquiry (see Appointments section) will hear public views on the matter.

Submissions close on 25 June. More information is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/transmission/notice.html>. The proposal is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/nps-electricity-may07/index.html>

Rural

Public Walking Access: Principles

The NZ Conservation Authority has developed the following "bottom line" principles that should apply to arrangements for public walking access:

- public walking access to publicly-owned areas and resources should be protected in law and enhanced where there is no current access provision;
- what is needed are enduring access arrangements that are acceptable to both landholders and the public in cases where practical access to public conservation land is over privately-occupied land;
- where legal public access routes (such as unformed public roads) connect with public conservation land, waterways or the coast, they should be signposted to facilitate public access;
- where there are public access ways across privately-occupied land, reasonable conditions may be placed on public use;
- there can be no expectation of economic return to private landholders from the existence of public resources on or next to privately-occupied land;
- private economic return to landholders from public resources on or next to privately-occupied land, can be derived from the provision of added value, such as interpretation, facilities or refreshments, but these should not be a condition of access;
- existing access law should be implemented by public agencies. This includes, but is not limited to, territorial authorities' duty to take action against obstructions on public roads;
- the public should be provided with information about their access rights;
- as well as legal recognition, the provision of access needs to be assured in terms of practical, physical accessibility on the ground; and
- existing marginal strips and esplanade reserves/strips need to be preserved for the benefit of all NZers. Existing provisions within the Conservation Act and Resource Management Act need to be fully utilised, and in some cases strengthened, to extend and secure public access to the coast and waterways, including plugging gaps in the existing network. Waivers to the provision of esplanade reserves/strips and marginal strips should only occur in exceptional circumstances. Wherever possible, public access ways alongside waterways and the coast should be ambulatory (i.e. they should move with the waterway/coastline).

2007 Wine Harvest: a Vintage Year

NZ's 2007 wine harvest, believed to be of the best quality for many years, was 205,000 tonnes, a record harvest, and up 11% on last year's harvest (also a record). Chardonnay vines, which mainly produce wine for local consumption, produced 44% more grapes than last year. While the quality of chardonnay will be excellent, the volume produced may mean there are some local bargains around.

There were significantly fewer sauvignon blanc and pinot noir grapes harvested, even though these are our most popular exported wines. With demand increasing, the price of these wines is likely to rise: predictions are of price rises of \$1 a bottle. However, price increases are likely to be offset by the excellent quality of the 2007 vintage.

New Deer Code of Welfare

A new Code of Welfare for Deer sets out general principles of care of deer. It applies to any deer held behind any boundary fence or enclosure for farming and also includes deer kept on game estates and safari parks. It covers all aspects of deer production except the removal of velvet and castration, which are covered by separate codes.

The code addresses the issues of shade and shelter, and includes sections on hot and cold conditions like heat stress and hypothermia. The code also sets requirements on farmers selecting animals for transport (a separate code of welfare is being developed to cover the actual transport of farm animals).

The Deer Code is available online at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/deer or by request from animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz

RWNZ Campaign for Leptospirosis Research

Rural Women NZ (RWNZ) is re-launching a nationwide fundraising campaign to support research into Leptospirosis by Massey University's EpiCentre research team.

RWNZ has a history of supporting Leptospirosis research, having raised close to \$200,000 in the 1970s and 1980s for Massey's studies of the disease and its control in dairy cattle and pigs. This financial support contributed to a significant reduction in the number of human infections of this illness, which dropped from 875 cases in 1974 to 88 cases in 2006.

The disease (which remains NZ's most commonly notified workplace disease) is now affecting a different group of farmers. Since 2001 the largest group affected has been meat workers, who now make up 38 percent of cases. The incidence in dairy farmers has dropped to 10% of the total number of cases, but the emergence of the disease in sheep and deer has seen a rise in human cases in these sectors.

A person becomes infected through bacteria which are "shed" in the urine of an infected animal. Splashes may infect a person's system through cuts, or through the eyes, nose or mouth. In mild cases leptospirosis can go almost unnoticed, but in others the symptoms are severe and can last for months or years. They may include bad headaches, extreme weakness, nausea and sometimes blood in the urine. There is no vaccine available for people, although if the disease is correctly identified, effective medication is available that will kill and remove the bacteria.

More information from/donations to Rural Women NZ, PO Box 12 021, Thorndon, Wellington, tel 04 473 5524, email enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz

Resolving Issues: Sharemilking Conciliators...

With the appointment of a National Panel of Conciliators (under the Sharemilking Agreements Order 2001) a list of specialist sharemilking conciliators is now available to sharemilkers and farm owners who want to resolve a dispute.

Conciliation encourages parties to negotiate in good faith and provides for an independent third-party to assist in the resolution of sharemilking disputes. Where the parties are unable to settle their dispute, they are required to appoint a conciliator from the National Panel of Conciliators. If they cannot agree on a conciliator the panel Chairperson of the Panel will appoint one.

The conciliator helps the parties to set out the matters in dispute, to explain their differing views and to consider options for settlement. Where a solution is not forthcoming, the conciliator will provide a written proposal, or recommendation, for the parties. This becomes binding on the parties unless the parties reject the proposal. The parties have 7 days to challenge a conciliator's proposal after which the dispute is referred to arbitration. A conciliator's proposal that is not challenged becomes a determination and is binding on the parties.

The Panel of Conciliators is administered by AMINZ (the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of NZ).

The list of sharemilking conciliators is at http://www.aminz.org.nz/cgi-bin/search_conciliator.pl?search=Y

...& Rural Mediators, Arbitrators, Conciliators

Rural disputes cover a wide range of commercial, land and relationship matters. They can arise from leases of land or livestock; boundary fence arguments; matrimonial and relationship dissolutions; land or livestock valuation assessments; partnership or company dissolutions; share valuations; workplace employment issues; sale and purchase agreements; sharemilking contracts; and a myriad of other associated issues.

The AMINZ (Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of NZ) has established a specialist list of Rural Dispute Resolution Professionals who have been selected for their qualifications and experience of resolving disputes in the rural sector.

The list of rural mediators, conciliators and arbitrators is at http://www.aminz.org.nz/cgi-bin/search_rural.pl?search=Y

Petrol Handling Requirements for Farms Relaxed

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA NZ) has revised requirements for handling and using petrol on farms. ERMA NZ has removed the approved handler control for farms of 4 hectares or larger where less than 2000 litres of petrol is stored. This means that a farmer will no longer require an approved handler certificate for petrol, nor will an approved handler have to be available. However, farmers still have to be trained in the health and safety aspects of handling petrol, including steps to be taken in the event of a spill or other emergency.

More information on the petrol reassessment is available at www.ermanz.govt.nz

New Website Promotes Sustainable Farming

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards are now online. The newly launched website offers comprehensive information on the awards that now run in eight regions throughout the country. It is a joint venture between the NZ Farm Environment Award Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

As well as information on sustainable farming and award events, the website also contains detailed information on previous award winners around the country. Visitors to the site can also download entry information for the 2008 awards.

You can access the information either at www.nzfeatrust.org.nz or at www.bfea.org.nz

Udderly Amazing: Low-Fat Milk Herd

Scientists at Fonterra have been breeding cows from a single female called "Marge", who produced milk that is high in Omega-3 oils and contains polyunsaturated fat. Marge's special milk was discovered in 2001 during a process in which milk from millions of cattle was screened. She was purchased for the sum of \$330.

Butter from Marge's cows (who have a genetic mutation) has the extra advantage of being spreadable straight from the fridge, like margarine.

Environment

Plans for NZ Carbon Market

The NZX (NZ Exchange Ltd - NZ's only registered securities trading exchange) and a group of major companies intend to launch a carbon market next year. The proposed market would be called TZ1 (Time Zone One), and it would be the main greenhouse gas emissions trading platform in the Asia-Pacific region. TZ1 refers to NZ's place as the first time zone to see sunrise.

The companies involved in developing the carbon market are Air NZ, 42 Below, Fonterra, McKinsey, Infratil, the NZ Institute, the NZ Rugby Union, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Vector, Meridian, Contact Energy, ABN AMRO and Goldman Sachs JBWere.

Emissions trading presents business opportunities (there is already an international trade in voluntary emissions) and is likely to motivate companies to take positive action against climate change.

The next steps towards establishing the market are to determine an ownership structure, trading rules and clarification from the Government on whether a carbon credit is likely to be classed as a future, a spot product or a security.

Predicting Climate Change: Top Research Focus

The Government has set four key priorities for its spending on environmental research in the next three to five years. Top priority is research into global environmental change - predicting climate change. The other three priorities are land, water and coastal research, urban design and hazards, and biosecurity. The

Government spends about \$150 million a year on environmental research.

A copy of the "Environmental Roadmap" can be downloaded from: <http://www.morst.govt.nz/current-work/roadmaps/environment/>

New Water Management Research: Bridging Rifts

The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FoRST) has awarded \$1.8 million dollars in funding over 4 years for a Landcare Research-led project called "Old Problems, New Solutions". The aims of the project are to improve cooperation on water management, and bridge rifts over managing water and other natural resources.

The project is seeking new ways to deal with difficult resource allocation issues, with an initial focus on Canterbury's water supply worries. The researchers are tackling a particular water supply, but a bigger aim is to develop an approach that can be used for other NZ natural resources under stress.

Allocation of water resources is currently undertaken on a "first-come, first-served", basis, an approach developed in conditions of relative abundance. Councils are now finding it hard to reconcile individual needs and views (e.g., putting what hydrologists tell them with what lawyers, economists and community groups tell them) and to find solutions acceptable to their communities.

It is hoped that the research results will increase everyone's understanding of the complex issues surrounding sustainable management of a precious resource, help council planning, and also help councils to support businesses and communities in their own development and planning.

More information: Bob Frame, Landcare Research, Lincoln, tel 03 321 9673 or email FrameB@LandcareResearch.co.nz; Paddy Clifford, Hurunui District Council, Amberley, 03 314 8816 or email Paddy.Clifford@Hurunui.govt.nz; Brett Ellison, email Brett.Ellison@ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Solar Hot Water Heating: Grant Available

A cash grants scheme and a new website have been set up to help householders reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by installing solar hot water heating systems. The \$500 grant is being offered through solar water heating suppliers who meet certain energy performance, price and installation standards.

Hot water typically accounts for around \$800 of the domestic energy bill. A well designed and installed solar water heating system can cut this by 50-75%.

The website www.solarsmarter.org.nz now features an online calculator that enables homeowners to estimate the potential savings from different systems and decide if solar water heating is right for them.

International Financiers Earning Carbon Credits in NZ

International financiers Credit Suisse and Sustainable Forest Management recently announced a US\$200 million (NZ\$275 million) fund to establish up to 100,000 hectares of new permanent forests in NZ and earn carbon credits.

Tourism

Permanent and Long Term Migration: Easing

Permanent and long-term (PLT) arrivals exceeded departures by 11,200 in the April 2007 year, according to Statistics NZ. While this is above the net gain of 10,100 in the April 2006 year, annual net PLT migration has eased since reaching 14,800 in the November 2006 year. The net PLT migration gain in the year ended April 2007 is below the annual average of 12,200 recorded for the December years 1990-2006.

Visitor arrivals numbered 193,200 in April 2007, up 1,600 (1%) from April 2006. More visitors arrived from China, Thailand and Korea, but fewer arrived from the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia and Hong Kong. In the year ended April 2007, there were 2.447 million visitor arrivals, up 51,000 (2%) on the year ended April 2006.

NZ residents departed on 163,700 short-term trips in April 2007, slightly above the 162,800 departures in April 2006. There were more trips to China, the Cook Islands and Australia, but fewer to the United Kingdom. In the April 2007 year, NZ residents departed on 1.880 million trips, up 9,200 (less than 1 percent) on the previous year.

Health

NZ Food Safety Authority to Stand Alone

On 1 July the NZ Food Safety Authority will separate from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and become a new Public Service department administering food safety. It will retain the name "NZ Food Safety Authority" (NZFSA) and will continue to:

- protect and promote public health and safety in relation to food and food-related products; and
- develop economic opportunities by facilitating access to international markets for these products.

NZFSA will need to fill 15 new corporate service positions to operate as a stand-alone department, but four of these will be positions transferred from MAF.

Developing Mental Health Policies with Service Users

A British publication called Pathways to Policy Toolkit has been produced to enable NGOs and user groups to promote the voice of service users in the development of mental health policy.

Drawing on the experiences of a 5-year programme, the publication provides a step-by-step guide to user groups to working in partnership with other stakeholders to prioritise local mental health issues, develop action plans and promote the voice of service users in the development of mental health policy.

It includes:

- workshop outlines, including exercises, to improve skills and confidence among service users and other stakeholders;
- training tools needed to develop a policy forum into a sustainable, influential body;
- ways to capture and communicate outputs and outcomes; and
- methodology case studies and learning from successful mental health policy forums around the world.

You can download a copy of the resource from www.hamlet-trust.org.uk or from the UK Mental Health Foundation at customerservices@mhf.org.uk (include a postal address).

New Prisoner Health Facilities

Two new prisoner health facilities have been opened at Hawkes Bay Prison. They include a new drug and alcohol (D&A) treatment unit, which offers an intensive, six-month course of treatment for prisoners, and a new general-purpose health unit. Some 60% of offenders are affected by alcohol or drugs at the time of their conviction.

Late last year a new health centre opened in Wanganui Prison, and a D&A unit opened in Christchurch Prison. Two further units are to open in the next year, and by the middle of the year there will be around 500 D&A treatment places available to prisoners.

Research shows that offenders who have been through a treatment unit are 13% less likely to be re-imprisoned after 24 months than if they had not attended treatment.

Education

Changes to NCEA

Following consultation with principals, teachers, students, and other education groups the Ministry of Education and the NZ Qualifications Authority have announced changes to the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA). They include:

- introducing "excellence" and "merit" to NCEA certificates from 2007;
- introducing "excellence" and "merit" at subject level from 2008;
- including "not achieved" in NCEA results notices for both internally assessed and externally assessed standards from 2008;
- up to 10 percent of internally assessed standards being "moderated" by full-time moderators appointed to NZQA from 2008;
- a new "School Results Summary" being introduced from 2008 which includes all results "achieved" and "not achieved" in NCEA for school leavers; and
- the lifelong "Record of Learning" becoming the "Record of Achievement" for both tertiary and secondary students.

The NCEA System

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is a standards-based qualification: students receive credits when they meet the nationally-set standard in an area of study. Under the system students study courses based on achievement and unit standards at level 1, 2 and 3 to attain credits towards an NCEA qualification.

There are two types of standards:

- achievement standards (developed by the Ministry of Education for assessment in schools) which are internally and externally assessed; and
- unit standards (developed by standard setting bodies, primarily Industry Training Organisations) which are all internally assessed.

Both are offered in schools and are also offered in the workplace. NCEA has now been in place for five years, with approximately 250,000 students studying for NCEA qualifications in that time.

More information on the changes is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=29567>

Hi-Tech Treaty 2U Programme Touring Schools

An extra \$530,000 in 2007/08 has been made available to enable Te Papa to continue touring the Treaty 2U exhibition. It will enable the high-tech road show to undertake a tour of schools in the Auckland region, and it matches a \$530,000 grant from the ASB Community Trust. The exhibition aims to provide students with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and it has been visited by over 62,000 people since it began.

"Roots of Empathy" to be Trialled in NZ Schools...

A Canadian programme called Roots of Empathy to be trialled in NZ schools aims to improve empathy, teach parenting skills and reduce bullying levels among school children. The programme

will initially be introduced to Year 5 students at ten schools in Auckland and by year three will be in 100 schools in Auckland, Wellington and a third centre.

"Roots of Empathy" involves regular visits to the classroom by a parent and baby, and a Roots of Empathy instructor. The children observe the baby's development over time, get to know him/her, celebrate milestones, and learn about an infant's needs and feelings. They also learn how to understand their own feelings and the feelings of others.

The three-year trial is co-funded by the Ministries of Social Development, Education and Health and forms part of the Government's \$7 million Early Years package. It is run in NZ by the Peace Foundation.

...& Human Rights Conventions Teaching Tool

A publication called "Building Human Rights Communities in Education" has been jointly published by Amnesty International, the Development Resource Centre, the Children's Commissioner, the Peace Foundation and the Human Rights Commission.

The idea behind the publication is to use the principles defined in human rights conventions in NZ classrooms to help develop effective citizens who understand the importance of making a positive contribution to their school and community.

For the publication, go to the Commission's website: www.hrc.co.nz For more information about the programme see www.rightsined.org.nz

2007 Youth Development Programmes

The Youth Development Partnership fund, administered by the Ministry of Youth Development, works with local councils to help young people find employment, or further their education or training. In the latest funding round 16 local councils have been granted a total of more than \$1.3 million for a wide range of youth projects, with the funding going to:

- Tasman District Council - Jam Mag - Tasman Youth Magazine, \$28,400 (young people developing of media skills);
- Rodney District Council - Project 300, \$64,475 (directed at students leaving school with no formal qualifications);
- Whangarei District Council - Tautoko Teina \$211,560 (mentoring programme supporting a younger sibling);
- New Plymouth District Council - Young@art Youth Festival, \$34,000 (holding youth festival with workshops, performances and exhibitions);
- Kaipara District Council - Nga totara haemata o Kaipara, \$103,000 (pilot programme giving young people a voice in Council);
- Napier City Council - Ka Hao Te Rangatahi, \$75,000 (kaupapa Maori based initiative working with male Maori youth);
- Waimakariri District Council - Learning Towards Earning, \$150,000 (setting up a resource centre enabling young people to move from school, through training, to employment);
- Wellington City Council - WYPE Participatory Action Research Crew, \$110,000 (with Wellington Boys' and Girls'

Institute: researching and organising a series of projects and events);

- Wellington City Council - Youth Capacity Building at Zeal, \$40,600 (with Zeal Education Trust, facilitating the Cutting Edge leadership programme and training volunteers);
- South Waikato District Council - South Waikato Connect Youth, \$113,400 (creating three youth events, bringing together the South Waikato Youth Council and the Raukawa Young Leaders, and developing an information exchange, Youth i-Xchange);
- Westland District Council - YECH Youth Engineering Challenge, \$31,100 (organising a trolley derby where teams of young people work with mentors to design and build their own trolleys to a required safety standard);
- Gisborne District Council - Kokiri Taiohi, \$132,000 (with Te Runanga O Turanganui A Kiwa: developing leadership skills, and supporting access to higher education and employment);
- Wanganui District Council - Make It Take It, \$112,500 (young people developing projects and events);
- Grey District Council - Making it Easy, \$55,890 (reducing barriers to education for young parents by providing learners and their children with transportation and a safe learning environment);
- Manukau City Council - Community Computer Clubhouse Online, \$44,800 (information and communication technology for establishment of Clubhouse 274, an after-school drop-in facility); and
- Tauranga City Council - All About Heart, \$75,000 (providing secondary school students with training and support as youth coaches and umpires).

Business

NZTE: Expansion of Asian Operations

NZ's Trade and Enterprises (NZTE) Asian operations are to be expanded with five more offices in China, one more office in India and NZ concept centres in China and Japan. The concept centres will be modelled on the successful NZ Focus Centre in Hong Kong, a permanent exhibition centre for the promotion of NZ products.

The Beachheads Programme for NZ business people will also be extended by the appointment of two leading Asian businessmen as chairs to new Beachheads Advisory Boards in South East Asia and India. Beachheads provides NZ exporters with access to advice and networks in key markets, using industry and business experts. It offers a customised services package that includes expertise from business experts in NZ and offshore. The Advisory Boards comprise highly successful local business leaders who have developed a wealth of knowledge and extensive business networks. They are committed to assisting NZ companies to be prepared to go global and to succeed in their target markets. Beachheads Advisory Board members around the world now include some of the world's leading sector specialists.

For more information on the Beachheads Programme visit www.nzte.govt.nz/beachheads

Nextspace: Holding Hands with Right Hemisphere?

Nextspace is a not-for-profit contract research and innovation centre closely linked to the software company Right Hemisphere. The centre will be receiving \$7 million in funding over the next three years to help strengthen kiwi 3D digital content and graphics firms and research institutions. The aim is to make graphical communications technology (which is a multi-billion dollar industry) a major industry and export for NZ.

Nextspace will be running an Auckland facility that will help build a "virtual cluster" of NZ companies, researchers and others specialising in graphics communications technology. The cluster will bring together companies developing and using 3D digital graphics technology as well as universities and research organisations, so they can develop research and commercial projects that build on NZ's strengths in 3D technology. Nextspace will also help with facilitating connections to markets and with international clients.

Cluster development featured in the Government's 2006 Spillover Agreement with Right Hemisphere, in which a \$US8 million was loaned to Right Hemisphere in return for its commitment to fostering NZ's 3D content and graphics industry. Right Hemisphere has backing from two of the most prestigious venture capital firms in the world, Sequoia Capital Partners and Sutter Hill. It will be providing software and hardware to Nextspace, as well as being a major source of leads and contacts for research and development partnerships.

For more information go to www.med.govt.nz/right-hemisphere

Business Mentors NZ Gets Funding Boost

Business Mentors NZ is recruiting up to 100 additional people to act as mentors for exporters. The move will mean that businesses venturing into exporting for the first time and existing exporters can both benefit from having a mentor looking over their plans and giving them advice and support.

Business Mentors NZ was established in 1991. It is funded largely by patrons from the private sector, with additional support from NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE). It provides a free mentoring service to businesses that have been operating for at least a year and have fewer than 25 staff.

Business Mentors NZ currently has a pool of about 1,400 mentors from throughout NZ but only a proportion of these are experienced exporters. As well as recruiting additional mentors, Business Mentors NZ will provide export-focused training for both new and existing mentors. Mentors are volunteers and are not paid for their time, although they are reimbursed for expenses. Each mentor is usually available for at least four hours per month for mentoring assignments.

Businesses seeking a mentor can register their interest online at www.businessmentor.org.nz or by calling 0800 103 400.

Free Business Statistics Available

As a result of the 2007 Budget, Statistics NZ (SNZ) will be making information to help businesses identify market opportunities,

assess their competitiveness, and implement informed investment planning freely available. The roll-out of information will include industry-specific information for the building, retail and tourism sectors, and for importers and exporters. The information will also be useful for local authorities and communities.

The first business statistics releases will be in August this year. Digital Boundaries and StreetLink will enable businesses to develop market profiles, research likely sites and identify growth opportunities in particular locations.

The names of the free products and their publication dates are:
Digital Boundaries - August 2007; StreetLink - August 2007; Small Area Population Estimates and Projections - August 2007 (Estimates)/mid 2008 (Projections); Regional and Local Statistics - November/December 2007; Detailed Business Demography Data - by end 2007; Household Expenditure Data - by end 2007; Detailed Import/Export Data - mid 2008; Retail and Wholesale Trade Data - mid 2008; Economic Time Series - mid 2008; Migration and Visitor Data - mid 2008; Redeveloped INFOS Database - mid 2008; and Coding Tools for Occupation/Industry - late 2008.

Employment

Latest Employment/Unemployment Figures

The annual average unemployment rate for the country for the year to March was 3.7%, according to the latest regional labour market reports (jointly produced by the Labour Department and the Ministry of Social Development).

The national figure for employment for the latest year was 65.8%, up from 65.5% the previous year.

Employment growth was particularly strong in Waikato and Bay of Plenty, up 10.6% in the former and 15.3% in the latter. Waikato had the biggest fall in unemployment. For the year to March, its annual average employment rate was 67.2%, up from 66.3% in the year to March 2006, and unemployment dropped from 4.2% to 3.3% in the latest year. Bay of Plenty also showed strong growth in the employment rate, from 63.3% in the March 2006 year, to 64.4%.

The employment rate was highest in Southland at 69.5% and lowest in Northland at 62.9%. The largest rise in the employment rate was in Taranaki, up 2.3 percentage points to 66.7%.

Northland and Wellington had the country's highest unemployment. Both had an unemployment figure of 4.7%, but Northland's unemployment rate fell from 5.4% in the year to March 2006, while Wellington's rose from 4%. Auckland's unemployment rate also rose, from 3.6% to 3.9%.

The three areas with unemployment rates under 3% were all in the South Island. The statistical area combining Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough and the West Coast had the lowest rate at 2.7%, followed by Southland on 2.8% and Canterbury on 2.9%.

The Labour Department said that in most regions more people were becoming available for work and moving straight into jobs. The rapid move into jobs could be seen from the rising employment against a backdrop of stable low regional unemployment.

Housing

More Certainty for Leaky Home Claimants

A recently introduced bill aims to technically amend the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006 to give added certainty to leaky homes claimants that the Weathertight Homes Tribunal is able to award general damages, including those for mental distress and anxiety. The move follows a recent High Court decision, of 29 March 2007, that held general damages could not be awarded as compensation for any mental anxiety or stress under the legislation.

The amendment to the Act will specifically clarify that the Weathertight Homes Tribunal can make any order that a court of competent jurisdiction could make in relation to a claim in accordance with principles of law, but it will not give the Tribunal any wider powers than the court in relation to remedies. The change has been made to reinforce claimants' confidence that their WHRS claims can be resolved in one jurisdiction, without the need to go through mainstream courts to seek general damages.

Insulating Floors? Be Careful!

Homeowners are advised to be aware of the risk of electrical shock and electrocution when installing underfloor thermal insulation using staples.

When stapling underfloor thermal insulation it is essential to keep staples well clear of any power cables. Work preparation needs to include identification of cable location and, where required, cable protection. This will eliminate the possibility of stapling the cable - which can cause a fatal electric shock, or an electrically initiated fire. It's recommended you turn off the power while installing the insulation. However, this action does not necessarily eliminate the hazard because a cable that has been damaged by a staple could still make the aluminium foil live when the power is turned back on and create the same electric shock hazard.

Homeowners who have any doubts or concerns about installing underfloor thermal insulation safely should have the work carried out by professional installers.

More information is available from Energy Safety on free phone 0508 377 4636 or visit: www.ess.govt.nz/

Internet

NZ's Top Web Sites Named

Online community site SmileCity has been named Site of the Year in the 2007 People's Choice NetGuide Web Awards. Repeating its success of last year, Trade Me dominated the awards, winning three categories: Best Trading Site, Best Real Estate Site (Trade Me Property) and Best Motoring Site (Trade Me Motors).

Other notable winners were Stuff (Best Media Site, Best Home Page), Gameplanet (Best Games-Related Site, Best Online Shopping Site) and NZ Dating (Favourite Social Networking Site, Best Lifestyle Site).

There was a rare dead heat in the Best Financial Services category, with the honours being shared by ASB Bank and Sorted.

The top NZ web sites in 25 categories were decided by tens of thousands of votes cast by NetGuide readers and online users and other Kiwi internet users. The list of winners is:

Site of the Year

Winner: SmileCity: www.smilecity.co.nz
Finalists: Trade Me: www.trademe.co.nz/;
NZ Dating: www.nzdating.com

Best Financial Services

Joint Winners: ASB Bank: www.asb.co.nz/;
Sorted: www.sorted.org.nz
Finalist: RaboPlus: www.raboplus.co.nz

Best Trading Site

Winner: Trade Me: www.trademe.co.nz
Finalists: Zillion: www.zillion.co.nz/;
Sellme free: www.sellmefree.co.nz

Best Employment Site

Winner: Seek: www.seek.co.nz
Finalists: Trademe: www.trademe.co.nz/;
Search4jobs: jobs.search4.co.nz

Best High-Speed Internet Site.

Winner: TVNZ: www.tvnz.co.nz
Finalists: Vorb: www.vorb.org.nz/;
TV3: www.tv3.co.nz

Best New Site, Relaunch, Innovation

Winner: NZ Herald: www.nzherald.co.nz
Finalists: Stuff: www.stuff.co.nz/;
Air NZ : www.arinewzealand.co.nz

Best Online Shopping Site

Winner: Gameplanet Store: www.gpstore.co.nz
Finalists: Ferrit: www.ferrit.co.nz/;
Ascent: www.ascent.co.nz

NZ'S Favourite Search Engine

Winner: Google: www.google.co.nz
Finalists: Yahoo: www.yahoo.co.nz/;
NZSearch: www.nzsearch.co.nz

Best Sports And Recreation Site. Winner:

Vorb: www.vorb.org.nz/
Finalists: Allblacks.com: www.allblacks.com/;
Kiwi Biker: www.kiwibiker.co.nz

NZ'S Favourite Social Networking Site.

Winner: NZ Dating: www.nzdating.com
Finalists: MySpace: www.myspace.com/;
Bebo: www.bebo.com

Best Real Estate Site

Winner: Trade Me Property: www.trademe.co.nz/Trade-me-property/index.htm
Finalists: Realestate.co.nz: www.realestate.co.nz/;
Open2view: www.open2view.com

Best Parenting Site

Winner: Huggies: www.huggiesnz.co.nz
Finalists: Treasures: www.treasures.co.nz/;
Kidspot: www.kidspot.co.nz

Best Travel Site

Winner: House of Travel: www.houseoftravel.co.nz

Finalists: Air NZ : www.airnewzealand.co.nz;

AA Travel: www.aatravel.co.nz

Best Youth Site

Winner: Radiochick: www.radiochick.co.nz

Finalists: Gameplanet: www.gameplanet.co.nz;

247 Girl: www.247girl.co.nz

Best Web Ad Campaign

Winner: Air NZ /MTV "Pimp My Plane": <http://erequest.airnz.co.nz/nz/promotions/mtv>

Finalists: Air NZ Grabseat: <http://flightbookings.airnewzealand.co.nz/vgrabview>;
42 Below: www.42below.co.nz

Best Media Site

Winner: Stuff: www.stuff.co.nz

Finalists: NZ Herald: www.nzherald.co.nz;

TVNZ: www.tvnz.co.nz

Best Government Or Community Site

Winner: Donate NZ: www.donatenz.co.nz

Finalists: IRD: www.ird.govt.nz;

Auckland City: www.aucklandcity.govt.nz

Best Motoring Site

Winner: Trade Me Motors: www.trademe.co.nz/Trade-me-motors/index.htm

Finalists: AA: www.aa.co.nz;

Kiwi Biker: www.kiwibiker.co.nz

Best Entertainment Site

Winner: Biggie: www.biggie.co.nz

Finalists: Stuff: www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment.html;

Radiochick: www.radiochick.co.nz

Best Games-Related Site

Winner: Gameplanet: www.gameplanet.co.nz

Finalists: NZGamer.com: www.nzgamer.com;

ICONZ Arena: www.iconzarena.co.nz

Best Home Page

Winner: Stuff: www.stuff.co.nz

Finalists: NZ City: <http://home.nzcity.co.nz>;

Google: www.google.co.nz

Best Blog

Winner: Public Address: www.publicaddress.net

Finalists: Kiwiblog: www.kiwiblog.co.nz;

Radiochick: www.radiochick.co.nz

Best ISP Nationwide

Winner: Slingshot: www.slingshot.co.nz

Finalists: Ihug: www.ihug.co.nz;

Orcon: www.orcon.net.nz

Best ISP Regional

Winner: Airnet: www.airnet.net.nz

Finalists: Tasman Solutions: www.tasman.net;

iGrin: www.igrin.co.nz

Best Lifestyle Site

Winner: NZ Dating: www.nzdating.co.nz

Finalists: Taste: www.taste.co.nz;

SmileCity: www.smilecity.co.nz

A new site at <http://www.ruralnetwork.co.nz/> has been set up by Dow Agrosiences to help farmers and other people in rural communities connect online. It is designed to offer rural people one-stop "information gateway" where people can share ideas and opinions as well as advertise items on a free "trading post"

and free notice board section. The site will also be providing online calculators for working out volumes of chemicals needed on the farm, have weather feeds directly from the Metservice, and include regular updates on commodity prices.

The Coalition for Open Government (COG) website is at www.cog.org.nz. COG supports transparent rules around the funding of elections and political parties, and the administration of the NZ election system. Patrons include theologian Lloyd Geering, writer Patricia Grace, All Black Anton Oliver and Dr Paul Harris, former Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission.

Treaty Claims

Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui Report Released

The Waitangi Tribunal recently released a preliminary report on customary rights in Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui (the northern South Island) WAI 785. The Tribunal found that all eight iwi of Te Tau Ihu - Ngati Apa, Rangitane, Ngati Kuia, Ngati Toa Rangatira, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama, Te Atiawa, and Ngati Koata - had valid customary rights when the Treaty of Waitangi (the Treaty) was signed in 1840. Those rights were protected and guaranteed by the Treaty. Despite acknowledging this at the time, the Crown acquired millions of acres of Te Tau Ihu lands and resources without finding out the correct Maori owners or obtaining their full and free consent. Partly as a result, the Crown's massive purchases were invalid in both British and Maori law, and in breach of the Treaty. As a result of the breaches, Te Tau Ihu Maori lost almost all of their land by 1860.

More is at <http://www.waitangi-tribunal.govt.nz/news/#Media%20Release%20NSI>

Waikato River: Draft Treaty Agreement

A draft Agreement in Principle (AIP) to settle Waikato-Tainui's historical Treaty claim to the Waikato River was recently released and presented to Waikato-Tainui's Tribal Parliament, Te Kauhanganui, for its consideration.

The draft AIP would establish a new management structure for the river, creating "Guardians of the Waikato River" to be responsible for a vision and strategy for the river, which would be made up of representatives of Waikato-Tainui, other river iwi, the Crown, and Environment Waikato. A separate statutory board would be established to assist with putting in place the strategy. This would be made up of equal numbers of Waikato-Tainui and Environment Waikato Councillors.

Waikato-Tainui's claims relating to the confiscation of land were settled in 1995, but their remaining historical claims were set aside to be negotiated later. Consultation on the draft AIP will now begin involving Waikato-Tainui, other Waikato River iwi, Environment Waikato, other relevant local authorities, and the public.

Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill: Update

The scheduled reporting of the Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill back to Parliament has been delayed three months. The bill would amend the Fisheries Act to give clearer direction to decision makers where there are gaps or flaws in the information on which they must base their decisions. It would enable the decision makers to take action they judge to be necessary to make sure fisheries resources are sustainable and the marine environment is protected where information is uncertain or lacking. It takes the position that if the information about a fish stock or about the effect of it on other species, or on the marine ecosystem is uncertain, inadequate, or unreliable, then decisions can be made to ensure it is sustainable.

Turanganui-a-Kiwa Claimants Begin Negotiations

The Crown and Turanganui-a-Kiwa Claimant Groups, whose traditional tribal area centres on the Gisborne District, have signed an agreement with the Crown to enter into negotiations to settle the Groups' historical Treaty of Waitangi claims.

The Turanganui-a-Kiwa Claimant Groups are made up of Te Pou a Haokai, Ngai Tamanuhiri, and Rongowhakaata negotiating collectively. Their claims relate primarily to the war between the Crown and Turanga Maori in the 1860s and the subsequent loss of land through the Deed of Cession, the operation and impact of Native Land Laws and the Poverty Bay Commission, the detention of Turanga Maori on the Chatham Islands, the removal of Te Hau ki Turanga (a Rongowhakaata meeting house now located in Te Papa Museum), and the deaths of unarmed prisoners by Crown forces.

Currently, the Government is working with over 20 claimant groups each of which involves a number of claims ranging from 2 to 70.

Arts and Culture

NZ School of Music Gets a New Home

The NZ School of Music is to receive a one-off grant of up to \$11.5 million from the Government for a purpose-built facility in Wellington. The School of Music is a collaboration between Massey University and Victoria University. It is currently housed across Wellington on several sites. The two universities, Wellington City Council and private donors will also be contributing to the cost of building the new School.

New NZ Poet Laureate Award

A NZ Poet Laureate Award is to be established to recognise writers who have made an outstanding contribution to NZ poetry, with the Poet Laureate being selected biennially and receiving an award of \$50,000. The Laureate's working papers and published work will be preserved in the National Library's National Digital Heritage Archive and in the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library. The award (which is the first Government-funded poetry award) will take the place of the existing Te Mata Poet Laureate scheme (on which it is based).

The timing of the first award will be advised later in the year.

Creative NZ/Te Waka Toi Funding Opportunities

The Arts Council/Creative New Zealand offers a range of contestable funding programmes, including grants to one-off arts projects and support of professional arts organisations on an annual or three-year basis.

Te Waka Toi is the Maori Arts Board of Creative New Zealand. Through Te Waka Toi Maori artists are able to apply for funding through five project funding programmes. Te Waka Toi also provides funding on an annual and three-year basis to Maori arts organisations, administers special awards and scholarships, and carries out initiatives.

Closing dates coming up for applications to Te Waka Toi and the Arts Board are:

Arts Board - project funding (all artforms and programmes): 27 July;

Fishing

NZ and Solomon Islands: Fishing Agreement

A fishing agreement between NZ and the Solomon Islands formalises access to NZ-flagged vessels to fish in the Solomon Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under licences issued by the Solomon's Government. It follows a provisional arrangement developed in 2004. NZ flagged vessels fishing in Solomon waters must adhere to the Solomon Islands Fisheries Act, as well as the NZ Fisheries Act.

Southern Squid Fishery: Fewer Sea Lion Deaths

NZ Sea lions eat squid and are at risk of drowning when they chase squid into trawl nets. Last season there were 110 assumed NZ sea lion deaths in the southern squid fishery, this year the number has been almost halved: to 56 assumed deaths.

With a population of around 12,000, the NZ sea lion is classified as threatened under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. That means it is not immediately threatened with extinction but is vulnerable to population decline. Its threatened status is largely due to the fact that it primarily breeds only in one place - the Auckland Islands.

The southern squid fishery operates from the Auckland and Campbell Islands. The area is fished from February through to April or May, or until the fishing-related mortality limit for sea lions is reached. The fishery is NZ's biggest seafood export earner with foreign exchange earnings in 2005 and 2006 of just over \$286 million.

Dance - Tup Lang Choreographic Award: 27 July; Creative New Zealand Choreographic Fellowship 2008: 27 July

Literature - Katherine Mansfield Fellowship: 13 July; Todd Writers' Bursary: 27 July 2007; Screen Innovation Production Fund: 27 July; Toi Ake: 27 July

Te Waka Toi - project funding (all programmes): 27 July

Pacific Arts Committee - Project funding (all programmes) 27 July

Arts Pasifika Awards 2007 - closing date for nominations: 29 June.

More information is at <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/funding/twt/index.html>

General

National Climate Summary - Autumn 2007

Warm weather over the country, with a record dry in the East of the North Island.

- *Rainfall*: Well below normal in the east, and Manawatu and Wellington.
- *Soil moisture*: Significant deficits in several eastern regions.
- *Temperature*: Above average, especially in the east and inland areas of the South Island.
- *Sunshine*: Well above normal in Gisborne, Marlborough and parts of Canterbury.

The five main centres: Auckland was easily the warmest and wettest, Dunedin the driest and coolest, and Wellington the sunniest. Autumn temperatures were above average in all five main centres. Rainfall was near normal in Auckland, and below normal in the four other centres. Autumn sunshine was near normal in Hamilton, and above normal in the four other main centres.

Rainfall: Autumn rainfall was less than 50% (half) of normal in many eastern regions, from Gisborne to Otago, and below normal in the west of the North Island from Waikato to Wellington, as well as eastern Bay of Plenty. Autumn rainfall was near normal elsewhere.

Temperature: Seasonal mean temperatures were at least 0.5 °C above average throughout much of the North Island and at least 1.0 °C above average throughout much of the South Island. Temperatures were about 1.5 °C above average in parts of Canterbury and Central Otago. The national average temperature of 14.0 °C was 0.7 °C above normal, the highest for autumn since 1999.

Sunshine: Autumn sunshine hours and/or solar radiation were at least 110% of normal in eastern regions of both islands from Gisborne to Otago, and near normal elsewhere.

NZ Ranked No 2 in World Peace Survey

NZ has been placed second behind Norway in an inaugural Global Peace Index (GPI). The Economist Intelligence Unit was com-

missioned by a group of businessmen, academics and peace institutions to rank 121 nations according to their relative state of peace. The index was comprised of 24 indicators, ranging from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighbouring countries and the level of respect for human rights.

The report said that NZ's lofty position in the GPI partly reflects its lack of internal and external conflicts and its very good relations with neighbouring countries, namely Australia and fellow member states of the Pacific Island Forum. It also said the nation's political scene was stable, and the index gave NZ very low scores on the likelihood of violent demonstrations and the number of homicides. However it noted that "violent crime is higher than in Norway and the number of jailed population is considerably higher than the four Nordic nations surveyed."

The top 25 on the Global Peace Index are: 1 Norway, 2 NZ, 3 Denmark, 4 Ireland, 5 Japan, 6 Finland, 7 Sweden, 8 Canada, 9 Portugal, 10 Austria, 11 Belgium, 12 Germany, 13 Czech Republic, 14 Switzerland, 15 Slovenia, 16 Chile, 17 Slovakia, 18 Hungary, 19 Bhutan, 20 Netherlands, 21 Spain, 22 Oman, 23 Hong Kong, 24 Uruguay, 25 Australia.

Snapshot: NZers - Who Are We...

Ethnic groups in NZ

According to the 2006 Census results:

- "European" remained the largest of the major ethnic groups, with 2,609,592 people (67.6% of the population) in 2006;
- the Maori ethnic group is the second largest, with 565,329 people (or 14.6%);
- of the major ethnic groups, the Asian ethnic group grew the fastest between 2001 and 2006, increasing from 238,176 people in 2001 to reach 354,552 people in 2006 (an increase of almost 50%);
- the Pacific peoples ethnic group had the second-largest increase from the 2001 Census, up 14.7% to total 265,974 people;
- Auckland was the most ethnically diverse region in NZ, with 56.5% of its population identifying with the European ethnic group, 18.9% with the Asian ethnic group, 14.4% with the Pacific peoples ethnic group, and 11.1% with the Maori ethnic group;
- around 1 in 10, or 10.4% of people, identified with more than one ethnic group in 2006, compared with 9.0% in 2001;
- the European ethnic group was the largest of the major ethnic groupings, totaling 2,609,592 people (67.6% of the population) in 2006;
- NZ European was the country's largest individual ethnic group, with 2,381,076 people identifying with this group;
- more than one in seven people (14.6%) usually living in NZ in 2006 identified with the Maori ethnic group;
- the Maori ethnic group increased by 39,048 people (7.4%) between 2001 and 2006, to total 565,329 people;
- the Asian ethnic group was NZ's fourth largest major ethnic group after European, Maori, and Other Ethnicity, totalling 354,552 people (9.2%) in 2006;
- almost 1 in 5 people (18.9% or 234,222 people) in Auckland identified with one or more Asian ethnic group(s), the highest proportion of all the regions;

- in 2006, 265,974 people identified with the Pacific peoples ethnic group, representing 6.9% of the total NZ population. In 2001, there were 231,801 Pacific peoples, comprising 6.5% of the total population;
- over 9 in 10 Pacific peoples (93.4%) living in NZ in 2006 lived in the North Island;
- two-thirds (66.9%) of Pacific peoples lived in the Auckland region;

Ethnic Group	2001 count	2006 count	% change
Samoan	115,017	131,103	14.0
Cook Is	52,569	58,008	10.3
Tongan	40,719	50,481	24.0
Niuean	20,148	22,476	11.6
Fijian	7,041	9,864	40.1
Tokelauan	6,204	6,819	9.9
Tuvaluan	1,965	2,628	33.7

- in the 2006 Census the "New Zealander" (NZer) ethnic group totalled 429,429 people, and made up a large share of the "Other Ethnicity" category, which totals 430,881 people. In 2001, and previous censuses, the NZer ethnic group was counted in the European category. Of those who identified themselves as NZers, 12.9% also identified with at least one other ethnic group;
- the Middle Eastern, Latin American and African grouping with 34,743 people totalled 0.9% of NZ's usually resident population; and
- within the Middle Eastern, Latin American and African grouping, there were 17,514 people who identified with Middle Eastern ethnic groups, 6,657 people with Latin American groups, and 10,647 people with African groups.

Languages spoken in NZ

In terms of languages spoken in NZ the 2006 Census data shows that:

- after English (spoken by 95.9% of people), the most common language in which people could have a conversation about everyday things was Maori, spoken by 4.1% (157,110 people);
- a total of 24,090 people reported the ability to use NZ Sign Language, NZ's third official language after English and Maori;
- a total of 6,057 people can communicate in all three of NZ's official languages- English, Maori and NZ Sign Language;
- in 2006, 2.2% of those people who stated they were able to have a conversation about everyday things in at least one language did not speak English. This was a similar proportion to 2001, when 1.8% of people were unable to have a conversation about everyday things in English. In 2006, the majority of people unable to speak English were born overseas (80.3%) - a similar proportion to 2001;
- between 2001 and 2006, the numbers of people in NZ able to have a conversation about everyday things in Hindi almost doubled, from 22,749 to 44,589. The number of people able to speak Northern Chinese (Mandarin) increased from 26,514 to 41,391, the number of people able to speak Korean increased from 15,873 to 26,967, and the number of people able to speak Afrikaans increased from 12,783 to 21,123; and

- between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, the number of multilingual people increased by 19.5%. In the ten years between 1996 and 2006, this number increased by 43.3%, from 468,711 people in 1996 to reach 671,658 people in 2006.

Religious Affiliation in NZ

In the 2006 Census, just over 2 million people, or 55.6% of those answering the religious affiliation question, affiliated with a Christian religion (including Maori Christian). This compares with the 2001 Census, when 60.6% of people affiliated with a Christian religion:

- despite an overall decrease in people affiliating with Christian religions, some Christian denominations increased and some decreased;
- the number of people affiliating with Orthodox Christian religions increased by 37.8%, affiliation with Evangelical, Born Again and Fundamentalist religions increased by 25.6%, and affiliation with Pentecostal religions increased by 17.8%;
- just over 8 in 10 Pacific peoples (80.2% or 199,983 people) who answered the religious affiliation question identified with Christian religions;
- of the people of Maori ethnicity who answered the religious affiliation question, 11.1% identified with a Maori Christian religion, such as Ratana and Ringatu;
- there was an increase in people affiliating with non-Christian religions: the number of people indicating an affiliation with the Sikh religion increased from 5,196 to 9,507 (up 83.0%) between 2001 and 2006, while people affiliated with either Hinduism (up from 39,798 to 64,392) or Islam (up from 23,631 to 36,072) also increased (by 61.8% and 52.6%, respectively);
- the increases in people affiliating with these non-Christian religions is mainly attributed to migrants, particularly from Asia. Almost 8 in 10 people (78.8%) affiliated with the Hindu religion were born overseas, particularly in Southern Asia and the Pacific Islands. A similar proportion of people affiliating with Islam (77.0%) were born overseas, mainly in Southern Asia, but also in the Middle East. The majority of people born overseas affiliating with Buddhism (37,590 people) were born in Asia (34,422 people); and
- the number and proportion of people indicating that they had no religion continued to increase in the 2006 Census. In 2006, 1,297,104 people (34.7%) stated that they had no religion, compared with 1,028,052 people (29.6%) in the 2001 Census. The European and NZer ethnic groups had the highest proportions of people stating that they had no religion, at 37.7% (955,260 people) and 37.6% (155,268 people), respectively. People in the Middle Eastern, Latin American and African ethnic grouping were least likely to state that they had no religion, with 11.0% or 651 people in this group giving this response in the 2006 Census.

...& NZ's Population Growing, Getting Older

Statistics NZ (SNZ) says that the population of NZ increased by 1% in the year to March, reaching 4,177,000. The country's resident population rose by 43,100 in the March 2007 year, compared to 40,600 in the March 2006 year. This mainly due to a larger permanent and long-term migration gain, and a small rise in natural increase (i.e. more births than deaths).

The median age (half are younger, and half older, than this age) of NZers also rose. At 31 March the median age for males was 35.1 years. The median age for the female population was 36.9 years. The median age increased by 2.7 years for males and 3 years for females between the 1997 and 2007 March years.

Non-Profit Organisations: Economic Contributions

For the first time in NZ's history official figures are to be available on non-profit organisations in NZ (these are, for example, sport and recreation, social and education services and religious organisations).

In August 2007, Statistics NZ (SNZ) will release a report called "Satellite Account of Non-profit Institutions in NZ". This report will include a very wide range of information on non-profit organisations. The main results will show the economic contribution of these groups to NZ's gross domestic product (GDP) and the millions of hours of volunteer labour will be included in these calculations.

A Massey research team will be finishing papers covering the legal positions of non-profit organisations in this country at around the same time. The papers will also cover the history of non-profit organisations and the impact of past and current policies on them. They will also include information on the main issues facing non-profit organisations today.

All this information is to be brought together into a NZ National Report in 2008, which will also compare NZ's non-profit organisation profile with that of other countries.

For more information on Statistics NZ's work on satellite accounts visit www.stats.govt.nz/people/communities/non-profit-institutions/default.htm, tel 04 9314384, email andrew.rae@stats.govt.nz

Contraband in Prisons - Proposed New Legislation

Legislation is to be introduced in August to give the Department of Corrections greater powers to stop contraband getting into prisons. Amendments in the Corrections Amendment Bill will:

- make it a new criminal offence for non-prisoners to possess without authority drugs, communications devices or offensive weapons in prison, with the penalty to be a \$5000 fine and/or up to three months in prison;
- give greater powers for Corrections to undertake body and property searches;
- extend the current penalties (12 months imprisonment and/or \$5000 fine) to include situations where contraband is passed by a prison officer, staff member or probation officer to a prisoner while they are outside a prison;
- make it an offence to attempt to tamper with a drug sample;
- allow for prisoners to be re-tested if a sample is believed to have been tampered with;
- clarify the term "unauthorised electronic device", specifying cellphones, wi-fi, Bluetooth transmitters and any internet-capable device; and
- create an offence for a prisoner to possess or use an unauthorised electronic device, with the penalty to be a \$5000 fine and/or up to three months in prison.

NZ Standards System Streamlined

The standards and conformance (that is, complying with requirements) system in NZ is to be streamlined following a review.

The Standards Council, which is responsible for developing consensus-based standards in NZ, and the Testing Laboratory Registration Council, which examines the competence of testing laboratories and inspection bodies, are both to be downsized. "Sector advisory boards" will be created in Standards NZ. The boards will develop and manage a plan for standards in their own sectors.

A "Regulatory Forum" of policy-makers, regulators, standards and conformance organisations (and invited members) will oversee standards and conformance systems, and be responsible for developing ways of managing risks to health and safety and the environment, and of facilitating trade.

A cabinet paper on the Standards and Conformance Infrastructure Review is available at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC___26974.aspx

UNESCO Statement on Religious Diversity

The NZ National Commission for UNESCO has funded the publication of 10,000 copies of the pocket-sized booklet "Religious Diversity in NZ" for the NZ Diversity Action Programme. The booklet contains the text and further commentary on the Statement on Religious Diversity, with a preface by the Prime Minister and a foreword by the Chair of the NZ National Commission, Dame Silvia Cartwright. UNESCO internationally promotes intercultural and interfaith dialogue as one of its key priorities.

Organisations and communities are being invited to discuss and endorse the Statement and to provide suggested improvements before a scheduled review in advance of the August 2009 Diversity Forum. Copies of the booklet are available free of charge by emailing nzdiversity@hrc.co.nz. The booklet can also be downloaded as a PDF at http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/25-May-2007_08-24-50_NSIRD_booklet.pdf

Maori Language Week/Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori 2007...

Maori Language Week/Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori is 23 July to 29 July with Tourism as its theme. NZers are invited to use reo Maori as they travel around. A free booklet called "He Korero mo Aotearoa - On the Road with te Reo", which has simple phrases and words in Maori, will be helpful for anyone wanting to give this a go. Tourism NZ, the Maori Tourism Council, tourism operators and Air NZ are some of the supporters of this year's "On the Road" focus. This year's Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori theme also encourages keen Kiwi organisations and people to use "kia ora" as an everyday greeting. "Kia ora" can be used any time you would say "hi" or "hello".

NZers have been celebrating Maori Language Week since 1975.

For the free booklet "He Korero mo Aotearoa-On the Road with Te Reo" email iana@tetaurawhiri.govt.nz. For more information on Maori Language Week, including the Maori Language Week Awards, visit www.koreroMaori.org.nz

...& Newspapers in Education: Maori Focus Month

June is Maori Focus Month for Fairfax Newspapers in Education (NiE) with the focus being on food. The newspapers are being published in time for Matariki and Maori Language Week. There are four newspapers, each aimed at a different age level: Go Zone is for children aged 7-8 (published 19 June, entitled Kai); I-Site is for children aged 9-10 (published 5 June, entitled Hangi); Newlinks is for children aged 11-12 (published 12 June, entitled Matariki); and Zoned In is for children aged 13-14 (to be published 26 June, entitled Nga kai o te Moana). Fairfax Media NiE won the print media category at the 2006 Maori Language Week Awards for their Maori Focus Month mini newspapers, and also won the Panapa Young Readers Award. Posters, language cards and a marae booklet are also available.

To order these resources tel 0800 849 971 or email nie@fairfaxnz.co.nz

YouthLaw: Resources for Asian Communities

YouthLaw Tino Rangatiratanga Taitamariki is a community law centre for children and young people. It offers free and confidential legal advice to anyone under 25 years of age.

Because of a concern that young Asian students and migrants have not been easily able to access information in a form they can understand, YouthLaw have started to develop a range of posters to accommodate their needs. Posters are now available in Chinese and Korean to increase awareness of NZ's laws, and provide contact details for YouthLaw.

Visit YouthLaw's website at: <http://www.youthlaw.co.nz/>

New Navy Vessel

The first of the Navy's seven new Project Protector Ships, the multi-role vessel "Canterbury", is shortly to arrive in NZ. The ship was accepted by the Ministry of Defence and handed over to the Royal NZ in Melbourne at the end of May, and commissioned into the Royal NZ Navy earlier this month. On 28 June it will arrive in its home port of Lyttleton, and amongst events being held at that time will be an open day for the public. The HMNZS Canterbury will be in Timaru on 4-6 July before heading to its base in Devonport.

Some Funding Opportunities

Rates Rebate Scheme: More Ratepayers Eligible

Changes to the Rates Rebate Scheme (established to provide a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates) mean more people are now eligible for a rates rebate. The changes, which come into effect from 1 July, are:

- the maximum rebate is increased from \$200 to \$500;
- the income threshold is increased from \$7,400 to \$20,000; and
- the additional income allowance for dependents is increased from \$156 to \$500 per dependent. (This means the income threshold for a full rates rebate for the 2006/2007 year is \$20,000, and is increased by \$500 for each dependent in the household.)

Homeowners can apply to their local council for the new rebate from 1 July for the 06/07 rating year, but need to have received their 2006 rates bill first.

For more information about eligibility go to http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Rates-Rebate-Scheme-Index?OpenDocument

EECA EnergyWise Awards 2007

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority Awards are now open to all NZ organisations and individual people who have successfully produced innovative and outstanding results in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects. The awards are aimed at:

- profiling the champions of energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- recognising achievements in using sustainable energy systems and skills; and
- circulating information on leading sustainable energy practice.

Entries close 31 July. More information is at <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/news/awards/index.html>

Lottery Grants: Lottery Community Facilities

The Lottery Community Facilities Fund provides grants for constructing or improving community facilities that support participation in community activities. To be considered for funding, projects must encourage or enable community self-reliance, capacity building and stability, be for community purposes, and have a total capital cost over \$30,000.

Lottery Community Facilities Fund closing date is 5pm 27 July. More information is at: <http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/UploadFiles%5CGrantDocuments%5CPDFs%5Ce3d6fe00/Lottery%20Community%20Facilities%20Fund%20Info%20Sheet%20.pdf>

Community Action Fund (Stopping Family Violence)

This fund aims to support ideas and actions being developed at a community level to stop family violence. Its focus is on changing the attitudes and behaviours that ignore, excuse, minimise or trivialise the effects of family violence. Key messages are:

- family violence is preventable;
- preventing family violence is a public issue - it's everyone's business; and
- community action changes the way we think about family violence.

Local community organisations and networks can apply to the fund, which is targeted at small-scale community initiatives, with the maximum grant available being \$30,000.

Closing date is 31 July. More information is at <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/preventing-violence/community-action.html>

Community Organisation Grants Scheme

The Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) supports NZ-based essential community projects and services. It will fund a contribution towards the personnel, operating or programme costs of services to: Maori and Pacific Island communities, women, seniors, young people, children, families, the unemployed, people with mental and/or physical disabilities and those living in isolated areas. The projects should:

- encourage participation in communities;
- promote community leadership; and/or
- promote social, economic and cultural equity.

Applications to COGS close 27 July. They can be made online at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Appling-for-COGS-Funding?OpenDocument. Eligible items are listed in the budget table in the application form.

Asia NZ Cultural Grant Programme

The Asia NZ Foundation's cultural grant programme is designed to:

- use cultural links to build mutual respect and understanding between NZ and the countries of Asia;
- assist NZ's Asian communities to maintain their cultural heritage; and
- help build a vibrant multi-cultural society.

Programme goals are to:

- include an Asian dimension in NZ festivals;
- include Asian exhibitions and performers in the programmes of mainstream NZ arts organisations;
- build professional skills and networks for staging Asian exhibitions and performance;
- support residencies for arts professionals which enhance inter-cultural awareness; and
- raise mutual respect and understanding through cultural exchanges. Arts and cultural institutions, local government cultural events organisers, festival organisers, community groups and individuals can apply to the programme for funding.

Next closing date for applications is 30 July. Application forms are at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/files/culturegrant-application.pdf>. More information: Project Coordinator, tel 4 470 8709, email mccrawford@asianz.org.nz

Families Commission Research Fund

The Families Commission is calling for proposals for funding under the Innovative Practice Fund. This fund has an annual budget of \$100,000 for dynamic new practice-based work on family issues that promote innovative ideas and approaches.

The Commission wants a wide range of NZ family practitioners and researchers to use the Innovative Practice funding to examine contemporary and emerging family practice issues.

Submissions close 30 June 2007. More information: <http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/research/innovative-practice.php>
Proposals should be submitted as MS Word email attachments to karen.stewart@nzfamilies.org.nz tel 04 931 7090.

Conference/Workshop Brief

- **Tutors in Supported Learning Conference on "Pathways to Inclusion"**: hosted by Waiariki Institute of Technology on 3-5 July. "Pathways to Inclusion" outlines Government policy for vocational services working with people with disabilities. The conference is for anyone interested in tertiary education of disabled people, and their inclusion in the community.

More information: W Hill tel 07 346 8908, email warwick.hill@waiariki.ac.nz

- **Conser-Vision: the Next 50 Years**: an international conference on conservation will be held on 4-7 July 2007 at the University of Waikato. The purpose of this conference is to celebrate 20 years of integrated conservation management by the NZ Department of Conservation (DoC) and chart options for the future. Goals are: consider future challenges for conservation agencies and how existing models might be strengthened or adapted to meet them; review and evaluate the achievements of the past 20 years of conservation management in NZ; and assess the ways in which conservation agencies might best achieve their goals for conservation.

More information is at: <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/Conser-Vision/index.shtml> or Centre for Continuing Education, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton 3240, freephone 0800 863 6765, fax 07 858 5214, email conted@waikato.ac.nz

- **NZ Food Safety Authority Conference 2007** will be held on 26-27 September 2007 at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington. This conference is for industry participants, health professionals and consumer groups, and its theme is "Food into the Future" Workshops will cover food standards, new and evolving science, market access, and export standards

To register go to <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/events/nzfsa-conference-2007/reg-form.htm>

Appointments and Departures

NZ's next *High Commissioner to Vanuatu* will be career diplomat Jeff Langley. Dr Alan Bollard has been reappointed as *Governor of the Reserve Bank* for a further five years, expiring in September 2012.

Emeritus Professor John Burrows QC has been appointed to the *Law Commission*. John Marshall, Bruce Corkill, Matthew Casey, Stephen Mills, Stephen Kós, Robert Lithgow, Deborah Hollings, Christopher Gudsell, Nicholas Till, Susan Hughes, Campbell McLachlan, and Karen Clark have been appointed as *Queen's Counsel*. Hon Peter Salmon (Chair) Russell Howie and Prue Kapua have been appointed to the *Electricity Transmission Board of Inquiry*.

Thirteen new *coroners* have been appointed under the new Coroners Act 2006. They join *Chief Coroner* Judge Neil MacLean appointed in December last year. The appointees are: Brandt Shortland (Whangarei); Katharine Greig (Auckland); Murray Jamieson (Auckland); Peter Ryan (Hamilton); Gordon Matenga (Hamilton); Wallace Bain (Rotorua); Christopher Devonport (Hastings); Carla na Nagara (Palmerston North); Tim Scott (Palmerston North); Ian Smith (Wellington); Richard

McElrea (Christchurch); Sue Johnson (Christchurch); and David Crerar (Dunedin). A third coroner to be based in Auckland will be appointed at a later date.

The Coroners Act 2006 repeals and replaces the Coroners Act 1988. It established the office of Chief Coroner to be supported by a body of up to 20 legally qualified full-time coroners. The 14 coroners will replace the current 55 part-time coroners. The new Act also recognises the need to address the distinct spiritual and cultural needs of Maori and other ethnic or religious groups as far as possible, in keeping with the purpose and function of the coronial system. The new coroners will take office when the new coronial system comes into force on 1 July. Existing coroners will continue in office until they have completed any outstanding work.

Ian Fraser has been appointed to the *Board of Transpower*. Dr Ross Patterson has been appointed as the new *Telecommunications Commissioner* and a member of the *Commerce Commission*. Mike Underhill is the new *Chief Executive of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)*. Roger Sutton has been appointed as *Chairperson of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority*. Colonel Joe Walker has been reappointed as a member of the *National War Memorial Advisory Council*. Bill Jeffries, Murray Giera and David Russell have been appointed to the *Real Estate Agents Licensing Board*. John

Ombler has been appointed to the role of *Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services* at the *State Services Commission*. Graham Fortune has agreed to act as *Chief Executive and Secretary of Labour*. Tanya Harris is the Reserve Bank's new *Chief Information Officer* and *Head of Knowledge Services Group*.

Margaret Chapman of Geraldine, South Canterbury, has been appointed *National President of Rural Women NZ (RWNZ)*. The *Chris Cairns Foundation* has appointed Patrick Jackson to the position of *Charity Manager*. TV personalities John Campbell and Nathan Rarere, sports stars All Black Keven Mealamu and current and former Silver Ferns Laura Langman and Bernice Mene, the music group Spacifix, Footnote Dance Company and NZ Idol contest runner-up Indira Moala have become *New Lifestyle Ambassadors*. (The Lifestyle Ambassadors programme is aimed at encouraging children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles through nutrition and physical activity.)

Russell Marshall, the *Chair of the Tertiary Education Commission*, is to retire from the position. Dr John Glaister, *Chief Executive of the Ministry of Fisheries* has resigned.

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.

If you would like more information about Rural Bulletin or its contents, please contact:

Craig Matthews/Paddy Twist

Editors Rural Bulletin
Tel: 04 473 5524
Fax: 04 472 8946
Email ruralbulletin@ruralwomen.org.nz

Noeline Holt

Executive Officer
Rural Women New Zealand
Tel: 04 473 5524
Fax 04 472 8946
Email: enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz

Jackie Edkins

Communications Officer
Rural Women New Zealand
Tel: 04 473 5524
Fax 04 472 8946
Email: enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz

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.

Website: www.ruralwomen.org