

Rural Bulletin

July 2008



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

Contents

Consultation

Compulsory Third Party Insurance	3
Animal Tracing Proposals: Have Your Say	3
Retirement Villages Code of Practice	3
New Electrical Worker Categories?	3
Broadband Spectrum Discussion Paper	3
Next Generation Network Study: Questionnaire	4
Draft Business Mergers & Acquisitions Guidelines	4
What's Wine?	4
Four Proposed Marine Mammal Sanctuaries	4
New Fish Species for Quota Management System?	4
Building Rules: Should Owner-builders Be Exempt?	4
Tertiary Education Fees: Proposals for 2009	5
International Anti-Counterfeiting Negotiations	5
Amendments to HSE Regulations	5
Enforcement of HSE Act	5
Assigning/Altering Some NZ Place Names	5
Standards NZ: Draft Standards For Comment	5

Rural

Climate Change & NZ Agriculture: Report	5
Primary Sector: Improving Water Use and Quality	6
Rural Kids To Go Undercover	6
Record Numbers at Mystery Creek	6
Storing Fuel on Farms	6

Environment

Waste Minimisation Bill	6
NZBCSD: Emissions Trading Scheme Research	7
Helping Address Illegal Logging	7
Protecting NZ Waters: New Legislation	7
Pest Management Gets a Funding Boost	8
Kiwi Sludge Conversion: A World-First	8
Successful Rural Recycling Programme	8
2008 Green Ribbon Awards	8

Tourism

Record \$20 Billion Spent By Tourists	8
Fewer Visitors in May	8

Tourism Businesses: Sustainability Tips	9
Be Wary of Free Hotels/Holidays/Flights Offers	9
Chinese Govt Award for Student's Tourism Study	9

Health & Welfare

Survey of NZers' Health: Results Available	9
Bioethics Council Report: Who Gets Born?	9
New Men's Health Programme	9
Special Needs Grants & Benefit Rules: Changes	10
Disability Issues Bill	10
Mental Health Media Watch Project	10
New Guidelines for Treating Depression	10
Mental Health Foundation: Artwork Auction	10
Stress and Sleeping: Survey	10
Tips for De-stressing Before Going to Bed	10
NZ's Smoking Rate Falls	11
Domestic Violence Act: Proposed Changes	11
Abortion Statistics for 2007	11
Farming Sector Business Wins Safety Award	11
ACC Compensation Now Based on Earnings	11
New Complaints Process for CYFS	11

Education

Keeping Students Safe: New Anti-Bullying Resources	11
AE Providers: Free Correspondence School Tuition	12

Housing

Housing Consents Down	12
New Urban Design Guide	12

Transport

Road User Charges Increase	12
Biofuel Quality Regulated	12
Petrol Pricing: Review & Comparisons	12
Trucks to Trial Heavier Loads	13

Energy

NZ Energy Sector: What's Currently Happening	13
Every Day Energy Saving	13



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Portable Dehumidifiers: Little Energy Savers	13	Terms of Negotiation signed with Raukawa	20
An Efficient Lighting Strategy	14	Ngati Whatua o Kaipara	20
Potential Energy Savings in NZ: EC Study	14	Te Rarawa: Foreshore and Seabed Terms Signed	20
Environmental Standards for the National Grid?	14		
Wind Generation Investigation Project: Reports	14	The Elections	
Energy from Kaipara Harbour Tides	14	Government Decision Making/Publicity in Election Year	20
Wave Energy Trials for Wellington	14		
		Internet/ICT	
Employment		First Report on Broadband Quality	20
Flexible Working Arrangements for Carers	14	Recent NZ Telecommunications Market Trends	21
Changes Proposed to Employment Relations Act	15	Ban on Hand-held Mobile Phones in Vehicles?	21
Mainstream Supported Employment Moves to MSD	15	InternetNZ Invests in Cybersafety: Hector's World	21
Justice/The Law		Arts and Culture	
Lawyers & Conveyancers' Act 2006: Backgrounder	15	Te Papa: Humanities/Art Collections Online	22
Spouse Testifying Against Spouse: Law Changes	16	Creative NZ: New Funding System Coming	22
Mental Health & the Law: New Resource	16		
Licensing "Private Eyes": Changes Coming	16	General	
Law Commission: Disclosing Previous Convictions	16	Seasonal Climate Outlook: July-September 2008	22
		What's Really Important to NZers	22
Not-For-Profits		The Most Trusted NZers for 2008 are	23
Most Volunteers Give Time, Money, Goods	16	Families Commission Report: The Kiwi Nest	23
Prison Volunteering in NZ	17	Maori Language Week	23
Charities Commission Update	17	Grant to Preserve Moriori Heritage and Identity	23
Registered Charities Offered Freebie	17	World Rural Women's Day 2008	23
Find Out About Your Place	17	NZ-Kiribati Declaration Signed	23
		Pacific Peoples in NZ: Profiles	23
Business		Conferences/Festivals	24
Overseas Trade: May 2008	17	4th Australia-NZ Climate Change & Business	
A Standard Reporting System for Business?	18	Conference	24
Lifting Productivity by Collaborating	18	Mental Health and Addictions Conference	24
		Cooperative Education: Two Seminars	24
Money Matters		National Environmental Management Forum	24
Latest NZ Credit Rating	18	Local Government NZ Conference	24
Statutory Interest Rate Changes	18	Pacific Region Civil Society Organisations Forum	24
GDP: March 2008 Quarter	18	Some Funding/Awards Opportunities	24
Commodity Prices for June 2008	18	Lottery Community Facilities Fund	24
Food Prices: May 2008	18	Community Organisation Grants (COGS) Funding	24
We're Eating More Eggs	18	Creative NZ: Current Funding Opportunities	24
Financial Literacy in School Trial: Banks Contribute	19	Michael King Writers Centre Residencies	25
Debit/Credit Card Payments to IRD: Bank Fee Gone	19	NZIER Economic Research Award 2008	25
Raising Capital in NZ & Australia: Agreement	19	New Reporting Diversity Award	25
		Human Rights Essay Competition for Secondary	
Treaty Matters		Students	25
Central North Island Forest Agreement Signed	19	Funding for Advancement of Women	25
Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika Settlement	19	NZ Post Group Local Government Excellence Awards ..	25
Revised Settlement Reached with Te Arawa	19	Appointments	25

Consultation

Compulsory Third Party Insurance

A Ministry of Transport discussion paper outlines different options available for designing a compulsory third party vehicle insurance (CTPVI) system for NZ. CTPVI would require all motor vehicles driven on the road to have at least third party insurance.

The insurance is designed to cover property damage, including damage to other vehicles. It does not cover damage to the motorist's own vehicle. People would still be able to purchase comprehensive insurance to cover damage caused to their own vehicle and property if they crash. ACC already provides cover for personal injury sustained in a motor vehicle crash.

About a quarter of vehicles in NZ are not insured and the insurance industry estimates the cost of uninsured motorists is between \$53 million and \$85 million each year.

Submissions close on 8 August 2008. An online submission form is at <http://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Images/NewFolder-2/Form3rdparty4.pdf> or you can send submissions to: Compulsory Third Party Insurance Project, Land Transport Environment & Safety Group, Ministry of Transport, PO Box 3175, Wellington 6140, email thirdpartyinsurance@transport.govt.nz. The discussion paper is at <http://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Images/NewFolder-2/June08CTPVIdiscussiondoc+cover.pdf>

Animal Tracing Proposals: Have Your Say

Have your say on the design of a new national animal identification and tracing system (NAIT) which tracks livestock (initially cattle and deer) from farm to slaughter.

Under the system animals are identified with "whole-of-life" devices and specific information on them is collected and held on a central electronic database. The database can then be used to meet certain information needs (biosecurity, market access, etc.) when animals are registered, moved, traded and slaughtered.

The system would be compulsory from 2011, but before then there would be an industry sign-up phase, enabling farmers to tag animals and record movements in NAIT.

Submissions close 1 August 2008. A discussion paper outlining the NAIT system is at www.nait.org.nz/resources

Retirement Villages Code of Practice

A new Code of Practice for retirement villages is now open for consultation. The 2008 code sets out the rights and responsibilities of residents and operators, including the minimum requirements that a resident can expect to receive in a retirement village.

It also covers: staffing of retirement villages; safety and personal security of residents; fire protection and emergency

management; transfer of residents within a retirement village; meetings of residents with operator and residents' involvement; a complaints system; accounts; maintenance and upgrading; termination of an occupation right agreement; and communication with residents.

Submissions close 1 August 2008. They go to: Retirement Villages, Department of Building and Housing, PO Box 10 729, Wellington, fax 04 494 0290, email info@dbh.govt.nz, or to Retirement Villages, Retirement Commission, Level 3, PO Box 12-148, Wellington, fax: 04 499 7397. email: office@retirement.org.nz. More is at www.dbh.govt.nz/retirement-villages or www.dbh.govt.nz/consulting-index or public libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux

New Electrical Worker Categories?

The Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB), which has responsibility for the registration and licensing of electrical workers, has released a second discussion paper on its proposed categories of electrical worker registration.

The paper suggests retaining the categories of electrical inspector, electrician, and line mechanic. It also suggests introducing the new categories of electrical appliance serviceperson, electrical service technician, electrical designer, tradesperson, and electrical engineer.

In addition, there would be changes made to legislation, including a number of checks and balances to ensure EWRB responsibilities are properly discharged.

Submissions close on 14 July 2008. They go to: the Registrar, Electrical Workers Registration Board, PO Box 10156, Wellington, fax 04 473 2395, e-mail trish.tchernegovski@dbh.govt.nz. More is at http://www.ewrb.govt.nz/content/whatsnewdocs/Categories_of_registration_May_2008.pdf

Broadband Spectrum Discussion Paper

A discussion paper on the operation of the Managed Spectrum Park (MSP) in the 2.5 GHz radio spectrum band has been released. The MSP is a new concept in NZ. It is a block of spectrum for shared use. It allows local/regional access for a selected number of users, but it comes with requirements to work with other users to enhance the quality of service. In other words, it encourages a self-managing approach to using the radio spectrum.

Technically, it is a "middle ground" option between, on the one hand, nation-wide spectrum rights with exclusive access (acquiring these rights is expensive but it does offer a high quality of service), and on the other hand, open (public) access in the General Licence "Wi-Fi" bands (easy access with no licence fees, but a greater risk of interference and reduced quality of service). MSP fees are deliberately set low to be affordable for local and regional operators, to encourage shared use rather than exclusive access.

Submissions close on 18 July 2008. The discussion paper is available at www.rsm.govt.nz and submissions should be sent to radiospectrum@med.govt.nz

Next Generation Network Study: Questionnaire

The Telecommunications Commissioner has released a questionnaire that seeks feedback on a number of issues relevant to the Commerce Commission's study into Next Generation Networks (NGN). [These are the networks that will replace our existing telecommunication networks like Telecom's PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) with Internet Protocol (IP) networks, and also replace the copper access network with fibre either to the cabinet or the home.]

The study is considering what impact technological developments emerging over the next five years will have on the commercial and competitive environment for telecommunications services and responses are sought from all interested parties.

Submissions close on 29 August 2008. Comments can be emailed to ngn@comcom.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.comcom.govt.nz/MediaCentre/MediaReleases/200708/telecommunicationscommissionercons.aspx>

Draft Business Mergers & Acquisitions Guidelines

The business community is being asked to comment on a set of process guidelines from the Commerce Commission. These provide information about the process that will be used when businesses seek clearance for a merger or acquisition, and about the kinds of information that the Commission requires. They also include timelines and a revised application form.

Submissions close on 30 July 2008. They go to Mergers and Acquisitions Clearance Process Feedback, Commerce Commission, PO Box 2351, Wellington, 6140, or by email to magfeedback@comcom.govt.nz. The drafts can be viewed on the Commission's website www.comcom.govt.nz under business competition/mergers and acquisitions/draft process guidelines

What's Wine?

In a policy paper, Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ) says the Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) is concerned that the current definition of "wine product" could be misleading to consumers when used in combination with country of origin labelling. WFA is proposing that FSANZ amends the Code to:

- define the term "wine based beverage" as "an alcoholic drink, other than wine, where the contained alcohol derives predominantly from wine";
- declare "wine based beverage" to be the name for all these kinds of products not meeting the definition of wine; and
- delete the current definition "wine product".

Submissions close on 16 July 2008. The policy paper can be downloaded at http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/_srcfiles/A601%20Wine-based%20beverages%20IAR%20FINAL.pdf

Four Proposed Marine Mammal Sanctuaries

It is proposed to establish four new marine mammal sanctuaries to increase protection of the endangered Hector's and Maui's dolphins. They would be located on the West Coast (North Island), Clifford and Cloudy Bay (Marlborough), Porpoise Bay/Fortrose (Catlins Coast), and Te Waewae Bay (South Coast). Mining and acoustic seismic surveying restrictions would apply within these sanctuaries.

It's also proposed to redefine the existing Banks Peninsula Sanctuary to strengthen its protection of the dolphins.

Public submissions close 23 July 2008. Send submissions to Marine Mammal Sanctuaries Submissions, Department of Conservation, PO Box 11-146, Wellington 6011, or email to: hectors.sanctuaries@doc.govt.nz. For more information, go to <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=53584>

New Fish Species for Quota Management System?

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) is seeking views on whether or not to introduce octopus, large ostrich foot whelk, carpet shark, hammerhead shark, javelin fish, orange perch, rattails, redbait, seal shark and silver dory into the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 2009.

A consultation paper giving reasons for why the species are being considered for introduction has been published and MFish welcomes any additional information that will help determine whether these species should or should not be introduced into the QMS.

Submissions close on 1 August 2008. They go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington, fax 04 819 4208, email tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz. If you intend to make a submission but need an extension of time please call 04 819 4548

Building Rules: Should Owner-builders Be Exempt?

From November 2010, it is intended that some design and construction work will only be able to be done or supervised by licensed practitioners. This is called "restricted building work" (i.e. work that is critical to a building being well-built and safe).

The Government has proposed that owner-builders be exempt from these provisions. This would allow homeowners to do restricted building work on their own houses (without the need to use licensed building practitioners) while still protecting future owners of the property. The proposed exemption would require a change to the Act.

Submissions close on 1 August 2008. They go to: Owner builder exemption consultation, Department of Building & Housing, PO Box 10-729, Wellington, email info@dbh.govt.nz (please put "Owner builder exemption consultation" in the subject line). More is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/UserFiles/File/Consulting/pdf/2008/exemption-building-work.pdf>

Tertiary Education Fees: Proposals for 2009

The proposed tertiary education "Fee and Course Cost Maxima" rates for 2009 are available for comment. These rates set the maximum fees that tertiary education organisations are allowed to charge their students. The proposal would increase the current amount by 2.6%.

Submissions close 17 July 2008. Details on making a submission can be found at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-New-Zealand-Gazette-New-Zealand-Gazette-On-Line

International Anti-Counterfeiting Negotiations

Along with a number of our trading partners, NZ will be helping develop an international agreement aimed at combating the growing global trade in counterfeit goods and pirated products.

Your views are sought on the new Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which would establish a common standard of enforcement of intellectual property regulations among nations committed to anti-counterfeiting.

Submissions close 14 July 2008. They go to trademarks@med.govt.nz. More information is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary____34357.aspx

Amendments to HSE Regulations...

The Department of Labour is consulting on two proposed minor amendments to the Health and Safety in Employment (Pressure Equipment, Cranes and Passenger Ropeways) Regulations 1999 (the PECPR Regulations). They cover compressed gas cylinders - where the aim is to make it clearer that gas cylinders come within the jurisdiction of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996; and low hazard aerosols and cartridges (the Department's view is that these should not be covered by regulation due to the minimal hazards they represent).

Closing date for submissions is 19 July 2008. You can either e-mail your comments to pecpr@dol.govt.nz or download the discussion document and send written comment to: B White, Workplace Health and Safety Policy, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington

...& Enforcement of HSE Act

The Department of Labour (DoL) would also like your feedback on its proposed public enforcement policy relating to the Health and Safety in Employment Act. This is outlined in a draft paper called "Keeping Work Safe", which covers issues like written warnings, improvement notices, prohibition notices and infringement notices, revoking certificates of competence, and prosecution.

It is keen to hear what you think about its approach, and is interested in any other comments you may have about the enforcement of the Health and Safety in Employment Act.

Submissions close on 11 July 2008. You can make a submission online at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/keeping-work-safe/submissionform.asp>, email keepingworksafe@dol.govt.nz or to Keeping work safe, Workplace Services, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington. "Keeping Work safe" is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/keeping-work-safe/keeping-work-safe.pdf>

Assigning/Altering Some NZ Place Names

The NZ Geographic Board Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa intends to assign some new place names and alter some existing ones. It has also published the final decisions it made following earlier consultation on place name changes.

Objections to the proposals must be received by 15 August 2008. They go to the Secretary of the NZ Geographic Board, c/- Land Information NZ, Private Box 5501, Wellington 6145, within a period of three months from the date of the NZ Gazette containing this notice. The list is at http://www.linz.govt.nz/core/placenames/placename_decisions/20080515/index.html

Standards NZ: Draft Standards For Comment

The following draft standards being developed by Standards NZ are currently available for comment:

- Non-Therapeutic Use of Human Tissue (submissions close on 18/08/2008);
- Specification for Performance of Windows - Revision (submissions close on 17/07/2008); and
- Specification for Reticulated Natural Gas - Amendment 2 (submissions close 14/07/2008).

The draft standards are at <http://www.standards.co.nz/draft-standards/new-zealand-standards/?action=browseDrafts&draftTypeId=1&mod=drafts>

Rural

Climate Change & NZ Agriculture: Report

A recently released report called "Costs and Benefits of Climate Change and Adaptation to Climate Change in NZ Agriculture: What Do We Know So Far?" is now available.

The report's findings indicate that the ways rural environments will respond to our changing climate will vary in different areas and different years. For an average year in the future, the projected changes to pasture production are small when averaged across the country. Production is projected to increase in Southland and the West Coast of the South Island but to decrease in some East Coast areas and in Northland. Pasture drying in spring is likely to begin earlier and there may be an earlier start to pasture growth in the late winter or spring. In response, farmers may need to have lambs ready for the works earlier than at present.

The report, however, also paints a different picture for droughts in some regions in extreme years. In fact, the projected national decrease in pasture production due to drought is predicted to be worse than the driest year between 1972 and 2002 (the period includes the serious droughts of 1977/78 and 1997/98).

The Government is developing a five-year adaptation programme with the primary sectors, Maori and local government, as part of the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Plan of Action.

The report is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/slm/ag-production/page.htm>

Primary Sector: Improving Water Use and Quality

NZ's primary sector groups have released a document that reconfirms their commitment to the sustainable management of the nation's valuable freshwater resources. "The Primary Sector Water Partnership Leadership Document" sets out a collective action plan that has been developed in order to achieve real positive change in water use and quality.

The Partnership group consists of Fonterra, Dairy NZ, The Foundation for Arable Research, Horticulture NZ, Meat and Wool NZ, NZ Forest Owners Association, NZ Farm Forestry Association, Irrigation NZ, Fertiliser Manufacturers Research Association and Federated Farmers.

The document is at http://www.fedfarm.org.nz/PDFs/2008_Primary_Sector_Water_Partnership_Leadership_Doc.pdf

Rural Kids to go Undercover

Manufacturer of steel buildings, Totalspan, is setting up a charitable trust to launch the Undercover Kids Programme, which will provide bus shelters on rural and provincial bus routes throughout the country. This is a long-term programme with a minimum of 112 bus shelters being provided during 2008, an additional 150 in 2009, and a company commitment to increase the number of bus shelters in years to come.

Totalspan will provide the shelters and the local Totalspan franchisers will then erect them on prefabricated concrete slabs at no cost to the community. The local franchisee will work with the school and community to handle any consent issues and will be responsible for ongoing repair and maintenance.

To find out more about the programme (including downloading an application form for a shelter) go to <http://www.totalspan.co.nz/undercoverkids/>

Record Numbers at Mystery Creek

A record 131,629 people went through the Mystery Creek gates at the recent National Agricultural Fieldays. Attendance was up 6500 on last year's event and 3819 more than 2003, which held the previous record. Overseas visitors from nearly 40 countries grew to around 5000. Total spending topped \$200 million, but despite the record numbers and a record 1001 stalls, spending was down on the non-farming stalls.

Storing Fuel on Farms

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) has changed the rules about storing fuel on farms. People who have existing (i.e. before 2004) above-ground diesel tanks of up to 2500 litres will no longer require secondary containment, provided the tank complies with the old dangerous goods requirements. The change reflects the fact that many farmers have the old 500-gallon tanks and that requiring them to install secondary containment would be a significant compliance cost with little safety to be gained where tanks already complying with the dangerous goods regulations.

ERMA has also updated its approved practice guide which is at http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/APG%20-%20Above-ground%20fuel%20storage%20on%20farms%20-%20changes%20for%20diesel_v1.1.pdf

Environment

Waste Minimisation Bill

A new Waste Minimisation Bill is aimed at managing waste in a smarter way. Under it producers, brand owners, importers, retailers, consumers and other parties would be responsible for the environmental effects of their products - from "cradle-to-grave". Examples of this "product stewardship" could be businesses taking back unwanted products from their customers for reuse or recycling, or manufacturers choosing environmentally friendly materials when making a product. The Bill would also:

- introduce a \$10 a tonne (plus GST) levy on all waste disposed of in landfills;
- introduce a contestable fund to use the revenue from the waste levy to help communities and businesses minimise waste (this will help reduce waste of all types going to landfill by encouraging people to consider alternatives to disposal);
- require territorial authorities and operators of landfills and recycling facilities to report on waste;

- clarify the role of territorial authorities in waste minimisation; and
- introduce a new board to give independent advice to the Minister for the Environment on waste minimisation issues.

More information is at www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste

NZBCSD: Emissions Trading Scheme Research

The NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development (NZBCSD) has carried out research on the economic benefits of introducing the emissions trading scheme, and it says that its passage this year should:

- result in immediate and long-term investment valued at \$12.358 billion between 2008 and 2018. Some \$913 million a year of this is available immediately generate 9,600 new jobs. Of these 4,815 jobs will be created directly, 4215 of them immediately. Large numbers of jobs will be created in agriculture, forestry, wind, geothermal, bio energy, biofuel, biochar, ocean energy, and energy efficiency industries, and more in new emissions trading and services;
- result in \$5.56 billion in new wages being paid;
- increase dairy farm incomes by \$714 million a year by applying current emission reduction technology, providing 1728 new direct jobs, with an annual wage value of \$98.5 million. This will cut dairy farmers' emissions liability by \$98 million a year; and
- cut emissions by 18 million tonnes of CO₂ a year - valued at \$455 million a year (at \$25 per tonne). Of these 10 million tonnes, with a value of \$256 million, is available immediately.

It also considers that at any delay in setting up the scheme would jeopardise these benefits.

The Business Council's Special Briefing Report to Members of Parliament and other decision makers, and accompanying SKM research are at www.nzbcسد.org.nz

Helping Address Illegal Logging

The Government is setting up ways of working both internationally and within NZ to help address the problem of illegally logged products.

Internationally, financial systems to help developing countries to reduce deforestation are to be developed, and research on how to further address international trade in illegally-logged wood will be commissioned. High-level talks will also be held with significant consumer countries, and with countries that might be the source of illegally logged wood exports to NZ.

New Zealand will also be supporting efforts to have the threatened and commonly illegally logged timber, kwila (often used for decking and outdoor furniture products), listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) so its trade is monitored and controlled internationally. The compulsory labelling at point of sale of all kwila products sold in NZ has been agreed in principle.

In the meantime, here in NZ, consumers are being encouraged to seek assurances from importers and retailers that the timber products they are buying are made from legally sourced timber.

Background

Illegal logging takes place when timber is harvested, transported, bought or sold in violation of national and/or international laws. It is difficult to give a more precise definition than this because so much depends on the specific laws of an individual country.

Some examples of illegal logging activities include:

- logging protected species, or in protected areas;
- purchasing logs from protected areas;
- logging outside concession boundaries;
- extracting more timber than authorised;
- logging without authorisation;
- obtaining logging concessions through bribes;
- transporting illegally harvested timber;
- exporting timber in contravention of national bans; and
- declaring lower values and volumes exported.

In environmental terms, illegal logging undermines systems set up to protect and sustainably manage forests. It can impact on some of the world's most ecologically valuable forest ecosystems such as tropical rainforest, with resulting losses for global biodiversity and for the habitats of endangered species. Depletion of forests due to illegal logging can also cause soil erosion, landslides, aggravate flooding, and alter the local climate.

Illegal logging also has a broader impact: forests represent carbon sinks, and these carbon sinks are needed to help us lessen the effects of, and adapt to, global climate change - and there are also other less obvious impacts. For example, illegal timber harvesting can remove a source of income and employment for local communities, and illegal logging is sometimes associated with corruption, organised crime and sometimes violent conflict.

You can find out more about illegal logging, and what's being done about it, by clicking on the following link on the MAF website: <http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/illegal-logging/index.htm>

Protecting NZ Waters: New Legislation

The Government is drafting legislation to manage the environmental effects of currently unregulated activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The EEZ is the area of sea and seabed that extends from 12 to 200 nautical miles offshore. NZ has "sovereign rights" in the EEZ for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the living and non-living resources in the area.

The proposed legislation will set out a new rules and consents system for the EEZ. This would cover the management of

environmental effects of activities (such as disturbance of the seafloor through mining and petroleum activities), and the effects of new activities in the EEZ in future (such as marine farming, energy generation, carbon capture and storage).

A new unit will be set up in the Ministry for the Environment to process applications for consents, and manage monitoring and enforcement.

The Cabinet paper, question and answers, the discussion document and the summary of submissions are at www.mfe.govt.nz/oceans

Pest Management Gets a Funding Boost

Wilding pines, gorse and broom, rabbits, goats and possums are among the pests to be targeted across the country as a result of the recent funding boost for Regional Pest Management Strategies (RPMS). The Department of Conservation (DOC) will receive \$3.6 million over four years, and Land Information NZ (LINZ) will receive \$1.7 million over four years to control pests on public land and make sure they don't spread to neighbouring private land. DOC and LINZ currently invest about \$3 million a year between them to support RPMS. DOC also invests about \$49 million annually to manage pests in high value conservation areas.

Kiwi Sludge Conversion: A World-First...

Enviro Energy recently opened a pilot plant using its STERM (Sludge Total Energy Recuperation Module) technology, which has potential to virtually eliminate sewage sludge. Disposing of this sludge is becoming a major headache around the world.

The STERM plant uses a special drying process that converts de-watered sludge into fuel, which is recycled to provide energy for the plant. The only waste product is an inert ash. This ash represents a 93% reduction of the wet sludge processed - and it can be used commercially, e.g. as road aggregate.

*Source: NZ Energy & Environment Business Week
25 June 2008*

...& Successful Rural Recycling Programme

More than 80,000 old and unwanted agrichemical containers have been collected in the first year of a national rural recycling programme, thanks to the Agrecovery Foundation. Agrecovery provides growers, farmers, foresters, and other primary industry chemical users with an environmentally safe way of disposing of their containers. The Foundation received initial funding from the Government's Sustainable Management Fund and Sustainable Farming Fund and its recycling programme is now completely self-funded.

The Agrecovery annual report can be viewed at: http://www.agrecovery.co.nz/uploads/61363/files/Agrecovery_Annual_Report_2008_1.pdf

2008 Green Ribbon Awards

These awards recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals, community organisations, businesses, and local government to sustaining and enhancing NZ's unique environment. The Green Ribbon Award categories this year have been expanded from six to nine to reflect the many different areas in which NZers make contributions to a better environment. The winners of each category are:

- making a difference to household sustainability: Envirocomp Limited, Canterbury;
- urban sustainability: Waitakere City Council;
- sustainable land use: Starborough Flaxbourne Soil Conservation Group, Marlborough;
- community action for the environment - young people: Te Piataata Trust, Waitakere;
- community action for the environment - volunteers and not-for-profit organisations: CANZ eDay (Computer Access NZ);
- businesses making a difference: The Langham Hotel, Auckland;
- innovative solutions for the environment: Resene PaintWise;
- environment in the spotlight: Horizons Regional Council Green Rig Environmental Educators, Palmerston North; and
- lifetime commitment to the environment: Dean Schneider.

More information on the awards can be found at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/awards/green-ribbon.html>

Tourism

Record \$20 Billion Spent By Tourists

The Tourism Satellite Account: 2007, published by Statistics NZ shows tourism spending in NZ increased 4.7% (\$896 million) in the year to March 2007 compared to the previous year. The figures also show international tourism spending accounted for \$8.8 billion, or 18.3% of NZ's exports (and 9.2% of GDP), compared with \$8.4 billion the previous year, confirming tourism remains NZ's number one export earner.

To view the Tourism Satellite Account: 2007 go to www.tourismresearch.govt.nz

Fewer Visitors in May

According to Tourism NZ, economic woes are impacting international visitor arrivals, with slightly fewer tourists than normal arriving in NZ during May. Visitor arrivals were down 0.2% to

about 140,000 visitors, around 300 fewer than the same month last year. Details for May include: Australia 58,240 (up 0.5%), UK 11,000 (down 2.4%), USA 10,640 (down 8.2%), Canada 2,240 (up 16.3%), China 8,360 (up 8.8%), Korea 6,200 (down 0.4%), Japan 6,060 (down 4.6%).

Tourism Businesses: Sustainability Tips

New guides to help tourism operators ensure their businesses are sustainable were launched recently. Advice is provided in four areas: providing a world-class visitor experience; running a profitable business; protecting and enhancing the environment; and working with local communities for mutual benefit. So far, the four-page guides have been developed for three sectors - accommodation and hospitality, transport, and visitor activities. The next three to be completed will be: Maori tourism, distribution and cultural tourism.

To download the guides visit www.nztourismstrategy.com

Be Wary of Free Hotels/Holidays/Flights Offers

The Commerce Commission is warning consumers to be wary of telemarketers selling vouchers for free or discounted holidays, hotels and flights. Although there are legitimate companies offering vouchers that provide genuine discounts, any company selling vouchers that are not redeemable for the services that they claim risks breaching the Fair Trading Act.

The Commission recommends that consumers contacted by telemarketers selling vouchers get details about the company that is marketing the vouchers. Consumer should also ask for details of which providers are involved in the voucher scheme, so that they can check the offer before committing to purchasing vouchers.

The Commission is interested in hearing from consumers who have purchased "free" vouchers or discounted holidays, hotels and flights, but have not been able to redeem them. Email contact@comcom.govt.nz or phone 0800 943 600.

Chinese Govt Award for Student's Tourism Study

The China Government's Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad has been awarded to Fujun Shen, a PhD student at Lincoln University, to support his research on the development of sustainable tourism in China's rural areas. His research at Lincoln University, which re-examined poverty reduction, includes an assessment of using a modified Sustainable Livelihoods Approach for Tourism model in villages where tourism is new. It will also produce guidelines for rural areas seeking to develop their visitor industry.

Health & Welfare

Survey of NZers' Health: Results Available

Results from the largest-ever survey of NZers' health shows most people believe they are in good health and have excellent access to health care services "A Portrait of Health: Key results of the 2006/07 NZ Health Survey" shows nearly all children and nine out of 10 adults have a general practice they go to first when feeling unwell or injured.

The survey results offer a depth of information on: NZers' adult health, child health, use of primary health care services, oral health, chronic health issues, medicated high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, mental health, tobacco use, hazardous drinking patterns, nutrition, physical activity, obesity, infant feeding, body size, and discipline.

More than 17,000 adults and children were interviewed, weighed and measured between October 2006 and November 2007 as part of the survey.

The survey is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/portrait-of-health?Open>

Bioethics Council Report: Who Gets Born?

The Bioethics Council's report on pre-birth testing, entitled "Who Gets Born?" is now available. Pre-birth testing currently includes blood tests, scans and amniocentesis, as well as more specialised tests, including those used to detect rare genetic conditions or illnesses.

The first recommendation is that decisions about whether to have pre-birth testing, and what to do in light of the results, should be made by the parents within the existing framework of the Code of Rights. When making decisions parents should have access to unbiased advice and counselling, and the right to consult with whanau. The second covers the need for appropriate information about pre-birth testing to be made available by health professionals to parents and to the wider community, and the third recommends that research be undertaken to determine why some women do not have pre-birth tests such as ultrasound scans.

Other recommendations relate to training of counsellors and medical personnel; barriers to antenatal care for Maori women; better coordinated services for the disabled; and issues around the creation of embryos that are tissue-matched to sick siblings.

The report is at <http://www.bioethics.org.nz/publications/who-gets-born-jun08/index.html>

New Men's Health Programme

Around \$3 million will be spent over the next year on programmes and initiatives aimed at encouraging men to be more aware of their health and access healthcare. These include:

- providing targeted men's health checks at convenient times and locations;
- supporting workplace based men's health initiatives;
- establishing a men's health innovation fund to support community based men's health initiatives;
- developing a men's health social marketing campaign; and
- improving access to good quality men's health information by supporting existing websites, telephone health services and a range of information pamphlets.

Special Needs Grants & Benefit Rules: Changes

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has made the following changes to Special Needs Grants from 4 August 2008:

- the assistance available through Special Needs Grants for food will be doubled; and
- the limit for Special Need Grants for the "Other Emergency" category has been increased to \$500 from \$200.

Work and Income NZ (WINZ) is also moving towards a "core benefit" system that are aimed at making employment and training programmes more widely available, and making the rules about benefits easier to understand.

More on both subjects is at <http://www.msd.govt.nz/media-information/press-releases/2008/pr-2008-07-03.html>

Disability Issues Bill

A recently introduced Disability (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) Bill removes inconsistencies within current legislation so that NZ can ratify this Convention. Amendments are also proposed to the Human Rights Act 1993 to clarify its obligation to accommodate the needs of disabled people.

The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2008/0232-1/latest/DLM1404012.html>

Mental Health Media Watch Project

A newly launched national "Like Minds Like Mine" Media-Watch project acknowledges the significant role the media plays in shaping public attitudes towards people with experience of mental illness. The project enables NZers to:

- report positive or negative coverage to the Like Minds Media-Watch team;
- respond directly to media coverage - through information, guidance and tips, including templates for a letter of praise or a constructive complaint;
- make formal complaints to media authorities - find out who to go to for each type of media, and when and how you should make a formal complaint; and
- view examples of positive and negative coverage and responses to those who produced them.

Visit www.likeminds.org.nz and click on the Media-Watch tab

New Guidelines for Treating Depression

New national guidelines for GPs on treating depression and the use of anti-depressants will be available this month. They are part of the Suicide Prevention Strategy, under which support is offered to anybody concerned about depression in themselves or others.

A depression hotline 0800 111757 you can obtain information about depression and where to get help. You can also visit www.depression.org.nz and online support services for young people through www.thelowdown.org.nz

Mental Health Foundation: Artwork Auction

Eighty-eight artists from the NZ Art Guild have created a single artwork in support of Mental Health. The artwork, called "Reach Out", is to be auctioned on Trade Me starting 19 July. The Mental Health Foundation will receive 20% of the proceeds from the sale.

Stress and Sleeping: Survey

New nationwide research conducted by Consumer Link (a division of Colmar Brunton) shows has examined the impact of stress on sleep patterns and the methods used to cope with stress.

The survey revealed that 75% of female respondents (and 57% of males) said stress affected their sleep at least once a week. The women surveyed said the most common cause of their stress was "money concerns" at 28% followed by "personal relationships" (23%) and "job-related concerns" at 17%. In comparison, job-related concerns were the top stress inducers for men (30%) with money concerns next on 19%. More than 11% of the women used either alcohol or sleeping pills to help them relieve this stress.

Money stresses also played a role in complicating relationships with 1 in 5 women (20%) surveyed saying that money stresses had a negative impact on their relationship with their partner. Forty-eight percent of all females said the most likely to thing to cause them to lose sleep is stress ahead of external noise such as children, traffic or even their partner's snoring.

Tips for De-stressing Before Going to Bed

Recognised ways of reducing stress and improving your ability to sleep well include:

- deep abdominal breathing techniques and progressive muscle relaxation;
- spending an hour before bed time writing down some of the concerns that you have, with action you might take tomorrow to tackle the stress situation;

writing a detailed diary of your activities and tasks for the next day;

making sure that you leave at least one hour before bed to take a soothing bath or shower followed by quiet relaxation; and

delaying bed time until you are really sleepy and then tell your mind to stop stressing - out loud if necessary.

NZ's Smoking Rate Falls

Results from the Ministry of Health's 2006/07 NZ Health Survey (see above) puts NZ's smoking prevalence at a record low of 19.9% for current smokers (aged 15 years and over).

Most current smokers smoked at least once a day (91.2%), one in 16 current smokers (6.4%) smoked at least once a week, and 2.5% smoked at least once a month. There were no differences by gender in the frequency of smoking.

Smoking prevalence peaked in early adulthood (18-34 years) and then declined with age. One in seven 15 to 17-year-olds were current smokers (15.3%), even though it is illegal in NZ to purchase tobacco products at this age.

The figures show that smoking rates for adults who smoke every day have also decreased since the last survey. The prevalence of daily smoking has decreased from 23.4% in 2002/03 to 18.7% in 2006/07, adjusted for age.

To access the Ministry of Health's 2006/07 NZ Health Survey go to www.moh.govt.nz

Domestic Violence Act: Proposed Changes

Following a review, a number of changes have been proposed to the Domestic Violence Act 1995 and related legislation to reduce and prevent violence within domestic relationships. The main proposals are:

- Police issuing on the spot short-term safety orders;
- strengthening the penalty system associated with offences relating to breach of protection orders;
- providing victims of domestic violence with more information when the court declines applications for protection orders;
- requiring the Family Court to more carefully scrutinise applications for discharging a protection order;
- requiring the criminal courts to consider making a protection order on behalf of the victim;
- improving access to programmes for respondents, protected persons and their children; and
- ensuring more consistency with regard to the use of lawyers for children and dealing with psychological abuse.

Cabinet papers relating to the proposals are on the Ministry of Justice website at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/2008/dv-review-cabinet-papers/index.html>

Abortion Statistics for 2007

According to Statistics NZ, a total of 18,380 induced abortions were performed in NZ in the December 2007 year, 450 (2.5%) more than in 2006 (17,930). The general abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years) increased from 19.6 per 1,000 in 2006 to 20.1 per 1,000 in 2007. In 1997, the general abortion rate was 17.6 per 1,000.

Women aged 20-24 years had more abortions than any other age group. Their abortion rate was 37 abortions per 1,000 women aged 20-24 years in 2007. The median age of women having an abortion has remained relatively stable over the last 20 years, at around 25 years of age.

Farming Sector Business Wins Safety Award

Dannevirke shearing contractor Paewai-Mullins has won the Safeguard NZ Workplace Health and Safety Award. This is the first time a business associated with the farming sector has won the award.

ACC Compensation Now Based on Earnings

As of 1 August 2008, under the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill (No.2) casual and seasonal workers' long-term weekly compensation will be based on the workers' earning periods. Previously it was based on the 52 weeks before the injury, which may have included non-earning periods. The amendment also extends eligibility for weekly compensation to 28 days after stopping work, addressing the uncertainty for most people who are in this situation and ensuring more workers are eligible for cover.

There are more than 400,000 casual and seasonal workers representing around 20 percent of the workforce.

New Complaints Process for CYFS

A new two-tier complaints process has been established for the Child, Youth and Family service (CYFS) of the Ministry of Social Development. The first part of this entails CYFS listening to concerns at a local level to try to resolve the issues there and then. If the issue remains unresolved after this, the client can apply in writing to have an independent advisory panel called the Chief Executive Advisory Panel review the outcome of the earlier consideration of their complaint.

The process will be in place by the end of July.

Education

Keeping Students Safe: New Anti-Bullying Resources

Four programmes have been announced that aim to make schools safer for students and to ensure schools have anti-bullying programmes in place. They are:

- *"Step Up, Be Safe (Be Proud)"* pocket cards. These have been developed by young people for young people and give information on what bullying is (includes bullying using technology), tips and strategies, who to talk to and information on keeping safe. There is a focus on victims of bullies, the bullies and the witnesses. All students from Year Three will receive a card;
- *new processes for the Education Review Office (ERO) to review school/ anti-bullying strategies.* From Term 3 this year ERO will ask schools whether incidents of particular types of bullying have occurred in their school. It's believed that making this part of the formal ERO review that schools undertake every three years will encourage schools without targeted anti-bullying programmes to develop processes and procedures that make their schools safer places;
- *a teachers' and principals' "Supporting Positive Behaviours" information website.* The website will provide information about students' behaviour including bullying, with the aim of helping address problem behaviours in all aspects of school life and developing positive school environments. Go to www.tki.org.nz/r/governance/positive_behaviours/index_e.php; and
- *for parents and families - finding helpful tips online on new pages on the Ministry of Education's "Team Up" website.* The aim of these new pages is to: support the student bullying card by making parents aware of this resource and what they can do to support its use; link parents to existing information on the Team-Up website; and to help them understand bullying and how they can help their child deal with it. The website features new information relating specifically to primary students at www.teamup.co.nz/primary-int/helpful/Bullying/default.htm - and to secondary school students at www.teamup.co.nz/secondary/helpful/Bullying/default.htm

AE Providers: Free Correspondence School Tuition

Alternative Education (AE) providers are now able to get free access to the Correspondence School for their students, who will be able to participate as dual enrolled students with the School from Term 3 this year.

AE is education arranged by local authorities or schools and provided outside of school. It can range from pupil referral units and further education colleges to voluntary or private sector projects, and there are around 3500 AE students.

Housing

Housing Consents Down

According to Statistics NZ, building consents statistics show there were 1,653 new housing units authorised in May 2008, down 669 units compared with May 2007. There were 105 apartment units authorised, down five units compared with May 2007. Excluding apartments, there were 1,548 new housing units authorised in May 2008, down 664 units. This declining trend has been evident since June 2007.

New Urban Design Guide

A new urban design guide called "Urban Design Case Studies Local Government" features best practice case studies from nine local councils and developers in Auckland, Christchurch, Queenstown, Wellington, Kapiti and Hamilton. The benefits of a well designed urban area include:

- better public health;
- greater social equity;
- enhanced land values;
- a more vibrant local economy;
- reduced vehicle emissions; and
- more sustainable use of non-renewable resources.

To read the case studies go to www.mfe.govt.nz/urban

Transport

Road User Charges Increase

Road User Charges (RUC), affecting diesel vehicles and all other vehicles weighing more than 3.5 tonnes, increased from 1 July. For a small diesel car, it will cost \$3.28 more to drive 1000 kilometres, or \$32.80 more for an average year's motoring of 10,000 km. A larger vehicle, such as a three tonne SUV, will cost an extra \$49.20 per 10,000 km. A typical five tonne truck will pay an additional \$53.80 per 10,000 km, while a 23 tonne four-axle truck can expect to pay an additional \$198.

The updated RUC book is available on the Land Transport NZ website at: <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/publications/docs/road-user-charges.pdf> and a fact sheet with information on RUC charges for 1-6 tonne vehicles is also available at: <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/factsheets/38.html>

Biofuel Quality Regulated

With the 1 July introduction of the Engine Fuel Specifications Regulations 2008 the quality of biofuels is now being regulated. The regulations set requirements for diesel, biodiesel, diesel/biodiesel blends, petrol, ethanol and petrol/ethanol blends, for use in internal combustion engines.

Compliance with the regulations will be monitored by the Fuels Quality Monitoring Programme, run by the Measurement and Product Safety Service of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Petrol Pricing: Review & Comparisons

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) has engaged independent consultants Hale and Twomey to review and analyse petrol pricing. The review will build on work already carried out as part of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission report on the price of unleaded petrol, and consider implications

for the NZ market. It is anticipated that the report will be completed by the end of this month.

International and Domestic Petrol and Diesel Price Comparisons are at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary___20094.aspx

Trucks to Trial Heavier Loads

A project trialling a controlled permit system allowing trucks to carry heavier loads was launched recently. Selected road transport companies from across the industry will take part in the six-month project, carrying loads of up to 50 tonnes, rather than the 44 tonnes currently legally allowed. Note: these vehicles will not be any bigger, only heavier.

Heavier vehicles use more fuel than lighter vehicles, but the difference is small. It is believed that the increased fuel use would usually be outweighed by the greater load on each truck and the consequent lower trip numbers, bringing a useful overall reduction in emissions. It's also believed that road congestion operating costs would be reduced.

Energy

NZ Energy Sector: What's Currently Happening...

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) has released its NZ Energy Quarterly for the March quarter 2008. This publication presents quarterly statistics on fuel prices, the supply of major fuels, electricity generation and greenhouse gas emissions. This quarter:

- petrol and diesel prices continued to rise, although motorists were somewhat shielded from increases due to the high value of the NZ dollar compared with the US dollar;
- NZ's oil production continued at near record levels as a result of the Tui oil field coming online in mid 2007;
- oil exports were more than four times higher compared to the March quarter 2007;
- thermal electricity generation was significantly higher than during the March quarter 2007 due to low hydrological inflows;
- Whirinaki, NZ's diesel-fired reserve generator, ran at record levels; and
- emissions from electricity generation were up almost a third compared with the March quarter 2007.

The NZ Energy Quarterly is free to download or subscribe to by going to www.med.govt.nz/energy/nzeq and the Ministry also provides up-to-date information via its Energy Data webpages at www.med.govt.nz/energy/data

...Every Day Energy Saving...

Here's a list of actions you can take every day and night to use energy more efficiently:

- switch it off: turn appliances off at the wall instead of leaving them on standby and remember to unplug mobile phone chargers too when you've finished using them. This could save you up to \$100 a year;
- choose when you use: instead of having your heated towel rail on continuously, use it for only a few hours per day. You can save \$70-\$140 a year by doing this;
- pull the plug on your second fridge: you can save up to \$300 a year by getting rid of your old inefficient beer fridge or freezer;
- check your hot water temperature at the tap: it should be at 55 degrees Celcius. An extra 10 degrees, for example, could cost you up to \$140 a year;
- make use of the sun: dry your laundry on the clothes line whenever possible instead of using a dryer. Keeping windows clean and free from overhanging trees is another way of taking advantage of sunlight to warm your home;
- rinse dishes with cold water instead of rinsing them under the hot tap;
- close the curtains just before dark to keep the heat in;
- use the right sized saucepan for the element when you are cooking, so heat doesn't escape around the sides. And use a lid to keep the heat in;
- stop the drips: fix any dripping hot taps by replacing the washer or fitting;
- use the wood burner: if you've got a wood burner or pellet burner, it's generally cheaper heat than electricity;
- buy bright: replace your four home's most-used bulbs with energy efficient ones. They cost around \$6 each but last up to 10 times longer. Doing this can save around \$65 a year;
- save water and energy: install an energy efficient, low-flow shower head. This could save you up to \$500 a year if you use a lot of hot water;
- stop draughts sneaking in and out under doors with a draught stopper. Block your fireplace off too if you are not using it; and
- use thermostats and timers so your heaters, including heat pumps, only come on when you need them and automatically turn off once the right temperature is reached.

For more information on bigger steps you can take go to the Energywise action sheets at <http://www.energywise.govt.nz/action-sheets/index.htm>. They include information on home insulation, choosing and using energy efficient appliances including heat pumps, saving on hot water and heating, and energy efficient travel

Portable Dehumidifiers: Little Energy Savers

Portable dehumidifiers have been championed this winter because they remove damp, cold air from a room, leaving it easier to heat. They also work like a small heat pump - warming air using heat generated by the water extraction process. Studies indicate the dehumidifier will pump out air up to five degrees warmer than the environment it's extracting it from, and this makes it an effective companion that eases the load on the home's main heating source.

Position the dehumidifier away from the home's main heating source, near a window or outside wall as this is often where the warm moist air condenses causing damp and mould.

... An Efficient Lighting Strategy...

An Efficient Lighting Strategy aims to reduce lighting energy consumption by 20% by 2015. It will do this by helping Kiwis embrace efficient, affordable lighting technology and phasing out the least efficient lighting products by setting minimum energy performance standards. There are a number of energy efficient light bulbs on the market, some of them subsidised by the Electricity Commission.

The Efficient Lighting Strategy is at www.electricitycommission.govt.nz and www.eeca.govt.nz

...& Potential Energy Savings in NZ: EC Study

The Electricity Commission (EC) has released a study into the potential electricity demand savings that can be made through increased electricity efficiency. The study estimates there are potential peak demand savings of 3,199 MW by the year 2016, 39% of the projected 2016 peak demand.

Overall there is an estimated savings potential of 11,179 (GWh), representing 23% of projected 2016 energy use. Some of the savings would occur naturally through natural replacement of older technology and equipment.

The report is at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/pdfs/opdev/elec-efficiency/potential/Potentials-summary-Oct07.pdf>

Environmental Standards for the National Grid?

Two proposed national environmental standards relating to the management and security of the national grid are to be reconsidered following public feedback. A proposed "Transmission Activities National Environmental Standard" would define which activities Transpower can undertake without resource consent to maintain the national grid and which activities would require specific consents. A "Transmission Risks National Environmental Standard" would establish a buffer zone to protect transmission lines from activities that could damage the lines or put the national grid at risk, and provide protection for people from transmission lines.

More on the proposals is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/cabinet-paper-development-electricity-transmission.html>

Wind Generation Investigation Project: Reports

The Electricity Commission (EC) has released reports from its wind generation investigation project (WGIP). The WGIP was set up to identify power system and electricity market issues relating to additional wind generation, and to resolve these so wind generation can be developed on a "level playing field" with other generation sources over the next 5 to 10 years.

It included (amongst other things) investigations into the effect of the unpredictability and variability of wind generation on scheduling, dispatch and asset loading.

The reports are at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/opdev/comqual/windgen/wgip#implications>

Energy from Kaipara Harbour Tides...

A project (by Crest Energy Ltd) to generate electricity from the tides in Kaipara Harbour is to receive a grant of \$1.85 million from the Marine Energy Deployment Fund. The Pouto Link Project will see up to three turbines set up, as the first stage of the company's long term plan for commercial-scale electricity generation from the tides at Kaipara. Its funding comes from the Marine Energy Deployment Fund (via the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority).

For more on the project go to www.crest-energy.com/

...& Wave Energy Trials for Wellington

A uniquely "Kiwi" wave energy generator has been developed by Wave Energy Technology NZ - a partnership between the Crown Research Institutes Industrial Research Limited, and NIWA, and the Wellington power consultancy Power Projects Limited. The consortium's aim is to produce commercial generators, each capable of producing at least 100 kW, that could supplement energy supplies for large cities or meet all the energy needs of remote communities (e.g., offshore islands). The generator in Evans Bay is a quarter of full-size, and capable of a peak output of only around 2 kW of electricity (enough to run two typical homes) but it is allowing the project scientists and engineers to refine its design so that it can be scaled up in size.

Employment

Flexible Working Arrangements for Carers

Employees with caring responsibilities now have a specific right to ask their employers for flexible working arrangements, if they have worked for their employer for at least six months and are caring for someone.

Employers must consider and respond to employee requests within three months and employees can make one application in any twelve-month period. An employer can only reject a request where there is a "Recognised Business Ground" for doing so. The new provisions are unlikely to have any effect on existing flexible working arrangements.

More is at www.dol.govt.nz/worklife

Changes Proposed to Employment Relations Act

The Department of Labour (DoL) is to develop a "code of employment" to make it easier for employers to comply with their obligations to casual and temporary workers and for employees to understand what they are entitled to by law.

The Employment Relations Act will be amended to extend the power the Employment Relations Authority and the Employment Court have to decide whether an employee has a fixed term contract or is actually a permanent employee to DoL's labour inspectors.

The Act will also be amended to strengthen the rights of employees whose employer contracts their services to a third party (who then effectively controls the employee's work).

Recent research on casual workers and their employers has shown there is a general lack of knowledge about their employment rights and obligations. It also found there was limited access to holiday, sick leave, training, skill development and career pathways, and that casual work caused undue intrusion into family life, limiting the ability to budget and plan ahead.

The relevant reports together with a cabinet paper are available at <http://ers.govt.nz/relationships/reports.html>

Mainstream Supported Employment Moves to MSD

The Mainstream supported employment programme has moved to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) from the State Services Commission (SSC). This programme facilitates employment opportunities within the State sector - including large schools - for people who are disadvantaged by disability. Its support includes subsidies to government organisations employing people with disabilities, training, and specialist equipment. There are currently about 220 people in employment through Mainstream.

The Mainstream team are at 0800 MSTREAM (0800 678 732). More information is on the Mainstream web page at www.ssc.govt.nz/mainstream

Justice/The Law

Lawyers & Conveyancers' Act 2006: Backgrounder

The Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 creates a new statutory framework for the legal profession. Some of the key changes, which will be put in place over the next 18 months are:

- the creation of a new profession of "conveyancing practitioners" able to carry out conveyancing work in competition with lawyers;

- the ability for law firms to form limited liability companies, subject to restrictions including who may be directors and shareholders and personal liability of directors;
- the replacement of Queen's Counsel by Senior Counsel, with appointment being open to lawyers in all forms of practice, not just barristers sole;
- the end of compulsory membership of District Law Societies;
- the introduction of a set of "fundamental obligations" owed by all lawyers (see below);
- the ability of non-lawyers to offer non-litigation legal services to the public;
- the ability of lawyers employed outside law firms to offer some non-litigation legal services to the public; and
- new consumer protection provisions, including a "Code of Professional Conduct and Client Care" (see below).
"Fundamental obligations" which apply to **all** lawyers are:
- the obligation to uphold the rule of law and to facilitate the administration of justice in NZ;
- the obligation to be independent in providing regulated services (i.e. legal services) to clients;
- the obligation to act in accordance with all fiduciary duties and duties of care owed by lawyers to their clients; and
- the obligation to protect, subject to overriding duties as an officer of the High Court and duties under any enactment, the interests of clients.

In order for allow non-litigation services to be offered by those who are not lawyers, the Act establishes certain "reserved areas of work", including:

- giving legal advice in relation to the direction or management of any proceedings before a NZ court or tribunal;
- appearing as an advocate before a NZ court or tribunal;
- representing any other person before a NZ court or tribunal; and
- giving legal advice or carrying out any other action that is required by any enactment to be carried out by a lawyer.

In addition, the Act makes it an offence for a person who is not a lawyer (or entitled to do so under an Act) to draft court documents for gain or reward.

The new "Code of Professional Conduct and Client Care" will require lawyers to provide clients with information in advance on the principal aspects of client service, including:

- the basis on which fees will be charged;
- indemnity insurance arrangements;
- the coverage provided by any fidelity fund; and
- complaints mechanisms.

These requirements build on the existing practice of leading law firms which provide clients with terms of engagement at the outset of an instruction.

* A lawyer has a fiduciary duty to his or her client to act with the utmost good faith, i.e. with absolute fairness and openness.

This item was adapted with thanks from an article by lawyers Bellgully

The Bellgully article is at: <http://www.bellgully.com/resources/resource.00627.asp>. The Act itself is on the Government's legislation website, www.legislation.govt.nz and it is also available from Bennetts Government Bookshop

Spouse Testifying Against Spouse: Law Changes

The Evidence Act 2006, which took effect in 2007, has abolished "spousal immunity" in court proceedings. Under the previous law, the spouse of a person charged with an offence was what is described in legal terms as a "competent" witness, but was not "compellable", i.e. there was no power for the Crown to make a spouse testify in a criminal trial without the consent of the defendant. The law also previously protected disclosures made during a marriage by one spouse to the other.

The new Act provides that any person in civil or criminal proceedings is an eligible witness, and may be compelled to give evidence. A judge does not have discretion to excuse spouses from giving evidence against each other. In cases in which a spouse is compelled to give evidence against a spouse and the evidence contradicts or retracts an earlier statement made by the witness, the prosecution has the power to challenge the credibility of the witness by referring to the earlier statement.

The law has been particularly under the spotlight because of its impact in domestic violence cases. The Police have had great difficulty in prosecuting such offences because the victims in a large number of cases have come to Court and said they did not wish to give evidence against their spouses, sometimes as a result of threats and intimidation by the spouse.

Source: NZ Health & Wealth Report, Vol. 27 No. 11 23 June 2008

Mental Health & the Law: New Resource

The Legal Services Agency (LSA) has published "The Law and Mental Health", an education resource for community groups providing mental health information and support, and for people experiencing mental illness and their support people, whanau, family and friends. The kit contains material for education seminars, including resources for seminar participants. The focus is on the Mental Health Act and six other areas of law that can impact on a person experiencing mental illness.

The kit is the sixth in a series that have been produced by the LSA - the others in the series are: Enduring Power of Attorney; Legal Aid and Other Legal Assistance; Domestic Violence and Harassment Acts; Immigration; and ACC.

For more information on this and other education resources produced by LSA contact: J McIntosh, Senior Education and Development Adviser, Legal Services Agency, Tel: 04 495 5940, Email: janine.mcintosh@lsa.govt.nz

Licensing "Private Eyes": Changes Coming

The Government is to introduce a Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Bill.

Currently, security businesses and their staff are required to be licensed if they offer services in security consultancy work, installing or repairing burglar alarms and other security-related equipment, installing locks for safes, monitoring security devices, or guarding property, or doing private investigation work. However, standards vary from business to business.

The main changes to be included in the Bill are:

- the licensing requirements (including police checks for criminal convictions) will be extended to cover a wider range of security-related activities - in particular, crowd controllers including bouncers, bodyguards, and private security staff guarding people in legal custody;
- private security staff will be required - for the first time in NZ - to undertake training if their job is guarding property, guarding persons, or keeping order among groups of people; and
- an enforcement body - the Complaints, Investigation and Prosecution Unit - will be created to ensure compliance with the new legislation, and there will be heavier penalties for offending.

It is estimated that around 18,000 people will need to be licensed under the new legislation, nearly double the number licensed under the existing Act.

Law Commission: Disclosing Previous Convictions

The Law Commission's Report on "Disclosure to Court of Defendants' Previous Convictions, Similar Offending, and Bad Character" has been tabled in Parliament. Its review followed public disquiet expressed in some quarters at the non-disclosure to the jury of previous convictions of two former police officers who were tried and acquitted of sexual offending.

The issue is how to balance the disclosing of information about previous convictions or misconduct that could point to a tendency to offend, against the possible effect on the jury's decision-making when it knows of the earlier behaviour.

The Court of Appeal recently ruled that the Evidence Act changed the law relating to admissibility of evidence: the Commission says it is important to see how the new approach works out before making any more changes, and that it should report again on the issue in 2010.

During the investigation the Commission identified some disturbing features of the trial process (the Westminster style adversarial trial) as it applies to unlawful sex cases in NZ. It has proposed that the Government holds an inquiry into whether the present system should be modified or replaced by some alternative model, either for sex offences or for some wider class of offences. It suggests that the Taskforce for Action on Sexual Violence should assess the issues and options such an inquiry would consider.

The report is at http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_136_405_Disclosure_of_Previous_Convictions_Report_103_WEB.pdf

Not-For-Profits

Most Volunteers Give Time, Money, Goods

A new research report "How do NZers give?" estimates that almost 80% of volunteers have also donated money or goods in

the previous 12 months. The report, which draws on data collected in 2007, estimates that:

- 1.2 million people volunteered (33.8% of all people 10 years and over);
- 2.2 million people gave money or goods (60.3%); and
- 829,000 people supported in other ways, such as purchasing products (23%).

Some recent changes have opened the doors to encouraging NZers to give more generously, e.g. the removal of the upper limit of the tax rebate that can be claimed when giving to a charity will assist people to give in a more planned, long term way. Also, pre-tax payroll giving, planned for 2009, will assist people wishing to make a regular longer term commitment to a charity.

The report is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/documents/reports/quickstats-reports-june-08.pdf>

Prison Volunteering in NZ

New Zealand has more prison volunteers in proportion to the prisoner population than anywhere else in the world, and number of volunteers has doubled in the last 5-6 years. There are currently over 3000 volunteers and around 7,500 prisoners - that equates to 40% of the total prisoner population. It seems as though Canada is next, with a volunteer population that equates to 28% of the prison population. The UK's volunteer population equates to 14% of the prison population, with Australia and other OECD countries lagging well behind.

Charities Commission Update...

At 30 June 8,146 charities had registered with the Charities Commission. The "big three" categories of charity are:

- *Sectors:* education/training/research, religious activities, other;
- *Activities:* provides services (e.g. care, counselling), provides religious services/ activities, other; and
- *Beneficiaries:* general public, children/young people, other.

There are 2,078 national organisations registered. Other registered NZ charities are located in: Auckland: 1,341; Bay of Plenty: 551; Canterbury: 986; Chatham Islands: 16; Gisborne: 50; Hawkes Bay: 377; Manawatu/Wanganui: 460; Nelson/Marlborough/Tasman: 360; Northland: 422; Otago: 536; Southland: 273; Taranaki: 281; Waikato: 643; Wellington/Wairarapa: 887; and West Coast: 169; and

Overseas charities registered with the Commission are located in: Africa: 111; Antarctica: 9; Asia: 183; Europe: 91; North America: 62; Oceania: 187; and South America: 59.

Note: IRD has announced that state-funded tertiary education institutions, state and integrated schools, and non-resident charities will now not have to register with the Charities Commission to retain their tax-exempt status. A transitional measure is also being introduced to protect the tax-exempt status of organisations that run into difficulty with completing their registration applications before the deadline.

Visit the Charities Commission website at <http://www.charities.govt.nz/>

...& Registered Charities Offered Freebie

The Print Media Copyright Agency (PMCA) is offering free photocopying licences to charities registered with the Charities Commission. Annual licence fees are usually charged based on the size of an organisation. They range from \$214 (excl GST) for organisations with fewer than 5 employees, through to more than \$3,000 for organisations with more than 5,000 staff. Having a licence means that the registered charities can legally photocopy, fax or electronically distribute articles appearing in 31 daily and Sunday newspapers. As an additional bonus, registered charities that apply for a licence can also photocopy and distribute articles from 42 magazines and 118 community newspapers at no additional cost.

To apply complete the Copying Licence application form at <http://www.pmca.co.nz/var/cm/cm-pmca-which-publications.php>, making sure you include your Charities Commission registration number. More is at <http://www.pmca.co.nz/var/cm/cm-pmca-how-to-apply.php>

Find Out About Your Place

Information from the 2006 Census called "QuickStats About A Place" provides an overview of NZ's communities, with facts, tables and graphs for about 2,000 areas throughout NZ. Information available for each community includes population and dwellings, cultural diversity, marital status, work, income, transport and housing.

More is at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/census/census-outputs/quickstats/aboutAPlace.htm>

Business

Overseas Trade: May 2008

The total value of exports rose 11.2% from May 2007 to May 2008, to reach \$3.7 billion, while imports were up 17.3% to \$3.9 billion over the same period, Statistics NZ said recently. Crude oil and other petroleum products led the increase for both exports and imports in the May 2008 month.

The next largest increase in exports came from meat and edible offal which rose \$117 million from May 2007, with sheep meat the main contributor to this rise. The total exports value for meat and edible offal is the highest ever for a May month and at \$528 million is only just short of the highest ever recorded monthly value (\$534 million in March 2005).

In May 2008, the monthly trade balance was a deficit of \$196 million, or 5.3% of exports. Over the past 10 years, May months have recorded a deficit only three times. All three of these occurred in the past four years, with May 2008 being the largest (both by value and as a percentage of exports).

A Standard Reporting System for Business?

A cross-government investigation into introducing a "Standard Reporting System" to help reduce compliance costs for business will receive \$7 million over the next three years. The investigation will centre on the departments and ministries that deal with financial reporting - the Ministry of Economic Development's Companies Office, Inland Revenue, Statistics NZ and ACC - as these are where the biggest opportunity will be to reduce compliance costs. The project will also look at setting up a "Single Business Number" and at the possibility of businesses reporting to just one government agency (with the report then being sent on to the other relevant agencies).

Lifting Productivity by Collaborating

The recently opened Centre for High Performance Work is a joint venture between the Dairy Workers Union and the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union. The centre aims to work with NZ businesses to develop work practices that lead to increased productivity and business growth by integrating workers' shop floor knowledge into day-to-day production.

Find out more at www.chpw.co.nz

Money Matters

Latest NZ Credit Rating

Moody's rating agency says NZ will hold its Aaa sovereign credit rating despite the economic downturn. It said recently in a regular review that NZ's high per capita income, institutional strength, and sound government balance sheet continued to underpin the rating.

But growth is expected to slow to the 1-2% range during both 2008 and 2009, Moodys said, mainly due to the slowdown in the housing market. On the bright side, though, Moodys believes that high dairy prices, which translate into higher incomes for farmers, and tax cuts announced in the 2008-09 Budget, would prevent any downturn from being severe.

Statutory Interest Rate Changes

The interest rate courts can award for the recovery of debts or damages has been increased to bring it into line with current market borrowing rates. The new rate, which took effect from 1 July 2008, is set at 8.4% (it was previously 7.5%).

GDP: March 2008 Quarter

Economic activity declined 0.3% in the March 2008 quarter, according to Statistics NZ. The agriculture and construction industries were the main contributors to the decline this quarter. The decline follows an increase in economic activity of 0.8% in the December 2007 quarter. In annual terms, the economy grew 3.0% to the year ended March 2008.

Activity in the primary industries declined 4.1% in the March 2008 quarter. Agriculture was down 5.6% for the March 2008 quarter, the largest decline in agriculture since the March 1998 quarter. Drought conditions experienced by parts of the country contributed to lower output and increased costs for the agriculture industry.

Activity in the goods producing industries was down 1.9% in the March 2008 quarter, with construction down 5.2%, and manufacturing down 1.2%. Of the manufacturing industries the largest decline this quarter was in food, beverage and tobacco manufacturing. The decline in construction activity was in both residential and non-residential construction.

Spending by NZ households was down 0.4% in the March 2008 quarter, following an increase of 0.5% in the December 2007 quarter. This is the first quarter since June 2004 that household consumption expenditure has been negative. Expenditure on durable items, such as vehicles and furniture and major appliances, were down 3.4% this quarter while volumes of non-durable goods, which includes food and alcohol, remained flat.

Commodity Prices for June 2008

The ANZ Commodity (commodities are goods and services) Price Index recorded a very minor drop (0.3%) in June. Export prices remain high.

Six commodities registered higher prices in June, while five recorded declines. Leading the increases was the price of beef (up 4.3%), which has risen consistently over the first half of the year. The price of beef has recorded one of the top two strongest monthly price rises for five of the past six months. Overall, beef prices are now a third higher than at the end of last year. Other commodities to show strong rises in the latest month were aluminium (up 2.0%), venison (1.3%), and wool (up 1.2%).

Sawn timber prices fell 6%, to be 19% lower than a year ago, kiwifruit fell 4.7%, and dairy prices were down 1.1%. World dairy prices have now retreated 12% from their peak last November. The main reason being cited for the reduction in dairy prices is that more dairying countries have raised their production.

Food prices: May 2008

Food prices rose 1.0% from April 2008 to May 2008 with:

- fruit and vegetable prices rising 3.8%, driven by higher vegetable prices;
- non-alcoholic beverage prices rising 2.6%;
- grocery food prices rising 0.5%;
- restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food prices rising 0.6%; and
- meat, poultry and fish prices rising 0.2%.

Food prices increased 6.8% for the year to May 2008.

We're Eating More Eggs

According to latest survey results, egg consumption figures are the highest they have been for over 12 years. Today, the average Kiwi eats 225 eggs a year, up 14% from 1995, when there were 194 eggs per person consumed a year. Consumption figures peaked in August 2007 as rising living costs started to bite, and have remained strong since.

Financial Literacy in School Trial: Banks Contribute

The Retirement Commission has received more than \$400,000 from the country's banks to help fund a trial programme in ten schools teaching financial literacy in schools. The Commission is leading the project aimed at students having money skills so they can make informed financial decisions when they leave school. The trial is now underway and will continue through terms three and four, followed by an independent evaluation.

The NZ Qualifications Authority (NZQA) is to develop related NCEA qualifications.

Debit/Credit Card Payments to IRD: Bank Fee Gone

From the start of July people who make online student loan or child support payments to Inland Revenue won't have to pay an extra 2.49% bank fee, because Inland Revenue will now pay the fee on their behalf. The aim of this move is to make it easier and cheaper for primarily overseas-based student loan borrowers and child support paying parents to make online payments using debit or credit cards.

Raising Capital in NZ & Australia: Agreement

Australia and NZ have agreed on a system that will smooth the way for businesses to raise capital, and for the public to invest with greater ease - in both countries. The Mutual Recognition of Securities Offerings system allows for the same securities offerings document to be issued in both countries. Under it issuers can extend an offer that is being lawfully made in either Australia or NZ to investors in the other country without being required to fulfil additional requirements that would make the process too expensive. The approach is considered to be world leading in this area.

Treaty Matters

Central North Island Forest Agreement Signed

The Crown and the Central North Island Forests Iwi Collective of seven tribes have signed a deed of settlement resolving their claims on central North Island forestry assets. The claim is the largest reached in the Treaty of Waitangi Settlements process to date. The collective (led by Dr Tumu te Heuheu) is made up of Ngai Tuhoe, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Whakaue, Ngati Whare, Ngati Manawa, Ngati Rangitahi, Raukawa, and the Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapu. Together these groups have more than 100,000 members.

Collective iwi have agreed to allocate the collective's share of the land amongst themselves on the basis of mana whenua, according to an agreed process. This is the first time a settlement has been completed in this way. The allocation process is due to be completed by 1 July 2011.

All 76,000 ha of the Central North Island licensed Crown forest land, and the associated accumulated rentals and ongoing rentals will be vested in a Trust Holding Company called CNI Iwi Holdings Ltd. The Collective's proportion of these assets will be 86.7%, and the Crown's proportion 13.3% (this will be used for meeting other Treaty claims in the area). The Collective's share of the Crown forest land is valued at \$196 million.

More is at <http://www.ots.govt.nz/>

Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika Settlement

The Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika Settlement has been initialled. It includes an agreed historical account and Crown acknowledgements (which form the basis for a Crown apology and also a statement of forgiveness from Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika to the Crown); cultural redress; and financial and commercial redress. This includes: sites transferred in fee simple title, and 24 parcels of Crown-owned land, including recently held local authority land and some Meridian Energy land of special significance being returned. The land being returned includes some that is currently reserve land such as Matiu/Somes Island, Mokopuna Island and Makaro/Ward Island, the Korokoro Gateway sites (two sites on the harbour at Petone), the lakebeds of Lake Kohangatera and Lake Kohangapiripiri (the Pencarrow Lakes), Wi Tako Scenic Reserve and Point Dorset Recreation Reserve.

The site of Pipitea Marae; two Crown-owned properties on Thorndon Quay (land plus improvements; a section of land on the corner of Waiwhetu Road/Whites Line East; a urupa (cemetery) site at Makara; and the former Wainuiomata College, former Wainuiomata Intermediate School, and former Waiwhetu Primary School are also being returned to Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika.

More is at <http://www.ots.govt.nz/>

Revised Settlement Reached with Te Arawa

Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa, representing the Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi/Hapu has signed a revised Deed of Settlement with the Crown to settle their historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. The Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi/Hapu have a membership of approximately 24,000 and assert interests in an area of over 500,000 hectares. A large portion of this area is licensed Crown forest land.

The Deed of Settlement includes:

- a formal apology from the Crown to the Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi/Hapu for historical breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi;
- an amended financial redress package to reflect Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa's participation in the Central North Island Collective settlement;
- the transfer of 19 areas of Crown-owned land of special significance to the Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi/Hapu; and
- redress that will enable increased input into management over Crown-owned land, and protocols with certain government agencies.

Terms of Negotiation signed with Raukawa...

Raukawa and the Crown have signed Terms of Negotiations for the settlement of Raukawa's outstanding historic Treaty of Waitangi claims, a focus off which is their claim to the Waikato River. Raukawa is one of the largest iwi in the central North Island with claims spanning an area including parts of both the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions. These claims relate to the loss of large areas of the central North Island, along with the impact of the Crown's military actions and land confiscations in the Waikato region. They will not include the claims of the closely related Raukawa ki Te Tonga Iwi from the Manawatu/Horowhenua region.

...& Ngati Whatua o Kaipara

The South Kaipara Treaty claims have been the subject of two Waitangi Tribunal reports, the Kaipara interim report in 2002 and a final report in 2006. The claims primarily relate to the Crown purchase of Ngati Whatua o Kaipara land and the operation of the Native Land Laws.

Te Rarawa: Foreshore and Seabed Terms Signed

Representatives of northern iwi Te Rarawa have signed Terms of Negotiation under the Foreshore and Seabed Act with the Crown, acknowledging that there are neighbouring hapu and/or iwi that have also asserted an interest in parts of the public foreshore and seabed identified as being within Te Takutaimoana o Te Rarawa.

The signing follows foreshore and seabed Heads of Agreements with Ngati Porou and te Whanau A Apanui that were signed in February.

The Elections

Government Decision Making/ Publicity in Election Year

In the final months before a general election there is a heightened awareness of political neutrality amongst government servants and Members of Parliament (MPs) so governments have tended to be a bit restrained when it comes to making decisions during this time. Significant appointments may be deferred, and otherwise unexceptionable government advertising considered inappropriate during an election campaign. This is because of the heightened risk of people gaining the perception of public funds being used to finance publicity for party political purposes.

Ministers and Cabinet are likely to have less time for decision-making in the pre-election period in any case because they are busy with the election campaign.

While the ordinary business of governing continues, significant matters requiring ministerial attention during election year are generally dealt with well in advance of the election

Governments need to make the public aware of government policies and services. The rules about government advertising apply all the time, but advertising in election year can also be somewhat restrained as departments work to avoid any party political content. The rules are that the advertising has to be:

- accurate, factual and truthful: factual information should be outlined clearly and accurately;
- fair, honest and impartial: it should be presented in unbiased and objective language, and it should not promote any government policy or political argument; and
- lawful and proper.

Government departments have to respond to Official Information Act requests in a timely and appropriate manner even though it is election year. In a previous election period, the Ombudsmen commented on the extreme importance of a well-informed electorate at the time of a general election. They reported critically about state servants who had become involved in assessing the political consequences of releasing information, rather than making a decision in a politically neutral manner.

Internet/ICT

First Report on Broadband Quality

The first quarterly report on NZ broadband performance (for the March quarter) has been released by the Commerce Commission. From broadband measurement consultancy Epiteiro and ICT analyst firm IDC, the report examines the relative performance of NZ's internet service providers (ISPs).

Thirteen ISPs are measured every fifteen minutes on a 24/7 basis across eleven sites in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Performance is evaluated on eight key performance parameters, including time to connect, email round trip times and packet loss levels, which impact the end user's broadband experience.

According to the report's executive summary: "TelstraClear's Cable and DSL services achieved the highest broadband scores in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, while Orcon led the market in Hamilton and Dunedin. Second tier ISPs such as MaxNet, Snap and Compass consistently delivered above average results and took second and third place in their core markets. Telecom, Vodafone and Slingshot all achieved mid-range to below average outcomes across the five cities."

However Epiteiro "...believes the overall results portray a market in transition, where recent investment in infrastructure, technology and services has yet to be reflected in the user's experiences."

The report is at [http://www.comcom.govt.nz/IndustryRegulation/Telecommunications/MonitoringandReporting/ContentFiles/Documents/NZBBI%20Final%20\(3\)%20March%2008.pdf](http://www.comcom.govt.nz/IndustryRegulation/Telecommunications/MonitoringandReporting/ContentFiles/Documents/NZBBI%20Final%20(3)%20March%2008.pdf)

Recent NZ Telecommunications Market Trends

IDC's quarterly NZ Telecommunications Market Tracker shows values fell slightly by 1% in the March quarter, closing at around NZ\$1.5 billion. This was despite subscriber growth in both broadband and mobile.

Other main findings include:

- broadband uptake grew a further 5.8% in the March quarter, taking the total broadband (non-cellular) subscriber base to over 740,000 customers, and household penetration to 46%. But, broadband revenues grew only 2.4% to NZ\$103.9 million;
- the broadband market continues to be dominated by Telecom with an estimated 65% of retail customer market share. However, competition is increasing with other ISPs capturing 52% of broadband subscriber growth this quarter;
- mobile services penetration continues to grow far beyond population penetration, to 105% at the end of the March quarter with 4.48 million services in operation. But, despite subscriber growth of 2.4%, total mobile revenue declined 1.4% in the March quarter;
- Vodafone retained mobile dominance recording 52.4% subscriber market share and 60.3% revenue share; and
- Telecom's total revenue market share fell slightly to 59.9%, with Vodafone a clear second holding 23.5%, and rounding off the top three was TelstraClear (with 8.4% share).

Ban on Hand-held Mobile Phones in Vehicles?

The Government is to consider amending the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 to ban the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving a vehicle. Using Blackberry devices and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) would also be banned under the proposed amendment.

Drivers would still be able to use hands-free devices under the proposed ban, consultation on which could start in August.

InternetNZ Invests in Cybersafety: Hector's World

InternetNZ (Internet Society of NZ Inc) is to provide up to \$200,000 in funding for the ongoing development of Hector's World, a world-leading cybersafety resource for young children. Hector's World teaches young children cybersafety when they first experience the Internet, by engaging them with free online animated stories, puzzles and cybersafety buttons. These are coupled with educationally appropriate parent and teacher resources.

Hector's World is at www.hectorsworld.com

A new government website that lets you identify yourself online is at <https://www.i.govt.nz/>. The igovt service is designed to let you safely access government services such as applying for a student loan or viewing your rates account with your city council. It is secure and most government agencies will eventually be using it.

A campaign website covering NZ's bid for election to the United Nations Human Rights Council is at www.vote.nz4hrc.org. NZ is standing for election next year to the 47-seat Council for the term 2009-2012, and is the first country from the Pacific region to stand.

A carbon calculation tool that allows travellers to estimate the "carbon footprint" for any given flight they take is at http://www2.icao.int/public/cfmapps/carbonoffset/carbon_calculator.cfm. The Carbon Calculator, on the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) website, uses only publicly available and verifiable information to make its calculations about the amount of carbon dioxide emissions from a flight, taking into account such variables as aircraft type, route data, passenger load and the amount of cargo.

A free web-based carbon calculator for farmers at www.lincoln.ac.nz/carboncalculator is said to be the world's first monitoring tool of its kind. It is a joint venture between Lincoln University's Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit (AERU) and engineering consultancy AgriLINK. The calculator determines emissions from livestock, farm energy use, plus fertiliser and feed, to arrive at totals for methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions. These are then converted and expressed as total CO2 equivalents. For the calculator to work farmers need to enter basic data such as farm size, livestock numbers, fertiliser application, fuel usage and their contractors' activities...

...and *software to enable farmers across the country to accurately estimate their greenhouse gas emissions* is at <http://www.agresearch.co.nz/overseerweb/>. The OVERSEER Nutrient Budget Model developed by MAF, AgResearch and FertResearch provides users with a single tool to examine the impact and efficiency of nutrient use and flows within a farm (as fertiliser, effluent, supplements or transfer by animals) as well as potential environmental impacts. It also provides a system for investigating the effect of different ways of reducing the environmental impact of nutrient emissions on farm.

Independent information on issues surrounding the Emission Trading Scheme for land based sectors is at <http://www.carbonfarming.org.nz/>. Emissions trading is explained and there are also simple ETS calculators to help people assess potential liabilities and opportunities for farm, forestry, and other emitting activities.

A newly launched NZ-China Trade Association website at www.nzcta.co.nz offers insights on trade missions, events, articles, and news. There is also an option to subscribe to NZCTA's China Now newsletter. The NZCTA's mission is to promote and strengthen trade relations between NZ and the People's Republic of China by creating awareness of trade opportunities and relationship initiatives between the two countries.

ACC's ActiveSmart website at www.activesmart.co.nz has been honoured in the 2008 Webby Awards, dubbed the "Oscars of the Internet" for its innovation. Only 10 websites were honoured in the health section of the awards. ActiveSmart, aimed at helping kiwis become more physically active, offers personal training plans, nutrition advice and a wealth of information on getting fit and avoiding injury.

Arts and Culture

Te Papa: Humanities/Art Collections Online

For the first time, the public will be able to access the full catalogue of the national art collection and Te Papa's history and Pacific cultures collections, together with many objects from the photography, taonga Maori and natural environment collections. Over 25,000 high quality images are available, most of which can be zoomed into, allowing the online visitor to explore the detail of an artwork or specimen. As well as being able to search Te Papa's catalogue, online visitors are able to browse the catalogue via links to other similar objects - for example, objects of the same type, objects made by the same artist or objects that depict the same place or person.

Visitors can access Te Papa's Collections Online via the website, <http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz>

Creative NZ: New Funding System Coming

Creative NZ (CNZ) recently completed a review of the funding of projects through the Arts Board, Te Waka Toi and the Pacific Arts Committee, and it will be setting up a new funding system for the February 2009 funding round.

CNZ is also in the process of reviewing its special opportunities for artists, and some of the residencies and fellowships that it has been supporting have been put on hold for 2007/2008. The money that would have been spent on these has gone back into the Arts Board funding pool for artists and arts organisations to access.

More, including a list of residencies and fellowships now on hold, is at <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/funding/review> Queries go to: funding@creativenz.govt.nz

General

Seasonal Climate Outlook: July-September 2008

Warmer than average conditions which prevailed over NZ in June look set to continue into late winter, according to the NIWA National Climate Centre. In terms of the overall picture:

- *Temperature:* Air temperatures are likely to be above average in the North Island, and average or above average over the South Island. Sea surface temperatures around are NZ expected to remain above normal; and

- *Rainfall, soil moisture, and stream flows:* Rainfall is likely to be near normal in all regions. Normal soil moisture levels are likely in most regions, with normal or below normal levels likely on the South Island east coast. Normal or below normal stream flows are likely in the north and east of both islands, with normal stream flows likely in the west and south of both islands.

Regional predictions for the next three months:

- *Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty:* Above average temperatures are likely. Rainfall and soil moisture levels are likely to be near normal for the season as a whole, with normal or below normal stream flows likely;
- *Central North Island, Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu and Wellington:* Above average temperatures are likely for July-September. Normal rainfall, soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely;
- *Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa:* Above average seasonal temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall and soil moisture levels are likely overall, with stream flows likely to be normal or below normal;
- *Nelson, Marlborough, Buller:* Average or above average temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall and soil moisture levels are likely, with normal or below normal stream flows;
- *West Coast, Alps and Foothills, Inland Otago, Southland:* Average or above average temperatures are likely, with normal rainfall. Normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely; and
- *Coastal Canterbury, East Otago:* Average or above average temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall is likely overall, with normal or below normal soil moisture levels and stream flows likely.

What's Really Important to NZers...

According to the results of a recent survey conducted by UMR Research, most NZers don't rate being wealthy as important, but an overwhelming majority rate living a morally good life and having enough free time to do the things you want to do as very important. People were asked to rate six values on whether they were very important, somewhat important, not that important or very not important at all, and:

- 8% valued being wealthy as "very important", but most of us rated living a morally good life (78%), having enough time to do the things you want to do (64%) and having children (59%) as very important;
- chasing the career ladder didn't rate so well either, with 37% rating being successful in a career as very important compared with 49% who rated helping the wider community by volunteering and donating as very important;
- Aucklanders, men and those under 30 are more likely to value as very important being wealthy and being successful in a career than others;
- more men than women value as very important having enough time to do the things you want to do, while women value as very important having children and helping the wider community by volunteering and donating slightly higher than men; and
- those that value being wealthy as very important also value having enough time to do the things you want to do and being successful in a career significantly more highly than other people.

Similar research conducted in the United States shows Kiwis and Americans rate things much the same as each other, but with one important exception. While most Americans (61%) rate being successful in a career as very important, only 37% of NZers think the same.

...& The Most Trusted NZers for 2008 are

The Reader's Digest Trust Survey is now in its eighth year, and results of this year's survey were released recently. A newcomer to the poll, Corporal Bill Apiata VC, heads a list of well known NZers we trust: Peter Snell came second; Colin Meads, third; Margaret Mahy, fourth; Caroline and Georgina Evers-Swindell fifth; Irene Van Dyk and John Kirwin, sixth equal; followed by Barbara Kendall, Sir Richard Hadlee and Alison Holst at eight, nine, and ten.

Amongst the other findings:

- we trust the new Wallabies coach, Robbie Deans - 11 places higher this year at 35 (All Blacks coach, Graham Henry is at 46);
- of the 85 names in the poll, politicians ranked between 66 and 82;
- Firefighters are the most trusted profession, followed by ambulance officers, pilots and nurses (same as in 2006 and 2007); and
- the bottom four professions for 2008 are sex workers, car salesmen, politicians and telemarketers (who also bottomed out in 2007).

Families Commission Report: The Kiwi Nest

A report from the Families Commission called "The Kiwi Nest - 60 Years of Change in NZ Families" looks at the different experiences of the three main generations making up today's family - those with parents born before World War II, the families of the baby boomers, and the families of the children of the baby boomers. It also considers how these families have changed and what has influenced those changes.

Sixty years ago the norm was for dad to work and mum to stay home and raise three, four or more children. They largely had an income they could live on and meet their rent or mortgage payments. Today people are forming relationships later, having fewer children, there are many more sole parent families, defacto relationships and blended families. In most families both parents are in paid work and fewer people own their own home than they did 60 years ago.

The report is at <http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/files/kiwi-nest.pdf>

Maori Language Week

Te Wiki o te Reo Maori (Maori Language Week) will be celebrated 21-27 July 2008. The theme for the week is Te Reo i te Kainga (Maori language in the home) and a special "Korero Maori - Give it a go!" booklet is being produced to support people to korero Maori (speak Maori) at home.

Te Wiki o te Reo Maori also provides a time for special events to celebrate and promote the Maori language, and during the week Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Maori (The Maori Language Commission) will be presenting awards to groups making a particularly noteworthy contribution.

For more information about Maori Language Week go to www.koreromaori.co.nz

Grant to Preserve Moriori Heritage and Identity

A one-off grant of \$6 million dollars has been made to preserve and promote the identity, heritage, culture and the legacy of peace of the Moriori people of the Chatham Islands. The grant (which is not part of a Treaty settlement) will create income for Te Keke Tura Moriori Identity Trust which will work to preserve, revive, support, and promote Moriori identity. This trust is accountable to Moriori, Hokotehi Moriori Trust, and the Crown.

The Deed of Gift between the Crown and the Trust agrees that the revival of Moriori culture and identity is an important and worthwhile objective for the benefit of Moriori descendants and for the benefit of all people in NZ generally.

World Rural Women's Day 2008

The theme for this year's World Rural Women's Day - on 15 October - is "Climate Change: Rural Women are Part of the Solution".

Rural women comprise more than one quarter of the total world population. Some 500 million women live below the poverty line in rural areas. Women produce 60-80% of basic foodstuffs in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, they perform over 50% of the labour involved in intensive rice cultivation in Asia, and they carry out 30% of the agricultural work in industrialised countries. In Africa women head 60% of households in some regions, meet 90% of household water and fuel needs, and process 100% of basic household foodstuffs.

NZ-Kiribati Declaration Signed

NZ's development assistance programme with Kiribati (managed by NZAID) will grow to around NZ \$32 million over the next five years. Two main areas of focus are support to the Kiribati Marine Training Centre and the new Kiribati Sustainable Towns Programme. Kiribati also receives assistance through NZAID's regional programmes.

To find out more about NZ's aid to Kiribati go to <http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/c-kiribati.html>

Pacific Peoples in NZ: Profiles

"Pacific Profiles: 2006" is a series of seven reports from Statistics NZ that are based on results of the 2006 Census. Each provides information about the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups in NZ: Samoans, who make up the largest proportion (49%); Cook Island Maori (22%); Tongans (19%); Niueans (8%); Fijians (4%); Tokelauans (3%); and Tuvaluans (1%).

The reports include information on demographics, language, religion, families and households, education, the labour force, income, housing, access to amenities such as the Internet, smoking behaviour and number of children born to women. They also highlight trends within each Pacific ethnic group, analyse each Pacific group's NZ-born and overseas-born populations and make comparisons with previous census data. As well, each Pacific ethnic group is compared with the total Pacific and total NZ populations.

The profiles are at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/analytical-reports/pacific-profiles-2006/default>

Conferences/Festivals

4th Australia-NZ Climate Change & Business Conference

This conference, being held from 18-20 August 2008 at the Sky City Convention Centre, Auckland, will feature more than 80 speakers from Australia, NZ, the EU, the US and the UK.

More information is at www.climateandbusiness.com

Mental Health and Addictions Conference

The Central Region Mental Health and Addictions Conference is being held at Palmerston North Conference Centre on 17-18 July 2008 (16 July is a pre-conference day for networking forums).

More information: <http://cp-teritomaia.protosite.co.nz/> or contact Central Potential - Te Rito Maia on freephone 0800-837-486, or e-mail admin@cp-teritomaia.org.nz

Cooperative Education: Two Seminars

The NZ Cooperatives Association is holding two seminars for cooperative directors and managers at the Wellington Airport Conference Centre on 31 July and 1 August 2008. They are, respectively, "Why Some Cooperatives Succeed and Why Some Fail" and "Successful Cooperative Governance".

For more information tel 04 384 4595, email nzca@nz.coop or go to www.nz.coop

National Environmental Management Forum

This is being held on 14 and 15 July 2008 at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington, in recognition of the interconnectedness of the environmental issues of climate uncertainty and increasing pressure on our water and air quality. Its aim is to provide a platform for ensuring that our environmental resources are managed through a holistic approach. It will address water management, allocation and use; access to and potential ownership of water; the integrated management of ground water and surface water; how water industries around the world are adapting to climate change and the types of solutions NZ needs to explore; the gap in air-quality management; and tools for managing air quality.

For more information go to <http://www.conferenz.co.nz/national-integrated-environmental-management-forum.html> or phone Conferenz on 09 912 3616

Local Government NZ Conference

This is being held in Rotorua from 27-30 July 2008. The theme is "Sustainable Communities" A range of speakers will consider how NZ communities approach environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability.

The full programme is available on www.lgnz.co.nz

Pacific Region Civil Society Organisations Forum

This is being held from 12 - 14 August at the Rendezvous Hotel in Auckland. It is hosted by the Niue Island Association of NGOs (NIUANGO) and the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO). Current issues to be explored include: the impact of climate on the region; issues of international and regional aid; health issues in the Pacific region; social disadvantage and social exclusion for children, youth and families; enhancing border security and wellbeing of the Pacific region; building community capacity and organisational infrastructure for humane service programming and delivery; and topical health issues for Pacific peoples in the region.

For more information/registrations visit: <http://www.piango.org>

Some Funding/Awards Opportunities

Lottery Community Facilities Fund

The Lottery Community Facilities Fund Committee makes grants to organisations for projects to build or improve community facilities. Funding is provided for facilities that support participation in community activities and social interaction, foster cohesion and strengthen communities. The Fund's main emphasis is support for facilities open to use by the wider community or that can be used for a range of services and activities.

Applications close on 1 August 2008. For more information go to http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Lottery-Grants-Lottery-Community-Facilities-Fund?OpenDocument or tel 0800 824 824

Community Organisation Grants (COGS) Funding

COGS funds a contribution towards the costs of running community organisations that provide community based social services that encourage participation in communities; promote community leadership; and/or promote social, economic and cultural equity. They need to be of benefit to one or more of the following groups: Maori, women, Pacific communities, other ethnic communities, older people, the rurally isolated, people with disabilities, families, youth and children, or unemployed people.

Applications close on 25 July 2008. More information/application forms are at [http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.NSF/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Community-Organisation-Grants-Scheme-\(COGS\)?OpenDocument](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.NSF/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Community-Organisation-Grants-Scheme-(COGS)?OpenDocument). You can also request a paper application from a Local Government and Community Branch office of the Department of Internal Affairs, or phone 0800 824 824

Creative NZ: Current Funding Opportunities...

Applications for the following Creative NZ residencies/scholarships/awards and project funding close on 25 July 2008: project funding (all art forms and programmes); Te Waka Toi/the Maori

Arts Board; Pacific Arts Committee; Tup Lang Choreographic Award; Todd Writers' Bursary; and Toi Ake (supports the preservation and development of Maori arts and culture).

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

...& Michael King Writers Centre Residencies

The Michael King Writers' Centre is calling for applications for two six-week writers' residencies based at the centre in Signalman's House, Devonport, Auckland. The residencies are open to established authors working on a project in fiction, non-fiction, drama or poetry.

Applications close on Friday 25 July 2008. They go to Administrator, Michael King Writers' Centre, PO Box 32-629, Devonport, North Shore City 0744, Auckland, phone/fax: 09 445 8451, email administrator@writerscentre.org.nz. More is at <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/node/5980>

NZIER Economic Research Award 2008

The NZ Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) is launching a research award to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding in 1958. The award will consist of up to NZ\$50,000 to carry out a research project. The project must contribute to understanding of economic problems or matters directly or indirectly affecting NZ. Applications are sought from a wide range of fields of economic research. Anyone, including an organisation, may apply for the award.

Applications must be lodged electronically by e-mail to jessica.matthewson@nzier.org.nz by 31st July 2008. Find out more at http://www.nzier.org.nz/Site/about/economics_award.aspx

New Reporting Diversity Award

The NZ Journalists Training Organisation, Whitireia Journalism School, AUT's Pacific Media Centre, Canterbury University Journalism Programme, Asia:NZ, and the Human Rights Commission are working together to stage a competition and two-day workshop to judge the inaugural "NZ Excellence in Reporting Diversity" award. The person producing the best work will win an Asia:NZ scholarship. The venue is Whitireia Journalism School in Wellington.

Entries close on 15 August 2008. For more information, email J Tucker at jim.tucker@whitireia.ac.nz

Human Rights Essay Competition for Secondary Students

An essay competition for year 12 and 13 students is being held to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration sets out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all people are entitled, and the students are invited to write 1000 words about its relevance today. The winner will be invited to read extracts from his or her essay at an event in Wellington held to celebrate the anniversary.

Entries close on 12 August 2008. They go to UDHR 60th Anniversary Essay Competition, United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 5045, email unhc@mfat.govt.nz. More information about entering the competition, including details about the prize are on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website at www.mfat.govt.nz

Funding for Advancement of Women

The Max Foundation has the objective of enhancing and inspiring the wellbeing and advancement of NZ women through sponsorships and support strategies. The Foundation is offering grants of \$75,000 per year in four funding rounds, with funding per round (of around NZ \$20,000) being divided amongst 4-6 recipients. Individual women and women's organisations can apply for a grant under one of the following categories: sport /leisure; work/study; special event/initiative/organisation; and personal dream/goal.

Applications close 31 August 2008. More information is at www.maxfoundation.co.nz

NZ Post Group Local Government Excellence Awards

These awards celebrate and recognise local government projects that showcase best practices, innovation and excellence across NZ local government. Eligible projects will involve building council-community relationships, building organisational capability, taking a sustainable development approach or working together with other organisations to advance a common goal.

Entries close at 5pm on Friday 25 July 2008. Entry Forms are at www.solgm.co.nz

Appointments

New Zealand's new *Ambassador to Sweden* will be career diplomat Barbara Bridge, and career diplomat Rob Hole will be NZ's new *Consul-General in Melbourne*. NZ's next *Ambassador to Brazil* will be career diplomat Mark Trainor. NZ's next *Ambassador to Spain, Morocco and the Holy See* will be Rob Moore-Jones; and Nick Hurley will be the new *Consul-General to Brisbane*. Richard Mann is the next *Ambassador to South Korea*.

Invercargill lawyer Christine French is now a *NZ High Court Judge*. Securities Commission Chair Jane Diplock has been re-elected as *executive chair* of the *International Organisation of Securities Commissions*. Dr Duncan Webb has been appointed as the *Legal Complaints Review Officer* and Hanneke Bouchier as the *Deputy Legal Complaints Review Officer* under the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 (this Act creates a new complaints and disciplinary process for lawyers and conveyancing practitioners which comes into force on 1 August 2008). David McLay is the new *chairman* of the *Rewrite Advisory Panel*, the body that oversees the rewrite of income tax law into plain language. Miriam Dean QC has been appointed as a *member* of the *Testing Laboratory Registration Council* for a three-year term. Judge Shona Kenderdine has been appointed as *chair* of the *NZ Coastal Policy Statement Board of Inquiry*. Dr Paul Reynolds is the new *Chief Executive and Secretary for the Environment, Ministry for the Environment*.

Fifteen appointments and reappointments to the *Lottery Regional and National Community Distribution Committees*, the *Lottery Health Research Distribution Committee*, and two newly established Committees; the *Lottery Individuals with Disabilities Distribution Committee* and the *Lottery Community Sector Research Committee*, were announced recently. The *distribution committee appointments and reappointments* are: Bay of Plenty/Gisborne: Trish Hanlen (appointed); Waikato: Allan Hughes (appointed); Manawatu/Whanganui: Carla Donson (appointed); Otago/Southland: Rex Fox (reappointed); Health Research: Dr Sarah Young (appointed); Individuals with Disabilities: Tony Howe (appointed as Presiding Member), Beverley Grammer (appointed), Lynne Nicholl (appointed), Ken Talbot (appointed), and Allison Franklin (appointed); and Community Sector Research: Allison Kirkman (appointed as founding Presiding Member), Terrence Loomis (appointed as founding Member), Ruth de Souza (appointed as founding Member), Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop (appointed as founding Member), and Donovan Ryan (appointed as founding Member). In addition, Trish Hanlen has been appointed to the *Lottery Bay of Plenty/Gisborne Community Distribution Committee*, Allan Hughes has been appointed to the *Lottery Waikato Community Distribution Committee*, Carla Donson has been appointed to the *Lottery Manawatu/Whanganui Community Distribution Committee*, and Rex Fox has been reappointed as a member of the *Lottery Otago/Southland Distribution Committee*.

Jim Bolger has been appointed chair of the *establishment board of KiwiRail* which will manage the business previously known as Toll Rail, which is now Government-owned. Other *members of the KiwiRail board* are: Brian Corban, Mark Franklin, Ross Wilson, Brian Jackson, Linda Constable, and Ross Martin.

Nick Hill has been appointed the new *CEO of the Commerce Commission*. Colin MacDonald has been appointed to the position of *Chief Executive of Land Information NZ*. Albert Brantley is to replace *Genesis Energy CEO Murray Jackson*. Mel Smith (*Chair*) and *panel members* Druis Barrett and Jacky Renouf have been appointed to the *Chief Executive Advisory Panel* which will review the outcome of complaints referred to the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Service (CYFS)* of the Ministry of Social Development. Brian Stocking has been appointed *Executive Director of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport*. *Federated Farmers* has appointed Conor English as *chief executive*. The new *Federated Farmers President* is Don Nicolson and the new *vice-president* is Frank Brenmuhl. Recently elected *Federated Farmers board members* are Donald Aubrey, Bruce Wills, Lachlan McKenzie, John Hartnell, and Philip York. Jason Moon will be the new voice of *Asian Report on Radio NZ National*. Charlie Pedersen, former national president of *Federated Farmers*, has been appointed *chair of FarmSafe*.

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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