

Rural Bulletin

September 2007



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz>

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Consultation

2013: Power On For Rural Customers?

The Government is reviewing section 62 of the Electricity Act, which looks at electricity supply to consumers beyond March 2013.

Under subsection 6 of section 62 of the Electricity Act, the obligation for lines companies to continue to supply electricity to properties that were connected on 1 April 1993 will end on 31 March 2013. The sunset clause Act is relevant to remote rural electricity consumers, whose lines can be expensive to maintain, and may be considered uneconomic by lines companies.

The objective of the review is to consider what new arrangements, if any, should be put in place to ensure that affected consumers continue to have access to an electricity supply that is efficient, fair, reliable, and delivered in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The Ministry of Economic Development is currently seeking feedback on a number of options for access to electricity supply, including continuing supply with no expiry date, extending a transition period beyond 2013, choosing to supply using lines or alternative systems such as solar or micro-wind generation, and lines companies providing assistance to consumers to manage transitions to alternate systems.

Submissions close 28 September. Further information and a copy of the discussion paper can be found at www.med.govt.nz/electricity/2013review

Telecommunications Service Obligations: Review

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) is seeking public feedback on a review of the Telecommunications Service Obligation (TSO) regulatory framework. This system:

- ensures the supply of telecommunications services which would otherwise not be made available commercially; and
- means the telecommunications industry can be levied to recover the costs of subsidising the supply of TSO services.

MED has published a discussion paper which includes recognition that NZ needs to address shortfalls in the availability of broadband Internet services to rural parts of NZ.

Your feedback is sought on:

- the aspects of TSO local telephone service that need updating to take into account of new technology, user expectations and market changes;
- whether we should change the way that the Local Service TSO Provider is compensated;
- how price changes should be applied, also who should be eligible for TSO local service;
- what emergency call service requirements should apply, and whether these should be in a separate TSO; and on
- the merits of introducing a broadband TSO to address shortfalls in the availability of broadband services in rural areas.

Submissions close on 28 September 2007. The discussion paper is on the MED site at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/StandardSummary___296.aspx

Transpower Transmission Line: Have Your Say

An independent Board of Inquiry (chaired by either a current or a former Environment Court judge) has been set up to receive public submissions on Transpower's proposal to build a new electricity transmission line. Transpower's proposal is for the line to run through seven districts between Waikato and Auckland.

From the time the project is publicly notified (at time of writing public this is expected to be on 8 September) there will be 20 working days for anyone with an interest to make a submission.

After that the Board will make a decision about the designations and consents for the transmission line.

Submissions will close around the end of September. Submission packs are to be sent to owners and occupiers of land adjoining or affected by Transpower's proposal and these should arrive at the same time as the public notification. Transpower's application is available online on Transpower's website at <http://www.gridnewzealand.co.nz/nigu-nor> and at local libraries and councils. You can also call 0800 876 447 for sections of the application on CD, or the whole application on DVD

Carers' Quality of Life: What Would Improve Things?

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Carers Alliance are seeking feedback from carers, the people they support and the wider community to identify the things that would most improve the quality of life for carers. A consultation paper called "Caring for NZ Carers/He Atawhai i te Hunga Ngakau Oha o Aotearoa: Your Life, Your Work, Your Say" proposes a vision and eight themes for the strategy. The themes include:

- recognition: and valuing of the contribution of carers;
- health and wellbeing of carers;
- education, employment and financial support (financial support that recognises the additional costs of caring);
- information and planning for caring;
- provision of professional and social supports;
- particular needs of young carers;
- Maori carers (cultural, social and spiritual needs); and
- particular challenges faced by Pacific carers and other ethnic minority groups.

The consultation is part of the development of the first national strategy for carers, which could be in place by April 2008.

Submissions close 14 September 2007. You can use an online submission form; write to Carers' Strategy, Ministry of Social Development, PO Box 1556, Wellington or email carersstraegy@msd.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.msd.govt.nz/work-areas/cross-sectoral-work/carers-strategy/#documents>

Building Code: Discussion Paper No 2

Your feedback is invited on this discussion paper, which raises the idea that the "embodied energy" of building materials be taken into account when designing buildings.

The embodied energy of a building product, e.g. glass, is the total amount of energy it takes to produce the final product from

raw materials. It is like "virtual energy" or "hidden energy". Every part of a building, even a nail, has a carbon cost associated with this energy. The carbon cost is the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that were created in making it. In a truly "green" building, that cost might be included in the building's overall energy efficiency.

These carbon costs would be calculated and, together with calculations of the building's lifetime energy use, would be included in the design of new buildings as a requirement under the NZ Building Code. The approach, which has the potential to reduce the "whole of life" costs of buildings, could have environmental benefits. It could also be a world first.

The discussion paper also proposes:

- a new Building Code structure that has minimum performance standards that buildings must meet;
- updates of the existing requirements, to make the Code clear and easily understood; a new way to design buildings so people are safe in the event of a fire;
- a new system that recognises that buildings need to meet different performance requirements depending on their importance and the risks to the building users and society (this takes account of the impact of flooding and climate change). For example, a school would have different performance requirements to those of a garden shed; and
- that internal space requirements be considered for housing (to improve peoples' well being and better meet the needs of people with disabilities).

Public feedback on the Building Review's first discussion paper showed NZers support a sustainable and energy efficient approach to building.

Submissions close 28 September 2007. More information, including an online submission form, is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/bcr-2007-consultation>. For a hard copy of the Building Code Review 2007 consultation email buildingcodereview@dbh.govt.nz or call 0800 242 243

Ka Hikitia: Draft Maori Education Strategy

"Ka Hikitia: Managing for Success 2008-2012" is the title of a draft Maori education strategy paper on which your views are sought. The strategy is based on what research evidence shows makes the most difference for Maori students:

- professional learning and capability of educators;
- responsible and accountable professional leadership;
- high quality Maori language education;
- family, whanau and iwi engagement in education; and
- government agencies working together.

The paper sets out what the Ministry of Education will do to make the education system more effective for Maori by identifying:

- areas to focus on, based on what we have learnt about what works;
- priorities for action in each focus area;
- a range of actions that will achieve what we want; and
- targets and measures to keep us on track and measure our success.

The outcomes include:

- Maori students working with others to find and follow successful learning and education pathways;
- Maori students' cultural and distinctive contributions successfully realised through education;
- Maori students successfully contributing to te ao Maori; and
- Maori students successfully contributing to Aotearoa NZ and the world.

Submissions close 31 October 2007. More information is at <http://kahikitia.minedu.govt.nz/kahikitia/default.htm>

The Right to Challenge Detention: Consultation

The Law Commission has published a draft study paper on habeas corpus law which covers the right of people to test whether they have been unlawfully arrested/detained.

The commission suggests:

- that the requirement that habeas corpus applications and appeals take precedence over all other court business should be repealed;
- that High Court judges should have the power to relax the three-day timeframe within which the registrar must set the application down for hearing;
- extending a right of appeal on points of law only where a writ of habeas corpus has been granted (but making it clear that this does not require the return to custody of the person who has been granted the writ);
- making it clear that the power to transfer cases to the Family Court can be exercised before habeas corpus applications are determined;
- giving High Court judges the power to dismiss applications without a full hearing where the matter is statute barred or involves the wrong procedure;
- giving High Court judges the power to convene telephone hearings where this would facilitate resolution of the matter; and
- amendment of section 8(a) to ensure consistency with section 38 of the Corrections Act 2004.

Submissions close 17 September 2007. More is at http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_133_359_SP18.pdf

Health & Disability Act Review: Have Your Say

A review of the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001 is underway at the Ministry of Health. The main aims of this Act are to keep consumers in health and disability services safe, while encouraging providers to continuously improve those services.

In a consultation paper, the Ministry says that although the Act makes the Minister and Director General (DG) accountable for the safety of health and disability services, it does not provide them with sufficient power to enforce safety and quality.

Neither does it offer service providers enough incentives and rewards for quality improvements.

The review is exploring whether to:

- strengthen the DG's enforcement powers;
- clarify the certification process for medical facilities;
- clarify definitions;
- extend the coverage of the Act to include premises with fewer than five occupants (the Ministry says some operators choose to accommodate fewer than five occupants in each of a large number of residences in order to avoid compliance with statutory requirements);
- amend the provisions around designated audit agencies; and/or
- clarify the process for exempting providers under the Act.

This consultation is linked to a separate review of the Health and Disability Service Standards that is currently under way. That review is focused on improving consistency between the four health and disability service standards listed in section 4 above. Standards NZ released the draft reviewed standards for public comment in late June 2007. Submissions closed in early September, and the final approved standards are scheduled for publication in December.

Submissions close on 21 September. You can download a copy of the consultation paper and a submission form from: [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/6570/\\$File/health-and-disability-services-review-jul07-v2.doc](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/6570/$File/health-and-disability-services-review-jul07-v2.doc)

Food Standards: Food Law Changes?

Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ) invites the food industry, public health professionals, government agencies and consumers to have their say on proposed changes to the Australia NZ Food Standards Code (these are the regulations that must be complied with by food businesses). The proposals cover:

- a preservative for processed meat products;
- a genetically modified soybean (genetically modified foods must have their safety assessed by FSANZ before they can be sold in Australia and NZ);
- new limits for chemical and antibiotic residues in food;
- a processing aid to reduce the formation of acrylamide in baked foods; and
- a processing aid for beer.

Submissions close on 19 September 2007. More information is at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/informationforsubmit1129.cfm>

Exclusive Economic Zone: Management Changes?

Changes are proposed to the way NZ's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) - one of the world's largest - is environmentally managed.

Our EEZ is the area of sea and seabed that extends from 12 to 200 nautical miles offshore. It is the fifth largest EEZ (approximately 430 million hectares) in the world and it is about 15 times

the size of our land mass. It has potential for future economic opportunities such as seabed minerals and energy generation.

The laws we have at the moment are focused on existing activities, such as fishing and transport, and legislation relating to the EEZ is specific to these activities. Because of this:

- there are gaps and inconsistencies in the way environmental effects are controlled;
- the environmental outcomes against which new activities and their effects should be assessed are unclear;
- there is uncertainty for investors about the regulatory environment; and
- there is uncertainty about how the effects of activities of one group on another group should be managed.

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is developing legislation to improve the EEZ management system by filling these gaps and introducing a consistent approach to EEZ environmental management.

A discussion paper called "Improving the regulation of environmental effects in NZ's Exclusive Economic Zone", covers the issues, and looks at the effects of activities not covered by existing law, like disturbance to the seafloor when structures are installed, or mining.

Submissions close on 30 September 2007. The discussion paper is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/oceans/nz-exclusive-economic-zone-discussion-paper-aug07/nz-exclusive-economic-zone-discussion-paper-aug07.pdf> A submission form is on the Ministry's website at: www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/oceans/current-work/. You can also email your submission to: oceans@mfe.govt.nz, or post it to: EEZ Submissions, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington

Separated Parents: Families Commission Study

The Families Commission has begun a study of separated parents, with the objective of identifying the decisions which separating parents make about living arrangements for their children, including how they reach those decisions, and how they work. The work is being done by the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families at Victoria University, and the emphasis is on parents who have been separated for at least a year who have not been to the Family Court other than for initial counselling sessions, on Maori and Pacific parents with children under 17 years old, and on fathers who are the main caregiver.

A confidential interview will take approximately one hour, at a time and place of your choice. A small koha payment will be made to those interviewed.

The following URL takes you to a press release, which also has contact details for people who want to be involved in the project: <http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/node/144>

Debt Prevention/Minimisation: Have Your Say

Public submissions are sought on the Social Assistance (Debt Prevention and Minimisation) Amendment Bill. The bill would broaden the current range of data matching systems the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has access to. The aim is to enable MSD to prevent and recover debts, and more easily detect mis-

use of the social security, student allowance, and student loan systems.

Submissions close 24 September 2007. More information is at <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/SubmCalled/b/0/6/48SCSSsocialassist200709241-Social-Assistance-Debt-Prevention-and.htm>. To make a submission go to <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/HvYrSay/Submission/a/9/8/a984338c3a574fcbb2adafa93aadd14f.htm>

Land Transport Rules: Changes Proposed

Land Transport has released a "yellow draft" of Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2007 - Rule 10003 for public comment. The draft Rule proposes a number of amendments to the following Land Transport rules: Driver Licensing 1999, Heavy Vehicles 2004, Heavy-vehicle Brakes 2006, Passenger Service Vehicles 1999, Road User 2004, Traffic Control Devices 2004, Tyres and Wheels 2001, Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2002, Vehicle Lighting 2004 and Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002.

Submissions close 14 September 2007. For more information go to <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/consultation/omnibus-amendment-2007/index.html>

Landuse & Rural Telecommunication: Have Your Say

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is currently consulting rural women on issues affecting landuse in NZ today. It is seeking responses to the following questions:

- what rural residents see as the top five influences affecting land use in NZ;
- how the level of money supplies coming into pastoral farming and rural communities generally impacts on rural people;
- how rural people adapt to global warming causing extreme weather;
- who owns water and how it should be shared;
- whether the family farm is still viable or whether corporate businesses and lifestyle blocks will take their place (and the reasons for this); and
- what the public perception of farming is.

RWNZ also wants to hear your views on rural telecommunications, and is particularly interested in:

- how current telecommunications situation affect rural women and farming/rural business operations;
- the telecommunications improvements you would like to see for yourself and for rural areas generally; and
- the differences these improvements would make to your business, to productivity or to rural living as a whole?

Responses are due by 20 September. They go to policy@ruralwomen.org.nz. You can also forward your responses to Landuse/Telecommunications, Rural Women New Zealand, PO Box 12021, Thorndon, Wellington

Rural

Public Walking Access: Recommendations Accepted

The Government has accepted the recommendations of the independent panel that was set up to address walking access issues. It says its approach to securing new public walking access involving private land will be based on building on the existing goodwill and co-operation of landholders, rather than on confrontation and compulsion. It also says there is no "one-size fits all" solution as each issue is likely to have a distinct history and set of circumstances.

A Walking Access advisory board is to be set up to manage an establishment unit in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The board will also advise on the setting up of a walking access entity. It has been agreed in principle that this new body will be empowered to:

- consider all forms of access, but walking access will be a priority;
- acquire access over private land and fund the acquisition of such rights;
- consider the Walking Access Panel's additional recommendations on its functions; and
- take over responsibility for administering the NZ Walkways Act 1990.

Key Points

The only exceptions to the policy of negotiation and agreement with the landholder over access to private land are where access is achieved because of existing legal mechanisms, such as:

- esplanade reserves established on subdivision;
- marginal strips created on the disposal of Crown land, access created as part of tenure review of Crown pastoral lease land; and
- access created as a condition for consent to the acquisition of land by overseas persons.

The Government agrees that the priorities for negotiation over private land should be:

- areas along the coast where public access on both the foreshore and the dry margin is unavailable;
- restoring and realigning access along water margins where agreement can be reached between landholders, the Crown and/or local authorities;
- creating new access along water margins where none currently exists; and
- access to the coast where no public access is available.

Matters for negotiation of access over private land can include the carrying of firearms and access with dogs, bicycles and motor vehicles.

Issues relating to unformed legal roads:

- territorial authorities generally be required to retain unformed legal roads for possible future use by the public and that they be given more powers to manage their use to keep them clear of obstructions to appropriate uses;

- the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) will consider legislative changes, if any, in their review; and
- the establishment unit will work with territorial authorities and central government agencies to develop consistent and appropriate policies for managing unformed legal roads for access, and consider developing national guidelines on their administration.

Trigger mechanisms for new access:

- it was noted that the current ways of creating new public access are adequate;
- the effectiveness of Overseas Investment Act 2005 is to be reviewed in 2012; and
- the preferred means for locating new access across Crown pastoral lease land is by negotiation and agreement, but the Government has noted that there are other mechanisms under the Land Act 1948.

Funding will be sought to establish a contestable fund to enhance public access over private land and for other matters relevant to access. Local authorities and other organisations will be eligible to apply.

Agriculture & Forestry Outlook: Generally Positive

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's (MAF) annual forecasts for the primary sectors are predicting generally positive times ahead for agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

The Situation and Outlook for NZ Agriculture and Forestry (SONZAF) 2007 report forecasts that international commodity prices will be stronger over the next four years than they have for the past four.

Dairy payouts of between \$5 and \$5.50 per kilogram of milk solids are expected for the next four dairy seasons, based on the expectation that international dairy prices will remain higher than prices in recent years but not as high as prices at June 2007.

Farm-gate prices for beef are stronger this year and have benefited from strong returns in South Korea and Japan. While international prices for NZ beef are expected to soften over the forecast period, returns to farmers are expected to improve as the NZ dollar depreciates.

International prices for major horticulture crops have generally been strong enough to soften the effect of the high exchange rate. NZ horticulture producers' focus on maintaining and improving already high product quality is expected to sustain international prices for NZ produce over the next four years.

Log prices have risen in recent months, benefiting forestry owners who have suffered over recent years. This is expected to be the beginning of a sustained rise in log prices. Not all is positive in the forestry sector though, with the report showing several timber mills closing in recent months, caught in the combined effects of the high exchange rate, a weak US timber market, and the rising log prices. Recovery is expected to be slow, with the US housing market likely to remain depressed for some time.

Also on the down side, the report reflects that a second slaughter season of poor lamb schedule prices has resulted from static international prices and a high dollar. The outlook for lamb may, however, become more positive, with breeding ewe numbers declining in Europe.

As well as detailed forecasts the report contains an overview of the primary sector and a number of articles on some of the major issues facing the sectors, including sustainable development, productivity and "nanotechnology" (the use of materials or devices on an extremely small scale).

"The agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries are extremely important to NZ. They provide the core of our economy and determine much of our land use."

A copy of the report is available online at: <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/statistics-and-forecasts/sonzaf/2007/index.htm>

Apple Access: NZ Taking Australia to WTO

The Government is initiating WTO dispute settlement proceedings against Australia to resolve an apples dispute, and will now shortly request formal consultations with Australia under the WTO dispute settlement processes. NZ has not been able to export apples to Australia since 1921, when fire blight was discovered here. NZ has sought since 1986 to have the ban lifted, because studies have found no scientific evidence that commercially traded apples carry fire blight.

First steps in the WTO process are:

- consultation with Australia, which may take 2 months;
- if this is not successful, establishment of a panel of arbitrators;
- the parties make submissions to the panel, and oral hearings are held in Geneva; then
- the panel issues its report.

More information is at :www.wto.org

New Guidelines for Poultry Meat Farmers

A comprehensive new manual updating NZ poultry meat farmers on the latest biosecurity guidelines is now available. The manual sets out recommended minimum standards for meat chicken (broiler) production.

It is available on the PIANZ website (www.pianz.org.nz) and the NZFSA website (www.nzfsa.govt.nz).

Environment

Funding for Climate Change Research

New research and development funding totalling \$6.7 million a year from next year will be used to promote sustainability and help NZ respond to climate change.

A new contestable fund, the Low Carbon Energy Technologies Fund, of \$4 million a year, will be used to help bring forward the use of alternative energy sources such as liquid biofuels, biomass, solar, hydrogen, wind power, and low carbon fossil fuels. It aims to help move good ideas in the sustainable energy area to a stage where they are ready for development. The first priority of this fund will be supporting the development and use of new liquid biofuels, and developing new biofuels from NZ resources such as trees, seeds, plants, algae, and agricultural waste.

In addition, \$2.5 million per year from 2007/08 will fund research to help manage the likely effects of climate change on NZ.

New funding of \$200,000 per year will go on researching the effects of pest control on carbon storage in native forests. This research will identify the best places to manage animal pests to increase carbon storage, and help the Department of Conservation (DoC) to set up pilot projects with commercial investors to increase carbon storage on public conservation land.

Contact Energy Launches Carbon Offset Scheme...

Contact Energy has launched a new service that allows electricity consumers to offset their carbon emissions by paying online by credit card. The service is a joint venture between Contact and Landcare Research's CarboNZero programme, and it is the first of its kind by a NZ power company.

The online calculator starts by asking consumers to enter information such as how much electricity and fuel they use, how much waste they generate and whether or not they recycle or compost. Once all the information has been entered, the programme calculates the household's carbon emissions as well as the cost to offset those emissions. Consumers can then pay directly by credit card.

Contact estimates an average household using 10,000kWh of electricity a year, recycling as much waste as they can and with two medium-sized cars traveling about 12,000km per year, would generate about 8 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. It would cost about \$300 to offset these emissions for one year.

Earlier this year, the company launched an online Carbon Calculator, enabling consumers to measure their emissions, with tips on how to reduce them.

...and Meridian Energy: Carbon Neutral

Earlier this year Meridian Energy became certified as carbon neutral under Landcare's CarboNZero scheme. Certification requires Meridian Energy to accurately measure its carbon emissions from electricity generation, take active steps to reduce emissions and offset any remaining emissions by purchasing carbon credits.

The Waste Iceberg: Future Focus...

To date NZ's efforts to manage its waste have focussed on recycling paper and cans, and managing hazardous wastes. Now the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is preparing ways of dealing with the two largest waste streams: organic waste and construction and demolition waste.

Organic Waste

Organic waste accounts for 23% of all material landfilled. Much organic waste is green waste, which generally includes household garden waste and commercial landscaping waste. This waste produces methane gas, a major contributor to climate change. The Ministry will be encouraging households and industry to divert more green waste, food waste and commercial organic waste away from landfills to the organics recycling industry. There, producers will be able to use it to make inorganic fertilisers and pesticides and market them. This should create a big increase in demand for them and, in turn, this should increase the amount of organic waste that is reprocessed into useful products.

Construction and Demolition Waste

Construction and demolition (C&D) waste work will focus on improved monitoring and reporting of C&D waste going to landfills and cleanfills - specifically timber, concrete, gip board and plastic wrap. As well it will be working to identify and increase opportunities for reprocessing and reusing this waste.

The new waste plans also include:

- a network of public recycling stations;
- securing dedicated funding for further solid waste minimisation and management; and
- regulation back up for product stewardship schemes (where companies deal with the waste from the product they make).

MfE's environmentally sustainable initiatives (zero waste is one of six) are at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/sustainability/>

...& Recycling & Waste Management: Best Practice

A best practice guideline on recycling and waste management by territorial authorities has been developed by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED). Still in draft form, the document covers:

- advice on incorporating council and community waste minimisation objectives into contracts;
- information on preparing the most suitable contract for each council's situation;
- assistance in understanding the trade-offs which may have to be allowed for in a contract;
- guidance for development of the principal-contractor relationship; and
- tools for managing contracts effectively.

MED will be discussing the paper with councils before it is finalised.

A copy of the document can be downloaded from: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/best-practice-recycling-waste-mgmt-jul07/best-practice-recycling-waste-mgmt-jul07.pdf>

Change in PCE's Focus?

The new Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) has told a select committee that her office is being restructured and its focus is changing. She says that her office needs to

broaden its input into other parliamentary business, rather than just the business of the Government and Environment Committee. She has also indicated that the office wants to focus on the environment, engaging more with the business and farming sectors.

ERMA Decides "Proceed with Caution" with 1080

The anti-possum poison 1080 can continue to be used in NZ but there will be tighter controls for those spreading it, especially from the air, the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) has ruled. After considering an application to continue using the poison which attracted 1400 submissions, the authority says it can continue to be used so long as there is urgent attention to more monitoring, stronger controls and more research into alternatives for pest control.

More information is at: <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/news-events/focus/1080/index.html>

NZ's Five Worst Weeds

Water hyacinth, cape tulip, water lettuce, salvinia and Johnson grass are officially NZ's worst weeds. The five are all classed as notifiable organisms - this means that you must tell either the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry or the local biosecurity officer if you see any of these plants. They will then arrange to eradicate them as quickly as possible.

This is because they have been classified as an "intolerable threat to NZ" and are capable or potentially capable of causing unwanted harm to animal or plant production or market access.

More information - including pictures of these baddies - can be found at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=44508>

Tourism

Tourism: July Visitors...

Visitor numbers for July 2007 reached 173,046, up 3.6% (or 6,100) on July 2006, mainly because Australians have been coming here. Statistics NZ (SNZ) figures show. The figures for arrivals were: Australia: 76,152 - up 14.6%; UK: 13,512: - down 0.5%; USA: 13,824 - down 16.5%; Canada: 2,496 - down 1.9%; China: 7,728 - up 3.9%; Korea: 8,904 - down 11.0%; and Japan: 8,928 - down 12.3%.

...& Tourism's Looking Good

NZ Tourism Forecasts 2007-2013 released by the Ministry of Tourism indicate that visitor arrivals will grow at an average of 4% per annum to reach 3.2 million visitors, or 750,000 additional visitors per year, in seven years time.

Spending is expected to grow at a faster rate of 7.4% to reach \$10.5 billion. This represents \$4.1 billion in extra spending by international visitors in 2013 compared to \$6.4 billion now.

Main reasons for the positive forecasts include the likely weakening of the Kiwi dollar, positive economic outlooks in the majority of our key markets, and increased emphasis on quality in our tourism industry.

Other highlights in the report include:

- Australian arrivals are forecast to increase by 28.5% by 2013, surpassing the one million mark for the first time in 2010;
- visitors from China are forecast to overtake Japanese arrivals sooner than expected, to become our fourth largest market by 2008. Growth in arrivals from China are forecast to grow overall by 144% to reach 259,000 by 2013;
- domestic tourism is expected to grow but not as quickly as international tourism. Day and overnight trips are expected to increase on average by 0.8% per annum to 2013 (compared to 4% for international arrivals); and
- all regions in NZ are forecast to increase their tourism receipts by between 22% and 57%. Regions with higher exposure to international markets such as Queenstown, Auckland, Rotorua, Fiordland, Canterbury are generally expected to perform above the national average.

Tourism Sustainability Booklets Available

The Tourism Ministry has published eight sustainability guides to help tourism businesses develop while reducing their impact on the environment. The booklets offer tourism operators ideas and advice on energy efficiency, business management, minimising waste, water conservation, wastewater management, sustainable design, supply chain management and community relations. They have been designed to help people working in specific parts of the tourism industry, including accommodation, visitor attractions, transport, marine activities, fresh water activities, land activities - at one location, land activities - on the move, and food and wine.

The guides are downloadable free from www.tourism.govt.nz/sustainability

Health

New Health Targets

Nationwide health targets are to be set in ten health areas: immunisation, oral health, elective services, cancer waiting times, avoidable admissions, diabetes, mental health, healthier lifestyles, smoking and efficiency.

The Ministry of Health will be working in partnership with District Health Boards, service providers and communities to meet the targets.

More information is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/health-targets2007-08-aug07>

More Doctors to be Trained...

Forty more doctors are to be trained every year from next year, bringing to 365 the number of first year medical students studying at Otago and Auckland universities. Both universities have indicated they can handle 20 extra places each. Increasing the number of NZ medical graduates was a key recommendation of the Health Workforce Taskforce, a standing committee formed last year to provide advice on the health and disability sectors.

...& Encouraging Low Doctor's Fees

In the 2007/2008 year \$24.63 million in total is to be made available to GP practices that charge very low fees to their patients. It's hoped this will encourage more practices to join the "Very Low Cost" scheme. This scheme currently involves 23% of PHO practices and benefits over 900,000 people, many of whom have high needs. Standard consultation fees charged by very low cost access practices will remain at \$15.50 for adults 18 years and over, \$10.50 for children 6-17 years and remain zero for children under 6.

Where all the practices in a PHO are offering very low cost access, that PHO receives a similar increase in its funding for Services to Improve Access. Services to Improve Access funding enables PHOs offer such things as outreach services to make sure everyone can access quality primary healthcare.

Campaign to Change Attitudes to Family Violence

A nationwide campaign to change societal attitudes and behaviour towards the acceptability of family violence is currently being developed by Family and Community Services and the Families Commission, and will be launched in September.

The Campaign for Action on Family Violence aims to increase awareness and understanding of family violence, promote greater propensity to act on it and create a social climate that supports change. It includes three strands: community action, communication and research.

Elements of the campaign include:

- television advertisements that set a bottom line that family violence is never OK;
- website with information about personal change as well as information for community engagement and for media;
- brochures and information packs that support the website; and
- an 0800 Family Violence Information Line - operators are now being recruited and will receive training on how to handle calls.

For more information or to get involved with this campaign, or to be added to the mailing list contact Nick Farland, nick.farland@nzfamilies.org.nz or Elizabeth Goodwin on 04 916 3252, elizabeth.goodwin002@msd.govt.nz

Women's Experiences of Protection Orders

A report commissioned by the Ministry of Women's Affairs called "Living at the Cutting Edge" makes more than 40 recommendations on ways to improve the effectiveness of protection orders and other steps to address family violence. The report examines the experiences of 43 Maori, Pakeha, Pasifika and other ethnic minority women who were victims of male partner violence, the impact of the violence on them and their children, and their experiences of the justice system when they reached out for protection. The objectives of the project were to:

- identify and describe the experiences of a sample of women in obtaining protection orders, the impact of protection orders and the response to breaches of protection orders;
- identify those aspects that are working well (that is, positive experiences of protection orders); and
- identify areas for improvement including barriers that prevent women from applying for and obtaining protection orders.

The full report (published in two volumes) is at <http://research.waikato.ac.nz/>

ERO Report: Sexuality Education

A recent Education Review Office (ERO) report evaluating sexuality education for years 7 to 13 has found that most sex education programmes being taught in schools are not as effective as they should be. The report says that just over 60% of the schools evaluated used outside sexuality education providers, and there was concern that some church-approved providers may have avoided, glossed over, or mislead students in areas like contraception and sexual orientation.

A principal recommendation in the report is that young people be seen as partners in their own sexual education so it is "youth friendly" and involves adolescent and youth health professionals who have the skills to work effectively with young people.

The evaluation was commissioned by the Ministries of Women's Affairs, Health and Education as part of a cross-sector government approach to reduce the number of young people with sexually transmitted infections and unplanned teenage pregnancies, and to improve teenagers' abilities to avoid and deal with coercive and abusive behaviour.

More information is at <http://www.ero.govt.nz/ero/publishing.nsf/Content/28E2B1DC87DD8CD0CC257340001FCB9B?Open>

Health Outcomes Improve: Report

A new research report called "Tracking Disparity" shows that while inequality in health outcomes between ethnic groups and across income brackets grew in the 1980s and 1990s, it appears that it has now stopped growing and may have even started to narrow in most (but not all) areas. Amongst the findings:

- recent improvement in mortality has been greater for Maori than for Pacific groups, so Pacific mortality is now closer to Maori than to European and other groups;
- cardiovascular disease is becoming relatively less important (although it is still the leading cause of mortality), and cancer

relatively more important, as a contributor to both ethnic and income inequalities in mortality; but

- low income young adults have shown no reduction in mortality over the whole period (from 1981-2004), while high income young adults have shown a steady improvement, and this has led to widening of income inequality in mortality among young adults.

The report suggests that the narrowing of mortality inequalities (from 1996-99 to 2001-04) could reflect the recent narrowing in social inequalities between Maori and European/Other ethnic groups.

The report is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/tracking-disparity-inequalities-mortality-1981-2004?Open>

Violence Free Strategy: Ngati Kahungunu

A Ngati Kahungunu violence-free strategy has been developed. This aims to promote standards of practice authentic to Ngati Kahungunu, and empower whanau, hapu and iwi to embrace wellbeing. The project will involve research work with whanau, discussions with hapu on how to formulate appropriate solutions, and development of links with various government and other agencies working to eliminate family violence. The project is funded through Te Puni Kokiri's Kaitataki-a-Rohe programme.

Participation of Disabled in Sport: "No Exceptions"

The Hutt Valley is the first region in NZ to adopt a "No Exceptions" strategy which supports the inclusion of disabled people in all sport and physical recreation. Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC), the Hutt Valley District Health Board, Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council have all approved the strategy, and have each committed \$5000 to it. A declaration commits the District Health Board and the Hutt Valley local authorities to:

- encouraging and assisting local sport and recreation organisations to develop programmes for people with disabilities;
- guiding the development of sport and recreation facilities, programmes and services in order to maximise accessibility; and
- facilitating sponsorship of sport and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.

Woodburner Warrants of Fitness

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has been checking emissions and efficiency of woodburners (because smoky, inefficient woodburners are a health hazard), and of 35 burners assessed, 19 failed the evaluation. Of those that failed two had what were considered to be serious failures. The other 17 had minor or moderate problems. Some manufacturers fixed the problems within days, while others have taken longer. Only one manufacturer, Tropicair, remedied problems with burners installed in peoples houses. The other manufacturers undertook to remedy any problems in burners for sale. Some models still need re-verification to ensure they comply.

The full report, which names all moderate and serious failures, is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/air/national-wood-burner-review-jun07/index.html>

Gambling Amendment Bill Introduced

The Gambling Amendment Bill (No 2) contains many technical amendments to the Gambling Act (which came into force in 2004), and it also includes some minor policy changes to clarify the law and remove any uncertainties in it.

The Bill includes amendments to:

- widen the suitability criteria for gaming machine operators and licensed promoters to cover a wider range of offences and management prohibitions;
- make sure grant recipients to use pokie grants appropriately (amendments include making non-compliance an offence);
- extend conflict of interest safeguards to everyone who makes decisions on gaming machine grants, not just those with a major role in the management of the society;
- tighten up requirements on the banking of gaming machine profits;
- broaden regulation-making powers so problem gambling is better dealt with;
- introduce requirements to accurately disclose non-cash prizes (this is as a consumer protection measure); and
- provide more flexibility for clubs which want to merge their club and gaming machine operations (to address financial viability issues).

High Demand for Rapid HIV Testing

The introduction of a new rapid HIV test which gives a result in only 20 minutes has seen people flocking to AIDS Foundation centres around the country in record numbers. The FASTEST (Free Anonymous Simple Test) system, available only through NZ Aids Foundation (NZAF) centres, has resulted in a 200-300% increase in the Foundation's testing numbers since its introduction.

Rapid HIV testing was introduced to NZAF's Auckland centre in December 2006, and to Christchurch and Hamilton in May. Plans are underway to introduce the service to Wellington's Awhina Centre in time for World AIDS Day in December this year.

Obesity Spreads in Social Circles...

Obesity appears to spread from one person to another like a virus or a fad, researchers have reported in a first-of-its-kind study (reported in the New England Journal of Medicine).

The study, involving more than 12,000 people tracked over 32 years, found that social networks play a surprisingly powerful role in determining an individual's chances of gaining weight, transmitting an increased risk of becoming obese from wives to husbands, from brothers to brothers and from friends to friends.

The researchers found that when one spouse became obese, the other was 37% more likely to do so in the next two to four years, compared with other couples. If a man became obese, his brother's risk rose by 40%.

The risk climbed even more sharply among friends - between 57 and 171%, depending on whether they considered each other mutual friends. Moreover, friends affected friends' risk even when they lived far apart, and the influence cascaded through three degrees of separation before petering out, the researchers found.

The researchers are not saying that obesity is literally caused by a virus or some other pathogen, or that factors such as a poor diet, a lack of exercise or a biological propensity are unimportant. Rather, the findings suggest that once a person becomes obese for whatever reason, it may make it more socially acceptable for people close to him or her to gain weight, and that new social norms can proliferate quickly.

Obesity Facts:

- globally, there are more than 1 billion overweight adults, at least 300 million of them obese;
- obesity and overweight pose a major risk for chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of cancer;
- the main causes are increased consumption of energy-dense foods high in saturated fats and sugars, and reduced physical activity; and
- the obesity epidemic is not restricted to industrialised societies; this increase is often faster in developing countries than in the developed world.

... & Combatting Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes: New Report

Parliament's health select committee has just released a report saying it wants the Government to drive changes in the way food is labelled, promoted and sold - and to regulate if the food industry does not respond. The committee has also recommended that a ministerial committee devise a national strategy against obesity and diabetes epidemics. A commissioner would be appointed to oversee the plan and champion the cause.

In total, the committee made 54 recommendations to the Government, including a traffic light-style labelling of foods and extending restrictions on television advertising of unhealthy foods to 8.30pm. Other ideas from the committee include:

- paid parental leave extended to six months to encourage breastfeeding, which is known to reduce the risk of childhood obesity;
- schools expected to promote healthy food and exercise in all respects, including commercial sponsorship and canteen supplies (also, nutrition and cooking would be part of the core curriculum so all children learn to make healthy meals); and
- the fruit-in-schools programme would be extended to all schools.

The Government has 90 days to respond to the report.

Education

B4 School Health Checks Announced

A NZ-wide programme of ready for school health checks for 60,000 Kiwi kids will roll out from February next year. The "B4 School" programme, which will be piloted with up to 1000 four-year olds in Wanganui and South Auckland, has been designed to ensure that all NZ children are prepared and supported to learn

before they walk through the school gates. The programme is aimed at identifying any health, behavioural, social, or developmental concerns which could affect a child's ability to learn, for example a hearing problem or communication difficulty.

Competent Children, Competent Learners Study

A report from the Competent Children, Competent Learners study shows that aspects of early childhood education were still making a contribution to competency levels when the pre-schoolers were 16 years old. The study followed the progress of around 500 students from late pre-school through into secondary school. It found that that positive influences on adolescent competencies can be attributed to:

- teachers who respond to the needs of individual children;
- teachers who guide and encourage children in activities;
- teachers who ask children open-ended questions;
- teachers who frequently join children in their activities; and
- centres which encourage print awareness in children's activities.

The young people who had attended an ECE centre which rated highly on the quality of the interactions between the teacher and the child, and centres which had moderate or high ratings for providing a range of books and printed material, had higher scores on average for literacy, numeracy, and logical problem-solving.

The report is on the Ministry of Education's "Education Counts" website
<http://educationcounts.edcentre.govt.nz>

Boost for International Education in NZ...

One of the country's biggest foreign exchange earners, international education, is to receive a \$10 million boost from the Government over the next four years. The \$10 million will fund:

- \$3.4 million to enhance the international recognition and value of NZ qualifications for study and employment purposes;
- \$3.96 million for developing and putting in place the NZ Educated brand strategy for the NZ international education sector in 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, and provides an ongoing increase in the budget for generic education promotions activities; and
- \$2.4 million over four years for education diplomacy activity and to fund an education counsellor for the Gulf States (this counsellor joins a network of education counsellors based in Washington DC, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing, Santiago [Chile] and Delhi; a counsellor is also planned for Seoul).

...& International Education Often Cheaper in NZ

The cost of an education for international students is often cheaper in NZ, or otherwise very competitive with English speaking competitors in the global education market, according to an analysis done for Education NZ. The research by Deloitte, showed that:

- tertiary tuition fees at a Bachelors level were markedly less than Britain and the USA, and generally less than Australia and Canada;
- secondary costs were less than other countries;
- PhD costs were significantly less due to NZ's international fees policies at this level;
- Masters level costs were not generally less due primarily to differing course lengths across countries;
- English language costs were competitive;
- Canada was the country that had the most competitive price structures along with NZ; and
- Britain and USA were almost always significantly more expensive than Australia, Canada and NZ.

The Education NZ website is at: <http://www.educationnz.org.nz/>

Tongan Language Now in Curriculum

The 2006 Census showed that although there are around 50,000 people usually resident in NZ of Tongan ethnicity, there are less than 30,000 speakers of Tongan in NZ. Tongan has recently been added to the curriculum, as part of the Government's plan to increase the number of all NZers able to speak a foreign language - particularly their native tongue. The inclusion of Tongan in the curriculum follows the recent launch of a new school curriculum for teaching Vagahau Niue, which joined the Samoan and Cook Island Maori language curricula.

Employment

NZ Labour Force: At All-time High...

Statistics NZ (SNZ) says that in the June 2007 quarter, the labour force participation rate was at an all-time high. The SNZ survey also recorded the highest number of people in employment and in the labour force, as well as the lowest equal unemployment rate. This showed labour market conditions continued to remain tight over the June 2007 quarter.

The number of people in the labour force increased by 12,000 (0.5%) in the June 2007 quarter to 2,239,000, greater than the 7,100 (0.2%) increase in the working-age population. This resulted in a 0.2% increase in the labour force participation rate to 68.8%, the highest recorded since the survey began in 1986. The number of people not in the labour force decreased by 4,000 (0.4%) in the June 2007 quarter.

Employment increased by 14,000 (0.7%), to reach 2,158,000 in the June 2007 quarter, the highest level recorded since the survey began in 1986. Over this period, part-time employment grew by 8,000 (1.8%), and full-time employment grew by 7,000 (0.4%). There was growth in both female and male employment over the quarter, with increases of 0.9% and 0.5%, respectively.

The unemployment rate dropped 0.1% over the June 2007 quarter to 3.6%. This is equal to the lowest rate ever recorded by

the survey. The number of people unemployed decreased by 2,000 (2.9%), wholly driven by a drop in male unemployment, while female unemployment remained constant.

Unadjusted unemployment rates decreased for all ethnic groups over the quarter. There were no significant movements in the unemployment rate for any ethnic group on an annual basis. The unemployment rates for the June 2007 quarter were: 7.8% for Pacific peoples, 7.0% for Maori, 4.7% for the 'Other' ethnic group, and 2.6% for European.

...& This Means Skill Shortages

A June quarter report from the Department of Labour (DoL) on skills in the labour market says that with a low unemployment rate comes a smaller pool of people available to recruit from. It suggests that employers consider retraining and upskilling existing staff before looking for new people; also that they consider offering attractive terms of employment.

Skill shortages are described as a "long-term feature" of the job market, with conditions expected to remain tight.

More information is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/lmr/lmr-skills.asp>

Regional Labour Market Reports Available

Twelve recently released quarterly regional labour market reports draw on statistics from the Department of Labour's Job Vacancy Monitor, the Ministry of Social Development's beneficiary records and Statistics NZ's Household Labour Force Survey.

Of NZ's regions Taranaki has shown the strongest labour force participation growth rate, increasing from 67.1% last year to 69.3% in the year to June 2007. Taranaki also saw the largest rise in employment rates, up from 64.7% in the year to June 2006 to 66.9% in the year to June 2007 (the strengthening oil and gas industry in the region had a positive impact on the labour market). In Bay of Plenty Employment growth in employment was up 13.0%, and in Waikato it was up 8.9%.

The largest falls in unemployment rates were in Northland (from 5.0% in the year to June 2006 to 4.3% in the year to June 2007), Bay of Plenty (from 4.1% to 3.5%) and Wellington (from 4.5% to 4.1%).

The reports are available at: <http://www.dol.govt.nz/lmr/regional/joint/>

Housing

Leaky Home Claimants Can Seek General Damages

The Weathertight Homes Resolution Services (Remedies) Amendment Bill has now been passed. This Bill amends the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act (WHRS) by clarifying that leaky home claimants can seek general damages as

compensation for any mental anxiety or stress. To date, 21% of WHRS settlements have included general damages, and two previous District Court appeal decisions also interpreted the WHRS.

Retirement Villages Information Now at DBH

The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) now has responsibility for promoting education on retirement village issues and publishing information about such issues, and advising the Government on issues relating to retirement villages. Both were previously the responsibility of the Retirement Commission.

More information about the way retirement villages operate is at <http://www.sorted.org.nz/life-stages/60plus/retirement-villages>

Business

A Global Economy: Risks & Opportunities

A working paper from Treasury takes a look at the risks and opportunities attached to the current pace of "globalisation" of the world's economies.

"Globalisation" refers to the trend towards increasing the rate at which the world's economies are integrating - or fitting together - and it is one of the largest forces, if not the largest force, affecting world economies at present. It is very likely that the pace and the extent of globalisation will continue to have a major impact on world, regional and NZ economies - and very unlikely that the present rate of increase in globalisation will reverse.

Treasury says that globalisation presents both risks and opportunities for this country.

NZ business can achieve significant benefits from future globalisation. The challenge will be to ensure that we are one of the adaptive economies that can successfully adopt policies that make the most of the benefits and minimise the risks. We need to consider policies that promote a globally competitive environment for NZ businesses; and we also need to consider what domestic policy looks like when it is viewed through an "international competitiveness" lens.

Examples of policies that would be helpful include:

- improving the quality of NZ's education system so we have a well-trained and internationally recognised skilled workforce for NZ firms;
- boosting levels of innovation in NZ (our current levels of research and development and numbers of patents being filed are below those of other OECD nations);
- continuing to improve NZ's infrastructure (for example, in the areas of electricity and rail);
- evaluating current regulation and competition policies to make sure they are effective, and have little negative impact on the international competitiveness of the NZ business environment;

- developing and maintaining a NZ taxation system that is competitive in relation to systems in other countries; and
- pursuing trade liberalisation in our key export markets. As well as seeking new markets and widening our range of exports, NZ will need to make the most of opportunities in areas where it already has advantages compared to other countries, e.g. areas of agriculture like dairying.

You can download the Treasury Working Paper 07/05 from: <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/workingpapers/2007/wp07-05.asp>

The tool kits are available on the Department of Labour website www.dol.govt.nz

Free Trading Negotiations: Gulf States

NZ has begun the first round of negotiations for a free trade agreement with the six nation Gulf Cooperation Council. The Gulf states - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman - represent a major trading partner for NZ; NZ exports to the GCC states were last year worth nearly \$800 million.

New Manufacturing Advisory Group

A private-public sector advisory group called The Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) has recently been set up to advise the Government on issues relevant to the continuing development of the manufacturing sector. It will also be looking at how aware the sector is of support available from government, whether that support best meets the needs of the sector, and at ways of facilitating adoption of sustainable business practice. The group will be co-chaired by Business NZ Chief Executive Phil O'Reilly and Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union National Secretary Andrew Little.

A Food and Beverage product development project is also to be established (a third of manufacturing output is in the food and beverage sector).

Shopping Kiwi Made

Shoppers are being urged to put Kiwi made on their shopping list in a multi-media advertising campaign. Some 50 retailers and 112 manufacturers have signed up as members with Buy NZ Made, which licenses use of the kiwi in a triangle logo and offers free point of sale materials.

NZ Company Rocketing Away

Start-up company Rocket Lab plans to send NZ's first rocket into space and this could open up new opportunities for NZ's aviation sector. The company intends to provide innovative, low cost solutions for the space industry which it hopes will lead to creation of a respected sub-orbital space industry in NZ.

Work Life Balance Options

Two options offering flexible working arrangements and work-life balance in business are available online. One targets small and medium-sized businesses, and the other is designed for larger companies.

The options have been developed from the experience of business owners and managers where staff have been using flexible work arrangements, such as roster management, job sharing or working from home.

Money Matters

Wills Bill Passed

A new Wills Act 2007 replaces the old-fashioned language of the original Act, and also incorporates all the changes and modifications made to wills legislation over the last 170 years. The Act also modernises certain aspects of the law on wills, including reducing the risk of a will-maker's wishes being undermined by a poorly drafted or badly executed will. As well:

- the existing rule that marriage revokes a prior will (unless the will was made in contemplation of that marriage) is extended to civil unions;
- the existing rule that dissolution of a marriage revokes dispositions to a former spouse is extended to dissolution of a civil union;
- previously, a formal separation order prevented a person inheriting from his or her estranged spouse or civil union partner if that person died intestate, but not if he or she died leaving a valid will. The Act resolves this anomaly by providing that an estranged spouse or civil union partner will also be disinherited under the deceased's will if there was a separation order in force at the time of death; and
- will-makers are no longer required to sign at the end of the will. Under the new Act a will is valid regardless of where it is signed, though it will still need to be properly witnessed.

People who already have up-to-date wills will not need to change them.

Borrowing from Money Lenders: Report

A research report called "Pacific Consumers' Behaviour and Experience in Credit Markets", that refers particularly to the "fringe lending" market has been published by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MCA). The report outlines the experiences and behaviour of Pacific consumers when they are borrowing money from "fringe" credit companies. It indicates that people commonly borrow to pay for household expenses, cars and other large items, and for social and cultural obligations.

The Ministry says that, while most loans are repaid, the need for easily accessed cash loans, and inability to access cheaper credit options, leaves people exposed to high cost and, potentially oppressive credit contracts.

Note: where people are struggling to make ends meet they should contact Work and Income - whether they are a current client or not - to see if they are eligible for assistance.

The report is at <http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/policylawresearch/research/pacific-consumers/report/index.html>

Charities Eligible for KiwiSaver Tax Credit

Charities and other tax-exempt organisations that make employer contributions to KiwiSaver will be eligible for employer tax credits. Employers will be required to make a contribution for each employee who has deductions for KiwiSaver or complying superannuation funds made from his or her gross pay. The accompanying employer tax credit, which is also part of the proposed legislation, will help offset the impact on employers of compulsory contributions on behalf of their staff who are members of KiwiSaver or a complying superannuation fund. The tax credit will fully offset the cost of compulsory employer contributions for salaries of up to \$104,000 in year one, and \$26,000 a year when compulsory employer contributions are fully phased in.

SuperGold Card Here

Over half a million SuperGold Cards are currently being sent free to all NZ residents 65 years or older, and to those under 65 who receive Superannuation, a non-qualified spouse entitlement, or a Veterans' Pension.

The card offers discounts for seniors with 188 participating businesses, and access to concessions on government and local authority services. It will carry the holder's name, a number and whether the holder receives NZ Super or a Veteran's Pension, or has a Community Services Card. A photograph for ID purposes is optional.

More information is available at www.supergold.govt.nz, and you can also call freephone 0800-25 45 65 if you have a query

The Law

New Evidence Act in Place

A new Evidence Act came into effect on 1 August. The purposes of the act are to: secure fair determination of proceedings by providing for facts to be established by the application of logical rules; recognise the importance of the Bill of Rights Act; avoid unjustifiable expense and delay; and enhance access to the law of evidence. Amongst its provisions:

- jurors will have the power to question witnesses during trials, by putting questions in writing to the judge;
- the discretion to excuse spouses, de facto partners and civil union couples from giving evidence one another has gone;
- the hearsay rule has been simplified, and a large category of statements (basically those made by a testifying witness) - would now be defined as non-hearsay and admissible;
- it will be more difficult for prosecutors to cross-examine defendants on their previous convictions; and
- a specific privilege covering journalists, an expanded privilege for ministers of religion, and changes to legal professional privilege.

Search and Surveillance: Law Commission Report

A Law Commission report called "Search and Surveillance Powers" recently tabled in Parliament includes 300 recommendations for clarifying, rationalising and codifying the present law relating to the search and surveillance powers of law enforcement agencies. Amongst these are police having new powers to enter homes without warrants where there is evidence of a crime carrying a sentence of more than 14 years jail; development of a single set of rules requiring warrants for all electronic surveillance; and tighter rules about what police can do with material seized as evidence. At the moment customs officers, but not police, can search people while they are executing warrants. The report recommends that police should have the same power, with an explicit ability to frisk people if they are believed to be carrying evidence sought, or a weapon.

The report is at http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_96_358_Part_1_R97%20part-1.pdf

Family Court Matters Bill

A Family Courts Matters Bill recently introduced to Parliament would increase the openness of the Family Courts and:

- allow accredited news media reporters to attend hearings of certain proceedings;
- allow support persons to attend proceedings with the Judge's permission; and
- allow anyone to publish a report on Family Court proceedings, providing there is no information identifying vulnerable persons or children without leave of the Court.

The Bill makes a number of minor process and procedure changes designed to improve the operation of the Family Courts. These include extending the availability of counselling to grandparents and other family members to help resolve matters about parenting orders and parenting agreements.

It also takes the first step towards introducing non-judge led (or family) mediation on a permanent basis. The idea behind this is that less complex family disputes would be diverted away from formal court proceedings and quickly resolved. Mediation is particularly helpful for resolving matters about the care of children as it helps separating couples sort out arrangements that will work best for them.

Traditional Intellectual Property Rights Publication

The Ministry of Economic Development has recently produced a publication on intellectual property rights aimed specifically at Maori communities. "Te Mana Taumaruru Matauranga" is a free resource, which provides practical information on the opportunities, limitations and risks of using the current intellectual property system to protect and promote matauranga Maori. The guide comprises of a booklet and a CD-ROM. The guide is part of stage one of the Ministry's traditional knowledge work programme.

An online version of the booklet is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC___28180.aspx. Information on the traditional knowledge work programme is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary___1937.aspx

Internet

Anti-Spam Law Now in Place

The Unsolicited Electronic Messages (UEM) Act 2007 came into effect on 5 September. "Unsolicited commercial electronic messages" are spam and the idea is to make sure that NZ does not become a "spam haven". The legislation will affect unsolicited messages in NZ - that's about 1% of all spam received here (99% of spam originates from overseas).

The UEM Act will:

- prohibit spam with a NZ link (i.e. messages sent to, from or within NZ);
- require commercial electronic messages to include accurate information about the person who authorised the sending of the message and an "unsubscribe" function so a recipient can tell the sender that no further messages are to be sent to them;
- prohibit "address-harvesting" software being used to create address lists for sending unsolicited commercial electronic messages; and
- deter people from using information and communication technologies inappropriately.

The law covers email, instant messaging, SMS and MMS (text and image-based mobile phone messaging) of a commercial nature. It does not cover faxes, Internet pop-ups or voice telemarketing.

An Anti-spam Unit has been set up at the Department of Internal Affairs to offer advice and investigate complaints about spam.

Note: The UEM Act is mainly concerned about prohibiting unsolicited commercial electronic messages. If newsletters are solely factual (including no links to promoting or marketing goods, services etc) they are not covered by the new Act.

Businesses and individual people can lay complaints about spam with the Anti-Spam Compliance Unit. More information is at <http://www.antispam.govt.nz/>, or email info@antispam.govt.nz

- All bills that Parliament is calling for submissions on are listed at <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/SubmCalled/>. The site gives a summary of what the bill is about and a link to the bill itself.
- A new government business advice website at www.business.govt.nz is offering up-to-date business information, checklists that will enable business people keep track of what they need to do to grow their business, and online training resources. Users can keep track of events and dates of importance to them, set alerts, bookmark favourite topics and subscribe to a business e-newsletter. Business people can also continue to access advice about where to find information relevant to their business from the network of walk-in Business Information Zone (BIZ) offices around NZ and the freephone Biz service at 0800 42 49 460.
- A new version of the government employment website [jobs.govt.nz](http://www.jobs.govt.nz) is now up and running. The main channel for applications for State sector positions for the past decade, it has published more than 37,500 jobs. Over the past twelve

months 7550 vacancies have been advertised (there is no charge for advertising), and the site has had nearly 90,000 visitors since late July.

- You can now download Office 2003 and Windows XP in Maori for free at <http://www.microsoft.com/nz/Maori/default.mspx>. Microsoft NZ, the Maori Language Commission (Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Maori) and Waikato University's School of Maori and Pacific Development have developed Maori Language Interface Packs for Windows XP and Office 2003. They enable you to install a reo Maori layer on top of an existing installation of Microsoft Windows XP and standard Microsoft Office applications - including Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint. You can also request a CD copy of the Language Interface Pack by calling 0800 800 004. There is a postage and packaging cost of \$15.
- The new Family Violence section of the Ministry of Health website at www.moh.govt.nz/familyviolence includes a wide range of resources, guidelines and reports, questions and answers, and related links. The site features guidelines for elder abuse and neglect; case studies from the violence intervention programme; and a report on violence and young people.
- The Wahine Whanau Whenua programme has a new website at www.WahineWhanauWhenua.co.nz. The programme began in 2003 with funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's (MAF's) Sustainable Farming Fund. Objectives of the programme are to: uphold Maori land and business development; acknowledge the valued role of Maori women as shareholders of land; celebrate their contributions to sustainable farming and agriculture, past and present; and support their learning, training and development aspirations for the future.
- An educational resource called Wise Up DVD is at http://www2.cph.co.nz/healthychristchurch/viewdocument.aspx?refID=5_1500. It features children talking about strategies for dealing with bullying, negative language, peer pressure, new parents coming into the family, and parents arguing.
- A "What is Advocacy?" fact sheet from the Charities Commission is at www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/charities-news-april-2007.htm. This sets out the criteria for determining the place of advocacy in a charity's activities.
- Statistics NZ Information for Free. Statistics NZ's "Area Unit Population" estimates at www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/table-builder can now be downloaded off the Internet for free. Population estimates for all 1,927 area units covering NZ, each of which is about the size of a suburb, are the most up-to-date estimates available of an area's population. Calculated annually, they include breakdowns of age-group and sex, and are useful tools for business planning purposes such as deciding where to locate a retail outlet or how best to allocate franchise areas. Other Statistics NZ products will continue to be rolled out under the Making More Information Freely Available programme over the next 12 months or so. The next product to be made freely available will be the Quarterly Regional Review on 21 September.
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) can go to www.grg.org.nz or contact the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust on (09) 480 6530. GRG aim to provide support to grandparents who are primary caregivers, and also provide opportunities for the grandchildren to meet others in the same situation.

Arts & Culture

Big Support for Public Broadcasting...

The first ever survey of attitudes towards public broadcasting finds an overwhelming majority of Kiwis agree that it contributes to their cultural and social value of NZ.

These results come from a Ministry for Culture and Heritage analysis of people's perceptions of the importance and contribution of public broadcasting. Some 82% of those surveyed agree that public broadcasting promotes our culture and way of life, 84% say it educates a range of people, and 85% say it encourages informed discussion and debate on issues of public interest. Other findings include:

- 81% agree it reflects Maori interests, culture and language;
- 91% agree that public broadcasting presents important NZ and overseas events as they happen; and
- 89% say it provides informative news and current affairs.

The findings came from a telephone survey of 500 people in June this year.

The full report is available at www.mch.govt.nz

...& Looking at the Value of Cultural Industries

A new \$50,000 pilot project aims to link humanities research with government priorities. The study will examine the contribution of government-funded cultural industries, like film, television, literature, museums, and performing arts, to NZ, and to driving our creative industries. The study is a partnership between the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Fishing

Didymo: Check, Clean, Dry Whitebait Nets

For most of NZ the whitebait season got underway on Wednesday 15 August and will run until 30 November. On the West Coast the whitebait season is from 1 September to 14 November and on the Chatham Islands it is from 1 December till the end of February.

This season whitebaiters are being urged to clean nets and other gear between waterways to prevent the spread of didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*). Didymo can cover river bottoms with unusually large mats which can shred and float downstream, clogging water intakes and fishing nets.

Before leaving a waterway, fishing gear - especially corners of nets - should be checked and cleared of clumps of algae or debris.

Ways of cleaning whitebaiting equipment (tyres, trailers buckets as well as nets) include using a 5% solution of dishwash liquid or nappy cleaner to saturate the equipment. Leave it on for at least a minute to make sure that trapped didymo cells are killed. You can also use a 2% by volume salt solution (one small cup (200 ml) of table salt to 10 litres of water) but you need to leave items to soak for ten minutes.

More information on getting rid of didymo is on MAF's Biosecurity NZ website at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pest-and-disease-response/pests-and-diseases-watchlist/didymosphenia-geminata/cleaning>. The whitebait regulations for all NZ except the West Coast are at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultiPageDocumentTOC.aspx?id=39377> Whitebait regulations for the West Coast are at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultiPageDocumentTOC.aspx?id=39371>

Managing High Seas Fisheries: Best Practice

A new report sets out guidelines for managing the world's high seas fisheries, outlining current best practice in the world's Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

The report, entitled "Recommended Best Practices for Regional Fisheries Management Organisations", was commissioned by the governments of NZ, Australia, Canada and the UK, in partnership with World Wildlife Fund International. It covers issues to do with excess capacity in the world's fishing fleets; allocating fishing opportunities on a fair and sustainable basis; and managing the wider ecosystem effects of fishing.

The report is on the Ministry of Fisheries' website www.fish.govt.nz, or at Chatham House Publishing at www.chathamhouse.org.uk

General

Seasonal Climate Outlook: August-October 2007

NIWA's National Climate Centre says conditions for the coming three months are likely to tend average or dry over much of the country, with only a 15-20% chance of wet (above normal) conditions in the South Island. That picture reverses in the north and north-east of the North Island, however, where there is only a 20% chance of below normal rainfall.

Some of the specifics are:

- **Temperature:** Air temperatures are likely to be average or above average in most regions, but tending below average in the eastern South Island. Despite the overall temperature expectation, cold outbreaks typical of late winter and early

spring will nevertheless occur from time to time. Sea surface temperatures are expected to remain above average around the North Island, but are likely to near or below average around South Island coasts; and

- **Rainfall, soil moisture, and stream flows:** Normal or below normal rainfall is expected in most regions, except the north and northeast of the North Island, where normal or above normal rainfalls are likely. Normal soil moisture and streamflows are expected everywhere except for the east of the South Island, where normal or below normal soil moisture and streamflows are expected.

Regional predictions for the next three months are:

- **Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty:** Average or above average seasonal temperatures are likely with normal or above normal rainfall. Normal soil moisture and streamflows are likely.
- **Central North Island, Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu and Wellington:** Average or above average temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall or below normal rainfall, soil moisture and streamflows are likely.
- **Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa:** Average seasonal temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall is likely overall, but tending above normal in the north of the region. Normal soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely.
- **Nelson, Marlborough, Buller:** Average temperatures are likely, with normal or below normal rainfall. soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely.
- **West Coast, Alps and Foothills, Inland Otago, Southland:** Average or above average temperatures are likely. Below normal or normal rainfall is likely, with normal soil moisture levels streamflows are likely.
- **Coastal Canterbury, East Otago:** Below average or average temperatures are likely. Normal or below normal rainfall is likely, with normal or below normal soil moisture levels and streamflows likely.

Maori King: Commemorations & Celebrations

After a week-long commemoration honouring the death of Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, the new Maori King Tuheitia Paki has marked the first anniversary of his coronation with his first public speech. This emphasised the importance of education and lifelong learning as an essential ingredient for success in all worlds.

Increased Use of Maori Language

Survey results released during Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori (Maori Language Week) show an increase in the proficiency levels of Maori able to speak te reo, with a total of 52% of all Maori able to speak more than a few words or phrases. The survey also showed that more parents were conversing with their children in te reo.

However, we still need more Maori language teachers and also need to make sure pre-school and primary teachers are trained to enable them to deliver basic Maori language instruction.

Maori Trustee: Proposals for Stand-Alone Agency

The Government has been consulting with Maori on proposals to change the Maori Trustee and Maori Trust Office. The Maori Trustee has a range of statutory duties to do with administering Maori land and assets on behalf of owners who are not known or who haven't succeeded to their interests. The Trustee also administers land or assets where the owners have asked the Trustee to do so, manages funds held in trust for owners, and administers a number of reserves created in the 19th century. The proposed changes would:

- set up the Maori Trustee as a stand-alone organisation, separate from Te Puni Kokiri (the Maori Trustee is currently an appointment conferred on a senior Te Puni Kokiri staff member, and staff of the Maori Trust Office are Te Puni Kokiri employees);
- involve a funding agreement between the Maori Trustee and the Crown; and
- introduce new public funding reporting requirements.

An information sheet is at <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/publications/docs/factsheets/mto-proposedchanges-2007-en.pdf>

World Rural Women's Day: 15 October

World Rural Women's Day (WRWD) is 15 October, and this year the theme is: "The right to food: rural women produce and provide". A snapshot shows:

- there are at least 1.6 billion rural women (mainly farmers) in the world: this is more than a quarter of the world's population;
- women produce on average more than half of all the food that is grown: up to 80% in Africa, 60% in Asia, between 30 and 40% in Latin American and Western countries.
- women own 2% of the land, and receive 1% of all agricultural credit;
- 5% of all agricultural extension resources are directed to women;
- women represent two thirds of all illiterate people; and
- the number of rural women living in poverty has doubled since 1970.

More information is at <http://www.rural-womens-day.org/>

Free Tramping for Under 18s on NZ's Great Walks

Hut and campsite fees for children and young people aged under 18 will be free from July next year on NZ's nine Great Walks: Lake Waikaremoana, Tongariro Northern Circuit, Heaphy Track, Abel Tasman Coast Track, Kepler Track, Routeburn Track, Milford Track, the Rakiura Track, and the Whanganui Journey.

The move is designed to reduce the barriers to more young people walking NZ's most spectacular tracks with their family, their friends or with school groups.

Major Events Management Bill Passed

The Major Events Bill ensures that NZ is in line with other countries by providing protection against "ambush marketing" - the actions of companies or advertisers who unfairly try to "free ride" off and capture these sponsorship benefits for themselves without the authorisation and without paying anything. It applies to major events, sporting or otherwise, that are of international significance that meet strict criteria and are publicly declared to be "major events". Without this legislation, NZ would risk losing out on hosting rights for major events.

Also banned under the bill is pitch invasion and behaviour such as bottle-throwing which disrupt international sporting events. Pitch invasion will be punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months (unchanged), or a fine not exceeding \$5000 (previously \$2000).

Mauao (Mt Maunganui) Title to be Transferred to Iwi

The Government has signed an agreement with Tauranga Moana iwi and Waitaha to transfer Mauao to the iwi of Tauranga Moana and to recognise the importance of the mountain to Waitaha. The Crown has previously agreed that the title of Mauao (Mt Maunganui), a landmark mountain, be returned to the local iwi and a preliminary agreement was initialled in July 2007.

Under the agreement signed by the Crown and iwi, Tauranga City Council will continue to manage the historic reserve and the transfer has the council's support. The public's rights to access and use Mauao will continue unaffected. The transfer does not form part of any Treaty settlement.

Changes to Geographic Board's Role

Changes signalled in the NZ Geographic Board (Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Bill which recently had its first reading in Parliament include:

- the Board's place-naming role will be widened to include undersea features of NZ's continental shelf, such as submarine volcanoes and canyons;
- its role in the naming of places in Antarctica will be formalised;
- it will have a new function of publishing an online gazetteer of official geographic names containing location and historic information;
- the assigning or altering of official names of suburbs and localities will eventually go to local government, but the board will retain this function in the meantime; and
- the public are to be given a new opportunity to comment on proposed names for Crown protected areas managed by the Department of Conservation.

Accommodation Supplement: Review Results

During August and September last year MSD undertook public consultation on a Review of the Accommodation Supplement. Eight workshops were held around the country and feedback received from over 300 people and organisations. Participants were asked to identify what worked and didn't work with the Accommodation Supplement and invited to suggest improvements.

A summary of the responses is now available from the MSD website www.msd.govt.nz by typing "Accommodation Supplement" in the search panel or you can access the report via the NZHC website www.hnzc.co.nz

SAGES: Training Older Mentors

The SAGES programme recently received additional funding to set up two more SAGES programmes in 2007/8. This will bring the total number of community organisations offering it to 17. Under SAGES older people are trained as home and life skills mentors to help families and individuals in their community develop their skills in home management, cooking, budgeting and parenting.

The SAGES programmes currently being offered around the country include:

- Kaipara SAGES - Dargaville Ngati Hine Health Trust - Kawakawa;
- Salvation Army South Auckland - South Auckland;
- Wairaka Kokiri Trust - Whakatane;
- Te Runanga O Ngai Tamawhariua - Katikati;
- Te Ha O Te Whanau - Opotiki;
- SuperGrans Palmerston North - Palmerston North;
- Bush SuperGrans - Pahiatua;
- SuperGrans Horowhenua - Levin;
- SuperGrans Wairarapa - Masterton;
- SuperGrans Lower Hutt - Lower Hutt;
- Presbyterian Support Central - Wellington;
- Te Korowai Trust - Nelson;
- Presbyterian Support North Canterbury - Rangiora; and
- Supergrans Dunedin - Dunedin.

More information is at: <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/strong-families/sages.html>

Cellphones (Not) in Prisons

The Corrections Department, Vodafone and Telecom have reached an agreement for action on ways to help put unauthorised cellphones in prisons out of action following successful trials of blocking technology. Hawkes Bay Prison will be the first prison to have the blocking technology installed.

Party Pills on Way Out?

The Misuse of Drugs (Classification of BZP) Amendment Bill has been introduced. This bill would ban BZP and related party pills. Anyone supplying, manufacturing and exporting these products will be liable to a penalty of up to a maximum of eight years imprisonment from 18 December 2007. The Bill, which has a commencement date of 18 December 2007, includes provision for a six month amnesty for possession of less than five grams for personal use.

BSA Ethnic Community Advisory Panel

The Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) has a four-person board which adjudicates complaints about information broadcast. Annually it determines an average of 200 complaints of which about 25% are upheld.

The BSA recently appointed a 10-member community advisory panel to give it advice and feedback on the kinds of issues that affect ethnic communities in what they see and hear on television and radio: the broadcasting standards include safeguards against denigration and discrimination. The panel, which includes representatives from Maori, Samoan, Chinese and Indian communities will also have the job of raising awareness of the broadcasting standards complaints system.

For more information visit: www.bsa.govt.nz or email info@bsa.govt.nz.

NZ's Best Cafes: 2007 Awards

It's a South Island clean sweep in Cafe magazine's NZ Best Cafe Awards for 2007, with a coastal Cafe at Moeraki- Fleur's Place, being the winner and a unique rural Canterbury Cafe - Seagers at Oxford, coming runner-up. The two winning cafes are run by two equally remarkable women (Fleur Sullivan and Jo Seager, respectively) both whom were once the chefs of two of the country's leading restaurants. Regional winners and runners-up are:

- Northland - winner: Waikokopu Cafe, Paihia, Treaty Grounds, Waitangi, 09 402 6275; runner-up: Caffeine Espresso - Whangarei, 4 Water St, 09 438 6925;
- Auckland - winner: Sheinken, 3 Lorne St, City, 09 303 4301; runner-up: Ben, 57 Fort St, City, 09 308 9338;
- Waikato - winner: Jacks Coffee Lounge - Hamilton, 1/31 Cambridge Rd, 07 856 2150; runner-up: Red Cherry Cafe - Cambridge, SH1/Cnr Forrest Rd, 03 823 1515;
- Coromandel - winner: Peppertree - Coromandel, 31 Kapanga Rd, 07 866 8211; runner-up: Sola - Thames, 720b Pollen St, 07 868 8781;
- Bay of Plenty - winner: Versaille - Tauranga, 107 Grey St, 07 571 1480; runner-up: Sidetrack Cafe - Mt Maunganui, Marine Pde, 07 575 2145;
- Rotorua - winner: Capers, 1181 Eruera St, 07 348 8818; runner-up: Zippy's, 1153 Pukuatua St, 07 348 8288;
- Central North Island - winner: Zest - Taupo, 65 Rifle Range Rd, 07 378 5397; runner-up: Licorice - Motuopa, 57 SH1, Motuopa, 07 386 5551;
- Gisborne - winner: Ruba, 14 Childers Rd, 06 868 6516; runner-up: Peel, 22 Peel St, 06 867 5787;
- Hawke's Bay - winner: Bay Espresso, 141 North Karamu Rd, 06 876 5682; runner-up: Cafe Rosso - Napier, 180 Emerson St, 06 834 1988;
- Taranaki - winner: Empire Cafe, 112 Devon Street West, 06 758 1148; runner-up: Elixir - New Plymouth, 117 Devon St, 06 521 0690;
- Wanganui - winner: Indigo, Cnr Majestic Square & Watt St, 06 348 7459; runner-up: Jolt, 19 Victoria St, 06 345 8840;
- Manawatu - winner: Barista - Palmerston North, 5 George St, 06 357 2614; runner-up: Cafe Cuba - Palmerston North, 248 Cuba St, 06 356 5750
- Wairarapa - winner: The Village Cafe, Martinborough, 6 Kitchener St, 06 306 8819; runner-up: Cafe Cecille - Masterton, Queen Elizabeth Park, 06 370 1166;
- Wellington - winner: Ernesto, 132 Cuba St, 04 801 6878; runner-up: Caffe L'Affare, 27 College St, 04 385 9748
- Marlborough - winner: CPR HQ - Blenheim, Wynen St, 03 579 5040; runner-up: The Living Room - Blenheim, Cnr Scott St & Maxwell Rd, 03 579 4777;

- Nelson - Winner: Morrison St Cafe - Nelson, 244 Hardy St, 03.548 8110; runner-up: The Smokehouse Cafe - Mapua, Shed 3, Mapua Wharf, 03.540 2280;
- West Coast - winner: Cafe de Paris - Hokitika, 19 Tancred St, 03 885 8933; runner-up: Matheson Cafe - Fox Glacier, Lake Matheson Rd, Fox Glacier, 03 751 0878;
- Canterbury - winner: Seagers at Oxford, 78 Main St, Oxford, 03 312 1435; runner-up: Procope, Christchurch, 165 Victoria St, 03 379 0826;
- Mckenzie Country - winner: Eat Deli-Bar - Fairlie, 76 Main St, Fairlie, 03 685 6275; runner-up: Blue Bay Cafe - Timaru, 69 The Hill, 03 688 0561;
- Otago - winner: Fleur's Place - Moeraki, 169 Haven St, Waterfront, 03 439 5980; runner-up: Strictly Coffee Co. - Dunedin, Albion Pl, 272 George St, 03 474 5580;
- Queenstown/Wanaka - winner: Vudu - Queenstown, 23 Beach St, 03 442 5357, runner-up: Joe's Garage - Queenstown, 15 Camp St, 03 442 5282;
- Southland - winner: The Moth - Manderville, Manderville Airfield, SH94, 03 208 9662; runner-up: Niagara Falls Cafe-restaurant, Niagara Falls, South Catlins, 03 246 8577.

Huntly Power Station Retired for Reserve Use

Genesis Energy intends to progressively retire the coal-fired Huntly power station, for reserve use in drought years. The company can do this because its new E3P combined cycle gas turbine has recently come on stream, allowing Genesis to cut back on the coal it's burning at Huntly.

Some Funding Opportunities

Lottery Board: Regional Community Committees

Lottery Regional Community applications close Thursday 1 November (committees sit 6-16 March 2008). Lottery Community considers applications for developmental or preventative projects, welfare and support services, or projects that help to improve the wellbeing of people in the community. Grants can be for things like:

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

More information is at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Lottery-Grants-Lottery-Community?OpenDocument

Rural Communities Trust

The Rural Communities Trust supports rural individuals, families and groups. It has recently launched a new website. The Trust recognises that living in a rural community can mean facing barriers to education, health and other services. Each year they approve grants (so far 850) for a diverse range of needs.

Applications close 31 October 2007. more information: www.ruralcommunitiestrust.org.nz or call 0800 472 843.

Local Peace Grants

Applications are invited for grants up to \$500 to assist with non-violent local peace work anywhere within Aotearoa/NZ. Preference is given to work which is innovative in content or starting up. Applicants need not be Quakers.

Next closing date 31 October. More information: QPSANZ, Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, 72 Cresswell Avenue, Christchurch 8061 or qpsanz@quaker.org.nz. Application forms can be downloaded from <http://www.quaker.org.nz>

Families Commission Research Fund

The Families Commission Research Fund of \$1million is available each year for projects likely to produce information that will make a difference for families.

There will be two funding rounds, in May and November each year. Projects may run for up to two years, although this may be increased once the fund is well established.

More information is at www.nzfamilies.org.nz, email: enquiries@nzfamilies.org.nz or write to The Families Commission, Public Trust Building, Level 6, 117 - 125 Lambton Quay, PO Box 2839, Wellington 6140. Ph. 04 917 7040, fax 04 917 7059.

Freemason's University Graduate/Post-graduate Scholarships

This year the Freemasons Charity is offering graduate and post-graduate university scholarships worth around \$220,000 00 in total. Participating universities are: Auckland, AUT, Waikato, Massey, Victoria, Canterbury, Lincoln and Otago universities. Successful graduate applicants receive \$6000, and successful post-graduate applicants receive \$10,000.

Applications close 1 October 2007 (a prior relationship with the Freemasons is not required) More information is at <http://www.freemasons.co.nz/news/80/>

NGO Social Work Study Awards

Family and Community Services (FACS) - a service of the Ministry of Social Development, is offering up to 65 NGO (non-government organisation) Social Work Study Awards for the 2008 academic year. The awards are targeted at practicing social workers, including supervisors and managers of social workers. The application is a joint process between employer and employee and priority will be given to NGO employers with government contracts who are providing services for "vulnerable children and families".

Applications close 28 September. More information: Family and Community Services Regional Offices, Schools of Social Work, freephone 0508-346376, or <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/community-development/ngo-study-awards/index.html>

Community Internship Programme

The Community Internship Programme is a skill-sharing and capacity-building scheme administered by the Local Government and Community Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). Under the programme experienced and skilled people from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors are funded to spend time with host community organisations.

Applications close 22 October. More information is at www.dia.govt.nz - or contact the advisors at your nearest DIA office

Conference Brief

Primary Industries 2020 Summit

A Primary Industries Summit is to be held in Christchurch on November 28-29, 2007, at the Christchurch Convention Centre. For business people and industry leaders, the summit will be a forum for discussion on vital issues such as sustainability, skills needs, training, research, science and technology, business models, branding and market development. It will also feature a Young Leaders Forum. Speakers include Dr Todd Meyer (director of the US Grains Council, China), Marion Nestle (Paulette Goddard Professor, New York University) and Dr Clint Laurent (managing director, Global Demographics Ltd. Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton is the convenor.

You can now register for the PI2020 summit online at www.primaryindustries.org.nz

Food Safety Conference

The NZ Food Safety Authority is to hold its first conference as a stand-alone agency over 26/27 September. The conference will focus on Food into the Future as NZ's food sector positions itself to deal with the significant growth expected over the next 20 years. Speakers include Stephen Sundlof from the United States Food and Drug Administration, Knud Ostergaard from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, Ben Chapman from Canada's University of Guelph and Stef Bronzwaer, Chief Scientific Officer at the European Food Safety Authority.

More information about the conference is at: <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/events/nzfsa-conference-2007/>

Building Bridges to Wellbeing

The national Local Authority Community Development Conference 2007 will be held in Hamilton on from 19-21 September 2007. It is for community development practitioners from local authorities, government organisations and community groups. This year's theme refers to the role community development professionals play in linking communities with local authorities and other government and community agencies to address their social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing.

Registrations close Friday 14 September 2007. More information is at http://hamilton.co.nz/page/pageid/2145834217/Building_Bridges_Conference_2007 or tel 07-838 6665/07-838 6733

Research into Practice, Evidence into Policy

The 6th Australia and NZ Youth Health Conference will be held in Christchurch on 23-26 September 2007. This conference is for those providing services and training for youth health and development to learn more about applying cutting edge research to their policies and practice.

More information: <http://events.lincoln.ac.nz/youth/> or contact Professional Development Group, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Lincoln 4647. Ph (03) 325 3661, email lathamj@lincoln.ac.nz

SFNZ National Conference

SFNZ supports the families of people who experience mental illness. Its national conference is on 15-16 September at the Spencer on Byron Hotel, Takapuna, North Shore, Auckland. International speakers include Dr Hillary Bennet ("Building Family Capacity & Resilience") and Dr Louisa Walker ("The Cost of Caring", and the keynote speaker is Dr Xavier Amador (author of "I'm Not Sick, I Don't Need Help").

You can register online at www.sfauckland.org.nz or call SF Auckland tel 09 378 9134

Media Women in Asia Seminar

This half-day event will be held on 26 September at the Heritage Hotel in Auckland. It will be chaired by journalist Russell Brown, and speakers include Sagarika Ghose of CNN-IBN in New Delhi, Maria Ressa of ABS-CBN in Manila, Trish Carter, formerly of Al Jazeera International in Kuala Lumpur, and Charlotte Glennie of the Australia Network in Beijing.

More information: Asia:NZ's media adviser at cmabbett@asianz.org.nz.

Appointments

New Zealander David Shearer has been named as the *United Nations Deputy Special Representative to Iraq* and will head up humanitarian and development projects. Sir Paul Reeves has been appointed the new *Chairperson of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Board*. David Shand has been appointed *chair of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)*. Dr David Black is the new *Deputy Medical Convener* (for a 3-year term) under the Civil Aviation Act 1990. Fonterra has announced the appointment of David Jackson to its *board of directors*.

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.

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