

Rural Bulletin

September 2008



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

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Consultation

An Urban Design Policy for NZ?

Around 86% (over 3 million) of NZ's population live in urban areas and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is currently seeking submissions on the development of a National Policy Statement (NPS) on Urban Design.

Urban design is about the design of the buildings, places, spaces and networks that make up towns and cities, and the ways people use them. It is concerned not just with appearances but also with the environmental, economic, social and cultural effects of design. Urban design draws together many different sectors and professions, and it includes both the process of decision-making, as well as the design product.

At this first stage of consultation MfE is seeking comments on the following questions:

- Should an NPS on Urban Design be developed? If so what issues of national significance do you consider it should address and what relative priority would you assign them?
- If an NPS on Urban Design were to be prepared, how would you see it being structured, what level of detail would it contain and how directive would it be?
- What should not be covered by an NPS on Urban Design?
- At what scale or scales would it be appropriate for an NPS on Urban Design to provide direction?
- What additional qualities do you consider should be reflected in an NPS on Urban Design?

Submissions close on 30 September 2008 They go to G Vossler at greg.vossler@mfe.govt.nz, or to the Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143. A background paper is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/urban-design/scoping-a-nps-on-urban-design.html>

Improvements to Sexual Violence Legislation

The Ministry of Justice has published a discussion paper called "Improvements to Sexual Violence Legislation in NZ" which outlines three proposed changes to the Crimes Act and the Evidence Act. They are:

- whether the law of consent should be changed by adding a definition of "consent";
- whether the court should be required to take into account any steps the defendant took to discover whether the complainant was consenting when a defence of reasonable belief in consent is raised; and
- whether the law that protects complainants from being questioned about their sexual history should be extended to questions about their sexual history with the defendant.

The paper also seeks views on alternative approaches to addressing sexual violence such as restorative justice (a way of responding to an offence and its effects that focuses on the people affected by the crime) and specialist prosecution units.

Submissions close 30 September 2008. The paper can be downloaded at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/discussion/sexual-violence-legislation> and sub-missions can also be sent to: Sexual Violence Legislative Submissions, Ministry of Justice, PO Box 180, Wellington, or emailed to svsubmission@justice.govt.nz

New Rules for Raw Milk Products?

The NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) has published a discussion paper proposing that a wider variety of raw milk products be able to be imported and sold in NZ. At the moment the regulations only allow a narrow range of raw milk products to be imported and sold (three hard Swiss cheeses, extra-hard Parmesan style grating cheeses and semi-hard Roquefort cheese). NZFSA proposals would also allow for the manufacture and sale of raw milk products that have been produced to an acceptable level of microbial safety from a number of milking animals including cow, goat, sheep, buffalo, horse and camel.

The general sale of raw drinking milk is not expected to be permitted, although the existing allowance for up to five litres of raw milk to be purchased for personal consumption from the farm gate would stay in place.

Submissions close on 30 September 2008. The discussion paper is at www.nzfsa.govt.nz/dairy/publications/consultation/discussion-raw-milk. NZFSA is at PO Box 2835, Wellington, tel 04 894 2500, fax 04 894 2501. Hard copies can be ordered from NZFSA's helpline at 0800 693 721

Rules for Dietary Supplements?

A draft NZFSA standard, the Standard for Supplemented Food, aims to make it clear whether a product is a food or a therapeutic product. The draft proposes that highly fortified products presented as foods, such as sports drinks and mixes, be regulated to protect health and safety, and include enough information on them for consumers to make an informed choice.

Many dietary supplements are not food or medicine in the ordinary sense of those words. Dietary supplements used to come in tablet or capsule form, but they now often look more like ordinary food and drink with added vitamins, minerals and other nutritive substances

Therapeutic-type dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbal and traditional remedies that offer medicinal or healing benefits and are presented in a dose form such as pills and capsules) will remain under the existing Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985 for the time being.

Submissions close on 25 September 2008. A consultation paper is at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/policy-law/consultation/supplemented-food/>. Order hard copies from NZFSA's helpline: 0800 693 721. For more information contact M Clarkin on tel 04 894 2642

Should We Regulate Franchises?

A franchise is an arrangement where a business grants a person or company the right to operate a copy of its business system for a specified period. A discussion paper on franchising considers whether franchising in NZ needs its own regulations or whether the current voluntary systems offers enough protection. Feedback is sought on some possible regulations covering: information disclosure requirements; obligations to obtain professional advice; a cooling-off period; compulsory mediation processes; minimum contractual terms; and obligations of "good faith" bargaining.

There is currently no specific legislation relating to franchising in NZ, although franchise agreements are subject to a range of general laws such as contract law and intellectual property law. There is voluntary self-regulation of the sector through the Franchising Association of NZ (FANZ), which requires its members to adhere to a Code of Practice and a Code of Ethics.

Submissions close on 21 November 2008. They go to Review of Franchising Regulation, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, email: franchisereview@med.govt.nz. The discussion paper is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentPage____37858.aspx

Tweaking Noisy Exhausts Legislation

The Transport Ministry is consulting on amendments to the Vehicle Equipment Rule 2004 to tackle noisy exhausts. The aim of the amendments is to tighten legislation that came into effect in June this year so that further steps to reduce the impact of noisy exhausts can be taken.

Submissions close on September 17, 2008. Emailed electronic submissions to info@nzta.govt.nz are preferred. Postal submissions go to Vehicle Equipment (Noise) Rule Amendment Rules Team, NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 6995, Wellington. More is at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/consultation/vehicle-equipment-noise-amendment/>

Employment Health and Safety Guide

The Department of Labour wants feedback on a draft guide it has prepared to help contractors meet their obligations under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

The guide sets out a way of building health and safety into contract management, which can be adapted to specific situations or industries. Not all steps of the process will be applicable to all contracts, but principals to contracts can refer to it when they develop their own approach to safety and health.

Submissions close on 30 September 2008. They go to B White, Senior Policy Analyst, Workplace Policy Group, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington, email info@dol.govt.nz (include "contractor guidelines" in the subject line)

Electricity Commission: Electricity Meter Standards

The Electricity Commission is seeking submissions on a discussion paper on Part D of the Electricity Governance Rules 2003 (Rules). The Rules set out obligations participants have in relation to metering standards, dealing with metering installations, tests of the installations, making sure codes of practice are complied with, and managing metering inaccuracies.

Submissions close on 3 October 2008. Electronic submissions are preferred. They go to submissions@electricitycommission.govt.nz "Submission on part D review" in the subject line. More is at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/consultation/partd> or tel 04 460 8860, fax 04 460 8879

New Aquaculture Zone for Wilson Bay, Thames?

Under NZ's legislation, new marine farms can only be set up in areas specially zoned for aquaculture called aquaculture management areas (AMAs). Your views are sought about whether a zone covering about 1,783 hectares should be set up in Wilson's Bay, Firth of Thames. The zone would be made up of two "subzones" of marine farming space, with a 1 km gap between them. The Ministry of Fisheries will be making decisions about an access-way within one of the areas (between and around existing farms) and on the whole of the other area. The regional coastal plan currently limits aquaculture in the area to shellfish - mussel farming, spat catching, and oyster farming.

Submissions close on 10 October 2008. They go to Ministry of Fisheries, Private Bag 14, Nelson. More information is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/Aquaculture+Management+Area+proposal/default.htm?WBCMODE=Presentati>, or email rachel.alexander@fish.govt.nz or christine.bowden@fish.govt.nz

Law Commission Review of "Prerogative Writs"

Prerogative writs are the court orders (writs) that are issued to, for example, government officials, lower courts or agencies, in certain circumstances. They are part of administrative law, which in turn is part of the public law framework of checks and balances around the use of public power. The writ is issued in the name of the Crown, who is the nominal plaintiff, on behalf of the applicant. One example of a prerogative writ is the writ of habeas corpus, through which a person can seek relief from unlawful detention of himself or another person.

This Law Commission paper considers procedures and technical issues (rather than substantive issues) with the aim of simplifying them.

Submissions close on 30 September 2008. They go to: General Manager, Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6011, or by email to writs@lawcom.govt.nz

Tax Consultations

Taxation Reform Bill...

Public submissions are now being invited on the Taxation (International Taxation, Life Insurance, and Remedial Matters) Bill and Supplementary Order Paper 224. This Bill proposes changes to tax law, including reform of international tax rules, reform of the taxation of life insurance business, and reform of definitions of associated persons in the Income Tax Act 2007. It proposes changes to the income tax rules for petroleum mining, and makes provision for payroll giving, the taxation of emissions units, raising tax thresholds, and a new film grant. It also proposes clarification of relocation payments and overtime meal allowances for employees, and the introduction of specific tax rules for the treatment of honoraria and payments that reimburse expenditure incurred in undertaking voluntary activities.

Submissions close on 6 October 2008. The Bill is at http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/e/0/e/00DBHOH_BILL8642_1-Taxation-International-Taxation-Life-Insurance.htm

...Tax Imputation Credits...

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) is consulting on proposed changes to laws about imputation credits. It has published a discussion paper inviting views on whether, and in what circumstances, the streaming of imputation credits should be allowed; and whether imputation credits should be refundable to charities and other tax-exempt entities.

Dividend imputation credits are basically a credit back on your tax. You're required to pay tax on the dividend income you receive through owning shares. But if a NZ company has already paid tax on its income, and then it has distributed the dividends to you, taxing you would be taxing the same profits a second time - the Government would be "double dipping". So you pay the tax on your dividend income and then claim a credit back based on the imputation credit attached to your dividend payment.

Submissions close on 10 October 2008. They go to public.consultation@ird.govt.nz, or to Team Manager, Technical Services, Office of the Chief Tax Counsel, National Office, Inland Revenue Department, PO Box 2198, Wellington. The discussion paper is at <http://www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz/publications/index.php?catid=2>

...Company Tax Returns...

IRD is asking for your comments to see whether they can design a new income tax return that is easy to complete and file electronically. One that gives them information enabling them to administer the tax system, advise government on tax policy, and target only people who may not be meeting their tax obligations.

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

... & Taxpayer Requests for a Balance Date Change

IRD is also seeking public input on a draft Standard Practice Statement ED 0101 regarding taxpayers' who elect to change a balance date for income tax purposes. The draft outlines Inland Revenue's practices when it considers such applications.

Submissions close on 31 October 2008. More is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/public-consultation/current/>. Email submissions to: public.consultation@ird.govt.nz or to: Team Manager, Technical Services, Office of the Chief Tax Counsel, National Office, Inland Revenue Department, PO Box 2198, Wellington

Rural

Outlook for NZ's Primary Sector...

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is forecasting solid growth for the primary sector over the next five years despite the tougher immediate economic outlook both internationally and locally. MAF's recently released Situation and Outlook for NZ Agriculture and Forestry (SONZAF) 2008 report forecasts that while world dairy prices have eased from recent record highs, international demand for food products looks set to keep key commodity prices buoyant for the next five years.

It says the strong performance of the dairy sector has contributed strongly to overall agricultural performance. Revenue from agriculture is tipped to top \$20 billion for the first time next year, as a post-drought recovery boosts production and a falling exchange rate increases NZ dollar earnings. Agricultural gross revenue is expected to grow 26.5% from \$18.9 billion in 2008 to \$23.9 billion in 2012.

Dairy export earnings are projected to peak next year at just over \$12 billion - more than 40% higher than last year's export returns. Prices are expected to ease from recent record highs, but earnings are predicted to remain strong throughout the five year forecast period.

MAF says while traditional Western markets are slowing, this is expected to be offset by continued growth in fast-developing Asian economies such as China, India and other developing and oil exporting markets.

Challenges at home include the 2008 drought, which continues to have a significant affect across the sectors. In the meat sector, this has resulted in widespread de-stocking that will lead to falling beef and lamb export volumes next year.

Export returns, most noticeably in the meat, kiwifruit and forestry sectors have been eroded by the high NZ dollar, and high fuel and fertiliser costs have undermined improved commodity returns.

However, lamb and beef prices are improving and the outlook is brighter for both sectors than it has been for sometime. Beef export earnings, for example, are projected to increase by more than 40% over the forecast period. Based on Treasury assumptions of easing exchange and interest rates, MAF also expects farm gate returns to be boosted.

In the forestry sector, Asian log prices have lifted recently and demand is growing in China and India, however export volumes and incomes remain flat. MAF says increasing productivity, a renewed focus on market and product development, and new understandings about the place of environmental and other services in forestry, such as carbon sequestration, will be necessary to achieve a satisfactory return on current investment in forests and processing plant.

The wine industry continues to grow rapidly with export volumes expected to be up over 30% next year. Overseas earnings from wine (\$764 million) are now higher than returns from the wool industry (\$615 million).

SONZAF is at <http://www/maf.govt.nz/SONZAF/2008>

NZ Winegrowers: A Record Year

For the year ending 30 June 2008, offshore sales of 88.6 million litres of wine totalled \$800 million - up 14% on 2007. While the results are in line with projections, this is a record, and the industry remains on target to achieve \$1 billion of exports annually by 2010.

Domestic sales of NZ wine brought total overseas and domestic sales for 2008 to \$1.25 billion. Australia is now the largest export market by value, up 37% to a record \$247 million. Exports to the UK grew 8% on 2007, with the average bottle of NZ wine sold there now £6.47(pounds), which is £2.09 (pounds) ahead of the nearest competitor.

Membership of Sustainable Winegrowing NZ by both growers and wineries has exceeded expectations with vineyard memberships up 50% in the past year. As a result, more than 70% of NZ's total wine production capacity is under a sustainability scheme. These results confirm the industry is making good progress to having all wineries and vineyards producing under an independently audited scheme by 2012.

Raw Milk Regulations Review: Update

Most milk and dairy products sold in NZ are supplied under regulations that currently set a default price at which Fonterra has to supply raw milk to other processors. A Raw Milk Review of the regulations has found that the formula for setting the default price results in independent processors being able to access Fonterra milk under the regulations at a lower price than Fonterra pays its own suppliers. It also found there is nothing in the regulations to manage excess demand for regulated milk by independent processors. It has now been announced that:

- the current formula determining this price is to be retained for next year;
- regulations are to be introduced to keep the quantity of regulated raw milk at 600 million litres for next season and beyond; and
- legislation is to be drafted to introduce an auction for raw milk for the following year, the 2010/11 dairy season.

The reason for introducing an auction is to allow a price for raw milk to be found that matches demand and supply. MAF forecasts indicate that by 2010/11 the domestic wholesale price of milk will fall relative to this year's price.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/regulated+milk+price+and+quantity+same+next+year>

Reminder: 15 October is World Rural Women's Day

The theme of this year World Rural Women's Day is "Climate Change: rural women are part of the solution".

Some useful and important contributions to the theme will be held around the country. To find out more about these and obtain more information about where NZ is at with climate change go to the Rural Women NZ website at <http://www.ruralwomen.org/>

Environment

Big Tick for NZ's Eco-Labels...

A NZ eco-labelling scheme that tells consumers if furniture or paper products come from recycled or sustainable sources has been given a big tick in an international study. Britain's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) cited Environmental Choice NZ, a government-initiated and endorsed scheme that certifies environmentally preferable paper and whether wood used in furniture and furniture products comes from sustainable sources, as the best international guide for people buying furniture and furniture products. Defra studied 207 standards and methods used to measure environmental sustainability* of products worldwide and presented the best results to the British government as a model of international best practice. It puts Environmental Choice NZ in the same category as other eco-labels familiar to NZ consumers - Fairtrade and Energy Star - which were named as world leaders in the areas of food and office IT equipment. Environmental Choice NZ is independently run by the NZ Ecolabelling Trust. The Ministry for the Environment owns the label.

***Note:** environmental sustainability has been expressed as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Find out more at: <http://www.enviro-choice.org.nz/>

...& NZ Ecolabel Directory Now Available

This directory, which has been developed for consumers and suppliers, summarises information about ecolabels in NZ. It considers more than 200 labels, certifications and other claims used to describe the sustainability of products and organisations, checking out who owns the label, its applicability, whether it meets specified standards, if it is independently audited and how

frequently it is reviewed. It covers phrases like "eco-friendly", "biodegradable" and "clean and green", and also certification programmes like Environmental Choice NZ (ECNZ).

The directory is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary_37890.aspx Feedback on how well it works can be sent to ecolabel-admin@med.govt.nz

New Climate Change Freephone

MAF has established a new Climate Change contact centre to answer questions relating to the proposed ETS and other Sustainable Forestry schemes such as the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative and Afforestation Grant Scheme. More detailed information about the ETS will be available after the ETS legislation is passed.

The Climate Change contact centre is 0800 CLIMATE (254 628)

Managing NZ's Freshwater: NZBCSD Report

Following on from a 2-year research project, the NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development (NZBCSD) has published a report on freshwater management. In it the NZCSBD says there is no need to privatise water to solve NZ's freshwater allocation problems, and that the Crown can continue to manage fresh water on behalf of all NZers. However it also considers that the country needs a simpler, quicker and less costly way of transferring allocated but unused water from those who don't need it to those who do, and it proposes that a system to allow the transfer of water between users be set up.

The NZBCSD notes that the Resource Management Act (RMA) already allows for transfer of water, as water is being transferred among irrigation scheme members, and water access attached to old mining water licences can also be re-assigned.

The value of water entitlements of irrigated land currently adds between \$5000 and \$25,000 to the price per hectare.

A nationwide NZBCSD ShapeNZ survey indicates NZers support the idea of transferring water access entitlements with 57% support for the proposal among Labour voters, and 63% among National voters.

The water report and the research are available at <http://www.nzbcscd.org.nz/water/content.asp?id=444>

Planning for Rising Sea Levels: MfE Reports

Two Ministry for the Environment (MfE) climate change reports are aimed at helping local authorities plan for changes in coastal hazards resulting from climate change. They provide advice on how to consider hazards such as storm surge and high waves, when sea levels rise half a metre - or even up to 0.8 metres - within the next 100 years.

The two are:

- "Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: A guidance manual for local government in NZ". This is based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report, and also considering the potential consequences of higher sea-level brought about by other factors not included in global climate calculations; and
- "Preparing for Climate Change", an overview of the technical report Climate Change Effects and Impacts Assessment. This highlights the most up-to-date projections on how NZ's climate will change in the future.

The guidance manual is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/coastal-hazards-climate-change-guidance-manual/>, the overview is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/preparing-for-climate-change-jul04/index.htm> and the IPCC Fourth Assessment report is at <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/ar4-syr.htm>

Half of Primates Face Extinction...

Half of mankind's closest relatives are in danger of being wiped out, according to the first comprehensive review in five years of the world's 634 kinds of primates. The global primate review was undertaken by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), as part of its IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which began collating data in 1963. The latest IUCN Red List finds that 48% of the world's primates face extinction, with the main threat being habitat destruction, through the burning and clearing of tropical forests, hunting of primates for food, and an illegal wildlife trade.

For more information see <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

...but Good News for Some Whales

The humpback and the southern right whales have stepped back from the brink of extinction, to the extent they are now considered to be low risk. Their reclassification follows a review of the conservation status of cetaceans by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The IUCN found that this recovery was mainly due to these species being protected from commercial whaling (progress has been slow: it is over 20 years ago since the moratorium on commercial whaling began). It also found that others have deteriorated and their classifications have been upgraded to endangered. Some Pacific groups of whales remain in a perilous state.

Tourism

New Lonely Planet Guide Urges Us to Stay Green

Lonely Planet's new edition NZ guidebook lavishes praise on the country's beauty, but urges NZ's tourism industry to protect its green status. The new guidebook says, "There are few countries on this lonely planet as diverse, unspoiled and utterly, utterly photogenic," and extols NZ's "outlandish scenery, fabulous festivals, superb food & wine, and magical outdoor experiences."

However the guidebook notes that as tourism numbers in NZ rise, so does the environmental cost, with extra visitors putting strain on the "clean, green environment NZ is renowned for." As a result, "the NZ tourism industry is embracing all things "eco" while regionally, eateries and farmers markets selling local produce present sustainable options."

For the first time, all the listings in Lonely Planet's NZ guidebook have been evaluated for their sustainability. The best of these have been combined into a "GreenDex" - an index of all the tour, accommodation and eating choices that demonstrate an active sustainable tourism policy.

Urban centres get a good rap, with travellers encouraged to, "rock into Wellington for a big city hit" and experience its "red-hot arts scene." The guide says Auckland can "justifiably respond to its detractors, 'Don't hate me because I'm beautiful'". And Christchurch combines "an easy-going provincial charm with the emerging energy and verve of a metropolis."

The authors have also embraced small-town NZ, such as "cute as a button" Naseby, "best-kept secret" Opoutere, and Takaka: "laid-back to near horizontal...dreadlocked types rub shoulders with hardened farmers and crusty fishermen in equilibrium: the bike shop sells guitar strings; the pub serves chai."

However those found less than impressive include Gulf Harbour ("A Noddy town development of matching houses"), Dargaville ("you should know not to expect too much"), Pauanui ("an upmarket refugee camp for over-wealthy Aucklanders"), and Blenheim, which "doesn't offer much". The Bay of Islands, while "undeniably pretty" according to the guide, could also be "a teensy bit overhyped."

Environmental Management in NZ: Tourist Views

The Ministry of Tourism's latest Regional Visitor Monitor (RVM) shows 46% of respondents think the six regions' environmental management is ahead of most other countries and 95% consider it to be at least as good as others. It also shows that 86% of those surveyed would choose an environmentally friendly option over an alternative, as long as other factors such as price and convenience were not compromised.

The report is at <http://www.tourismresearch.govt.nz/News--Media/Latest-news/2008/Environmental-Report-Card-from-Travellers-Positive/>

Times Tough - But Tourist Spending Increases...

Tourism Ministry figures show spending by overseas visitors in the year to March 2008 reached \$6.2 billion, up 2.7% on the previous year. Australians led the growth in spend, which increased by \$249 million to \$1.7 billion. The United Kingdom and Japan markets spend also increased. Spending was down in two key markets - the United States and Germany.

Tourism continues to be NZ's number one export earner, contributing 18.3% of exports.

More information is on the Ministry of Tourism research website www.tourismresearch.govt.nz.

...& Long-Term Tourism Prospects: Better News

International visitor arrivals are expected to grow 26% by 2014 according to new forecast data. The Ministry of Tourism's NZ Tourism Forecasts 2008-2014 estimates that in 2014, well over half a million additional international visitors will travel to NZ.

Of the 624,000 extra visitors expected in 2014, the largest contributors are expected to come from six key markets. The two most significant growth markets are expected to be Australia, with a forecast growth of 298,000 people or 30%; and China, with a forecast growth of 96,000 or 80%.

For more information on the forecasts go to www.tourismresearch.govt.nz

Health & Welfare

Free Cervical Cancer Vaccine Now Available

Women aged 17 and 18 years are now able to make an appointment with their doctor, practice nurse or health clinic to be vaccinated against cervical cancer, and from 2009 all young women aged 12 - 18 years will be offered the vaccine (mainly through schools). The cervical cancer vaccination involves three free HPV vaccinations of Gardasil, which protects against the two types of HPV that cause 70% of cervical cancers. The three doses provide protection for at least five years.

Around 160 women in NZ are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and programme administrators say that the vaccination programme could save more than 30 lives annually.

Note: it is important to also have a regular cervical smear in order eliminate the possibility of other types of cervical cancer not covered by the vaccine.

The HPV Immunisation Programme website for girls and young women is at www.cervicalcancervaccine.govt.nz, or go to www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation

Free CPR Training - St Johns

Every year, St John Ambulance Officers are called to more than 1,000 cardiac arrest cases in people's homes and workplaces. Now ASB and St John are working together to provide free CPR training for 10,000 NZers around the country. The courses are available to the first 10,000 people have been booked to attend.

To enrol go to <http://stjohn.asb.co.nz/index.html>

NZ Institute of Rural Health: Report

An excerpt from a report from the NZ Institute of Rural Health (NZIRH) describes the state of rural health services as fragile because of health staff shortages, high numbers of locums and tight budgets. It also offers information about what is "rural" and why it is difficult for rural people to access healthcare:

- the 14% of the population that is rural occupies some 80% of the land mass and this makes the delivery of both effective and efficient health care very difficult when using the current population based funding formula;
- the rural population is pragmatic and does not expect to access all services locally but is increasingly concerned that the most basic of services - first response, primary care and maternity care may not be available locally;
- the rural population is 14.2% of total population (2006 Census);
- very rural populations have the second highest medium income;
- rural Maori population earn below the medium income;
- rural populations are less likely to access secondary services (Rural Women NZ 2001);
- there is little variation between rural and urban populations in the likelihood of contracting cancer or diabetes;
- 70% of NZ has access to broadband, and rural populations are less likely to have timely access (Telecom NZ);
- the rural population is ageing and is under represented in the under 15 year old age group; and
- higher than national average (14%) of Maori live in rural NZ particularly in the North Island.

The Institute of Rural Health Welcomes feedback on the report, which is at <https://www.nzirh.org.nz/content/eaded6a9-a9ff-4b66-9b7c-f238788bbc72.cmr>

New ADHD/Epilepsy/Migraine Treatments Funded

A once-a-day treatment for people with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) is now being funded by PHARMAC. Concerta will be fully subsidised for people who have not responded well to the two other funded methylphenidate drugs.

PHARMAC has also widened access to topiramate (Topamax), a currently funded treatment for epilepsy, so that it can also be used to prevent migraines (it will also be funded as a first-line treatment for epilepsy). This is the second new treatment option for migraine sufferers that PHARMAC has provided this year.

Breastfeeding NZ Babies: New Campaign

A television, radio and print advertising campaign aims to improve practical, emotional and information support for breastfeeding women and encourage mothers to exclusively breastfeed their babies to six months, and continue partial breastfeeding beyond that. Breastfeeding provides excellent nutrition, assists physical and emotional development, protects against infectious disease and may reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as obesity. It is also important for the mother's health.

Bowel Cancer Taskforce Established

A six-member taskforce has been established to provide advice and recommendations on a programme to improve bowel cancer outcomes for people. The taskforce will provide guidance on the development a bowel cancer screening pilot due to begin at the end of 2009. It will also oversee a national bowel cancer screening programme that is planned for the end of 2011.

About 2700 new cases of bowel cancer are registered in NZ each year, which makes it the most common cancer. About 1200 people in NZ die annually each year the disease, which is one of the highest death rates from bowel cancer in the developed world.

More information is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/cancer-control-newsandupdates-bowelcancerscreening>

Quit Group Helps Record Numbers

The Quit Group, a national smoking cessation service dealt with almost 44,000 people wanting to quit smoking during the past year, and in that time the national smoking rate fell to its lowest level since monitoring of tobacco use began more than 30 years ago.

The Quitline freephone service is at 0800 778 778, or go to www.quit.org.nz, or www.txt2quit.org.nz

Food Price Index: July 2008 Highlights

In July 2008 compared with June 2008:

- food prices rose 0.6%;
- fruit and vegetable prices rose 3.6%;
- grocery food prices rose 0.5%;
- restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food prices rose 0.6%;
- non-alcoholic beverage prices rose 0.4%; and
- meat, poultry and fish prices fell 1.0%.

Food Safety When Emergencies Strike

When an adverse event strikes, power and other energy sources are cut off and water may be contaminated, so food can spoil fast. The following tips from NZ's Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) are aimed at protecting people from illness when there is no fridge, oven, freezer or clean water:

- eat perishable foods, for example bread and meat first, as they spoil faster than non-perishable food;
- eat canned foods last;
- minimise food spoilage by opening the fridge or freezer only when you need to take food out;
- do not eat vegetables or fruits that have been lying in flood water;
- cover all food with plastic wrap or store in waterproof containers;

- leave bottles, drink cans and water containers in the fridge (if it's working) to keep things cold;
- throw out rotting or tainted food before it spoils other food;
- always wash and dry your hands before preparing food - if water is in short supply keep some in a bowl with disinfectant;
- ensure all utensils are clean before use;
- cook food thoroughly;
- keep a supply of fly spray;
- protect rubbish containing food scraps from flies and rats by wrapping or putting in a sealed container;
- use the following to cook, wash dishes, and wash your hands: hot water cylinder; toilet cistern - as long as no chemical toilet cleaner is present; bottled water; and spa/swimming pool;
- boil or purify water before using it in food preparation, and to avoid cross-contamination of food. Once boiled, cover and store in a clean container and place in the fridge (if it's working) or in some other cool place. Re-boil it if it is not used within 24 hours;
- if you do not have power to boil water then purifying tablets or bleach can be added to ensure its safety. Add five drops of household bleach per litre of water and leave for 30 minutes;
- any food that retains ice crystals and where the packaging has not been damaged or opened can be safely refrozen;
- foods that have been defrosted can still be used if they have just recently defrosted and can be kept cold, i.e., if the fridge is working again;
- defrosted food cannot be refrozen;
- inspect the food - does it smell or appear different? (Has the colour changed and does it have a slimy texture?) If so it is probably unsafe to eat;
- do not use any tinned food that has been damaged (for example if the can has split seams or has been punctured); and
- put together an emergency food survival kit with three days worth of suitable food for your family and your pets: canned/dried food, cereals, tea, coffee, powdered soup, salt, sugar, sweets, biscuits; a can opener; a gas cooker/barbeque to cook on; utensils and plates, pots, cups, bowls, matches, lighters; bottled water - 3 litres per person per day plus 1 litre for other washing; and milk powder or UHT milk. Renew every year, taking into account medical or dietary conditions in your family.

To find out more visit the Civil Defence website: <http://www.civil-defence.govt.nz>

Education

Providing for Gifted Students: ERO Report

The Education Review Office (ERO) has published a report called "Schools' Provision for Gifted and Talented Students: Good Practice". The examples in this come from seven schools around the country that were particularly effective in providing for gifted and talented students. They had:

- school leadership that was knowledgeable about provision for gifted and talented students and supportive of them;
- staff that had participated in school wide professional development on gifted and talented education (GATE);
- well developed procedures for communicating, consulting and collaborating with the school community about all aspects of their provision for gifted students;
- well-defined policies and procedures for identifying this group;
- responsive and appropriate programmes and provision for the students;
- effective self review of their provision for talented students, using evaluation information to ensure programmes met identified needs; and
- promotion of positive outcomes for them, including help to achieve, and nurturing of social and emotional well-being.

Evidence suggests that some gifted and talented students are not engaged in learning because they don't see school as being relevant to them. When special support programmes are tailored to suit these students' individual needs, school becomes more relevant to them.

The report is at <http://ero.govt.nz/ero/publishing.nsf/Content/gifted-talented-gp-jn08>

Overseas Students Are Returning to NZ

Foreign language students are coming to NZ shores and spending again after a three-year slump hit the industry, according to latest figures from Statistics NZ. The figures indicate there were 39,668 international students enrolled in English language schools in NZ in the year ended March 2008 - an increase of 1940 (5.1%) from the previous year. Expenditure by these students was \$242 million, \$7 million higher than for the previous March year. However, the estimated total value of expenditure by all international students studying in NZ was \$1514 million for the year, down \$36 million from the previous year.

Housing

Housing Affordability Report: Recommendations

Parliament's Commerce Committee released its report into housing affordability last month and its recommendations to the Government are that:

- steps be taken to ensure that local councils and landowners are encouraged to plan for, and release on to the market, a forward supply of suitable land for subdivision so that land supply meets land demand;
- it consider how more flexible financial support practices and council zoning practices could make better use of Maori land;
- it encourage the use of alternative shared ownership and financing arrangements, in order to make housing more affordable;
- it put more effort into streamlining local authority processes in order to reduce compliance costs and thus improve the affordability of housing;

- it further review the Building Act 2004 and Building Code to streamline their practical application to new building consents for new homes;
- it continue its support to "third-sector" organisations, which make a very worthwhile contribution to affordable housing;
- it continue to investigate ways of reducing construction costs;
- it encourage more consultation with communities affected by social housing development, to ensure the success of such developments;
- it take into account changing demographics, particularly regarding Maori and Pacific Island communities and household structures, when considering affordable housing mechanisms; and
- it encourage the Auckland Regional Council to assess carefully interventions that constrain the supply of land for new housing, whilst taking into account issues such as infrastructure.

The report is at http://www.parliament.nz/NR/rdonlyres/3137FA40-2DF3-4311-B9E9-9621DBD5C7A7/92196/DBSCH_SCR_4170_61892.pdf

Property Values Continue to Decline

Quotable Valuation's July statistics for the residential property market report a 2.2% decline in national property values over the past year (calculated over the three months ending July 2008 in comparison to the same period last year), down on the 0.1% growth reported in June. The average NZ sale price stayed steady at \$393,370.

Across the Auckland area property values are 3.6% down compared to the same time last year, declining further from the -1.0% reported last month. Hamilton City's values have slipped further to -5.4% and Tauranga to -2.6%. The Wellington area is now also showing declining values, falling from 1.1% reported last month to -1.2%. Christchurch has dropped further back to -2.1% and Dunedin to -6.8%.

Most of the main provincial centres are now showing property values less than the same time last year. Gisborne dropped sharply to -8.7% and has dropped spectacularly from the highs of last July and August where year-on-year values were increasing over 25%. Whangarei has declined -0.6%, Rotorua -0.4%, Napier -2.0%, Hastings -1.7%, New Plymouth -4.7%, Wanganui -1.3%, and Palmerston North -5.2%. Nelson dropped further to -2.7% and Queenstown Lakes to -3.1%. Invercargill shows year on year growth of 5.4% although this has dropped from a high of 36.4% last October and as recently as March year on year growth was at 21.9%.

Transport

Petrol Pricing in NZ: Report

A study of petrol pricing in NZ has confirmed that our petrol prices are set according to the international marketplace, with 85% of price increases between January 2007 and June 2008 due to increases in crude oil prices. The report also showed that there was scope for more transparency about the makeup of importer

margins - the difference between the retail price (less taxes and duties) and the landed cost of the refined product. New petrol price monitoring data now in place also covers diesel (which has been subject to recent scrutiny with regard to importer margins).

NZ has the fifth lowest petrol prices in the OECD and the fifth lowest taxes.

The report is at www.med.govt.nz/nzpetrolpricereview

Airlines May Cut 60 Million Seats

Airlines around the world are expected to cut 60 million seats - equivalent to 1 every 14 seats - by Christmas this year because of high fuel costs and decreasing air travel demand.

The London Telegraph has reported that the reduction is almost certain to drive up ticket prices, as airlines seek to maintain income levels with fewer passengers. Europe is predicted to suffer the loss of about 5.5 million seats, and the US about 20 million seats.

Some major European airlines have already announced they are making cuts.

Improving Your Vehicle's Fuel Economy: Tips

You'll save on fuel costs if you:

- combine errands into one trip rather than making several trips;
- avoid peak hour traffic;
- use public transport where practical;
- in a manual shift, change through the gears. Engines generally run most efficiently between around 1,500 and 2,500 rpm (lower in diesels);
- in an automatic shift, accelerate smoothly and ease back on the accelerator once the car gathers momentum;
- drive at a good distance from the car in front so you can anticipate and travel with the flow of traffic, avoiding unnecessary acceleration and frequent repetitive braking;
- stop the engine whenever your car is stopped or held up for an extended period of time. This will save more fuel than is lost from the burst of fuel involved in restarting the engine and any increased wear and tear from this practice is considered to be negligible;
- watch your speed - at 110 km/h your car uses up to 25% more fuel than it would cruising at 90 km/h;
- check roof racks, poorly placed spoilers, or driving with the window open: these all increase air resistance and fuel consumption, in some cases by over 20%;
- make sure your tyres are correctly inflated to the manufacturer's recommendations and make sure your wheels are properly aligned. This will also extend tyre life, improve handling and could make all the difference to how your car handles;
- check your use of air conditioners: they can use up to 10% extra fuel when operating, especially when your car is not moving and the engine is at idle - but use air conditioning at speeds of over 80 km/h, because it is better for fuel consumption than an open window;

- remember that the more weight your vehicle carries the more fuel it uses. An extra 50kg of weight can increase your fuel bill by 2%; and
- keep your vehicle properly serviced and well tuned, because this will minimise its fuel use and impact on the environment.

For more information check out: www.eeca.govt.nz or www.4million.govt.nz

Energy

Renewable Energy: Proposed Policy Statement

The goal of a recently released Proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) for Renewable Electricity Generation is to provide for the country's energy needs into the future while reducing NZ's impact on the environment. The NPS has been developed to encourage development of a diverse energy sector and to create more confidence for investors in renewable electricity generation projects. It would require local authorities to consider how reversible any adverse environmental effects associated with proposed renewable generation technologies are. It is also aimed at encouraging small-scale development of renewable electricity generation projects, and reducing rural communities' dependence on the national electricity grid by, for example, making it simpler to set up small renewable energy sources such as a wind turbine in the backyard.

The proposal will now go to an independent Board of Inquiry for public consultation.

More information is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/generation.html>

2009/10 Energy Support Package Planned

A \$1 billion fund aimed at enabling NZers use energy efficiently is scheduled for 2009. In the following year (when electricity is introduced into the Emissions Trading Scheme in 2010) a one-off electricity rebate to help electricity consumers with power bills is planned. At the same time people on benefits, superannuation and those receiving Working for Families tax credits will receive a one-off cash payment.

Joint Tourism Energy Efficiency Programme

The tourism industry and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) have joined together to launch a new project to improve the energy efficiency of NZ tourism businesses. The Tourism Energy Efficiency Programme (TEEP) will involve a six-month pilot project, which will sign up 12 NZ tourism operators to carry out subsidised energy audits for their businesses. TEEP will provide practical assistance for tourism businesses in the accommodation and transport sectors to reduce their electricity consumption, fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

The tourism industry is the third industry to run an energy best practise programme supported by EECA (the Seafood Council and Plastics NZ are the other two).

New Publication about Oil

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) recently released a new publication in its energy information series called "Oil: An Introduction for NZers". Topics covered include: oil production and refining technology; uncertainties surrounding statistics on world oil reserves and resources; alternatives to oil for the future; management of NZ's oil resources; the structure and regulation of our oil industry; the relationship of oil to financial markets; the economics of exhaustible resources; and NZ's involvement with international efforts to promote oil security.

The publication is available in hard copy for \$30 (including GST) or may be downloaded free of charge by going to <http://www.med.govt.nz/energy/oilintro/> MED also provides up-to-date information via its Energy Data web pages at www.med.govt.nz/energy/data/

Sustainable Energy Association of NZ: Overview

The Sustainable Electricity Association of NZ (SEANZ) is the industry association representing the interests of the small-scale renewable/distributed generation (SSR/DG) industry in NZ. The SEANZ message is:

- NZ's energy supply can be supported by photovoltaic (PV) solar, small scale hydro and small wind technologies;
- electricity, generated close to the location of use, can play a major role in the NZ energy supply scenario by providing a significant proportion of renewable electricity in the next five years;
- small-scale renewable energy technology and installations coupled with energy efficiency can be a practical and realistic option for everyday people and business; and
- safe, reliable systems that perform to expectations will help the public accept and have confidence in SSR/DG.

With assistance from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority SEANZ has purchased a licence to make all the relevant standards for the design and installation of small-scale renewable (SSR) energy systems available for view on the SEANZ website. This means that paid up members of SEANZ have free access to these standards.

More information is at <http://www.seanz.org.nz>, or SEANZ, PO Box 473, Waiuku, Auckland 2341

Justice/The Law

"Negative Licensing" of Insolvency Practitioners

A new negative licensing system for liquidators, administrators and receivers is to be introduced. "Negative licensing" involves

suspending incompetent or delinquent insolvency practitioners from operating in the insolvency industry because of an earlier action or current performance. Tighter disqualification criteria, and wider court powers to replace a practitioner who has a conflict of interest are also planned.

Investigations and enforcement of the new system will be managed by the Registrar of Companies.

Review of Sale of Liquor Act

The Law Commission is currently reviewing the law covering the sale and supply of liquor. Amongst other aspects it will be considering:

- increasing the number of liquor outlets and the effect this has on consumption;
- how the licensing system should be structured and who should be responsible for which aspects of licensing decisions;
- revising the licence renewal and fee framework to make sure that the funding of the licensing and enforcement regime is adequate and that there are no unnecessary compliance costs;
- the age at which liquor can be purchased;
- the responsibility of parents for supervising young members of their family who drink;
- the influence of excise tax on alcohol and how pricing policies can minimise harm from alcohol consumption;
- the advertising of liquor and whether there should be restrictions on discounting alcohol or advertising discounts;
- the relationship between the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2001;
- the relationship between the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 and the liquor-related offences in the Summary Offences Act 1981;
- the application of competition law to the sale of liquor;
- the need to ensure an appropriate balance between harm and consumer benefit; and
- the health effects of alcohol and ways to deal with adverse health impacts.

Not-For-Profits

Two New Not-for-profit Sector Publications

Two new publications on the not-for-profit sector by Massey University researchers were released recently, the "NZ Non-profit sector in Comparative Perspective" and "The History of the Non-profit Sector in NZ".

They describe the sector in NZ, giving comparisons with other sectors of the economy, and also compare NZ with other countries who are participating in a larger study currently being undertaken.

Some general comparisons:

- NZ has a large not-for-profit sector in terms of the non-profit workforce (paid and unpaid) and proportion of GDP. It represents the equivalent of a \$9.8 billion industry - including the equivalent of \$3.3 billion worth of volunteer contributions. In "value-added" terms it contributes 4.9% to NZ's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It employs over 200,000 full time equivalent people (both paid staff and volunteers) and this is equivalent to 1 in 10 of the working age population;
- we have a large proportion of volunteers in our workforce;
- income from government is proportionally small - the sector generates most of its own income; and
- we are about evenly split between "service" and "expressive" activities ("expressive" is used to describe the part of the sector which focuses on not only service provision but also on citizen participation). This is seen as unusual - only the Nordic group of countries have a higher ratio of expressive to service delivery).

Paper copies of the publications can be requested from ocvs@msd.govt.nz or an online copy viewed on the website of the office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, www.ocvs.govt.nz/publications/#reports

(NZFVWO)

Business

Finding 1000 Angels - Can You Help?

A campaign is underway to "find one thousand angel" investors - the term given to wealthy people investing in early stage businesses. Investors are known as "angels" because they invest not just money but also advice, knowledge and experience to help start-up businesses to grow.

Overseas, angel investing has become a vital source of capital to start-up companies. For example, in 2007 in the United States, \$25 billion was invested by angels in early stage companies. NZ's angel market is growing, at around 250 professional angel investors, although pool of around 1000 active angel investors would greatly expand the capital available to young companies.

The NZ Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF - a Crown-owned company governed by a private sector board of directors) in conjunction with the Angel Association NZ and established angels, is launching a campaign to identify and educate prospective investors. They will be using established business networks and professional services companies, like accounting and law firms, to assist in finding new angel investors and promoting the asset class.

The NZ Venture Investment Fund is at PO Box 74211, Market Road, Auckland 1543, tel 09 951 0170, fax 09 951 0171, email venture@nzvif.co.nz, web <http://www.nzvif.co.nz/index.html>

The Cost of Winning Business Just Went Up!

The increasing complexity of business has driven up the cost of pitching for large accounts by as much as 100%, according to the 2008 RogenSi Pitching Survey which asked 2000 business leaders in 15 countries about the changing trends in the worlds of bids, pitches and tenders.

Sixty-five percent of respondees said that the cost of pitching has risen between 50 and more than 100% in the past ten years. Furthermore, 13% said they would invest up to \$500,000 to win a piece of business that contributed \$US5 million to their profit.

Previously, having the best solution was seen as being the most important factor in winning a multi-million-dollar account in 40% of cases. Today, this has dropped to only 29%. Now, the main reason is seen as not only understanding the client's business, but also having the client feel that you do.

Clients are also becoming more sophisticated and are looking beyond the solution itself to how it will be delivered and by whom. The relationship that will exist between the supplier and the client, and the understanding that the supplier has of the client's business have increased in importance.

The complete RogenSi White Paper "Perfect Pitch" is at http://www.rogenSi.com/helping_clients/publications/whitepapers

2008 Report on Small & Medium Businesses...

The Ministry of Economic Development's 2008 report on small and medium-sized businesses with fewer than 20 employees (SMEs) is now available. Amongst the information "SMEs in NZ: Structure and Dynamics":

- the number of SMEs increased by 2% between February 2006 and February 2007;
- the total number of people employed by SMEs increased by 18% between 2001 and 2007 to 594,410; and
- SMEs accounted for 31% of all employees.

The report is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC___38373.aspx

...& Workplace Safety for Small Businesses

An online tool called the Hazard Handler provides practical information for small businesses on how to identify and manage health and safety issues. The system includes a self assessment system that takes one to two hours to complete, with each question including hints and tips for managing dangerous equipment and materials. Eligible businesses can also use the Hazard Handler to apply for the ACC Workplace Safety Discounts programme. This discount is currently available to small businesses within the forestry, residential construction, agriculture, motor trade and road transport industries. For small businesses that don't qualify, the Hazard Handler contains a General Small Business category that addresses common, non-industry specific hazards, including noise, forklifts, machinery and the office environment.

Newspaper Launches Indian Business Awards

Indian Newslink is an English language fortnightly newspaper catering to the Indian community in NZ, including Indians from India, Fiji, the rest of the world, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Nepalese and people from the Middle East. The paper has just launched the Indian Business Awards. The paper wants to hear from Indian-owned businesses in NZ to highlight the contribution made by the Indian business community to the NZ economy. A panel of independent judges will assess the applications for an award being, and the winners will be presented with their awards at a gala dinner on 19 November in Auckland.

For more information, contact Ravin Lal at ravin@indiannewslink.co.nz

Money Matters

NZ's Credit Rating is...

Standard & Poor's has re-affirmed its AA+/A-1+ foreign-currency and AAA/Stable/A-1 local-currency sovereign credit ratings on NZ. The organisation also noted some of the challenges NZ faces as a small, open trading economy, like our high national level of external debt and weak external liquidity.

Standard and Poor's provides independent credit ratings, indices and risk evaluation, investment research and data for countries around the world.

Its website is at <http://www2.standardandpoors.com/>

... & Patent Applications: Growing Worldwide

Increased patent applications in China and the Republic of Korea, as well as in the United States, have pushed the total number of filings to 1.76 million, according to a new report from the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In its latest report, based on 2006 figures, WIPO said the number of patents granted worldwide had grown by 18% in one year to 727,000. The UN agency added that the total number of patents in force was some 6.1 million.

A major increase in innovative activity in China, the Republic of Korea and the United States has driven the overall growth of patent filings in 2006, reflecting a marked shift in innovation hubs around the world. Applicants from Japan (514,047 applications), the USA (390,815), the Republic of Korea (172,709), Germany (130,806) and China (128,850) accounted for 76% of the total number of patent applications filed worldwide in 2006.

July Spending

Electronic transaction figures for July show that while NZers spent \$3.44 billion across the Paymark* network, the school holi-

days in early July and the storms that battered the country in the later part of the month influenced how and where that money went. Total spending (by value and number of transactions) was down compared to the same month last year for hardware, appliance and clothing retailers as well as accommodation. Spending remained high at supermarkets, chemists and fuel retailers.

Figures earlier in the month indicate spending started to pick up after June, traditionally the slowest month of the year; however it appears that the recent spate of bad weather throughout the country put the brakes on spending into the second half of the month. During the school holidays in early July, the Auckland and Wellington regions experienced lower transaction volumes, while regions picking up the school holiday spending were Otago (including Queenstown), Wanganui and the West Coast.

*Paymark processes three quarters of all electronic transactions.

Treaty Matters

Taranaki Whanui Deed of Settlement

The Port Nicholson Block Claims Team have signed a Deed of Settlement with the Crown settling all the historical Treaty claims of Taranaki Whanui at a ceremony at Wellington's Pipitea Marae. Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika is a collective of people from a number of Taranaki iwi whose ancestors migrated to Wellington in the 1820s and 30s and signed the Port Nicholson Block Deed of Purchase in 1839. The settlement package includes:

- an historical account, Crown acknowledgements of historical breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles, a Crown apology, and the innovation of a Statement of forgiveness from Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika to the Crown;
- a cultural redress package featuring the transfer of a number of sites of cultural significance to Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, including the three islands in Wellington Harbour, with public access rights preserved; and
- an amount of \$25.025 million, as well as the opportunity to purchase a number of Crown properties in Wellington city and the surrounding region.

Waikato River Settlement

The Crown and Waikato-Tainui have signed a Deed of settlement at Turangawaewae Marae on the iwi's claims to the Waikato River. The Deed creates a contestable "clean up fund" to which the Crown will contribute \$7 million a year for 30 years. It also allows for co-management of the river, with a Guardians committee to include equal numbers of Crown and iwi representatives, and contributions from local government.

The Waikato River claim was explicitly excluded from Waikato-Tainui's 1995 raupatu settlement, with the Crown and Waikato-Tainui agreeing to pick up the claim at a later date. Formal negotiations began in 2005 and an Agreement in Principle was reached in December last year.

Turanganui-a-Kiwa Sign Agreement in Principle

The Crown and Turanga Manu Whiriwhiri have signed an Agreement in Principle to settle all the outstanding historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Turanganui-a-Kiwa. The Agreement broadly outlines a settlement package agreed between the parties. It includes financial and commercial redress of \$59 million, and cultural redress including a cultural revitalisation plan and vesting of specific sites of cultural significance

Turanganui-a-Kiwa is a collective of iwi whose traditional tribal areas centre on the Gisborne district. It is made up of Rongowhakaata (including Nga Uri o Te Kooti Rikirangi), Te Pou a Haokai (comprising Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Whanau a Kai, Nga Ariki Kaiputahi, Te Whanau a Wi Pere and Te Whanau a Rangiwahakataetaea), and Ngai Tamanuhiri.

The claims of Turanganui-a-Kiwa include the execution of Turanga Maori which took place at Ngatapa at the hands of Crown forces. In the words of the Waitangi Tribunal's Turanga report, "the Ngatapa executions are a stain upon the history of this country, and it is long past time for them to be put right."

Tapuika and Ngati Rangiwewehi Negotiations

Tapuika and Ngati Rangiwewehi have signed Joint Terms of Negotiation with the Crown setting out the nature of their coming negotiations to settle their historic Treaty of Waitangi claims. These claims (heard as part of the Waitangi Tribunal's Central North Island Inquiry) relate to the operation of the native land laws, Crown purchases of land, public works takings and impacts on their natural environment. Both iwi were also affected by the NZ Wars.

The area of interest of Tapuika includes the coastal Bay of Plenty north of Rotorua. The area of interest of Ngati Rangiwewehi lies mainly to the west of Lake Rotorua.

The Terms of Negotiation are subject to the Tapuika Iwi Authority and Te Maru o Ngati Rangiwewehi Iwi Authority achieving Crown recognised mandates to represent their people in negotiations with the Crown.

Te Kawerau a Maki Signs Terms of Negotiation

Te Kawerau a Maki and the Crown have signed Terms of Negotiation. The Te Kawerau a Maki claims have been partially heard and are the subject of two Waitangi Tribunal reports: the Kaipara interim report in 2002 and a final report, released in 2006.

Te Kawerau a Maki's area of interest also covers the Mahurangi and Tamaki Makaurau regions. The claims relate to the Crown purchase of Te Kawerau a Maki land, the operation of the Native Land Laws and public works takings.

Ngati Porou Foreshore & Seabed Agreement

The Government has initialled a Foreshore and Seabed Deed of Agreement with negotiating representatives of Te Runanga o Ngati Porou, on behalf of certain hapu of Ngati Porou. It recog-

nises and protects the long standing customary interests of the hapu of Ngati Porou, while preserving the public foreshore and seabed for all NZers.

The Deed follows a Heads of Agreement signed in February 2008.

Fishing

Are Whitebait Frittering Away?

With the whitebait season just started, scientists from the University of Canterbury are engaged in timely research they believe will lead to better stocks of the delicacy in our streams and rivers. Funded by \$1.1 million from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST), the researchers are working on a four-year project to investigate where our most common whitebait (inanga, or *Galaxias maculatus*) lay their eggs and the issues that threaten their spawning habitats.

The inanga spawn where grasses clump together and form a dense root mat and where there is almost 100% humidity, conditions that are as close to being under water as you can get out of the water. It's not uncommon for different generations of fish to choose the same clump of grass for egg laying.

The vegetation provides protection for the eggs which are laid on riverbanks on autumn high tides and stay there until the next high tide when the larvae hatch and are washed down the river and out to sea. They remain in the ocean over winter, returning to freshwater locations in spring, when whitebaiters are ready with their nets for them.

The whitebait season started in most of NZ on 15 August and runs until 30 November. On the West Coast the season is from September 1 to November 14 and on the Chatham Islands from December 1 till the end of February. Whitebait fishing regulations for all of NZ except the West Coast are on the Department of Conservation's site at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultiPageDocumentTOC.aspx?id=39377>. The regulations for the West Coast are at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultiPageDocumentTOC.aspx?id=39371>

"Starfish" Sustainable Fisheries Resource

A new "Starfish" resource, developed by the Ministry of Fisheries, aims to teach young NZers the role that they can play in making sure there are enough fish for the future. The resource has been developed for teachers of students in years 7 to 10 (age 11 - 14). Its fact sheets explore the importance of balancing rights, roles and responsibilities and the need to contribute to quality and sustainability. They also explain the role of kaitiaki-the guardians of NZ's natural resources. Students can find out about the economic role of our fisheries, how they are managed and about the impact of humans on marine and coastal communities.

An online version of Starfish, with includes additional features and activities, is also available on the Ministry of Fisheries website at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Starfish/default.htm>

The Elections

Campaigning by Electorate Candidates

There are rules in the Electoral Act 1993, the Electoral Finance Act 2007 and the Broadcasting Act 1989 about election candidates can and cannot do when they are campaigning. The rules include:

- any activities (including advertising) promoting the election of a candidate or party are prohibited on polling day and are a criminal offence;
- there are limits on spending by both electorate candidates and registered parties. There are also different rules applying to television and radio advertising as distinct from advertising by other means (see below);
- election candidates have to have a financial agent, who is responsible for authorising election advertising and filing a return of election expenses and donations. The financial agent has to give written authorisation before any advertisement promoting their candidate's election can be published;
- election expenses are mainly advertising and publicity costs, so not all campaign expenses are counted as election expenses;
- election advertisements must state the name and address of the person directing it to be published ("the promoter");
- if advertising includes a party logo, a party promoter statement and authorisation from the party's financial agent may be required;
- if advertising contains a website reference, candidates need to consider whether the website contains material that could be election advertising;
- candidates cannot share television or radio advertising with another candidate or candidates. They may include information about the party they represent and its policies to promote their own election, but they are not allowed to attack the policies of other parties or candidates; and
- candidates' broadcasts may not encourage voters to give their party vote to the party since this would constitute a party broadcast to which special rules apply.

For more information contact the Electoral Commission, PO Box 3050, Wellington, tel 04 474 0670, fax 04 474 0674, email info@elections.govt.nz, web www.elections.org.nz

TV & Radio Election Programmes

Election programmes on television and radio (these include advertisements and opening and closing addresses) have to comply with the Broadcasting Standards Authority's (BSA) Election Programme Code, which says that:

- election programmes are subject to all relevant provisions of the Codes of Broadcasting Practice for television and radio except for the requirement to present a range of significant viewpoints on issues of public importance. Debate, advocacy and expression of political opinion are a desirable and

essential part of a democratic society and broadcasting standards will be applied in a manner which respects this context;

- an election programme may include debate, advocacy and opinion, but factual information should be clearly distinguishable from opinion or advocacy;
- while an election programme may oppose a political party, or candidate, it may not include material which denigrates a political party or candidate;
- an election programme may not imitate an existing programme, format or identifiable personality in a manner which is likely to mislead; and
- a party opening or closing address must be clearly identifiable as a party political broadcast made by, or on behalf of, a specified political party.

Print & Internet Election Advertising

The content of election advertising in other media (including websites) comes within the jurisdiction of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). The role of the ASA is to make sure that advertising complies with the law, that it is truthful and not misleading or deceptive, and that it is socially responsible. It has in place an Advertising Code of Ethics, and number of Codes of Practice (covering for example, advertising to children, comparative advertising and environmental claims, etc).

Complaints about election advertising for printed and online material go to the ASA's independent Advertising Standards Complaints Board. The ASCB's five members (who have no connection to media or advertising groups) consider complaints from the public about breaches of any of the BSA codes. They also advise on codes of practice and report on advertising which is causing concern.

Electoral Signs

The Electoral Finance Act 2007 and the Electoral (Advertisements of a Specified Kind) Regulations 2005 provide for national standards for certain kinds of electoral signs which can differ from the standards normally applied by a local authority. They apply to signs up to a maximum of three square metres that are to be displayed in the 2 months before polling day.

Election candidates are not allowed to pay an elector of a district for providing a place to exhibit a sign or hoarding in that district unless it is in the course of the elector's business. They may also have to account for the value of display space as an election expense, if the space is provided free, or at less than its commercial value.

Complaints about election programme on television and radio go to BSA Standards Authority; PO Box 9213; Wellington, tel 04 382 9508, fax: (04) 382 9543, email: info@bsa.govt.nz, infoline 0800 366 996, web www.bsa.govt.nz. Complaints about election programme on television and radio go to BSA Standards Authority; PO Box 9213; Wellington, tel 04 382 9508, fax: (04) 382 9543, email: info@bsa.govt.nz, infoline 0800 366 996, web www.bsa.govt.nz. The ASA codes for advertising are available on the ASA website at www.asa.co.nz. Complaints can be made to the Advertising Standards Complaints Board, tel 04 472 7852 or email asa@asa.co.nz. For other information contact the ASCB, P O Box 10 675, Wellington, tel 04 472 7852, fax (04) 471 1785. More information about electoral signs is at <http://www.elections.org.nz/rules/advertising/electoral-signs.html>

Internet/ICT

NZ's Digital Strategy Updated

An updated digital strategy for NZ - Digital Strategy 2.0 (DS2) - is now in place. Its aims are increase productivity; new business models and opportunities; reduced carbon emissions; sustainable resource use; and locally grounded, globally connected communities and culture.

The original Digital Strategy aims (super fast connection, enhanced user confidence and cool content) are still there, and DS 2.0 sets out targets and actions that take these further and emphasise the importance of collaboration.

A number of new projects such as Connected NZ and the Digital Content Innovation Cluster have been set up, and the Aotearoa People's Network (see below) and the Community Partnership Fund have been expanded.

Applications for funding from a \$340 million Broadband Investment Fund (BIF) - a major part of the strategy - are now open as well (see "Funding Opportunities" below). This fund has been set up to encourage affordable broadband roll-out based on competitive open-access principles.

Some \$75 million of the BIF has been set aside for rural projects. This funding will be used to provide seed funding to accelerate broadband access in rural areas that don't currently have access to land-based broadband service. The focus will be on rural communities, businesses and users in the health, education and wider government sectors, and the funding will be contestable in order to support local "bottom-up" solutions.

DS2 also sets updated targets for connection speed and super fast broadband rollout.

Digital Strategy 2.0 is available online at www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz. Draft criteria for the rural section of the BIF is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentPage___35805.aspx

Free Community Broadband Access to Increase

Under the DS 2.0 the Aotearoa People's Network, which provides people with free access to broadband internet through local libraries has received \$2 million to extend the service it provides to a total of 130 libraries and up to 10 marae. It will also create 30 digital "ketes" for community-created content, over the next three years (these enable people to bring their content into libraries, digitise it and save it securely). The Network, which is a collaboration of the National Library, public libraries and business, currently operates in 58 libraries across NZ, mostly in rural communities.

D-I-Y "Some Rights Reserved" Copyright Licences

Creative Commons Aotearoa NZ has launched a web project that enables NZers to choose "some rights reserved" copyright for their own creative works.

The international Creative Commons movement towards internet-friendly copyright used is embraced in more than 40 countries and its generic licences have been recently tailored to

NZ's legal jurisdiction. Creative Commons licences encourage sharing. Every CC licence requires that users credit the owner properly, but licence holders can choose other restrictions too. For example, some licences do not allow commercial use or derivative versions.

Auckland University Library is applying Creative Commons licences to research it has collected, and Otago Polytechnic have also adopted Creative Commons as part of their rights management.

CCANZ is a project of Te Whaingā Aronui The Council for the Humanities. To find out more about Creative Commons Aotearoa NZ, create a profile for yourself or issue your own licence, visit www.creativecommons.org.nz Creative Commons is recognised and supported by the Community Research Clearing House, www.communityresearch.org.nz

From ANGOA Roundtable Update

Telecommunications Dispute Resolution Update

The Telecommunication Dispute Resolution (TDR) service has released a second report that indicates that 23% more people used the service in this quarter. Of note:

- complaint handling and contractual terms and conditions featured in both quarters;
- how complaints were handled by telecommunication companies continued to feature in complaints. These mainly had to do with how telecommunication companies recorded and numbered their consumer complaints, and how they communicated with customers around complaints;
- 45% of the complaints in this quarter related to billing and credit;
- 31% were about service and product delivery (failures and delays in connection, disconnection and functionality); and
- customer service complaints made up 11% of complaints, a further 8% related to network performance (speed and service interruptions) and faults accounted for 3%.

The report is at www.tdr.org.nz

Free legal resources in plain English are at <http://www.legal-explanations.com/index.htm>. The website, which currently contains over 2,500 legal definitions, will be expanded in coming months.

ESL News, a website for newcomers to NZ is at www.eslnews.org.nz. NZ news is spoken slowly and clearly using easy vocabulary, and the content is updated every few days. The website allows for the viewer to either listen to, or read the news, or both simultaneously.

A Pacific Starmap website for emerging Pacific artists is at <http://www.pacificstarmap.com/>. This features profiles of Pacific stars who tell their stories through video links, images and sound bytes. The aim is to help new and emerging Pacific artists develop their careers by giving them information about training opportunities, business development, funding sources and role models.

A shoppers' guide to kiwi-made products is at getnzmade.net. The Buy Kiwi Made website is for people who want to support local businesses and workers. There is no cost to shoppers to use it.

Family Care Internet Radio hits the airways at <http://familycareradio.net.nz>. Carers NZ has launched a one hour internet radio show for families with health and disability needs. A magazine-style radio show, it is the first of its kind in the world offering interviews with carers, medical experts, political decision-makers, and others with an interest in caregiving.

A website which lets students report racially-based harassment online is at www.report-it.org.nz. Students can lodge complaints (anonymously if they wish) on the website, and they can also have the incident followed up if they wish to. Reports go through to the project team, and if requested, will be forwarded to the appropriate organisation. The Report-It project is a collaboration of Christchurch City Council, the University of Canterbury, CPIT, the Human Rights Commission, Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, the NZ Police (Canterbury District) and Lincoln University. At present, it is a pilot aimed at students from the partner organisations. The potential to widen it will be assessed during a six-month review.

An on-line NZ business assessment tool is at www.businessassessment.co.nz - and any business, from a sole trader to a large business can use it. The tool takes the results of a 30 minute questionnaire and assesses a business's capabilities in six areas. These are: leadership; planning; customer and market focus; measurement analysis & knowledge management; process management; and human resources. The system was developed by NZ company Optimisation.

Check how net-savvy you are at www.netbasics.org.nz. This is an advisory website on how to protect your home computer. NetSafe, the developers of the website, have put together a series of short animated stories to help you check whether you're at risk. They illustrate how people can expose themselves to risks on the internet - like putting credit card details into an unsecured site, or downloading risky items.

Create your own CV online at <http://www2.careers.govt.nz/cv4me.html> Career Services NZ has an interactive CV tool on its website that enables people to create and format a professional CV in less than 30 minutes.

A new educational website called "Asia Knowledge" is at <http://asia-knowledge.tki.org.nz/>. Aimed at developing children's knowledge and interest in Asia it was developed in conjunction with the AsiaNZ Foundation.

A website set up to support parents to help their children make good study and training decisions is at www.careers.govt.nz/parents. The Career Services' site, developed over the past year, includes a guide to the NCEA and help with understanding industry training and tertiary study options. It also includes case studies and information about how the labour market and jobs have changed since the days when parents were planning their own careers.

Arts and Culture

Redevelopment of National Library

The National Library of NZ building on Molesworth St in Wellington is being expanded to make its valuable heritage collections more accessible to the public, and to create 4000m² of additional storage and exhibition space. Starting at the end of

this year, the project will involve capital spending of \$69 million over five years. It will be completed in late 2011. The Alexander Turnbull Library, which is housed in the current building on Molesworth Street, will have a more prominent presence and its unique identity will be maintained.

For more information visit <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/>

2008 IHC Telecom Art Award - Online Auction

Looking for some art and a way to support a good cause? Check out the Telecom sponsored IHC art award and auction on 24 September. Online bids are being accepted now.

Go to: www.ihc.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=1601

Wellington Sonnet Competition 2008

People who enter the Wellington Sonnet Competition 2008, sponsored by NZ Post, will be in to win \$1000 for a fourteen-line poem about Wellington. There will be second and third prizes of \$500 and \$250, and \$50 for each of ten runners up. Anyone can enter regardless of where they live.

Entries close on 22 September 2008. Entry forms are on the NZ Society of Authors website at <http://www.authors.org.nz/> and on the NZ Post website at <http://www.nzpost.co.nz/Cultures/en-NZ/AboutUs/SupportingCommunities/>

OBJECTive Art Awards 2008

Artists and designers are invited to submit new works of object art in ceramics, glass, jewellery, wood, metalwork, textiles and furniture to be considered for the 2008 OBJECTive Art Awards. Successful entrants will be in the running for more than \$10,000 of prize money.

Entries close on 14 September 2008. For more information email manukau.arts@manukau.govt.nz

FIFO 2009 Calls for Film Documentaries

The fifth Pacific International Documentary Film Festival of Tahiti (FIFO Tahiti) will take place at the "Maison de la Culture" (Te Fare Tauhiti Nui) in Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia from 27 January to 1 February 2009. It is open to filmmakers who have produced a documentary on the Pacific within the last three years.

Entries close on 1 October 2008. For more information email info@fifotahiti.org

General

NZ's 2008 Social Report Card

The 2008 Social Report for NZ is now available. It concludes that overall, NZers have a good level of wellbeing and our wellbeing continues to improve across a number of domains, with most social outcomes improved strongly since the mid-1990s. NZers on average are living longer, are more highly educated and are more prosperous than they were in the mid-1990s. Some of the findings:

- life expectancy improved between 1995-1997 and 2005-2007 for males and females, with males experiencing a greater improvement than females;
- the proportion of the population who smoke cigarettes fell 4% to 22%;
- the suicide death rate has also improved since 1997;
- the obesity rate has worsened by 6.8% since 1997: a quarter of NZers aged 15 years and over were obese in 2006/2007;
- the proportion of drinkers aged 15 years and over with a potentially hazardous drinking pattern has not changed since 1996/1997;
- participation in early childhood education improved by 11.3% for 3 year olds and 5.8% for 4 year olds between 1997 and 2007;
- since the introduction of the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) in 2003, the proportion of school leavers gaining NCEA Level 2 or above has improved;
- the proportion of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher qualification has almost doubled since 1997;
- in 2007, the unemployment rate was 3% lower than the rate in 1997 (3.6% compared to 6.6%);
- the rate of workplace injury claims fell between 2001 and 2006;
- in 2006, three-quarters of NZers in employment reported being satisfied with their work-life balance;
- market income per person was higher in 2007 than it was in the mid-1990s;
- the proportion of the population with low incomes was considerably lower in 2007 than in the mid-1990s;
- in 2007, 13% of the population was living in households with incomes below the threshold of 60% of median income after deducting housing costs, compared with 22% living below this threshold in 1997;
- for households in the lowest 20% of the income distribution, housing affordability continued to improve after 2004, and the proportion with high housing costs was substantially lower in 2007 than in 1997;
- between December 2001 and November 2007, the perception that different groups were subject to some or a great deal of discrimination fell for all groups. Maori, Pacific peoples, refugees and gays and lesbians experienced the greatest reduction in perceived discrimination over this period;
- there has been little change in NZ's level of perceived corruption over the last 10 years and we continue to remain a world leader in this area;
- voter turnout has declined over this period and although there was an increase in voter turnout between the 2002 and

2005 general elections it remains below the 1996 level. Voter turnout also declined for local government elections between the 1998 and 2007 elections;

- there has been a five percentage point improvement in local content in prime-time television hours between 1997 and 2007; and
- the proportion of Maori who can speak Maori declined slightly between 2001 and 2006 although the total number of Maori who can do so increased over this period.

NZ compares very well with the other countries who are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD - see box below). We are at or above the OECD median for two-thirds of the 22 indicators for which there is internationally comparable data. In particular we perform very well compared with other Organisation for Economic and in the Civil and Political Rights domain. In 2007 we had the lowest level of perceived corruption along with Denmark and Finland. We are in the top half of the OECD for the proportion of women in Parliament and for voter turnout.

In 2007, our unemployment rate was fourth lowest in the OECD and we had the sixth highest employment rate. We also do well in the Social Connectedness area: NZers have a high level of trust in others and a high level of households with internet access. We are above the OECD median for the proportion of adults who have at least upper secondary school qualifications, for those who have a bachelor's degree or higher, and for participation in tertiary education among 20-29 year olds.

Our health results are mixed: life expectancy is similar to the OECD median (middle point). The cigarette smoking rate and per person consumption of alcohol are slightly better than the OECD median. The obesity rate is similar to those of Australia and the United Kingdom, lower than that of the United States, but higher than reported rates in most of the other OECD countries. We have relatively high suicide death rates. The rate of road deaths is about the same as the OECD median, but our assault mortality rate is higher than the OECD median. In 2004, NZ was near the middle of the OECD for population with low incomes and was higher than the OECD median for income inequality. In 2006, NZ was below the OECD median for market income per person.

The report is at <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/>

Migration in NZ: We're Heading South

NZers change their address more often than they used to, but the new address is typically less than 10 kilometres away from the old one, according to a Statistics NZ (SNZ) report called "Internal Migration".

The 1991 and 1996 Censuses recorded that people were moving northwards, especially to Auckland, but by 2001 the trend had reduced significantly, and at the 2006 Census had reversed to a southward trend of population moves from the north of the North Island.

At the 2006 Census, urban areas had higher proportions of people who had moved between 2001 and 2006 compared with rural areas. Large proportions of movers living in rural areas had moved from urban areas, but movers living in main urban areas had mainly moved within these areas. Increasingly, there has been a large population exchange between main urban areas and rural areas, and this has resulted in population gains to rural areas.

Economic reasons for moving, like moving from a rental property into a purchased home, were the main motivators for leaving a residence for another residence within the same region. When leaving one region for another, it was mostly for employment reasons, like starting a new job, followed by social reasons, like wanting to live closer to family. People choosing to move to another region mainly considered social reasons followed by environmental reasons, such as wanting to live in a more suitable suburb, town or city.

In the 20 years from 1986 to 2006, Maori have become more mobile. Less than half (47%) had moved within NZ between 1981 and 1986 compared with over 60% in 2006. Factors included an increasingly mobile population as a whole; improved economic conditions and employment opportunities enabling more mobility; and increasing inter-ethnic, inter-regional and inter-iwi partnering.

"Representing Asia, Remaking Aotearoa" Report

The latest issue of the NZ Journal of Asian Studies (NZJAS) features a special topic "Representing Asia, Remaking Aotearoa".

The OECD: A Snapshot

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is one of the world's largest sources of comparable statistics, and of economic and social data.

It was established in 1961 by governments of countries committed to democracy and the market economy to: support sustainable economic growth; boost employment; raise living standards; maintain financial stability; assist other countries' economic development; and contribute to growth in world trade.

Current OECD members include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, NZ, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States

As well as collecting information, OECD monitors trends, analyses and forecasts economic developments and researches social changes or evolving patterns in trade, environment, agriculture, technology, taxation etc. The member countries compare policy experiences, look for answers to common problems, identify good practice and coordinate domestic and international policies. The OECD also shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 100 other countries and economies, e.g., Brazil, China, and Russia and some of the least developed countries in Africa.

The OECD website is at <http://www.oecd.org>

The issue questions the terms "Asia" and "NZ", and explores the ways in which Asia is already, and for a long time has been, present inside NZ cultural practices.

For further information on NZJAS and this special issue, see <http://www.nzasia.org.nz/journal/index.html>

OPCAT: Improving Conditions of Detention

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT - ratified by NZ in March this year) establishes preventive ways of helping to achieve the aim of the Convention against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

OPCAT is based on the view that regular visits to places of detention are a most effective way of preventing torture and improving conditions of detention.

Under OPCAT, representatives of national monitoring organisations called "national preventive mechanisms" (NPMs) visit places of detention, examining the conditions and treatment of the detainees, and making recommendations to the authorities. Internationally, members of the United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture visit OPCAT countries and liaise with the NPMs.

New Zealand's NPMs are:

- the Human Rights Commission (HRC) - the central NPM. The HRC coordinates and liaises with the other NPMs and with the UN Subcommittee, and identifies systemic issues);
- the Office of the Ombudsmen (NPM for prisons, immigration detention facilities, health and disability places of detention, and youth justice residences);
- the Police Complaints Authority (NPM for people held in police cells/in the custody of the police);
- the Office of the Children's Commissioner (NPM for children and young persons in youth justice residences); and
- the Inspector of Service Penal Establishments of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (NPM for Defence Force Service custody and Service corrective establishments).

More is at <http://www.apt.ch/content/view/40/82/lang,en/>

LINZ: New Series of NZ Maps Coming

Land Information NZ (LINZ) is launching a new NZ map series called Topo50 next year. Topo50 maps will use a "NZ Transverse Mercator projection". This is a change from our current topographic printed maps (which are based on a NZ map grid) and it means that someone reading a grid reference on the current map will give quite a different reference to someone looking at the same geographical point on the new Topo50 series.

NZ's emergency services will be switching their 111 systems to the new projection when the series is introduced in September 2009. The new series will also be more compatible with modern navigational technology such as the GPS.

More is at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/core/topography/projectsandprogrammes/topo50/faqs/index.html>

New Science Information Centre for NZers

The aim of a new Wellington-based Science Media Centre is to promote accurate, bias-free reporting on science and technology by helping the media work more closely with the scientific community.

The Centre itself has no scientific viewpoint: it facilitates stories and contacts to provide media representatives with as wide a range of views as possible. Its website features the opinions of leading scientists on breaking news stories, and also provides background reports and tools for journalists, scientists and anyone else who is interested.

The Science Media Centre's website is at <http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz>

Early Ship Passenger Lists Going Online

Archives NZ holds ships' passengers lists (with some ten million names) which include details of where people came from, how old they were when they arrived in NZ and information about their lives and families.

A project being carried out by Archives NZ (with FamilySearch of Utah) means that NZers who want to find out more about their family history are able to check early ship passenger lists online for the names of forebears who came to NZ. The project involves development of searchable indexes which link you to a digital reproduction of the relevant passenger list. The images are to be available via FamilySearch and Archives NZ websites.

Canterbury Association papers relating to the association's first four emigrant ship voyages (on the ships Randolph, Seymour, Charlotte Jane and Cressy) to the Canterbury Settlement in 1850 - 1851 are now at Archives NZ's Christchurch online gallery.

Archives NZ is also currently digitising some valuable holdings including the Otago and Southland pastoral runs register from 1870 to 1960 and the Blue Books (containing NZ's national statistics from 1840 to 1855). These are some of our oldest records and are of huge social value.

The Archives NZ website is at <http://www.archives.govt.nz/>. The Christchurch Online Gallery is at <http://gallery.archives.govt.nz/v/christchurch>

NZ/Brazil Agreement Signed

A recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Brazil and NZ covers practical conservation outcomes, the protection and recovery of ecosystems and endangered species, management of weeds and pests, as well as the management of tourism operators in national parks.

NZ has also signed a reciprocal working holiday scheme with Brazil and is to increase its Brazilian diplomatic representation. Under the holiday scheme up to 300 NZers aged between 18 and 30 will be able to live in Brazil for one year to work, holiday or study, and Brazilians will have the same rights to a year-long work, holiday or study stay here.

NZ has also recently signed MoUs with Italy, Chile and Korea.

The Most Spoken Languages in the World

This list of the 20 most spoken languages in the world comes via Wikipedia's list of languages by number of native speakers: Mandarin 873 million, Hindi 450 million, English 341 million, Spanish 320 million, Arabic 250 million, Portuguese 177.5 million, Bengali 171 million, Russian 170 million, Japanese 122 million, German 100 million, Punjabi 88 million, French 79,572,000, Wu 77.2 million, Javanese 75.5 million, Korean 74 million, Vietnamese 67.4 million, Marathi 68 million, Telugu 69.7 million, Tamil 66 million, and Italian 61.5 million.

Conferences/Festivals

Annual Energy Summit

The 10th Annual NZ Energy Summit is being held at Te Papa, Wellington, on 15-16 September.

More information: www.conferenz.co.nz/10th-annualnew-zealand-energy-summit-4.html or S Henshall, tel 09 912 7637

NZFWO AGM

The NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations is holding its AGM for on 18 September St Johns Conference Centre in Wellington.

RSVP to ed@nzfwo.org.nz. People interested in being involved with the work of the Federation can email NZFWO at admin@nzfwo.org.nz or call 04 3850981

Parent to Parent Conference

This has the theme of "Trusting Partnerships" and it is being held from 30 October to 1 November at Novotel Lakeside, Rotorua.

For more information /to register call 0508 236 236 or visit national@parent2parent.org.nz to download a form

NZ Grasslands Association 70th Annual Conference

This is being held at the Marlborough Convention Centre, Blenheim from 14 to 16 October. The theme is "Innovative & Adaptive Farming Systems".

For more information/to register go <http://www.grassland.org.nz/>

Community Languages and ESOL Conference

This is to be held at Kings College, Otahuhu, Auckland from 2-5 October. The theme of the conference will be "Language and identity: building communities of learning".

More is at <http://www.clesol.org.nz/2008/home.html>, or contact K Wadsworth at Paaredekooper and Associates, clesol@paaredekooper.co.nz or 04 568 4576

NZ Council of Social Services Conference

Dates are 1 - 3 October 2008. Venue is Lincoln Green Conference Centre, Henderson. The theme is "Our Voices in Social Change".

For more information/to register contact R Rice at 04 4723364 or nzcoss@nzcoss.org.nz or visit www.nzcoss.org.nz

Social Service Providers Aotearoa Conference

This conference is being held from 17 - 19 September in Dunedin. The theme is "Resilient Families - Healthy Communities".

More information is at wsspa.org.nz

VASS National Conference 2008

The NZ Federation of Vocational and Support Services' (VASS) conference is being held in Hamilton from 1-3 October. Its theme is "Beyond the Boundaries".

For a conference programme, registration form and trade stand information go to: www.nzvass.org.nz, or email fionn@nzvass.org.nz. Website is <http://www.nzvass.org.nz>

Project Management Institute of NZ Annual Conference

This one is on from 6-8 October. The venue is the Sky City Convention Centre, Auckland.

More information: jdawson@xtra.co.nz. Website is at <http://pmi.digitalstream.co.nz/>

Safe Communities Conference

This is being held from 20-23 October in Christchurch. The theme is "Working Together to Make a Difference".

More information is at jo@conference.co.nz or register online at www.safecom2008.org.nz

AgResearch Conference: Volume or Value?

An AgResearch and Australia's CSIRO Livestock Industries conference is being held from 28-30 October at the Convention Centre in Christchurch. It will be looking at commercial future for high value food and fibre products from the farm.

More is at <http://www.livestockhorizons.com/>

NCWNZ 2008 National Conference:

This National Council of Women on NZ conference has the theme of "Towards a Sustainable Future". It is being held in Masterton from 2-5 October.

For details contact National Council of Women of NZ, PO Box 12 117, tel 04 473 7623, fax 04 499 5554, email ncwnz@ihug.co.nz, or see www.ncwnz.co.nz

"Learn-Share-Grow" 2008 Conference

The NZ Organisation for Quality's Learn-Share-Grow Conference 2008 is being held at Rydges Lakeside Resort, Queenstown from 22-24 October 2008. It features a keynote address from the director of Deutsche Post World Net called "Sustainability - Facing the Challenges of Global Logistics".

More is at <http://conference2008.nzoq.org.nz>

Stand Up and Take Action

A campaign to "stand up and take action" against poverty is being held from 17 - 19 October 2008. The aim is to end poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals for achieving this (the target date is 2015).

More information from www.StandAgainstPoverty.org

Some Funding/Awards Opportunities

New Rural Journalism Award

Applications are now open for the Rural Women NZ Award 2008, which has been established by the NZ Guild of Agricultural Journalists and Communicators and Rural Women NZ. Entries must be of two articles based on the theme of "Rural Women Making a Difference". This could be in the sense of community involvement or of business. Entries must have been published, broadcast or delivered in the 12 months to 31 August 2008. Any NZ-based journalist or communicator is eligible to enter the award. Judging will be in September and the prize awarded at the Guild's 50th anniversary Awards Dinner in Wellington on 18 October 2008.

Closing date for applications is 19 September 2008. Full criteria and entry forms are on the Rural Women NZ website at www.ruralwomen.org.nz

Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme

Applications are now open for the Kellogg Rural Leaders Programme. This programme includes an intensive 10-day residential programme at Lincoln University; researching and reporting on a topic with assistance from University staff; presenting the research report at Lincoln; and networking in Wellington with people in NZ's social, political and economic arenas.

Applications close on 24 October 2006. A prospectus is at: www.leaders.ac.nz or email kellogg@lincoln.ac.nz. Note that Meat and Wool NZ is sponsoring two Rural Women NZ members to attend this programme in 2009. For more information about the sponsorships email belinda@ruralwomen.org.nz

New DIA Community Development Scheme

Four Department of Internal Affairs' (DIA) funding schemes (the Community Development Scheme; the Community Based Youth Development Fund; the Maori Community Development Worker Scheme and the Crime Prevention Scheme) have been merged.

Under the new Community Development Scheme Maori, youth-at-risk, Pacific people or other ethnic groups in urban, pro-

vincial or rural areas, communities facing social or geographical isolation, low household incomes and low internet access, are priority populations under the new Community Development Scheme.

The areas eligible for funding in 2008 are: Chatham Islands; Hauraki/Franklin/Waikato; Kawerau/Whakatane/Opotiki; Manukau; New Plymouth/Stratford; Rotorua/Western Bay of Plenty; Selwyn; South Waikato/Taupo; Tararua/Central Hawke's Bay; Wairoa; Waitakere; West Coast/Queenstown and Whangarei.

The 2008 funding round for the scheme closes on 30 September 2008. More information and applications forms are at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Crime-Prevention-Scheme?OpenDocument

Broadband Investment Fund; Applications Open...

The Broadband Investment Fund (BIF) is made up of \$325 million operating and \$15 million capital funding which is available over a maximum of five years. The money will be used to accelerate broadband investment in three areas:

- facilitating high speed broadband to businesses and entities such as municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals in urban centres;
- extending the reach of broadband into underserved regions, particularly in the rural sector; and
- improving the resilience of NZ's international connections.

Applications close on 30 September 2008. More details and application packages can be found at: www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz

...and \$\$\$ Available for Community ICT Projects

The 2008/2009 funding round of the Community Partnership Fund (CPF) will open shortly. The aim of this fund is to tackle issues of geographic isolation, fear of new technologies and ignorance of information and communication technology (ICT) benefits. It will meet these aims setting up business, government and community collaborative projects. ICT projects that receive CPF funding will be community-driven and have partners that provide financial or "in-kind" contributions that match or exceed the funding applied for. Projects have to be sustainable after funding from the Community Partnership Fund ceases.

Expressions of Interest will be accepted from 6 October 2008. They close on 10 November 2008. More information is at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Digital-Strategy-Community-Partnership-Fund?OpenDocument

NGO Social Work Study Awards

Applications for a social work study award are invited from social workers employed by a Non-Government Organisation (NGO).

Applications close on 3 October 2008. More information is at <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/community-development/ngo-study-awards/index.html> or freephone 0508 346 376

Marine Energy Deployment Fund

The Marine Energy Deployment Fund is currently offering grants of up to \$2 million a year over four years for renewable energy marine projects. Currently around 60-70% of our electricity is from renewable energy such as marine energy, and the Government's target is for NZ to have 90% renewable electricity by 2025.

Applications close on 24 November 2008, and decision will be announced in May/June 2009. More, including an application form, is at <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/renewable-energy/marine.html>

Archives NZ Scholarship

This \$6000 scholarship supports 12 month projects starting in 2009 that use archives holdings in an innovative way or in ways that have not already been explored. The scholarship money is to assist with the costs and resources required to complete the project.

Applications close on 30 September 2008. For more information/an application form go to <http://www.archives.govt.nz/scholarship.php>

Lottery Grants: Minister's Discretionary Fund

Applications to this fund are considered throughout the year for projects that are not the responsibility of any of the Lottery distribution committees or subcommittees. These purposes include, but are not limited to: overseas travel, volunteer fire fighting services and animal welfare. Individuals and community groups can apply.

Apply using Grants Online (www.cdgo.govt.nz). More information is available from grantsonline@dia.govt.nz, or freephone 0800 824 824

Lottery Grants: Individuals with Disabilities

This committee allocates grants for mobility and communication equipment to help people with disabilities achieve independence and gain access to the community.

Priority is given on the basis of:

- the severity of the disability;
- the contribution the vehicle or equipment would make to the quality of life of the person with a disability (the applicant);
- the financial circumstances of the applicant and their family;
- the availability of alternative transport or assistance;
- the family situation of the applicant;
- the applicant's locality; and
- any Lottery assistance received in the past.

Application may be made throughout the year. More information: Grants Online www.cdgo.govt.nz. For more information email grantsonline@dia.govt.nz, or freephone 0800 824 824

Save the Children Small Grants Fund

Save the Children seeks proposals that focus on making the world a better place for NZ children by: encouraging their voices to be heard, protecting them from violence and abuse and ad-

ressing poverty. Project ideas should be developed by or with children and young people where appropriate. The maximum award per grant is \$10,000.

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

Sustainable Management Fund

The 2009/10 funding round of the Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) Sustainable Management Fund opens in October. The purpose of this fund is to support community groups, iwi, businesses and local government in taking practical actions that produce long-term environmental benefits. The objectives of the fund are to make a positive difference to the environment by funding projects that support the Ministry's priorities; encourage pro-active partnerships; and promote community action. Funding is available for up to three years (for a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 per financial year), for projects that start on 1 July 2009.

For more information go to <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding/smf/index.html>

Appointments

NZ's new *High Commissioner to Kiribati* will be diplomat Robert Kaiwai. NZ's next *Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organisation* will be career diplomat David Walker. NZ's next *Ambassador to China* is career diplomat Carl Worker. Jennifer Ann Binns and David John McNaughton have been appointed *District Court Judges*.

The new *Local Government NZ President* is Hastings Mayor Lawrence Yule. Four appointments to the *Families Commission* are: Dr Jan Pryor (new Chief Commissioner); Sandra Alofivae, Gregory Fortuin and Kim Workman.

Deirdre Dale has been appointed as a *Commissioner of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)*, and Dr Bill Rosenberg has been re-appointed to TEC. Susy Frankel has been appointed as chair of the *Copyright Tribunal*. New members of the *Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (ACOS)* include Colin Tukuitonga, Ria Earp, Alan Lee and Rob Davison. Tony Paine has been appointed as *Chief Executive of Victim Support*. Dr Chris Eichbaum has been appointed to the *Reserve Bank*. The next *Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise) at the University of Otago* will be Professor Harlene Hayne. Gerard O'Regan has been reappointed to the *Maori Heritage Council of the NZ Historic Places Trust*. Bill Birnie, Tainui Stephens and William Somerville have been reappointed to the *Board of the NZ Film Commission*. Dr Ian Lambie, Judith Fyfe and Andrea Haines have been appointed to the *Film and Literature Board of Review*. Elizabeth (Liz) Hickey has been appointed to the *Board of the Securities Commission*, for a term of five years. New appointments to the *NZ Fast Forward Board* are: Bill Baylis, Bill Falconer, Robin Fenwick, Richard Janes, Kevin Marshall, Mike Matthews, and Jacqueline Rowarth. Three appointments to the *Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) Board* are the deputy chair Alastair Patrick (reappointed), Joel Cayford and David Caygill. Richard Bedford has been appointed to the *Marsden Fund Council*. Judge Ken Mason is the new *Patron of Age Concern*. Warren Bell, Thayne Green, and Alistair Sutherland have been reappointed to the *NZ Racing Board's governing body*.

Members of the *Family Violence Death Review Committee (FVDRC)* established in June 2008 are Wendy Davis (chair), Dr Patrick Kelly, Dr Alison Towns, Ngaroma Grant, Rob Veale, Vaoga Mary Watts, Brenda Hynes and George Ririnui. The members of an *independent group set up to review Road User Charges* are: James Hill (chair), Warren Young and Tony Gibson. Members of the *Board of Inquiry considering the proposed 180-turbine Hauauru ma Raki wind farm* are Environment Court

Judge Jeffrey Allan Smith (chair), Diane Menzies, Gina Rangi and John Lumsden. Members of an *independent Board of Inquiry to consider the proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation* are Royden Somerville, QC, Geraldine Baumann, Wira Gardiner and Ralph Chapman. Members of the *Bowel Cancer Taskforce* are Shelley Campbell (chair), Dr Susan Parry, Dr John McMenamin, Teresa Lynch, Dr Diana Sarfati, Chris Atkinson and Dr John Childs.

Craig Matthews and Paddy Twist
Editors
Rural Bulletin

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

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

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

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

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

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.