

# Rural Bulletin

November 2008



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

## Contents

### Consultation

Compensation for Victims of Crime .....	3
Negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with the US.....	3
Review of the Land Transfer Act.....	3
NZ Ambulance Services Strategy .....	3
Sheep and Beef Cattle Welfare Code.....	3
American Foulbrood Pest Strategy.....	3
Trans-Tasman Trade "Rules of Origin" Review.....	4
Children's Commissioner Needs Youth Advocates .....	4
Families Commission: Two "Couch" Polls .....	4
Pregnant Women Offer Insights for Asthma Research .....	4

### Rural

Horticulture and Arable Monitoring Report .....	4
The Rural Women NZ Award 2008.....	4
Greenhouse Gas Footprint Studies Funded .....	5
Walking Access Commission Members Announced .....	5
Sustainable Winegrowing Programme Target Reached .....	5
Dairy Women's Network Seminars.....	5
Forestry & Emissions Trading Scheme Workshops .....	5

### Environment

NZ's Ecological Footprint .....	5
Survey Results: "Clean & Green" Purchasing Intentions.....	5
Checking Food Labels.....	6
New GM Regulations .....	6
One in Four Mammals Risks Extinction.....	6
Waste Advisory Board Appointed .....	6
Dos and Don'ts of Recycling.....	6
Bird of the Year.....	7

### Tourism

NZ Tops UK Tourism Awards.....	7
Wins Ozzie Hearts.....	7
Japan Adopts NZ's Green Tourism Scheme .....	7
International Travel and Migration: September 2008 .....	7

### Health and Welfare

Revised Drinking-water Standards for NZ .....	7
Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2007 .....	7
Employing Public Servants with Disabilities: SSC Report.....	7
Older People's Mental Health/Addictions Project.....	8
Kiwi Men's Sperm Count Drops .....	8
Melanoma Rates Spike In Summer .....	8
Bioethics Council: Public Participation Award .....	8
White Ribbon Day: 25 November .....	8

### Education

Early Childhood Education: Ministry Evaluation .....	8
New Dyslexia Guide for Schools .....	9
Education Resource for Migrants.....	9

### Housing

Quality and Safety in Retirement Village Services .....	9
---	---

### Transport

Cost of Road Accidents.....	9
Educating People About Texting & Driving .....	9
NZ's Freight Demands: Study .....	9
Taxi Services Survey.....	9

### Energy

Cheaper Lighting Options: Electricity Commission.....	10
---	----

### Employment

NZ's Labour Market: Changes Coming.....	10
Employment Growth Up... & Unemployment Up .....	10
Flexible Working Hours Report .....	11
Employment Health & Safety: "Serious Harm" Re-defined.....	11
Annual Work Stoppages Decrease .....	11

### Business

Angel Association: New International Links .....	11
Global Competitiveness Report.....	11
NZ's Fastest Growing Companies: Deloitte Awards.....	11
New Company Director Disclosure Rules .....	12
NZTE Gains International Recognition.....	12

### Money Matters

World Trade Slipped in 2007 .....	12
NZ Salaries/Wages Rise .....	12
Deposit Guarantee Scheme Introduced.....	12
Financial Institutions: Wholesale Funding Guarantee .....	13
The Economy: NZers' Views/Consumer Types .....	13
Tips for Coping with Market Volatility .....	13
Boost to Minimum Family Tax Credit Rate .....	13
Consumer Price Index Reviewed.....	13
CPI: September Quarter.....	14
A Tax Refund? Check for Yourself.....	14

### Justice/the Law

Sale & Supply of Liquor Enforcement Bill .....	14
Bill to Simplify Building Consents .....	14
Mobile Phone Problems .....	14
NZers' Attitudes to Privacy.....	14



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## **Treaty Matters**

Maori Aquaculture Settlement Signed .....	15
Ngati Rangitihia Now Part of CNI Forests Land Collective .....	15
Ngati Porou Foreshore & Seabed Deed of Agreement Signed .....	15
Ngati Apa (North Island) Deed of Settlement Signed .....	15
Conservation Accord Signed with Waikato-Tainui .....	15
Agreements in Principle: Ngati Makino and Waitaha .....	15
Tapuika and Ngati Rangiwewehi: Mandates Recognised .....	16

## **Not-for-Profits**

New Website Helping to Recruit Volunteers .....	16
Workplace Wellbeing Seminars .....	16
New 2008-9 Community Help Directory .....	16

## **The Election**

2008 Election: Preliminary Results .....	16
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## **Internet/ICT**

Silver Surfers Benefiting Their Brains .....	17
Kiwis Go Online as Economic Conditions Contract .....	17
Shopping Securely Online .....	17
English Language Information on China .....	17
Increase in Text Messaging to Youthline .....	18
Telecom Moves .....	18
The 2008 Ig Nobel Prize Winners .....	18

## **Arts & Culture**

Creative NZ: Funding Changes .....	19
... & Review of Creative Communities Scheme .....	19
One in Five NZers Listens to Radio NZ .....	19

## **Fishing**

Setting Fish Catch Limits: New Strategy .....	19
National Plan of Action for Sharks .....	19

## **General**

A Settled Summer on the Cards .....	19
NZ Official Yearbook 2008 .....	20
Population Growth in All NZ's Regions .....	20
New Research into NZ's Resettlement of Refugees .....	20
Recent Overseas Aid Initiatives .....	20
South Island Independence Games Update .....	20
Tokelau Language Website Launched .....	21
Conferences/Festivals .....	21
Electricity Commission: Advanced Metering Conference .....	21
Conference on Motherhood .....	21
NZ Language and Society Conference .....	21
"Catching the Wave" - CATE Conference .....	21
Australia NZ Third Sector Research Conference .....	21
Tourism Hospitality and Research Conference .....	21
NZ Cooperatives Association Conference .....	21
Horizons in Livestock Sciences Conference .....	21
Blueprints for Sustainable Infrastructure .....	21
Funding/Award Opportunities .....	21
Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009 .....	21
Environment and Heritage Committee Lottery Grants .....	22
Marae Heritage and Facilities Lottery Committee .....	22
Maori Excellence in Farming Award: Ahuwhenua Trophy .....	22
Sustainable Management Fund Opens .....	22
Summer Work for ICT Students: New Internship .....	22
Tourism Research Scholarships .....	22
Transpower CommunityCare Fund .....	22
Latest Biodiversity Funding .....	23
Appointments .....	23

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# Consultation

## Compensation for Victims of Crime

Your comments are sought on a Law Commission issues paper called "Compensating Crime Victims". This sets out questions and options relating to the existing arrangements for compensating victims and to possible new arrangements. New arrangements could include, for example, increasing victims' entitlement to compensation for personal injury; widening eligibility for compensation for mental injury; providing state-funded trauma counselling; improving the way compensation is recovered from offenders; providing state-funded compensation; increasing funding for, and widening the range of, special purpose schemes; and imposing an offender's levy.

Submissions close on 24 December 2008. The go to [victims@lawcom.govt.nz](mailto:victims@lawcom.govt.nz). The issues and options paper is at [http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication\\_155\\_418\\_IP11.pdf](http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_155_418_IP11.pdf). More information: Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6140, email [victims@lawcom.govt.nz](mailto:victims@lawcom.govt.nz)

## Negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with the US

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is inviting submissions on NZ's upcoming Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the United States as part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (currently called the P4). Submissions could cover:

- specific issues you'd like to see addressed;
- potential benefits and risks to NZ;
- any specific information you can provide that would help to develop NZ's negotiating position; and
- outcomes that you would like to see from the negotiations.

The United States is NZ's second largest individual export destination. In the year to June 2008, NZ exported NZ\$4.02 billion worth of merchandise to the US, accounting for 10% of total NZ exports. Our top three exports to the US were beef, dairy and wood products. Over the same period NZ imported NZ\$4.12 billion worth of merchandise from the US, accounting for 9.3% of total imports. In that period, aircraft were our top import from the US, followed by motor vehicles, medical or veterinary instruments, aircraft parts and computers. The US is also NZ's third largest source of overseas visitors, after Australia and the United Kingdom. In the year to March 2008, there were 222,757 US visitors to NZ. Short-term US visitors spent NZ\$627 million in NZ in the year to March 2008.

Submissions close Monday 8 December 2008. For more information and an online submission form go to <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Agreements/Trans-Pacific/Call-for-Public-Submissions-October-2008.php>

## Review of the Land Transfer Act

The Law Commission is reviewing the Land Transfer Act 1952 and it has published another issues paper for comment. This review will take into account developments in property law, and consider the adequacy of state guaranteed title provisions. The Commission will also focus on making sure the law is clearly expressed.

Submissions close on 19 December 2008. They go to J November or J Rendell, Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6140, email [landtransfer@lawcom.govt.nz](mailto:landtransfer@lawcom.govt.nz). The issues paper is at [http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication\\_139\\_417\\_IP10%20-%20part%201.pdf](http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_139_417_IP10%20-%20part%201.pdf)

## NZ Ambulance Services Strategy

A draft "Ambulance Strategy for NZ" has been prepared and your views are sought on the issues raised and questions asked in it. These include:

- whether you support the proposed vision for the future of the ambulance service in NZ;
- whether the draft strategy identifies the right goals for ambulance services;
- what feedback you have about the proposals for each of the goals; and
- whether anything should be added to the draft strategy.

Submissions close on 12 December 2008. They go to NZ Ambulance Strategy Consultation, National Ambulance Sector Office, 133 Molesworth Street, Wellington, email [inquire@naso.govt.nz](mailto:inquire@naso.govt.nz), fax 04 816 4484. The paper is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/draft-nz-ambulance-service-strategy-sep08>

## Sheep and Beef Cattle Welfare Code

Minimum standards of animal welfare and recommended best practices for people working with sheep and beef cattle are outlined in a new draft code of welfare released for consultation by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC). The minimum standards cover e.g., stockmanship, handling, breeding and the provision of food, water, shade, shelter and housing. Requirements around shearing, protection from flystrike, the use of feed pads and selection for transport are also addressed.

The draft code has been reviewed by representatives of farmers, the meat and wool industries, veterinarians and animal welfare organisations; NAWAC is now seeking public feedback before finalising it.

Submissions close on 12 December 2008. They go to NAWAC Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, email [animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz). The draft code is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-code-sheep-cattle>

## American Foulbrood Pest Strategy

American foulbrood is a serious disease of honeybees. The 1998 National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy imposed requirements on beekeepers and others in their management of American foulbrood for 10 years, and the term of this strategy has now expired. The review will consider whether it should be continued, and if so, whether any amendments to it are necessary.

Submissions close on 28 November 2008. They go to H Foran, Policy and Risk, MAF Biosecurity NZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington, email [holly.foran@maf.govt.nz](mailto:holly.foran@maf.govt.nz), tel 04 894 5687. The discussion paper is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/afnpm-strategy-report.pdf>

## Trans-Tasman Trade “Rules of Origin” Review

The rules of origin (ROO) which govern trade under the Australia NZ Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (signed in 1983 and commonly known as CER) are under review by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED).

ROO determine whether a product qualifies for tariff-free entry when being traded between NZ and Australia. They are also used to compile trade statistics and for product labelling.

Australia is NZ's largest trading partner, taking nearly 22% of this country's merchandise exports and providing nearly 21% of merchandise imports. In turn, NZ is Australia's fifth-largest individual export market, is our fifth largest merchandise trade partner overall and is the largest market for “elaborately-transformed manufactures” (cars etc.).

There is no consultation paper. Submissions close on 17 December. Contact N Kirton, tel (04) 462 4265; email [nick.kirton@med.govt.nz](mailto:nick.kirton@med.govt.nz)

## Children's Commissioner Needs Youth Advocates

Young people who want a say on issues that affect them can apply to join a group that provides advice to the Children's Commissioner. The Commissioner's office is recruiting new members for her Young People's Reference Group (YPRG), made up of young people aged between 12 and 18 from around NZ. This group considers national and regional issues for children and young people, and meets in Wellington about four times a year (transport, accommodation and food are paid for by the office). Applications are welcomed from young people who are actively involved in their community, aware of the world around them and passionate about having a say in matters that affect them.

Applications close on 28 November 2008. More information is at <http://www.occ.org.nz/yprg>

## Families Commission: Two “Couch” Polls

The subjects of these surveys are:

- *Grandparents*: this is a poll running until around the end of November that focuses on grandparents. Two versions of the “Time with Grandchildren” poll are running – one is for grandparents and the other is for parents with children living at home who have one or more grandparents who are still alive; and
- *Christmas Spending*: The Commission also wants to know how family budgets are managed during the festive season, and whether you think that the current economic climate will require you to change the way you spend. It is also looking for tips that could help other families deal with what can sometimes be a stressful time of year.

For more information go to <http://www.thecouch.org.nz> or email [enquiries@thecouch.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@thecouch.org.nz)

## Pregnant Women Offer Insights for Asthma Research

So far 600 women are participating in this important study of asthma, which will determine whether (and, if so, why) children raised on farms have greater asthma resistance. The results of the study will help with development of programmes to reduce asthma and allergy risk.

The health researchers involved would like to hear from more pregnant women in the lower North Island about possible participation in the study. Those who volunteer fill out questionnaires, keep a diary of their baby's health and have a home visit from a nurse.

You can email research nurse H Duckett at [h.g.duckett@massey.ac.nz](mailto:h.g.duckett@massey.ac.nz), or freephone 0800 000 544

## Rural

### Horticulture and Arable Monitoring Report

NZ growers are showing their resilience and flexibility despite changing economic conditions, says a recent report launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The Horticulture and Arable Monitoring Report 2008 shows that despite increasing costs many growers in the horticulture and arable sectors had an improved financial outcome for the 2008 harvest season.

Lower global supplies, due to unfavourable weather conditions and other factors, resulted in higher prices for apples, blackcurrants, lemons, cereal grains, and honey. High yields and increased producing areas for avocados, honey and Marlborough wine grapes delivered record production levels for these crops in 2008.

Although most horticulture and arable crop growers had an improved outcome, vegetable crops experienced a poorer financial outcome due to increasing costs that could not be matched by greater yields or prices.

The report finds that growers expect further cost increases in the year ahead, and are seeking to manage this by maximising income through improved yields and quality and by the more efficient use of inputs. In sectors where good profit levels were achieved in 2008 – such as wine grape production in the Marlborough region, and arable cropping – growers are using the extra funds to improve the efficiency of their businesses and consolidate future income.

A fact sheet and a copy of the report are on the MAF website: <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/statistics-and-forecasts/farm-monitoring/>

### The Rural Women NZ Award 2008

The Rural Women NZ Award 2008 was set up to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the NZ Guild of Agricultural Journalists & Communicators. The Award recognises articles based on the theme of “rural women making a difference.” The overall winner was Tony Benny with Tim Cronshaw a close second.

You can see copies of the winning articles at <http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz>

## Greenhouse Gas Footprint Studies Funded

The pipfruit, summer fruit, and red meat industries (venison, beef and mutton) have been awarded a total of \$500,000 to further develop carbon footprinting capabilities. The funding will enable them to further develop expertise in measuring and managing emissions across their supply chains. Carbon footprinting projects are part of the NZ Greenhouse Gas Footprinting Strategy that was developed between government, industry and research institutions at the end of 2007.

For more information on the NZ Greenhouse Gas Footprinting Strategy for the Land-Based Primary Sectors, see <http://www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/slm/ghg-strategy/>

## Walking Access Commission Members Announced

The NZ Walking Access Commission (established under the Walking Access Act 2008) will provide leadership on walking access issues, develop a national strategy, undertake mapping of walking access, provide information to the public, develop a code of responsible conduct, assist with dispute resolution, and negotiate new walking access. Its new board members are: John Acland (chair), Brian Stephenson, Peter Brown, Dr Kay Booth, John Aspinall, Maggie Bayfield, John Forbes, and Barbara Stuart.

## Sustainable Winegrowing Programme Target Reached

A total of 1,000 vineyards has now signed up to Sustainable Winegrowing NZ, the industry's programme for environmental, social and economic sustainability. This equates to almost 80% of NZ's wine producing land or 22,500 hectares out of 29,000 hectares across the country. Additionally, 100 wineries have now signed up to the Sustainable Winegrowing programme equating to more than 75% of NZ's wine production. With exports of NZ wine continuing to grow in overseas markets, the importance placed on sustainably produced products is increasing: overseas consumers have an expectation of sustainably and ethically produced products, and the industry wants to make sure it meets those expectations.

For more on the programme visit <http://www.nzwine.com/swnz/>

## Dairy Women's Network Seminars...

A series of seminars on dairy cow nutrition is being held throughout NZ in November. Organised by the Dairy Women's Network, the Insider's Guide to the Well Fed Cow Dairy Day seminars provide information on what is needed to provide cows with well balanced, nutritional diets to optimise production.

For more information/seminar locations contact the Dairy Women's Network at [www.dwn.co.nz](http://www.dwn.co.nz) or tel (07) 838 5238

## ... & Forestry & Emissions Trading Scheme Workshops

Public workshops focusing on forestry and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) will be held around the country early in the New Year. The workshops will include details of the Draft Forestry Allocation Plan and the pre-1990 forest land exemption policies.

For dates/venues go to [www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry](http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry). A guide to the ETS is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/ets/guide/>. For a printed copy email [policy.publications@maf.govt.nz](mailto:policy.publications@maf.govt.nz)

# Environment

## NZ's Ecological Footprint

NZ's ecological footprint - measured per head of population - is the sixth largest in the world, according to a recently released global survey reported on in the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF's) "Living Planet" report. Our carbon footprint is only exceeded by the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Kuwait, Denmark and Australia.

An ecological footprint measures the amount of resources humans use and the waste they generate: NZ has moved from requiring 5.9 global hectares\* per person in the 2006 WWF report to an average of 7.7 global hectares. Worldwide, the average ecological footprint jumped from 2.2 global hectares per person to 2.7 global hectares per person, but the world has only an average 2.1ha available per person.

The report says that if demand kept growing at the same rate, the equivalent of two planets would be required in the mid-2030s to sustain current lifestyles - or 3.5 planets if everyone on Earth used resources at the same pace as NZers.

In NZ, the main growth in carbon emissions since 1990 has come from the energy sector - mainly transport and electricity generation. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority reports that NZ is now second only to the United States, both in the number of cars owned per person and in the number of kilometres travelled in those cars.

\*A *global hectare* is a standardised hectare of land able to produce resources and absorb wastes at world average levels.

To download the report go to <http://www.panda.org/index.cfm>

## Survey Results: "Clean & Green" Purchasing Intentions...

The latest ShapeNZ annual survey commissioned by the NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development indicates that 67% of households accommodating extended families, and 62% of single-parent households with one or two children say they'll go shopping for energy efficient appliances in the next year. The 31% of potential "green label" buyers are spread evenly across nearly all household income and household occupancy types. The highest intention, 35%, is found in households earning between \$30,001 and \$50,000 a year, and between \$101,000 and \$150,000 a year.

Other findings:

- 57% of respondents intend buying energy efficient light bulbs;
- kiwis also say they are and will keep recycling waste (65%) and conserving water (50%) in personal moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- the number intending to buy a more fuel efficient vehicle is 20%, down from 58% last year, and the number planning to sell an older model vehicle has gone down from 33% to 19%; and
- households most planning to buy a more fuel-efficient low-emission vehicle in the next year are one-parent ones with three or more children at home (35%), and two-parent families with three or more children at home.

The latest personal emissions intentions survey report is available here:  
<http://www.nzbcscd.org.nz/story.asp?id=943>

## ...& Checking Food Labels

Although NZ consumers may profess to know what they're looking at, scanning labels isn't quite second nature yet, with kiwis lagging behind the rest of the world in terms of always checking food labels. According to the Nielsen survey one in five (24%) global consumers say they always check nutritional info when buying packaged goods compared to only 11% of NZers. However, 45% of kiwi consumers will check labels when they are thinking about buying a product for the first time. Only 12% of global consumers said they would check food labels when they are buying for their children, with NZ consumers slightly higher at 17%.

Keeping an eye on fat and sugar seems to be a key motivation for kiwi consumers to check the nutritional labels, with 46 and 38%, respectively of kiwis regularly checking labels for fat and sugar content.

Checking for artificial ingredients seems to be much less of a concern, with 25% of kiwis saying they regularly check labels for additives and only 22% for preservatives, compared respectively with 39% and 42% globally.

Kiwi consumers also seem more relaxed as far as keeping an eye on carbohydrate levels with 21% checking labels compared with 33% globally; likewise calorie intake does not seem to be of great concern, with only 24% of NZers checking labels for calorie levels compared with 44% of global consumers

## New GM Regulations

New regulations for the conditional release\* of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) effective from 7 November 2008, tighten up the systems set up to enable conditionally released GMOs to be segregated and traced. When the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) receives an application to conditionally release a GMO, the applicant will now have to show how they plan to keep the GMOs separate from other organisms and how they propose to trace the GMO, if that is appropriate.

\**Conditional release* means that the release of an organism outside strict containment is approved with controls. Compliance with these is monitored by the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry. ERMA has not yet approved any conditional release of a GMO.

## One in Four Mammals Risks Extinction

An international survey indicates that a quarter of the world's mammals are threatened with extinction, and that destruction of habitats and hunting are the major causes. The report, the most comprehensive to date by 1,700 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) researchers, showed populations of half of all 5,487 species of mammals were in decline. Mammals range in size from blue whales to Thailand's insect-sized bumblebee bat. Of the 2008 total, 188 were listed as "critically endangered," the worst category before extinction.

But the report was not all gloom. Five percent of species are recovering because of conservation efforts, including the European bison and the black-footed ferret, found in North America. The African elephant was also moved down one notch of risk, to "near threatened" from "vulnerable," because of rising populations in southern and eastern Africa, and a total of 349 species have been found since 1992, such as the elephant shrew in Tanzania.

NZ marine mammals that are currently threatened with extinction include the blue whale, fin whale, sperm whale and NZ sea lion. Also included on the list are the Endangered Hector's dolphin and the Critically Endangered Maui's dolphin, which is a North Island subspecies of the Hector's dolphin. The Maui's dolphin is internationally recognised as the world's rarest marine dolphin.

More information is at  
[http://www.iucn.org/news\\_events/events/congress/index.cfm?uNewsID=1695](http://www.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/index.cfm?uNewsID=1695)

## Waste Advisory Board Appointed

This new board is charged under the Waste Minimisation Act with providing independent advice to the Minister and the Ministry for the Environment on waste minimisation issues. Board members are chair Rob Fenwick, Lynne Kenny, Morris Love, John Pask, Sheryl Stevens, Lesley Stone and Nandor Tanczos.

## Dos and Don'ts of Recycling

These include:

- *Recycling*: use separate plastic bags for paper and cardboard (newspapers, office paper, advertising circulars, magazines, envelopes, brown corrugated cardboard, egg cartons and pizza boxes - even if damp); glass bottles (all green, brown, blue, frosted and clear glass bottles and jars); grades 1 and 2 plastic (this includes water, fizzy drink, juice and plastic milk bottles); and aluminium and tin/steel cans, including baked beans, fruit, beer, soft drink and pet food cans - bottles, jars, tins and cans need to be rinsed clean); and
- *Don't recycle*: plastic-coated cardboard containers (Tetra Pak) like soy milk and UHT containers as they also contain a foil lining; polystyrene; glass (tableware, containers, mirrors, windows, pyrex, light bulbs, crystal); ceramics; hazardous waste (broken glass, sharp objects, batteries, paint, oil); plastic shopping bags and bread bags - but you can use these to bundle up material for recycling) plastic wrap; grades 3-7 plastic (including ice cream, margarine and yoghurt containers); aluminium foil (sheets and food trays); or disposable nappies.

## Bird of the Year

The kakapo was in Forest & Bird's annual Bird of the Year contest. It won the avian electoral race with 578 votes, well ahead of its closest rival, the takahe, which scored 322 votes - a landslide victory for the world's heaviest parrot.

The kakapo's Bird of the Year win comes as a huge victory for a bird that has hovered on the brink of extinction and remains critically endangered. In the 1990s only 51 kakapo were left but recovery efforts have since boosted numbers to 90. The solitary, nocturnal kakapo is unique and it is possibly the world's longest-lived bird, with a life expectancy of 90 years. However, it is largely defenceless and it is a slow breeder, leaving it vulnerable to introduced predators.

The top 10 polling birds in Bird of the Year 2008 were: 1: Kakapo; 2: Takahe; 3: Kokako; 4: Tui; 5: Rifleman; 6: Fantail; 7: Morepork; 8: Kea; 9: Kereru; 10: Grey warbler.

## Tourism

### NZ Tops UK Tourism Awards...

Readers of the Guardian, the Observer and guardian.co.uk voted NZ their favourite long-haul holiday destination in the recent annual Reader's Travel Awards. NZ won this award in 2006 but lost to Cambodia (1st), Vietnam (2nd) and Japan (3rd) in 2007.

Of note is that this win comes in the face of flattening visitor numbers from the UK, NZ's second-largest tourist market. There were just under 290,000 visitors from the UK in the year to August 2008, down 4% on the previous year.

### ... & Wins Ozzie Hearts

NZ was voted "Country of the Year 2008" in a popular Australian travel show recently. The travel show "Getaway" recognised NZ for its diversity as a holiday destination, as well as its breathtaking scenery, abundant culture, gourmet food and wine and its endless choice of unique experiences.

### Japan Adopts NZ's Green Tourism Scheme

NZ's green tourism verification scheme - Qualmark Green - has been picked up by Japan's and Asia's largest travel agency, JTB. The company has developed a Qualmark Green-certificated "Royal Road" tour featuring almost exclusively Qualmark and Qualmark Green accredited tourism operators in NZ, including Millbrook Resort Queenstown, Huka Lodge in Taupo, the Langham Hotel in Auckland, Johnstons Coachlines, and Real Journeys in Milford Sound. It is the first of its kind in the world, providing a range of environmentally-sustainable NZ travel products in one package.

### International Travel and Migration: September 2008

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals (157,700) and NZ resident short-term departures (192,000) were both lower in September 2008 than in September 2007, according to Statistics NZ. Overseas visitor arrivals were down 11,100 (7%) from the 168,800 in September 2007. There were fewer visitors from China (down 2,700 or 33%), Australia (down 2,200 or 3%), Korea (down 2,000 or 31%), Japan (down 1,800 or 22%) and the US (down 1,200 or 12%). The 2.469 million visitor arrivals

recorded in the September 2008 year were down 6,200 (less than 1%) from the previous September year.

NZ residents departing on short-term trips overseas in September 2008 were down 16,400 (8%) from September 2007. There were fewer departures to Australia (down 9,900 or 10%), France (down 3,100 or 55%), the UK (down 1,800 or 15%) and China (down 1,200 or 19%), but more departures to Canada (up 900 or 65%).

There was a net permanent and long-term (PLT) migration gain of 1,700 people in September 2008, down from 2,200 in September 2007. This resulted from 500 more PLT departures in September 2008. In September 2008, there was a net inflow of PLT migrants from the UK (1,200), India (500), and the Philippines and Germany (each 300). The net PLT outflow to Australia was 2,400 in September 2008, up from 1,800 in September 2007.

In the year ended September 2008, there was a net gain of 4,400 PLT migrants, down from 8,300 in the September 2007 year. There was a net outflow of 33,900 migrants to Australia, higher than the previous peak of 33,700 recorded in the January 1989 year.

## Health and Welfare

### Revised Drinking-water Standards for NZ

NZ's drinking water standards were recently revised and a new document called "Drinking-Water Standards for NZ 2005 (Revised 2008)" has been published for owners and operators of public and private systems.

This outlines the requirements for drinking-water safety by specifying the maximum amounts of substances/organisms that are allowed to be present in drinking-water. It also sets out the criteria for demonstrating that the standards are being complied with, and action that needs to be taken if they are not.

The requirements in "Drinking-Water Standards for NZ 2005 (Revised 2008)" come into force on 31 December 2008. For more information and a copy of the publication go to <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/8534>

### Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2007

Provisional work-related injury claims for 2007 are comparable to final figures from 2006, according to Statistics NZ statistics derived from claims to the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC).

ACC accepted 231,300 claims for work-related injuries that occurred in 2007 (as reported by 31 March 2008), made by 205,500 workers. Figures for 2007 reveal a rate of around 122 claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Males accounted for almost three-quarters of all lodged claims (72%). Final figures for the period 2002–06 show that the annual number of work-related injury claims fell slightly over the five years, dropping 0.5% from 2002 to 2006.

### Employing Public Servants with Disabilities: SSC Report

The State Services Commission has published a report called: "Enabling Ability: Meeting the employment requirements of people with disabilities in the Public Service". This provides:

definitions of disability; sources of information about disability; a profile of public servants with disabilities; examples of good employment practice; and information on accommodations that are being made to meet the needs of people with disabilities. It also notes issues for consideration when collecting and using information about people with disabilities.

The report is at  
[http://www.ssc.govt.nz/display/document.asp?docid=6945&pageno=1#P10\\_13](http://www.ssc.govt.nz/display/document.asp?docid=6945&pageno=1#P10_13)

## Older People's Mental Health/Addictions Project

The Ministry of Health has begun a project aimed at supporting district health board (DHB) services for people with dementia and people aged over 65 who are affected by mental health and addiction problems. The project is aiming for more consistent provision of quality services and care - irrespective of location, and improved coordination between the services that are available to meet the needs of these people.

More is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/mental-health-of-older-people-and-dementia-project-oct08>

## Kiwi Men's Sperm Count Drops

The quality of NZ men's sperm has halved in two decades - the most dramatic drop of any Western country. The sperm count carried by the average NZ man decreased from about 110 million to 50 million per millilitre between 1987 and 2007. The fall represents a drop from very good to good sperm quality, but remained above the normal level of more than 20 million sperm. The drop in sperm quality has not translated to lower fertility.

There are two broad theories on sperm quality decline. One considered it a consequence of what the mother and child in the womb were exposed to, and the other said it was caused by diet and lifestyle changes. Drug use, alcohol, smoking, obesity, and chemicals in the environment have all been linked to a drop.

## Melanoma Rates Spike In Summer

More NZers are finding melanomas on their skin during warmer weather, according to research analysed by MoleMap NZ. The study would suggest that as Kiwis swap suits for shorts and sweaters for singlets it becomes easier to regularly examine parts of the body that have been covered up for several months. The research found that there is a 27% increase in the number of patients diagnosed with melanoma in spring/summer, compared to winter, when more of their skin is covered up by winter woolies.

Women are the most at risk of an unwelcomed warm weather diagnosis with the data showing a 34% spike in the number of females diagnosed, compared to the lesser 20% increase among males. The difference between the sexes has been primarily put down to the fact that arms and legs make up 63% of all diagnosed melanomas on women, compared to only 33% on men.

Check for melanoma - for melanoma images go to [www.dermnet.org.nz](http://www.dermnet.org.nz) and click on melanoma. More research information is at <http://www.molemap.co.nz/>

## Bioethics Council: Public Participation Award

The NZ Bioethics Council's pre-birth testing project has been given special recognition for being Project of the Year at the International Association for Public Participation Core Values Awards in Scotland. The Bioethics Council hosted 18 deliberative events around the country, including four hui and one fono, and designed an interactive website to encourage deliberation. An independent evaluation found that the deliberative process was very well received by participants.

## White Ribbon Day: 25 November

White Ribbon Day, 25 November, is the international day when people wear a white ribbon to show that they do not condone violence towards women. In NZ, the statistics are telling: most violence by men against women takes place in the home - with an average of 14 women a year killed by their partners or ex-partners. Each year there are over 3,500 convictions recorded against men for assaults on women and one in five women will experience sexual assault or sexual interference at some point in their lives. Wear your white ribbon, and challenge attitudes and behaviour which might condone or tolerate violence.

Go to [www.whiteribbon.org.nz](http://www.whiteribbon.org.nz) for more information about White Ribbon Day

## Education

### Early Childhood Education: Ministry Evaluation

A recent Ministry of Education evaluation of Early Childhood Education (ECE) shows around three-quarters of children in the evaluation attended services rated as "very good" or "good" quality by the evaluators. The evaluation was made via a group of reports, which the Ministry of Education says indicate that the sector as a whole is improving in quality, is more sustainable, and that services have responded well to the implementation of 20 Hours Free ECE. Amongst the findings:

- evaluation of the ECE strategic plan Pathways to the Future - Nga Huarahi Arataki shows that services studied are improving the quality of teaching and learning, employing more registered teachers and implementing Te Whariki (the ECE curriculum) more effectively;
- a study into the introduction of the 20 Hours Free ECE scheme in July 2007 found the majority of services were the same or better off financially. The study, "Early Effects of Free ECE", concluded that many services had seen increased revenue, increased demand for their service or both since the scheme was launched on July 1, 2007;
- in the year to July 2008, 41 new services opened around NZ. In the year to July 2008, the figure increased to 151 services opening;
- a NZ Council for Educational Research (NZCER) survey into the impact of 20 Hours Free on families, found a third of households where children received free hours were better off by \$40 per week or more; and
- about 29% of playcentres reported that children had left the centre as a result of Free ECE.

The reports are at: [www.educationcounts.govt.nz](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz)

## New Dyslexia Guide for Schools

A new Dyslexia Foundation of NZ "4D for Dyslexia" programme is designed to give schools guidance about how best to deal with dyslexia. It suggests changes that can be made in the classroom for students with dyslexia, some of which are as simple as replacing white paper with coloured paper that is easier to read from.

There are currently around 70,000 dyslexic students in the education system.

The 4D for Dyslexia programme is at <http://www.4dschools.org.nz/>

## Education Resource for Migrants

A booklet aimed at assisting migrant parents with their children's education has been produced in six different languages (Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Hindi, Somali and Dari/Farsi). The booklet was produced as part of the "Team Up" campaign set up by the Ministry of Education, and fronted by Tana Umaga. It includes information on the NZ's curriculum, learning through play, NCEA and reading with your children.

Further sets of booklets are scheduled to be produced in other languages, including Te Reo Maori and Pacific Island languages.

You can access the booklets online from the Team Up website at [www.teamup.co.nz](http://www.teamup.co.nz)

## Housing

### Quality and Safety in Retirement Village Services

New measures relating to the quality and safety of retirement village services - a new Code of Practice for Retirement Villages, and new quality and safety auditing systems - have been announced. The code sets out clearly the rights of residents and the obligations of village operators, requires operators to provide full disclosure and ensures the rights of people living in villages are protected by law. The auditing systems include: introducing spot or random audits in addition to the planned audit cycle; making summary audit information of each rest home available to the public on the Ministry of Health website; and monitoring the agencies that carry out audits by having Ministry of Health auditors accompany the agencies on their visits to ensure quality.

There are around 750 aged residential care facilities nationwide. As of June this year about 28,000 older people were living in aged residential care services. In addition another 60,000 older NZers received home support services.

For more information on the Retirement Villages Code of Practice go to [www.dbh.govt.nz/code-of-practice-2008](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/code-of-practice-2008)

## Transport

### Cost of Road Accidents

The Ministry of Transport has released its annual update of the "Social Cost of Road Crashes and Injuries" report, which looks at the total cost of road crashes to the nation. This includes

loss of life and life quality, loss of productivity, medical, legal, court and property damage costs. Specifically, this report provides estimates, at June 2008 prices, of:

- the average social cost per injury and per crash;
- total social cost of road crashes and injuries in 2007; and
- annual total social cost of road crashes and injuries for the years from 1997 to 2007.

It shows that the total cost of all motor vehicle crashes in 2007 increased by about 5% since 2006, to \$4.5 billion. The breakdowns by injury severity are: \$1.42 billion for fatalities; \$1.57 billion for serious injuries; and \$0.84 billion for minor injuries. Or putting it another way, the cost of a lost life in a motor accident, statistically speaking, is \$3.35 million per fatality.

You can download the report at <http://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/NewPDFs/NewFolder/Social-Cost-June-2008-update-final.pdf>

## Educating People About Texting & Driving

Police are launching an innovative teaching aid to educate secondary school students about the dangers of texting and driving. "A msg in Contxt" draws on the experiences of those affected by the tragic deaths of teenage sisters Lucy and Isabelle Simon, aged 18 and 15, in January 2007. Their car hit a truck and the probable catalyst for the crash was texting whilst driving, leading to an overcorrection of steering.

The educational resource uses a multi-media approach to highlight the risk factors and conditions that contribute to road crashes, particularly texting and driving. The resource pack includes personal testimony from Lucy and Isabelle's brother Jimmy, who was 12 at the time of the accident, and the driver of the truck involved who was unable to work for two months following the crash.

## NZ's Freight Demands: Study

According to this government study, the total amount of freight moved nationally in 2006/07 was about 225 million tonnes. An estimated 70% of that freight was moved via roads (this compares to a previous estimate of 67% in 2005). Rail had a slightly lower freight share than earlier at 15% (compared to 18% in 2005) and coastal shipping had about the same freight share: 15%. The study suggests that total tonnes of freight moved in NZ may grow by 75% between 2006 and 2031.

The study is at: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/national-freight-demands-study-1/>

## Taxi Services Survey

Results from a survey of NZers' perceptions of taxi services carried out for the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) show:

- 94% of respondents rated the physical condition of taxis as "very clean" or "acceptably clean" and of "reasonable" or "very good" physical condition;
- 82% felt "very safe and secure" or "reasonably safe and secure" using taxis;
- 78% felt drivers were "professional" or "very professional";
- 27% reported having had a negative taxi experience sometime in the past: 25% of these people had lodged a complaint about the negative experience (note that all taxi organisations are required by law to maintain a register of

complaints, and make it available to NZTA. Any serious incident should be immediately reported to the Police);

- consumption or planned consumption of alcohol is the most common reason for taxi use;
- patrons are twice as likely to choose a taxi firm based on reputation as they are on price; and
- more than half consider it important that their chosen taxi company make an effort to be environmentally friendly.

The survey, which canvassed 800 recent taxi users in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, will be used as a benchmark against which NZTA will be measuring public confidence in the taxi industry over the coming years.

Results of the survey are at  
<http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/docs/taxi-survey-report.pdf>

## Energy

### Cheaper Lighting Options: Electricity Commission

The Electricity Commission (EC) is working with three companies - EnergyMad Limited, Philips and Osram – on a number of efficient lighting programmes, including:

- an EnergyMad is offering residential and commercial consumers: 15W CFL down-light and fitting (\$10 each); 15W CFL replacement for a 12V 50W halogen (\$4 each); covered 13W Ecobulb and regular spiral 15W Ecobulb (\$2.50 each or 5 for \$10); and regular spiral 20W Ecobulb (\$2.95 each). The bulbs for residential use are currently being sold at all Shell outlets and all New World and Pak'n'Save stores around the country. The commercial programme is targeting the hotel/motel industry in NZ, but any commercial business can purchase bulbs from EnergyMad at the subsidised price;
- the Philips collaboration includes a residential and a commercial campaign. The residential one offers five 20W Philips Tornado bulbs for \$10. The 20W bulb replaces a standard 100W GLS incandescent bulb and is available at all Warehouse, Bunning's, Mitre 10, Woolworths and Countdown stores, nationwide. The commercial campaign offers Masterline 35W Energy saving halogen bulbs, which replace a standard 50W halogen lamp (2 for \$12); and 51W TLD Eco Lamps, which replace 58W fluorescent tubes (25 lamps for \$156.25). The wholesale stores from which these products are available at the subsidised prices are Powerbase, Cory's Electrical, Mastertrade, Ideal Electrical Supplies and Electrical Supplies. Phillips is also running a schools education resource aimed at teaching children about energy saving in the home; and
- Osram are the lighting stockists of the electrical wholesalers Rexel and Ideal, who sell products to trades people, including electricians. The range of their halogen bulbs subsidised by the Commission include: 42W and 28W halogen replacements for standard 60W and 40W incandescent bulbs, respectively (\$2.05 per bulb); 28W candle bulbs (\$2.42 per bulb); R63 and R50 bulbs (\$3.47 per bulb); and 35W halogen replacement for a standard 50W halogen (\$6.60 per bulb). They will continue to be available at all Rexel and Ideal stores at discounted prices until the end of November 2008.

A recent electricity efficiency study highlighted lighting, as the single biggest area of potential electricity savings.

More is at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/opdev/electricity/programmes/index.html>

## Employment

### NZ's Labour Market: Changes Coming

NZ's labour market will go through significant changes over the next 12 years, says a report released by the Department of Labour (DoL), which indicates that, while we cannot predict the future, the following changes are very likely:

- the pace of economic, social and technological change will continue to increase over the next 12 years;
- significant population groups, baby blip and baby boomers, will move through into, through and out of the workforce, and labour force growth will eventually peter out after 2020;
- globalisation will continue to produce large economic shifts as international product and labour markets expand. Competition across borders will intensify and working offshore, especially in services, will be even more prevalent;
- globalisation of markets, combined with new technologies, will influence international labour flows, at the same time expanding labour market options for NZ workers, who will be able to market their services in cross-border labour markets;
- increased labour productivity will be required to keep pace with our global competitors and to compensate for reduced labour force growth;
- new technologies will also continue to drive demand in skill requirements. There will be an increased demand for higher education and for skills which are more generic. At the same time, there will also be more demand for low-skilled service jobs. More jobs will require continuous updating of skills and knowledge;
- the nature of work itself will continue to evolve, with more employees experiencing frequent transitions between jobs and occupations and being employed in non-standard work arrangements; and
- environmental pressures, particularly climate change and emerging resource constraints, will play a larger role in technology and skills.

Download the report from <http://dol.govt.nz/publications/research/forces-for-change/>

### Employment Growth Up... & Unemployment Up

In seasonally adjusted terms, the labour market showed signs of weakening over the September 2008 quarter, Statistics NZ said recently. After falling throughout 2007, the unemployment rate increased over the first three quarters of 2008. The September 2008 quarter also saw modest employment growth and high labour force participation.

The combination of increased labour force participation and weaker employment growth, contributed to a lift in the unemployment rate this quarter to 4.2%.

In September 2008, there were 94,000 people unemployed, 16,000 more than there were a year earlier. The male unemployment rate increased by 0.3% to 4.2%, while the female unemployment rate increased by 0.1% to 4.1%. The number of people employed increased by 3,000 (0.1%) over the September 2008 quarter. Male employment fell by 5,000 (0.4%) and female employment rose by 8,000 (0.8%). This follows a number of large changes in female employment in recent quarters.

Over the September 2008 quarter, the labour force participation rate rose by 0.1% to a record-equalling high of 68.7%. The female labour force participation rate rose 0.4% to 62.6%, while the male labour force participation rate fell 0.4% to 75.0%.

## Flexible Working Hours Report

The Labour Department report, "Work-Life Balance and Flexibility in NZ: A snapshot of employee and employer attitudes and experiences in 2008", summarises the findings of two national surveys, one of 1100 employers and the other of 1004 employees, which were conducted in April-May 2008. The research found that NZ workers are reasonably positive about their work-life balance, rating it on average 4.25 out of 6 (with 1 being very poor and 6 being excellent). They are slightly less positive about how easy it is to achieve the right work-life balance, but on both measures it appears there has been some improvement since 2005.

Almost all businesses offer some flexible working arrangements to all or some of their staff. The most widely available flexible working arrangements are occasional flexible start and finish times, flexible breaks, part-time work and unpaid leave. The type and range of arrangements varies by sector and size of organisation.

Employees report that in most cases their manager or supervisor is the person who makes the decision about whether a flexible working arrangement can be used, although employers suggest that the responsibility is spread more widely.

The Employment Relations (Flexible Working Arrangements) Amendment Act 2007 was introduced to increase the availability and take-up of flexible working arrangements (that is, variations to hours of work, days of work or place of work) for all eligible employees with carer responsibilities. At the time of the surveys, 64% of employers were aware of the Act, but only 17% were aware of the eligibility criterion. Awareness among employees was lower, with only 40% of employees aware of the Act.

The report is at <http://dol.govt.nz/worklife/research/wlb-flexibility-nz-2008/index.asp>

## Employment Health & Safety: "Serious Harm" Re-defined

The definition of "serious harm" under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 is to be changed. The definition imposes a legal obligation on employers to report workplace illness and injury, and to manage the hazards that caused them. The proposed new definition will replace the current list of conditions and circumstances with three main categories of harm:

- trauma injury: physical harm arising from a single accident or event and defined by the degree of physical incapacity;

- acute illness or injury caused by exposure to certain workplace hazards, and requiring medical treatment; and
- chronic or serious occupational illness or injury: physical or mental harm requiring hospital admission, in-patient surgery, or able to be confirmed by a specialist medical diagnosis.

The new definition is likely to be in place by the end of 2008.

## Annual Work Stoppages Decrease

Thirty work stoppages ended in the June 2008 year, according to Statistics NZ. This compares with 35 stoppages for the June 2007 year. Stoppages in the June 2008 year involved 7,200 employees, and losses of 17,929 person-days of work and an estimated \$3.9 million in wages and salaries. In comparison, the 35 stoppages in the June 2007 year involved 6,474 employees, and losses of 21,015 person-days of work and an estimated \$3.5 million in wages and salaries. In the June 2008 quarter, nine work stoppages ended – six complete strikes and three partial strikes. These involved 3,890 employees, and resulted in losses of 7,412 person-days of work and an estimated \$2.2 million in wages and salaries.

## Business

### Angel Association: New International Links

The Angel Association has linked up with international partners in Australia, the United States, and Europe in a move which it hopes will help young NZ companies looking to expand offshore. Cooperation agreements have been signed with the Australian Association of Angel Investors, the European Business Angel Network, and the United States Angel Capital Association.

The objective with signing these agreements is threefold: promoting relationship exchanges; promoting best-practice exchanges; and aiding kiwi companies entering foreign markets and getting finance in those markets.

Find out more at <http://nzangels.com/>

### Global Competitiveness Report

The latest Global Competitiveness Report shows NZ in 24th place among 130 countries, the same ranking as last year. The annual survey ranks countries according to their ability to compete internationally using factors such as markets, institutions, infrastructure and human resources. For NZ, the good points can be summed up as excellent institutions, sound rule of law, and very low trade barriers.

The Global Competitiveness Report findings are at [http://www.weforum.org/GCR0809\\_Browser](http://www.weforum.org/GCR0809_Browser)

### NZ's Fastest Growing Companies: Deloitte Awards

According to the 2008 Deloitte/Unlimited Fast 50 Awards, NZ's 50 fastest growing company was Masterton-based manuka honey company Watson and Son, which topped the 2008 list with outstanding growth of 784% between 2006 and 2008.

Overall, the 2008 Fast 50 companies grew the NZ economy by \$901 million, the largest contribution since the Index was

initiated in NZ in 2001 and surpassing last year's contribution by \$146 million. The Fast 50 are responsible for the establishment of almost 1200 jobs in NZ in the period from 2006 through to 2008.

Total combined export sales by this year's Fast 50 grew by 257% between 2006 and 2008. Almost two-thirds (62%) of the 2008 Fast 50 export, up from 54% in 2007. The value of those exports has increased to \$270 million, more than 60% higher than in 2007.

For more information go to [www.fast50.co.nz](http://www.fast50.co.nz)

## New Company Director Disclosure Rules

Directors and officers of listed companies will have simplified and reduced disclosure requirements under amended Securities Market regulations that came into force recently. The previous system required all directors and those officers who "take part" in the management of a listed company's business to disclose any securities trading within five trading days of the transaction taking place. The amendment will reduce the number of officers who fall within the system because it narrows the definition of "officers" to persons who report directly to the Board of Directors.

Other changes introduce simpler forms, allow one form to be used to record different and multiple types of transactions, and permit a person authorised by the director or officer to sign disclosure forms and lodge them with NZX on the director's or officer's behalf.

## NZTE Gains International Recognition

NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) has been named as the world's best trade promotion organisation. It beat three other finalists – Australia, Austria and the United Kingdom – to scoop the developed nation category and then was named "Best of the Best" at the 7th World Trade Promotion Organisation Awards in The Hague, the Netherlands. NZTE was formed in 2003 from a merger of Industry NZ and Trade NZ.

Visit the website at <http://www.nzte.govt.nz/>

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# Money Matters

## World Trade Slipped in 2007

Weakening demand in developed countries, realignments in exchange rates and fluctuations in the prices for commodities, such as oil and gas, introduced uncertainties into the global markets in 2007. As a result, growth in world merchandise trade slipped to 6% in real terms, down from 8.5% in 2006, according to statistics published by the WTO on 5 November. These latest figures come in the official comprehensive compilation for 2007, "International Trade Statistics 2008".

The slowdown "is due to a deceleration of import demand, mainly in the United States, but also in Europe and Japan," the report says. However, trade remained strong in most developing countries. Regions such as Africa, the Middle East, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), developing Asia and South and Central America showed sustained growth in their economies in 2007.

Download the document at  
[http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/statis\\_e/its2008\\_e/its2008\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/its2008_e/its2008_e.pdf)

## NZ Salaries/Wages Rise

The Labour Cost Index (LCI) recorded an increase of 3.6% in salary and wage rates (including overtime) in the year to the September 2008 quarter, Statistics NZ said recently. This is the largest annual increase recorded since the series began in the December 1992 quarter.

The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) results for the September 2008 quarter show the annual increase in total gross earnings continued to exceed the annual increase in total paid hours. This resulted in a 5.5% increase in average total hourly earnings, to \$24.37.

The LCI increase for the September 2008 quarter was 1.1%, up from increases of 0.8% and 0.7% in the June 2008 and March 2008 quarters, respectively. The latest quarterly increase matches the record quarterly increase of 1.1% recorded in the December 2007 quarter.

For all surveyed salary and ordinary time wage rates that rose in the year to the September 2008 quarter, the average increase was 6.1%. This compares with an average increase of 5.8% in the year to the June 2008 quarter, and it is the largest annual average increase since the series began. QES results show that while annual earnings growth remained strong, the growth in demand for labour slowed. Total gross earnings increased 7% for the September 2008 year. Employment as measured by full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) increased 1.6% for the year to September 2008. This is the smallest annual increase in FTEs since March 2007.

## Deposit Guarantee Scheme Introduced...

An opt-in retail deposit guarantee scheme is being introduced here as a response to ongoing international financial turbulence, and to tie up with similar moves being undertaken by many other countries around the world (including Australia who announced a similar scheme at almost exactly the same time). The scheme will run (at this stage) for two years. Institutions that decide to take up the scheme will sign a contract with the Crown.

In practical terms what this means is that the NZ Government is guaranteeing people's full deposits in various institutions. So, if a qualifying institution goes into liquidation, depositors will be able to get their money out.

The scheme will cover all retail deposits of participating NZ-registered banks and retail deposits by locals in non-bank deposit-taking entities. This would include building societies, credit unions and deposit-taking finance companies. The deposit guarantee scheme does not include related party liabilities. It applies to finance companies that take deposits but is not retrospective, so it will not assist investors who have lost money in recent finance company collapses.

It is free for banks with deposits up to \$5 billion but a fee of 0.1% per year will be charged on deposits over that amount. This means that a bank with \$20 billion in retail deposits would pay \$15 million in fees per year.

Note: The smallest trading bank is Kiwibank with a little over \$5 billion. The big four - Westpac, ANZ-National, BNZ and ASB - have deposits in the order of \$30 billion to \$40 billion each.

## ... & Financial Institutions: Wholesale Funding Guarantee

The Crown is also offering a wholesale funding guarantee facility to investment-grade financial institutions in NZ. It says the facility can help maintain the economy's access to foreign credit, by facilitating improved access to international funding markets for NZ banks. The move is made in an economic environment where international investors remain risk-averse and many other governments have guaranteed their banks' debt. The facility is designed to encourage withdrawal from the guarantee, as the economy stabilises.

More is at <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/economy/guarantee/wholesale>

## The Economy: NZers' Views/Consumer Types

International research conducted by advertising agency M&C Saatchi into attitudes about the economic downturn has identified eight distinct consumer types, while revealing that NZers are not as pessimistic about the prospect of recession as other nations. The globally study surveyed consumers in the UK, Australia and NZ, and found that, while 64% of Britons and 36% of Australians were feeling pessimistic about recession, only 25% of NZers had a pessimistic outlook on the current economic climate.

The eight consumer types are:

*Justifiers (23.3%):* like to spend, but need an excuse to. More than happy to buy if there's a limited offer, latest model or additional "something free". Likely to be skilled professionals earning \$100k+. Believe they have changed the way they buy, but don't think they have to make any trade-offs;

*Scrimpers (20.3%):* scrimpers are trading down, substituting brands with own-label, eschewing independent grocers for big chain savings. Have changed spending habits, but do not stop spending – will still go on holiday, but it will be cheaper than usual. Show little age bias, but are inclined to have no children under 16, and live within Auckland region;

*Crash dieters (15.7%):* are reacting dramatically to the squeeze, ceasing expenditure on non-essential items, and look for deals and added value. Skew towards 24-34 year olds and 45-54 year olds, earning in the region of \$30-70k. Pessimistic about the economy and their own finances, and don't see the situation improving;

*Treaters (11.3%):* tightening of belts does not come naturally to this group, and they reward themselves for any frugal behaviour. While they may buy more own-label goods at the supermarket, Treaters also want "reward" brands such as wine and chocolate. Likely to be 65+, retired and optimistic about the economy and their financial circumstances;

*Ostriches (10.3%):* in denial, refuse to compromise behaviour. Trend towards 35-44 year olds with household income of \$100k. Currently indifferent to their financial state, and while secure financially, are not willing to take risks with their money;

*Abstainers (8.3%):* haven't stopped spending, but have postponed purchases on big ticket items. Likely to be skilled workers with low household income. Are cutting back in reaction to recession, going out less and doing all they can to make their dollar go further;

*Clothcutters (6.7%):* are making compromises in their lifestyles, for example not buying a new car so they can still spend on a holiday. Tend to be part-time workers with lower household income, and single. Reacting to a recession by cutting down, but treating themselves once in a while; and

*Vultures (4%):* look to exploit the economic crash, active in the property market and on the hunt for bargains on the high street. Trend towards skilled professional males, earning \$100k+. Optimistic about their personal situation, and prepared to take risk where previously they might not have.

## Tips for Coping with Market Volatility

The following information to help people cope with the current situation in the financial world has been posted on the Retirement Commission's independent money guide website [www.sorted.org.nz](http://www.sorted.org.nz):

- don't panic. Take time to make considered and informed decisions;
- have a close look at your financial situation. Do a detailed budget of all your income and spending;
- see if you can reduce spending to pay off debt;
- if you can't meet your commitments, talk to your lender/bank about your options as soon as possible;
- try not to miss any payments to avoid getting a bad credit rating;
- if you are having trouble paying your credit card bill, stop using your card;
- don't get a new credit card to pay off the bill on your current credit card. If you can't afford the repayments, see if you can re-finance your debt into a lower interest loan;
- remember that shares or a fund that includes shares are generally best suited for long term investing and will be affected by market fluctuations;
- find out what your risk profile is so you can make investment decisions that you are comfortable with;
- don't be put off from saving, especially for the long term. By saving regularly and earning interest on your savings, even the smallest amounts can grow substantially; and
- use the [sorted.org.nz](http://www.sorted.org.nz) calculators to help you with your decision making. Do your homework so you can make well-informed financial decisions.

Get sorted at [www.sorted.org.nz](http://www.sorted.org.nz)

## Boost to Minimum Family Tax Credit Rate

Eligible low-income working families will be entitled to an increased minimum family tax credit from 1 April 2009. The family tax credit applies to certain low-earning working families. It currently guarantees recipients a net income of \$18,460 a year. This will rise to \$20,540 from 1 April 2009. Around 3,000 families received the tax credit in the tax year ended March 2008.

## Consumer Price Index Reviewed

Statistics NZ has completed a review of the Consumers Price Index (CPI). The CPI is the country's main measure of inflation and its weightings are reviewed periodically so changing spending patterns can be taken into account.

Goods added to the CPI "basket," include heat pumps, cut flowers, car satellite navigation systems, free-to-air digital television receivers and digital music downloads. Services which will now be measured in the index include lawn mowing, house cleaning and auctions – with the latter reflecting the popularity of online trading. As a sign of changing times, goods

removed include solid fuel burners, cathode ray tube television sets, video cassette tapes, photographic film and writing paper.

## CPI: September Quarter

The CPI rose 1.5% just in the September 2008 quarter. Annual inflation hit an 18-year high of 5.1% in the year to September, pushed up by petrol, housing and electricity costs. The transport group made the most significant contribution to the annual increase, rising 11.3%. Higher prices for petrol (up 29.3%) accounted for just over a quarter of the 5.1% increase in the CPI. If petrol prices had remained unchanged from the September 2007 quarter to the September 2008 quarter, the CPI would have risen 3.7%. The other significant annual increases came from the food group (up 9.5%) – in particular grocery food (up 12.0%); and the housing and household utilities group (up 4.7%) – driven by purchase of new housing (up 4.6%) and electricity (up 6.9%).

## A Tax Refund? Check for Yourself

People wanting to find out if they're due a tax refund from Inland Revenue can check with just a few easy steps, because there is an online personal tax summary calculator on the Inland Revenue website. People can also register for "Look at Account" information on the website to check the details the department has about their income.

Another way of checking income is by ringing 0800 257 773 to request a personal tax worksheet, or 0800 257 778 to ask for a summary of earnings. The summary shows income and tax deduction details for the year, based on a person's employment, benefit or pension information.

Find out whether you are due a tax refund from [www.ird.govt.nz/](http://www.ird.govt.nz/)

# Justice/the Law

## Sale & Supply of Liquor Enforcement Bill

This recently introduced Bill would require licensing authorities to give effect to a council's local alcohol plan when considering license applications and renewals. It also sets a minimum shop size of 150m<sup>2</sup> for shops selling off-license liquor, in an attempt to reduce the proliferation of small suburban liquor outlets. Other features include harsher penalties for outlets caught selling alcohol to minors and a zero alcohol limit for drivers under 20 on limited licenses. The Bill will be accompanied by a Law Commission review into existing liquor laws, including minimum age, and parents' responsibilities to minors.

## Bill to Simplify Building Consents

A Bill to increase flexibility and efficiency in the building consent process - the Building Amendment Bill No. 2 - has been introduced to Parliament. It would:

- introduce a new pre-approval system that will fast track the building consent process for homes where designs are to be replicated on a substantial scale;
- clarify the process for making variations to consented building work;
- make it optional for a building consent applicant to obtain a Project Information Memorandum (PIM) from a territorial authority; and
- include a compliance document for modest simple homes.

## Mobile Phone Problems

Under the Consumer Guarantees Act, when you buy a mobile phone, it must be of acceptable quality, reasonably fit for any particular agreed purpose and be as it was described, like any other type of consumer goods. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs says that if you have a problem with your phone, and you have used it in a normal way and treated it reasonably, then you are entitled to have the fault fixed if it happened within the phone's expected lifespan. It also says that:

- it's not acceptable or reasonable for a trader to charge a "bond" before they will assess the phone for repair, unless you were told about the bond (including the amount) when you bought the phone. A trader can't make you use their assessment process to see if there's a fault with the phone. You only need to prove that it's probable the fault is covered by the Consumer Guarantees Act (in some cases an independent opinion may help you with this). Traders should have a process in place to help you if you can't afford to pay the bond; and
- traders cannot escape their requirements under the Consumer Guarantees Act by saying your phone is water damaged if you have used it in a normal way and treated it reasonably. The Ministry has received complaints where traders have told consumers that leaving their phone in a car overnight, or using it with "excessively sweaty hands" can cause water damage. It says that if a portable electronic device such as a phone can't withstand this type of use, then it may not be "fit for the purpose" or "durable". This may mean that it doesn't meet one of the guarantees in the Consumer Guarantees Act saying that goods must be of "acceptable quality".

The trader can't tell you to go back to the manufacturer or mislead you into claiming through a warranty. If the fault is minor, the trader can choose whether to repair the phone, replace it, or give you a refund. Any repairs should be carried out within a reasonable period of time and without causing you significant inconvenience. If the fault is serious, you are entitled to choose between a full refund, a replacement phone, or compensation.

If you are not happy with the way your telecommunications company deals with your complaint you may be able to complain to the Telecommunication Dispute Resolution Service (TDR), which operates a free, independent complaints advisory service. For more information about TDR visit their website at <http://www.tdr.org.nz/> or free phone 0508 989898. The MCA website is at <http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/>

## NZers' Attitudes to Privacy

New UMR research on NZers' attitudes to privacy shows NZers are concerned about the safety of their personal information, especially in the business arena and on the internet. The responses indicated very high levels of concern about potential breaches of individual privacy by business, with 90% of people said they were concerned (including 74% very concerned) if a business they didn't know got hold of their personal information. Some 86% were concerned about information supplied to a business for one purpose being used for another purpose, 81% were concerned with their personal information being held by overseas businesses (61% were very concerned).

Health service providers, including doctors, hospitals and pharmacies rated highly, with 92% of NZers saying they were trustworthy. The level of trust in Police handling of personal information was also high (84%). Around 65% said they trusted the way government departments and ACC (69%) handled personal information. Credit rating agencies were considered

trustworthy by 42% of respondents, and businesses selling over the internet recorded the lowest levels of trust (25%) for their personal information handling.

Two-thirds of respondents (67%) said they were uncomfortable that internet search engines and social networking sites tracked internet use in order to deliver targeted advertising. Half the respondents were unaware that everyone in NZ has their own national health index number which identifies them in the health system. Concern about insurance companies being able to make decisions using genetic information was generally high, with 74% of respondents being either concerned or very concerned.

Concern about privacy was greatest in the areas of safety of children on the internet (87%), and security of personal information on the internet (82%). Like the previous 2006 survey, the 2008 results show that video surveillance in public places provoked the lowest level of concern (27%).

Concern about government departments sharing personal information rose from 37% to 62% between the 2006 and 2008 surveys.

Full survey results (including earlier surveys) are available at [www.privacy.org.nz](http://www.privacy.org.nz).  
*Note:* the Privacy Commissioner has published a guide to the Privacy Act for employers and employees, which covers job applications, access and correction; keeping information safe; tracking, testing and surveillance; how long to keep employee information, and what to do if things go wrong. Copies (\$20+ \$2 P&P): <http://www.privacy.org.nz/privacy-at-work-a-guide-to-the-privacy-act-for-employers-and-employees/>, or tel 09 302 8680, email [enquiries@privacy.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@privacy.org.nz). Orders go to PO Box 466, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140

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## Treaty Matters

### Maori Aquaculture Settlement Signed

Iwi Maori and the Crown have reached an early agreement over resolution of "pre-commencement" (1992-2004) aquaculture interests in the South Island and the Coromandel. The Agreement in Principle is for a one-off cash payment of \$97 million in full and final settlement of the current Crown obligations for "pre-commencement space" or aquaculture space that was approved between 21 September 1992 and 31 December 2004 under the previous marine farming rules. This agreement in principle covers the vast majority of NZ's aquaculture development areas including the Marlborough Sounds, Tasman Bay, and Hauraki Gulf along with the rest of the South Island.

More information on the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Settlement is available on the Ministry of Fisheries website at this link: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Maori/Details-of-Settlement/default.htm?W>

### Ngati Rangitahi Now Part of CNI Forests Land Collective

Representatives of Ngati Rangitahi have signed a Deed of Accession at Parliament that formalises the iwi as a member of the Central North Island (CNI) Forests Land Collective. The move marks the last significant milestone in securing support and participation of all eight iwi, following the proposal they submitted a year ago. The CNI Collective settlement involves the transfer of the central North Island Crown forests land, worth \$196 million and associated accumulated rentals of approximately \$223 million to the eight iwi groups that make up the Central North Island Forest Iwi Collective. The eight are Ngai Tuhoe, Ngati Whare, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Manawa,

Ngati Whakaue, Ngati Raukawa, the affiliate Te Arawa iwi, and Ngati Rangitahi.

### Ngati Porou Foreshore & Seabed Deed of Agreement Signed

The first foreshore and seabed Deed of Agreement has been signed by the Crown and 48 hapu of east coast iwi Ngati Porou. This Deed protects rights which have clearly been exercised since well before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. It details procedures that will make sure the rights of both the hapu that are party to this agreement and the wider community are safeguarded in the future. The hapu that ratified the Deed will now file an application in the High Court for confirmation that the requirements for a finding by the High Court under section 96 of the Foreshore and Seabed Act have been satisfied.

### Ngati Apa (North Island) Deed of Settlement Signed

Ngati Apa (North Island) have more than 3,200 members and are based in the Rangitikei region. Their claims relate primarily to the Crown's purchase in 1849 of the 260,000 acre Rangitikei-Turakina Block, including the subsequent failure to adequately protect approximately 35,000 acres of reserves set aside from this transaction. Their claims also relate to the operation and impact of the native land laws, which contributed to the erosion of traditional tribal structures and resulted in the gradual alienation of nearly all their remaining land.

The settlement includes:

- an historical account, Crown acknowledgement of historical breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles and a Crown apology to Ngati Apa (North Island);
- a cultural redress package featuring the transfer of a number of sites of cultural significance to Ngati Apa (North Island), including two lakebeds; and
- a quantum of \$16 million, including the opportunity to purchase four Crown properties in the Rangitikei region.

### Conservation Accord Signed with Waikato-Tainui

This Conservation Accord is part of the Waikato River Treaty settlement (signed on 28 August 2008). The agreement sets out how the Crown and iwi will achieve co-management in conservation of the Waikato River catchment, between Karapiro and the mouth of the Waikato River.

Under it, Waikato-Tainui will have input into all conservation projects and processes in the river catchment area, including the preservation of threatened species, conservation of the whitebait fishery and protection of the internationally-renowned Waikato wetlands. The Department of Conservation and Waikato-Tainui will also jointly develop a conservation component of an integrated management plan for the Waikato River.

### Agreements in Principle: Ngati Makino and Waitaha

These Agreements in Principle outline the broad settlement packages that the parties have agreed will settle the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngati Makino and Waitaha.

The area of interest of Ngati Makino lies in the Bay of Plenty region from Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoma to the coast. The claims of Ngati Makino relate primarily to the NZ Wars and the Bay of

Plenty confiscation, the operation and impact of the native land laws, the Crown's land purchasing techniques, and twentieth century issues relating to public works and scenic reserve takings.

The area of interest of Waitaha lies from Tauranga Harbour in the west across to Maketu in the east. The claims of Waitaha relate primarily to the NZ Wars (including the treatment of their chief, Hakaia), the Tauranga confiscation, the operation and impact of the native land laws, and the Crown's land purchasing techniques.

## Tapuika and Ngati Rangiwewehi: Mandates Recognised

The Crown has recognised the mandates of the Tapuika Iwi Authority Trust and Te Maru o Ngati Rangiwewehi Iwi Authority to negotiate the settlement of the Tapuika and Ngati Rangiwewehi treaty claims. These claims have been heard as part of the Waitangi Tribunal's Central North Island Inquiry. The area of interest of Tapuika includes the coastal Bay of Plenty north of Rotorua. The area of interest of Ngati Rangiwewehi lies mainly to the west of Lake Rotorua. The claims relate to the operation of the native land laws, Crown purchases of land, public works takings and impacts on their natural environment. Both iwi were also affected by the NZ Wars.

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## Not-for-Profits

### New Website Helping to Recruit Volunteers

Good magazine and Intrepid Travel have created a social networking website to help volunteers and non-profit community organisations connect and create online communities. Using similar technology to Facebook and MySpace, the free service will help with profile-raising and recruiting new volunteers. Charity campaigns and volunteers on the site will be promoted in each issue of Good magazine. An Intrepid Volunteers Challenge will conclude with selection of a Volunteer of the Year, who will win a \$5,000 volunteering holiday with spending money. The award ceremony will coincide with Volunteer Awareness Week 2009. Good magazine is part of the Promoting Generosity Project – which is looking at new ways to inspire the giving of time, money or in-kind donations and acts of kindness.

Community groups can upload information now, with the networking part going live on 29 November. Charities can upload details to the website at <http://www.gomad.co.nz/>. More information about NZ's Promoting Generosity Project is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/promoting-generosity.html>

### Workplace Wellbeing Seminars

Not-for-profit sector employment seminars are being held by the Workplace Wellbeing Project. They feature presentations on the Scottish community and voluntary sector; findings from recent NZ research on staff wellbeing and motivation; and case studies and trials of job evaluation tools. Mana Mahi, an employment resource for community organisations, will be launched at the seminars.

The seminars are in Hamilton: November 27 - Community Waikato, 33 Victoria Street (S Ridley), (07) 838-1583, email [sally@communitywaikato.org.nz](mailto:sally@communitywaikato.org.nz);  
Wellington: December 3 - Wellington City Council Meeting Room (L Longman), (04) 472-3364, email [lenavlast@nzccoss.org.nz](mailto:lenavlast@nzccoss.org.nz); and Christchurch: December 4 - Avebury House, Richmond (S Torstenson), (03) 366-2050, email [ccoss@ihug.org.nz](mailto:ccoss@ihug.org.nz)

## New 2008-9 Community Help Directory

This directory (now in its 17th edition) has been compiled for people in both rural and urban communities. It includes annually updated descriptions of the full range of services available in NZ together with national, regional and where appropriate, local contacts.

Its sections cover: emergency services and crisis help; community information services and directories; agriculture and other primary industry services; business development, industry and trade; transport and communications; consumer issues, legal advice and police; education, employment and training; the electoral system, immigration and NZ citizenship; land, natural resources and energy; taxation, finance and insurance; personal family and community welfare; health; housing and accommodation; tourism, recreation, sport and culture; Maori and Pacific Island organisations, central government - departments and organisations; Parliament; and local government.

More information/copies (\$55.95 within NZ):  
<http://communityhelp.org.nz/community-help-organisations.html?lnum=75620> or write to CR McPhail Ltd, PO Box 2091, Palmerston North, tel 06 357 1644, fax 06 357 1648, email [enquiries@crmcphail.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@crmcphail.co.nz)

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## The Election

### 2008 Election: Preliminary Results

Preliminary election from the 2008 General Election indicate that the political parties with seats in Parliament will be:

- *National Party*: 951,145 Party votes; 45.45% of the vote; 41 electorate seats and 18 list seats – 59 seats;
- *Labour Party*: 706,666 Party votes; 33.77% of the vote; 21 electorate seats, and 22 list seats – 43 seats;
- *Green Party*: 134,622 Party votes; 6.43% of the vote, no electorate seats and eight list seats – 8 seats;
- *ACT NZ*: 77,843 Party votes; 3.72% of the vote; one electorate seat and four list seats – 5 seats;
- *Maori Party*: 46,536 Party votes; 2.24% of the vote; five electorate seats and no list seats – 5 seats;
- *Jim Anderton's Progressive*: 19,536 Party votes; 0.93% of the vote; one electorate seat and no list seats – 1 seat; and
- *United Future*: 18,629 Party votes; 0.89% of the vote; one electorate seat and no list seats – 1 seat.

The preliminary results are based on the 2,105,103 votes counted on election night. Special declaration votes were still to be counted at the time of publication - these are estimated at 240,000 (10.2% of total votes), and they include an

estimated 32,000 overseas votes (making a total of 2,345,103 votes). To get the final election result, which is expected to be released on 22 November, all votes counted on election night are recounted and special declaration votes processed and counted.

Voter turnout for the 2008 General Election is estimated at 78.69% of those enrolled. This compares with a final 80.92% turnout of those enrolled in 2005.

A provisional list of successful candidates for each political party and a preliminary summary of all party votes, electorate votes and advance votes are at <http://www.electionresults.govt.nz/>

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## Internet/ICT

### Silver Surfers Benefiting Their Brains

New research suggests that surfing the web can boost brain power in middle-aged and elderly people. A study conducted by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) found that conducting online searches showed significant activity in regions of the brain controlling language, reading, memory and visual abilities. However, it also stimulated centres in the brain that controlled decision-making and complex reasoning more so than regular reading.

The researchers said that, compared to simple reading, the internet's wealth of choices required people to make decisions about what to click on in order to get the relevant information. Because the internet searching engages complicated brain activity, it may help exercise and improve brain function. This might even help to counteract the age-related changes that cause the brain to slow down in the same way as activities such as crossword puzzles.

For more information on the work of the UCLA, as well access to a number of resources, go to <http://www.aging.ucla.edu/whoware.html>

### Kiwis Go Online as Economic Conditions Contract

NZers are turning to internet sales for additional cash according to the latest sales figures from Trade Me. The site is seeing increasing numbers of people selling their household and recreational items. Listings have increased by up to 20% (as of 25 October) in categories such as trampolines, sporting equipment, toys, mobile phones and whitewear.

The site is also seeing increasing numbers of retail businesses listing new items for sale. Over 47% of goods on Trade Me are now new goods, a far cry from early days as an online garage sale. In addition the number of luxury cars listed for sale has increased, with strong growth in Ferraris, Bentleys and Maseratis. The site has even had to create a new category for Lamborghinis.

### Shopping Securely Online

Here are a few things you should keep in mind when shopping online:

- before you make a purchase note the company's contact details, and check for a street address and landline telephone number (don't rely on an email address, a PO Box number or a mobile phone number);

- phone or e-mail retailers directly and ask about the goods and services they provide when dealing with them for the first time;
- if you're buying from overseas, you may have to pay for postage costs and possibly customs duty – include these costs as well when checking the price against locally available goods;
- only use your credit card for payment online if the retailer uses a secure payment system make sure the web address of the page starts <https://> before you enter personal information or payment details. The 's' stands for 'secure';
- print out a copy of your order and a copy of the acknowledgement you receive;
- check your bank statements carefully if you purchase something on the internet;
- be wary of offers that appear too good to be true;
- keep a copy of all your correspondence and orders/invoices;
- if you buy goods on the internet, you still have the same rights as if you were shopping in town in relation to faulty or incorrectly described goods. The laws that apply to over the counter sales also apply to internet sales; but
- if you are buying from overseas, the company's guarantee may not be valid in NZ. NZ law may cover your contract, but it still might be very difficult to get any money if there is a problem.

If goods you've bought are faulty and the business is located in NZ, you should try and negotiate with the retailer by letter or email. If you are still not happy check with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs at <http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/>. If the faulty goods come from an overseas retailer, visit the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) website at <http://www.icpen.org/> for contact information for some overseas consumer agencies

### English Language Information on China

The AsiaNZ e-newsletter lists the following English language sites focusing on China:

- *The China Digital Times* is at [www.chinadigitaltimes.net](http://www.chinadigitaltimes.net). It covers "China's social and political transition and its emerging role in the world";
- *EastSouthWestNorth* is at [www.zonaeuropa.com/weblog.htm](http://www.zonaeuropa.com/weblog.htm). It is the blog site of Roland Soong and it has been praised for quickly and accurately translating Chinese language newspaper articles, blogs and websites into English;
- *Danwei* is at [www.danwei.org](http://www.danwei.org) is edited by a Chinese-speaking Beijing-based South African writer called Jeremy Goldkorn: "danwei" means "work unit" – it is the old term for a state-owned company that was supposed to provide cradle-to-grave employment, housing and medical treatment;
- *China Rises* is at <http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/china/>. It is written by Tim Johnson, the Beijing bureau chief for McClatchy Newspapers in the United States. He covers both China and Taiwan;
- *Imagethief* is at <http://news.imagethief.com/blogs/china/>. It comes from William Moss, an American public relations professional and writer working in China since 2004;

- *China Smack* is at [www.chinasmack.com](http://www.chinasmack.com). This one is a website that shares a "slice of Chinese life" with English-speaking foreigners. Its creator, a Chinese woman named Fauna, collects and posts popular and interesting items that can be found on the Chinese-language internet for the benefit of non-Chinese speakers; and
- *Shanghaiist* is at [www.shanghaiist.com](http://www.shanghaiist.com). It was established in July 2005 to provide information about Shanghai in particular and China in general. It is edited by American Dan Washburn and Singaporean Kenneth Tan, and includes local and national news and events.

## Increase in Text Messaging to Youthline

Increasing numbers of young NZers seeking counselling advice from Youthline are turning to their mobile phones to access the charity's services. Youthline's text counselling had experienced rapid growth since it was offered as a free service from the beginning of this year. Since then Youthline have managed over 38,000 text messages. In fact, they predict that text will very soon outnumber telephone calls.

## Telecom Moves

Telecom advises that from June next year the W850 technology it will be using will extend 3G service and fast mobile broadband to 97% of NZers, with more rural people able to obtain access. A wider range of handsets will also be available that will work on around 430 networks in 170 destinations worldwide for voice and texting, and 110 destinations for internet information.

It also advises it has a new monthly plan for residential customers called Total Home that eliminates toll charges in NZ for national calls and includes 10 gigabytes (GB) of data per month for Broadband, home landline, cheaper international capped calls, and free access to other services. e.g., to the Telecom Security Suite.

## The 2008 Ig Nobel Prize Winners

The 2008 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded 2 October. The Ig Nobel Prizes honour achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think. The prizes are intended to celebrate the unusual, honour the imaginative - and spur people's interest in science, medicine, and technology. The winners are:

- *Nutrition Prize*. Massimiliano Zampini of the University of Trento, Italy and Charles Spence of Oxford University, UK, for electronically modifying the sound of a potato chip to make the person chewing the chip believe it to be crisper and fresher than it really is. Reference: "The Role of Auditory Cues in Modulating the Perceived Crispness and Staleness of Potato Chips," Massimiliano Zampini and Charles Spence, *Journal of Sensory Studies*, vol. 19, October 2004, pp. 347-63;
- *Peace Prize*. The Swiss Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology (ECNH) and the citizens of Switzerland for adopting the legal principle that plants have dignity. Reference: "The Dignity of Living Beings With Regard to Plants. Moral Consideration of Plants for Their Own Sake" URL: <http://www.ekah.admin.ch/en/topics/dignity-of-creation/index.html>;
- *Archaeology Prize*. Astolfo G. Mello Araujo and José Carlos Marcelino of Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, for measuring how the course of history, or at least the contents of an archaeological dig site, can be scrambled by the actions of a live armadillo. Reference: "The Role of Armadillos in the Movement of Archaeological Materials: An Experimental Approach," Astolfo G. Mello Araujo and José Carlos Marcelino, *Geoarchaeology*, vol. 18, no. 4, April 2003, pp. 433-60;
- *Biology Prize*. Marie-Christine Cadiergues, Christel Joubert, and Michel Franc of Ecole Nationale Veterinaire de Toulouse, France for discovering that the fleas that live on a dog can jump higher than the fleas that live on a cat. Reference: "A Comparison of Jump Performances of the Dog Flea, *Ctenocephalides canis* (Curtis, 1826) and the Cat Flea, *Ctenocephalides felis felis* (Bouche, 1835)," M.C. Cadiergues, C. Joubert, and M. Franc, *Veterinary Parasitology*, vol. 92, no. 3, October 1, 2000, pp. 239-41;
- *Medicine Prize*. Dan Ariely of Duke University (USA), Rebecca L. Waber of MIT (USA), Baba Shiv of Stanford University (USA), and Ziv Carmon of INSEAD (Singapore) for demonstrating that high-priced fake medicine is more effective than low-priced fake medicine. Reference: "Commercial Features of Placebo and Therapeutic Efficacy," Rebecca L. Waber; Baba Shiv; Ziv Carmon; Dan Ariely, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, March 5, 2008; 299: 1016-1017;
- *Cognitive Science Prize*. Toshiyuki Nakagaki of Hokkaido University, Japan, Hiroyasu Yamada of Nagoya, Japan, Ryo Kobayashi of Hiroshima University, Atsushi Tero of Presto JST, Akio Ishiguro of Tohoku University, and Ágota Tóth of the University of Szeged, Hungary, for discovering that slime molds can solve puzzles. Reference: "Intelligence: Maze-Solving by an Amoeboid Organism," Toshiyuki Nakagaki, Hiroyasu Yamada, and Ágota Tóth, *Nature*, vol. 407, September 2000, p. 470;
- *Economics Prize*. Geoffrey Miller, Joshua Tybur and Brent Jordan of the University of New Mexico, USA, for discovering that a professional lap dancer's ovulatory cycle affects her tip earnings. Reference: "Ovulatory Cycle Effects on Tip Earnings by Lap Dancers: Economic Evidence for Human Estrus?" Geoffrey Miller, Joshua M. Tybur, Brent D. Jordan, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, vol. 28, 2007, pp. 375-81;
- *Physics Prize*. Dorian Raymer of the Ocean Observatories Initiative at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA, and Douglas Smith of the University of California, San Diego, USA, for proving mathematically that heaps of string or hair or almost anything else will inevitably tangle themselves up in knots. Reference: "Spontaneous Knotting of an Agitated String," Dorian M. Raymer and Douglas E. Smith, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 104, no. 42, October 16, 2007, pp. 16432-7;
- *Chemistry Prize*. Sharee A. Umpierre of the University of Puerto Rico, Joseph A. Hill of The Fertility Centers of New England (USA), Deborah J. Anderson of Boston University School of Medicine and Harvard Medical School (USA), for discovering that Coca-Cola is an effective spermicide, and to Chuang-Ye Hong of Taipei Medical University (Taiwan), C.C. Shieh, P. Wu, and B.N. Chiang (all of Taiwan) for discovering that it is not. Reference: "Effect of 'Coke' on Sperm Motility," Sharee A. Umpierre, Joseph A. Hill, and Deborah J. Anderson, *New England Journal of Medicine*, 1985, vol. 313, no. 21, p. 1351. Reference: "The Spermicidal Potency of Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola," C.Y. Hong, C.C. Shieh, P. Wu, and B.N. Chiang, *Human Toxicology*, vol. 6, no. 5, September 1987, pp. 395-6; and
- *Literature Prize*. David Sims of Cass Business School, London, UK, for his lovingly written study "You Bastard: A Narrative Exploration of the Experience of Indignation within Organizations." Reference: "You Bastard: A Narrative Exploration of the Experience of Indignation

More information on the 2008 awards including hyperlinks to winning articles: <http://improbable.com/ig/>

"*Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet*" - <http://www.artistsrespond.org/about/> - is a pioneering artist residency and collaborative exhibition project that uses contemporary art to investigate the changing nature of some of the most biodiverse regions on earth and the communities that inhabit those regions. Eight of the world's most thoughtful and innovative artists to eight UNESCO-designated World Heritage sites around the globe for two mini-residencies.

"*Apartment Therapy*" is at <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/>. It is a US-based design blog dedicated to innovative ideas to help make your home a more beautiful and functional place.

*Transpower's Energy Market Services (EMS)* has launched a new informative electricity site at [www.em6live.co.nz](http://www.em6live.co.nz) which it hopes will make electricity data more user-friendly and understandable, and so enable NZers to access electricity market information more easily. The site includes a snapshot of the current generation being used in real time throughout NZ, regional electricity demand and regional spot prices. The information is updated every half hour.

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## Arts & Culture

### Creative NZ: Funding Changes...

From February 2009, Creative NZ is changing the way it funds arts projects, and information about the new funding system will be available from mid-November online. As well, arts advisors will be presenting details of the system and answering queries at public forums being held around the country (registration is essential for these forums).

Forum dates are Whangarei: 6 December; Auckland City - 29 November; West Auckland - 15 November; Hamilton - 27 November; Wellington - 15 November; Christchurch - 22 November; Dunedin - 22 November. Venues and time were still to be confirmed at time of publication. Visit [www.creativenz.govt.nz](http://www.creativenz.govt.nz) for details. Please email [funding@creativenz.govt.nz](mailto:funding@creativenz.govt.nz) to register

### ...& Review of Creative Communities Scheme

Creative NZ is also reviewing the Creative Communities Scheme (CCS), under which funding is available through local authorities for local, community-based arts activities. The review will: examine the purpose and effectiveness CCS; look at the benefits it currently offers to communities, local councils and the CNZ; and consider how it can be improved.

Early next year CNZ will be publishing an options paper for consultation. The changes are likely to be in place the following year.

More information is at <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/funding/other/css-review/index.html> or email M Lindsay at [markl@creativenz.govt.nz](mailto:markl@creativenz.govt.nz)

## One in Five NZers Listens to Radio NZ

Nielsen Media research figures show almost one in five NZers over the age of fifteen tune in to Radio NZ networks during an average week. Total weekly live audience for Radio NZ National is 501,000 people and for Radio NZ Concert the figure is 201,000.

To view the latest Audience Research data available for Radio NZ networks visit: [http://www.radionz.co.nz/about/audience\\_research](http://www.radionz.co.nz/about/audience_research)

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## Fishing

### Setting Fish Catch Limits: New Strategy

A new strategy guiding the setting of catch limits for NZ's fisheries is now in place. The "Harvest Strategy Standard" (which took three years to develop) identifies targets and limits for the amount of fishing and size of fish stocks, and sets out ways to achieve the targets and avoid the limits. The aims are to make it clear to fishers, tangata whenua and other stakeholders how sustainable catch limits are being set, and to provide guidelines for when action needs to be taken to keep the fisheries sustainable. The standard will be incorporated into the fisheries plans which are currently being developed around the country.

NZ's fisheries are our fifth largest export earner, and over 1,000,000 NZers go fishing for food and enjoyment every year.

More information is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Press/Minister+of+Fisheries+announces+new+strategy.htm>

### National Plan of Action for Sharks

A National Plan of Action is now in place for sharks, which are vulnerable to over-fishing. The aims are to: make sure fishers know live finning is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act; protect the basking shark; and put in place a new "prohibited utilisation process standard" that will ban use of some vulnerable shark species.

More information is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Environmental/Sharks.htm?&MSHiC=65001&L=10&W=plan+of+action+for+sharks%20&Pre=%3Cspan%20class%3d%27SearchHighlight%27%3E&Post=%3C/span%3E>

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## General

### A Settled Summer on the Cards

The NIWA National Climate Centre says that much of this coming summer is likely to be relatively warm, settled, with rainfalls near normal or below normal overall. The overall picture:

- *Temperature:* Air temperatures are likely to be above average in most regions of the country, but near average in the eastern South Island. Sea surface temperatures around NZ are expected to be near normal; and
- *Rainfall, soil moisture, and stream flows:* Rainfall is likely to be near normal in the north and east of the North Island, and normal or below normal elsewhere. Normal or below normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely in most regions, apart from the east of the South Island where below normal conditions are likely.

Regional predictions for the next three months:

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

## NZ Official Yearbook 2008

Statistics NZ has published the 106th edition of the *NZ Official Yearbook*, believed to be NZ's longest-running publication. The 2008 yearbook has an environmental focus, with conserving the natural environment as its unifying theme. It documents conservation-related developments in NZ's government, business and social sectors, including agriculture, tourism, science, transport, the arts and education. The 2008 edition continues the time series data from previous yearbooks, including graphs and tables detailing changes over time. It also features material from almost 300 contributors and includes over 230 photographs, depicting aspects of life in NZ. In keeping with the environmental theme, the 2008 edition is printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper, manufactured with a 55% recycled fibre content. The inks used in printing the yearbook are vegetable based and the green cover features the iconic NZ fern.

The NZ Official Yearbook (\$99.99) is available from all major booksellers nationwide

## Population Growth in All NZ's Regions

All of NZ's 16 regions recorded population increases in the June 2008 year, Statistics NZ said recently. The increases ranged from less than 100 (Gisborne, West Coast and Southland regions), to 20,800 (Auckland Region). Auckland continued to be NZ's fastest-growing region, and accounted for

52% of the country's population growth in the June 2008 year. The population growth occurred despite a slight reduction in growth at the national level. In the June 2008 year, NZ's population grew by 40,300 (down from 43,700 in the preceding June year).

NZ's level of natural increase (excess of births over deaths) was the highest for a June year since 1973. For 13 regions, the natural increase was higher in the June 2008 year than in the June 2007 year. There were notable rises in the Auckland Region (up 1,000 from the preceding June year) and the Manawatu-Wanganui Region (up 300 from the preceding June year).

In contrast, NZ's level of net international migration was the lowest for a June year since 2001. For most regions, net migration (international and internal migration combined) was lower in the June 2008 year than in the preceding June year. However, there was a small increase in estimated net migration for six regions (Gisborne, Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Nelson, Marlborough and Southland).

At 30 June 2008, NZ's median centre of population was located about five kilometres southeast of Taharoa, towards the northern boundary of the Waitomo District. The median centre of population is the point at which half the population lives north and south, and half the population lives east and west. Since 1921, NZ's median centre of population has moved northward by about 270 kilometres, partly because of relatively rapid population growth in the Auckland Region.

## New Research into NZ's Resettlement of Refugees

Important lessons for governments looking to implement refugee integration programmes have emerged in a recent research project on the NZ Settlement Strategy. The study, called "Does the Rising Tide Lift All Boats? – Refugee Resettlement, Integration and NZ's Settlement Strategy" indicates that refugee and migrant integration programmes require delicate balancing between rights and responsibilities, economics and emotions, change and complacency. A clear statement of government support for refugees and migrants is an important first step in the acceptance of the host community and for developing trust with refugees and migrants. As migrants and refugees change through migrating, they also change the communities they move to and the ones they leave. Governments internationally are now becoming interested in the impact of the global movements of people, and the focus is not just on economics and employment, but also on health care, language acquisition, citizenship and social cohesion.

The study is at [http://www.fulbright.org.nz/voices/axford/docs/axford2008\\_grogan.pdf](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/voices/axford/docs/axford2008_grogan.pdf)

## Recent Overseas Aid Initiatives

NZ is to give \$1.2 million to the International Federation of the Red Cross to assist with the food crisis in Zimbabwe. It will also allocate \$1.5 million to international organisations responding to natural disasters through NZAID (NZ's international aid and development agency) – for natural disasters in Africa, India, and Nepal. This country will also contribute \$1 million to the United Nations World Food Programme in Afghanistan.

## South Island Independence Games Update

Additional funding has been allocated to ensure that next year's South Island Independence Games for disabled athletes

goes ahead. The South Island Independence Games is a multisport event consisting of swimming and track and field. It attracts over 100 athletes each year and caters for people with a wide range of disabilities. The event organiser's CCS Disability Action has been under financial pressure to keep the Games going. SPARC (Sport and Recreation NZ) is discussing a range of options with CCS and other key stakeholders which will result in finding a new lead organisation to make sure the Games continue.

## Tokelau Language Website Launched

A new website, "Tau Gagana Tokelau – Learn Tokelau", aims to encourage the learning and use of the Tokelauan language. The website is an important initiative, as Tokelauan communities in NZ outnumber those living in Tokelau, and because numbers of Tokelauan people raised in NZ who are able to speak their heritage language are falling.

The website is at <http://www.learn Tokelau.co.nz/>

## Conferences/Festivals

### Electricity Commission: Advanced Metering Conference

The Electricity Commission is hosting a conference outlining recent developments in advanced metering on 25 November at the Intercontinental in Wellington (advanced meters have the potential to reduce the environmental impact of the electricity sector by giving consumers a tool to use electricity more efficiently).

For more information/to register go to <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/pdfs/opdev/retail/metering/forum-Nov08/Draft-agenda.pdf>

### Conference on Motherhood

This conference is organised by the Centre for Attachment) and it is being held on 28 November. The themes are "The Meaning of Motherhood: Maternal Love", and "Modern Culture and the Essence of Family".

For more information contact Lauren Porter, conference convener, at [Lauren@centreforattachment.com](mailto:Lauren@centreforattachment.com), tel 021 721 115, or visit [www.centreforattachment.com](http://www.centreforattachment.com)

### NZ Language and Society Conference

The 2008 conference will be held from 17-18 November at the University of Otago.

See the conference website:  
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/linguistics/ling%20conferences/index.html>

### "Catching the Wave" - CATE Conference

The Aotearoa Careers and Transition Education Association (CATE) conference - "Catching the Wave" - is being held from 19-22 November at the Quality Hotel Plymouth International Hotel in New Plymouth.

For more information/to register go to <http://www.cateconference.co.nz/>

### Australia NZ Third Sector Research Conference

This conference will be held from 24-26 November at the AUT City Campus, 55 Wellesley St, Auckland. It aims to celebrate the contribution community researchers make to the well-being of people and planet.

More information: [www.anztsr.org.au](http://www.anztsr.org.au).

### Tourism Hospitality and Research Conference

The NZ Tourism & Hospitality Research Conference 2008 is called "Re-creating Tourism". It is being held from 3-5 December at Hanmer Springs, Canterbury.

More information:  
<http://campus.lincoln.ac.nz/site/section.asp?bid=10&sectionid=1028>

### NZ Cooperatives Association Conference

The NZ Cooperatives Association's annual general meeting is being held on 21 November in Christchurch.

More information : Ramsey Margolis, Executive Director, NZ Cooperatives Association, Level 3, 75 Ghuznee Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011, NZ, tel 04 384 4595, email [ramsey@nz.coop](mailto:ramsey@nz.coop) , website [www.nz.coop](http://www.nz.coop) , Skype [nz.coop](http://nz.coop)

### Horizons in Livestock Sciences Conference

Theme of this conference, which is being held on 28-30 November at the Christchurch Convention Centre, is "The future of agriculture - value or volume?"

Contact: the Conference Secretariat, 03 325 3661; [lathamj@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:lathamj@lincoln.ac.nz) or go to [www.livestockhorizons.com](http://www.livestockhorizons.com)

### Blueprints for Sustainable Infrastructure

This conference is being held from 9-12 December in Auckland. The conference takes the approach that sustainability is now essential and some of the most recent achievements in sustainable infrastructure development will be presented.

More information: [www.nzsses.auckland.ac.nz/conference](http://www.nzsses.auckland.ac.nz/conference)

## Funding/Award Opportunities

### Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009

Rural Women NZ has launched a new award open to businesswomen living in rural areas who have operated a small businesses with less than 10 full time equivalent staff for more than two years.

The judging criteria for the award, which is sponsored by the Bank of NZ, include: innovation and enterprise; product and service quality; economic inputs into the rural economy; evidence that your business is moving forward; strong financial performance; marketing and promotions; environmental awareness; staff management and development; meeting compliance requirements, and the business's point of difference.

The winner will receive \$1500 prize money as well as the opportunity to attend a BNZ Farm First Growth Programme Women in Agribusiness Workshop.

Entries close on 16 February 2009. They go to: RWNZ Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009, PO Box 12-021, Wellington. Application forms are available online at <http://www.ruralwomen.org/>. For more information email [enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz), or tel 04 473 5524

### Environment and Heritage Committee Lottery Grants

These grants are for projects which 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; and conservation of historic buildings, structures, rolling stock, archeological sites and waahi tapu sites.

Submissions close on 24 November 2008. Apply electronically by registering on the Grants Online website at <http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/>, email [grantsonline@dia.govt.nz](mailto:grantsonline@dia.govt.nz), or tel freephone 0800 824 824

### Marae Heritage and Facilities Lottery Committee

This committee funds the following kinds of projects - the building of: wharenuui, wharekai, wharepaku, whare taonga, tangata whenua or manuhiri shelters, and waka shelters; the conservation of: wharekarakia, urupa, pataka, tukutuku, whakairo, kowhaiwhai, photographs within the marae, memorials and flagpoles; as parts of capital works projects: whakairo, fixed equipment, land purchase, and local authority costs; feasibility studies, and conservation reports. Priority is generally given to projects that have at least one-third of their cost raised already.

Submissions close on 12 December 2008. Register on the Grants Online website at <http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/>, email [grantsonline@dia.govt.nz](mailto:grantsonline@dia.govt.nz), or tel freephone 0800 824 824

### Maori Excellence in Farming Award: Ahuwhenua Trophy

Applications are open for the 2009 Ahuwhenua Trophy BNZ Maori Excellence in Farming Award. This competition aims to recognise excellence in farming and showcase achievement in the Maori sheep and beef sector – in particular, successful approaches to governance, financing, management, innovation, environmental management and the recognition of nga tikanga Maori. The competition is being held in three regions. Region 1 includes Auckland/ Northland/ Manakau/ Coromandel/ Thames/ Waikato/ Bay of Plenty; region 2 includes East Coast/Poverty Bay; and region 3 includes King Country/ Taranaki/ Wanganui/ Manawatu/ Horowhenua/ Hawke's Bay/ Wairarapa/South Island/ Chatham Islands.

The winner will receive the Ahuwhenua trophy, up to \$40,000 in cash, services and farm products, and regional winners will each receive \$15,000 in cash, services and farm products.

Entries close on January 30, 2009. For more information/entry forms go to [http://www.tpk.govt.nz/\\_documents/tpk-farmingawardregform-2008-en.pdf](http://www.tpk.govt.nz/_documents/tpk-farmingawardregform-2008-en.pdf), or contact your local Te Puni Kokiri or Maori Trust office

### Sustainable Management Fund Opens

The Sustainable Management Fund is designed to assist community groups, iwi, businesses and local government in making a positive difference to the environment. Its objectives

are to encourage greater awareness of the environment by funding projects that support the NZ's environment and sustainability priorities, encourage pro-active partnerships, and promote community action. It is a contestable fund of \$3.84 million, and applicants can apply for a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 in this funding round. Successful applicants will be announced in June 2009.

The four priority areas for 2009/10 are encouraging sustainable households, sustainable land and water management, supporting sustainable business practices, and meeting the challenges of climate change.

Applications close 22 January 2009. More information at [www.smf.govt.nz](http://www.smf.govt.nz)

### Summer Work for ICT Students: New Internship

TechNZ is offering up to 150 senior information and communication technology undergraduates paid work at large and small companies during the university holidays as a way of gaining practical experience that will benefit both the students and the companies. TechNZ (the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology business investment programme) will pay \$16 an hour as a stipend for the ICT interns, a sum the companies are free to top up if they wish. As part of the internship, the participating companies have agreed to provide supervision of the students' work.

Approximately 150 ICT companies have agreed to take part in the programme. They range from some of NZ's biggest, including Tait Electronics and Orion Healthcare, down to smaller firms with three or four staff.

No specific closing date. Email applications to [joseph.stuart@frst.govt.nz](mailto:joseph.stuart@frst.govt.nz). More information is at <http://www.frst.govt.nz/news/New-internship-for-senior-ICT-students>

### Tourism Research Scholarships.

The Ministry of Tourism's research programme is offering a number of \$15,000 scholarships to students undertaking a Masters research thesis on a tourism-related topic in the 2009 study year. The scholarships are designed to build research capacity in tourism, increase research applicable to the tourism industry and create stronger links between researchers, industry and the public sector. Topics of interest include: Qualmark as a business tool; the use of Maori culture in tourism; differential pricing of tourism products for international and domestic tourists; domestic tourism; business advantages of sustainability programmes; climate change and regional tourism adaptation; i-SITE Visitor Centres and online booking; and statistical analysis using the Ministry of Tourism's tourism data.

Applications close on 21 November 2008. More information is at [www.tourism.govt.nz/researchscholarships](http://www.tourism.govt.nz/researchscholarships)

### Transpower CommunityCare Fund

Transpower has a new funding programme called "CommunityCare Fund". This offers support by funding projects that add value and benefit to a community. Projects close to new Transpower works or upgrade plans will be priorities. Transpower will assist 23 community organisations with \$598,300 in grants through its CommunityCare Fund this year.

Information and application forms are at <http://www.transpower.co.nz/communitycare-fund>

## Latest Biodiversity Funding

Projects protecting coastal habitats, lowland forest, wetlands and threatened species will benefit from the latest funding round of the Biodiversity Funds. A total of 71 projects throughout the country will receive \$1.3 million from the Funds which focus on projects involving private land. Fifteen projects will fund advice and information to private landowners, while 56 projects will enhance biodiversity on private land through, fencing, restoration planting, weed and animal control work programmes. Over the last seven years the Funds have provided financial assistance to almost 1000 projects on private land.

More information about the Funds is at  
<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/condition.html>

## Appointments

Andrea Smith is to become *NZ's Ambassador to Turkey*. Phillip Gibson, has been appointed *NZ's first Ambassador to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)*. *NZ's next Ambassador to Chile* will be career diplomat Rosemary Paterson. Rob Steele has been appointed as *Secretary-General for the Geneva-based International Organization for Standardization*. Appointments in the first round to *Senior Counsel* (formerly *Queen's Counsel*) are: Sir Geoffrey Palmer, David Heaney, Murray Gilbert, Jan McCartney, Jack Hodder, Simon Moore, and Christine Gordon. Jane Borthwick has been appointed an *Environment Court Judge*. Gerard Lynch has been appointed a *District Court Judge*.

Dr Rod Carr is the new *Vice-Chancellor of Canterbury University*. Erima Henare has been appointed to *the Creative NZ Arts Council* for a three-year term. Dr Prue Williams has been appointed the *chief science advisor of the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST)*. Alasdair Finnie has been appointed as *director of the Office of the Community and Voluntary Sector*. Jacky Stafford has been re-elected *Chairperson of the Rural Education Reference Group (REREG)*. David Jewell has been appointed *President of the NZ Contractors' Federation*.

Members (appointments are for a year) of a *new advisory body for leading technology change in the health sector* are: Graeme Osborne (chair), Dr Harry Pert, Chai Chuah, Dr Chris Hendry, Joanne Fitzpatrick, David Moore, Dr Pim Allen, Elizabeth Plant, Dr Murray Milner, and Nathan Torkington. Appointed to the *Commission on the Resident Medical Officer Workforce* (the RMO Commission) are: Don Hunn (chair), Angela Foulkes, and Professor Peter Crampton. The members of the *Commission on Competitive and Sustainable Terms and Conditions of Employment for Senior Medical and Dental Officers Employed by DHBs* are: Len Cook (chair), Dr Dwayne Crombie, and Ross Wilson. The first five of eight appointments to the *Tertiary Education Capital Investment Fund* are David Shand, Robin Hapi, Rex Williams, Anne Hare and Graham Smith.

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.

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

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Website: [www.ruralwomen.org](http://www.ruralwomen.org)

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.