

# Rural Bulletin

December 2008



Rural  
Women  
NEW ZEALAND

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

Nga mihi o te Tau Hou. Anei tatou kua mai nei ki te ra e whakanuitia ai te whanau o te Kaiwhakaora o te ao. It's time to celebrate Christmas. Seasons greetings to you all

## Editorial – The future of Rural Bulletin?

This, our last issue of the year, is traditionally when we wish you the best for the upcoming holiday season and reflect on what a great year it's been. And it has been a great year - there has been an enormous amount of interesting "stuff" happening. Likewise, the large amount of unsolicited feedback we've received suggests the Rural Bulletin (designed in partnership with rural community groups but now found all over the place) is continuing to keep you well-informed, and continues to be highly regarded.

However, this is a time of high costs and recession. The reality is that Rural Bulletin's publisher, Rural Women New Zealand is a not-for-profit, voluntary organisation, and while it fully acknowledges the value of the Rural Bulletin to Rural Women New Zealand, it cannot afford to continue to publish it without more support.

We currently have some generous sponsors, and an active campaign is in place to get more sponsorship, but the current shortfall is still too great for an organisation like Rural Women New Zealand to sustain for too much longer.

So Rural Bulletin needs more funding. Whether that funding might come in the form of grants, more sponsors, partnership arrangements with other organisations (in the public, private and/or the not-for-profit sectors, all of which utilise our information) - or a combination of all of these - is not yet clear. What is clear is Rural Bulletin cannot continue long-term without obtaining it.

We are telling you because you have the right to know what the current situation is. We are also very keen to hear your ideas and suggestions for helping Rural Bulletin go forward from here.

*We'd very much like to hear from you, if at all possible, before Rural Women New Zealand's office closes on 22 December (by email to [ruralbulletin@ruralwomen.org.nz](mailto:ruralbulletin@ruralwomen.org.nz) would be great). That way, we can incorporate any good ideas into planning sessions we will be holding early in the New Year.*

We will keep you informed about progress with raising funds/sponsorship in the February 2009 issue, and via regular updates after that.

Thank you all.

Seasons Greetings, and Keep safe and well this summer.

Margaret Chapman,

President

Rural Women New Zealand

Paddy Twist and Craig Matthews

Editors

Rural Bulletin



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# Consultation

## Future of the Medical Workforce

The Medical Training Board, which was established last year, has released for comment three discussion papers on NZ's future medical workforce and pre-vocational education and training. The Board lists the following as medical workforce issues that need addressing:

- an overall shortage of medical practitioners, which will intensify in the future as the population ages and competition for medical practitioners increases in the international market;
- a need to train more medical practitioners locally to meet demand. To achieve this, the level of the cap on funded undergraduate medical school places should be raised and further clinical training positions made available;
- a "maldistribution" of the available medical workforce, with rural and non-metropolitan areas finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain doctors;
- current under-representation of Maori and Pacific peoples and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds in the medical profession. Strategies for increasing recruitment into medical schools from these groups are needed;
- the quality and relevance of medical education and training, which could be improved by greater continuity between undergraduate medical education and subsequent clinical training;
- the complexity of the health sector: there are many players involved in educating and training medical practitioners. There is a need for a central body to coordinate and oversee medical education and training; and
- the difficulties of training in clinical settings created by the inherent tension between service delivery and training needs, the changing service delivery patterns in public hospitals, and the implications of industrial agreements over the last 20 years – all of which are putting pressure on the current apprenticeship model.

Submissions close on 16 January 2009. They go to Medical Training Board, PO Box 5013, Wellington, email [mtbquery@moh.govt.nz](mailto:mtbquery@moh.govt.nz). An overview of the three papers is at [http://www.austlii.edu.au/nz/legis/consol\\_act/popapraa2007553.pdf](http://www.austlii.edu.au/nz/legis/consol_act/popapraa2007553.pdf). "Integrated and Coordinated Medical Training" is at [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/8413/\\$File/integrated-coordinated-medical-training.doc](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/8413/$File/integrated-coordinated-medical-training.doc). "The Curriculum Framework" is at [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/8413/\\$File/overview.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/8413/$File/overview.pdf), and "The Future of the Medical Workforce" is at [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/8413/\\$File/futureofworkforce.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/8413/$File/futureofworkforce.pdf)

## Draft Forestry Allocation Plan

The Draft Forestry Allocation Plan outlines an approach to allocating NZ emissions units (NZUs) to pre-1990 forest owners and to granting exemptions under the current Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Under it, all owners of pre-1990 forest land would need to decide in the first half of 2009 whether to:

- apply for an allocation of NZUs; or
- if eligible, apply to have land permanently exempt from the ETS – under either the "less than 50 hectare" exemption or the "tree weed exemption".

Public workshops about forestry and the ETS will be held around the country early next year. These will include more detail about the plan and the pre-1990 forest land exemption policies. The workshop dates/venues are being published in the Sustainable Forestry Bulletin - you can register to receive this at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/news/bulletin/index.htm>.

Submissions close on 28 February 2009. They go to FAP Submissions, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, [FAPsubmissions@maf.govt.nz](mailto:FAPsubmissions@maf.govt.nz). The plan and an online submission form are at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/ets/allocation.htm>. More information: Climate Change Contact Centre freephone 0800 CLIMATE (254 628)

## Compensating Crime Victims

In its "Compensation for Victims of Crime" project the Law Commission is considering whether compensation to victims is adequate, and, if it is not, what additional measures should be put in place. The Commission has published an issues paper on the subject called "Compensating Crime Victims" (NZLC IP 11, Wellington, 2008) which raises questions and options for discussion and comment.

Submissions close on 24 December 2008. They go to the General Manager, Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6140, or by email to [victims@lawcom.govt.nz](mailto:victims@lawcom.govt.nz). More is at <http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/ProjectIssuesPaper.aspx?ProjectID=155>

## The Great NZ Drug Driving Survey

Would you get behind the wheel after taking drugs? And what do you think about people who do? The Drug Foundation wants to know about NZers' drug driving behaviours and attitudes. It wants as many Kiwis as possible to complete this online survey, whether they've ever taken drugs or not.

Go to [www.drugdrivingsurvey.org.nz](http://www.drugdrivingsurvey.org.nz) to participate in this confidential survey

## Review of CER Rules of Origin

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) invite submissions on the review of the Rules of Origin (ROO) under the Australia NZ Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA - known as CER). The CER, signed in 1983, is one of the world's most open and successful free trade agreements (FTAs), and trade between the two countries has grown by an average of 9% each year since it was signed.

The ROO, which are reviewed every three years, define where a product was made and determine whether it qualifies for tariff-free entry when being traded between NZ and Australia. ROO are also used to compile trade statistics, and for "made in ..." labels that are attached to products.

Australia is NZ's largest trading partner, taking nearly 22% of our merchandise exports and providing nearly 21% of our merchandise imports, with two-way trade worth nearly NZ\$17 billion in the year to December 2007. In turn, NZ is both Australia's fifth-largest individual export market, Australia's fifth largest merchandise trade partner overall, and its largest market for elaborately-transformed manufactured products.

Submissions close on 17 December 2008. Email them to [nick.kirton@med.govt.nz](mailto:nick.kirton@med.govt.nz), or post them to CER ROO Review, MED, PO Box 1437, attn N Kirton. More is at [http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC\\_39394.aspx](http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC_39394.aspx)

## Listing Threatened NZ Species

The Department of Conservation (DoC) has a system for classifying the conservation status/risk of extinction of all organisms known to occur in a wild state in NZ. In order to provide the most accurate information, the list is reviewed and updated every 3 years, so DoC is seeking information on fish, reptile and amphibian species that people consider threatened.

Submissions close on 28 February 2009. You can make an online submission about fish at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/new-listing-of-threatened-status-of-new-zealand-freshwater-fish/> and about reptiles/amphibians at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/new-listing-of-threatened-status-of-new-zealand-reptiles-and-amphibians/submit-your-feedback-online/>. You can also send one to the Scientific Officer (Species), Terrestrial Conservation Unit, DoC, P O Box 10-420, Wellington 6143, tel 04 471 3249, fax 04 381 3057, email [threatstatus@doc.govt.nz](mailto:threatstatus@doc.govt.nz)

## GST on Payments to State Schools

This draft ruling addresses the GST treatment of payments made to school boards by parents or guardians of pupils who are NZ citizens or NZ residents, and who are enrolled at state schools - or in schools integrated with the state education system.

Submissions close on 19 December 2008. Send them to [public.consultation@ird.govt.nz](mailto:public.consultation@ird.govt.nz), or to Team Manager, Technical Services, Office of the Chief Tax Counsel, National Office, Inland Revenue Department, PO Box 2198, Wellington. More is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/public-consultation/current/>

## Tertiary Education Commission Consultation

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has published three consultation papers on the 2012 quality assessment of the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF). They cover:

- issues and options focusing on the eligibility of staff members to participate in the PBRF Quality Evaluation;
- issues and options relating to evaluating new and emerging researchers in the PBRF quality assessment; and
- issues relating to professional, practice-based and applied research in the PBRF research quality evaluation.

Submissions close on 23 January 2009. They go to [PBRF.2012Redesign@tec.govt.nz](mailto:PBRF.2012Redesign@tec.govt.nz), or to D Cole, Tertiary Education Commission, PO Box 27 048, Wellington. More is at <http://www.tec.govt.nz/templates/standard.aspx?id=3044>

## Health Standards for Imported Pig Meat

MAF Biosecurity NZ (MAF BNZ) has issued four draft Import Health Standards (IHSs) for pig meat and pig meat products for consultation. The standards are based on an analysis of the risks associated with importing "porcine reproductive and

respiratory syndrome virus" (PRRS) in pig meat. The drafts recommend that:

- pig meat must be either from a country free from PRRS, or treated before it is imported, or on arrival; or
- it must be in the form of ready-to-cook cuts; or further processed on arrival into ready-to-cook cuts.

Submissions close on 18 February 2008. They go to V Dalley, Border Standards, MAF BNZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington, email [vivian.dalley@maf.govt.nz](mailto:vivian.dalley@maf.govt.nz). Details on the consultation process and the draft Import Health Standards are available at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/strategy-and-consultation/consultation/pig-meat-ih-s>

## Importing Fresh Tuvalu Coconut

A Biosecurity NZ analysis of the risks associated with importing fresh coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) from Tuvalu is available for comment. When finalised, it will be used to develop an import health standard for Tuvalu coconut. It will also be used when requirements for importing fresh coconut from other Pacific countries are reviewed.

Submissions close on 9 January 2009. They go to Risk Analysis Team Support Officer, Biosecurity NZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington, tel 04 894 0310, email [Risk.Analysis@maf.govt.nz](mailto:Risk.Analysis@maf.govt.nz). More is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ra-coconut-from-tuvalu>

## Organic Peroxides Consultation

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is currently consulting on "Organic Peroxides, Toxic, Corrosive Group Standard 2009". Group standards allow similar materials to be given the same approval within a short timeframe. Once a group standard is set up, any new substances that fit within it are approved without the manufacturer needing to make a separate application to ERMA.

Submissions close on 27 January 2009. They can be emailed to [submissions@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@ermanz.govt.nz), or posted to S. Smith, ERMA NZ, PO Box 131, Wellington. A related consultation paper is at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/HSR08009%20Consultation%20Document.pdf>

## Talented Young People Wanted for YPRG

The Children's Commissioner's Young People's Reference Group (YPRG) provides advice to the Commissioner on issues affecting children and young people, and the Commissioner's office (OCC) is looking for talented 12 to 16 year olds who could join this group. (The OCC organises and pays for all transport, accommodation, food and entertainment costs associated with YPRG meetings.)

The application closing date has been extended - applications now close on 27 February 2009. You can apply online at [http://www.occ.org.nz/yprg/how\\_to\\_apply](http://www.occ.org.nz/yprg/how_to_apply), or fill out an application form and send it to YPRG Co-ordinator, Office of the Children's Commissioner, PO Box 5610, Lambton Quay, Wellington 6145, fax 04 471 1418. More is at <http://www.occ.org.nz/yprg>

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# Rural

## Statement from MAF's Primary Industries Briefing

This year's Briefing for the Incoming Minister (BIM) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has the following statement in its executive summary, about what it thinks needs to happen if NZ's primary industries are to continue being a significant driver of the NZ economy.

"Over the past few years there has been a renewed acknowledgement of the importance of our primary industries as drivers of NZ's economic well-being. It is important to understand that the success of primary industries is not due to innately favourable climate or soils. Rather, it is fundamentally a product of the human capital committed to primary industries – on farm/in forest, in processing, and in supply chains – together with decades of investment in highly productive science.

Only in our primary industries do we have businesses with something approaching credible international scale, the necessary accumulation of human capital and unique intellectual property, and well developed supply chains capable of servicing the needs of customers in markets around the world.

Sustaining that position of comparative and competitive advantage will not come easily. To do so, we need to make some critical transitions over the next decade or so. These transitions include the following elements:

- A shift from what are fundamentally production-driven industries to industries driven from a deep understanding of customer needs and expectations;
- An evolution of our co-operative-based industry structures that enables those industries to develop vibrant growth strategies and to support those strategies with the large scale investments necessary to hold and expand market positions globally;
- A strong focus on innovation and productivity throughout the entire value chain from farm/forest to customer. Research and development spending will be a key part of that, but just as important will be the mechanisms that enable research and development to be taken up and applied by the industries at every point in the supply chain.
- Building sustainability – broadly defined – into our production, processing and distribution systems as an essential and integral component of future market success.
- Enhancing the systems that protect our indigenous biodiversity and productive sectors from biosecurity risks associated with ever-increasing trade and travel.
- Responding to increasing societal demands for the humane treatment of animals and higher standards of animal welfare.
- A shared understanding that issues of trust, integrity and confidence in our industries on the part of our customers, here and abroad, is essential to future success. That means delivering on matters of environmental sustainability, biosecurity, animal welfare, reduced greenhouse gas and water footprints, soil conservation,

efficient energy use and food safety of demonstrably high quality.

- Water is a fundamental issue for our nation and especially for our primary industries. We must be able to demonstrate progress in lessening the impact of farming on the quality of water in our lakes, rivers and streams. Moreover, in an increasingly water constrained world, we must, as a matter of some urgency, make progress on the development of a robust and efficient water allocation framework.
- Climate change presents us with real challenges, especially with respect to methane in pastoral agricultural sectors, and real opportunities in both agriculture and forestry. The gulf in thinking and analysis between the Government and our primary industries on the best way forward for NZ's response to its climate change obligations is very large. We will not be able to make progress in implementing that response without closing those gaps.

To download a copy of the MAF BIM, go to <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/publications/incombrief.html>

## Pork Industry: Turning Waste into Energy

The Pork Industry (NZPork), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) have joined together to launch an eight-month project which will evaluate using manure in different biogas systems on farms. Farm biogas systems convert methane emitted from farm manure into renewable energy resources that can be used to power the farm, or in some cases, to be exported to the local electricity network.

## Five NZ Wines Receive Five-Star Rating

For the first six issues of Robert Parker's Wine Buyers guide, the world's best known (and some might say the most controversial) wine critic declined to comment on NZ wine. Finally, with the release of the 7th edition, the silence has been broken.

In the guide Parker's team of writers grade wineries not on individual wines, but on their overall ability to deliver consistent excellence, bucking vintage ups and downs - in short, delivering regardless of circumstance. Only a very small number of wineries around the world achieve his highest rating of "five stars: Outstanding". NZ had five wineries achieve this honour: Ata Rangī, Felton Road, Pegasus Bay, Rippon Vineyard and Winery, and Te Mata Estate. A further 21 NZ wineries have achieved the "4 star: Excellent" category.

## Rural Women New Zealand: A Profile

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) was established in 1925 by women who wanted better social and economic conditions for rural people.

Headed up by a National Council, RWNZ has some 4,000 members who belong to 300 groups around the country. It also has individual members. Two-thirds of the members are rural women, and the rest come from larger centres. A few men belong to the organisation as well.

Some of the members belong to RWNZ because of its advocacy role, some meet to organise practical training days and seminars selected by members, some come together for social reasons (including fundraising), and a majority focus on

all three areas. They all have in common a love of the land and an interest in making rural communities great places to live.

RWNZ is familiar with the needs of rural communities; and helps to strengthen them by:

- working with other organisations and RWNZ members to develop a strong rural network;
- developing resource partnerships with government and non-governmental organisations;
- keeping its members and the rest of the rural sector well informed;
- running leadership and personal development courses, and regional and national public speaking, photography and writing competitions; and
- offering educational opportunities, including bursaries and scholarships, as well as field days and seminars.

It is particularly focused on:

- land use issues - includes agriculture, alternative rural enterprises, energy, environment and conservation, genetic modification, forestry, telecommunications, transport and roading and local government;
- education issues - includes school transport, technology, Rural Education Reference Group, primary and secondary schooling, The Correspondence School, early childhood, tertiary, and special education;
- health issues - includes rural health services, adult health, agricultural health and safety, public health, mental health, genetic modification, older persons, disability, and children's health; and
- social issues - includes access to services, women and the law, income support, social welfare, family and the law, violence and abuse, consumer rights and standards, privacy, and human rights.

RWNZ publishes a range of publications focusing on different areas and designed to keep its members and other rural NZers well informed in a variety of ways so they can take action on issues that affect them. Its website includes information on current issues and events and its business directory offers free online listing so members can promote their enterprises. The website also features a Members Only area with membership resources.

### Access Homehealth

Access Homehealth is a non-profit making home healthcare company, with RWNZ as its sole shareholder. Access Homehealth has around 12,000 clients and 3,000 carers, and it is funded through District Health Boards and ACC to provide domestic help and personal care to the elderly, infirm and people with an injury or disability.

Rural Women's membership is now open. To become a member/for more information contact [belinda@rualwomen.org.nz](mailto:belinda@rualwomen.org.nz), tel 04 473 5524 or visit the Rural Women New Zealand website at [www.ruralwomen.org.nz](http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz)

## Environment

### Pacific Forum/EU Declaration on Climate Change

The Pacific Island Forum and the European Union (EU) have endorsed a joint "Nuie Declaration on Climate Change" that

outlines their common concerns for global warming and their common interest for an ambitious post-Kyoto international agreement.

The Pacific region is already witnessing the impact of increasing global temperature and rising sea levels. Some states, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, are faced with the prospect of disappearing completely under water within a few decades.

The Declaration is at <http://www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2008/forum-leaders-endorse-niue-declaration-on-climate-change.html>

### Watch Out For Kauri Dieback

Kauri dieback (*Phytophthora taxon Agathis* or PTA) is a serious threat to kauri forest and individual kauri trees in the upper North Island. Believed to be a soil-borne disease PTA is specific to kauri and can kill trees and seedlings of all ages. Affected trees show yellowing leaves, canopy thinning, dead branches and lesions that bleed resin across the lower part of the trunk.

A research team from six government organisations is in the process of determining how widely spread the disease is. The team is looking at its impact on kauri ecosystems, high value kauri areas and special kauri trees, and working out ways of limiting its spread.

PTA is believed to be spread mainly through soil and soil water movement, and it is very likely it can be transferred by people - tracked from place to place on shoes, equipment and tyres. So, visitors to kauri forest areas should:

- stick to defined tracks in parks and reserves;
- clean footwear, tyres and any equipment in contact with soil before and after leaving kauri forest areas; and
- avoid disturbing the roots of kauri trees.

More information is at [www.kauridieback.co.nz](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz) or call 0800 NZ KAURI 0800 69 52874 - you can also report diseased trees to this freephone number

### Organic Awards for Big and Small

Major winners at the 2008 Organic Awards (announced recently at the AGM of Organics Aotearoa NZ - OANZ) included:

- Gisborne's Millton Vineyards, celebrating its 25th vintage this year, received the NZ Trade and Enterprise Organic Export Award in recognition of their sales in North America, Asia and the Pacific;
- baby food manufacturer Green Monkey received the OANZ Organic Enterprise Award (adding it to three recent Massey University Food Awards) in recognition of their innovative frozen pouches of baby food;
- Dr John Bell and Dr Kaye McAulay, from Martinborough wine producers Vynfields, received the OANZ Organic Producer of the Year in recognition of the personal touch they emphasise on their vineyard; and
- the Jon Manhire Award (for Outstanding Contribution to the Organic Sector) was jointly awarded to Te Waka Kai Ora Chair Percy Tipene and Soil and Health Association Co-Chair Steffan Browning.

### ERMA Approves GM Onion Trial

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) has approved with conditions an application from Crop and Food

Research to field test genetically modified plants of the allium family, including onions, spring onions, leeks, and garlic. The application was to assess the performance of the plants in field conditions over ten years. The approval is for a field trial site of a maximum 2.5 hectares, and within that, a small number of onion plants would be allowed to flower.

Among the many controls on the trial is a requirement that all flowering onions must be contained within cages. Laboratory-bred fly pupae would be introduced into the cages to carry out pollination. Because alliums are insect pollinated, the cages will prevent flies from transporting pollen to other plants. All flies in the pollination cages must be killed before the cages are opened to prevent the possibility of escape. All GM material no longer required must be killed on-site by composting or be removed to a containment facility for further research or destruction.

During the course of the trial Crop and Food Research staff are required to check the field test regularly (e.g., the pollination cages must be inspected daily for damage or dislodgment which could result in the escape of insects carrying pollen). There will be on-going surveillance and inspection by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to ensure that no GM plants escape from the site. There will also be two years' monitoring of the site once the field trial ends.

This is the first GM field trial approval since 2007, and the fourth since 2001 when the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification said NZ should proceed with caution on biotechnology research.

The Authority's decision document is on the ERMA NZ website at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/news-events/gmalliums/index.html>

## Camping Care Code

The Department of Conservation (DoC) has a number of "care codes" in place (examples – abseiling, dog walking, caving, climbing, gold fossicking, horse riding...). Included amongst them is a camping care code, which offers the following "no trace" camping advice:

- only camp in designated areas;
- choose your campsite carefully; set up your camp on firm, high or sandy ground;
- be tidy and always leave campsites clean. Take your rubbish with you if bins are not provided (food scraps attract vermin);
- use a cooker, fireplace or BBQ. Light fires only where permitted, collect dead wood and keep the fire small. Soak the fire with water before you go;
- use biodegradable products for cleaning and wash in a container well away from the water - detergents, soap and toothpaste can harm aquatic and marine life;
- always use toilets provided;
- respect the rights of others for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors: campgrounds are social places but everyone needs some rest and relaxation;
- always thoroughly clean your equipment before and after trips to minimise spreading weeds and diseases; and
- protect native plants and animals.

Toitu te whenua/leave the land undisturbed.

The DoC codes are at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=46021>

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# Tourism

## International Visitor Arrivals October 2008

Recent Statistics NZ figures show a 3.3% decline in international visitor arrivals for October compared to the same month last year. Details for the month are: Australia (71,760 up 0.1%), UK (17,976 down 2.3%), USA (14,280 down 12.4%), Canada (3480 up 5.1%), China (6552 down 31.5%), Korea (5880 down 17.0%), and Japan (6720 down 15.1%).

## NZ Wins Top UK Travel Awards

NZ has won this year's Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards. The country also scooped the Best Destination Award for its national, strategic approach to responsible tourism. The panel of judges declared NZ the overall winner for "proving that it is possible to develop a national strategy which uses tourism to help make better places to live and to visit".

The award looked at the ethos and holistic attitude to tourism and tourism branding in terms of looking after the native environment. The establishment of the tourism national strategy and the launch of the new Qualmark Green accreditation system for sustainable tourism operators are seen here as central to getting the award.

NZ was also voted "Best Destination" by readers in the UK Telegraph Travel Awards. The Telegraph Group Travel Editor said his readers had busy lives and liked NZ's old-fashioned values and shared culture. People like the friendliness of the people, the serenity and the beautiful, unspoilt environment of NZ, and they "can get in tune with the place and relax with the people".

In October, NZ won the Observer/Guardian Reader's Travel Awards for favourite long-haul destination.

More information on the Virgin holidays Responsible Tourism Awards is at <http://www.responsibletourismawards.com>

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# Health and Welfare

## Ministry of Health - Health & Independence Report 2008

The Health and Independence Report 2008 combines the Minister's report to Parliament on the progress of the NZ Health Strategy with the Director-General of Health's report to Parliament on the state of public health. The combination provides a helpful snapshot of the progress being made in improving the health of NZers. In 2007:

- 3.38 million people had visited a general practitioner at least once in the past year;
- 1.7 million people had visited a primary health care nurse at least once in the last year;
- 47.6 million prescription items were dispensed;
- 23 million laboratory tests were performed;

- 699,955 hospital discharges for medical and surgical services occurred;
- 92,244 people accessed mental health services;
- 437,584 cervical smears were taken;
- 464,600 free influenza vaccinations were given;
- 87,177 free annual checks for people with diabetes were undertaken; and
- 26,160 'green' prescriptions (advice on exercise or nutrition) were dispensed.

The full report is available on the Ministry of Health website at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/health-independence-report08>

## 2007/08 "Active NZ" Survey Results

The 2007/08 Active NZ Survey demonstrates that large numbers of Kiwi adults continue to participate in sport and recreation. It also shows that there has been no fall off in overall participation levels since the previous comparable survey in 2001. The survey was commissioned by SPARC (the Crown entity responsible for promoting encouraging and supporting sport and physical recreation in NZ).

The survey reveals that, on any given week, 80% of NZers aged 16 and above participate in a sport or recreation activity – that's 2.6 million Kiwis every week. The data also shows that almost half the adult population meet the minimum recommended physical activity guidelines (30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on at least five days a week). A further 20% of adults are close to meeting that target.

Other major results in the survey are:

- walking, gardening and swimming are the top three activities participated in per year;
- volunteers continue to be the backbone of sport and recreation with one in four adults involved as volunteers;
- clubs and centres play a major role in sport and recreation participation (per month, one-third of adults use clubs/centres for sport and recreation);
- we love to compete – 37% of adults are involved in events and organised competitions;
- among adults who are active, sport and recreation is the main way they achieve their recommended daily dose of physical activity; and
- when compared to the total population, a similar proportion of Maori, NZ European and Pacific adults achieve NZ national physical activity guidelines.

This first report presents an overview of main findings. Over the next six months SPARC will be releasing profiles of regions, most popular sport and recreation activities, volunteers, and demographic profiles including ethnicity and older NZers.

Download the report from <http://www.sparc.org.nz/research-policy/research/national-surveys/200708-active-nz-survey>

## Workplace Health and Safety Strategy: Review

The Department of Labour (DoL) has published a progress report on the Workplace Health and Safety Strategy to 2015 which was developed in 2005. The strategy aims to:

- lift NZ's health and safety performance;

- enhance the productivity of NZ's businesses;
- reduce the number of people who are seriously hurt or killed at work; and
- develop a safety culture in NZ that focuses on best practice in the workplace.

The Department will shortly be reviewing the first stage of the strategy and public consultation will be part of the process.

"Workplace Health and Safety Strategy for NZ to 2015: Snapshot of Progress 2007/08" is available online at <http://www.whss.govt.nz/snapshot07-08/page04.html>

## GP Numbers to Increase

More GP training places have been approved, meaning an additional 25 places in 2009, and a further 25 places funded by 2010. The GP training will start early in 2009. The additional cost of training these GPs is estimated at about \$1.5 million.

## Safety at Sea: Checklist of Resources

### Nautical Charts

Land Information NZ (LINZ) publishes charts, covering nautical features such as harbours and ports, tides and currents, lights and astronomy to help commercial and recreational mariners safely navigate NZ waters.

Annual and fortnightly "Notices to Mariners" (NtM) are published in the NZ Nautical Almanac. The fortnightly NtMs advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety and they are also the authority for correcting NZ nautical charts: Relevant websites are:

- for more about charts go to <http://www.linz.govt.nz/hydro/index.aspx>; and
- more information about Notices to Mariners is at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/hydro/ntms/about-ntms/index.aspx>.

### Maritime Safety Information

Sea, weather and coastal information is available from:

- Maritime NZ at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/default.asp>;
- MetService at <http://www.metservice.co.nz/default/index.php>; and
- Coastguard NZ at <http://www.nzcoastguard.org.nz/Index.htm>.

### Maritime radio information

To access the maritime radio network in case of emergency or to report maritime accidents go to:

- Maritime NZ - Maritime Radio Information at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Commercial/Shipping-safety/Maritime-radio/The-Maritime-radio-service-for-New-Zealand.asp>;
- Radio Distress calling at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Commercial/Shipping-safety/Maritime-radio/The-Maritime-radio-service-for-New-Zealand.asp>; and
- Meteorological information at <http://www.metservice.co.nz/default/index.php>.

## Maritime contacts

Contact details for principal NZ ports:

- NZ Harbour Masters:  
<http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/hydro/navtical-info/maritime/harbour-masters.pdf> ; and
- NZ Port Operators:  
<http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/hydro/navtical-info/maritime/port-operators.pdf>.

## Electronic Navigational Charts

LINZ has released its first set in a series of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) for NZ waters, and there are eleven ENCs, covering the Cook Strait crossing in it. All of the world's sea routes are expected to be covered by ENCs by 2010, and in NZ's case, all key areas will be catered for within 18–24 months.

ENCs are becoming mandatory on various classes of shipping internationally, beginning with high-speed craft, and then (in 2012) for international trading vessels carrying large numbers of passengers. While some vessels will keep backup systems based on paper charts, completely electronic navigation chart systems – with suitable backup – are appearing. The Royal NZ Navy's next generation of vessels, for example, feature entirely paperless bridges with no room for plotting tables.

- Go to <http://www.linz.govt.nz/hydro/projects-programmes/hydro-news/20081121-nz-encs-now-available/index.aspx>

## Notifying a hazard

The mariner community provides important information to LINZ. To help all mariners stay safe at sea, companies and individuals should advise LINZ about any hazards or changes to navigational features on the charts by phoning LINZ's 0800 service or completing a Hydrographic Note.

- to report an urgent hazard to navigation freephone LINZ on 0800 665 263; and
- more on this is at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/hydro/report-hazard-hnote/index.aspx>.

## Sunscreen Testing: Commerce Commission Investigation

The Commerce Commission has investigated the testing of three sunscreens distributed by the Cancer Society and one distributed by Douglas Pharmaceuticals, Sunsense. It compared test results on these products provided by the Consumers' Institute, the Cancer Society, Baxter Laboratories, and Ego Pharmaceuticals. It found that results for the same products varied from laboratory to laboratory, and in some cases within the laboratories, with the result that the sunscreen standard is now being reviewed.

The Commission says that under the circumstances it will be taking no further action in the matter, but will follow the outcome of the review with interest.

*It also says that sunscreen is essential in the NZ climate and consumers should continue to rely on it. Applying sunscreen thoroughly and regularly, and covering up when outside is still the best defence against the harmful effects of the sun.*

More is at  
<http://www.comcom.govt.nz//MediaCentre/MediaReleases/200809/commercocommissioninvestigationhiq.aspx>

## Autism Spectrum Disorder Services: More Funding

Vote:Health has allocated \$15 million over three years to set in place the recommendations in the NZ Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Guideline for improving ASD services for people in NZ.

Autism Spectrum Disorders, sometimes called Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), are neurological disorders involving some degree of difficulty with communication and interpersonal relationships, as well as some obsession and repetitive behaviour. There can be a wide range of effects. Children at the lower-functioning end of the spectrum may be profoundly unable to break out of their own world and those at the higher-functioning end (and sometimes diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome (AS), or Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified - PDD-NOS) may lead independent lives but still be a bit awkward in their social interactions.

More is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/disability-aboutds-keyprojects-asd-guideline-updates>

## Serotonin - Impact on Bone Formation?

A paper published in the scientific journal "Cell" by a US research team reports the discovery of an unexpected system that appears to control bone formation - and the finding could eventually help the millions of people over the age of 50 who suffer from osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis results in bone loss, and its hallmark is fragile bones that break easily. Serotonin, made by the gut rather than the brain, is released into the blood; and the more serotonin that reaches bone, the more bone is lost. Conversely, less serotonin encourages denser and stronger bones. Osteoporosis patients tend to have normal serotonin levels, and the researchers hope to find a drug that depresses the gut's serotonin and stimulates bone growth in these patients.

The research is still very much in its early stages.

The research is at  
[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&.udi=B6WSN-4V17B6T-D&user=10&rdoc=1&fmt=&orig=search&sort=d&view=c&acct=C000050221&version=1&urlVersion=0&userid=10&md5=4a953f2925af7e4c23b6342e3b5d2dbb](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&.udi=B6WSN-4V17B6T-D&user=10&rdoc=1&fmt=&orig=search&sort=d&view=c&acct=C000050221&version=1&urlVersion=0&userid=10&md5=4a953f2925af7e4c23b6342e3b5d2dbb)

## No-Jab Blood Tests

A new technique for measuring a person's hemoglobin or red blood cell levels instantaneously - Masimo non-invasive and continuous total hemoglobin (SpHb™) - uses a finger sensor, without removing any blood. Currently, the only way to test a patient's vital hemoglobin level is to insert a needle into a vein, draw blood and then have it analysed. NZ is one of the first countries in the world to have the sensor registered and ready to use.

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# Education

## NZ Export Education: Statistics

NZ's \$2.3 billion per annum export education industry employs around 32,000 people. The industry competes in a global education market, and its main rivals are the main English speaking destination countries. With big money at stake, export education competition has been intense over the last few years. A comparison of NZ's export education statistics with those of Australia, Canada, the USA and UK shows:

- NZ is the second most successful recruiter globally of international university students;
- once other (non-university) sectors are included, NZ is the top performer globally in international education;
- export education makes up nearly 7% of NZ's export earnings; and
- export education foreign exchange earnings are higher as a proportion of GDP for NZ than any of the other main destination countries.

More is on the Education NZ site at [www.educationnz.org.nz](http://www.educationnz.org.nz)

## New Tertiary Union

Workers from NZ's polytechnics and universities have united to form NZ's newest large union. The Tertiary Education Union (TEU), an amalgamation of the Association of University Staff (AUS) and the Association of Staff in Tertiary Education (ASTE), brings together over 11,000 academic and general staff members from both unions.

## "Voice It" – Educating through Performance

The 2008 publication of "Voice It" is now available for free download from Voice Arts. Voice Arts is a charitable trust which engages and empowers young people to creatively explore beliefs, behaviours, and choices through the art of performance. This year's publication, "Carrying the voice of young people from Wellington's Refugee Communities", features a selection of original creative material developed by 2008 refugee participants. The radio broadcast is also available and includes poems and short stories, transcripts of conversations with participants, and overviews of the histories of their countries of origin. The publication is funded by the Global Education Fund.

More is at <http://www.voice-arts.org.nz/>

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# Transport

## 2008 AA ENERGYWISE Rally Winners

This rally shows motorists how they can slash their fuel bills by choosing a fuel-efficient car and driving it in a fuel efficient manner – and a record 59 vehicles entered this year's four-day rally around the North Island. They were put to the test with a combination of driving on motorways, unsealed roads, rural state highways, and in peak-hour city congestion.

The Supreme Winner, the vehicle that cost the least to run over the whole rally including fuel and road user charges, is the Honda Civic Hybrid. It cost \$111.72 to complete the 1641km rally. The Environment Award, for the vehicle with the lowest fuel use and emissions for the rally, went to the Volkswagen Polo BlueMotion Manual, with 95.58 grams per kilometre.

In addition to the above winners, the following were also announced as the vehicles in each of the six classes that cost the least to run over the whole rally including fuel and road user charges:

- Small Class – Mitsubishi Colt Plus CVT;
- Compact Class – Honda Civic Hybrid;
- Medium/Executive Class – Volkswagen Jetta BlueMotion Manual;
- Large/Luxury Class – Honda V6 Accord VS Automatic;
- Small Lifestyle/Leisure Class – Suzuki SX4 2 litre All Wheel Drive Manual; and
- Large Lifestyle/Leisure Class – Hyundai Santa Fe Manual.

## Traffic Volumes Up

New figures show falling petrol prices are fuelling an increase in vehicles on the roads, reversing several months of declining traffic volumes nation-wide. NZ Transport Agency figures show the number of vehicles on the roads nationally for October 2008 was down 1.6% on October 2007. However, the drop is significantly less than seen in the past five months. In September, traffic volume growth was down 5.5%, in August it was down 7.5%, and in July it declined 8%.

## Personalised Car Valuations

For a small fee, you can find out the true value of either the vehicle you currently own or a vehicle you are thinking of buying...with just a few mouse clicks. Called "Personalised Valuations" the service is provided by Red Book – a company providing vehicle identification and pricing services to the automotive, finance and insurance industries.

You access the information through the company website. After being led through a series of prompts to properly identify the vehicle, you then provide details of the kilometres travelled, the condition of the vehicle (fair, average, good etc) and any additional features added to the vehicle (for example, an up-market sound system).

After payment of a fee of \$19.95 incl. GST – which can be paid by credit card - Red Book then calculates the value of the vehicle and provides a certificate which can be used in future negotiations.

For more go to [www.redbook.co.nz](http://www.redbook.co.nz)

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# Energy

## New Body to Promote Biofuels

Two groups working to promote biofuels have joined forces to create a new body called the Bioenergy Association of NZ Liquid Biofuels Interest Group. The new body is a merger of the Bioenergy Association of NZ (BANZ) and the NZ Biofuel Manufacturers Association (NZBMA).

The aim of the new group is to help establish a sustainable biofuels market in NZ based on indigenous resources. A key objective will be to ensure local investment in biofuels is not disadvantaged by the importation of biofuels from non-sustainably produced sources.

## Employment

### 2008 Best Places to Work Awards

Southern Cross Travel Insurance has been named as NZ's best workplace in the annual unlimited/JRA Best Places to Work in NZ survey. The insurance company also took out the Best Small Workplace title, after being a finalist in that category last year.

Outward Bound Trust of NZ, which was the overall winner in 2007, again won the small-medium workplace category (50-149 employees). Mars NZ won the medium-large category (150-399 employees) and Flight Centre (NZ) won the large workplace category (400+ employees) for the seventh year running.

Waitakere Enterprise and Northpower were given Highly Commended awards for the public sector and private sector categories respectively, based on their efforts to improve employee engagement levels.

Many organisations use the survey results to identify aspects of their workplace to improve and to benchmark themselves against other organisations in their industry. This drive to continually do better is recognised by recognising the achievements of the "most improved" organisations in each category: this year's winners were Oasis Engineering, the Hospitality Standards Institute, Metrowater, and Livestock Improvement Corporation.

Find out more at [http://www.johnrobertson.co.nz/hall\\_of\\_fame/default.html](http://www.johnrobertson.co.nz/hall_of_fame/default.html)

### 2008 Workforce Profile of the Public Service

The results of an annual workforce survey of Public Service departments carried out by the State Services Commission (SSC) show that in the 12 months to 30 June 2008, the number of public servants increased by 3.6% to 45,934. This is the smallest percentage increase over the past eight years.

Most of the recent increases in staff numbers came from the Department of Corrections for the Spring Hill and Otago Regional Corrections Facilities, Inland Revenue Department for KiwiSaver, and the Department of Labour - where more front-line immigration staff were employed to support the increase in work volumes over the past year. Between 2003 and 2008, employment in the public sector as a whole increased by 12.2% compared with an increase of 12.0% in the employed labour force.

Other findings include:

- turnover rates increased to 15%, from 14% in 2007 (the occupations with the highest turnover rates were call or contact centre operators, human resource advisors and managers, and public relations professionals);
- the median salary as at 30 June 2008 was \$51,000, and over the 12 months to 30 June 2008 the average salary rose by 5.1% to \$59,532 (Statistics NZ's Labour Cost Index shows that over the past five years, the change in salary and wage rates for the Public Service has been

lower than that in the Health and Education sectors and similar to that in the private sector); and

- the proportion of Maori public servants has remained static over the past three years, declining slightly from 16.8% in 2007 to 16.7% in 2008 (the European ethnic group continued to decrease, with 72.5% of Public Servants identifying themselves as European, down from 77.5% in 2003).

The full report is available on the State Services Commission website: <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/hrc-survey-2008>

### Employment in Manufacturing Continues to Fall

The manufacturing industry was the only industry to show a decrease in filled jobs for two successive years, according to latest figures from Statistics NZ. Manufacturing is NZ's largest industry, with a quarterly average of 226,280 filled jobs in the September 2007 year. Filled jobs decreased by a total of 8,060 (or 3.4%) between 2005 and 2007. The key driver of the decline in filled jobs was the textiles, clothing, footwear and leather manufacturing sub-industry.

The construction industry had the greatest increase in the number of filled jobs from the September 2006 year (5,990 jobs), and also in filled jobs over the five years from September 2002-07, with 42,390 extra jobs (up 55.8%). During that time, the construction industry went from being the ninth-largest industry to the sixth-largest industry.

Average quarterly earnings for all industries increased 4.8% in the year to September 2007 to reach \$11,030, and increased 24.0% in the five years to September 2007. The arts and recreation services industry had the highest growth (7.5%) in the year to September 2007. Mining had the highest growth (34.3%) in the five years to September 2007. Mining was also the highest paid industry, with average quarterly earnings of \$18,300 during the September 2007 year.

These results come from the Linked Employer-Employee Data (LEED). LEED uses information from existing taxation and Statistics NZ sources to provide a range of information on the NZ labour market.

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

### Smart Practice to Retain Older Workers

A new guide provides information on older workers' rights, and tips for their employers. "Valuing Experience: a practical guide to recruiting and retaining older workers" was produced by the Human Rights Commission, the Retirement Commission, EEO Trust, Business NZ, the CTU and the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce. It was developed in response to demand from business and from older workers themselves, and it contains examples of best practice from major NZ companies.

Almost a quarter of NZ's workforce is in the 50-64 age group, and in 2006 65,000 people over 65 were working. That number is projected to increase to 105,000 in 2011 and to 160,000 in 2021.

The guide is at <http://www.neon.org.nz/eeogroups/valuingexperience/>

## People Moving Off Benefit: Employment Statistics

According to recent figures from Statistics NZ, between 2001 and 2007, about 65% of people who moved off a domestic purposes benefit were in employment in the month immediately following. Sixty-two percent of transitions from an unemployment benefit were also to employment, while for sickness benefits and invalid's benefits the proportions were 54% and 28%, respectively. The new statistics are based on the integrated Linked Employer-Employee Data (LEED) and Ministry of Social Development (MED) benefit data. Other findings include:

- about 38% of those who moved off a domestic purposes benefit to employment, in the month after transition, remained in continuous employment over the following two years;
- transitions from an unemployment benefit had the lowest rate of continuous employment two years after transition (28%);
- for those moving off sickness and invalid's benefits, the proportions in continuous employment were 33% and 34%, respectively; and
- people who moved off a domestic purposes benefit, into employment in the first month, had the highest average number of months in employment over the following two years (17.1 months). This compares with 16.3 months across all benefit types.

The report is available on the Statistics NZ website [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)

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## Justice/the Law

### Protect Your Privacy

#### NZers' Privacy Concerns ...

According to the latest Unisys Security Index Survey, five out of 10 NZers are extremely or very concerned about the security of their financial transactions, and as a result, strongly support the introduction of new technologies to provide greater security for consumers' data and finances. In fact, more NZers say they would be happy to use a fingerprint as a protection against identity theft and financial fraud than a password or PIN.

Fifty-one percent of respondents said that they were extremely or very concerned about other people obtaining and using their credit and debit card details, up 8% since the last survey. Forty-nine percent say they are extremely or very concerned about unauthorised access to and misuse of their personal information, which is 2% higher than last survey.

In view of these results it is perhaps not surprising that a whopping 97% of us are willing to use one or more secure identity verifiers, including biometrics such as fingerprint and iris scans, to protect ourselves and our information and finances. Photographs get highest level of support with 73% of us apparently willing to use this method to identify ourselves to banks, government and other organisations. Other traditional non-biometric identifiers such as PINS and passwords remain popular with 64% and 63% support, respectively.

Interestingly, there is also strong support for technologically innovative solutions as well: Fingerprint scan – 71%, iris scan

– 59%, facial scan – 45%, voice recording – 43%, and vascular scan – 36%.

A further series of tips for ways to protecting personal information and finances is at [http://www.unisys.com.au/services/security/security\\_resource\\_centre/index.htm](http://www.unisys.com.au/services/security/security_resource_centre/index.htm)

### ... & Privacy Commission: Tips for Protecting Personal Information

- think before you give out personal information, and ask what it will be used for;
- you can ask to see any personal information held about you. If it's wrong, ask for it to be corrected;
- don't like people trying to sell you things by mail or over the phone? You can contact the Marketing Association (0800 347 328) to ask about its Name Removal Service;
- help keep your kids safe online by encouraging them to talk to you about what they're doing;
- protect yourself from identity theft by shredding or burning personal letters, bills and bank statements;
- limit your risk when buying online. Have a separate, low-limit credit card;
- posting personal information on the internet? Use a nickname if you can;
- check security procedures in internet cafés and make sure you log out before you leave;
- get a free copy of your credit record once a year to check that nobody is applying for credit in your name\*; and
- make sure you've got up-to-date safety software on your computer, especially if you bank online.

\*For a free copy of your credit file Visit [Veda Advantage](http://www.mycreditfile.com.au/my_credit_file_product_information/my_credit_file_product_information_default.aspx) at [http://www.mycreditfile.com.au/my\\_credit\\_file\\_product\\_information/my\\_credit\\_file\\_product\\_information\\_default.aspx](http://www.mycreditfile.com.au/my_credit_file_product_information/my_credit_file_product_information_default.aspx), or [Dun & Bradstreet \(NZ\) Ltd](http://dnb.co.nz/Credit_Reporting/Order_my_consumer_report/index.aspx) at [http://dnb.co.nz/Credit\\_Reporting/Order\\_my\\_consumer\\_report/index.aspx](http://dnb.co.nz/Credit_Reporting/Order_my_consumer_report/index.aspx). For more information on privacy matters go to <http://www.privacy.org.nz/> Check out [SCAMwatch](http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/scamwatch/) at <http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/scamwatch/>.

### Eligible for Legal Aid?

A new calculator that indicates whether people are financially eligible for legal aid has been added to the Legal Services website. The calculator has three main goals:

- to enable users to assess the likelihood of their financial eligibility for legal aid;
- to advise users how to get further information about financial eligibility for legal aid; and
- to encourage users to contact a lawyer or the Agency if they may be eligible for legal aid.

The calculator is at <http://www.lsa.govt.nz/caniget.php>

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## Not-for-Profits

### Centre for Philanthropy

Guardian Trust's Centre for Philanthropy promotes private philanthropy in NZ by helping those with the means to make a

difference turn their good intentions into worthwhile results. The centre provides private philanthropists with advice for choosing the best way to structure and target their giving to affect profound social change with the causes they are most passionate about.

The Centre includes a knowledge base that provides a free, profile-raising opportunity for charitable organisations to connect with Guardian Trust's client base which includes more than 450 charitable trusts and estates disbursing at least \$26 million annually to charity. All operating charities are invited to register their organisation's details in the knowledge base, providing potential donors with the information required to make informed decisions about where to provide funding support.

To find out more go to <http://www.guardiantrust.co.nz> and click on the word "Philanthropy" on the left hand edge of the homepage

## Survey of ICT Use

This survey - about the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in the Tangata Whenua, Community, and Voluntary Sector - is being conducted by the Waikato Management School, Waikato University, in collaboration with NZFWO, Waikato 2020 Communications Trust, and NZCOSS. It follows on from an earlier survey carried out three years ago.

To participate, go to [www.mngt.waikato.ac.nz/ict/survey](http://www.mngt.waikato.ac.nz/ict/survey)

## High Impact Nonprofits: Forces for Good

The publication "Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High Impact Non-profits" says the secret to creating social change lies in how great organisations mobilise every sector of society – government, business, nonprofits, and the public – to be a force for good. According to the authors' research, high impact non-profits:

- advocate and serve: they don't just focus on doing one thing well;
- make markets work: self-interest and the laws of economics are more effective than appealing to pure altruism;
- inspire evangelists: they see volunteers, donors, and advisors for more than their contributions of time, money and guidance, but also for what they can do as evangelists for their cause;
- nurture non-profit networks: they freely share wealth, expertise, talent, and power with their peers, because it is in their self interest to do so;
- master the art of adaptation: they respond to changing circumstances with one innovation after another – learning from their mistakes; and
- share leadership: they distribute leadership through their organisation and their non-profit network – empowering others to lead.

The book is available on <http://www.amazon.com/>

## TechSoup Passes the Million Dollar Mark

In less than five months in NZ the TechSoup software donation programme has just passed the million dollar mark in software donations to NZ charities.

You can register (and place an order) at [www.techsoup.net.nz](http://www.techsoup.net.nz) More information is at [http://www.techsoup.net.nz/newsletters/Techsoup\\_New\\_Zealand\\_Newsletter\\_November.html](http://www.techsoup.net.nz/newsletters/Techsoup_New_Zealand_Newsletter_November.html)

## Parliament

### General Election 2008 - Official Results

The Chief Electoral Officer has declared the official results for the 2008 General Election. In summary:

- the number of seats in Parliament will be 122;
- the National Party has lost one list seat compared to election night, and now has 58 seats in total;
- the Green Party has gained one list seat compared to election night, and now has nine seats in total;
- there are no changes to the number of seats held on election night by other parties;
- all electorate candidates leading on election night have been confirmed as winning their seats; and
- the turnout as a percentage of enrolled electors is 79.46% (2005 – 80.92%).

Details of the official results are available from [www.electionresults.govt.nz](http://www.electionresults.govt.nz)

### The Cabinet (Portfolios, Other Responsibilities)

1. John Key: Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Ministerial Services, Minister in Charge of the NZ Security Intelligence Service, Minister Responsible for the GCSB.
2. Hon Bill English: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister for Infrastructure.
3. Gerry Brownlee: Minister for Economic Development, Minister of Energy and Resources, Leader of the House, Associate Minister for the Rugby World Cup.
4. Simon Power: Minister of Justice, Minister for State Owned Enterprises, Minister of Commerce, Minister Responsible for the Law Commission, Associate Minister of Finance, Deputy Leader of the House.
5. Hon Tony Ryall: Minister of Health, Minister of State Services.
6. Hon Dr Nick Smith: Minister for the Environment, Minister for Climate Change Issues, Minister for ACC.
7. Judith Collins: Minister of Police, Minister of Corrections, Minister of Veterans' Affairs.

8. Anne Tolley: Minister of Education (Note: the first time a woman has taken this role in NZ), Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office.

9. Christopher Finlayson: Attorney-General [includes responsibility for Serious Fraud Office], Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

10. Hon David Carter: Minister of Agriculture (a role that now includes rural affairs and walking access), Minister for Biosecurity, Minister of Forestry.

11. Hon Murray McCully: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for the Rugby World Cup.

12. Tim Groser: Minister of Trade, Minister of Conservation, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations).

13. Dr Wayne Mapp: Minister of Defence, Minister of Research, Science and Technology, Associate Minister for Economic Development, Associate Minister for Tertiary Education.

14. Steven Joyce: Minister of Transport, Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Associate Minister of Finance, Associate Minister for Infrastructure.

15. Hon Georgina te Heuheu: Minister for Courts, Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Associate Minister of Maori Affairs.

16. Paula Bennett: Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister for Disability Issues, Minister of Youth Affairs.

17. Phil Heatley: Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Housing.

18. Pansy Wong: Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Minister of Women's Affairs, Associate Minister for ACC, Associate Minister of Energy and Resources.

19. Dr Jonathan Coleman: Minister of Immigration, Minister of Broadcasting, Associate Minister of Tourism, Associate Minister of Health.

20. Kate Wilkinson: Minister of Labour, Minister for Food Safety, Associate Minister of Immigration.

#### *Ministers Outside Cabinet*

21. Hon Maurice Williamson: Minister for Building and Construction, Minister of Customs, Minister of Statistics, Minister for Small Business.

22. Dr Richard Worth: Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister for Land Information, Minister Responsible for Archives NZ, Minister Responsible for the National Library, Associate Minister of Justice.

23. John Carter: Minister of Civil Defence, Minister for Senior Citizens, Minister for Racing, Associate Minister of Local Government.

#### *Support Party Ministers*

Rodney Hide: Minister of Local Government, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Associate Minister of Commerce.

Heather Roy: Minister of Consumer Affairs, Associate Minister of Defence, Associate Minister of Education.

Dr Pita Sharples: Minister of Maori Affairs, Associate Minister of Corrections, Associate Minister of Education.

Hon Tariana Turia: Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Associate Minister of Health, Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment.

Hon Peter Dunne: Minister of Revenue, Associate Minister of Health.

In other parliamentary news, Lockwood Smith is Speaker, and the new Whips for the government are Nathan Guy (senior whip) and Chris Tremain (junior whip).

## 2008 General Election: Enrolment Records

A total of 2.99 million people were enrolled to vote for the recent election, or 95.31% of the estimated eligible voting population (this compares to 95.22% in 2005). Other statistics include:

- 2,990,759 people enrolled (2,847,396 in 2005);
- 405,430 of Maori enrolled (376,441 in 2005);
- 229,666 on the Maori roll (207,305 in 2005);
- 175,764 on the general roll (169,136 in 2005); and
- 59,667 of voters with an overseas postal address enrolled (43,535 in 2005).

Full details of the enrolment statistics, including electorate breakdowns, are available from <http://www.elections.org.nz/ages/>

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## Business

### The Best Little Business?

The David Awards: Heroes in Small Business recognise the unsung heroes in home and small businesses throughout NZ, whose "tenacity, courage and ingenuity place them firmly at the forefront of entrepreneurship in this country". The Supreme Award winner in the inaugural year of these awards is Auckland Auto Clinic, which also took out category awards for The Most Outstanding Transitional Business, The Most Outstanding Triumph Over Adversity and The Most Socially Responsible Business. The judges said "Auckland Auto Clinic embodies all the characteristics of a David - an ordinary Kiwi business, doing extraordinary things. Continual innovation is a hallmark of this business, which also gives back to the community. From tiny, tough and sometimes very insecure beginnings, it has transformed into a business which is thriving in spite of its highly competitive environment, is gaining incredible recognition from customers and within its own industry, which shows exceptional commitment from its staff. Run literally on the smell of an oily rag in the beginning, Auckland Auto Clinic is a shining example of a typical kiwi business which has risen above its peers through sheer tenacity, courage and determination."

Winners were announced during a live web broadcast which can be viewed at [www.thedavidawards.co.nz](http://www.thedavidawards.co.nz)

### Guidelines for Mergers/Acquisitions Clearance

The Commerce Act prohibits the acquisition of assets of a business or shares if that acquisition would be likely to substantially lessen competition in a market. It also provides for the Commerce Commission to decide whether or not such a merger should be cleared to take place.

New Guidelines from the Commission outline the process, indicative timeframes, and the kinds of information that the Commerce Commission considers when it looks at these applications.

More is at <http://www.comcom.govt.nz/BusinessCompetition/MergersAcquisitions/ClearanceProcessGuidelines/clearanceprocessguidelines.aspx>

## Improve Meeting Outcomes by Avoiding Groupthink

As a meeting leader or facilitator, there are six things you can do to avoid “groupthink” in your meeting. “Groupthink” is the tendency for higher-status people at the meeting to feign knowledge to save face, limit contributions by lower-ranking employees - who fear rejection, and reduce individual accountability. If you can avoid it you will increase your meeting’s value or productivity. The six are:

- establish (and express) your own belief in the value of group work. If you don’t think that the meeting is a good idea, no one else will either;
- set clear goals for the meeting right at the start. Setting a goal for the group lets the attendees know that they are accountable for the success of the meeting;
- create an avenue for back-and-forth communication. Meetings, even for presentations, should be more like a press conference than an address. If the attendees have no means or reason to interact, then you might as well just record a video and send it out;
- distribute the power and responsibility. As the leader of a meeting you can increase participation by assigning roles to discussion leaders, having multiple presenters, and being sure to ask open-ended (rather than yes-or-no) questions. At the end of the meeting, have a list of who is responsible for each next action — and when it’s due;
- encourage and acknowledge every participant’s contributions to the meeting. By showing sincerity and trust, you can get a lot more from the group than from the sum of its parts; and
- say thank you. It’s an easy yet powerful way to acknowledge your attendees’ time and input.

More is at: <http://blogs.bnet.com/teamwork/?p=485>

## Money Matters

### Latest Government Account Figures

The government’s financial statements for the four months ended 31 October 2008 shows the Crown operating balance was \$3.5 billion in deficit against a forecast surplus of \$1.5 billion. The main reason for the worse than expected result in the monthly update was unrealised losses on government investments as a result of severe turbulence on global sharemarkets. The losses were \$4.3 billion greater than expected.

The worst hit was the NZ Superannuation Fund which took a \$3.5 billion hit, while ACC suffered \$600 million in losses and the Earthquake Commission (EQC) \$200 million. The separate Government Superannuation Fund and ACC also recorded

losses of \$1 billion and \$400 million, respectively as a result of revaluations of liabilities.

However, once unrealised investment losses are stripped out of the operating balance it comes in at \$898 million in surplus - \$117 million better than forecast. Other details include:

- the cash deficit was \$900 million better than expected, due to delays in transferring \$700 million to the previous government’s Fast Forward research fund and higher than expected petroleum mining royalties;
- gross Crown debt was \$3.1 billion higher than expected to \$33.6 billion - 18.8% of GDP;
- net core Crown debt was \$1.9 billion lower than forecast at \$2.2 billion mainly due to the lower than expected cash deficit and higher than forecast circulating currency; and
- tax revenues overall were about \$400 million more than forecast, but that was probably due to timing issues.

More information can be downloaded from <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/releases/2008-12-05f>

## Commodity Prices for November

Commodity prices weakened in November, with the ANZ Commodity Price Index dropping by 7.2%. This is the fourth successive monthly drop in the series, and equates to a 21% fall in the index since July. The price of eight commodities recorded a fall in November, two commodities recorded a rise and three were unchanged from the preceding month.

Pelt prices recorded the largest drop, slumping 41% from October. Double-digit declines (all between 12 and 13 %) were recorded for beef, wool, lumber, aluminium, and dairy. Even seafood prices were knocked back in November, posting the first monthly decline in 18 months (-0.6%). Lamb and kiwifruit were the two commodities to record a lift in prices in November, rising 4.3 and 0.3%, respectively.

## Family Budgeting Services Busy

Enquiries to Family Budgeting Services have risen by more than 16% this year to over 293,000. Services throughout the country are also seeing more working families than ever before. The 12 months to 30 June 2008 saw a surge in salary and waged clients to over 30% of the total client base. The increase in mortgage repayments appears to be one common factor among these clients. Two of the higher debt categories owed by Family Budgeting Services’ clients in the last 12 months were to retail providers and accommodation providers. The average debt was over \$20,000 per client from a total debt presented figure of more than \$234 million.

## New Finance Sector Dispute Resolution Service

Consumers who have been unable to resolve a complaint with their financial adviser or service provider will soon be able to have their complaint heard by an independent and free dispute resolution service. Under the recently-passed Financial Service Provider (Registration and Dispute Resolution) Bill, industry groups will develop their own schemes which will then go to the Minister of Consumer Affairs for approval. All of them will have to meet the internationally accepted benchmarks of accessibility, independence, fairness, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness before they are registered. The searchable register will be managed by the Companies Office.

There will also be a reserve scheme established for providers who do not belong to an approved industry dispute resolution scheme.

## Investment Fund Targets NZ Start-ups

A new \$5 million angel investment fund is being established which targets new angel investors, and which will increase the capital available to seed and start-up companies. Seven angel investment groups from throughout NZ and the NZ Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF) are launching the Halo Fund. NZVIF will manage the fund.

The Halo Fund will give its investors access to a diversified portfolio (which is an important part of angel investing) of early-stage companies in NZ. The Fund will invest alongside NZVIF's Seed Co-Investment Fund and its active investment partners.

To invest in the Halo Fund, investors will need to belong to one of the Fund's partnering angel groups. They will then gain access to deals and investments being made by all the partnering angel groups from across NZ.

The Fund's investment objective is to provide investors with qualified access to a diversified portfolio of 15 to 30 plus investments over the lifetime of the Fund.

Find out more at <http://www.nzvif.com/>

## Food Price Index: October 2008

According to recent Statistics NZ figures, food prices decreased 0.3% in the October 2008 month. The decrease was mainly due to the fruit and vegetables subgroup (down 6.0%), driven by lower prices for lettuce (down 50.7%) and tomatoes (down 24.9%). These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for potatoes (up 20.6%).

The main upward contribution to the food price index came from higher prices for the meat, poultry and fish subgroup (up 2.4%). Within the subgroup, the main contributors were beef (up 5.4%) and prepared meats and smallgoods (up 6.0%).

Prices for grocery food were up 0.6%, mainly due to higher prices for bread (up 3.2%), which were offset by lower prices for cheddar cheese (down 4.0%).

For the year to October 2008, food prices rose by 9.9%. All five subgroups recorded upward contributions to the annual increase: grocery food (up 11.9%), meat, poultry and fish (up 11.0%), fruit and vegetables (up 12.5%), restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food (up 6.4%), and non-alcoholic beverages (up 4.7%). Within these subgroups, individual higher prices were recorded for cheddar cheese (up 39.2%) and potatoes (up 41.7%).

## Stretching the \$\$\$ at Christmas

Suggestions for ways of managing money at Christmas-time:

- plan ahead: make a list of people you want to buy presents for and how much you can afford to spend on each person. Add in any travel and entertaining costs;
- stick to your shopping list and shop a bit earlier - you'll avoid the crowds and won't have to panic buy on Christmas Eve;
- shop around for the best deals;
- draw up a Christmas food shop list before you go to the supermarket;

- try cash: the idea of getting through Christmas without your credit or store cards may be a bit scary, but only spending cash could save you debt worries in the New Year;
- consider putting goods on layby – that way you don't pay interest;
- if you do use credit, know your credit card: credit cards differ in the number of interest-free days they offer and the fees and interest rates they charge, so find these out before you go shopping. Also find out how much more you'll be paying for the goods (in interest and fees) before you decide whether to sign a contract – the lender has to tell you this. Compare this interest rate with the rates of other lenders;
- ask yourself whether payment protection is right for you; and
- Where there's a problem: talk to the bank about options for managing the debt. This may include using a loan, at a lower interest rate, to pay off your credit cards. You can also call 0508 BUDGETLINE (283 438) to find your nearest service or to speak directly to a budget adviser.

You'll find budget, credit card and hire purchase calculators on [www.sorted.org.nz](http://www.sorted.org.nz)

## US-NZ Double Tax Agreement Updated

The double tax agreement between NZ and the US has been updated. The main feature of the updated agreement will be lower withholding taxes on dividend, interest and royalty payments between NZ and the US. The withholding rate on dividends will reduce from 15% to a maximum of 5% for an investor who holds at least 10% of the shares in the company that pays the dividend, and to 0% if the investor holds 80% or more of the shares in the company and meets other criteria. The withholding rate on royalties will reduce from 10% to 5%, and the definition of "royalties" will be revised to exclude payments for leased equipment.

The text of the amending protocol to the double tax agreement is available at [www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz](http://www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz)

## Treasury/MCA Briefings to Incoming Ministers

There are three briefings from Treasury to the incoming Minister (BIMs). The briefing document "Medium-Term Economic Challenges" and an accompanying cover letter are on the Beehive website at [http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Treasury\\_BIM.pdf](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Treasury_BIM.pdf). The second briefing document, "Economic and Fiscal Strategy - Responding to your Priorities", is being withheld under the Official Information Act (but will be released early in 2009), and the third, "Guide to the Treasury", is on the Treasury website today at [www.treasury.govt.nz](http://www.treasury.govt.nz); and

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs' (MCA) BIM is at [http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Consumer\\_affairs\\_BIM.pdf](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Consumer_affairs_BIM.pdf) but it will also be put up on the Consumers Affairs website <http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/index.html>

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# Internet/ICT

## NZ Ranks Highly in Educational Use of Internet

A major international survey (the World Internet Project - WIP - conducted a year ago) of internet behaviour ranks NZ as a leader in its educational use of the internet, but low in its broadband penetration. NZ has the highest proportion of people using the internet for distance education at 21%, and the second highest internet use at school with an average of 5.2 hours per week (behind Australia). However, NZ ranked second lowest on broadband penetration with 65%, ahead of only Colombia and equal to urban China, and is second highest in its reliance on dialup access. Other major points for NZ include:

- having the highest proportion of people using online banking (56% at least weekly);
- ranking alongside Canada and the USA in having the highest frequency of email checking (over 80% report daily or more frequent email checking); and
- NZ has very similar profiles to other countries on downloading music and video, playing games online, attitudes towards the internet and government, attitudes towards television and radio, and reasons for not using the internet.

More details about the survey findings can be found at [http://www.aut.ac.nz/research/research\\_institutes/icdc/projects/wip\\_project\\_findings.htm](http://www.aut.ac.nz/research/research_institutes/icdc/projects/wip_project_findings.htm). More about the WIP is at <http://www.worldinternetproject.net/>

## A Bagful of Sites (Merry Christmas!)

- *if you want to save all those useful little bits of information you come across when you're surfing the web use Evernote at [www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com). After a while it gets hard trying to remember where you saw each bit - and Evernote.com, which is available for Windows, Macs and mobiles enables you to save up to 40 megabytes of new clips each month using a free account. This should be plenty if you are not storing lots of high resolution images. When you see something you want to make a note of, all you have to do is highlight it and click the green elephant head icon Evernote has embedded in your browser. Clicking this icon with nothing selected will place the whole page in there. You will need to register first, then just head to the download page for instructions on what to do next;*
- *a Growing Organic website is at [www.ifoam.org/growingorganic](http://www.ifoam.org/growingorganic). The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) has added "Growing Organic" internet pages to its site. The pages focus on information that is practical to grow/build up the organic sector as a whole; and they provide comprehensive information for everyone from grassroots organizers engaged in advocacy, to trainers and smallholders, to policy makers. They contain recommendations and options for the successful growth of organic agriculture through capacity building, strategic relations, and partnerships;*
- *an 80s Movies Website is at <http://www.fast-rewind.com/>. This website offers a little bit of retro chic with an 80s movies tribute site. There is a featured movie trailer on the opening page with the sections easily accessed in a*

navigation panel on the left. Once you have selected a movie, use the new navigation panel on the left to switch between reviews. These include the trailer, music and soundtrack, behind the scenes, trivia, locations and even bloopers and goofs;

- *poll the people at <http://www.pollthepeople.com/>. The internet is full of people with opinions. The idea of this site is to allow you to discover people's top five recommendations in a growing number of user "voted" and "suggested polls". Once inside a poll you can click the links to find out more about the article mentioned. If you want to take part and add your own thoughts you will need to register by clicking Sign Up. As well as being able to add your own top fives you can now take advantage of the site's social networking elements and make connections with people who have the same kinds of opinion as you do;*
  - *lan's Shoelace site is at <http://www.shoe-lacing.com/>. Fun, fashion & science in this quirky site about shoelaces. Whether you want to learn to lace shoes, tie shoelaces, stop shoelaces from coming undone, calculate shoelace lengths or even repair aglets, lan's Shoelace Site has the answer;*
  - *resources for contributing to cultural wellbeing are on a new website at [www.culturalwellbeing.govt.nz](http://www.culturalwellbeing.govt.nz) Features of the site include: how to define cultural well-being; how central government contributes to cultural well-being; local authority strategies, publications, reports, policies and resources; funding information from [www.NZLive.com](http://www.NZLive.com); monitoring and measuring cultural well-being outcomes; resources including literature reviews; and examples from profiled local authorities;*
  - *a site devoted to architecture and alternative art is at <http://weburbanist.com/2008/11/23/future-green-design-technology/>, where WebUrbanist has put together a list of 24 "Future Wonders of Green Design";*
  - *if you want to take the images from any web page and create a symmetrical work of art go to <http://symmetry.sytes.org/>. The Symmetry Explorer website uses an image searcher, so query a keyword or phrase of your choosing, to enjoy a selection of symmetrical images. You can also click some of their suggested links. The images can make a work of art out of the most unlikely objects. Click the link under the pair of pictures to see the original source image;*
  - *COLOURlovers is an online resource at <http://www.colourlovers.com/>. Colours have a big influence on people – and they can affect your appetite, mood and energy levels. Advertisers, marketers and designers spend a lot of time and money devising new palettes to appeal. On this site you can discuss colours with like-minded people, and whether you are designing your website, considering re-decorating your home, or are a professional in need of a little inspiration, there are literally hundreds of colour palettes and patterns for you to view and download;*
  - *up-to-the-minute statistics on – world population, government and economics, education, media, food water and so much more is at [www.worldometers.info/](http://www.worldometers.info/) Dry old statistics? Not these ones! Worldometers is a mind-boggling website with up to the minute statistics on world-everything! The amazing aspect is that it's being updated in real time. Births today, cars produced, computers sold, books published, its all here, clocking up as you watch. Mind boggling stuff; and*
- you can check whether your flights are on time at <http://flightcheck.co.nz>, and air travellers with a cellphone can now text any arrival or departure flight number to 8808 and*

receive instant arrival and departure flight information, including delays and cancellations. Texts cost 50 cents. The service covers NZ, Australia, the Americas and the majority of Asia and Europe.

## Popular 2008 Google Searches

- *top 10 searches on google.co.nz in 2008*: 1. games, 2. bebo, 3. youtube, 4. trademe, 5. lyrics, 6. google, 7. map, 8. hotmail, 9. tv, 10. weather;
- *fastest rising searches of 2008*: 1. Olympics, 2. facebook, 3. youtube, 4. lotto, 5. wiki, 6. seek, 7. miniclip, 8. asb, 9. tvnz, 10. large hadron collider, 11. heath ledger, 12. obama, 13. gossip girl, 14. jonas brothers, 15. miley cyrus, 16. euro 2008, 17. athletics;
- *most popular 'who is' searches for 2008*: 1. who is the stig, 2. who is the leader, 3. who is obama, 4. who is [in] parliament, 5. who is miley cyrus, 6. who is [the] governor general, 7. who is [the] minister of education, 8. who is valerie vili, 9. who is god, 10. who is owen glenn;
- *most popular 'tickets' searches for 2008*: 1. rugby tickets, 2. all blacks tickets, 3. warriors tickets, 4. chris brown tickets, 5. sevens tickets, 6. cricket tickets, 7. bigday out tickets, 8. rihanna tickets, 9. super 14 tickets, 10. westlife tickets;
- *most popular celebrities searched in 2008*: 1. chris brown, 2. obama, 3. miley cyrus, 4. rihanna, 5. heath ledger, 6. britney spears, 7. sir edmund hillary, 8. leona lewis, 9. amy winehouse, 10. lauren conrad;
- *most popular 'restaurants' searches for 2008*: 1. valentines, 2. orbit, 3. sails, 4. wildfire, 5. chow, 6. yellow, 7. harbourside, 8. euro, 9. merediths, 10. soul;
- *most popular 'diets' searches for 2008*: 1. detox diet, 2. lemon diet, 3. free diet, 4. soup diet, 5. atkins diet, 6. diet recipes, 7. low carb diet, 8. healthy diet, 9. blood type diet, 10. gluten free diet;
- *most popular 'Australia' searches in 2008*: 1. australia jobs, 2. australia map, 3. flights australia, 4. ebay australia, 5. white pages australia, 6. australia weather, 7. australia immigration, 8. dance australia, 9. australia news, 10. real estate australia;
- *most popular 'john' searches in 2008*: 1. john key, 2. st john, 3. elton john, 4. john cena, 5. john deere, 6. john mayer, 7. john mccain, 8. john lennon, 9. john paul, 10. dr john; and
- *most popular 'gumboot' searches in 2008*: 1. gumboot song, 2. the gumboot, 3. taihape gumboot day, 4. gumboot rack, 5. gumboot dancing, 6. gumboot throwing, 7. fred dagg gumboot, 8. gumboot tea, 9. blue gumboot, 10. golden gumboot.

- ensuring that investment in the development of projects, initiatives and support for the sector fits with its strategic plan.

Main benefits for applicants include more frequent funding rounds, and quicker decision making particularly for small amounts, and the possibility of longer term and more significant support.

The three new funding pathways are:

- Arts Grants – short term, one-off projects, including Quick Response Arts Grants;
- Arts Investments - sustained support to create and present high quality art; and
- Sector Investments - sustained support for organisations and individual people to develop the skills, resources and networks needed to present, promote and distribute high quality art.

Creative NZ will introduce the new system for the first funding round in February 2009.

The special opportunities offered by the Arts Board, Te Waka Toi and the Pacific Arts Committee are also being reviewed.

The 2009 Funding Guide is available on Creative NZ's website at [www.creativenz.govt.nz](http://www.creativenz.govt.nz) or you can contact [funding@creativenz.govt.nz](mailto:funding@creativenz.govt.nz). Closing dates for funding applications are at <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/Funding/Fundingclosingdates/tabid/4795/language/en-NZ/Default.aspx>

## Film & Literature Classification Office: Annual Report

The 2008 Annual Report of the Office of Film and Literature Classification was released recently. The Classification Act requires that the Office of Film and Literature Classification minimise the risk to NZ society caused by the unrestricted availability of publications depicting matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty and violence.

During the 2007/08 year, the Office examined and classified 2,821 publications, a 9% increase on the previous year. The Office banned 16% of the publications it classified, restricted 72%, and classified 12% as unrestricted. The largest proportion of banned material, 49%, dealt with the sexual exploitation of children.

The publications of most interest to members of the public and the media during the year were the feature film "Hostel II", the digital game "Grand Theft Auto IV", and book "The Peaceful Pill Handbook (New Revised International Edition)".

The 2008 Annual Report can be downloaded from [www.censorship.govt.nz](http://www.censorship.govt.nz)

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## Arts & Culture

### Creative NZ Changes Project Funding System

From February 2009, Creative NZ is changing the way it funds art applications to the Arts Board, the Pacific Arts Committee and Te Waka Toi with the aims of:

- being more responsive to the arts sector's needs; and

### Zen and the Art of Fish & Chips Making...

The six winners in the latest Top Fish and Chip Shop competition are:

- Northland to North Shore Region: Oceanz Albany, 50 Greville Road, Albany, Auckland;
- Rest of Auckland Region: Diamond Takeaways, 166 Great South Road, Remuera, Auckland;
- Waikato to Hawkes Bay Region: Oppie's Fish & Chips, 259 Fenton Street, Rotorua;

- Manawatu to Wellington Region: So Fine Seafoods – regional winner and grand national winner, 2 Tennyson Ave, Avalon, Lower Hutt, Wellington;
- Nelson to Christchurch Region: Lyttelton Fisheries, 38 London Street, Lyttelton; and
- Timaru to Southland Region: Oscar's, 87 Centennial Ave, Alexander.

As in previous years, a combination of public texting, voting, mystery judging and chip fat analysis determined the 15 regional finalists from each of the six regions across NZ. The six regional winners and the grand national winner were then chosen by a panel of judges.

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## General

### A Mild Summer Looking Likely...

The NIWA National Climate Centre climate outlook for December 2008 to February 2009 indicates that above average temperatures are the most likely outcome across most of the country. Near normal rainfalls are the most likely outcome across much of the country, though normal or above normal rainfalls are expected in the west of the South Island with normal or below normal falls in the east. In terms of the overall picture:

- Air temperatures are likely to be above average in most regions of the country, but average or above average in the western South Island. Sea surface temperatures around NZ are expected to be near or slightly above normal.
- Rainfall is likely to be near normal in the North Island, normal or above normal in the west of the South Island and normal or below normal in the east of the South Island. Normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely in the north of both islands. In the southwest of the North Island normal soil moisture levels and normal to below normal stream flows are likely. In the east of both islands normal to below normal soil moisture levels and below normal stream flows are likely. Normal or above normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely in the west and south of the South Island.

Regional predictions for the next 3 months are as follows:

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

Rainfalls are likely to be normal or above normal, as are soil moisture levels and stream flows; and

- Coastal Canterbury, East Otago: Above average temperatures are likely for the summer season. Rainfall is likely to be normal or below normal, while soil moisture and stream flows are likely to be below normal.

### ...After a Record Winter for Snowsports

NZ ski fields had their best year ever in 2008. Ski Areas Association (SAANZ) members sold 1,402,000 passes, up 116,000 from last year's 1,286,000. The 2008 result surpasses by 1,000 the previous record of 1,401,000 ski area passes sold in 2006.

Skiers and snowboarders experienced fantastic snow conditions at all areas during the season. Ski areas were well underway with most lifts and terrain open for the July school holidays thanks to both natural and machine-made snow. More snow than usual fell during the rest of the season. Skiers and riders had top quality conditions until October in the South Island and mid November in the North Island when the season ended.

### Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World

"Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World" is the fourth unclassified report prepared by the US-based National Intelligence Council (NIC\*) in recent years that takes a long-term view of the future. It offers a fresh look at how key global trends might develop over the next 15 years to influence world events.

Their report is not meant to be an exercise in prediction or crystal ball-gazing. Mindful that there are many possible "futures", the report a range of possibilities and potential discontinuities, as a way of opening minds to developments that could otherwise be missed.

Preliminary assessments from the report include:

- the whole international system - as constructed following WWII - will be revolutionized. Not only will new players - Brazil, Russia, India and China - have a seat at the international high table, they will bring new stakes and rules of the game;
- the unprecedented transfer of wealth roughly from West to East now under way will continue for the foreseeable future;
- unprecedented economic growth, coupled with 1.5 billion more people, will put pressure on resources - particularly energy, food, and water - raising the spectre of scarcities emerging as demand outstrips supply; and
- the potential for conflict will increase owing partly to political turbulence in parts of the greater Middle East.

\*The National Intelligence Council (NIC) is the US Intelligence Community's centre for midterm and long-term strategic thinking.

You can download the document at  
[http://www.dni.gov/nic/NIC\\_2025\\_project.html](http://www.dni.gov/nic/NIC_2025_project.html)

### Kiwis: Happiness Rating

Money helps, but for most of us, democracy, freedom, tolerance and religion are more likely to make us happy. That sums up the findings of the United States researcher

coordinating the World Values Survey. This study ranks NZers the 15th most happy people in the world - ahead of Americans, Australians and Britons but behind Scandinavians, Nigerians and Mexicans.

The survey, which began in the early 1980s and now covers 97 countries, is the only global measure of values and attitudes. It provides an insight into what makes people happy - enough data for the researcher to confidently offer a recipe for happiness in NZ.

Apparently, one of the most important elements is increasing tolerance. Living in a tolerant society seems to make everyone happy, even the less tolerant people. That's why countries such as Sweden, which have terribly long winters, are so happy. Tolerance helps create a social setting where people trust each other. People take care of each other and it's a fundamentally decent society.

Freedom, democratic institutions, letting people make their own choices, and having belief systems are also seen as central to happiness. In the great majority of countries, religious people are seven percentage points higher on the happiness scale.

Keeping good health is important, and personal ties with a warm loving family is said to be the best investment anybody could make.

As for money - according to report the sense of wellbeing that comes from a windfall tends to wear off...

More is at <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>

## We're Near Top for Closing Gender Gap

NZ has maintained fifth place in the Global Gender Gap Report 2008. The report, produced by the World Economic Forum, measures the gap between men and women in economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, political empowerment and health and survival. The report shows that NZ closes 78.59% of equality gaps between men and women, while the Nordic countries close more than 80%. The lowest ranking country, Yemen, closed a little over 45% of its gender gap in 2008. Other findings include:

- NZ has closed the entire gap in educational attainment which measures the literacy rate and enrolment of males and females in primary, secondary and tertiary education;
- it has closed over 97% of the gap in health and survival measured by sex ratio at birth and healthy life expectancy;
- it has improved from 58% of the gap, closing to more than 77% in economic participation and opportunity which is measured by labour force participation, wage equality for similar work, income levels and numbers of managers, professional and technical workers and law and policy makers; and
- has also improved from closing around 16% of the gap between men and women in political empowerment to closing over 39% through increased numbers of women in Parliament and ministerial positions and having a female head of state. (Note: the report was compiled before the elections).
- NZ was 7<sup>th</sup> in the first report and has made significant progress up the ladder in the past three years. Australia was 17<sup>th</sup> last year but has fallen to 21<sup>st</sup> and the United Kingdom was 11<sup>th</sup> but has slipped to 13<sup>th</sup>. The United States has improved from 31<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.

The report can be viewed at <http://www.neon.org.nz/>

## Convention on Cluster Munitions Signed

NZ was among the first countries to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions this month. The Convention will ban all cluster munitions that cause such devastating harm to civilians. It establishes a new benchmark in international law on assistance to victims, and sets out strong and clear provisions on destruction of stockpiles, clearance of cluster munition remnants, and international co-operation and assistance. A cluster munition is a canister containing multiple bomblets or sub-munitions which are spread over a large area to hit multiple targets. Because many cluster munitions fail to explode on impact, they remain a threat for many years after a conflict ends.

## Redirecting Mail - New Online Service

NZ Post has launched a new online service to help household customers redirect mail (redirections can still be arranged by visiting a PostShop). The fee for an online Redirection is the same as in PostShops and starts from \$20.00 for the first two months. The same three working day period, required by a PostShop, is required to process an online Redirection request.

The online Redirection service is available to all household customers who hold a NZ driver's licence and a credit card. Householders' addresses are validated according to NZ Post address standards, including the correct postcode, and a NZ driver's licence is required to verify customer identification. Payment can be made by credit card.

Household customers need to register to use the online Redirection service - you can do this simply by visiting the website (details below). But, businesses and other organisations, including charities, and non driver's licence holders will still need to go to their local PostShop to redirect their mail.

Fees, terms and conditions including more information is available at [www.nzpost.co.nz/moverservices](http://www.nzpost.co.nz/moverservices)

## Plumbers'/Gasfitters'/Drainlayers' Board: OAG Inquiry

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) has decided to examine the extent to which the Plumbers', Gasfitters' and Drainlayers' Board carries out its functions, in particular looking at the policies, procedures, and practices in place for:

- setting examinations for people who want to become plumbers and gasfitters;
- registering and licensing plumbers and gasfitters;
- assessing applicants from overseas who want to be registered; and
- the supervision of plumbers and gasfitters who are required to work under the direction of a craftsman plumber or gasfitter.

The Auditor-General provides independent assurance to both Parliament and the public that public sector organisations are operating, and accounting for their performance in the way that Parliament intended. As an Officer of Parliament, he is

independent of executive government and Parliament, but is answerable to Parliament for his stewardship of the public resources entrusted to him.

For more go to [www.oag.govt.nz](http://www.oag.govt.nz)

## Maori/English Place Names: International Recognition

The National Library of NZ Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa recently announced a major milestone in the international recognition of NZ's English/Maori place names. The US Library of Congress has agreed to accept NZ dual language place names for inclusion in Library of Congress Subject Headings - the "de facto" international standard for subject headings. These headings will now be in bibliographic records available on the National Bibliographic Database and for use worldwide.

These place names are mostly the result of the Crown's settlement with Kai Tahu in 2003, when 88 South Island place names were changed to dual language place names, the majority to joint English/Maori names. In April 2006, after much discussion, the Library of Congress agreed to accept the NZ Geographic Place Names Database on the Land Information NZ website as the authority for NZ place names. Since then, guidelines for these subject headings have been developed in consultation with the Library of Congress.

## Good Behaviour Around Dogs

These tips are aimed at helping dogs, dog owners, and everyone else get along well together.

For everyone:

- always ask permission from a dog's owner before approaching or petting a dog;
- pat dogs on their chests not on top of their heads;
- wait for a dog to sniff your hand before you pat it;
- supervise your children at all times when a dog is nearby;
- don't let your children hug or kiss a dog or approach an eating or sleeping dog or one with puppies;
- don't act excited around a dog or run away, ride, or play noisy games, close to a dog;
- don't force anyone who is afraid to pet a dog (people afraid of animals sometimes make a dog uneasy and more likely to bite);
- if you are intimidated or annoyed by a dog, politely explain your concern to the dog's owner and ask them to control it perhaps by putting it on a lead; and
- if you are going to visit a property where you know there is a dog and you are a bit wary, contact the owner first and ask them to restrain it.

For dog owners:

- remember that you are legally responsible for your dog, and you must take all reasonable steps to ensure it does not injure, intimidate or annoy anyone;
- keep your dog under control at all times. Keep it on a leash when outside of your property. Don't let your dog approach other people without their permission;
- ensure that your dog cannot leave your property without your knowledge;
- pick up your dog's faeces and dispose of them in a bin;

- socialise your puppy or adult dog so that it knows how to interact with children and other dogs;
- listen courteously if anyone complains about your dog, and try to find ways to stop the behaviour they're complaining about; and
- understand that some people don't like dogs or are afraid of them, and have the right to be "dog-free".

For more go to <http://www.dogsafety.govt.nz/dogsafety.nsf>

## Lantern Festivals in NZ

Lantern Festivals have been part of Chinese New Year celebrations since the Han Dynasty (206 BC- 221 AD). They have traditionally been held in the middle of the first month of the lunar calendar to mark the end of Chinese New Year celebrations.

The festivals are said to have evolved from an ancient Chinese belief that celestial spirits could be seen flying about in the light of the first full moon of the lunar calendar. They are also sometimes referred to as the Chinese Valentine's Day because in early times they gave girls and boys a rare chance to go out in the evening and mingle.

The Auckland Lantern Festival will be held from 6-8 February in Albert Park. The Christchurch Lantern Festival dates are 14-15 February and the venue is Victoria Square. More is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/arts-community/chinese-lantern-festival>

## Next Children's Day: 1 March 2009

The theme of Children's Day 2009 is "Listening and Talking." Many schools, communities, streets and businesses organise special private or public events from galas to fun days to celebrate children on or around the first Sunday in March each year. If you register your event on the website you'll have access to free activity booklets, posters and balloons.

More information is at [www.childrenday.org.nz](http://www.childrenday.org.nz)

## Hot Tips for Parents

Talk to your child and tell them you've been thinking about what makes them special. Let them know what your answers are to these questions. They will correct you if you are wrong:

- What really makes your child angry?
- Who is your child's best friend?
- What is your child's favourite fast food outlet?
- What is your child's favourite subject in school?
- What is the subject your child dislikes most?
- What is your child's biggest complaint about the family?
- If you could buy your child anything in the world, what would be his or her first choice?
- Of which accomplishment is your child the most proud?

*Parents, Inc.*

## Referendum on Smacking for 2009

A Citizens Initiated Referendum on the question "should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in NZ?" will be held between 31 July 2009 and 21 August

2009. The Chief Electoral Office will run the postal referendum, the first held under the Referenda (Postal Voting) Act 2000.

## Funding/Award Opportunities

### Enterprising Rural Woman Award

Rural Women New Zealand's Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009 is open to women who own or run a small business with less than 10 full time equivalent employees. The enterprise needs to be based in a rural area and have been operating for two years or more. Sponsored by the BNZ, the award acknowledges the additional challenges rural businesswomen often have to overcome on their path to success. There are prizes for the top three entrants, with the winner receiving the BNZ trophy and \$1500 prize money at Parliament on 15 May 2009. She will also have the opportunity to attend a BNZ Women in Agribusiness course run by the winner of the NZ Young Executive of the Year.

Entries close on 16 February 2009. Parliament on 15 May 2009. Entry forms are on the Rural Women New Zealand website at [www.ruralwomen.org.nz](http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz)

### Rural Communities Trust/Transpower Educational Scholarships

Applicants for these scholarships need to live rurally, have academic ability, be able to balance study with sport or recreation, and have special circumstances. Applications for studying electrical engineering are favoured.

Applications close on 31 January 2009. More is at <http://www.ruralcommunitiestrust.org.nz/>

### Community Irrigation Fund

This fund offers grants for activities that aim to generate investor and/or community support for community water storage and/or irrigation schemes. Funded activities could include: supporting a project manager or public affairs co-ordinator; promotional and communications activities; facilitating discussions with the community on relevant issues; developing a prospectus for potential investors in the community; investigating a range of potential scheme funding arrangements; facilitating farmer investment (e.g. showing farmers the benefits and costs of irrigation); and investigating possibilities for the multiple use of water by communities (e.g., recreational opportunities).

Applications close in February 2009. An application form is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/cif/page-02.htm> or you can contact the Senior Project Adviser, Natural Resources Group, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, tel 04 894 0632. More is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/cif/>

### Lottery National Community Committee

There is one Lottery National Community Committee and 11 Lottery Regional Community Committees. They make grants for projects that enable or encourage community self-reliance, capacity building and stability, opportunities for social, civil or cultural participation and reducing or removing barriers to such participation. Lottery Community priorities include projects that have a community or social service focus, such as developmental or preventative projects, welfare and support

services, and projects that help improve the well-being of people in the community.

Applications to Lottery National close on 23 January 2009. They go to Dept of Internal Affairs, PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, tel 0800 824 824, fax (04) 494 0547, e-mail [grantsonline@dia.govt.nz](mailto:grantsonline@dia.govt.nz). More is at Grants Online at <http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/>

### Lottery Environment and Heritage Committee

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

Applications close on 23 February 2009. Apply to COGS and Lottery Grants Board using [Grants Online \(www.cdgo.govt.nz\)](http://www.cdgo.govt.nz). You can apply electronically or you can download an application form from the same site and mail it to headaddress on the form. For more information, freephone 0800 824 824, or email: [grantsonline@dia.govt.nz](mailto:grantsonline@dia.govt.nz)

### United Way NZ Grants

Funding applications are invited from community-based human welfare charities operating in the Greater Auckland, Manawatu, Horowhenua, Marlborough, Tasman, Canterbury, Otago and Southland areas that focus on: helping children and youth succeed; strengthening and assisting families; supporting the vulnerable and elderly; and/or promoting wellness, independence and self-sufficiency.

Applications close on 31 December 2008. Application forms are online at [www.unitedway.org.nz](http://www.unitedway.org.nz). More information: United Way NZ, tel 09 377-2544, email [Patsy@unitedway.org.nz](mailto:Patsy@unitedway.org.nz).

### Asia:NZ's Action Asia Business Grants

This programme provides support for organisations running projects that seek to increase the capacity of NZ enterprises to do business in Asia. Asia:NZ provides grants of up to \$10,000 for a wide range of business projects including research projects, internships, and support for conferences and seminars.

There is no set deadline for submitting an Action Asia Business Grant application, but proposals should reach Asia:NZ at least 60 days before the grant is required. More is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/opportunities/action-asia-business>

### ...& Emerging Researcher Grant

A grant of \$6,000 will be awarded in February 2009 for emerging researchers in areas relating to Asia:NZ's work. These include doing business in Asia, preparing NZ for a future with Asia, increasing NZ's Asia literacy, Asia in the media, Asian cultural expressions, and NZ's international relations with Asia. Preference will be given to post-graduate researchers, new academics and those who have not already received significant funding from other sources.

Applications close on 20 February 2009. More is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/opportunities/knowledge-research> or contact H Judson, tel 04 471 2320, fax 04 471 2330, email [hjudson@asianz.org.nz](mailto:hjudson@asianz.org.nz)

## EECA Awards

These awards feature NZ businesses and individuals who have achieved innovative and outstanding results in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects. The 2009 categories include a Supreme Award for inspiring the uptake of energy efficiency and/or renewable energy, and nine other awards: residential, transport, Innovation, renewable energy, public sector, energy management, business (large), business (SME), and outstanding contribution to sustainable energy (people's choice category).

Applications close on 20 February 2009. More is at <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/news/awards/index.html> and an entry form is at <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/eeca-library/form/eeca-awards-2009-entry-form.doc>

## toi iho™ maori made mark

The toi iho™ maori made mark is a registered trademark denoting authenticity and quality for Maori arts and crafts and it can be used by licensed Maori artists on works they produce for sale (Maori and non-Maori artists working together on a project can apply for the co-production trademark as well). The mark can also be used to authenticate exhibitions and performances, and in the shops stocking Maori arts and crafts.

Next round for licensing closes 13 Feb 2009. For more information tel 04 4730880 for an application pack, or go to <http://www.toiho.com/News/tabid/244/Year/2008/Month/11/Default.aspx>

## Appointments

Solid Energy CEO Don Elder has been elected *chair* of the *World Coal Institute*. Marie Shroff has been reappointed as *Privacy Commissioner* for a further five years. Six new *Community Magistrates for the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region* have been appointed: Jack Best, Sherida Cooper, Susan Margaret Hovell, Lesley Kaye Jensen, Ngaire Mascelle, and Kathryn Munro Wilson.

David Russell is joining the council of NZ's first independent telecommunication dispute resolution service, *Telecommunication Dispute Resolution (TDR)*. Peter Landon Lane is the new *Chief Executive at HortResearch*. Leticia Vargas is the new *President of the Australasian Association of Volunteer Administrators (AVAA)*. Elizabeth Bang has been elected the new *National President of National Council of Women of NZ (NCWNZ)*. Jan Dowland has been appointed as *chair of Platform, the national collaboration of community organisations that provide mental health and addiction services*. Former MP Katherine Rich will become the new *chief executive of the NZ Food & Grocery Council* from March. Paul Macfie is *chief executive of Allied Farmers*.

Craig Matthews and Paddy Twist

Editors

Rural Bulletin

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

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

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